

THAT DARNED CAT

What wild cats mean for wildlife, rural residents.

COUNTRY ROADS, D1

THE 'P' WORD AGAIN

Plan envisions eight-team college football playoffs.



SPORTS, B1

CORN'S A-POPPIN'

As demand grows, corn futures hit 12-year high.

BUSINESS, C1

Good Morning

High: 34
Low: 11

Partly cloudy with breezy west winds. Details: B6

Times-News

TUESDAY

January 15, 2008

75 cents

MagicValley.com

Twin Falls School Board to ask voters for more money

Trustees want 10-year plant facilities levy for \$3.3M per year

By Andrea Gates
Times-News writer

The Twin Falls School Board trustees decided unanimously Monday night to ask voters for more money.

They want voters to reauthorize a 10-year plant facilities

levy, this time for up to \$3.3 million annually, or \$33 million over 10 years.

The facilities levy would be used for maintenance at the district's facilities. It's a type of levy that's been passed by voters every 10 years for the past four decades. But the

exact amount levied in those past versions wasn't immediately disclosed — or publicly requested by trustees — Monday night during a regular school board meeting.

The levy election is planned for March 11, almost two years since one of the state's largest school bond issues was passed by district voters for \$49.7 million in March 2006. That bond is supposed to pay for a \$37.6 million high school, and for

improvements to existing schools. But the projects are estimated to be \$6 million to \$7 million over budget. Superintendent Wiley Dobbs announced last month.

That's still the projected over-budget amount. Dobbs told the board Monday, but he added, that number could change because all the projects haven't gone to bid yet.

Trustee Vera Redman said she doesn't want to use scare tactics with voters, but

stressed they need to pass this facilities levy. "There will be cutbacks," Redman said if voters don't pass the plant facilities levy. "People need to understand this is not fluff."

Eric Herringer of Northwest Securities told the board that the district's tax rate would not increase if this facilities levy passes. The rate is now \$2.36 per \$1,000 assessed value, but the proposed plant facilities levy would extend the existing tax rate for another

Inside

Bruin Stadium back on track after lengthy delay.

Sports, B1

er 10 years, according to a district handout. District officials claim that if property values increase then taxes will increase, but not because of the levy rate.

Please see **SCHOOLS**, Page A3

Touchy transition



St. Luke's personnel have moved out of this portion of the hospital's facility along Shoshone Street in Twin Falls. The 2006 deal that sold Magic Valley Regional Medical Center and the downtown clinic to St. Luke's Health System is laid out in a 63-page document. But some of its provisions regarding the clinic are causing friction between St. Luke's and Twin Falls County officials.

County, St. Luke's bicker over clinic agreement

By Nate Poppino
Times-News writer

A dispute between St. Luke's Health System and Twin Falls County over turning a downtown Twin Falls clinic building into county office space has caused a verbal sparring match between the two, with the county accused of trying to repossess St. Luke's Magic Valley Regional Medical Center and hospital officials accused of trying to have Commissioner Tom Mikescell arrested.

It's unclear how things broke down so much between the two entities, but the

disagreement has complicated remodeling work to be done on the former Twin Falls Clinic and Hospital building. The clinic building, owned by the county since a 2006 sale, is slated to become county office space as part of the 2006 agreement that sold the county-owned hospital to St. Luke's. The same agreement recognizes that the county will gradually transition into the building, with diagrams depicting the building's tentative use at the time of sale, 18 months later and five years later — when the county is to fully move in.

Starting Jan. 1 — the 18-month mark

of the 2006 sale — the county Commissioner Tom Mikescell said, had planned on shifting elements of its offices to the entire basement and north wing of the second floor, casing what he said is becoming increasingly tight space. But while the second floor is largely available, he said, part of the basement is still occupied by the clinic's financial office.

"We're growing, and now need to have places to store some of our stuff," he said Monday.

Please see **CLINIC**, Page A3

Water camps react to trout farm decision

Justice backs state plan to shut wells in favor of fish farms

By Matt Christensen
Times-News writer

Both sides of an ongoing water dispute reacted Monday to a recommendation issued last week by former Chief Justice of Idaho Gerald Schroeder.

In his recommendation following a two-week hearing, Schroeder mostly reaffirmed the state's position that groundwater pumps for two Magic Valley trout farms under Idaho's first-case, first-served water law.

The trout farms claimed victory in the case Monday. Groundwater users were more muted.

"It's not all bad," said Lynn Tominga, a spokesman for the Idaho Ground Water Appropriators, which repre-

sents pumpers. Although Schroeder's ruling bolstered the state's plans to shut off groundwater pumps to free up water for trout farms, Tominga said well closures aren't yet a certainty.

"We're working on some stuff," he said. IGWA is meeting with legislators this week, but Tominga declined to elaborate on the nature of those discussions.

The pumpers owe 20 percent more water to the trout farmers this year than last under a previous mitigation plan. The state had planned to close wells last spring when pumpers said they couldn't meet the requirements of the plan, but a last-minute deal kept wells open.

Well closures would affect farmers, industry and municipalities, and could cripple the region's economy, economists have predicted.

Please see **WATER**, Page A3

Idaho Education Board expands audit panel to review contracts

By John Miller
Associated Press writer

BOISE — Trustees for the State Board of Education have expanded the duties of an internal audit committee to include scrutinizing contracts, spending and the agency's budget to try to avoid the problems that led the board trying to plug a \$1.4 million deficit.

The audit panel includes four of the eight trustees as well as two citizen advisers, including Ken Edmunds, a Twin Falls developer. A second citizen is still to be named.

"We have set up quarterly meetings to review every aspect of our financial operations, including our own internal budget," board Chairman Milford Terrell told the Legislature's Joint Finance Appropriations budget-writing committee Monday. "We have had some significant financial challenges at the state Board



of Education during past fiscal year.

The agency racked up a \$1.4 million deficit in 2007 after a failed effort to include Idaho Standards Achievement Test assessments for the state's second- and ninth-grade pupils.

"There was just enough federal money to pay for tests for this month-eighth graders and 10th graders that are required under the No Child Left Behind Act."

Former Board of Education Director Karen McGee has conceded she violated state accounting standards last July when she used money set aside for the agency in 2008 to cover 2007 testing bills.

Please see **BOARD**, Page A3

Proposal for roadless lands draws praise, criticism

By Matthew Daly
Associated Press writer

WASHINGTON — A federal plan to manage Idaho's 9.3 million acres of roadless land could open the door to logging and road building in remote forests, critics said Monday night at a public hearing.

"But Idaho Lt. Gov. Jim Risch, who as governor offered a similar proposal in 2006, said the plan would protect remote forests while allowing some activities in areas that should never have been designated as road-free in the first place.

"This is a good plan," Risch

"We are talking about the crown jewels of Idaho. We are not asking for more protection. We just want to keep things the way they are."

— Bradley Brooks, a regional conservation associate with The Wilderness Society

said at a hearing sponsored by the Forest Service. The federal plan, which closely follows Risch's 2006 proposal, offers "realistic protections" for those areas that are truly remote, yet it "gives the Forest Service the ability to manage areas" that do not meet criteria to be designated

as roadless, the lieutenant governor said.

The public hearing, at the Agriculture Department headquarters, was the first of a series of meetings scheduled to consider the Idaho roadless plan. Idaho was the first state in the nation to submit a plan for roadless areas

after the Bush administration issued a rule giving states more control over whether to block road building in about 58 million acres of national forests where it is now prohibited.

Colorado also has submitted a proposal for managing 4.1 million acres of undeveloped land in national forests in that state, but its plan is not as far along.

Risch, a Republican who is running for U.S. Senate, defended his roadless plan, saying it offered more protections than a 2001 rule developed by President Clinton.

Please see **LANDS**, Page A3



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TODAY'S FORECAST

TWIN FALLS	Today	Tonight	Wednesday
	High - 34	Low 11	24/16

MINI-CASSIA

TODAY: Partly cloudy with gusty winds developing. Highs in the lower to mid 30s.
TONIGHT: Partly cloudy and colder. Winds gradually diminish. Lows in the lower teens.
TOMORROW: A colder day with partly cloudy skies and lighter winds. Highs in the middle 20s.

Complete weather report: See page B6

TODAY'S HAPPENINGS

BENEFITS AND FUNDRAISERS

1976 all-original Chevy Camaro Car Rally, to raise funds for Process of Change—non-profit School for Children with Developmental Disabilities, tickets: \$10 each or three for \$25, drawing to take place when 5000 tickets sold out, (208) 899-5262 to purchase.
Fundraising raffle, for Delta Psi Omega sorority of the College of Southern Idaho; all proceeds donated by local merchants, \$2 tickets available through Feb. 12, valpine@yahoo.com.

CLUBS AND ORGANIZATIONS

Kimberly Uses meeting and breakfast, 6:50 a.m., Crossroads United Methodist Church, 205 Madison Ave. E., Kimberly, interested parties welcome, 423-4311.
Agape Infallible Ministry luncheon, with Bernice Peterson of Jerome on "Hope" and music by Katie Harrison, 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m., Basque Center on University Avenue, Gooding, \$7 lunch, no fee for program only, (208) 366-2974 or needad@KSI.com.
Magie Valley Toastmasters meeting and host lunch, with a focus on teaching and encouraging members in communication and leadership skills, noon, Golden Corral, 1823 Blue Lakes Blvd., Twin Falls, new members welcome, 316-8534.
Twin Falls County Fair Foundation "pils and coffee" meeting, learn about membership and what the Foundation is doing to preserve and enhance the Twin Falls County Fairgrounds and Fair experience, 7 p.m., Idaho Joe's, 598 Blue Lakes Blvd. N., Twin Falls, 326-4396.

EDUCATION

Twin Falls Public Library Book Club, with a discussion of Cormac McCarthy's award-winning novel "The Road," 5:30 p.m., TFPL Program Room, no cost, open to the public, 733-2964 ext.109.
"2008 Let's Talk About It" book discussion ("Not for Children Only"), includes "Intergenerational Child Abuse" by Phillip and Pamela, by Palenstein, 7 p.m., Filer Public Library, 219 Main St., books available for check out, 326-4143.

GOVERNMENT

Twin Falls County commissioners, 8:30 a.m., courthouse, 425 Shoshone St. N., 735-4068.
Blaine County commissioners, 9 a.m., courthouse, 206 First Ave. S., Hailley, 788-5500.
Jerome County commissioners, 9 a.m., courthouse, 300 N. Lincoln, 644-2700.
Animal Shelter Advisory Commission, noon, 305 Third Ave. E., Twin Falls, 735-2296.
Twin Falls County Historic Preservation Commission, 6 p.m., Pundah's, Historic Downtown Twin Falls, 308-3906.
Pail School Board, 6:30 p.m., district office, 920 Main, 543-6436.
Butley City Council, 7 p.m., City Hall, 1401 Overland Ave., 878-2224.
Castledo School Board, 7 p.m., school library, 500 W. Main, 537-6511.
Jerome City Council, 7 p.m., council chambers, 100 E. Ave. A, 324-8189.
Rupert City Council, 7 p.m., City Hall, 624 F St., 436-9600.
Shoshone City Council, 7 p.m., City Hall, 207 S. Rail St. W., 886-2030.
Wendell School Board, 7 p.m., high school library, 750 E. Main, 536-6318.
Filer City Council, 7:30 p.m. council chambers, 300 Main, 326-5000.

HEALTH AND RECOVERY

Fil and Fall Proof Exercise Class, 10 to 11 a.m., Living Waters Presbyterian Church, 821 E. Main St., Wendell, 737-5988.
Fil and Fall Proof Exercise Class, 10:30 a.m., First Segregation Unit, 1000 E. Eden, no cost, 737-5988.
Ongoing exercise program for people with Parkinson's disease, offered by Magie Valley Regional Medical Center, 11 a.m. to noon, the Episcopal Church of the Ascension, 371 Eastland Drive N., Twin Falls, no cost, 737-2977.
SilverSneakers Fitness Program, innovative exercise program designed specifically for Medicare beneficiaries' unique health and physical needs, 11-15 a.m. to noon, Twin Falls YMCA, 1751 Elizabeth Blvd., by cost for Humana-insured or YMCA members (take off plus for noninsured, 734-4384).
TOPS (Take Off Pounds Sensibly) ID No. 3 Chapter in Twin Falls, weigh ins from 5 to 5:30 p.m., meeting from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m., BridgeView Great Room (north entrance; third floor), BridgeView Estates, 1828 BridgeView Blvd., 404-4793 or 736-9282.
Arthritis Walking Class, 5:15 to 6:15 p.m., First Christian Church, 601 Shoshone St. N., Twin Falls, no cost, 737-5988.
Mini-Cassia Shelter for Women & Children women's support group, 6 p.m., 123 S. C. St., Rupert, (208) 436-0987.
The Mini-Cassia Lap-band Surgery Support Group meeting, for anyone who has been banded, is waiting to be banded or is considering the procedure, 6:30 p.m., Heyburn Palace Department conference room, 1800 J St., Heyburn, 431-9596.
Diabetes Support Group meeting, 7 p.m., South Central District Health office (north entrance), College of Southern Idaho campus, no cost, open to the public, 737-5946.
Road 2 Recovery, a 12-step program, 7 to 8:30 p.m., at the Building of New Beginnings, 1044 E. Main St., (next to Goode Motors across from First Federal Savings Bank), 876-2578.
Celebrate Recovery, a place to learn life-affirming, healthy behaviors, 7:30 p.m., Magie Valley Evangelical Free Church, 821 H Ave. E., Jerome, 324-7237.

MUSEUMS

Faulkner Planetarium "Icy Worlds/Saving the Night/Live Sky Tour," 7 p.m., Hermet 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.

MORNING BRIEFING

AROUND THE WORLD

MONTANA

Congressmen say wolves still endangered

BILLINGS — Five congressmen from the House Natural Resources Committee want to delay a plan to remove gray wolves in the Northern Rockies from the federal endangered species list.

In a recent letter to Interior Secretary Dirk Kempthorne, the congressmen wrote that states' "hostile to wolf conservation" could reduce today's 1,500 wolves to "as few as 300" if the predators lose protected status.

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, which Kempthorne oversees, plans to announce the delisting of wolves in the Northern Rockies next month.

That would allow Idaho, Wyoming and Montana to hunt public lands for the animals. The states already are setting hunting seasons and quotas.

Last year, more than 140 wolves were killed in the Northern Rockies by federal agents in response to wolves preying on livestock.

The Dec. 17 letter to Kempthorne was signed by Natural Resources Committee Chairman Nick Rahall, D-W.Va.; Rep. George Miller, D-Wash.; Rep. Norm Dicks, D-Wash.; Rep. Wayne Gilchrest, R-Md.; and Rep. Jim Saxton, R-N.J.

Wolves in the Great Lakes region were removed from the endangered species list in 2007.

GUATEMALA

Colom sworn in as first leftist president in more than 50 years

GUATEMALA CITY — Alvaro Colom was sworn in on Monday as Guatemala's first leftist president in more than 50 years, promising to fight poverty in a nation where half the people live on less than \$1 a day.

Colom, who led Guatemala's efforts to coax thousands of refugees back home after its civil war ended, was sworn in a ceremony attended by world leaders including Venezuelan President Hugo Chavez and Colombia's Alvaro Uribe, who recently clashed over a hostage mission.

Uribe is the beginning of privileges for the poor, the beginning of privileges for those without opportunities," Colom, 56, said after receiving the presidential sash to the tune of traditional Mayan music.

Despite his ideology, Guatemala's new leader said he doesn't want to be identified with other leftist governments in Latin America, including that of Chavez.

Colom has said such countries must "find its own path" and that he won't accept Venezuela's offer of oil for preferential terms until he has consulted with his country's business elite.

The ceremony was attended by the nation's youngest sitting governor, wearing colorful embroidered blouses and skirts. Also taking office Monday was Vice President Rafael Espada, a former Houston Methodist Hospital health surgeon.

"We are going to fight for the unity of the country, for the harmony with our indigenous people," Colom said.



A Mountain Pine beetle, or bark beetle, is seen on the tip of forester Carl Wettstein's knife during the examination of trees in the White River National Forest near Vail, Colo., in July 2005. Colorado's fast-spreading infestation of bark beetles has killed 1.5 million acres of lodgepole pines and could largely wipe out the state's lodgepole forests in three to five years, state and federal forest officials said Monday. (See story below.)

LOUISIANA

Nation's first elected Indian-American governor takes office

BATON ROUGE — Pledging to make a "clean break with the past" and root out corruption, Republican Bobby Jindal tried to separate himself from politics as usual as he was sworn in as Louisiana's governor Monday.

Jindal, the nation's first elected Indian-American chief executive and the state's first non-white governor since Reconstruction, thanked past governors for their service — but said it was time to rid the state of its reputation for corrupt government.

"We have the opportunity — born of tragedy but embraced still the same — to make right decades of failure in government," Jindal said. In our past, too many politicians looked out for themselves. Too many arms of state and local government did not get results. And the world took note," the new governor said.

Jindal's election puts a new public face on Louisiana politics, often stereotyped as a haven for backslapping good 'ol boys who hold office for decades. The 36-year-old son of Indian immigrants, Jindal is the nation's youngest sitting governor, and many of his top administrators are new to the halls of the Louisiana Capitol.

CALIFORNIA

Britney Spears' child visitation rights remain suspended

LOS ANGELES — A court commissioner decided Monday to keep in effect an order suspending Britney Spears' right to visit her two sons and keeping them in the custody of ex-husband Kevin Federline.

The ruling by Superior Court Commissioner Scott Gordon came after a full day of closed-door testimony on

a bizarre situation this month in which police had Spears taken to a hospital after a standoff in her home when she refused to return the children to Federline's bodyguard after a visit.

The commissioner's written order noted that Federline was among the day's witnesses.

Gordon scheduled another hearing for Feb. 19. Spears went to the court-house briefly during the afternoon but never went inside, and she left amid a swarm of paparazzi.

Spears went to the court-house briefly during the afternoon but never went inside, and she left amid a swarm of paparazzi.

They heard in family law court was held behind closed doors after reporters were ordered to leave.

Gary Collins checks into jail to serve 4-day sentence in DUI case

GLENDALE — Gary Collins checked into jail Monday to serve a four-day sentence in his drunken driving case.

The 69-year-old TV personality and actor chose to pay an \$85 daily fee to stay in the Glendale City jail instead of the overcrowded Los Angeles County Jail, according to the Glendale Police Department.

Collins pleaded no contest Dec. 6 to one misdemeanor count each of driving under the influence and driving with a blood-alcohol content of .08 percent or more in a traffic crash in Sherman Oaks.

He must also serve four years' probation upon his release and pay a \$500 fine.

Collins was driving when his sport utility vehicle was struck by another driver. He was not found at fault in the collision, but his car smelled alcohol on his breath.

During the 1990s, Collins hosted the Miss America pageant and TV's "Hour Magazine."

COLORADO

Officials say beetles could effectively wipe out state's lodgepoles

DENVER — Strands of distressed, red pine trees across northern Colorado and the Front Range are a visible tes-

tament to the bark beetle infestation that officials said will kill most of the state's lodgepole pine trees within 5 years.

The infestation that was first detected in 1996 grew by half-million acres last year, bringing the total number of acres attacked by bark beetles to 1.5 million, state and federal forestry officials said Monday.

"This is an unprecedented event," said Rick Cables, Rocky Mountain regional forester for the U.S. Forest Service. "The fire potential will increase as trees retain their needles for a couple of years after beetles attack, said Bob Kane, regional entomologist with the Rocky Mountain Region of the U.S. Forest Service. "When the needles fall, the danger will decrease, and spike again when the trees fall in about 10 years, Kane said.

Officials said the infestation has been concentrated in five northern Colorado counties straddling the Continental Divide and has since spread to the Front Range and southern Wyoming. The counties affected are Boulder, Chaffee, Clear Creek, Gilpin, Lake and Larimer counties.

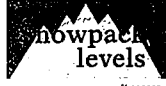
Boulder and Larimer counties, both east of the divide, had a 1,500 percent increase in the number of acres taken over by the beetles last year, which are preying on the tall, slender lodgepoles left vulnerable by warm winters and drought.

About 8 percent of forest landscape in Colorado are lodgepoles, said Ingrid Aguiayo, forest entomologist with the Colorado State Forest Service. Aguiayo said the epidemic doesn't mean it's the end for lodgepoles, but rather part of the regeneration process.

"A lot of people think this is the end of the forest, but as long as there are seeds in the beginning," she said, pointing out seedlings about five inches tall are already sprouting in parts where the beetles have run their course.

"It's not going to be a moon landscape like a lot of people think," she said.

— from wire reports



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Times-News

His appeal wide, McCain has automatic advantage when Michigan votes

By Liz Skold
Associated Press writer

HOWELL, Mich. — John McCain has an automatic advantage Tuesday when Michigan votes. Not only did the Republican win the state eight years ago, but he also draws "his support from across the political spectrum and Michigan voters of all stripes can participate in the GOP primary."

At the same time, "the Democratic race in Michigan is of little or no consequence, so he won't be competing full-bore with Democratic candidates for the backing of

independents as he did in New Hampshire last week.

"I don't know how the voters are going to break," McCain said Sunday, but added he hopes to do as well among independents as he did in Michigan in 2000 when he beat George W. Bush here. "Whether they're Democrat, Republican, Independent, libertarian, vegetarian, whatever they are, it's the same message."

Back then, exit polling showed McCain won 67 percent of independents compared with 26 percent for Bush.

Seeking to reach out again to independents and



For more political news, go to Magleville.com and click on the Elections 2008 button.

Democratic crossover voters, McCain was to campaign Monday in Michigan with Joe Lieberman, a Connecticut senator and independent who was the Democrats' vice presidential nominee in 2000.

Two days before the primary, polls show McCain locked in a tight race with

rival Mitt Romney, a native son of Michigan whose father was a governor some four decades ago.

The Arizona senator is riding high after winning New Hampshire, with the help of independents, and is hoping a Michigan victory will follow. Romney is looking for his first big win after losing Iowa and New Hampshire. He came in first in Wyoming, a scarcely contested contest.

In New Hampshire last week, McCain led Romney among independents, 40 percent to 27 percent.

He pulled in more than 1,000 people at Clawson High School on Saturday — one sign read "Independence for McCain" — and another 1,000 on Sunday at the Crystal Garden Hall in Howell.

One woman stood up and asked him why he has the reputation for being the "most liberal of all the conservatives."

"I'm entertained by it, I will match my record with anyone. I am pro-life, pro-defense, anti-regulation, anti-taxes, by any conservative measure you have," McCain said. He then acknowledged instances

when he's broken with the Republican Party. "There have been times where I put the country ahead of my party, and I will continue to do that as president of the United States."

The line drew hearty applause.

In Warren on Saturday, one couple — neither Republicans — stood on the edge of some 400 people at a banquet hall.

"It's a centrist in my view," said Ted Fryxell, 37, a Democratic-leaning independent who plans to vote for McCain. "It's a Republican choice we can live with."

Presidential campaign fuels debate over sexism, racism

By David Cray
Associated Press writer

NEW YORK — Expressions of sexism and racism emerging from the contest between Hillary Rodham Clinton and Barack Obama have been blatant, subtle and perhaps sometimes imagined, and they are renewing the national debate over what is and isn't acceptable to say in public.

Clinton's camp has perceived sexism in comments about her appearance and emotions. Supporters of Obama have complained about racial overtones in remarks about his Muslim-sounding middle name, Hussein, and his acknowledged drug use as a young man.

Beyond the back-and-forth between a white woman and a black man seeking the Democratic presidential nomination, the situation has created a snapshot of the nation's sensitivity — or lack thereof — to certain kinds of comments, is it more acceptable, for instance, to make a sexist remark than a racist remark? "It's always been easier," says Marie Wilson, president

of the White House Project, which encourages women's advancement in politics. "With women, you can get away with it."

"With race, you can hardly say anything," she said.

Feminist leader Gloria Steinem, argued in a New York Times op-ed last week that gender is "probably the most restricting force in American life" — more so than race.

But others involved in politics suggest the situation is more complex and that both race and gender are used to discriminate against people.

Yvonne Scruggs-Leftwich, a board member of the Black Leadership Forum, said that as a black woman she has experienced both racism and sexism, and suggested there was little point in ranking them.

"In parts of the country, the racist terms fall just as easily off the lips as they always did," she said. "And there are also places that I can't go because I am a woman and that bothers me just as much."

Kim Gandy, president of the National Organization for Women, said sexist and racist expressions both

remain all too common in public discourse, though she said the racism often may be "smuggled coded."

"There's an awful lot of explicit sexist stuff," she said.

Certainly, Clinton's gender has been the spark for criticism, verbal and otherwise, of a sort that Obama has avoided. Available on the Internet are a Hillary nutcracker (the Clinton-like figure cracks nuts between her legs) and a Hillary toilet brush (the sales pitch: "You can have Hillary Clinton as your 'First Cleaning Lady.'") Clinton's wardrobe, figure, halo — even her laugh — have generated detailed and often unflattering commentary.

Radio host Rush Limbaugh said of her: "Will this country want to actually watch a woman get older before their eyes on a daily basis?" Chris Matthews, host of "Hardball" on MSNBC, has been accused of repeated sexist remarks about Clinton and other female politicians. For example, Matthews suggested that when female politicians deliver a fiery speech, "it can get on some men when they listen to it — fingernails on a blackboard."



Democratic presidential hopeful Sen. Hillary Rodham Clinton, D-N.Y., right, claps hands with Hazel Dukes, president of the New York NAACP, during a union rally to honor the legacy of Martin Luther King Jr. in New York on Monday.



Standing near the area where he saw a large silent object in the sky, Ricky Sorrells talks about the sighting, Monday in Dublin, Texas.

Rural Texas town buzz over dozens of reported UFO sightings

By Angela K. Brown
Associated Press writer

STEPHENVILLE, Texas — In this farming community where a nightfall usually brings clear, starry skies, residents are abuzz over reported sightings of what many believe is a UFO.

Several dozen people — including a pilot, county constable and business owners — insist they have seen a large silent object with bright lights flying low and fast. Some reported seeing fighter jets chasing it.

"People wonder what in the world it is because this is the Bible Belt, and everyone is afraid it's the end of times," said Steve Allen, a freight company owner and pilot who said the object he saw last week was a mile long and half a mile wide. "It was positively, absolutely nothing from these parts."

While federal officials insist there's a logical explanation, locals swear that it was larger, quieter, faster and lower to the ground than an airplane. They also said the object's lights changed configuration, unlike those of a plane. People in several towns who reported seeing it over several weeks have offered similar descriptions of the object.

Most of Ricky Sorrells said friends made fun of him when he told them he saw a flat, metallic object hovering about 300 feet over a pasture behind his Dublin home. But he decided to come forward after reading similar accounts in the Stephenville *Empire-Tribune*.

"You hear about big bass or big buck in the area, but this is a different deal," Sorrells said. "It feels good to hear that other people saw something, because that means it's not crazy."

Sorrells said he has seen the object several times. He said he watched it through his rifle's telescopic lens and described it as very large and without seams, nuts or bolts.

Karl Lewis, a spokesman for the 301st Fighter Wing at the Joint Reserve Base Naval Air Station in Fort Worth, said no F-16s or other aircraft from his base were in the area the night of Jan. 9, when most people reported the sighting.

Home Town Business

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Finding hot spots on their soles helps diabetics avoid dangerous foot ulcers

WASHINGTON (AP) — Diabetics, watch out: A hot spot on your foot can signal an ulcer is brewing, a wound that could cost you a limb.

New research shows that using a special thermometer to measure the temperature of their soles can give patients enough early warning to avoid one of diabetes' most intractable complications.

It's a simple-sounding protection for such a huge problem. Foot ulcers each year strike 600,000 U.S. diabetics, people slow to notice they even have a wound because diabetes has numbed their feet.

"They've lost the gift of pain," says Dr. David Armstrong of Chicago's Rosalind Franklin University of Medicine and Science, a diabetic foot specialist.

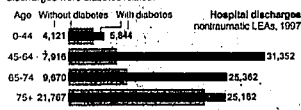
Worse, foot ulcers are so

slow-healing and vulnerable to infection that they're to blame for most of the roughly 80,000 amputations of toes, feet and lower legs that diabetics undergo each year.

So word that an easy-to-use gadget could help is generating excitement. Using the thermometer reduced by nearly two-thirds the number of high-risk patients who got foot ulcers, Armstrong found in a study of 225 diabetic veterans, the third in a series of

Most amputations linked to diabetes

In 1997, 67 percent of lower extremity amputation (LEA) hospital discharges were diabetes-related.



SOURCE: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

government-funded research to back the approach.

How does it work? Inflammation goes along

with tissue injury, and inflammation can be measured by a bump in temperature. It's subtle — a minimum 4-degree difference between, say, your right big toe and your left one that can occur days before the skin breaks.

"A wound really will heat up before it breaks down," Armstrong explains.

Patients measure half a dozen spots on each foot. When the thermometer signals a hot spot, they put up

their feet for a day or so until the temperature normalizes. Easing pressure before the skin cracks lets the body heal more easily than it can with a full-blown wound.

"Heat is one of the most sensitive things, one of the first things that happens when we begin to have tissue breakdown," says Dr. Crystal Holmes, a University of Michigan podiatrist who has begun prescribing the thermometers.

Study: Youth pregnancy affected dinosaurs too

WASHINGTON (AP) — Adolescent pregnancy isn't a modern invention, it occurred in dinosaurs millions of years ago.

Medullary bone, a type of tissue present in modern birds when they are developing eggs, has been found in three dinosaur fossils, researchers report in Monday's online edition of Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences.

The dinosaurs were aged 8, 10 and 18, indicating they reached sexual maturity earlier than previously thought.

In modern birds, medullary tissue lines bones for only a few weeks when they are producing eggs and is then resorbed. Finding it in dinosaurs, which are believed to be the ancestors of birds, sheds light on their reproduction also.

Most dinosaurs lived to only about age 30, though some reached 60, the researchers said.

The study was done by Sarah Werning, a graduate student at the University of California, Berkeley, and Andrew Lee, also a graduate student at Berkeley when the work was done. Lee is now a postdoctoral student at the Ohio University College of Osteopathic Medicine.

"This is an exciting finding, because age at sexual maturity is related to so many things," the students' adviser, said Kevin Padian, a professor of integrative biology and a curator in UC Berkeley's Museum of Paleontology.

Werning said in a statement that pinpointing the age of reproductive maturity "opens up so many complementary avenues of dinosaur research. You can talk about dinosaur physiology, lifespan, reproductive strategies. And you could use this technique to look at all kinds of extinct animals."

The medullary bones examined by Werning and Lee came from the meat-eater Allosaurus and the plant-eater Tenontosaurus. "It's also been found in Tyrannosaurus rex," they said.

The research was done by the Geological Society of America, the Paleontological Society, the University of Oklahoma Graduate Student Senate, the Jurassic Foundation and U. C. Berkeley's Department of Integrative Biology.



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EDITORIAL

Once again, MV water economy headed for the brink

South-central Idaho is back to where it spent so many white-knuckle days last year, waiting for the other shoe to drop.

Retired Idaho Supreme Court Justice Gerald Schroeder surprised few last week when he sided with two Magic Valley trout farms in their long-running dispute with pumpers over potential curtailment of rights to water from the Eastern Snake River Plain Aquifer.

Schroeder, chosen to resolve the dispute, recommended to Idaho Department of Water Resources Director Dave Tuthill that some groundwater rights be shut down to free up water for aquaculture.

Tuthill can reject Schroeder's advice, but that's unlikely.

Last year, the Idaho Groundwater Appropriators and some Magic Valley dairies found enough water to forestall curtailment, but there's little more where that came from.

If Tuthill shuts down pumps later this year, the IGWA will certainly appeal. But it's uncertain whether a district judge would stay curtailment while the legal process runs its course.

Schroeder recommended phasing-in curtailment over five years, but if curtailment happens pumpers are still going to have to come up with more water now and even more in 2009.

So south-central Idaho's economy is almost certainly in for interesting times.

Lenders must soon make yes-or-no decisions about whether to finance groundwater pumps during the coming season. And nothing weakens a banker's resolve like uncertainty.

What's worse, not even a wet January and February can rescue pumpers in this case, since it's about groundwater levels at Thousand Springs. It takes a long time for melted snow to work its way from the Wyoming mountains through the aquifer to Hagerman.

Curtailment is probably more likely to happen this year than it was in 2007 because there are simply fewer alternatives. So if the IGWA is correct that every idled acre will cost farmers \$1,000 to \$1,200, there could be a lot less farm equipment, pesticides and diesel sold in the Magic Valley this year.

At the moment, south-central Idaho's economy is strong and crop and dairy prices are high. That's good, because if curtailment occurs its effects will be widespread and significant.

It's a shame, as we've said before editorially, that it had to come to this. The pumpers and the surface-water users could have resolved their differences by negotiation. And the state could have stepped in before this dispute became a crisis.

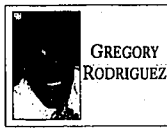
Absent some very surprising developments, the Magic Valley would be prudent to prepare for the consequences.

Our view: Remember last year's full-blown crisis over water rights? Get ready for the sequel.

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

Sacre bleu! France stubs out Gaulloises

The remains of news stories on the new French ban on smoking in cafes, restaurants and night spots invariably have focused on the aura of glamor those little death sticks once conveyed. In newspapers around the globe, nostalgic descriptions of the likes of Coco Chanel or Albert Camus taking a luxurious drag on a cigarette have been, um, de rigueur.



GREGORY RODRIGUEZ

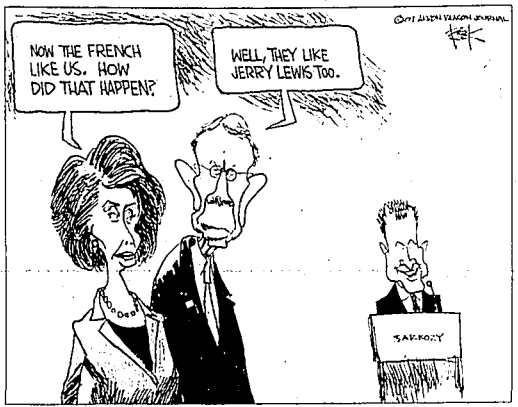
But to focus on the diminished allure of the cigarette is to miss the significance of the French banning the *troussé* cinematic of slits. No, it's not that the French gave the cigarette — the "little cigar" — its name or that the plant's active ingredient was named after Jean Nicot, the diplomat who introduced tobacco to the royal court of France in 1559. Rather, it's the role the French have played in the world's imagination.

Just as California, which imposed the first public smoking ban in 1914, has long been a symbol of clean living, France — land of wine, women and rich food — has been the global model of elegant indulgence and well-choreographed excess.

Particularly to the puffy, austere American mind, France has served as a sophisticated and less uptight oasis in a way that other more illicit and gritty getaways — think Tijuana or New Orleans — could not. It is the French who have given us terms for the things we lust after but rarely indulge in — like *femmes fatales* or *menages a trois*. They have been the baroque to our utilitarian sensibility. And by example, they have given us the sense that there is more to life than work, and that some "slits" ritualized and accepted, might protect us against even more destructive cycles of self-denial and excess.

Don't get me wrong, I'm not defending the glories of smoking. I have not had a single cigarette. I even agree wholeheartedly with smoking bans in workplaces and restaurants. But I do find it absurd when smoking is banned in nocturnal haunts where adults commonly repair to (and are known to be toxic beverages and otherwise indulge in (lightly) supervised, socially acceptable self-abuse.

That old font of American wisdom, Ben Franklin, once said that "sin is not harmful because it is forbidden, it is forbidden because it is harmful." In the U.S., contemporary public health specialists and moralists don't employ the word of God to stamp out sin, but



they do rally around the notion of the common good. They single out particular evils that they believe deserve to be suppressed at all costs. Think temperance and prohibition.

The French, on the other hand, with their traditional and vaunted tolerance of sensual indulgence, seemed to have known all along that such attempts to suppress harmful things can itself be well, unhealthy. In France, children as young as 5 may be allowed to sip wine at dinner and so become acquainted with alcohol as an accompaniment to food. That might account for the fact that French kids aren't often caught binge drinking as kids are in Britain and the U.S., countries that traditionally have harbored puritan attitudes toward drink. So our experiment in prohibition proved, we know only too well how draconian moral legislation can produce behavioral backlash.

For the record, I think all those romantic images of

Jean-Paul Belmondo, wreathed in cigarette smoke are old and tired. As far as I'm concerned, the French government should encourage its citizens to quit smoking. And I'm all for any government putting reasonable limits on public access to smoke and drink, particularly when children are concerned.

But when France begins to over-legislate adult personal behavior *aux americaines*, it might be denying its own brand of wisdom: We all need to be a little bad once in a while. The smoking ban in France suggests that the French have forgotten the sage words of one of its greatest smokers: "If I satisfy my desires, I sin but I deliver myself from sin," wrote Jean-Paul Sartre. "If I refuse to satisfy them, they infect the whole soul."

Los Angeles Times Gregory Rodriguez is the director of the California Fellows Program of the New America Foundation.

How to get out of a recession

Suddenly, the economic consensus seems to be that the implosion of the housing market will indeed push the U.S. economy into a recession, and that it's quite possible that we're already in one. As a result, over the next few weeks we'll be hearing a lot about plans for economic stimulus.



PAUL KRUGMAN

Since this is an election year, the debate over how to stimulate the economy is inevitably tied up with politics. And here's a modest suggestion for political reporters. Instead of trying to divine the candidates' characters by scrutinizing their tone of voice and facial expressions, why not pay attention to what they say about economic policy?

In fact, recent statements by the candidates and their surrogates about the economy are quite revealing.

Take, for example, John McCain's admission that economics isn't his thing. "The issue of economics is not something I've understood as well as I should," he says. "I've got Greenspan's book."

His self-deprecating humor is attractive. Always. But shouldn't we worry about a candidate who's so out of touch that he regards Mr. Bubble, the man who refused to regulate subprime lending and assured us that there was at most some "froth" in the housing market, as a source of sage advice?

Meanwhile, Rudy Giuliani wants us to go for broke, lit-

erally. His answer to the economy's short-run problem is a huge permanent tax cut, which he claims would pay for itself. It wouldn't.

About Mike Huckabee — well, what can you say about a candidate who talks populist while proposing to raise taxes on the middle class and cut them for the rich?

And then there's the curious case of Mitt Romney. I'm told that he actually does know a fair bit about economics, and he has some big-name Republican economists supporting his campaign. Fears of recession might have offered him a chance to distinguish himself from the GOP field, by offering an economic proposal that actually responded to the gathering economic storm.

I mean, even the Bush administration seems to be coming around to the view that lobbying for long-term tax cuts isn't enough, that the economy needs some immediate help. "Time is of the essence," declared Henry Paulson, the Treasury secretary, last week.

But Romney, who really needs to take chances at this point, apparently can't

break the habit of telling Republicans only what he thinks they want to hear. He's still offering nothing but standard-issue GOP platitudes about low taxes and a pro-business environment.

On the Democratic side, John Edwards, although never the front-runner, has been driving his party's policy agenda. He's done it again on economic stimulus: Last month, before the economic consensus turned as negative as it has, he proposed a stimulus package including aid to unemployed workers, aid to cash-strapped state and local governments, public investment in alternative energy, and other measures.

Last week Hillary Clinton offered a broadly similar but somewhat larger proposal. (It also includes aid to families having trouble paying heating bills, which seems like a clever way to put cash in the hands of people likely to spend it.) The Edwards and Clinton proposals both contain provisions for bigger stimulus if the economy worsens.

And you have to say that Clinton seems comfortable with and knowledgeable about economic policy. I'm sure the Hillary-liters will find some reason that's a bad thing. Just there's something to be said for presidents who know what they're talking about.

The Obama campaign's initial response to the latest wave of bad economic news was, I'm sorry to say, dis-

reputable: Obama's top economic adviser claimed that the long-term tax-cut plan the candidate announced months ago is just what we need to help the slump "morph into a drastic decline in consumer spending." Huh? Claiming that the candidate is all-seeing, and that a tax cut originally proposed for other reasons is also a recession-fighting measure — doesn't that sound familiar?

Anyway, on Sunday Obama came out with a real stimulus plan. As was the case with his health care plan, which fell short of universal coverage, his stimulus proposal is similar to those of the other Democratic candidates, but tilted to the right.

For example, the Obama plan appears to contain more of the alternative energy initiatives that are in both the Edwards and Clinton proposals, and emphasizes across-the-board tax cuts over both aid to the hardest-hit families and help for state and local governments.

Obama's supporters hate to hear this, but he really is less progressive than his rivals on matters of domestic policy.

In short, the stimulus debate offers a pretty good portrait of the men and woman who would be president. And I haven't said a word about their hairstyles.

Paul Krugman is a columnist for the New York Times.

Times-News

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QUOTABLE

"I just hope this whole thing gets cleared up before the Academy Awards, because it would really be a tragedy if a similar fate transpired for them."

— Producer Richard Zanuck after the Golden Globes ceremony had to be replaced with a news conference due to the writer's strike

"I don't think this campaign is about gender, and I sure hope it's not about race."

— Presidential candidate Hillary Rodham Clinton, noting that comments regarding Sen. Barack Obama's judgment about the Iraq war were taken out of context

Get in your two cents

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Stop subsidizing U.S. farmers with foreign aid

In the bitter winter of 1789-1790, the government of Louis XVI exported almost the entire French grain crop, lining the pockets of aristocrats and landed elites while leaving peasants to starve. The result was the French Revolution, during which the monarchy and aristocracy lost their governing privileges and Louis lost his head.



BENJAMIN R. BARBER

dized by their governments, sell grain to Malawi. Is that fair competition? Or just plain hypocrisy? Who can blame the cynical for thinking that the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank — international institutions dedicated to promoting economic growth and eradicating poverty — manipulate the rules to the benefit of rich nations? The Third World globe marches to the tune of Milton Friedman, while the First World globe plugs its ears and lets the subsidies flow.

In the end, even U.S. foreign aid gets distorted. According to a report in the New York Times last month, the United States has given Malawi \$147 million in food relief since 2002 — in essence, an undeclared subsidy to American farmers. But it has given only \$53 million to help farmers in Malawi grow their own food. And not a nickel for the fertilizer subsidy program.

There are countless examples of the pernicious effect of donor hypocrisy. Argentina played by the IMF's rules earlier this decade, dismantling much of its social agenda as instructed, yet reaped not prosperity but the whirlwind. Not so long ago, one-rich regions of Africa allowed money into mining and other extraction industries, and watched investors walk away with all the profits. The World Bank

The free market can contribute to economic development and even provide a basis for greater democracy, but only if the rules apply equally to the wealthy and the poor.

has since changed its tune, but the damage has been done.

Investors talk about "conditionality," meaning recipient nations must heed the free-market line to secure capital investment, even if that means cutting health care, food subsidies, social insurance and other popular government benefits. Only by challenging such market nostrums did Malawi's political leaders preempt potentially catastrophic economic and political consequences — rural poverty, dependency on foreign food and even famine.

Malawi found a way out, but the danger elsewhere is that nations fed up with First World hypocrisy will throw democracy out with trade-and-aid rules. Argentina's experience made it easy for other Latin American leaders, such as Hugo Chavez, to be demagogues on free trade and undermine democracy through guilt by association. Chavez, who by consistently has dumbed his nose at free-market rules by manipulating the oil industry — tried to leverage discontent with globalization and free trade to eliminate term limits on his presidency and obliterate constraints on presidential power. He came within a percentage point of getting his way in a vote last month.

In Iraq, free-market zealotry has contributed to

the unfolding anarchy. After Baghdad's fall, U.S. administrators seemed convinced that democratization and privatization were the same thing — that forcing free-market rules on the new government would enhance Iraq's autonomy. It did not, any more than it did in Argentina or Malawi.

The free market can contribute to economic development and even provide a basis for greater democracy, but only if the rules apply equally to the wealthy and the poor. And only if developing nations are permitted enough leeway to help their people through subsidies, welfare programs or other government interventions reach a stage at which they are capable of competing with First World economies that have had a century or more head start.

So if hickering U.S. presidential candidates are wondering why the Iraq economy is in disarray, why Chavez is popular in much of Latin America and why so many people in the developing world see U.S.-led globalization and free trade as a form of servitude, they might take a careful look at Malawi's peaceful and successful economic revolution.

Benjamin R. Barber is distinguished senior fellow at the think tank Dollars and Outlets of Consumers.

The case for impeaching Bush and Cheney

As we enter the eighth year of the Bush-Cheney administration, I have belatedly and painfully concluded that the only honorable course for me is to urge the impeachment of the president and the vice president.



GEORGE MCGOVERN

After the 1972 presidential election, I stood clear of calls to impeach President Richard M. Nixon for his misconduct during the campaign. I thought that my joining the impeachment effort would be seen as an expression of personal vengeance toward the president who had defeated me. Today I have made a different choice.

Of course, there seems to be little bipartisan support for impeachment. The political scene is marked by narrow and sometimes superficial partisanship, especially among Republicans, and a lack of courage and statesmanship on the part of too many Democratic politicians. So the chances of a bipartisan impeachment and conviction are not promising.

But what are the facts? Bush and Cheney are clearly guilty of numerous impeachable offenses. They have repeatedly violated the Constitution. They have transgressed national and international law. They have lied to the American people time after time. Their conduct and their barbaric policies have reduced our beloved country to a historic low in the eyes of people around the world. These are truly "high crimes and misdemeanors," to use the constitutional standard.

From the beginning, the Bush-Cheney team's assumption of power was the prelude to questionable elections that probably should have been officially challenged — perhaps even by a congressional investigation.

In a more fundamental sense, American democracy

has been derailed throughout the Bush-Cheney regime. The dominant commitment of the administration has been a murderous, illegal, non-sensical war against Iraq. That irresponsible nature has killed almost 4,000 Americans, left many times that number maimed or physically crippled, and cost the lives of an estimated 600,000 Iraqis and laid waste their country. The financial cost to the United States is now \$250 million a day and is expected to exceed a total of \$1 trillion, most of which we have borrowed from the Chinese and others as our national debt has now climbed above \$9 trillion — by far the highest in our national history.

All of this has been done without the declaration of war from Congress that the Constitution clearly requires, in defiance of the U.N. Charter and in violation of international law. The basic strategy of the administration has been to encourage a climate of fear, letting it exploit the 2001 al-Qaida attacks not only to justify the invasion of Iraq but also to excuse such dangerous misbehavior as the illegal tapping of our telephones by government agents.

We must be a great nation because from time to time, we make gigantic blunders, but so far, we have survived and recovered.

George McGovern, who served three terms as U.S. senator from South Dakota, was the Democratic nominee for president in 1972. He wrote this commentary for The Washington Post.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Difference in median and average pay significant

Referring to an *Education Week* study, the Jan. 11

Times-News editorial states that "The median pay for k-12 teachers is \$46,000, or 25 percent less than the average pay for k-12 teachers in 16 other professions..." and "Teachers aren't under-compensated..."

Median pay does not mean average pay. *Times-News* fails to help its readers better understand the meaning of the statistic it is using. The significance of the difference between median and average is apparent when the *Education Week* article states that, "Perhaps more telling, we found the distribution of teacher salaries rather tightly constrained, while far more workers in the comparable occupations enjoy well-above-average incomes. In other words, there is less opportunity to earn a very commensurate salary in teaching than in other lines of work." That is the rest of the story.

Upon further examination of the study and the other occupations used in the comparison, one will find that very few of those occupations require a state mandated certification and a bachelor's degree. In the cases of the ones which do require state certification, the employees pay for the regular renewal of the certification — unlike Idaho teachers who often must renew their certificates at their own

expense every five years. Also, the study does not include many of the top-paying bachelor degree careers such as engineers.

Contrary to the *Times-News* assertion, the study actually does indicate that teachers are under-compensated, especially if compared to other occupations with similar requirements. It also gives credence to the fact that there needs to be a plan to give deserving teachers opportunity to earn more. Some components of Mr. Lums's ISTARS plan attempt to address that need as does the weTEACH plan supported by the state teachers' professional association — the Idaho Education Association. However, IEA's weTEACH is not divisive, arbitrary, and politically motivated as is ISTARS.

STEVE ASTON

Rupert

Sheriff needs to stay within his budget better

Former County Commissioner Bill Brockman recently wrote a letter to the editor concerning Sheriff Tim Tinsley's handling of the budget.

I was confused that he would support the way the budget has been handled considering year after year Tinsley was unable to stay even close to his budget. Then it occurred to me that for those same years, the commission rubber-stamped whatever Tinsley

wanted and did not hold him accountable. Tinsley's inability to do his job was overlooked by the very people elected to govern this county.

Now we have commissioners that are so eager with the stamp. It seems that after so many years of cost overruns, Mr. Tinsley is starting to squirm, with a commission that wants answers and are willing to do some oversight work.

One of the excuses Bill uses is the immigration holds burden placed on the sheriff by the federal government, when I believe the feds pay considerable amounts of money to hold illegal aliens. So, where is the real problem?

Let's consider Mr. Tinsley's command staff at over a half million dollars a year. (This is not the rank and file guys

that do the work; this is administrative staff at \$509,000 per year. Add Deputy Gudgeff's (the undersheriff) overtime pay of roughly \$1,500 per month above his annual salary of \$83,300 (\$56,019 in overtime alone in the last 3.5 years).

Let's also remember that the "command staff" drives vehicles that belong to the county, each with its own gas card. I believe that one can start to see why the constant budget overruns. The jail has been short staffed for years (because of budget restraints, according to the sheriff), while he maintains his healthy overtime kitty. Fortunately, the jail continues to see why the constant budget overruns. The jail has been short staffed for years (because of budget restraints, according to the sheriff), while he maintains his healthy overtime kitty.

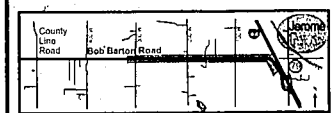
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INSIDE: Which District IV teams won Monday night? B2



INSIDE: Local sports & NBA, B2 | Scoreboard, B3 | Comics, B4-5 | NFL & Weather, B6

Bruin Stadium upgrade awaits new attempt

Baum Gym plans also in the works

By Bradley Guire
Times-News writer

Better late than never is the sentiment when it comes to Bruin Stadium. The home of the Twin Falls football program — set to undergo a major renovation last summer — is back on track after a lengthy delay, according to Twin Falls School District Facilities Manager Dale Thornsberry.

The project will open for bids in late February, with the bid awarded in March or April. Construction would not begin until after the spring season, as the Bruin track and field team use the track and other areas around the bleachers for field events. The target date for completion is Aug. 1.

Despite the recent news of a funding shortfall and talk of "value

engineering," Thornsberry said that Bruin Stadium is a priority for the district.

"The budget crunch means cutting down on costs without diminishing quality," he said. Skimping on items, which have little impact on the students' needs, such as less concrete for sidewalks and less landscaping, would accomplish just that.

There are two options for this new attempt to upgrade Bruin Stadium:

1. A complete rebuild. The wooden seats and floorboards will be stripped, and the metal understructure will come down for a new, all-aluminum structure. The new stadium would be smaller in terms of seating, cutting the number down to 1,228. An add-alternate plan is also on the table if there is enough money. This would

increase seating to 1,902.

2. Refurbish anything wooden. The understructure will be kept intact, retaining the seating capacity of more than 2,700. Metal floorboards and bleachers will be installed. Although some work was done to reinforce the understructure in 2007, additional upgrades to support the new bleachers will be needed.

The projected budget for last year's attempt was reported to be around \$300,000. However, the price tag could more than double due to rising construction costs.

Also, additions to Baum Gymnasium will be again considered once the Bruin Stadium project is up and running. Baum's locker rooms need to be expanded as the Bruins and Riverhawks will have freshman teams once the freshman class moves out of the junior high schools and to the high schools in the fall of 2009.

"The locker space is pretty inade-



Bruin Stadium, seen in the background of this June 2007 photo, is still on track for a major renovation.

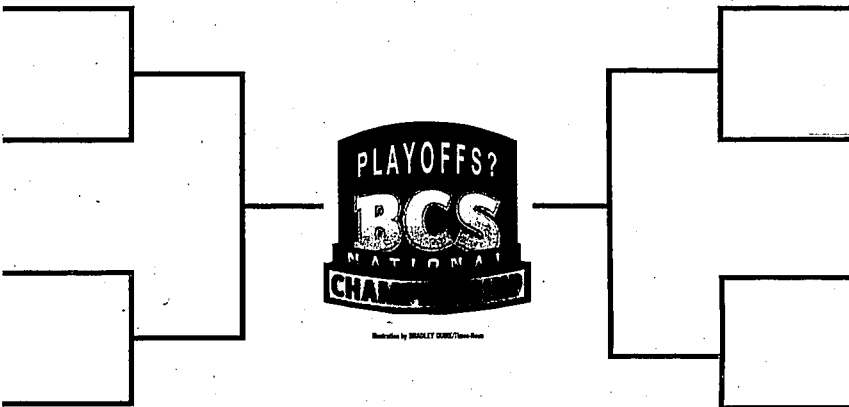
quate for adding another team," Twin Falls High School athletic director Mike Federico said.

The additions would then put a crunch on the gym lobby, so there is also a plan to build a foyer to bridge Baum Gymnasium and the auxiliary gym.

Though there is no firm time table — Twin Falls' freshman teams will compete at Baum for the 2009-10 season — meaning the extra space will be sorely needed in two seasons.

Bradley Guire may be reached at 735-3229 or bguire@timesnews.com.

The 'P' word comes up again



Division I board sends proposal to committee

The Associated Press

NASHVILLE, Tenn. — University of Georgia president Michael Adams presented his proposal for an eight-team major college football playoff to the NCAA Division I board of directors Monday in Nashville, and they decided to study the issue with others before making any moves.

Ultimately, though, the board would prefer BCS officials figure out what's best for the postseason.

James Barker, chairman of the board and the president of Clemson, called the talks candid and constructive. But he said the directors believe the discussion should include presidents at the conference level and the committee overseeing the Bowl Championship Series.

The board also wants a task force announced last month by NCAA President Myles Brand to study issues over the use of student likeness to expand its review and study commercialization as it relates to postseason football.

The task force hasn't been picked and there's no timeline for a report to be filed.

Adams announced his proposal for

an eight-team playoff for the football Bowl Subdivision using the BCS games following years of opposition to a playoff. He unveiled his proposal on Jan. 8, hours after LSU won the BCS national championship game.

His playoff proposal used the Sugar, Orange, Rose and Fiesta bowls as the opening round, leading to semifinals and a championship game. Adams said he believes the study will result in additional tweaking to the BCS system.

"It's not just me that's talking about tweaking again," said Adams, who also is chairman of the NCAA executive committee.

"It's some of my colleagues. It's the people in the conferences. It's others. I don't know if we will all get to the exact same decision."

The Division I board did approve 45 of 47 proposals Monday, including scholarship protection for athletes dealing with pregnancies, injuries or other medical conditions. That protection will take effect immediately.

Both Divisions I and II allowed coaches to text message athletes who have signed letters of intent.

"Division II also approved a program that would allow Canadian col-

leges to become members, and Division II upheld the ban on text messaging that took effect Aug. 1.

Division II placed limits on the use of male practice players in women's team sports, including allowing only one practice per week.

Division II also continues discussions about possibly splitting into subdivisions or creating a new fourth division. Division III membership is expected to reach 400 within the decade.

But it was Adams' proposal for an eight-team playoff that was most anticipated at this five-day convention, which ended Monday. He had said he wanted a special NCAA committee to work out the details.

Barker called the discussions positive, but that doesn't mean the D-I board will make any decisions on a major college football playoff. He tossed responsibility for changing the postseason back to the BCS.

"I don't think that there's a desire on the part of the board to do anything other than what the structure currently in place would yield," Barker said. "We don't have that preoccupation."

"The 11 Bowl Subdivision commissioners who make up the BCS will

meet in April in Miami and are expected to discuss the so-called plus-one format, which would create a four-team playoff.

The Division I board wants the BCS presidential oversight committee involved as well.

Adams said in a letter to Brand last week that the networks, conferences and bowls had too much control power over the postseason. Adams' Bulldogs were left out of the national championship game after getting passed by LSU in the final BCS standings.

"I think there's enough concern out there not just among the institutional presidents but among the student-athletes, among the fans, among people trying to pay for this among networks," Adams said. "There are broad issues that need to be looked at."

Asked if he still feels strongly about the eight-team playoff, Adams said he feels strongly that the major college football postseason can be tweaked.

He also is concerned about commercialization and wants to get presidents more involved.

"That's one of the things we've got to work through," he said.

Round 1: Mitchell, Selig, Fehr head to Congress

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Bud Selig and Donald Fehr return to Capitol Hill on Tuesday, three years after a theatrical hearing where the baseball commissioner and players' federation head were chastised for what lawmakers called a lax steroids policy.

Much has changed since then, including a toughening of the sport's drug-testing rules and penalties. But allegations about players' use of performance-enhancing drugs still haunt baseball, especially since Roger Clemens was named last month in former Senate majority leader George Mitchell's report on the steroids era.

Mitchell will testify first before the House Oversight and Government Reform Committee, appearing alone, followed by Selig and Fehr, side by side. Lawmakers can be expected to press all three on recommendations in the Mitchell Report, including a call for the major leagues to bring in an outside anti-doping test agency.

"The aim is to get the report straight from the horse's mouth," Sen. Mitchell, Rep. Tom Davis, who chaired the panel in 2005 and is now the ranking minority member, said Monday in a telephone interview.

"We're going to make news tomorrow. I don't think this is going to just be the stale same-old, same-old. I can't say anything else. There will be some good news coming out of this. And, of course, there will be some bad news."

Please see SELIG, Page B2



Serena Williams serves the ball to Australia's Jarmila Gajdosova during their first round Women's Singles match at the Australian Open tennis championships in Melbourne, Australia, Monday.

New hue, same Williams as she powers through first round

The Associated Press

MELBOURNE, Australia — Serena Williams can't think of anything that needs changing as she tries to defend her title at the Australian Open, except maybe her color schemes.

"The most obvious differences between the end of her stunning run to last season's first major championship and the start of her 2008 campaign Monday were the color of the court and the fact that Justice Henin followed her onto it.

The old, green Rebound

Ace courts at Melbourne Park have been replaced by the blue Plexicushion, which is getting mixed reviews.

Williams started with a 6-3, 6-3 win over wild-card entry Jarmila Gajdosova, her first match back at Rod Laver Arena since a 6-1, 6-2 rout of Maria Sharapova in last year's final.

"It definitely feels good to be back," Williams said. "I just thought about last year, my last match at that court. I was able to win it."

"That's all I thought about. I didn't think about the ceremony, holding up the trophy.

I just got right back into the swing of things and thought, I have to stay focused."

A self-styled fashion aficionado, she approved of the new look.

"I like the color. It's really pretty," said Williams, who wore a bright fuchsia pair of bicycle shorts and headband to contrast her short, white dress and the blue court. "I like how it's all blue."

Sharapova didn't offer an opinion on the surface after her opening-round 6-4, 6-3 win over Jelena Kostanic. Tomic, and looked that the

color change reflected her mood after her last appearance at Rod Laver Arena.

"You can't think about what you did in the past year," she said. "You can't think about what your results were. You just got to look forward to what's going to come up."

What's coming up for her is a second-round match against 2007 champion Lindsay Davenport, quickly becoming something of a Supermom after holding off Italy's Sara Errani 6-2, 3-6, 7-5.

Please see HUE, Page B2

Jazz rally to beat Bucks

SALT LAKE CITY — Deron Williams scored 24 of his 33 points in the second half and had 10 assists as Utah rallied to beat Milwaukee 90-87.

Carlos Boozer added 21 points and 10 rebounds and Paul Millsap scored 11 for the Jazz.

Former University of Utah All-American Andrew Bogut had 23 points and 10 rebounds in his return to Salt Lake City, but scored just three points in the fourth quarter as the Bucks' offense fizzled.

Williams added 21 points for the Bucks, who went 0-3 on a Western Conference road trip.

WIZARDS 88, CELTICS 83
BOSTON — Caron Butler scored 21 and Washington beat Boston 88-83 on the Wizards' second victory over the Celtics in three days.

Antawn Jamison added 20 points and 10 rebounds for the Wizards, who handed Boston its first two-game losing streak of the season.

Butler scored nine points during a 25-4 run in the final 4:23 of the fourth quarter to give the Wizards their fifth win in the last six games against Boston.

Boston also lost consecutive games at home for the first time all season and dropped to 1-10. The Celtics are 2-3 over their last five and have averaged 85 points a game over that span.

TRAIL BLAZERS 99, NETS 73
EAST RUTHERFORD, N.J. — Devin Harris scored 20 points to lead Portland to its 14th win in the last 20 games.

Portland never trailed and got contributions from up and down the lineup. Brandon Roy scored 16 points, Jarrett Jack had 15, Travis Outlaw 13 and James Jones 10.

Joel Przybilla had a game-high 12 rebounds to go along with nine points as Portland rebounded from a 116-109 double-overtime loss to the Raptors in Toronto on Saturday.

SPURS 89, 76ERS 82
SAN ANTONIO — Manu Ginobili scored 14 of his 20 points in the fourth quarter to lead San Antonio.

Tim Duncan added 18 points and 16 rebounds and Michael Finley and Tony Parker scored 14 points apiece to give the Spurs their second straight win.

Hansen holds on

The Hansen Huskies took a Magic Valley Southside Conference victory Monday, beating Lighthouse Christian 57-54.

Lighthouse Christian held a 29-23 lead at the half but was outscored by Hansen 34-25 in the second half.

"This was a tough loss," said Lighthouse Christian coach Andrew Miller. "We seem to be turning into a first half team and then letting the other team back in the game in the second half. We just lost some focus down the stretch tonight."

Hansen junior offensive star Guerrero scored a game-high 25 points.

The Lions (3-9, 2-5) were led by senior Chris Butlercher with 15 points and four rebounds.

Lighthouse Christian hosts Raft River, and Hansen hosts Magic Valley Christian on Friday.

Hansen 57, Lighthouse Christian 54
Lighthouse Christian 57
Hansen 54

Lighthouse Christian 54
Lighthouse Christian 54
Hansen 54

Twins Falls Christian 76, Dietrich 73
Twins Falls Christian 76
Dietrich 73

Carey 62, Bliss 37
Carey 62
Bliss 37

Murtalough 75, Castledorf 61
Murtalough 75
Castledorf 61

Wendell 46, Shoshone 33
Wendell 46
Shoshone 33

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Wendell 46
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Shoshone 33



Lighthouse Christian School's Bo Donnelly shoots over Hansen's Derek Bates during their game Monday night in Jerome.

Carey 62, Bliss 37
Carey 62
Bliss 37

Murtalough 75, Castledorf 61
Murtalough 75
Castledorf 61

Wendell 46, Shoshone 33
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McFadden says he'll enter NFL

FAYETTEVILLE, Ark. (AP) — Darren McFadden isn't sticking around for another run at the Heisman Trophy.

The Arkansas All-American announced Monday he'll skip his senior season and enter the NFL draft.

"When I was growing up, I dreamed of playing for the Razorbacks," McFadden said. "Now, the time has come for me to pursue another dream of mine — playing in the NFL."

McFadden was the Heisman runner-up in 2006 and 2007, so his decision to turn pro wasn't surprising. He ran for 1,800 yards last season, second on the Southeastern Conference's single-season list. He is also second on the career list with 4,580 yards rushing.

Felix Jones, the Razorbacks' other talented running back, will also enter the draft a year early.

McFadden rushed for over 1,000 yards all three seasons at Arkansas. Jones did it the last two. They were part of a backfield that also included senior fullback Peyton Iffins, another NFL prospect.

Now Arkansas will have to rebuild under new coach Bobby Petrino.

McFadden's decision comes a week after he was involved in a "pretty rowdy scene" at a party bar in Little Rock, when he was handcuffed by police and then released without charges.

In the summer of 2006, he severely injured his toe in a fight outside another club, but recovered in time to play in the season opener.

McFadden holds Arkansas' career and single-season rushing records.

McFadden, from Little Rock, made an immediate impression in 2005. He ran for 1,113 yards and was chosen as the Heisman finalist in 2006. He led Arkansas on a 10-game winning streak and was second in the Heisman race to Ohio State's Troy Smith.

It was during that season that the Razorbacks began using McFadden in the shotgun at quarterback — he



Arkansas tailback Darren McFadden (5) hangs his head as he walks off the field after losing to Missouri 38-7 in the Cotton Bowl college football game on Jan. 1 in Dallas. McFadden has announced his intention to enter the NFL draft.

could run, throw or hand off to Jones.

McFadden spoke first at a joint news conference Monday. Then it was Jones' turn.

"I guess that'll be the last handoff from D-Mac," Jones joked.

This season, the Razorbacks lost their first three SEC games but rebounded late. They beat then-No. 1 LSU in the regular-season finale. McFadden ran for 206 yards and three touchdowns and also threw for a touchdown in Arkansas' triple-overtime 50-48 win.

McFadden also tied an SEC record with 321 yards rushing in a November win over South Carolina. He figures to be one of the first players taken in the April draft.

McFadden and Jones join an impressive group of running backs in this year's draft, including Central Florida's Kevin Smith, Michigan's Mike Hart, Rutgers' Ray Rice and West Virginia's Steve Slater.

Hue

Continued from page B1

She lost her temper at the chair umpire on an overrule and worked through bouts of pressure, but had enough experience to extend her record to 19-1 since returning to the tour.

It also made her the richest private money earner ever in women's tennis, lifting her career tally to \$21,897,501 and surpassing Steffi Graf's career total.

Top-ranked Roger Federer, along with a third consecutive Australian, tied and claiming to be 100 percent recovered from a stomach virus that interrupted his preparation, had a night match scheduled against Andy Murray of Argentina.

Second-ranked Rafael Nadal, the only player to beat Federer at the last 10 Grand Slams — in the past two French Open finals — had to recover from service breaks in each of the first two sets of his match against Federer.

There will be no second round for Andy Murray, who was seeded ninth after winning two titles at Doha, Qatar. He lost 7-5, 6-4, 6-7, 6-5 to Jo-Wilfried Tsonga of France.

Murray, a 20-year-old Scot who carries heavy expectations from Britain, had some advice for No. 16 Carlos Moya and No. 10 Juan Carlos Ferrer. He lost 7-5, 6-4, 6-7, 6-5 to Jo-Wilfried Tsonga of France.

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Selig

Continued from page B1

course, we'll hear from Clemens next month."

Unlike on March 17, 2005, Selig and Feil will not share the spotlight with Clemens and Pettitte on the day Mark McGwire repeatedly said, "I'm not here to talk about the past," while Rafael Palmeiro pointed his finger for emphasis and told the committee: "I have never used steroids, period."

This time, the committee plans a Feb. 13 hearing with Clemens and Andy Pettitte — two of the more than 40 major leaguers named by Mitchell — and their former trainer, Brian McNamee.

Clemens' lawyer met with committee staffers Monday to begin discussing under what format the seven-time Cy Young Award winner might answer questions before testifying under oath next month. The committee wants witnesses to take depositions.

McNamee told federal prosecutors and Mitchell that he injected Clemens with steroids and human growth hormone. Clemens has repeatedly denied what amounted to the most sensational allegations in the Mitchell report. Neither Clemens nor McNamee has testified under oath.

"I don't think there's any question that Roger's going to appear before the committee, and that he'll be out there before the full lights, answering questions," Davis said. "It's in everybody's interest that you sit down and talk before that, in one form or another, but we're still discussing that with him."

First things first, though. It sounds as though Selig has won over some members of the committee by merely asking Mitchell to conduct his investigation — and by beginning to follow some of the report's recommendations, including setting up a permanent branch of the commissioner's office responsible to look into drug use in the sport.

Feil might expect tougher questioning. "The players' union needs to be very careful and keep in mind we're talking about the integrity of the game," said Rep. Elijah Cummings, a Maryland Democrat. "If they do not act now, I don't know if they're going to act. We have now been provided with information that says that we do have a problem."

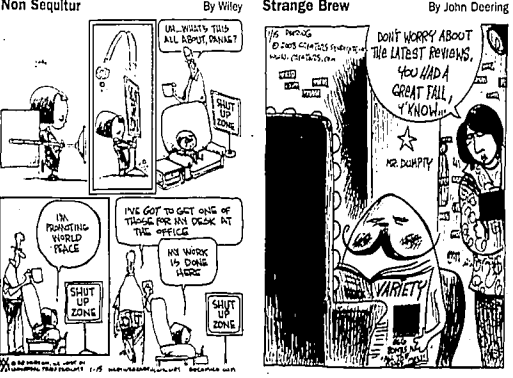
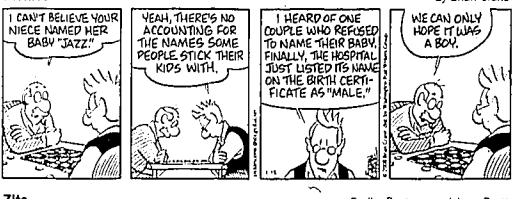
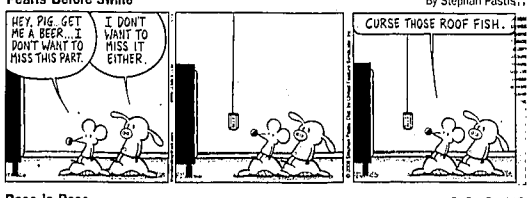
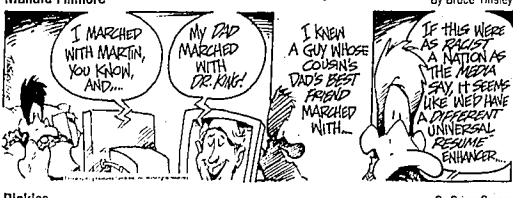
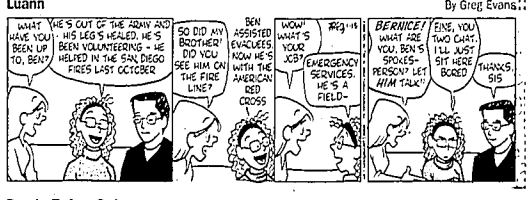
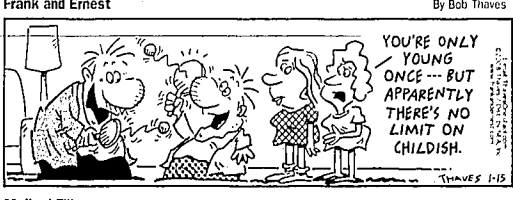
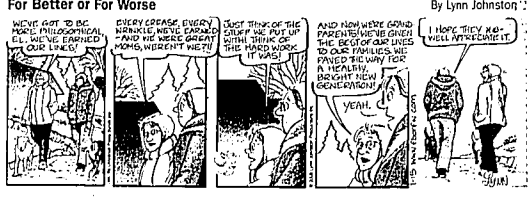
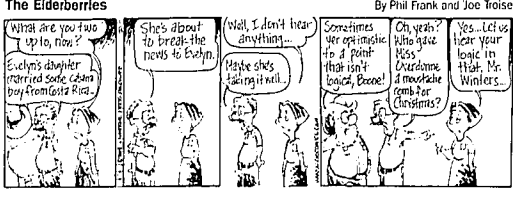
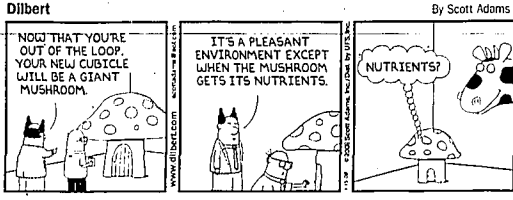
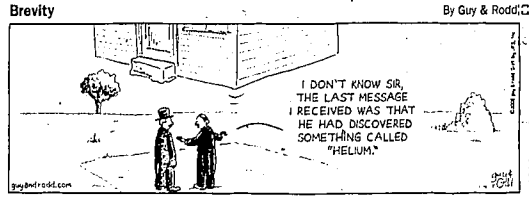
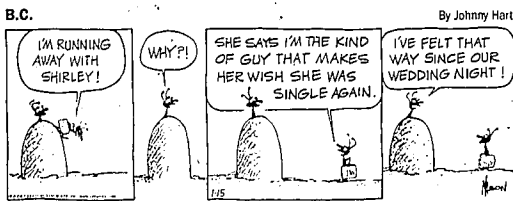
Schilling said Feil and Selig can expect to be questioned about how they would modify baseball's drug policy further.

Representatives indicated Mitchell will be asked about what sort of cooperation he received from players.

The committee continues to work on gathering evidence ahead of the Clemens-McNamee hearing.

Davis said the panel has received the full tape of a Jan. 4 telephone conversation between those two men — secretly recorded at the player's end — that Clemens' legal team played at a news conference.

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Actions speak louder than words, Leo

IF JAN. 15 IS YOUR BIRTHDAY: Go for the gold in the year ahead, especially during March and September, when you can make headway with significant career or business relationships. Romantic ideals will thrive in July — or you could have time for a thrilling, temporary escape from routines. Fulfill your commitments to the best of your ability and be a stickler about responsibilities, especially in October when you may be called upon to set a superb example for others.

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Setting a high water mark gives you plenty of incentive to excel. You have the ability to straighten out a problematic personal situation without losing face or giving ground.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Be humble. Those heavy pants do a heck of a job of reminding you that you are not as richly deserved as you would like. Earn your kudos by acting on good advice or instructions from others.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Do a Tom Sawyer and tempt others to help you by making even onerous tasks appear inviting. Find ingenious ways

HOROSCOPE
Jeraldine Saunders

to get your money to work for you instead of working for money.

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Your kindness and joy seems to spread to everything you do early in the day. By the late afternoon you may feel emotionally vulnerable. Remain busy to offset the blues.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Avoid sentimental conversations about the past that may needlessly complicate the present. You will make the most progress by letting actions speak louder than words.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): With stuffy Saturn traveling through your zodiac sign, you occasionally appear too cautious. The only way you will ever learn is through your mistakes.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): It is a good time to be sure you appear well-heeled to others. You could find yourself subtly challenged by others to put your best (well-heeled) foot forward.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): It could be that greed and envy are the two biggest causes of discontent. Be a realist and understand that other people aren't really that much better off.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): If things need tweaking, it is better to handle them on your own and know they are done instead of delegating authority. A slightly strained relationship can result or complicate.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): You should know the golden rule: Those who have the gold rule. To deserve authority and lead the pack or to climb higher on the ladder of success, you must be industrious and productive.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Put some muscle behind your mission. Your efforts on the job or in public places will reflect well and could enhance your reputation. A partner or companion could be emotionally volatile.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Even though it is an ideal day to take action on a creative project, you may be wise to ask permission. Other people close to you will be pleased if you ask for opinions or input.

Beetle Bailey

By Mort Walker



Blondie

By Dean Young & Stan Drake



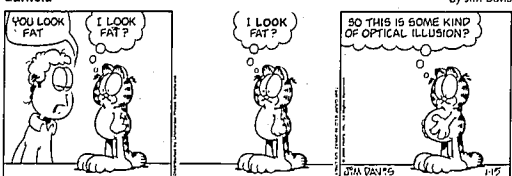
The Born Loser

By Art Sansom, & Chip



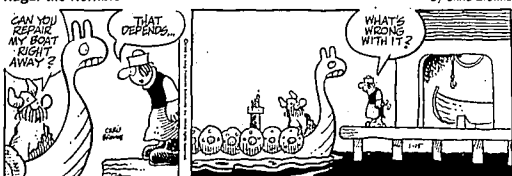
Garfield

By Jim Davis



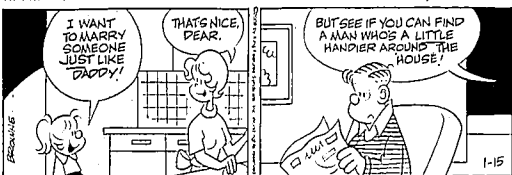
Hagar the Horrible

By Chris Browne



Hi and Lois

By Chance Browne



Classic Peanuts

By Charles M. Schulz



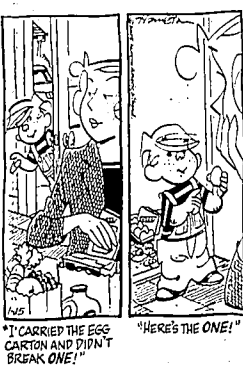
The Wizard of Id

By Brant Parker & Johnny Hart



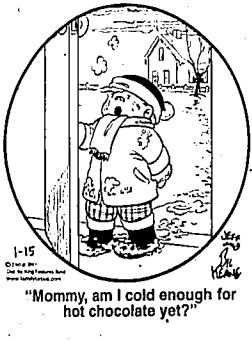
Dennis the Menace

By Hank Ketcham



THE FAMILY CIRCUS

By Bil Keane



Adopted daughter still resents exclusion from family photos

DEAR ABBY: Please advise "Has Issues in New Hampshire" (Dec. 5) to speak up now. My husband and I were married when my daughter was 11. He adopted her, but even after that, when my family took photographs, she was excluded. She's now 29 and still remembers those hurtful occasions when she was not included.



DEAR ABBY Jeanne Phillips

Ironically, the sister who did it every year is now married and has an adopted son, so things have changed. But I deeply regret not saying something years ago because it affected the way my daughter feels about her aunt.



DEAR ABBY Elizabeth Woodville, Texas

DEAR ABBY: I see nothing wrong with taking photos of various family groups. Both my family and my husband's do it. We take pictures of everyone — just the siblings, the parents and children; the parents, children and spouses; all grandchildren, etc.



DEAR ABBY Brenda Z. Staigton, Va.

DEAR ABBY: "Marian" would be to buy a camera with a wide-angle lens and leave nobody out.



DEAR ABBY Elizabeth Woodville, Texas

DEAR ABBY: "Marian" is the one who should be excluded, for her stupidity. Our family is



DEAR ABBY Elizabeth Woodville, Texas

TODAY IN HISTORY

Today is Tuesday, Jan. 15, the 15th day of 2008. There are 351 days left in the year.

Today's highlight

On Jan. 15, 1929, civil rights leader Martin Luther King Jr. was born in Atlanta.

On this date

In 1559, England's Queen Elizabeth I was crowned in Westminster Abbey.

In 1777, the people of New Connecticut declared their independence. (The tiny republic later became the state of Vermont.)

In 1844, the University of Notre Dame received its charter from the state of Indiana.

In 1908, 100 years ago, nuclear physicist Edward Teller was born in Budapest, Austria-Hungary.

In 1932, Jawaharlal Nehru was named to succeed Mohandas K. Gandhi as head of India's Congress Party.

In 1943, work was completed on the Pentagon, headquarters of the U.S. Department of Defense.

In 1947, the mutilated remains of Elizabeth Short, the 22-year-old aspiring actress now known as the "Black Dahlia," were found in a vacant Los Angeles lot.

In 1967, the Green Bay Packers of the National Football League defeated the Kansas City Chiefs of the American Football League 35-10 in the first AFL-NFL World Championship Game, retroactively known as Super Bowl I.

In 1973, President Nixon announced the suspension of all U.S. offensive action in North Vietnam, citing progress in peace negotiations.

In 1978, two students at Florida State University in Tallahassee, Lisa Levy and Margaret Bowman, were murdered in their sorority house. (Ted Bundy was later convicted of the crime, and executed.)

Ten years ago, Henry Cisneros's ex-mistress, Linda Medlar Jones, pleaded to his leading federal authorities investigating the former U.S. housing secretary's payment of alleged hush money to her. (Jones served nearly 18 months in prison; she was

handed her off to a cousin so I could eat.

Before I could finish, we were "summoned" to the back yard, where several aunts were taking family pictures. I decided they would just have to do without our sleeping daughter. My husband and I posed with our son, but before we could get away, the cousin ratted us out. The baby, now screaming again, was presented to be added to the picture. The ladies were amused that they'd "wasted a shot," but aimed their cameras again.

Afterward, I looked down and was horrified to see our son had been picking his nose. So our branch of the family was concluded with a screaming infant, a daughter-in-law who was angry enough to chew broken glass, and a 2-year-old with both index fingers buried in his nose.

DEAR ABBY: Out of my parents' six grandchildren, only two are biological; however, my parents make no distinction. "Marian" needs to be reminded that family is family. As far as our family is concerned, the "bonus children" are just as much "calhouns" as the other grandkids. One of my favorite quotes is by Goldie Nash, who said, "Blood may be thicker than water, but love is thicker than blood."

DEAR ABBY: The letter about the stepmom who insists on taking a yearly photograph of "blended" family members made me chuckle.

Years ago, when our daughter was almost 2, we made the four-hour drive to attend my husband's family reunion. The baby screamed the whole last half-hour of the ride. I nursed her as soon as we arrived and

later pardoned by President Clinton.) Labor Secretary Alexis Herman denied allegations that she had sold her influence in the White House. (Herman was cleared in 2000 by Independent Counsel Ralph L. Lancaster.)

Five years ago, White House budget director Mitchell Daniels predicted federal deficits would balloon to the \$200- to \$300 billion range over the next two years.

Mickey Mouse and The Walt Disney Co. scored a big victory as the Supreme Court upheld longer copyright protections for cartoon characters, songs, books and other creations worth billions of dollars.

One year ago, The Iraqi government hanged two of Saddam Hussein's henchmen, including a half-brother (Bazian Ibrahim) who was accidentally decapitated by the noose. ("Bazian" was last movie, drama and "Dreamgirls" was named best musical or comedy at the Golden Globes; "Grey's Anatomy" was named best TV drama series and "Ugly Betty" best TV comedy.)

TODAY'S BIRTHDAYS

- Actress Margaret O'Brien is 71. Singer Don Van Vliet (aka "Captain Beefheart") is 67. Actress Andrea Martin is 61. Actor-director Martin Sheen is 51. Actor James Nesbitt is 43. Singer Lisa Lisa (Lisa Lisa and Cult Jam) is 41. Actor Chad Lowe is 40. Actress Regina King is 37. Actor Eddie Cahill is 30. Rapper/reggaeist artist Pitbull is 27.

THOUGHT

"The means by which we live have outdistanced the ends for which we live. Our scientific power has outrun our spiritual power. We have guided missiles and misguided men."

— Martin Luther King Jr. (1929-1968)

Ill. woman's house surrounded by hospital's parking lots; that's exactly how she likes it

The Associated Press

SPRINGFIELD, Ill. — Rena Wilkey has plenty of parking space at her home.

In fact, that's pretty much all she has.

Now that most of 73-year-old woman's neighbors have sold their properties to Memorial Medical Center, Wilkey's one-story house is ringed on three sides by parking lots.

Wilkey said a hospital representative calls every year to

politely ask if she's willing to sell.

"I told them I'm not selling," Wilkey said of the hospital's offer for more than 50 years. "I'm comfortable here. And I don't care about the money. Money don't buy happiness."

The hospital has bought dozens of nearby properties over the years to build the parking lots.

Wilkey said the lots are well-lit and that the hospital even clears the snow from her

sidewalks. And she said she doesn't mind losing some of her neighbors — including, she said, were trouble-makers.

A message left for a medical center spokesman was not immediately returned Sunday evening.

Wilkey said it's the memories of living in the house with her late husband that her daughters that keeps her there.

"That's the reason I don't want to move," she said.

TWIN FALLS FORECAST

Today: Partly cloudy with increasing westerly winds. Highs reaching the middle 20s.
Tonight: Partly cloudy and colder. Winds gradually backing off. Lows near 10.
Tomorrow: Partly cloudy and colder with lighter west winds. Highs in the middle 20s.

BURLEIGH/RUPERT FORECAST

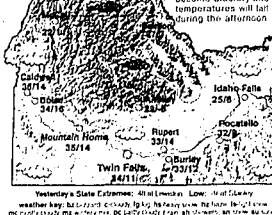
Today: Partly cloudy with gusty winds developing. Highs in the lower to mid 30s.
Tonight: Partly cloudy and colder. Winds gradually diminishing. Lows in the lower to mid 20s.
Tomorrow: A colder day with partly cloudy skies and lighter winds. Highs in the middle 20s.

IDAHO'S FORECAST

SUN VALLEY SURROUNDING MTS. A few snow showers will be around today and winds will be gusty at times. Wednesday will be partly cloudy, colder, and not as likely to see snow. The winter pattern looks to last into Thursday.

Today Highs 28 to 34. Lows 18 to 23.
BOISE Today will be partly to mostly sunny, but it will be colder with blustery winds. Winds will diminish tonight. Wednesday will be a chilly day, possibly seeing mostly sunny days.

Today Highs 25 to 30. Lows 17 to 22.
NORTHERN UTAH Today will see a chance of snow, especially in the mountains. Winds will become blustery and temperatures will drop. Going the other direction.



Gregg Middlekauff's quote of the day: 'I really don't know something that doesn't feel right. I'm kind of not being nice.'

TWIN FALLS FIVE-DAY FORECAST

Table with 7 columns: Today, Tonight, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday, Saturday. Includes weather icons and temperature ranges (High 33, Low 11).

ALMIAHAT - TWIN FALLS

Table with 2 columns: Temperature, Precipitation, Humidity, Barometric Pressure, Sunrise and Sunset. Includes monthly and daily data.

Moon Phases



Moonrise and Moonset

Table with 2 columns: Moonrise, Moonset. Times for today and tomorrow.

REGIONAL FORECAST

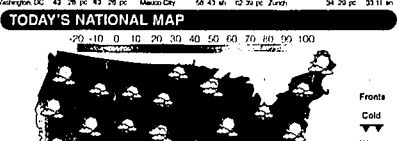
Table with 4 columns: City, Today, Tomorrow, High/Low. Lists cities like Boise, Idaho Falls, Pocatello, etc.

NATIONAL FORECAST

Table with 4 columns: City, Today, Tomorrow, High/Low. Lists cities like Albany, Albany, Albany, etc.

WORLD FORECAST

Table with 4 columns: City, Today, Tomorrow, High/Low. Lists cities like Albany, Albany, Albany, etc.



CANADIAN FORECAST

Table with 4 columns: City, Today, Tomorrow, High/Low. Lists cities like Calgary, Edmonton, etc.

WORLD'S NATIONAL FORECAST

Table with 4 columns: City, Today, Tomorrow, High/Low. Lists cities like Albany, Albany, Albany, etc.

Tony Dungy weighs his future as a coach

Tony Dungy has a big decision to make, one that has nothing to do with going for it on fourth down.

Should the Indianapolis Colts coach continue in that role or retire to spend more time with his family and performing his charitable work? Dungy made it clear Monday he is not tied of the coaching grind or the pressure of big-time games.

Should Dungy retire — he expects to decide within a week — the NFL will lose one of its classiest men. In an era of paranoid coaches, controlling general managers and image-conscious owners, Dungy not only is refreshing, he is exemplary.

Not only is he a man of stung faith and an important spokesman for his race, but Dungy regularly becomes a part of his players' lives away from the field. For instance, he offered opportunity and guidance to rookie defensive tackle Ed Johnson this season.

Johnson went undrafted last April in great part because of the problems in his home State, where he was suspended and even kicked off the football team. When he was invited to try out for the Colts, Dungy said he determined after talking with Johnson that the player wanted to straighten out his life.

BARRY WILNER

Dungy's teams have been considered underachievers by some. For all their talent, those critics say, the Buc-cats of 1996-2002 and the Colts of 2002-07 got to only one Super Bowl, beating Chicago last year.

They are missing the point. Sure, the goal is to win championships. But Dungy's legacy certainly will reach far beyond the wins (136) and the AFC title. He's helped develop an entire long line of coaches.

Consider his tireless work with groups such as All-Pro Dads and Big Brothers/Big Sisters. Dungy was appointed to the President's Council on Service and Civic Participation last summer.

His resume away from football is just as impressive as his work on the sideline. Dungy is one of the few coaches who draws praise from virtually all corners of the coaching world, he was practically ignored by New England's Bill Belichick after the Colts beat the Patriots for last season's AFC title, it drew outrage (quiet and not-so-quiet) from within the NFL.

Belichick's bullying has become a topic in the sport, but when he did it to the most-respected member of the coaching fraternity, it upset and even enraged other coaches and league officials.

Dungy will always be remembered for his grace and strength he showed when his 18-year-old son, James, committed suicide in December 2005. He said Monday that James' death will not be a factor in his decision about coaching longer or retiring.

He's just really making sure I am doing the best job I can do as a dad, he said, referring to his four children still living with the family in Tampa, Fla., and one daughter not living at home. I can do that, that is my No. 1 job, and if I do that, I can do it enough to be a good coach for the Colts, if I am doing that, I'll be back. And he's not?

"I hopefully he comes back," Belichick's Gary Brackett said. "At the same time, we have got to recognize what decision he makes comes from the bottom of his heart, and we've got to respect that decision."

Barry Wilner covers the NFL for The Associated Press.

A Manning plays on, but not the one everyone figured

The game was meaningless, or as meaningless as a game can be against a team on the brink of making history. The only question for the playoff-bound New York Giants was whether it was worth risking injury by playing starters on the off chance they just might make a statement against the New England Patriots.

The starters played, and the statement was made, even though the Giants fell in their final game of the regular season. Behind a quarterback who seemed to gain confidence with each throw, they managed to play the unbeaten Patriots deep into the fourth quarter before losing.

Two plays wins later, the Giants are in the AFC championship game for the first time in seven years, making the much-maligned Tom Coughlin suddenly look like a coaching genius. And his equally maligned quarterback is starting to look an awful lot like his Super Bowl champion older brother — with one big difference. Peyton Manning is staying home this weekend while Eli Manning and the Giants have a date with the Packers in Green Bay.

"I don't know if he silenced the critics. In this game, you're always going to have critics," Giants running back Brandon Jacobs said. "I think Eli Manning is a great quarterback. It's the best I've ever played with." New York fans would have argued that contention long and often during the last four years. They, like some of Manning's own teammates, were frustrated by the young quarterback's inconsistency and his tendency to throw wild passes that often landed in the hands of players wearing uniforms of a different color.

The wasn't much of a leader, either. If anyone didn't already know, recently retired running back Tiki Barber made sure they did at the start of the season when he lambasted his television career by calling Manning's efforts to change the game "inconsistent and inconsistent."

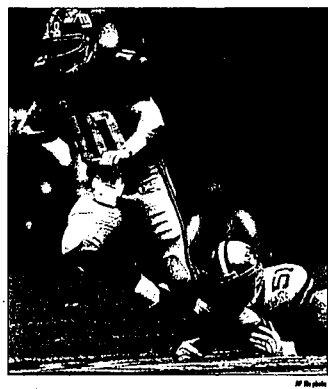
No one on the Dallas Cowboys was laughing Sunday. Manning may have come of age as a playoff quarterback by taking just 46 seconds to lead his team on a game-winning drive in the final seconds of the first half. And this year after the Cowboys had held the ball more than 10 minutes before scoring. They certainly weren't laughing early in the fourth quarter when Manning engineered a six-play drive that gave the Giants the only lead they would need.

And now Manning, who at 27 is four years younger than Peyton, has a chance to have the last laugh by beating the Packers and putting the wild-card Giants into the Super Bowl, something most would have thought impossible when New York lost its first two games of the season.

"It's playing with a lot of confidence," said wide receiver Plaxico Burress. "As long as that continues, we'll be going to Arizona." Most football fans figured the only Manning going to the Super Bowl would be Peyton, whose giant shadow has always loomed over that of his younger brother. Peyton Manning may still be the best quarterback in a family sired by a quarterback, but his chances of adding a second ring to the one he won last year evaporated when the Chargers upset the Colts.

Peyton Manning threw two interceptions in the game, and the dome in Indianapolis grew strangely silent when he misfired several times while trying to lead his team on the kind of last-second drive that has become his trademark. What happened last year doesn't make it any easier this year, Manning said. "When you come back and commit yourself to the '07 season and you don't finish it like you want to, it hurts."

Manning will have to be content to root for his brother this weekend, just as Eli cheered him on when the Colts beat the Chicago Bears to win the Super Bowl. Better rooting, though, than commiserating, as Peyton has had to do



New York Giants quarterback Eli Manning (10) is sacked for a 10-yard loss in the second quarter by Dallas Cowboys linebacker Akin Ayoade (51) in an AFC divisional playoff game Sunday in Irving, Texas.

with his younger brother through much of his turbulent pro career.

While Eli Manning made it to the NFL title game in his fourth year, it took Peyton six years to get there. And while Eli lost his previous two playoff games before this season, Peyton was 6-3 in the playoffs before he came through with a win.

One thing Eli hasn't done nearly as well as Peyton is make television commercials. Peyton Manning is the NFL leader in that category, and hardly an NFL game goes by that he is not seen in one of his funny and sometimes self-deprecating spots. Eli doesn't have the public presence of his older brother, and he rarely offers anything other than stock cliches to the media after games.

The Cowboy game was no exception, but soon it might be time for Eli to start talking about himself in more. Since throwing four touchdowns in the season finale against New England, he has seemed a more poised and confident quarterback who seems to be figuring out how to keep his mistakes to a minimum.

That was the case against Dallas, when Manning sat on the bench much of the game as the Cowboys controlled the clock. But he got his flecks in quickly when he played with the Giants scoring their three touchdowns on drives that totaled only 6 minutes, 20 seconds on the game clock, and didn't turn the ball over once.

Including the New England game, Manning has thrown for eight touchdowns against only one interception in his last three games. Those kind of stats win games, especially in the pressure of playoff football.

"I love his focus and how his teammates have responded to that focus, these are all very, very good things," Coughlin said. "As I have said before, now, very timely."

The Giants will be underdogs in Green Bay, but they were thought to be overmatched in Dallas, too. And while Green Bay will be cold and frosty, the Giants have put together a nine-game winning streak in a league where teams are happy if they split their games away from home. So a Manning will still be playing this weekend. The only surprise is which Manning it is.

Tim Dahlberg is a national sports columnist for The Associated Press.

IBM forecast
boosts stocks

(AP) Wall Street advanced sharply Monday, with solid preliminary results from IBM encouraging investors to go back into the stock market after last week's rout.

Dow Jones Industrials **+171.85**
12,770.15

Nasdaq composite **+38.36**
2,476.30

Standard & Poor's 500 **+15.23**
1,410.25

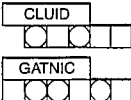
Russell 2000 **+7.83**
712.49

For a complete stock listing, go to Magicvalley.com

BUSINESS

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

INSIDE: Can you unscramble the letters?, C4



C

TUESDAY
JANUARY 15, 2008

INSIDE: Commodities, C2 | Classifieds, C3-8 | Service directory, C6 | Crossword, C5 | Bridge, C7



Corn futures jump to 12-year high

Global supply tightness causes surge

1.797 billion. "It's the ending stocks that did it. People were surprised they would fall so low," said Elaine Kub, analyst with DTN. "We're finally getting some price discovery and seeing how high people are willing to go."

Corn for March delivery jumped 17 cents to settle at \$5.12 a bushel on the Chicago Board of Trade, exceeding the previous high set in May 1996.

Despite a record U.S. harvest last year, corn prices rose more than 15 percent in 2007, driven by the burgeoning ethanol industry and growing demand for livestock feed in places like China.

Dry, hot weather in South America's corn belt has also pushed up prices.

Other agricultural futures traded mixed. Soybeans for March delivery slipped 2.25 cents to settle at \$12.95 a bushel, after earlier reaching a contract-high of \$13.41. March wheat rose 7.75 cents to settle at \$9.17 a bushel.

Corn futures surged to a 12-year high Monday on expectations that world supplies will shrink rapidly amid growing demand for the grain to feed livestock and make alternative fuel.

Other commodities traded mostly higher, with gold and platinum touching record highs and crude oil also making gains.

Investors snapped up corn contracts for a second straight session after the U.S. Department of Agriculture released a bullish report Friday projecting a steep drop in U.S. corn ending stocks. The USDA lowered its ending stocks forecast for 2007-08 to 1.438 billion bushels, down sharply from

Falling timbers



Ken McDrummond, of Franklin Building Supply in Twin Falls, moves lumber Monday afternoon. The price of some construction materials, such as lumber and plywood is currently at a two-year low.

Good news for builders, buyers as lumber prices hit two-year low

By Joshua Palmer
Times-News writer

Prices for some construction materials such as lumber and finished items are at a two-year low due to weakening demand for building supplies around the U.S. and a seasonal downturn in local construction activity.

According to the National Association of Homebuilders, the price of composite lumber as of Jan. 11 was \$256 per 1,000 board feet. Prices last dipped below \$260 per 1,000 board feet in early 2005.

Local builders typically expect prices to decline during the winter months as construction slows down during the winter season. However, a weak housing market in other parts of the nation has further reduced demand for some building products.

The average cost of plywood has declined more than 14 percent, compared to a year ago, while softwood lumber has declined about 15 percent, according to Reed Construction Data.

"It's a bargain right now and it's been pretty reasonable for the last few

Find out more

To see who is building in Twin Falls County, turn to C2. For a complete listing of all counties in south-central Idaho, go to Magicvalley.com.

and get the permit process started," said Tony Hughes, president of the Magic Valley Builders Association. "The general trend is that the cost of building rarely goes down, but right now we're dealing with lumber price that are at their lowest level in couple of years."

Still, some material costs have continued to rise, such as concrete, steel and copper.

The cost of cement increased almost 7 percent compared to a year ago, while asphalt used in streets and parking lots jumped more than 24 percent.

Copper topped the list of materials that experienced the largest price increase, jumping more than 57 percent.

Because most commercial and civic buildings rely heavily on these materials, local builders say that commercial and civic construction costs — such as the Canyon Ridge High School — are likely to grow.

Joshua Palmer may be reached at 735-3231 or at jpalmer@magicvalley.com

MySpace agrees to adopt safety measures

New policy to better protect users from online predators

By Clare Trapasso
Associated Press writer

NEW YORK — Under mounting pressure from law enforcement and parents, MySpace agreed Monday to take steps to protect youngsters from online sexual predators and bullies, including searching for ways to better verify users' ages.

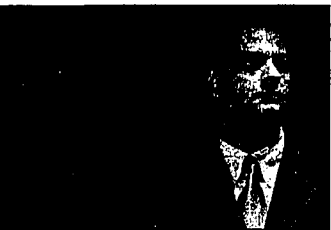
The hugely popular online hangout will create a task force of industry professionals to watch over its operations, and other social-networking sites will be invited to participate.

"We must keep telling children that they're not just typing into a computer. They're sharing themselves with the world," said North Carolina Attorney General Roy Cooper.

The deal comes as sites such as MySpace and Facebook have grown exponentially in recent years, with teenagers making up a large part of their membership. This has created a new venue for sexual predators who lie about their age to lure young victims and for cyber bullies who send threatening and anonymous messages.

But Monday's announcement was short on specifics about how improvements would be carried out. Skeptics are doubtful that MySpace and similar sites

Please see MYSACE, Page C2



Hemasha Nigam, chief security officer for MySpace, attends a news conference in New York on Monday. MySpace, the huge online social networking Web site, has agreed with more than 45 states to add extensive measures to combat sexual predators.

Pricier means tastier? Test shows some think so when it comes to wine

By Randolph E. Schmid
Associated Press writer

WASHINGTON — Apparently, raising the price really does make the wine taste better.

At least that seems to be the result of a taste test. The part of the brain that reacts to a pleasant experience responded more strongly to pricey wines than cheap ones — even when tasters were given the same vintage in disguise.

Antonio Rangel and colleagues at California Institute of Technology thought the perception that higher price means higher quality could influence people, so they decided to test the idea.

They asked 20 people to sample wine while undergoing functional MRIs of

their brain activity. The subjects were told they were tasting five different Cabernet Sauvignons sold at different prices.

However, there were actually only three wines sampled, two being offered twice, marked with different prices.

A \$90 wine was provided marked with its real price and again marked \$10, while another was presented at its real price of \$5 and also marked \$45.

The testers' brains showed more pleasure at the higher price than the lower one, even for the same wine, Rangel reports in this week's online edition of Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences.

In other words, changes in the price of the wine

changed the actual pleasure experienced by the drinkers, the researchers reported.

On the other hand, when tasters didn't know any price comparisons, they rated the \$5 wine as better than any of the others sampled.

"We were shocked," Rangel said in a telephone interview. "I think it was because the flavor was stronger and our subjects were not very experienced."

He added that wine professionals would probably be able to differentiate the better wine — "one would hope."

"Our results suggest that the brain might compute experienced pleasantness in a much more

Please see WINE, Page C2

BUSINESS BRIEF

Idaho credit union president named to advisory council

BOISE — The Federal Reserve Board this week named 10 new members to its Consumer Advisory Council, including the head of the Idaho Credit Union League who was nominated for the position by the Credit Union National Association (CUNA).

Alan Cameron, president and CEO of the Idaho Credit Union League, will serve a three-year term on the Council, which advises the Federal Reserve Board on its responsibilities under the Consumer Credit Protection Act and on other matters in the area of consumer financial services.

— from staff reports

STOCKS OF LOCAL INTEREST

Con Agra	23.14	▼ .54	Dell Inc.	21.45	▲ .69	Idacorp	34.21	▼ .05
Ethia Mo.	12.89	▼ .01	Micron	6.25	▲ .16	Supervalu	27.97	▲ .28

COMMODITIES

For more see page C2

Live cattle	90.90	▼ .45	Feb. Oil	94.20	▲ 1.51
Feb. gold	903.4	▲ 5.7	Jan. Silver	1632.5	▲ 5.2

What to expect
today in business

• WASHINGTON — Commerce Department reports on business inventories for November, retail sales for December.

• WASHINGTON — Labor Department reports on producer price index for December.

MUTUAL FUNDS

Table of mutual fund performance data including columns for Name, Last Chg, %Chg, and various fund names like MFCB, Fidelity, and others.

COMMODITIES REPORT

Table of commodity prices for various metals and grains, including columns for Name, High, Low, and Change.

CLOSING FUTURES

Table of closing futures prices for commodities like soybeans, corn, and wheat, including columns for Name, High, Low, and Change.

CHEESE

Table of cheese prices for various types like Cheddar, Swiss, and others, including columns for Name, High, Low, and Change.

POTATOES

Table of potato prices for different grades and varieties, including columns for Name, High, Low, and Change.

LIVESTOCK

Table of livestock prices for cattle, hogs, and sheep, including columns for Name, High, Low, and Change.

METALS/MONEY

Table of metal and money market prices, including columns for Name, High, Low, and Change.

MARKET SUMMARY

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

STOCKS OF LOCAL INTEREST

Table of local stock prices for companies like Kamin, Knorr, and others.

HOW TO READ THE MARKET REPORT

Explanatory text for the market report, detailing how to interpret the data and symbols used.

WINERS

Table of winning numbers for various lottery games like Idaho 6/49 and Mega Millions.

DIARY

Table of dairy product prices for items like milk, cheese, and butter.

STOCKS OF LOCAL INTEREST

Table of local stock prices for companies like Kamin, Knorr, and others.

BUILDING PERMITS - TWIN FALLS COUNTY

- List of building permits issued in Twin Falls County, including details like permit number, address, and value.

MySpace

Article discussing MySpace's efforts to verify users' ages and address concerns about child predators.

Wine

Article discussing wine consumption trends, health benefits, and the impact of the current economic situation.

Commercial

- List of commercial real estate listings, including properties for sale or lease with details on location and features.

Wine

Continuation of the wine article, discussing wine selection tips and the role of wine in social settings.

Wine

Continuation of the wine article, focusing on wine education and the importance of understanding wine labels.

CLASSIFIEDS

To place ads, call (208) 733-0931, ext 2; Come see us at 312 Fairfield... Or visit us online at www.magicvalley.com

Legal notices with scales and dates.

NOTICE OF TRUSTEE'S SALE

On Thursday, April 17, 2008 at the hour of 10:30 o'clock A.M., of said day, in the office of Alliance Title & Escrow Corp...

The TRUSTEE HAS NO KNOWLEDGE OF A MORE PARTICULAR DESCRIPTION OF THE ABOVE DESCRIBED REAL PROPERTY...

The balance owing as of this date on the obligation secured by said deed of trust is \$68,949.80, including interest, costs and expenses...

PUBLISH: 8/7/25/25, 2007, January 1, 8 and 15, 2008

ADVERTISEMENT FOR BIDS

Separate sealed bids for the Water System Improvement Project will be received by the City of Castelfield, 100 W. Main, Castelfield, Idaho 83301...

The Project Documents and Drawings will be available for examination at the week ending at the following locations:

- 1) Hildebrand Engineering, Inc., 202 Falls Avenue, Twin Falls, Idaho 83301
2) City of Castelfield, 100 W. Main, Castelfield, ID 83301
3) Associated General Contractors... 3115 Filmore St, Ste 703 A, Twin Falls, Idaho 83301

For information concerning the proposed work, contact Donald G. Acheson, P.E., Project Manager, Hildebrand Engineering, phone (208) 733-2440.

101 Lost and Found

LOST German Short-haired pointer, 8 months old, in the Hayden area. \$50 reward.

LOST Lab, black with red collar near 1400 East in Edon 5300 REWARD leading to recovery 358-2631

LOST Purple, large, lost 1/10/08 at Walmart. Reward \$200.

LOST Red Nose American Pit Bull on Hwy 26 E of Shoshone. White & tan male, 16 lbs.

LOST Yorkie Boston reddish hair female, 12 yrs old. Family member. Reward \$200.

LOST Yorkie Boston reddish hair female, 12 yrs old. Family member. Reward \$200.

LEGAL NOTICE PUBLIC COMMENTS SOUGHT ON LOW-INCOME WEATHERIZATION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

The State of Idaho will accept public comment on its annual funding request for the Low Income Weatherization Assistance Program.

Our Grover children are traveling to missing off our front porch. If you hear or know anything, please call the TF Police Dept.

107 Pregnancy Alternatives Prepreg? Worried? Free Pregnancy Tests Confidential 208-734-1472

108 Professional Services Bankruptcy Chapter 7 Guaranteed lowest price for attorney representation. We are a debt relief agency.

101 FOUND dog, small female, gray/white, 1 mile E of Castelfield. Reward \$200.

101 FOUND Spaniel type puppy white. Call 410-0849 to identify.

101 FOUND Yellow Lab cocker medium sized, green collar, found south of Wendell. If no one claims it, will give it to a good home.

101 LOST call phone, black in leather case. Contact for independent Living student delivery. Reward \$200.

101 LOST German Short-haired pointer, 8 months old, male, black & orange BSU collar. Lost in Twin Falls near Chaseville House. Reward \$200.

101 LOST call phone, black in leather case. Contact for independent Living student delivery. Reward \$200.

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su do ku Puzzles by Pappocov

6 2 4 1
5 2 8 6

6 2
4 1 2 7
2 5 6

4 1 2 7
2 5 6
9 3 8 1 4

8 1 3 2
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8 1 3 2
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EASY Fill in the grid so that every row, every column, and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1 through 9.

That's all there is to it. There's no math involved. The grid has numbers, but nothing has to add up to anything else.

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Times News Opportunities

Times-News magicvalley.com

Boise Legislature Delivery

Are you commuting to Boise? Let us help you with the high cost of fuel! Times-News needs a driver to take newspapers from Twin Falls to Boise. Monday-Friday, 5:30a to 7:00a.

Call Heather at 208-735-3302.

Times-News magicvalley.com

The Times-News has an opening in our Customer Care Department. This position is involved with the circulation of the newspaper. This is an opportunity to join one of the premier customer care organizations in the area. We seek an innovative person who has excellent communication and customer service skills.

This position requires typing, computer and ten-key experience. The days and hours vary, but will include weekend mornings. Reliability is important for this position.

We offer an excellent benefits program including medical, dental, vision, 401k, 401a, 401b, 401c, 401d, 401e, 401f, 401g, 401h, 401i, 401j, 401k, 401l, 401m, 401n, 401o, 401p, 401q, 401r, 401s, 401t, 401u, 401v, 401w, 401x, 401y, 401z.

To apply, please fill out an application at the front desk of the newspaper.

Times-News or send a resume to: Times-News, Attn: Trisha Mitchell, PO Box 548, Twin Falls, ID 83303 or email tmitchell@magicvalley.com

Times-News magicvalley.com

NEWSPAPER CIRCULATION

The Times-News and South Idaho Press are seeking a District Sales Manager in our Circulation Department. This is an excellent opportunity for an energetic and ambitious person to bring his or her skills and ideas to an entry-level management position with advancement opportunities.

The Times-News offers an excellent benefits package which includes medical, dental, vision, life insurance, 401(k) retirement, employee stock purchase plan, paid holidays and vacation.

To apply, please send a cover letter and resume to: Trisha Mitchell, Times-News, Box 548, Twin Falls, ID 83303 or email to tmitchell@magicvalley.com

Times-News magicvalley.com

Multi-talented Sports Journalist

The Times-News, a growing 24,000-circulation regional daily in Twin Falls, Idaho, seeks a multi-talented sports journalist to complete a four-person sports desk. This position offers the chance to use your best strengths and also grow in other areas.

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.

Send resume and work samples to

Mike Christensen, sports editor, Times-News, P.O. Box 548, Twin Falls, ID, 83303 or email mike.christensen@lee.net

CASHIERS positions available. Full & part-time shifts. Benefits include medical, dental, 401k, shift differential for night cashiers. Wage starting \$8.99. Apply in person at Flying J, 5350 Hwy 93, Jerome or online at www.flyingj.com

GENERAL ATTENDANT needed at Laundry mat in Boise. Also Data Entry position avail. Call 208-431-9108

ENVIRONMENT SERVICE ASSISTANT. Parks View Care & Rehabilitation Center. Has an excellent opportunity for a qualified individual. This individual will demonstrate tasks with electrical plumbing, heating and other preventive maintenance.

GENERAL Insurance Production Assistant. Profit incentive but not too big a number. Tue-Fri Call 208-420-0330

PhonBase. PhonBase has immediately opened openings in our interviewing department. This position involves conducting public opinion polls over the telephone.

RESTAURANT. Now taking applications for afternoon, evenings & weekends at the Burley Daily Cusson. Apply in person Mon.-Fri., 9am-4pm at 2200 Evening.

Start your new year with a NEW JOB! New Wage Scale for 2008. RNs or LPNs - Full-time & Part-time, Afternoons/ANC. CNAs - Full-time & Part-time, All Shifts. We offer competitive pay, and full time includes an excellent package.

Idaho Home Health & Hospice is now offering a benefit package to all part-time employees that work over 10 hours a week, which includes medical, dental, vision, 401K, PTO, EAP and continuing education with GREAT incentive programs to all staff.

GENERAL DISCOVERY Want Holiday Cash? Day & Swing Shift. Positions Available! No Stress Involved! No Salary Up To \$11.00 an hour! All Paid Training! Flexible scheduling - You Pick the Days You Want to Work!

GENERAL. Well established company seeking company stocker. Park Equipment Parts Person. Exp. prof. Send resume to Box 95223. C/O Times News, 400 Box 548, Twin Falls, ID 83303

HOTEL. Hampton Inn is hiring a Breakfast Attendant/Laundry Person. Apply in person. Phone: 208-735-3302. 1655 Fillmore St. Twin Falls, ID

PhonBase. PhonBase has immediately opened openings in our interviewing department. This position involves conducting public opinion polls over the telephone.

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MANAGEMENT. Enthusiastic, Dependable Property Manager needed for a 12 unit apartment affordable housing property in Hagerman, ID. Must have computer and office skills, be organized, efficient and able to interact with tenants and staff.

Medical. All advertising is subject to the newspaper's standard of acceptance. The Times-News reserves the right to edit, abbreviate, decline or classify any ad. Advertiser assumes full responsibility for the factual content of their advertisement.

CAREGIVER. Caregivers needed for residential care facility. Full and Part-time positions available. Must be able to work all shifts.

MECHANIC. Experienced Diesel Truck Mechanic needed ASAP. Call Eric at 731-13366. Park View Care & Rehabilitation Center has terrific opportunities for qualified C.N.A.s.

TECHNICIAN. Seeking a FT Service Technician in Southern Idaho area to troubleshoot service loaders. Excellent customer service skills required.

FINANCIAL. 301 Money to Loan. 304 Investments. 305 Carpent's & Hardware. 306 Electrical Services.

301 Business Opportunities. FIRE YOUR BOSS in 3-6 months. \$10,000-\$20,000 cash bonus. Real estate investing. We will train. Call 208-731-2040

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MEDICAL. Direct Care Staff. Benefits available. All Shifts. Starting Pay \$7hr. Call 208-736-8593

MEDICAL. Medical Assistant needed. Exp. helpful. Fax 208-733-0435 ext 614

MEDICAL. Biotechnology seeking a professional individual that can work independently with strong personal and organizational skills.

PROFESSIONAL. Fulltime or part-time Job Developer & Job Coach. We are looking for an individual who has great social skills and wants to be part of a great team.

RETAIL. Kimberly's Nurseries is looking for a creative and energetic Sales Associate with strong customer service, display ability, cashier and computer skills.

MECHANIC. Experienced Diesel Truck Mechanic needed ASAP. Call Eric at 731-13366

TECHNICIAN. Seeking a FT Service Technician in Southern Idaho area to troubleshoot service loaders. Excellent customer service skills required.

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JUMBLE THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME by Henry Arnold and Mike Argentin. Unscramble these four jumbles, one letter to each square to form four ordinary words.

Answers to Jumble puzzle: YALIG, CLUID, GATNIC, GUAJAR.

301 Business Opportunities. LIQUOR LICENSE for sale or lease for City of Burley. Call 431-9300

304 Investments. DRACO INVESTMENT CORP. CASH for Deeds of Trust, Mortgages and Real Estate Contracts.

NOTE FOR SALE. 7 1/2 acres, 31 years remaining. Secured by Halley Hill Estate. Also loan to value \$132,000.

REMEMBER. This birthday you spent here in Twin Falls. Now it's time to come up with your picture. Give us a call.

EDUCATION. 401 School Instruction. 401 School Instruction. 402 Music Teachers.

MASSAGE TRAINING. Technician & Therapist. American class in Swedish Massage starts February 1st.

PUBLIC SERVICE MESSAGE. Big profits usually mean big risks. Before you do business with a company, check it out with the Better Business Bureau.

BUHL. 11+ acres with well, corrals, pasture, water, 3 miles south of Buhl. \$450,000.

BUHL. 2 bdrm, 2 bath on 1 acre, everything remodeled or new. Heat pump, sprinklers, approx. 1000 sq ft.

BUHL. 2 bdrm, 2 bath, home, 1700 sq ft, family room, AC, 2 fireplaces, 1 car garage/shop, stud new roof, fenced yard, etc.

BUHL. 2 bdrm, 3 bath, 2200 sq ft. open floor plan, granite tops, lots of woodwork, 500 sq ft porch, oversized garage, yard and sprinkler system, \$239,000.

REAL ESTATE. Homes For Sale. Canyonville Realty. www.canyonvillerealty.com

DECLS 5 bdrm, 2 bath, 3000 sq ft. Soa at approx \$146,000. Asking \$146,000. Will pay \$24,000. Lot 5 & 14 W. 208-654-2409

FILER. 3 bdrm, 2 bath, 1 acre, horse property, 2 car garage, owner carry, lease option available. Call 208-734-8880

FILER. 10 Union St. 2 bdrm, 1 bath, 1112 sq ft. Lenox gas furnace, metal roof, auto garage, carpet, storage shop, furnace & storage, toilet water conditioner, or vinyl windows, large backyard, very well maintained. \$89,500. 208-733-9394

FILER. Beautiful 3 bdrm, 2 bath with 128 acres, vaulted ceilings, oak cabinets, complete vinyl flooring, loading and storage shed. Price reduced. \$145,000. 2316 Gary Lane. Call 208-420-5408 or 208-736-9009

HEBVON. Beautiful 3 bdrm, 1 bath home, newly remodeled. New kitchen cabinets & appliances, wood floor in kitchen, new vinyl windows, very large yard, new roof. This home is priced to sell quickly! \$53,138. Call Bill at 208-888-379-2512

JEROME. Immaculate, 1525 sq ft. 2 bdrm, 2 bath home with upgrades. Fully fenced, sprinklers, and RV pad. Must call. 208-935-0955 or drive by 838 2nd Ave E. \$179,900.

JEROME. This 2 bdrm, 1 bath is a steal for \$99,800! 724 17th Ave. East. 208-735-8151 or 208-533-4449

JEROME. 2 bdrm, 2 bath, home, 1700 sq ft, family room, AC, 2 fireplaces, 1 car garage/shop, stud new roof, fenced yard, etc.

JEROME. 2 bdrm, 3 bath, 2200 sq ft. open floor plan, granite tops, lots of woodwork, 500 sq ft porch, oversized garage, yard and sprinkler system, \$239,000.

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CLASSIFIEDS. It pays to read the paper that gives you the most. Call Times-News at 208-733-0931 ext 2

FAX YOU CLASSIFIED AD. TIMES-NEWS CLASSIFIED DEPARTMENT. 208-734-5538

TWIN FALLS. Now 2 bdrm, 3 bath, 2200 sq ft. open floor plan, granite tops, lots of woodwork, 500 sq ft porch, oversized garage, yard and sprinkler system, \$239,000.

HOME INSPECTIONS

For buyers & sellers
Bill Baker 361-2616

TWIN FALLS 3 bedroom, 2 bath, 2,200 sq. ft. Full basement, lots of storage. Office, bathroom, large laundry, farm room in basement. New roof. Fenced backyard. Hardwood floors. 2200 Flier Ave. East 206-157-5000. Call 206-316-3532

TWIN FALLS 3 bedroom, 2 bath, built in 2005, 1488 sq. ft., 2 car garage, fully finished basement. Call 206-316-3532

TWIN FALLS Custom built in 2005, 3 bedrooms, 2 baths, 2,200 sq. ft. Full basement, lots of storage. Office, bathroom, large laundry, farm room in basement. New roof. Fenced backyard. Hardwood floors. 2200 Flier Ave. East 206-157-5000. Call 206-316-3532

DAIRY

DOUBLE 10 herring-bone, LCO for 2400 head, on 1200 acres, 2 mobile homes, Richfield Double 8, LCO for 1100 head. 200 acres. Small dairy. 6 bedroom, 4 bath home. HEIFER SETUP by farm land only. Good water rights. East of Rupert. A GOOD BUY! FENCED - Approx. 14,000 head capacity. Excellent improvements, food mil. On 265 acres, Southern Idaho

GOODING 480 acre farm 3 pivots, custom 6 bedroom, 4 bath home, 315 shares. American Falls. Water. Anthony at 731-0910. Triple 7 Realty 934-8200

513 Acreage and Lots BURLEY area, 23 acres, irrigated, 14,000 head capacity. offers. 206-450-8607

KIMBERLY 60 acres, possible 50 lots (14 acre each). Call 206-627-0044

TWIN FALLS 1 1/2 bath, 1225 sq. ft. has 3 bedroom, 1 bath home, has been put in for remodel, close to Blue Lakes. \$75,000. 1189 Wilmore St. Call 206-733-9248

TWIN FALLS town home, lot 20, 168 sq. ft. w/very close to 1913 Shoup Ave East. \$69,000. 736-9444

TWIN FALLS Nicely updated 1 bdrm / 1 bath or fast quiet neighborhood \$550/mo w/\$500 dep. no pet. Information required. Please call 206-734-7935 or 206-406-6787 after 5 p.m. Hilda Espinoza

515 Commercial Property WHO can help YOU sell your property? Call 733-0931 ext. 2

515 Mobile Homes BUILT 3 bedroom, 2 bath in country. \$600. No pet/smoking. Call 206-643-6871 84pm

BUILT 3 bedroom, 2 bath in country. \$600. No pet/smoking. Call 206-643-6871 84pm

2011 & 215 Quincy St. new house. Post-lease to own. BUIH Beautiful Custom built home in Kanan. 4 bdrms, 2.5 baths. Call 206-734-2066

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BUIH 3 bdr, 2 bath

double w/d mod. tile, no pet. New country. Must be moved by 7/1/08. \$14,500 offer. Own or financing available with \$2,500 down payment. Call Wendy 206-643-5117 or 316-6748

TWIN FALLS newer, nice, 2 large bedrooms, 1 bath, new carpet, hot water heater, central heat, all appls, in great neighborhood. \$2,500 or best offer. Call owner 616-899-1818

GOODING 2 bedroom, 1 bath, new paint, tile, and carpet, \$550 + dep. Call 206-876-4748

HOLLISTER 3 bdr, 1 bath, \$595 mo. + dep. No smoking/pets. 2358 Main St. 206-538-4043

JEROME 2 bedroom, 1 bath, \$575 mo. + \$500 dep. No smoking/pets. Call 206-324-6411 or 206-320-0097

JEROME 3 bedroom, 1 bath, \$625 month. No pet/smoking. 5075 + \$2000 dep. 280-1927

JEROME Brand new 3 bedroom, 2 bath, 2 car garage town home. Private fenced yard. W/D included. New management. Rent \$537 month. Call 206-424-6965

KIMBERLY 3 bdr, 2 bath. \$625 month. Call 206-731-5340

RICHFIELD 3 bdr, 2 bath, \$700 + \$350 dep. No interior pet smoking. 206-313-3087

SHOSHONE 1 bdr, 2 bath, and 3 bdr home. Call 206-380-2941 leave message

SHOSHONE 3 bdr, 1 1/2 bath, fenced, \$675. No pet. \$650. No pet smoking. 866-2636

TWIN FALLS 1 bdr, W/D, AC, pet negotiable. W/D included. \$603. Call 206-731-3797

TWIN FALLS 2 bdr, 1 bath w/bdrm and carpet. Pet at stove for heat, country living, fenced yard. \$650 mo. No pet. Call 206-490-5567

TWIN FALLS 3 bdr, 2 bath, 2 car garage. Townhome. Hot water, auto sprinklers, stain less steel appls, \$900 mo. Call 735-2430

TWIN FALLS 4 bdr, 2 bath, 2400 sq. ft. brick, auto sprinklers, attached garage. \$950 mo. + dep. 206-478-5778

TWIN FALLS 734-4334 Beautiful 4 bdrms, 3 bath. \$1200. 672 Sarah Ave.

TWIN FALLS 771 O'Leary Way. Home in great location. 5 bdr, 3 bath, 700 sq. ft. living space. 2 car garage, fenced back yard, hot water, auto sprinklers, attached garage. \$950 mo. + dep. 206-478-5778

TWIN FALLS 2000 plus sq. ft. 3 bdr, 2 bath, \$900/mo, \$300 dep. Pet/smoking ok. 2826 Addison Ave. E. 206-734-2066

TWIN FALLS 3 bdr, 2 bath, 3 years new carpet, tile, no pet. Available now. \$925 + deposit. 206-720-8200

TWIN FALLS 3 bdr, 2 bath, nice location, great neighborhood. \$825 month + \$500 deposit. Call 731-0910

TWIN FALLS 3 bdr, 2 bath, single detached garage. \$850 + \$500 dep. 291 Jupiter. 206-443-4598

TWIN FALLS 3 bdr, 2 bath, 2 car garage, some appliances, \$950. No smoking/pets. 206-720-8200

TWIN FALLS 3 bdr, 2 bath, nice yard, walk out. Harmon Park area. \$700 mo + \$500 dep. 735-2385

TWIN FALLS 3 bdr, 2 bath, 402 La Coza Loop, \$900/mo. Call 206-618-9189 or Gloria 731-8980

TWIN FALLS Spacious 4 bdr, 3 bath, office, large yard, pet friendly. RV parking, close to CSI, \$900 per month, \$600 deposit. 206-720-8274

TWIN FALLS Spacious 4 bedroom, 2 bath, fenced yard, fireplace, garage, stainless steel, pet friendly. \$950 month. Newer Subdivision. 3 bdr, 2 bath, 2 car garage. \$950 month. Country home 2 bdr, appliances, AC, pet friendly. \$800 month. The Mgmt 733-0739

ACROSS

- 1 Vallette's nation
2 Quality of taste
11 Night hooter
14 Above it all
15 Occupied's tormentor
17 Recruiter
18 One way to capture a pawn
20 Flight attendant, maybe
22 Titans
23 Seth's mother
24 Unwilling
27 Occupant: abbr.
28 Tree knot
29 "Are ___ Lonesome Tonight?"
32 Pub offering
33 Plots for young lions
37 River of Venezuela
41 Manage others
42 Type of star
44 "Mogambo" star Gardner
45 Gabor sister
46 Slip away from
48 Ernie of the links
51 Tournament for knights
54 Combes
55 Canadian capital
58 Self-centered
60 Legislative activity
63 Outmoded
64 Teacher of Samuel
65 Variety show
66 Lucy's landlady
67 Ready to go
68 Utopias
69 Sweetie

DOWN

- 1 Potato squasher
2 Nook
3 Unleashes
4 Racetrack figure
5 Post-sunset
6 Can-can snooze
7 ___Margret
8 Young seal
9 Missouri feeder
10 Spruce juice
11 Muscat's land
12 Refuses to
13 Gives ___ permission to
19 Used chairs
21 Nero's tutor
25 Tax grp.
26 Nile queen, briefly
29 Ballot option
30 Yeats offering
31 Operate
32 Plus
34 Gets around
35 Elaborated
36 Bikini part
37 Mine yield
38 Gun it in
39 neutral
39 Director Lupino
40 Cookie choice

15x15 crossword puzzle grid with numbers 1-40.

Monday's Puzzle Solved

Solved crossword puzzle grid with words: TOTE, ETHIC, TREE, AWOL, LEASH, WELL, DESI, BALL, WICKS, etc.

601 Furnished Homes

601 Furnished Homes 602 Unfurnished Apts 603 Furnished Apts/Duplex 604 Unfurnished Apts/Duplex 605 Rooms for Rent 606 Mobile Homes 607 Office & Retail Rentals 608 Commercial Property 609 Condominium Time Share 610 Storage/Warehouse 611 Wanted to Rent 612 House/Income Estate 614 Homesites Wanted

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Office and Retail Rentals
TWIN FALLS Office Space available, utility and parking included. 208-739-0356

Livestock/Poultry
BOER GOATS reg. bred does, \$200. Wethers, Furber Buck 208-437-8222

Pets and Pet Supplies
BLUE HEELER/BORDER COLLIE Cross Puppies, 4 weeks old. \$200. 208-678-5959

Pets and Pet Supplies
FREE Lab X puppies, mom is present and medium sized. 208-731-1778

Pets and Pet Supplies
GERMAN SHEPHERD puppies, 1st shots, 6 weeks old. 208-733-6927

Pets and Pet Supplies
PIT Bull puppies, 2 bred and 2 fam, 11 shots parents on site. 208-205-436-3485

Pets and Pet Supplies
SILVER LABS LABRADORIANER Cross, puppies, great hunting dogs. 208-731-0335

Pets and Pet Supplies
STANDARD POODLES AKCI 3 hand-feeding only. 208-733-3769

Farm Equipment
WANTED TO BUY about 9 ft. pul type mower conditioner. 208-324-5858

Hay Grain and Feed
SOUTHERN IDAHO FEEDS Hay by the bale \$5.98 a ton. 208-732-5270

Commercial Property
CROSSROADS POINT Great location! Easy off I-84. 208-280-4392

CONNECT WITH CUSTOMERS WHO NEED YOUR SERVICE
Advertise in the Business & Service Directory. 733-0931 ext. 2

BORDER COLLIE
11 to choose from! Traditional colors and markings. 208-681-1118

FREE mixed breed puppies to a good home. 208-431-7097

FREE Lab X puppies, 3 months old. 208-431-9172

FREE Yellow Lab Heeler X, male, 8 months. 208-421-0076

FREE Puppies, three adorable they need loving family. 208-731-2358

FREE Yellow Lab Heeler X, male, 8 months. 208-421-0076

FREE Puppies, three adorable they need loving family. 208-731-2358

WANTED TO rent, farm ground north of Ruffert. 208-312-4465

703 Horse and Tack
DRAFT TEAMS 1 pair of Belgians, pair of Black Percherons. 208-309-2126

EQUINE
Paul Struchon Trimming. We can handle all your trimming needs. 208-358-3976

BORDER COLLIE/Australian Shepherd
X, 8 weeks, very cute puppies. 208-681-1118

FREE Lab X puppies, 3 months old. 208-431-9172

FREE Yellow Lab Heeler X, male, 8 months. 208-421-0076

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609 Condominium / Time Shares
TWIN FALLS 2 bdrm, 1 bath condo. 208-424-6143

616 Roommates Wanted
KIMBERLY Roommate wanted to share house with 2 mature women. 208-423-6143

FREE Lab X puppies, 3 months old. 208-431-9172

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AGRICULTURE
103 Livestock & Supplies, 104 Hay & Feed, 105 Farm Equipment, 106 Farm/Tractor Supplies, 107 Hay & Feed, 108 Hay & Feed, 109 Hay & Feed, 110 Hay & Feed, 111 Hay & Feed, 112 Hay & Feed, 113 Hay & Feed, 114 Hay & Feed, 115 Hay & Feed

AMERICAN BULL DOGS 3 females, 2 males, \$300-600. 791.1 www.myspace.com/agriculture

AUSTRALIAN SHEPHERD reg puppies, top working bloodlines. 208-681-1118

FREE Border Collie/Border Heeler X, 3 months old. 208-681-1118

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701 Livestock/Poultry
ANGUS registered bulls and heifers. Good quality and pedigree. 539-3106 live msg

FAX YOUR CLASSIFIED AD
TIMES-NEWS CLASSIFIED DEPARTMENT 208-734-5538

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MECHANIC

HOT TUB for sale, 6 person capacity, Softub brand, forest green, easily moved. Weighs less than 75 pounds when empty. Energy efficient no plug. In normal outfit, 2 1/2 years old. Excellent condition, \$2000. Call 539-1473. We can deliver to certain areas.

801 Antiques and Collectibles

ANTIQUE vanity dresser, Hollywood Regency yrs, w/brige mirror & bench, light colored wood, \$550. Antique upholstered chair, repair, \$25. Oak table, very solid, \$200. 734-7437 or 420-6025

802 Appliances

DRYER, Whirlpool, good condition, \$100. Sewing Machine, 1936 Singer Featherweight model 21, \$50.00. 735-9172

803 Bazaars and Crafts

WASHER/DRYER set, Amana, excellent condition, stainless steel, \$500. Call 208-934-8696

WOOD PELLET STOVE

WOOD PELLET STOVE for sale, excellent working condition, \$400 or best offer. Call 208-300-2029

Auctioneers

DOWN BAUCTION, (208) 467-1712

805 Firewood

COAL lump & stoker, Moore's Inc, 221 Railroad Ave, Wilson, ID, 208-428-5533

810 Furniture & Carpet

BED, \$129 Queen PILLOWTOP Mattress & box set, Brand new, \$129. Call 420-6350

816 Miscellaneous For Sale

FREE win dvd sheets, some match, some not, may take and choose. 208-733-5551

817 Musical Instruments

COUCH '88, tupe color, \$285. Sanyo '96 digital HD TV with stand \$399. Call 735-2770

820 Tools & Machinery

GENERATOR, Yamaha, 5000 watt, brand new, ran for only 3 hours, \$1,900. Call 526-4399

RECREATION

BEER at natural! Homo raised, corn fed, by quarter of half. Ready for your freezer. Call 208-300-2029

Wanted To Buy

WANTED 308 rifle, preferably 5.56mm, S&W. 208-543-5784

Wanted To Buy

WANTED Antiques and pottery, pictures, horse tack, rugs, indoor plants, and ectibles. Call 208-324-4721

Wanted To Buy

WANTED Electric typewriter in good working condition. Call 208-934-4255

Wanted To Buy

WANTED Farm ground 20-50 acres, South east of Burley area. Call 208-312-4778

Wanted To Buy

WANTED Old magazines, pictures, paintings, jewelry, toys, and ectibles. Call 208-324-4721

Wanted To Buy

WANTED old 2 row potato planter and single row potato digger. 435-613-1056

Wanted To Buy

WANTED pick up, auto, 2000, 4 door, Sig Sauer or Glock. Call 208-734-2718

Wanted To Buy

WANTED Ski paying high school, college, medals, badges, insignia, uniforms, hold and light hats. Call 208-324-4721

Wanted To Buy

WANTED 2 row potato planter and single row potato digger. 435-613-1056

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2	9	3	4	5	1	7	8	6
5	7	6	9	3	8	2	1	4
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"If all of us do our part, Trap-Neuter-Release — in other words don't let them reproduce ... we're doing a tremendous humanitarian service to future cats."

— Debbie Blackwood, director of the Twin Falls Animal Shelter

Feral frustration

Feed homeless cats? Only if you spay and neuter, too

By Melissa Davlin
Times-News writer

Only the heartless would dispute a calm kitten's charm. But it's not so cute when it's hissing at you and turning your garden into a toilet.

Feral cats are felines who have been abandoned and have reverted back to wild ways or cats who were born in the wild and never knew a domestic home. Strays, on the other hand, are lost or abandoned cats that still rely on humans. Feral cats are wary of humans and often hiss at or run away from people. Some carry diseases and ticks that are communicable to domestic cats and humans.

And feral cats have long been a problem for gardeners and government agencies in southern Idaho.

It's all about exponential reproduction. Debbie Blackwood, director of the Twin Falls Animal Shelter, said a single breeding pair of cats and their descendants can produce 9 million cats in nine years.

A thousand cats pass through the facility every year, and many of those are feral cats that are euthanized because they're not adoptable.

The number is a mere dent in the feral cat population.

"What we see is only a fraction of what's out there," Blackwood said.

Not all the news is bad. The annual number of cats arriving at the Twin Falls shelter has steadily dropped from 1,500 over the past 15 years.

"From when we first started addressing this issue 15 years ago, I would say it's very much improved," she said. "But is it good enough? That's the question."

"The cats aren't the only ones who suffer from the overpopulation. Feral cats prey on everything from mice to small birds, said Mark Fleming, wildlife habitat manager of Idaho Fish and Game's Jerome office. "They kind of take advantage of whatever's

er's there," he said.

Feeding and spaying

But John Parker of Twin Falls welcomes feral cats in his yard. Chickadees, finches and squirrels frequent his bird feeders despite the cats that reside around his house.

"Feral cats aren't as big a problem as a lot of people say they are," Parker said. Parker doesn't just feed the cats. He does what he can to ensure the cats stay healthy. When he can, he traps adult cats and takes them to a veterinarian. He releases them back onto his property only after they are spayed or neutered at his expense.

He also catches the wild kittens and domesticates them, then adopts them out on the condition that they're sterilized at 9 weeks old.

His actions are in line with the animal shelter's catchphrase "Feed a stray, spay a stray." The saying refers to the Trap-Neuter-Release program, in which feral cats are caught, spayed or neutered, treated for parasites and released back into the wild — unable to breed.

"If all of us do our part, Trap-Neuter-Release ... in other words don't let them reproduce ... we're doing a tremendous humanitarian service to future cats," Blackwood said. If you feed feral cats, she contends, take responsibility for spaying or neutering.

Park problem

Not everyone follows the shelter's recommendations.

James Gese-Fells, director of Twin Falls County Parks and Waterways, said at least a dozen breeding pairs of cats live in Rock Creek Park in Twin Falls. The cats take shelter in a cave system in the canyon walls. Many visitors to the park feed the homeless



Photos by MELISSA DAVLIN/Times-News

TOP: John Parker of Twin Falls peers down at a feral cat he calls Coon as the cat takes refuge under a pickup in the driveway of Parker's home. Coon, named for markings on his face that resemble those of a raccoon, is one of about four feral cats that hang out on Parker's property for his handouts of food.

ABOVE: Bumper, a feral cat that hangs out around Parker's home, rests on the stoop Thursday afternoon in Twin Falls. Parker named the cat Bumper because when the cat wants to be petted he bumps Parker's leg. Parker puts food and bedding out for several cats, which are descended from some he thinks were abandoned when tenants of a nearby trailer park moved out.

BELOW: Coon cautiously makes his way across the lawn Thursday at Parker's home. Unlike many, Parker does not see feral cats as a problem for people. He feeds them, and when he can catch them he gets them spayed and neutered.



Please see CATS, Page D2

Issue brings a round of responses from valley residents

We received an avalanche of responses from Magic Valley residents sounding off about feral cats. Here are a few excerpts from e-mails:

"One of the nicest parks we have (Rock Creek Park) is being ruined by the stink of cat waste and they don't care. Don't get me wrong, I like cats, I've owned several, but something has got to be done

about it. It's ridiculous and irresponsible in so many ways! Anyone who knows anything about animals understands that this spring it will be a mess down here. The population of cats will grow exponentially if something isn't done very soon."

— Melanie Schutte, Twin Falls

"I do know that in

California a few years back feral cats were an issue so the state and county stepped up and as long as you were willing to keep the animal on your property they would give you a trap to catch the cat; you would take it into the animal shelter, if it did not have any diseases they would spay or neuter the animal, snip the ears, so you could tell it was altered and then release it

back to its home. "To me and all the other cats lovers out there this is the best and most humane way to deal with feral cats."

— Severen Krenz, Filer

"In addition to feasting on purple finches and doves, this wayward bunch of felines have turned my beautiful yard and flower beds into their own personal toilet. ... I

love working in the yard and have hundreds of beautiful flowers during the growing season. For some years now, I've put a layer of cedar mulch on the flower beds to not only keep the moisture in the ground, but it looks and smells good, too. However, the cats absolutely love the mulch — they don't even have to dirty their claws — ease of digging and the amount of

space to do their thing has got them arriving in packs. It's like the high-light of their day. They let's all go down to easy digging central, do our thing, and then watch that foolish man get himself all worked up into a tizzy. And while we're there, we should all spray the welcome mat at the front door."

Mark Mulder, Twin Falls

Mothballs not best idea for deer deterrent

By Scott Aker
Special to The Washington Post

Q. I have been placing mothballs on the soil around my tomato plants to deter deer from eating the vines. Is this harmful to the soil or to those eating the tomatoes? What deterrent would you recommend?

A. Mothballs are not designed to be used outdoors, and the vapors from them are harmful because the chemicals in them have been shown to cause cancer. In addition, mothballs are not nearly as effective a deterrent as a simple electric fence or mesh barrier fence. I would think the mothballs

may even compromise the taste of the produce from the garden where they are used.

If you live in an area where you can use an electric fence safely, i.e., away from neighborhood children and pets, pick one that can be baited with peanut butter. If an electric fence or a plastic mesh barrier fence seem too expensive or labor-intensive, you may want to try a motion-detecting sprinkler (www.contech-inc.com/products/scarecrow) to frighten the deer or the new wireless deer fence (www.wirelessdeerfence.com) for a more immediate solution.

Cats

Continued from page D1

felines, giving them a reason to sick around and perpetuating the problem.

"We do lock the park in the winter, so they're not getting their daily dose of food," he said. "Winter is a very hard time for them. We will most likely find three to four cats down there in the spring."

Gose-fells said that while the department doesn't count the juvenile cat population in the park, it knows many feral kittens don't survive. Some starve to death. Others are hit by cars.

The department has tried to work out a Trap-Neuter-Release program with the animal shelter. "The arrangement fell through, but he wants to give it another shot. While Gose-fells isn't wild about the idea of the cats returning to Rock Creek Park, he said the department is willing to bring them back as long as they are no longer breeding.

"I would really like to see them live-trapped out. We're not interested in going down with .22s and remedying the situation ourselves," he said.

Gose-fells also expressed concern about the legality of releasing the feral cats back into the park.

"There's nothing to worry about legally if the cats are healthy," said Twin Falls city attorney Fritz Wunderlich. "While some domestic animals wouldn't survive living outside, feral cats who have never known a home have proven that they can take care of themselves."

"They are not abandoning them without making reasonable arrangements for proper care, sustenance and shelter" because they don't need to," Wunderlich said, quoting a phrase from state law. Feral cats are able to survive on rodents and birds, while domestic cats who have been abandoned can't.

While Fleming knows the cats hunt game birds, Fish and Game doesn't monitor

the animals' predatory habits.

"We really don't have a handle on whether they're impacting a certain population or not," Fleming said. "I'm sure they would catch anything that they could. But we're not doing a study on feral cats related to endangered species, so I really couldn't say."

Plea for prevention

Fleming can say, however, that people need to be more responsible for their pet cats. "We'd recommend folks don't drop them off in the wild," he said.

Blackwood said Twin Falls residents need to care for the wild cats as well as their pets.

"It's such a massive problem, it requires that each person who has strays around their house address the issue individually, because it's too big of a problem to hire somebody to do it," Blackwood said. "There's just not enough tax dollars for animal control to come out after all of them."

Parker said more must be done to prevent the problem in the first place.

"If somebody should get caught dumping a cat ... I think the first fine should start at least at \$500," he said.

While people can work to prevent future overpopulation, Gose-fells has to deal with the cat problem he has at Rock Creek Park.

"It's ultimately going to have to be resolved, and most likely by our department," he said.

But like the animal shelter, the parks department can't get rid of feral cats without cooperation from the public.

"We have too many people with kind hearts who are feeding them down there," Gose-fells said. "There's really no way they're going to go away."

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

LOST BURROS



Kathy Thureson feeds treats to three burros Jan. 4, that turned up outside her property near Tascos, Ariz., recently. Luckily, she had a place to keep them until their owner was found. Thureson posted the animals on Arizona's new lost-livestock Web site, but it was old-fashioned signs that helped track down the burros' owner.

ALL THINGS/Archie Daily Staff/Archie

Pruning roots and top of large ficus tree OK

By Scott Aker
Special to The Washington Post

Q. I have an 8-foot ficus tree that is more than 20 years old. Over the years, I have transplanted it into bigger pots. It is now in an extremely large and heavy pot. Can I trim the roots

and move it to a smaller planter? It has been doing well but now has surface roots.

A. If the tree is as large as you would like it to be, you can maintain it by pruning the roots and top every few years to keep it in bounds. This should be done in

spring when the tree prepares for a growth cycle. Cut the longest branches back to where they intersect with shorter branches and replot the plant, removing at least two inches of root ball from the entire circumference of the tree. Water it sparingly at first, and increase gradually

as new growth appears at the top of the tree. You can maintain a ficus indefinitely with this kind of pruning done every few years. The trunk will continue to grow in diameter, and the tree may take on some of the characteristics of a bonsai with time.

Get in close to check houseplants for pests

The Washington Post

Use a magnifying glass to check houseplants for pests. Webs and stippling on leaves suggest the presence of spider mites. Use a mister to wash them away.

White cottony masses on stems indicate mealybugs, which can be removed by wiping them with cotton swabs dipped in rubbing alcohol. The same treatment is effective on scale insects. Isolate or throw away badly infested plants.

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County audit shows indigent fund at lowest level since 2004

By Andrea Gates
Times-News writer

The Twin Falls County Indigent Fund, which subsidizes residents who are unable to pay for their immediate needs, lost money last year, according to an audit released Monday.

The fund is serving an increasing clientele — 24 percent increase in the past three fiscal years — in a growing county. That left the fund

\$504,381 lower in September, 2007 than it was in October, 2006. The balance was also less, than it was in 2005, according to the county's most recent annual audit released Monday.

Auditors from Ware and Associates told commissioners that Twin Falls County is better off this audit cycle compared to the last — with the exception of the indigent fund, which was at \$1.2 million last fall.

A significant chunk of revenue the county gets for the fund comes from reimbursements from St. Luke's Regional Medical Center, and a disagreement between the two entities apparently affected the county's most recent audit numbers.

The county's auditors say St. Luke's owes the county \$479,139 for the last fiscal year.

St. Luke's said it owed the county \$304,350, and it cut

the county a check for that amount in accord with their agreement on Jan. 7, said Beth Toal, spokeswoman for the St. Luke's Health System.

The county believed it should have received the hospital's payment sooner. The disagreement stemmed from differing interpretations of the contract and when the money was due, said County Commissioner Tom Mikesell.

The county's indigent fund involves money that's mostly

loaned, it's not a charity, said Mikesell.

"We ask that the money be repaid," but he added, "it doesn't always get repaid."

To qualify for indigent aid, clients must meet state requirements and have their case approved by the county commissioners. Commissioners review pay stubs and taxes to determine whether clients can pay off medical bills within 60 months. Indigency applicants

jumped from 508 cases in the 2004-05 fiscal year, to 712 in 2006-07. From those applicants, 291 were deemed indigent in 2004-05. That number jumped to 363 last year, Mikesell said.

The number of applications approved by the county rose between the 2004-2005 and 2006-2007 fiscal years — from 291 to 363, according to numbers from the county.

Please see **FUND**, Page D5

Penalty may go up for misuse of funds

Bipartisan plan gains momentum

By Jared S. Hopkins
Times-News writer

BOISE — A Democrat who has found bipartisan support in some attempts for government reform introduced legislation Monday

that would expand the penalties for misuse of public funds to include anyone who works for a public agency.

Senate Minority Caucus Chairwoman Kate Kelly of Boise says the section of code that addresses abuse of public funds has remained relatively unchanged since 1864 and needs updating. Now the only government workers who can explicitly be charged are

Please see **PENALTY**, Page D5

Council weighs electrical fees, hears animal ordinance

By Nate Poppino
Times-News writer

The schedule may have been a bit trimmed, but the Cub Scouts from Troop 59 still had a close look at city government.

Several scouts, affiliated with the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints First Ward in Twin Falls, sat in on Monday evening's Twin Falls City Council meeting as part of earning a communications merit badge.

While they missed out on the evening's big issue — the final

Please see **COUNCIL**, Page D5

"It sucks. Every day people drive crazy. You're lucky if you get out without some damage."

— Karisha Hatridge, a student at Twin Falls High School

Inside 'THE CAGE'



The Twin Falls High School parking lot, also known as 'the cage,' is monitored by school authorities, who say no layout changes are slated for the future.

Students say wild driving lurks in TFHS parking lot

By Andrea Gates
Times-News writer

Stepping into a sporty, red, older model Toyota two-seater, two 16-year-old girls eagerly zipped out from the Twin Falls High School parking lot around lunchtime.

Traffic was light when the students left Friday afternoon before the end of a shorter than normal school day. But that's not always the atmosphere inside the sprawling, chain-linked lot, dubbed "the cage."

"It sucks. Every day people drive crazy," said one of the girls, Karisha Hatridge. "You're lucky if you get out without some damage."

Some students said things like cutting "cookies," "power sliding around corners," and "playing chicken" occur in the lot, leading other stu-

dent drivers to just avoid "the cage" entirely.

Pat McCall, 15, said he prefers parking on the street outside the lot. He said erratic driving inside "the cage" turns him off.

"I've seen people sliding and doing cookies," McCall said. "Just a little while ago... I saw an accident in here. They drive crazy."

Hatridge said she thinks it's best to park near the high school's entrance, close to one of the three exits in the sprawling lot. "The best spots are up front so it's easier to get out."

The large high school lot measures an estimated four to five acres, said District Facilities Manager Dale Thornberry, adding that there about 735 parking spaces on school property, including those in the main lot.

Principal Ben Allen said the number of students who drive is unknown, but that only

about 70 out of nearly 1,400 students arrive by bus, he said.

As for wild driving in "the cage," Allen said school staff and a police resource officer may see parking lot activity during busy times such as lunch and when school lets out.

And Allen said cookies would be difficult to do in the lot because of parking blocks.

"I'm not going to say it's never happened," he said. "But it's pretty well patrolled."

The lot gets "the cage" nickname from a chain-link fence surrounding it, which was put up in the late 1980s or early 1990s for safety reasons, said Superintendent Wiley Dobbs. "At the time I was a teacher at the high school. I remember there was quite a lot of discussion

Please see **LOT**, Page D5

AROUND THE VALLEY

Man charged with four felonies in T.F. robbery

A man arrested last week for an alleged attempt to burglarize a Twin Falls home and rob the resident was arraigned Monday in Twin Falls County Court on four felony charges.

Brady Hitesman, 23, was arraigned on counts of burglary, assault with intent to commit felony, robbery and grand theft. Fifth District Magistrate Judge Thomas Kershaw set bond at \$250,000 and a preliminary hearing for Jan. 25.

According to an amended complaint filed Monday, Hitesman is accused of entering the home of Don Hutchings, 30, on Evergreen Drive and threatening him

with a shotgun. He allegedly took the man's wallet, at least \$80 in cash, a bank card and a car.

Hutchings was tied up in a chair with shoelaces by the burglar, who was dressed in a dark mask. Hutchings said the man told him, "If you behave and don't call the police, I won't shoot ya," according to the affidavit. After the intruder left, Hutchings freed himself and called 911.

Hitesman was at the wheel of Hutchings' car when it was pulled over by Jerome County deputies about an hour after the robbery was reported, according to the court records. The documents state Hitesman was arrested and had the bank card issued to Hutchings, and had pur-

chased cigarettes with the card moments earlier.

Hitesman was taken to Twin Falls police, and according to court records, began to confess to the robbery. The affidavit said Hitesman first came to Hutchings' neighborhood days earlier, when he showed the man's driveway for \$10.

Gun accident sends teen to hospital

A Buhl youth was taken to St. Luke's Magic Valley Regional Medical Center Monday morning after he accidentally shot himself in the leg while trying to do a trick.

Twin Falls County Sheriff's deputies responded to a call from 4347 N., 1200 E. near

Buhl around 10:30 a.m. and found a 15-year-old who shot himself with a handgun while trying to do a quick-draw trick for his girlfriend, sheriff's department officials said. Department spokesperson Lori Nebeker said the injury was "just a flesh wound." The teens were home because schools in Buhl were out for the day.

Nebeker said the teen was allowed to have the gun and hadn't taken it without his parents' knowledge.

Sheriff's Lt. Don Newman said accidental shootings are rare in the county, aside from the occasional hunting accident. Even those, he said, will only happen one or two times a year. The county's statistics do not include cases within the city limits of Twin

Falls and other towns in the county.

Fundraising begins for 'peace' campaign

The best-selling book, "Three Cups of Tea: One Man's Mission to Promote Peace — One School at a Time," has become one of College of Southern Idaho student's mission to promote contributions to the Central Asia Institute.

CSI Honors student Jennifer Jones has taken her "Pennies for Peace" campaign to the Jerome School District, where Superintendent Jim Cobble has approved the fundraiser for all grade levels at several schools. Students from Summit Elementary, Jerome

Middle School and Jerome High School will raise money from Jan. 16 to Feb. 5.

Central Asia Institute (www.ikat.org) and Pennies for Peace (www.penniesforpeace.org) will be key points of the presentation made by best-selling author Greg Mortenson during his Twin Falls appearance on Feb. 7.

Jones' efforts among the CSI Honors Program have raised more than \$1,300 so far. All proceeds raised will be turned over to Mortenson when he visits the CSI campus. His presentation will be free and open to the public starting at 7 p.m. Feb. 7.

For additional information or to contribute: 358-1365 or jenjones0516@students.csic.edu.

— from staff reports

Joane Perkins

KANSVILLE, Utah — Dorothy Joane Young Perkins, age 73, slipped peacefully from this life on Saturday, Jan. 12, 2008. At the time of her death she was surrounded by many who loved her dearly and returned to heaven to the arms of loved ones there. Born to Anthony W. Young and Vera Mae Richens on June 8, 1934, in Salt Lake City, Utah, she was the youngest daughter of twin falls High School in 1953, where she met and fell in love with John Newton Perkins. They were married in the Idaho Falls Temple on Aug. 27, 1953. Together, they were blessed with three sons and one daughter. Steve (Carol) Perkins, Gerald (Donna) Perkins, Gloria Perkins, Ken Perkins, AJ (Kim) Perkins and David (Joanne) Perkins.

As you look to the east at the beautiful, high, rugged, majestic mountains known as the Wasatch Front, there is a little known fact that I must share with you. These mountains are mine! If you don't believe me, ask any one of my grandchildren. She was at home in Utah. She loved it here. Joane loved her family more than life. She served them in every way she could and loved cooking for them. Joane is survived by her husband of 54 years, four sons, one daughter, grandchildren and countless friends who loved her dearly. She was preceded in death by her son, Gerald Henry Perkins.

A graveside service will be held at 1 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 17, at the old Twin Falls Cemetery in Twin Falls. Friends and family may call from 6 to 8 p.m. Wednesday, Jan. 16, at Lindquist's Kaysville Mortuary, 400 N. Main.

The family sincerely wishes to thank all for their outpouring of love and support. We know you are all praying for her. Joane is here to call her Mother. E-mail condolences may be sent to the family at www.lindquist-mortuary.com.

Okie Glen McDowell

Okie Glen McDowell made his final trip to hunting camp on eagle's wings on Jan. 12, 2008, from his home on the river in Hagerman. He was preceded in death by his family who loved him dearly. Okie was an inspirational, independent, free spirit who gave of his heart generously. He loved unconditionally, he lived every minute to the fullest, and he loved the things conventionally. He existed even to his final days on his own terms. In his life, Okie excelled as a cowboy welder, carpenter, roper, farrier, Marine, horse trainer, water skier, dog trainer, croquet, tennis player and anything else he tried. There wasn't much he couldn't do. He always had a sharp, dry wit, a quick mind and an amazing infectious laugh. He lived all of his years as a true cowboy and loved the land, his animals and survived with a toughness of will and gritty tenderness that only those who loved him could understand. His giant heart beat strong every day. A special thank you to Linda, Charlene, Laura and Vicki for their comfort and assistance in his final days. There will be a celebration of his life held from 1 to 5 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 19, at The Angler's in Hagerman. All who loved him are invited to attend and bring with them their memories and stories of Okie to share.



with cattle. But most of all, he could always find him with friends. They sprang up wherever he went. Okie is survived by his daughter, Misty; and grandchildren, Sydney, Brian and Ler. Leota (Tohy); a brother, Ron and his wife, Janet; and the love of his life, Bernie. He is preceded in death by his father, Glen.

A special thank you to Linda, Charlene, Laura and Vicki for their comfort and assistance in his final days. There will be a celebration of his life held from 1 to 5 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 19, at The Angler's in Hagerman. All who loved him are invited to attend and bring with them their memories and stories of Okie to share.

Juan Avila

PAUJ. — Juan Avila, 47, of Pauj, passed away Saturday, Jan. 12, 2008, at Saint Alphonsus Regional Medical Center in Boise. He was born May 22, 1960, in Cantuna, Zacatecas, Mexico. He married Maria Gomez on May 23, 1981, and they were married for 27 years. Juan and Maria lived in the beautiful Cassia area for the last five years. Juan worked for the Horizon Dairy and for Darrell Funk. He was a member of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. He enjoyed playing music and soccer. Juan was preceded in death by his mother, Catalina Correa; a brother, Gabriel; and two children. He is survived by his wife, Maria Gomez, Maria Sonia Avila, Otilia Avila, Fidel Avila, Juan Avila, Maribel Avila, Jazmin

Avila and Jesus Avila; three grandchildren; and his brothers and sisters, Polo Avila, Julia Avila, Juliana Avila, Luz Avila, Pascuala Avila, Alfredo Avila, Benereadio Avila, Margarita Avila and Isabel Avila.

Quando el sol sale es alegría, pero cuando se oculta da tristeza, la vida sigue y nosotros con ella, un angel se a ido pero desde el cielo brillan su luz para guiar nuestro camino. Los suspiros marchan a núnca te olvidaremos con amor y dolor a familia te lo dedica; Hasta pronto!!! — Maribel Avila

The funeral will be held at 11 a.m. Thursday, Jan. 17, at The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, Spanish Branch, 806 G St. in Rupert, with President Sotero Gomez officiating. Burial will follow at the Paul Cemetery. Friends may call from 6 to 8 p.m. Wednesday, Jan. 16, at the Hansen Mortuary, Rupert Chapel, 710 Sixth St., and one hour prior to the service Thursday at the church.

Emma Jacobsen Smith

OAKLEY — Emma J. Smith, 85-year-old Oakley resident, passed away Friday, Jan. 11, 2008, at the Veterans Care Center in Burley. Emma was born Dec. 16, 1922, in Elba, the daughter of Lawrence and Gertrude Smith Jacobsen. Emma attended school at Elba until she was 12 years old, at which time she and her family moved to Albion, where she attended Junior high and graduated from Albion High School. She also attended one year at the Albion Normal School. In 1943, she moved to California to work in the defense plant. While in California, she met and married Fred Smith. They had three boys, Ralph, Danny and Dennis. She later divorced Gale. In 1966, she married Harry Lee Wymore. He passed away in 1986. Emma remarried Gale Smith in 1987. He passed away in 1992. Emma was a member of The Church of Jesus Christ

of Latter-day Saints where she participated in many callings.

Emma's son, Ralph, preceded her in death in 1981. She is survived by two sons, Danny and Dennis, and four granddaughters. She is also survived by 10 grandchildren; 14 great-grandchildren; and her sister, Elizabeth Burch. She was also preceded in death by her parents, three sisters and four brothers.

The funeral will be held at 11 a.m. Wednesday, Jan. 16, at The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints Oakley Stake Center, with Bishop Scott Arnell officiating. Burial will be in the Oakley Cemetery. Friends may call from 4 to 8 p.m. Tuesday, Jan. 15, at Payne Mortuary, 221 W. Main St. in Burley, and from 10 to 10:45 a.m. prior to the funeral Wednesday at the church. Arrangements are under the direction of Hansen-Payne Mortuary in Burley.

Kathy Lyn Crystal Hartford

FREDONIA, Ariz. — Kathy Lyn Crystal Hartford, of Fredonia, Ariz., and formerly of the Paul and Burley area, died Jan. 10, 2008, of natural causes.



She was born Aug. 23, 1956, in Livermore, Calif., to Don W. and Norma M. Crystal. Her family moved back to Idaho when she was 10 months old. This is where her growing up years were spent. Kathy was a very kind, loving and gentle lady. Everyone who knew her loved her, and she will be greatly missed.

She was preceded in death by her husband, Dana

Hartford; her dad, Don Crystal; her grandparents; a brother, Lester; a sister, Sonya; and other family members. Surviving are her mother, Norma Crystal of Burley; brothers, Gary (Donna) and Michael; sister, Sara (Sara) Crystal of Twin Falls and Bobby Ray Crystal of Harbor City, Calif.; a son, Cory Berney of Kingman, Ariz.; stepsons, Shadd Hartford of Kingman, Ariz., and Michael Hartford of Fredonia, Ariz.; stepdaughter, Vanesa Hartford of Kanab, Utah; and aunts, uncles, cousins, nieces and nephews.

A memorial service for Kathy will be held at 10 a.m. Monday, Jan. 21, at the Burley LDS 3rd and 7th Ward Chapel, 2200 Oakley Ave.

Jessie Mae Andrews

Jessie Mae Ewing Andrews passed away on noon Jan. 11, 2008, after a fall that put her in the hospital and a brief illness that followed.



Jessie was born Jan. 18, 1918, in Richfield, at the home of her parents, Clyde G. Ewing and Golda Ewing Ewing. She was the fifth born of six children of this couple. Jessie grew up and attended schools in Richfield, Poacetello, Filer and Kimberly. Jessie graduated from Kimberly High School with the class of 1935.

Jessie met her future husband, Forest Merle Andrews, prior to World War II, but their wedding was postponed until after the war. Forest and Jessie married in Twin Falls. They enjoyed 54 years, eight months together. Forest's death, due to cancer, set them apart. During those years, Jessie and Forest resided in Twin Falls, St. Anthony, Aberdeen, Rupert and then back to Twin Falls. While in Rupert, Jessie became a Realtor, and then established her own realty business, Trend Realty Both Jessie and Forest were very active members of the St. Rupert Lions Club and both received several top awards, for their work. They were also

active members of the United Methodist Church in Rupert. They lived in Rupert from 1964 until the end of 1995. Jessie has been in declining health since Forest passed away in December 2008. For the few years, she has been living at the Chaparral House in assisted living. Jessie was preceded in death by her parents; two brothers, Louie and Roland of Nacacero, Calif.; two sisters, infant Sarah M. and Bernice Ewing Andrews. Jessie is survived by a brother, Paul M. Ewing of South Windsor, Conn., retired Methodist minister; and numerous nieces and nephews.

A graveside service for Jessie will be held at 2 p.m. Friday, Jan. 18, at Sunset Memorial Park, with Pastor Jerry Steele from the Rupert Methodist Church officiating. Friends may call from 11 a.m. until 1 p.m. Friday at Reynolds Funeral Chapel, 2466 Adolph Ave. E. in Twin Falls. In case of inclement weather, the service will be moved to Reynolds Funeral Chapel.

At the family's request, in lieu of floral arrangements, contributions to the American Cancer Society may be made in Jessie's name. Contributions may be given to funeral chapel staff or mailed to Reynolds Funeral Chapel, P.O. Box 1142, Twin Falls, ID 83303.

For obituary rates and information, call 735-3266 Monday through Saturday. Deadline is 3 p.m. for next-day publication. The e-mail address for obituaries is obits@magicvalley.com. Death notices are a free service and can be placed until 4 p.m. every day. To view or submit obituaries online, or to place a message in an individual online guestbook, go to www.magicvalley.com and click on "Obituaries."

William Daniel Brown

William Daniel Brown, 69, of Twin Falls, passed away Thursday, Jan. 10, 2008, at his home. He was born Feb. 25, 1939, in Gannett, to Mary Ann and Walter Brown. William attended all his school years in Bellevue and Halley, graduating from Halley High School in 1957. William worked at home with his mother on the family ranch until Dec. 10, 1961, when he joined the Air Force. He was honorably discharged in 1965. After the service, William moved to Halfway, Ore., living with his sister, brother and sister-in-law. Robert and Ella Brown, where he worked on the Oxbow, Brownlee and Hells Canyon dams to completion.

William then again moved to Gannett, where he helped his mother with the ranch and opened his own TV electronics business. William also worked for KIDK-TV Station in Idaho Falls for the past 36 years. He enjoyed his job at the station very much

and spoke highly of everyone there. William met Duane Gannett in 1988 and they married on June 21, 1996. With this marriage, William also then inherited three children, 10 grandchildren and five great-grandchildren. The children are Debbie, Ken, Charles Gannett and wife Shay and Darla and Jeff Martin. His new family made his life complete. William was also very close to his nieces, Sheri and Dean Sasso; Mary Moody and her friend, Jess Gouy; one nephew, Rick O'Brien. Brown of Colorado; and also his great-nieces and nephews, Cortni Haggan, Jill Sael, Ryan Sasso, Megan Neal and Billy Neal. William also has a sister-in-law in Gannett, Becky Gannett. Ken and Sheri were preceded in death by his parents, Walter and Mary Ann Brown; his brothers, Walter, Robert and Frances Brown; and one nephew, Johnny Brown.

The funeral will be held at 10 a.m. Tuesday, Jan. 15, at White Mortuary "Chapel by the Park" in Twin Falls. Burial will follow 1:30 p.m. at the Halley Cemetery. A viewing for family and friends will be from 8:30 to 9:45 a.m. Tuesday prior to the service.

DEATH NOTICES

Kirt Palmer

HYEYHUN — Kirt Palmer, 68, of Hyeuyhn, died Friday, Jan. 4, 2008, at home. A service will be held at 10 a.m. Thursday, Jan. 17, at the Hansen Mortuary Rupert Chapel, 710 Sixth St. Burial will follow at the Veterans Cemetery in Boise.

Leonard Hendricks

OAKLAND, Calif. — Leonard (ke) Hendricks, of Oakland, Calif., and formerly of Kimberly, died Monday, Jan. 14, 2008, at his home from a sudden illness. Arrangements will be announced by the Sutter Funeral Home in

Janice M. Schmidt

HAILLEY — Janice Marie Schmidt, 65, of Halley, died Saturday, Jan. 12, 2008, in Las Vegas, Nev. The funeral will be held at 1 p.m. Tuesday, Jan. 21, at the Wood River Chapel in Halley (www.woodriverchapel.com).

Donovan K. Webster

PAUJ. — Donovan K. Webster, 77, of Pauj, died Monday, Jan. 14, 2008, at his home. Arrangements will be announced by Rasmussen Funeral Home of Burley.









See service notices on page D5

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SERVICES

LeRoy L. Richeson of Salt Lake City, Utah, funeral at 11 a.m. today at the Riverside Stake Center, Fifth N. 1100 W. in Salt Lake City, Utah; visitation one hour before the service at the church (Larkin Mortuary in Salt Lake City, Utah).

Ann Patterson of Missoula, Mont., and formerly of Twin Falls, memorial service at 1:30 p.m. today at the Latham Army, 348 Fourth Ave. N. in Twin Falls.

Alvin Leon Zabricki of Rupert, gravestone service at 2 p.m. today at the Mount Pleasant City Cemetery in Mount Pleasant, Utah.

(Rasmussen Funeral Home in Burley).

JoDean Foreman of Rupert, funeral at 1 p.m. Wednesday at the Hansen Mortuary-Rupert Chapel, 710 Sixth St.; visitation from 6 to 8 p.m. today and one hour before the service Wednesday at the mortuary.

Lyle Raymond Morton of Burley, funeral at 11 a.m. Thursday at the Burley United Methodist Church, 450 E. 27th St.; visitation from 6 to 8 p.m. Wednesday at Rasmussen Funeral Home, 1350 E. 16th St. in Burley, and 10 to 10:45 a.m. Thursday at the church.

Lewis Elvin Young of Bliss, graveside service at 2:30 p.m. Thursday at the Bruncau Cemetery in Bruncau (Rost Funeral Home, McMurtry Chapel in Mountain Home).

Clea Judd Holyoak of Burley, funeral at 11 a.m. Saturday at the Burley LDS 3rd and 7th Ward Chapel, 2200 Oakley Ave.; visitation from 6 to 8 p.m. Saturday at Rasmussen Funeral Home, 1350 E. 16th St. in Burley, and 10 to 10:45 a.m. Saturday at the church.

James Edward Utz of Vancouver, Wash., and formerly of Eden, memorial

service at 1 p.m. Saturday at Parke's Magic Valley Funeral Home, 2351 Kimberly Road in Twin Falls.

Jeremy L. Thomas of Jerome, open house at 2 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 19, at the Presbyterian Church, 262 E. Ave. A in Jerome (Farnsworth Mortuary of Jerome).

Barbara Jane Gardner of Meridian and formerly of Hagerman, memorial service at 11 a.m. Wednesday at Demary's Gooding Chapel; donations may be sent to the Idaho Youth Ranch or a charity of choice.

COMMUNITY NEWS

Mini-Cassia Dems to meet Thursday

BURLEY — The Mini-Cassia Democrats monthly meeting will be at 7 p.m. Thursday at the Paul Fire Hall. The agenda includes discussion about the Idaho Democrat caucus scheduled for Feb. 5.

Rodriguez, 679-2002, or Bill Rice, 431-9361.

Benefit held for late Jerome County deputy

Friends and family of Jerome Sheriff's Deputy James Mopson, who was killed in the line of duty in 2001, will host the seventh annual prime rib and salmon benefit dinner in

his honor Jan. 27 at the Rock Creek Restaurant in Twin Falls.

Wine tasting, appetizers, and a no-host bar will begin at 1 p.m., with dinner served from 2 until 6 p.m. Entertainment will be by Jerome County Sheriff's Office "Crossfire" musician and College of Southern Idaho law enforcement professor Brett Field. Proceeds from the event

are used to help meet the needs of Magic Valley peace officers and scholarships to the law enforcement program at the CSI. Tickets are \$30 each and available at Dick's Pharmacy, Kelley Garden Center, Vinifera, Rock Creek Restaurant, or from Bob Moulson at CSI at 732-6296.

— from staff reports

Lot

Continued from page D3

and fervor that accompanied that fence."

Before the fencing went up, students would leave when they wanted by just driving over curbs Allen said.

But "the cage" also gets its nickname because it is locked during certain times of the day, said McCall.

Students who are required to get extra academic help during the past of the lunchtime aren't allowed to leave campus to eat. The extra help program ends 30 minutes into lunchtime, and

with as many as 700 students involved in extra help, the campus is closed for the whole lunch because administrators don't think those kids will have enough time to eat elsewhere and return safely. This program has also helped keep the parking lot less busy, Allen said.

Some students park on the street, but there's not much residential street parking available. Many parents of students around the school have restricted parking during school hours, Allen said. The school's police

resource officer, Brian Maughan, said minor accidents he hears about once maybe once every couple weeks. And those cases usually involve fender-benders where a parked car is hit.

"There are not a lot of hit-and-runs," Maughan said. But, he said, "some may occur and no one ever tells me about them."

Allen said he can't recall a time when a wrecker was sent into the lot to tow a car. And Twin Falls Police were called to the high school only three times last year to handle non-injury

crashes totaling more than \$1,000 in damage, said Capt. Matt Hicks.

Another gripe some kids have about "the cage" is the wait to get out, which sometimes takes 10 minutes — an eternity to a teen, Allen said. Harridge said she thinks another exit might help ease congestion, but Allen and Dobbis confirmed there are no plans to revamp the lot.

"I'd say the biggest problem here is just the lack of patience," Mopson said. "I tell them, I promise you'll get out of there, you just need to wait your turn."

Penalty

Continued from page D3

electrical officials or employees who oversee money, such as treasurers or accountants.

She said that the community party from an Idaho Court of Appeals from 2006 ruling that a Hagerman police officer who charged three hunting licenses worth \$30.04 on his city credit card was exempt because dealing with public money wasn't part of his job. She said that any abuse has only increased with transaction cards, which are similar

to credit cards. "It's a big problem," said Kelly, an attorney. "This is not a partisan thing or anything like that. It's just good government."

There have been several cases of public officials in south-central Idaho using public funds for personal use. In 2003, Twin Falls County Clerk Bob Fort pled guilty and served 90 days in jail for stealing \$64,000. And former Cassia County School district business manager

Jim Pehrson served six months in jail with work release after stealing more than \$49,127 from the school district.

Last year, a similar bill — but much broader — sponsored by the Attorney General died on the House floor. One of that bill's leading opponents, Rep. Lynn Tucker, R-Boise, also an attorney, had signed on to be a sponsor to this year's effort.

Under the new legislation, there would be staggered lev-

els of penalties. Public officials, elected or appointed, and public employees who oversee public funds would be charged with a felony if found guilty. Currently the two groups of workers are charged under separate parts of the law.

Additionally, other employees — including low-level workers such as secretaries or building inspectors — who abuse public funds would be charged with a felony if the amount was

Local libraries host book discussions

KIMBERLY — The Kimberly and Hansen Libraries are co-hosting a book discussion group to be held at 7:30 p.m. at the Kimberly Public Library, 120 Madison St. W.

The program schedule is as follows:

Thursday, "Year of Magical Thinking" by Joan Didion, led by Cindy Bjorneberg. This book is an account of the year following the death of an husband John Gregory Dunne.

Jan. 31, "Secret Life of Bees" by Sue Monk Kidd, led by Sherry George. Lily Owens, the protagonist and narrator of the story, runs away from home with her stand-in mother, Roseleen, and has a vague memory of accidentally shooting of her mother. Feb. 28, "English Creek" by

Ivan Doig, led by Janet Coonts. This novel is about the important summer of 1939 in the life of 14-year-old Ick McCaskill in Montana's "Two Medicine country."

March 13, "Never Let Me Go" by Kazuo Ishiguro, led by Cindy Bjorneberg. This book describes the childhood of Kathy H. Kathy and her classmates have been created to be donors. Temporarily the adult Kathy is working as a caregiver for the organs and parts and comforts donors as they are made to give up their organs and, eventually, submit to death.

The books are available for checkout now at the Kimberly and Hansen libraries. Refreshments will be served. For more information: Helen at 423-4556 or Linda at 423-4122.

Fund

Continued from page D3

At the same time, reimbursements to the county dropped from \$578,000 in 2004-05, to \$418,204 in 2006-07. Reimbursements came from indigents themselves, state tobacco settlement funds, federal Medicare and bankruptcies, Mikeseff said.

"If you think about it, all of us could become indigent with one bill," said Mikeseff.

Without medical insurance, individual finances can dwindle with the weight of medical debt. "I think it's everybody," Mikeseff added.

"I don't think there's any social or economic boundaries that apply... There are a lot of people in all income groups that don't have insurance."

The county is seeing more diversification in indigent clients, said Mikeseff. The identities of clients are kept confidential.

Regulations under the fed-

eral Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act prohibit disclosure of information on name, gender, age and race of indigent clients, said County Clerk Kristina Glascock. To receive county indigent status, someone needn't be a U.S. citizen, but must at least be a documented resident of the county.

"Twin Falls County must by law provide publicly funded indigent services, which received about \$1.62 million in property tax revenues for the year ending Sept. 30, 2007."

County officials said the indigent fund will likely need to be increased in the next fiscal year, as it was last year. By law it can't be annually increased by more than 3 percent. "It's costing us more," said Mikeseff.

Andrea Gates can be reached at 735-3300, or Andrea.Gates@twc.net.

Council

Continued from page D3

report of the city's wastewater treatment plant remedial was delayed at the first minute when the presenters were sick and the city still saw at least 90 minutes of their parent tax dollars at work.

The agenda included early notice by the city's Animal Shelter Advisory Commission of draft standards for business and kennel licenses. Other items included a discussion of charging a higher franchise fee for electrical sales through Idaho Power and a half-hour debate over numerous construction ordinance changes affecting developers stemming from a request to renew the final plans of one subdivision.

The fee in particular split the council, with members trying to get the city to vote against accepting even a first reading of the electricity proposal.

The proposal, which will come to a public hearing next month, would increase the city's 1 percent franchise fee to 3 percent. City Manager Craig Fort said the fee, charged for the utility's use of public rights-of-way, could provide a much-needed \$500,000 boost for capital improvement projects within the city boundaries. But Kezale and Craig both said they were about the cumulative effect of raising the fee along with recent increases in sewer and water rates and property valuations.

"I'll only be \$3 a month more." That's what we said when we passed the sewer and water increases," Craig said.

The animal ordinance, brought to the council for the first time, also provoked a discussion over how many dogs are enough for one household.

The proposal was prompted in part by the discovery in

April 2006 of more than 300 cats crammed into the Rocky Mountain Cat Resort on South Washington Street. City Management Assistant Gretchen Scott said. The commission also learned that licensed kennels are not being inspected because Animal Control has no guidelines to follow.

The new code would treat anywhere housing more than four cats and/or dogs combined as a kennel, and would require them to pay a \$100 licensing fee. Current city code allows three dogs and an unlimited number of cats, and some council members questioned how many breeders would fall under the new guideline. Kennels are not allowed in residential

zones in the city.

"I'm in violation, and I sure don't want to run a kennel," Craig joked, describing how he was temporarily pet-sitting for his boss.

Among other business, the council also selected S. Ervin Excavation of Bellevue as the low bidder for renovating a secondary parking lot and installing information kiosks near the main overlook at Shoshone Falls. The city will pay \$156,607 to the company for the work and the whole project will cost \$217,000, half of which will be reimbursed through an agreement with Idaho Power.

Note Poppino can be reached at 735-3237 or nppoppino@magicvalley.com.

more than \$300. Any amount less and the charge would be a misdemeanor.

The bill has already garnered bipartisan support. Senate Majority Leader Bart Davis, R-Idaho Falls, said that the proposal will clarify a vague part of the law.

"I don't know where to draw the line. I just felt where this draws the line I'm quite comfortable with," he said.

The bill will now be scheduled for a committee hearing.

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The Herrett Forum presents Idaho State University professor and researcher, Dr. Susan Swetnam "Women at Work on the Idaho Frontier" Administration is free of charge, 7:30 p.m. Wednesday, Jan. 16 Sponsored in part by the Idaho Humanities Council

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Explosion, gunfire at luxury hotel in Afghan capital kill 6, including an American

By Jason Straziuso
Associated Press writer

KABUL, Afghanistan — Militants stormed Kabul's most popular luxury hotel Monday, killing at least six people as they hunted down Westerners who crowded in a gym — a coordinated assault that could signal a new era of brazen Taliban attacks.

The gunmen threw grenades and fired AK-47s, and one even blew himself up despite heavy security at the Serena Hotel. One American and a journalist from Norway were among the dead, officials said.

More than 30 U.S. soldiers in a half-dozen Helicopters

rushed to the hotel as part of a quick response to favor the security personnel from the nearby U.S. Embassy ran through the building looking for U.S. citizens.

"There was blood on the floor all the way to the kitchen. It was a lot of blood in the lobby," said Suzanne Griffin of Seattle, who had been in the hotel gym at the time of the attack. "There were empty shell casings outside," added Griffin, 62, who was working for Save the Children. She said she had to step over the lifeless body of a woman when evacuated from the locker room.

"Thank God I didn't get into

AP Video

A Taliban spokesman said a suicide bomber and three militants with grenades and gunfire attacked the hotel.

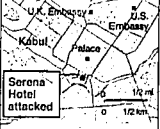
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the shower because then we heard gunfire, a lot of it. It was very close, close enough that plaster came off the ceiling," Griffin, her voice shaking, told The Associated Press shortly after the attack. "We all just sat on the floor and got as far as we could from any glass. ... We turned our phones on silent."

It was the deadliest direct

Kabul hotel raided

Militants attacked a luxury hotel in Afghanistan Monday, killing at least six people and wounding several others.



attack on a hotel in Kabul since the fall of the Taliban in 2001.

The assailants appeared to concentrate their assault on the Serena's gym and spa, where foreigners relax and work out at night, suggesting the militants had cased the hotel in advance.

The Taliban has targeted aid workers and civilian contractors with kidnappings and killings, but this was the most daring and sophisticated attack yet and was aimed at a prominent symbol of foreign presence in the country, apparently designed to point out the vulnerability of the Western presence.

Taliban have typically focused their attacks on Western and Afghan government or security personnel.

not Western civilians.

The multipronged assault began around 6 p.m., when the Norwegian Embassy was hosting a meeting at the Serena for visiting Foreign Minister Jonas Gahr Støre.

U.N. Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon described Støre as the target of the attack.

Witnesses said they first heard gunfire, then several explosions — likely from hand grenades — and also one large blast — the suicide bomb.

There were two or three bombs and there was complete chaos," Stian L. Soltau, a photographer from the Norwegian photo agency Seampix.

U.S. to sell advanced weaponry to Saudis

By Matthew Lee
and Anne Flaherty
Associated Press writers

WASHINGTON — The Democratic-led Congress is unlikely to block U.S. plans to sell \$123 million worth of sophisticated precision-guided bomb technology to Saudi Arabia, despite concerns from some members that the weapons could be used against Israel.

The Bush administration on Monday notified Congress of its intent to sell the bomb-delivery systems as part of a multi-billion-dollar arms package to Saudi Arabia to help defend the U.S. allies in the Gulf.

Rep. Tom Lantos, chairman of the House Foreign Affairs Committee, does not intend to consider a resolution of disapproval, says a spokeswoman, Lynne Weil. Otherwise, Lantos declined to comment.

The arms deal creates a dilemma for lawmakers, especially for Democrats eager to challenge President Bush's handling of foreign policy. At the same time, they see Saudi Arabia's cooperation as crucial to the war on terror and in deterring aggression from Iran.

The deal is expected to include the sale of missiles, military and ensure that it in no way harms our security or those of our allies," said Sen. Joseph Biden, D-Del., chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee. "We must also make certain the administration does not just try to use a few arms sales to substitute for the comprehensive, coherent strategy we need for the region."

Expected to coincide with Bush's trip to Saudi Arabia, the notification opens a 30-day window during which lawmakers can object to the sale, which envisions the transfer of 900 Joint Direct Attack Munitions, or JDAMs, to the Saudis, by the State Department said.

The proposed deal follows notification on five other packages to Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates and Kuwait, and brings to \$11.5 billion the amount of advanced U.S. weaponry, including Patriot missiles, provided to friendly Arab nations under the Gulf Security Dialogue, spokeswoman Sen McCormack told Reuters.

Administration officials say the total amount of sales as part of the dialogue is estimated at \$20 billion, but they also have cautioned that the figure is subject to what equipment the receiving countries actually purchase.

The sale is a key element in the U.S. strategy to bolster the defenses of its Arab allies in Saudi Arabia and other oil-producing majority Sunni Muslim Gulf nations against threats from Shiite Iran.

A principal aim of Bush's Mideast visit is to convince the Saudi leadership as well as those in Kuwait, Bahrain and the United Arab Emirates that the regime committed to preventing Iran from destabilizing the region.

Pakistan opposition leader accuses Musharraf of drowning country in blood

By Matthew Pennington
Associated Press writer

ISLAMABAD, Pakistan — Opposition leader Nawaz Sharif accused Pakistan's president Monday of blindly following America and ordering anti-terror operations that have left the country "drowned in blood."

Sharif's tirade against President Pervez Musharraf came as troops and militants clashed near the Afghan border, leaving 30 dead. Separately, a bomb concealed on a motorbike in the southern city of Karachi killed at least nine people and wounded 52.

Musharraf is widely faulted for his role in the current carnage, and he is to inaugurate a road several miles from the bombing, but he did not appear to be the target.

"Musharraf has destroyed Pakistan. He is blindly following America's lead," Sharif told an election rally of about 3,000 people on the outskirts of the capital, Islamabad. "The whole of Pakistan is drowned in blood."

The former prime minister reiterated his demand for Musharraf to step down and for a government of national unity to take power and oversee the Feb. 10 parliamentary elections.

Opposition parties say the current caretaker administration is biased and the elections will be rigged in favor of the pro-Musharraf ruling party — allegations Musharraf denies.

The latest violence underscores the volatility of Pakistan as the nation heads into the elections. The United States and other Western nations are hoping the vote will usher in a period of stability as the country battles rising attacks by al-Qaida and Taliban militants.

Sharif's speech was his first major campaign event since the Dec. 27 assassination of another key opposition leader, Benazir Bhutto. It was one of his harshest attacks on Musharraf over his alliance with Washington forged after the Sept. 11 attacks and may strike a chord with Pakistan's disenchanting the war on terrorism.

Militant attacks, perceived by many as a response to Pakistan army operations launched against al-Qaida and Taliban fighters in recent years, have deepened the sense of insecurity in this Islamic nation of 160 million people and risk undermining the political process.



Opposition leader Nawaz Sharif greets a crowd of nearly 2,000 supporters Monday in Karachi, Pakistan.

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—Kent Scott

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Report: Threatening message during Gulf confrontation could have been hoax

CAIRO, Egypt (AP) — A threatening radio message at the end of a video showing Iranian patrol boats swarming near U.S. warships in the Persian Gulf may have come from a hacker rather than from the Iranian vessels, the Navy Times newspaper has reported.

A video and audio of the Jan. 6 incident in the Strait of Hormuz featured a man in accented English saying, "I am coming to you. You will explode after ... minutes."

Cmdr. Lydia Robertson, spokeswoman for the Fifth Fleet in Bahrain, said the Navy was still trying to determine the source of the transmission but believed it was related to the Iranian attacks.

"The Iranian boats were coming close to the ships, making aggressive maneuvers and the subjects were being dropped into the water," she told The Associated Press.

However, the Navy Times, a weekly newspaper published by the Gannett company, quoted several veteran sailors as speculating the

transmission could have come from a radio hacker, one of the most widely known among mariners by the ethnically insulting term "the Filipino Monkey."

The newspaper, which serves the Navy community, said U.S. sailors in the Persian Gulf have heard the prankster — possibly more than one person — transmitting "insults and jangling wire ephitets" on unencrypted frequencies.

"Navy women ... a helicopter pilot bailing a tanker, for example — who are overheard on the radio are said to suffer particularly degrading treatment," the newspaper said Sunday.

"Several Navy ship drivers interviewed by Navy Times are raising the possibility that the monkey or an imitator, was indeed featured in that video."

Filipino Monkey is a name used by mariners around the globe for someone who uses his radio for unnecessary or inappropriate transmissions.


for example — who are overheard on the radio are said to suffer particularly degrading treatment," the newspaper said Sunday.

"Several Navy ship drivers interviewed by Navy Times are raising the possibility that the monkey or an imitator, was indeed featured in that video."

Filipino Monkey is a name used by mariners around the globe for someone who uses his radio for unnecessary or inappropriate transmissions.

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