

Happy New Year
to all of our readers!

Good Morning

High: 28
Low: 14

Crisp and sunny.
Details: B8

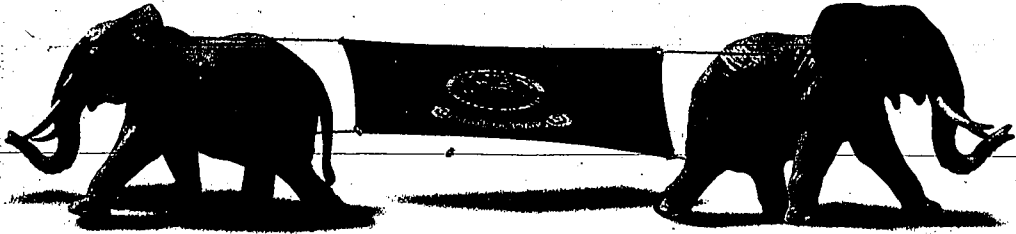
Times-News

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January 1, 2008
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MagicValley.com

LEGISLATURE 2008

The red state rumble



Divide within Idaho GOP unsettles Legislature

By Jared S. Hopkins
Times-News writer

There are signs of a third political party emerging in Idaho, but its members aren't necessarily green, socialists or wishful thinkers who want the Whigs to return.

In fact, the rumblings are coming from the party that's long been in charge — Republicans. For years, Idaho has balanced its conservative values with an independent streak.

Throw in some libertarianism, growing urban environments and a worry that family values are disappearing, and the party begins to bleed several shades of red.

Nowhere in Idaho is that more apparent than in the GOP-dominated Legislature, where in 2007 a new House leadership team ushered in a more conservative philosophy. The shift led to more criticism from some House members, who claimed open

debate suffered from strong-arming and bullying. When the 2008 session convenes Monday, voters will find out whether the trend will continue. Will conservative Republicans continue to frustrate moderates and further divide the party, or will

the Republicans, who've controlled the Legislature since 1959, stand beside each other? "Any party that gets a majority, they get to presuming they run things," said Keith Allred, head of the bipartisan group The

Common Interest. "That will be one of the most interesting things to watch this session, whether, in the House, leadership will try and take an approach that will reflect the whole House or if they will continue to push hard to the right."

CONTINUED ON PAGE A4

LEGISLATURE 2008

DAY ONE: A look at Gov. Butch Otter's first year in office: what's ahead for public schools, health care and energy issues.
DAY TWO: Democrats climb their way back to balance; facing Urban Renewal; what's ahead for community colleges.
TODAY: The inner conflict for Idaho Republicans: health and welfare rule changes; planning for the water year and funding changes for state police.
Miss something? Find the entire stories online at MagicValley.com under the Legislative 2008 button.

MORE INSIDE Prisons

Where to house prisoners (this public safety issues. Page A5)

Health and Welfare

Rule changes affect just as much as state laws. Page A4

Lawmakers' agenda

Proposals stacking up amid tight state funding. Page A8

ONLINE

At MagicValley.com hit the Legislative 2008 button for:
• More stories
• Blogs on the legislative players
• A survey
• Links and more

Lawmakers unlikely to talk much water despite eventful year

Issues must play out in courts first, legislators say

By Matt Christensen
Times-News writer

Despite a pivotal Supreme Court ruling, a governor-hosted water summit and threats by the state to close wells—all in the past year—legislators aren't expecting to talk water this session.

At least not much, say Magic Valley lawmakers and state officials. "I think 2009 could be a big year in the Legislature, but probably not '08," said Dave Tuhill, director of the Idaho Department of Water Resources. "There are still a lot of issues that have to be

looked at in the courts or the hearing process." IDWR is holding hearings on three major water disputes, at least one of which is likely to end up in the Supreme Court. The courts are expected to rule on the disputes before the Legislature could get

involved. A committee formed by the Legislature is also drafting a management plan for the Eastern Snake Plain Aquifer that isn't expected to be ready for this session. When the plan is finished, probably before the 2009 session, legislators are likely to debate the proposals and discuss how to fund it.

*Please see WATER, Page A5



Brian Hueltle stands at a groundwater pump at a well on his Hazleton farm in June in this archive photo.

House of worship: Jason Houser brings own brand of Christian music to Twin Falls

By Melissa Davlin
Times-News writer

Music producer and writer Jason Houser's favorite analogy compares life to a river. "All rivers end up in the sea," he said. "Sometimes, the river is rough and we can't see what's around the bend. Sometimes, we try to paddle upstream."

But don't fight the current, said Houser, 37. "Let the river work with you." His current tour has brought him from his Nashville, Tenn., home back to Twin Falls, where he grew up, to host a family worship concert at Twin Falls Reformed Church for the third consecutive year. In Houser's 15-year career as a music producer and writer in Nashville, he has

placed songs with several A-list country stars, including Martina McBride, Tim McGraw, The Dixie Chicks and Jay Dee Messina. But producing wasn't where his heart was. He moved to Nashville to be a Christian music performer, but fell into the business side of country music. He got back on track with his dream when he started Seeds Family

Worship in 2005. While volunteering at Vacation Bible School, Houser paired Scripture with music, making verses easier for children to remember. "At the end of the week, I just saw the impact," he said. "Every one of those kids learned the verses."

From there, everything fell into place. A record company contacted Houser, asking for a children's Christian CD. He pitched the Scriptures-to-music idea and they loved it, ordering two CDs that were released in 2005. When he first performed at Twin Falls Reformed Church in 2005, he was just beginning to branch outside of Nashville. Now, Houser is working on his fifth CD and

Please see HOUSER, Page A5



Jason Houser sits on a log with his guitar on Monday in Twin Falls. Houser will play contemporary Christian family music at Twin Falls Reformed Church on Wednesday.

NASA releases survey of pilots, including hundreds of close calls

By Rita Beamish
Associated Press writer

NASA gradually released some results Monday from an \$11.2 million federal air safety study it previously withheld from the public over concerns it would upset travelers and hurt airline profits. The data reflects hundreds of cases where pilots flew too close to other planes, plunged from altitude or landed at airports without clearance.

NASA published the findings — contained in 16,200 pages — but did not provide a roadmap to understand them, making it cumbersome

for any thorough analysis by outsiders. Released on New Year's Eve, the unprecedented research conducted over nearly four years relates to safety problems identified by some 25,000 commercial pilots and more than 4,000 private pilots interviewed by telephone.

The results from commercial pilots appeared to reflect in part at least 1,266 incidents in which aircraft flew within 500 feet of each other, generally considered a near miss; at least 1,312 cases where pilots suddenly

*Please see PHOTOS, Page A3



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Opinion . . . A6-7
Sports . . . B1

Stocks . . . C2
Sudoku . . . C3
Weather . . . B8
World . . . D7-8

TODAY'S FORECAST

TWIN FALLS

Today	Tonight	Wednesday
Crisp and sunny	Partly cloudy and cold	A mix of sun and clouds
High - 28	Low - 14	20 / 25

MINI-CASSIA

Today: Mostly sunny, breezy and cold. Highs low 20s
 Tonight: Mostly clear, breezy and cold. Lows 10s
 Tomorrow: Still chilly with fair skies expected. Highs upper 20s.

Complete weather report: See page B8

TODAY'S HAPPENINGS

- #### BENEFITS AND FUNDRAISERS
- The 21st annual Freeze on Skis, sponsored by Snake River Freeze on Skis, Inc., with net proceeds to Mustard Seed Wellness Clinic and Wishful Star Foundation charities, noon, Shoshone Falls, Twin Falls, 731-0026 or 420-2192.
- #### HEALTH AND RECOVERY
- Road 2 Recovery, a 12-step program, 7 to 8:30 p.m., at the Building of New Beginnings, 1044 E. Main St. (next to Goodie Motors across from First Federal Savings Bank), Burley, 670-2578.
- Colobrate Recovery, a place to learn life-affirming, healthy behaviors, 7:30 p.m., Magic Valley Evangelical Free Church, 821 N. Ave. E., Jerome, 324-7237.

MUSEUMS

Faulkner Planetarium "Key Worlds/Saving the Night/Live Sky Tour," 7 p.m., Harriet Court 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.

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

Snowpack levels

Watershed	% of Avg.	% season peak**	Oakley Station Falls	84%	31%
Salmon	105%	42%		77%	30%
Big Wood	93%	37%			
Little Wood	92%	32%			
Big Lost	79%	30%			
Heppie River/Action	84%	34%			
Upper Snake Basin	95%	35%			

* A comparison of basin snowpack on this day with a 30-year average.
 ** Percentages of basin snowpack for the entire snow season, which peaks in spring.

Idaho Lottery raffle numbers announced

The winning number has been announced for the Idaho Lottery \$1 million Raffle. It is 0292956.

The four \$25,000 prize winners were also announced Monday at a news conference at U.S. Bank in Downtown Boise. Those four prize-winning numbers are:

- 132983
- 122619

Idaho Lottery Director Jeff Anderson said the top five raffle winners must claim their prizes at the Idaho Lottery offices in Boise. Winners have 180 days to claim their prizes.

"We recommend all our winners sign their tickets immediately if they have not done so," Anderson said.

WHAT'S NEW ONLINE

Check out the damage to trees at Central Elementary on Maglevalley.com and hear from the girls who raised money for the trees.

COMING THIS WEEK

Combing for cuisine

A reporter's search for her Japanese favorites.

WEDNESDAY IN FOOD & HOME

What your month is missing

How First Friday got started, and where it goes from here.

THURSDAY IN TNT

MORNING BRIEFING

What's open New Year's Day?

- City and county offices are closed
- State offices are closed
- Federal offices are closed
- Post offices are closed with no post delivery
- Banks are closed
- College of Southern Idaho is closed
- Twin Falls Public Library is closed
- YMCA/City Pool is closed
- Trash collection will resume Wednesday
- Magic Valley Mall will be open from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.

AROUND THE WORLD

WASHINGTON

U.S. gave Bhutto 'steady stream' of information on threat before killing

The United States provided a steady stream of intelligence to Benazir Bhutto about threats against her before the former Pakistani prime minister was assassinated and advised her aides on how to boost security, although key suggestions appear to have gone unheeded, U.S. officials said Monday.

Senior U.S. diplomats had multiple conversations, including at least two private face-to-face meetings, with top members of Bhutto's Pakistan People's Party to discuss threats on the Pakistani opposition leader's life and review her security arrangements after a suicide bombing marred her initial return to Pakistan from exile in October, the officials told The Associated Press.

The intelligence was also shared with the Pakistani government, the officials said.

Much of what was passed on dealt with general threats from Taliban extremists and al-Qaida sympathizers, and "was not actionable information," the officials said.

Bhutto and her aides were concerned, particularly after the October attack, but were adamant that in the absence of a specific and credible threat there would be few, if any, changes to her campaign schedule ahead of parliamentary elections.



A supporter of slain opposition leader Benazir Bhutto drops rose petals next to her portrait during a ceremony at the site of Thursday's suicide bombing in Rawalpindi, Pakistan, Monday. (See story at left.)

after 32 years behind bars. Moore, 77, was released from the federal prison in Dublin, east of San Francisco, where she had been serving a life sentence, the Bureau of Prisons said.

Bureau spokeswoman Felicia Ponce said she had no details on why Moore was let out, but she said that with good behavior, inmates sentenced to life can apply for parole after 10 years.

Moore was 40 feet away from Ford outside a hotel in San Francisco when she fired a shot at him on Sept. 22, 1975. As she raised her .38-caliber revolver and pulled the trigger Oliver Sipple, a disabled former Marine standing next to her, pushed up her arm. The bullet flew over Ford's head by several feet.

Two weeks earlier, Lynette "Squeaky" Fromme, a follower of Manson's, tried to kill the president in Sacramento. In recent interviews, Moore said she regretted her actions, saying she was blinded by her radical political views and convinced that the government had declared war on the left.

The legislation is aimed at reversing an order by former Attorney General John Ashcroft after the 9/11 attacks in which he instructed agencies to lean against releasing information when there was uncertainty about how doing so would affect national security.

Dozens of media outlets, including The Associated Press, supported the legislation.

SLEEP DISRUPTIONS MAY INCREASE CHANCE OF DEVELOPING DIABETES

When Shakespeare called sleep the "chick'nursher of life's feast," he may have been well ahead of his time, medically at least.

Researchers at the University of Chicago Medical Center report that disrupting sleep may affect the body's ability to regulate blood sugar levels, potentially raising the risk of developing type 2 diabetes.

More than 18 million Americans have diabetes and the most common form is type 2, in which the body either becomes resistant to insulin or doesn't produce enough of it to regulate sugar in the bloodstream.

In a small experiment, researchers led by Dr. Esra Tasali, an assistant professor of medicine, found that disrupting the deepest sleep periods of volunteers rapidly resulted in reduction in their ability to regulate blood-sugar levels.

The findings are reported in Monday's online edition of Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences.

The researchers studied the sleep patterns of nine volunteers, five men and four women, all of normal weight, in good health and aged 20 to 31.

CALIFORNIA

Woman who tried to shoot President Ford is released from prison

SAN FRANCISCO — Sara Jane Moore, who took a shot at President Ford in a bizarre assassination attempt just 17 days after a disciple of Charles Manson tried to kill Ford, was paroled Monday.

MARINE TO STAND TRIAL ON MANSLAUGHTER CHARGES IN HADITHA MASSACRE

LOS ANGELES — A Marine will go court-martial on reduced charges in the killings of 24 Iraqi men, women and children in the town of Haditha in 2005, the Marine Corps announced Monday.

Staff Sgt. Frank Wuterich, 27, of Meridian, Conn., will stand trial on charges of voluntary manslaughter, aggravated assault, reckless endangerment, dereliction of duty and obstruction of justice. No trial date was set.

More serious charges of premeditated murder, as well as charges of soliciting another to commit an

offense and making a false official statement, were dismissed by the Marine Corps.

Wuterich's prosecution is part of the biggest U.S. criminal case involving civilian deaths to come out of the Iraq war.

Four enlisted Marines were initially charged with murder in the case, and four officers were charged with failing to investigate the deaths. Charges against several of the men will have been dropped, and none will face murder charges.

The Marine Corps also announced Monday that 1st Lt. Andrew Grayson would face court-martial on charges of making false official statements, obstruction of justice and attempting to fraudulently separate from the Marine Corps.

UTAH

Yellowstone hit by magnitude 3.6 quake

SALT LAKE CITY — A magnitude 3.6 earthquake struck Yellowstone National Park late Sunday, causing no injuries or damage, authorities said.

The University of Utah Seismograph Stations says the earthquake was followed by 13 aftershocks ranging up to 2.3 in magnitude.

The epicenter of the shock was a dozen miles northeast of West Yellowstone, Mont., and 4.2 miles deep. It was recorded at 8:29 p.m. Sunday.

Earthquakes in Yellowstone are fairly common, but seismologist say the 3.6-magnitude quake was a little stronger than usual. Quakes of magnitude 3.0 or larger have happened only 28 times in the greater Yellowstone park area in past 35 years.

Yellowstone is one of the most seismically active regions in the continental United States and absorbs hundreds of quakes each year.

NEW YORK

Up to a foot of snow blankets upstate N.Y. and northern New England

ALBANY — Heavy snow fell across northern sections of the Northeast on Monday, capping a December of unusually heavy snow.

More than a foot of snow fell in central New Hampshire, the National Weather Service said, and the Albany area got 11 inches from late Sunday to mid-morning Monday.

Albany International Airport canceled two early morning flights, and getting to work was a chore for drivers elsewhere as the snow continued falling.

Some sections of major highways in New Hampshire were covered with several inches of snow at the start of the commute and police reported many spinouts and crashes.

— from wire reports

TEXAS

Bush signs bill to expand government transparency

CRAWFORD — President Bush on Monday signed a bill aimed at giving the public and the media greater access to information about what the government is doing.

The new law toughens the Freedom of Information Act, the first such makeover to the signature public-access law in a decade. It amounts to a

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Turning out voters is priority in final three days before Iowa votes

By Liz Sidoti
Associated Press writer

DES MOINES, Iowa — It's all about turning out voters now.

After a year of stump speeches, TV ads and face-to-face politicking, presidential get-out-the-vote operations are in overdrive in the final hours before Iowa's caucuses. Campaigns largely are relying on traditional methods, what one operative, terms the "knock-and-drag" approach — knock on doors and drag voters to the caucuses.

"Whenever it's a close race, a strong organization matters. It can make a difference," said Terry Nelson, a veteran strategist from President Bush's 2004 reelection race who has deep roots in Iowa politics.

Close races indeed. Democrats Hillary Rodham Clinton, Barack Obama and John Edwards are locked in a

three-way fight. Mike Huckabee and Mitt Romney are battling on the Republican side.

The candidates themselves are appealing to voters in closing TV and radio ads and at personal appearances across the state.

"I need your help, I'm in a real tight battle here. So I need you to go out and caucus, and get out there and vote for me," Romney, a former Massachusetts governor, told hangers in Newton over the weekend. Teasing, he said.

"I'm told it's going to be about 75 or 80 degrees, a very nice day to go caucus. There's nothing on TV, just the Orange bowl."

Obama, a senator from neighboring Illinois, went so far as to call two of his Marion County, Iowa, organizers on stage so he could introduce them to an audience. "Their job is to get you to caucus," he

said. "My job is to be so persuasive ... that you conclude I've got to go for Obama. That's my guy."

Candidates in both parties are fighting over a small pool of voters in Iowa; about 120,000 to 150,000 people are expected to vote in the Democratic caucuses, while 80,000 to 90,000 are likely to participate in the GOP contest.

So it could take relatively few people to give a candidate an edge — and that's where the final push for votes comes into play.

"When the denominator is as small as the likely number of caucusgoers, the ability to find or attract 3,000 or 4,000 people, which a good organization should be able to do, can be a determining factor," said Key Mehlman, Bush's 2004 campaign manager and a former Republican National Committee chairman.



A camera flash illuminates Democratic presidential hopeful Sen. Barack Obama D-Ill., as he speaks at a campaign stop Monday in Jefferson, Iowa.

Pilots

Continued from page A1

dropped or climbed inadvertently more than 300 feet in flight, and 166 reports of loss of control, and clearance at an airport with an active control tower. The Associated Press matched the data to the questionnaire that was used to interview pilots and was obtained separately by the AP.

The data also reflected 513 reports of hard landings and 4,267 cases of aircraft hitting birds.

Because NASA scrambled the data, it was impossible to determine whether multiple pilots might be involved in the same incidents, and a key expert, said the numbers appeared inflated. NASA also did not present the data so researchers could project survey results to overall safety trends.

The data that NASA released was "intentionally designed to prevent people from analyzing the rates properly and are designed to entrap analysts into computing rates that are much higher than the survey really shows," said Jon Krosnick, a Stanford University professor and survey expert who helped design the project for NASA.

He urged NASA to release more of the data needed for a better analysis. Giving people familiar with the research, the AP reported earlier that the data showed events like near-collisions and runway interference occur far more frequently than previously recognized.

The data was based on interviews with about 4,000 pilots per year from 2001 until the end of 2004, NASA Administrator Michael Griffin said Monday the survey was poorly managed and told reporters the traveling public shouldn't care about the data.

"It's hard for me ... to see any data here that the traveling public would care about or ought to care about," Griffin said.

Griffin dismissed suggestions NASA chose to release the data late on New Year's Eve, when the public is distracted by holidays and news organizations are thinly staffed.

"We didn't deliberately choose to release on the slowest news day of the year," Griffin said.

NASA drew harsh criticism from Congress and news

organizations for keeping the information secret. Rejecting an AP request under the Freedom of Information Act, NASA explained that it did not want to undermine public confidence in the airlines or hurt airline fortunes.

Griffin later overruled his staff and promised Congress he would release at least some data by the end of the year.

NASA's survey, the National Aviation Operations Monitoring System, was intended to see whether it could help identify problems and prevent accidents. Survey planners said it was unique because it was a random survey with an 80 percent response rate and it did not rely on pilots to voluntarily report safety incidents.

Griffin said NASA never intended to analyze the data it collected, but planned to pass its methodology to the aviation community.

Pilots were asked how many times they encountered safety incidents in flight and on the ground, such as near-collisions, equipment failure, runway interference, unruly passengers or trouble communicating with the tower.

Griffin outraged some NASA employees by criticizing the project and saying its methodology was not properly verified. Survey experts who worked on it said they used state-of-the-art industry techniques and carefully validated it.

NASA's handling of the matter prompted a congress-

sional investigation and separate investigations by its inspector general and by a union representing NASA workers.

The FAA has questioned the project's results showing more safety incidents than the FAA's own data, saying it reflected pilots' subjective opinions over time.

"It's just something that we're going to have to try and understand," said Peggy Gilligan, a senior FAA official, in a recent telephone interview. "We are always interested in any kind of safety data, but we always want to look at it in terms of its quality, its quantity and how we're going to use it and what assumptions underlie it."

She noted NASA's interview questions didn't track specifically with FAA report language and said pilot responses were their subjective views over 30- to 90-day time frames.

Rep. Bart Gordon, D-Tenn., chairman of the House Science and Technology Committee, urged NASA to finish reviewing the data for further release as soon as possible.

Rep. Brad Miller, D-N.C., who leads that committee's investigations and oversight panel, said pilots who wanted their views known have been done a disservice because the scrubbed data can't be analyzed by anyone for air safety trends.

Sow killed, three cubs put down after encounter with hunter

ANCHORAGE, Alaska (AP) — A rabbit hunter fired his pistol at a charging grizzly bear on Kodiak Island, badly wounding the old sow that was later killed and her three cubs shot.

The hunter, whose name is not being released, was hunting rabbits near the American River on Friday about 15 miles outside Kodiak when the sow charged him, said John Crye, a wildlife biologist with the Alaska Department of Fish and Game, on Monday.

The hunter, who was carrying two weapons, shot the bear when he was about 10

yards away. It was the second time in a week that hunters had encountered the family of bears. The last time it was one of the cubs that charged a father and son quit duck hunting as the mother and the other cubs slept nearby.

This time, the rabbit hunter was charged after he rounded a corner and surprised the sow, who was 25 years old or more.

A rabbit hunter was in the brush and kind of woke them up out of their beds," Crye said. "He felt threatened by the sow, so he shot the sow."

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PUREOLOGY

LEGISLATURE 2008

Republicans

Continued from page A1

Return of conservatives

When Lawrence E. Denney, a farmer from Midvale, was elected House Speaker over Bill Deal, a musician from Nampa, many said his victory was made possible by the defeat of six moderate Republicans in that year's election. But Denney succeeded Burlington's Bruce Newcomb, a moderate who followed a middle-road philosophy set by his predecessors Mike Simpson and Tom Boyd.

The 2007 session caused anxiety among many in Idaho. The House kept government out of the home, limited spending and killed proposals central to the Treasury Valley, including local-option taxes for public transit.

"I often tell people, 'It doesn't matter which party, it's which faction is larger going into the caucus meeting,'" said Gary Moncreif, a Boise State University political science professor. "Whichever faction of the Republican caucus is larger is going to control the agenda, and the committee assignments for that session central to the floor for a full vote. It was expected to pass.

But no votes were cast. The bill was sent back to the committee, effectively killing it. The chairman said it'd return, but it never did.

Many moderate

"That's hidden from the general public. It's easy for them to understand the shorthand of what a Democrat or Republican is when they go to vote. But I don't think people understand there are these risks within the party.

And it certainly doesn't show up on the ballot."

— Gary Moncreif, a Boise State University political science professor

Republicans cited differences with Denney and his cohorts, primarily Majority Leader Mike Moyle. When four GOP representatives voted against a leadership-backed plan to close Idaho's open primary elections to independents, an emergency GOP caucus was held to rein in the renegades. No local legislator was more annoyed than five-term Rep. Leon Smith, R-Twin Falls, who was passed over for a committee chairmanship, and saw just one of his bills make it out of the House.

"This behavior often occurs under the radar, so its impact on the political process is something hard to gauge."

"That's hidden from the general public," said Moncreif. "It's easy for them to understand the shorthand of what a Democrat or Republican is when they go to vote, but I don't think people understand there are these risks within the party. And it certainly doesn't show up on the ballot."

Alred, a Twin Falls native and former Harvard professor, said there is less policy passing in an atmosphere not reflective of the state.

"But it does make for a lot more infighting and less substantive, practical discussion of the issues," he said.

The Senate divide

House leadership con-

cerns may have weakened the chamber's relationship with the more moderate Senate, and led to the week-long clash over transportation funding that delayed the end of the session.

As is the case with other divisive issues, consensus, legislation was expected. But it never panned out. Instead, there were closed-door meetings, intervention by the governor's staff and the clashing of personalities.

Some legislators attribute it to leadership styles, that each team was protecting its chamber. Sen. Dean Cameron, R-Butte, the second-longest serving senator, said such posturing is natural with new leadership, but the problems arose when talks shifted from the issues to the personalities.

Cameron was central to the matter, and he made an emotional plea on the last day, bringing into the open the political maneuvering lawmakers keep private. He drew praise but also criticism and, in a rare move, the Joint Finance-Appropriations Committee met separately.

"We certainly expect from the House some disagreement, not again. That's healthy," he said recently. "We have to be careful. It's not a chest-beating contest where one side is trying to outmuscle the other side. That doesn't

work."

Cameron said in hindsight, he probably could have handled matters differently. He said he's met with leadership members and everyone is looking to the future.

But the rift leaked into the summer when the House and Senate held separate task forces to address the role government should play in raising a family — senators researched early childhood development, representatives family involvement. And some Magic Valley legislators from both parties argued that session in raising a family — senators researched early childhood development, representatives family involvement.

The decision to have separate task forces on interim studies, which was an unprecedented move to many lawmakers, continues to draw criticism.

"The general public was very disappointed with the divisiveness as was I," said Laird Noh, a former state senator from Kimberly. "An election is coming up. That often means the legislators and others, when being viewed by others and people in the public, they tend to lay aside inner party fighting and provide some real leadership."

A right-wing history

Idaho political junkies can

at the 2007 friction was hardly unprecedented. Historically, the Legislature has endured disagreements through more difficult times when Idaho lacked the surpluses it's enjoyed recently. Lengthy battles have been waged over spending cuts, budget-holdbacks, abortion laws, tax increases and environmental reform.

The most famous intra-party impasse may have been two decades ago.

In 1982, Twin Falls businessman Tom Stivers became House Speaker, and for four years managed one of the most conservative eras in Idaho. Tied to right-wing organizations, Stivers was perceived as anti-education, a promoter of creationism, and supporter of privatizing government.

His tenure was often described as uncompromising. "One knew where one stood with Stivers and if one didn't know, Stivers would make it clear," veteran journalist Randy Staples wrote in "Paradox Politics."

But Stivers' style sparked resistance from less conservative House Republicans, such as Dean Hagenson and Jerry Deckard, who called themselves "Stichelheads," after the fish that swim upstream. They felt Stivers and his followers were not conservatives but "flat-earthers." Staples

wrote. A series of gaffes, particularly on education, eventually led to Stivers' retirement in 1996 and the defeat of some of the heaviest conservatives.

Members of today's House Legislature, including Assistant Majority Leader Scott Beuke, a rancher from Oakley, have rebuffed the accusations of being aggressive or influencing votes. They say people vote as they wish.

Rep. Bert Stevenson, R-Rupert, who's served under three House Speakers, said the allegations of infighting are untrue. It's inevitable, he said, with hot topics such as abortion or raising taxes — but 2007 was largely devoid of those.

"Heavens, they should've been there when there was real discord. I remember when Speaker (Mike) Simpson had to call us in and ask us to get along," he said.

But if history repeats itself, voters might expect the style by leadership to continue.

At issue is not just any influence being wielded by leadership, but also their limit in pursuing that sense of leadership, said Alred. He said a strong right-wing approach is not a viable long-term solution.

"Usually when you eek out a win you need to be somewhat accommodating to those who didn't vote for them and that was not their approach and it alienated some people," he said.

"Either that leadership is going to have to change and reflect the body more accurately or there is going to need to be a change in leadership."

THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Eleven of the 15 Magic and Wood River valley legislators are either members of leadership teams or chairmen or vice-chairman of committees. Two of the others sit on the budget-setting panel. Here's who matters in the house — both in and out of south-central Idaho.

Leaders

- Speaker Lawrence Denney
- Majority Leader Mike Moyle
- Assistant Majority Leader Scott Beuke
- Majority Caucus Chair Ken Donnelly
- House Minority Leader Wendy Jaquet
- Assistant Minority Leader George Sawyer
- Minority Caucus, Chair John Ruschke



Mike Moyle
R-Star



Scott Beuke
R-Oakley



Bert Brackett
R-Rogerson



Sharon Block
R-Twin Falls



Leon Smith
R-Twin Falls



Wendy Jaquet
D-Ketchum



Fred Wood
R-Burley

One of the most conservative lawmakers, Moyle has been known for his political savvy and working the floor minutes before votes. He opposed several Treasury Valley proposals last session, but that might change with rumors that he'll be challenged in the primary by a more moderate Republican.

One of the most popular legislators, Brackett earned his stripes in 2003 when he changed the education budget and broke it into five separate bills — effectively ending the longest session ever. Now entering his fifth term, Beuke is still a map who relies on numbers but remains the most moderate member of leadership. He's also indicated he's interested in moving higher up.

Brackett, whose civil-law works for U.S. Rep. Mike Simpson and daughter was once Simpson's deputy chief of staff, landed himself a seat on the powerful JFAC. Look for Brackett, a rancher who last cattle in the Murphy Complex Fire over the summer, to emerge as an outspoken figure on behalf of cattlemen and traditional Idaho industry.

Arguably the most conservative legislator from Twin Falls, Block was appointed in 2000 and is a former president of the Twin Falls County Republican Women. Known as a loyal and diligent figure to House leadership, Block came into her own in 2006 by leading the party to accept a two-year moratorium on coal-fired plants. She now serves as chairwoman of House Health and Welfare.

Smith, an attorney and former head of the Idaho Transportation Department board, has long-advocated tax reform, access to higher education and pay-as-you-go spending measures. He's expressed frustration last year — quite publicly — as his proposals stalled or died due to what he saw as punishment by Denney for not supporting him in the speaker's race.

A talented politician who once presided over just eight House Democrats, she has been praised for recruitment. Today there are 19 members in the House. Jaquet is not afraid to speak her mind. Many of the Democrats' ideas she's pushed, such as local option taxes, full disclosure in sale of homes, and "revolving door" legislation, are common in most of the country, but failed to gain steam in Idaho.

This rookie lawmaker emerged as a force last year as a member of JFAC and co-rafted the budget for Health and Welfare. Wood, a retired physician and head of the Fish and Game Commission, is also a member of the Influential House Resources Committee.

Local representatives

- Leon Smith
- Sharon Block
- Jim Patrick
- Bert Brackett
- Maxine Bell
- Bert Stevenson
- Fred Wood

State Health and Welfare to push rule changes

New rules have as much impact as state laws

By Neta Poppino
Times-News writer

One would publicly disclose complaints about medical facilities. Another would change the pay structure for child support.

They're just a couple of the many rule changes the Idaho Department of Health and Welfare will submit to the Legislature this year. The changes might lack the allure that comes with actual legislation — and usually don't draw the same controversy — but they still affect the state services.

"Every year you evaluate your programs," Health and Welfare spokesman Tom Shanahan said. "Through rules, you can more clearly define something if you're having a problem."

For example, he said, someone pointed out this year that the department's behavioral health division didn't allow for people to appeal state decisions. New proposed rules will define eligibility from the department — based on current practices — and allow the public to contest a supposedly wrong decision.

"I don't know if that will

make a big difference," since there might be no appeals, Shanahan said. "But at least the process will be there for them."

Another proposal would swap who pays for the state to collect child support payments. In October, the federal government started requiring families to pay \$25 annually when states have collected at least \$500 on their behalf. But the fee — paid for by the parent with custody — drew protests in Idaho and Health and Welfare drafted to try and shift the burden to the non-custodial parent, Shanahan

"I think that government, and what is involved in government, should be open to the public. It's what the taxpayers are paying for. ... I think they should know what's going on."

— Rep. Sharon Block, R-Twin Falls

said. The move would be legal under the federal law.

"It's still not an ideal situation," but would allow for a family's child support money to reach the child, Shanahan said. "I think it's the solution were going to move forward on."

Other proposals include, detailing staff criminal background checks at most of the state's medical facilities; clarifying school immunization

requirements for parents; and creating a ranking system for people on the state's child protection registry, allowing those unlikely to commit future abuses to ask their names be removed. The registry is not public record.

Until the Legislature meets, the fate of rule changes remains unclear. But these proposals generally appear to benefit Idahoans, said Rep. Sharon Block, R-Twin Falls,

chairwoman of the House Health and Welfare Committee.

"I think that government, and what is involved in government, should be open to the public," she said. "It's what the taxpayers are paying for. ... I think they should know what's going on."

Neta Poppino can be reached at 735-3237 or npoppino@magicvalley.com.

LEGISLATURE 2008

Prison crisis tops public safety issues

By Cass Friedman
Times-News writer

State lawmakers are preparing for a hot debate on the future of housing prisoners.

The key question: Should Idaho build a prison and manage it itself, build it but have it privately run — such as is the case in Boise — or have a company build and run one?

A private company could build a prison in 10 to 24 months, at a cheaper cost and in just a few years, according to Gov. C.L. "Butch" Otter. The question is whether it can be more efficient than the traditional means of government.

Idaho's prisoner population is growing 7.1 percent annually, meaning Idaho taxpayers will pay soaring costs for the state corrections. In July, the state ended the fiscal year paying \$8.2 million for out of state prisons. That number is expected to jump to \$11.7 million in the current year, and \$18.7 million in fiscal year 2009.

As of December 2007, Idaho had 543 of its total 7,352 inmates in out-of-state facilities.

Sending prisoners to other states' facilities — including Minnesota and Texas — over the past two years has yielded controversial results for Idaho, with complaints of abuse, poor conditions and one prisoner's suicide.

"We feel that this is an area that we believe we can have a quicker impact in dealing with the problems that we are seeing," said Otter.

Other spokesman Jon Hanlan. "And we need a pretty quick solution. The other reason is that the state believes that there can be efficiencies sometimes in the private sector that you might not realize with government."

But some legislators, such as Rep. Leon Smith, R-Twin Falls, who sits on the House Judiciary and Rules Committee, disagreed with Otter's figures. He said that paying a company to build the prison might save money now but it would cost more expensive in the long run.

"Private prisons will just keep charging for the cost of that prison forever," Smith said. "At least there is an end to the costs if we buy it. In 10 years we are done paying for that prison."

He also said private companies could use a prison to profit off overflows from other prisons. Meanwhile, Idaho inmates held in other states' privately operated prisons have complained about poor treatment.

Other public safety legislation may include:

• **ISP budget reform:** Idaho State Police may soon receive their funding from the state's general fund, rather than a gas tax, according to a plan the governor will include in his budget recommendation. But ISP officials are uncertain how the change would affect them.



An Idaho State Trooper assists an evacuee near Greenhorn Gulch near Ketchum last August during the Castle Rock fire.

"Quite frankly we've not done any projections on that," said Ann Cronin, special assistant to the director of ISP. By pulling ISP from the gas tax, the governor frees up more money for Idaho Transportation Department projects that have been delayed in a period of time when construction costs have escalated. Plans to widen traffic-clogged sections of U.S. Highway 43, between Twin Falls and Shoshone, and portions of Idaho Highway 75 north of Shoshone, are among the Idaho Transportation Department's shelved plans.

They haven't happened because each year the department falls \$200 million short of the amount it needs to start those projects.

But Idaho Gov. C.L. "Butch" Otter will announce at his State of the State speech a possible way to start closing the gap.

Idaho state police and parks and recreation are all funded through the Highway Distribution Fund, which collects gas tax revenue. Otter's plan to switch ISP funding to the general fund could free up roughly \$25 million — bringing IDT closer to its goal of completing overdue projects.

"That would certainly open up our funding and help us make some improvements done every year," IDT Spokesman Nathan Jerke said.

Otter's proposal is less about closing the funding gap than it is about making gas consumers begin paying directly the costs of their mileage to the state, said Otter spokesman Jon Hanlan. "People that are buying gasoline are driving," Hanlan said. "The governor sees that as more in keeping in line with where these expenses are coming from."

Cronin says state police will decide how to react once it hears the governor's recommendation on Jan. 7.

• **Dog fighting ban:** Prompted by national outrage in the case against NFL star Michael Vick, Idaho lawmakers are confident that another case of dog-fighting laws in Idaho could result in a stronger penalties. The Gem State is one of just two states where dog-fighting is not a felony.

Rep. Tom Trull, R-Moscow, whose proposals over the

past two years were blocked by lawmakers, said the tides may have changed. Senate Majority Caucus Chair Brad Little, R-Emmett, said he'll carry a bill in his chamber. "There's a lot of people that will be helping me over

there," Little said. Rep. Wendy Jaquet, D-Ketchum, who co-sponsored an earlier proposal by Trull, said a sense of "general outrage in Idaho" has emerged in the Vick case, and residents want stiffer laws.

Water

Continued from page A1

This session, the Legislature will be asked to fund several so-called "Band-Aid" water programs proposed by Gov. C.L. "Butch" Otter, said Sen. Chuck Colner, R-Twin Falls, who works for the Twin Falls Canal Company.

Those programs include a cash-for-following proposal, an aquifer-recharge program, and a scheme to find a new water source for the city of Twin Falls.

But lawmakers have indicated it is unlikely some of those programs could get much money. Members of the Joint Finance Appropriations Committee have said they'll keep purse strings tight this session because of concerns

about the economy. Otter wants some of his programs financed through an emergency fund created by last year's Legislature, but it's up to lawmakers to decide how that money is spent.

The Legislature could also be called upon to bolster the emergency funds should Idaho experience a dismal snowpack, as it did last season, Tutbill said.

"The activity of the Legislature in '08 really depends on the water year," he said.

Snowpacks are down across the state early in this winter season.

Matt Christensen may be reached at 735-3243 or at matt.christensen@lee.net.

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Houser

Continued from page A1

has taken his show on the road, visiting cities in Texas, California, Nevada and Washington. In the past year, he has visited more churches than ever, including the 12,000-member congregation at Grace Community Church in Los Angeles.

At each concert, he includes musicians and children from the local congregation into his performances.

Even after traveling, he still enjoys returning to Twin Falls. "It's extra fun being here just because it's your hometown," he said.

He might see more of Idaho. Houser hopes his year to make music ministry his full-time job and relocate his family to the Boise area.

That's good news for his hometown fan base. Tiffany Eden, co-director of children's ministries at Twin Falls Reformed Church, said the church's worship team performs Houser's music throughout the year — songs

that have helped her 9-year-old daughter, Madison, learn Scripture. The girl even has a favorite verse, 1 Timothy 4:12. "If my child is able to recite that back to me, it just feels really good that I know that in her heart, she has this Scripture and it's something she can recall in times that she needs it," Eden said. "It's not something that can be taken away from her."

Eden's other daughter, Marina, 12, is performing with Houser for the second time. She enjoys the music's relevance.

"You can use it later in life, and stuff," Marina said.

"That kind of reaction is exactly what Houser aims for with his family-oriented, toe-tapping music.

"There's nothing more important in my life than what we teach our kids," he said.

Melissa Davlin may be reached at 735-3234 or melissa.davlin@lee.net.

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EDITORIAL

Head Start: It's a pennies-on-the-dollar investment

Aside from the interstate highway system and the space program, it's difficult to think of a more successful federal initiative over the past 50 years than Head Start.

Created in 1965, Head Start provides education, health, nutrition and parent involvement services to low-income children and their families.

Thirty-one studies of the effectiveness of Head Start have shown that the program immediately improves the IQ scores of participating children. Kids who attend Head Start are more likely to complete high school, to attend college, and to have higher earnings by their early twenties. And they're less likely to be charged with a crime.

Head Start has been linked to significant gains in test scores, and it reduces the chances that a child will repeat a grade.

So what's not to like about Head Start? You'd have to ask the Idaho Legislature, Gov. C.L. "Butch" Otter and the state Department of Health and Welfare.

The feds pick up 80 percent of the tab for Head Start, but Idaho is one of a dozen states that doesn't fund preschool programs. Additional federal money to help make up the difference, called Temporary Assistance for Needy Families, is channeled through the state. But it's not a lot of money — \$1.5 million — and it's dwindling.

Twin Falls Head Start administrators worry that the TANF funds could be pulled from Head Start in the legislative session that starts Monday if that happens, 22 fewer kids in Twin Falls would be able to participate.

But the Legislative Council and Health and Welfare are making noises about doing just that, for a variety of budget and accounting reasons.

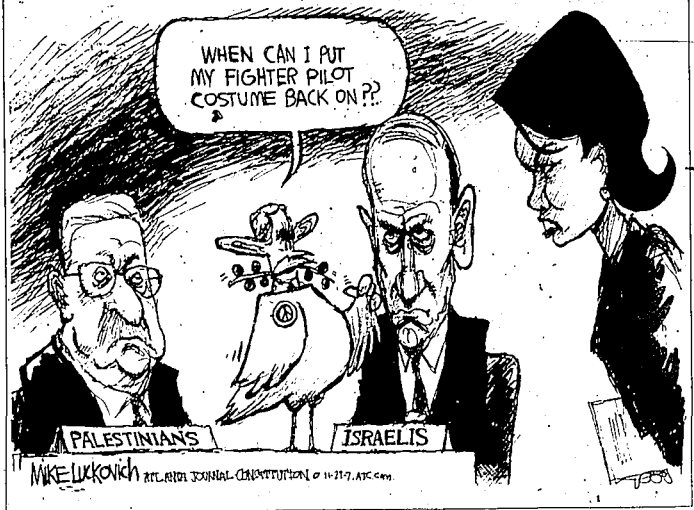
Failing to support Head Start is penny wise and pound foolish. Cutting current levels of support would be simply idiotic. Entrenching the one effective preschool education program available to Idaho families without means — and one of the cheapest for the state — means more Idaho kids who will be unequipped for life, and will fall in.

Look at it this way: Idaho can keep the money flowing to Head Start now, and do it at little cost. Or it can build more prisons 15 years from now to deal with the consequences of neglecting early childhood education.

It costs about as much to house an inmate in a prison in Idaho for a year as it would to send him or her to the University of Utah or the University of Washington. By the time the state builds another prison or two, it will be cheaper to send them to Stanford or Princeton.

For a fiscally conservative state, the decision about whether or not to continue to funnel federal money to Head Start is a no-brainer.

Our view: If Idaho can't figure out that it's cheaper to continue to support Head Start, it deserves the consequences of failing to do so. What do you think? We welcome viewpoints from our readers on this and other issues.



A lesson in how things fall apart

WASHINGTON — The man crowned by Tommy Franks as "the dumbest (expletive) guy on the planet" just made the dumbest (expletive) speech on the planet. Doug Feith, the former Rummy gofer who drove the neutron plane to get us into Iraq, and then dived without a plan as Iraq crashed into chaos, was the headline at a reunion meeting of the woolly-headed hawks recently at the American Enterprise Institute.



MAUREEN DOWD

The room was packed as the former No. 3 at the Pentagon, previewing his upcoming book, "War and Decision," conceded that the case could be made that "mistakes were made." His former boss, Paul Wolfowitz, and the former Pentagon adviser Richard Perle sat supportively in the front row.

But he wasn't self-flagellating. He was simply trying to put an egghead gloss on his Humpty Dumpty mishaps.

At the end of the day, here we are, and as of now there's a reasonable chance that the country is going to remain united," he said. Not quite the original boast of democratic ease in the Middle East.

Feith also incoherently noted that his de-Baathification policy — which created a huge, angry pool of unemployed men that fueled the insurgency — "was not basically a big error. It's been criticized very severely. I think there actually was a lot of good thought that went into the de-Baathification policy." It just spiraled out of hand, he said. Mistakes

were made.

He thinks everything would have been fine if America had not lugged so long in Iraq. If only Paul Bremer and the generals had just turned Iraq over to the slippery court man Feith wanted to put in charge.

Asked about getting tough with Iran and Syria, Feith offered this incoherent insight: "As we all know, the president said he's The Decider. That actually quite a profound point. The president is The Decider, and the mairaining he decides about is risk."

He noted that in battles through American history, "the military fights better over time." This from a guy who sent our military into Iraq without the right armor, the right force numbers and the right counterinsurgency training.

"A strategic alliance of the ousted Baathists and foreign jihadists was something that our intelligence community did not anticipate," he said, continuing to spread the blame.

But the intelligence community didn't miss it. The neocoms tried to scrub out that sort of analysis, knowing it would make the war harder to sell.

Classified reports prepared for President Bush in January 2003 by the National Intelligence Council warned that rogue

elements of Saddam's government could hook up with existing terrorist groups to wage guerrilla warfare.

In "Fiasco," Tom Ricks wrote that Feith's Pentagon office was dubbed the "black hole" of policy by generals watching him drop the ball.

"People working for Feith complained that he would spend hours rereading their memos, carefully mulling minor points of grammar," Ricks wrote. "A Joint Staff officer recalled angrily that at one point troops sat on a runway for hours, waiting to leave the United States on a mission, while he quibbled about commas in the deployment order."

Jay Garner, America's first victory in Iraq, deemed him "incredibly dangerous" and said his "electronics aren't connected."

Feith's disdain for diplomacy and his credo that weakness invites aggression were shaped, Ricks reported, by personal history. "Inexorably dangerous" Feith came from a family devastated by the Holocaust. His father lost both parents, three brothers and four sisters to the Nazis.

Feith told Jeffrey Goldberg in "New Yorker," "My family got wiped out by Hitler, and all this stuff about working things out — well, talking to Hitler to resolve the problem didn't make any sense to me. The kind of people who put bumper stickers on their car that

declare that "War is not the answer," are they making a serious comment? What's the answer to Pearl Harbor? What's the answer to the Holocaust?"

What's the answer to bin Laden? According to Feith, it was an attack on an unrelated dictator. He oversaw the Policy Counterterrorism Evaluation Group, whose mission was to amp up links between Saddam and al-Qaida.

It defies reason, but there are still some who think the chuckleheads who orchestrated the Iraq misadventure have wisdom to impart.

The Pentagon neocoms dumped Condoleezza Rice out of the job. Yet, according to Newsweek's Mike Isikoff, Condoleezza Rice offered Wolfowitz a job. It wasn't enough that he trashed Iraq and the World Bank. (He's still larking around town with Shaha, the sweetheart he gave the sweetheart deal to.)

Condoleezza Wolfowitz to advise her on nuclear proliferation and WMD) as part of a State Department panel that has access to highly classified intelligence.

Once you've helped displace WMD intelligence to trick the country into war, shouldn't you be banned for life from ever having another top-level government post concerning ...

Maureen Dowd is a columnist for the New York Times.

Times-News

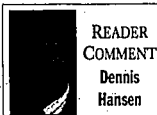
Brad Hurd ... publisher Steve Crump ... Opinion editor

The members of the editorial board and writers of editorials are Brad Hurd, James G. Wright, Steve Crump, Traci Bilis and Bill Bitzenburg.

Gov. Otter's Prop 13-style property tax idea has merit

I support Gov. Otter's position on property taxes and the need to have the legislation passed to give us some protection against the exorbitant increases we are receiving on our property taxes.

It is a sad day when our assessor's office is valuing property at more than it is actually worth on the market. Local governments in high growth areas seem to have no desire to keep spending under control or have developers pay more than that actual cost associated with growth. Growth should be paying



for itself, and that is not happening at the present time. Maybe it is time to organize and propose a change such as Proposition 13 in order to keep us from being taxed out of our homes. Idaho property tax payers would not be hurt with something like Proposition 13 that would not let assessors increase

taxes based on paper profits. I am aware of many property owners who have concerns and feel victimized by property taxes that threaten to increase beyond a property owner's ability to pay them. These increases themselves arise from inflationary property appreciation. Several property owners in Ada, Canyon, Franklin, Kootenai and Blaine counties, have been subject to 30 percent to 100 percent increases in the last two years that are directly tied to inflation-driven property appreciation. The best answer to this problem would be to remove

inflationary appreciation from taxable values by having the county assessor use an "actual value" based assessment approach. That would be actual purchase price plus cost of improvements for purposes of arriving at taxable value.

Property tax fairness cannot be achieved without elimination of inflation-driven property taxation. If it is not removed from tax calculations, we will continue to pay taxes on assessor-estimated gain on our homes and property before they are ever realized and may never materialize.

The requirement to pay taxes on an unrealized gain from year to year is unfair and plainly inconsistent with acceptable taxing principles.

Many have asked what we can do about this. I feel the answer lies with our state Legislature. I had the privilege of serving in the Senate for more than eight years, and I know the system works. The governor has vetoed concerns about this issue and we need to organize and plan to petition our legislators for assistance with a strong voice for a suggested solution. If you have strong feelings

about the unfairness of the current property tax system or ideas and want to join in the cause to bring about changes, please email me at dshansen@gmail.com or write me a letter at 465 W. Sky Fox St., Meridian, ID 83646. Join in the proposition for property tax fairness if we do nothing, we have no reason to complain.

Dennis S. Hansen, of Meridian, represented southern Idaho in the Idaho State Senate from 1987-1995 and served as commissioner of the Idaho Public Utilities Commission for 12 years.

Get in your two cents

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What's freedom of speech got to do with a pole dance?

AUSTIN, Texas — Texas topless clubs are using the wrong argument to try to fight a \$5-per-customer fee imposed by the state by saying it violates freedom of speech.

Who's going to buy that one, considering the speech that goes on in topless clubs? At the risk of sounding juvenile, since when was "hubba hubba ding ding baby you got everything protected speech?"



JOHN KELSOS

Churchill mentioned an iron curtain, not a pole. Oh, I can see why Texas topless clubs are fighting this \$5 fee. The money, in part, will go to pay for sexual assault prevention programs. The indication here being that topless clubs cause that problem.

Has anyone ever done a study to show which causes more violence against women, topless bars or guys being dragged by their old ladies to "La Bolla"? I'd say it might be a close call. So maybe we should be charging \$5 a head to go see the elephant in "Aida." Where does it stop?

Besides, a fee to get into a topless bar is just one more guilt tax. A guilt tax is a tax on an activity people aren't real proud of doing — like smoking, drinking and watching topless dancers. People who feel guilty are more likely to just pay up

and shut up. That's why the state is always inessing with them.

But since when was a pole dance protected by the First Amendment? And is this \$5 a head really asking too much?

Former Austin City Council Member Louise Epstein doesn't think so. I consulted with Epstein on this because she's a woman, and I figured we needed a woman's point of view.

"That's \$2.50 per boob," she pointed out. "When you break it out like that, it doesn't sound like so much. In fact, when you think

about it, this is very reasonable and very fair. It's not like there are different charges for different cup sizes."

Although that's not a bad idea, to make even more money, the state could charge on a graduated scale — you could have \$5, \$10 and \$20 entrance fees for small, medium and large — like theater popcorn.

The other thing that makes the freedom of speech argument silly is that nobody has much to say in a topless bar. Oh, sure, every once in a while the DJ will blurt out some-

thing witty like, "Asright, put your hands together for Bambi." But usually nobody's talking in the topless club.

I went into one of those places years ago with a TV camera crew, and let's just say that the customers didn't exactly line up to be interviewed. Pretty much the whole front row got up and ran off. I guess they told mama they were at the library.

John Kelsos is a columnist for the Austin, Texas, American-Statesman. Write to him at jkelsos@statesman.com

With 'reformed' Khadafy, not much has changed in Libya

Fathi Elhajmi, the most prominent pro-democracy activist in Libya, lives in a small cell in a large prison outside Tripoli. His brother, Mohamed, lives in a small ranch house outside Boston.

A couple of weeks ago, as the preposterous, preening Moammar Khadafy was pitching his Redoubt tent in the garden of the Hotel de Ville in Paris, Mohamed Elhajmi was sitting in a small office, just off his kitchen, tapping out e-mails.

While Khadafy, the Libyan dictator, uses petrodollars to buy legitimacy, Mohamed Elhajmi uses the Internet and the telephone to remind people that Khadafy is a phony and two-bit tyrant. "My brother called for democracy," Mohamed Elhajmi said. "He called for free speech, the rule of law, a free press, a constitution, the creation of a civil society. For this, Khadafy threw him in jail."

Khadafy used to love blowing up airplanes. With people in them. His agents took down Pan Am Flight 103 over Lockerbie, Scotland. His agents also blew up a French airliner some years ago, but that didn't stop the French government from receiving Khadafy as if he was the curator of a Jerry Lewis film festival.

Not long after Khadafy pitched his tent, he and the French announced they had consummated some \$15 billion in business deals — about \$4 billion for Airbus airplanes.

The official line is that Khadafy has renounced terrorism and dismantled a secret program to develop nuclear weapons, so the West



KEVIN CULLEN

must reward Khadafy and do business with him.

Which is OK if it doesn't bother you that Fathi Elhajmi, 66 years old and in failing health, has been in jail for most of the last five years for nothing more than calling for Libyans to enjoy the same freedoms that most everybody in the West takes for granted.

Mohamed Elhajmi came to Massachusetts in 1978. Fathi, a civil engineer, encouraged him to come here, and paid for him to attend Northeastern University.

"Fathi values knowledge," says Mohamed, a software engineer.

The last time the two brothers were together was 1981. Fathi had a wife and seven children in Libya. He also felt an obligation to be there when Libya had a chance to leave the league of rogue nations.

Mohamed Elhajmi says Khadafy hasn't changed, he's just changed tactics. Instead of blowing up planes, Khadafy buys them. Instead of terrorizing the outside world, he terrorizes Libya's 6 million people with a secret police force that tolerates no dissent. Khadafy figured out that as long as you do busi-

ness with the West, you can pretty much do whatever you want to your own people. And so Fathi Elhajmi is stuck in a dungeon while Khadafy is feted at state dinners and contract signings. "People who think Khadafy is reformed, they do an injustice to me just to my brother, but to all Libyans," Mohamed said. "It isn't holding just my brother prisoner. It's holding all Libyans prisoner."

Mohamed Elhajmi keeps two portraits of his brother above his desk in the office of the kitchen. One shows Fathi from the last photograph taken of him before he was imprisoned, in 2002. He is clean-shaven and healthy. The other portrait, done by a Dutch artist, imagines what

Fathi looks like after all these years in jail: a heavy beard and sagged face.

Amnesty International says Fathi Elhajmi is a prisoner of conscience. It's unconscionable that more people don't know who he is.

"Sometimes I think, maybe I'm not doing enough for my brother," Mohamed Elhajmi said, looking up at the portraits. Then, as if slapped, he thought of something, someone, and began typing out an e-mail.

A smoke detector in the hallway chirped. In need of a new battery.

It would have to wait. Kevin Cullen is a columnist for the Boston Globe. Write to him at kcullen@globe.com.

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LEGISLATURE 2008

Proposals piling up amid tight state funding

By Harold S. Hopkins
Times-News writer

Senior Idaho lawmakers predict that the 2008 Legislature will be among the quickest ever. But that could be difficult with the flurry of legislative proposals already floating around.

Much of the legislation will be determined by funding. But the state's revenue surplus has declined in the past few months, coming in at \$28 million over projections in November. Legislators pledged they'll be tighter on spending this year. "Big ticket items start to add up real quickly," said Rep. Fred Wood, R-Barley, a Joint Finance Appropriations Committee member. "The state is not going to get out on a limb very far with tax revenues."

A rundown of more legislation to be proposed when the session convenes Jan. 7:

- **Transportation funding:** Gov. C.L. "Butch" Otter and many lawmakers agree that increasing vehicle registration fees may be the best way to reduce a \$200 million annual shortfall for transportation needs. Legislators have been adamant that the gas tax will not rise. High-ranking GOP members said it's unlikely that the Legislature will revisit GASVET again, and Otter has said he's uninterested until last year's funding is used.

- **Grocery tax credit:** Despite legislators and then-Gov. Jim Iltis saying that the 1 percent sales tax hike in 2006 would be made up with adjusted grocery tax credit, no compromise was made in 2007. Otter's means-tested grocery relief for low and medium income Idahoans may return this year. Expect several proposals and much debate.

- **Local-option taxes:** Local-option taxes — those levied by counties or cities — have long been rejected by legislators for fear that local officials would cause the fiscal chaos. The push is at its strongest in the rapidly-growing Treasure Valley, and this year's proposal may be more acceptable since it provides not only for public transit, but also for road construction. Otter thinks local-option taxes leave decisions up to citizens.

- **Vote-by-mail:** County clerks have said they will propose vote-by-mail for non-candidate elections. Last year, all county clerks and the secretary of state tried to create a vote-by-mail system for all elections. After it passed committee, House leadership pulled it from the floor and did not return in the session.

- **Absentee ballots:** County clerks will also propose allowing voters to cast absentee ballots permanently and not during each election. Currently, counties process absentee ballots up to four times a year on dates elections can be held.

- **Liquor licenses:** A task force appointed by Otter recently retracted plans to amend Idaho's liquor laws — including cutting the state's quota system. But bar and restaurant owners remain confident that proposals will sprout up.

- **Government reform:** Senate Minority Caucus Chair Kate Kelly, D-Boise, will propose legislation that requires state government officials and their staff members to wait one year before going to work as a lobbyist. More than 30 states have at least a "cooling off" period of several months. In a separate proposal, Kelly will ask for lobbyists to disclose salaries and report gifts to family members or elected officials.

- **Court fees:** Municipal lobbying groups will ask to raise the cost of misdemeanors and infractions. Sen. Denton Darrington, R-Declo, chairman of the Senate Judiciary and Rules Committee, said he would consider changing

misdemeanors, but not infractions.

- **Cartography:** The Idaho Association of Assessors will propose a state licensing program for cartographers. Although private licensing exists, there is no statewide certification system.

- **Homeowners disclo-**

sure: Democrats and moderate Republicans plan to once again propose disclosure of home sales. Idaho is one of two states that don't require disclosure of home sales. Assessors have pushed for the change, which has traditionally been rejected by the Legislature.

- **Medical school:** There is a doctor shortage in Idaho but legislators agree a state medical school is years away due to a tight budget and low population. Idaho has seats at programs at the University of Washington Medical School and University of Utah. "The

real answer to getting students back to Idaho is in your residency programs,

not your medical school," said Wood, a retired physical therapist.

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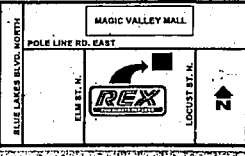
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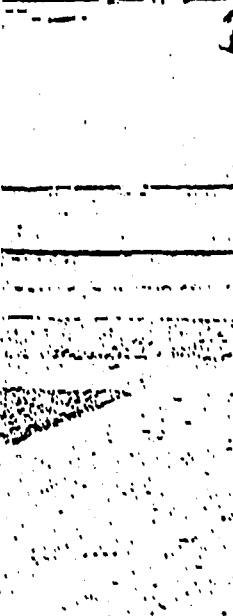


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INSIDE: Georgia and Hawaii in the Sugar Bowl? Who knew? B4



INSIDE: Bowl results, B2 | Scoreboard, B3 | New Year's Day Bowl Previews, B4 | NBA & Golf, B5 | Comics, B6-7 | Weather, B8



Fresno State tight end Drew Lubinsky scores a touchdown in the second quarter against Georgia Tech at the Humanitarian Bowl football game at Bronco Stadium in Boise on Monday.

Bronco fans bleed Bulldog red ... but just for a day



DAVID BASHORE

One fan's shirt said it best, displaying "Bulldog for today" on the front, and "Bronco for life" on the back.

When Boise State turned down a bid to again play in the Humanitarian Bowl, in the process spurring its own stadium in favor of greener pastures, there may have been consternation about the ability to pack Bronco Stadium for two out-of-area teams.

Only one difference, however, existed Monday: Almost every single Boise State fan in attendance was cheering as a WAC fan rather than a Bronco fan.

The overwhelming majority of fans in attendance at Monday's game did not come decked out in the red of Fresno State, nor did they arrive clad in the gold and black of Georgia Tech.

They came bathed in the familiar blue and orange of Boise State, even though their Broncos had already played their bowl game in a locale some 4,000 miles away.

There were plenty of

Fresno State fans — make no mistake — as the university sold some 8,200 of its 3,000 allotted tickets, but the ratio of fans would have existed someone unaware of the bowl game to mistake it for a home WAC game for Boise State.

Now 11 years into its existence, the Humanitarian Bowl still gets billed as a cold-weather bowl, and selling some 1,700 tickets between the two participating universities will do little in the way of lifting the stigma. But who can blame those that apply the cold-weather label: I know I'd rather attend a bowl game in Arizona, Florida or San Diego so I can fault fans and universities who feel the same way.

Of course, with even the small traveling contingents of fans for each university, the hotels, restaurants, malls and ski resorts benefit from visitors who wouldn't normally sniff their wares, let alone contribute to the local economy.

The Humanitarian Bowl, however, is living proof that the old "Field of Dreams" adage of "If you build it, people will come" really does hold water.

There's no question Bronco fans would be happier, if only with their ownness, if Boise State didn't go to Hawaii or the BCS every year, but if Bronco fans will come out in droves regardless of who's playing in the game, maybe it is better for Boise on the whole for BSU to spurn the home cooking of a bowl in its own city.

After Monday's game, there's a pretty simple conclusion to the question of whether the game needs Boise State to feature in it in order to be viable: no Broncos, no problem.

David Bashore may be reached at 1-800-459-3803, ext. 230, or david.bashore@tnc.net.

Fresno State holds off Georgia Tech 40-28

The Associated Press

BOISE — Add Georgia Tech — again — to Fresno State's list of conquests from BCS conferences.

Add Jon Tenuta to the list of winless interim coaches this postseason. Clifton Smith rushed for 152 yards and two touchdowns. Tom Brandstauer threw for a score and ran for another and the Bulldogs beat Georgia Tech 40-28 in the Humanitarian Bowl on Monday.

Fresno State's offense was surprisingly unstoppable against a Yellow Jackets defense that was among the best in the Atlantic Coast Conference and led the country in sacks during the regular season with 47.

But Fresno State's offensive line kept Brandstauer off his feet, and even when Georgia Tech (7-6) got a little heat on the junior, he showed the ability to escape the pocket and keep plays alive.

After punting on its opening possession, the Bulldogs (9-4) scored 27 straight points, taking a 34-14 lead midway through the third quarter, when Brandstauer used an escort from tight end Bear Pascoe for a 24-yard touchdown run.

It's Fresno State's second bowl win over Georgia Tech, beating the Yellow Jackets 30-21 in the 2002 Silicon Valley Football Classic, and it made the Bulldogs 3-0 against the ACC in bowls. Fresno State has won four of its last five bowl appearances, all four wins coming against teams from the six confer-



Fresno's Lonyae Miller, center, breaks through the Georgia Tech defense during the first half at the Humanitarian Bowl football game at Bronco Stadium in Boise on Monday.

ences with automatic bids to the Bowl Championship Series.

Tenuta took the interim tag when Chan Gailey was fired after six seasons and became the fourth caretaker coach to lose this postseason, joining DeWayne Walker (UCLA), Gary Darmul (Texas A&M) and Chris Thurmond (Houston).

Tenuta's final bid show some fight after falling way behind.

Please see FRESNO, Page B2

Yellow Jacket fans small in numbers, big in spirit

By David Bashore
Times-News writer

BOISE — There may not have been many Georgia Tech fans at Monday's Humanitarian Bowl Monday for the Yellow Jackets' game against Fresno State, some no-shows possibly put off by the transition between fired coach Chan Gailey and incoming coach Paul Johnson, but those that did come were rewarded for their dedication.

The Yellow Jackets fell short in their attempt to rally from a second-half deficit, but those few Georgia Tech faithful who made the trip had a great experience nonetheless.

Sports information director Dean Buchan said fewer than 500 tickets allotted to the Georgia Tech athletic department were sold the rest were donated to charities in the Boise area but that didn't stop the few who came from making some noise for their team and enjoying themselves.

The Georgia Tech Alumni Association held a pre-game party at The Ram, where an estimated 75 to 100 people gathered and then migrated across the street for the game. Most of those were from the Atlanta area, including a good number of fans who made a return trip after attending Tech's win in the Humanitarian Bowl four years ago.

Most made a week-long trip of it, primarily staying at team hotel The Grove — even though Atlanta is a far more comfortable destination this time of year — and the majority of those stated the level of impressiveness Boise carries even compared to their last trip.

"Everything's more centrally located than in Atlanta, which is what's really good about it," said Larry Whyte of Atlanta, a 1973 graduate of

Georgia Tech who attends almost every Yellow Jackets away game courtesy of 4-10-foot RV that carries a massive flag depicting his allegiance to the university.

"We came last Wednesday, tried to do some snowmobiling and toured Boise, and we'll leave this Wednesday to make a week out of it. It's really easy to get around, and there's a whole lot more to do here and a lot more places to eat (than last time Tech came to Boise)."

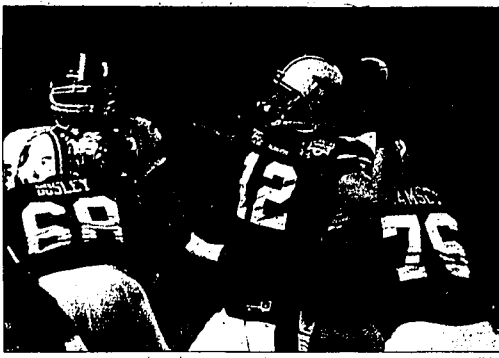
Whyte's wife Diane was a little reticent about the trip in 1974 and originally from Florida, but Larry said they were prepared to come even if it was 2 degrees outside. In actuality, the conditions didn't matter at all, and both professed their enjoyment of the city.

"It's been really great, everyone has been really nice," Diane Whyte said. "The weather hasn't put us off of anything, and we've had a really great time."

Yellow Jacket fans came primarily from Georgia, with a few making the journey from other places, including a few based locally. But wherever the destination, there was reason to attend.

Jack Probst, of Columbus, Ohio, graduated from Tech in 1974 and jumped at the opportunity to see his alma mater play in the bowl, particularly when it meant a chance visit his family and take his grandson, 12-year-old Ben Farrington, to his very first football game.

"We heard that Tech was going to play in the (Humanitarian) bowl, and we got some tickets and decided to come out," Probst said. "The last time I made it to a bowl game was when we won the national championship (by beating Nebraska at the 1991 Citrus Bowl). I don't get a lot of chances to get to see them live, so it's exciting."



Auburn quarterback Brandon Cox throws a pass during the first quarter of the Chick-fil-A Bowl football game against Clemson on Monday in Atlanta.

Auburn's Burns beats Clemson with OT score

ATLANTA (AP) — Auburn showed off more than a new offense Monday night. Auburn also found a new quarterback. Freshman quarterback Kodi Burns threw for a touchdown and scored on a 7-yard run in overtime to lead Auburn to a 23-20 victory over Clemson in the Chick-fil-A Bowl.

No. 22 Auburn (9-3) denied No. 15 Clemson (9-4) its first 10-win season since 1999. C.J. Spiller had eight carries for 112 yards for Clemson, including an 83-yard touchdown run, but on a 7-yard run in overtime to lead Auburn to a 23-20 victory over Clemson in the Chick-fil-A Bowl.

In the second quarter, Spiller appeared to be strapped at the line by Auburn's Josh Thompson and Quentin Groves. But Spiller bounced out to his left, turned the corner and suddenly had open field down the Clemson sideline. Spiller stayed a step ahead of Auburn cornerback Jonathan Wilhite in the race to the end zone.

After Mark Buchholz kicked a 25-yard field goal on Clemson's opening possession of overtime, Burns scored on a spinning run on a third-and-3 play. Auburn's starting quarterback, Brandon Cox, ran for a first down on a fourth-and-1 play to the 16 to keep Auburn's overtime possession alive.

There were concerns that the attempt to implement Franklin's offense so quickly could lead to confusion in Auburn's first chance to make use of the scheme in a game. Auburn's first possession produced mixed results. The good: Auburn drove 58 yards on 11 plays as Cox and Burns shared snaps.

The 83-yard run was the longest in a bowl game in the Clemson history, the longest in any Chick-fil-A Bowl game and the longest for Clemson in any game since an 89-yard run by Derrick Witherspoon against Maryland on Oct. 30, 1993.

Robinson leads Oklahoma State to Insight Bowl win over Indiana

TEMPE, Ariz. (AP) — Zac Robinson threw three touchdown passes and ran for two more scores, leading Oklahoma State to a 49-33 Insight Bowl victory over Indiana on Monday night.

A sophomore making his 11th college start, Robinson completed 24 of 34 passes for 302 yards. He also threw an interception. Dantrell Savage ran for 100 yards and a touchdown for the Cowboys (7-6, 4-4 Big 12), who matched their season-high point total.

Indiana's Nick Palk (8) intercepts a pass intended for Oklahoma State's Dez Bryant (11) in the Insight Bowl Monday in Tempe, Ariz.

The loss capped an emotional year for the Hoosiers (7-6, 3-5 Big Ten), whose coach, Terry Hoopner, died of complications a brain tumor in June. Kellen Lewis passed for 204 yards and two touchdowns and ran for 83 yards and another touchdown for the Hoosiers in their first postseason appearance since 1993.

Most of the plays involved Robinson, a quick-twitch product of Lindaleton, Colo. He carved up the Hoosiers with his arm and his legs. In the first half, Robinson completed 15 of 20 passes for 192 yards and two touchdowns and led Oklahoma State with 64 rushing yards and two touchdowns.

Behind a lineup of mostly young, skill-position backups trying to make an impression on incoming coach Paul Johnson, who watched the game from the area around the Bronco Stadium press box, the Yellow Jackets got within 34-28 early in the fourth quarter. Backup quarterback Calvin Booker threw a fowling jump ball that D.J. Donley wrestled away from Fresno State defensive backs Moses Harris and Darrin Owens.

Woodson hands Bowden first December bowl loss

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (AP) — Andre Woodson threw four TD passes against a depleted Florida State defense and Kentucky won its second straight Music City Bowl, beating the Seminoles 35-28 on Monday for Bobby Bowden's first bowl loss in December.

26 straight bowl titles and two national titles, his December bowl record finally has its first blemish at 7-1. Bowden is major college football's winningest coach with 373 victories — one ahead of Penn State's Joe Paterno.

Florida State was playing three dozen players short due to injuries and suspensions stemming from an academic cheating scandal. Woodson capitalized on the missing depth and finished the season with 40 touchdown passes, breaking Tim Couch's school-record 37

Roper, Stewart lead Oregon over USF

EL PASO, Texas (AP) — Jonathan Stewart set a Sun Bowl record with a career-high 253 yards rushing and Justin Roper threw four touchdown passes in his first start as Oregon beat South Florida 52-21 on Monday.

The Ducks (9-4) snapped 28 straight points in the third quarter to snap a four-game postseason losing streak, their first bowl win since beating Colorado 38-16 in the Fiesta Bowl after the 2001 season.

Oregon running back Jonathan Stewart holds up the Most Valuable Player Trophy after beating South Florida in the Sun Bowl football game Monday in El Paso, Texas.

Roper started the scoring avalanche with a 13-yard TD strike to Jason Williams and added a 15-yard scoring pass to Ed Dickson. On the next play from scrimmage, Walter Thurmond stepped in front of a pass by South Florida's Matt Grothe and returned it 25 yards for another TD, giving the Ducks a 39-14 lead midway through the third.

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Cal rallies against Air Force for Armed Forces Bowl victory

FORT WORTH, Texas (AP) — DeSean Jackson and Robert Jordan returned from their first-quarter benchings and caught touchdown passes to help California rally from a three-TD deficit and beat Air Force 42-16 in the Armed Forces Bowl on Monday.

California (7-6), ranked No. 2 in the nation in October before losing six of seven games, managed to finish with its sixth straight winning season. Jackson, Jordan and leading tackler Thomas DeCoud were field out of the starting lineup and didn't play the first quarter because of unspecified violations of team rules that occurred before the game.

Final collegiate game only about half-hour from his home with about 300 family and friends watching, ran for 140 yards and two TDs on 23 carries. His 1-yard score with 1:33 left in the third quarter gave the Bears their first lead and put them ahead for good at 28-7. He added a 21-yard TD on Cal's next drive.

Fresno

Continued from page B1 Behind a lineup of mostly young, skill-position backups trying to make an impression on incoming coach Paul Johnson, who watched the game from the area around the Bronco Stadium press box, the Yellow Jackets got within 34-28 early in the fourth quarter.

Table with 2 columns: Player, Stats. Includes names like George Iyler, DeSean Jackson, Robert Jordan, and various statistics like TDs, Yards, and Receptions.

3-yard TD pass to Drew Labinsky with 1:54 left in the half, the first catch of the junior's college career. George Tech drove to the Fresno 47, but on fourth-down with 23 seconds left, quarterback Taylor Bennett was sacked. Brandtster then completed three straight passes and Clint Sitzer kicked a 39-yard field goal, his second of the half, to give the Bulldogs a 2-0 lead.

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Missouri hopes to make most of Cotton Bowl matchup with Arkansas

DALLAS (AP) — Missouri has had a month to get over its disappointment after losing to a Cotton Bowl opponent.

The Tigers still have plenty to be enthused about, like their first New Year's Day game since 1970.

"We're excited about playing in this level of a bowl game," said coach Gary Blain, whose seventh-ranked Tigers face No. 25 Arkansas in Tuesday's Cotton Bowl. "It's a different experience for our players. Every time you play games through these experiences, expectations keep going up."

Expectations increased so much at Missouri this season the Tigers were initially upset about their postseason fate. Missouri was ranked No. 1 in the nation before losing to Oklahoma in the Big 12 championship game.

After squandering a chance to play in the BCS title game, the Tigers (11-2) were left out of the Bowl Championship Series entirely. A couple teams they beat ended up in BCS bowls — Kansas in the Orange Bowl and Illinois in the Rose — which didn't sit well with Tigers fans.

The Cotton Bowl is a pretty big stage, though. Missouri hasn't played in it since 1934, and hasn't played on New Year's Day since the 1970 Orange Bowl. The Tigers appear motivated by the chance to prove themselves

against a Southeastern Conference team.

"I've never been anywhere," said Missouri's Jeremy Maclin, an All-American as a senior this season, as an all-purpose player in the SEC.

That's what everybody thinks, especially from the SEC. They think they're going to be the fastest team on the field. But we've got some guys that can run out there."

Missouri's spread offense is the fastest and most explosive. Arkansas (10-4) relies more on a powerful offensive line and spectacular tailbacks Darren McFadden and Polk Jones. McFadden, the Heisman Trophy runner-up in 2006 and 2007, has rushed for 1,725 yards this season. The ferschel Walker holds the SEC record of 1,891.

McFadden, a junior, can turn pro after this game.

There was some concern his college career could be over called. The university looked into his eligibility being compromised after an Arkansas television station last week linked McFadden and an agent to the purchase of a vehicle.

After several denials by the agent and McFadden's parents, the station apologized Friday, saying its report was flawed. On Monday, the university said McFadden would play.



Carr's finale, Florida's future provide motivation

ORLANDO, Fla. (AP) — Michigan and Florida were at the center of the Bowl Championship Series controversy a year ago.

The Wolverines looked as if they would get a rematch against Ohio State in the national title game, but the Gators — thanks to some lobbying from coach Urban Meyer — jumped into the No. 2 spot and then upset the Buckeyes in Arizona.

Both teams were far removed from the championship picture this season, losing to big-time rivals and ending up in the Capital One Bowl.

Still, Michigan and Florida have plenty of motivation heading into Tuesday's game.

"The Wolverines (10-4) want to send retiring coach Lloyd Carr out with a win and get their senior-laden team its first bowl victory.

"Definitely, the season was up and down and it wasn't the way we wanted it to go," offensive tackle Jake Long said. "We've been working hard to let the coaches go out on top, let the players go out on top and let the seniors just leave with their first bowl win."

The ninth-ranked Gators (9-3), meanwhile, have Heisman Trophy winner Tim Tebow, speedster Percy Harvin and many more starters, returning in 2008 and hope to build momentum for a season that is sure to be one of the most anticipated in school history.

"Momentum is everything," Meyer said. "At the end of a season, if you're not successful in a bowl game, you have to live with that for six, seven, eight months. We haven't had to do that."

Meyer-coached teams

have won their last four bowl games. He won two at Utah and both at Florida.

Carr's team hasn't had nearly the same success, losing four bowl games in a row and five of the last six.

Players and coaches are eager to reverse the trend, especially with all the turmoil they have gone through this season.

There was the shocking loss to Appalachian State to start the season, the 0-2 start and the eight-game winning streak that followed. There were the consecutive losses to Wisconsin and Ohio State that ended any chance of playing in the Rose Bowl.

There was Carr's Nov. 19 retirement announcement, which came two days after the 14-3 loss to the Buckeyes. And there was the hiring of West Virginia coach Rich

Rodriguez and his swift decision to fire all but one assistant coach.

The Wolverines can push all those memories aside with a victory against the defending national champions.

"I want them to be motivated to win," said Carr, who is 5-7 in bowl games at Michigan. "What I have tried to tell them is that there is always a group of guys who are playing their last game at Michigan when we go to a bowl game, and that is special."

"And yet I think it can hurt you as you go through it if you are not concentrating and focused on the game plan."

Rodriguez was expected to be at the game and watching from the stands with his family. But the players vowed that the new coach would not be a distraction.

Expectations increased so much at Missouri this season the Tigers were initially upset about their postseason fate. Missouri was ranked No. 1 in the nation before losing to Oklahoma in the Big 12 championship game.

After squandering a chance to play in the BCS title game, the Tigers (11-2) were left out of the Bowl Championship Series entirely. A couple teams they beat ended up in BCS bowls — Kansas in the Orange Bowl and Illinois in the Rose — which didn't sit well with Tigers fans.

The Cotton Bowl is a pretty big stage, though. Missouri hasn't played in it since 1934, and hasn't played on New Year's Day since the 1970 Orange Bowl. The Tigers appear motivated by the chance to prove themselves

against a Southeastern Conference team.

"I've never been anywhere," said Missouri's Jeremy Maclin, an All-American as a senior this season, as an all-purpose player in the SEC.

That's what everybody thinks, especially from the SEC. They think they're going to be the fastest team on the field. But we've got some guys that can run out there."

Missouri's spread offense is the fastest and most explosive. Arkansas (10-4) relies more on a powerful offensive line and spectacular tailbacks Darren McFadden and Polk Jones. McFadden, the Heisman Trophy runner-up in 2006 and 2007, has rushed for 1,725 yards this season. The ferschel Walker holds the SEC record of 1,891.

McFadden, a junior, can turn pro after this game.

There was some concern his college career could be over called. The university looked into his eligibility being compromised after an Arkansas television station last week linked McFadden and an agent to the purchase of a vehicle.

After several denials by the agent and McFadden's parents, the station apologized Friday, saying its report was flawed. On Monday, the university said McFadden would play.



Georgia football players warm up before practice at the Superdome in New Orleans, Sunday, Georgia will play Hawaii in the Sugar Bowl on New Year's Day.

Wisconsin, Tennessee reject size vs. speed debate

TAMPA, Fla. (AP) — Wisconsin and Tennessee disagree on the notion the Outback Bowl will be a typical Big Ten-Southeastern Conference matchup.

Pitting the Badgers' size against the Volunteers' speed, each program has plenty of both, adding the teams wouldn't be playing on New Year's Day if they didn't.

"That's a stereotype because they have players that are fast as players on our team," Vols quarterback Erik Ainge said. "I don't really buy into that. I think that their 11 on defense vs. our 11 on offense computes just like anybody else."

Wisconsin coach Bret Bielema and Tennessee counterpart Phillip Fulmer agreed that the decades-old perception that big, strong teams from the Big Ten are smaller, much quicker athletes from the SEC is fading.

The No. 10 Badgers (9-3) defeated Auburn and Arkansas in the past two Capital One Bowl games. They can join Michigan as the only Big Ten schools to win bowl games against SEC opponents in three consecu-

tive seasons by beating the Wisconsin and Tennessee No. 16 Vols (9-3) on Tuesday.

"I think we're talking about Tennessee, they're very, very fast. And not only do they fast, they're big in the positions that they need to be big at," said Bielema, who's 21-4 in two seasons since succeeding Barry Alvarez as Badgers coach.

"We let NFL scouts come to our practices that week because a lot of the scouts live down here in Florida. A couple commented to me about how Wisconsin's defense has changed speed-wise. I know coach Fulmer has made a note of that as well. It (speed vs. size debate) was probably something that was really legit 10 years ago, but has probably lessened a bit now."

When Tennessee began watching film of Wisconsin, it took them a long time to get a feel for what the Vols are up against.

The Badgers have a massive offensive line and expect running back P.J. Hill, who rushed for 1,000 yards and sixth in points (42 per game). Tech looks particularly strong after its last game, a 34-27 win over Oklahoma that soured the Sooners' national championship hopes.

Tech's offense is annually strong. Junior Graham Harrell has looked especially good running it. Harrell has thrown for 5,298 yards, just the sixth quarterback in NCAA history and second for the Red Hatters to top 5,000.



Georgia vs. Hawaii A Sugar Bowl no one saw coming

NEW ORLEANS (AP) — Even in the wackiest of seasons, no one could have seen this Sugar Bowl coming.

Georgia appeared down and out at the midway point, licking its wounds after a listless 21-point defeat at Tennessee. Coach Mark Richt wouldn't even talk about goals such as conference championships or major bowls, figuring both were out of reach with the Bulldogs' second defeat.

Not so fast. Georgia (10-2) hasn't lost since and might be playing as well as any team in the country.

Five time zones west of Athens, Hawaii put together perhaps the most neglected perfect season in college football history. The Warriors (12-0) play most of their games after the rest of the country goes to bed; when everyone finally wakes up, they found an unlikely interloper as part of the Bowl Championship Series.

On Tuesday night, these two disparate teams will meet for the first time, a traditional Southeastern Conference powerhouse taking on an up-and-coming program from paradise.

It just might be the most intriguing game on the postseason schedule, certainly a worthy warmup to the BCS title game six

days later on the same Superdome field.

"They're undefeated, so I know they're approaching this as a championship game," Georgia defensive end Marcus Howard said. "We were one of the hottest teams toward the end of the year and felt like we should have been in the BCS."

Even without a national title on the line, it's a fascinating story line.

• Can the Warriors, who went undefeated against an unimpressive schedule that included teams such as Northern Colorado, Charleston Southern and Idaho, cope with an opponent that knocked off defending national champion Florida and three other bowl-bound teams during its six-game winning streak?

• How will Georgia's defense fare against Heisman Trophy finalist Colt Brennan and the rest of Hawaii's run-and-shoot offense, which is unlike anything the Bulldogs have faced all season?

Will the Bulldogs take offense when Hawaii does its traditional Polynesian war dance before the game? Can the Warriors counter the emotional boost Georgia expects to get from donning its black jerseys?

Capital One Bowl Michigan (8-4) vs. Florida (9-3) 11 a.m., ABC

Gator Bowl Virginia (9-3) vs. Texas Tech (8-4) 11 a.m., CBS

Rose Bowl Southern California (10-2) vs. Illinois (9-3) 2:30 p.m., ABC

Sugar Bowl Hawaii (12-0) vs. Georgia (10-2) 6:30 p.m., FOX

Wednesday, Jan. 2

Fiesta Bowl West Virginia (10-2) vs. Oklahoma (11-2) 6 p.m., FOX

Thursday, Jan. 3

Orange Bowl Kansas (11-1) vs. Virginia Tech (11-2) 6 p.m., FOX

Saturday, Jan. 5

International Bowl Rutgers (7-4) vs. Ball State (7-5) 10 a.m., ESPN2

Sunday, Jan. 6

GMAC Bowl Tulsa (9-4) vs. Bowling Green (8-4) 6 p.m., ESPN

Monday, Jan. 7

BCS National Championship Ohio State (11-1) vs. LSU (11-2) 6 p.m., FOX

Cavaliers seeking respect against fast-attack Texas Tech

JACKSONVILLE, Fla. (AP) — The Gator Bowl story line goes like this: Texas Tech and its pass-happy and strong offensive against Virginia, with its do-just-enough-to-win approach.

For the Cavaliers, this is also about respect. Somewhere, the No. 21 team in the country, which finished 9-3 in a fairly ACC, is about a six-point underdog against unranked Texas Tech (8-4) on Tuesday.

The Cavaliers haven't been flashy. They average 329 yards a game, compared with the Red Raiders' 537, and have actually given up more points (325) than they've put up (209). But Virginia has scored when it counted, rebounding from a season-opening road game, powered by wins and a 17-16 victory over Wake Forest in November.

The Cavaliers thumped Miami 48-0 the next week, marking their first win in the

state of Florida, but Virginia is still 0-5 in Florida bowls, including a 48-14 loss to Oklahoma in the 1991 Gator Bowl.

All-America defensive end Chris Long, the son of Pro Football Hall of Famer Howie Long, said this season's prowess here for the school has come.

On Tuesday, Virginia has a chance to slow the rest of the country. But it will be tough to contain coach Mike Leach's spread offense, which ranks first nationally in yards and sixth in points (42 per game). Tech looks particularly strong after its last game, a 34-27 win over Oklahoma that soured the Sooners' national championship hopes.

Tech's offense is annually strong. Junior Graham Harrell has looked especially good running it. Harrell has thrown for 5,298 yards, just the sixth quarterback in NCAA history and second for the Red Hatters to top 5,000.



Granddaddy of 'Em All feels more like an undercard this year

BEVERLY HILLS, Calif. (AP) — As always this time of year, the buzz in LA is about college football. More specifically, the front-page news is about this city's underdog program, UCLA, and its new celebrity coach, Rick Neuheisel.

The Rose Bowl and Southern California — they've been shuffled to the back, both locally and nationally, thanks to Neuheisel and a few other reasons:

1) USC seems to play in this game pretty much every year.

2) The Trojans, despite always making the Rose Bowl their No. 1 goal, are in Pasadena for the second straight season after squandering a decent chance to play for the national title.

3) Their opponent, Illinois, is arguably the freshest story going on here this week. But the Illini are a three-loss team. Big Ten runners-up, don't have the warm-and-fuzzy potential of, say, Hawaii or Boise State, and are the biggest underdogs of this season's 32 bowl games, at 13-2 points.

4) The granddaddy of 'em All ever looking like this much of an undercard.

Can anyone say "playoff"?

I know there's other games out there, and now and then, you get a chance to see USC coach Pete Carroll said Monday. "To come back here again is a great thrill, and it's really the target of our program."

Apparently not the target of many a USC fan out there.

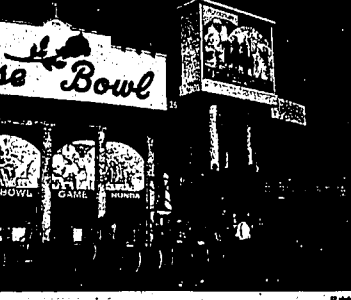
Trojan boosters are a hard-core group, and lots of them have money. Fans spent

thousands to fly to Miami to watch USC in the Orange Bowl a few years ago.

And \$1,000 wasn't enough to even get them in the stadium two years ago to see the Trojans against Texas in the Rose Bowl, when that was the national title game.

But they're not paying much for this matchup. Over the weekend, tickets on the 50-yard line were going for around \$80.

Even Carroll acknowledged that he'd love to see how far the sixth-ranked Trojans (10-2) could go in a playoff system. Four weeks ago, when the BCS pairings came out, he lobbied for a spot



Southern California football players take their places for a team photograph Monday in Pasadena, Calif. USC will play Illinois in the Rose Bowl on New Year's Day.

in the national title game and said it was clear nobody in the country would want to play his team.

One reason the Bowl system stays the way it is, is because of teams such as Illinois.

Sure, the 13th-ranked Illini (9-3) appear to be overmatched in this game and made it because the Big Ten champion, Ohio State, is slated for the BCS title game. (And because Rose Bowl officials were insistent on a traditional Big Ten-Pac-10 matchup.)

Still, this trip is nothing less than the culmination of an impossible dream for both coach Ron Zook and the program.

B.C. By Johnny Hart

Panel 1: "I'VE RESOLVED TO QUIT GAMBLING THIS YEAR."
Panel 2: "HA! I BET YOU WON'T LAST A MONTH!"
Panel 3: "...I GOT 5 CLAIMS THAT SAY I WILL!"

Baby Blues By Rick Kirkman & Jerry Scott

Panel 1: "I THINK WE SHOULD GET AN ELEGANT STYLISH TREE FOR THE CHRISTMAS CELEBRATIONS."
Panel 2: "I'VE GOT A PLAN. I'VE GOT THE ONLY THING WORSE THAN PUTTING UP CHRISTMAS DECORATIONS IS TAKING THEM DOWN."
Panel 3: "AND THE ONLY THING WORSE THAN THAT IS PACKING AWAY CHRISTMAS DECORATIONS."
Panel 4: "THIS YEAR I WAS THOUGHTFUL. I COULD FIT A THIRTY-FOOT TREE IN THE ROOM."

Baldo By Hector D. Cantu and Carlos Castellanos

Panel 1: "LOOK IN GREENIE'S BAG. BASICALLY CHILDREN'S SHOES WITH PRESENTS FOR NEW YEARS' DAY!"
Panel 2: "IN GREENIE'S BAG IS THE OLDEST SON GETS A BRAND-NEW 1994 RAZOR FOR HIS BIRTHDAY. AND FOR COMPLETENESS BY HIS LONG NO CARING FATHER."
Panel 3: "DID HE HAVE ANY APPRECIATION FOR FOREIGN COUNTRIES?"
Panel 4: "NOT REALLY. HE BECAME UNDERNOURISHED AND I MIGHT ADD, NOT REALLY."

Brevity By Guy & Rodd

Panel 1: "AND HERE'S A PICTURE OF US DURING THE GREAT BARBER'S STRIKE OF '06."
Panel 2: "I DON'T WANT TO BE A BARBER. I WANT TO BE A HUSBAND."
Panel 3: "IS THERE A PROBLEM KEEPING IT UP? I'D BE GLAD TO HELP YOU WITH THAT."
Panel 4: "NO, NO. I'VE GOT IT UNDER CONTROL. I'VE GOT IT UNDER CONTROL."
Panel 5: "LOOK, ANYBODY WHO'S GOT A PROBLEM WITH THEIR HAIR, LET'S GET IT CUT. WE'LL GET IT DONE FOR YOU."

Dilbert By Scott Adams

Panel 1: "I HAD A GREAT DAY AT WORK FOR SOME REASON. NO ONE INTERRUPTED ME. SO I GOT A LOT DONE."
Panel 2: "TODAY IS A HOLIDAY."
Panel 3: "ALL OF MY VICTORIES ARE TAINTED."

Doonesbury By Gary Trudeau

Panel 1: "SO THIS IS YOUR ROOM, OKAY?"
Panel 2: "YEAH, GREAT."
Panel 3: "ANY IDEA HOW TO GET YOUR ROOM NUMBER?"
Panel 4: "NO, I DON'T. I DON'T WANT TO BE A HOUSE FOR YOU."
Panel 5: "NO, NO. I'VE GOT IT UNDER CONTROL. I'VE GOT IT UNDER CONTROL."
Panel 6: "LOOK, ANYBODY WHO'S GOT A PROBLEM WITH THEIR HAIR, LET'S GET IT CUT. WE'LL GET IT DONE FOR YOU."

The Elderberries By Phil Frank and Joe Toise

Panel 1: "What's all the hubbub?"
Panel 2: "Mrs. Overdome locked her keys in the car."
Panel 3: "I'll simply call AAA and be on my way shortly."
Panel 4: "Ain't no one gonna come on New Year's Eve!"
Panel 5: "Fortunately, Ah already have a plan to crack open yer Nazdad!"
Panel 6: "I'd like some champagne now."
Panel 7: "Yes, but have that bygones of hammas?"

For Better or For Worse By Lynn Johnston

Panel 1: "I WANDER WHERE WE'LL BE NEW YEAR'S EVE, AND I WANDER WHERE WE'LL BE NEW YEAR'S EVE."
Panel 2: "LET'S TURN OFF THE MUSIC AND DANCE."
Panel 3: "WHY?"
Panel 4: "BECAUSE IT'S QUIETER."
Panel 5: "I'M NOT SURE."
Panel 6: "YES, YOU ARE, BUT SIT WITH THE KIDS WHEN I READ THIS AND YOU'LL BE CURED."

Frank and Ernest By Bob Thaves

Panel 1: "IT'S THE ROSE PARADE!"
Panel 2: "I'M HOME!"
Panel 3: "GRAMPAR!"
Panel 4: "YOU DIDN'T WIPE YOUR FEET."
Panel 5: "GRANDKIDS AND DOGS ARE MY FAVORITE PEOPLE."

Luann By Greg Evans

Panel 1: "THE POLY LITTLE FLURRY? NEVER HEARD OF IT."
Panel 2: "WHAT? YOU DON'T READ THAT WHEN YOU WERE A KID?"
Panel 3: "I WAS MORE INTO 'WHERE THE WILD THINGS ARE'."
Panel 4: "NO WONDER YOU'RE SO WEIRD."
Panel 5: "I'M NOT WEIRD."
Panel 6: "YES, YOU ARE, BUT SIT WITH THE KIDS WHEN I READ THIS AND YOU'LL BE CURED."

Mallard Fillmore By Bruce Tinsley

Panel 1: "Mallard's New Year's Prediction #48: LAWNEY HORRIBLE, DISGUSTING ASPECTS OF ORPHAN'S PAST WILL MYSTERIOUSLY EMERGE."
Panel 2: "MRS. CLINTON WILL, OF COURSE, KNOW NOTHING ABOUT IT..."
Panel 3: "I WANT EVEN IN THE ROOM!"

Pearls Before Swine By Stephan Pastis

Panel 1: "I HEARD SOME FEMALE LIONS ARE VISITING YOU TODAY."
Panel 2: "Yep. Me and Max are back on the market, so we want to look our best."
Panel 3: "WHAT'S A FEMALE LION ATTRACTED TO?"
Panel 4: "Money, mostly. The bigger the mane, the more likely the female is to see you as dominant."
Panel 5: "Enough with the blow dryer, Max."

Pickles By Brian Crane

Panel 1: "I'M HOME!"
Panel 2: "GRAMPAR!"
Panel 3: "YOU DIDN'T WIPE YOUR FEET."
Panel 4: "GRANDKIDS AND DOGS ARE MY FAVORITE PEOPLE."

Rose Is Rose By Pat Brady

Panel 1: "I HEARD SOME FEMALE LIONS ARE VISITING YOU TODAY."
Panel 2: "Yep. Me and Max are back on the market, so we want to look our best."
Panel 3: "WHAT'S A FEMALE LION ATTRACTED TO?"
Panel 4: "Money, mostly. The bigger the mane, the more likely the female is to see you as dominant."
Panel 5: "Enough with the blow dryer, Max."

Zits By Jim Borgman and Jerry Scott

Panel 1: "NOW ENJOY YOUR INTERSECTION."
Panel 2: "OHAY."
Panel 3: "NOW ENJOY YOUR INTERSECTION."
Panel 4: "OHAY."
Panel 5: "NOW ENJOY YOUR INTERSECTION."
Panel 6: "OHAY."

Non Sequitur By Wiley

Panel 1: "DID YOU MAKE ANY NEW YEAR'S RESOLUTIONS?"
Panel 2: "NOPE. I'M NOT INTERESTED."
Panel 3: "WELL, I'VE GOT A GO."
Panel 4: "WELL, I'VE GOT A GO."
Panel 5: "WELL, I'VE GOT A GO."
Panel 6: "WELL, I'VE GOT A GO."

One thing at a time, Taurus

IF JAN. 1 IS YOUR BIRTHDAY: Remain optimistic, as you will be rewarded for past kindnesses in the upcoming year. If opportunity knocks in the next six weeks, be sure to answer the door. An offer or plan, or even a meeting with a new person, could create long-term abundance and happiness or change your life for the better. New friends or an association with a group could figure prominently in your future. Avoid signing contracts or making significant changes in August.

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Too many cooks can spoil the broth. In the same way, too many people may try to influence your New Year's resolutions. Don't be offended or aggravated by someone's subtle manipulations.

Taurus (April 20-May 20): One thing at a time. All the vitamins and home remedies in the world won't cure a holiday hangover or years of neglect. Save your money and just start doing things the right way.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): It will be difficult to puncture the balloons of your happy mood under these stars. Even so, there could be some fun, red feathers that require your patience and attention.

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Be courageous in the face of opposition. Certain companions may not be cooperative if you try to take the lead. Channel energies into games or sports that have definite rules of fair play.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): It is said that eating certain traditional meals will ensure a bountiful year ahead. As the New Year dawns, look back at financial mistakes and resolve not to repeat them.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Easy come, easy go. Money seems to ooze from your pocket. This could be because you are trying to compete for someone's affections. Limit your bets and risks to matchsticks or pennies.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): It isn't always just fun and games, but today you have a good excuse. Use your spare time to ride a bike, talk a walk in the park, play games or find constructive ways to burn off energy.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Background and circumstances may influence who you are, but you are responsible for that (which you become). Don't become defensive over matters you cannot control.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Don't let ambitions blind you to the value of old relationships. Impatience can cause you to make snap decisions that you might regret later. Burn off a big meal with a long walk.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Old friends don't necessarily give good advice. Weigh information carefully before acting. You will have a better time if you get out of the house and go sightseeing today.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Friendships might realize you after these stars. Avoid a rift if all you can do is be a friend. You may reassess your long-term goals and view them in an entirely different light by the time this holiday ends.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Oil the wheels. Don't let little irritations get under your skin and cause annoyance. A significant other may be swift to find chinks in your armor if you allow a situation to become argumentative.

HOROSCOPE
Jeraldine Saunders

THE BLUEBIRD OF HAPPINESS
THE ROBIN OF OPTIMISM
THE PIGEON OF AMBIGUITY

THE AMMUNITION OF POLITICAL ACTIVISM
THE ATOM OF DOUBT

THE CLASSIC CURE OF MISS ROBERTA GABLE, WHICH AIMS YOUR TASTY, THANK YOU!
THE BLANK SPACE OF PROCASTINATION

Beetle Bailey By Mort Walker

IT'S HARD TO BELIEVE THERE'S A WAR ON

GREEN IS THE COLOR OF PEACE

RESOLUTIONS TO MAKE:

- 1. TAKE THE MATHS EXAM
- 2. VOLLEYBALL PEOPLE
- 3. READ THE NEWS
- 4. GO TO THE GYM
- 5. VISIT THE MUSEUM
- 6. VISIT THE MUSEUM
- 7. VISIT THE MUSEUM
- 8. VISIT THE MUSEUM
- 9. VISIT THE MUSEUM
- 10. VISIT THE MUSEUM
- 11. VISIT THE MUSEUM
- 12. VISIT THE MUSEUM
- 13. VISIT THE MUSEUM
- 14. VISIT THE MUSEUM
- 15. VISIT THE MUSEUM
- 16. VISIT THE MUSEUM
- 17. VISIT THE MUSEUM
- 18. VISIT THE MUSEUM
- 19. VISIT THE MUSEUM
- 20. VISIT THE MUSEUM
- 21. VISIT THE MUSEUM
- 22. VISIT THE MUSEUM
- 23. VISIT THE MUSEUM
- 24. VISIT THE MUSEUM
- 25. VISIT THE MUSEUM
- 26. VISIT THE MUSEUM
- 27. VISIT THE MUSEUM
- 28. VISIT THE MUSEUM
- 29. VISIT THE MUSEUM
- 30. VISIT THE MUSEUM

Blondie By Dean Young & Stan Drake

WHAT'S WITH THE HASK, DEAR?

I'M SAVING MYSELF FOR THE VERY SECOND

THE LAST SECOND BEFORE WHAT?

...AND THERE'S THE OPENING KICK-OFF!

I'LL SEE YOU THIS EVENING, DEAR

The Born Loser By Art Sansom & Chip

HAPPY NEW YEAR!

ECHO POINT

SAME OLD SAME OLD!

ECHO POINT

Garfield By Jim Davis

OKAY SO MAYBE GRETA DIDN'T WORK OUT AS A PET SITTER... I'M SORRY

HOW'D SHE BEAT THE COUCH, ANYWAY?

DOING A CLEAN AND JERK WITH IT

Hagar the Horrible By Chris Browne

IT SAYS "CLOSED FOR THE WINTER, TRY STORMING OUR VILLA IN SOUTHERN ITALY."

Hi and Lois By Chance Browne

NO SLIDES TONIGHT?

NO, THE OLD PROJECTOR FINALLY DIED.

BUT I PUT TOGETHER A TERRIFIC POWERPOINT PRESENTATION OF OUR TRIP TO DENNY WORLD.

Classic Peanuts By Charles M. Schulz

YOU'RE SURE SHE'S A SUBSTITUTE TEACHER, MARCIE?

OUR REGULAR TEACHER IS TALLER AND WEARS GLASSES

I APOLOGIZE AGAIN, M.A.A.M. I DIDN'T REALIZE YOU WERE A SUBSTITUTE.

CAME RIGHT IN OFF THE BENCH, HUH?

The Wizard of Id By Brant Parker & Johnny Hart

NEW YEAR'S DRY DEPRESSES ME

WHY?

I'M 39, I HAVE A DEAD-END JOB, AND MY GIRL-FRIEND HATES ME

I THOUGHT YOU WERE 49

Dennis the Menace By Hank Ketcham

THEY'D MAKE A GREAT CAR HORN!

"I THINK I'M BEGINNING TO SHOW MY AGE."

Start the New Year by taking small steps to make big changes

DEAR READERS: The new year has arrived, and with it our chance for a new beginning. This is the day we discard destructive old habits for healthy new ones. With that in mind, I am sharing Dear Abby's often-repeated list of New Year's resolutions — which were adapted by my mother, Pauline Phillips, from the original credo of Al-Anon.



DEAR ABBY
Jeanne Phillips

Just for today, I will not brood about yesterday or obsess about tomorrow. I will not set far-reaching goals or try to overcome all of my problems at once.

I know that I can do something for 24 hours that would overwhelm me if I had to keep it up for a lifetime.

Just for today, I will be happy. I will not dwell on thoughts that depress me. If my mind fills with clouds, I will chase them away and fill it with sunshine.

Just for today, I will accept what is. I will face reality. I will correct those things I can control and accept those I cannot.

Just for today, I will improve my mind. I will read something that requires effort, thought and concentration. I will not be a mental

lazier.

Just for today, I will make a conscious effort to be agreeable. I will be kind and courteous to those who cross my path, and I'll not speak ill of others. I will improve my appearance, speak softly, and not interrupt when someone else is talking.

Just for today, I will refrain from improving anybody but myself.

Just for today, I will do something positive to improve my health. If I'm a smoker, I'll quit. If I'm overweight, I will eat healthfully — if only just for today. And not only that, I will get off the couch and take a brisk walk, even if it's only around the block.

Just for today, I will gather the courage to do what is right and take responsibility for my own actions.

And now, Dear Readers, I would like to share an idea that was sent to me by L.J.

Shania, a reader who lives in New Delhi, India.

DEAR ABBY: This year, no resolutions, only some guidelines. "The 101 Holy Vedas say: 'Man has subjected himself to thousands of self-inflicted bondages. Wisdom comes to a man who lives according to the true eternal laws of nature.'"

The following prayer of St. Francis contains a powerful message:

"Lord, make me an instrument of your peace:

"Where there is hatred, let me sow love;

"Where there is injury, pardon;

"Where there is doubt, faith;

"Where there is despair, hope;

"Where there is darkness, light;

"Where there is sadness, joy;

"O Divine Master, grant that I may not so much seek to be consoled as to console;

"To be loved as to love;

"For it is in giving that we are pardoned;

"It is in dying that we are born to eternal life."

And so, Dear Readers, may this New Year bring with it peace and joy.

— LOVE, ABBY

TODAY IN HISTORY

Today is Tuesday, Jan. 1, the first day of leap year 2008. There are 365 days left in the year.

Today's highlight

Two hundred years ago, on Jan. 1, 1808, the ban prohibiting the importation of slaves into the United States went into effect.

On this date

In 1863, President Lincoln signed the Emancipation Proclamation, declaring that slaves in rebel states were free.

In 1892, the Ellis Island Immigrant Station in New York formally opened.

In 1900, New York City was consolidated into five boroughs.

In 1901, the Commonwealth of Australia was proclaimed.

In 1953, country singer Hank Williams, 29, died of heart failure while en route to a concert date in Canton, Ohio.

In 1959, Fidel-Castro led

Cuban revolutionaries to victory over Fulgencio Batista.

In 1904, the breakup of AT&T took place as the telecommunications giant was divested of its 22 Bell System companies under terms of an antitrust agreement.

In 1994, the North American Free Trade Agreement went into effect.

In 1997, Kofi Annan assumed the title of United Nations secretary-general.

In 1999, the euro, the new single currency of 11 European countries (later 13), officially came into existence with the start of the New Year. (The euro became legal tender on this date in 2002.)

Ten years ago: A new anti-smoking law went into effect in California, prohibiting people from lighting up in bars.

The Michigan Wolverines beat Washington State 21-16 in the Rose Bowl.

Florida State defeated Ohio State 42-20 in the Sugar Bowl.

Five years ago: More than two dozen surgeons stopped working in West Virginia to

protest the high cost of malpractice insurance. Brazil's first elected leftist president, Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva, took office. Oklahoma romped past Washington State 34-13 in the Rose Bowl.

Georgia defeated Florida State 26-13 in the Sugar Bowl. Notre Dame saw its sixth straight bowl loss, losing to North Carolina State 20-6 in the Gator Bowl.

One year ago: President Bush and first lady Laura Bush joined thousands of other mourners in paying respects to former President Ford. An Indonesian Boeing 747 jettisoned, killing all 102 people on board. Bin Laden became the 9th U.S. Open star. Ted Beaves died at age 74. Denver Broncos cornerback Darren Williams was killed in a drive-by shooting — he was 24. The 9th-ranked Boise State Broncos completed a perfect season with 12-0-2 overtime victory over No. 7 Oklahoma in the Fiesta Bowl. Southern California beat Michigan 32-10 in the Rose Bowl.

TODAY'S BIRTHDAYS

Author J.D. Salinger is 89. Ernest Hollings, D-S.C., is 86. Actor Ty Hardin is 78. Actor Frank Langella is 79. Rock singer-musician Country Joe McDonald is 66. Writer-comedian Don Novello is 65. Actor Rick Hurst is 62. Country singer Steve Ripley (The Tractors) is 58. Actress Grandmaster Flash is 50. Actress Irene Woods is 50. Actress Dedee Pfeiffer is 44. Actress Embeeth Davoltz is 42. Country singer Brian Flynn (Bryansville Train) is 42. Actor Morris Chestnut is 39. Actor Verne Troyer is 39.

THOUGHT

"To most of us the future seems unsure. But then it always has been; and we who have seen great changes must have great hopes."

— John Massfield, English poet (1878-1967)

3 Maryland dogs living the sweet life with \$800,000 inheritance

HAGERSTOWN, Md. (AP) — They're not as loud as Cenny Helmsley's nunch, but three Maryland canines are plenty rich enough to live high on the dog.

The dogs — named Buckshot, Katie and Obi-wan — inherited \$400,000 and a house in Hagerstown with the death last year of owner Ken Kemper. Altogether, their estate is worth about \$800,000.

The beagle and two Labrador mixes were strays when Kemper adopted them. They live at the dog house with caretaker Roy Grady.

They might not be aware of their wealth, but they do

know that on one night a week, Grady treats them to spaghetti dinner, with meatballs and garlic bread.

"They love it," he said. "They know when it's coming on Friday, too. They have that time clock."

They also get top-notch health care. When Katie got out of the yard last summer and was hit by a car, she made 40 trips to a veterinarian's office to mend her broken legs and hip. The bill was close to \$6,000.

Kemper's dog, a pampered but reportedly ill-tempered Maltese named Trouble, inherited \$12 million from the late lotcheur. But, unlike that ponce,

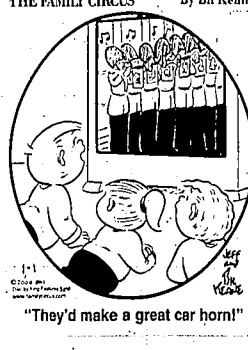
Kemper's pet seem content romping in their yard.

"They're the most loving dogs," Grady said.

Kemper worked for the federally funded Voice of America, and commonly brought home stray dogs when he returned from overseas assignments.

The executor of Kemper's estate, longtime friend Karin Anderson, said that when the dogs die, she will probably donate the remainder of the estate to an animal charity because that's what Kemper would have wanted.

"He really loved animals," Anderson said. "The man's heart was so big it needed its own ZIP code."



"They'd make a great car horn!"

WINTER WEATHER FORECAST

Today: Crisp and sunny. Highs up to 20s. Tonight: Partly cloudy and cold. Lows teens. Tomorrow: A mix of sun and clouds. Highs upper 20s.

WINTER WEATHER FORECAST

Today: Mostly sunny, breezy and cold. Highs low 20s. Tonight: Mostly clear, breezy and cold. Lows teens. Tomorrow: Still chilly with fair skies expected. Highs upper 20s.

WINTER WEATHER FORECAST

SUN VALLEY SURROUNDING MTS. Fair and dry weather on tap for the region today and tomorrow. Slushy winter showers will return to the outlook for the latter half of the week.

Map of Idaho showing weather forecasts for Boise, Northern Utah, and Mountain Home. Includes text about Boise's weather and Northern Utah's snow forecast.

REGG MIDDLEKAUFF'S QUOTE OF THE DAY. Includes a photo of Regg Middlekauff and his quote about the 2008 election.

WINTER WEATHER FORECAST (Yesterday's Weather)

Table showing weather conditions for Today, Tonight, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday, and Saturday. Includes icons for sun, clouds, and snow.

AMMAN, TWIN FALLS

Table with columns for Temperature, Precipitation, Humidity, Barometric Pressure, and Sunrise and Sunset.

Moon Phases and Moonrise and Moonset information. Includes a diagram of moon phases and specific times for Twin Falls.

REGIONAL FORECAST

Table of regional forecasts for various Idaho cities including Boise, Pocatello, and Idaho Falls.

NATIONAL FORECAST

Table of national forecasts for major US cities like New York, Los Angeles, and Chicago.

WORLD FORECAST

Table of world forecasts for major international cities.

TODAY'S NATIONAL MAP



CANADIAN FORECAST

Table of Canadian forecasts for major cities like Toronto, Montreal, and Vancouver.

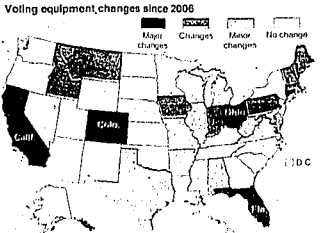
With elections looming, doubts raised about electronic voting

By George Merritt, Associated Press writer

DENVER — With the presidential race in full swing, Colorado and other states have found critical flaws in the accuracy and security of their electronic voting machines...

Many states altering voting equipment

Four voting states have found critical security of their electronic voting machines, forcing officials to make significant changes in the way votes will be counted this year.



But in tests, researchers in Ohio and Colorado found that electronic voting systems could be corrupted with magnets or with 'Trojan' and other similar handheld devices. In Colorado, two kinds of Sequoia Voting Systems electronic voting machines used in Denver and three other counties were decertified because of security weaknesses...

"We look at each other and go, 'We have used this equipment in 2004 and 2008. It did it get taken to a test board and get decertified,'" said Debbie Green, who heads the Colorado County Clerks Association...

Vendors of the electronic voting machines were against a rush back to paper. It can take two years to put a voting system in place, and overhauling a system just weeks before some states hold presidential primaries will invite a new round of problems, they say.

Center Aisle Red Tag Clearance Sale. Sale Starts New Year's Day • Open 10 am - 5 pm.

Blowout Prices. Save Up to 50% or More. 25% Off or More on Select Cargo Clothing. Huge Selection of Cargo Pants and Shorts. Includes Sportsman's Warehouse logo and address information.

Relish. The new food magazine! (Relish it right here tomorrow.) Super-Powered Chili. Tips From The Biggest Loser. Bundt Cake. Reading Labels. Marketplace. Includes Times-News logo and website.

Wall Street wraps up year in a somber mood

(AP) Stocks sank Monday as a modest uptick in existing home sales could not lift investors' downcast spirits on the last day of Wall Street's volatile and difficult year.

Dow Jones Industrials 13,264.82

Nasdaq composite 2,652.28

Standard & Poor's 500 1,469.36

Russell 2000 573.76

573.76

573.76

573.76

573.76

573.76

For a complete stock listing, go to MagValley.com

BUSINESS

TIMES-NEWS • BUSINESS EDITOR JOSHUA PALMER: 735-3231

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	14 "Airplane" star			
	17 Needle hole			

C

TUESDAY

JANUARY 1, 2008

INSIDE: Stocks and commodities, C2 | Classifieds, C3-8 | Sudoku, C3 | Jumble, C5 | Service directory, C6 | Bridge, C7

Existing home sales edge up in November

Sales expected to increase in region during first quarter of '08

Times-News staff and wire reports

Sales of previously owned homes inched up in November, according to a report from the National Association of Realtors. Although some analysts say that the new data indicates that the slowing housing market may be leveling

out, others say that it doesn't change the bleak picture for a housing industry suffering through a painful slump.

The association reported Monday that sales of existing single-family homes, condominiums and townhouses nationwide rose 0.4 percent in November from October, to a seasonally adjusted annual rate of 5 million units.

Sales of existing homes also seem to be rising once again in south-central Idaho, which experienced a slight decline late in 2007.

In Twin Falls, home sales declined 19 percent from 964 a year ago to 780 in 2007, according to a report from the Greater Twin Falls Association of Realtors.

Realtors in Twin Falls, Jerome and Burley say they are expecting home sales to increase in January, when sales typically rise.

"We have noticed that sales have gone up quite a

bit, and I think that after the holidays (sales) will pick up even more," said Lynn Rasmussen, owner of Rasmussen Real Estate Co. "We are getting more calls from people who are interested in buying a home and there are more people visiting our website."

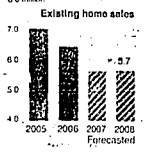
South-central Idaho has been buffered from a severe housing slump, which is being felt elsewhere through growing foreclosures and home price deflation.

In the last 12 months existing U.S. home sales

plunged 20 percent. The median price of a home sold last month was \$210,200. That marked a 3.3 percent drop from a year ago — the fifth biggest annual decline on record. Still, sales were mixed across different regions. Existing home sales jumped 10.3 percent in November from October in the West. They were flat in the Midwest but fell by 2 percent in the South and by 3.3 percent in the Northeast.

Stabilized market

A predicted 5.67 million existing homes will be sold this year, down from 6.49 in 2006.



SOURCE: National Association of Realtors

Please see SALES, Page C2

T.F. to hold Main Avenue redevelopment meeting

Consulting group to meet with downtown property owners

By Joshua Palmer Times-News writer

The Leland Consulting Group, an urban strategist organization that is working with the city of Twin Falls to revitalize historic downtown, will be returning this month to meet with property owners who are interested in re-investing in their properties.

David Leland, managing director of the Portland-based consulting group, and members of his staff will meet with property owners along Main Avenue in Historic Downtown Twin Falls Jan. 16 and 17, according to the City of Twin Falls Urban Renewal Agency. Letters were sent last week inviting them to the meeting; however, Melinda Anderson, economic development director for the city of Twin Falls, said other downtown business owners are invited to attend.

"What we're looking for are groups of three to five

businesses on Main Avenue that are interested in re-investing," Anderson said. "We really want clusters of businesses that are either side-by-side or across the street from each other because those clusters tend to create an energy that will encourage other downtown businesses."

The meeting in January is part of the ongoing downtown revitalization project, which has been spearheaded by the City of Twin Falls Urban Renewal Agency.

During the visit, the Leland group will discuss various types of revitalization strategies and financing options with property owners and city officials.

Anderson said some of the financing options include tax increment financing, local improvement district funds, development block grants and low-interest building loans.

"Once we find interested property owners, we are going to look at those different ways of financing," Anderson said. "We want to find a way that we can help with developing the infrastructure they need."

For more information about the Main Avenue Redevelopment Pilot meeting, contact Melinda Anderson at (208) 735-7240 or at mAnderson@tfd.org.

A rough ride in 2007



Traders Michael Areson, left, and Mark Frank react in the Standard & Poor's 500 futures pit at the Chicago Mercantile Exchange.

Markets end year on concerns over struggling housing market

The Associated Press

Looking back on it all, 2007 was a remarkable year on Wall Street. The market began the year continuing the rally that propelled the Dow above 12,000 for the first time in October. Then, in late February, came a reminder that stocks were capable of turning tall and plunging — a flick on China's economic outlook from former Federal Reserve Chairman Alan Greenspan sent the Dow down 416 points in one day.

That panic didn't last long. In April, the Dow barreled above 13,000 for the first time and then glided past 14,000 in mid-July. But in late July, however, the market realized that the ongoing slump in housing, and a rise in mortgage foreclosures due to resetting adjustable-rate loans, was taking a toll across the credit markets.

Though the housing market started teetering as early as 2005, few people anticipated how much the down-

turn could affect the global financial system. Mortgages deemed "subprime" comprised only about one-fifth of the \$10 trillion U.S. mortgage market — why would that rattle the world markets?

The problem was, these pieces of debt were chopped up, repackaged and woven into larger fixed-income instruments, on which banks and other investors made billion-dollar bets — bets that were extremely profitable during the housing boom, but calamitous when borrowers couldn't keep up with their mortgage payments.

When one slice of the instrument defaulted, it pulled the whole thing down with it. Investors bailed out of anything tied to mortgages, and so Wall Street realized that financial institutions in the United States and overseas were holding billions of dollars in assets that were losing value by the day. The biggest names on the Street — Merrill Lynch, Citigroup Inc., Bear Stearns Co. — announced billions of dollars

in writedowns. Merrill and Cit lost their CEOs, and several financial firms needed billion-dollar investments to clean up their balance sheets.

In the midst of this turmoil, the credit markets all but seized up, and all these interconnected events pummeled stocks. Triple-digit drops, recoveries and then drops again in the Dow became commonplace as Wall Street suffered through months of volatility reminiscent of the terrible days after the 2001 terror attacks.

In August and September the Federal Reserve began to act, with interest rate cuts and injections of liquidity. It helped for a while, and in October, stocks were rallying again taking the Dow to another set of record highs — only to succumb again to fears about the unknown extent of the credit mess.

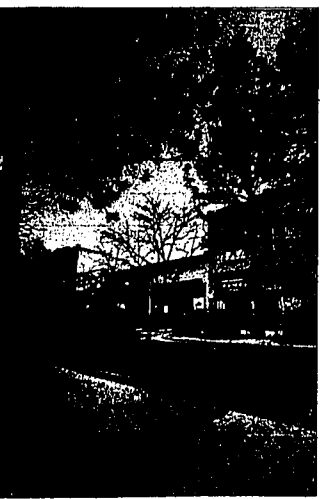
Wall Street goes into 2008 still shaky because of that uncertainty, not to mention 60 percent of nearly \$100 a barrel, and the U.S. dollar's tumble to record lows against

the euro. On Monday, the dollar rose against most other major currencies, gold prices fell, and crude oil prices fell 77 cents to \$95.23 a barrel on the New York Mercantile Exchange.

"We've seen the return of volatility. I think that will be around for a while, and will govern trading for the new year," said Steve Frullman, director of investment strategy for I.A. Englander & Co. "Stock selection and strategy will play a very important part in the success of anybody who is trading going into the new year. This is not a time where you throw a dart at the board."

In 2007, stocks in the technology and energy industries did well, while the financial sector and small caps — usually fledgling companies that rely heavily on loans to grow their business — fared poorly.

The Russell 2000 index of smaller companies fell 8.07, or 1.15 percent, to 762.99 Monday. The small-cap index was poised to finish the year down more than 3 percent.



A view of downtown shops Monday along the south side of the street at the corner of Main Avenue and Gooding Street in Twin Falls.

STOCKS OF LOCAL INTEREST

Con Agra	23.79	▼ .18	Dell Inc.	24.51	▼ .44	Idacorp	35.22	▼ .35
Lithia Mo.	13.73	▲ .40	Micron	7.25	▼ .02	Supervalu	37.52	▼ .07

COMMODITIES

Live cattle	96.25	▲ 2.78	Feb. Oil	95.98	▼ .02
Jan. gold	838	▼ 4.7	Dec. Silver		

For more see page C2

MUTUAL FUNDS

Table of mutual fund performance data including fund names, last price, and change. Columns include Name, Last, and %Chg.

COMMODITIES REPORT

Wheat - 14 1/2 cents per bushel... Corn - 14 1/2 cents per bushel... Soybeans - 14 1/2 cents per bushel...

CLOSING FUTURES

Table of closing futures prices for various commodities like wheat, corn, soybeans, and oil.

CHEESE

Domestic production on the Chicago Mercantile Exchange... Range: 10.00¢ - 10.25¢

POTATOES

CHS Potato - USDA - May contract... Range: 10.00¢ - 10.25¢

LIVESTOCK

Interrange Auction - Idaho livestock... Range: 10.00¢ - 10.25¢

METALS/MONEY

NYMEX Metals - May contract... Range: 10.00¢ - 10.25¢

BEANS

Value Beans - May contract... Range: 10.00¢ - 10.25¢

GRAINS

Value Grains - May contract... Range: 10.00¢ - 10.25¢

MARKET SUMMARY

Large table containing NYSE, AMEX, NASDAQ, INDEXES, STOCKS OF LOCAL INTEREST, and HOW TO READ THE MARKET REPORT.

Sales Continued from page C1 The inventory of unsold homes... "I think we're already through the downturn in our area, which really wasn't very much," Bastussen said.

UNCLAIMED PROPERTY Heyburn Janico Turner, RR 1 Box 258, Heyburn, ID, 83336. Ace Hansen, 122 Prairie Dunes Cir, Jerome, ID, 83338.

Register at Magicvalley.com to Comment on stories... Get breaking news e-mail alerts... View exclusive videos.

How to Read the Market Report Names: Stocks are listed alphabetically by the company's full name... Fund Name: Name of mutual fund and family.

RESOLUTION NO. 2007-31

A RESOLUTION AMENDING TWIN FALLS COUNTY CODE 7-1-6 TO ESTABLISH BUILDING PERMIT VALUATIONS FOR THE PURPOSE OF SETTING APPROPRIATE BUILDING PERMIT FEES.

WHEREAS, the Board of County Commissioners of Twin Falls County have adopted the latest version of the International Building Code and latest version of the International Residential Code pursuant to Ordinance # 202 and

WHEREAS, the latest version of the International Building Code allows for the collection of building permit fees in accordance with the schedule as established by the applicable governing body; and

WHEREAS, the Twin Falls County Commissioners feel it is imperative to adopt a uniform fee structure that reflects the costs associated with enforcing the latest version of the International Building Code and the International Residential Code;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Twin Falls County Board of County Commissioners that the following fees be adopted: (See Valuation Table attached)

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED BY the Twin Falls County Board of Commissioners adopts the following building valuation for purposes of assessing appropriate building permit fees:

7-1-6 FEES:

- 1. Fees will be structured per the August 2007 issue of the Building Safety Journal Valuation Data for the International Code Council. Any fee for a structure not listed in this Resolution will be determined from the most current building valuation data published in the Building Safety Journal.
2. Building permit fees will be based on the structure set forth in Table 1-A of the 1997 Uniform Building Code. This table will be available at the Twin Falls Planning & Zoning Office.
3. Dairy barns are classed as Industrial for valuation purposes.
4. Basement valuations psf. will be \$34.41 for finished basement and \$25.97 for unfinished basement.
a. In cases where the basement is declared unfinished and therefore would be non-habitable space, the homeowner is required to record a statement, attached to the deed, declaring the basement unfinished, prior to the final occupancy being issued. All windows located within an unfinished basement will be required to meet the egress requirements.

VALUATION TABLE - SQUARE FOOT CONSTRUCTION COSTS a, b, c Effective January 1, 2008

Table with columns: Group (2006 International Building Code), IA, IB, IIA, IIB, IIIA, IIIB, IV, VA, VB. Rows include categories like Assembly, theaters, with stage; Factory & Industrial, moderate hazard; Residential, multiple family; etc.

Effective Date: This Resolution shall be effective upon passage and publication as provided by law.

DATED this 27th day of December, 2007.

TWIN FALLS COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Tom Mikese, Chairman

George Urie, Commissioner

Terry Ray Kramer, Commissioner

ATTEST:

Kristina Glascock, Clerk

PUBLISH: January 1, 2008

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CLASSIFIEDS It pays to read the fine print! Call The Times-News to place your ad 208-733-0931 ext. 2

General

AUTOMOTIVE Country Auto in Jerome is seeking a Customer & Relations Manager & a Finance Manager. Apply in person at 208-733-1457

COLLECTIONS Full-time bilingual Collector. Experience preferred but not req. Call 208-733-2129 for appointment.

GENERAL Data processing Free classes now forming in data entry instruction with focus on income tax preparation. Day and evening classes available. Call 866-871-1040

GENERAL Journeyman Electrician High School Diploma, Current Idaho State Commercial Drivers License, valid Journeyman Electrician License, able to lift 50 pounds. Warehouse Supervisor/Delivery Driver Maintenance Duties include receiving and distributing groceries and supplies to schools. Apply online at www.ad151.k12.id.us

BANKING Idaho Central CREDIT UNION - Now Hiring - Twin Falls Full-Time Teller We are currently seeking a member focused, energetic individual to help members with transactions, answer questions and educate members about our products and services. Apply on-line at www.iccu.com

DELIVERY Produce Delivery Driver, Magic Valley, Wood River Valley and Eastern ID. DMV record required. 820 Locust St. S. Twin Falls

DRIVER Get paid to Wavel - Darning & energetic a must. Cash incentives. Call toll free 1-855-871-1040

GENERAL The Twin Falls Juvenile Probation Department is accepting applications for a Community Service Worksite Monitor. Position is responsible for supervising youth working on community service at designated job sites. For detailed job description and application form, visit our website at www.twinfallscounty.org

GENERAL DISCOVERY Want Holiday Cash? Day & Swing Shift Positions Available! No Sales Involved! Base Pay Up To \$11 an hour! Flexible Scheduling - You Pick the Days You Want to Work!

GENERAL Want Holiday Cash? Day & Swing Shift Positions Available! No Sales Involved! Base Pay Up To \$11 an hour! Flexible Scheduling - You Pick the Days You Want to Work! Please apply at 840 Meadows Dr #1 Twin Falls or please call 208-733-6601 Walking distance from CSI!

PhoneBase Research currently has immediate openings in our interviewing department. This position involves conducting public opinion polls over the telephone. Research offers: Flexible evening, day and weekend hours; Up to \$11 an hour; Casual working environment; Monthly interviewer incentives; Absolutely no sales or soliciting; To apply stop by our office at 840 Meadows Dr. Ste #2 in Twin Falls, Idaho. Call 866-871-1040

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GENERAL Journeyman Electrician High School Diploma, Current Idaho State Commercial Drivers License, valid Journeyman Electrician License, able to lift 50 pounds. Warehouse Supervisor/Delivery Driver Maintenance Duties include receiving and distributing groceries and supplies to schools. Apply online at www.ad151.k12.id.us

BANKING Idaho Central CREDIT UNION - Now Hiring - Twin Falls Full-Time Teller We are currently seeking a member focused, energetic individual to help members with transactions, answer questions and educate members about our products and services. Apply on-line at www.iccu.com



Whatever the weather

While snow covers the ground, southern Idaho gardeners plan for spring

By Melissa Davlin
Times-News writer

FILER — Just as perennials sleep through the winter, some gardeners go dormant until spring sunshine warms the soil.

The most passionate, however, don't wait until it's time to plant to get their hands dirty.

Jody Holloway of Filer starts ordering seeds and planning their placement well before they hit the dirt.

"What I do before I plant anything in the ground, I always draw it out. I have a graph where everything is going to go so I know I have enough room for everything," she said. "Then I'll revise it five or six times to make sure it's going to work."

Seeds sit out the winter next to the butter on the bottom shelf of her refrigerator, waiting for their turn to bloom. Some are from the store. Others, like the dark purple hollyhock, are seeds Holloway collected.

In the meantime, Holloway's houseplants tide her over. She dedicated an entire room to plants in her recently remodeled home.

Stunlight floods into the room's large windows. A painting of petunias hangs above the exotic plants that line the walls. In the center of the room, familiar polssetifans surround a more rare guzmania, a gift from her mother-in-law.

Many of the houseplants are orphans, surrendered to Holloway by original owners who didn't know how to care for them.



Some of Jody Holloway's seeds are purchased; others come from her garden.



The Holloways have been remodeling their Filer house and added this room specifically for houseplants. When the room is finished, tiles will line the floor, so water will not damage it.

"A lot of them, I don't even know what their names are," she said.

Not all gardeners seek the unique plants Holloway craves. Terry Sharp of Twin Falls has enjoyed success at the Twin Falls County Fair with traditional plants like carrots and marigolds.

"I don't go into the organic or weird stuff," she said.

But like Holloway, Sharp has to plan where her plants will spend the summer in her garden. That's what winter is for.

"You can't put your corn in front so it shades your tomatoes or whatever," she said.

The planning also pays off when the fair rolls around. Having vegetables mature too early or too late can spell disaster for blue ribbon seekers.

"Two weeks before the fair you have beautiful tomatoes and the week you're supposed to take them to the fair you go, 'Oh, ho, figure,'" Sharp said.

Willy Klevmoe, an employee at Moss Greenhouses in Jerome, said a little elbow grease now can help people get a head start on their gardens.

"You can't do much for working in the soil but, you know, you can get all the debris cleaned out of it," he said.

There's no debris to clear in Holloway's snowy garden — only a lone asparagus plant, waiting for spring.

Holloway waits, too, and dreams of new plants to try this season.

"What I'm looking for is something that's new and unusual. It's something that most people don't grow around here," she said. "I'll pretty much try to grow anything."

She hopes to do better than last year's project, the striped Armenian cucumbers. The vegetable tasted nothing like the thick-skinned American variety — a disappointment to Holloway. She ended up giving away all the striped Armenian cucumbers.

"I won't do that one again," she said.

Missella Davlin may be reached at 735-3234 or melissa.davlin@lee.net.



This guzmania plant, which Jody Holloway received from her mother-in-law, is the most exotic houseplant in her collection. The Filer woman tends her houseplants through the cold months of planning for spring planting.

"What I'm looking for is something that's new and unusual. It's something that most people don't grow around here."

— Jody Holloway



Jody Holloway says her houseplants help tide her over until spring when she'll be back in the garden.

For cowgirl and rodeo champ at 64, retirement chafes

By Rebecca Boone
Associated Press writer

GARDEN VALLEY — If her battered joints are stiffening with the approach of winter, Jan Youren isn't complaining.

It's a deeper ache that pains her. "I am not a person who sits around twiddling my thumbs," she says. "I'm not good at that."

But like it or not, Youren is getting older — her 64th birthday has come and gone. She's like legions of others having trouble adjusting to retirement's slower pace. And yet, because of what she's retiring from, the challenge is uniquely her own.

"You know, when I quit rodeoing it's a big hole. This year it's harder ...," says the five-time world champion bareback bronco rider, who only climbed out of the competitive saddle two years ago — and would go back in a minute, if not for her kids and grandkids. "I never thought I'd stay doing it as long as I did. It's just hard to stop because it's very addictive once you start."

A lifetime of roughstock riding has left her with shattered bones, several fused vertebrae, plenty of scar tissue and shoulders that dislocate whenever she raises her arms above her waist. The dislocating shoulders mean that at head. The dislocating shoulders mean that at head. The dislocating shoulders mean that at head. The dislocating shoulders mean that at head.

sometimes left her unconscious for a minute or two.

Five decades of watching this physical battle is enough, her family has decided.

But Youren fears that once she really stops, the years of prophecies — from orthopedic surgeons and emergency-room doctors — will come true.

"You'll be crippled," they told me.

Youren says, "over and over again. But I won't give up. I end up in a wheelchair I can't be happier and nastier — I hang it on myself."

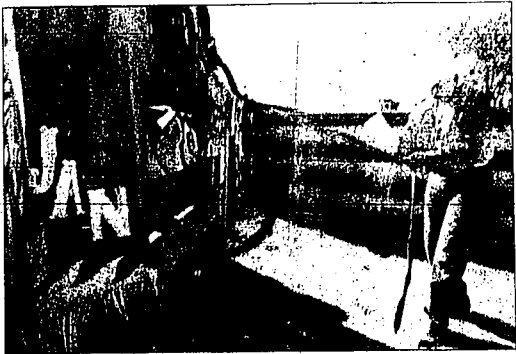
Still, the snort of a wild-eyed bronco is her sire song, and Youren relentlessly seeks the rush of fighting a 1,100-pound beast with nothing but leather-clad hands and a pair of spurs.

Rodeo is a hard habit to break. "Rodeo is already apparent, you should have seen Youren at last year's Idaho Women's Rodeo — where folks kept asking if she planned to compete, and her youngest son, Cole, would jump in with an answer before she could reply.

"She better not," the 23-year-old said, then

"I never thought I'd stay doing it as long as I did. It's just hard to stop because it's very addictive once you start."

— Jan Youren



Jan Youren applies baby powder to the leather backing bronco strap used by Sami Nelson, Youren's grand-niece, July 28 at the Idaho Women's Rodeo. Nelson will also wear Youren's personalized chaps, at left, which were worn by Youren in the latter part of her five-decade rodeo career, which included five bareback world champion titles and a 1993 induction into the National Cowgirl Museum and Hall of Fame.

turned to his mother and added: "You better not be getting on any broncos."

"Well, I guess I better not then," Youren publicly acquiesced. But a little later, away

from the family, she confided: "If one of the riders doesn't show up, I just might."

Cowgirl

Continued from page D1

The yearly summertime event in the scenic Idaho mountains has been Youren's rodeo, after all. It's held in her arena, just a few steps away from the home her husband grew up in. Her daughter, Kristin David, is organizer and announcer. Her grandchildren run the chutes. And the names on the draw often include children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren, with nieces and nephews therein for good measure.

"My dad rodeoed. He rode bareback horses and wild horse raced and rode a few bulls. I'd been riding calves since I was 4 or 5 years old, mainly at the Cattlemen's convention," Youren said.

"But when I was 11, Dad came home from a rodeo and said, 'Babe, I saw some something you'd really like.'"

He'd seen girls riding bareback horses and bulls, competing in a rodeo just like this one did.

At the time, it was a shocking idea. Women had ridden bucking broncos in rodeos in the late 1800s, but women's participation in the sport fell deeply out of favor after the 1910s.

Youren was transfixed. MacCarroll was applauded to death by a horse in the Pendleton Roundup arena in 1929. By the late 1940s, women's participation in rodeo was mainly reduced to riding gagging horses. Many Western ranch women rode with their husbands during cattle drives, when the rodeo came to town they were expected to "sit in the stands, not in the saddle."



Jan Youren, left, shows her grand-niece Sami Nelson how to set the rigging on a bucking bronco at the Idaho Women's Rodeo in July. Youren says every time she sits on a horse in the chute, she's tempted to hold on tight, nod at the judges, and take one last ride.

Often, she rode while pregnant, keeping it up for the first five months until it was obvious she was carrying a child and not just putting on a few pounds. Her memories of riding in the car as the family drove from Canada to Mexico and back, chasing a 6-second bronc ride and a shot at the purse.

"It was something you grew up doing," Crile said. "It was that one day Mom asked you if you wanted to rodeo. We were getting led around the barrels when we couldn't ride by ourselves. You walked, and then you rode."

Eventually, Youren was competing against her granddaughters in the world championship. They never beat her — until Granddaughter Tavia Jean Stevenson took the world trophy in 2002. Youren was 51.

Over the years, Youren, who also rode bulls, became known for her apparent invulnerability. She learned not to show pain in the arena — it makes the crowd the worse for watching. She took frequent hot baths to soothe her injuries, avoiding hospitals and doctors whenever possible. Aspiring riders from as far away as Australia made the pilgrimage to her ranch, hoping to learn her secrets.

"The quintessential role model of women's rodeo," Danny Latham calls Youren. He's with the National Cowgirl Museum and Hall of Fame in Fort Worth, Texas, where she was inducted in 1993. She later offered the hall her own scalp — a patch of scalp and hair, torn from her head when a bull stepped on her after a bad ride. The hall declined.

"I guess it was too grisly for 'em," she said, shrugging.

Latham, in a phone interview, credited her unequaled pain threshold, but said that was only part of her gift.

"Her reach, her scope and her influence was global. All-girls rodeo would probably have disappeared about 15 years ago if it were not for Jan. Not only being a fierce competitor, but also being someone who encouraged the younger women to come up and be in the sport."

Latham hopes successors will emerge — and yet with Youren's retirement has come the persistent rumor that women's rodeo is dying, lacking not just a champion but a heart.



Jan Youren sits atop the rail of the chute as a bucking horse is prepared for competition July 28 at the Idaho Women's Rodeo in Garden Valley. Youren, a five-time world champion bareback bronc rider, only recently quit riding roughstock.

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withdrawals and I've been of a year."

A moment later, she admitted, "It's hard to replace that. It's hard to get your blood pumping when you're a fat old lady and can't do nothing."

She'd promised to quit at 60, but reneged when that birthday came faster than she wanted.

"Sixty was just the number," her niece, Misty Crowe, said, noting that at the rodeos, "they always need one more rider. I think she always needs one more ride."

Ending it all on a horse rather than a rocking chair would suit Youren fine. "Maybe her family has been through enough."

"Getting killed is bound to happen anyway so I'm not going to worry about it. But they've really beat me out. No you can't, no you can't," Youren said. "And I guess they were probably sweating blood the last couple of years because I'm getting older. I suppose they've put up with my tonfoolery for enough years maybe."

Still, she said in 2007, "I'm a 68-year-old. This year it's harder than it was last year."

At the rodeo, Youren pulled out her own leather chaps — once bright red, now fading — and turned to her grandniece, helping the nervous teen buckle the leather around her waist.

"Get your spurs on," she told the girl.

Youren cheered during the ride, then gave a cheer. At the announcer's booth, she offered a quick critique, but at the same time she knew this: It'd be easier to coach if she could just climb on herself and show the girl how it's done.

Let us see your lean-to

What has become of the lean-to, that humble yet ultimately useful structure? Are southern Idaho's lean-tos still in use, or have they given way to slicker designs? Features writer Melissa Davlin aims to find out.

If you're willing to let Davlin take a look at your home's lean-to — or tell her about the one that was torn down — contact her at 735-3234 or melissa.davlin@tee.net by Thursday morning.

Are your roots showing?

By Scott Aker
 Special to The Washington Post

Q: I have a honeylocust tree with a great number of surface roots showing. I don't know whether to lay mulch over them or to add topsoil — and plant some form of ground cover. Do you think either approach would harm the tree?

A: You can't keep your honeylocust, but there is no need to bury the roots in it. Trees naturally develop surface roots, particularly in heavy soils.

The roots are near the surface because that is where the oxygen is. If you bury them in a deep layer of mulch, you may decrease the oxygen avail-

able to the roots, and rainfall may even sheet off the mulch if it is laid in a thick layer.

Similarly, adding topsoil will bury the roots, which are now positioned optimally for the soil they are growing in, and I would not recommend taking this approach.

A ground cover should not harm the tree, but there is no obligation to plant it. The base of a tree can look perfectly dressed with a thin layer of mulch in the areas between the exposed roots. Pull any weeds that may appear.

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

Combing for cuisine

A reporter's search for her Japanese favorites.



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Twin Falls' St. Luke's MVRMC campus goes smokeless

By Nate Poppino
Times-News writer

It was a good first try. Sure, Hazelton resident Carolyn Nelson said, she only made it three weeks before picking up a cigarette again. But she knows her problem — she ran out of nicotine patches.

And her employer is giving her an extra reason to quit, starting today. Nelson, a supervisor in the admissions department of St. Luke's Magic Valley Regional Medical Center, is one of about 230 hospital employees who now have to either quit or take their smoke

breaks away from hospital property. Smoking was already banned within the hospital building, but today is the first day the entire hospital campus is smoke-free — a move most, but not all, 1,600 employees seem to support.

St. Luke's Boise, Wood River and Meridian hospitals all ban smoking, as have hospitals in Jerome, Burley, Idaho Falls, Nampa and many other southern Idaho cities. The Magic Valley has been in the works for a year and should provide a better environment for patients and staff, said Bill Southwick, facility director

for Canyon View Psychiatric and Addiction Services and lead organizer for the non-smoking project.

"It's a good thing for the community," Southwick said Monday as he watched one of the hospital's two outdoor smoking shelters being hauled away. "We're doing our part to ensure clean air."

Nelson, for one, is excited about the change. Her first attempt to quit came in October, when the hospital rolled out its smoking cessation program for employees.

"The smoking ban, she said, will be one more tool to add to the free patches, classes and other resources the hos-

pital provides.

And it means for one part of her day, she in no way is allowed near cigarettes — something she doesn't get at home, she said.

"I have three smokers living in my house, so (quitting) is actually quite an accomplishment," she said.

Hilary Burns, who purchases medical supplies for the hospital, is four weeks into her own attempt — longer than she's ever made it before. But she and her coworkers are somewhat less delighted about the hospital's decision.



Construction workers check the inside of a smoking hut at the hospital Monday morning before it is removed from the premises as part of the transition to become a smoke-free campus.

Please see BAN, Page D4

Vandals uproot students' efforts

Jerome school's maple trees felled by unidentified vehicle

By Cass Friedman
Times-News writer

JEROME — An unidentified vehicle drove onto Central Elementary's asphalt early Monday morning, spun doughnuts around the football field and intentionally struck down several trees that three fourth-grade girls planted 19 years ago in a corner of their playground.

"It looks like they intentionally hit every tree," said Rick Ames, the school district's construction coordinator. Video surveillance shows a vehicle enter the school grounds at 1:10 a.m. through a Third Street entrance. It proceeds to sever over the snowy play yard, knocking down two tetherball poles and four of five maple trees.

Jerome Police investigators are examining the scene for signs of paint transfer.

When fourth- and fifth-graders resume classes after winter break they'll be transferred from Central to the newly built Summit Elementary School. The trees were scheduled to be pulled from the ground and transplanted to their new school.

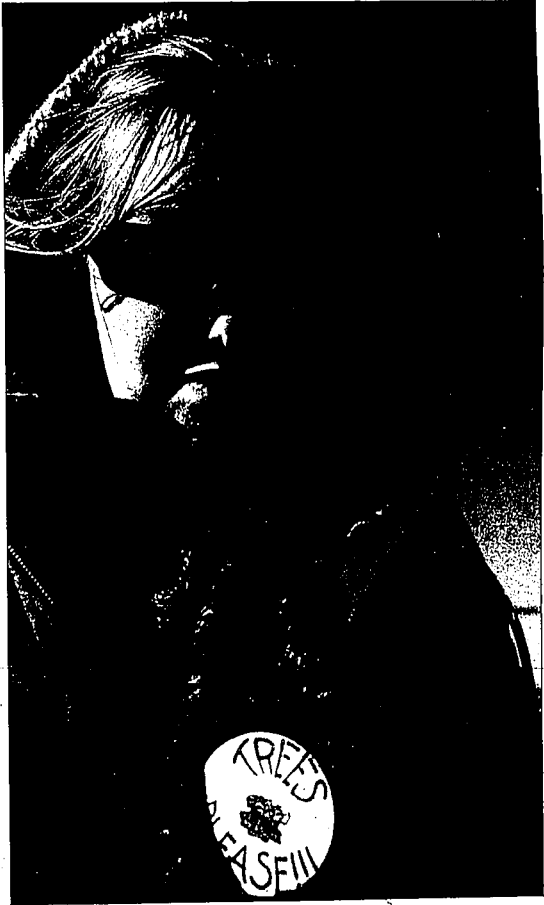
After learning the bad news, the three girls, now in their 20s and either working or going to college, revisited their old elementary school. They looked over the splintered, felled maples for a final time, each harboring a mix of sadness and anger. They admired the trees that they planted as stumpy, 1 1/2 inch-wide saplings, which have grown to 20 to 25 feet tall with girls that must have taken huge force to knock down. They were 10-year-olds then, without a care in the world — save one.

"They wanted trees so badly they were willing to raise funds, lobby government, and organize presentations

Please see TREES, Page D4

At Magicvalley.com

See the damage at Central Elementary and meet the young women who planted the trees when they were elementary school.



TOP: A maple tree planted by school children over a decade ago lies on its side after it was vandalized Monday morning in the Central Elementary School playground area. The young women who planted the trees say they are angry. The trees were to be moved to Summit Elementary School.

LEFT: Trees please!!! The button Justine Peltzer, 20, wears is a plea from a past. A decade after she and her friends worked so hard to bring trees to the Central Elementary School playground, a vandal wiped out their work in one joy ride.

In our hands

Idaho Power forms citizens' committee for energy growth

By Matt Christensen
Times-News writer

Idaho Power Co. has formed a citizens' committee to plan for energy growth in Magic Valley, an area the company says could soon face energy reliability problems because of escalating demand.

The committee comes on the heels of similar projects in the Treasure and Wood River valleys, both high-growth areas where committees have formed long-range energy plans. Magic Valley's 30-person committee is expected to make similar recommendations, including what kind of new energy sources would fit the community and where to place any new transmission lines.

"The committee helps determine the best way to meet the area's needs in the long term," said Lynette Berriochan, an Idaho Power spokeswoman. "When it comes down to 20 years from now and we need a new substation, we can go to the (committee's) plan and see where they'd like it."

Idaho Power has formed the committees in high-growth areas where it anticipates infrastructure upgrades. In Magic Valley, electric load — or demand on the system — increases by about 10 megawatts annually. That's equal to adding a city the size

Please see POWER, Page D4

On the Web

Additional information and a roster of committee members: <http://www.idahopower.com/newsroom/policies/rwep/>

Cassia curbs new CAFOs

By Sven Berg
For the Times-News

Cassia County Commissioners Friday repealed a county law that allowed new confined-animal-feeding operations (CAFOs) to use alternative waste management systems in place of normally required acreage for waste application.

County Administrator Kerry McMurray said Idaho Dairy Association (IDA) and Idaho Cattlemen's Association (ICA) threatened to sue the county if it repealed the provision. Both entities filed a lawsuit earlier this year against Gooding County, changing its commissioners are unreasonably regulating dairies and feedlots out of existence.

But McMurray said their accusation that repealing the

Please see CAFOs, Page D4

Avalanche concerns hit south-central Idaho

Officials worry over backcountry travel

By Matt Christensen
Times-News writer

Watch your step. Summer wildfires and recent heavy snows have combined to increase potential avalanche areas in the Sawtooth National Forest.

If more snowstorms hit the area this week, as fore-

casters predict, "we'll almost certainly have an avalanche problem," said Chris Lundy, lead avalanche forecaster for the Sawtooth National Forest Avalanche Center.

Avalanche risks are already high across the West. High winds and loose snow closed a 60-mile stretch of Interstate 70 near Denver on Monday while officials used explosives to avert snow slides. The Utah Avalanche Center issued a special avalanche warning for the Uinta Mountains and

Learn more
The Sawtooth National Forest Avalanche Center will hold an information meeting Jan. 8 at the Hailley Community Campus, 1050 Fox Acres Road in Hailley.

Avalanche experts will explain how to spot potential avalanches and how to survive should you become buried.

Officials are especially concerned with the backcountry this year. Summer wildfires cleared once-

forested slopes, increasing risks for avalanches in areas traditionally thought by recreationists to be safe.

In Sun Valley, resort officials use explosives to control avalanches on the slopes. But in the backcountry, people are on their own. Backcountry skiing is banned at many resorts but allowed in Sun Valley.

"There are quite a few people who duck the ropes," Lundy said, "and those are

urged people to stay out of backcountry areas.

"Right now, we don't have

Please see AVALANCHE, Page D4

Rex LeRoy Sutherland

BOHLE — Mr. Rex LeRoy Sutherland, of Bohle, passed away Dec. 28, 2007 at his sons' home in Filer from incidents associated with the aging process.

He was the son of Alexander William Sutherland and Millicent Steele of Cassia County, Idaho. He is survived by Lewis Ray Sutherland of Beaver Creek, Ohio, and by Alex Sutherland of Filer. His wife, Freda June, first Sutherland, passed away in 2004. A daughter, Karen Lee Sutherland Wright died in 1992. He is also survived by 19 grandchildren, 47 great-grandchildren, and six great-great-grandchildren.

Mr. Sutherland was a member, lover almost from birth. His Mother gave him a toy violin and taught him to play it. It must have been terrible, but he loved it. After his schooling he began teaching

music at Minersville, Utah. He moved to Provo, Utah, and taught at Farrer Junior High School and at Provo High School. He began teaching at the university level and after obtaining further credits became a member of the music staff at Eastern Montana College, which became Montana College of Billings. He retired in 1979. During a sabbatical he and his beloved companion spent six months in Vienna, Austria, studying the arts. Mr. Sutherland was an oboist, and enjoyed playing first Oboe and English Horn in the Billings Montana Symphony with stints at the Los Angeles Symphony Orchestra. At 93 years, he was at his hobby and became the first 93-year-old person to make a playable oboe reed.

A funeral service will be held at 11 a.m. Wednesday, Jan. 2, at the Buhl 2nd Ward LDS Church on Main Street with visitation being held from 9:45 to 10:45 a.m. at the church prior to services.

DEATH NOTICES

Beverley McClellan

Beverley McClellan, 80, of Twin Falls died Sunday, Dec. 30, 2007, at her home. Arrangements are pending and will be announced by White Mortuary, "Chapel by the Park."

Louis Kelley

Louis Kelley, 70, of Twin Falls died Sunday, Dec. 30, 2007, at Bridgeview Estates in Twin Falls.

Arrangements are under the direction of Reynolds Funeral Chapel, Twin Falls.

Sharon Packham

HEYBURN — Sharon Packham, 66, of Heyburn died on Dec. 29, 2007, at Cassia Memorial Hospital. Arrangements are pending and will be announced by

White Mortuary, "Chapel by the Park."

Charles Alexander Finlayson

MOUNTAIN HOME — Charles Alexander Finlayson, 72 of Mountain Home, died on Sunday, Dec. 30, 2007 at a local hospital. Arrangements are under the direction of Rost Funeral Home, McMurry Chapel in Mountain Home.

Eugene Conner Sr.

Eugene Conner, Sr. of Twin Falls passed away Monday, Dec. 31, 2007 at St. Luke's Magic Valley Regional Medical Center in Boise. Arrangements are pending and will be announced by White Mortuary, "Chapel by the Park."

SERVICES

Rex Leroy Sutherland of Bohle, funeral at 11 a.m. Wednesday at the Buhl 2nd Ward LDS Church on Main Street visitation from 9:45 to 10:45 a.m. Wednesday at the church.

Pauline Warr Armstrong of Rupert, funeral at 11 a.m. Wednesday at the Rupert LDS 3rd and 10th Ward Church, 526 S. 1st, visitation from 6 to 8 p.m. today at Rasmussen Funeral Home, 1350 E. 16th St. in Burley, and 10 to 10:45 a.m. Wednesday at the church.

Dale K. Fellman of Jackpot, Nev., celebration of life at 2 p.m., Wednesday at the Jackpot Community Church (Parker's Magic Valley Funeral Home in Twin Falls).

Inn M. Soran of Twin Falls, rosary prior service at 7 p.m. Wednesday at Reynolds Funeral Chapel, 2466 Addison Ave. E. in Twin Falls; funeral Mass at 2 p.m. Thursday at St. Edward the Confessor Catholic Church, 131 South Ave. E. in Twin Falls. Visitation from 5 p.m. until time of the rosary Wednesday at the funeral chapel.

Rueben Elmer Ketterling of Rupert, funeral at 11 a.m. Thursday at the Burley First Presbyterian Church—2100 Burton Ave.; visitation from 6 to 8 p.m. Wednesday at Rasmussen Funeral Home, 1350 E. 16th St. in Burley, and 10 to 10:45 a.m. Thursday at the church.

Lena Nelsen-Morley of

Liberty Lake, Wash., and Jerome, funeral at 2 p.m. Friday at Howe-Robertson Funeral Chapel in Jerome; visitation from 5 to 7 p.m. Thursday at the chapel.

Harold Vernon Jensen of Crawford, Neb., and formerly of Twin Falls, memorial service at 11 a.m. Saturday at the Church of the Nazarene, 1231 N. Washington St. N. in Twin Falls.

Elvalee Edith Peckham of Buhl, graveside service at 11 a.m. Saturday at the West End Cemetery in Buhl (Parker's Funeral Chapel in Buhl).

Lee Ray Thurber of Champaign, Ill., and formerly of Fairfield, memorial service at 11 a.m. Saturday at Faith United Methodist Church, 1714 Prospect Ave. in Champaign; visitation from 6 to 8 p.m. Thursday at Morgan Memorial Home, 1304 Regency Drive W. in Savoy, Ill.

Martin R. Gatches of Bellevue, funeral at 1 p.m. Saturday at the Community Campus in Halley; visitation from 1 to 8 p.m. Friday at the Wood River Chapel in Halley.

Otis B. Hughes of Burley, graveside services for family at 11 a.m. Thursday at Sunset Memorial Park in Twin Falls with military rites. Friends and family are invited to an open house from 2 to 4 p.m. Thursday at the Hughes home, 427 Back Box in Burley. (Hansen-Payne Mortuary in Burley).

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

Power

Continued from page D3
of flooding to the grid each year.

The company expects Magic Valley's population to nearly double by 2075, from about a quarter-million people to 411,000.

"That growth will require new energy sources and ways of delivering electricity to customers," Bill Ghiselin, who sits on the Magic Valley committee, said he hopes much of that energy will come from sustainable sources.

Trees

Continued from page D3
— all for a few maples.

None of the girls quite recall how they inspired their project, but whatever gripped them led toward a great accomplishment: a monument to permanently express what young little girls, with no money, no fancy trees in a barren play yard and little pro-actively coming from within the community, are capable of doing simply by refusing to stand on their heels.

"We wanted something done and so we did it," said Justine Potter, with Rachel Choate and Catherine Hendrickson, seconding her statement.

The successful project reinforced a view of their capabilities that sticks to the bone. "We're not the people to just wait for something to happen," Potter said.

can push some energy conservation and renewables." Because the committees are a new approach, what weight they'll carry in the company's final decisions remain unclear. But committee members say it is positive step that Idaho Power seeks their input.

"It's in their best interest to be friends with their customers," Chisholm said. "If they can move their agenda along with their own will all be happy."

The committee will hold monthly meetings until June, when it will present a proposal to the utility.

Cabin Fever Day Saturday

Magic Valley residents are invited to bring in the New Year with Twin Falls Parks and Recreation's eighth annual Cabin Fever Day on Saturday. Various Twin Falls businesses will open their doors to the public free of charge. Participants may try their hand at cabin dishing, kayaking, bowling, rock climbing, golf, roller skating, pottery, fitness training, singing, geocaching, distilling, science and more.

Brochures are available at Twin Falls Parks and Recreation, City Hall, the Twin Falls Public Library or go online at www.tfd.org for a complete listing of activities.

For more information: Twin Falls Parks and Recreation, 736-2255.

well. It was his first and only serious business encounter with three pre-teenage girls. First they called. Then they came in with their presentation in hand.

"Basically, they just said that they were looking to create a better playground environment," Olsen said. "To get a place with some shade so kids could enjoy being out on the playground."

But what struck Olsen was the not simply the merits of their proposal, which he hastily signed on to. It was their conviction.

"That's what I remember is, they said, 'Let's do something,'" he said. "They were willing to actually take the time to do something. Seeing kids that are willing to go out and do something? They weren't just asking for a handout. They were looking for how they could involve the community around them to make some improvements."

Ban

Continued from page D3
Burns is the only smoking employee she knows of who's trying to quit, she said. And though she said she already feels better, she still grudgingly accepts the ban.

"We knew there was nothing we could do," Burns said. But she's also pragmatic about it. "If I can make it all day without smoking, I might as well make it all night, too."

Rex Newton has a slightly harder challenge ahead of him. The St. Luke's

Although the three girls admit they haven't kept in touch, they didn't let their accomplishment strangely affect the girls' attitude toward the project, which raised an estimated \$1,000 in damages from Monday morning's crime. The tater potatoes are worth a combined \$150. After throwing car washes, bake sales, candy sales, even balloon sales, the girls raised enough to meet costs from Moss Greenhouses. In recognition of their efforts, the school threw a ribbon cutting ceremony. All three gloated.

"At the ceremony, everybody got to see it," Choate said. "We were like, 'Oh my gosh, we actually got to finish it.'"

"They're glowing still. As students, they never did stay around long enough to enjoy the growth. They matured through elementary school before the trees were mature enough to be

Avalanche

Continued from page D3
where we have the problems."

A person buried by snow for 15 minutes has a 90 percent survival rate. That number drops to 30 percent after 35 minutes, which is often less time than it takes a rescue crew to reach a victim.

Avalanches kill about one person a year in southern Idaho, according to the center.

On the Web

Check <http://www.sawtoothavalanche.com> for updates on avalanche advisories.

Lundy recommends people traveling in the backcountry always take an avalanche-survival kit and check the center's avalanche advisory report before venturing out.

CAFOs

Continued from page D3
alternative provision is arbitrary and usurps state and federal authority is baseless.

"In my view, it is a fairly blatant attempt to legislate unfettered," he said. "Our CAFO ordinance, generally, is working well. It's accomplishing the things we need it to accomplish, especially if we repeal this provision."

Planning and Zoning Commissioners recommended the change at their Dec. 6 meeting. The central concern expressed by commissioners at that meeting was that allowing CAFOs to be established without requiring at least one acre for every two animal units would lead to unchecked growth in the county's total number of cows.

"We can't deny the fact that the dairy industry has been a blessing to our county, as far as economically," Planning and Zoning Commissioner Bruce Beck said Friday. "But sometimes we can overdo a good thing."

Planning and Zoning Chairman Rod Lake said repealing the alternative waste management provision will not restrict CAFOs from making use of techniques such as composting and anaerobic digestion. It will simply subject them to the same rules as other CAFOs.

"The bottom line, I think, is that alternative waste management won't happen until it becomes economically feasible," he said.

—Sven Berg is a staff writer for the South Idaho Press.

the county, some industry and county officials have signaled their distrust of composting as the most common alternative waste management system. But a neutralizing vote, McMurray said composting cannot be considered a true alternative because it reduces the volume of waste but does not dispose of nutrients.

But Commission Chair Handy said Friday's vote was not a judgment-on-what is or is not viable alternative waste management.

"It's just a density issue," he said. "There are lots of advantages to having (CAFOs) spread out a even for the dairymen."

One member of the public who spoke at Friday's hearing was Liz McCammon, now an employee of six in each in DeLo. She said she had been forced to move away from Wendell because a CAFO was built nearby and made living conditions there intolerable.

"If people that run these run amok," she said. "When we moved there we called it paradise. When we left there, we ran."

McCammon told commissioners that many CAFO operators are motivated only by the desire for money, and concern for the communities in which they operate is not a priority. "Is their outlook for their community, or is their outlook for their bottom line?" she said.

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Record year for murder in Boise leaves police looking for answers

BOISE (AP) — Police in Boise and Ada County say they investigated murders of 14 people in 2007, making the year the deadliest on record for Idaho's biggest city and county.

The 14 victims top the previous record of eight homicides set in 2005, according to Idaho State Police crime statistics. Boise detectives opened 10 "homicide" cases this year involving 11 victims, while Ada County investigators handled three murder cases.

In those cases, 12 people

are either in jail or out on bond awaiting trials on first-degree murder charges, police said.

The lone unsolved case from 2007 is the February shooting death of Yazzie Billie Pleantywounds, 26, whose body was found in a Boise church softball field.

Despite the dramatic increase from the previous year, authorities say they don't anticipate the trend will continue in 2008. They also expect an overall decline in violent crime rates in the city and county when the final

"There is no clear pattern here. I wish I had an answer for this. Maybe it was just a bad year."

— Boise Police Chief Mike Masterson

2007 figures are tallied.

In the first nine months of 2007, the number of violent crimes were down 14 percent from 2006. Boise residents were less likely to be victims of rape, robbery, aggravated assault, and burglary than the year before, according to department statistics.

increases in various crimes from three-to-five, but overall changes are always rather incremental.

While authorities say they are at a loss to explain the rise in homicides, they have also identified some common threads. In each of the slayings, police say the suspects all knew their victims. Some of the murders can be linked to drugs, while others are tied to domestic violence or mental health problems.

"There is no clear pattern here. I wish I had an answer for this," Boise Police Chief Mike Masterson said. "Maybe it was just a bad year."

City and county detectives also made advances on some older, unsolved murder cases. Detectives caught a break in the 1992 murder case of Lisa Chambers when they discovered a DNA match with a convicted killer in a Utah prison.

'WolfQuest' allows gamers to follow call of wild

By Steve Karmowski
Associated Press writer

MINNEAPOLIS — The new video game "WolfQuest" allows players to follow the call of the wild in the role of a wolf in Yellowstone National Park. Players learn quickly, with help from realistic graphics, that wolves do a lot of running — across plains, through forests and up and down steep slopes.

"You have to learn how to hunt, survive, defend your territory and ultimately find a mate and establish your own pack," said project director Grant Spickelmier, assistant education director at Minnesota Zoo in Apple Valley.

The first episode, "Amethyst Mountain," was officially released Dec. 20 as a free download at www.wolfquest.org. Spickelmier said the game had been downloaded 13,500 times by Wednesday. The Minnesota Zoo developed "WolfQuest" with Eduweb, an educational software developer in St. Paul, on a \$508,253 National Science Foundation grant. Other partners include the National Zoo in Washington, the Phoenix Zoo, Yellowstone and the International Wolf Center in Ely.

The game is aimed at ages 10 to 15 because kids that age have largely stopped going to zoos and are more interested in things like video games, Spickelmier said.

"We're hoping to capture some of those kids back with this game," he said, adding that the Minnesota Zoo also hopes to interest kids in wolf conservation and biology.

Eleven-year-old Riley Breckheimer, of Apple Valley, tried out "WolfQuest" at its launch party at the zoo and declared it "pretty cool." He said he took a snow machine here and got an elk about halfway down. The game also gave him new respect for wolves.

"They can run over miles and miles of area just to get to one elk to go with me to eat," he said. "It's not like humans where humans have to go just a few blocks to the grocery store."

It's not the first time a zoo has offered computer games. The San Diego Zoo, National and the New York Zoo and Aquarium have games for younger kids on their Web sites. Nor is it the first time a video game has simulated wolf life: the DOS game "Wolf" was released in 1994.

But Steve Feldman, spokesman for the American Zoo Association, said "WolfQuest" takes things to a higher level.

"The level of realism, and also the goal, which is to effect real conservation behavior change, is what make this game unique," Feldman said.

In the first episode, as a solitary wolf roaming Amethyst Mountain in Yellowstone, players chase down elk and hares, relying on their eyes and sense of smell. When the "scent vision" screen toggles on, the background goes black and white and scent trails light up. The screen also shows how old the trails are.



A screenshot shows the new interactive video game about wolves developed by the Minnesota Zoo. The game, available as a free download and funded in part by a grant from the National Science Foundation, is aimed at teaching children about wildlife through the action of a video game.

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Cremation: A hazard to the living?

By DeeDee Cornell
Los Angeles Times

FORT COLLINS, Colo. — Rick Allnutt has closed all but one section of his funeral home on the north end of town.

The chapel is dark and quiet, the reception hall bare. But in the bay out back, two side-by-side ovens rumble as the 1,650-degree heat bakes two corpses into bone and ash.

Allnutt has moved the rest of the business to another location and wants to move his crematory to a site near a cemetery in Larimer County, but he's reached a stalemate with health officials there. They are concerned about what they see as a potential health risk to the living — mercury being released into the atmosphere from dental fillings of the cremated.

"We're not going to be the only one in the world who says I'll pull teeth from dead bodies," he said.

Across the United States, the issue is cropping up. Do metal fillings of corpses incinerated in crematories pose a threat? And if so, how should it be handled?

In Colorado, it's something that health officials are only now examining. In a 2005 dental fillings survey from dentists, crematories pose a threat? And if so, how should it be handled?

"We're on the cusp of starting to understand it," he said.

The cremation industry has no evidence of danger and calls Allnutt's situation "a dangerous precedent."

At issue are amalgam dental fillings. Amalgam — an alloy of mercury with another metal — is commonly used to fill cavities.

When a body is burned, mercury from such fillings vaporizes. Once released into the atmosphere, mercury neutralizes in rain or snow, ending up in lakes and other bodies of water where it can lead to elevated levels of mercury in fish. In humans, mercury damages the nervous system and can harm unborn fetuses.

Power plants, especially those that burn coal, are by far the largest source of preventable mercury releases.

Environmental Protection Agency regulations have been adopted to reduce those emissions.

As cremation continues to gain popularity in the United States, the issue may gain more traction.

According to the Cremation Association of North America, a 2005 survey found 46 percent of Americans planned to choose cremation, compared with 34 percent in 1990. Its use varies widely by region: In Nevada and Hawaii, two-thirds of bodies were cremated in 2005; in a number of Southern states, a tenth were.

The EPA does not regulate emissions from crematories, spokeswoman Margot Perez-Sullivan said. It estimates that less than 1 percent of all mercury emissions, come from crematories in the U.S. every year. (By contrast, the British government requires new crematories to install filters to reduce mercury emissions, according to the British Broadcasting Corp. It estimates that fillings account for 16 percent of mercury emissions in the United Kingdom, where cremation rates are greater than 70 percent.)

"Their assumptions are all incorrect," said Mark Mathews, a director for the Cremation Association of North America. "There's a battle over something that doesn't exist. The data doesn't add up, and the science isn't there."

Avalanche threat strands thousands in Colorado

By George Merritt
Associated Press writer

DENVER — Wind-whipped snow and avalanche danger closed the main highway through the Colorado mountains for hours on Monday, stranding thousands of travelers as they headed to New Year's Eve celebrations.

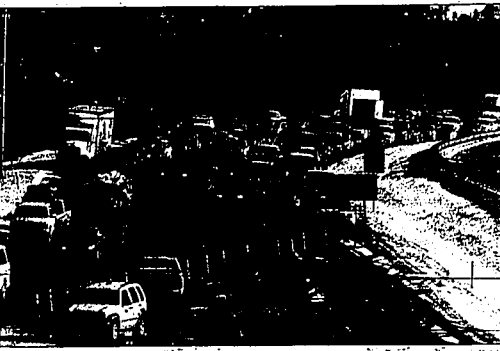
A 60-mile stretch of Interstate 70 had been shut down in both directions in the high country west of Denver, but westbound lanes reopened Monday afternoon after the potential avalanches were cleared away.

Eastbound traffic opened just after 4 p.m. between Silverthorne and Denver, but remained closed between Silverthorne and Vail. Transportation officials planned to open all lanes Monday evening.

The long shutdown had some travelers contemplating the prospect of welcoming the new year on a cot in a shelter.

"I've got some champagne in the car, but it's probably frozen by now," said Ken Simons of Grand Junction. He and his wife were trying to get to Denver for New Year's when the road closure forced them and more than 2,000 others to spend Sunday night in shelters.

Liquor stores along the closed section of highway



Traffic on Interstate 70 west of Denver is re-routed due to a threat of avalanches Monday. Thousands of travelers were stranded at Red Cross shelters in the Colorado high country.

from Denver International Airport.

"We're not even thinking of New Year's right now," Widrowicz said. "We are just trying to get home to family."

High winds piled deep snow into more than two dozen narrow ravines in the mountainsides — known as avalanche chutes — raising the danger of potentially deadly snow slides cascading onto I-70. The wind-blown snow reduced visibility to nearly zero at times.

Authorities wanted to clear out that snow before letting traffic through again.

Wind gusts at the Eisenhower Tunnel, where the interstate passes under the Continental Divide at 11,000 feet above sea level, reached 70 mph.

The highway was first shut down on Sunday night. That section carries as many as 39,000 cars on Sundays during this time of year, officials said.

Leveland Ski Area, about 45 miles west of Denver, shut down for the day because the highway closure kept both skiers and workers away.

"The good will and the bonding together has been outstanding," he said.

"I-70 is a main route between Denver and many of the state's major ski resorts, but it wasn't clear if the closures would hurt ski business during the lucrative holiday season."

"It's going to be resort-by-resort," said Jennifer Rudolph, a spokeswoman for the industry group Colorado Ski Country U.S.A.

Hanford reactor fuel being sent to Idaho

RICHLAND, Wash. (AP) —

Nuclear fuel from the Fast Flux Test Facility at the Hanford nuclear reservation is being shipped to Idaho to have the uranium extracted for possible reuse by commercial nuclear power plants.

That's part of the research being done at the Idaho National Laboratory, according to the U.S. Department of Energy.

Despite years of efforts by EFTF supporters, the federal government has been unable to find a cost-effective use for the research reactor.

The first of 11 planned shipments by truck to the Idaho National Laboratory, near Idaho Falls, began in October and the shipments are expected to be completed in May. Shipments are not made in bad weather.

Workers in recent months have been moving the sodium-bonded fuel into special casks for transport.

"The sodium-bonded fuel is the last remaining fuel at EFTF," said Al Farabee, the Department of Energy's

FFTF federal project director.

The sodium-bonded fuel was a later design for use in the reactor, which operated from 1982 to 1992. Melted sodium was poured around the fuel pellets inside each fuel pin to conduct heat from plutonium and uranium. The sodium is cooled by the pellets to the cladding.

The reactor also had 375 fuel assemblies without sodium bonding. They have already been moved out of EFTF into storage on the sprawling Hanford site.

Unused and irradiated sodium-bonded fuel is being shipped to Idaho in steel and lead-shielded casks that are sealed airtight.

At the Idaho National Laboratory, the fuel will be stored inside the Hot Fuel Examination Facility until it is processed, beginning in fiscal year 2009, according to the Department of Energy.

Processing is expected to take two years. Uranium will be extracted from the fuel and cast into ingots, and will be stored

until a customer is found, the DOE said.

At EFTF, all sodium used in the reactor's cooling systems has been removed and is being stored onsite. The sodium, which includes radioactive contamination, is expected to be used as a caustic additive to help turn radioactive waste now stored in underground tanks at Hanford into a stable glass form.

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The auditions will be held on Friday, Jan. 4, 2008, from 5pm to 9pm, and Saturday, Jan. 5, from 9am to 3pm, at the First Presbyterian Church in Twin Falls.

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Around the world, revelers greet New Year with fireworks, singing, dancing

By Angela Doland
Associated Press writer

PARIS — A million revelers cheered fireworks in Sydney, which started the year with singing and dancing displays hosted by Summer Olympics organizers. And rare celebrations resounded in war-torn Baghdad.

Across the globe, people gathered for parties with fireworks and held out hopes for a peaceful and

prosperous 2008.

But reminders of violence were apparent as well as security was heightened in many nations. Fireworks were canceled in downtown Brussels, Belgium, where police last week detained 14 people suspected of plotting to help an accused al-Qaida militant break out of jail. In Paris, where festivities centered on the famous Champs-Élysées avenue and the Eiffel Tower, about 4,500 police and 140

rescue officials patrolled the streets.

In Thailand, an army spokesman said he believed that five bombs set off by suspected Muslim insurgents in a Thai-Malaysian border tourist town likely targeted New Year's revelers.

The bombs, which wounded 27 people, exploded in the hotel-and-nightlife-area-of-Sungai Kolok, including two inside a hotel dance club and one hidden in the basket of a

motorcycle outside a hotel; spokesman Col. Akara Thiprote said.

Baghdad witnessed something Iraq had not seen since before the invasion of 2003 — people publicly partying to welcome in a new year.

The ballrooms of two landmark hotels — the Palestine and the Sheraton — were full of people for New Year's Eve celebrations. After years of car bombings, mortar fire and suicide attacks, Iraq's capital

was sufficiently calm to warrant the two high-end parties in the once-posh hotels.

Several European countries rang in the new year with new habits.

Starting at midnight, the smoke-filled cafe was to become a memory in France. Following up on a ban last year on smoking in many indoor locations, cigarette will now be off-limits in dance clubs, restaurants, hotels, casinos and cafes.

People can still smoke in their homes, hotel rooms and sealed smoking chambers at establishments that decide to provide them.

The European Union newcomers, Cyprus and Malta, start using the euro at the stroke of midnight. The Mediterranean islands, both former British colonies, scrap the Cyprus pound and Maltese lira to bring the number of countries using the shared currency to 15.

925 police, 110 U.S. soldiers killed in year of record violence in Afghanistan

By Jason Straziuso
Associated Press writer

KABUL, Afghanistan — U.S. military deaths, suicide bombings and opium production hit record highs in 2007. Taliban militants killed more than 925 Afghan police, and large swaths of the country remain outside government control.

But U.S. officials here insist things are looking up: The Afghan army is assuming a larger combat role, and militants appear unlikely to mount a major spring offensive, as had been expected a year ago. Training for Afghan police is increasing.

Still, six years after the 2001 U.S.-led invasion, violence persists in much of southern Afghanistan where the government has little presence, and recent militant attacks in Pakistan highlight a long-term regional problem with al-Qaida and the Taliban.

Civilian deaths caused by U.S. and NATO forces in the first half of the year rattled the government, and more foreign fighters flowed into the country.

Taliban fighters avoided head-on battles with U.S., NATO and Afghan army forces in 2007, instead using ambushes and suicide bombings, but militants attacked the weakest of Afghan forces to devastating effect.

More than 925 Afghan policemen died in 2007, including 16 killed Saturday during an assault on a Helmand province checkpoint.

"The Taliban attack whom they perceive to be the most vulnerable, and in this case it's the police," said Lt. Col. Dave Johnson, a spokesman for the U.S. troops who train Afghan police and soldiers. "They don't travel in large formations like the army do."

That puts them at an "acute vulnerability."

Afghanistan in 2007 saw record violence that killed more than 6,500 people, including 110 U.S. troops — the highest level ever in Afghanistan — and almost 4,500 militants, according to an Associated Press count. Britain lost 41 soldiers, while Canada lost 30. Other nations lost a total of 40.

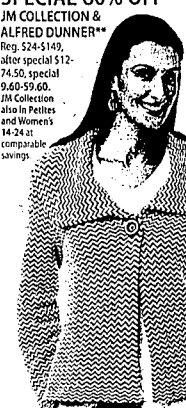
The AP count is based on figures from U.S. military and Afghan officials and is not definitive. Afghan officials are known to exaggerate Taliban deaths, for instance, and NATO's International Security Assistance Force does not release numbers of militants it killed, meaning AP's estimate of 4,478 militant deaths could be low.

Seth Jones, an analyst with the RAND Corp. who follows Afghanistan, said the "country's ability to improve governance is vital to defeating the insurgency. The thing that concerns me most," he said, "is the general perception in Afghanistan that the government is not capable of meeting the basic demands of its population, that it's involved in corruption ... that it's unable to deliver services in key rural areas, that it's not able to protect its population, especially the police."


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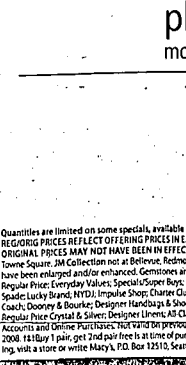
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At least 135 dead in Kenya after 3 days of violence over president's disputed re-election

By Elizabeth A. Kennedy
Associated Press writer

NAIROBI, Kenya — Kenya's president threatened a tough crackdown Monday as rioters rampaged for a third day to protest what they called his sham re-election — a bloody convulsion threatening what has been East Africa's most stable and prosperous democracy.

At least 135 Kenyans were reported killed in violence that flared from the shanty-towns of Nairobi to resort towns on the sweltering coast. Opposition leaders set the stage for more turmoil by calling for a million people to rally against President Mwai Kibaki.

In the slums of Nairobi, rioters waved machetes and shouted "Kibaki must go!", while police beat protesters with clubs, fired off tear gas and shot live bullets in the air. Much of the country was at a standstill, with shops closed and many people hunkered inside their homes. "We are ready to die and we are ready for serious killings," 24-year-old James Onyango, who lives in Nairobi's Kibera slum, told The Associated Press as homes and shops around him burned.

While there are no strong policy differences between the two camps, the shed exposed tribal resentments that have long festered in Kenya, where Kibaki's Kikuyu people — the largest group — are accused of turning their dominance of politics and business to the detriment of other ethnicities. Ethnic rivalries are often tribal-linked, and ethnic groups were reported attacking rival groups.

The opposition candidate, Raila Odinga, a member of the Luo tribe, unveiled his plan for a mass protest rally Monday after a warning from police. But he called for 1 million people to march Thursday on the capital's Uhuru Park, where protesters seeking multi-party democracy massed in the early 1990s.

"We are calling for mass action," said Odinga, who led Kibaki in opinion polls before Thursday's ballot as well as in early election returns until his lead suddenly evaporated as official figures came out over the weekend. "We will march wearing black arm bands because we are mourning."

Kibaki, in a New Year's message to Kenyans, called for healing and reconciliation, but he warned that his government would "deal decisively with those who breach the peace by intensifying security across the country."

The police officers independently told AP journalists that they had been ordered to shoot to kill to stop rioters. A government spokesman denied such an order was given.

Teams of riot police deployed in the capital's Kibera and Mathere shanty-towns, blocking people from marching on the largely deserted downtown.

In one neighborhood, a woman and her four young children ran from their home retching after police fired tear gas into the building.

"We were just hiding from the shots," said Dorothy Nyangasi, frantically pouring water over the eyes of her 6-month-old son.

Other people said they had not been able to find food since shops closed Thursday for the election. One woman shouted "Hungry! Hungry!" at passing journalists.

Ethnic fighting was evident in Nairobi's sprawling slums, where the neighborhoods are often divided along tribal lines. Kenya's Red Cross said that many of the dead were killed in ethnic clashes and that gangs were even checking the tribal affiliations of Red Cross workers trying to help the injured.

Riots also raged in opposition strongholds in western Kenya, the tourism-dependent coast and the Rift Valley.



A riot police officer runs away from opposition supporters throwing stones Monday during riots in the Kibera slum of Nairobi.

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