

HIGH-SCORING HOOPS

Boise State outpoints Idaho in crqss-state rivalry.

SPORTS, D1

Good Morning

High: 36
Low: 23

Cloudy and cool, scattered snow showers. Details: C8

Sunday

January 6, 2008 | \$1.50

TUPPERWARE OR TASERS?

Arizona woman finds new way to sell self-protection.

MONEY, B1

PLOT WITH A PURPOSE

Former Burley teacher writes parenting book disguised as engaging story.

FAMILY LIFE, F1

Times-News

magicvalley.com



Caring for the elderly



Dionne Dickson, an Lpn, at Bridgeview Estates, distributes medications Thursday in Twin Falls. At a time when nursing homes are receiving nationwide attention, some nursing home administrators in Idaho say the federal survey process results in misleading reports and means more staff time spent on paperwork that could be devoted to resident care. "We're one of the most regulated businesses there is, and there's a reason for that," said Bridgeview administrator Lori Bentler.

Painting a false picture

Independent water study may contain inaccurate information

By Joshua Palmer
Times-News writer

A report on water and sewer capabilities for nine cities throughout south-central Idaho may be portraying an inaccurate picture of each city's capacity for additional commercial and industrial growth.

"The reality is that we base our marketing on the information that we have, and we expect the information to be accurate."

— Jon Rogers, director of SIEDO

PLEASE SEE WATER, Page A3

Opinions differ widely about state nursing home licensing

By Nate Poppino
Times-News writer

Twin Falls resident Allison Stark was more than happy with her father's care at the Gooding Rehabilitation and Living Center.

She said she never saw any of the problems that led the Idaho Department of Health and Welfare to move to revoke the center's license in

December. But it happened, she said, and she's trying to understand why. Some in the U.S. joke that skilled-nursing homes are more regulated than nuclear plants. But the jokes hold some truth. Such homes fall under a complex series of standards that many in the business say doesn't accomplish what they were created to do.

Just a few rules

All nursing-home inspections are made on behalf of the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS). Therefore, Health and Welfare's Bureau of Facility Standards follows the same basic procedure as every other state.

One inspection actually affects two different licenses. The CMS license allows the facility to be reimbursed for any residents using Medicare or Medicaid as payment. Without the license, most homes likely couldn't afford to stay open. The state wields a more basic power: Its license



Visit magicvalley.com to view a map, contact information and basic details about all 12 nursing homes in south-central Idaho.

Learn more

For more information on nursing home standards, or for help searching for a home, try these resources:

- Idaho Department of Health and Welfare: www.healthandwelfare.idaho.gov. The Bureau of Facility Standards inspects nursing homes; it can be reached at (208) 334-6626 or by selecting "Medical — Facility Standards" in the left-hand column of the Web site.
- CSI Office of Advocacy: 736-2122. The office employs ombudsmen whose jobs include helping nursing home residents and their families connect with the resources they need. They'll also check up on homes in the area and visit with residents to determine their needs.
- Idaho Health Care Association: www.ihca-net.org, (208) 343-9735. It's the state organization for nursing homes, and the site contains advice for choosing a home.
- National Citizens Coalition for Nursing Home Reform: www.nccnhr.org. A national advocacy group dedicated to the consumer side of the industry.
- In addition, a number of Web sites offer nursing home rankings based on the state's reports. For more information, see page A4.



In an effort to reduce the need for treated water as well as the reliance on city wastewater treatment, larger businesses such as Glanbia Foods have installed their own wastewater treatment facilities. The cheese producer is able to treat and recycle water that is extracted from raw milk during cheese and whey protein production.

PLEASE SEE NURSING ON PAGE A4

Editor's note:

In late November, PARADE Magazine's sent author Gall Sheehy to Pakistan to interview former Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto as she campaigned through the country. Bhutto told Sheehy that she had long been a target for "assassination" and knew she could be murdered at any time. Her and prediction came true on Dec. 27. Sheehy's article appears in today's edition of PARADE, which had been printed well before her death. Because of the magazine's lead time, it could not be replaced with a version reflecting her murder. The Times-News, the magazine's 400 newspaper that carry the popular Sunday supplement, has chosen to present the magazine, even though it may seem odd to readers who now know what Sheehy did not when she finished the article. Though Bhutto has passed from the international scene, her story remains a compelling look at her life and at our troubled times.



Nevada flood victim: 'There was water everywhere'

Third storm in 3 days pounds West Coast

By Martin Griffith
Associated Press writer

FERNLEY, Nev. — Maureen Tabata and her husband woke up Saturday to find water surrounding their home. When it started pouring in, there was nothing they could do to stop it. "We did our best to block the water but it came rushing in through the doors and garage. The force of the water knocked over the TV," Tabata said.

Tabata, her husband and more than a dozen others in this town about 30



Renov rescue team members search a neighborhood in Fernley, Nev., on Saturday after a canal levee ruptured from heavy rainfall, pouring more than 3 feet of near-freezing water into hundreds of homes and stranding some 3,500 people across a square mile in their desert agricultural town about 33 miles east of Reno.

Please see STORMS, Page A3



At Your Service directory	E11	Crossword	E1	Jumble	E10	Movies	C5, C7	Sudoku	E2
Auction Book	E9	Dear Abby	F4	Magic Valley	C1	Obituaries	C2	Three-day planner	A2
Bridge	E11	Family Life	F3	Mini-Cassia	C7	Opinion	B4	Travel	G1
Classifieds	E1-12	Horoscope	F4	Money	B1	Sports	D1	Weather	D8

TODAY'S FORECAST

TWIN FALLS

Today	Tonight	Monday
Scattered snow showers likely and cool	A few snow showers	Cloudy with a few flurries
High 36	Low 23	33 / 25

MINI-CASSIA

Today: A few scattered snow showers. Highs in the lower to mid 30s.
Tonight: A few lingering snow showers—Lows in the lower to mid 20s.
Tomorrow: A few flurries around, otherwise cloudy and cold. Highs in the lower 30s.

Complete weather report: See page D6

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1976 all-original Chevy Camaro Car Raffle, to raise funds for Process of Change—non-profit School for Children with Developmental Disabilities, tickets: \$10 each or three for \$25, drawing to take place when 5000 tickets sold out, (208) 899-5262 to purchase.

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Sunday Dinner, featuring roast pork with applesauce, noon to 1:30 p.m., Ageless Senior Citizens Center, 310 Main St. N., Kimberly, suggested donation: \$6 adults, \$3 for children under age 12 (take out meals available), 423-4338.

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- Jan. 8** — The American Legion Post 7 & Auxiliary meeting, includes potluck with meetings to follow, 5:30 p.m., social hour and 6:30 p.m. dinner (meat furnished; bring 3rd dish or dessert), Post Home, 447 Seaton St., Twin Falls, Legion & Auxiliary members, guests and prospective members welcome, 733-9962 or 734-1435.
- Jan. 8** — Hagerman Valley Historical Society program, with guest speaker Tom Blanchard on "Mining in Idaho, Today and Yesterday," 7 p.m., National Park Service building, 221 N. State St., Hagerman, no cost, public invited, refreshments served, 837-6288.
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HOBBIES AND CRAFTS

Jan. 8 — Burley Bluegrass Jam, traditional bluegrass focus (all skill levels welcome), 7 to 10 p.m., The Chadwick Grille, 139 W. Main St., corner of Main and Oakley, Burley, (208) 670-4868 or robcurtis2@gmail.com.

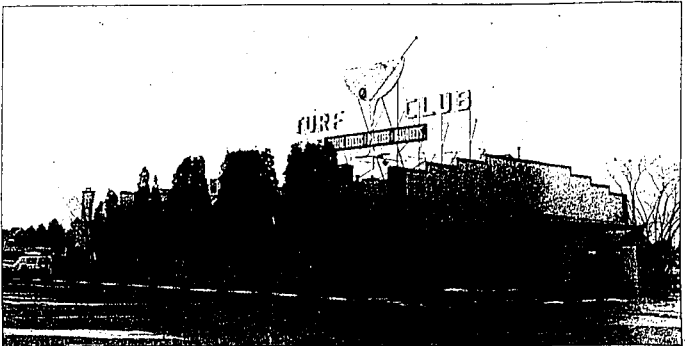
MORNING BRIEFING

PHOTOGRAPHIC MEMORY

The Magic Valley's history as seen through the lens of photographers, then and now ...



The Turf Club at 734 Falls Ave. in Twin Falls, seen in a 1950s photograph by Clarence Bisbee, is currently owned by Soran Restaurants Inc. The facility is frequently used for banquets and civic group gatherings and also accommodates as many as 300 seated guests for meals.



AROUND THE WORLD

WYOMING

Romney wins Wyoming Republican caucuses

CASPER — Mitt Romney captured his first win of the republican presidential race on Saturday, prevailing in Wyoming caucuses for a much-needed boost to his candidacy three days before the New Hampshire primary. The former Massachusetts governor won eight delegates, former Tennessee Sen. Fred Thompson got two and California Rep. Duncan Hunter won one, meaning no other candidate could beat Romney. Caucuses were still being held to decide all 12 delegates at stake. The victory was a welcome development for Romney, coming two days after his loss to Mike Huckabee in the Iowa caucuses and three days

before the first-in-the-nation primary in New Hampshire. Those two states have attracted most of the political attention. Wyoming had scheduled its GOP county conventions earlier to attract candidates to the state but had only modest results. "Number one, he campaigned here," delegate Leigh Vosler of Cheyenne said of Romney. "I think that helped while some other candidates ignored us. But also he's the right person for the job."

KENYA

Kenyan president offers unity government to resolve vote, violence

NAIROBI — President Mwai Kibaki told the top U.S. diplomat for Africa that he was willing to share power

and the opposition backed off demands for his resignation on Saturday, offering hope for an end to Kenya's deadly electoral crisis. As Kibaki and Raila Odinga faced growing pressure to compromise, the violence that has killed more than 300 people across the country appeared to ease in the capital for the first time since the disputed vote that gave the president a second term and awakened dormant ethnic rivalries. "The crisis following the Dec. 27 election with a deeply flawed vote count has pitted Kibaki's Kikuyu people against Kenya's other tribes, and brought chaos to a country that had been one of east Africa's most stable democracies. In the countryside, with the continued threat of ethnic attacks, thousands fled their homes, escorted by soldiers as

they streamed down roads strewn with corpses, burned out vehicles and downed power lines.

LOS ANGELES

Britney Spears remains in hospital after losing custody of kids

Britney Spears was apparently spending a second day in a hospital Saturday, the result of a bizarre standoff that brought police to her house and led a judge to award ex-husband Kevin Federline custody of their two sons. A court commissioner on Friday gave Federline sole physical and legal custody of 2-year-old Sean Preston and 1-year-old Jayden James, and suspended Spears' visitation rights.

— Wire reports

COMING THIS WEEK



Image

Fun and fit: Not traditional ways to get moving and lose weight.

MONDAY



Country Roads

Help for hobby farmers: Workshop teaches rural newcomers the basics.

TUESDAY



Food & Home

Organized and efficient: Sorting and storing those new acquisitions.

WEDNESDAY



Winnings	% of	Age	% season
Salmon	105%	40%	
Big Wood	102%	44%	
Little Wood	103%	43%	
Big Lost	97%	40%	
Little Lost	95%	42%	
Henny's Fork/Teton	93%	41%	
Upper Snake Basin	82%	37%	
Oakley	78%	32%	
Salmon Falls	78%	33%	

As of Jan. 5

IDAHO LOTTERY

WILD CARD Saturday, Jan. 5
 4 11 10 33 40 Power Play: 9
WILD CARD: Saturday, Jan. 5
 18 24 25 28 31
WILD CARD: Sunday, Jan. 6
 4 4 4 4
 Jan. 4 9 0 1
 Jan. 5 7 7 5
WILD CARD: Saturday, Jan. 5
 26 30 34 35 37 HD: 18
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 Circulation Director Insha Mitchell 735-3227

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 No. 6

Times-News

Water

Continued from page A1
and Burley have millions of gallons of excess water capacity that is available for use.

For example, the city of Twin Falls was cited as having 8 million gallons per day of excess potable water and 848,000 gallons per day of excess wastewater treatment capabilities.

However, city officials say the report does not paint an accurate picture. "During certain times of the year our water fluctuates, so it's not always going to have the same (capacity)," said Tom Courtney, city manager. "And right now our wastewater treatment plant is running at about 90 percent capacity."

In an effort to better understand the city's current water situation, it has contracted with J-U-B Engineers Inc.

Mark Holtzner, project engineer for J-U-B Engineers, said the water supply for the city of Twin Falls will be less capable of supporting additional businesses as the city grows.

In fact, based on an estimated growth rate of 3.25 percent for both residential and commercial growth, J-U-

B Engineers says that the city will enter a period in less than five years where the water supply will not be able to meet demand.

"The city has three sources of water that respond to irrigation conditions because as the weather gets warmer demand for water increases," he said. "So there is a time around May and June when there is substantially less water — by 2010 we project that there will not be enough water during this time period to meet demand."

He said the shortage will not likely be severe; however, it will not support additional commercial growth without additional water supplies.

Jennifer Tanner, who conducted the independent water study for the Strategic Growth Institute, said the information for the study was provided by Idaho Department of Commerce, which funded the information on its community profile Web page.

"We looked at it from the view point of a business and we rated the region as a whole as neutral," she said. "That means that as an entrepreneur it would not consider it a major restraint to growth



A view of the Twin Falls water treatment facility Friday from a view point on the canyon rim.

in that area." Department of Commerce officials say they received the information from the municipalities.

Regardless of where the information originated, some economic development officials would not consider it to market south-central

Idaho to business looking to expand or relocate.

"The reality is that we base our marketing on the information that we have, and we expect the information to be accurate," said Jim Rogers, director of SIBCO.

"Unfortunately, nobody said this information

was wrong when it was presented to them."

Water supplies within south-central Idaho communities have been critical to economic stability because the region relies on industries

that require large amounts of water such as food processors.

Similarly, wastewater treatment is necessary to recycle the water cast out from other industries such as dairy processing.

In an effort to reduce the need for treated water as well as the reliance on city wastewater treatment, larger businesses such as Glanbia Foods have installed their own wastewater treatment facilities. The cheese producer is able to treat and recycle water extracted from raw milk during cheese and whey isolate protein production.

Some communities such as Jerome and Burley have invested in costly wastewater treatment facilities to accommodate industrial growth.

However, the issues remain that water supplies in Jerome, Twin Falls, Kimberly, Burley, Rupert, Hailley, Shoshone, Kootenai and Sun Valley were grossly overestimated — and nobody said a word.

Joshua Palmer can be reached at (208) 735-3231.

Storms

Continued from page A1

hills east of Reno had to be rescued by boat and helicopter after a chunk of an earthen levee up to 150 feet long was washed away by a rain-swollen canal.

The flood covered about a square mile and temporarily stranded as many as 3,500 people before receding. An estimated 1,500 ended up being displaced from their homes. Lyon County Fire Chief Scott Huntley said Saturday night. No injuries were reported.

"All of our furniture, carpet — everything is destroyed. It's just unbelievable," Tabata said. "It's all muddy. I never thought I'd experience something like this in Nevada. It's like if you don't laugh, you'll cry, because everything is destroyed."

The break came as the third storm in as many days pummeled the West Coast, raising a threat of mud slides and flooding in California, blacking out thousands of customers, causing at least two deaths and blanketing the Sierra Nevada with deep snow.

In Fernley, Huntley, one of the first on the scene, described it as a wall of water about 2 feet high going down Farm District Road. "In some places folks had to deal with 10 feet of water," he said. "Firefighters were in chest-deep water making rescues."

Two helicopters aided rescue crews in pontooning in at least 10 people from rooftops. Local residents in fishing boats rescued many more. "It was like our house was

dropped in the middle of the river," said Eric Cornett, who estimated the water was about 2 feet deep and rising fast when he drove away from his home with his wife and three children.

"Garbage cans and pieces of wood were floating down the street," he said. "We saw water coming in the back door and tried to grab as much stuff as possible to save it. The water was rising very quickly and it was scary. The water was freezing. I couldn't even feel my feet."

By afternoon, the Truckee River flowing into the canal was diverted upstream, said Eric Schank, president of the Nevada State Irrigation District. Fernley Mayor Todd Cutler said he had reports of damage to at least 300 to 400 homes. Schank suggested burrowing rodents may have contributed to the break in the levee along with the heavy rains, but the cause wasn't clear.

"We have to look at the weather as the culprit right now, but we are not sure of that," Huntley said.

The National Weather Service reported 1.91 inches of rain at Fernley-Lahoe

International Airport on Friday, a record. Reno averages only 8 inches of rainfall annually and Fernley only about 5 inches.

Gov. Jim Gibbons, who visited the shelter and toured the area by helicopter on Saturday, declared the county an emergency area.

Federal Emergency Management Agency planned to conduct a damage assessment on Monday. In California, more than 450,000 homes and businesses from the San Francisco Bay area to the Central Valley were without power Saturday, down from more than 1.6 million Friday, according to Pacific Gas & Electric and other regional utility providers.

Additional rain and snow is expected to blanket Northern California through Thursday. Arnold Schwarzenegger declared emergencies in three counties hit hard by the storms.

In the Sierra foothills where many had been without power for more than 24 hours, some hunkered down for the long haul while others packed up and left town ahead of the third storm.

"We're definitely toughing it up here," said Kevin Harris, who lost power Friday in his home in Gold Run, about 60 miles east of Sacramento.

"We went shopping earlier — food, water, soda, pizza, toilet paper, first-aid kit, and gasoline for the generator."

Along the southern rim of Lake Tahoe, the snow was still falling Saturday afternoon at Heavenly Mountain Resort, which had received about a foot by Saturday afternoon, said resort spokesman Russ Pecoraro.

Forecasters expected as much as 9 feet of snow on the mountain range by Sunday night.

"If you take the wind gusts, the snowfall and all of it together, it's definitely one of the biggest storms we've experienced in a number of years," said National Weather Service meteorologist Scott McGuire.

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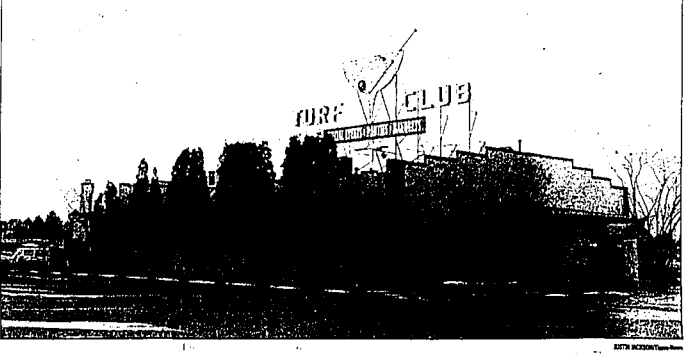
MORNING BRIEFING

PHOTOGRAPHIC MEMORY

The Magic Valley's history, as seen through the lens of photographers, then and now ...



The Turf Club at 734 Falls Ave. in Twin Falls, seen in a 1950s photograph by Clarence Bisbee, is currently owned by Suzan Restaurants Inc. The facility is frequently used for banquets and civic group gatherings and also accommodates as many as 300 seated guests for meals.



AROUND THE WORLD

WYOMING

Romney wins Wyoming Republican caucuses

CASPER — Mitt Romney captured his first win of the Republican presidential race on Saturday, prevailing in Wyoming caucuses for a much-needed boost to his candidacy three days before the New Hampshire primary. The former Massachusetts governor won eight delegates, former Tennessee Sen. Fred Thompson got two and California Rep. Duncan Hunter won one, meaning no other candidate could beat Romney. Caucuses were still being held to decide all 12 delegates at stake. The victory was a welcome development for Romney, coming two days after his loss to Mike Huckabee in the Iowa caucuses and three days

before the first-in-the-nation primary in New Hampshire. Those two states have attracted most of the political attention. Wyoming had scheduled its GOP county conventions earlier to attract candidates to the state but had only modest results.

"Number one, he campaigned here," delegate Leigh Volsler of Cheyenne said of Romney. "I think that helped while some other candidates ignored us. But also he's the right person for the job."

KENYA

Kenyan president offers unity government to resolve vote, violence

NAIROBI — President Mwai Kibaki told the top U.S. diplomat for Africa that he was willing to share power

and the opposition backed off demands for his resignation on Saturday, offering hope for an end to Kenya's deadly electoral crisis.

As Kibaki and Raila Odinga faced growing pressure to compromise, the violence that has killed more than 400 people across the country appeared to ease in the capital for the first time since the disputed vote that gave the president a second term and awakened dormant ethnic rivalries. The crisis followed the Dec. 27 election with a deeply flawed vote count has pitted Kibaki's Kikuyu people against Kenya's other tribes, and brought chaos to a country that had been one of east Africa's most stable democracies.

In the countryside, with the continued threat of ethnic attacks, thousands fled their homes, escorted by soldiers as

they streamed down roads strewn with corpses, burned out vehicles and downed power lines.

LOS ANGELES

Britney Spears remains in hospital after losing custody of kids

Britney Spears was apparently spending a second day in a hospital Saturday, the result of a bizarre standoff that brought police to her house and led a judge to award ex-husband Kevin Federline custody of their two sons. A court commissioner on Friday gave Federline sole physical and legal custody of 2-year-old Sean Preston and 1-year-old Jayden James, and suspended Spears' visitation rights.

COMING THIS WEEK



Image
Fun and fit: Non traditional ways to get moving and lose weight.



Country Roads
Help for hobby farmers: Workshop teaches rural newcomers the basics.



Food & Home
Organized and efficient: Sorting and storing those new acquisitions.

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Vol. 103 No. 6

Water

Continued from page A1
and Burley have millions of gallons of excess water capacity that is available for use.

For example, the city of Twin Falls was cited as having 8 million gallons per day of excess potable water and 860,000 gallons per day of excess wastewater treatment capabilities.

However, city officials say the report does not paint an accurate picture.

"During certain times of the year our water fluctuates, so it's not always going to have the same (capacity)," said Tom Cartwright, city manager. "And right now our wastewater treatment plant is running at about 80 percent capacity."

In an effort to better understand the city's current water situation, it has contracted with J-I-B Engineers Inc.

Mark Helzen, project engineer for J-I-B Engineers, said the water supply for the city of Twin Falls will be less capable of supporting additional businesses as the city grows.

In fact, based on an estimated growth rate of 2.25 percent for both residential and commercial growth, J-I-B

Engineers says that the city will enter a period in less than five years where the water supply will not be able to meet demand.

"The city has three sources of water that respond to irrigation conditions because as the weather gets warmer demand for water increases," he said. "So there is a time around May and June when there is substantially less water — by 2010 we project that there will not be enough water during this time period to meet demand."

He said the shortage will not likely be severe however, it will not support additional commercial growth without additional water supplies.

Jennifer Tanner, who conducted the independent water study for the Strategic Growth Institute, said the information for the study was provided by Idaho Department of Commerce, which includes the information on its community profile Web page.

"We looked at it from the view point of a business and we rated the region as a whole as neutral," she said. "That means that as an outsider we would not consider it a major restraint to growth



A view of the Twin Falls water treatment facility Friday from a view point on the canyon rim.

in that area."

Department of Commerce officials say they received the information from the municipalities.

Regardless of where the information originated, some economic development officials had been using it to market south-central

Idaho to business looking to expand or relocate.

"The reality is that we base our marketing on the information that we have, and we expect the information to be accurate," said Jim Rogers, director of SBEID.

"Unfortunately, nobody said this information

was wrong when it was presented to them."

"Water supplies within south-central Idaho communities have been critical to economic stability because the region relies on industries

that require large amounts of water such as food processors.

Similarly wastewater treatment is necessary to recycle the water cast out from other industries such as dairy processing.

In an effort to reduce the need for treated water as well as the reliance on city wastewater treatment, burger business such as Clambia Foods have installed their own wastewater treatment facilities. The cheese producer is able to treat and recycle water extracted from raw milk during cheese and whey isolate protein production.

Some communities such as Jerome and Burley have invested in costly wastewater treatment facilities to accommodate industrial growth.

However, the issues remain that water supplies in Jerome, Twin Falls, Kimberly, Burley, Rupert, Hailley, Shoshone, Ketchikan and Sun Valley were grossly overstated — and nobody said a word.

Justin Palmer can be reached at (208) 735-3231.

Storms

Continued from page A1

hills east of Reno had to be rescued by hoist and helicopter after a chunk of an earthen levee up to 150 feet long was washed away by a rain-swollen canal.

The flood covered about a square mile and temporarily stranded as many as 3,500 people before receding. An estimated 1,500 ended up being displaced from their homes. Lyon County Fire Chief Scott Huntley said Saturday night. No injuries were reported.

"All of our furniture, carpet — everything is destroyed. It's just unbelievable," Tabata said. "It's all muddy. I never thought I'd experience anything like this in Nevada. It's like if you don't laugh, you'll cry, because everything is destroyed."

The break came as the third storm in as many days pummeled the West Coast, raising a threat of mud slides and flooding in California, blanketing out thousands of customers, causing at least two deaths and blanketing the Sierra Nevada with deep snow.

In Ferenley, Huntley, one of the first on the scene, described it as a "wall of water about 2 feet high going down Farm District Road."

"In some places folks had to deal with 8 feet of water," he said. "Firefighters were in chest-deep water, making rescues."

Two helicopters aided rescue crews in pointons in rescuing at least 10 people from driveways and rooftops. Local residents in fishing boats rescued many more.

"It was like our house was

dropped in the middle of the river," said Eric Cornett, who estimated the water was about 2 feet deep and rising fast when he drove away from his home with his wife and three children.

"Garbage cans and pieces of wood were floating down the street," he said. "We saw water coming in the back door and tried to grab as much stuff as possible to save it. The water was rising very quickly and it was scary. The water was freezing, I couldn't even feel my feet."

By afternoon, the Truckee River water flowing into the canal was diverted upstream, said Ernie Schank, president of the Truckee-Carson Irrigation District. Ferenley Mayor Todd Culler said he had reports of damage to at least 300 to 400 homes.

Schank suggested borrowing rodents may have contributed to the break in the levee along with the heavy rains, but the cause wasn't clear.

"We have to look at the weather as the culprit right now, but we are not sure of that," Huntley said.

The National Weather Service recorded 1.91 inches of rain at Reno-Tahoe

International Airport on Friday. A record, Reno averages only 8 inches of rainfall annually and Ferenley only about 5 inches.

Gov. Jim Gilchrist, who visited the shelter and toured the area by helicopter on Saturday, declared the county an emergency area. Federal Emergency Management Agency planned to conduct a damage assessment on Monday.

In California, more than 450,000 homes and businesses from the San Francisco Bay area to the Central Valley were without power Saturday, down from more than 1.6 million Friday, according to Pacific Gas & Electric and other regional utility providers.

Additional rain and snow is expected to blanket Northern California through Thursday.

Gov. Schwarzenegger declared emergencies in three counties hit hard by the storms.

In the Sierra foothills where many had been without power for more than 24 hours, some hunkered down for the long haul while others packed up and left town ahead of the third storm.

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"We're definitely roughing it up here," said Kevin Harris, who lost power Friday in his home in Gold Run, about 60 miles east of Sacramento.

"We went shopping earlier — food, water, soda, pizza, toilet paper, first-aid kit, and gasoline for the generator."

Along the southern rim of Lake Tahoe, the snow was still falling Saturday afternoon at Heavenly Mountain Resort, which had received about 4 feet by Saturday afternoon, said resort spokesman Russ Pecararo.

Forecasters expected as much as 9 feet of snow on the mountain range by Sunday night.

"If you take the wind gusts, the snowfall and all of it together, it's definitely one of the biggest storms we've experienced in a number of years," said National Weather Service meteorologist Brent McCreir.

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Web sites attempt to summarize state reports

By Nate Poppino
Times-News writer

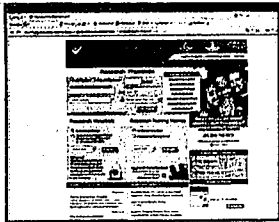
Department of Health and Welfare produce extremely detailed reports — all of them public information. A full 18 months, of their

observations, and the state's interpretation of them, are available online at www.healthandwelfare.idaho.gov.

But they aren't easy to decipher — the raw reports can include pages of technical jargon and undated references to federal and state codes.

Enter the Internet. A number of agencies, including Medicare, offer their own ratings for families or prospective residents. Most use the

Medicare data provided by the state, but package it in what they hope is a simpler format. Here are three examples:



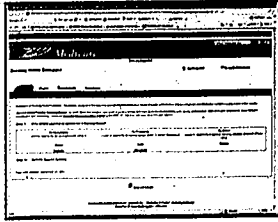
www.healthgrades.com

Denver-based HealthGrades bills itself as "the leading health care ratings company." Those boasts do have some substance: Rankings from HealthGrades.com are one of the main components that tracks Internet searches about the state's health facilities just as often as the entire Medicare.gov domain.

The site maintains extensive physician and hospital rankings — both of which produce more inquiries to the company, said Scott Shapiro, vice president of corporate communications and marketing. But the nursing home data has a price tag. The nursing home data has a price tag of \$10 to \$10 per report, depending on how many they request at a time.

At \$10 the user buys a summary of the past three years' surveys, broken down by complaint and number of residents affected. The number of substantiated complaints appears below that, followed by center and suggested questions for people touring it. Homes are compared using a one- to five-star ranking system.

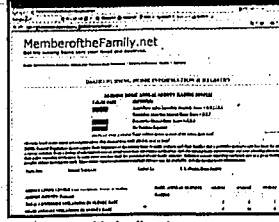
The result, Shapiro said, is a product that not only informs, but gives people somewhere to start when they tour a home.



www.medicare.gov/NHCompare/

Created by the federal government to aid consumers, Nursing Home Compare allows people to search for homes by name, location or proximity to a city or ZIP code. The site provides a comprehensive report, including such details as the date the home was first certified, the number of beds and whether it's a for-profit or nonprofit home. The number of nursing and CNA staff hours per resident per day is calculated for each home and compared to state average, and each home from a scale of 1 to 4.

The site also lists a series of quality measures determined by Medicare, including the percentage of residents with pressure sores, whose ability to move around their rooms has declined and those who were given flu vaccinations. Links direct readers to the ombudsman and quality improvement agencies for each state.



www.memberofthefamily.net

Conceived in 1996 by a Maryland physician, MemberoftheFamily.net opened its rankings to the public in 1999 after analyzing reports for the then-U.S. Veterans Administration. The site uses a computerized entry system to sort and rank nursing homes, assigning them one of four colors based on the letter codes used by state surveyors.

Surveys for the past three years are summarized by their overall ranking, with a red flag denoting surveys that found "actual harm" or "immediate jeopardy" to one or more residents. Verified complaints get their own listings and are ranked similarly, and all nursing homes cited for actual harm are placed on a national watch list maintained by the site. Recurring violations are also summarized.

Dennis Steele, who partnered with Dr. Terry Waters to create the site, said the color system and summaries are intended to be immediately understandable and eye-catching. The effect can be worrying — nearly every home on the Idaho page is covered in reds and yellows, representing the worst ratings on the site.

"We don't really have any more information to offer," Steele said, "but I believe you can find the information much more easily."

Weighing the Web

Home administrators and state officials aren't fans of the Web sites.

Debbie Ransom, bureau chief for Health and Welfare's Facility Standards, said she doesn't think any of the sites work well. Including Medicare's Nursing Home Compare, she said, is used more often by facilities checking up on each other than by consumers.

"It's not an easy site to use, and it really truly doesn't make sense to the consumer because they don't understand the process in my mind," she said. "The only way to truly assess a home, she said, is to visit it and speak with residents and staff."

Every administrator agreed that this article argued, saying the Web site reports simplify complaints under misleading titles. Few have seen sites other than Nursing Home Compare, but even those administrators weren't impressed by the idea of judging a home from afar. Representatives of the Web sites agree that visits to the centers are also important.

"I think it's hard to get a good idea if you haven't seen the facility," said Don Bender, administrator for Bridgeway Estates in Twin Falls. "It's not a very objective view."

Nursing

Continued from page A1

allows homes to operate in the first place.

Bureau surveyors prepare for a visit by reviewing a facility's past surveys, details about the current mix of residents and other data. All sites follow the same protocol, followed by the state's operations manual, they tour the home. Interview a series of randomly selected residents and observe everything from meal times to how long it takes nursing to respond to a resident's call light.

Things used to be simpler. But that simplicity came with a cost, said Debbie Ransom, chief for Bureau of Facility Standards at the Department of Health and Welfare. In the 1970s and early '80s, lax standards meant nursing homes and other facilities became known for poor care and a poor quality of life for their residents. Starting in the mid-'80s, but all changed with new, stringent federal standards.

"They got into such things as resident rights and having choices," Ransom said. "It really tried to ensure that people nursing homes had some kind of quality of life and were receiving basic medical services."

And the regulation became more detailed — two Idaho operations manual appendices that detail the inspection process and facility guidelines today number more than 600 pages. Even Health and Welfare admits it's a lot for one facility to stay on top of.

"We don't expect perfection. The facilities will tell you that," Ransom said. "But at the same time, she added, there are acceptable minimum standards. And if you're not following those minimums, the state won't let you forget it."

Complaints and accolades

Most of the time, a poor survey just prompts a state request for the situation to be corrected — with a polite-yet-worded proposed date for ending Medicare payments. But occasionally, as in the case of the Gooding center, the state decides to up the ante with fines or revocation of a license.

The state rarely tries to close homes — the last one to be closed by the state was as far back as 30 years ago, according to Health and Welfare records. But other homes have voluntarily closed during the de-certification process, Ransom said.

The whole licensing system is complicated — and not without reason. The state administrator for Blaine Manor in Tally, though she said she hasn't closely followed the Gooding case, she describes as fair and thoughtful.

The regulations become more complicated every year, she said. But even those are implemented with a reason, and have brought the industry a fair ways from its problem-studded past. Today's issues, she said, often come from poor survey reports or complaints that are then blown out of proportion by the public and the media.

"And (the state's) got to respond because it's such a hot button issue," she said. "You never hear of any of the really good things going on."

Not every facility administrator has the same impression. Dick Holloway, president of Western Health Care Corp. in Boise, owns four nursing homes in the state

and serves as a consultant for many others.

Years in the industry have taught him that Idaho has some of the toughest nursing home surveys in the nation. The problem, he said, is that while state surveyors feel they're interpreting regulations correctly, they subscribe to a black-and-white approach that can feel more like armchair quarterbacking to facility staffs.

"When you're in the middle of it, it's hard to sit back and say, 'What is the best way for us to take care of this patient?'" Holloway said. "You can't arbitrarily restrain someone because they fall."

That's not to say inspectors are always wrong — in fact, he said, his consultant work often reaches the same conclusions as the state, but they could at least be more helpful — a sentiment other administrators shared.

"Surveyors are allowed to share best practices information with nursing homes, but can't coach or consult for them because their visits are supposed to measure compliance, Health and Welfare spokesman Tom Shanahan said. It's a fine line, he said. But the state holds training sessions at other times and tries to help out.

"That's not quite how some administrators see things, Robert VandenBerghe, the Idaho Health Care Association, said surveyors are not as limited when they visit other types of state-licensed facilities. Why, he asked, can't they do the same thing for nursing homes?"

"They do have some good surveyors with a lot of experience," Vande Merve said. "We wish we could use their expertise that the government is paying for."

Even changing the descriptions of the various citations would be enough

for some administrators. Jill Howell, head of the long-term care unit at St. Benedict's Family Medical Center in Jerome, said she remembers receiving a citation for not presenting a resident's dignity because the tag of the resident's shirt was sticking up.

One piece of paper missing from someone's file, she said, can end up sounding like a home abuses its residents.

"It sounds horrible," she said of the average citation. "It sounds like 'ax murder.'"

Impenetrable

Of course, that assumes someone's reading the citations in the first place.

About a year and a half of survey reports are available online on Health and Welfare's Web site. But the reports on the raw data, hard for the average person to understand.

It's just one more thing about the process that confuses residents and their families, state ombudsman Cathy Hart said.

"One of the challenges we have is people really aren't interested in learning about what we do until they need it," said Hart, who serves as the main intermediary between families, homes and state officials. "It's just human nature."

That's despite homes being required to inform new residents and their families of their resources, including the ombudsman and the state complaint system. For whatever reason the information doesn't stick, families who miss out on it can suffer later as a result.

Clarissa Stanford, 83, has been a resident of the Twin Falls Care Center for 11 years. But it wasn't until the past 18 months that her daughter,

Colleen Hender of Twin Falls, saw problems with the home.

A series of three falls left her mother rattled and injured, Buelter said, and she alleges the home misread a late pressure sore.

Buelter, who lives nearby, said she became an active advocate for her mother. But apart from some TPCC staff she praised, she felt like she had few allies and hadn't yet turned to an ombudsman.

"I never thought about the state," she said. "I thought that was all the ombudsman."

Allyson Stark found herself on the opposite end of things when the state moved against the Gooding center. The center's prompt care and notification when her father, John Stark, received even the slightest cut meant she never had to search for help.

Now, she said, she's called up Facility Standards, upset about their lack on the center's ability to care

for its residents.

She's never looked up nursing home regulations before, she said, only adding to the mystery of why the state targeted her father's facility.

"You hear some horrible stories from some places," she said. "I don't know if they were (just being) too tough on Gooding."

In the grand scheme of things, prospective residents may not have to much to worry about in Idaho. Despite the confusion and complaints, everyone from Ransom to Holloway

bragged about the state's homes. And even Vande Merve doesn't think the state is out to get his peers.

"They're not bad people," Vande Merve said. "It's just a bad system, a bad process that came out of the nation's capital."

Nate Poppino may be reached at 735-3237 or at npoppino@magicvalley.com.

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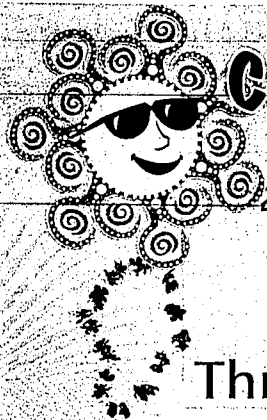
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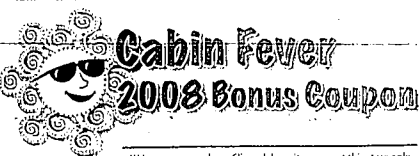
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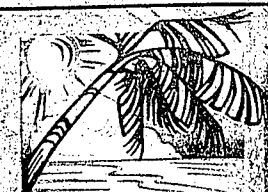


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Desperate Americans seek unproven cell treatments in China

By Christopher Bodeen* and Alan Scher Zagler Associated Press writers

BEIJING — They're paralyzed from diving accidents and car crashes, disabled by Parkinson's, or blind. With few options available at home in America, they search the Internet for experimental treatments — and often land on Web sites promoting stem cell treatments in China.

They mortgage their homes and their hometowns hold fundraisers as they scrape together the tens of thousands of dollars needed for travel and the hope for a miracle.

A number of these medical tourists claim some success when they return home: "Jim Savage, a Houston man with paralysis from a spinal cord injury, says he can move his right arm. Penny Thomas of Louisville says her Parkinson's tremors are mostly gone. The parents of 6-year-old Hylee Bailett of Missouri, born with an optical defect, say she can see."

But documentation is mostly lacking, and Western doctors warn that patients are serving as guinea pigs in a country that isn't doing the rigorous lab and human tests that are needed to prove a treatment is safe and effective.

Noting the lack of evidence, three Western doctors, undertook their own limited study. It involved seven patients with spinal cord injuries who chose to get fetal brain tissue injections at one hospital in China. The study, published in a clinically useful journal, "even though most patients believed they were better. Five developed complications such as meningitis."

Experts in the West have theories about why some people think they've improved when the evidence is thin. Some are often getting intensive physical therapy, along with the mysterious injections, the placebo effect may all be a factor.

John Stevens, a professor at the University of British Columbia who heads an international group that monitors spinal cord treatments, says another theory. Some patients may be influenced by the attention of money they paid and the help they got from those who donated or helped raise money.

"Needless to say, when they come back, what are they going to report to their friends and neighbors? That it didn't work," said Stevens. "Nobody wants to hear that."

He and other experts have written a booklet advising patients who are considering such treatments. Western doctors discourage their patients from seeking such treatments. They note that it's impossible to gauge the safety and effectiveness of the treatments, or even know what's in the injections put into brains and spinal cord treatments and their facilities say they accept those claims. They simply don't have time to wait for more conclusive evidence. For many, the trip to China is a journey of hope.

"It's one of the only games in town," said Savage, 41, a

father who suffered severe spinal cord injuries after a canoe trip 25 years ago.

Savage spent 2½ months in late 2006 and early 2007 at a hospital in the southern China city of Shenzhen to get what he was told were stem cell injections in his spine from umbilical cord blood. He made the arrangements through Heike Biotechnology, a U.S. company that operates at a number of hospitals in China.

Afterward, Savage said he was able to move his right arm for the first time since his diving accident; a video made at the hospital appears to show slight movement. He also said he noticed greater strength in his abdomen and more sensation on his skin.

Just how many foreigners like Savage are coming to China for treatment isn't known, but there are other such treatment centers where several techniques are being offered.

Many Chinese doctors don't wait for results of rigorous testing before treating patients and they offer what they say are stem cell or other cell treatments to those willing to pay.

What is known about the procedures being performed comes from material on their Web sites or from patients who give detailed accounts of their visits. Little has been published in scientific journals for other doctors to scrutinize.

The use of stem cells for treatments isn't new. For decades, doctors around the world have been using adult stem cells from blood and bone marrow — and more recently from umbilical cord blood — to treat cancers of the blood like leukemia and lymphomas and blood diseases like sickle cell anemia.

Scientists have been exploring whether such adult stem cells and other cells such as those from the retina or fetal brain tissue could be used to replace cells lost because of injury or disease, and they are trying to figure out if there's a way to stimulate the body's own stem cells to make repairs.

But those strategies are still being investigated in the lab in animals; they have been very limited tests in people.

Whether any clinics in China are using the more controversial embryonic stem cells — doctors in some other countries claim to be — isn't clear. These stem cells are taken from days-old embryos. They can develop into all types of cells, but research into their usefulness is in early stages.

Patients seek out these unproven treatments after hearing about them from other patients, patient groups or Web sites for the medical companies. The patients' stories posted on the Internet usually tell of some kind of improvement in the treatments — slight movements in arms or legs, fewer spasms or tremors, a feeling of sensation, an ability to sweat.

Chris Heibak, 21, has been disabled since a 2004 car crash left him with limited use of his hands and legs. His

father took out a second mortgage on their Oak Ridge, Mo., home to help pay for \$20,000 worth of stem cell injections at a Heike facility in China.

More than a year after returning home, Heibak says he has nearly complete use of his left hand, with improvement in the right. He can work on his customized 1993 Nissan 240SX, a modified number complete with hand controls and racing seats.

He said he was able to move his left fingers within days of that first injection of umbilical cord stem cells into his spinal cord. There's been little progress since he left China, but he called the incremental changes significant.

"I just wanted something back, no matter what it was," said Heibak, who attributes some of the changes to the physical therapy that he had in China.

Beike founder Sean Hu, who returned from abroad in 1999 with a doctorate in biochemistry, said the company has treated more than 1,000 patients, including 300 foreigners from 40 different countries. The only side effects have been slight fevers and headaches among a small percentage of patients, according to Hu.

He said patients with trauma injuries experience the most dramatic improvements; those with degenerative diseases such as ALS, also known as Lou Gehrig's disease, tend to improve initially but then slide back to their former condition within months.

"Patients shouldn't have their expectations too high," Hu said. "For patients to think they can walk again may be too much at this stage."

He's now seeking venture capital to expand his web of

treatment centers, labs and doctors and adapt proprietary techniques from researchers overseas.

"There is real potential here for China to take the lead in stem cells," Hu said.

Also offering treatments is Tiantan Puhua in Beijing, a joint venture between Asia's largest neurological hospital and an American medical group. Tiantan's sunny, sparkling rooms are a far cry from the four facilities and staff at most Chinese hospitals. Diseases treated there range from stroke and spinal cord injuries to cerebral palsy and autism, a rare neurological condition that can cause slurred speech.

The hospital says its stem cell injections are combined with daily, three-hour doses of intravenous drugs designed to stimulate production of the patient's own stem cells. Physical rehabilitation and

Chinese medicine are also part of the plan. A standard two-month course of treatment costs \$30,000 to \$35,000.

"We want to see actual improvements," said Dr. Sherwood Yang, head of the hospital's management team. "We are giving them another option at the highest level of safety."

Yang contends that 90 percent of patients show some results, with the rest suffering disabilities that are too far advanced to respond to treatment.

Western experts point to the lack of documented evidence that cell treatments have any benefit for spinal cord injuries or degenerative diseases like Parkinson's. "All of us in the so-called Western world, if there was something valid, we'd be the first to be offering it," said Stevens, the Canadian professor.



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"Intermountain Healthcare's program has resulted in plunging C-section rates, fewer newborns in intensive care and fewer medical interventions in delivery." — *Los Angeles Times*

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LDS Hospital and Primary Children's among best, says *U.S. News & World Report*.

Intermountain Healthcare's LDS Hospital has again been named one of America's best hospitals by *U.S. News & World Report*, ranked in more specialties than any other in Utah. Intermountain Primary Children's was ranked as a top children's hospital, with the lowest mortality rate in the U.S. for highly complex procedures.

Less need for newborns in intensive care according to the *Los Angeles Times*.

The *Los Angeles Times* published a story focused on Intermountain's 39-week induction protocol. It has resulted in a reduction in the need for C-sections, fewer newborns in intensive care and fewer medical interventions and problems occurring in delivery.

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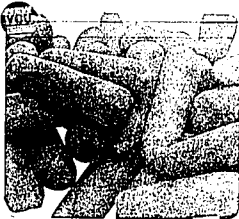
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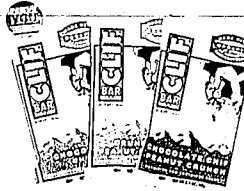
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E. Idaho couple to direct Africa school program

By Chris Merrill
Idaho State Journal

POCATELLO — Two Pocatelloans are headed to Africa this month to direct an after school program for disadvantaged children near the coastal town of Swakopmundo, Namibia.

John and Donna Looze will leave Jan. 13 as the volunteer program director and academic director, respectively, for the Pocatello-based Mondesa Youth Opportunities program in Southern Africa.

Donna, with 35 years of teaching experience, will be formulating the program's instructional curriculum for reading, math and life skills. She'll also be mentoring the program's teachers in pedagogical methods and strategies.

"I'm excited to work with instructors to help them be effective teachers," she said. John, a retired attorney, will coordinate the pro-

gram's 12 workers and oversee the MYO's three-pronged approach to children's education and development: academic language and math training; enrichment, including sports, drama, dance, chess, visual arts and music; and life skills, including goal-setting, leadership, communication, self-discipline, health and personal accountability.

"We'll also be creating a database to track the students and their performance," John said.

The 140-child program in Western Namibia serves youths in grades 4 through 12. Each child receives an average of 400 hours of instruction per year. And since Namibian schools don't set in the MYO facilities children in the school receive a sandwich, a bowl of soup or porridge, and a piece of fruit.

Because many children

there lack adequate nutrition, the food is an important element of the program, Myers said.

The Republic of Namibia gained its independence from South Africa in 1990, at which point it changed its official language to English.

While all children are now taught English in schools, most speak their tribal languages at home and Afrikaans in their communities and still receive a deficient English education. Many of the instructors charged with teaching English there didn't start learning the language until after they were already adults, and struggle with the basics themselves.

Bob Myers, of Pocatello, the founder of MYO, spent a year as a volunteer teacher in Namibia in 2003. Seeing a need, and frustrated by the limits of the existing programs, he decided by the end of the year to start his

own organization. "We don't pay anybody there, we rely on volunteer labor," Myers said. "John and Donna are paying their own way over."

Myers' concept for the program is to invest the highest percentage of money raised in the students, and the lowest possible in organizational trappings.

To that end there are no "headquarters," the board members pay for their own phone calls and travel expenses, Myers manages MYO from his home in Pocatello, and the only paid staff are local Namibians.

While there is great interest in the program among children and parents, MYO can only accept six kids from each of the elementary schools, or 30 new students per year, Myers said.

After an evaluation process that includes meeting and interviewing with the finalists' teachers and par-

ents, new students are chosen.

MYO accepts not only those children who score well, Myers said, but enrolls children who may not score the highest but have great potential, and who have their parents' willing support and encourage their children in the program.

Since MYO opened in 2004, it has leased buildings for its operations. But the program is currently building its own \$150,000 facility, which is scheduled to be finished in mid-March.

All of the money for construction has come from donations, most from individual donors, Myers said. The MYO still needs to raise more funds to complete the school.

Last year, the Loozes worked in an English program in Hungary, because they relish the experience of living in different cultures, John said.

Otter proposes higher pay, lower benefits for state employees

BOISE (AP) — Gov. Butch Otter is proposing to raise pay for state employees, but cut benefits, and that has raised concerns.

Otter says state employees are paid less than private-sector workers, but their benefits are better. So Otter wants to raise pay and cut benefits to bring state compensation more in line with the private sector.

The Spokesman-Review reported Saturday that Otter is recommending merit-based increases for state workers, but cuts in state-paid health benefits, as well as cutting more retirees health benefits.

Boise Democratic Sen. Kate Kelly says she doesn't think the private sector should necessarily be the model for state salaries and benefits.

Critics: Luna's teacher pay plan fails to make the grade

BOISE (AP) — House Speaker Lawrence Denney said he's intrigued by Idaho schools Superintendent Tom Luna's \$60 million teacher pay proposal.

"I'm just not sure it will fly. I'm intrigued by what he's brought up," Denney told the Idaho Statesman in a story published Saturday. "You've got the conservatives and the liberals both hating the idea, so I don't know that he gets anything through the Legislature to make it happen. But then again, I'm not sure that he needs anything through the Legislature."

Denney said he's heard so many reservations about Luna's plan that he can't imagine it passing the Legislature. "My calls are running almost equally from people who say that we're giving away too much, and people who say that's a union-bust-

ing bill," Denney, R-Idaho, said. "So I have a feeling that it's probably not going to make it."

Luna's proposal, part of his \$1.3 billion education budget, would reward teachers who opt out of continuing contracts, making it easier for school districts to fire them. It would also reward bonuses to teachers at schools that perform in the top tier on the spring Idaho Standards

Achievement Test, or whose improvement on the tests puts the schools in the top 50 percent of schools in their districts.

Critics have said the plan would drain power from the Idaho Education Association, which opposes it. Luna spokeswoman Melissa McGrath said she believes some of the teachers' opposition is based on misinformation about job protection.

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INSIDE:
Sustainable fashion gives farmers hip new market, B3



INSIDE: YourBusiness, B2 | Opinion, B4-5

Fed worries Policymakers fear credit market could worsen

By Jeanine Areva
Associated Press writer

WASHINGTON — Federal Reserve policymakers worried about the potential for a vicious cycle to develop in which credit problems could worsen. That could hurt economic growth and force the Fed to act more aggressively in cutting rates, according to meeting minutes made public Wednesday.

"Some members noted the risk of an unfavorable feedback loop in which credit market conditions restrained economic growth further, leading to additional tightening of credit," the minutes said. "Such an adverse development could require substantial further easing of rates, the minutes revealed."

Problems in the housing, credit and financial markets drove the Fed to do an about-face on Dec. 11 and slice its key interest rate yet again in the hope it would bolster an economy that was losing speed.

Fed Chairman Ben Bernanke and all but one of his colleagues agreed to trim the Fed key rate by one-quarter percentage point to 4.25 percent, a two-year low. The central bank ordered its key rate lowered three times last year; the December reduction was the most recent one.

The decision to cut rates essentially marked a reversal for the central bank, which had hinted at its October meeting that the Fed's two rate cuts probably would be enough to help the economy survive the housing and credit stresses. But the economy's problems intensified after that meeting, forcing the Fed to change its stance.

"Members judged that the softening in the outlook for economic growth warranted an easing of the stance of policy at this meeting," the minutes said. "In view of the further tightening of credit and deterioration of financial market conditions, the stance of monetary policy now appeared to be somewhat restrictive," the minutes said.

On Wall Street, stocks tumbled as oil prices briefly hit \$100 a barrel and a weak report on manufacturing rattled investors. The Dow Jones industrial sank by 220.86 points to close at 13,043.96.

The 9-11 decision for a quarter-point reduction in December was opposed by

Please see **FED**, Page B3

Online networking goes small, and sponsors follow

By Kim Hart
The Washington Post

When jet-setters began flocking to an exclusive social-networking Web site reserved for the rich, they got the attention of an online community's most valuable ally: advertisers.

The invitation-only site, SmallWorld.net, has 300,000 select members who have become a magnet for companies that make luxury goods and are trying to reach people who can afford them. The site's biggest advertisers include Burberry, Cartier and Land Rover. Cognac maker Remy Martin in November threw a tasting party for the

site's elite members, at which its top-shelf, \$1,000-a-bottle liquor flowed freely.

Following the success of MySpace and Facebook, thousands of social-networking sites have popped up to cater to specific interests, backgrounds, professions and age groups. Nightclub frequenters can converge at Don'tSayIn.com. Wine connoisseurs have formed Smooth.com, and people going through divorce can commiserate at Divorce360.com.

While such sites have fewer members than MySpace and Facebook, they form intimate communities of like-minded people.

Part of what is driving the development of these sites is advertising. Marketing on social networks is a fast-growing part of the booming online advertising business, and within that, niche interest sites' share is small. These sites typically allow members to establish a personalized page, then communicate and share photos, songs and updates among their friends. Based on that information, companies can target their ads.

Overall, ad spending on social-networking sites is expected to grow 75 percent next year, to \$2.1 billion. Please see **NETWORK**, Page B3

Online networking: Leading players

Player	Location	Idea
Brian Wilson, 31	Colorado Springs	A referral network that connects real estate agents nationwide. Site: zolve.com
Koo Murphy, 35	Washington	Hip-hop site with videos from fans and artists. Site: onloq.com
Dan Kaufman, 39	New York	Connecting music fans with similar tastes. Site: jango.com
Michael Carter, 45	New York	A mega online dating site that includes more than 100 smaller sites. Site: passionsnetwork.com
Robin Wolaner, 63	San Francisco	A site where people over 40 can share their life experiences. Site: teebedee.com
Ravi Kattani, 26	Washington	Linking expatriate communities worldwide. Site: linkexpats.com

Reforming an industry

Farmers laud benefits of Roundup-ready beets

By Matt Christensen
Times-News writer

Sugar beet farmers will enter their fields this spring with perhaps the greatest advancement to their industry since engine-powered implements: Roundup-ready beet seeds.

The genetically engineered seeds could save farmers millions of dollars, help the environment and change the way beets are farmed.

"When you look at what this could do to the industry ... it's a very big deal," said Vic Jaro, a spokesman for Amalgamated Sugar, a major buyer of sugar beets in Idaho's nearly half-billion-dollar beet industry. "This is an industry-changing event."

Roundup-ready sugar beet seeds are genetically engineered for resistance to Monsanto's highly successful roundup herbicide. Besides the genetic change, Roundup-ready beet seeds are identical to conventional seeds — even the sugar is the same.

But a tweak in the seeds' DNA allows farmers to spray beets with Roundup without worrying the chemical could kill the beet plant.

Previously, farmers have sprayed fields as many as five times a year with chemical cocktails. This year, farmers will likely spray three times or less with just one chemical.

Farmers are banking they'll save money with Roundup-ready seeds — despite a

"technology surcharge" of about \$50 an acre — by buying fewer chemicals, less fuel for machinery and paying less for labor, especially migrant labor.

Beet farmers have traditionally paid migrant workers to hand hoe weeds in the fall. Recent tighter border security and other advances in ag technology have reduced the migrant labor pool and driven up wages. Roundup-ready beets could make migrant labor obsolete, said Jaro.

Ray Villaseor is a regional manager for the Community Council of Idaho, formerly the Idaho Migrant Council. He says Roundup won't have much effect on southern Idaho's migrant worker population, which he said has been declining significantly for years.

Many farmers have already stopped using migrant labor and simply tolerated late-season weeds.

Margie Valley field trials, under way since 1999, have shown late-season weeds are virtually nonexistent with Roundup-ready beets. Studies also indicate Roundup-ready beets could produce higher yields and greater sugar content per beet, Jaro said.

Fewer chemicals, less fuel and fewer trips down the field will lessen the beet industry's environmental footprint.

Farmers have seen similar results with Roundup-ready corn and soybeans, available



Sugar beets outside the Amalgamated Sugar Company in Twin Falls. A new genetically engineered sugar beet may save farmers millions of dollars.

Fewer chemicals, less fuel and fewer trips down the field will lessen the beet industry's environmental footprint.

commercially for years. This is the first season Roundup-ready beets will be grown on a large scale.

Experts don't expect much of a change in the beet market but say farmers will reap the economic benefits in

lower front-end costs.

Crop experts predict Roundup-ready beets will drive out conventional beet seeds within a few growing seasons. "The farmer interest is already so high, I think there will be near 100 percent

production even this year," said Don Morishita, a weed scientist at the University of Idaho.

On Jan. 11, the university and industry officials will host a meeting for farmers about Roundup-ready beets. For more information: Morishita at 736-3600.

Matt Christensen may be reached at 735-3241 or at matt.christensen@tnc.net.

Forget Tupperware, get ready for the Taser party

By Chris Kahn
Associated Press writer

GILBERT, Ariz. — Before she lets them share her little pink stun gun, Donna Shafman shows her new friends to the living room sofa for a serious chat about the fears she believes they all share.

"The worst nightmare for me is, while I'm sleeping, someone coming in my home," Shafman says, drawing a few solemn nods from the gathered women. Shafman, 34, of Phoenix, says she knows how they feel. She says she used to slash knives under her pillow for protection.

Welcome, she says, to the Taser party. On the coffee table,



Donna Leigh Shafman, center, of ShieldBred, Inc., talks to attendees about personal safety at a Taser Party Wednesday in Mesa, Ariz. Shafman is an independent weapons dealer who's been selling Tasers the way her mother's generation sold plastic food storage containers.

Shafman spreads out Taser's weapons that the company is marketing to the public. It



Shafman holds the new Taser C2 commercial model after shooting at a target at a Taser party Wednesday in Mesa, Ariz.

doesn't take long before the women are lined up in the hallway, whooping as they take turns blasting at a metallic target.

"(Mom) she says, 'Give it a shot.' Shafman isn't an employee for Scottsdale, Ariz.-based

Taser International. She's an independent entrepreneur

whose latest selling Tasers the way her mother's generation sold plastic food storage containers.

As a single woman who lives alone, Shafman says she's the perfect pitchwoman for Taser as it makes a renewed push to sell weapons to families.

The company agrees, Taser officials like Shafman's homespun sales tactics so much that they plan to build a living room set at the International Consumer Electronics Show in Las Vegas and have Shafman hold a Taser party for buyers and dealers.

largest tech trade show.

Taser doesn't expect its dealers to start imitating Shafman.

But spokesman Steve Tuttle says company officials think people can learn from her approach. "When I talk about Taser, I come across as a salesman," Tuttle says. "When you see her it comes across as very real."

Shafman, a freelance construction consultant, says she always had a natural interest in self-defense products. She loved the idea of the Taser, which would allow her to stop an attacker from across the room without getting physical.

Please see **TASER**, Page B2

YOUR BUSINESS

MILESTONES

Company can write title insurance in Jerome County

Twin Falls' Title and Escrow Company announced that it is now licensed to write title insurance in Jerome County. The license was recently issued through the State of Idaho Department of Insurance and will allow Twin Falls Title & Escrow to expand its territory to better serve the needs of its customers and clients.



Bill Ball

"We see this as an enormous opportunity to provide the same great service to Jerome County as we have provided in Twin Falls, Coaling, Lincoln and Adams counties," said Dexter Ball, president/CEO and executive officer. For more information: 736-2424.

Head Start centers gain NAEYC accreditation

CSI South Central Head Start Cassia Center located in Burley and CSI South Central Head Start Northside Center located in Jerome are two of the first early childhood programs to earn accreditation from the National Association for the Education

LANDSCAPING AGREEMENT



College of Southern Idaho Horticulture Professor Dave Klesig shakes hands with Sam Hutchins, grounds supervisor for St. Luke's Magic Valley Regional Medical Center, to signify a landscaping agreement reached between CSI and the hospital. The CSI Horticulture Program will help raise the trees that will be used in the landscaping of the new hospital campus in return for a \$10,000 endowment St. Luke's has provided for scholarships to horticulture students. CSI Horticulture Club students also contributed \$5,000 of money they have already raised in addition to \$5,000 of future club funds to the endowment. At the center is St. Luke's chief executive officer, Mark Schwartz.

of Young Children (NAEYC) — the nation's leading organization of early childhood professionals.

To earn NAEYC accreditation in the new system, the centers went through an extensive self-study process, measuring the program and

its services against the 10 new NAEYC Early Childhood Program Standards and more than 400 related accreditation criteria.

The program received NAEYC accreditation after an on-site visit by NAEYC assessors to ensure that the pro-

gram meets each of the 10 NAEYC program standards. NAEYC-accredited programs are also subject to unannounced visits during their accreditation, which lasts for five years.

The NAEYC accreditation system has set voluntary professional standards for programs for young children since 1985.

As of September 2006, the Association's revised program standards and criteria of quality, accountability and service for parents and children in child care programs.

The new standards reflect the latest research and best practices in early childhood education and the program is committed to utilizing the newest studies and analysis on positive child outcomes to ensure young children continue receiving the highest-quality care and education possible.

The NAEYC accreditation system was created in 1985 to set professional standards for early childhood education, and to help families identify high-quality preschools, child care centers and other early education programs. To earn NAEYC accreditation, a program must meet each of the 10 NAEYC Early Childhood Program Standards.

CAREER MOVES

Jesse Miller

DECLIO — Jesse Miller of Twin Falls is one of 51 individuals who received the Teachers Turn the Key Award on Dec. 15 at the National Association of Agricultural Educators (NAAE) annual conference in Las Vegas, Nev.



Miller

Miller has been the agricultural education teacher at Declo High School since 2004. The community was responsible for raising all of the funds to build the agricultural education building at Declo. His students continue to excel, receive many awards and succeed. The Declo program has three main areas of emphasis: agricultural mechanics, greenhouse management, and animal science.

Miller has a complex teaching philosophy revolving around four main points. He feels that a teacher should show an interest in students' lives, hold students' confidence, have high expectations for students and make them marketable for a career or further education upon graduation. It is these four points that have made Miller the outstanding teacher that he is today.

One unique quality of the Declo program is the personal skills development class. In this class, students create their own resume and learn about professionalism. Students focus on professional attire, use of proper grammar and their overall presentation to future employers. This class enforces Miller's philosophy of preparing students for future careers.

Each of the state Teachers Turn the Key winners received a plaque and a travel scholarship to cover expenses to attend the annual conference in Las Vegas. Dodge Division and the Daimler Chrysler Corporation, as a special project of the National FFA Foundation, sponsor the NAAE Teachers Turn the Key Award Program. NAAE is the professional association for agricultural educators.

Esther Peters

JEROME — St. Benedict's Family Medical Center announced that Esther Peters, registered nurse, has accepted the position and responsibilities of the infection control nurse for St. Benedict's.

Since July 1999, Peters has worked in the Skilled Nursing Facility at St. Benedict's where she has provided resident care and administrative record maintenance.

The program will focus on assessment efforts to eliminate infections, present infections with proper hand washing, immunizations and infection control practices, educate staff, patients and others on infection control and monitor issues. In addition, Peters will be available as a resource on infection control practices and policies for patients, families, staff and visitors.

Peters is currently working on her bachelors of science in nursing at Idaho State University. Her eight-year career of nursing has included St. Benedict's and Kimberly School District. Peters and her husband have been married for 15 years and they have four children. In her spare time she enjoys reading, quilting and vacationing with her family.

CONTRIBUTIONS

Idaho Central Credit Union collects over 800 toys

Idaho Central Credit Union announced that at the 17 Idaho Central locations across Idaho alone, over 800 toys were collected and donated to the local Marine Toys for Tots Foundation, to benefit needy children in the area this holiday season.

Idaho Central Credit Union is proud to have been a part of the Toys for Tots toy drive again this year. Thanks to residents across Southern Idaho, the credit union helped make a difference in the lives of children across Idaho.

Project raises money for military personnel

Project Rudolph received community support through

Zeb at the Ranch radio show and the third annual Zeb at the Ranch Christmas Party patrons.

The event was sponsored by Ramsey Heating and Electric and Butte Irrigation. Area merchants who contributed door prizes and helped with refreshments include Smiths, Johns, Stokes, Albertsons and Wal-Mart.

Host Bill and co-host Sharon Hardy-Mills surprised everyone as the camera entered and coordinated the event. Ray and Shari Archibald and Snake Hwy Hayride provided great fun and talent.

The event raised almost \$1,400 to assist with shipping and purchasing items for the military in transition during the holidays in Germany.



Santa and the Grinch visited the area for a fundraising event supporting Project Rudolph held Dec. 13 at the Golden Heritage Senior Center in Burley.

We want

YOUR BUSINESS news

To submit contributions to the YourBusiness section, send information and photographs to Times-News Business Editor Joshua Palmer at palmer@magivalley.com or call 735-3231.

Taser

Continued from page B1

She tried moonlighting as a doula-to-doula saleswoman. But years of negative press about Taser made it tough.

"I got tired of being pushed out of people's offices," she says. "Nobody wants to purchase a weapon that they think is lethal or going to kill somebody."

A lot of people, especially women, need time to get comfortable with a unique product like Taser before they'll consider buying one, Shafman says.

Shafman says she's sold about 30 guns per month at \$349.99 since her first Taser party on Oct. 15. She doesn't get a commission from the gun store. Instead, Shafman says she gets a discounted dealer rate for the units and keeps the difference.

Taser has been surging on Wall Street two years after the Securities and Exchange Commission concluded its investigation into the company's safety claims and business practices. Its stock more than doubled in 2007 from a low of \$7.44 to a high of \$19.75 a share.

Company officials say they're now selling Tasers in 43 countries and more than 12,500 police agencies in the U.S. are either using or testing their weapons. With its weapons dominant in law enforcement, Taser is turning its attention back to the

civilian market. It launched the C2 in August. Though it packs the same electric punch, the C2 is smaller than the bulky personal stun gun Taser developed years ago, and its sleek exterior makes it look more like an electronic razor than a weapon. They're legal in every state but New York, New Jersey, Massachusetts, Rhode Island, Michigan, Wisconsin, Hawaii, and Washington D.C.

Shafman says many of her worst customers love that the C2 is small enough to fit in their purses, and that it comes in a variety of colors. When it comes to choosing weapons, she says, a lot of women want them in pink.

"It's a girl power kind of thing," Shafman says. "You're kind of making a statement: I know I'm a woman. I know I'm the most sought after victim in regards to sexual assault, so please stay away from me. In the event you do come after me, I'm going to use my pink Taser to put you on the ground."

Amnesty International, which has criticized Taser's assertion that its weapons are non-lethal, fronts to spread the use of stun guns. Officials with the human rights organization say the weapons are frequently used in excess by trained police, and they're likely to

be abused by the public as well.

Mona Gadenia, Amnesty International's Western Regional director, says there are already reports of domestic violence using Tasers and other energy weapons.

"Of course, we want to stop violence against women like Dana's saying," she says. "But we also want to ensure that Tasers don't end up causing it too."

Shafman has a quick answer for Amnesty International. If she had a choice of getting shocked or being attacked with a knife, a gun or something else, "I'd much rather be assaulted by a Taser."

Shafman is not alone. She forces its customers to submit to a criminal background check before giving them a code to turn on their weapons.

At the party in Gilbert, the shooting goes on into the night as everyone takes a shot.

Lori Busken, 40, is the first in line. Busken, who is single, says she'd feel better carrying a Taser than a gun. She didn't buy a C2 right away, but she says she's planning to buy one soon.

"It's not heavy," she says after holding the weapon in her hand. "It's great they make them for civilian use. You don't want to kill somebody. You just want to be safe, you know?"

For small business owners, income tax filing season should start right now

By Joyce M. Rosenberg
Associated Press writer

NEW YORK — Almost every accountant has a story about a small business client who showed up on April 10 or thereabouts, expecting to start work on a company or personal income tax return. Or, worse, a client who showed up with a sheaf box of receipts and invoices, also expecting to get a return done in short order.

There is no reason why business owners should have to be in that position, as long as they start getting their tax affairs in order now.

When a business owner's income tax season is perennially chaotic, chances are his or her books and overall company operations are as well. These owners often don't have a good sense of their cash flow, accounts receivables and profit or losses.

Mark Toolan, a certified public accountant in Exton, Pa., said the solution is easy: Buy accounting software and start inputting all your financial information, using bank statements or your check register. Look at your credit card statements and any receipts you have, too. You can't get this done for 2007, and you should be starting to do this now anyway for 2008.

There's more at stake than just having an easier time of filing tax season. "If we hear people say they're disorganized ... It often means they're paying more taxes than they should," Toolan said.

If the problem is that you haven't the time or the wherewithal to keep your finances straight, then you need to get help — something that many entrepreneurs, used to doing it all themselves, find hard to accept. But, keeping in mind the benefits of doing your own taxes, what you need to do is to get your books in order now. You can pay on a part-time bookkeeper or on contracting with a bookkeeping service will probably save you money in the long run.

Moreover, it will eliminate some of the stress in your life — and not just your work life.

"Deal with it now, or you're going to have the aggravation" indefinitely, said Jeffrey Chazen, a tax partner at the accounting firm Eber & LLP in New York. He warned, "It leads to other pressures, not just financial" — in other words, your family life can suffer when your company is having problems.

Accountants say that owners of small businesses don't get organized because they're afraid they won't

have the money to pay their taxes. But, "There are always better ways to know in advance" what you're going to be dealing with in April — and if you get yourself organized now, you can start setting money aside to pay that bill.

Of course, the benefits of having organized will last well beyond April 15. Having a good accounting system allows companies to get a better handle on cash flow. Chazen pointed out that one reason why many owners are so often strapped for money to pay the government is because they spent willy-nilly during the holiday season and didn't know whether there would be more money available for Uncle Sam.

For the many owners who file their business tax returns using a Schedule C attached to their 1040 forms, not knowing where they stand in terms of company finances also means they don't have a complete handle on their personal finances as well, Chazen said.

And that can have long-term ramifications, for example, on savings for retirement or children's college tuition. "If a business isn't turning a profit now, then an owner can be hard pressed to put money aside for the future."

SUSTAINABLE FASHION

Trend offers farmers a hip new market

By Garamee Burke
Associated Press writer

SAN FRANCISCO — In a workshop in the city's Mission District, Ally Beran's team of fashion designers is sprawled out over buttons and spools of thread, hoping to stem global warming by stitching new outfits from thrift store finds.

A brown lace applique from a scrap bin could make last year's castoff cashmere really pop, Beran muses.

Or she reckons sweaters from a tattered leather jacket could double as chic epaulettes on a high-end used sweater.

Designers of so-called sustainable fashion are not only dominating New York catwalks and urban boutiques racks this winter; many also are providing farmers with new markets for their crops.

As with the movement for locally harvested food, eco-fashion devotees seek to lower their toll on the earth by buying clothes made of recycled materials and sustainably harvested, home-grown fibers.

This year, both American Apparel and yoga-gear retailer prAna will start selling shirts spun with cotton grown in California's Central Valley and sewn just a few hours away, in Southern California, to avoid burning fossil fuels in transporting the materials.

Beran's creations, marketed under the label William Good — an acronym of the company's business partner, thrift store giant Goodwill, Inc. — are currently only sold online, and in stores near San Francisco also to reduce its carbon footprint.

Last summer, New York's Rag & Bone hired supermodel Shiloh Killasno as the face for their line of filmy "carbon fiber" T-shirts, which were manufactured domestically in a process that required no greenhouse gas emissions.

For farmer Frank Williams, the new interest in locally grown, organic cotton this means he's had to learn how to talk about threadcount and women's skirt lengths with the ecologically minded crowd that tours his fields in Firebaugh.

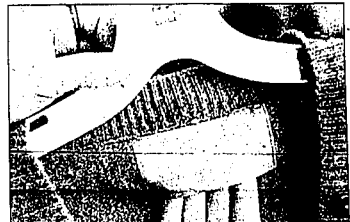
"These fibers are among the best organic in the world," said Williams, as he led a group of fashion executives from China, Sweden and New York through rows of billowy cotton. "With the



Marcel Zaroff from Under the Canopy takes a snapshot of organic grown cotton during a Nov. 2 tour in Firebaugh, Calif. Farmers in the United States produce a small portion of the organic cotton used by the apparel industry, which still sources most of its fibers overseas.



Monica Reed works on new pieces for the William Good fashion line in San Francisco, Dec. 31.



Production manager Ally Beran shows the William Good label, a play on words for the company's business partner, thrift store giant Goodwill, in San Francisco. Beran's creations are only sold online and in stores near San Francisco to avoid burning fossil fuels when transporting the clothes.

right diameter, length and strength you can really spin the finest yarns that you want."

Farmers in the United States grow a small portion of the organic cotton used by the apparel industry, which still sources most of its fibers overseas in countries like Turkey where labor and production costs are much cheaper. The market is clearly booming, however: The nonprofit Organic Exchange predicts that sales of organic cotton fiber will reach \$230 million by 2009, up from about \$19 million in 2004.

As more companies seek to build a greener supply chain, American farmers are hoping that will translate into more demand for domestic crops.

The Sustainable Cotton Project, a nonprofit based in Davis, has helped almost two dozen cotton farmers penetrate the fashion indus-

try by promoting California-grown BASF cotton, a crop that's not quite organic but is farmed using techniques that reduce pesticide usage by as much as 70 percent.

San Diego-based prAna recently snapped up hundreds of pounds of BASF, aka "cotton for its 'Homegrown T-Shirt,'" and American Apparel has committed to buying nearly half a million pounds, said Lynda Giese, a sustainable fashion design professor at California College of the Arts, who helped broker the deals.

Carol Rose, who spearheaded Wal-Mart's first purchase of organic yoga clothes in 2004 when she was a women's apparel buyer at Sains Club, said once her companies start switching to natural fibers, it's only a matter of time before they start thinking about other sustainable design practices. Wal-Mart is now the biggest seller of

more relevant to their products.

"Even if they're just dipping their toes in the water, this is their strategy going forward," she said.

MySpace and Facebook also allow companies to target advertising based on their members' interests and habits, but their efforts have drawn criticism from users concerned about those companies' use of private information.

Facebook recently altered its Beacon system after drawing criticism from members objecting to the monitoring of users' online behavior. When Beacon was launched, users who bought items from another site had their purchases broadcast to their network of friends.

It was Facebook's attempt

to create an automated "social" marketing campaign, but it caused a backlash.

MySpace used another data-mining technology, HyperTargeting, that sifts through its users' friends, comments and photos to figure out what products and services they might be interested in.

Faced with that sort of backlash, marketers are beginning to focus more on ads tailored to smaller, more specific audiences, said Kenneth Owyang, a social-networking analyst at Forrester Research.

"Companies are learning that these smaller communities may reach people that are more valuable to their brands. It will someday feel more like information than marketing," he said.

New Year's Eve disclosures don't give investors much holiday cheer

By Rachel Beck
Associated Press writer

NEW YORK — The ball certainly did drop on New Year's Eve for some investors. But instead of bringing them holiday cheer, it landed with a big thud.

Many commentators blamed oil futures reaching \$100 a barrel for putting investors on edge. But a convincing case could be made that the real trigger was triggered by announcements from 118R Block Inc., Zions Bancorporation and PHLI Corp. after the stock market closed on the final trading day of 2007.

Their news was all related to the current credit crisis gripping the financial world, suggesting the sting from that mess is far from over.

118R Block said it would pay its investors \$502.3 million. CEO Mark Ernst, \$2.55 million in severance and allow options on three-quarters of a million shares to vest, even though he led the tax preparer during its failed expansion into subprime lending. Minutes later, Zions said it would take an additional \$55 million charge to earnings because of a significant drop in the value of some of its mortgage-backed securities.

And it wasn't until just after midnight that PHLI disclosed its pending \$4.8 billion buyout had collapsed because one of its proposed acquirers, Blackstone Group, failed to raise the cash needed to close the deal.

By forcing investors to wait until the market reopened on Jan. 2 to react, all three companies likely won a host of new enemies on Wall Street, where last-minute surprises and announcements are appreciated. That's particularly true right now given how easily the housing and credit market malaise has

rotten everyone's pocketbook. 118R Block's filing with the Securities and Exchange Commission came at 4:31 p.m. EST on Dec. 31. Company spokesman Nick Iannarino said the company typically releases news before or after the market

closes, and with this announcement, "We did it when we could."

But that doesn't make much sense, given that the company says in its securities filing that its separation agreement with Ernst had been entered three days before on Dec. 29.

Ernst resigned in November as chairman, CEO and president of the Kansas City, Mo., provider of tax, accounting and other financial services, which he had led since 2001. That came as losses related to subprime lending — an area Ernst pursued for the company — mounted, and shareholder pressure for his departure intensified. His stock tumbled 19 percent last year.

In the quarter ended Oct. 31, 118R Block lost \$502.3 million. Most of that came from its Option One Mortgage Corp., a subprime lending operation that 118R Block is in the process of closing after a planned sale to Cerberus Capital Management recently fell apart.

Still, Ernst is walking away with a \$2.55 million cash severance payment, as well as options on 762,925 shares that will immediately vest. That will also remove the contamination of some insurance benefits.

About 40 minutes after the 118R Block filing, Zions reported that it would take a pre-tax writedown of \$33 million related to an off-balance sheet investment vehicle known as a commercial paper conduit. That conduit, called Lockhart Funding, borrowed money short term in asset-backed commercial paper markets and invested the cash in longer-term assets like mortgage-backed securities and collateralized debt obligations, or CDOs.

The filing — at 8:10 p.m. — also revealed that Zions had \$40 million in securities from Lockhart because the conduit couldn't get sufficient funding in commercial paper. The securities were bought below book value, which led to the writedown.

Fed

Continued from page B1

Eric Rosengren, president of the Federal Reserve Bank of Boston, was greeted a bolder. Half-percentage point cut, Wall Street, disappointed by the quarter-point cut, took a nose-dive Dec. 11. The Dow Jones plunged more than 290 points.

In Rosengren's view, the weakening housing slump, high energy prices and more cautious spending by individuals and businesses raised the risk of continued economic weakness, the minutes said. "In light of that possibility, a more decisive policy response was called for to minimize that risk," the minutes said.

Fed policymakers were concerned that rising energy prices could spread inflation throughout the economy. That concern figured into the Fed's decision to cut rates by a modest one-quarter point in December, the minutes suggested.

"Inflation pressures and risks remain low," according to the minutes.

To bolster the economy, many economists predict the Fed will slice rates yet again at its next meeting on Jan. 29-30, the first regularly scheduled rate cut since the Fed's minutes are a testament that the economy is extremely volatile and policymakers have some very difficult decisions to make," said Richard Yamarone, economist at Argus Research.

The economy is believed to have slowed sharply in the October-to-December quarter, probably to a pace just

1.5 percent or less, according to analysts' projections. Economic growth in the first three months of 2008 also is expected to be weak.

Economists' big worry is that individuals will reduce spending and businesses will become reluctant to hire workers, slowing the economy to a halt. The odds of a recession have grown, with some economists putting it at just under 50 percent.

At the December meeting, Fed policymakers suggested all the housing, credit and financial problems have increased economic uncertainty. That has made it more difficult for the Fed to assess the country's economic outlook and give clear signals about its next move.

"The committee agreed on the need to remain exceptionally alert to economic and financial developments and their effects on the outlook, and members have agreed to work to adjust the stance of monetary policy if prospects for economic growth or inflation were to worsen," the minutes said.

If economic conditions were to improve, members would expect to raise rates of some of the rate cuts might be appropriate," according to the record of the meeting.

Although Fed policymakers agreed in December that rates must be cut yet again, they also recognized that the situation was quite fluid and the economic outlook unusually uncertain," the minutes said.

Network

Continued from page B1

according to eMarketer, a research firm that tracks online advertising. With more than 110 million active web cellphones on WYWN.com (short for "Where are you now?"), a social network for international travelers. While AT&T also advertises on the bigger sites like MySpace to reach a large audience quickly, the wireless carrier is also turning to niche networks, "where your ads are more meaningful — those are the real gems," said Carrie Frollich, who manages ad placements in social media sites, for at MediaIntelligence, which is owned by marketing giant WPP.

Frollich said her clients, including Campbell's soup, Colgate-Palmolive, Paramount and Clibbank, are willing to take a chance on smaller sites that could be

already testing ads on smaller sites.

AT&T, for example, recently promoted one of its global cellphones on WYWN.com (short for "Where are you now?"), a social network for international travelers. While AT&T also advertises on the bigger sites like MySpace to reach a large audience quickly, the wireless carrier is also turning to niche networks, "where your ads are more meaningful — those are the real gems," said Carrie Frollich, who manages ad placements in social media sites, for at MediaIntelligence, which is owned by marketing giant WPP.

Frollich said her clients, including Campbell's soup, Colgate-Palmolive, Paramount and Clibbank, are willing to take a chance on smaller sites that could be

EDITORIAL

A wish list for Idaho's new legislative session

Idaho's budget surplus is shrinking and its anxiety is rising, reflecting fears of recession? Still, the state's economy is remarkably resilient...

So the second session of the 59th Legislature, which convenes Monday in Boise, will be a cautious affair. But apart from using the taxpayers' money prudently...

Here's our agenda: • College of Southern Idaho — The Legislature should double the community college tuition cap. Tuition is restricted by law to \$1,250 at the state's three community colleges...

• Prisons — Gov. Butch Otter wants the private sector to build a new prison. So last year, he asked plans for the state to construct a \$307 million, 2,100-bed minimum-security lock-up near Boise.

• Home-sellers disclosure — Democrats and moderate Republicans want home-sellers to be required to disclose sales prices to county assessors. We concur.

This is a fairness issue. Property taxes should be based on the actual market value of a home.

Our view: Amid mixed signals about the Idaho economy, the Legislature should pick its shots carefully when it convenes next week.

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

prisons are full, its county jails are overcrowded and there's broad consensus that Idaho must stop outsourcing inmates to other states.

• Transportation — There is no political support for raising Idaho's 25-cent-a-gallon gas tax, so hoisting vehicle registration fees is the most likely way legislators will reduce a \$200 million shortfall in road construction and repair.

That said, a hike in registration fees is probably inevitable — the governor likes the idea — so we hope it's a modest increase.

• Grocery tax credit — The governor was right about this issue last session: A grocery tax credit should be means-tested. The Legislature needs to keep faith with Idahoans who were assured by then-Gov. Jim Ivisch in 2006 that a 1 percent increase in the sales tax would be made up with an adjusted grocery credit.

Well-off Idahoans simply don't need a grocery credit.

• Local-option taxes — These levies have been a good idea since they were first proposed in Idaho more than 30 years ago, but they've consistently been resisted by conservative legislators.

The need for more revenue for local government is now urgent. The Legislature should approve the latest proposal for local-option sales taxes to pay for public transit and road construction.

The governor is right: Local-option taxes leave decisions up to citizens. • Day-care regulation — Idaho child-care center standards are the worst in the nation, according to the National Association of Child Care Resource & Referral Agencies. State law permits all providers who care for six or fewer children to operate without regulation...

It's perfectly legal for people to take care of children without any criminal background check.

That's wrong. If Idaho can issue licenses to hunt, fish, cut hair or operate a restaurant, it can require a license of those who want to take care of our kids.

• Early childhood education — The law prohibits the state from paying for programs that educate children under age 5. That's crazy.

The evidence is overwhelming that kids who go to preschool and kindergarten do better in school, better in life and are far less likely to end up in prison or on the dole.

Step 1 should be for the Legislature to drag Idaho into the 21st century by repealing the state-funding ban. Step 2 should develop a coherent plan to ensure early childhood education is available to all.

• Mentally ill criminals — Idaho has no secure facility for locking up offenders who are also mentally ill. So this session, lawmakers are looking at remodeling a section of the Idaho State School and Hospital in Nampa to provide 25 secure beds at a cost of \$3.3 million.

It's a short-term solution, but the Legislature should make that investment before it is compelled to by a tragedy.

• Vote-by-mail — Idaho's county clerks want a vote-by-mail provision for non-candidate elections. It's a fine idea for improving the state's dismal voter turnout.

Most Republicans still oppose vote-by-mail because they say they fear fraud; in fact, years of vote-by-mail in other states shows that there are few problems.

• Ethics in government — Sen. Kate Kelly, D-Boise, will introduce legislation to require state officials and their staff members to wait a year before going to work as lobbyists. In a separate proposal, she wants lobbyists compelled to disclose salaries and report gifts to family members or elected officials. Both measures are overdue.

• Home-sellers disclosure — Democrats and moderate Republicans want home-sellers to be required to disclose sales prices to county assessors. We concur.

This is a fairness issue. Property taxes should be based on the actual market value of a home.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Algae is superior to corn in making bio-diesel fuel

One of the most interesting ideas to develop in 2007 was the use of algae to produce bio-diesel fuels. Most commentators have pointed out that popular corn-based ethanol programs are really a bad choice because of its low net energy...

Algae, on the other hand, yields 4,000 gallons of oil from one acre, vs. just 50 gallons per acre for soybeans and even just 150 gallons per acre from canola. Further, algae seem to grow best in nutrient-laden water like animal waste streams.

As an added plus, algae ponds located near a power plant can clean up the stack gasses like carbon dioxide and nitrous oxide while accelerating algae growth.

I would think an ambitious governor or legislator would be looking into this and sponsoring funding to bring an embryonic industry like this to Idaho. I don't know, we have some animal waste. We already have some processing technology in vegetable oil processing and ethanol production and numerous power plants.

You can find lots more at "algae" via a Google search. Be sure to read the article by Professor Briggs of the UNH for a good summary. Maybe that proposed lake in Twin Falls is a better idea than seemed at first glance.

DAVID G. SUTLIFF Burley

Idaho needs to get uninsured kids on CHIP

Much attention has been focused on the Children's Health Insurance Program recently with the fight in Congress over expanding CHIP. But Idaho has its own CHIP story, one that raises questions about our community values.

We have 19,000 uninsured children who could be on CHIP — they just aren't enrolled. That's more than the 16,000 on the program right now. Why? Back in 2002, the Legislature put the brakes on public outreach for CHIP directing the Department of Health and Welfare to do only the minimum outreach required by federal law.

Even though the Legislature hasn't repeated that statement in the budget since then, the department balked radio and other media advertising for CHIP and hasn't changed its policy since.

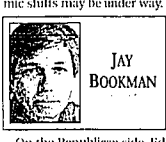
When it comes to health care, we're all in it together. When kids have coverage that gets them early diagnosis and treatment, they stay healthy and save money for taxpayers, for public hospitals, for the county emergency health care funds and for the whole state. That's a win-win situation. Plus, CHIP brings four federal matching dollars for every state dollar, so it's a great deal for the state, and there are millions of federal dollars left over that we're still not putting to good use.

I urge the Legislature and governor to tell the department it's time to get back on the airwaves and get these 19,000 kids on CHIP. ADAM BAMBREZ Heyburn

Republicans in midst of an identity crisis

Presidential campaigns do more than elect presidents. Every four years, campaigns redefine what it means to be a Republican or Democrat, and once in a while they even redefine what it means to be an American.

In most years, that redefinition is pretty minor, a mere tinkering with party formulas. Not this year. This year, you get the sense that seismic shifts may be under way.



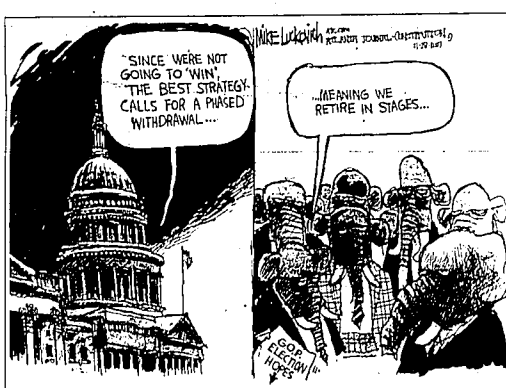
JAY BOOKMAN

On the Republican side, Ed Rollins, the former Reagan campaign aide now serving as campaign chairman for Mike Huckabee, has been warning about the fragility of the GOP brand since well before the Iowa caucuses.

"The breakup of what was the Reagan coalition — social conservatives, defense conservatives, anti-tax conservatives — it doesn't mean a whole lot to people anymore," Rollins said last month.

And last week, Rollins candidate went out and proved him right. Even more telling than Huckabee's victory was the panic it created within the GOP in the party's back-channel communications system, on talk radio and the right-wing blogs, the various pieces of the Republican coalition are now attacking each other with a venom that they usually reserve for people named Clinton.

Rush Limbaugh, for example, attacked Huckabee for his record of tax increases as governor of Arkansas. Huckabee, he conceded, "is a mighty fine man and is a great Christian, is not a conservative, he's just not." Longtime GOP activists for Richard Viguerie went further, calling Huckabee "a Christian socialist," and from a Republican perspective that isn't far from true.



In the party's back-channel communications system, on talk radio and the right-wing blogs, the various pieces of the Republican coalition are now attacking each other with a venom that they usually reserve for people named Clinton.

For their part, religious conservatives complain that the rest of the GOP field — Mitt Romney, John McCain and Rudy Giuliani in particular — are at best cross-dressing as family-value social conservatives. That too is accurate. And given the spending record of the recent GOP Congress under a GOP president, no Republican outside of Ron Paul can masquerade as a small-government conservative.

The problem has been emphasized in Romney. Watching him campaign, he reminds me of that hiker a few years ago who, trapped in a rock slide, had to slice off his own arm with a pocket knife to get free. In a desperate effort to get free of his past, Romney has left bits and pieces of himself all over the campaign trail, to the point that he now comes across as his own Frankenstein's monster, patched together with other people's body parts. Of course, every party goes through an identity crisis from time to time. But there's something about the nature of the GOP that makes it particularly vulnerable. For a long time, the key to its success has been its rigidity and ideological discipline. The Republicans knew who they were, and any party member who deviated from that self-definition was punished. But what happens when a party founded on conformity can no longer agree on what it should conform to? There's chaos in the party ranks, and the GOP is simply not set up to handle chaos well. For Democrats, on the other hand, chaos is their natural environment. They've lacked a sense of mission for a long time, content to be the party that wasn't Republican.

And since Republicans defined themselves so narrowly, Democrats had a lot of room to roam to pick up votes and an occasional election or two.

However, roaming without a sense of direction never gets you anywhere. That's been the Democrats' problem. Their only agenda — their reason for existence — has been to defend the gains of the 75-year-old New Deal against GOP attack. And that's not enough anymore.

For too long, Republicans and Democrats have been fighting over the New Deal and its legacy like two old men in a nursing home, feuding over a girlfriend they shared back in the day.

Meanwhile, the world has changed. The economy is shifting, new competitors and technologies are emerging, and the old political feuds have lost relevance. And the Democrats, perhaps through the person of Barack Obama, are probably closer than the Republicans to reinventing themselves to meet that new reality.

Jay Bookman, the deputy editorial page editor of The Atlanta Journal-Constitution, may be reached at jbookman@ajc.com.

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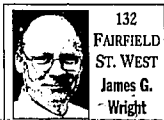
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Writers who sign letters with false names will be permanently banned from publication. Letters may be brought to our Twin Falls office, mailed to P.O. Box 548, Twin Falls, ID 83303; faxed to (208) 734-5538; or e-mailed to letters@magjvalley.com.

How to deal with an inquiring reporter

There's a good chance that more Americans know their Miranda rights than know their own blood type. We hear Miranda all the time — hollerplate advice read from a card to a TV bad guy who has "the right to remain silent."



Police have been required to read suspects in custody, their Fifth Amendment right to remain silent and avoid self-incrimination since 1966, when the U.S. Supreme Court threw out the conviction of Ernesto Miranda, who had confessed to kidnap and rape in Arizona. Later, Miranda claimed he did not know that the Constitution allows him to refuse to make statements that might later be used against him in a court of law.

Journalists are not required to read people their rights before questioning, though sometimes it's not a bad idea. Times-News reporters must identify themselves when approaching someone for information. We don't go undercover or wear disguises (at least not as part of our jobs) and we don't pretend to be something or someone we're not.

Still, on a surprising number of occasions we run into people who don't connect the dots. They know they're involved in a newsworthy event. They know that they're talking to a reporter from the newspaper. They know they're responding to the reporter's questions. Yet they conclude the interview by asking what the reporter plans to do with the information and then seem shocked when they're told that the reporter is (gasp) writing an article for publication.

I advise reporters that it's not a bad idea to start each interview with a mini-Miranda warning — something like "I hello, Mrs. Sprickett, this is Sally Green from the Times-News and I'm writing an article about your arrest for braining your husband with a canned ham..." — just to make it perfectly clear that all those questions aren't just to feed personal curiosity, they'll actually be used in an article that will be printed in the newspaper for everyone to see.

Reporters may think this is unnecessary, but they do this for a living. But for someone who has never encountered a live reporter in the wild, the process can be a mystery. So the better that all parties understand the process, the less chance for hard feelings later on.

Should you ever come face-to-face with a reporter, here are some helpful hints:

1. You don't have to talk, but it's usually better if you do. We need to hear all the facts to ensure the article is correct, fair and balanced.
2. Failure to participate won't necessarily stop publication of an article. If you claim up, the reporter will likely go to other sources that may or may not have the same quality of information or the ability to state things as well as you do.
3. An interview is usually less painful than you might

think. Journalists rarely go to work with an axe to grind or the intent to make people look bad. Most just want to be as accurate as possible, and they genuinely want to know what you have to say.

4. If you say something stupid, that's on you. It's not our job to make you look any better or any worse than you really are.

5. If you want to tell the reporter something that you don't want to see in the paper, ask up-front if you can go "off the record." Then stop talking until the reporter agrees that what you are about to say is between the two of you, and cannot be used in the paper. When you finish your off-the-record comments, you and the reporter should clearly state to one another that you're back on the record. But remember, everything you say can be used for publication unless the reporter agrees, in advance, not to use it.

6. Don't waste everyone's time by agreeing to an interview and then, at the end, saying that you don't want to be quoted by name. Set any ground rules up-front.

7. If you're concerned that the reporter may not have understood what you said, it's fair game to ask for direct quotes read back to you and to ask to clarify any points. It's also a good idea to write down any numbers and email or fax them to the reporter when you're doing a telephonic interview. Numbers are easy to confuse when heard but not seen.

Are you wondering what became of Ernesto Miranda? He was convicted in a third trial and served about a half of his 11-year sentence. After he was paroled in 1972 he was killed in a knife fight. History notes with proper irony that his killer invoked his own Miranda rights and refused to make a statement to police.

When is a price increase not a price increase? When you get the paper delivered to your home or office.

There's been some confusion since we increased the single-copy sale price by 25 cents, and we're partly to blame for that.

When we started selling single copies of the paper for 75 cents, we put the price at the top of the front page. Trouble is, we print just one edition for sale to racks and at dealers and for home delivery.

The home-delivery price didn't change. Not a penny. Hence.

James G. Wright may be reached at 735-3255 or james.wright@tcn.net.

Democratic race is now Obama's to lose



DAVID BRODER

It may seem paradoxical, but New Hampshire is poised to close down the race for the Democratic presidential nomination and launch a wide-open Republican contest.

The difference is that Barack Obama, the winner of the Iowa Democratic caucus, can well repeat his victory there over Hillary Clinton and John Edwards. But Mike Huckabee faces much steeper odds in duplicating his Iowa win on the Republican side.

While Huckabee shattered Mitt Romney's strategy by winning Iowa, where Romney had invested massively in advertising and organization, he is likely simply to empower John McCain to repeat his 2000 victory in New Hampshire.

A second Romney loss would effectively end the former Massachusetts governor's advertising and organization, a campaign that lost its credibility along with its ideological definition.

But McCain and Huckabee have yet to build broad constituencies among mainstream Republicans. Huckabee's following is centered among evangelical Christians, who dominated the low-turnout Iowa caucus. McCain's greatest appeal is to Republican-leaning independents who powered his 2000 victory and who remain loyal to him.

McCain has been endorsed by more than two dozen New Hampshire newspaper editorial pages, a major boost to his standing among independent voters.

Mainstream Republicans' search for a candidate

becomes more urgent as the major party politicians come to understand that Obama could be the most electable candidate the Democrats have fielded in many years.

If that seems a hasty judgment, consider what Obama already has demonstrated. Running in two of the "whites" states in the country, Obama has shown a crossover appeal that defies conventional wisdom about the limits an African-American candidate will face.

Backing his personal appeal with an organizational effort that was underestimated by both the Clinton and the Edwards campaigns, which had a year's head start, Obama showed Democrats a combination of campaigning and organization I skill they had not seen from any candidate in their party since Bill Clinton first ran for president.

If he can demonstrate that combination again Tuesday in New Hampshire, this race

would be a lot closer to being finished than anyone might have guessed even a week ago.

Hillary Clinton has one more chance to stop Obama's momentum here. New Hampshire has been good to the Clintons in the past. They need the state to come to their rescue one more time.

Bill Richardson is hanging on, but with only a modest hope of securing second place on the ticket. Edwards claimed a degree of satisfaction by edging Clinton for second place in Iowa, but since his populist appeal failed to win in that state, with its rich tradition of rewarding that kind of campaign, it is hard to imagine him doing better in New Hampshire.

Any way you view it, the race is now Obama's to lose.

Washington Post columnist David Broder may be reached at davidbroder@washpost.com.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Congressman Sali has no reason to apologize

I was very disappointed with the recent article written by Rebecca Boone about Idaho's "loss" for 2007, which listed Congressman Bill Sali's comment about American history alongside crimes and embarrassments to Idaho.

Sali's statement in August wasn't a crime. It wasn't intolerant, and it was true. America was founded on Christian principles, and Congressman Sali had nothing to apologize for that he didn't apologize as your article said. It clarified his statements and stood his ground in saying that America was founded on Christian principles. If the Christian principles were taught, instead of censored, our country would not have the problems with crimes that we do today.

Idaho has plenty of things and people to be ashamed of, like every state. But I'm proud we have a congressman like Bill Sali in office, and proud that we, as Idahoans, had the common sense to elect him.

TERRY KILLINGER
Filer

Realtors provide great product for great value

In response to the man from Hagerman who gave Realtors a bad rap: I hope to clear up some misconceptions about the big money we supposedly earn.

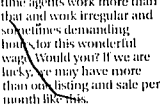
We will use the \$6,000 commission this gentleman used. First of all, had I gone to the selling agent so we must look at \$3,000 as the total commission on that sale. Of that \$3,000, 25 percent to 50 percent is the broker's; in my case, I would keep \$2,100. Now subtract our cost of doing business; self-employ-

Bush, conservatives have everything under control

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Now we are building prison walls between the reli-

gious nations in Iraq. Nothing builds friendship and love like prison walls.

That really ought to solve everything. We should have a strong new cooperative government *minima*.

Humor has it that our President has brilliant ideas! He is going to borrow so much money from the Chinese that they will not have enough left to continue the build up of their army. Then he is going to drop the value of the dollar so low so that we can borrow enough dollars from the Eskimos to pay off China. Global warming will wipe out the Eskimos, and we will be home free.

So go back to sleep, George and his right-wing, conservative Republican buddies have everything under control.

MATT SMITH
Twin Falls

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P.S. Small class size means personal attention, but limited space! Call today!

P.P.S. Please RSVP today for the open house at 733-2090. Space is limited!

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Does Obama win in Iowa show colorblind America?

By Sharon Cohen
Associated Press writer

Ray Ballentine was waiting for a sign to throw his support to Barack Obama. And when Obama caucused, there it was — evidence that the senator had the broad racial appeal to get to the White House.

"I did have some reservations before, but he certainly got my vote now," Ballentine said, eating a brisket and roast turkey salad with bush puppies at The O Shack, a barbecue joint in Raleigh, N.C. "I was sort of undecided, but I feel like he can win the presidency."

Obama's convincing win in Thursday's caucuses in Iowa — a state with just a smattering of minority voters — demonstrated the Illinois senator's support crosses racial lines and bolstered the notion that America is receptive to electing its first black president.

Whether Obama's appeal stretches beyond the borders of Iowa will become clear over the next month as the freshman senator faces a series of tests on different political terrain — beginning with Tuesday's primary in New Hampshire, and later caucuses in Iowa and New York. Obama, who had been wavering between Sen. Hillary Rodham Clinton and Obama, Iowa was a tipping point. Like many black voters,



Democratic presidential hopeful, Sen. Barack Obama D-Ill., celebrates with his supporters after his victory in the Iowa caucus Thursday in Des Moines, Iowa.

he says, he was looking for proof that Obama could garner white support. Yet he wonders if the rest of the nation is as willing as Iowa to embrace the idea of a black president.

"I'm not really sure if they're ready, you know," he said. "I think it's time. He's speaking about change, and certainly that would be a change for this country. A change for the world."

Polls have indicated the vast majority of Americans say they would support a black candidate seeking the White House. A Gallup survey conducted in early 2007 found only 6 percent of men and 4 percent of women said they would not vote for a black presidential candidate, a seismic political shift from 50 years ago when more than half those surveyed felt that way.

Though Obama's win captured headlines and gave his campaign fresh credibility, he is not the first black candidate to triumph in a Democratic presidential contest.

In 1986, civil rights leader Jesse Jackson, making his second bid for the White House,

piled up Democratic primary wins in Alabama, Georgia, Louisiana, Mississippi, Virginia and the District of Columbia along with caucus victories in South Carolina and Michigan.

But Obama's roots and resume are unlike other black candidates who've run for president.

"The son of a father from Kenya and a mother from Kansas, Obama was just a child during the dawn of the civil rights movement, grew up in Hawaii and Indonesia and has not made race the centerpiece of his candidacy."

"Obama is running in a way that a lot of white voters feel very sympathetic," said Merle Black, an Emory University political scientist. "The doesn't make them feel guilty. He's not running a Jesse Jackson campaign or an Al Sharpton campaign. He's positioned himself to be a candidate who happens to be black, rather than a black candidate."

In a far different way, the Republicans have their own presidential candidate with an unusual black story: Mike Huckabee, who won the GOP caucuses in Iowa with heavy support from Christian evangelicals, is an ordained Baptist preacher.

But it's Huckabee's years as

an Arkansas governor, not his time in the pulpit that has taken him this far, said David Boskin, an analyst at the Joint Center for Political and Economic Studies, a black think tank. "If he had been a minister and never a governor, especially a governor who was re-elected, he wouldn't be in this situation," he says.

For some voters watching Obama, his campaign — and his Iowa success — are simply reflections of changing times. "America's becoming more open-minded," said Mark Lintz, a 36-year-old sales director at an Internet company in San Francisco. "I as a Republican can say that, and we need to open our eyes to people representing all ethnicities."

Still, he said he could envision some "radical groups" taking violent steps against a black candidate or president.

That also worries Ballentine, the 53-year-old North Carolina electric utility field technician.

"I think he will certainly need to beef up his security, because I think there's these wackos that will go to any extent to make sure he doesn't win," he said. "It's sad to say that, but I think it's a possibility. Some people just don't want to see that happen."

The media miss by a mile in Iowa

By Howard Kurtz
The Washington Post

WASHINGTON — For most of the past year, the news media treated Hillary Clinton as inevitable and Mike Huckabee as invisible.

In the wake of Thursday's Iowa caucuses, those judgments are looking rather shortsighted.

Until recent weeks, Huckabee was regarded as an asterisk, a former Arkansas governor whose entry into the presidential race didn't even warrant a mention on the "CBS Evening News." He was good for comic relief — the wisecracking, bass-playing, weight-losing preacher man — but not portrayed as a serious threat to win in Iowa or anywhere else. The media's chief benchmark is Romney, and Mitt Romney had truckloads of it and Huckabee very little.

Barack Obama, who beat Clinton in the Democratic contest, was initially hailed by anchors and pundits as a "lock star," but by the summer and fall he was depicted as a dull candidate who seemed to have little hope of catching up. Commentators openly urged him to attack the former first lady, Obama's winning margin was something of a surprise, but not as big, perhaps, as the bursting of the Hillary bubble that may have been inflated by a year's worth of press.

"Everyone just thought she was going to win — I mean, how could she not?" says Kelli Goff, an African American blogger and former Democratic strategist. "How could a freshman senator just one couple of years ago, whose name no one could pronounce, come out of nowhere and

beat a woman married to the first black president?"

Amy Holmes, a black conservative and former Republican speechwriter, says most journalists "are rooting for Obama, in part as a consequence of the media's tenuous relationship with Hillary. I think the media swallowed the whole concept that she was inevitable and then swallowed her contention that she was the most experienced."

Even on the right, says Holmes, a CNN commentator, "Obama's candidacy is exhilarating and exciting and makes us all feel better about ourselves."

In September and October, with the Illinois senator trailing Clinton nationally by 30 points, journalists began picking apart his strategy. "Does Obama's Message Match the Moment? Reconciliation May Be Hard Sell to Angry Party," a front-page Washington Post headline said.

But even as Obama moved into a virtual tie with Clinton and John Edwards in Iowa, he was spared the kind of searing scrutiny that accompanied Huckabee's rapid rise. Earlier stories about his ties to an indicted Chicago fundraiser remained dormant, and a New York Times piece on Obama repeatedly voting "present" as an Illinois legislator got no traction. He simply has less of a public record to investigate, and spilled some of his own secrets — such as adolescent drug use — in his autobiography.

Jim Geraghty, a columnist for National Review Online, says the historic nature of Obama's candidacy has a chilling effect on press criticism that takes him down. You take this lovely and inspiring story

of racial reconciliation and you try it all to hell. You write the expose of the second coming of Martin Luther King."

On the Republican side, Huckabee's \$2.5 million fundraising for the first nine months of the year — compared with the \$4 million that Romney, the former Massachusetts governor, raised or donated to his campaign — relegated him to the media's second tier. He was endlessly available for interviews because he badly needed the exposure.

"Huckabee took the John McCain 'charm offensive' page right out of the play-book," says Matthew Felling, a media analyst and former CBS blogger. "There was a cutesy factor that Huckabee had to overcome, but that got him media coverage that introduced him to a lot of people."

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INSIDE: Kids can't wait to Salsa; C7



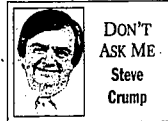
INSIDE: Obituaries, C2 | Nation, C4-5 | World, C6, C8

Domestic tranquility needs a good sales pitch

A lobbyist is an excessively compensated pitchman, a hired gun given to Dirk Kempthorne-perfect hair and a Pepsodent smile.

In Idaho, lobbyists hang around the Statehouse and schmooze. Corporations, trade groups, firm organizations and labor unions hire lobbyists to protect their interests.

But I'm here this morning to argue that it takes better lobbying skills to survive in a marriage than it does to make Butch Otter give your client a tax cut.



DON'T ASK ME. Steve Crump

This is my second marriage, so I learned to lobby for what I want the hard way. I'm pretty good at it now, if I say so myself, but the job has become more much challenging.

See, I'm married to a redhead. There are three basic rules for a man to survive in Redheadistan: 1. Say you're sorry, a lot. 2. Say "yes, dear," a lot. 3. Memorize this sentence: "Whatever you want, I want."

Compounding the difficulty of my task is that Victoria is half Irish and half Welsh. I call her affectionately, of course — the Celtic Tornado. It's easy to get my wife's Irish up, and when she's tilted Victoria revels in a good argument. But I'm of Swedish extraction; I don't know how to argue.

I clam up and my ears turn red, making my beloved even madder. So when I'm in trouble, I've learned to skirt peril by appealing to Victoria's Unitarian sense of fairness.

Unitarians esteem fair-mindedness above all else. They're a people given to a lot of discussion — days' worth, if necessary, until everyone gets his or her say.

So when my wife says, for example, "You know I hate it when you put your hair bucket in the refrigerator," I always have an answer. "We discussed that last week," I'll say. "And we agreed to talk about it." Like any lobbyist worth his salt, I always plan ahead. I present potentially contentious issues as already decided, and then counter arguments by appealing to Victoria's sense of fair play.

"While you're at that conference in Portland next month, I'll be playing poker and drinking beer with the guys."

"That I'll be at that conference for three days," she'll reply.

"OK, fine. You go off and have a great time. I'll stay home and clean the shower grout with a toothbrush."

It's an unerring strategy: My wife got a new Dyson vacuum cleaner, so I got a new leaf-blower. Victoria got a spa day, so she had to go to the hockey game with me that night.

She got a new Subaru and I got, well, her old Subaru.

The point is, like any good lobbyist, I'm always prepared to point out to Victoria the advantages to her of giving me my own way. Realizing, of course, the limits of a lobbyist, but I may be a lobbyist, but my wife is the speaker of the house.

Steve Crump may be reached at 735-3223 or scrump@magicvalley.com.

2007 wildfire season one of worst on record

Idaho had most burned acreage in United States

By Keith Ridler Associated Press writer

BOISE — Wildfires scorched an area four times the size of Yellowstone National Park and destroyed more than 5,200 buildings in 2007, one of the nation's worst fire seasons despite a record amount of retardant dropped by aircraft.

The Boise-based National Interagency Fire Center reported nearly 14,000 square miles burned, and the federal government spent more than \$1.8 billion fighting wildfires, making it the second costliest season on record.

Even though fire managers used 22.4 million gallons of fire retardant — nearly triple the 10-year average — the area burned in 2007 trails only 2006 when fire consumed 15,500 square miles.

Idaho had the most area burned in the U.S. in 2007



A modified DC-10 drops fire retardant on a wildfire, Nov. 24, 2007, in Malibu, Calif. Wildfires scorched an area four times the size of Yellowstone National Park and destroyed more than 5,200 buildings in 2007 in what became one of the nation's worst fire seasons despite a record amount of retardant dropped by aircraft. The Boise-based National Interagency Fire Center reported nearly 14,000 square miles burned, and the federal government spent more than \$1.8 billion fighting wildfires, making it the second costliest season on record.

with 3,100 square miles. That included the 70-square-mile Castle Rock fire in August that forced the evacuation of more than 2,000 homes in the resort area of Ketchum in central Idaho and caused Sun Valley Resort to run its snowmaking equipment in a success-

ful bid to protect a \$12 million ski lodge atop Bald Mountain. The Murphy Complex of fires, started by lightning in late July, burned an area on the Idaho-Nevada border larger than Rhode Island. The fire-blackened grassland habitat that supports sensitive species such as sage grouse.

And the Red Bridge Fire that hit areas of Jerome and Shoshone on July 6 raged across 45,000 acres, much of it Bureau of Land Management acreage. The number of buildings

burned in 2007 ranks second since current counting methods began in 1999, trailing the 5,700 buildings destroyed in 2003, the fire center reported.

It was also the fourth consecutive year that flames torched more than 12,500 square miles, an amount not previously recorded until 2004, with records going back to 1960.

"The world we're dealing with in fire suppression is changing," said Lyle Carlie, chair of the fire center's National Multiagency Coordinating Group and one of seven people who decide where to position U.S. wildfire fighting resources during the fire season. "We just can't continue to do business the same way. We don't have enough firefighters to draw from to handle the situations we're faced with."

Fire managers said a lengthy firefighting, better temperatures across much of the U.S., and an increased number of homes built in fire-prone wildland areas contributed to the severity of the wildfire season.

Please see WILDFIRE, Page C3

Beating cabin fever

Annual Twin Falls event uses family activities to help people shake off winter doldrums

By Andrea Gates Times-News writer

A lifeguard perched high on a stand above the pool at the Twin Falls YMCA saw something a little different floating through the water Saturday.

Kayaks — adult and child-sized — glided easily over the pool's silky, blue surface.

"I've never seen kayaks in the pool," said lifeguard Dave Mark, a local college student, who has worked at the pool since August. And across from kids on colorful kayaks, there were others bobbing in the gentle current, clad in scuba gear.

Not exactly a normal morning at the indoor pool — or at other locations throughout town, where 24 activities were held Saturday.

That's because it was the eighth annual "Cabin Fever Day" arranged by Twin Falls Parks and Recreation Department.

The day, named for getting out of the house and getting active during the winter, offered free activities for free lessons. The kayaks were provided through the College of Southern Idaho Outdoor Program for people ages 10 and older. "The Magic Valley has great white water," she said.

While kayakers took in the humid, chirping air above the pool, other aquavers explored underwater camera views from the shallow end.

They bobbed in the pool, goggles



Rick Morrow, a dive master, adjusts his goggles during a scuba diving class held at the Twin Falls City Pool Saturday afternoon.

blurring their noses and eyes. It was so entertaining, that two children who attended last year decided to come back for another round.

"We came last year and they had so much fun they wanted to do it again," said local resident Lori Hamberger, an instructor at Dive Magic in Twin Falls. The free price tag is also nice, said Hamberger, a certified diver.

Children can get certified to scuba dive at age 10, said Mary Branchflower, an instructor at Dive Magic in Twin Falls.

That sometimes happens but many certified divers are baby boomers, she said.

It can take as little as three to four days to become certified with pri-

ate classes, she said, while taking a break from photographing children below the surface with an underwater camera.

There were a couple of extra lifeguards working Saturday at the YMCA pool to oversee the additional people, said Mark.

And from the lifeguard chair at the YMCA, the event looked like a success. "This is a great thing for kids to do," he said.

"Cabin Fever Day" was also sponsored by Cable One, Cascade Landscaping Group, Twin Falls County, Costco Wholesale, Pepsi, St. Luke's Magic Valley Regional Medical Center, CH2M Hill, and Mason's Trophies and Gifts.

Andrea Gates may be reached at 735-3360 or Andra.Gates@tcn.net.

People upset about spotty trash service in Wendell

By Blair Koch Times-News correspondent

WENDELL — It seems Wendell residents have plenty of reasons to trash-talk their garbage collection service provider.

Public Works Director Pat Munyon said he has received numerous complaints from residents about PSI Waste Systems, the company contracted by the city to make weekly trash pickups. One resident, Munyon said, didn't have garbage picked up for a month; other residents can't seem to get service at all.

Only certain areas of the city had garbage picked up over the holidays, he said.

"I end up passing information on that (PSI) will be getting the problem solved, only to have the citizen calling me back days later to say nothing has been done," Munyon said during Thursday's City Council meeting.

Munyon has played the intermediary between residents and PSI, which is contracted to provide garbage collection for the city until 2008, he said. "Citizens are getting angry," Munyon said, "and I don't blame them."

Other complaints include abused or broken irrigation lines and fire hydrants, he said. To add insult to injury, PSI has asked for a 3.81 percent rate increase (about 15 cents per month) beginning in February, according to a letter of the city received in December.

"They can do that," said Mickey Walker, city treasurer. "It's in their contract."

But Munyon said he believes the company isn't following through on its contract and suggested that the City Council prepare to accept new bids for waste collection. A new contract may increase rates over what PSI is charging, but it might be worth it, Munyon said.

"I'd rather pay an extra buck ... for a better service," said Councilman Jason Houser.

The city knows something must change, and officials said a meeting with PSI may help open better lines of communication and lead the company to provide the service it is contracted to do. No action was taken on the proposed rate increase, and the city plans to contact PSI officials to schedule a meeting.

Les Reitz, PSI sales manager, was not available for comment.

Blair Koch may be reached at 316-2607 or blairkoc@tgn.com.

Keith Roark chosen to lead Idaho Democrats

The Associated Press

BOISE — Halley lawyer and former attorney general candidate Keith Roark has been elected chairman of the Idaho Democratic

Party. Members of the party's Central Committee voted Friday to elect Roark, who succeeds former Idaho Rep. Larry Stallings, who stepped down Dec. 20. Roark, 58, ran un-

successfully for attorney general against Republican Lawrence Wasden in 2002.

Roark is the senior and managing partner of the Roark Law Firm in Halley. He previously served as

Blaine County prosecuting attorney and mayor of the City of Halley.

He defeated Jerry Brady, candidate for Idaho governor in 2006, in the secret ballot for party chair.

David James Brown

Now and then an individual lives a life that shines so strong, and pure that his light is not extinguished when he passes, but carries on in all those fortunate enough to have crossed his path. My father was such a man.



Born in 1943 in Twin Falls, Idaho, to Ignace and Helen, he grew up cherishing with his father, the farmland they worked together, realizing the intrinsic tie between the soul of family and imbuing the land they worked with love. He had a good father and father, the farmland was your heritage, part of your being, not to be sold for any reason.

David married his high school sweetheart, Judith Ann Parker. He was educated briefly to Anchorage, Alaska. While there, they had two children, Stuart Roark and Theotocsa. Helena, Theotocsa Helena died shortly after his two young tragic kids. It was while in Anchorage that David had his first brush with death in the Alaskan earthquake of 1964, hitting 9.6 on the Richter scale. It was one of the largest earthquakes in Third States history. David was working at the Falls D Store that day and saved a local prominent businessman's wife by pushing her to safety from a falling chandelier. He was later publicly recognized for his heroic action that day. Always the outdoorsman, he enjoyed the spawning salmon, hunting caribou, and the haunting beauty of Alaska.

David and Judy relocated back down to Twin Falls around 1965 to be near the farmland he loved so much and had two more children, Theotocsa Benbow and Duncan James. In 1975, David and Judy married again and David returned to Page Springs, Colo. The beauty of the Colorado Mountains filled him with peace and he became an avid and proficient skier. It was while his child was visiting him there that he discovered the beauty of the awesome beauty of the outdoors by showing them the spawning salmon, and meadows filled with wildflowers and grazing elk, surrounded by the evergreen.

During his sojourn in Colorado, he worked in many vocations, but earned a broken nose and scar across his eyebrow from a stunt as a rodeo clown who met the wrong bull. David was an avid hunter at this time and chose to live in the Colorado Mountains in a tee-pee, wearing buckskins of his own making, working as a hunting guide for two years.

This second brush with death came during his time in Colorado when working on a front-end loader during the coldest part of the Colorado winter. There was a malfunction in the loader that fell down on top of him, crushing his leg and pinning him to the ground. He lay on the ground for 12 hours while the temperature dropped and chose to cut his leg off with a pocket knife instead of those who started cutting, a car came down the remote road he was on and heard his cries. Sure that David would die, he gave him whisky. Although his legs were crushed by frostbite, not only did he live, he learned to walk again without aid, swim, hike and ski and did so regularly for the rest

of his life. My dad had grit. Throughout his life he had a deep and abiding love of reading history, Indian lore, Egyptology, battle strategies throughout world history, and plant life. He was an excellent tinker, survivalist and arms specialist and loved building with his hands. He enjoyed the prose of Walt Whitman, Thoreau, and Robert Service and all of the Remington portraits of the Mounties, Rolling Stones, Bob Dylan, Hank Williams Sr., Meatloaf and Queen were all melodies that he relished.

David returned to the family farm to raise his wild children and tenderly sit while living for his parents during their last years and honoring their wishes by working the land they cherished.

During the later portion of his life, he met the love of his life, the soul mate and best friend who became his wife on his 50th birthday, Karen Garofoli Brown. David and Karen spent 14 inseparable years in the kind of marriage we all expect as newlyweds. They complemented each other as to truly be two souls entwined.

David spent the rest of his life with Karen and their faithful dog Roxann in the Twin Falls area. He "retired" at 62 but really spent his time working on various pursuits such as painting, working on the yard Karen developed as a Master Gardener and working on various outdoor projects for friends who were of great interest in landscaping and spent time creating primitive folk art while always spending some time with his coffee buddies at ranchers and Garry, who enjoyed his kooky wit and sense of humor as much as Karen did. David was extremely active always and could be counted on to tell you about a new cave he discovered with Indian artifacts, a good fishing spot, old biking trail, a majestic sunset in a mountain clearing, hiking through waterfalls with his daughter and granddaughter, a spur of the moment road trip in search of a good wildflower with friends or his latest snowmobile adventures. He didn't just love life - he embodied it.

My dad meant what he said and said what he meant. A personal code of honor and integrity of self and others that he lived by and that he taught us to aspire to.

On Monday, Dec. 31, 2007, while Karen and he were getting ready to go out for breakfast, he died of a massive heart attack at home with his beloved Karen and dog Roxann. He was preceded in death by his parents, Lynville and Theo Brown; his first wife, Judith Ann Parker; and his daughter, Theotocsa Helena Brown. He is survived by his beloved wife, Karen Garofoli Brown and her family; his uncle, Paul Brown; his eldest son, Stuart Roark Brown and grandson, Warren; his youngest son, Duncan James Brown and grandson, David; his daughter, Theotocsa Benbow Brown/Page and grandchildren, Malysa, Malachai, Torrin, Morgana, Brexton and Ebon.

In lieu of formal services, my father would want all of us to know him to follow the Plains Indian tradition of honoring by tying a feather in a tree and peaceful thoughts. He did not go gently into the night, but lived valiantly and will never be forgotten by those who knew him. O' Earth Mother, as David's spirit returns to you, we offer you our thanks for allowing us to know him and to love him.

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."

Virgil Gene Medley

Virgil Gene Medley, 61, of Twin Falls, passed away at his home on Thursday, Jan. 3, 2008.



Virgil was born Oct. 7, 1946, in Henderson, Texas, to Martin and Bonnie (Cornette) Medley. He grew up and attended schools in Reno, Nev., graduating with honors from Wooster High School. After graduation, he joined the U.S. Marine Corps, where he served four years as a helicopter crew chief in Vietnam. He then re-enlisted in the U.S. Air Force and served for 20 years as a helicopter mechanic until his retirement. On June 6, 1971, in Fallon, Nev., he married Anita Mills. They moved to Twin Falls in 1991 from Albuquerque, N.M. Virgil loved to hunt and

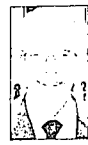
fish. He also enjoyed gardening, and could grow anything with ease. Virgil was very proud of the fact that he had served his country in the Vietnam War. He also enjoyed spending time with his family.

Virgil is survived by his wife, Anita Medley of Twin Falls; four sons, Martin Medley of Las Vegas, N.M., Daniel Medley of Boise, Idaho, Michael Medley of Twin Falls, Idaho, and David Medley of Twin Falls, Idaho; and their wives, Sherrie, Christian, Trish and Nikki. Also surviving are his mother, Bonnie Medley of Twin Falls; two sisters, Janice Daniel of Reno, Nev., and Lynn Medley of Reno, Nev.; and 11 grandchildren. He was preceded in death by his father.

A memorial service will be held at 2 p.m. Monday, Jan. 7, at White Mortuary "Chapel by the Park."

Norman H. Naillon

Norman H. Naillon, 70, of Twin Falls, died Thursday morning, Jan. 3, 2008, at his home in Twin Falls.



Norman was born Oct. 13, 1937, in Halsey, Idaho, to the late A. and Margaret Miller Naillon. He grew up in Jerome and Twin Falls, where he attended high school. Following high school, Norman joined the U.S. Coast Guard, where he served his country proudly for four years. Norman then moved to Bakersfield, Calif., where he worked for the Enteric Metallurgical Company for several years that got him certified as a welder from the Enteric Welding School in New York. He then took a position at the American Cyanamid Co. in Lewiston, Idaho, as a purchasing agent. He was transferred to the Pothatch-Samoa branch in Samoa in 1976 and while in Samoa he met the love of his life, Lana Ana Josefa Felise. Norman and Lana were married April 25, 1977, in Pago-Pago, American Samoa. Together they raised one son, Norman C. Naillon. In May of 1977, they moved to Vancouver, Wash., where Norman worked for KIC International for six years before moving back to Samoa for a couple of years, then on to Hawaii. In 1994, they moved to Twin Falls, where he worked various jobs at the Magic Valley until ill health had forced him to retire.

Norman enjoyed arrow-head hunting, fishing and being outdoors. His love was his family and friends and spending time with them.

Norman is survived by his wife of 30 years, Lana Naillon of Twin Falls; his son, Norman C. Naillon, stationed at Camp Lejeune, N.C., and currently serving in Iraq; daughters, Lisa Howe of Fredericksburg, Va., and Naelle Hadden of Reno, Mo.; and Erin Naillon of Prague, Czech Republic. Also surviving are his grandchildren, Alexander Bratter, Donovan Bratter, Melanie Bratter, Tim Bratter and Lily Hay. He was preceded in death by his parents and one brother, Donald Naillon.

A celebration of Norman's life will be held at 6 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 10, at Reynolds Funeral Chapel, 1343 S. Lincoln, in Twin Falls, with Deacon Jim Herrett of St. Edward the Confessor Catholic Church officiating. Military honors by the Magic Valley Veterans Association and the Idaho National Guard. At the family's request, there will be no public viewing. A private family inurnment will take place at a later date.

The family suggest memorials be given to Norman's mother, the American Cancer Society and to First Choice Hospice for their excellent care they gave to Norman during his final days. Contributions may be given to funeral chapel staff or mailed to Reynolds Funeral Chapel, P.O. Box 1142, Twin Falls, ID 83403.

SERVICES

Harry C. Baugh of Buhl, memorial service at 11 a.m. Monday at Demaray Funeral Service, Shoshone Chapel.

Thora Irene Little Bates of Helyburn, funeral at 11 a.m. Monday at the Helyburn Mortuary Rupert Chapel; visitation one hour before the service at the mortuary.

Jean Mort of Kimberly, celebration of life at 1 p.m. Monday at the Helyburn Mortuary, 2466 Addison Ave. E. in Twin Falls; visitation from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Monday at the mortuary.

Dusty Dale Luby of Buhl, celebration of life at 2 p.m. Monday at the Rock Creek Community Church, 262 Fifth Ave. E. in Twin Falls (Serenity Funeral Chapel in Twin Falls).

Ayrith Diamond Maus of Jerome, funeral at 2 p.m. Monday at the Jerome LDS Church, 100 S. 50 E.; visitation from 5 to 7 p.m. today at Park's Magic Valley Funeral Home, 2551 Kimberly Road in Twin Falls.

Thomas C. Maus of

Robert Tenyson Thompson

Robert Tenyson Thompson, 85, of Twin Falls, passed away Thursday, Jan. 3, 2008, of natural causes.

He is survived by his wife of 61 years, Elsie Jane Thompson; seven children, Tenny Garner, Sandee, Fuller, Roberta Blankenship, Christina Ludwig, Rudy Thompson, Coralie Thompson-Tilly; 13 grandchildren and three great-grandchildren.

The funeral will be held at 10 a.m. Monday, Jan. 7, at Park's Magic Valley Funeral Home, 2551 Kimberly Road in Twin Falls.

Visitation will be held from 2 to 4 p.m. Sunday, Jan. 6, at Park's Magic Valley Funeral Home. Military honors will be presented at the funeral. Services will conclude at the funeral home.

Charles John Watt, 88, of Twin Falls, died Saturday, Jan. 5, 2008, at Twin Falls Care Center. Arrangements will be announced by Reynolds Funeral Chapel of Twin Falls.

DEATH NOTICES

Lena F. D'Amra
GODDING — Lena Frances D'Amra, 87, of Goddard, died Friday, Jan. 4, 2008, at her home. Arrangements will be announced by Demaray's Goddard Chapel.

Charles J. Watt
Charles John Watt, 88, of Twin Falls, died Saturday, Jan. 5, 2008, at Twin Falls Care Center. Arrangements will be announced by Reynolds Funeral Chapel of Twin Falls.

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Dr. Marilyn Bighetti
Stephen Jones, M.S. CCC-A
Board Certified Audiologist

Registration for Kindergarten Clinic is now through Feb 3

JEROME — Registration for the Kindergarten Clinic is being held now through Feb. 3. Cost is \$15 in district and \$25 out of district.

People can register by phone at 324-3389 or by Visa or Mastercard, or in person at Jerome Recreation

District. Hours are Monday through Friday from 5 a.m. to 9 p.m., and Saturdays and Sundays from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

For more information on the clinic: 324-3389 or www.jeromerecreationdistrict.com.

Thomas C. Maus of

CSI North Side Center offers variety of classes

GOODING — The College of Southern Idaho North Side Center is offering the following classes:

- **Sign Language 1** introduces the non-signer, non-professional to survival communication with sign. It combines the vocabulary and features of American Sign Language (ASL) with English word order. This common form of social communication between deaf and hearing adults is known as Pidgin Signed English (PSE).
- This one-credit course, taught by Brenna Andrew, will be held from 7 to 8:30 p.m. on Tuesdays and Thursdays, Jan. 15 to Feb. 14, at Wendell High School. The course tuition is \$105 plus textbook. Senior citizens ages 60 and over attend for free. The course may be audited by those not interested in earning credit; the same tuition applies.

- **ARTS 125 Ceramics 1**, for beginners, or **ARTS 126 Ceramics 2** for intermediate students, will explore the materials and processes used in making fired clay objects.

- Participants who have completed study in ceramics may take **ARTS 2031 Studio Ceramics**, which will pursue a more self-directed course of exploration. Instructor permission is required to enroll in this course. The three courses will run concurrently 6 to 9 p.m. on Tuesdays and Thursdays, Jan. 15 to Mar. 6, at Wendell High School.

- **Brady Neuber** will instruct the classes. Each course is two credits the fee for any one of the courses is \$210 plus supplies. Students 60 years of age and older pay only for supplies.

- **Introduction to Computers** will give an overview of hardware, Windows, word processing, spreadsheets and Internet. The course, instructed by Marie Klingler, will meet 6 to 9 p.m. Thursdays, Jan. 24 to Feb. 21, at the Idaho School for the Deaf and the Blind in Gooding. No computer experience is needed. The fee is \$114 for the course; those 60 and over pay only \$9.
- **Basic PC Troubleshooting** uses hands-on activities, lec-

- tures and demonstrations to give a basic knowledge of computer hardware as it relates to software and troubleshooting. Many topics will be covered by Instructor Andrew Bligh. This one-credit course will meet 6 to 9 p.m. on Tuesdays, Jan. 22 to Feb. 19, at Gooding High School. The fee for the course is \$127; those age 60 and over pay only \$22.

- **Introduction to Excel** will provide hands-on training in Microsoft Excel software. You will create, save and print spreadsheets using simple formulas and formatting commands. Students must be familiar with the Windows operating system and have keyboarding and mouse skills. Darrell Muck will instruct the class 6 to 9 p.m. on Tuesdays, Jan. 22 to Feb. 19, at Jerome High School. The fee for the course is \$127; those 60 and over pay only \$22.

- Using **Photoshop Elements** taught by Jerry Allen will give an introduction to working with this software to manipulate images. Basic

- image editing tasks, how to rotate, straighten and crop photos as well as work with selections and layers will be taught. Participants must be familiar with the Windows operating system and have keyboarding and mouse skills. The class will meet 6 to 9 p.m. Wednesdays, Jan. 23 to Feb. 20 at Wendell High School. The fee is \$127 plus the book for this one-credit course; those 60 and over pay \$22 plus the book.

- **Triple Swing class** will teach the basic steps of triple swing that can easily be altered for country dancing. Men will be taught to lead and women to follow with plenty of questions. Instructors are Reld and Danielle Lofgren. The class will meet 6:30 to 8 p.m. Fridays, Jan. 18 to Feb. 8, at Gooding Middle School cafeteria. The fee is \$25. Please wear smooth-soled shoes (no athletic shoes) and sign up with a partner.

- For more information on classes or to register: 934-8678, or 202 14th Ave. E.

SOMEBODY NEEDS YOU

Want to help?

This public service column is designed to match needs in the Magic Valley with volunteer help. If you need a volunteer, contact the Retired and Senior Volunteer Program (RSVP) at 736-2122, ext. 4764, before 4:30 p.m. Wednesday for Sunday publication. RSVP is a United Way-sponsored agency at the College of Southern Idaho.

and Twin Falls area to take clients to doctor appointments and for grocery shopping. Volunteers are reimbursed mileage and are covered by excess insurance. Information: Edith, 736-4764.

Drivers — Retired and Senior Volunteer Program is in need of volunteer drivers, age 55 and older, in the Mini-Cassia area to take senior citizens to doctor appointments and for grocery shopping. Volunteers are reimbursed mileage and are covered by excess insurance. Information: Kitty, 677-8872, ext. 2.

Volunteers — Aspen Grove Hospice is looking for a volunteer to assist in family coordinator. Volunteers also are needed to assist in the hospice office and to visit with patients. Information: 733-2233 or Sue at 731-5211.

Mentors — The Retired and Senior Volunteer Program is in need of volunteers, age 55 and older, in Jerome and Twin Falls counties to mentor children of prisoners. Volunteers must complete a complete background check and be willing to mentor a child for a minimum of one hour each week for one year. Information: Ken, 736-2122, ext. 2594, kshilling@rsvp.asi.edu.

Volunteers — The American Red Cross is in need of volunteers to help with the community blood drive by greeting donors and scheduling appointments. Information: Debi, 487-0138.

Volunteers — The Twin Falls County Historical Museum is in need of volunteers to help with archival preservation, cataloguing, research and greeting the public. The museum is open from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Tuesdays through Saturdays. Information: Darleen at 736-4675.

Volunteers — Interfaith Volunteer Caregivers Program is in need of volunteers to assist the elderly and disabled with nonmedical services including transportation, shopping, housekeeping, snow removal and handyman repairs. Mileage reimbursement and volunteer insurance are provided. Information: 734-6333.

Volunteers — The Idaho Reads VISTA program at Lincoln Elementary School in Twin Falls is in need of volunteers to serve as reading coaches in the classrooms. Volunteers are needed from 12:30 to 1:30 p.m. and 2:30 to 3 p.m. Monday through Friday and 10:30 to 11:30 a.m. Thursday and Friday. Information: Betty, 734-1321.

Volunteers — The Long Term Care Ombudsman Program is looking for volunteers to visit residents in skilled nursing and residential care facilities. Volunteers can be advocates for residents and improve quality of life. Training and mentoring are provided. Information: Mary or Lauren, 736-2122.

Volunteers — South Central Community Action Partnership is in need of volunteers to assist in family pick-up donated food (mileage reimbursed with correct documentation) and sort donated food items. Information: Leanne or Sandra, 734-9351.

Volunteers/Donations — The College of Southern Idaho Refugee Program is in need of volunteers to work with refugees in a variety of areas. The center is in need of beds, kitchen tables and chairs, living room furniture, office tables, clothing, iron, radios, televisions, kitchen items and linens. Bring donated items from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. (closed noon to 1 p.m.), Monday through Friday, to 1526 Highland Ave. E. Information: Shannon, 736-2166, septstove@rsvp.net.

Volunteers — Hospice Visions Inc. is in need of volunteers for its new program, **Eleventh Hour Angels**. Volunteers are needed to spend time with patients who are in their final hours of life. Training is available. Information: 735-0121.

Drivers — Retired and Senior Volunteer Program is in need of volunteer drivers, age 55 and older, in the Bull

from Bull High School.

Lauren N. Evans

Lauren N. Evans graduated Sept. 10 from basic training at Lackland Air Force Base in San Antonio, Texas. She is continuing her medical training in Wichita Falls, Texas. Airman Evans attended Bull Middle School and a year at Bull High School. At the graduation were her parents Bruce and Erin; brother, Edin; and grandparents David and Norma Evans and Mike Simmons of Bull.



Evans

Spaces left for annual cultural field trip

A few public spaces are left for the annual one-week cultural field trip to San Francisco that's being organized by students and faculty from the College of Southern Idaho Art Department.

The bus trip will begin from CSI Thursday, March 13, and return the evening of March 18.

All travel, accommodations and tickets to the trip's attractions are covered by the registration fee of \$100. Meals are not covered in that price.

The group will see "Carousel" by the San

Francisco Ballet. "From the Boat" by Chanticleer/Chen Yui and the Shanghai Quartet. Carrie Fisher's one-woman stage production, "Wishful Drinking," along with trips to the San Francisco Museum of Modern Art, the Legion of Honor Art Museum, De Young Art and History Museum, and other highlights from around San Francisco.

Seats must be reserved and fees paid by no later than Friday, Jan. 18. For more information or to sign up, contact Mike Youngman, 732-6754 or myoungman@csi.edu.

SERVICE NEWS

Thomas Henson

Army Reserve Pvt. Thomas Henson has graduated from basic combat training at Fort Jackson, Columbia, S.C. During the nine weeks of training he studied the Army mission, history, tradition and core values, physical fitness, and received instruction and practice in basic combat skills, military weapons, chemical warfare and hygiene training, drill and ceremony, marching, rifle marksmanship, armed and unarmed combat, map reading, field tactics, military courses, military justice system, basic first aid, foot marches, and field training exercises.

Henson is the son of Linda Hector and Mike Henson of Bull. He graduated in 2007

from Bull High School. He also said homes built in areas prone to wildfires use fire fighting resources that might otherwise be sent elsewhere.

"The expansion of the wild-land-urban interface continues to challenge us," he said. "Everybody wants to live out in the forest. That expansion becomes high value areas we have to protect."

Smokejumpers, who parachute out of airplanes, have seen their roles change in recent years from jumping into remote areas to jumping into more easily accessible areas where initial attack is considered a key to stopping fires before they get big, said Eric Reynolds, chief of the Bureau of Land Management smokejumpers in Boise. "Because of the experience, our crews are in demand more than ever on those emerging fires," he said.

The Boise base is one nine smokejumping bases in the U.S., and Reynolds said the unit is expected to go on 326 fire jumps in 2007.

"There were a couple real barn burners," he said.

Wildfire

Continued from page C1

Rose Davis, a spokeswoman for the center, said the last two years represent back-to-back fire seasons so fire managers have been forced to change strategy.

"Our fire managers knew they couldn't do things the old way — the frontal or flank attacks were just too dangerous," she said. "In some places they had to steer the fire to natural breaks where they could fight it efficiently and not get anybody hurt or killed."

Seven wildland firefighters died in 2007 as a result of activities related to wildfires, one on a fireline, said Davis. In 2008, 24 firefighters died, 12 on firelines.

About 15,000 wildland firefighters deployed during the season and the U.S. asked for and received help from Canada with five hand crews of 20 firefighters each. The center in Boise remained at its highest alert level from mid-July to the end of August.

In December, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's National Climatic Data Center released preliminary data that predicted the annual average temperature for 2007 across the contiguous United States at near 54.3 degrees Fahrenheit — which would make the year the eighth warmest since records were first kept in 1895. Davis said extended drought also contributed to the 2007 wildfire season. "The fire season started very early with the large,

unusual fires in the East, in Georgia," said Davis. "As it moved to the Western U.S., almost every section of the country issued fire behavior alerts."

Alerts warn firefighters about elevated danger based on weather and potential fuel, including how susceptible trees, brush and grasslands are to fire based on how dry conditions have become. Cardie said years of fire suppression in some areas have made those areas more difficult to protect.

"We cannot keep fires out of these fire-dependent ecosystems," he said. "That is going to build up and it's just going to escalate."

Nearly 80,000 wildfires started in 2007, the fire center reported, about 45 percent the rest of the burning strikes. Initial attacks by a web of firefighters who react quickly put out all but about 2 percent of those wildfires, but some that got away became memorable.

Georgia and Florida, the season started in April with wildfires that lasted several months and burned more than 900 square miles, the Southeast's biggest wildfire since 1898, according to the fire center.

At about 550 square miles, the Millford Flat fire in western Utah was the largest wildfire in that state's history. Five people died, including a California county riding a motorcycle when smoke swept Interstate 15 on July 7.

The Angora fire in June burned 3,100 acres and destroyed 254 homes on the west side of Lake Tahoe in California.

The Zaca fire that started on July 4 in southern California burned some four months and 375 square miles to become the second-largest wildfire in that state's history, threatening ranches and vineyards in the Santa Ynez Valley.

The Nov. 24 Malibu fire in southern California, fanned by Santa Ana winds, put the bookend to the season, destroying more than 50 homes, 35 other structures and burning about 5,000 acres. The total cost of the human-caused fire is estimated at \$100 million, and six firefighters were injured.

Cardie said wildfires that threaten homes get top priority because lives and build-

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Chelsea offers mostly silent support for Mom

By Lois Romano
The Washington Post

NASHUA, N.H. — She is indisputably her mother's daughter, as they stand steadfastly side by side, their wary eyes scanning the crowded cavernous airplane hangar, facing yet another unsettling crisis, another battle in full public view.

The younger woman sidles up to the older one and rubs her back affectionately, and suddenly, they blend into a single unit in their brown outfits as they watch their swash-buckling man warm up the crowd, brooking no talk of defeat.

"I think, my girls look good, don't you?" Bill Clinton bellows to supporters, beaming back at the women in his life. The crowd explodes.

After a few minutes, the former president escorts his 27-year-old daughter, Chelsea, off the stage as his wife takes over her first rally after her disappointing third-place finish in Iowa. Chelsea Clinton never comes near a microphone.

The poised only child of Bill and Hillary Clinton, the one accomplishment for which they are only lauded, never criticized, has finally stepped forward in this presidential campaign, making her debut in front of friendly political crowds. She suddenly appeared in Iowa last month, clearly to soften her mother's sometimes austere image — and to offer some competing glitz to Barack Obama's rolling Oprah show.

Tall and striking, she smiles graciously and watches adoringly as her mother speaks, then enthusiastically works the rope line, talking to supporters and happily posing for cellphone photos. "You're beautiful!" a woman shouts from the crowd. "She's my greatest source of support next to my husband," Clinton told people this week. "She's incredibly smart, got great people skills ... and lots of good feedback."

Chelsea's is not a speaking role. Onstage, she doesn't utter a word, no opinions, no rallying cry, not even a simple welcome. And if anyone assembles a reporter approaches, she flees. Her reluctance would seem to be at odds with her mother's message of self-empowerment and a very vigorous effort to attract young, female voters. "Like so many women I know, it took me a while to find my voice — and I was thinking recently about how I found it," Hillary Clinton recently wrote for Clinton.

As a young woman at 16 in the late 1980s, she was passionate and fighting for what we believed in ... I found a way to use my voice



Democratic Presidential hopeful, Sen. Hillary Rodham Clinton, D-N.Y., campaigns with her daughter, Chelsea at a rally in Nashua, N.H., Friday.

to make change happen."

Aides have repeatedly declined requests for interviews with Chelsea, and at this point it's not clear whether it is the parents or the child who is resisting.

"Believe me, we'd love to have her out there," said a longtime aide. "It's Chelsea — she won't do it and her parents respect that."

Said a longtime friend and adviser of Hillary Clinton, "The feeling is, once you have opened that door, the floodgates open, it never ends."

Susan Ford Bales, who spent her late teens in the White House as the president's daughter, said choosing to be a public figure is truly a "personal" decision for family members and always a risk.

"You want to get out the word about the candidate, but not make political news," she said.

From the beginning of their public careers, the Clintons have been scrupulously protective of Chelsea, and that early decision has been a saving grace for her, friends say, because the couple has undergone harsher scrutiny than most politicians, through a myriad of scandals and Bill Clinton's adulterous episodes. During the 2002 presidential campaign, so invisible was the 12-year-old from the requisite campaign photo that polls showed that the American public didn't even know the Clintons had a daughter, prompting a cover story on the family in People.

Six years later, after Bill Clinton admitted to the nation that he had an inappropriate relationship with Monica Lewinsky, Chelsea was famously photographed as the bridge between her parents, holding their hands as they all walked toward the Marine One helicopter.

Hillary Clinton recently said that she is in constant contact with her daughter but that she wants to respect her choices like any mother respected any child's. "I'm going to let her life unfold at her pace."

Chelsea lives in New York these days, where she moved after graduating from Stanford University and receiving a master's degree from Oxford University. Two years ago, she left a job at consulting firm McKinsey & Co. to join Avenue Capital Group, a hedge fund management firm. She has a serious boyfriend, Mark Mezvinsky, the son of former Iowa Rep. Edward Mezvinsky and Marjorie Magolles-Mezvinsky, a former member of Congress from Pennsylvania.

By all accounts, the privacy the Clintons afforded their child provided her with the semblance of a normal life. She is described as warm and smart and friendly.

Chelsea has been a scarce commodity during this campaign compared with 2000, when she regularly campaigned with her mother during her Senate bid. Last month, with little fanfare, she suddenly appeared in Iowa, conveniently during the same weekend that megastar Oprah Winfrey was barnstorming for Barack Obama.

By contrast, John McCain's daughter, Meghan has been a consistent high-profile presence with her dad, traveling with him, blogging about his events and chatting up reporters. Mitt Romney's sons have also been campaigning for months as surrogates. Cate Edwards, a Harvard Law School student, has maintained a schedule separate from her father, former senator John Edwards, speaking on his behalf before groups of college students.

"You want to get out the word about the candidate — not make political news."

— Susan Ford Bales, the daughter of President Gerald Ford



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www.lesley.edu/info/times



Planning & Zoning Commission has the following vacancies

As of March, 2008, there will be four vacancies on the City Planning & Zoning Commission. The Commission is comprised of both City Council-appointed members and Area of Impact members appointed by the County Commissioners. There are three positions for city residents and one position for an area of impact resident.

By State Law, an applicant for the commission is required to have lived within the County for at least two years to be appointed to the City of Twin Falls Planning & Zoning Commission.


The Commission meets on Tuesdays.
On the first and third Tuesdays the commission conducts a noon work session to review the agenda items for the upcoming hearing. Noon work sessions usually last 1 hour.

On the second and fourth Tuesdays of the month, the commission holds public hearings that begin at 6:00 pm and can last from 10 minutes to several hours, depending on the number of items on the agenda and the number of speakers for each item.

If interested, please submit a letter detailing your interest to serve, and any applicable background or experience to: Mayor Lane Clow, PO Box 1907, Twin Falls, ID 83303-1907, or email to gscott@tfd.id.

Please submit letters by February 1, 2008.

If you need additional information please phone Renee Carraway at 735-7269.



Twin Falls Canal Company

NOTICE

Of Regular Stockholders' Meeting

YOU ARE HEREBY NOTIFIED that the regular meeting of the Stockholders of the Twin Falls Canal Company will be held on Tuesday the 8th of January, 2008. The meeting will be called to order by the Directors at 9:00 a.m. in the Rick Allen Room of the Herrett Center at the College of Southern Idaho in Twin Falls.

Director from District 3-Filer will be elected for a three-year term.

Other business will also be transacted. There will be reports from the Company's General Manager, auditors and lawyers. There will also be reports concerning operation and maintenance efforts, 2008 water supplies, water call, and other matters of interest.

The corporate books will be closed for the transfer of stock effective December 28, 2007.

Proxies shall be filed with the Company's Assistant Secretary at the Company Office on or before January 4, 2008.

DATED this 3rd day of December 2007.

TWIN FALLS CANAL COMPANY
Brian Olmstead, Assistant Secretary

Attendance up at S.F. Zoo following tiger attack

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) — Attendance was up at the San Francisco Zoo following a tiger attack that killed a young man on Christmas Day, a zoo spokesman said Saturday.

Twice as many visitors came to the zoo when the facility reopened Thursday as had visited the same day last year, spokesman Paul Garcia said.

Most of the 792 visitors arrived before heavy rains began falling over the city Thursday afternoon. Just under 400 visitors who came to the zoo the entire day on Jan. 3, 2007, Garcia said.

Severe storms over Northern California forced the zoo to close again Friday, as high wind brought down tree branches and knocked

out power at the facility. No animals were hurt in the storm.

Despite the weather, work continued on a 3-foot fence being erected around the zoo's polar bear exhibit after zoo officials said they were not really know them.

The zoo was closed for eight days following the tiger attack,

which left 17-year-old Carlos Sousa Jr. dead and two brothers injured. Police were investigating whether the tiger was taunted before attacking the three victims.

Other zoos that have avoided mishaps have seen similar spikes in attendance, which zoo officials have attributed to the publicity and morbid curiosity.



A newly installed warning sign greets visitors at San Francisco Zoo's rhinoceros enclosure on Thursday in San Francisco.

Population growth in South, West pays political dividends

By Ben Evans
Associated Press writer

WASHINGTON — Fast-growing Southern states could gain nine new congressional seats after the 2010 census, largely at the expense of their neighbors to the north, judging from the latest government data.

Georgia and North Carolina's delegations in the U.S. House would overtake New Jersey's, for example, while Florida would catch up with New York, according to projections based on a July 2007 population snapshot released by the Census Bureau last month.

Texas would be the biggest gainer, while a handful of Western states such as Arizona and Nevada could also grab new seats.

The power shift would continue a long-term trend and has been predicted for years. But the latest population estimates provide the clearest picture yet of the likely winners and losers.

With many of the growth centers being Republican, the changes could influence the partisan makeup of Congress, although experts caution that the political ramifications are murky and depend heavily on how states divvy up the spoils.

"Right now what you can say is that you've got gains in areas that Republicans tend to do better in and you've got losses in areas that Democrats tend to do better in, so nationally, one would think Republicans would do better," said Kim Bracé, president of Election Data Services, a political demographics consulting firm. "But it depends on what happens in the next stage."

The 435 seats in the House are divided among the states every 10 years based on the census. State legislatures are charged with drawing new congressional district maps, a process that often creates bitter partisan struggle. The reapportionment from the 2010 census will go into effect for the 2012 election.

Prison guard's suicide in wake of pair's escape leaves friends, colleagues staggered

By David Porter
Associated Press writer

NEWARK, N.J. — Maybe it was enough simply that two inmates knew someone from Rudolph Zurick's jail.

Or maybe their taunting, smiley-faced note calling him "a real pal" and thinking him "for the tools needed" — and the media attention it brought — was more than the shoe-shining perfectionist of a guard could take, even if no one believed for a second that he'd helped the criminals break out.



Zurick

Perhaps the mere possibility that he could be suspended or fired from the job had performed spitefully for 14 years was what pushed him to the point that even the counseling he sought immediately after the escape couldn't save him. His friends and family might never know for sure.

On Wednesday, the day he was to be interviewed by investigators probing the Dec. 16 breakout, Zurick shot himself in the head at the home he shared with his wife and 3-year-old daughter.

The veteran officer with the unblemished record was never believed to have aided in the escape and was not facing a criminal investigation, though he had retained a lawyer.

"There is no answer to why this happened," said Jim Roche, president of PBA Local 199, the union that represents the Union County Jail's corrections officers. "As much as you folksy know someone, you don't really know them."

Zurick was known among his co-workers as a proud, intense man who took his job and reputation seriously. He was still coping with the deaths of both parents in the past 16 months when he reported to work on the afternoon of the escape. And he was upset when, within a few days of the escape, his name was leaked to the news media.

Roche recalled an incredulous Zurick calling him after a reporter showed up at his house.

"To have his name associated with anything troubling was very disturbing to him," said Michael J. Mitzner, Zurick's lawyer, adding, "Your parents are the people you would normally turn to for support, and they weren't around for him."

Zurick spent four years in the Air Force before becoming a corrections officer in Union County in 1993, and the military discipline he acquired stayed with him, according to Kenny Burkert, the state delegate for Local 199 and a friend of Zurick's.

"Rudy was a perfectionist in the way he presented himself, always immaculate," Burkert said. "His uniform was always pressed, his shoes were always shined. And he was in great physical shape."

Zurick stayed fit by lifting weights, and he was instrumental in procuring equipment for a weight room used

by corrections officers at the jail. He had no disciplinary violations, Roche and Burkert said, and he received an award from the county for his role in stopping a razor blade fight in 1997, plus commendations on several other occasions.

Zurick had only been at his post for about an hour when he discovered the prisoners were missing and called for a lockdown, Roche said. Zurick was one of three officers each working an eight-hour shift in the area, which contains eight or nine units.

Imanes Jose Espinosa, 30, and 32-year-old Otis Blunt used a thick metal wire similar to what is used in binding chain link fencing to poles and a 10-pound steel water shut-off wheel to dig through the cinderblock walls of their adjoining cells in a high-security unit, authorities said. Like the inmate played by Tim Robbins in "The Shawshank Redemption," the two had used photos of bikini-clad women to hide their work.

The pair cut pillows and sheets to make it look like they were sleeping under blankets, then jumped onto a lower roof and made it over a 25-foot-high fence topped with razor wire, authorities said.

The note found in Espinosa's cell, bore a smiley

face and read, "Thank you Officer Zurick for the tools needed. You're a real pal. Happy holidays!"

Zurick and another officer immediately requested that they be taken to a hospital, a benefit that is afforded under the union's contract when a traumatic event has occurred. Zurick returned to work two days later and retained an attorney for the upcoming investigation.

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South Idaho Press

Bush, taking first major Mideast trip, faces reputation as 'a spectator' to region's problems

By Terence Hunt
Associated Press writer

WASHINGTON — President Bush, trying to defy a history of failure in the Middle East, is about to embark on his first major trip to the long-troubled region, facing doubts about the seriousness of his commitment and his chances for success.

In the seven years of his presidency, Bush has avoided becoming directly involved in the negotiating process. Disdainful of the process-driven, incremental diplomacy of previous administrations, Bush set sweeping goals for the establishment of a Palestinian state and the spread of democracy in the Mideast — while leading the U.S. into wars in Iraq and Afghanistan. He delegated details to others and rarely stepped foot in the Middle East.

"In the region and in the Arab world, he is seen as having been a spectator," said Bruce J. Lipton, a Brookings Institution analyst, former CIA officer and advisor to three presidents — including Bush — on Middle East and South Asian issues. "This is probably unfair, but it is a reality."

Added Jon B. Alterman, a Mideast expert at the Center for Strategic and International Studies in Washington, "Most leaders in the region with whom I've



President Bush, center, watches as Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Olmert, left, and Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas shake hands at the opening session of the Mideast conference Nov. 27 at the U.S. Naval Academy in Annapolis, Md.

spoken seem to consider him both naive and callous, and they'll use the home-court advantage to sensitize him to their perceptions of reality."

Bush will arrive in Israel on Wednesday. It is his first trip as president to a nation that is one of America's dearest allies. He also will stop in the Palestinian-governed West Bank, which he toured in 1998, and make his first visits to Kuwait, Bahrain, the United Arab Emirates and Saudi Arabia. He plans a brief

stop to the Red Sea resort of Sharm el-Sheikh, Egypt, which he visited in 2003.

There are widespread expectations that Bush will go to Iraq and possibly Lebanon. The White House has not announced any such plans.

Roaming the Middle East, Bush will have to compete for attention with the ongoing presidential campaign back home. That race underscores the fact that Bush's term is coming to an end and that world leaders will be dealing

with a new president in a year. Bush's primary goals for the trip are to try to build momentum for the troubled peace process and encourage broader Arab-Israeli reconciliation. Only Egypt and Jordan now have peace agreements with Israel. The trip also is intended to reaffirm the U.S. commitment to the region and efforts against terrorism.

Bush, in his weekly radio address, said he would try to push his "campaign for democracy in the Mideast —

a movement unpopular with authoritarian rulers in countries such as Saudi Arabia, Egypt, Jordan and the Persian Gulf states.

"At this decisive moment in their history, the people of the Middle East can have confidence in the power of liberty to overcome tyranny and terror," the president said. "And all who step forward in freedom's cause can count on a friend in the United States."

With oil costs soaring and recession fears spreading, the United States has a big financial stake in the region. Flush with money from the surge in oil prices, which have tripled since Bush became president, the Middle East has invested heavily in America.

"Historically, a presidential visit or a visit by a really senior U.S. official actually does matter in terms of getting these countries to keep their investments up, to think harder about any shift away from the dollar, to worry about oil production levels," said Anthony H. Cordesman, former director of intelligence

assessment at the Pentagon and now an analyst the Center for Strategic and International Studies.

Iran looms large over Bush's trip.

There is confusion throughout the region about U.S. intelligence reports that hooked away from once-impeccable U.S. belief that Tehran is intent on building nuclear bombs. The report, known as the National Intelligence Estimate, concluded that Iran halted its nuclear weapons program four years ago but continues to enrich uranium that could be transferred to a secret weapons program.

Bush, in an interview Friday with Arab journalists, said the intelligence analysis should be read as saying that Iran remains a threat to peace.

After rattling the Mideast last year by raising the specter of war with Iran, Bush stressed that he believes the showdown will be resolved diplomatically, although "all options remain on the table."

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Jerusalem readies for Bush's arrival, the first visit by an American president in a decade

By Matt Friedman
Associated Press writer

JERUSALEM — With hundreds of hotel rooms booked and municipal crews mending red, white and blue flags, Jerusalem is getting ready for its highest-profile visitor in years, President Bush.

Jerusalemites are accustomed to waiting in traffic jams as convoys of black sedans shuttle visiting dignitaries around the city, the seat of Israel's government. But Bush, who arrives for three days beginning Wednesday, constitutes a VIP of a different order. He is the first American president to come since former President Clinton a decade ago.

Israel is pulling out all the stops to impress a president who is perhaps its staunchest foreign ally.

Jerusalem is spending nearly \$400,000 to spruce itself up for the visit, said Jacob Avishar, the city official in charge of coordinating preparations. Garbage teams are in furious race to clean the city's often dusty streets, and walls tagged with spray paint, he said.

More than 10,500 policemen and security personnel will be deployed to protect Bush and keep order during the visit — more than one-third of Israel's entire police force, according to police spokesman Micky Rosenfeld.

"There will be so much security nobody will be able to get anywhere near the president," Rosenfeld said.

The security personnel will include snipers, bomb-sniffing dogs and bodyguards from the Shin Bet internal security service, including

reservists called up especially for the visit, according to police officials. The operation is dubbed "Clear Skies."

Flights in and out of Israel's only international airport, Ben Gurion, will be suspended around the time Bush lands. From the airport, Bush will fly by helicopter to Jerusalem.

The officials spoke on condition of anonymity because they weren't authorized to divulge details of the preparations.

The choppers will be flown in from the U.S. Air Force cargo planes, along with armed contingents — complete with District of Columbia license plates — vans filled with high-tech communications gear and other vehicles for a heavily armed counter-snort team.

Bush will be staying in suite at the King David Hotel that costs \$2,000 a night — for guests who are not president of the United States. Assistant General Manager Benny Olschick would not disclose how much the Americans are paying to stay at his hotel, one of Israel's most expensive.

Bush's entourage already has taken up more than two-thirds of its 237 rooms, and will take over the ones once he arrives himself, Olschick said. Unlucky guests who happened to plan their visits at the wrong time had their reservations canceled.

The King David, which opened in the 1930s, is best known for getting blown up by Jewish terrorists in 1946. Members of the hardline Irgun group, opposed to British rule over what was then known as Palestine, dis-

guised their explosives in milk jugs and destroyed a wing housing British offices, killing 91 people.

Israeli officials are eagerly anticipating the arrival of Bush, whom Israel sees as one of the most supportive presidents ever to have served in the White House.

"It's not every day that a president comes here," Israel's deputy premier, Haim Lapid, told Army Radio this week.

Not every Israeli will welcome him with open arms.

Supporters of convicted Pentagon spy Jonathan Pollard have lined up on the sides of Jerusalem city buses in place posters of Bush flanked by Lebanese Hezbollah leader Hassan Nasrallah and Gaza Hamas leader Ismail Haniyeh. The impri-

soned Pollard to three Israeli soldiers captured by Hezbollah and Hamas and call for the immediate release of all four.

Pollard, a civilian intelligence analyst for the U.S. Navy, transferred military secrets to Israel while working at the Pentagon. He was arrested in 1985 and pleaded guilty at his trial. He is serving a life sentence in a U.S. federal prison.

There is little chance Bush will see the posters, as local traffic will be diverted away from routes used by his motorcade.

On the other side of the political spectrum, a left-wing Israeli Arab party plans to demonstrate opposite the city's U.S. Consulate at the start of Bush's visit to protest his policy toward Iran, Jerusalem police said.

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A dancing craze

Minico students learn to salsa dance

By Trena Tegan
For the Times-News

PAUL — Students in Naomi Mac Rae's physical education class at West Minico Middle School learned that fitness can be "muy caliente."

Instead of the usual volleyball or other traditional sports, in December the students were treated to salsa dancing lessons.

Mac Rae brought in experienced dancer Terri Bergin-Lentini and former West Minico student Matt Schenk to teach the children the dance that has swiftly become popular in many areas of the country. Mac Rae says she had wanted to put some dance activities into PE for some time now.

The school occasionally has dances for the students but they weren't really doing much dancing at those events.

Bergin-Lentini, who is knowledgeable in many styles of dance, made the suggestion of salsa because she said it is the "hot" new craze in California.

Schenk, who has been in college in California, was home for the holidays, so he was able to help with the activity.

According to Mac Rae, the activity has been very successful on many levels, including promoting positive



ABOVE: Fernando Santana and Mckenzie Caldwell, sixth-graders at West Minico Middle School, work on their Salsa dancing steps in Naomi Mac Rae's physical education class.
BELOW: Kaylee Kostka and Stefan DelaGarza, students at West Minico Middle School, also dance during Mac Rae's physical education class.

social interaction, building self-esteem, aiding in the development of a sense of self-expression, improving coordination and footwork and providing exposure to an activity that can be enjoyed for a lifetime.

This is Mac Rae's eighth year teaching at West Minico and she is currently the only PE teacher at the school. Shelly Coats, who is the advisor for the gifted and talented program, collaborated on the project and

"You know things are going well when kids ask when we will be having Salsa class again."

— Naomi Mac Rae, Minico physical education teacher

some of her students have been attending as well.

"The feedback I have gotten from kids has been very positive," Mac Rae says. "They really think it's fun. You know things are going well when kids ask when we will be having Salsa class again."

Talents showcased at performing arts program

Students compete for three scholarships

By Trena Tegan
For the Times-News

BURLEY — High school seniors will do more than "sing for their supper" at Wednesday's Danny Marona Performing Arts Scholarship Fund Cassia County program.

Students will sing, dance, act or play an instrument — not for their supper, but for a scholarship.

To participate, students were required to submit an audition tape or video, depending on the talent they would be performing. The top performers were chosen to perform and compete for one of three scholarships during the program, which will be hosted by Danny Marona.

All of the schools in the Greater Magic Valley area are grouped into six regions, each region having its own competition. A panel of judges will grade each contestant's performance on a prescribed scoring system. The students with the three highest scores respectively will be awarded a first, second and third place scholarship.

Then the first- and second-place winners from each region will compete in the Grand Finale Concert in Twin Falls in April. Once again they will perform before a live audience for a larger scholarship amount. And once again a panel of judges will grade their performance and award first-, second- and third-place scholarships.

Though he is now retired from the entertainment industry, Marona has enjoyed a successful career as a performer that has spanned six decades and won him numerous accolades and

awards. He is also a writer, director and producer with several critically acclaimed stage shows to his credit.

However, as a high school dropout Marona came to the realization many years ago how difficult it is to pursue a career of any kind without the benefit of a proper education.

It is to this end that he developed the Danny Marona Performing Arts Scholarship Fund, to help

Want to go?

What: The Danny Marona Performing Arts Scholarship Fund Cassia County program
When: 7:30 p.m. Wednesday
Where: King Fine Arts Center, 2100 Parke Ave., Burley
How much: Free and open to the public.

other performers be able to further their education and better prepare for the future.



Marona

The family of Essie Wagonman wishes to express our sincere thanks and appreciation to all our friends, neighbors and relatives for the extra flowers, food, visits and all other acts of kindness that were so graciously extended to us during our time of loss.

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Happenings in Mini-Cassia

Wiener roast Saturday

The public is invited to a wiener roast sponsored by the City of Rupert and Rupert City Fire/Rescue at noon Saturday, Jan. 12, at the "K" Street Park between Second and Third streets by the old canning kitchen. Hot dogs and punch will be provided.

Public hearing scheduled

A public hearing concerning the 2008-2009 and 2009-2010 calendars for Minidoka County School District will be held from 4 to 5 p.m. Wednesday, Jan. 16, at the Minidoka County School District Office, 633 Fremont Ave., Rupert. For more information: 436-4727.

SWEARING IN



Newly-appointed Cassia County Planning and Zoning Commissioners Burke Garner, left, and Renee Wells stand as they are sworn into office Thursday. Seated are, from left, incumbent commissioners Dennis James, Jim Paskett and Brandon Brackenburg.

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Iraqi soldier accused of killing two decorated U.S. troops

By Elena Becators Associated Press writer

BAGHDAD — An Iraqi soldier is accused of turning on two decorated American servicemen and shooting them to death during a joint operation in northern Iraq...

The shooting the day after Christmas in the northern city of Mosul, which left three other U.S. soldiers and a civilian interpreter wounded...

Initial results from an Iraqi investigation indicate that the soldier who opened fire may have links to a militia...

Brig. Nour al-Din Hussein, commander of the 1st Iraqi Brigade, 2nd Division in Mosul said the Iraqi soldier was a Sunni from the al-Qayara area south of Mosul city.

Parts of Mosul are considered strongholds of the Sunni extremist group al-Qaida in Iraq.

The suspect and another Iraqi soldier were in custody, the U.S. military said.

The military identified the slain Americans as Capt. Hawley and Lt. James al-Jubayli of Panama Village, Texas and Sgt. Benjamin B. Portell, 27, of Bakersfield, Calif.

The soldier fled "but was identified by other Iraqi army personnel" and was apprehended, it said.

The U.S. military said its investigators and the Iraqi forces are looking into the shooting.

Al-Khuzairi said the U.S. soldiers were shot during a firefight between the joint forces and gunmen. Attacks often come under attack when moving forces are ordered to establish patrol bases or outposts.

The U.S. military said an April 2006 that an Iraqi soldier had been accused of fatally shooting a U.S. Marine at a base near Qadin, 200 miles west of Baghdad, near the Syrian border.

A memorial service was held for Inman Friday in Kyleen, Texas, near Fort Hood. The career military man was a veteran of Operation Enduring Freedom.

Portell was reportedly married to a second wife in Iraq, according to an obituary in the Bakersfield Californian.

"Ben was a great guy," Brian Murphy, a pastor at the Riverlakes Community Church in Twin Falls, Idaho, said.

The paper said Portell's older brother is serving in Iraq and a younger brother used to serve in the army and also fought in Iraq.

Members of the national police force is widely known to be infiltrated by Shiite militias but the army is believed to be less prone to the phenomenon.

Al-Qaida looks to extend influence with cell phone downloads

By Paul Sherman Associated Press writer

CAIRO, Egypt — Al-Qaida video messages of Osama bin Laden and Ayman al-Zawahiri can now be downloaded to cell phones...

The announcement was posted late Friday by al-Qaida's media wing, al-Sahab, on Web sites commonly used by Islamic militants...

ing a recent tribute to Abu Musab al-Zarqawi, the founder of al-Qaida in Iraq killed by U.S. forces in Iraq in June 2006.

In a written message introducing the new cell phone videos, al-Zawahiri, al-Qaida's No. 2 figure, asked followers to spread the terror group's messages.

"I asked God for the men of jihadi media to spread the message of Islam and monotheism to the world and spread real awareness to the people of the nations," al-Zawahiri said.

phones are increasingly popular in the Middle East. The files are transferred from phone to phone using Bluetooth or infrared wireless technology.

Clips showing former Iraqi leader Saddam Hussein's execution in December 2006 showed up on cell phones soon after his death. In Egypt, images showing police brutality have been passed around via cell phones including one video that showed an arrested bus driver being sodomized with a stick by police in the fall 2006.

Video and audio tapes from various Islamist groups including al-Qaida are available on militant Web sites but require a computer and a fast Internet connection — often rare in the region — to download.

But the eight videos currently available to download to cell phones by al-Sahab range in size from 17 megabytes to 120 megabytes, requiring phones to have large amounts of free data capacity. Al-Sahab has promised to release more of its previous video messages in cell-phone quality formats.

The terror network has been growing more sophisticated in targeting international audiences. Videos are always subtitled in English and messages this year from bin Laden and al-Zawahiri focusing on Pakistan and Afghanistan have been dubbed in the local languages, Urdu and Pashtu. In December, al-Qaida invited journalists to send questions and requests. The invitation was the first time the media-savvy al-Qaida offered outsiders to "inter-view" one of its leaders since the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks.

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INSIDE: Patriots QB Brady named NFL MVP after leading team to unbeaten season, D4



INSIDE: Local roundup, D2 | NBA & college hoops, D4 | Your Sports, D5 | Weather & golf, D6

CSI men: 15 and oh my!

Galloway, Parakhouski spur CSI past Yavapai

By Eric Larsen
Times-News writer

The College of Southern Idaho men's basketball team spent the bulk of its first 14 games making solid teams look unstable and mediocre teams look horrible. Saturday night, the No. 2 Golden Eagles made a talented Yavapai College team look nothing short of mediocre. With their trademark 40 minutes of high-octane basketball, the 15-0 Golden Eagles topped the Roughriders squad 113-77 to close out the Inaugural Dornelley Sports Invitational in

Twin Falls. After CSI opened the game with a 16-2 run and Yavapai answered to draw within three at 21-18, the game began to turn in CSI's favor at the 12-minute mark. As Yavapai leading scorer Louis Barroza doubled over in pain, suffering from a severely dislocated finger that would take him off the floor and all the way to Magle Valley Regional Medical Center for treatment. Barroza left with four points, and the Golden Eagles, at the tail end of a 9-0 run that pushed their lead to 32-20 before extending to 66-41 at halftime.

"Yavapai came and really brought some energy and stuck some shots," CSI head coach Barret Peggry said. "I give them a lot of credit. They played great tonight." Tournament MVP Kevin Galloway came up with the play of the tournament with 16:40 remaining in the second half. Off a Mychal Martinez miss, Galloway sprinted upcourt with the ball and had intentions before taking flight eight feet away from the rim and throwing down a vicious slamdunk dink over Yavapai shooting guard Brandon Centery. That resounding dunk put CSI

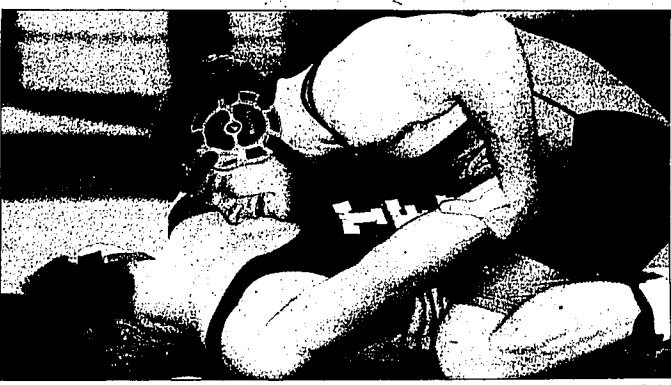
Please see **TOURNEY**, Page D2

Eagle Eyes

Dornelley Sports Invitational At CSI Gymnasium, Twin Falls
Thursday's games
No. 6 Salt Lake CC 73, Laramie County 29
No. 14 North Idaho 74, Yavapai 72
No. 2/OSI 160, Montana-Western JV 68
Friday's games
No. 14 North Idaho 95, Montana-Western 66
No. 2 Salt Lake CC 87, Yavapai 45
No. 2/OSI 104, Laramie County 52
Saturday's games
No. 6 Salt Lake CC 89, Montana-Western JV 57
No. 14 North Idaho 73, Laramie County 60
No. 2/OSI 113, Yavapai 77
Tournament awards
MVP: Kevin Galloway, CSI
All-tournament team: Humberto Perez, North Idaho; Greg Jones-Laramie County; Louis Barroza, Yavapai; Daquon Montreal, CSI; Art Parakhouski, CSI



CSI's Daquon Montreal slams one in for two points in front of Yavapai's Brandon Gentry during first half action.



Gooding's Blair Gerratt, right, wrestles against Twin Falls' Todd Anderson during their 135-pound consolation match during the Buhl Invitational held at Buhl High School Saturday afternoon.

Splendid Spartans

Minico cruises to Buhl Invite title; Jerome's Cummins, Gooding's Gerratt win divisions

By David Bashore
Times-News writer

BUHL. — You might be able to stop one Minico Spartan wrestler. Two if you're lucky. But you can't stop them all. Minico took home five individual titles — only two other schools managed a pair of champions — on Day 2 of the Buhl Invitational, and in doing so cruised to a 48-point victory over Challis in the team standings with 292.5 points. Twin Falls was third, 18.5 points back of second place. The Spartans got wins from Nate Crane at 119 pounds, David Burgara at 130, Jake Urza at 140, Miguel Simental at 171 and Josh Ramirez at 285. Four of those five victories were pretty straightforward ones in which the Minico

wrestler had control almost from the onset, but Simental's battle with Bryan Pierson of Challis was far more adventurous. Simental went behind by a healthy margin in the beginning, but whittled his way back into the match mid-way through the second period. Then, as time ticked off that round and Pierson appeared to tire, Simental turned him and grabbed a pin with three seconds left in the period. "It was really in pretty good shape, so I knew if it was going to go three rounds I'd have a good chance to win," said Simental, who upped his record to 11-0 on the season. "I just worked hard and when I had a chance to flip him I got the pin." Simental wasn't the only local wrestler to preserve his unbeaten

record. Jerome's 103-pound Gary Cummins, after scoring his first tournament championship at last month's Bear-Cat Invitational, doubled his title count by winning his division on Saturday with a 13-0 decision over Colton Smith of Elko, Nev. In the process Cummins upped his record to 15-0 this year. I wrestled (Smith) in the first round at Bear-Cat and it was one of my toughest matches in the tournament, so I knew it would be a battle," said Cummins. "It feels great to start seeing all that hard work pay off." That was the sentiment echoed by Gooding's Derek Gerratt, who won a 6-2 decision over Twin Falls' Will Keeler to claim the 125-pound title. Keeler won the pair's match at Bear-Cat, which was the win that made much more special for Gerratt to savor. "This really boosts my confidence," said Gerratt. "I thought about this match a lot more than the last one. I

Please see **BUHL INVITE**, Page D5

Nelson, Larry push Boise St. past Idaho

Duo scores 25 apiece

The Associated Press

MOSCOW. — Matt Nelson and Reggie Larry scored 25 points each Saturday as they led Boise State to a 55-54 win over Idaho. The victory extends the Broncos' winning streak over the Vandals to 13 straight games. Paul Noonan added 12 points for BSU (11-3, 2-0 Western Athletic Conference). The Vandals (3-10, 0-2) were led by Jordan Brooks, who scored 22 points. Mike Jell added 20 for UI. Idaho tied the game at 56-56 with 18:25 left in the second half following a pair of Mike Ball free throws that came as a result of a technical foul by Larry. The Vandals then took the lead on a Brooks basket, 58-56, with



Boise State forward Paul Noonan, right, puts up a shot over Idaho guard Brandon Brown, left, in the first half Saturday at the Cowan Spectrum in Moscow. 17:58 left. But that was it for UI. The Please see **BOISE**, Page D5

CSI women sweep through challenge

Times-News

The No. 8 College of Southern Idaho women's basketball team will enter conference play at 14-1. The Golden Eagles swept through the Northern Idaho Challenge, defeating the NIC Alumni 85-70 Saturday afternoon in Coeur d'Alene. The Golden Eagles weathered a 36-point effort from former WNBA player Stacy Cline-Smith, who torched CSI

with her perimeter game and even keel. "One thing we did a good job on was dribble penetration," Rogers told 1270 AM KTRZ. "She never really got by us all the way to the rim but that's not her game. Her game is to set up your teammates." Tera Tremayne led CSI with 16 points, including four 3-pointers, while Madely Phunkett added 13 points and 11 rebounds. Maylene Please see **CSI**, Page D2



NFL PLAYOFFS

Seahawks stymie 'Skins rally



Seattle Seahawks' D.J. Hackett celebrates after his 20-yard touchdown reception against the Washington Redskins during the fourth quarter Saturday in Seattle. The Seahawks won 35-14.

By Joseph White
Associated Press writer

SEATTLE. — In less than 2 1/2 fourth-quarter minutes, the Seattle Seahawks switched a 13-point lead turn into a one-point deficit. Nothing was going right — they couldn't even catch a simple kickoff. "I was looking at the scoreboard, like, 'What just happened?'" defensive end Darryl Tapp said. "But you just have to continue to play all the game through." And so they did, reversing the tide, stopping a team that had been playing with unbeaten passion for four weeks. So what if the other team scored two touchdowns early in the final period? The Seahawks responded with three of their own in Saturday's 35-14 victory over the Washington Redskins in the NFC wild-card playoffs. "It's amazing how the tables turn so fast," left tackle Walter Jones said. Seattle, 8-1 at home, set aside concerns about a cream-puff schedule by beating a team that finished with a winning record for the first time since Week 1. The Seahawks will travel to Green Bay next Saturday in a rematch of a 2004 wild-card game remembered for

Please see **SEAHAWKS**, Page D5

Jags collapse, but rally for win



Pittsburgh Steelers defenders Troy Polamalu, left, and the Taylor, right, haul down Jacksonville Jaguars running back Fred Taylor (28) in Pittsburgh, Saturday.

By Alan Robinson
Associated Press writer

PITTSBURGH. — Never in the Steelers' 75 seasons had a team beaten them twice in Pittsburgh in the same season. The Jaguars beat history — and the Steelers — despite a memorable fourth-quarter collapse that nearly cost Jacksonville its season. Josh Scobee saved the game by kicking a 25-yard field goal with 37 seconds remaining, and the Jaguars came back after squandering an 18-point lead in the fourth quarter to beat the Steelers 31-29 on Saturday night in an AFC wild-card game that was wild in every sense of the word. Jacksonville appeared to be done after Nighl Davenport's second 1-yard TD run of the game gave the Steelers a 29-

28 lead with about six minutes remaining. But quarterback David Garrard, not a great runner, found a seam on a convert-or-else fourth-and-2 play and rambled 32 yards to the Steelers' 11 with 1:56 left. Garrard aided the Steelers' comeback by throwing two interceptions — one less than he had all season — only to come up with the play that may have saved the Jaguars' season. "They kind of lost their gaps, they thought pass, I was able to get through there," Garrard said. "I just wanted to get a first down. I did enough to get into field-goal range and that was all I was thinking about." Steelers quarterback Ben Roethlisberger (29-of-42, 337 Please see **JAGUARS**, Page D5

SPORTS

SCOREBOARD

BASKETBALL

NBA Week 17, Bulls A-163/4 (16/50). Table with columns for Team, W, L, Pct, and Recent Scores.

GAME PLAN

TV SCHEDULE BOWLING 11 a.m. ESPN - PGA Tour. NFL FOOTBALL FOX - Playoffs. CFL Wild Card.

SKI REPORT

High Beta Blue - Full powder machine. Table with columns for Area, Lifts, and Conditions.

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High Beta Blue - Full powder machine. Table with columns for Area, Lifts, and Conditions.

NEW RELEASES

Table listing new DVD and Blu-ray releases with titles, genres, and prices.

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Table listing new DVD and Blu-ray releases with titles, genres, and prices.

WOMEN'S COLLEGE

Table listing women's college basketball games and scores.

COLLEGE BOWLING

Table listing college bowling scores and statistics.

WOMEN'S COLLEGE

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Rice rushes for 4 TDs as Rutgers rolls to International Bowl win

International Bowl - Bay Rice ran for 84 yards and through the 2,000-yard barrier in the International Bowl, giving Rutgers the second postseason win in its 138-year history.

Rutgers running back Bay Rice is congratulated by fans after the team's 52-0 win over Ball State in the NCAA International Bowl in Toronto, Ontario, Saturday.

Notes: Send Magic Valley briefs to sports@magicvalley.com. The Dolphins declined to say whether executive vice president of football operations Bill Ripken has taken part.

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Rutgers running back Bay Rice is congratulated by fans after the team's 52-0 win over Ball State in the NCAA International Bowl in Toronto, Ontario, Saturday.

Sports Shorts

Notes: Send Magic Valley briefs to sports@magicvalley.com. The Dolphins declined to say whether executive vice president of football operations Bill Ripken has taken part.

TWIN FALLS FORECAST

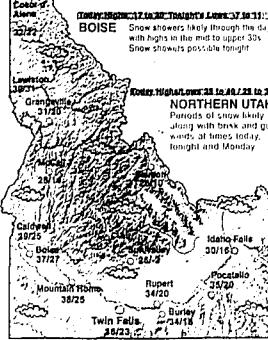
Today: Cloudy and cool with scattered snow showers... Tonight: A few lingering snow showers...

BURLEY/RUPERT FORECAST

Today: A few scattered snow showers... Tonight: A few lingering snow showers...

IDAHO'S FORECAST

SUN VALLEY, SURROUNDING MTS. Periods of snow likely today through and Monday...



TWIN FALLS FIVE-DAY FORECAST

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

Yesterday's Weather

Table with 2 columns: City, HI Lo Precip. Lists weather for various cities.

ALMANAC - TWIN FALLS

Table with 6 columns: Temperature, Precipitation, Humidity, Barometric Pressure, Sunrise and Sunset. Includes monthly and yearly data.

REGIONAL FORECAST

Table with 3 columns: City, Today, Tomorrow. Lists forecasts for regional cities.

NATIONAL FORECAST

Table with 3 columns: City, Today, Tomorrow. Lists forecasts for national cities.

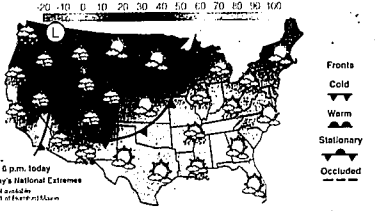
WORLD FORECAST

Table with 3 columns: City, Today, Tomorrow. Lists forecasts for world cities.

CANADIAN FORECAST

Table with 3 columns: City, Today, Tomorrow. Lists forecasts for Canadian cities.

TODAY'S NATIONAL MAP



BREGG MIDDLEKAUFF'S QUOTE OF THE DAY. Includes a photo of Bregg Middlekauff and his quote.

Weir leads, a dozen players in the hunt

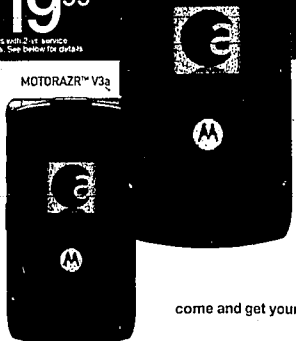
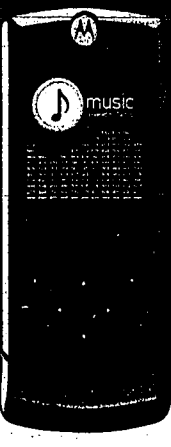
KAPALUA, Hawaii (AP) — Mike Weir finally got one last birdie putt to fall, and it was enough to put him in the lead Saturday at the Mercedes-Benz Championship.



Mike Weir follows his drive off the first tee of the Plantation Course during the third round of the Mercedes-Benz Championship golf tournament in Kapalua, Hawaii, Saturday.

Ring in 2008 with these Great Deals

buy one RAZR get one FREE \$19.99



this phone ROCKS! MOTOROLA

\$79.99

Plus Get 50 Free Songs*

come and get your lipo alltel wireless

shopalltel.com 1-800-alltel-1

Table listing Alltel Retail Stores with columns for City, Address, Phone, and Fax.

For Business & Government Accounts call 1-866-WLS-8122 or visit alltelbusiness.com. *Free Songs: 50 songs available...

Times-News In Partnership with YAHOO! hotjobs® magicvalley.com

EMPLOYMENT & classifieds

Search thousands of jobs at www.magicvalley.com/hotjobs

EMPLOYMENT

200 Employment
201 Accounting
202 Clerical
203 Construction
204 Customer Service
205 Dry Cleaning
206 Drivers - Local
207 Education
208 Farm
209 General
210 Management
211 Medical
212 Miscellaneous
213 Professional
214 Retail
215 Sales
216 Trades
218 Newspaper Carriers

200 Employment

GENERAL Jerome County Courthouse
Has a part-time evening custodial position available. Pay starting at \$7 per hour DOE

For application and job description go to Records/office room #302 of Jerome County Courthouse 300 North Lincoln - Jerome, Idaho.

All applicants are subject to background check and drug screening. Applications will be accepted through 1/17/08 or until filled.



24/7 Classified Ad Placement magicvalley.com

MEDICAL

St. Luke's - Idaho Elks Rehabilitation Services
CLINICAL SECRETARY
FT Clinical Secretary position available...

GENERAL

Western Supply in Hailey has immediate openings: Plumbing Showroom Assistant, Inside Irrigation Sales, Warehouse/Driver, Operational/Devolpment Receptionist.

GENERAL

Service technicians needed immediately! Need more pay and more lat rate hours? We have immediate openings for the positions of Fast Lube technician, Service technician.

200 Employment PUBLIC SERVICE MESSAGE
Federal Employment
Information is free. Remember, no one can promise you a job. Information jobs. For info on federal jobs. Call America Call Center 478-757-3000

0202 Clerical ADMINISTRATIVE Land View Inc is seeking an Administrative Assistant for our Minidoka Office. The successful candidate must be proficient in Microsoft Office...

203 Construction

CONSTRUCTION Carpenters & Finish Carpenters needed. 9 months in Jerome. Please fax resume to 208-324-0826

206 Drivers DRIVER Simpliot
Looking for a GREAT CAREER?
J.R. Simpliot Transportation is hiring drivers for full or part-time work for our Aberdeen Terminal.

206 Drivers DRIVER R. KNIGHT
CALL FOR IMMEDIATE HIRE!
Call/Text: 208-336-4264

206 Drivers DRIVER R. KNIGHT
CALL FOR IMMEDIATE HIRE!
Call/Text: 208-336-4264

FAX YOUR CLASSIFIED AD
TIMES-NEWS CLASSIFIED DEPARTMENT
208-734-5538

CUSTOMER SERVICE
Norge Medical is Seeking friendly, efficient people to work in the following positions: Customer Service/ Backup CDL Driver

GENERAL

Western Supply in Hailey has immediate openings: Plumbing Showroom Assistant, Inside Irrigation Sales, Warehouse/Driver, Operational/Devolpment Receptionist.

GENERAL

Service technicians needed immediately! Need more pay and more lat rate hours? We have immediate openings for the positions of Fast Lube technician, Service technician.

202 Clerical RECEPTIONIST
35 hrs/wk. Low stress. 50HR. Dependable, honest & people skills. Call 208-731-6343

0202 Clerical RECEPTIONIST
Fast paced professional office looking for a future Receptionist with excellent computer & phone skills...

206 Drivers

DRIVER Full-time, experienced driver needed to transport patients to and from facility. Our drivers must be willing to work a flexible schedule.

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DRIVER Full-time, experienced driver needed to transport patients to and from facility. Our drivers must be willing to work a flexible schedule.

206 Drivers DRIVERS
Drivers/Career Training: Average \$40,000 + w/Continental Fuel/Regreted/Professional CDL Training/You employ and finance!
www.cdlintraining.com
800-521-9277

DRIVERS Carriers & Training DRIVE YOUR CAREER!
Class A Driver Training
\$0 Down-No credit!
CENTRAL TRAINING SERVICE, INC.
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209 General GENERAL
Times-News magicvalley.com
Boise Legislative Delivery

Are you commuting to Boise? Let us help you with the high cost of fuel! Times-News needs a driver to take newspapers from Twin Falls to Boise. Monday-Friday, 5:20 a week. Call Heather at 208-735-3302.

209 General

GENERAL
Times-News magicvalley.com
Morning Runner

The Times-News is looking for a Runner to work 20+ hours per week in the Twin Falls area. Duties include delivering missed newspapers on routes, delivering down routes and light office duties. Must have a dependable vehicle and have a flexible schedule. Hours are early morning, working Monday through Friday 5-5am. To apply, please send a cover letter and resume to: Times News, Attn: Kathy Harman, PO Box 548, Twin Falls, ID 83303 or e-mail kharman@magicvalley.com or stop at the Times-News to fill out an application.

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Sunday Crossword Edited by Wayne Robert Williams DOUBLING UP By Alan P. Oelchwang, Huntington Beach, California

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18
20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31 32 33 34 35 36 37 38 39 40 41 42 43 44 45 46 47 48 49 50 51 52 53 54 55 56 57 58 59 60 61 62 63 64 65 66 67 68 69 70 71 72 73 74 75 76 77 78 79 80 81 82 83 84 85 86 87 88 89 90 91 92 93 94 95 96 97 98 99 100 101 102 103 104 105 106 107 108 109 110 111 112 113 114 115 116 117 118 119 120
ACROSS
1 One kind of
2 American
3 Rural rival
4 4 letter word
5 "Longitudinal"
13 Judge's order
18 Awarded prize
19 French sculptor
20 Hair colorist
21 Ecote attendee
22 Eloquent speaker
23 Member of crew
25 Start of Florentio
14 Guardian spirit
15 Picture on a PC
20 One-time actress
30 Puppies
31 Dancing starlet
32 Deer head?
33 Part of cup
35 Bears' shot
36 Holy sister
37 Two-under-par score
38 Endured
39 Main courses
42 Beer
44 PC opening
45 Christopher
46 Peppy
48 Grids of air
50 Part of cup
51 Change-ups
52 Bag of material
53 Krugler, the
54 Bag
56 Arrowsmith's first wife
61 Female U.S. draft org.
62 Table's chair
65 Stone pavement
67 Hilarious story
70 Part of a cup
71 Card game
72 Actor
73 Blaming
77 Popus New
78 Avian game
79 Henry VIII's last name
80 Let's applaud
81 Escape device
91 Calendar span
92 Reference bk. from England
93 Apothecary
94 Impassioned
94 Pompous fool
96 Camera type
98 Stay of "Crime"
102 TV from D.C.
103 One coil
105 Therapies
106 Part of a cup
112 Epidemic
114 Hga's wife
115 Stand type
116 Duration
117 End of cup
120 Added
123 One's two cents
124 Tree
125 Prefx for
126 Two-act
127 "The Sign"
128 Snowman
129 Whistle
130 On the Same
132 Ancient Jewish
137 U of the kidneys
142 Firm of the Indian
143 Performance
149 Opp. of NNE
DOWN
1 Fundamental
2 Switchable
3 Plant
4 Fruity cooler
5 ELDO insight
6 Pie art
7 Bulby's closer
8 Clanking
9 Corvids cry
10 Act properly
11 Escape device
12 Lifting tool
13 Mes van dir.
14 Fruit
15 Eight, inland
16 Bear witness
17 Not all
18 Buzzed
24 Sustain
25 TV Forum Ron
26 Threesomes
29 Partisance
30 Explodes
31 Manufacture
34 Roper of pots
35 "Mississippi" (Denzel Washington, film)
36 cr.
37 Horror-film street
40 Recent profx.
41 Handled rubber
42 Make a lap
44 Veloc's change
45 Escaped by water
46 Head wrap
47 One chosen
51 Kind of bore
52 Firm of the Indian
53 Oranch
54 Cookbook, author
55 Boss Tweed's
56 Tamponee
57 American
58 Knight's tale
59 Basketball
64 Laptop term
65 Crack of whips
67 Shaving foam brand
68 What to make for a
69 Bumper
71 Bumper
72 GD add-on?
73 Wears away
74 Orphan
75 requiring oxygen
81 Expression of satisfaction
83 Neighbor of Syr
84 Good faith
85 Dutch wench
86 Crack commune
88 Starch
89 Flower holder
90 Squarish 2nd
91 Fennel
95 Maroon's
97 If after away
98 Taurus rowdier
99 Can't
100 Knight's tale
101 Basketball
102 Sigs
103 Kelly
104 1971
106 1840s word
107 American
108 Clear
109 Game
110 Game
111 Leans out
112 1942
113 Higher
114 Kelly
115 Dates
116 Actress's claim
117 1911 Sch. reat
118 Harvard

su do ku

© Puzzles by Pappocom

	8		5	
9	4		8	
		2		9
			3	1
6		4		3
			2	5
				3
	1			3

HARD # 15
Fill in the grid so that every row, every column, and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1 through 9. That's all there is to it. There's no math involved. The grid has numbers, but nothing has to add up to anything else. You solve the puzzle with reasoning and logic. Find the answers for todays puzzle on page E-12.

General

DELIVERY
Produce Delivery Driver, Magee Valley, Wood River Valley and Eastern Idaho. DMV record required. 520 Locust St. S. Twin Falls.

GENERAL
•Delivery Driver 56hr
•Elevator Operator 51hr
•Farm Hand 58hr
•Production, Immediate Hire, \$9/hr
•CNA
•Fast Food Manager
•Fch Processors
•General Labor
•Housekeepers
•Janitorial
Twin Falls
733-7300
Jerome
324-9400
Burlingame
678-4040
www.perchmaline.com

GENERAL LABOR
Garage Door Installers
•To start FT Temp to Perm Lift up to 190 lbs 5mp 3hr Driving Abstract to Labor Finders 6am-10am 758 Falls Ave (208) 733-1055

GENERAL DISC VERY
Want Holiday Cash?
4th & Swing Shift Positions Available!
•Who Sales Involved
•Base Pay Up To \$11.00 an hour!
•All Paid Training!
•Flexible Scheduling
•You Pick the Days You Want to Work!
•Start Times Coincide with School Schedules!
•Bonuses - offered monthly based on positive work environment
Great for first time job or career!
Apply at 840 Meadows Dr #1 Twin Falls or please call (208) 733-6601 or call 1-800-427-5931 distance from CSP

General

GENERAL
TWIN FALLS **Care Center**
Hiring for Housekeepers
Part-time & Full-time
Competitive Wages Benefits
Apply in person at Twin Falls Care Center 674 Eastland Dr. Twin Falls, Idaho

LAW ENFORCEMENT

CORRECTIONAL DEPUTY SHERIFF
Jerome County Sheriff's Office
Salary (10 hour shift)
Starting Range \$1891.00 per month
Salary placement depends on qualifications. Law enforcement experience and education. Advancement to patrol possible.
Under Sheriff Joyceanne Nunnally
1-208-644-2772
300 North Lincoln, Jerome, Idaho 83338
Background investigation to include criminal history record check, credit history and physical examination. Must possess a valid drivers license. All applicants must successfully complete the above prerequisites before employment.

MEDICAL

St. Benedicts Family Medical Center
• Housekeeper (FT)
• LPN - Long Term Care (PT)
• RN - Long Term Care (PT)
• RN - Med Surg /OB (RN, PT, FT)
For a complete listing of our jobs and application procedures please visit www.stboneshospital.com
769 Lincoln Ave.
Jerome, ID 83338
EOE

MEDICAL

Blaine Manor Immediate Openings
LPN: Full or part-time. Experience in long term care preferred.
CNA's: Full or part-time evenings and nights. Must have current certification.
Must have strong work ethic, positive attitude and enjoy working with the elderly and disabled in an empowering culture. Salaries and benefits are very competitive.
Call Director of Nursing
208-788-7180 ext 22

Start your new year with a NEW JOB!

NEW Job!
New Wage Scale for 2008
RNs or LPNs
Full-time & Part-time, All Shifts
We offer competitive wage, and full time includes an excellent package. Offering certification classes for those to become CNA. Apply in person or contact Paul McKay at Sunbridge Care & Rehab, 640 Fair Avenue West, Twin Falls, Phone: 208-734-8645.

206 Drivers

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

207 Education

EDUCATION
Middle School position upon January 14, 2008. Here a ACSJ or Idaho Certification Salary DOE Call 324-4200 or email travis@travisandson.com
EDUCATION
Crestwood School District Health/P.E./PT
•Long term sub
•Elementary
•Applications may be obtained at the District Office 507 Idaho St. Coeading, ID 208-734-4321
www.crestwood.k12.id.us
The district provides a hiring preference for qualified veterans.

208 Farm

Classified Party Ads
Requires pre-approval prior to publication. Major credit/debit cards, and cash accepted.
733-0931 ext. 2 Times-News
FARM
Experienced Ranch Farm Hand Year round work Working with livestock. Some equip repair \$1600-\$2500/mo. DVE Clats, 6:30am-11:30am 775-931-0128

209 General

COLLECTIONS
Full-time bilingual Collector. Must have 5+ years marketing sales. Experience preferred but not req. Call 208-733-2120 for appointment.
GENERAL
At Labor Finders, our minimum wage is \$8.00 per hour! Join our Team Temp to Perm positions avail.
•Admin/Clerical
•Wise/Production
•General Labor
•Assembly
•"Our Team is Behind You"
Apply Daily 9am-10am, 758 Falls Ave (208) 733-1055 EOE Employee Respect

209 General

GENERAL
Automotive Seeking candidates for Lube & Oil Facilities. Some general mechanical exp but not necessary. Will train. Must have clean background and driving record. pass drug screen. Shifts vary 7hr to 12hr. Will train.
Apply at 1025 Sheabone Street N. #B, Twin Falls
MEMBER
Must apply at the Front Desk through a Present Member's Name to receive the Member's Discount. We have a lot to offer. Call 733-6601. Don't miss this opportunity. Openings Daily!

DENTAL

DELTA DENTAL
Delta Dental of Idaho currently has 3 open positions in South Central Idaho at a Dental Hygienist, Dental Assistant and Clinic Assistant to conduct dental sealant clinics in schools. Clinics serve 2nd, 3rd, 7th, and 8th grade students. Work schedule is 2 days per week during the school year. Must have ability to travel and lift mobile equipment.
Visit www.deltadentalid.com for more information. Send resume & salary history to hr@deltadentalid.com. EOE

MANUFACTURING

SPEARS Mfg Co.
is a very stable employer and is accepting applications for the following full-time positions:
•Packaging
•Warehouse
•Plastic Fabrication
•Machinist
•Material Handlers
\$9-\$12/hour (depending on position)
Company benefits, employee health, dental, life insurance, vacation, paid holidays, & 401k plan.
Applications avail at Spears Mfg Plant Security Office 2152 S. Lincoln Jerome, Idaho
Spears is an Equal Opportunity Employer
www.moneytreeinc.com

CUSTOMER SERVICE

MONEY TREE
TELLER
MONEYTREE is currently seeking individuals with outstanding customer service skills, keyboarding and cash handling experience, a professional demeanor & image and the ability to work retail hours.
MONEYTREE offers an excellent compensation package including an hourly wage starting between \$9-\$11/hr, monthly performance bonus, fully paid Med/Den/Vis, paid Vacation and Holidays, tuition reimbursement, retirement plan, pay differential for bilingual skills and more!
MONEYTREE 1517 Blue Lakes Blvd. North Twin Falls, ID 83301 Fax: (208) 733-0579
succeed@moneytreeinc.com
www.moneytreeinc.com

MANAGEMENT

Times-News magicvalley.com

NEWSPAPER CIRCULATION

The Times-News and South Idaho Press are seeking a District Sales Manager in our Circulation Department. This is an excellent opportunity for an energetic and ambitious person to bring his or her skills and ideas to an entry-level management position with advancement opportunities. Responsibilities include managing and training youth and adult carriers, sales promotions, collections and customer service. The successful candidate must have a valid driver's license and good driving record along with good time management skills. Must be dependable and be able to work alternating weekends.
The Times-News offers an excellent benefits package which includes medical, dental, vision, life insurance, 401(k) retirement, employee stock purchase plan, paid holidays and vacation. Check out our website at www.magicvalley.com.
To apply, please send a cover letter and resume to: Trieha Mitchell, Times-News, Box 548, Twin Falls, ID 83303 or email to tmitchell@magicvalley.com

Computer

Computer
The world's leading computer systems company is interested in your turn your great people skills into real rewards at Dell's Twin Falls location.
DELL JOB FAIR
Employment Info Session.
On-the-spot interviews available.
Bring your resume.
Monday, January 7, 5pm - 8pm
851 Poleline Road, Twin Falls, ID
CUSTOMER CARE
It's your mission to effectively manage customer service requests and focus on delivering a positive customer experience according to Dell standards. Build a world-class team by attracting, developing and retaining high performing customer service talent. You will serve as a role model for customer service personnel while developing the team's technical support services ability. Responsibilities include interacting with cross-functional groups (e.g., Sales, Software and Support/Finance, Operations) to solve business and customer issues, managing team/individual activities and metrics, and handling customer escalation issues.
At least 3-5 years of experience in customer service or sales management related field including the ability to train and develop others are required. You must understand the customer segment to effectively manage a customer service team while developing a strong team environment.
TECH SUPPORT REPS
Enjoy working with computers? Do you have expertise directly with business users. You'll provide hardware and software troubleshooting over the phone. Using your talents and training you will resolve routine to moderately complex technical issues and assist customers by identifying problems and providing solutions on technical support problems. Experience using computers and excellent customer service skills are necessary. A strong understanding of computers is desired.
As a Dell employee you'll receive:
• Base Salary plus incentive bonus • Educational Assistance
• Medical, Dental and Life Insurance • 401(k)
• Employee Stock Purchase Plan • Paid Time Off
If unable to attend please submit a resume to www.dell.com or us.twinfalls@dell.com or drop off your resume to 851 Poleline Rd in Twin Falls.

HEALTHCARE

TERRY REILLY HEALTH SERVICES
Medical Billing Analyst
Monitors third party billing for potential issues. Assists with maintaining integrity of PMS. Provides training on billing and coding updates. Strong customer service and computer skills with min 5 yrs med office, billing and ICD-9 experience. Thorough knowledge of major insurance carriers/regulators. Prefer CPC. Send application to: Terry Reilly Health Services, Attn: CAC Mgr, 211 18th Ave N, POB 9, Nampa, ID 83653 EOE/AA

HEALTHCARE

TERRY REILLY HEALTH SERVICES
CLINIC OPERATIONS MANAGER
Terry Reilly Health Services, a non-profit, charitable health care organization, is looking for the right individual to oversee operations of a 14-clinic family practice clinic in Nampa, ID, just minutes from Boise. Must be a systems thinker with strong analytical and problem-solving skills. Manages clinic contracts, grants, budgets. Must have proven leadership abilities with excellent communication and problem-solving skills. Excellent MS Word and Excel skills. Must be flexible, innovative, enthusiastic. BS degree and at least 3 yrs in medical practice management. Send resume and cover letter with salary requirements to: Terry Reilly Health Services, Attn: HR Manager, 211 18th Ave. N., POB 9, Nampa, ID, 83653. EOE/AA

MEDICAL

Bridgeview

NOW HIRING:

Life Care Centers of America, the nation's largest privately owned skilled care provider has a full-time opportunity for the following:
CNA
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Evening or Night Shifts
Bridgeview offers:
•Competitive, Above Average pay
•Two Week Paid Vacation
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•Health, Dental and Optical Insurance
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Please call
208-736-3933
or send resume to
1828 Bridgeview Blvd.
Twin Falls, ID 83301 EOE
Fax 208-736-3941

Times-News magicvalley.com

Multi-talented Sports Journalist

The Times-News, a growing 24,000-circulation regional daily in Twin Falls, Idaho, seeks a multi-talented sports journalist to complete a four-person sports desk. This position offers the chance to use your best strengths and also grow in other areas. Whether you're a great writer, page designer or outdoors enthusiast, we're interested. The position will include a variety of responsibilities from feature writing to high school game coverage and some page design. We also have a weekly outdoors section to which you can contribute. Applicants should have sports writing and page design experience (knowledge of Quark Xpress is a plus).

Twin Falls is home to the College of Southern Idaho, one of the nation's elite junior college programs. Our circulation area also includes more than 30 high schools, so story opportunities abound. The town is a friendly, dynamic and easy-to-live-in community surrounded by world-class recreational attractions, ranging from Sun Valley skiing to white water kayaking, to superb golfing, mountain biking, fishing, hiking and camping.

The Times-News is part of Lee Enterprises, a publicly held company comprised of more than 50 dailies. Our benefits are outstanding and our managers, from top to bottom, strive to provide leadership that values our employees and helps make our newspaper a fun place to be. Our benefit package includes medical, dental, vision, 401(k) retirement, profit sharing, employee stock purchase plan, and paid holidays and vacation.

Send resume and work samples to Mike Christensen, sports editor, Times-News, P.O. Box 548, Twin Falls, ID, 83303 or email mike.christensen@lee.net

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MEDICAL

Full-Time Radiology Technician

CHD Meridian Healthcare, the nation's leading provider of employer sponsored on-site healthcare, seeks a FT Radiology Tech to work at our Golden Health Family Medical Center in Elko, NV. Responsibilities include: performing routine radiological examination and x-ray; preparing films to be sent for interpretation, filing reports when they arrive from radiologist's office; making referrals to outside physicians; and keeping a log of examinations performed on patients.

Requirements include: appropriate state licensure; min 2 yrs exp in x-ray and mammography; & BCLS certification.

CHD Meridian Healthcare offers an excellent salary and full benefits, including 401K with employer match. Relocation assistance available. If this unique opportunity is interesting to you, please visit our website to apply.

www.chdmeridian.com/careers.asp
Equal Opportunity Employer

Looking for a few SHARP individuals

• **FINANCIAL ANALYST** - Bachelor's degree in accounting and a minimum of 5 years in public accounting, primarily with a public accounting firm. Ability to prepare and analyze financial statements. Ability to prepare and analyze financial statements. Ability to prepare and analyze financial statements.

• **EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT** - Bachelor's degree in business administration or equivalent. 5 years of experience in executive assistance. Ability to manage a calendar, travel arrangements, and office management.

• **RECEPTIONIST/MANAGER** - High school diploma or GED. 2 years of experience in reception and office management.

• **IT PROGRAMMER** - Bachelor's degree in computer science or information systems. 3 years of experience in programming and database management.

St Luke's Magic Valley
Regional Medical Center

We offer a complete benefits package for a complete listing of open positions, or to complete an application, visit our website: www.stlukesidaho.org

St Luke's Magic Valley Regional Medical Center
710 Pine, Twin Falls, ID 83301
Phone: 208-733-4254 Fax: 208-733-4291
jps@stlukes.org - jps@stlukes.org

MEDICAL

FAMILY HEALTH SERVICES

is accepting applications for the following positions:

- **Charge Nurse**, Rupert Clinic
- **Charge Nurse**, Twin Falls Clinic
- **Medical Receptionist**, Jerome Clinic, must be bilingual

Please send resume to:
794 Eastland Drive
Twin Falls, ID 83301

Excellent benefits and competitive wages

EOE



PhoneBase Research
Research, Inc.

PhoneBase Research currently has immediate openings in our interviewing department. This position involves conducting public opinion polls over the telephone.

PhoneBase Research offers:

- Flexible evening, day and weekend hours
- \$11 an hour
- Casual working environment
- Monthly interviewer incentives
- Absolutely no sales or soliciting

To apply stop by our office at 844 Meadows Dr. Ste #2 (in Twin Falls) or call us at 208-736-2051

SECURITY

Supplemental retirement and full benefits. **Spencer Manufacturing** is accepting applications for Part-time Security Guard. Prior security background a plus. Alternating workdays plus some occasional week day hours. Must be team oriented. Applications available **Spears Mfg Plant**, Security Office 2162 S Lincoln, Jerome, Idaho, 208-224-8101. EOE

209 General

RESTAURANT

Idaho Joe's is now hiring full-time and part-time day and evening

Cooks and Servers.
Apply in person at 590 Blue Lakes Blvd
Twin Falls

210 Management

MANAGEMENT

Land View Inc is seeking an Operations Manager for our Middlemore Park. The successful candidate must be proficient in Microsoft Office, manage a crew of 30 plus employees, be highly organized, and have excellent attention to detail. Understand time management. Full-time position in a bilingual and Ag exp. plus. Salary DOE. Benefits available. Send current resume to Land View Inc., P.O. Box 120, Nampa, ID 83854. **Alan R. Merrigan**

211 Medical

All advertising is subject to the newspaper's standard of acceptance.

The Times-News reserves the right to edit, abbreviate, decline or properly classify any ad of copy not meeting our standards. Any advertiser who does not contribute final ad copy by the deadline of this newspaper, the advertiser, not the newspaper, assumes full responsibility for the inability of our newspaper to publish the advertisement.

SALES

Eastern Idaho and Utah Sales Representative

Progressive Idaho Company seeks sales representative with experience in Farm/Boat/Dairy. The position will entail sales of a broad range of products, maintain and grow existing accounts for the company, and develop market strategies within the territory. ABS, MS, or equivalent work experience is required. The person fulfilling this position must be energetic, enthusiastic, and a self-starter with strong communication skills. Extensive travel within the sales territory is required. Prior sales experience is preferred. Package includes salary, commensurate with experience, benefits and generous commission schedule. Financial rewards directly tied to outcomes. Send resume and cover letter to: Sales Manager, P.O. Box 488, Twin Falls, ID 83303.

Middlekauff Automotive Group

AUTO ALL

JOIN OUR GROUP NOW!

Middlekauff Automotive Group is looking for energetic individuals. This is a full-time sales position.

WE OFFER

- ✓ Health Insurance
- ✓ Retirement
- ✓ Paid Vacation

NO EXPERIENCE REQUIRED!

We will train selected candidates. Must have a good driving record and be bondable. We will consider part-time employees able to work 2-9pm.

TAKE THE NEXT STEP.

CONTACT JACK JARDINE FOR INTERVIEW APPOINTMENT
208-736-3400

TRADES

IDAHO POWER.
AN IDACORP Company

Generation Specialist Apprentice I Bliss, Idaho

This training position is designed to prepare for work in a team-based environment. This individual will learn how to operate and maintain a hydro plant and associated equipment including but not limited to: power plant maintenance, and preventative maintenance on hydro plant equipment. Qualified candidates must have a high school diploma or equivalent and a valid driver's license.

Deadline to apply is 1/15/08

For a complete job description and requirements, please visit us at www.idahopower.com or contact our employment office at (208) 388-2950. Resumes without Idaho Power Employment Applications will not be accepted. Idaho Power is an Equal Opportunity Employer

211 Medical

CAREGIVER

Residential care facility. Full and Part-time Positions available. Must be able to work all shifts. Apply at Rockett Health Services, 1177 Eastridge Court, Twin Falls, ID 83304-9422.

211 Medical

HEALTHCARE RESIDENTIAL AIDES

No experience necessary, all training will be provided. Assisted Living/ Retirement Community in Twin Falls is currently looking for Resident Aides to assist the elderly in a Retirement Home setting. Day, swing and graveyard shifts available. Pay will be \$8.00-\$9.00 DOE. Full Full-time Benefits available. Apply in person at 754 N. College Rd., Suite B, Twin Falls, or contact Lisa at 208-736-9422 for more information.

211 Medical

Assistant Marketing Manager

Experience in guest relations & hospitality. Must have medical background. Needs to be energetic and creative and help us build our brand. We are proven leaders in patient outcomes & we take pride in our success.

Competitive wages & benefits.

Call Trish or Ginger 208-733-4254 or apply in person at Twin Falls Care Center 674 Eastland Dr. Twin Falls, Idaho

FAX YOUR CLASSIFIED AD

TIMES-NEWS CLASSIFIED DEPARTMENT
208-734-5538

SALES

Sales Representative needed to service existing and new School District customers in the Magic Valley and surrounding area.

Occasional overnight travel is required. MUST have 2 years college level education, 2 yrs successful sales experience, good driving record. First year compensation: \$45,000, company car, paid housing, full benefit package, 401K and pension plan. Fax resume to: 509-931-1997 or mail to: AFS 12128 N Dillon #157 Spokane, WA 99218

Sales Professional

If you would like excellent pay with benefits, with a large, growing auto dealership and a chance for advancement, selling several major brands of cars and trucks, then

Call Dan Beard at 208-733-1825 or 208-731-2121.

SALES

edge WIRELESS at at

Ready to leave your current job? Break out of the same old grind! Join a company that values it's employees and provides a positive work environment.

Bilingual Wireless Consultant, Part-Time

Build and maintain positive customer relations and growth within the retail environment, while achieving company goals and standing above the crowd. In the selection of wireless phone equipment, features and service plans, and account support/maintenance. Stay current and knowledgeable on wireless services, coverage maps, rate plans, products and selling skills. Perform administrative tasks and maintain accurate records as required. 1-2 years customer service/sales experience req'd. Must be English/Spanish bilingual.

To apply, please visit our website at www.edgewireless.com. An equal opportunity employer. Edge Wireless worships a diverse workforce.

211 Medical

Medical Assistant

Full-time. Med passer preferred but not req. Apply in person at Alterra Wywood 1387 Locust St N Twin Falls

211 Medical

Aspen Grove Hospice

Part-time to full-time. Please call 733-2234 or fax returns to 733-2642.

211 Medical

TWIN FALLS CNA CENTER

CNA's NOC shift Full or part-time. Competitive wages & benefits.

In House CNA Classes offered

Call Trish or Ginger 208-736-4254 or apply in person at Twin Falls Care Center 674 Eastland Dr. Twin Falls, Idaho

213 Professional

Medical

Direct Care Staff Benefits available. All Shifts Starting Pay \$7hr Call 208-736-6993

213 Professional

Medical

In home service needs a mature person, to do cooking, housework/personal care in Wendell & Twin Falls. Background check req. Call Rose at 293-6030

213 Professional

Medical Assistant

Nevalta Health Centers is currently acquiring for a rural outpatient clinic located in Jacksboro, Idaho. This position will take patients and take vitals, draw blood and give injections. Bilingual a plus. Fax your resume to: Asharda@nwhc.org or e-mail to asharda@nwhc.org EOE

213 Professional

Medical Records Clerk

for busy surgeons office. FT Please send resume to PO Box 1698, Twin Falls, ID 83303-1698.

216 Trades

CONSTRUCTION MASONS & TENDERS

Excellent wages, exp. excellent pay. Paid holidays. Call 208-562-0210 or 208-569-3007

216 Trades

MECHANIC

Ag Express Inc. Butley & Twin Falls, ID. Mechanic needed to do a short conveyor and minor main, on newer model trucks & trailers. Every level position, will train, some folks needed who understand the equipment. Experience. Benefits include medical, dental vision, 401k & vacation. Twin Falls please call Alan at 733-6657 or 731-2405 Butley call 678-4625 ext 111

216 Trades

MECHANIC

Arco Machinery Company is looking for a full-time Forklift Mechanic. 2.5 yrs exp req. Wagners O O E Please contact Travis Taylor at (208)733-1716 or view description at www.arcoequipment.com

216 Trades

MECHANIC

Experienced Diesel Truck Mechanic needed ASAP. Call Earl Wood at 731-13366

216 Trades

MECHANIC

The Idaho School for the Deaf and Blind in Gooding is seeking an individual to fill their Mechanic position. The position is 40 hours per week. Duties include but are not limited to: diagnosing & repairing mechanical problems in vehicles and equipment. Interested candidates should apply online at the Division of Human Resources website at www.dhr.idaho.gov, number 063-7001650, by January 18, 2008. For more information, please contact Jeff Wood at 208-234-4457, EOE/AA, Veterans' Pref.

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602
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TWIN FALLS extra nice 3 bdrm, 2 bath, all appls + W/D, \$850 + dep. Monthly or lease 208-731-1695

TWIN FALLS New 3 bdrm, 2 bath, 402 La Casa Loop, \$900/mo. Call Beth 539-6519 or Gloria 731-8590.

TWIN FALLS Newer 3 bdrm, 2 bath, sprinklers, 2 car garage stove, refrig., DW, \$925 + dep. Call 208-420-3011

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Classifieds Can!
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603
Furnished Apts. and Duplex

HANSEN large 2 bdrm, 1 bath, new, satellite/whiskies included, no smoking/pets. Sign + \$500 dep. 423-5898

604
Unfurnished Apts. and Duplex

• Hear the quiet.
Laurel Park Apartments
176 Maurice St
Twin Falls 734-4195.

BUHL \$99 Move in special 2 & 3 bdrm units Key West/Apts For details call 543-2740.

BUHL 2 bedroom, available now. Rent based on income. Email Housing Opportunity. 208-543-8833

EDEN 2 bedroom, 1 bath, water and garbage paid, no pets, \$500 mo. + dep. \$200 dep. 212-1678

EDEN 3 bedroom, \$550 mo. + dep. Utilities included. 12-hr. housing approved. Call 208-539-5687

GODDING Westside Court Apts, 1447 Idaho St. 624 hand-appld/furnished. All appls, AC, bureau, room, cable, internet. Rent based on income. 934-4206

HANSEN Avail. now. Newly built 1 bedroom unit, full kitchen, full bath, AC, water and garbage paid. No pets. \$400 mo + \$300 dep. 208-212-1678

JEROME For elderly, handicapped & disabled only. 1 bdrm apts. All appls, private patio & AC. FHA accepted. Contact Cindy 208-324-0572

KIMBERLY 3 bedroom, 1 bath apartment, water included, \$535 mo. + dep. 213 W Monroe Call 208-308-3337

KIMBERLY Large clean 1 bedroom apt \$250 deposit. Available now. Call 423-6792.

KIMBERLY Studio apt. \$280/month plus dep. Available now. 324 Hwy 30 #2. Call 208-539-1403.

cutting edge

TWIN FALLS 2 & 3 bdrm homes & apts. \$435-\$925/mo. Some with move in allowance. 735-5342

TWIN FALLS 2 bdrm, 2 bath, 2-car garage, new paint/carpets, up flr, stainless central heat/AC, vaulted ceilings, fenced yard, Southwest School District, W/D hookup, lawn care, 2174 Frier Ave E, \$720 w/1 year lease, dep and refs, discount if pd on 1st. No smoking/pets. 420-3753

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There are more houses for sale now than ever before and it's a home buyer's dream come true! There are homes available to fit just about any budget and any size family.

At Westerra, we have access to every listed home in the valley. All you have to do is call us and we will personally give you a tour of the listed home you're interested in.

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TWIN FALLS 2 bdrm, 1 bath duplex \$500... \$450 deposit.

TWIN FALLS 2 bdrm, range, ref, W/D... \$400 + \$400 deposit.

JEROME 2 bedroom, 2 1/2 bath, plus security deposit.

BURLEY 2 bedroom, 1 bath, nice apartment... 2 car garage.

TWIN FALLS 2 bedroom, 1 bath, all carpeting and carpet.

TWIN FALLS duplex, 1408 sq ft, 3 bdrm, 2 bath.

Do-It-Yourself Ideas. BBQ Dining Set. Includes table, chairs, and benches.

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TWIN FALLS 2 bdrm, 1 bath, all carpeting and carpet. \$525 month + dep.

TWIN FALLS 2 bdrm, 1 bath, all carpeting and carpet. \$525 month + dep.

magic valley realty 734-1991 Home Is Just a CLICK Away! View Thousands of Properties Online At www.magicvalleyrealty.com

TWIN FALLS LOVE WHERE YOU LIVE! Sparkling clean, 3 bdrm apt.

5 ACRES W/ WATER. 5 Bedrooms/4 Bathrooms. 4568 Sq. Ft.

HOME ON 2.7 AC. 3 Bedrooms/1.75 Baths. 2385 Sq. Ft.

JEROME ESTATES. 0-71 Acres in Jerome Est. Zoned Neighborhood Services.

LG FAMILY HOME. 5 Bedrooms/2 Baths. 2492 Sq. Ft.

COMMERCIAL APTS. 44.8 Acres on Hwy 90. 1882 Sq. Ft.

TWIN FALLS Newer 2 & 3 bdrm, 2 bath apartments.

JEROME Office space. 2000 sq. ft. wood floors. \$1295 mo.

INCREDIBLE BUY! 4 Bedroom/2 Baths. 2234 Sq. Ft.

WHAT A STEAL! 3 Bedrooms/2 Baths. 1540 Sq. Ft.

LG FAMILY FARM. 3 Bedroom/2 Baths. Includes 20 Acres.

CUTE UPDATED HOME! 3 Bed brick home on corner lot.

A GREAT NEW START! 3 Bedroom/2 Bath. 1822 Sq. Ft.

TWIN FALLS Newer 4-Plex. 3 bedroom, 2 bath, garage.

TWIN FALLS Office space. 2000 sq. ft. wood floors. \$1295 mo.

NE LOCATION. Gorgeous 4 Bed/2.5 Bath. 2522 Sq. Ft.

FAMILY HOME. 4 Bedrooms/2.5 Baths. 2264 Sq. Ft.

MOVE-IN READY! 4 Bedroom/2 Baths. 1650 Sq. Ft.

5.5 ACRES-HAGERMAN. 5.5 Water Shares, NSCC. 1/2 Mile To Boat Dock.

SAWTOOTH ACRES. 3 Bedroom/2.5 Baths. 2054 Sq. Ft.

TWIN FALLS Newer 2 bdrm, 2 bath, apt. gated underground parking.

Rivercrest. Magic Valley's NEWEST and NICEST. Spectacular view of the Canyon.

GREAT NEIGHBORHOOD. 5 Bedroom/2.5 Baths. 3200 Sq. Ft.

LG BUILDING SITE. 7.77 Acres in Hazleton. Room for RV/ATV.

JEROME GOLF COURSE. 4 Bedroom/3.5 Baths. 0.78 Acre Lot.

PRIDE OF OWNERSHIP. 2 Bedroom/2 Baths. Newer Appliances.

40 AC SHOSHONE. Hwy 93 Frontage. Currently Zoned for 5 Acre Parcels.

TWIN FALLS BUY SUPER NICE 2 bdrm, 1 bath, 1410 sq. ft. home.

Request for Public Comment. The Idaho Housing and Finance Association (IHFA) and the Idaho Department of Commerce.

LOVELY CONDO. 2 Bedroom/2 Bathrooms. Master w/ Fireplace.

RIVER-FRONT LOTS. 3 Beautiful Bld Lots-Hagerman. 4.73 Acres Together.

MAKE AN OFFER. 3 Bedroom/2.5 Baths. 2422 Sq. Ft.

INDUSTRIAL BLD. Ideal For Body Shop. 6540 Sq. Ft.

BUILDING LOTS. Close to Twin Falls Frontage. 10 Parcels in Package of 10 Lots.

TWIN FALLS Microwave, refrigerator for rent. No pets. \$369 mo.

Request for Public Comment. The meeting provides an opportunity for citizens to comment on the current plan.

415 LENZ AVE S. 4 Bedrooms/2 Baths. Possible Short Sale.

PRICE REDUCED. 3 Bedrooms/2 Bath. 1672 Sq. Ft.

NICE NEWER HOME. 4 Bedroom/2.5 Baths. 1389 Sq. Ft.

BLUE MT RIDGE LOT. Large 3.10 Acre Lot. 1821 Sq. Ft.

WONT LAST LONG. 4 Bedrooms/2.5 Baths. 1821 Sq. Ft.

TWIN FALLS Motel. Daily and weekly rates. Quiet, 733-8620.

Request for Public Comment. A public meeting to obtain comment from interested individuals and organizations will be conducted.

Tanya Backlund. Owner/Broker. 280-1360

Kathleen Hill. Owner/Broker. 280-0214

Archie Johnson. Owner/Broker. 731-2049

Donna Ash. Owner/Broker. 731-8211

Jared Borch. Owner/Broker. 490-1868

Michael Chevalier. Owner/Broker. 731-4240

Jan Pollard. Owner/Broker. 420-8678

Kamara Jantz. Realtor. 280-0764

Art Jones. Realtor. 731-5415

Miriam Grubbs. Realtor. 538-4842

Jill Lee. Realtor. 410-2878

Lauree Madden. Realtor. 948-0408

Chris Orr. Realtor. 280-1175

Sharon Krichewer. Realtor. 539-6008

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\$65,000 Jerome MLS#98178749 1 acre building lot... Edie Pruitt 386-6029 or 737-3938

\$69,900 Richfield MLS#98100008 4 bedrooms, 2 baths... The Gem Teamwork Walk 737-3939

\$75,000 Kimberly MLS#98136661 2 bedrooms, 1 bath... Please call Jed Peterson 280-4570

\$16,900 Twin Falls MLS#98138832 3 bedrooms, 1 1/2 baths... Mike De 420-5710

\$64,900 Coalinga MLS#98125634 3 bedrooms, 1 bath... Jackie Brennan 731-8327

\$109,900 Twin Falls MLS#98128822 3 bedrooms, 1 1/2 baths... Denise 420-8770 John 420-5121

\$119,900 Twin Falls MLS#98127840 3 bedrooms, 1 1/2 baths... Rob Adair 731-2385

\$127,000 Twin Falls MLS#98134943 3 bedrooms, 2 1/2 baths... Rob Adair 731-2385

\$129,500 Twin Falls MLS#98133335 3 bedrooms, 2 1/2 baths... Jed Peterson 280-4570

\$129,900 Wendell MLS#98135867 3 bedrooms, 2 1/2 baths... Rita Rivera 420-5500 737-3939

\$136,900 Twin Falls MLS#98139352 3 bedrooms, 2 baths... The Gem Teamwork Area 420-965 737-3939

\$149,900 Twin Falls MLS#98140988 2 bedrooms, 2 baths... Jed Peterson 280-4570

\$164,900 Twin Falls MLS#98139339 3 bedrooms, 2 1/2 baths... The Gem Teamwork Walk 737-3939

\$168,500 Twin Falls MLS#98134414 3 bedrooms, 2 1/2 baths... Tom Cummings 961-0912

\$169,000 Twin Falls MLS#98136311 3 bedrooms, 2 baths... Denise 420-8770 Vicki 280-6404

\$169,000 Jerome MLS#98136636 3 bedrooms, 2 1/2 baths... Rita Rivera 280-5500 737-3939

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\$179,900 Buhl MLS#98128290 3 bedrooms, 2 1/2 baths... The Gem Teamwork Walk 737-3939

\$194,000 Kimberly MLS#98139328 4 bedrooms, 2 1/2 baths... Tom Cummings 961-0912

\$219,900 Twin Falls MLS#98122120 4 bedrooms, 3 1/2 baths... Jed Peterson 280-4570

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\$229,900 Twin Falls MLS#98130674 4 bedrooms, 2 1/2 baths... The Gem Teamwork Walk 737-3939

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\$319,900 Kimberly MLS#98131147 5 bedrooms, 2 1/2 baths... Tracy 280-6404 420-5114 or 737-3966

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\$440,000 Buhl MLS#98123532 3 bedrooms, 1 bath... Kathy Schraeder 731-9819

\$999,000 Twin Falls MLS#98120285 3 bedrooms, 2 1/2 baths... Candy Carter 420-3181

\$1,100,000 Twin Falls MLS#98110129 6 bedrooms, 3 1/2 baths... SREYAGALAR CANNAN VESPA

JOHN MCCLUSKEY Real Estate Broker 734-0400

JOHN REAVES Real Estate Broker 208-6443

MIKE TEE Real Estate Broker 420-5170

JACQUE BRENNER Real Estate Broker 731-8527

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KATHY PARTRIDGE Real Estate Broker 737-3920

CAROLYN CUFFEE Real Estate Broker 420-2281

LILLY POPP Real Estate Broker 410-1558

JED PETERSON Real Estate Broker 280-4570

VICKI OVERACKER Real Estate Broker 280-6404

RITA RIVERA Real Estate Broker 208-5536

ROB ADAIR Real Estate Broker 731-2385

YANITA FLORES Real Estate Broker 420-2101

NOTICE OF ANNUAL MEETING OF THE STOCKHOLDERS OF NORTH SIDE PUMPING COMPANY

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, that the Annual Meeting of the Stockholders of the North Side Pumping Company, will be held at the office of the North Side Canal Company, Ltd., 521 North Lincoln, Jerome, Idaho, Wednesday, January 16, 2008 at 10:00 A.M. for the election of Directors and for the transaction of such other business as may properly come before the meeting in accordance with the By-Laws of the Company. The following Director is to be elected for a three year term.

One Director from District No. 1
The Stock books will close five days prior to January 16, 2008, and all proxies must be filed with the Secretary at least five days prior to January 16, 2008, in accordance with the provisions of the By-Laws of the Company. Dated this 13th day of December 2007 at Jerome, Idaho.

One Director from District No. 2
One Director from District No. 3
One Director from District No. 4

NORTH SIDE PUMPING COMPANY
By: Bruce Johnson, Secretary

NOTICE OF ANNUAL MEETING OF THE STOCKHOLDERS OF NORTH SIDE CANAL COMPANY, LTD.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, that the Annual Meeting of the Stockholders of the North Side Canal Company, Ltd., will be held at the corporate office of the North Side Canal Company, Ltd., 521 North Lincoln, Jerome, Idaho, Thursday, January 10, 2008, at 10:00 A.M. for the election of Directors and for the transaction of such other business as may properly come before the meeting in accordance with the By-Laws of the Company. The following Directors are to be elected for a three year term.

One Director from District No. 1
One Director from District No. 2
One Director from District No. 3
One Director from District No. 4

NORTH SIDE CANAL COMPANY, LTD.
By: Bruce Johnson, President/Secretary

NOTICE OF ANNUAL MEETING OF THE STOCKHOLDERS OF NORTH SIDE CANAL COMPANY, LTD.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, that the Annual Meeting of the Stockholders of the North Side Canal Company, Ltd., will be held at the corporate office of the North Side Canal Company, Ltd., 521 North Lincoln, Jerome, Idaho, Thursday, January 10, 2008, at 10:00 A.M. for the election of Directors and for the transaction of such other business as may properly come before the meeting in accordance with the By-Laws of the Company. The following Directors are to be elected for a three year term.

One Director from District No. 1
One Director from District No. 2
One Director from District No. 3
One Director from District No. 4

NORTH SIDE CANAL COMPANY, LTD.
By: Bruce Johnson, President/Secretary

CITY OF HAGERMAN ANNUAL ROAD AND STREET FINANCIAL REPORT

For the Fiscal Year Ending Sept. 30, 2007

Beginning Balance as of October 1, 2006

Receipts:	
Total Local Funding	\$45,343.00
Total State & Federal Funding	\$13,239.00
Total Receipts	\$58,582.00

Disbursements:

Total Road Construction	\$5,172.00
Total Road Maintenance	35,172.00
Total Equipment	9,927.00
Total Administration	8,201.00
Total Other	23,362.00
Total Disbursements	\$86,862.00

Ending Balance as of Sept. 30, 2007

A detailed report of disbursements were submitted to the State Auditor as required by Idaho Code 54-701B.

A copy of the original report is on file in the City Clerk's Office for public viewing upon request. Contact: Patricia Clark/Treasurer

PEOPLE FOR PETS
420 Victory Ave. PO Box 1163
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Twin Falls, Idaho

FOUND

1. DOBIE SHEPHERD X, female, Filler Avo, and Star
2. PITBULL X, tiny, 4' Ave West
3. POMERANIAN, found on Golf Course
4. TERRIER CROSS, white
5. BOXER, on Addison and Shoshone Avo.
6. LAB X, 5' Ave East
7. CHOCOLATE LAB, female, found on Grandview Dr.
8. SHEPHERD X, female, found on Maxwell
9. LAB X, gold, found on Clinton St.
10. BORDER COLLIE, black and white, found on 2500 East
11. PITBULL, white with black speckles, found on Diamond Avo.
12. PITBULL X, big pup, chocolate color, found on 4th Ave West
13. SHIH TZU
14. COLLIE SHELTY X, adult, found on Heyburn Avo.

ADOPTIONS

1. LAB CROSS pups (2), really nice
2. PITBULL X pups (3)
3. AUSSIE X, adult female, nice dogs
4. BASSSET X, female, nice dog
5. COLLIE X female, big puppy
6. HOUND POINTER X, adult
7. MASTIFF ROTWEILER X, wonderful dog
8. LAB X pups (5), 3 black, 2 yellow
9. SHEPHERD HUSKY X pups

DON'T FORGET US!
Many cats/kittens for adoption!
www.petfinder.com

Hours: Mon-Fri, 10:00 am-5:30 pm
Saturday, 10:00 am-2:00 pm
Closed Sunday and Holidays
We can only keep animals 48 hours. If they are not sold or DESTROYED. Please check daily!

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Actions planned and taken by your government are contained in public notices. They are part of your right to know and to be informed of what your government is doing. As self government charges of citizens to be informed, this newspaper urges every citizen to read and study these notices. We advise those citizens who seek further information to exercise their right to access public records and public meetings.

IMPORTANT
Please address all legal advertisements to:
LEGAL ADVERTISING
The Times-News
PO Box 648
Twin Falls, Idaho
83303-0548
small to
legal@timesnews.com

Deadline for legal ads: 3 days prior to publication, noon on Wednesday for Sunday, noon on Thursday for Monday, noon on Friday for Tuesday and Wednesday, noon on Monday for Thursday and noon on Tuesday for Friday and Saturday. Holiday deadlines may vary. If you have any questions call Ruby, legal clerk, at 208-733-3324

ANNOUNCEMENTS

101 **Lost and Found**

LOST dog, small, on 1229, Lost on Locust and Main in Kimberly, 208-283-6036.

LOST Golden Retriever, male, 2 yr old, blue & green collar, answers to Duke and lives near the World/Hogman HWY. Missing since 12/23. Search 208-448-2670

LOST Heeler/Border Collie, male, 5 months old, black with speckled legs, lost on 300 W. 200 N. Jerome. Call 208-324-4432

LOST Lab, black with red collar near 1400 East in Edon. REWARD: 208-328-0251

LOST Snowboard, Burton & Avellan board bag, grabbed by mistake on Pioneer Hill but on Dec 26. Information call 734-0619.

LOST Yellow Lab, Alor 12/16 in the area of Barstow Rd & the Snake River east of Rupert. Male with collar. REWARD: If seen contact Katelyn 208-669-4065.

LOST Yukie, Blonde reddish hair female, 12 yrs old. Family address her. 734-0860 or 734-4956

LOST Border Collie/Hunter cross, no collar, answers to Sunny. Black with brown heter legs with white spot on back. Last seen the 29th of Dec, on Hwy 26. Call 538-4749 ask for Dusty.

LOST cat, black and white neutered male, declawed in front paws, flea collar, North Pointe Ranch area. Please call 735-1231 or 731-1638.

101 Lost and Found

FOUND dog, large black male, SE of Jerome. Call to identify, 208-280-0912.

FOUND Yellow Lab, with red collar, very skinny, may have been broken for hard season and then dumped. Call 208-324-4050

107 Pregnancy Alternatives

Pregnant? Worried? Free Pregnancy Tests. Confidential. 208-734-7472

108 Professional Services

Bankruptcy Chapter 7 Guaranteed lowest price for attorney representation. We are a debt relief agency. Free Consultation. Call 1-866-668-2359.

Custs: For people everywhere. 733-0931

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110 HOME/HEALTH CARE

CARE SERVICES Available for the elderly and disabled. Do you need someone to help take care of your loved one while your out? 208-464-4103

CAREGIVER
Live in house, caring for elderly woman. Refs required. Call 208-429-5047 or 208-316-0324

COMPANION caregiver for disabled elderly gentleman, candidate will receive room and board and \$20 per day. Call 736-6723 for interview.

113 Child Care Services

CHILD CARE ICCP certified, 11 yrs exp, all meals included. Call Jamie 961-1996.

DAYCARE Living in-home daycare has openings for well child in Snier. Meals provided, 10 years exp. 208-733-3324. Call Beth 931-74170.

115 Community Events

CLASSICAL DRAWING CLASSES 2008 Sign up now with MARIA SMITH-Whitney. Call (208) 734-3003

Enl your painting skills on art on the internet. Free time and date in the class! 208-733-8931

301 Business Opportunities

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303 Horses & Tack
304 Pigs and Pet Supplies
305 Farm Equipment
306 Farm/Barn Supplies
307 Irrigation
308 Seed & Fertilizer
309 Livestock Health
310 Crop Production
311 Custom Farm Services
312 Miscellaneous Supplies
313 Farm/Tractor Parts
314 Pastures/Woods
315 Farm Auctions
316 Ag & Farm Insurance Services

701 Livestock/Poultry

ANGUS registered bull and heifers. Good quality - and pedigree. 723-4020/21/22

BARBADS Black, 1 ram, 14 lambs and ewes. \$50 on or \$40 on for food. 208-343-5259

BLACK ANGUS 20 head, 3 and a yew. old, bred to son-of new design, start good. Feb. 2008. 60 day calving period. 1/050 cash. Call 208-495-1073

305 Contracts and Mortgages

LOCAL REAL ESTATE INVESTOR will pay 12% for 6-24 months. Start good. Eric 208-731-5745.

401 School Instruction

MASSAGE TRAINING Technician & Therapist Technician class in Swedish Massage starts February 1st. Fri, 7pm-10pm & Sat, 10am-5:30pm. 12 weeks (100 hours). Therapist training full semester includes Deep Tissue 1 and Anatomy 1. 208-326-4070 Twin Falls Institute of Holistic Studies

703 Horse and Tack

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4 Bedrooms
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The throughout, detailed marble in bathrooms, upgraded cabinetry, 1700 sq ft, 3 bed, 2.5 bath, 3 car garage, 1720 sq ft. \$230,000. MLS#98336619
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Beautiful family home with great features. Quiet location and country views. 3 bed, 2 bath, 1583 sq. ft. \$168,500. MLS#98290226
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Open floor plan with beautiful upgrades. 4 bed, 3 bath, 1900 sq. ft. \$220,000. MLS#98332654
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New home w/waterfall system, sod and rain gutters. 3 bed, 2 bath, 1950 sq. ft. \$197,900. MLS#98337040
Earl Gray 601-674-3000

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Great location for this 3 bed, 2 bath, 1762 sq. ft. home. \$209,900. MLS#98334664
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Great office space finished to suit. Up to 3200 Sq. Ft. MLS#9826149
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Immaculate home or office. Not a drive-by! 3 bed, 1 bath, 1948 sq. ft. \$179,900. MLS#98307658
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3 bed, 1 bath in Kimberly. Some new windows & hardwood flooring. Located on large corner lot. \$55,900. MLS#98308226
Debra Prance 402-0477
or Bryon Newberry 308-4585

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Commercial, residential, or duplex potential! 7 bed, 3 bath, 3400 sq. ft. \$254,900. MLS#98328484
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Great floor plan with 3 car garage, 3 bedroom, 2.5 bath, 2077 sq. ft. \$239,900. MLS#98310771
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FREE Black Lab/Mastiff cross, female, 3 month old. Well mannered/Comma. Shearhair, red, 6 months. Both current on shots. Call 208-934-0888 or 208-598-1847
FREE Cat 2 yrs old, declawed, spayed, female, no good with other cats. 208-733-9319 Iv masp.
FREE German Shepherd/Golden Retriever X puppies, all black. 208-634-2668
FREE Guinea Pig (1) Black male with cngs and spots with no children allergic to it good home. Call 404-9909 or 293-4259
FREE Lab mix, 1 1/2 yr old, male, trained, neutered, shots, good with kids & other pets. Call 208-934-0041
FREE Papillon female, red and white. To give away to older couple with no children, quiet home. This needs to be a forever home. 208-329-0036
FREE Pit Bull puppy, red nose, pitied, poity trained good with cats, kids and other dogs. Call 293-4510
FREE PitLab mix male, very family dog Loves kids and cats! Housebroken. Call 208-608-1634
FREE Tuxedo, Red-Eyed Slider, with dark eyes tucked. Call 208-678-1560.

704 Labs chocolate, AKC reg, dewclaws removed, 1st show. 5/5 females tel: 8330. Call 208-678-9399 or 208-431-4092
LABS SILVER LABRADORIANER Cross, puppies great turning dogs ready to go. \$125 males, \$300 females. Call 208-731-0335
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LABS AKC registered, short legged, 10 weeks, both parents on site. \$200 each. 208-678-2311
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MASTIFF pup for sale. Father AKC registered with black mask. Mother cream, with black mask. Very large pup. Call Joyce - 208-312-4083 for more information. Can email pictures.
MINI DACHSHUND puppy, AKC reg, black & tan, can email pics, in Bush. 208-973-6395
MINI SCHNAUZER puppy, black, purebred, female, 7 weeks old. 208-938-2931
OLD ENGLISH BOOBIE 5 males left, 11th shots, dew claws removed, tails docked. \$1,500. www.moulisilocks.com Call 436-260-2167

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705 Farm Equipment
JOHN DEERE '04 4450 MFWD- 9000 HRS, 520/300. Call 208-208-4243
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WANTED Older 2-row potato planter and single row potato digger. Call 435-613-1866
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705 Hay Grain and Feed
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 All breeds available. Prices starting at \$110. 208-678-1560
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GOLDEN RETRIEVER AKC puppy, (1) adorable male left, 11" and 2nd shots, dew claws removed. Born 10/21/07. \$325. See pics at pup.free-kennels.com Call 208-735-9624 or 208-420-3005
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SHIH TZU puppies, AKC reg, males, \$350. Vet checked. 11" shots & dewclawed. 208-324-9339
SHIH TZU puppies, 2 female, 2 males, 2 year old, born soon, 5 weeks old now. \$350 each. 208-544-0700 or 5 PM or 208-487-2545 ask for Joyce.
LAB pups, AKC registered, healthy, 4 weeks old, superior Dutch hunting line, female \$400, males \$300. 734-344 656-967-2030
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CHEVY '00 2500 Silverado 4x4 cab, loaded, 120,000 miles. Call 208-733-2402

CHEVY '02 Duramax LT, crew cab, loaded, tonnage, new tires, brakes & injectors. 16mpg. 4000. Stock #1013554

208-733-3033

CHEVY '04 2500 HD, Crew LT, 4x4, 8.0L V6, intake air, OnStar, chrome side bars, 52,000 miles. Stock #717834

WILLS TOYOTA
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CHEVY '04 Avatelco 4x4, 4 door, 33K miles, new tires clean. \$21,900

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 AUTO BROKFRAGE
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CHEVY '72, pickup, 34 ton, 2nd row, 3500 cu ft, no smoking, fluoro. Stock #1400, 208-40262

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CHEVY '97 Chevy 1500 4x4, 4 door, 4x4, 6.9K miles, \$6,500. **CHEVY '98 1500**, 2700, 4 door, 4x4, 143K miles, \$6,700. Will trade for RV. Call 208-944-4324

CHEVY '04 Blazer, V8 4.8, 4 door, new tires, 25,000 Call 350-1567

DODGE '01 Short box diesel, 80K miles, exc. cond. To many extras to mention \$20,000. Call 208-338-2176

DODGE '04 1500 4x4, 4 door, 4x4, 6.9L, 100K miles, low price, 20" wheels, custom hood, \$23,736. Stock #4124

208-733-3033

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DODGE '04 1500-SLT 4x4, 2WD, LWB, 170K, 3/4 ton, auto, cruise, CD, PW, bedliner. \$12,000. 539-1393.

DODGE '05 Ram, 2500 quad cab, diesel, 4x4, heavy duty, 8 spd, 37K miles, 326,800. Stock #811874.

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DODGE '99 2500 Cummins 4x4, Quad cab, 130K miles. \$11500 Call 317-3454

FORD '00 Lariat, crew cab, Durai, LE model 4x4, 7.3 Powerstroke 520,000. 324-0069

2011 So. Lincoln Jerome, ID.

SmalleyMotors

FORD '01 F150 Super crew, 4x4, 14K miles, shell, \$16,900

THE ACES ON BRIDGE®

Bobby Wolff

Sunday, Jan. 6, 2008

Dear Mr. Wolff:
 I understand that the world championships were in Shanghai last fall and are in Beijing this year. Why would both events be in China? Orientation Committee, Shreveport, La.

ANSWER: This year's championships will be aligned with the International Mind Sports Association. I'm happy that all the intellectual activities will be working in tandem, but it will take some time to see if the whole will represent more than the sum of its parts.

Dear Mr. Wolff:
 I held ♠ A-J-9-8-3, ♡ 10-9, ♦ Q-8-5-3, ♣ 4-4, and my partner opened a strong no-trump. How should I have advanced the hand?
 Forward Moton, Millauker, Wk.

ANSWER: I think you could sensibly go in two directions. If playing Stayman but not transfers, bid two clubs and follow up with two no-trump unless you find a fit. If you are playing transfers, bid hearts to transfer to spades, then invite game with a call of two no-trump. It would be cowardly not to make a try for game.

Dear Mr. Wolff:
 When you use Stayman and find a major suit opposite, what does a jump to four no-trump mean? If it is invitational, how do you agree on the major?
 Astronant, Miami, Fla.

ANSWER: What you suggest is playable, and you can use the direct call of four no-trump as a bid.

Dear Mr. Wolff:
 I dealt myself ♠ J-7-5-4-2, ♡ Q-7-4-3-2, ♦ A-Q-3, ♣ — and passed. My partner opened one club, I responded one spade and my partner rebid one no-trump. Would it be right for me to bid two hearts now, or three hearts?
 Dream Major, Hamilton, Ontario

ANSWER: It is probably sufficient to bid two hearts here. Until or unless you find a nine-card fit, your hand is not nearly as promising as it might appear. If your partner raises hearts, you will bid on, of course, but it will probably not happen.

Dear Mr. Wolff:
 Do you play penalty doubles of your opponents' strong no-trump? If not, what defense would you recommend?
 Niedeckammer, Jackson, Miss.

ANSWER: Yes, I think it makes sense to keep the doubles as penalty. But if you are looking for an artificial method, there are many options available. One that is gaining popularity is called Woolsey, which subverts the double to show a two-suiter. Two clubs announces both majors; two diamonds, one major.

Dear Mr. Wolff:
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Sudoku Answers:

Grid of numbers for Sudoku answers: 1 8 7 6 2 4 5 9 3, 9 4 5 8 3 7 2 6 1, 3 2 6 9 1 5 4 7 8, etc.

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Hertz advertisement for Twin Falls. Features: '07 Ford Supercrew, '07 Chrysler Aspen, '06 Honda Odyssey, '08 Toyota Corolla, '08 Pontiac Grand Prix. Includes Hertz Gold Certified logo and contact information.

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Kids Only:

Cheering the cheerleaders: Team with special needs gets a boost, F6



F

SUNDAY
JANUARY 6, 2008

INSIDE: Senior calendar, F2 | Dear Abby, F4 | Horoscope, F4 | Stork report, F5 | Engagements, weddings, anniversaries, F5

Former Burley teacher's parenting book is an engaging story

By Virginia Hutchins
Times-News writer

Despite its self-help title, former Burley teacher Cory S. Williamson's first book is a story — with likeable characters and an engaging plot.

A story perfectly suitable for reading aloud with the family.

"Throw Your Kid a Bone: A Novel Perspective on the Dogma of Parenting" draws not-too-subtle parallels between the training of a dog named Nipper and the parenting of 6-year-old Billy. With chapter titles like "Obedience School" and "The Leash," it celebrates discipline, work and order.

But it stops short of exhortation, instead using little Billy's point of view to tell about the summer leading up to his seventh

birthday and his longing for a particular black dirt bike.

Williamson set the story in Twin Cricks, a fictional farming-and-mining town near the Snake River, somewhere in green, left-O territory.

"I think it represents most small towns in Idaho," Williamson said by telephone from California, where he's a business development manager for Apple.

He purposely left the word "Idaho" out of his story, but he thought of Gooding — where Williamson's mother grew up — when he wrote that Billy's mom "grew up on a dry farm just north of the Snake River."



About Cory S. Williamson

Williamson, 35, who grew up in Georgtown in south-eastern Idaho, taught English and was an assistant wrestling coach at Burley High School for two years, in 1999-2001. He worked in McCall as a smokejumper during and after those years, and he has relatives in the Burley, Jerome, Gooding and Fairfield areas. He holds an English degree from Utah State University and an MBA from Brigham Young University. Today he's a business development manager for Apple in Cupertino, Calif., and lives in Palo Alto with his wife and three children. Writing is a hobby. Williamson's first book, "Throw Your Kid a Bone: A Novel Perspective on the Dogma of Parenting," was self-published through print-on-demand publisher Lulu and is distributed through Williamson's company, Coyote Book. The book's sells for \$14.95 through www.coyotebook.com and Amazon.com. The book's illustrations are Williamson's own.



Please see PARENTING, Page F3

A DREAM CLASS

Would-be consultants learn tricks, and trials, of the wedding trade

By Susan Kinzie
The Washington Post

WASHINGTON — The students waited expectantly as the guest lecturer plugged in her curling iron. The topic on the syllabus: weddings.

The stylist attached a mop of shiny fake curls to sophomore Brittney Tobin's long blond hair, swept it up onto her head and pinned on a bridal veil. "Is there a veil on my head?" Tobin squeaked, wide-eyed, fluttering a hand in front of her face.

"It's every girl's dream to have a class about weddings," Tobin said later. "It's a dream!"

Sure, a dream. Until the bride freaks out, the best man gets plastered, the altar boy topples over in the middle of the ceremony. And everyone expects you to fix it.

If there's one thing Maggie Daniels wants students to know in her semester-long class on wedding planning — apparently the first in the country at a four-year college — it's that this is not just fluff.

Daniels, an assistant professor at suburban George Mason University, teaches crisis management and event planning for what has become an enormous business, estimated at anywhere from \$80 billion to \$161 billion a year nationally. Spending on weddings has nearly doubled in the past 15 years.

In just four years, almost every expense increased more than 20 percent, as people added days of events, gifts for all the guests, elaborate lighting and all sorts of other extras promoted by magazines, TV shows and the rest of the marital-industrial complex. More than a third of couples outspend their wedding budgets.

With that booming industry comes demand for wedding planners who know their peau de sole from their charmesux, who can coordinate timing and details, such as flowers, music and hors d'oeuvres, who can whip recalcitrant groomsmen into shape.

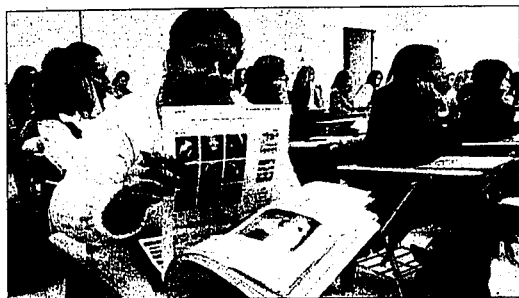
And who can, when the inevitable crisis hits, take the bullet.

"A wedding planner has to be a superhero," Tobin said. "People think of their wedding as the perfect fairy tale. If it's not someone's going to get the blame. It's probably going to be you."

Please see WEDDING, Page F3



Guest vendor Giselle demonstrates a wedding hairstyle on Brittney Tobin, 19, a student in a class on wedding planning at George Mason University in Fairfax, Va. It is apparently the first such class in the country at a four-year college.



Student Patti Mohamed looks at a book of hairstyles in a class on wedding planning at George Mason University in Fairfax, Va. "What happens very frequently is students come into class doe-eyed," the teacher says, "but the bottom line is, if you want to make a living at this, it is a hard job, a very, very hard job."

"A wedding planner has to be a superhero. People think of their wedding as the perfect fairy tale. If it's not, someone's going to get the blame. It's probably going to be you."

— Student Brittney Tobin



Photo by BLAIR KOCH for the Times-News. Although preparing for the November birth of their first child was sometimes stressful, Phillip and Brooke Tucker of Twin Falls took time to find humor during a childbirth preparation course.

And then there were three

With lots of preparation, Twin Falls couple welcomes baby

By Blair Koch
Times-News correspondent

They call it nesting for a reason. Between preparing a nursery, scheduling time off work, purchasing a car seat, choosing whether to breast-feed and making time for childbirth education classes, Phillip and Brooke Tucker of Twin Falls experienced a few whirlwind months prior to the arrival of their firstborn son, Chase.

In mid-October, Phillip, 25, and Brooke, 26, were in one of their last childbirth classes at the downtown clinic of St. Luke's Magic Valley Regional Medical Center. Belly wide and protruding, the mother-to-be looked slightly uncomfortable — but thrilled; unconsciously a smile broke as her hand patted the developing fetus that was so close, yet still so far away.

"It's emotional," she said. "But this was planned and we are meant to be here. Phillip and I have been married a year and a half and we just decided it was time for a family."

Yet the Tuckers were preparing for an about-face, said Phillip, a quality analyst for Magic Valley Regional.

"We know we are having a boy, but we don't have a name picked out yet. When the baby does come I'm not sure what it'll

Inside
Tips and resources for bringing up baby.

See page F3

Please see BABY, Page F3



Brooke Tucker opens a highchair during an early-November baby shower for the birth of her first son. The gift "cake" at right includes fabric diapers — which also work well for non-stop spills — teething toys, pacifiers and stuffed animals.

The gift that keeps on taking

Get in shape, get organized, get in shape, get organized. The moronic rhythm of the same two resolutions was sure to throw me into a seizure. Same promises, same year, and not even original. The same resolutions millions of Americans make, all of us encouraged by smiling hosts on morning shows. Get in shape, get organized, get in shape, get organized. Is anyone winning at this game? I am. Or I will. This is my year. No, I mean it. And I'm not saying this with a wink and a nudge toward our shared understanding of how stupid it sounds. I actually mean it. Not about the get-in-shape resolution. I either will or will not lose more fiber, fewer fats, more soy. And I will whither away on my elliptical four times a week, or three times a week, or two — or I will skip a few weeks of the routine, just enough to start again. Of course. This is how it works.

So, why am I so sure about the get-organized resolution? It is because I've hit rock bottom. No — although I have. I have lived toward the extreme edge of civilization on this front for some time. There is a lot of ... stuff in my house. I am bad at throwing things out. I prefer to push things to the side. The inclination has recently become an inviolable corridor. Left in certain rooms of my house, most



PERSONAL FILE
Jeanne Marie Laskas

notably my office, which no one enters except me and my dog Betty — so why should I care? That indifference is what got me into this mess. It's a matter of self-esteem. Do I care enough about myself to want to work in a tidy room? Am I afraid of stepping up to the grown-up world of shelves and file cabinets and little labels everywhere? Does some lurking lack of self-worth sabotage my efforts at becoming an organized person?

That idiotic psychobabble is what has paralyzed me. I'll sit here in my messy office and wallow in self-loathing until I have no choice but to log on eBay and order expensive electronics to cheer myself up. I am done with all that. Done! I have proof.

It all started a few months ago, when we were about to begin this most recent home-remodeling project. I would need to completely clear out the two rooms, our living room and dining room, that our contractor was going to gut. This seemed an insurmountable task, given the floor space left in my house — could I

even fit any more stuff in my office? — and so I decided to order one of those portable outdoor storage units you see around. Instead of driving your stuff to a storage place, you can get a storage unit brought to your home, sit it in your yard or driveway, or on your street, and leave it there, for a monthly fee, until you are ready to put all your stuff somewhere else. Brilliant, I thought, even as I kicked myself for not being the person to come up with the idea. I went online to order one. I read testimonial after testimonial from satisfied customers. Then I read this one:

Warning. Can get addictive. Was going to keep one for only a couple weeks when reorganizing my basement and attic. That was four months ago. I kept adding stuff to it and had to throw away. Now I have 2 completely filled. Check with your local ordinance to make sure you are allowed to have these in your yard.

The image of that poor slob with multiple portable storage units in his yard saved me. The ghost of a junk-filled future. Holy heaps, it has come to this: Americans in over-stuffed, oversized houses now putting little stuffed storage units all over our yards. It would not, could not, be me. I would not cross that line.

This (finally) brings us to

the present, to the dawn of 2008, and to the beautiful sight in my driveway. No, not a storage unit. I have swung the other way: a Dumpster.

A massive green open vessel now sits outside my window, offering to deliver me daily of the sins of decades past. The pleasure I get from hauling stuff out is beyond measure. I try not to think of the landfill to which I am about to significantly contribute.

I try to remind myself that I am just playing catch-up; this Dumpster represents a decade worth of trash I never filled. The thrill of throwing out has made me a better citizen, has, in fact, inspired me to fill my car with bags of perfectly good stuff I've donated to my church's flea market and to bundle up newspapers to drop in the recycling box at my kids' school. I am expelling, I am letting go. I am an advertisement for municipal waste management, or for actually committing to a New Year's resolution, or for the self-esteem required to follow your bliss — I don't care exactly how you want to spin it. I can only pass along my joy in the hopes of inspiring others.

Get organized. Get a Dumpster.

Jeanne Marie Laskas writes her column for The Washington Post.

Pose as the strong, silent type, Taurus

IF JAN. 6 IS YOUR BIRTHDAY: You sparkle in social settings during the next several weeks. People perceive you as trustworthy and some could even find you fascinating. So this is a perfect time to interview for a new job, start a new career, or meet a special someone with permanent commitment in mind. Throughout February and March, then again in July, Lady Luck is smiling down on everything you do. These are good months to weigh crucial decisions, and begin any significant endeavor.

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Look for a fellow leonard to share your quest. Your business judgment may hit a low point this week but your social skills soar to new heights. Rely on close companions to keep you amused and content.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Pose as the strong silent type. Beam with an aura of friendliness, but don't discuss personal matters. You are at your best in the public spotlight early in the week. Co-workers take your side.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Bank your ideas on a first night. This isn't a good week to promote radical ideas or take up a cause since you may be misunderstood. Concentrate on amusing yourself with delightful entertainments.

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Break away from the pack. You are at your very best when you think and act independently. Exciting changes, contact with foreign lands or inspiring friendships might mark your week ahead.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): The simplest solution is usually the expedient way. You may think you can shift your funds around like a shell game, but in the end you will see that technique won't give lasting results. Look for romance this week.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Subtle manipulations might

HOROSCOPE

Jeraldine Saunders

have unexpected results. You might not put the right spin on an idea. Focus on creating worthy goals during the week to come since a new friend might open your eyes to possibilities.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Magnificent moments during the week ahead may improve a relationship. Your personal charm and allure are at a high point especially the first part of the week. Use it to capture someone's heart or attention.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Concentrate on the heart, not the head. You are prone to rooting out facts like a pig snuffling through the woods for truffles. Spend more time on affectionate come-along during the week ahead.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Put arguments aside. You can't reason folks out of positions they didn't reason themselves into. Focus on social activities, family and friends during the week to come for the best results.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Keep your eyes and ears open. Certain opinions that have kept you from making a change will shift for the better. Early in this week you should shop for clothing or something to enhance your appearance.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Fight off the paparazzi. Your popularity quotient travels sky high — especially the first part of the week. This is a great time to interview for a new job, ask for favors or meet the guy or gal of your dreams.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Be known. You may shine with a little bit of Hollywood star quality particularly in the first half of the week. This is a fabulous time to network, meet new people or to get your name put up in lights.

'Gap year' gives students time for growth

By Ian Shapiro
The Washington Post

WASHINGTON — Billy Neville is skipping through the humongous Fiske Guide to Colleges last fall, yet another senior at a pressure-cooker high school in search of a game plan, when his mother told him something unexpected.

"She said, 'Keep in mind, you don't really have to go to college next year. You can do something fun,'" recalled Neville, 18, who graduated in June from Wall Whitman High School in Bethesda, Md. "I went off to a private high school and college. Some do it to find enlightenment and introspection, others to learn something new or pursue a passion.

There are no hard counts of gap-year students, but the National Association for College Admission Counseling reports anecdotal evidence from counselors that more high school graduates these days are seeking a year off. Gap-year consultants who charge \$1,000 a month advise students on how to fill the time while emerged.

Some students say they take a gap year to escape stress accumulated from Advanced Placement courses and competition over grades and class rank.

"I grew really tired of everything in school. I just didn't like the atmosphere, especially at Whitman, where if you're not an overachiever, you're just not," Neville said. "So I was hoping, in my year off, I'll find out what really interests me."

Neville asked for his deferral in a letter to the admissions office. "And they came back saying, 'Sure,'" said his mother, Clare Neville.

Ann Larson, a senior associate director of admissions at Miami of Ohio, said the university grants deferrals for medical issues, military service, competition and other reasons, case by case.



Billy Neville, 18, deferred college enrollment for a year, joining the ranks of maverick students who take a 'gap year': time off between high school and college. "I grew really tired of everything in school," says Neville, at home in Bethesda, Md. "So I was hoping, in my year off, I'll find out what really interests me."

"We really have no problem with students taking gap years," Larson said. "It's very positive what they bring back to the university. It's a maturing experience."

College admissions officers said they want gap-year students to improve upon an area of expertise or perform some kind of public service.

John Blackburn, dean of admissions at University of Virginia, said students often seek deferrals for missionary work or public service jobs through such nonprofit organizations as Operation Smile, which performs free reconstructive surgery on children. Some work with facial deformities in developing countries. Admissions officials at Georgetown University estimated that 25 to 30 students admitted each year in a class of almost 1,600 are interested in requesting trips abroad to learn a foreign language, intern at a foreign embassy, or work at a foreign or domestic magazine.

"Students have to have a plan that we approve of," Blackburn said. Some types of cultural "enhancement," Charles Deacon, Georgetown's admissions director, said. Some outsiders might consider a gap year an exercise in slacking off. But many students plan their time intensively. Some turn to consultants, such as the Center for Interim Programs in Princeton, N.J., or Taking Off in Boston.

Consultants typically charge nothing for the first consultation. Students want to meet for a lengthier period and discuss options

tailored to their interests might pay \$1,000 for shorter-term help or \$2,000 for longer-term guidance.

Consultants say they keep up with dozens of programs, so they know which ones are safe and reliable. They also say they know how to draw out students who might be unsure of their goals.

"I ask them, 'How do you want to live? Do you want to live on your own or with other kids? Do you want to learn another language? What's your budget?'" said Gail Reardon, founder of Taking Off. "I have over 3,000 opportunities available."

Neville, planning his gap year on his own, checked out www.studyabroad.com and considered some volunteer opportunities. He had a yen to travel with a friend in Europe and possibly find work in the gap year. A job in Austria as an English-speaking sports commentator, but he passed. Recently, he returned from a week of building homes in Chiapas, Mexico. He hopes to teach skiing and other work in the mountains of Colorado. He also aims to volunteer with Habitat for Humanity to help rebuild New Orleans.

"I want to find out what I can accomplish without my parents or my school telling me what I can do," Neville said.

Zach Duffy, 17, who just graduated from the Ethical Culture Fieldston School in New York City will spend part of his gap year, traveling first work in the gap year with Global Learning Across Borders, based in New York, to culti-

vate interests in Buddhism, Hinduism and the environment. He deferred enrollment at Whitman College in Washington state.

"The only trip I've taken abroad is to Italy, and I stayed at a nice hotel in Rome and Florence," Duffy said. "I have a desire to learn more about the world because I think I'll be able to conduct myself better in all aspects of my life. If I see poverty in India, then I'll be more humble. I'll just be a more interesting person."

But choosing to take a gap year and forming a plan was easier to do than it might be to determine whether the plan would be financially feasible. The Duffys wanted to know whether Brown University in Rhode Island — where Zach's older brother is a rising junior — could give the family more financial aid even if Zach were not attending college. (Universities often give extra help if families have two or more children in college.)

Why are the Duffys so concerned about money? They're in the next school year. Zach's gap year will cost more than \$10,000, including fees, immunizations and equipment.

"We're hoping that they will treat Zach's gap year as if it were a college experience, but we don't have a commitment from Brown yet," said Mark Duffy, Zach's father. Even if Brown turns down their request, Mark Duffy said the gap year will go forward. Zach has the money for India, and he's set up a "gap year blog" at www.willsthenlightme.blogspot.com.

Friendly handshake can spread unfriendly germs

DEAR ABBY: The standard form of greeting in the West is a handshake. But this can lead to transmission of germs.

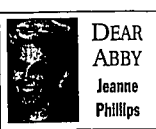
Being from India, I use the standard form of Indian greeting by holding my palms together, which is very hygienic. (By the way, many South Asian countries have the same custom of greeting.)

You might consider passing the word along because I'm sure your readers could understand the benefit of such a gesture — particularly during the cold and flu season.

— **SUNITHA IN KUWAIT**

DEAR SUNITHA: I'm pleased to pass the word along. Your practical suggestion is a good one and something I have used myself. All you do is place your palms together, thumbs up at chest height. The friendly message it sends is clear when it's done with a smile.

DEAR ABBY: I recently landed a dream job as a nanny for a wealthy family. When I say "wealthy," it's probably an understatement. Each year, the family big-screen theater in their home, a personal trainer over here four times a week, matching Lexus SUVs, the biggest galore and the biggest



DEAR ABBY
Jeanne Phillips

refrigerator I have ever seen — not to mention the countless other real estate properties they have in California, Aspen and New York.

Coming from a more conservative-conscious background, I grew up recycling and shopping at thrift stores. I use alternate forms of transportation and refuse to "keep up with the Joneses."

How do I get this family, especially the children, to recycle, donate and think globally (i.e. sweatshops and child labor) without coming off as preachy? They are nice people, but these things have never been a part of their universe.

— **RECYCLIN' IN COLORADO**

DEAR RECYCLIN': Your employers appear to be comfortably ensconced in their lifestyle bubble, which is an alternate reality from the rest of ours. However, you can positively influence the thinking of their children, and the most effective way to do it is to teach them by example.

Name names
The tales of...
NEXT WEEK IN FAMILY LIFE

CHEERING THE CHEERLEADERS

Team with special needs gets a series of boosts

By Donna St. George
The Washington Post

WASHINGTON — Marlo Bloom is a competitive cheerleader. She can do perfect round-offs, back handsprings and layouts. She performs with other high-energy teenagers in weekend competitions at places including big arenas in Washington and Baltimore.

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Most of the time, Marlo sees Clare at the Dream Allstars gym in Gaithersburg, Md., a spacious place with thick blue floor mats and gleaming trophies, where cheerleaders put in hours of practice.

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The girls were thrilled. There were 12 on the team at the time, ranging in age from 7 to 15.

In New York, the girls snagged autographs from Diane Sawyer and other TV personalities. Several girls offered to give their autographs to people they met. "They felt like celebrities," said one team mom.

Marlo also went on the trip, which she said ranks as "one of the best things in my

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Voice of

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lead, swiveling her hips with the music.

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"You want to go on the trampoline?

Really?" Marlo asked.

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and-down motion.

"It's OK," Marlo said. "We're bounce-

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Competitive cheerleader Marlo Bloom helps Clare Kearney, who has autism and Down syndrome, with her routine at the Dream Allstars gym in Gaithersburg, Md. (It's definitely a friendship,' says Marlo, who volunteers with the Destiny cheerleading team of kids with special needs.

2008 MBL/The Washington Post

BELOW: Coach Karen Mason, right, leads the Destiny team of cheerleaders with special needs in a high five after practice at the Dream Allstars gym in Gaithersburg, Md.



Jokes for kids

Nowaday

Knock, knock.

Who's there?

Debbie.

Debbie who?

Debbie stung me, and it hurts.

What did the traffic light say to the car?

"Don't look! I'm changing."

What happened when the teacher tied all the students' shoelaces together? They went on a class trip.

Where does a turtle go when it's raining? To shell-ter.

Why did the pillow go to the doctor? It felt stuffed up.

What did the baseball glove say to the baseball? "Catch you later."

Where is Timbuktu? Between Timbukone and Timbukthree.

What is a British sea monster's favorite snack? Fish and ships.

How do clocks communicate? They tick talk.

Why don't many barbers join the army? Because they join the hair force.

Max: I just bought a pair of camouflage pants.

Matt: Why aren't you wearing them?

Max: I can't find them.

What do you call a snail on a ship? A snailor.

Why did the snowman call its dog Frost?

Because Frost bites.

Why did the computer have a tummy ache? Too many chips.

What did the announcer name his son?

Mike.

Patient: Doctor, doctor, I feel like a deck of cards!

Doctor: I will deal with you later.

What is a vampire's favorite place to go?

The Vampire State Building.

What kind of ice cream do ballerinas like the most?

Tutu fruit.

What did Lassie get when she graduated?

Her dog-ree.

Why did the boy ask his dad to come to school?

To take a pop quiz.

What did one mountain say to the other mountain after the earthquake?

"It wasn't my fault."

What did the Atlantic Ocean say to the Indian Ocean?

"Try to be more Pacific."

Why didn't the clock work? Because it had the tick-ups.

What does a bee sit on? Its bee-hind.

What do you call a skeleton holding a stop sign?

A dead end.

What is a ghost's favorite amusement park ride?

The scary-go-round.

What did one volcano say to other? "I lava you."

What is a wrestler's favorite drink? Fruit punch.

Why did the chicken keep striking out?

Because it kept hitting fowl balls!

What do you get when you cross a porcupine and a turtle?

A slowpoke!

What do astronauts listen to? Nep-tunes.

What do lawyers wear to court? Lawsuits.

What did the judge say to the skunk when it walked into court?

"Odor in the court!"

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Look Shop Select

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\$1000 in FREE Furniture

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SKAGGS FURNITURE

LEE'S FURNITURE

About you and time with parents

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INSIDE: Fearless Traveler, G2 | Dude ranch convention in Wyoming, G2 | Where your dollar will go the distance, G3

Tired of the beach?

See the monarchs in Mexican mountains

By Jessica Bernstein-Wax
Associated Press writer

CIBOLA PRIETO, Mexico — If you'd rather see butterflies on a mountaintop than slather yourself with sunblock on a tourist-packed beach in Cancun, Mexico is an ideal winter destination.

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Please see BUTTERFLIES, Page G2



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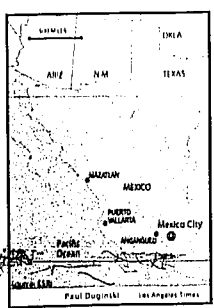
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- Participating businesses include:
- Turn Falls
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 - Banner Furniture
 - Baces-IT-Us
 - Clos Office Supply
 - CPAP Now!
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 - Elevation Sports
 - Everybody's Business
 - Frederickson's Candy
 - Hudson's Shoes
 - Karnation
 - Krengel's True Value Hardware
 - The Mallroom
 - Mexico's Pizza and Pasta
 - McDonald's on Addison
 - McDonald's on Blue Lakes
 - McDonald's on Pole Line
 - Music Center
 - MVP Coatings
 - Pioneer Federal Credit Union
 - Pioneer Floors
 - Rob Green Auto Group - GMC
 - Rob Green Auto Group - Hyundai
 - Rob Green Auto Group - Nissan
 - Robert Jones Realty
 - Shake Out
 - Simpler Times Village
 - Stitchin' Time
 - Joanne
 - McDonald's
 - Pioneer Federal Credit Union
 - Guiding
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 - Wendy's
 - Smiley's Market
 - Boing
 - McDonald's
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How far?

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Retiring to Latin America:

Mazatlan, Mexico, becoming a harbor for expatriates

By Maria Dickerson
Los Angeles Times

MAZATLAN, Mexico — This bustling port was supposed to be just a whistle-stop for Lana and Joe Reid.

The San Jose, Calif., retirees were en route to the tourist hubbly of Puerto Vallarta, where they were planning to buy a home near the water. But their detour through Mazatlan turned out to be a detour with destiny.

They were drawn to the street life of the historic downtown. They strolled the oceanfront walkway known as the "malecon." They watched the fishing fleets skipping across the bay to the seafood canneries. They liked the

Please see RETIRE, Page D2



Tony Feuer, right, who has been in Mazatlan, Mexico, since 2002, is adding on to his inn in the historic city center, shown above. With the influx of foreign baby boomers settling in Mazatlan, the city's historic center is undergoing a renaissance. But the development sparked by an influx of well-heeled retirees has Feuer planning an escape in a few years.

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2007 BLOOM/The Washington Post

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Jokes for kids

Newsday

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"Don't look! I'm changing."
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- Where is Timbuktu?
Between Timbukone and Timbukthree.
- What is a British sea monster's favorite snack?
Fish and ships.
- How do clocks communicate?
They tick talk.
- Why don't many barbers join the army?
Because they join the hair force.

- Max: I just bought a pair of camouflage pants.
- Matt: Why aren't you wearing them?
Max: I can't find them.
- What do you call a snail on a ship?
A snailor.
- Why did the snowman call his dog Frost?
Because Frost bites.
- Why did the computer have a tummy ache?
Too many chips.
- What did the announcer name his son?
Mike.
- Patient: Doctor, doctor, I feel like a deck of cards!
Doctor: I will deal with you later.
- What is a vampire's favorite place to go?
The Vampire State Building.
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SKAGGS FURNITURE
LEE'S FURNITURE

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INSIDE: Fearless Traveler, G2 | Dude ranch convention in Wyoming, G2 | Where your dollar will go the distance, G3

Tired of the beach?

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Associated Press writer

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Please see BUTTERFLIES, Page G2

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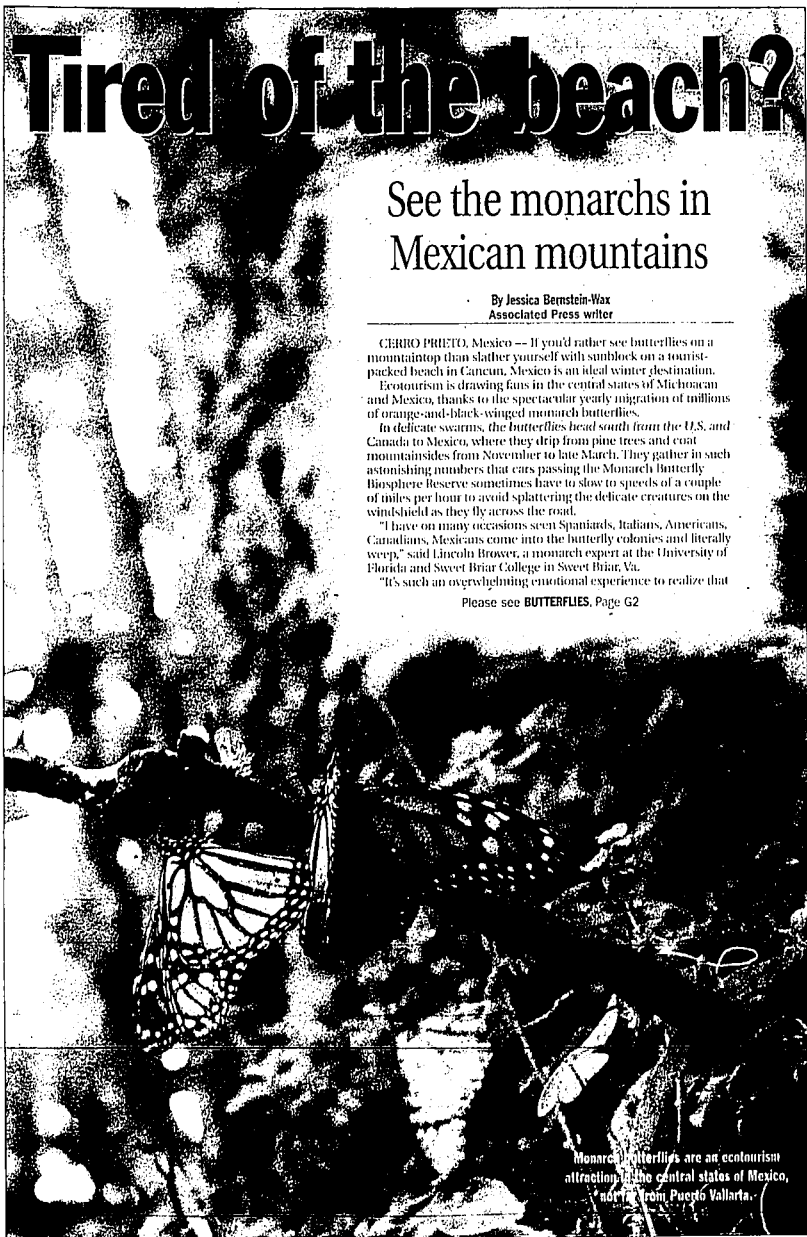
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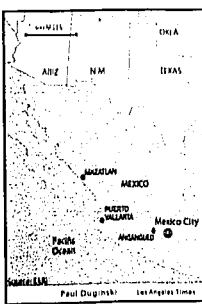
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- CPAP Now!
- Curves
- Desert Sun Travel
- Dunkley Music
- Elevation Sports
- Everybody's Business
- Frederickson's Candy
- Hudson's Shoes
- Korvation
- Krengel's True Value Hardware
- The Mailroom
- Masia's Pizza and Pasta
- McDonald's on Addison
- McDonald's on Blue Lakes
- McDonald's on Pole Line
- Music Center
- MVP Coatings
- Pioneer Federal Credit Union
- Pioneer Floors
- Rob Green Auto Group - GMC
- Rob Green Auto Group - Hyundai
- Rob Green Auto Group - Nissan
- Robert Jones Realty
- Shake Out
- Simpler Times Village
- Stitchin' Time
- Jerome:
- McDonald's
- Pioneer Federal Credit Union
- Gooding
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- Wardell
- Simberly's Market
- Barby:
- McDonald's
- Radi:
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Retiring to Latin America:

Mazatlan, Mexico, becoming a harbor for expatriates

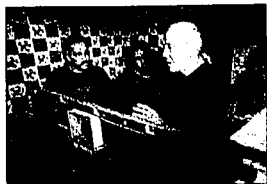
By Marla Dickerson
Los Angeles Times

MAZATLAN, Mexico — This bustling port was supposed to be just a whistle-stop for Lima and Joe Reid.

The San Jose, Calif., retiree was en route to the tourist hotbed of Puerto Vallarta, where they were planning to buy a home near the water. But their detour through Mazatlan turned out to be a date with destiny.

They were drawn to the street life of the historic downtown. They strolled the oceanfront walkway known as the "malecon." They watched the fishing fleets skipping across the bay to the seafood canneries. They liked the

Please see RETIRE, Page D2



Tony Feuer, right, who has been in Mazatlan, Mexico, since 2002, is adding on to his inn in the historic city center, shown above. With the influx of foreign baby boomers settling in Mazatlan, the city's historic center is undergoing a renaissance. But the development sparked by an influx of well-heeled retirees has Feuer planning an escape in a few years.

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Retire

Continued from page C1

cultural amenities, such as the restored 19th-century theater, and the good health care and other services available in this industrious city of 40,000.

"Puerto Vallarta was not the working city we imagined here in Mazatlan," said Lami Reid, 60. The couple bought a \$230,000 three-bedroom penthouse in a high-rise condo on the malecon in 2004 and haven't given Puerto Vallarta, 275 miles to the south, another thought.

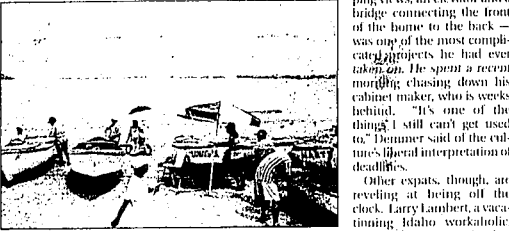
Facing the bridesmaid of beach communities in Mexico, Mazatlan is starting to turn the heads of American retirees and vacation-home buyers. They're finding they can get more for their money than in better-known resort areas.

And they're getting a chance to live in a mid-size, "authentic" Mexican city, rather than a tourist hub. An estimate of 3,000 to 7,000 U.S. and Canadian expatriates call Mazatlan home. They are restoring old buildings in the city center, building palaces on the hills overlooking the bay and buying homes on golf courses. Developers are building a marina and luxury condos, some selling for more than \$700,000. Not even the area's notorious summer heat and Sinaloa state's reputation as a stronghold for drug cartels is deterring the buyers.

"All of a sudden, these companies saw affordable beachfront property and they zoomed in here," said real estate agent Carol Sabin, a Canadian native who has lived in Mazatlan for



Bill and Jacque Demmer built their first house in Mazatlan in 1983. Now they are building a home on a hill overlooking the bay.



Fishermen line up on the beach in Mazatlan, Mexico, with the day's catch. The city is starting to attract American vacation-home buyers and retirees, who are finding they can get more real estate for their money there than in the country's better-known resort areas.

at the harbor, U.S. and Canadian snowbirds flock here during the winter. The city hosts one of the largest Mardi Gras celebrations in the hemisphere.

Still, Mazatlan doesn't dominate the region's economy the way it does in Cancun or Cabo San Lucas. The vibrant mix captivated Bill and Jacque Demmer of Texas, who built their first house in the city in 1983. Jacque, 70, is active in an expat group that raises funds for local schools.

Bill's passion is the modern home they're building overlooking the bay. Bill, 75, a former developer, said the structure "will jaw-drop

ing Mexican, an elevator and a bridge connecting the front of the home to the back — was one of the most complicated projects he had ever taken on. He spent a recent morning chasing down his cabinet maker who is weeks behind.

"It's one of the things I still can't get used to," Demmer said of the culture's literal interpretation of deadlines.

Other expats, though, are settling at being off the clock. Larry Lambert, a vacationing Idaho workaholic, underwent a conversion last year in Mazatlan. Something about the warm sea air and the gracious local people tipped over the buttons.

Upon his return to Boise, he quit his job, prepped his car, packed what would fit into a 5-by-10-foot trailer and headed back to Mazatlan.

He and partner Barbie Wells bought an \$800,000 home in a neighborhood filled with businesses that local families operate out of their homes, including a pinata store, a tailor shop, appliance repair and a taco stand. Lambert and Wells make Spanish classes and find joy in shopping for fresh vegetables or chatting with neighbors.

"My new philosophy is that if we get one thing done today, it's a good day," said Lambert, 63. "If not, there's always tomorrow."

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Butterflies

Continued from page C1

you're actually looking at these tens of millions of monarch butterflies that have come into this tiny, little area of Mexico."

The Biosphere Reserve, a federally protected area nominated for World Heritage Site status, spans some 12,000 acres across two states and costs less than \$5 to enter and \$10 more for a guided tour. In some parts, visitors can trek about on rented horses and burros.

Guided naturalist narrators on the land and have the event site right to conduct talks. For that reason, many guides don't speak English so bring a Spanish dictionary if you want to ask questions about the butterflies.

Mexican President Felipe Calderon plans to pump an extra \$4.6 million into the reserve's \$38.4 million budget of this year, to improve infrastructure and make the area more tourist-friendly. Four butterfly sanctuaries are open to the public on the property: El Rosario and Sierra Chincua in Michoacan, and El Capulin and La Mesa in Mexico state.

Brower, who has studied

the flying insects for 52 years, recommends the Michoacan sanctuaries, which he says are among the most popular and offer amenities such as food, souvenirs, and easy access by car. He suggests visitors go in February and March when the butterflies form an elaborate mating ritual.

"The males chase the females; they zoom around after them and catch them in the air and drop like a dead weight," Brower said. "If the males fail of carrying the female, and he'll land up in the trees, and mate for several hours."

Astrid Fisch, director of operations for Ecotours de Mexico, an environmentally conscious travel agency based in Puerto Vallarta, said she tells foreign clients to go on weekdays to avoid throngs of Mexican tourists.

Prepared to hike anywhere from 20 minutes to over an hour to find a slither. You can only reach the butterflies on paths built by the reserve, and they congregate at extremely high altitudes — between 9,000 and 11,000 feet — so visitors should be in good enough physical condition to handle steep inclines.

If you go:

GETTING THERE: Visitors can fly to the Toluca, Morelia or Mexico City airports and then rent a car or hop a bus to the town of Anguayo or the city of Zicauaro, both of which offer lodging and transportation, usually buses or taxis, to the butterfly reserve. It takes about three hours to get to Anguayo by car from Toluca or Morelia and about four hours to get there from Mexico City. People unfamiliar with the area should hire a car or take a tour bus for the 30-minute trip from Anguayo to the El Rosario sanctuary as the roads can be twisty and sometimes dangerous.

ANGUAYO: Tourism office in Anguayo, Mexico, is at 011-52-715-156-0044, but you may not be able to get information in English. Hotels include El Hotel Albergo Don Bruno (011-52-715-156-0026, rates begin at \$80) and Las Margaritas (011-52-715-0149, rates begin at \$27). They can arrange transportation to the Michoacan Butterfly Biosphere Reserve. Transportation is also available from the town's main plaza.

FOOD: Bringing food into the reserve is prohibited, so plan on staying for a few hours and then heading back down to the entrance to enjoy quesadillas or tostadas at stands that cluster there.

WHAT TO WEAR: Because weather can be extremely cold in the morning, dress in warm, layered clothing that can be easily shed, and wear comfortable hiking boots. A raincoat might also be a good idea, since mist and light rains are common.

WHEN TO GO: The butterflies begin arriving in November, and leave by late March. The best time to see them is between 10:30 a.m. and 1 p.m., when they are at their most active.

TIP: On cloudy days, the butterflies remain silent to preserve body heat. It's advisable to plan your trip to include an overnight stay in the area so you can come back on a different day if the weather doesn't cooperate.

OTHER ATTRACTIONS: Morelia is a beautiful, colonial city with great food and arts and crafts; Patzcuaro, a tiny village on a breathtaking lake, has a great food and crafts market and two lovely plazas and is known for its Day of the Dead celebration in early November; Tlalpujahua is a tiny, picturesque town, an ideal place to stop for lunch.

ECOTOURS DE MEXICO: <http://www.ecotourismvalarta.com/> or 011-52-322-222-6606.

Dude ranch association to hold annual convention in Wyoming

Times-News

If a sea of cowboy hats in a hotel is your idea of fun, The Dude Ranchers' Association's 82nd annual meeting might be just the ticket.

Held in Cody, Wyo., this year, the meeting features such speakers as Bob Boze Bell, owner of True West Magazine, with activities from wrangler instructor training to a horse safety seminar. Estate planning, marketing tips and strategy, employee issues and issues of land use and conservation will also be covered.

The organization, dedicated to preserving the Western way of life in the American West, also produces an annual directory containing information for dude ranch owners and visitors alike.

Giddyap!

WHAT: The 82nd annual convention of the Dude Ranchers' Association
WHERE: The Cody Holiday Inn in Cody, Wyo.
WHEN: Jan. 23-27, with additional events on Jan. 28
COST: Varies
Information: www.duderranch.org, colleen@duderranch.org or (866) 399-2339

How far?

From Twin Falls, it is a 7-hour drive to Cody, Wyo., where The Dude Ranchers will meet this month.

FEARLESS TRAVELER

Admitting a fear of flying is the first step

By Scott Vogel
The Washington Post

Do you have any suggestions or advice on overcoming the fear of flying?

At first, it seems congratulations are in order. How's that? You have publicly admitted your fear, which turns out to be one of the three most important components of conquering aviophobia. "I had kept it secret, because it's secrets that kill us," cautions Ron Nielsen, a.k.a. Captain Ron, whose www.fearflight.com offers scores of pertinent information as well as multiple methods of addressing this problem. Nielsen, a former commercial pilot, says he, and his company, have helped thousands of people get over the fear of flying since 1987.

"The things people are most afraid of are takeoff and turbulence," he says, which is why educating yourself about the mechanics of flying — No. 2 on the list of Nielsen's suggestions — is so critical. Learn how planes are built, for instance, and how their construction helps jets fly through a storm.

And once you've learned all that, forget it. Sort of. "Learn how to distract yourself," Nielsen says, the final element of his tripartite approach. Breathing exercises will help, as will listening to certain audio stimulation CDs (Nielsen's is called "Flight Harmonizer," part of a kit that costs \$24.95), because the audio part of the brain is co-located with the amygdala.

Yes, it all comes back to the amygdala, as per usual, that part of our brain involved in fear conditioning. As Nielsen puts it, everyone feels that familiar stomach-dropping sensation during clear-air turbulence, but it's how our brains interpret that sensation that makes all the dif-

ference. He believes strongly that breaking unhealthy associations, which may be due to a traumatic incident in one's distant past, is key to triumphing over your fear.

FearlessFlight, based in Phoenix, is just one resource on the Internet, where you'll find video seminars, books, CDs and DVDs on the subject. For help of a less media-centric nature, "check out" the Center for Travel Anxiety (301-469-3612, www.travelanxiety.com in Bethesda, Md.). It offers in-house individual assessments, as well as private and group classes.

O: I'm an architecture buff, especially when it comes to this subject. I've heard there is a festival devoted to this style in Miami. Is it worth visiting?

A: We've never understood this, but the promise of 70-degree weather in January isn't enough to persuade me to travel there. I'm a fan of the beach of snowbirds in their annual migration south. If your family is plagued by one of these multifaceted sins, then the 31st annual Art Deco Festival might well be your best chance to limn a conversion.

For three days (Jan. 18-20), the town turns at least part of its attention away from the beaches haunting the beaches in favor of the arts, theater, cabaret, film and more — all centered on this year's theme: art deco's relationship to the Broadway musical.

Expect to make the acquaintance of eyebrow twickers, window cleaners, the sole surviving Ziegfeld girl. Information: 305-672-2014, www.artdecoweekend.com.

'National Treasure' film showcases S. Dakota

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) — Tourism officials believe that the new Nicolas Cage movie "National Treasure: Book of Secrets" could make the state more visible to South Dakota.

Locations where filming took place include Mount Rushmore and Sylvan Lake in Custer State Park, in the Black Hills.

The state has posted information about the sites, along with movie trailers and interviews — on the state tourism Web site, <http://www.TravelSD.com/nationaltreasure>.

The film is a follow-up to the 2004 movie "National Treasure" and is scheduled for release later this month.

"The release of 'National Treasure: Book of Secrets' is a big deal for South Dakota and we want to reflect that on our Web site," Richard Renda, Tourism and State Development secretary, said in a release.

"Not only will this movie give exposure to our state in terms of attracting tourists, but it also had an \$1.9 million economic impact on our

state during filming."

"South Dakota is known for its amazing landscape and beautiful scenery," said Billie Jo Waara, director of the Office of Tourism.

"This (Web) page allows visitors to go behind the scenes and experience what the film's cast and crew did while filming on location in South Dakota."

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Countries where dollars still go the distance

By Jason La
Los Angeles Times

Longing for an out-of-country excursion but feeling a little poor because you have only dollars in your pocket? Even with the fast-eroding value of the dollar against other currencies, you still can find international destinations where your buck goes a long way.

And you won't have to forgo choice sightseeing or comfort. All you need is a little latitude — and longitude — in selecting your next vacation spot.

Last year I wanted to take one long trip before I had to ease into professional life. Like many new college grads, I had little money. And even though I'm an Anglophile, the exchange rate (\$1.00 to the British pound in May 2006, when I traveled), would have punned my savings. (The rate is even worse these days: \$2.06 to the pound). Besides, my checking account still harbored a partial dent from two months I spent in London two summers ago.



A beach on the east side of Little Corn in Nicaragua. Los Angeles Times photo

I hadn't seen enough of mainland Europe either, but I couldn't deal with the drooping dollar. I needed a destination where I could spend a month comfortably for less than \$2,000.

On the recommendation of a friend, I went to Vietnam, a country where I spent the first three years of my life but that I regarded with caution because it is developing and still the hub of most Western travelers.

But at the end of my five weeks there, I didn't want to leave. It was the best vacation I've had — and the most cost-efficient too.

On average, I spent \$10 a day for less in Vietnam, and I wasn't living like a backpacker. In Hanoi, Vietnam's capital, my room at the centrally located Asia Hotel had a private bathroom, air-conditioning, cable TV and maid service for \$10 a night. I spent \$3 or \$4 on nice dinners. I walked out of one restaurant because the entrees were more than \$5.

Entertainment was inexpensive too. At Nha Trang, Vietnam's coastal city in southern Vietnam, I took a half-day cruise for about \$10. Our boat made several stops and included a tasty lunch.

Access to many of Vietnam's most alluring beaches, such as its pristine beaches and Halong Bay, a UNESCO World Heritage site, is free.

Although Vietnam remains a poor country, it is fairly safe and its people are friendly. Taxi drivers and backpackers might overcharge you, but that's the chief nuisances you'll encounter.

There are other nations that offer adventure and world-class sightseeing on a budget, although some might be undeveloped and lack the tourist infrastructure of more modern nations. Explore and stay within budget, but not at the risk of your safety. Careful research and planning should help you craft a safe, memorable trip. Check the U.S. State Department, www.travel.state.gov, for travel advisories before you go. Read the department's consular information sheets.

Here are five countries where tourism has yet to reach critical mass but where travelers will feel safe and find their trip well worthwhile.

you can easily buy meals for less than \$5. Many cafes offer breakfast for about a buck.

In Tangier, you can stay at the Hotel El Munira, whose famous guests include Beat writers Allen Ginsberg and Jack Kerouac. A room for two goes for less than \$200 a night. You'll find comparable rates throughout the country, although the accommodations might be modest.

While in Morocco, visit one of the omnipresent markets or bazaars that are hubs for everyday life. Morocco's rugged yet scenic landscape has made it an increasingly popular destination for adventure travelers. You can hike the High Atlas Mountains or take the starkly beautiful dunes at the edge of the Sahara.

In Africa, Dave Herbert, managing director and founder of the tour company African Travel Inc., recommends traveling in groups. If you want to travel independently, "Go on a tour and stay a week on your own," says Sylvia Frommer-Mackay, owner of Production Travel-and-Tours, based in California.

Bolivia

Landlocked with many areas at high altitudes, Bolivia is often called the Tibet of the Americas, and like its counterpart in Asia, it's one of the poorest countries in South America. But Bolivia is relatively peaceful and offers basic facilities for travelers, such as lodging and transportation.

Foreigners can generally walk the streets in most areas of Bolivia's major cities without the fear of becoming a victim of crime, if they observe reasonable precautions. The Overseas Security Advisory Council, a federal committee, notes. Air travel around the country is economical and meets International Civil Aviation Organization safety standards.

Largely unbeset by tourists outside of South America, Bolivia is a host for the adventurous spirit as well as a respite for the embattled wanderer. In the past 10 years, the dollar has increased in value almost 45 percent against the boliviano.

With the favorable exchange rate, you can find single rooms with private baths for less than \$10 a night at budget hotels or stay at top-tier hotels for less than \$100 a night. The Hotel Radisson Plaza in La Paz, considered an upper category hotel, has single-occupancy rooms starting at \$99 a night during the high season from June to September (winter there). In London, you'll be lucky to get a private hotel room for \$200.

For its low prices, Bolivia has much to offer. Ancient ruins and a thriving indigenous population showcase a country that was a part of the mighty Inca empire. Bolivia is also home to the lush Amazon rain forests, as well as the snow-capped Andes.

Cambodia

After decades of unrest, stability gradually has returned to Cambodia after democratic elections in 1993. Although still a poor country, it is largely peaceful like its Southeast Asian neighbor, Vietnam. Underdeveloped Cambodia's 46 percent of its land is forests and woodland, attracts adventurers. The prices are similar to those you'll find in Vietnam, even a little less.

Midst meals cost about \$2 to \$3. Dinner menus are about \$10. Expect to pay around \$10 a night for a decent room, although less expensive accommodations are available.

Upscale hotels cost about \$70 a night. Riots are the official currency of Cambodia, but dollars readily are accepted, so you won't have to worry about doing long division in your head.

Cambodia's intricate traditions are awe-inspiring. The most famous are the Angkor ruins, the pinnacle of Khmer architecture.

Nicaragua

Although tourism is inexpensive in Nicaragua, it doesn't attract as many tourists as its more popular neighbors in Central America, such as Costa Rica. The civil war ended nearly two decades ago, and Nicaragua has become a safer destination than it was

A sampling of deals

Los Angeles Times

Tours and packages often offer some of the best deals, and if you're traveling to an unfamiliar country, knowledgeable guides generally will help you get more out of your travels and keep you out of harm's way. Here is a sampling of packages:

ALBANIA

Tour: Expedia.com, (800) 551-2534, www.expedia.com.
 What's included: Flight from Los Angeles and hotel for six nights at the Tirana International Hotel in the capital.
 Price: \$2,441 per person, double occupancy, for midweek departures in May.

BOLIVIA

Tour: "Bolivia Discovery," G.A.P. Adventures, (800) 708-7761, www.gapadventures.com.
 What's included: An 11-day trip, usually in groups of 10, through La Paz, Sucre, Potosi, silver mines. Includes a Jeep excursion through the Uyuni Salt Flats. Available January to August.
 Price: \$2,025 per person, double occupancy, plus \$200 local fee paid to guide. Excludes air fare and some meals and activities.

CAMBODIA

Tour: "Cycle Cambodia," Intrepid Travel, (800) 970-7289, www.intrepidtravel.com.
 What's included: A nine-day cycling trip through rural Cambodia. Sights include Shianoukville, Angkor Wat's temples and colonial Phnom Penh. Includes one breakfast.
 Price: \$925 per person, double occupancy, plus local payment of \$100. Departures

10 years ago," says Alicia Zablocki, director of Latin American programs at Mountain Travel Sobek.

Travelers will find the country peaceful and affordable. You can get a meal of tamales or empanadas from street vendors for a buck or two, although higher-end and more expensive international fare is available in larger cities. Budget lodging goes for about \$5 a night on the low end, but expect to pay more if you want features such as a private bathroom. Luxury hotels in major cities charge a fraction of the price in more popular Central American destinations.

Nicaragua's natural fea-

tures are its chief assets. Large tracts of rain forest and accessible volcanoes make for breathtaking wilderness excursions.

MOROCCO

Tour: "A Mountain Biker's Dream," BikeLife Adventures, (888) 805-8061, www.bikehike.com.
 What's included: A 10-day biking adventure through the Atlas mountain ranges of the country's deep south. Includes camel ride, lodgings and two nights of camping. Some meals included.
 Price: \$2,250 per person for groups of four or larger; excludes air fare to Marrakech.

NICARAGUA

Tour: "Nicaragua: Volcanoes, Lakes & Rainforests," Mountain Travel Sobek, (800) 687-9225, www.mtsobek.com.
 What's included: Nine-day trip starts in Managua, Nicaragua's capital, and includes three days of hiking and three days of kayaking, meals, tours and equipment.
 Price: \$2,745 per person, double occupancy, based on six people in the group; air fare to Managua not included. Departures available for January, February and October through December.

VIETNAM

Tour: "Essential Vietnam," Adventure Center, (800) 228-8747, www.adventurecenter.com.
 What's included: Ten-day tour includes visits to the Mekong Delta in the south and Hanoi in the north. Some meals included.
 Price: \$1,180 per person, double occupancy, plus \$150 local fee; air fare not included.

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 Price: \$1,180 per person, double occupancy, plus \$150 local fee; air fare not included.

Albania, in southeast Europe, is one of the continent's poorest countries. Isolated and communist until the 1990s, Albania is on its way to becoming a free-market economy. The U.S. State Department classifies Albania as a "high-risk" country, but it notes that "rare as it is viewed as too risky," Albanians generally have a favorable view of Americans, so there's no

need to wear your "I Love New York" shirts inside out.

Albania is not yet a member of the European Union, and its currency, the lek, is low against the dollar. You can find meals for less than \$20, fancier fare for less than \$20. Stay in dormitory-style hostels for about \$20 a night. Hostels by campus including the Roman, Byzantine and Ottoman. Albania is rich in archaeological sites. Ruins from each of the civilizations can be found in cities across the country, particularly in Thessalonica, an important site of the Greeks. Berat, a well-preserved ancient city, boasts a medieval fortress and beautiful churches.

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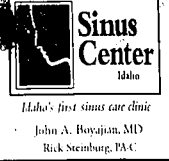
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Facial pressure/pain	Yes	Sometimes
Duration of illness	Over 10-14 days	Under 10 days
Nasal Discharge	Thick, yellow-green	Thick, whitish or thin
Fever	Sometimes	Sometimes
Headache	Sometimes	Sometimes
Pain in upper teeth	Sometimes	No
Bad Breath	Sometimes	No
Coughing	Sometimes	Yes
Nasal Congestion	Yes	Yes
Sneezing	No	Yes



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Morocco

Bordering the Atlantic Ocean and Mediterranean Sea in northern Africa, Morocco has an eclectic identity that has been shaped by its location and long history. This Arab nation has many European influences because it's so close to the continent. Arabic is the official language, but French is spoken widely. Although it's a developing nation, Morocco has accessible transportation and a range of lodging and eating options to fit many budgets. With a dollar worth almost 8 Moroccan dirhams,

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Resorts rejoice over best snow conditions in several years

By Robert Weiler
Associated Press writer

DENVER — Santa brought just what the nation's ski resorts wanted — the best nationwide snow conditions in several years.

From New England to California, the snow dumped in the days and weeks before Christmas. Even Taos, N.M., in the desert southwest, had a 60-inch base.

"This is our best opening since 1977," said Adriana Hickey, marketing director for Taos. The resort couldn't open for Thanksgiving, but later got 60 inches in a week. "This is crazy. It never snows like this."

In November, with a few exceptions, some of the most popular resorts in the Rockies and California delayed their openings because of a lack of snow. Most only offered limited terrain because of an unusually balmy and dry fall that produced "disastrous wildfires."

Then the jet stream moved south and the snow began to fall, and fall. Wolf Creek, Colo., which usually has the deepest base in the state, has suffered for the last two years. It debuted late for last month with less than 10 inches. A week before Christmas it had 115 inches.

"It is spectacular for the first time in recent time in recent history the industry is up and operating across the country," said Michael Berry, president of the National Ski Areas Association.

New England struggled last year. The Vermont Ski Areas Association said 99 percent of Vermont's 124 ski trails were open as of Dec. 10, compared with 14 percent at the same time last year.

The snow has been good from the start at Whistler-Blackcomb, British Columbia, the busiest resort in North America. "The snow on our base had cumulative snowfall of over 11 feet," said Michelle Cross, spokeswoman for Whistler.

"It one region offers the skiers take note of that and tend to generally that they're not snow," said Connie Marshall, spokeswoman for Alta, Utah's legendary powder palace.

"It's just one storm after another," said Kyle Mozley, a Horn, Nev., National Weather Service meteorologist.

Underneath that snow at Vail, Colo., the nation's busiest resort, is \$1 billion in improvements in lodging, retail facilities and other amenities like ice skating. "All the streets feel like plazas. East Meadow Drive is so much more inviting — and with the new restaurants and shops, it feels like our own 'Little Italy,'" said Beth Siler, chairwoman of Vail's Local Marketing District Advisory Council.

"With our European street concept we've developed a look, a feel and a product that will last 100 years and that encourages shopping, dining and lingering during any season," said her husband, Rod, Vail's mayor.

Aspen's Snowmass resort has added a \$17 million, 25,000-square-foot children's center, called the Frisco Kids Adventure Center. It has a dedicated four-seat chair just for the kids. Inside there interactive, environmental-themed rooms like the Butterfly Meadow. It even has rooms for kids who need a little extra care or aren't feeling well.

Colorado's Beaver Creek Resort also just opened a new gondola, connecting the resort with the nearby town of Avon with a three-minute ride. The resort also has a new children's area with customized learning slopes.

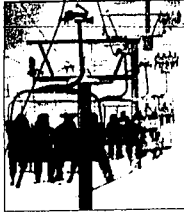
Manitou Mountain, Calif., has replaced a double fixed-grip with the six-pack Cloud Nine Express, which will cut ride time to the Thruway's back area in half to six minutes.

It will help the busy mountain move snowriders across the mountain more easily, and it is a heavier chair and can operate in more difficult weather conditions, said Laura Johnson, spokeswoman for the resort.

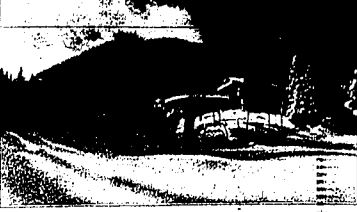
Brighton, Utah, has replaced its last fixed-grip chair, the Millcreek, laying claim to becoming the first

area in the country in which all terrain is served by high-speed quads. That means more runs, and no longer being banged in the burn by chairs.

New England Business Journals reports that areas in Vermont and New Hampshire spent more than \$30 million in improvements. An additional \$175-200 million was expended by ski areas and private developers in real estate projects.



Skiers fill the lifts at Stone Mountain Resort in Stone, Vt., in this Dec. 3, 2007, file photo.



This photo released by Taos Ski Valley, shows the ski lift Taos Ski Valley on Dec. 13, 2007.

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