

TAKING FLIGHT

CSI men, women open conference play.
SPORTS/C1

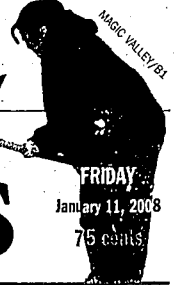


BACK FROM THE ASHES

Fire rages in Twin Falls Basin. Details: C6, C7, C8
OUTDOORS/L1

SNOW CRIME

Shovel the walk or face time in jail?



Good Morning

High: 41
Low: 26

Winter showers. Details: C8

Times-News

FRIDAY
January 11, 2008
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MagicValley.com

Student data system idea gains traction

\$1.9 million system proposed to Legislature

By Andrea Gates
Times-News writer

A small misunderstanding this week between the state and a local school district involving enrollment numbers may highlight a need for a proposed \$1.9 million student data system in Idaho's public schools.

These types of systems, called longitudinal data systems, can "change the culture" of how student data is analyzed and reported, as well as affect potential policy changes promoting educational improvement, said Nancy Smith, deputy director of the Data Quality Campaign, of Washington, D.C.

"Idaho is behind the pack for this type of extensive student data system," said Smith.

The Idaho State Department of Education is pushing for the system in this year's legislative budget at a price tag that would represent a fraction of 1 percent of its \$1.47 billion general fund budget request. The appropriation would fund mostly software and some hardware for the data system, said ISDE Spokesperson Melissa McGrath.

Vocal opposition has been minimal so far during the legislative session. But in 2004, a similar initiative through the state and the J.A. and Kathryn Albertson Foundation failed and resulted in a loss of \$1 million in public funds, according to the state's Office of Performance Evaluations.

The proposed data system would attach a number to every student in Idaho and track information about that student so ISDE and school districts could collect and disseminate current and accurate data for enrollment, dropout rates, student achievement and other "critical information," according to the ISDE.

Please see DATA, Page A3

BOBCAT-BRUIN BATTLE



Twin Falls High School Bruin player Russel Crane leaps to the hoop during the second half of the BSHS matchup against the Burley High School Bobcats Thursday night in Twin Falls as Bobcat player Brad Carens tries to fend off the shot. To see if Burley kept its 30-game winning streak alive, see page C1.

Defender challenges McElhiney indictment

Paul: Grand jury procedure didn't protect client

By Cassidy Friedman
Times-News writer

Twin Falls County Public Defender Marilyn Paul wants a judge to toss out a grand jury's indictment of her client in a first-degree murder case, according to court records.

Paul leveled a host of challenges in a motion to dismiss John McElhiney's grand jury indictment.

She filed that motion and others that were to have been heard by 5th District Judge G. Richard Bevan on Thursday but the hearing was postponed. The prosecutor has not yet responded to any of the motions.

A grand jury indicted McElhiney on a first-degree murder charge after Dale Miller, 18, was found dead Sept. 12 in a barrel in a Twin Falls garage. But Paul says, after reading a transcript of the way the procedure was carried out, it shouldn't stand.

Her arguments range from the common challenge that the secret hearing blocks a defendant from confronting his accuser, to a claim that the primary reason for conducting a probable cause hearing in secret — that it protects witnesses and the suspect from outside influence and scrutiny — doesn't apply to McElhiney's case.

Because McElhiney was already charged in a public complaint, Paul says the secrecy did not protect her client.

"The reason for secrecy was gone," she wrote, "and one of the reasons for the prosecutor to be able to elect to proceed secretly was gone."

Twin Falls County Prosecutor Grant Loeb has said protecting witnesses and suspects is just one reason for choosing a grand jury. Other reasons he has noted include protecting the pool of potential

Please see CHALLENGE, Page A3

Getting creative

Border Patrol using TV ads, NASCAR sponsorship in effort to get more recruits

By Alicia A. Caldwell
Associated Press writer

EL PASO, Texas — A NASCAR race car, sponsored by the U.S. Border Patrol, billboards hundreds of miles from the Rio Grande, promoting a career as a border agent. TV commercials for the federal agency, aired during Dallas Cowboys games.

With the Border Patrol denied hiring boom, the agency is going to extraordinary lengths to compete with police departments around the country for an unusually small pool of qualified applicants.

"We've not done anything this ambitious before," said Assistant Chief Michael Olsen. "Our biggest task, our biggest hurdle, is just getting our message out to

Patrol boosted

Most border patrol agents guard the Mexican border. The agency plans to hire 18,000 agents by the end of the calendar year.

Approximate border patrol

15,000 agents

Total Southwest border



SOURCE: U.S. Customs and Border Protection

parts of the country that maybe didn't know we existed."

Previously, the Border Patrol relied heavily on word of mouth and job fairs to find recruits. But it has been forced to get creative to compete with local and state agencies, including the expanding Texas Department of Public Safety, that are mimicking the corporate world with hiring incentives such as take-home cars, paid

Please see BORDER, Page A4

Jerome County relishes new safety equipment

Courthouse begins use of metal detector

By Cassidy Friedman
Times-News writer

JEROME — Sgt. Sam Sauer was never hard to spot at the Jerome County Courthouse.

He was often the only cop there.

The friendly bailiff played the security role and controlled the courtroom environment as tempers flared in felony criminal cases.

"Our bailiff is wonderful," said Michelle Emerson, the Jerome County clerk. "Sammy makes you feel safe."

Emerson counted on one bailiff for her protection during her 10 years as a clerk, as did judges, jurors and anyone else who happened to be in attendance — both in the old courthouse and in the new courthouse building, which opened two years ago. There was no metal detector at the front door, and no guard checking pockets. And after



Deputy Ron Lang of the Jerome County Sheriff's Office checks a woman's purse at the courthouse entrance where new metal detectors were recently added.

Photo: Thomson

"I have always felt safe and secure in any courthouse I have been in."

— 5th District Judge John Butler

hearing about courtroom shootings in places such as Atlanta and Salt Lake City, even Sauer felt mildly anxious.

But in December, Sauer returned from vacation to find a large, rectangular metal detector standing at the front door. Stationed behind the metal detector was Deputy

Ron Lang, a new hire, who is assigned to that one job.

Sauer also found a second jail deputy had been assigned to help him. Security was improving at the courthouse, thanks to a push from county commissioners and judges, followed by additional efforts by court administrators.

Last October, commission-

ers set aside funds for the sheriff to hire a new deputy at the courthouse. But the commissioners lacked money to pay for a metal detector, said 5th District Trial Court Administrator Linda Wright.

Twin Falls County was given its metal detector from the Idaho Supreme Court. Blaine County paid for its own. Court administrators noticed a third metal detector had been catching cobwebs

Please see SAFETY, Page A3



At Your Service directory E12
Bridge E9
Business C8
Calendar A2




Classifieds E1-12
Comics E-7
Crossword E8
Dear Abby E7

Idaho/West B4
Horoscope E7
Jumble E4
Magic Valley B1

Movies B2-3
Obituaries B2
Opinion A6
Sports C1

Stocks C7
Sudoku E5
Weather C8
World D4

TODAY'S FORECAST

TWIN FALLS		
Today	Tonight	Saturday
		
Cloudy with showers	A lull in shower activity	Less likely to shower
High 41	Low 26	36 / 25

MINI-CASSIA

Today: Cool with cloudy periods. Perhaps a brief passing of light snow. Highs 30s.
 Tonight: Decreasing clouds and less likely to snow. Lows 20s.
 Tomorrow: Cool, mostly dry and fair. Highs low to middle 30s.

Complete weather report: See page C8

TODAY'S HAPPENINGS

ARTS AND ENTERTAINMENT

The 10th annual Buhl High School Drama Department Dinner Theater, with "You Have the Right to Remain Dead," written by Pat Cook, 6:30 p.m. dinner and 7 p.m. curtain, West End Senior Center, 1010 Main St., Buhl, \$15 for single, \$30 for couple, \$14 for senior single and \$28 for senior couples, 490-1992 or 543-4577.

BENEFITS AND FUNDRAISERS

1976 all-original Chevy Camaro Car Raffle, for 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.

CLUBS AND ORGANIZATIONS

NEW Jr. Toastmaster class/club meeting, an eight-week class to become ongoing club sponsored by Magic Valley Toastmasters for interested youth age 12-18, 4 p.m., Idaho Pizza, 1859 Kimberly Road, Twin Falls, no cost or obligation to buy food, join any time, 316-8534 or 736-2010.

FAMILY

"Youth Options," activities for young people ages 13-19 only, 7 to 10 p.m., The Salvation Army, 348 Fourth-Ave. N., Twin Falls, \$2, 733-8720.

GOVERNMENT

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

HEALTH AND RECOVERY

Fit and Fall Proof Exercise Class, 10:30 to 11:30 a.m., Ageless Senior Citizens, Inc., 301 Main St. N., Kimberly, 737-5988.

Fit and Fall Proof Exercise Class, 11 to 11:45 a.m., Oakley Fire Station, 315 E. Main St., Oakley, 737-5988.

Al-Anon/Alateen family groups, to help friends and families of alcoholics, help line: 1-866-592-3198.

MUSEUMS

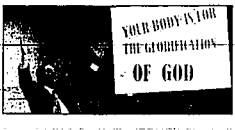
Faulkner Planetarium "Icy Worlds/Saving the Night/Live Sky Tour" at 7 p.m. and "Lynrd Skyrdy: Fly Over Free Bird" at 8:15 p.m., Herratt Center for Arts and Science, north end of the College of Southern Idaho campus, Twin Falls, \$4 for adults, \$3 for senior citizens, \$2 for students and \$9 for families, 732-6655.

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

COMING TOMORROW IN RELIGION

Bod4God

Congregations combine Christian principles with low-fat diet and exercise.



CORRECTION

Statistic wrong
 An information box with Thursday's article about the Blue Angels flight demonstration team contained the wrong number of shows the Angels perform. The Angels average 35 shows a year, as was reported in the article itself. The Times-News regrets the error.



Watershed	% of Jan. 11	% season peak	Salmon Falls	84%	43%
Salmon	117%	52%	86%	40%	
Big Wood	106%	50%			As of Jan. 10
Little Wood	103%	47%			
Big Lost	100%	45%			
Little Lost	95%	45%			
Henry's Fork/Teton	101%	48%			
Upper Snake Basin	88%	42%			

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

MORNING BRIEFING

India's Tata Motors unveils \$2,500 car, bringing car ownership within reach of millions

By Gavin Rabinowitz
 Associated Press writer



Tata Company Chairman Ratan Tata next to the newly launched Tata Nano at the 9th Auto Expo in New Delhi, India, Thursday. India's Tata Motors unveiled its much anticipated \$2,500 car.

NEW DELHI — For millions of people in the developing world, Tata Motors' new \$2,500 four-door subcompact — the world's cheapest car — may yield a transportation revolution as big as Henry Ford's Model T.

The potential impact of Tata's Nano has given environmentalists nightmares, with visions of the tiny cars clogging India's already-choked roads and collectively paving millions of tons of carbon dioxide into the air.

Industry analysts, however, say the car may soon help to lift India and the rest of the developing world unprecedented mobility.

"It is a potentially gigantic development if it delivers what has been promised," said John Casesa, managing partner for the Casesa Shapiro Group, a New York-based auto industry financial advisory firm.

The basic model, expected to roll off assembly lines later this year, will sell for 10,00,000 rupees, or about \$2,500, but analysts estimate customers could pay 20 percent to 30 percent more to cover taxes, delivery and other charges.

Company chairman Ratan Tata, who introduced the Nano at India's main auto show, has also promised a \$2,500 "People's Car" for India — a country of some 1.1 billion where only seven of every 1,000 people own a car. That vow has been much derided by the global industry which said it would be impossible without sacrific-

ing safety and quality.

"A promise is a promise," Tata told the crowd after driving onstage stage in a white, luxury edition Nano, his head nearly touching the roof. Four company executives emerged from another. Tata says the Nano can seat five.

The company will not say how the price was kept so low on the basic version and won't say how much the luxury Nano will cost until it hits

showrooms toward the end of this year.

The company also refused to let reporters sit in the car, let alone drive it.

But the basic version is austere: There's no radio, passenger-side mirror, central locking or power steering, and only one windshield wiper. Air conditioning that would spare motorists the brutal Indian summer is available only in deluxe models.

AROUND THE WORLD

S. CAROLINA

Kerry endorses Obama for president, bypassing Clinton, Edwards

CHARLESTON — John Kerry, the 2004 Democratic presidential nominee, gave Barack Obama a timely endorsement Thursday, snubbing Hillary Rodham Clinton as well as his own vice presidential running mate.

Kerry came to South Carolina to embrace Obama, two weeks before the state's primary and with Obama needing a boost after Clinton's emotional victory over him in New Hampshire.

Quoting a black American hero in endorsing the man who hopes to be the first black president, Kerry told a cheering crowd, "Marlin Luther King said that the time is always right to do what is right. Now is the time, Kerry said, to declare 'that Barack Obama can be, will be and should be the next president of the United States.'

The Massachusetts senator said other candidates who respect the headwinds of war and respected but Obama was best able to bring Americans together.

"Who better than Barack Obama to turn a new page in American politics so that liberal, independent and republican alike can look to leadership that unites to find the common ground?" Kerry said. "That's what this is about."

WASHINGTON

U.S. formally protests Iranian harassment of warships in Persian Gulf

The United States on Thursday lodged a formal diplomatic protest with Iran over an incident last weekend in which Iranian speedboats in which Iranian warships in the Persian Gulf.

The protest repeats U.S. complaints about Sunday's "provocative" action in the Strait of Hormuz and was sent to the Iranian Foreign Ministry via the Swiss Embassy in Tehran, which represents U.S. interests in Iran, the State Department said.

"It reiterates the points that we have made publicly in the last few days," deputy spokesman Tom Cosey told reporters. "We certainly don't want to see the Iranians taking any kind of provocative actions or provocative steps against our ships or against any of our military international waters."

In Tehran, Iranian Foreign Ministry officials said they were unaware of the U.S. protest.

At a Pentagon news conference, Defense Secretary

Late payments lead to shutdown of FBI surveillance, audit finds

Telephone companies have cut off FBI wiretaps used to eavesdrop on suspected criminals because of the bureau's repeated failures to pay phone bills on time.

A Justice Department audit released Thursday blamed the lost connections on the FBI's oversight of money used in undercover investigations. In one office alone, unpaid costs for wiretaps from one phone company totaled \$66,000.

In at least one case, a wiretap used in a Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act investigation "was halted due to untimely payment," the audit found. FISA wiretaps are used in the government's most sensitive and secretive criminal and intelligence investigations, and allow eavesdropping on suspected terrorists or spies.

"We also found that late payments have resulted in telecommunications carriers actually disconnecting phone lines established to deliver surveillance results to the FBI, resulting in lost evidence," according to the audit by Inspector General Glenn A. Fine.

More than half of 990 bills to pay for telecommunications surveillance in five unidentified FBI field offices were not paid on time, the report shows.

"We also found that late payments have resulted in telecommunications carriers actually disconnecting phone lines established to deliver surveillance results to the FBI, resulting in lost evidence," according to the audit by Inspector General Glenn A. Fine.

Consumer group claims insurance companies overcharge, underpay

U.S. insurance companies systematically overcharge customers and underpay home and auto claims to their already-fat bottom lines, a consumer group said Thursday.

The Consumer Federation of America's insurance director, J. Robert Hunter, said insurance companies have enjoyed luxury profits and contained losses largely by "methodically overcharging consumers, cutting back on coverage, underpaying claims and getting taxpayers to pick up some of the tab for risks the insurers should cover."

Hunter's comments came with the release of a study by Consumer Federation, Consumers Union and several other consumer organizations that said the industry's overcharges reached an average \$870 per U.S. household over the last four years.

The loss ratio for property-casualty insurance companies, or the percentage of premiums paid out to policyholders as benefits, was 54.6 percent last year, according to the study, up from 53.3 percent in 2006 but far below the 75 percent level of the late 1980s.

— Wire services

SEATTLE

Couple pleads not guilty in slaying of 6 family members near Seattle

A woman and her boyfriend pleaded not guilty Thursday to murdering six of her family members on Christmas Eve.

Prosecutors are deciding whether to seek the death penalty if the suspects, Michelle K. Anderson and Joseph Thomas McEnroe, both 29, are convicted.

Investigators have said Anderson and McEnroe confessed to shooting her parents, her brother and his wife and their couple's young children at her parents' home near Carnation, east of Seattle.

Prosecutors have given no motive, but said Anderson told detectives her brother owed her money and that she was upset because her parents did not take her side.

She also said her parents were pressuring her to start paying rent for staying on

Woman found with bodies of 4 girls faces murder charges

A woman found with the decomposing bodies of four girls faces murder charges, and authorities believe she is their mother, officials said Thursday.

Banita Jacks, 23, was expected to appear Thursday in D.C. Superior Court, where the charges will be presented.

Times-News

PUBLISHER Brad Ward 735-2345	ONLINE Online sales Innon Houseco 735-3201	NEW INFORMATION The Times-News (ISSN 031-880) is published daily at 1371 Park St., W. Twin Falls, Idaho. It is a subsidiary of Lee Enterprises.
NEWSROOM Editor James W. White 735-2555 News tips before 5 p.m. 735-2426 News tips after 5 p.m. 735-2323 Letters to the editor 735-2323	CLASSIFIEDS Advertising Manager Janet Coffey 735-2524 Retail sales manager Linda Fischer 735-2437 Customer service 733-0211, ext. 2 Classification manager Chrissy Harter 735-2387	CIRCULATION Customer service 733-0311, ext. 1 Daily and other rates 733-0311, ext. 1 Buyer Robert Paul Oakley 877-4042 Classification Manager Janet Coffey 735-2524 M-F 8 a.m. and 6 p.m., daily any time in 11 a.m. or 6 p.m. weekdays for more information about our benefits for individual subscribers, visit our website, including the new instructions, vacation stops, and other options. If you do not receive your paper by 6:30 a.m., call the number for your area by 10 a.m. to notify. Classification director Trisha Michel 735-3327

Data

Continued from page A1

The Data Quality Campaign studies show Idaho is one of only five states with no system, Smith said. The average cost for states to implement one of these systems ranges from \$1 million to \$3 million, depending on hardware and software.

The proposed \$1.9 million cost for a system in Idaho "seems reasonable" to Rep. Bob Nonini, R-Coeur d'Alene, the chairman of the House Education Committee. "It would pay great dividends in the future," he said.

Local confusion

A recent discrepancy in fall enrollment numbers between the state education department and the Twin Falls School District may highlight the need for a longitudinal student data system in Idaho.

The confusion ensued when the district discovered head-count numbers on its spreadsheet differed by about 47 students from a version maintained by the state.

But within a day Superintendent Wiley Dobbs said he figured out the problem, and determined that 94 half-time charter school students — who take classes at Twin Falls High School through the Advanced Regional Technical Education Center — were included in the district's enrollment numbers, but not the state's. Those half-timers represented the discrepant 47 students.

But the district is already funded for those students through the charter school, Dobbs said, and "double dipping" for money is not allowed. He said this incident did not result in the district receiving any more or less money than it was entitled.

Safety

Continued from page A1

at the Minidoka County courthouse — propped against a wall, unused since the state Supreme Court gave it to the county because there was no funding to staff the position, Wright said.

Through a simple shift, Jerome County received its magnetometer from Minidoka County. "I have always felt safe and secure in my courthouse. I have been in," said 5th District Judge John Butler, who has operated out of the Jerome County Courthouse since taking the bench in 2004. "You hear about things happening and you don't want to be talking hindsight. You are going to have those emotional cases where something happens that is unexpected."

The courthouse also contains panic buttons, Emerson said.

Still, not all violent acts can be avoided by security increases, according to Butler.

Even the more heavily-

"That is one reason we want to do a state longitudinal data system," McGrath said. "The district's no longer disputing their numbers with us." ISDE receives enrollment data from each school district, he said.

Dobbs is open to the idea of a cross-examination data system, he said, especially for tracking academic growth and transferring data for students moving between districts.

But Dobbs said the idea could face some opposition. "Idaho is pretty much known as ruggedly independent," he said.

The issue has gained little traction yet in this first week at the Legislature, But Nonini said he hasn't heard any objections to the proposition.

A working example

The Idaho Department of Corrections has a longitudinal data system for inmates and parolees. The system, which started with an \$800,000 investment, has been modernized over the past three years and one official said it has streamlined their operations.

The system works in coordination with an original offender management system and now lets state corrections officials track the educational and treatment progress of inmates and parolees, said Soni Starr, a state correction department project manager.

Inmates are tracked with their number for the amount of vocational training, GED coursework, and self-change programs that they've completed. "I think it provides us with accurate data collections," said Starr.

"That means the Legislature gets thorough information about IDOC for policy decisions," she said.

staffed Twin Falls County courthouse wasn't able to stop a victim and witness from entering a physical fight, he said.

"There are some things that have nothing to do with the security in the building," Butler said.

About a decade ago, the state Supreme Court began pressing counties to buff up their security, Wright said. Counties were given handheld metal detectors. That's also when the Magic Valley received its two magnetometers.

Minidoka County courthouse staff was first to meet about security issues. That courthouse has cameras set up around the courthouse and the county has installed a holding cell next to their courtroom.

"The whole state is really on the security drive in trying to make our buildings more secure for the public and for the people working there," Wright said. "We are just doing what we can in all of the courthouses."

Challenge

Continued from page A1

jurors in a trial, and keeping the trial in a local venue.

Paul also cites a 2004 U.S. Supreme Court case called *Crawford v. Washington*, in which the court decided that certain statements made in a grand jury hearing without facing a cross-examination would be considered testimonial hearsay and not admissible in a trial. While Paul has made this argument without success in other cases, Idaho appellate courts have not ruled on how to interpret this opinion.

Yet some Idaho lawyers warn that the motion could win favor in the right case.

"It's a very creative argument," said Sara Thomas, the chief of the appellate public defender's office, who has several pending grand jury appeals.

Thomas said, "Crawford was a big shift in the law. How it's going to be applied is an open question. If the (Idaho) courts decide that Crawford does apply to grand jury hearings, that would mean there would be

a huge change in how they (grand juries) work."

In a grand jury hearing, after the prosecutor chooses a panel of 16 jurors, the prosecutor presents only the state's case, and calls only prosecution witnesses to testify. The accused cannot be present, and no lawyer represents their interests in the grand jury hearing. The panel decides after asking questions whether the defendant probably committed the crime.

The hearing, which is common in many states, is held in complete secrecy. In Twin Falls County, bailiffs lock the doors to the courtroom and seal all windows with colored paper.

Because the prosecutor acts alone, he is responsible for keeping hearsay and inadmissible facts from clouding the case. Paul, in her motion, said Loebhs warned jurors about these pitfalls but says she would have objected to certain witnesses' testimony and other facts they were allowed to hear and see.

"His case was therefore

harmful and unfairly prejudiced," she concludes.

If a judge rejects Paul's motion at the rescheduled hearing, it would be more difficult to pass her arguments on appeal. In the past decade, the Idaho Court of Appeals has made it more difficult to challenge a grand jury proceeding after a conviction.

No Twin Falls County grand jury indictment has been overturned on appeal

since 1992, Loebhs said in an interview.

"Challenging what has happened in a grand jury makes sure that that process continues to work appropriately," Thomas said. "If you don't challenge it, and it's not working appropriately then there is no protection for anyone."

Cassidy Friedman can be reached at 735-3241 or cfriedman@mqjvalley.com.

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DEQ Seeks Comment on Proposed Brownfields Cleanup Plan for Former Mr. A's Dry Cleaners Site, Twin Falls

In compliance with the Idaho Land Remediation Rules (IDAPA 58.01.18), the Idaho Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) has scheduled a 30-day period of availability wherein the public may request to review and submit comments on the *Workplan and Analysis of Brownfields Cleanup Alternatives for Mr. A's Dry Cleaners in Twin Falls*.

The former Mr. A's Cleaners is contaminated with tetrachloroethene (PERC or PCE) from dry cleaning operations. The purpose of the workplan is to describe the cleanup alternatives evaluated, the preferred cleanup method selected and its implementation. Following cleanup, the site is proposed to be redeveloped as a retail cleaning product center that will sell non-toxic cleaning supplies.

Supporting assessment documents are available at DEQ. The draft workplan is available for review in PDF format on DEQ's Web site at www.deq.idaho.gov/public/comment.cfm and at the following locations:

Idaho DEQ	Twin Falls City Hall	Twin Falls Library
1410 N. Hilhon	321 2 nd Ave East	201 4 th Ave East
Boise, ID 83706	Twin Falls, ID 83301	Twin Falls, ID 83301

Written comments must be submitted by 5 p.m., MST, February 8, 2008. Submit questions, requests, and/or written comments to:

Bruce Wicherski
Voluntary Cleanup Program Manager
Idaho Department of Environmental Quality
1410 N. Hilhon
Boise, ID 83706
Phone: 208-373-0246
Email: bruce.wicherski@deq.idaho.gov

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New rules for driver's licenses meant to deter terrorists, illegal immigrants

By Devin Barrett
Associated Press writer

WASHINGTON — Baby boomers don't make good terrorists, the government says, so they will get extra time to comply with new post-Sept. 11 driver's license rules.

But younger Americans — those born after Dec. 1, 1964 — will have to move more quickly under ambitious security rules to be announced Friday by federal officials.

The Homeland Security Department has spent years crafting the final regulations for the REAL ID Act, a law designed to make it harder for terrorists, illegal immigrants and con artists to get government-issued identification. The effort once envisioned to take effect in 2008 has been pushed back in the hopes of winning over skeptical state officials.

Even with more time, more federal help and technical advances, REAL ID still faces stiff opposition from civil liberties groups.

To address some of those concerns, the government now plans to phase in a secure ID initiative that Congress passed into law in 2005. Now DHS plans a key deadline in 2011 — when federal authorities hope all states will be in compliance — and then further measures to be enacted three years later, according to congressional staffers who spoke to The Associated Press on condition of anonymity because of an announcement that had not yet been made. DHS officials briefed legislative

alder on the details late Thursday.

Without discussing details, Homeland Security Secretary Michael Chertoff promoted the final rules for REAL ID during a meeting Thursday with an advisory council.

"We worked very closely with the states in terms of developing a plan that I think will be inexpensive, reasonable to implement and produce the results," he said. "This is a win-win, as much as people use driver's licenses to identify themselves for whatever reason

there's no reason for those licenses to be easily counterfeited or tampered with."

In order to make the plan more appealing to cost-conscious states, federal authorities drastically reduced the expected cost from \$14.6 billion to \$3.9 billion, a 73 percent decline, according to Homeland Security officials familiar with the plan.

The American Civil Liberties Union has fiercely objected to the effort, particularly the sharing of personal data among government agencies. The DHS and other

officials say the only way to make sure an ID is safe is to check it against secure government data; critics like the ACLU say that creates a system that is more likely to be infiltrated and have its personal data pilfered.

In its written objection to the law, the ACLU claims REAL ID amounts to the first-ever national identification system, which "would irreparably damage the fabric of American life."

The Sept. 11 attacks were the main motivation for the changes.

Border

Continued from page A1

Interrelationships and five-figure signing bonuses.

The multibillion-dollar recruiting campaign was also prompted by a shortage of qualified candidates, blamed on a number of factors. Among them: the strong economy, which can offer jobs that pay more than the Border Patrol's salary of about \$35,000 to \$45,000; the fighting in Iraq and Afghanistan, which has reduced the flow of military retirees applying for second careers in law enforcement; and the Border Patrol's own security requirements.

Then many applicants lack the clean criminal records and good credit required for patrol duty along the border, where bribes are an ever-present temptation.

Nationally, only about 3 percent to 5 percent of applicants for law enforcement jobs meet the requirements, according to Jason Abend, executive director for the National Law Enforcement Recruiters' association. Only about an average of one qualified candidate for every 30 to 40 applicants — a rate as low as 2.5 percent.

With politicians demanding more "boots on the ground" to secure the Mexican border, the Border Patrol is expanding rapidly. It has gone from about 12,000 agents in 2005 to nearly 15,000 now, and wants to reach about 18,000 by the end of the year.

To reach recruits, the agency is posting highway billboards well inland, including suburban Salt Lake City, 300 miles north of the Mexican border, and is looking into other new corners of the country.

Michael E. Douglas, a Border Patrol assistant chief patrol agent in Washington, said a team of eight agents is canvassing about 13 states to look for new hires.

"We're going down into the Southeast where we haven't traditionally had a lot of candidates. We're hitting minority groups and trying to make them more aware of who we are," Douglas said.

During the 2007 NASCAR Busch Series season, the Border Patrol put its agency name and seal on the No. 28 Chevy in a sponsorship arrangement worth more than \$1 million.

And under a deal signed in November with the Dallas Cowboys, football fans around the country will be seeing TV commercials reminding them that the agency is hiring.

Border Patrol officials are also talking about making a slogan for the agency, one they hope would become as ubiquitous as the Marines' "The few, the proud."

Also, the Border Patrol has raised its age limit for new hires to 40 from 37.

Douglas said it may take several months to know exactly how successful the department's efforts are.

Despite such enticements, recruiting for law enforcement jobs is likely to be a challenge for a while, said Merle Switzer, a consultant and retired law enforcement officer in California.

"Right now, I am telling applicants five to seven years, Switzer said.

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Scientists create stem cells without harming embryos

By Rick Weiss
The Washington Post

WASHINGTON — Scientists in Massachusetts said Thursday they had created several colonies of human embryonic stem cells without harming the embryos from which they were derived, the latest in a series of recent advances that could speed development of stem cell-based treatments for a variety

of diseases. In June, scientists in Japan and Wisconsin said they had made cells very similar to embryonic stem cells from adult skin cells, without involving embryos. But that technique so far requires the use of gene-altered viruses that contaminate the cells and limit their biomedical potential. By contrast, the new work shows for the first time that

healthy, normal embryonic stem cells can be cultivated directly from embryos without destroying them. That means the work should be eligible for federal financing under President Bush's six-year-old policy of funding only stem cell research that does not harm embryos, said study leader Robert Lanza, chief scientific officer at Advanced Cell Technology in

Worcester, Mass. But that is not likely, said Story Landis, who heads the National Institutes of Health stem cell task force, which oversees grants for studies on the medically promising cells. The embryos Lanza used, which were donated for research, appear not to have been damaged, Landis acknowledged. However, she said, "It is impossible to know definitively" that the embryos

were not in some subtle way harmed by the experiment. And "no harm" is the basis of the Bush policy, she said. Landis said the only way to prove that the technique does not harm embryos would be to transfer many of them to women's wombs and see if the resulting babies were normal. But it would be unethical to do that experiment, she said, so the question cannot be answered.

That standard has Lanza fuming. By all scientifically recognized measures, he said, the embryos — currently frozen in suspended animation because they were donated for research and not to make babies — are normal, he said. "I think the burden of proof lies with the NIH and the Bush administration to show that an embryo was harmed," Lanza said.



James M. Ferryman, chairman of the Orange County sanitation district board, samples the final product from the new water purification system the county is using to turn treated sewage into drinking water.

Calif. plant turns treated sewage into drinking water

By Dan Weikel
Los Angeles Times

As a hedge against water shortages and population growth, Orange County, Calif., has begun operating the world's largest, most modern reclamation plant — a facility that can turn 70 million gallons of treated sewage into drinking water every day.

The new purification system at the Orange County Water District headquarters cost about \$490 million and comprises a labyrinth of pipes, filters, holding tanks and pumps across 20 acres. Almost four years after construction began, the facility is now purifying effluent from a neighboring sewage treatment plant run by the Orange County Sanitation District, a partner in the venture.

The finished product will be injected into the county's vast groundwater basin to combat saltwater intrusion and supplement drinking water supplies for 2.3 million people in coastal, central and northern Orange County. But before that can be done, state health officials must certify that the reclaimed water meets drinking water standards. Officials expect the approval to be granted before opening ceremonies Jan. 25.

"Our sources from (the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta) and the Colorado River are becoming unavailable," said Michael Markus, general manager of the water district. "This will help drought-proof the region and give us a locally controlled source of water."

Last month, for example, a federal judge ordered a 30 percent reduction in fresh water pumped from the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta to protect the tiny delta smelt, a threatened species. The region, which is facing myriad environmental problems, is the hub of the region's water system.

If the reclamation plant's full potential is realized, officials say, up to 130 million gallons a day could be added to the county's fresh water supply, lessening the region's dependence on outside sources. Basically, the facility takes treated sewage, which would have been discharged into the sea, and runs it through an advanced filtration system.

Officials say the final product is as clean as distilled water and so pure that lime has to be added to it to keep it from leaching minerals out of concrete pipes, thus weakening them.



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EDITORIAL

Let's pay the best teachers what they deserve

Are teachers in Idaho underpaid? Not by much. At least that's the conclusion of a study released by Education Week, a Maryland-based trade newspaper. The median pay for Idaho teachers is 96.6 cents to every dollar earned by folks in 16 other professions in Idaho, including accountants, architects, computer programmers and registered nurses.

The median income for Idaho teachers in 2005 and 2006 was \$40,627. Idahoans in the other professions earned \$42,060.

In the short run, those numbers won't do much to bolster Idaho Superintendent of Public Instruction Tom Luna's case for spending \$60 million to implement a teacher pay-for-performance plan. But Idaho teachers can't really argue anyone that, as a group, they're grossly under-compensated.

The Legislature gets credit for that. According to the American Federation of Teachers, the average salary for an Idaho teacher increased 9.3 percent in 1995 and 2005, as measured in 2004 dollars. The average private sector salary rose by 9.5 percent.

But in 1995, the average private sector worker earned \$29,017 a year — 76 percent of what the average teacher was paid. Ten years later, the average Idaho teacher made \$40,464, which was 26 percent more than the typical worker.

In fact, the "real pay ratio" of Idaho teacher salaries to private sector compensation between 1995 and 2005 was 1.89, according to the AFT. That was second best in the country; only Alaska teachers did better.

Some Idaho instructors are seriously underpaid, of course. And the \$31,000 starting salary for teachers here isn't enough to compete with surrounding states. But Idaho lawmakers — the vast majority of them conservative Republicans — have by and large kept faith with public school teachers over the past decade, during good times and bad.

Which, in the long run, makes some sort of merit pay system not only logical and fair, but inevitable.

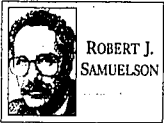
The late Janet Ray, who served three terms in the Legislature and 12 years on the Idaho State Board of Education, coined the term "steeples of excellence" to describe what a small state with limited resources should strive for in its school system.

Luna's pay-for-performance plan is designed to reward such excellence. Good teachers deserve to earn good money.

Our view:
Teachers aren't under-compensated compared with other Idahoans, but the best teachers deserve more money.
What do you think?
We welcome viewpoints from our readers on this and other issues.

Cowardly presidential candidates want your kids to pay

WASHINGTON — The big lie of campaign 2008 — so far — is that the presidential candidates, Democratic and Republican, will take care of our children. Listening to these politicians, you might think they will. Doing well by children has now passed Motherhood and Apple Pie as an idol that all candidates must worship.



ROBERT J. SAMUELSON

"We will do whatever it takes to make America a better country, to give our kids a better future," says Mike Huckabee, winner of the Republican Iowa caucuses.

"We will deliver for our children, our grandchildren and our great-grandchildren," claims Sen. Barack Obama, the Democratic winner.

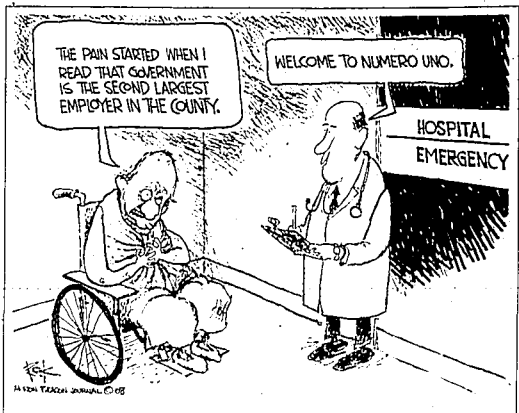
"We're going to reclaim the future for our children," says Democratic Sen. Hillary Clinton, who won the New Hampshire Democratic primary on Tuesday.

Actually, these are throw-away lines, completely disconnected from reality.

Our children face a future of rising taxes, squeezed — and perhaps falling — public services and aging — perhaps deteriorating — public infrastructure (roads, sewers, transit systems). Today's young workers and children are about to be engulfed by a massive income transfer from young to old that will persistently make it harder for them to afford their own children.

No major candidate of either party proposes to do much about this, even though the facts are well-known.

Spending for Social Security, Medicare and Medicaid — three programs that go overwhelmingly to older Americans — already represents more than 40 percent of federal spending. A new report from the Congressional Budget Office projects these programs could equal about 70 percent of the present budget by 2030. Without implausibly large budget cuts, the only way to preserve most



Candidates pay lip service to children but ignore the actual programs that will shape their future.

other government programs would be huge tax increases (about 40 percent from today's levels). Avoiding the tax increases would require draconian cuts in other programs (about 60 percent). Workers and young families, not retirees, would bear the brunt of either higher taxes or degraded public services.

Similar pressures, though less ferocious, exist at the state and local levels. Schools, police, libraries and parks will be squeezed by the need to pay benefits for retired government workers. A study by the Pew Charitable Trusts found that states have promised retirement workers \$2.7 trillion in pension, health care and other benefits during the next three decades. Only about \$2 trillion has been set aside; the rest would come from annual budgets.

Medicaid, a joint federal-state program with states paying about 40 percent of the costs, represents another drain: about two-thirds of its spending stems from the aged and disabled. Roads, water and mass transit might also be shortchanged. States and localities pay about three-quarters of their costs.

But facing these costs will expose candidates to

three daunting problems.

1. Lightening the burden on the young requires cutting retirement benefits for the old — raising eligibility ages, being less generous to richer retirees and making beneficiaries pay more for Medicare. Simply increasing taxes or cutting other programs won't work. The problem is not just closing the budget deficit.

2. We can't wait. Ideally, prospective retirees would have received several decades' warning but we've delayed and we need to cut benefits for baby boomers and even some existing retirees. They are a source of mounting costs.

3. Even if retirement benefits were cut, pressures for higher taxes and lower public services would not disappear. Social Security and Medicare are part of the nation's social fabric. Although individuals' benefits can be responsibly trimmed, the growing and elderly population (doubling by 2030 and rapidly rising health costs) will still expand total spending. The increases would simply be smaller.

A moral cloud hangs over our candidates. How much today's federal poli-

cies, favoring the old over the young and the past over the future, clearly are a central issue of the campaign. But knowing the unpopular political implications, our candidates have lapsed into calculated quiet.

They pay lip service to children but ignore the actual programs that will shape their future. The hypocrisy is especially striking in Obama. He courts the young, promises "straight talk," and offers himself as the agent of "change." But his conspicuous omissions constitute, "crooked talk" and silently endorse the status quo.

The insidious nature of this problem is that because the spending increases for health care will be gradually, the pressures on taxes and other government programs will also intensify gradually. A crucial moment to clarify the stakes and compel politicians to make choices probably will occur until it's too late.

The longer we delay — and we've done so many for several decades, because the strains created by an aging society have been obvious that long — the more likely that "practical solutions" will be inflated for both young and old. To acknowledge that and to come to grips with it would constitute genuine "change."

syndicated columnist Loren J. Steffy writes about economics.

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Really small cars will become byproduct of very costly oil

HOUSTON — Last week we were talking about oil hitting \$100.

Is it too early to think about \$200?

Not on the New York Mercantile Exchange. Options for December delivery of crude at \$200 are the hottest bet in the market. With the number of contracts rising a recent cent in the past two months, according to Bloomberg News.

Options are basically an insurance policy that trades use to protect themselves from the possibility that crude prices will tumble this year as they did last year.

While the chance of hitting \$200 in a year is unlikely, the surge in the options speaks to the changing nature of the world's oil economy.

Oil prices have been rising because worldwide supply is struggling to keep pace with demand.

Political unrest in Nigeria, for example, has crimped production from that country during the past two years. Mexico has seen produc-



LOREN STEFFY

tion from its most prolific oil fieldfall significantly.

Saudi Arabia missed a key production target in the production from a new field.

All of this, of course, is what helped push oil to \$100 last week. Perhaps you've even heard a little easier as prices settled back this week.

On Thursday, the Indian automaker Tata Motors unveiled a car that sells for \$2,500.

That's less than some Americans will spend on a hit-screen high-definition television before the Super Bowl. But it's within reach for many in India's emerging middle class, where the nominal per capita income is \$1,089, according to the International

Monetary Fund.

The car, of course, is not something most Americans would want to drive. Tata's design codifies cheap, and the sacrifices are legion, according to a description in the New York Times.

The new Tata will not, by our standards, be safe or environmentally friendly, and it probably won't be fun to drive. It has a maximum horsepower of about 35, the Times reported, so it's more lawn mower than muscle car.

But that's not the point. Tata knows that most people who already own cars won't be interested in its new model, whose name hasn't been revealed.

It's targeting the hundreds of millions of people in the developing world who now ride scooters or bicycles or walk.

If it succeeds, crude prices may continue their climb of the past year. The Tata prob-

ably will consume far less gasoline than the sport utility-mustrosities common on American highways, but even the addition of several hundred million lawn mowers would rattle the markets.

"This is going to really shoot demand to levels we have not seen before," said Michael Economides, an oil expert at the University of Houston and a former adviser to several state-owned oil companies. "That's going to open up segments of the population that weren't accessible."

In China, for example, demand for oil surged in recent years as more people moved to urban areas, their incomes rose, and they bought cars. Now, 1,000 new cars take to the streets of Beijing daily, Economides said.

Mobility options

Tata is, in essence, offering mobility to the emerging middle-class economies of India, Vietnam, Pakistan, China and much of Africa.

We know, better than anyone, what a middle class does when it adopts a device that fundamentally changes lifestyles: It never lets go.

In fact, it upgrades. The people buying \$2,500 Tatas today will someday be buying more expensive models with more car-ness — bigger and heavier trunks, more powerful engines and more options like air conditioning and electronics. All of which translates into even greater demand for fuel.

"The price of oil is becoming less and less dependent on what happens in the U.S.," Economides said.

Today's glorified lawn mowers could be the emerging world's Model T. That's why the Model T's maker also is angling on the Indian market, Ford said. Tuesday's doubling production in India, investing \$500 million and plans to make an inexpensive car. Renault-Nissan and an Indian-Japanese joint ven-

ture also are working on cheap cars, the Times reported.

So, last week we saw \$100 oil, and this week we're talking about \$200.

It may seem far-fetched that oil will hit \$200, but given that all signs in the U.S., the world's biggest energy consuming economy, is headed into recession. Oil forecasters surveyed by Bloomberg are predicting that prices will fall as low as \$75 a barrel by the fourth quarter.

Doubts it's going down

Economists doesn't buy it. "I see it only going up, not down," he said.

On the floor of the NYMEX, some traders aren't taking any chances. More than 5,000 option contracts at \$200 have been sold.

Sooner or later, all those production cuts are going to need fill-ups.

Loren Steffy is a columnist for the Houston Chronicle. Write to him at loren.steffy@chron.com.

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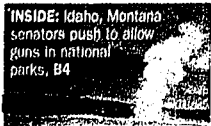
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INSIDE: Idaho, Montana senators push to allow guns in national parks, B4

INSIDE: Obituaries, B2 | Community, B3 | Idaho/West, B4

State Ag Department takes aim at mussels

Quagga mussel may pose threat to irrigation

By Jared S. Hopkins
Times-News writer

BOISE — Are mussels the new millipede? Quagga mussels, a striped mollusk

in the same family as the pesty Zebra mussel, pose a major threat to Idaho's irrigation systems, lakes and rivers and power generation, lawmakers and state officials say. Idaho Department of Agriculture

Director Celia Gould told state lawmakers in her annual address Thursday that there is potential for the mussels to immigrate to Idaho. Common in eastern parts of the country, the mussels were spotted a year ago near Nevada's Lake Mead. Hearing the speech was Sen. Tom Gannon, R-Buhl, chairman of the

Senate Agricultural Affairs Committee. He said that in the Magic Valley, Milner Dam would be a prime target of the mussels, and the effects would be devastating. Irrigation systems potentially could be hit hard. "They can grow up to 12 inches and

Please see MUSSELS, Page B2

Health trust getting back on track

By Nate Poppino
Times-News writer

It was in the midst of discussions over what exactly they're allowed to do that the members of the Twin Falls County Health Initiatives Trust board realized something. "We've talked, probably since the very first meeting about 'What is it the board can do?'" Board President Curtis Eaton said.

Why not, he said, bring in some outside help to answer the question?

On Thursday, the board did just that, selecting Twin Falls attorney Tom Robertson as its on-call legal adviser pending approval by County Prosecutor Grant Loeb. Robertson's services, Eaton said, will help start the trust moving again after legal questions stalled efforts to hire more employees and otherwise prepare to dole out health-care grants in the county.

Formed during the sale of the then-Magic Valley Regional Medical Center to St. Luke's Health System in mid-2006, the trust was endowed with \$15 million and will receive \$500,000 more a year for a 10-year period, totaling \$20 million. Each year, a portion of the money — a proposed \$700,000 in 2008 — is intended to go to projects in medical, wellness and related educational fields.

The problem, Eaton said, is that the board's bylaws are just a little too vague on what decisions the board can make, whom it can hire and whom it can give the money to.

"The bylaws are pretty broad on who are appropriate recipients," Eaton said. Six months ago, board members expected to have at least reviewed new ways of asking the community for donation ideas, and to have hired at least one

Please see TRUST, Page B2

Officials open state wallet to boost Idaho's ...



FIRE PREVENTION

By Jared S. Hopkins
Times-News writer

BOISE — Just months after Idaho suffered through its worst fire season ever, Gov. C.L. "Butch" Otter and the Idaho Legislature are hoping to beef up measures to minimize the impact — financially and physically — wildfires could have in the future.

Otter wants \$10 million for his Governor's Emergency Fund, which he says will be reserved for fighting wildfires in 2008.

In a routine matter, he's also asking for \$1.2 million from the state's general fund to replenish part of the Disaster Emergency Relief Fund, which Otter tapped for the rehabilitation and seeding efforts on the 650,000

acres charred in the Murphy Complex Fire.

The money may be used by Otter for "any emergency which was not foreseen or reasonably foreseeable by the Legislature and which may arise in carrying on the essential functions of state government and in protecting the interest of the state which have been impaired by such emergency," according to state law. It has a balance of about \$100,000 and has been accessed for three or four years, according to the

Division of Financial Management. Otter didn't seek funding for it last year.

Wildfires torched about 1.9 million acres in Idaho last year — more than in any other state, according to the National Interagency Fire Center in Boise. About 9.2 million acres burned nationally, not counting some California wildfires still burning.

Federal land-management officials expect the mega-fire trend to continue as summers become hotter and

drier. Authorities blamed the ferocity of this year's large fires on especially hot weather, high winds and a large amount of dry fuel.

Otter and his budget analysts feel that accessing the Governor's Emergency Fund would show more accountability. And unspent money would remain for the future, said spokesman Jon Llanian.

"With the case of fires, it underscored a need for the ability by the governor for an emergency fund," said Llanian.

"For fire, what we have in place — the deficiency grant system — it works. We know that. To create another method, I'll have to get more details on that."

— Rep. Bert Brackett, R-Rogerson



Idaho Legislature, 2008

For more stories about the Idaho Legislature, a blog by political reporter Jared S. Hopkins, and more, go to magicvalley.com and hit the Legislature 2008 button.

How the \$10 million proposal fares in the Legislature remains to be seen.

On Thursday, the joint Finance-Appropriations Committee approved \$21.5 million to pay for statewide

Please see FIRE, Page B2

A little work vs. a little fine

Defunct city code poses fines for unshoveled snow

By Nate Poppino
Times-News writer

Two days after Tuesday's snowstorm, Twin Falls sidewalks were still a mixed bag Thursday — some icy, some clean.

And those businesses and homeowners who still had a little ice on their walks likely don't know how close they came to paying for it.

A Twin Falls city ordinance requires "every owner, tenant or occupant" of a building to clean snow, ice and rubbish off of adjoining sidewalks. It also threatens those who don't remove snow with fines of \$300, or full time of up to 60 days, and the city's costs of cleaning the walks.

But the rarely used section of code isn't enforceable, city officials said Thursday, because the

city doesn't have the money to clean off people's sidewalks. ...

In order for the city to follow the ordinance, the city rate that provides the city's budget would have to include money for shoveling walks, said Gretchen Scott, management assistant for City Manager Tom Courtney. And paying someone to keep an eye on the city's streets, she said, would become an expensive arrangement.

"You're talking over 200 miles of streets," she said. "There's no way."

It's hard to know how old the ordinance is, City Attorney Fritz Wondolich said, as it appears to predate the city codifying its ordinances in 1959. It does reflect a section of state code giving cities the power to require clean sidewalks and

Please see SNOW, Page B2



Shea Pollard cleans her driveway and sidewalk Tuesday afternoon in Twin Falls. City code requires property owners and tenants to keep their sidewalks free of snow or face fines.

Vacancy remains on Castleford council

Mayor intends to appoint new member in February

By Blair Koch
Times-News correspondent

Three residents took the oath of office during the Castleford City Council meeting Wednesday. Incumbents Richard Schlund and Twila Crawford and newcomer Cliff Lockhart.

An appointment to fill the remaining council seat, which was expected to happen Wednesday, did not take place. During November's election, resident Ryan Blick garnered enough votes to serve on the council but could not officially be seated because he was not a registered voter in Castleford prior to entering the race.

At this point, I'm not prepared to make an appointment," said Mayor Rita Ruffing. "This has been a hard decision for me to reach."

Ruffing said she aims to make a recommendation, which must receive full council support, during February's meeting. The decision to not allow Blick to serve has left some residents perturbed.

"Ryan got the most votes anyway and he should get the appointment," said resident Bill Quarasma. Quarasma and resident Bud Randall said they felt the city should uphold the vote made by residents.

"What's fair is fair,"

Please see COUNCIL, Page B2

Soroptimist International raises community awareness about human trafficking

BURLEY — Soroptimist International, an international group of business and professional women who work to improve the lives of women and girls worldwide, is launching their "Stop Human Trafficking" project to make the public aware that this problem exists and women in the United States are not excluded.

The U.S. Senate recently passed a resolution designating today as National Day of Human Trafficking Awareness.

In every country — including the United States — women and girls are trafficked and enslaved for sex.

Soroptimist believes that trafficking is one of the most important issues affecting women and girls globally.

To that end, they have launched a project called "Soroptimists Stop Human Trafficking," which aims to raise awareness about the problem of sex trafficking, and urges communities to take action to prevent and end it.

Soroptimists from both the Burley and Twin Falls areas will distribute flyers and cards around the community to increase awareness of this ever growing problem.

"It affects women and girls of all ages and we are not exempt from it," says Jacque Gorton, president of the Burley club.

Another way Soroptimist works on this issue is through its Women's Opportunity Awards program, which gives women cash grants to enter or return to school.

The Women's Opportunity Awards helps women cultivate new skills, further their education and regain independence.

Soroptimists encourage people to stay informed and keep current about trafficking, speak with local police officers and social service providers to find out what they're doing to end trafficking.

Gorton says that young girls who want to leave home should be made aware that by making themselves vulnerable, they may become a victim of human trafficking.

Sex trafficking is a \$32 billion, global industry. Between 600,000 and 800,000 females are forcibly transported into the global commercial sex industry each year.

Currently, about two million women and children are held in sexual servitude around the world.

According to the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, Thailand, China, Nigeria, Albania, Bulgaria, Belarus, Moldova and Ukraine are among the countries that are the greatest sources of trafficked persons.

Women are trafficked into both developed and developing countries, including the United States.

T.F. parks, trail improvements put on hold until grant is available

By Carol Stephens
Times-News correspondent

Plans at Centennial Park in Twin Falls County for an access to the river for non-motorized boats, the building of a marine shop, and improvement to trails and parking areas will be put on hold until a Waterways Improvement Fund grant has been approved by the State Review Committee. Twin

Falls County commissioners said Thursday.

The estimated cost of the projects, excluding land purchase, is \$332,280.

"We don't want to do anything until the grant and the amount of money is secure," said Commissioner Tom Mikesell. Commissioners Terry Kramer and George Urlic concurred.

It will be about May before it is known if the grant is suc-

cessful, said Mark Brumelle, director of Research and Development for Twin Falls County.

A plan to purchase 30.17 acres of land at Murtaugh Lake is part of what the grant would fund, commissioners said. But they are concerned about making bids on land at the moment, and are still negotiating a price.

"If we apply for \$125,000, it is the same as admitting that

we will pay the \$125,000, so it will give more support to their appraisal," Urlic said. "We're not going to do that."

No decision was made Thursday about other funds the county commission might contribute to the projects.

"The parks department could do some work such as prepare the area," Kramer said, "but that (also) depends on the grant."

5TH DISTRICT COURT NEWS

Twin Falls County

ARRAIGNMENTS (Jan. 7-8)
Austin Sewell, 24, Twin Falls; driving under the influence; pleaded innocent; public defender appointed; pretrial hearing set for Jan. 29; \$2,500 bond.
Victor M. Gonzalez, 17, Buhl; failure to purchase/invalid driver's license; pleaded innocent; public defender appointed; pretrial hearing set for Jan. 18; posted bond.
Brent L. Fairchild, 20, Buhl; grand theft; no plea entered; public defender appointed; preliminary hearing set for Jan. 18; posted bond; driving without privileges; pleaded innocent; public defender appointed; pretrial hearing set for Jan. 29; posted bond.
Michael C. Jones, 29, Twin Falls; possession of a controlled substance, possession of drug paraphernalia, under the influence of a controlled substance in a public place; pleaded innocent; public defender appointed; pretrial hearing set for Jan. 29; \$5,000 bond.

Jerome County

ARRAIGNMENTS
Lew A. Anderson, 20, pleaded guilty, possession/consumed/purchased alcohol beverage by a minor; fined: \$175.50; probation six months unsupervised.
Gloria Esther Barlett, 36, DWOP; failure to provide insurance; safety restraint child six years or younger; seat belt restraint.
Kenneth M. Bates, 39, reckless driving.
Richard David Bell, 21, DWOP; seat belt restraint; failure to provide proof of insurance.
Thomas M. Bosteder, 48, battery.
Israel Cardenas-Martinez, 27, DWOP; invalid license.
Kelly James Dick, 22, DWOP; attempt to take a police officer.
Michael C. Franks, 33, DWOP; failure to maintain insurance.
Shannon L. Fulmer, 36, DWOP; Skivestre Lopez Garcia, 24, invalid license, failure to provide proof of insurance, fictitious display of card or plates.
Skivestre Lopez Garcia, 24, invalid license.

Bridgette A. Kragrud, 24, inattentive/reckless driving.
Terance L. Kulhane, 38, DWOP; possession of control substance; possession of drug paraphernalia with intent to use.
Sean W. Lettline, 19, possession of control substance; possession of drug paraphernalia with intent to use.
Brandon K. McKay, 19, inattentive/reckless driving.
Andres S. Melendez Jr., 33, DWOP; speeding.
David G. Ogden, 47, vicious dog violation.
David G. Ogden, 47, vicious dog violation.
Matthew Kaibbe Ross, 19, battery.
Ismael Valdez Cervantes, 32, DWOP; invalid license.
Christina Vega Ramirez, 18, DWOP; invalid license.
Danda Marie Vieira, 37, disturbing the peace.
Lisa Gayle Moore, 22, DWOP; Efrain Cisneros-Zavala, 22, invalid license; speeding; failure to provide proof of insurance.

Jonathan Diaz Raymundo, 17, pleaded guilty, invalid license, fined \$144.

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Idaho, Montana senators push to allow guns in national parks

By Matthew Dross
Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON — Led by Idaho Republican Mike Crapo and Montana Democrat Max Baucus, 47 senators are pushing the Bush administration to allow gun owners to carry firearms into national parks and wildlife refuges.

The lawmakers have signed a letter asking Interior Secretary Dirk Kempthorne to lift Reagan-era restrictions that prevent citizens from carrying readily accessible firearms onto lands managed by the National Park Service and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

developed in the early 1980s, "infringe on the rights of law-abiding gun owners who wish to transport and carry firearms on or across these lands," the senators wrote.

"The policies also differ from some other federal agencies, such as the Bureau of Land Management and Forest Service. "These inconsistencies in firearms regulations for public lands are confusing, burdensome and unnecessary," the letter said.

Thirty-nine Republicans and eight Democrats signed the letter, including both senators from 17 states: Alabama, Alaska, Arizona, Arkansas, Georgia, Idaho, Kansas, Mississippi, Montana,

Nebraska, New Hampshire, Oklahoma, South Carolina, South Dakota, Texas, Utah and Wyoming.

Sen. Gordon Smith, R-Ore., signed the letter, as did fellow GOP Sens. Wayne Allard of Colorado, John Ensign of Nevada and Pete Domenici of New Mexico.

Kempthorne spokesman Chris Paolino said officials had received the letter and were reviewing it.

The current regulations, adopted in 1983 under then-Interior Secretary James Watt, state that visitors to national parks must render their weapons inaccessible. Guns do not have to be disassembled, but they must be put

somewhere that is not easily accessible, such as in a car trunk, said Jerry Case, chief of regulations and special park uses for the National Park Service.

"They don't have to be broken down," he said. "Preferably they're in your trunk and unloaded. Our regulations do allow people to transport weapons through a park as long as it's not accessible."

Lindsay Northern, a spokesman for Crapo, said there was no single incident that led to the letter to Kempthorne, a former Idaho governor and senator. "People in Idaho and other Western states) have been

complaining about it for a long time. It's more a matter of why not?" Northern said. "We've got a guy who's a Westerner as Interior secretary. He certainly understands these issues."

While some gun-rights

groups argue that park visitors need guns for self-protection, Northern said that was not an argument Crapo was making. "We are doing it for consistency in the law, so people can follow the law," he said.

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N. Idaho county faces costly trial

LEWISTON (AP) — Trepanys in northern Idaho's Idaho County likely won't see their taxes rise or services cut as the result of an approaching criminal trial that could cost the county \$300,000, County Clerk Rose Gehring says.

Gehring has been meeting with county commissioners, Sheriff Larry Dassenbrock and others to look at ways to pay for the trial of Mark Lankford.

"I think people are very scared their taxes are going to go up because of this Lankford trial and that's not true," Gehring told the Lewiston Tribune. "We're going to have to tighten our belts here and there, but we're going to make it. We've made it through crises before and we'll do it this time."

Lankford was convicted and sentenced to death 24 years ago for his role in the beating death of a Texas couple. But the 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals ruled late in 2006 that Lankford, 51, must be either retried or released because of an error in jury instructions during his 1984 trial.

He and his brother, Bryan, were convicted in the 1983 beating death of U.S. Marine Capt. Robert Bravence, 27, and his wife, Cheryl, 25, who were vacationing in Idaho. At the time, Mark and Bryan Lankford were camping in the Idaho wilderness.

Mark Lankford was sentenced to death. Bryan Lankford is serving a life sentence.

Lankford was released from death row in October and has been in the Idaho State Penitentiary since.

In December, his trial was moved from Grangeville to Wallace, in Shoshone County in Idaho's panhandle.

E. Idaho man pleads guilty in sword fight case

IDAHO FALLS (AP) — An east Idaho man accused of assaulting his roommate with a samurai sword last fall has pleaded guilty.

Bubus Diaz, 25, now faces up to 30 years in prison on one count of aggravated battery, a felony accompanied by a deadly weapons enhancement.

Diaz was arrested Sept. 4 at his Bonneville County apartment after attacking roommate Duc Do, 24, with a three-foot-long sword.

Prosecutors say Do's left hand was severely injured, had a finger cut off and suffered minor wounds to the head, arm and stomach.

In court Wednesday, defense attorney Drew Pendlebury said Diaz struck Do several times while Do was asleep, and blamed the assault on Diaz' struggle with mental illness.

Sentencing is scheduled for Feb. 28.

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As of Jan. 9

Boys		Girls	
Team	Conf. All	Team	Conf. All
Class 5A			
Region Four-Five-Six			
Highland	2-0	8-2	5-0
Idaho Falls	1-1	8-2	4-2
Skyline	1-1	6-4	2-2
Madison	1-2	7-4	1-4
Twin Falls	1-2	4-6	0-5
Class 4A			
Great Basin Conference			
Minico	2-0	9-2	2-0
Jerome	1-1	8-3	2-1
Burley	0-0	10-0	1-2
Wood River	0-2	4-7	0-3
Class 3A			
Sawtooth Central Idaho Conference			
Buhl	1-0	5-5	6-0
Kimberly	2-1	5-5	3-1
Declo	2-1	3-7	3-3
Filer	0-1	8-8	2-4
Gooding	0-2	2-8	0-5
Class 2A			
Canyon Conference			
Glenns Ferry	1-0	10-3	1-0
Wendell	1-0	8-4	1-0
Valley	0-2	8-4	0-1
Class 1A			
Magic Valley Northside Conference			
Richfield	5-0	10-0	7-0
Carey	4-1	9-2	5-3
Comm. School	3-1	7-1	5-3
Shoshone	2-2	4-6	3-3
Bliss	1-2	1-5	1-5
Dietrich	1-4	2-9	0-7
Camas County	0-5	0-10	0-7
Magic Valley Southside Conference			
Hagerman	5-2	7-5	7-0
Oakley	4-2	4-5	8-1
Hansen	4-2	4-5	6-3
Murtaugh	4-3	6-4	4-3
Castleford	3-3	4-6	2-6
Lighthouse Chr.	2-3	3-7	1-8
Raft River	3-3	5-5	0-8
Mag Valley Chr.	0-6	2-8	0-8
Independent			
Twin Falls Chr.	1-1	6-3	

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Whittington a force at Class 1A level

By Mike Christensen
Times-News writer

Community School senior Mic Whittington may just be the most dominating individual player in District IV at the Class 1A level. After all, not many players at the Class 1A level stand 6-foot-6. And not many average a double-double.

But "not many" doesn't apply to Whittington, who is averaging 22.3 points, 13.9 rebounds and two blocks, and has helped the Cutthroats nearly match the team's win total from all of last season.

"I think I've grown to love basketball more than soccer in the last two years," said Whittington.

A lifelong soccer player, Whittington has made up for his lost time on the hardwood with hard work. After a good junior season, he went to work spending two hours a day during the summer improving his game. As a result, he's become the most dominant post player



Whittington

Despite being double- and triple-teamed each night, Whittington is shooting 62 percent from the field and his lowest point total of the season through eight games was 10.

"It's not intimidated by double teams or triple teams," said Wade, "and he just works the whole game."

"It's a force." As for being at least a few inches taller than anyone else on the floor, Whittington said, "That's a lot of fun." It's also having fun playing alongside his good friends, including fellow returning starters Spencer Harris, Matt Harris and Ian Ingram. "This year, we're winning, which makes it even better," said Whittington.

Magic Valley Prep Athlete of the Week

While Whittington is considering playing college basketball at the NCAA Division III level, he said sports aren't his highest priority after high school. Even now, he's not focused on his own athletic achievements.

"The next level is about the team," he said. "It's not about me anymore. It's about our team getting to state."

But regarding the fact that hoop dream plays out Whittington's senior year has already left him with memories that will last a lifetime.

"It's something I'm going to remember forever," he said.

Idaho High School Boys Basketball Media Poll

Class 5A	Class 4A	Class 3A	Class 2A	Class 1A
1. Coeur d'Alene (10) 10-1 54 2. Timberline (1) 8-2 35 3. Valley 8-2 16 4. Eagle 8-2 14 5. Mountain View 8-2 14 Others: Idaho Falls 12, Lake City 10, Highland 7, Madison 3.	1. Burley (11) 10-0 55 2. Century 9-2 41 3. Minico 9-2 35 4. Jerome 8-3 19	1. McCall-Donnelly (5) 8-1 39 2. Fruitland (2) 6-2 33 3. Weiser (2) 7-1 31 4. Shelley (2) 6-3 29 5. Salmon 8-2 20 Others: South Fremont 5, Snake River 5, American Falls 2, Marsh Valley 1.	1. Aberdeen (9) 10-1 52	1. Richfield (10) 10-0 63 2. Carey 8-2 31 3. Lapwai 8-2 26 4. Clark County (1) 10-2 22 5. Genesee 8-2 15 Others: Deary 4, Sho-Ban 4, Clark Fork 3, Cascade 3, Wilder 3.

Idaho High School Girls Basketball Media Poll

Class 5A	Class 4A	Class 3A	Class 2A	Class 1A
1. Centennial (5) 15-0 90 2. Coeur d'Alene (5) 14-1 84 3. Vallive 12-3 48 4. Eagle 12-3 24 5. Lake City 12-3 16 Others: Post Falls 14, Boise 12, Highland 8, Twin Falls 4.	1. Bonnevile (10) 15-0 100 2. Jerome 14-1 80 3. Middleton 12-3 52 4. Bishop Kelly 11-4 44	1. Kimberly (4) 14-0 88 1. Sugar-Salem (5) 14-1 88 3. Priest River 13-4 54 4. Fruitland (1) 13-0 28 5. Shelley 10-4 16 Others: Bear Lake 12, Kellogg 12, Declo 4, Teton 2.	1. Parma (3) 12-2 78 2. Grangeville (5) 12-2 74	1. Rimrock (5) 10-1 84 2. Richfield (2) 14-2 60 3. Garden Valley (1) 11-3 60 4. Hagerman (1) 11-3 48 5. Kenair (1) 11-2 24 Others: Lewis County 20, Lapwai 4.

COLLEGE FOOTBALL Heisman runner-up handcuffed at bar

LITTLE ROCK, Ark. — Heisman Trophy runner-up Darren McFadden was handcuffed by police and then released without charges after being involved in a "pretty rowdy scene" at a piano bar early Thursday.

"Arkansas" All-Americans, running back and at least four others were at the downtown bar when a disturbance broke out shortly after midnight, police Lt. Terry Hastings said. A bouncer was hit in the face as he was trying to get the group to leave, Hastings said. A police report did not specify who hit the bouncer.

"There was a whole bunch of people there," Hastings said. "They were inside and it spilled out into the street."

Outside, McFadden was handcuffed by a police officer "because he was agitated and was provoking aggressive behavior" including the police report, "according to the incident report."

"We handcuffed him for a few minutes because he was rowdy," Hastings said.

McFadden, who was the only person handcuffed, was released after he calmed down. Hastings said it was routine procedure to handcuff a person to gain control of a situation.

McFadden's mother, Mini Muhammad, said her son was trying to protect his younger brother, Darryl.

"He wasn't the one that was fighting. It was his little brother. — someone had jumped on him," Muhammad said. "He was agitated because his brother had a bloody nose."

Darryl was not fighting — please make that he known," she added.

BYU promotes Hill to defensive coordinator

PROVO, Utah — Brigham Young coach Bronco Mendenhall promoted secondary coach Jaime Hill to defensive coordinator on Thursday.

Mendenhall has kept his role as the coordinator since he was promoted to coach three years ago and will continue calling plays during games. Hill handled the day-to-day duties coaching the defense last season and Mendenhall formally passed over the coordinator title to him.

"I have a lot of respect for Coach Hill and the work he has done, and I am confident this will give our defense the opportunity to continue to improve," Mendenhall said.

Hill has been an assistant coach for 19 years. He was co-defensive coordinator for the Ottawa Renegades in the CFL before coming to BYU in 2005.

"Coach Mendenhall's staff and players have brought back the past glory, and have created their own line of history that will be passed down," Hill said.

Purdue close to naming Joe Tiller's successor

INDIANAPOLIS — Purdue might announce the successor to football coach Joe Tiller

Illinois RB Mendenhall to leave school for NFL

NEW YORK (AP) — Rashard Mendenhall is leaving Illinois to enter the NFL draft, adding another top prospect to a deep class of running backs.

While receivers Malcolm Kelly (Oklahoma) and Earl Bennett (Vanderbilt) were among the other players who announced Thursday they will pass up their remaining eligibility to enter the April draft, Clemson defensive end Phillip Merling is turning pro as well.

West Virginia wideout Darius Reynaud also will enter the draft, according to a person in the Mountaineers' athletic department who spoke on condition of anonymity because the school had not yet made an announcement.

Mendenhall, perhaps the biggest star so far to bolt early from college, skipped his senior year at Illinois after rushing for a school-record 1,681 yards while leading the team to the Rose Bowl this season.

He thinks he'll be drafted in the first round after getting feedback from the NFL, and some draft analysts expect him to be selected that high.

"I'm just confident in my abilities and where I'll go in the draft," Mendenhall said during a news conference at his high school in Skokie, Ill.

Other attractive running backs in the draft include Texas' Jamaal Charles, Clemson's James Davis, Michigan's Mike Hart, Tulane's Mike Forte, Rutgers' Ray Rice and Central Florida's Kevin Smith. The list could get even longer if Darren McFadden (Arkansas), Felix Jones (Arkansas) and Steve Slaton (West Virginia) forgo their senior seasons.

Several media outlets have reported Eastern Kentucky coach Danny Hope will be hired as assistant head coach, then become head coach in 2009.

The person, who spoke on the condition of anonymity because negotiations are ongoing, said Thursday that the 65-year-old Tiller will coach the Boilermakers in 2008, and the successor would take over after that.

Several media outlets have reported Eastern Kentucky coach Danny Hope will be hired as assistant head coach, then become head coach in 2009.

— The Associated Press

NCAA tackles stopping hazing among athletes

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (AP) — The video, with photos of the dead college student lying on the floor after a night of drinking and snips of the 911 call, created a rapid audience.

Then came a flood of information: 89 percent of NCAA athletes are hazed; half are forced to take part in drinking contests or alcohol-related hazing; two-thirds are subjected to physical humiliation; one of every two women athletes are hazed.

Defining the meaning of hazing seems easy enough. Stopping it on college campuses and athletic teams was the focus of a four-hour seminar Thursday on the opening day of the NCAA convention. The topic filled a ballroom with administrators eager to learn more.

Colleges in my opinion have a greater liability with athletic hazing than with (fraternities and sororities)," said Norman Pollard, dean of students at Alfred University who surveyed hazing on college sports in 1998 and 1999.

"After all, we recruit them. We wear our uniforms, and we wear our families to encourage them to be part of our campus community."

The video wasn't of an athlete, instead part of a trailer for an upcoming documentary on Lynn Gordon Bailey Jr., who died in a fraternity hazing incident after drinking too much.

Today hazing is enough of a problem that the NCAA is publishing a handbook for members later this year. Organizers and school administrators will write their own policies once they return to campus.

The NCAA does not have an anti-hazing policy, and hazing rules are not written into the bylaws of any of its divisions.

Hazing ranges from sleep deprivation, shaving heads and screaming at teammates to making them drink until sick or passing out. One Division I swimmer was the focus of a quit after nearly drowning because she was tossed in a pool as part of a "tradition." She lost her scholarship.

"That story I'm sure can be relayed by countless individuals who've never told their story," said Tim Marchell, director of mental health initiatives at Cornell. "This is the kind of consequences we need to be keeping in mind as we work toward preventing hazing."

Don McPherson, a quarterback at Syracuse and in the NFL who now works for the Hopewell Group, said hazing cloaked in the name of tradition and being tough enough for the sport isn't about the game.

"It's about humiliating one another," he said. "It's about our culture, our larger culture."

Sizemore's big fourth quarter carries valley

By David Bashore
Times-News writer

WENDELL.—Valley senior Shannon Sizemore struggled to make an impact on the scoreboard in the first half, but the 5-foot-11 post made her presence felt when it mattered most.

After hitting just three free throws over the first 24 minutes, Sizemore scored nine points in the fourth quarter to finish with a game-high 12 as Valley held firm to claim a 49-44 win over Wendell on Thursday.

After fellow 5-foot-11 post Katie Hall picked up her

fourth foul early in the fourth quarter, Sizemore put the Vikings on her back and carried them offensively, and the defense did just enough to hold on for the win.

"We all kind of got together (at the start of the fourth) and said, 'Okay, this is our chance,'" Sizemore about Wendell's refusal to go away.

"We've been struggling with the teamwork a little bit, but we pulled it together when it mattered most."

Valley (12-5, 2-0 Canyon Conference) spotted the Trojans (77-0, 1-1) a 10-2 lead in the first quarter before whittling the gap to just two

points after one period of play. Neither team led by more than five after the midway point of the second quarter.

Wendell, which won the Canyon Conference Tournament last season, attempted to pack the lane against a pair of tall, athletic players and force the Vikings to hit jump shots.

But junior wing Camelle Sizemore dropped in 10 points, taking what the defense gave her to force the compact zone to stretch and open lanes for Shannon Sizemore and Hall to do the interior damage.

"They followed the game plan that we gave them success last year," said Valley coach Brian Hardy about Wendell's lane-clogging zone.

"Camelle's range is good, and what I liked most was she didn't hesitate. (Shannon Sizemore's) fourth-quarter performance) is the senior Shannon. She's really learned to be more aggressive."

Jori Fleming led the Trojans with 10 points, and Kristen Bradsma and Erin O'Brien each added eight.

Wendell played four players at 5-foot-10 or taller, and it turned out the Trojans needed every one of them.

The Trojans was whistled for 21 fouls in the game to just 13 for Valley, but coach Delon Huse said his girls adjusted to the officials' calls well despite mounting foul trouble.

"They did a better job adjusting than I did, that's for sure," said Huse. "I'm proud of the girls' effort in fighting to literally the bitter end. When you have two of your starters pick up their fourth fouls with three minutes left in the third quarter it's easy to quit but they didn't."

Wendell had a pair of opportunities to tie the game late, but Jael Lancaster's 3-point bid missed the mark

and a 3-point attempt by Laurie Andrus was blocked as time expired. Wendell's bench and fans appealed for a foul to be called, but none came.

Valley hosts Filer on Saturday while Wendell hosts Shoshone on Monday.

Valley 49, Wendell 46
13-13 33-43
10-17 18-17

Wendell 46
12-4 20-26
12-4 20-26

Wendell 46
12-4 20-26
12-4 20-26

Tigers tackle Cutthroats

Times-News

Richfield picked up a road Magic Valley Northside Conference victory with a 61-50 win over the Community School.

"It was an exciting game," said Community School coach Mike Wade. "I went back and forth deep into the fourth quarter. It was 50-50 for four minutes remaining but we made ten more turnovers in those last four minutes. The game was closer than the 11 points."

Senior Braden Buckner scored a game-high 23 points for Richfield and junior Brody Norman added 17. For the Cutthroats, senior Mac Whittington registered a double-double with 12 points and 11 rebounds, Senior Spencer Jarvis added with 16 points and Max Harris had 14 for The Community School (77-2, 2-1).

Richfield is at Glenns Ferry tonight. The Community School hosts Camas County on Tuesday.

Richfield 61, Community School 50
13-13 33-43
10-17 18-17

Richfield 61
13-13 33-43
10-17 18-17

Mark Bulcher led the tigers with 13 points, while Jeremy Eldredge added 12.

Oakley improved to 5-5 with the win and 5-2 in Magic Valley Southside Conference play heading into Saturday's showdown in Oakley with rival Haft River.

Oakley 55, Lighthouse Christian 45
13-13 33-43
10-17 18-17

Castelford 48, Magic Valley Christian 37
13-13 33-43
10-17 18-17

Castelford 48
13-13 33-43
10-17 18-17

The visiting Kimberly Bulldogs topped the SCIC rival Bull Indians 50-30 Thursday.

Toughness in the game Kayla Hutchinson was a standout and did a great job on the boards," said Bull coach Karen Peterson.

Bull's Mercedes Pearson scored a game-high of 11 points while Bailte Montgomery put in eight points.

Kimberly's Kayla Hutchinson held a game-high of 12 points with Kassade Newberry following with 11.

Bull (0-6) plays at Gooding Tuesday.

Declo beats Gooding in SCIC match

By Zach Kyle
For the Times-News

DECLO.—The Declo Hornets girls basketball team made key plays down the stretch to beat the visiting Gooding—Senators 52-40 Thursday in Sawtooth Central Idaho Conference action.

Macey Jones led Declo with 17 points and nine rebounds. Sydney Christensen scored 13 and hit three of four free throws in the final 23 seconds to seal Declo's narrow lead.

Gooding was led by Tiffany Jackson's 14 points and Aidan Metcalf's 10. Chaynara Robinson and Brittany Whyte each had nine for the Senators.

With the win, Declo improved to 10-4 for the season and, more importantly 4-1 in the conference. Declo travels to play a conference game at Filer on Tuesday before a rematch with unbeaten Kimberly at home next Thursday. If Declo can win those two games, the Hornets will be tied with Kimberly for first place in one conference game remaining.

Declo coach Val Christensen said his team won despite a subpar effort.

"I guess it's win, but I'm not two pleased with it," Christensen said. "We've got to play better next week than we did tonight. Not to take anything away from Gooding, but I was really disappointed in our first-half effort. We didn't show up, and it's not the time the season not to show up."

Camas County 40, Bliss 37
13-13 33-43
10-17 18-17

Camas County 40
13-13 33-43
10-17 18-17

Bliss came up short against Camas County 40-37 Thursday.

"Both teams played extremely hard and we were able to draw a 3-point lead with just two minutes remaining and then they gave me more free throws at the end," said Bliss coach Bruce Clark.

The Mubbers' Ben McClam led his team with 12 points and 13. Jevett added 10.

Bliss (1-6) travels to Dietrich today.

Camas County 40, Bliss 37
13-13 33-43
10-17 18-17

Camas County 40
13-13 33-43
10-17 18-17

Girls basketball
Kimberly 50, Bull 30
13-13 33-43
10-17 18-17

Kimberly 50
13-13 33-43
10-17 18-17

Wrestling
Minico Spits on Road
13-13 33-43
10-17 18-17

Minico Spits on Road
13-13 33-43
10-17 18-17

Gooding 48, Declo 52
13-13 33-43
10-17 18-17

Gooding 48
13-13 33-43
10-17 18-17

Pocatello 64, Minico 42
13-13 33-43
10-17 18-17

Pocatello 64
13-13 33-43
10-17 18-17

The Minico Spartans lost a non-conference game on the road to Pocatello 64-42.

"Just a game to forget," said Minico coach Mike Graefe.

Senior Ty Poubly led the Spartans (10-3, 2-1) Great Basin Conference with 14 points, and senior Anthony Garcia added nine. Michael Decker led Pocatello with 11 points, and Jordan Steele had 10.

Minico is at Burley next Wednesday.

Camas County 40, Bliss 37
13-13 33-43
10-17 18-17

Camas County 40
13-13 33-43
10-17 18-17

Richfield 73, Dietrich 30
13-13 33-43
10-17 18-17

Richfield 73
13-13 33-43
10-17 18-17

Richfield 73, Dietrich 30
13-13 33-43
10-17 18-17

Richfield 73
13-13 33-43
10-17 18-17

Declo 50, Gooding 48
13-13 33-43
10-17 18-17

Declo 50
13-13 33-43
10-17 18-17

Hagerman 54, Hansen 33
13-13 33-43
10-17 18-17

Hagerman 54
13-13 33-43
10-17 18-17

Hagerman improved to 6-2 in the Magic Valley Southside Conference with a 54-33 home win over the Hansen Vikings.

"We talked about defense at halftime and we stepped it up in the third and fourth quarter," said Hagerman coach Kevin Cate.

Hagerman junior Morgan Knight had 23 points, and junior Johnny Mack added 16 to the Pirates (12-3, 2-0) on Monday.

Hansen hosts Dietrich on Saturday. Hagerman hosts Magic Valley Christian on Monday.

Murtaugh 59, Haft River 58
13-13 33-43
10-17 18-17

Murtaugh 59
13-13 33-43
10-17 18-17

Richfield 73, Dietrich 30
13-13 33-43
10-17 18-17

Richfield 73
13-13 33-43
10-17 18-17

Jerome 12, Wendell 1
13-13 33-43
10-17 18-17

Jerome 12
13-13 33-43
10-17 18-17

Declo 50, Gooding 48
13-13 33-43
10-17 18-17

Declo 50
13-13 33-43
10-17 18-17

Hagerman 54, Hansen 33
13-13 33-43
10-17 18-17

Hagerman 54
13-13 33-43
10-17 18-17

Murtaugh 59, Haft River 58
13-13 33-43
10-17 18-17

Murtaugh 59
13-13 33-43
10-17 18-17

Richfield 73, Dietrich 30
13-13 33-43
10-17 18-17

Richfield 73
13-13 33-43
10-17 18-17

Jerome 12, Wendell 1
13-13 33-43
10-17 18-17

Jerome 12
13-13 33-43
10-17 18-17

Bowling
Jerome 12, Wendell 1
13-13 33-43
10-17 18-17

Jerome 12
13-13 33-43
10-17 18-17

Men
Continued from page C1

Women Table tennis anyone? Ordinary and the elite take aim at Olympic glory

Continued from page C1

Chris Botnaba, who took over the team's coaching duties after first-year coach Tim Wilson resigned during CNCC's holiday break.

No. 6 OSI 103, CNCC 57
13-13 33-43
10-17 18-17

PHILADELPHIA (AP)—Jonathan Brinklin's forearms are only slightly larger than the handle of a pingpong paddle, proving them likely no need for a table tennis version of the Mitchell Report.

The 30-year-old New Yorker's play was only marginally better than some pickup pingpong matches he had done in the past. He was dressed more like a casual jogger than an Olympic athlete, wearing a plain blue T-shirt, black shorts, green sneakers.

None of Brinklin's handicaps deterred him much Thursday when he took his usual friendly games with his buddies to take a shot — make that long, wide and erratic shots — in a match with a bit more at stake than bragging rights: This was a chance to be in the mix for a spot on the American team in a bid to compete in the 2008 Beijing Games in August.

"In all likelihood," Brinklin said, "I'm the worst player to ever try out for the Olympics."

Forest Gump was told an idiot can play pingpong. Well, anyone can play pingpong. The USA Table Tennis membership and a dream could show off their oddest herky-jerky serve with a little topspin at Drexel University and take aim at qualifying for the U.S. Olympic table tennis team.

"I've never had a chance to try right now is my dream," Brinklin said.

Imagine the Washington Generals trying out for Kobe or LeBron's spot in basketball.

Continued from page C1

"(The sponlovers) told the guys, 'This is our last blowout until we play (CNCC) again,'" Guyton said. "The games get a lot tougher starting Saturday."

No. 2 OSI 146, CNCC 96
13-13 33-43
10-17 18-17

Continued from page C1

"(The sponlovers) told the guys, 'This is our last blowout until we play (CNCC) again,'" Guyton said. "The games get a lot tougher starting Saturday."

No. 2 OSI 146, CNCC 96
13-13 33-43
10-17 18-17

Idaho State rallies from early deficit for home victory

Steijn shines in win

Mark Liptak
Times-Herald correspondent

POCATELLO — The slim crowd at Holt Arena had seen this movie before. Idaho State came out lifeless at home and was getting blown out. The Bengals trailed 10-4 midway through the first half when head coach Joe O'Brien had seen enough and called timeout.

changed everything. The Bengals came out of the break a different team and went on to beat Eastern Washington 58-57.



Coach O'Brien has a way of getting you motivated. He challenged us and the guys responded," said Stuecki. "They were playing like it was a five o'clock shoot around," said O'Brien. "It was challenging during the timeout. I said 'I will somehow please step up and set the tone so that the rest of the guys will follow.'"

Stuecki had a double-double himself with 11 points and 10 assists. The Bengals' biggest lead of the night came with 4:09 left when Logan Kinghorn 3-pointer made it 51-45.

Center Lucas Steijn, finally playing against comparable talent, had 13 points and seven rebounds. Kinghorn added 14 points and Carson finished with 11.

Packers ignoring Favre's shaky outings in recent playoff games

NFL PLAYOFFS

GREEN BAY, Wis. (AP) — Maybe it's just a coincidence that since the departure of former Green Bay Packers coach Mike Holmgren, Brett Favre's playoff performances have been uneven at best.



Green Bay Packers quarterback Brett Favre (4) is leaning forward returning for another season with the Green Bay Packers, according to comments he made to his hometown newspaper.

Either way, the Packers aren't putting very much thought into Favre's recent playoff performances going into Saturday's divisional playoff game against Seattle at Lambeau Field, McCarthy said. He and his assistants didn't watch film of those games, an indication they don't think it's relevant.

Favre threw 14 interceptions in those six games, a number skewed greatly by his six-interception eyesore at St. Louis in 02, and a four-interception clunker in the Packers' most recent playoff appearance against Minnesota in January 2005.

goodness. He has really played I well this year, and that's the Bret we're going to have to play against and prepare for. We know that.

Green Bay is 2-4 in playoff games since a first post-Holmgren playoff appearance in January 2002, including two losses at Lambeau. The Packers failed to score more than 17 points in each of their four playoff losses.

Jags hope to slow down unbeaten Patriots

NEW YORK — After a week out of the spotlight, the New England Patriots are back in it. They're three games away from 19-0 and an NFL title, but one game away from losing it all. The luster a 16-0 regular season brought them.

T.O. stopped and spoke with receivers coach Ray Sherman after completing one route. Owens then took all his helmet and could be seen smiling while talking to backup quarterback Brad Johnson.

Terrell Owens back at practice, appears on track for game

IRVING, TEXAS — Terrell Owens ran routes and caught passes in his return to practice Thursday, showing only a slight limp at times. The All-Pro receiver seems on track to play in the Dallas Cowboys' playoff game against the New York Giants.

Chargers will test Gates before Sunday's game to decide status

SAN DIEGO — Antonio Gates' limp suggested that he's going to have a hard time playing Sunday when his San Diego Chargers face the Indianapolis Colts in a divisional round playoff game.

The Jaguars (12-5) won in Pittsburgh for the second time this season, losing a 28-10 fourth-quarter lead, then rallying to win 31-29 on Josh Scobee's late 25-yard field goal. It was set up by a 32-yard fourth-down run by QB David Garrard, who was the team's leading rusher in the game.

Gates was hurt in the second quarter of Sunday's 17-6 wild-card win over the Tennessee Titans and Saturday.

Butler runs winning streak to seven games

INDIANAPOLIS — Matt Howard had 22 points and nine rebounds, and No. 14 Butler beat Wisconsin Green Bay 74-65 on Thursday for its seventh straight win.

and Brian Butch added 16 as Wisconsin gave the Illini their first four-game losing streak under coach Bruce Weber.

INDIANAPOLIS

NO. 23 STANFORD 66, OREGON ST. 46

Corvallis, Ore. — Lawrence Hill had 13 points and Brook Lopez had 12 points and nine rebounds to lead No. 23 Stanford.

NO. 23 STANFORD 66, OREGON ST. 46

Corvallis, Ore. — Lawrence Hill had 13 points and Brook Lopez had 12 points and nine rebounds to lead No. 23 Stanford.

Vandals top Bulldogs

MOSCOW (AP) — Jordan Brooks had 21 points and 10 rebounds to help the Idaho Vandals break a 13-game Western Athletic Conference losing streak in a 95-70 victory over Louisiana Tech on Thursday night.

Idaho began to pull away at the end of the first half. With the score tied at 22 and 6:29 left in the first half, the Vandals went on a 10-0 run that was capped by a 3-pointer by Hank.

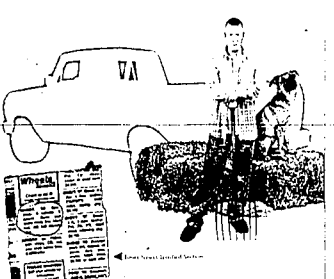
BSU

Continued from page C1

for the final shot by Tiedeman. Boise State's Larry left after a knee injury in the first half, but returned for the second, adding 10 points.

In the second half, the Bulldogs made things interesting for when Drew Westlund picked off an Idaho pass and took it the other way for a layup to bring them to within 73-71 with 4:55 on the clock.

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BUSINESS

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FRIDAY
JANUARY 11, 2008

Bernanke says Fed ready to cut interest rates as needed

By Jeannine Aversa
Associated Press writer

WASHINGTON — Federal Reserve Chairman Ben Bernanke pledged Thursday to slash interest rates yet again to prevent housing and credit problems from plunging the country into a recession.

The Fed chief made clear the central bank was prepared to act aggressively to rescue a weakening economy. "We stand ready to take substantive additional action as

needed to support growth and to provide adequate insurance against downside risks," he said.

Some economists believe the Fed will slice its key interest rate by a half percentage point when the Fed meets next on Jan. 29 and 30. Others, however, think the Fed will go with a more modest one-quarter percentage point reduction, given concerns that high energy prices could spark inflation.

To bolster the economy, the Fed lowered its key rate three times last

year. Its last cut on Dec. 11 left the rate at 4.25 percent, a two-year low. Still, Bernanke has come under criticism for not acting more aggressively to deal with the economy's problems.

Worries about the country's economic health have gripped voters, galvanized presidential candidates and spurred the White House and Congress to explore ways to stimulate the economy to avoid a recession.

Hiring practically ground to a

halt in December, pushing the unemployment rate up to 5 percent, a two-year high, the government said in a report last week that rattled Wall Street and Main Street.

Bernanke, in a speech to a housing and economic forum here, cautioned against raising too much into one report. However, he said that if employment conditions were to continue to deteriorate, that would raise risks to the economy. The big worry is that consumers might cut back on their

spending, sending the economy into a tailspin.

Increasing information suggests that the outlook for economic activity for this year has worsened and that the "downside risks to growth have become more pronounced," Bernanke warned.

A housing slump, weaker home values, harder-to-get credit and high energy prices all "seem likely to weigh on consumer spending as we move into 2008," Bernanke said.

A weak December

Gas prices, slumping housing market take toll

By Anne D'Innocenzo
Associated Press writer

NEW YORK — The economic outlook became more uncertain Thursday after many of the nation's big retailers reported weaker than expected holiday sales, the result of consumers cutting their spending due to the ongoing housing slump.

Many merchants failed to meet their already lowered sales projections during December, and their performance during this critical sales period led some stores to revise earnings outlooks for the fourth quarter.

The weak results crossed all retail categories. Particularly hard-hit were apparel sellers including Limited Brands Inc. and AnnTaylor Stores Corp., as well as department stores including Macy's Inc. Among the bright spots were low-price operators like Wal-Mart Stores Inc., which posted results that exceeded Wall Street expectations, as it benefited from shoppers trading down to cheaper stores amid higher gas prices and a slumping housing market.

"There's definitely a consumer spending slowdown," said Thomane Martin, a retail analyst at Sun Life Financial. But she said she's waiting to see how sales fare



The outside of a Wal-Mart store in Little Rock, Ark. The economic outlook became more uncertain on Thursday after many of the nation's big retailers reported weaker than expected holiday sales, the result of consumers cutting their spending due to higher energy prices and the ongoing housing slump.

in January, when stores benefit from consumers redeeming their gift cards.

Retailers don't record sales of gift cards until they

are redeemed.

According to a preliminary sales tally by Thomson Financial, 27 retailers missed December projections, while

14 beat forecasts and two met expectations. The tally is based on same-store sales.

Please see RETAIL, Page C7

Circuit City's job cuts backfire

By Rachel Beck
Associated Press writer

NEW YORK — Corporate leaders who think they can slash expenses without customers noticing might want to give Circuit City Stores Inc.'s top brass a call. The electronics retailer is living the nightmare of cost-cutting gone bad.

The Richmond, Va.-based company has been in a downward spiral since it announced last spring that it would lay off thousands of experienced workers it candidly said it could replace with cheaper new hires.

Top hat that service matters in that corner of the retail market. Shoppers quickly noticed and fled — leaving Circuit City's sales and profits plunging. Its same-store holiday sales, reported on Monday, fell 11.1 percent. And its stock is now about 80 percent below where it was the day before it made the staffing announcement.

It's a business school case study being written before our eyes. Companies everywhere should remember the management mishap as they wrestle with cost cuts of their own amid slowing economic growth, rising inflationary pressures and a fatigued consumer.

Corporate profits are expected to drop more than 8 percent in the fourth quarter from a year ago, resulting in a 0.31 percent contraction in overall 2007 earnings. That would be the first 12-month decline in operating earnings since the second quarter of 2002, according to Standard & Poor's data of 500 companies in its broad-market stock index.

Staffing changes are just one way for companies to curb expenses and preserve or price up profits. They also could start closing stores or slashing product lines.

Regardless of the actions



A customer leaves a Circuit City store in Emeryville, Calif. Electronics retailer Circuit City Stores Inc. on Dec. 21 reported a bigger-than-expected loss for the third quarter, driven by restructuring costs.

they take, they better know how their customers will react and consider the message they are sending to the public, says management consultant Peter S. Cohan, who runs his own firm in Marlborough, Mass.

That's what Circuit City got wrong when it hatched its plan last March to slash 3,400 of its higher-paid and most experienced sales staff and replace them with lower-paid workers.

The company declined to give specifics about its pay scale, estimates put the wages of laid-off workers at around \$14 to \$15 an hour versus about \$9 for their replacements.

Circuit City was upfront about its plan, had it worked, management would have been lauded. But the retailer "violated a basic principle of good business," said Cohan, who also teaches management at Babson College. "They (executives) were so focused on cutting costs that they failed to take into account the real value of good salespeople."

BUSINESS BRIEFS

IRS E-File opens for 2008 filing season

WASHINGTON — Most taxpayers may file their 2007 tax returns electronically beginning today as the Internal Revenue Service opens the e-file program.

Taxpayers who use IRS e-file and who choose direct deposit can receive their refund in as little as ten days.

With e-file there is no paper return going to the IRS and with direct deposit,

there is no paper refund going to the taxpayer. It's all electronic. Tax return information is protected through encryption.

For more information, go to <http://www.irs.gov>

Potato Conference to be held in Pocatello

BLACKFOOT — The annual Potato Conference will be held at 8 a.m. Jan. 23 and 24 at the Idaho State University Campus in Pocatello.

Potato growers and members of the agricultural community are invited to attend a workshop titled "Creating Sustainable Family Farms." The workshop will take place at the Pond Student Union Building.

Farm succession will be one of the primary areas of emphasis. The workshop's aim will be to assist farmers in successfully transferring management and ownership from one generation to the next.

For more information, go to <http://extension.agn.uidaho.edu/district4>.

Weekly jobless claims drop for second straight week

WASHINGTON — The number of newly laid off workers filing claims for unemployment benefits unexpectedly fell last week although the decline was not viewed as evidence of an

improving job market.

The Labor Department reported that 322,000 persons filed applications for unemployment benefits, down by 15,000 from the previous week when claims had declined by 20,000.

While the second straight drop in weekly claims caught analysts by surprise, it was not seen as a sign of fundamental improvement in the labor market, which has been coming under strains that have raised con-

cerns about a possible recession.

Analysts said the declines of the past two weeks were more the result of difficulties in adjusting the numbers around the Christmas and New Year's holidays when state claims offices are open fewer days.

The four-week average for jobless claims dropped slightly to 341,000, the lowest in a month.

— Staff and wire reports

STOCKS OF LOCAL INTEREST

Con Agra	23.92	▼ .02	Dell Inc.	20.94	▲ .01	Idacorp	34.34	▼ .13
Lithia Mo.	13.46	▲ .66	Micron	6.20	—	Supervalu	26.65	▼ .66

COMMODITIES

For more see page C7

Live cattle	93.20	▼ .07	Feb. Oil	93.71	▼ 1.96
Jan. gold	891.7	▼ 12.2	Jan. Silver	1617.3	▲ 43.9

Today in business

WASHINGTON — Commerce Department reports on international trade for November.

WASHINGTON — Treasury reports on federal budget for December.

MUTUAL FUNDS

Table of mutual fund performance with columns for Name, Last Chg, and various fund names like AMF Investors, AMF Growth, etc.

MUTUAL FUNDS

Table of mutual fund performance with columns for Name, Last Chg, and various fund names like Fidelity, Vanguard, etc.

COMMODITIES REPORT

Table titled 'CLOSING FUTURES' showing prices for various commodities like oil, gold, and wheat.

CHEESE

Chicago futures on the Chicago Mercantile Exchange. Borden's... (text continues)

POTATOES

OTCDAQ 09/1-15/04 - Major potato markets for shipping... (text continues)

LIVESTOCK

Jerome - Following livestock market on January 10... (text continues)

BEANS

Yellow Beans - Prices are net for good, 100 pounds, U.S. No. 1 beans... (text continues)

GRAINS

Yellow Corn - Prices for most per bushel, mixed grain, corn and beans... (text continues)

MARKET SUMMARY

Summary table for NYSE, AMEX, NASDAQ, and INDEXES with columns for Most Active, Last Chg, and Index values.

STOCKS OF LOCAL INTEREST

Table of local stock interest with columns for Company Name, Last Chg, and Price.

HOW TO READ THE MARKET REPORT

Name: Stocks are listed alphabetically by the company's full name... (text continues)

BUSINESS PERMITS - CASSIA COUNTY

- ALPINE GARDEN INC. Organizational ID / Filing number: D177775
ACME SIGN SERVICE Organizational ID / Filing number: D176667
DIARY (multiple entries)

- BUSTER'S MECH. BULL, LLC Organizational ID / Filing number: W69825
HALLMARK QUALITY RESTORATION RENOVATION & REMODEL INC. Organizational ID / Filing number: C176155
RIVER EDGE LAND CO., LLC Organizational ID / Filing number: W695658
DIARY (multiple entries)

Retail

Continued from page 06. Still, it was clear the slowing economy made shoppers frugal during the holiday shopping season...

holiday leftovers. A growing concern for retailers -- and, in turn, their suppliers -- is the weakening economy...

Thomson Financial. The retailer, which launched an aggressive price-cutting campaign, said that strong food sales helped drive customer traffic to other parts of the store...

TWIN FALLS FORECAST

Today: Slushy winter showers developing. Highs low 40s.
Tonight: A lull in the wet weather expected. Lows 20s.
Tomorrow: A lull less likely to last or snow. Highs 30s.

BURLEY/RUPERT FORECAST

Today: Cool with cloudy periods. Perhaps a brief passing of light snow. Highs 30s.
Tonight: Decreasing clouds and less likely to snow. Lows 20s.
Tomorrow: Cool, mostly dry and fair. Highs low to middle 30s.

IDAHO'S FORECAST

SUN VALLEY SURROUNDING MTS.
Pockets of mountain snow are expected today. The chance for snow will decline overnight. Saturday and Sunday are shaping up to be mostly dry and chilly.

Map of Idaho showing weather forecasts for Boise, Northern Utah, and Twin Falls. Includes text: 'BOISE Showers consisting of rain and snow are likely for areas of forest elevation today and Saturday. A break in the wet weather will emerge on Sunday.' and 'NORTHERN UTAH There is a chance of snow developing today. Clearing skies and mostly dry weather is on tap for the weekend.'

Quote of the Day by Gregg Middlekauff: 'I've learned a lot from experience, and often experience comes from failure.'

TWIN FALLS FIVE-DAY FORECAST

Table with 5 columns: Today, Tonight, Saturday, Sunday, Monday. Includes weather icons and temperature ranges (High 41, Low 26).

ALMANAC - TWIN FALLS

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

Yesterday's Weather

Table with 3 columns: City, Hi, Lo. Lists weather for various cities like Boise, Burley, etc.

REGIONAL FORECAST

Table with 4 columns: City, Today, Tomorrow, Sunday. Lists forecasts for Boise, Burley, and other regional cities.

NATIONAL FORECAST

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

CANADIAN FORECAST

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

TODAY'S NATIONAL MAP showing weather patterns across the United States with a legend for Fronts, Cold, Warm, Stationary, and Occluded.

Choi shoots 64 to overtake Walker atop Sony Open leaderboard

HONOLULU (AP) — K.J. Choi is accustomed to starting strong at the Sony Open, closing with a birdie for a 6-under 64 that gave him a one-shot lead Thursday and his sixth consecutive opening round in the 60s at Waialae Country Club.

Henry Walker usually expects the worst when he comes to these shores. The former Nationwide Tour player of the year suffered a serious neck injury at the Sony Open in his rookie debut three years ago.

didn't make birdie until No. 12 and wound up with a 74, leaving him a long shot to earn his first paycheck since turning pro last summer. This is eighth event as a pro.

Choi's 64 was a record for the Sony Open, and he finished with a 67 to take the lead. He said, 'I had a rough day.' Fujikawa said, 'I've got to shoot a good round tomorrow to make the cut. I think I can do it.'

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Advertisement for HUE by Samsung. Features the text 'colorful conversations BUY ONE FREE GET ONE FREE' and an image of a man surrounded by mobile phones.

K.J. Choi waves after making a birdie putt on the No. 18 green at the Waialae Country Club during the first round of the Sony Open in Honolulu, Thursday.

For Business & Government Accounts call 1-866-WIS-8122 or visit alltelbusiness.com. Alltel Retail Stores: Blackfoot, Burley, Coeur d'Alene, etc.

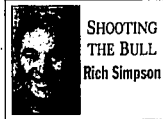
INSIDE: Spacecraft will take a look at Mercury's unseen side, D3



INSIDE: Outdoors briefs, D2 | Ask the officer, D2 | YourOutdoors, D3 | Skywatch, D3

Air guns: They're a gas

In order to win the hearts of the Indian tribes they would encounter during their ascent of the Missouri River, Lewis and Clark stowed away a sizable cargo of glass beads, silvered mirrors, peace medals and other trinkets aboard the keelboat. But to win the minds and loyalties of the chiefs of the same tribes, the Corps of Discovery brandished the most up-to-date armament of the day, including Lewis's air rifle.



SHOOTING THE BULL
Rich Simpson

This unique pneumatic rifle was definitely not your daddy's Daisy. In charge of the weapons, which outwardly resembled a conventional flint-lock rifle of the period, Lewis would first have had to unscrew the butt stock from the breech. The hollow hammered brass buttstock served double duty primarily as the rifle's air reservoir and secondarily as a shoulder mount for the weapon.

Once removed, Lewis would have attached a separate hand pump to the front of the reservoir and pumped away. Experiments with a working mock-up — fashioned from the original Bartolomeo Girardoni design — demonstrated that after an exhausting 900 hand strokes, an amazing 300 psi of air pressure could be secured within the reservoir.

After reattaching the reservoir, a small side barrel would be charged with lead round balls, and the gun would be locked and loaded. Simply by depressing the trigger, Lewis could send an impressive volley of up to 22 large-caliber balls downrange without a single reload.

Lewis, in the manner of his mentor and supporter Thomas Jefferson, was the consummate gadget guy. He considered his Girardoni rifle simply a technological novelty, not a suitable weapon for hunting or for self-defense. Its sole purpose was to convince the indigenous peoples they encountered of the superiority of U.S. power. It was yet another objective demonstration of the utility of disobeying the will of their "Great White Father" or "Great Chief of the Nation" of white traders and settlers to follow in the explorers' wake.

The primary difference between air guns and firearms is in the type of propellant gases used in the firing process. Obviously air guns utilize some form of air, either atmospheric air or carbon dioxide. Firearms, on the other hand, harness the power of scorching, high-pressure gases generated by the combustion of gunpowder within the weapon's breech.

Modern air guns — rifles, pistols, now even shotguns — operate on one of these basic principles. The first is the spring-piston mechanism. Here the gun's breech houses a spring-driven piston sealed within a cylindrical air tube. Cocking the weapon draws in the necessary supply of

Please see GUNS, Page D2

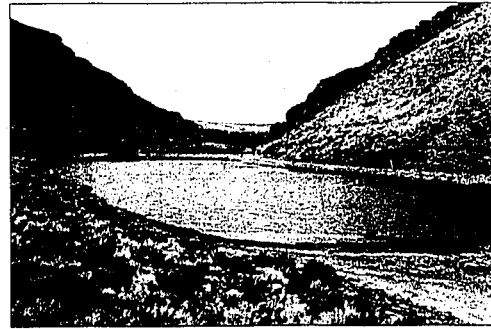
Something missing?

The Times-News' weekly hiking article "Pick of the Week" has been suspended for the winter. "Pick of the Week" is expected to return between mid-March and early April.

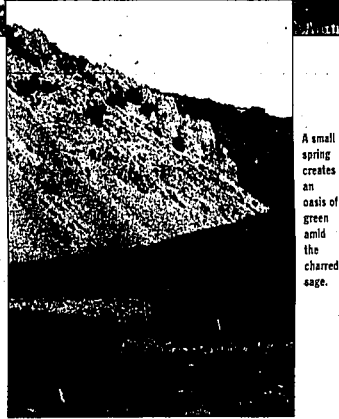
BEAUTY ALL AROUND ME



The geologic beauty of Cow Creek Basin has been enhanced with last year's wildfires.



The small reservoir at the head of the narrow canyon sits at the contact of the rhyolite and loose ash.



A small spring creates an oasis of green amid the charred sage.

Fire-ravaged Cow Creek Basin retains its scenic value

By Lawrence P. Gromey
Times-News correspondent

The words "beauty all around me" come from one of the variations of the Navajo Hearer's Way chant. It may seem out of place in an article that discusses one of the many canyons in northern Nevada devastated by the range fires of this past summer.

Certainly, our eyes will tell us that the beauty that once existed no longer spreads before us, however, much like the seared landscape of the canyon, our spirits, also, need healing.

For the present, we can find comfort in the knowledge that what has been lost

will one day be restored. But even now, amid the charred snags and fire-blackened rock, the beauty of the canyon remains. We need only look.

Nine miles east of U.S. Highway 93 and three miles south of Jackpot, Nev., one encounters the northwest tip of one of the many areas reduced to ash by the wildfires of this past summer.

While the devastation produced by large, lightning-caused wildfires is a natural part of the desert West, it is, nonetheless, disheartening to recall the pre-fire beauty of these affected areas while viewing the reality of the scene shortly after the fire. But beauty and intrigue still

exist, if only on a smaller, more delicate scale.

The area of interest is the lower Cow Creek drainage in northern Nevada, 12 miles southeast of Jackpot. Cow Creek issues forth from springs on the west side of Gollaher Mountain, the tallest peak visible to the southeast of Jackpot, and flows toward Salmon Falls Creek.

A poor dirt and gravel road leads from the National Back Country Byway, a slightly better dirt and gravel road that crosses northern Nevada from Highway 93 to the Utah border, into the prominent, narrow and steep-sided canyon visible from Highway 93.

Going back in time: The beauty of exposure

The road is only about two miles long from the mouth of the canyon to its terminus at about 6,400 feet on top of a knob of Paleozoic sedimentary rock but, geologically, the journey to that point is much longer.

The mouth, and indeed, much of the canyon has been cut through reddish-brown welded rhyolite which forms the parallel layers in the canyon walls.

Under the welded rock is loose, light gray to nearly white ash.

Below this ash is the old calcium-rich sedimentary rock which ranges in color from a light brownish-orange to gray. Between the mouth of the canyon and the top of the knob, one travels back in time hundreds of millions of years.

This is where the beauty of

the geology of the canyon has been enhanced. With the majority of vegetation removed by the fire, one can see, not only the rock outcrops more clearly, but the landforms the general shape of the ground surface which would have been hidden under the cover of taller sagebrush, trees and other large plants.

Just over a mile up the canyon, near the contact between the welded rhyolite and loose ash, a small reservoir sits in a low spot where the canyon walls have undercut a portion of the welded rhyolite cap, generating a large landslide that now forms the hillside across the stream on the north side of the reservoir.

A steeply tilting exposure in the softer ash just above the reservoir, showing parallel beds in the hillside.

Please see BEAUTY, Page D2

Glacier Gloves are just the trick to keep your hands dry

The year was 1902. The place, Pyramid Lake in northern Nevada, where a cold plane of electric blue water hid the lake's famous underwater treasure. It was there that Dick Swan, founder of the Glacier Glove company, had an epiphany about how to keep his hands warm while they were wet.

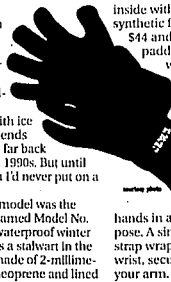
His idea was to design a glove made of the same insulating and water-tolerant material as used in wet-suits. Namely, Swan sketched out the first iteration of a neoprene glove, a stretchy, spongy, hand-



THE GEAR
JUNKIE
Stephen Regenold

molding cover that could get wet and still provide warmth and enough dexterity for spinning a fishing reel. It's now been 25 years, and Glacier Glove (www.glaciarglove.com) of Reno, Nev., sells a line of neoprene handwear for sports including fishing, paddling, skiing, climbing, and cold-weather

cycling. I've seen these gloves around for years, as some models were popular with ice climber friends of mine as far back as the mid 1980s. But until last month I'd never put on a pair. My test model was the clumsily named Model No. 802UK, a waterproof winter glove that's a stalwart in the line. It is made of 2-millimeter-thick neoprene and lined



inside with a thin sheen of synthetic fleece. They cost \$44 and were designed for paddling, ice climbing, windsurfing, and hiking, according to the company. The gloves are strange-looking, as the pre-molded knuckles and fingers hold your hands in a lifeless robot pose. A single Velcro cinch strap wraps around the wrist, securing the glove to your arm.

For my review, I put them to the test skijoring around a lake on a 10-degree evening. I rode a bike through the cold for several miles. I built snow forts with my daughter, scooping up gloopy handfuls of slush on a warm weekend afternoon. Even held under the bathroom faucet, water on full blast, the gloves did not leak. Outdoors, overall, they worked great, gripping bike handlebars or snowballs with similar aplomb. They are not as insulating as I'd hoped, however.

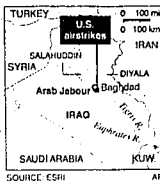
Please see GLOVES, Page D3

Massive U.S. airstrikes pound insurgent havens south of Baghdad

By Hanza Hendawi
Associated Press writer

ZAMBARANIYAH, Iraq — U.S. warplanes unleashed one of the most intense airstrikes of the Iraq war Thursday, dropping 40,000 pounds of explosives in a thunderous 10-minute onslaught on suspected al-Qaida sites in Iraq's southern Sunni farmlands south of Baghdad.

The mighty barrage — recalling the Pentagon's "shock and awe" raids during the 2003 invasion — appeared to mark a significant escalation in a counter-wide offensive launched this



week to try to cripple remaining insurgent strongholds.

But it also fits into the ongoing strategy of last year's U.S. troop buildup, which seeks to regain control

of Baghdad and surrounding areas as a buffer zone for the capital. U.S. commanders are now attempting to subdue the last insurgent footholds around Baghdad before the Pentagon faces a possible reduction in troop strength.

Some of the additional 30,000 troops have been pulled out and the remainder are expected to depart by June, military officials have told The Associated Press. With insurgents still holding pockets south of the capital in the north — including areas around the key northern city of Mosul — the military apparently wants to take

the remaining four months or so to use the expanded military muscle against al-Qaida.

After Thursday's fierce airstrikes, U.S. and Iraqi soldiers advanced through smoldering citrus groves into

areas that were considered important al-Qaida enclaves around Arab Jabour, southeast of Baghdad. An Iraq officer said the soldiers discovered two houses used to torture kidnap victims and arrested at least 12

suspected insurgents. Little initial resistance was reported. At least nine U.S. soldiers have been killed since the offensive began Tuesday — the deadliest days for American forces since last fall.

Bush spells out bottom line for Mideast peace

By Terence Hunt
Associated Press writer

JERUSALEM — President Bush called for a halt to Israel's military occupation of land the Palestinians claim for a state and an end to the terrorist threat over the Jewish homeland, spelling out the U.S. bottom line Thursday for ending the long and bloody Mideast conflict.

"Now is the time to make difficult choices," Bush said. An agreement will require "painful concessions" by both sides, Bush said, but he predicted one could be reached within a year, putting himself more firmly on the line than ever for an achievement considered unlikely by many experts.

The White House said Bush "would" return to the Mideast at least once and possibly more this year, including another stop in Jerusalem in May.

Bush came away with no breakthroughs or apparent concessions from two days of separate talks with Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Olmert in Jerusalem and with Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas in the Palestinian West Bank. There was no joint meeting of the three leaders, but Olmert and Abbas assured Bush they were serious about reaching an agreement.

Bush's peace-making checklist, combining existing U.S. policy with a few new elements, was his most detailed summary yet of U.S. expectations for resolving some of the hardest issues in a future peace accord. He outlined his position in a five-minute statement to reporters summoned to a room in the King David Hotel, overlooking Jerusalem's holy and historic Old City.

The biggest hurdles to an agreement are: conflicting claims to the holy city of Jerusalem, different views about the outlines of a future Palestinian state, and the fate of Palestinian refugees and millions of their descendants. Bush pointedly dodged the Jerusalem question, simply calling it "one of the most difficult challenges on the road to peace."

As if to jolt Israel into action, Bush deliberately used a loaded term — occupation — to describe Israeli military control over the West Bank, the territory that would eventually form the bulk of an independent Palestinian state.

This is how Bush described the opening point for peace negotiations:

"There should be an end to the occupation that began in 1967. The agreement must establish borders. And they must ensure that the state of Palestine is viable, contiguous, sovereign, and independent."

By any Arab definition, the way Bush described occupation would include East Jerusalem, the West Bank and Golan Heights.

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Wheels

& classifieds

The Times-News

Friday, January 11, 2008

Page E-1

2008 NISSAN ROGUE CROSSOVER

Emotionally Functional!

roadworthy!
By Ken Chester, Jr.
Motor News Media
Corporation

Quick, nimble, responsive, comfortable and fun are a few of the adjectives that come readily to mind after some quality time behind the wheel of the all-new Nissan Rogue crossover. Designed to add a new dimension to the crossover utility segment, the all-new Rogue was engineered to satisfy both the functional and emotional needs of the buyer.

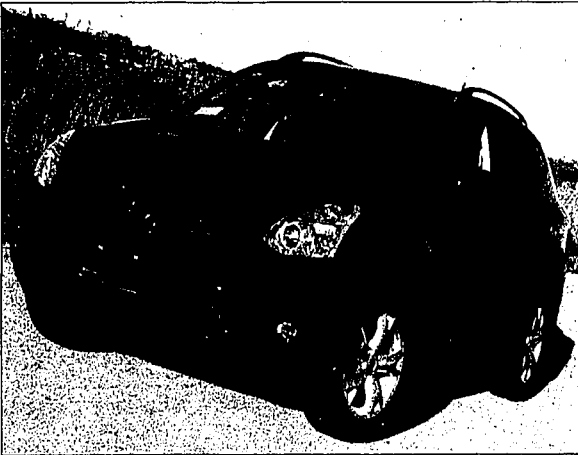
Rogue's aggressive, performance-oriented styling, powerful engine, responsive handling, and driver-focused cockpit combine with its thoughtful everyday utility to create a vehicle that changes the way young buyers think about crossovers.

The front-wheel drive Rogue is propelled by a 2.5l, four-cylinder engine and bolted to Nissan's advanced Xtronic CVT (continuously variable automatic transmission).

Vehicle Dynamic Control (VDC), traction control, four-wheel disc brakes with anti-lock and electronic brake force distribution are standard equipment. An all-new intuitive All-Wheel Drive system with yaw movement control is an available option. The new Nissan crossover is based on the automaker's "C" platform, which provides high body stiffness with extensive use of high-


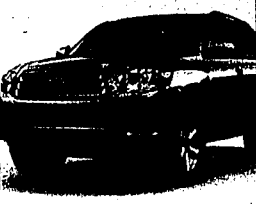
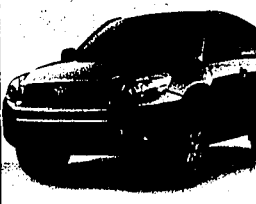
strength steel utilized to reduce body weight. Control hardware consists of a four-wheel independent suspension system. Up front are struts, coil springs and a solid 23 mm stabilizer bar. At the rear, a multi-link configuration employs a tubular 19 mm stabilizer bar. Inside the cabin, the Rogue is

designed to stand out in class with its sophisticated integration of a cockpit-like driver's space and exceptional utility. The driver's seat position offers excellent visibility, enhanced by an available seat lifter with up to two inches of seat height adjustability. The instrument panel layout and steering wheel are designed for easy readability and operation, while also providing a sporty look and feel, with reddish-orange



illumination and silver gauge surround rings. Leather-appointed seating surfaces and heated front seats and mirrors are also available, along with a fold down front passenger seat. A roomy rear seating area includes a standard 60/40 split folding bench seat. Also available is a highly versatile, dual-lever center console with hidden functionality features. Rogue's roomy cargo area has a number of

available utility features, including a unique cargo organizer. Also available is a washable, removable tray that fits below the cargo area floor to hold wet or dirty gear and tools and a rear tonneau cover to keep luggage and other items out of sight. Rogue's everyday utility features also include a variety of cup-holders, memo/paper holder, coin holder and cell phone/sunglasses holders.

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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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Part-time 20 hours per week. Hourly wage range \$11.54-\$17.05 DOE, plus a pro-rated benefit package. Requirements: High school diploma or GED; Two (2) years experience in a similar payroll structure. Duties: Provides general office and clerical assistance to the Finance Department; Completes reports and payroll functions as needed. Closing date January 30, 2008.

Apply immediately. Application and additional information are available on-line at www.tffd.org or call for information (208) 735-7268.

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To apply, please send a cover letter and resume to: Trisha Mitchell, Times-News, Box 546, Twin Falls, ID 83303 or email to tmitchell@magicvalley.com

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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.

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Advertisement for Times-News magicvalley.com featuring a large dollar sign and text about earning extra cash for the holidays.

Advertisement for classified ads placement, featuring a large '24/7' and 'classified Ad Placement' text.

Friday, Jan. 11, 2008

THE ACES ON BRIDGE

Bobby Wolff

The history of the world, as it is written and handed down by word of mouth, often fails us completely, but man's intuitive capacity, though it often misleads, does lead, does not even abandon one.

Franz Kafka

Bridge deal with North and South hands and tricks.

Vulnerable: Both Dealer: South
The bidding: South West North East
Opening lead: Spade seven

BID WITH THE ACES

South West North East
A 5, K 10 3, Q 10 2, J 9 2, 9 2, K 10 3

ANSWER: You are rather too good for a balancing call of two no-trump, which would be natural, but have a range of, say, 14-16 points over a two-diamond opening. Instead, double and plan to rebid two no-trump. This sequence shows 18-19 or so and gets your full values across.

If you would like to contact Bobby Wolff, e-mail him at today-wolff@earthlink.net

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The solution to today's deal is truly counterintuitive. With that warning, how will you play three no-trump when West leads the spade seven? You have eight top tricks, and a successful club finesse will give you a ninth trick. A less obvious chance of a ninth trick is to find East with both the king and queen of hearts, which will allow you to set up your heart jack. How should you combine these two chances?

David Bird, who discusses this deal in "Another 52 Great Bridge Tips," advises that since you cannot establish the heart jack without surrendering the lead, this is the suit you should play first (a good general policy).

Win the spade lead with dummy's king and lead a low heart. If East plays low, you will finesse the heart jack, scoring your extra trick immediately. Suppose East rises with the heart king instead. You win with the heart ace, return to dummy with a diamond, and lead a second round of hearts toward the jack.

If no luck comes from the hearts, nothing has been lost. When the defenders clear spades, you will return to dummy with a diamond and take the club finesse. By combining your chances in this way, you will make the contract when East holds the club king-queen. But if you play clubs first, you lose your chance in the heart suit. Strange, isn't it?

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703 Horse and Tack
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GERMAN SHEPHERD puppies, 1 shot, black & tan.

GERMAN SHEPHERD puppies, 1 shot, black & tan.

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BORDER COLLIE puppy, m, female, 4 months.

BORDER COLLIE puppy, m, female, 4 months.

BORDER COLLIE puppy, m, female, 4 months.

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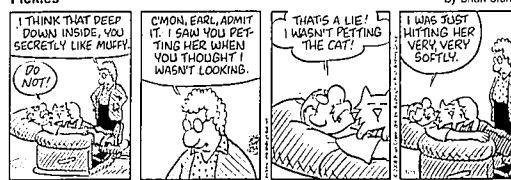
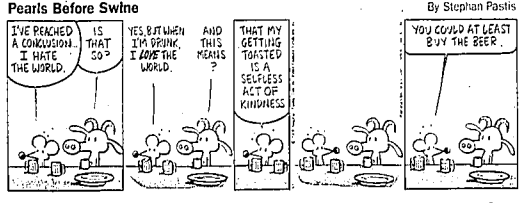
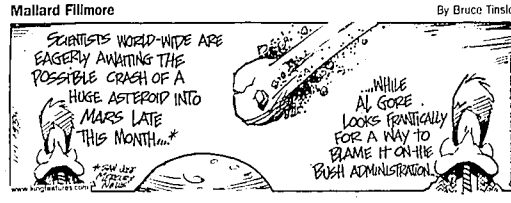
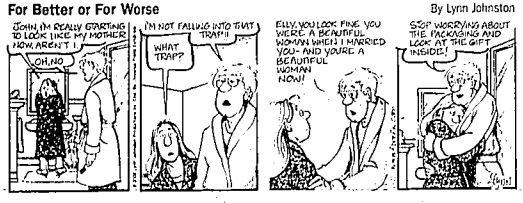
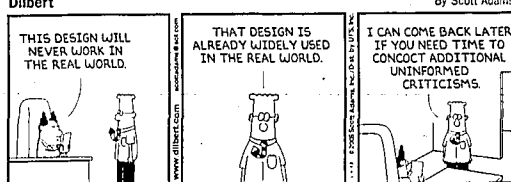
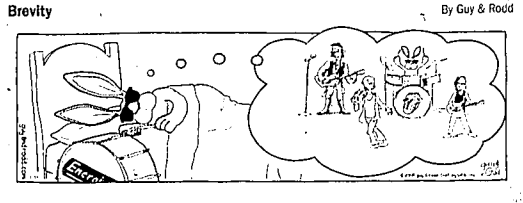
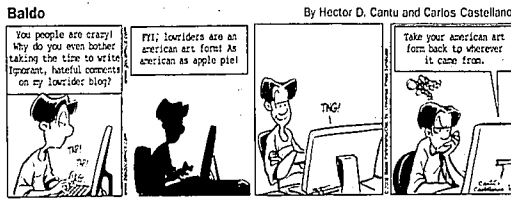
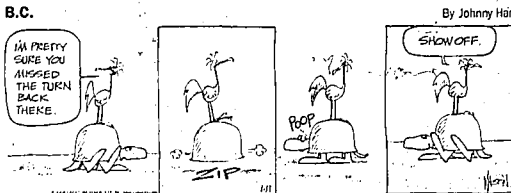
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24/7 Classified Ad Placement. Includes a large number '24/7' graphic and text about ad rates.



Make the right choice, Pisces

HOROSCOPE
Jeraldine Saunders

A classic film will be more satisfying than the latest release if you are staying in for the night. Partner a significant other with soft lights and a soothing atmosphere.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Intoxicating, but fleeting, chemistry can go to your head and tempt you to break away from someone true blue. A minor slip could very well void his plans.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Romantic fires that have cooled can be rekindled under these stars. Where money is concerned, wait for long-term plans to unfold.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Maybe you consider your self a love maven destined for amorous entwining later tonight. Don't let your attention go to your head and spoil existing commitments. Look for enduring relationships.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Make the right choice. You can seek excitement amid bright lights for a few hours of distraction — or you can share some tender and memorable moments within the sanctuary of your own four walls.

IF JAN. 11 IS YOUR BIRTHDAY: April and June are your best months to make important decisions or begin new undertakings. During these months you might feel you have a protective angel watching over your efforts and steering you clear of harm. You seem to attract those with your best interests at heart who will give you wise and beneficial counsel, so these are very good months to consult with professionals. In September you may meet someone who aids you in making a life-altering change.

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Take a step. On one side you know that a very special relationship can continue forever — but on the flip side, dissatisfaction with the status quo years for more excitement.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Someone may deliberately block your authority, but you should stand your ground calmly. Just remember that you will still be there when everyone else is long forgotten.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): The crow interrupts his flight to pick up a shiny trinket in the grass, but loses the rest of the flock. To make it to your

desired destination, ignore momentary attractions, distractions and fascinations.

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Glass ceilings allow you to see clearly how high you can go. You can aspire to please things even if you are limited by a structure in your life, but you can safely enjoy the beauty from just where you are.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): You are deeply in sync with a special someone. A minor setback could disturb the overall harmony, but a good relationship will not be weakened by adjustments on your part.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Someone may surprise you by being difficult to please. You may not give lavish gifts or spending money, try a quiet evening at home listening to music.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Avoid being disturbed by a sudden change of plans. You may be tempted to stir up activity just to avoid monotony but the reaction might not be what you expect.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21):



Beetle Bailey By Mort Walker

WHAT'S GOING ON HERE?
A WORKSHOP ON GOOFING OFF
HOW CLEAR YOUR MIND OF ALL RESPONSIBILITIES

Blondie By Dean Young & Stan Drake

I'M NOT HAPPY ABOUT THIS GLOBALIZATION STUFF!
HOW AM I SUPPOSED TO COMPETE WITH SO MUCH CHEAP FOREIGN LABOR AROUND?
I THINK YOU'RE DOING A PRETTY GOOD JOB YOURSELF

The Born Loser By Art Sansom & Chip

I'VE TRAVELED THIS ROUTE TO AND FROM WORK SO MANY TIMES I KNOW IT LIKE THE BACK OF MY HAND.
TROUBLE IS, SOMETIMES I CAN'T REMEMBER IF I'M GOING TO WORK OR ON MY WAY HOME!

Garfield By Jim Davis

IS THIS GRAPE JUICE STAIN NOTICEABLE?
BARELY...
FROM OUTER SPACE!

Hagar the Horrible By Chris Browne

YOU ARE SUFFERING FROM WHAT WE DOCTORS CALL ARROWITIS?
WHAT CAUSES THAT?
A BOW

Hi and Lois By Chance Brown

HOW WAS YOUR DAY?
ON A SCALE OF ONE TO A MILLION...
...386,742...
IS THAT THE NUMERICAL EQUIVALENT OF 'OK'?

Classic Peanuts By Charles M. Schulz

ALL RIGHT, I'LL ASK HIM...
THAT LITTLE KID WANTS YOU TO COME OUT AND PLAY HOCKEY...
OKAY WE'LL PLAY THREE TWENTY-MINUTE PERIODS AND I GET TO DRIVE THE ZAMBONI!

The Wizard of Id By Brant Parker & Johnny Hurt

WELL, TIME TO HITCH UP THE WAGON
IT'S 20 BELOW OUT THERE... YOU BETTER TAKE THE TASER
YOU MIGHT HAVE TO JUMP-START THE HORSE
WHY?
PARKER

Dennis the Menace By Hank Ketcham

"YOUR WIFE IS OUT OF CONTROL!"

THE FAMILY CIRCUS By Bill Keane

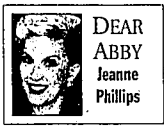
"Boats blow their horns to the way the fishes to get out of the way."

Unhappy wife laments lack of affection in her marriage

DEAR ABBY: "Wilbur" and I have been together for 25 years, married for nine. During that time we have been through almost everything. Abby, I am disappointed in the man Wilbur has turned out to be. He does nothing around the house. He does hold a job, but that's the beginning and the end of it. On top of that, Wilbur shows me no affection. He doesn't hug or kiss me, and he sleeps with a pillow between us. I realize he was never very lovey-dovey, but now there is no affection at all.

I dream about being close to a man, having a companion with whom to enjoy things in life — simple things like going for coffee together after walking through a flea market holding hands.

"Our lives have been intertwined for a quarter of a century. I feel there's nowhere for me to go. How does someone in my situation find happiness?"



ing Wilbur what has happened to your relationship. If he's willing to talk, with the help of a marriage counselor you may be able to fix what has gone wrong. I can't promise your passion, but at least you won't be acting like celebrities.

If Wilbur is unwilling to cooperate, then the time has come to ask yourself if this is how you want to spend the rest of your life. Are you better off with him or without him? If you decide to stick it out because you "have nowhere to go," you may have to do a lot of sublimating. Spend as much time as you can with people *not* animals that will return the warmth you crave.

—DISILLUSIONED IN MILFORD, CONN.
DEAR DISILLUSIONED: You and Wilbur may have been together for 25 years, but it appears you parted ways a long time ago. In order for there to be sex and affection, there has to be some sort of intimacy — and by that, I mean communication. I suggest you begin by ask-

DEAR ABBY: I'm a single man with four kids. My oldest son is dating a sweet girl I'll call "Renee." The problem is she's always at my house. She's here when I return from work in the evenings and every weekend.

While I don't mind Renee's presence, I am finding it difficult to constantly feed her. I can no longer take my chil-

dren out to eat without offering to include her, and she always accepts. When I go to every shop, I am now shopping for five kids instead of just my four.

How do I handle this without hurt feelings? Renee's family has very little money, and sometimes there's not much food in their house. Frankly, I feel sorry for her, but I'm struggling to feed my own kids on my salary. I know the lack of food at Renee's house isn't my problem, and I feel horrible for thinking the way I do. Please help.

—STRETCHED TO THE LIMIT IN ILLINOIS
DEAR STRETCHED: Talk to your son, specifically about your budget. It will then be up to him to set some limits with his girlfriend. Frankly, the fact that the two of them are together every night and every weekend concerns me, because too much alone time could lead to a year or more to a wall of Renee's house, it would be a kindness to speak to Renee's mother about seeking aid for dependent children to be sure they have adequate nutrition. If that fails, I can't say I would be the county department of social services to see if they qualify.

TODAY IN HISTORY

Today is Friday, Jan. 11, the 11th day of 2008. There are 355 days left in the year.

Today's highlight:

On Jan. 11, 1890, the Grand Canyon National Monument was created with a proclamation by President Theodore Roosevelt. It became a national park in 1919.

On this date:

In 1805, the Michigan Territory was created by an act of Congress.

In 1815, Sir John A. Macdonald, the first prime minister of Canada, was born in Glasgow, Scotland.

In 1861, Alabama seceded from the Union.

In 1913, the first sedan-type automobile, a Hudson, went on display at the 13th Automobile Show in New York.

In 1935, aviator Amelia Earhart began a trip from Honolulu to Oakland, Calif., that made her the first woman to fly solo across the Pacific Ocean.

In 1942, Japan declared war against the Netherlands, the same day that Japanese forces invaded the Dutch East Indies.

In 1943, the United States and Britain signed treaties relinquishing extraterritorial rights in China.

In 1964, U.S. Surgeon General Luther Terry issued the first government report saying smoking may be hazardous to one's health.

In 1977, France set off an international uproar by celebrating Aul Duval, a PLO official behind the massacre of Israeli athletes at the 1972 Munich Olympics.

In 1995, 52 people were killed when a Colombian airliner crashed as it was preparing to land near the Caribbean resort of Cartagena.

Ten years ago: The Denver Broncos beat the Pittsburgh Steelers, 21-17, to win the American Football Conference Championship; the Green Bay Packers defeated the San Francisco 49ers, 23-10, to claim the National Football Conference Championship.

Five years ago: Calling the death penalty process "arbitrary and capricious, and therefore immoral," Illinois Gov. George Ryan commuted the sentences of 167 condemned inmates, clearing his state's death row two days before leaving office.

One year ago: President Bush's plan to send more troops to Iraq in a week of criticism on Capitol Hill as administration officials drew confrontational challenges from both Democrats and Republicans. Democrats selected Denver to host their 2008 presidential convention. English soccer star David Beckham announced a five-year deal to play for the Los Angeles Galaxy.

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TODAY'S BIRTHDAYS

Producer David Tinker is 83. Producer Grant L. Wolper is 80. Actor Rod Taylor is 78. The former prime minister of Canada, Jean Chretien, is 74. Actor Felix Silla is 71. Lock musician Clarence Clemens is 66. Movie director Joel Zwick is 66. Country singer Naomi Judd is 62. Gaffer Ben Greenshaw is 56. Singer Robert Earl Keen is 52. Musician Vicki Peterson (The Bangles) is 50. Actress Kim Coles is 46. Actor Jason Connery is 45. Contemporary Christian musician

Jim Bryson (MerryMe) is 40. Rock musician Tom Dumont (No Doubt) is 40. Rhythm-and-blues singer Maxie Morlock (Brownstone) is 39. Singer Mary J. Blige is 37. Musician Tom Rowlands (The Chemical Brothers) is 37. Actor Marc Blucas is 36. Actress Amanda Peet is 36. Actor Richmond Dumar is 35



THOUGHT

"In much wisdom is much grief; and he that increaseth knowledge increaseth sorrow."
— Ecclesiastes 1:18

Two dogs named as most eligible pets

NEW YORK (AP) — Hannah Montana's concert tour and soundtrack aren't the only hot things on the charts these days.

Miley Cyrus' pets, Roadie and Loco, have been named top dogs by Animal Fair magazine.

Roadie, a Yorkie, and Loco, a Shih Tzu, clawed their way to the top of the magazine's Most Eligible Pets List. Readers' votes were announced Tuesday, and the list appears in the magazine's winter issue, on newsstands now.

All the time we hear about the sexiest men alive, the best- and worst-dressed celebrities or the most beautiful

people," editor Wendy Diamond said. "What about the pets?"

The list boasts a diverse group of pets hailing from owners who lead their fields in design, law, comedy, medicine and music, according to the magazine for animal lovers.

Cyrus' pooches triumphed because "they're the only ones who can get tickets to the sold-out Hannah Montana tour," Diamond said.

Cyrus portrays Montana. Last month, the 15-year-old star of the Disney Channel show and daughter of country singer Billy Ray Cyrus announced she would extend her "Best of Both Worlds Tour"

with 14 more performances after all 55 shows sold out in 10 days. Her "Hannah Montana 2 (Soundtrack)/Meet Miley Cyrus" album is also on Billboard's Top 10 list.

Also on Animal Fair's list are Lake and Bill, terriers that help actress Glenn Close with her dog-friendly blog. Lively Licks, and Teddy, the mini goldenoodle belonging to celebrity blogger Perez Hilton.

"This year our readers chose an outstanding list of eligible pets," Diamond said. "Most of them may be eligible, let's also hope they're also sprayed and neutered — although that's none of our business!"

