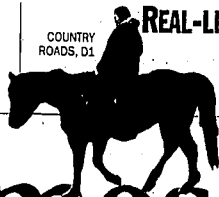




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Times-News

TUESDAY

January 22, 2008

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Senate to review ban on sexual discrimination

By Jared S. Hopkins
Times-News writer

BOISE — It may have been inspiration or just coincidence, but the Idaho Legislature on Martin Luther King Day favored a measure to ban discrimination based on sexual orientation.

The Senate State Affairs Committee agreed Monday to introduce legislation that would amend the state's 1968 Human Rights Act by pro-

hibiting discrimination by employers or landlords based on sexual orientation. Currently, discrimination based on race, color, religion, sex or ethnicity is prohibited.

There are 20 other states with such bans in place, and 11 others have passed execu-

tive orders issuing similar restrictions, said Leslie Goddard, director of the Idaho Human Rights Commission.

The committee voted 6-2 to print the legislation. The bill has four sponsors from both parties in both chambers.

Sen. Tim Corder, R-Mountain Home, told the committee the bill was not about homosexuality or ideology, but rather about being judged on skill and ability.

Please see **BAN**, Page A3

Idaho Legislature 2008



For more stories about the Idaho Legislature, a blog by political reporter Jared S. Hopkins, a Who's Who in the Idaho Legislature and more, go to MagicValley.com and hit the **Legislature 2008** button.

Drug czar's budget \$22M more than Otter wanted

The Associated Press

BOISE — Idaho drug czar Debbie Field on Monday asked lawmakers to approve a \$25.5 million budget for substance abuse prevention — about \$2 million more than recommended by Gov. C.L. "Butch" Otter.

The bulk of the additional money would cover a community-based substance abuse treatment program that began in 2005 under a three-year federal grant. The program, called Access to Recovery, provided treatment to juveniles and adults on probation and parole as well as to some people outside the criminal justice system, based on financial need.

The state has spent more than \$21 million on the project since 2005, according to budget documents. But now the federal money is gone, and bills from the program continue to roll in, with more than \$1.6 million in outstanding vouchers remaining for the fiscal year that ends June 30.

Field asked members of the joint Finance-Appropriations Committee, which sets the budget for the state, to approve more than \$14.2 million to cover the remaining program bills and to keep it running in the future. But Otter, who is pushing to keep the state's budget from growing at all this year, didn't support the request.

Otter said he couldn't support it when he created his budget because the agencies couldn't show him that they were getting any results.

"Just like I've demanded from every department: 'What are you doing with the money you've got now?'" Otter said.

It's true that no one was keeping track of the numbers until last year, said Field, a former state Republican representative. Substance abuse treatment was fragmented across several agencies, and they were all using different tools to determine the level of addiction and the treatment required for each person, she said. Now state agencies as well as private abuse treatment providers are using the same assessment tool, and tracking their success rates.

Rally for human rights

Activists defend immigrants on MLK holiday



Photo by JACQUELYN BETHUN-THEISS

Two-year-old Birseda Cuevas rests on her mother's shoulder Monday afternoon during a gathering with speakers discussing immigration issues.

By Cassidy Friedman
Times-News writer

RUPERT — No one remembers the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. for his anger.

Least of all Jorge Rios, the Burley farmer recalls King focusing his message on hope in the face of discrimination against blacks. It's a message that Rios and 70 other Latinos resurrected Monday — the holiday marking King's birth-

Inside

Martin Luther King called 'champion of peace.'

See page C3

day — this time asking Idahoans to try to see them as more than just illegals, or alien invaders, or anathema to Idaho life.

"I want to be part of this great community and support

this event for the immigrant people," said Rios, who's lived in Burley for 25 years. Rios said the possibility of equality was "the big message that he (King) started when it was worse. He started making big changes and even gave his life to be equal."

The large crowd gathered in frigid winds on the corner of East 16th Street and Overland

Please see **RIGHTS**, Page A3

See it online Watch a video of the unveiling of the billboards at MagicValley.com.



Over 70 people gathered in Burley on Monday to listen to speakers.

Fate of Idaho's Republican primary still unresolved

Modified system could gain support

By Jared S. Hopkins
Times-News writer

BOISE — The future of Idaho's Republican primary election is quickly gaining steam as one of the most politically-charged issues of

the 2008 legislative session.

A bill to limit primary elections to party members has been waiting almost two weeks for a hearing, but most senior GOP lawmakers are tight-lipped, saying that discussions are ongoing.

The resolution, some lawmakers and political observers say, could be a modified primary bill, which was unveiled at the end of the 2007 session but stalled due to time.

Sen. Dean Cameron, R-Rupert, said he doesn't expect action on the bill introduced, and it's too early to know what

will happen. But a modified primary system might be more acceptable, he said.

"You could say, that my perspective would be, if we were forced to do something, would be to go to a modified open primary system for both Republicans and Democrats, where party members would not be allowed to cross over

and would be able to vote for candidates of their choice without any record of who they wanted," Cameron said Friday.

In November, a judge dismissed a lawsuit brought by 71 Republicans who sued the secretary of state, riling that

Please see **PRIMARY**, Page A3



For more about the Idaho Legislature go to MagicValley.com and hit the **Legislature 2008** button.



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Magic Valley C1

Movies C2-3
Nation C3
Naval C4
Obituaries C2
Opinion A4

Sports B1
Sudoku C4
Today in history D3
Weather B4

Rights

Continued from page A1

force. With power drills in hand, a group deftly installed colorful placards against a pair of cement benches. The patriotic-themed decorative signs, seen around Boise since November, are the first to appear in the Magic Valley.

One says, "Immigration is an American EXPERIENCE. Acceptance is an American VALUE." The other says, "I was a stranger and you welcomed me. Matthew 25:35."

"Called the Welcoming Idaho Initiative, the movement is made up of Christian and human rights groups and will place signs across Magic Valley over the course of the next few months, said Leo Morales of Idaho Community Action Network.

Other initiatives already exist in about 10 other states, Morales said.

Idaho borrowed the idea

from a project in Tennessee. "The Magic Valley has become very polarized, particularly around the issue of immigration," Morales said. A recent series of immigration sweeps only acted to highlight fears and perceptions of racism in the Magic Valley. Many Latinos have been seeking a way to communicate positive messages to other Idahoans, rather than allow for the chasm to expand.

"Acceptance is an Idaho value and today we are not living this value," said Kent Thibault, regional director of Catholic Charities of Idaho. "We need to work hard ... to embrace the values that we believe in."

Other speakers, including former Rep. Robert Myer Audrey Newberry, said that as mayor she launched Farm Worker Appreciation Day in August

to "let them know how valuable they are to our community and for our economy." She said she flew to Michoacán, Mexico, to understand where immigrants come from and why they feel forced to enter the U.S. illegally. She understands the reasons now, she said, and she will continue to promote understanding "as long as I'm alive."

Morales said disinformation still plagues many Idahoans who misunderstand immigrants. Morales calls migrant farm workers "economic refugees." He says the bulk of families immigrate to Idaho to build a better life for their families — the same as other Idahoans.

The Rev. Matricio Medina said what too many experience when they get here are immigration laws that proceed to tear their families

apart. He referred to his spouse as an illegal immigrant who had run a business in Tully for 11 years when a cop stopped him recently for a broken tail light. The reverend visited him at the Twin Falls County jail before U.S. Marshals deported him.

"It was really, really sad and I think depressed over it," Medina said.

The man's daughter was born in the U.S. — a naturalized citizen. His wife was also illegal. A few months later, his wife and daughter flew to join the man in Mexico, but the daughter was turned away because she is not a Mexican citizen.

"Only the Native American has the right to be here," Medina said. "And we have treated him as a stranger in his own country. You and I were once strangers in a foreign land."

Primary Ban

Continued from page A1

the plaintiffs lacked grounds since it wasn't brought by the party itself.

In August, Cameron said that if the lawsuit was unsuccessful, he didn't think the legislature needed to act. He is among those who wonder why the party wants to alter a system that helped Republicans win 79 of 105 positions in the state Legislature and all statewide positions. Far more than 30 years, Idaho has held open primaries, meaning any registered voter can cast a ballot in either party primary without first registering as a member of that party.

The proposed legislation would not effect the ongoing selection of presidential party nominees. Democrats will go to the polls to select party delegates on Feb. 5, while Republicans will vote in a statewide primary on May 27.

The U.S. Supreme Court has ruled that states can't force political parties to associate with those who don't share their political beliefs. Three separate proposals to close primaries failed to clear the 2007 Legislature.

"The open primary is not going to survive," said Keith Allred, executive director of the non-partisan Center for Interest.org, who has been intimately involved in the issue.

Last year, Allred, a Twin Falls native and former Harvard professor, spoke out in favor of modified primaries and said they "best reflect Idaho's electorate."

At a state central committee meeting earlier this month, Republicans voted 49-39 in favor of closing the primaries. Among their provisions is that only Republican can vote in GOP primary elections — and that the plaintiffs in the original suit can sue on behalf of the party.

Rod Beck, a former state legislator pushing to close the primaries, said a modified system would be unacceptable.

"We want just Republicans to pick our candidates. It doesn't make sense for our opponents to pick our Super Bowl and our starting lineup," he said.

"I hope the Legislature will listen to us and take their cue from the state party as they should."

But Allred is skeptical of the primaries being closed. Although his group studies an array of issues, the primary debate is often what Allred discusses in the halls of the Capitol Annex.

"A completely closed primary bill is not going to pass the Idaho Legislature," said Allred. "I've counted the noses."

Continued from page A1

What this is about is workers being treated fairly," Corder said. "It's about the process where everyone's rights are protected — employees' rights and employers' rights."

Rep. Nicole Lefavour, D-Boise, a co-sponsor and the Legislature's only openly gay legislator, said she has personally felt professionally hindered.

"There are people discriminated (against) all across this state quietly and treated unfairly," she said. "This is pretty huge for Idaho."

Corder said he hopes the bill would receive a hearing. A recent Boise State University public policy poll showed that 63 percent of Idahoans agree it should be illegal to fire someone because they are perceived to be gay or lesbian.

Goddard said that her agency handles numerous allegations of discrimination, but disputes related to sexual

orientation are turned away. Goddard said that passing the bill would result in a 3.5 percent increase in her office's workload and 17 more cases, but would be within their budget.

"It would give us a level playing field whether we are gay, lesbian or straight," she said.

Religious organizations would be exempt. The original human rights act applies only to companies with at least five employees.

Voicing against introducing the legislation was Sen. Majority Leader Bart Davis, R-Idaho Falls, and Sen. Denton Darrington, R-Deer.

Darrington disagreed with the sponsors and said the proposal has a much broader aim.

"It's become much more of an agenda to legislate or to give state-sanctions to a preference that seems quite contrary to our traditional values," Darrington said.

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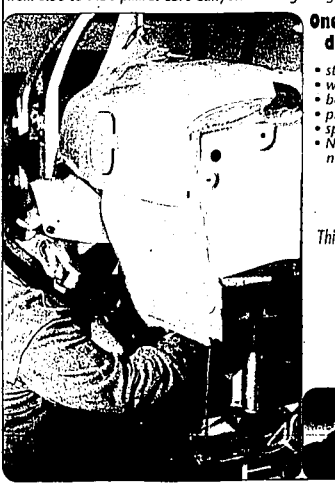
But Sen. Chuck Collier, R-Twin Falls, also a co-sponsor, said that the bill is designed simply to include a group of people who were left out of the original bill, and has nothing to do with a violation of values.

"It seems like it has everything to do with values — values of the community and protecting employees," he said.

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EDITORIAL

Thou shalt not steal,
even if you work for
government agency

You'd be surprised how many strangers have access to your money. The money you pay in taxes, that is. Thousands of government employees in Idaho are just the swipe of a credit card away from embezzlement.

State Sen. Kate Kelly wants to make that a little harder. The Boise Democrat introduced legislation last week to extend penalties for misuse of public funds to any employee of a public agency.

Now, the only government workers who can be charged are elected officials or employees who directly oversee money, such as treasurers or accountants.

It was a Magic Valley incident that prompted Kelly's bill. In 2003, a Hagerman policeman made an Internet purchase for \$30,000 for three controlled-burn applications, using a city credit card issued to the police chief.

The officer repaid the money, but he and the chief were fired and charged with misuse of public money and conspiracy to misuse public money.

But the charges were dismissed in 6th District Court because cops filed outside the scope of the current statute and a charge on a city credit card is not — under the definition of the law — use of "public money."

Attorney General Lawrence Wasden appealed, but in 2006 the Idaho Court of Appeals sided with the former policeman.

Last year, Wasden tried to persuade the Legislature to change the law, but the bill died in the House. Kelly's new bill adjusts Wasden's proposal by specifying staggered levels of penalties. Public officials — elected or appointed — and public employees who oversee public money could be charged with a felony. As it stands, two groups of workers are charged under separate statutes.

Other workers — including low-level employees such as secretaries or building inspectors — who abuse public funds could be charged with a felony if the amount is more than \$300. Anything less would be a misdemeanor.

With the explosive growth of "P" card use by state, county and city governments and in school districts, the legislature needs to do a better job of protecting the taxpayers.

Times-News

Brad Hudr, ... publisher Steve Crump ... Opinion editor

The members of the editorial board and writers of editorials are Brad Hudr, James G. Wright, Steve Crump, Traci Bliss and Bill Blitzenburg.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Paper was vague on
how to judge teachers

I see why the teachers what they deserve" (editorial, *Times-News*, Jan. 11). Sounds great, like "motherhood," "apple pie" and "baseball"; however, you offer not one word on how to determine the "best teachers."

"Test scores?" Possibly, but make sure that every teacher teaches the same subject, has the same "quantity" and "quality" of students with the same "starting line" and the same "goal line." I agree that you cannot pay a good teacher too much, but a proportionately high salary, however, my 37 years in school administration lead me to believe that there are very few poor teachers who "survive" in education very long. Spending \$50 million on the "best teachers" is a "Lamy" idea, until a fair and equitable method is devised to sort out those "best teachers."

Times-News, in its editorial on Jan. 14, identified the "real" problem. "Early childhood education is too important to ignore." A survey we took at my junior high school, several years ago showed 251 students of the 900 coming from a single-parent home (usually the mother). This is not to badmouth these single, hard-working mothers; however, food, clothing and school necessities takes precedence over homework, home-

reading, home study, etc. Increasing divorce rates, dual income parents, etc., insure to exacerbate the problem.

Times-News editors are justified in bashing Gov. Otter for cutting funding for Head Start, Parents for Teachers, Title I and other programs designed to help our disadvantaged students. An "inert mind" and "a thirst for learning" are developed during early childhood, and money spent is a good investment in "preventing" problems as opposed to trying to "cure" these problems with courts and jails. (A ounce of prevention or a pound of cure?)

LOVELL TURNER
Declo

Nuclear power a possible
solution to power problem

The U.S. economy is falling because of unconstitutional government spending, high taxes, over-regulation and high energy costs. Abundant, inexpensive energy along with individual liberty, private property and free enterprise made the United States the most prosperous nation in the world.

In 1971, the price of gasoline was 25 cents per gallon. Since then, energy production has been strangled by non-scientific, Environmental Protection Agency

Where were
the grown-ups?

Mexico, Brazil, Argentina, Mexico, again, Thailand, Indonesia, Argentina, again. And now, the United States.

The story has played itself out three and four times over the past 30 years. Global investors, disappointed with the returns they're getting, search for alternatives. They think they've found what they're looking for in some country or other, and money rushes in.



PAUL KRUGMAN

Our view:

Any public employee who steals the taxpayers' money must be held accountable. A new proposal in the Legislature would finally do that.

What do you think?

We welcome viewpoints from our readers on this and other issues.

But eventually it becomes clear that the investment opportunities we usually all seemed to be, and the money rushes out again, with nasty consequences for the former financial favorite. That's the story of multiple financial crises in Latin America and Asia. And it's also the story of the U.S. combined housing and credit bubble. These days, we're playing the role usually assigned to Third World economies.

For reasons I'll explain later, it's unlikely that America will experience a recession as severe as that in, say, Argentina. But the origins of our problem are pretty much the same. And understanding those origins also helps us understand where U.S. economic policy went wrong.

The global origins of our current mess were actually laid out by none other than Ben Bernanke, in an influential speech he gave in 2005, before he was named chairman of the Federal Reserve. Bernanke asked a good question: "Why is the United States, with the world's largest economy, borrowing heavily on international capital markets — rather than lending, as would seem more natural?"

His answer was that the main explanation lay not here in America, but abroad. In particular, Third World

The real sin, both of the Fed
and of the Bush administration,
was the failure to exercise adult
supervision over markets running wild.

economies, which had been investor favorites for much of the 1990s, were shaken by a series of financial crises beginning in 1997. As a result, they abruptly switched from being destinations for capital to sources of capital, as their governments began accumulating huge precautionary hoards of overseas assets.

The result, said Bernanke, was a "global saving glut": lots of money, all dressed up with nowhere to go.

In the end, most of that money went to the United States. Why? Because, said Bernanke, of the "depth and sophistication of the country's financial markets."

All of this was, in fact, except for one thing: U.S. financial markets, it turns out, were characterized less by sophistication than by sophistry, which my dictionary defines as "a deliberately invalid argument displaying ingenuity in reasoning in the hope of deceiving someone."

"Repackaging delinquent loans into collateralized debt obligations creates a lot of perfectly safe, AAA assets that will never go bad."

In other words, the United States was not, in fact,

uniquely well-suited to make use of the world's surplus funds. It was, instead, a place where large sums could be and were invested very badly. Directly or indirectly, capital flowing into America from global investors ended up financing a housing-and-credit bubble that has now burst, with painful consequences.

As I said, these consequences probably won't be as bad as the devastating recessions that racked Third World victims of the same syndrome. The saving grace of America's situation is that our foreign debts are in our own currency. This means that we won't have the kind of financial death spiral Argentina experienced, in which a falling peso caused the country's debts, which were in dollars, to balloon in value relative to domestic assets.

But even without these currency effects, the next year or two could be quite unpleasant.

What should have been done differently? Some critics say that the Fed helped inflate the housing bubble with low interest rates. But those rates were low for a good reason: Although the

last recession officially ended in November 2001, it was another two years before the U.S. economy began delivering convincing job growth, and the Fed was rightly concerned about the possibility of Japanese-style prolonged economic stagnation.

The real sin, both of the Fed and of the Bush administration, was the failure to exercise adult supervision over markets running wild.

It wasn't just Alan Greenspan's unwillingness to admit that there was anything more than a bit of "froth" in housing markets, or his refusal to do anything about subprime abuses. The fact is that as America's financial system has grown ever more complex, it has also outgrown the framework of banking regulations that used to protect us — yet instead of an attempt to update that framework, all we got were peacans to the wonders of free markets.

Right now, Bernanke is in crisis-management mode, trying to deal with the mess he's been saddled with. I don't have any problems with his testimony on Thursday, although I suspect that it's already too late to prevent a recession.

But let's hope that when the dust has settled a bit, Bernanke takes the lead in talking about what needs to be done to fix a financial system gone very, very wrong.

Paul Krugman is a columnist for the *New York Times*.

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two cents

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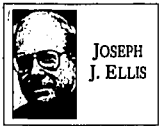
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More opinions
More columnists and
local letters to the
editor can be found
on page A5.

Want to be president? Just say anything at all

The first time an American president's promises made during his campaign occurred in 1800. Thomas Jefferson's platform called for a reduction of federal, especially executive, power; fiscal austerity aimed at reducing the national debt; an strict interpretation of the Constitution. The opportunity to purchase the Louisiana Territory in 1803 threw all of these Jeffersonian principles into the proverbial cocked hat.



JOSEPH J. ELLIS

vote for any of the three leading Democratic candidates: Hillary Rodham Clinton, Barack Obama or John Edwards — but instead for Republican John McCain.

There is something perverse about this way of thinking, and the pattern itself, though disarmingly frequent, is not sure-fire through history. But the reasons for its prevalence are rooted in two political realities that go all the way back to Jefferson.

First, campaigns are inherently exercises in propaganda and posturing, the posing of melodramatic choices usually defined by candidates' contorted exercises against stereotypical versions of the opposition. The real-world choices facing a president seldom fit into these operatic campaign categories. So picking a president is a little like picking a long-distance runner on the basis of his (or her) talent at running wind sprints.

Second, the world has a way of generating unforeseen predicaments that require unheeded choices. Even the broad issues that dominate a campaign are seldom synonymous with those a president must face. Jefferson had no way of knowing that Napoleon would imperiously decide to strip all the land from the Mississippi to the Rockies for a pittance. Wilson had no way of knowing that the Germans would decide to resume unrestricted submarine warfare against U.S. shipping.

Even the narrow version of campaigning only exacerbates these disconnects. The central rationale is that candidates will reveal themselves and that voters will come to know how they will conduct themselves if elected. But if history is a guide, this conviction is generally an illusion. The net result is that our votes for president are usually blind bets rather than sensible wagers.

In U.S. history, I can think of just two presidents (there may be others) who were remarkably good at defying

the paradoxical pattern: George Washington and James K. Polk. Washington levitated above all partisan infighting and campaigning because of his stature as the founding father of them all, a man who could be trusted with power because of his demonstrated willingness to surrender it. His predictability in that regard alone might have earned him the position of first among equals in the American pantheon. Polk, in the campaign of 1844, promised a reduction of the tariff, resolution of Oregon's borders and the acquisition of California. He achieved them all, did everything that he said he would do, then stepped down and died three months later, his legacy for consistency secure.

As the primaries and caucuses proceed through Nevada and South Carolina, we'd do well to remember there was a Washington or even a Polk on the ballot.

Historian Joseph Ellis' latest book is "American Creation: Triumphs and Tragedies at the Birth of the Republic." He wrote this compendium for the Washington Post.

Happiness? It's where it's at

A new year is upon us, and the self-help industrial complex is in full swing, pestering us to slim down, bulk up, become a new you, a better you, a happier you. Yes, it's all about you. The 1970s may have been the Me Decade, but the new decade is all about shaping up to be the You Decade.

There is, it turns out, little difference between You and Me. Both outlooks reflect a firmly held and particularly American belief that happiness lies deep inside the inner you, or me, or whatever.

The self-help industry has it wrong. Social scientists studying happiness (or subjective well-being) have found the academic term to use the external factors of quality of government, social interactions and, to an extent, money — determine our happiness more than anything else. In other words, happiness does not come from within.

Happiness is out there. Which particular out there makes a huge difference in our happiness level. National levels of contentment vary wildly, from the miserably low in the chronically cheerful Danes. Happiness, it turns out, is like oil. Some countries are awash in it; others are bone dry.

In fact, psychologists at the University of Leicester in Britain recently produced the world's first map of happiness. Using data from the emerging science of happiness, they created a color-coded atlas of bliss, a topography of the human spirit, from Algeria to Zimbabwe. It's not climate or topography or some mysterious "energy" that is at work here, but national culture. Some cultures are simply better at producing happy citizens than others.

Not surprisingly, democracies tend to fare better than dictatorships, though it's not clear which way the river of causality flows. Perhaps happy countries tend to embrace democracy and not the other way around. Trust of others is another prerequisite for a happy nation, and that is a troubling fact for fans of American happiness. In 1960, 50 percent of Americans felt most people could be trusted. By the 1990s, only 25 percent held that view. Indeed, given our economic and military muscle, the U.S. occupies a modest spot on the atlas of bliss. We are not as happy as we are wealthy.

The world contains more than a few stragglers. Latin American countries, for instance, are among the happiest in the world, despite their relative poverty and often shaky political sit-



ERIC WEINER

uations. "The Latino bonus," some researchers have dubbed this phenomenon. One explanation: the close family ties found in Latin American countries and among many Hispanics in the U.S.

Jean-Paul Sartre famously declared that "Hell is other people." Sartre got it wrong, or perhaps he was hanging out with the wrong people. The emerging science of happiness has found that the single biggest determinant of our happiness is the quantity and the quality of our relationships.

The way people relate to one another varies tremendously from one nation to another and, to a lesser extent, from one city to another. These differences persist despite the advent of cell phones, the Internet and other technologies that have supposedly conquered distance.

We can be anywhere, the apostles of a place-less future tell us, a message that dovetails nicely with the self-help movement's we-can-be-happy-anywhere mantra.

Bliss, though, has been greatly exaggerated. Yes, technology has, in some cases, compressed distance, but not nearly as much as we've been led to believe. The vast majority of phone calls and e-mails never cross

an international border. Even the Internet is largely a local technology, with most people checking local weather and sports and not the price of a grande latte in China.

Place matters even to those who forecast its demise. The purveys of the place-less world, it turns out, tend to congregate in one place: a 50-mile corridor between San Francisco and San Jose, where they happily bike and hike and generally behave as though geography does matter.

Which it does. Its role in our happiness and our psyche is a fact that the forces of globalization and technology have failed to erode. That's why each year about 40 million Americans pick up stakes. Sure, we move for career opportunities or for family (a desire for either greater proximity or distance). But for many Americans, moving is about happiness: the U.S. and version of Hara's legendary search for the Happy Isles.

The forces of technology aren't slaking our thirst for our own Happy Isles but stoking it. The number of people traveling — for work and pleasure — is on the rise, as packed airplane flights make painfully clear.

So, at the dawn of another new year, I say: Stop looking for the new you and, instead, look a friend. Or better yet, call a friend.

Eric Weiner is the author of "The Geography of Bliss: One Group's Search for the Happiest Places in the World." He wrote this commentary for the Las Vegas Times.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Living in Twin Falls becoming costly

Have you ever seen a figure published in the paper other than \$49.7 million for the school bond? How often happened to the interests? Do you think property owners are paying back \$49.7 million? I low about \$70 million — \$2.5 million a year payback, plus \$1 million a year interest for 20 years? How school district has \$33 million more. Total debt on the backs of property owners of more than one-tenth of a billion dollars. Also, in March of 2009, the school district will issue an emergency levy for each year to staff the new high school — 50 teachers at \$40,000 each. Watch and see! Let's see: Gasoline is \$3 a gallon, milk is \$3 a gallon, cost of living is going through the roof, food prices want a 20 percent added to my power bill; my property taxes went up 50 percent, my payment on the school bond doubled.

I'm almost paying the same amount for schools as I was before getting tax relief and raising the sales tax a penny.

I wonder if my \$19 a month increase will cover the above items? It's getting rather expensive to live in Twin Falls if you are retired. It seems that a lot of people think that everyone living in

Twin Falls has deep pockets full of money and we can only pay and pay and pay. If you never say enough is enough, they will keep asking for more. If and when the recession comes to Idaho, it will be interesting to watch the powers that be run for cover. AL DUTT Twin Falls

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Falling sales Auto sales see steep decline in fourth quarter

By Joshua Palmer
Times-News writer

Declining auto sales in south-central Idaho may be an indication that rising prices for consumer goods such as food and fuel are biting into pocketbooks.

Auto sales in Jerome, Twin Falls and Cassia counties plummeted during the fourth quarter of 2007, according to the Idaho Automobile Dealers Association.

According to economists, vehicle sales — the second biggest purchase following a home purchase — are good indicators of a local economy's strength and stability.

"Car sales act as indicators of consumer buying power, which includes job security and the cost of consumer goods," Luke Darnell, a U.S. Department of Labor economist told the Associated Press. "Although big-ticket items are

the first to see slower sales during an economic downturn, these sales numbers usually trickle down to lower cost items over a period of time."

Economists also say fewer people will finance a loan on a vehicle during a weak economy because they are either unwilling to take out loans on tighter budgets, or they are unable to meet the minimum income level under more rigid financing requirements.

Twin Falls County was the hardest hit with a total decline of new and used car sales plunging more than 36 percent from 1,265 vehicles sold in October 2007 to about 800 vehicles sold in December of 2007.

Jerome County saw a decline of 23 percent, followed by Cassia County with about a 20 percent decline in sales during the fourth quarter.

Still, not everyone believes

that slipping auto sales presage a local recession.

"I think that (south-central Idaho) is pretty insulated from a national recession, but things like \$3 per gallon gas have certainly impacted our auto sales," said Con Paullos, owner of Con Paullos General Motors Dealership. "Our region is still experiencing strong job growth and we're still seeing business move into the area, so I think that this region of Idaho is positioned in such a way that it will be insulated from a nationwide recession."

South-central Idaho is still has unemployment rates below 3 percent — some of the lowest in the nation. And the region's booming agricultural industry is absorbing part of the decline in seasonal construction jobs.

"For this reason, Bob Latham Jr., of Latham Motor Inc. said truck sales are holding steady and sales of used cars seem stronger than new ones.

"It definitely slowed down with credit issues especially with the mortgages part of it," Latham said. "A number of new car dealerships are selling at invoice cost, which is



Erich Ulling, a Sales Professional at Latham Motors in Twin Falls, takes a walk around the car lot set up inside CSI's Eldon Expo Center Wednesday afternoon in Twin Falls.

causing the profit margin to really shrink. I'm glad I'm still not in the new car business — it's a tough market."

However, the market has not been as difficult for some auto dealers such as Wills Toyota, which saw more sales

in 2007 than in 2006.

"We attribute it to our line of vehicles," said Greg Wills, operations manager with Wills Toyota. "Toyota has been very strong this year, however, we are not expecting as much of an increase in 2008."

Recession ahead?

The gathering storm as consumers pull back, businesses feel pain

By Dave Carpenter
Associated Press writer

Economists and politicians can debate all they want about whether the nation is sliding into its first recession in nearly seven years. To Chuck Rizzo, the picture is clear.

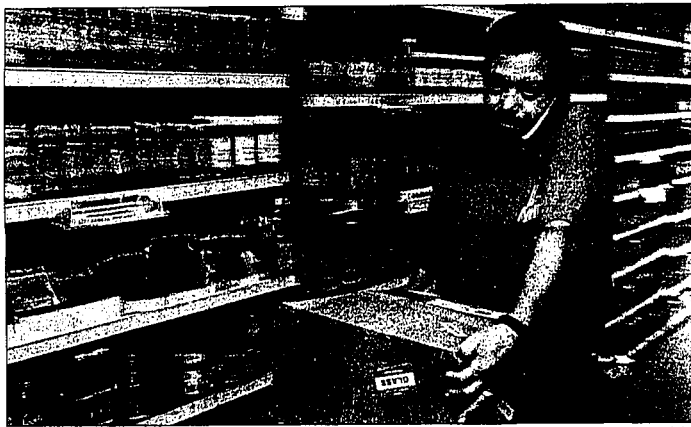
Rizzo was recently laid off from his customer service job at a home-hire in Sarasota, Fla. His grocery bill is higher nowadays, and he can barely afford his mortgage payments.

"Everything has gotten tremendously more expensive," said Rizzo, 45, who is married with a 15-year-old daughter. "We don't go out to dinner now. We don't take vacations. We've had to make a lot of adjustments to our lifestyle."

Whether an actual recession is on the way — or already here — U.S. consumers and businesses are being increasingly squeezed by a downturn that threatens to spread the pain being felt everywhere from the gas pump to the unemployment line.

The official designation often comes long after the recession itself begins.

Please see RECEPTION, Page A7



Chuck Rizzo, unpacks boxes at his store, Big Daddy's Fiery Foods, in Sarasota, Fla. Besides cutting back his family's spending, Rizzo is now working seven days a week and putting in 13-hour days after opening the store last month. Sales were strong early on but have 'crashed' in January, and he's worried about the declining economic trends.

For continuing coverage of Recession Watch, go to MagVolley.com/business

Exclusive online coverage includes:

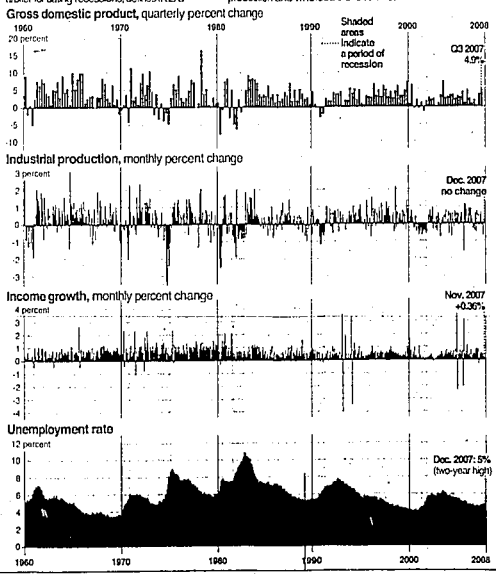
WHERE TO INVEST: While Wall Street debates whether the U.S. is heading toward recession, investors can take steps to limit their risks beyond simply defensive moves.

BELT TIGHTENING: Gary Foreman, a former financial planner who edits The Dollar Stretcher newsletter, says that consumers have a number of options to help them weather a troubled economic climate.

Please see WORRY, Page A7

Putting the downturn in historical context

The technical definition of the word "recession" varies depending on whom you ask. The National Bureau of Economic Research, the recognized arbiter for dating recessions, defines it as a significant decline in economic activity lasting more than a few months, normally visible in real GDP, real income, employment, industrial production and wholesale and retail sales.



SOURCES: National Bureau of Economic Research; Bureau of Economic Analysis

BUSINESS BRIEFS

Glambia in negotiations with Meats MBO Team

Glambia PLC confirmed Jan. 18 that it has entered into negotiations, which may lead to a transaction being concluded whereby Glambia will sell its meats operations to an MBO team.

The MBO team is led by Mr. Jim Hanley, CEO of Glambia Meats, together with three other senior managers.

According to Glambia officials, the development is consistent with Glambia's objective of focusing investment on key growth areas such as cheese, food ingredients, nutrition and selected consumer foods. Glambia Meats employs 850 people at four facilities in Ireland.

Glambia has no meat operations in the United States.

USDA announces enhancements to potato crop insurance

SPOKANE, Wash. — The United States Department of Agriculture's Risk Management Agency (RMA) announced Monday its crop policy improvements to the potato crop insurance provisions.

Specifics of the potato crop provisions, which provide flexibility to tailor insurance protection to a grower's individual needs, are now listed on the department website at <http://www3.rma.usda.gov/tools/agents>

Upcoming sales closing dates

The 2008 Crop Year Closing Dates for the Pacific Northwest are the following:

- Jan. 31 — Final date to obtain or change Adjusted Gross Revenue Pilot (AGRI) insurance in Idaho, Oregon and Washington. It is also the final date to submit required documents to continue or change 2008 Adjusted Gross Revenue-Lite insurance in Alaska, Idaho, Oregon and Washington.
- Feb. 1 — Final date to obtain or change crop insurance coverage for Spring Planted Onions in Idaho, Oregon and Washington.

— Staff and wire reports

Consumers pull back on spending, worry more about debt

By Eileen Ali Powell
Associated Press writer

NEW YORK — Joi Freeman, a dentist in suburban Atlanta, doesn't have to look further than his appointment book to tell that people are worried about money.

Patients who used to get their teeth whitened all the time "now want to think about it a bit," she said, about for the kids, for themselves, but now they're wait-

ing," she added. And when people get cavities, they have their fillings done one a month, not five or six at a time, she said.

As a result, Freeman and her husband are worried their income could drop and are trying to be more prudent with their money. They're monitoring spending more closely and continuing to whittle down their credit card balances and her dental school debt, she said.

Please see WORRY, Page A7

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



Indianapolis Colts head football coach Tony Dungy announces he will remain the team's coach through the 2008 season at a news conference in Indianapolis, Monday.

Colts coach Dungy to remain with team

By Michael Marot
Associated Press writer

INDIANAPOLIS — Tony Dungy insists family always comes before football.

But Dungy believes he can make those priorities coexist — even if it means long commutes.

With his passion to coach high, his family supportive of his ambitions, and the Colts team owner intent on bringing him back, Dungy followed his heart and his family's wishes Monday deciding to return for at least one more season as head coach before turning the job over to his chosen successor, Jim Caldwell.

"I love this franchise. I love my family," said Dungy, whose contract runs through 2008. "I wouldn't have come back if I was going to short-change either one, or my children were not for it. It was really a family

'I could stop and start a ministry, but I might not have a platform like this.' So I see it as a little more than a job."

— Colts coach Tony Dungy on his decision to return for one more season as the team's head coach

decision."

The weeklong deliberation created an emotional tug-of-war for the deeply religious Dungy.

His family recently moved back to Tampa, Fla., and his 16-year-old son, Eric, is attending high school there. The perception was Dungy had to choose between leaving the NFL, so he could be spend more time at home as he often cajoles other parents to do — or becoming a regular commuter on off-days to fulfill family obligations.

Dungy believes he can do both well.

Owner Jim Irsay offered to make Dungy's life easier by reducing his day-to-day workload, provide his own private jet for trips to Tampa, and give Dungy a chance to groom his longtime friend, Caldwell.

It wasn't the offers that convinced Dungy; it was the opportunity to keep winning and the chance to use coaching as a pulpit for his message.

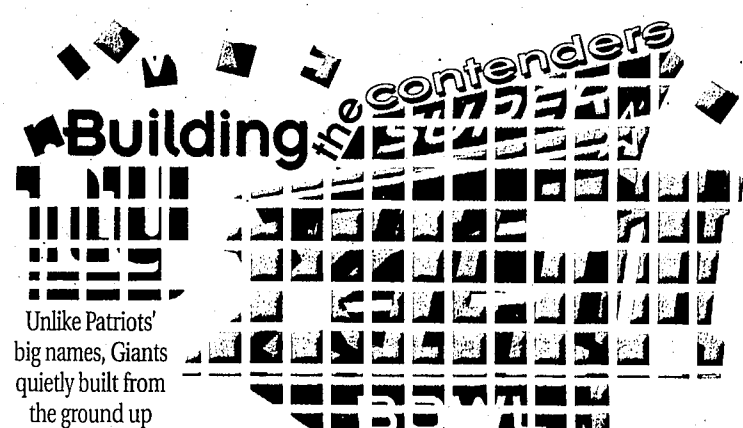
"I enjoy my job, the players, the

staff we have here and Bill (Polian) and Jim," Dungy said. "But it is a platform and that's something I talked to my wife and pastor about. I said 'I could stop and start a ministry, but I might not have a platform like this.' So I see it as a little more than a job."

Irsay wasn't the only Colts official relieved. Team president Bill Polian was pleased with the outcome, and last week players repeatedly expressed their desire to have Dungy back.

"I think there's not a guy in this locker room who wouldn't love to see him back," defensive tackle Darrell Reid said then.

The 52-year-old Dungy has spent more than half his life coaching in the NFL, and became the first black coach to win a Super Bowl last season. He'd like to add to that collection next season.



Unlike Patriots' big names, Giants quietly built from the ground up

By Dave Goldberg
Associated Press writer

NEW YORK — While the New England Patriots were picking up the likes of Randy Moss, Wes Welker, and Julius Thomas and Dante Stallworth last offseason, Jerry Reese was sitting on his hands.

At least that's the impression the New York Giants' new general manager was giving to his team's fans and the loudest segment of the New York media as they groused about the lack of name signings — no one of import save Kawika Mitchell, who won a starting job at outside linebacker.

So, naturally, neither the media nor the fans anticipated more than a 500 season, if that. Those feelings were compounded when New York started 0-2, allowing 100 points in losses to Dallas and Green Bay.

But New York's three-game run through the playoffs to the Super Bowl, indeed, its entire season, has been marked by

major contributions from draft choices.

All eight members of this year's draft class remain on the roster and 18 players drafted since 2004 are integral parts of the NFC champions, who avenged both of those opening losses in the postseason.

Credit Reese for most of that. It was the personnel director under Eric Accorsi, who retired as GM after last season and had a major role in identifying the players who are the core of a team that has now won an NFL-record 10 straight road games.

"I consider him my No. 1 draft pick," Accorsi says of Reese. "I can't say enough about how great he's doing the job."

Overall, the Giants' success is the result of the kind of organizational continuity that brings success in most endeavors. This latest success starts with Eli Manning, whose mat-

uration in the last four games, starting with the 38-35 loss to unbeaten Super Bowl opponent New England in the regular-season finale, is a primary reason for the Giants' ascendancy.

Technically, Manning is not a Giants draft choice although he is counted in that 18 because Accorsi's biggest quest to obtain the son of Archie and brother of Peyton is one reason the Giants have been built as they are.

Start with that 2004 draft, when Archie, Eli and agent Tom Condon informed the Chargers they didn't want the youngest of the Manning clan to play in San Diego. The Chargers took him anyway with the first overall pick, set-

ting off negotiations with the Giants, who picked fourth overall.

That deal struck and New York took Philip Rivers, then traded him with a bundle of draft picks to the Chargers for Manning.

But they didn't accede to San Diego's request for second-year defensive end Osi Umenyiora. The Giants preferred to give up their top pick

Favre shouldn't go out this way

By Barry Wilner
Associated Press writer

GREEN BAY, Wis. — His shoulders slumped under a Packers parka, Brett Favre shuffled off the field while Giants players celebrated an NFC championship around him. Favre's last pass had been intercepted, setting up the winning field goal, sending the Giants to the Super Bowl and the Packers home.

That's no way for Favre to go out. It's not a question of whether Favre still has the goods: the style, the charisma, the hair-izer arm. He not only remains a great leader



Favre

and showman on a football team, if you will, throughout not only Wisconsin, but the entire league — but a pretty fine quarterback.

Although Sunday's loss, robbing the 38-year-old Favre of a return to the Super Bowl after a decade's absence, was one of his more forgettable performances, he's coming off a sensational season. A week before the NFC title game, he was superb in beating Seattle in the playoffs.

Yes, the frigid temperatures at Lambeau Field on Sunday seemed to bother him more than at most other times in his nonpareil 17-year career. He made some careless throws and some unwise decisions.

But that's always what you get with this rival-gambler of a quarterback. And it's just what the Packers, not to mention the rest of pro football, needs.

For years, the only three-time league MVP was the measuring stick at the most visible position in the game. Unlike some of the other "star" QBs, Favre never has been dull, rarely has spotted his company line, and always means it obvious he loved playing this game. To the kid from Klin, Miss., it's not a business, not a job, but a game.

If only every athlete kept that outlook throughout such a long tenure.

"Who knows? But we'd definitely like to see him back," said receiver Greg Jennings, who has become a favorite Favre target in the two seasons they've been together. "I'd definitely like to see him in that locker over there again."

Please see FAIRE, Page B2

Jazz use balance, big fourth quarter to clobber Clippers

The Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — The Utah Jazz overwhelmed the Los Angeles Clippers at both ends of the court and came away with a rare road victory.

Deron Williams had 18 points and 13 assists, and six of his teammates also scored in double figures for the Jazz in Monday's 109-93 win. It was just their second win in their last 13 away from home.

"We're obviously a better team when we're balanced like that," reserve forward Matt Harpring said. "The last couple of games we've been like that. Hopefully, we can continue to do that because it makes us so much harder to guard when you have six or seven guys that can score."

Harpring scored 17 points for the Jazz, who got their eighth victory in 10 games after losing 11 of their previous 14.

"We ran and pushed the ball up the floor more than we should have instead of just walking it — because we hadn't put a lot of pressure on the defense until today," coach Jerry Sloan said. "That's what we have to do



Utah Jazz forward Carlos Boozer celebrates after a Jazz basket late in the second half against the Los Angeles Clippers Monday in Los Angeles. The Jazz won 109-93.

on the road. We can't just sit back and wait."

Harpring shot 7-for-10 in his season-high 27 minutes. It was a first game

since team orthopedic specialist Dr. Lyle Mason lifted the ban that limited Harpring's minutes from 16 to 19 per game. The 10-year veteran missed the entire preseason after undergoing surgery on his right knee in his career.

Chris Maggette scored 23 points for Los Angeles and Chris Kaman added 17 points and 10 rebounds. The Clippers, who beat New Jersey 120-107 in overtime Saturday night, haven't won consecutive games since starting the season 4-0. They are 8-25 since then.

The Jazz were never seriously threatened in the fourth. After Cuttino Mobley's 3-pointer and rookie Al Thornton's two free throws put Los Angeles within nine with 9:04 to play, the Jazz responded with a 20-6 run that opened up a 107-84 cushion with 2:24 left.

"It was definitely a good win, especially with the effort we got and the help we got from the bench," Williams said. "It was good to set the tempo early. We were active on defense and

got some good steals and deflections." Each team had eight turnovers in the first quarter. Utah finished with 19 and Los Angeles had 20, the fifth time this season that the Clippers had 20 or more.

"You just have to look at one stat line. Our 20 turnovers led to 29 points for them, which tells the story of the game for us," coach Mike Thonney said. "There were too many easy baskets because of our turnovers. They established a style of play and played a more physical game than us."

Thornton hit a 3-pointer with 4:17 left in the third quarter, capping a 12-2 run that sliced Utah's 14-point lead to 66-62. That was as close as the Clippers got the rest of the way. The Jazz regained their double-digit lead in the final minute of the quarter on a layup by Harpring, who scored seven points in a 2-43 span during Utah's game-declining run.

"It's not just mistakes and turnovers. It is being outworked," Clippers forward Tim Thomas said. "It is disappointing for them to have their win in Utah, then come in here and win."

Coming Wednesday

The Times-News previews what could be District W's last Class 1A Magic Valley Northside and Southside girls basketball tournaments.

Next winter, the current conferences will be replaced to reflect the large-school and small-school divisions, similar to the alignments used in 8-man football.

Both tournaments start Wednesday, so pick up a copy of the Times-News to get the inside scoop.



TWIN FALLS FORECAST

Today: Partly cloudy and dry with temperatures remaining below average. High in the middle 20s.
Tonight: A cold and partly cloudy night. Lows dropping to near 10.
Tomorrow: Partly to mostly sunny with light breezes and cold temperatures. Highs upper 20s.

BURLEY/RUPERT FORECAST

Today: Partly cloudy and remaining so the cloudy side. Highs higher than to near 20.
Tonight: Mostly dry and partly cloudy. Lows by reaching between 5 and 10.
Tomorrow: A much warmer, but still colder than average. Partly cloudy with highs in the middle 20s.

TWIN FALLS FIVE-DAY FORECAST

Table with 5 columns: Today, Tonight, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday, Saturday. Includes weather icons and temperature ranges (High/Low).

Yesterday's Weather

Table with columns: City, Hi, Lo, Precip. Lists weather for various cities like Boise, Coeur d'Alene, etc.

ALMANAC - TWIN FALLS

Table with columns: Temperature, Precipitation, Humidity, Barometric Pressure, Sunrise and Sunset. Includes current and forecast values.

MOON PHASES

Table showing moon phases for Jan 22, Jan 30, Feb 7, Feb 14.

MOONRISE AND MOONSET

Table showing moonrise and moonset times for Twin Falls.

U.V. INDEX

Table showing U.V. index levels: Low, Moderate, High.

IDAHO'S FORECAST

Map of Idaho with weather forecasts for various regions: SUN VALLEY, SURROUNDING MTS., BOISE, NORTHERN UTAH, SOUTHWESTERN IDAHO, SOUTHEASTERN IDAHO.

REGG MIDDLEKAUFF'S QUOTE OF THE DAY

There is nothing so easy to learn as experience.
"Keep looking so hard to apply."

REGIONAL FORECAST

Table with columns: City, Today, Tomorrow, Thursday. Lists forecasts for cities like Boise, Coeur d'Alene, etc.

NATIONAL FORECAST

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

WORLD FORECAST

Table with columns: City, Today, Tomorrow, Thursday. Lists forecasts for various international cities.

TODAY'S NATIONAL MAP



CANADIAN FORECAST

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

NASCAR makes slight changes to focus on racing

CONCORD, N.C. (AP) — NASCAR will attempt to balance its focus on drivers outside the top 35 this season by grouping them together in qualifying.
It was one of a series of small changes NASCAR announced Monday as it prepares for 2008.
As America's No. 1 auto racing series heads into a new season, chairman Brian France said he wants the attention to return to the competition after several years of tweaks to the 60-year-old series.
" We want the focus to be on the

best product in the world," France said. "We want the story lines of the sport to be the focus."
NASCAR has gotten away from that of late, making adjustments to everything from the way the championship is decided to the name of its premier series, which is now called the Sprint Cup Series. It had been called the Nextel Cup Series since 2003, and was the Winston

Cup before that.
To emphasize the desire to return the focus to racing, NASCAR was careful to make only slight changes this season.
The new qualifying procedure is designed to send all drivers not already locked in to the field onto the track when the conditions are essentially the same. Previously, the order was set by a random draw and drivers could benefit by the time of day they made their attempt.
Under the new format, all the

drivers will now make their attempt at the end of the session.
NASCAR also said it will provide tires for testing at non-sanctioned NASCAR tests. Sprint Cup teams will be getting 200 tires. Nationwide teams 160 and Craftsman Truck Series teams 120.
On pit road, the crew will now be allowed to push the car just three pit box lengths to get it moving after a service stop.
And, the outside tires must now be hand-rolled back to the wall once off the car. In the past, the

tires could freely roll to the wall.
NASCAR also announced it will donate all money collected through fines to the NASCAR foundation as a part of the sport's charitable initiative.
The fines previously were put into the pitails fund that was split among the drivers at the end of the year.
Fines usually average around \$200,000 a season, but the amount was close to \$1 million last year as NASCAR cracked down on violations.

Tiger Woods calls 'lynch' comment 'unfortunate,' says the matter is over

ANAHEIM, Calif. (AP) — Tiger Woods says Golf Channel anchor Kelly Tilghman meant no harm when she used the term "lynch" during television commentary about him, and he regards the issue closed as he returns to work this week.
" It was unfortunate," Woods said Monday in his first public comments since Tilghman was suspended for two weeks. " Kelly and I did speak. There was no ill intent. She regrets saying it. In my eyes, it's all said and done."
Woods spoke at the Tiger Woods Learning Center, where he announced a contest for children to talk about their first "first pump" moment. He also unveiled a bronze of his late father, Earl Woods, during its unveiling inside the Tiger Woods Learning Center in Anaheim, Calif., Monday.



Tiger Woods stands next to a bronze statue bearing the likeness of Tiger with his late father Earl Woods, during its unveiling inside the Tiger Woods Learning Center in Anaheim, Calif., Monday.

The world's No. 1 player will make his 2008 debut at the Buick Invitational in San Diego, which starts Thursday.
Despite not having played since last week's Genesis Invitational, Tiger Woods' name is a household name. Woods has been a big part of golf news.
" I've been in that situation before," he said with a slight smile.
Near the end of the second round at the Mercedes-Benz Championship, Tilghman and analyst Nick Faldo were discussing possible challengers to Woods when Faldo suggested the players going up on Woods "lynched" him in a back alley."
Tilghman said, laughing.
Woods' agent had issued a statement before Tilghman was suspended, noting Woods and Tilghman were friends and he considered the matter over. Under increasing

pressure, however, Golf Channel suspended the anchor for two weeks.
The topic was clanked up a match last week, when Golfweek magazine put a nose on the cover of its Jan. 19 issue, which drew more criticism and an unusually sharp rebuke from PGA Tour commissioner Tim Finchem.
Golfweek last week fired Dave Scanlon, the editor responsible for the cover.
Woods said he never felt pressure to speak out on the use of "lynch," which strikes graphic reminders of the Old South in which 3,000 blacks were lynched in the United States from 1882 to 1988.
" It was more media-driven than anything else," Woods said.
He said he several people contacted him as they were curious what he thought.

TENNIS: AUSTRALIAN OPEN
Blake wins, gets Federer in quarters

MELBOURNE, Australia (AP) — James Blake is in a predicament.
He's being asked if he thinks Roger Federer is vulnerable at the Australian Open after being taken to 10-8 in the fifth set of a third-round match and a few choice calls in his fourth-round win over Tomas Berdych.
Should Blake talk up his chances and risk aggravating Federer before their quarterfinal, or play down his expectations and quietly hope it's true?
" It's just a reminder that everyone's human. You can have a bad day," Blake said, taking the cautious route, after his 6-3, 6-4, 6-4 win over 19-year-old Croatian Marin Cilic on Monday.
Blake has taken one set off Federer in seven previous matches and reached the Australian Open quarterfinals for the first time in seven trips to Melbourne Park.
The 29-year-old American made it far at a Grand Slam tournament twice before — both at the U.S. Open. He lost to Andre Agassi in 2005 and Federer in four sets in '06.
Federer is aiming for a third consecutive Australian title — a fourth in five years — and a 13th major to get within one of Pete Sampras' record.
But he came to Melbourne Park with limited training because a stomach illness forced him out of his regular tournament at Koblenz.
The Swiss star had to come back from a set down in his 4-hour, 27-minute third-round match against Janko Tipsarevic that prolonged the longest day of tennis at any Grand Slam.
And, uncharacteristically, he disputed umpiring decisions Monday and had to fend off protests in his 6-7, 7-6 (7), 6-3 win and admitted No. 13-seeded Berdych played better in the second set.
" I'm not going to worry too much about the matches before or him seeming edged," Blake said. " I don't think he's going to give me anything for free because he's either going to think like that. "
" I'm not going to think it's going to be as easy, because I know once he gets this deep in a Slam, I'm sure his mind is thinking about winning it and getting closer to that record. Hopefully I'm going to have a little say in that, but



James Blake races to return the ball to Marin Cilic of Croatia during their fourth-round men's singles match at the Australian Open in Melbourne, Australia, Monday.

Blake never discounts his chances.
" Every time I've stepped out on the court with him I've felt I play my best. I give myself a shot with anyone in the world," he said.
Faldo talking him to 10-8 in the fifth sets in the first week of a Grand Slam, two years before he won his first major at Wimbledon in 2003.
" It throws off your rhythm a little bit, playing a five-setter, especially during a tournament," Federer conceded.
" Usually I play five-setters in finals, like in Miami, Rome, Wimbledon, so it's a bit different to back it up. "
" But honestly, I feel good. Looking forward to see how I feel in the next match."
Federer is now 30-1 at Melbourne Park since the start of his winning run in 2003.
Serena Williams' run has been almost as impressive, running to 27-1 dating

back to the first of her three title here in 2003.
The defending champion puts that on the line Tuesday against No. 3 Jelena Jankovic, while top-ranked Justine Henin takes No. 5 Maria Sharapova, the losing finalist last year.
In the men's quarterfinals, No. 2 Rafael Nadal is against Jarkko Nieminen of Finland and No. 14 Mikhail Youzhny faces Jo-Wilfried Tsonga of France.
Fifth-seeded David Ferrer beat fellow Spaniard Juan Carlos Ferrero 7-3, 6-5, 6-4, 6-1 on Monday night and next faces third-ranked Novak Djokovic, who ousted the last Australian hope when he defeated No. 19 Lleyton Hewitt 7-5, 6-3, 6-3.
Hewitt didn't have his usual high energy level after beating Marcos Baghdatis in five sets in his previous match, which didn't end until 4:33 a.m. Sunday.
Venus Williams had to rally from service breaks in the first set before advancing to the quarters here for the first time in five years with a 6-4, 6-4 win over Maria Domachowska, a qualifier from Poland.



Land-protection programs gain favor

Bill to protect open space could emerge this month

By Matt Christensen
Times-News writer

Idahoans who protect their land from urban growth could pay less on their income taxes under a bill expected to be introduced this legislative session.

The proposed Idaho Ranch, Farm and Forest Protection Act would allow for land owners who agree to not develop their properties for 30 years. The program would also allow property owners to sell the credits for cash.

Some question how lawmakers offset the \$100-million-dollar loss in state income taxes, but supporters

say it's a small price to pay for protecting Idaho's iconic expanses — and that taxpayers are willing to foot the bill.

Almost two-thirds of Idaho voters would pay \$20 a year to fund tax incentives that go toward protecting natural areas, according to a poll conducted statewide by Moore & Information in November. Most respondents, 83 percent, supported an incentive program regardless of funding.

Land conservation is becoming more popular in Idaho, the fourth fastest growing state in the nation, as urban areas increasingly creep into farmland, forests and range.

This month, retired minis-

ter John Parish Jr. set aside 153 acres of his family homestead in Twin Falls County in a land-protection program with federal tax incentives. Parish's family has farmed the land since 1904, when his father moved here from Illinois, and he was worried the land could become another subdivision on Twin Falls' fast-developing west end, he said.

The easement was facilitated by the Southern Idaho Land Trust, a nonprofit group that ensures easement agreements are followed. Most often, the terms prevent farmland from being divided into neighborhoods.

"With the booming growth we are seeing here in the

Magic Valley, we are seeing some of our best farmland eaten up by subdivisions," said SILET President Jack Kalay. "Conservation easements will help preserve open spaces, as well as provide a vehicle for people who want to save their farms and ranches from urban development."

Supporters of the state tax incentive program, including Laird Noh, a former legislator, Kimberly sheep rancher and Nature Conservancy board member, hope to make conservation easements twice as appealing by opening up state incentives, especially to aging ranchers and farmers such as Parish.

"We're trying to appeal to land owners who may be

neering retirement and are thinking about selling their land," he said.

The program was pitched Monday to legislators by lobbyist Suzanne Budge Schaefer. A similar proposal stalled in committee last year, but this session, the program has been tweaked to appeal to more lawmakers, she said.

She's also counting on the recent poll to convince legislators. "I hope that it would give our elected folks a lot of comfort to know how broad the support is for something like this," she said.

Support for the proposal could fall short again this session, however, because of concerns of a potential recession. Lawmakers have indicated they'll fund only the most-needed programs.

A land-conservation bill

"Conservation easements will help preserve open spaces, as well as provide a vehicle for people who want to save their farms and ranches from urban development."

— SILET President Jack Kalay

could be drafted and presented in committee this month.

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

Land deal changes health care landscape in Hailey

By Nate Poppino
Times-News writer

St. Luke's Wood River Medical Center officials have acquired about two acres of land in Hailey to build a new medical office building, part of an ongoing land deal affecting health care providers in the town.

The land, purchased for \$2.1 million, will be the new home of Wood River Family Medicine. St. Luke's Wood River spokeswoman Tanya Keim said. That building's current location, less than a mile away, will become part of a continuous-care retirement community incorporating Blaine Manor.

Noters last spring gave permission for sale of the land, owned by Blaine County, with proceeds given to the Croy Canyon Ranch Foundation, Blaine Manor administrator Gail Goglia said. The nonprofit raises money for the county-owned nursing home, she said, and this latest deal will provide more assisted- and independent-living options in an area that needs them.

"We just have to send (patients) away from home," Goglia said.

The deal gives St. Luke's an opportunity to build a larger, up-to-date facility for physicians with enhanced medical imaging and lab services, at a cost of \$7 million to \$10 million. At 30,000 square feet, the new building will be almost four times the size of the current facility, Keim said. One floor will be dedicated to Wood River Family Medicine, with occupants of a second floor yet to be determined.

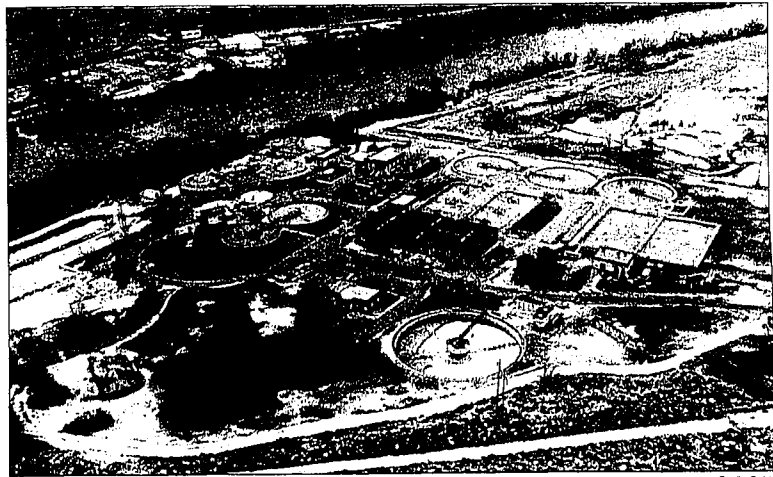
"We don't plan to expand (family medicine) at this point," Keim said of the planned building on Aviation Drive across from Hailey Nursery. "But we will definitely build an accommodation for growth in the future."

The new medical office should be complete by 2010, though hospital officials will try to finish it by 2009, Keim said. The continuous-care center, Goglia said, is planned for sometime during the next few years. And while it'll be a little less convenient for her residents to visit the doctor, Goglia said, the new center will be worth it.

"(The physicians are) really not going to be that far away," Goglia said.

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

T.F. council plans busy day



The Twin Falls City Council is exploring options for upgrading a new wastewater system which could cost millions of dollars.

Fee hearings, wastewater plant dominate schedule

By Nate Poppino
Times-News writer

"It'll be a busy evening for the Twin Falls City Council.

Most of the work will come after the council's regular 5 p.m. meeting, held today because of Martin Luther King Jr. Day. At 6 p.m., council members will hear requests to increase fees for both city pool and recreational sports participants and after that will hear from engineering firm CH2M Hill about the future of the city's wastewater treatment plant.

The wastewater presentation, though solely informational, will have the largest long-term effect. The city's plant is about 80 percent full of capacity, and CH2M Hill's presentation will contain what the engineering firm sees as the city's options for upgrading and renovating the facility over the next two decades, City Manager Tom Courtney said.

The first step — an update on which should come tonight — will be designing and building a bypass around the plant's aging biofilter tower, which will likely cost more than \$1 million,

Courtney said. The report recommends carrying out an extensive overhaul of the facility in two construction phases, the first costing nearly \$20 million and the second about \$3 million. Population projections included in the document show both still might not provide enough capacity for the city by the year 2027, depending on its rate of growth.

The fee for proposals would be the first major increases to both services in several years, proponents said. If approved, the cost of an annual pass to the

pool for adults and family would go up about 15 percent to \$190 and \$260, respectively. Youth participating in basketball, soccer or other city sports, and who live in the city limits, would pay \$15 instead of \$12, while out-of-town youth would pay \$25 rather than \$15. Youth jerseys would double in price to \$10, and men's city-run softball participants would have to pay \$150, 23 percent more.

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

Elko voters give caucuses mixed review

By Doug McMurdo and John Sents
For the Times-News

ELKO, Nev. — Saturday's historic presidential caucuses left many politically active Nevadans a little bit confused.

Between 700 and 800 of the party faithful packed the Old Gym at Elko High to cast their votes Saturday.

While there was initial confusion, members of specific precincts eventually organized for the hour-long caucus.

Elko's results mirrored the state as the conservative candidate won by impressive margins in each of Nevada's 17 counties.



See what happened behind the scenes when the presidential candidates campaigned in Elko. Go to magicvalley.com.

John Edwards took about 6 percent. Obama won White Pine County with 45 percent to Clinton's 41 percent; Humboldt County with 51 percent; Clinton's 34 percent; Washoe County with 49 percent to Clinton's 39 percent.

As for the caucus process, most participants said they found the event somewhat confusing and intimidating.

"I prefer the primary (system)," said Charlie Myers. "Are people aware of the primary process?"

"We lost a lot of Republicans and more would have participated in a primary and made their wishes known."

Myers also acknowledged the Democratic Party was more proactive in

Please see ELKO, Page C2

Mental health organization starts support group for Magic Valley

By Nate Poppino
Times-News writer

Finding help for a person battling mental illness is hard enough. Finding help for his or her family is a whole separate challenge.

That search just got a little bit easier for residents of the Magic Valley. After more than three years without a family support group in Twin Falls, the Idaho chapter of the National Alliance for the Mentally III has started a new one.

The new group, led by Twin Falls resident Eleanor Rainey, will complement the organization's current group for "consumers," those who have mental illnesses themselves. Though her group's first meeting on Jan. 15 was

Say hello

NAMI Magic Valley's family support group meets at 7 p.m. on the third Tuesday of every month at the KMMT Community Room. For information: Eleanor Rainey, 944-0852.

The consumer group meets at 7 p.m. on the second Monday of the month at the same location. Contact: Carol Stephens, 358-1943.

sparsely attended, Rainey said she expects things to pick up as word gets out. "All great programs are slow to start," she said, "and I just think there was a big need for this in the Magic Valley."

Please see MENTAL, Page C2

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Official Notice
Of the
Annual Meeting
Of the
Valley Wide Cooperative Inc
January 31, 2008 6:00 pm
The Best Western Bully Inn & Convention Center
800 N. Overland Avenue
Bully, Idaho

Table with columns: YTD Actual, Budget, Variance. Rows include: EXPENDITURES (General, Parks Streets & Highways, Fink, Library, Law Enforcement, Sanitation, Community Serv. Officer, Water, Sewer, Total Expenditures) and REVENUE (Fund Balances, Tax Receipts, General Revenue, Water, Sewer, Total Revenue).

DRIVER
Full or part-time Driver to haul equipment out of state.
731-6172 or 731-6188

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Puzzles by Pappocom
9 7 8 2 1 3
4 5 6 7 8
6 4 2 8 3
5 1 7
1 4 9 6
5 6 7 9
3 4 9 2
1 5 8 6

IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF THE FIFTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT OF THE STATE OF IDAHO IN AND FOR THE COUNTY OF TWIN FALLS
Case No. CV 07-5748
SUMMONS
DEBBIE LYNN HUGHES, Plaintiff
vs.
TOMMY LEE BRIGGS, Defendant

CITY OF KIMBERLY
1st Quarter Report
YTD Actual Budget Variance
2007-2008 2007-2008 2007-2008

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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.

If you want to defend this lawsuit, you must file a written response (Answer or appropriate Rule 12.1 (R.C.P. Motion) to the Complaint at the Court Clerk's office for the above listed District Court, within 20 days from the date of this Summons.

ANNOUNCEMENTS
50 Legal
101 Lost and Found
102 Cars & Trucks
104 Persons
105 Pets
106 Special Notices

101 Lost and Found
Found Lab Chow mix, large female dog, on Hwy 25, 1 mile east of Hazelton 420-5372 or 536-2002 539-6604

EMPLOYMENT
200 Employment
201 Accounting
202 Clerical
203 Construction
204 Customer Service
205 Drivers
206 Servers
207 Education
208 Farm
209 General
210 Management
211 Medical
212 Miscellaneous
213 Professional
214 Retail
215 Sales
216 Trades
218 Newspaper Careers

If you do not file a written response the court may enter a judgment against you without further notice. A letter to the Judge is not an appropriate written response.

LOST Bull Mastiff, male, lost on Interstate between Wendell and Jerome. Is on a special diet. REWARD: 500-2192 or 536-2002 539-6604

LOST German Shorthair, 8 month old female, black & orange. BSU collar. Lost in Twin Falls near Chantrelle House Acad. Living Center. Lost 1-6-08. Reward: 208-761-0618

200 Employment
201 Accounting
202 Clerical
203 Construction
204 Customer Service
205 Drivers
206 Servers
207 Education
208 Farm
209 General
210 Management
211 Medical
212 Miscellaneous
213 Professional
214 Retail
215 Sales
216 Trades
218 Newspaper Careers

Public Notice
Actions planned and taken by your government are contained in public notices. They are part of your right to know and to be informed of what your government is doing.

LOST Golden Retriever mix, 5 yr. Old named Bailey. Missing since 1/11/07. Call 208-420-7629 or 208-420-4106.

LOST Golden Retriever mix, 5 yr. Old named Bailey. Missing since 1/11/07. Call 208-420-7629 or 208-420-4106.

Accounting
Accounting Supervisor for a regional wholesale distributor with multiple locations. Applicant must have a minimum grasp of A/R, A/P, Payroll, QuickBooks, Word and Excel.

Public Notice
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LOST Border Collie Heeler cross? Female, found by Burt Miskie. School on O'Yuk. Please call 208-731-0907

LOST German Shorthair, 8 month old female, black & orange. BSU collar. Lost in Twin Falls near Chantrelle House Acad. Living Center. Lost 1-6-08. Reward: 208-761-0618

Accounting
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Public Notice
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FOUND Dog Medium size male. White with black spot on back and brown ears. on Hwy 26 in Richfield. Call 309-1471

FOUND Golden Retriever mix, 5 yr. Old named Bailey. Missing since 1/11/07. Call 208-420-7629 or 208-420-4106.

Clerical
The Lincoln County Journal has an opening for a regional wholesaler/retailer position. Send resume to: P. O. Box 1292, Twin Falls, ID 83303

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FOUND Kitten, all black, 11-12 wks old, very sweet, found on Pioneer Path, on 1/11. Call 208-735-1022

LOST Yorkie, Blondo reddish hair female, 12 yrs old. Family missing her. Reward 734-9880 or 734-4996

Cook
Twin Falls Care Center is looking for a Cook for the evening shifts with weekends, and holidays included. Must be serious and dependable.

Public Notice
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FOUND Miniature Dachshund, female, wearing sweater, found in Lywood Shopping Center. Call 208-734-6889 or 208-731-6989

LOST Yorkie, Blondo reddish hair female, 12 yrs old. Family missing her. Reward 734-9880 or 734-4996

Cook
Twin Falls Care Center is looking for a Cook for the evening shifts with weekends, and holidays included. Must be serious and dependable.

Public Notice
Actions planned and taken by your government are contained in public notices. They are part of your right to know and to be informed of what your government is doing.

FOUND Ring, ladies, found in parking lot of Canyon Mall. Call to identify 208-734-8656

LOST Blue Maxbit, 5 years old, needs medical and medication, reward offered. Lost around mile marker 160 in between Wendell and Jerome. Call 208-536-2002 or 208-539-6604

Cook
Twin Falls Care Center is looking for a Cook for the evening shifts with weekends, and holidays included. Must be serious and dependable.

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208-734-5538

209 General
PHONEBASE
PhoneBase Research currently has immediate openings in our interviewing department.

209 Farm
FARM
Tractor Operator, Greely Irrigator. Salary, benefits, housing available to right applicant.

209 General
GENERAL
Full-time & Part-time, All Shifts

209 General
START YOUR NEW YEAR WITH A NEW JOB!
New Wage Scale for 2008

209 General
GENERAL
Full-time & Part-time, All Shifts

209 General
RNs or LPNs
Full-time & Part-time, All Shifts

209 General
CNAs
Full-time & Part-time, All Shifts

209 General
GENERAL
Full-time & Part-time, All Shifts

209 General
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Full-time & Part-time, All Shifts

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GENERAL
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INSIDE: Plant for winter interest, D4



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INSIDE: Comics, D2-3 | Horoscope, D2 | Dear Abby, D3

Real-life ranch reading

A book for ranch kids — and kids who wonder what it's like

By Melissa Davlin
Times-News writer

Want to shake up your kids' reading list with a rough and rowdy book that will actually keep their attention? Consider "The Orange Slipknot," a new piece of fiction by Winnemucca, Nev., author Jan Young.

Young tells the story of 12-year-old Ben, a boy who lives on a ranch near Elko, Nev. When a prank backfires, Ben learns to take responsibility for his actions and tries to save his dad's job.

The descriptions of modern ranch life pull the reader in as much as the conflict. Ben has to get up early, take care of the horses and help recover lost cattle in the mountains.

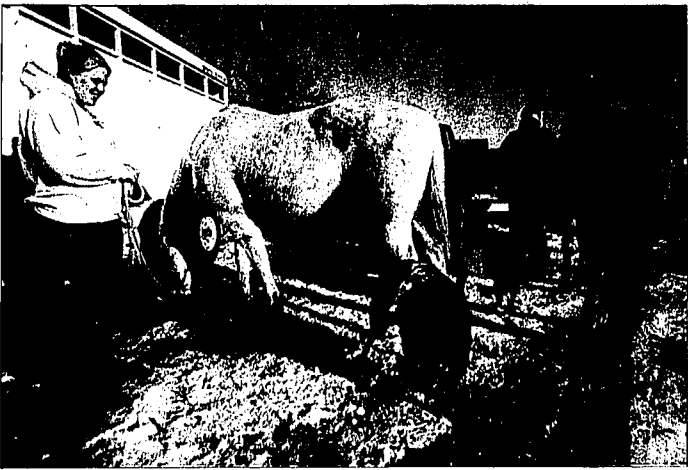
Young's depiction of hard-working ranch children is accurate, said Carey Hurd, manager of the Y-3 Ranch in Jackpot, Nev.

"My kids are 6, 9 and 12 and they get chores, you know. They got to feed horses," he said.

"The hard work, Hurd said, gives them an unusual respect for material possessions for their ages. "They know that it takes some work to get what they have," he said.

In the book, Ben is also raised with an unusual responsibility like driving and owning a gun. Hurd lets his children do the same, saying he would give a gun to his 12-year-old son sooner than to a cocky 25-year-old.

"Just depends on how



Samantha Guino, 17, and her brother Garrett, 13, pose with their horses and goats at their home outside Castleford. It's rewarding at the end, says Samantha of her various chores. "You sometimes wanna just give up but you learn a lot from [the animals]." Samantha and her brother take care of four horses, four dogs, two goats and a bull. Their lives have much in common with the main character of Jan Young's ranch novel, "The Orange Slipknot."

many of the 12-year-olds," he said. "It's just gravel roads," he said. "There's nobody out for a long ways."

Young's book brings up other issues that affect ranch life, such as gophers tearing up fields. Ben earns money by trapping gophers for his neighbors, saving their alfalfa fields from destruction.

Here too, "The Orange Slipknot" is on target.

Hurd said gophers, ground squirrels and rabbits cause problems on a lot of ranches



Garrett Guino heads off for a ride down "the lane" — a small road that leads to open property next to his family's home in Castleford where a neighbor often lets them ride. "I think it's awesome [to live on a farm] because we get to do whatever we want. If we want to ride our horses we can just go out and grab 'em. We don't have to wait for anyone to bring us out some place," says his sister Samantha.

in northern Nevada. "Rabbits are really bad about eating the bottom of the haystacks in the winter," he said. To solve the problem, Hurd lets his children shoot the animals. The family also hunts out gophers.

The children's novel glorifies the tough, dirty lives of ranchers and their families. It will resonate with children who live in the country — and with city kids who are interested in working with horses.

Young paints a vivid picture of Ben's family's life on the ranch and does a fine job explaining some tough issues, like why horses with broken legs have to be eutha-



About 'The Orange Slipknot'

Author: Jan Young. This is her first novel. For ages: 8 and older. Synopsis: 12-year-old Ben tries to make up for a prank that almost costs his father his ranch job in this coming-of-age story.



Available at: www.zvonnpress.com, \$10

nized and why gophers are dangerous for farmers trying to make a living. Susan Guino, whose children take care of their horses at their home outside Bull, said the book seems like it could draw city children to the country.

"City kids just have an awe about horses," she said.

The book might be a little intimidating for young readers who have no experience with livestock, however — the cowboy lingo peppered throughout the story is foreign to most city slickers. A glossary in the back explains words like "riata" and "snaffle," but the words pop up often enough to potentially alienate some children.

But for a true-to-life, gritty depiction of living on a ranch, "The Orange Slipknot" lasses its target audience — children passionate about country life.

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

Two weeks remain in winter photo contest

Times-News

Here in Country Roads, the Times-News showcases some of its readers' best photographs of rural topics. We don't offer prizes, but we publish our favorites along with our judges' comments.

In the current round, we're particularly interested in the stuff of winter — a snowball fight in the back field, perhaps, or a funny image of wet boots and mismatched mittens. And just two weeks remain for you to capture the winning image.

Here's how to enter:

- Photos must be taken in Magic Valley, Mini-Cassia or the Wood River Valley.
- Stick to recent photos, please. Nothing older than approximately one year.
- For our ease of judging, submit prints (they can be

plain-paper printouts or standard photo prints). After we choose winners, we'll ask them to e-mail high-resolution digital versions for publication.

• Identify the people in your photograph, and where and when it was taken. And, of course, tell us who shot the photo. If you aren't the photographer, you must include the photographer's written permission for publication in the *Times-News*. If you like, include a few extra comments about the photo.

• Include your address, phone number and e-mail address.

• Mail entries to: Virginia Hutchins, Features Editor, *Times-News*, P.O. Box 540, Twin Falls, ID 83303.

• Deadline: We must receive your entries by Feb. 4.



At the Sackman home in Gooding, the bird feeder — or squirrel feeder, as it sometimes becomes — stands on the south side of the house, giving the family cat a great view of winter activity on the other side of the glass. Usually the cat's attention is focused outward — making the birds nervous as they eat — but Gary Sackman got her to lie still and look at him for a second or two when he snapped this picture in December from his recliner.

American, uncovered on horesback

Bill Inman completes horseback ride across U.S.

By Ariel Hansen
Times-News writer

There have been many miles under Bill Inman's feet. Well, not his feet exactly — his horse's. Inman just finished a cross-country journey riding Blackie from Oregon to North Carolina.

His goal was to raise awareness for an illness or injury for a cause. No, what Inman wanted was to remind the country that small-town people and country lives are just as worthy of attention as A-listers, that good deeds and friendliness deserve as much press as wars and disease.

"We tend to overlook all the great things in America, all these great places and all these great people," Inman said by phone from North Carolina, where he's resting and thinking about the next step in his "Uncovering America" journey. "People need to slow down a little bit, maybe they're going so fast in the pursuit of happiness they're passing it right by."

Though challenged by weather, traffic and even budget holes that could have twisted Blackie's ankle, Inman



Bill Inman and his horse Blackie ride along the road near Fairfield in July, during a 7-month horseback ride across the U.S. The duo, with support crew, left Oregon on June 2 and arrived at their destination in North Carolina on Jan. 13.

Photo by the photo

On the Web:

Find out more about Bill Inman's journey, and see video clips, at www.uncoveringamerica.com.

said he was often uplifted by his journey across the nation.

"People's friendliness and hospitality didn't change at all," despite changes of lifestyle and geography, he said. From inner-city kids who perhaps had never seen a horse in person to the mounted police who provided him escorts through towns large and small, Inman said he always felt welcome.

Idaho had particularly exceptional hospitality, Inman said.

"Nobody other than in Idaho threw me the keys to their houses and barns," he said, recalling specifically a rancher in Fairfield and a state trooper in Murphy. "Idaho had some of the most memorable people... I met some really great friends I hope I can go back to see."

Inman's journey was documented by freelance videographer Dallas Pesola, who took more than 80 hours of video, and by Inman's wife, Brenda, who kept a blog on the journey's Web site.

Please see INMAN, Page D4

Show us your boots with character

Times-News

They tramped through mud and manure. They sat in the

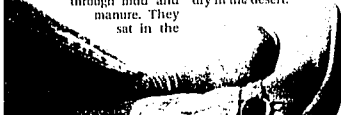
stirrups for endless miles of range. They've been soaked and frozen and baked dry in the desert.

Finally, it's time for your boots to get some recognition.

The *Times-News* is planning a feature story on some of southern Idaho's best boots. Now, we're not talking about fashion finery that's better suited for coffee shops than corral. We're talking about boots with character. Cowboy boots.

Work boots. Steel-toed boots. Sweaty boots. Old boots.

Your boots. To show us your boots — or to tell us about someone else we should contact for the story — call feature writer Melissa Davlin at 735-3234 or send her an e-mail at melissa.davlin@tcn.net.



B.C. By Johnny Hart

WHAT'S THE BEST SUNBLOCK YOU GOT?
HERE. TRY THIS.
WHAT IS IT?
DIRECTIONS TO SEATTLE.

Baby Blues By Rick Kirkman & Jerry Scott

MADAMIE? WHAT'S WRONG?
NOTHING.
BUT AS LONG AS YOU'RE UPHILL, YOU GET ME A DRINK OF WATER?

Baldo By Hector D. Cantu and Carlos Castellanos

BALDO, I'M PROUD OF YOU YOU STOOD UP FOR WHAT YOU BELIEVED IN... BUT YOU DON'T RESORT TO VIOLENCE.
MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. SAID RETURNING VIOLENCE FOR VIOLENCE MULTIPLIES VIOLENCE. ADDING DEEPER DARKNESS TO A NIGHT ALREADY PERIOD OF STRIFE. HATE CANNOT DRIVE OUT HATE: ONLY LOVE CAN DO THAT!
YEAH... I GUESSE I DID THE RIGHT THING. I'M JUST THAT KIND OF A GUY. COMPASSIONATE. CARING. PRESERVING OF SOME SPECIAL REWARD... LIKE A NEW CAR.
OH, OK... ENOUGH WITH THE QUOTES ALREADY.

Brevity By Guy & Rodd

World's Largest MOLECULE!

Dilbert By Scott Adams

OUR VENDOR SENT US A CONSULTANT TO HELP CONFIGURE THE SOFTWARE.
WE CAN TELL HOW IMPORTANT WE ARE BY LOOKING AT THE CONSULTANT THEY ASSIGNED TO US.
THE WORD THAT COMES TO MIND IS DOOHICKEY.

Doonesbury By Garry Trudeau

RICK IS TROUBLE. DOONESBURY IS A PAIN.
ALONG WITH ALL HIS NOT-FORGETTING-SOMETHING-AND-A-SERIES-OF-CLUES.
THERE'RE THREE OF US ON THE STAGE. TOM THERIAULT AND ANITA...
OHAY. HE'S GREAT. HE'S GREAT. HE'S GREAT.

The Elderberries By Phil Frank and Joe Testa

Hisssssssss... It's not a diet. It's a lifestyle. It's not a diet. It's a lifestyle. It's not a diet. It's a lifestyle.
Well, there's that. A little of cooked steers in here!
They do have carrot cake. Dishes. This may be your food apocalypse...

For Better or For Worse By Lynn Johnston

I'M NOT DOING GAMMA. GAMMA IS THE SCENE OF THE CRIME.
GAMMA?
IT'S NOT THE MUSIC. IT'S THE GUY. HE'S A LOT LIKE THE GUY.
IT'S HARD TO KNOW WHAT HE'S THINKING.

Frank and Ernest By Bob Thaves

IF IT'S ALL THE SAME TO YOU, INSTEAD OF LETTING IT BREATHE, WE'LL JUST GIVE IT MOUTH-TO-MOUTH.

Luann By Greg Evans

I'VE BEEN OUT WITH TOM. I WON THE FOOD DRIVE. AND SHE HAD TO BUY ME DINNER.
THAT WAS A BET. YOU DOCK. I'M TALKING A DATE. YOU KNOW. YOU'LL NEVER GET WITH HER?
I'D FREAK IF SHE SAID NO.
BUT WHAT IF SHE SAID YES?
I'D FREAK.

Mallard Fillmore By Bruce Tinsley

AS MRS. CLINTON'S AURA OF INNOCENT SEEMS TO BE CRUMBLING, THE GROANS OF ANGUISH ARE ALMOST AUDIBLE.
...PRIMARILY BECAUSE THEY'RE COMING FROM RIGHT HERE IN THE NEWSROOM...

Pearls Before Swine By Stephan Pastis

RAT ATTENDS A STRANGER'S FUNERAL TO GET THE FREE FOOD.
I'M SORRY SIR, WERE YOU A FRIEND OF BOB'S? I'VE NEVER MET YOU.
UH YEAH. WE WORKED TOGETHER.
BOB NEVER HAD A JOB IN HIS LIFE.
UHM... THE WORK WE DID TOGETHER.
BOB WAS AN ATHEIST.
THAT MADE IT HARD.

Pickles By Brian Crane

WHAT'S THAT, A NEW GARbage CAN?
IT'S NOT JUST A GARbage CAN. IT'S AN IMPROVED GARbage CAN.
IT OPENS BY ITSELF WHEN YOU HOLD GARbage UP TO IT, AND THEN IT CLOSES ITSELF.
HOW LONG HAVE YOU BEEN PLAYING WITH THE GARbage CAN?
COUPLE HOURS.

Rose is Rose By Pat Brady

THE WIND. THE ICE. THE SNOW. THE BATTER COLDS.
WHY DOES HE DO IT, MOMMA?
HE BELIEVES BEING A WINTER GUY IS HIS CALLING.
TO WAIT FOR A WARMER CALL.
MY VEGGIE BURGERS!

Zits By Jim Borgman and Jerry Scott

I SCOPPED HIM ABOUT A MILE FROM HERE AFTER OPENING MY HORN DRIVING IN AND OUT OF THE SAME CIRCLE SEVENTEEN TIMES.
MY FRIEND WALKS THERE.
YOU TOOK MY CAR IN THE MIDDLE OF THE NIGHT SO YOU COULD DRIVE BY A GIRL'S HOUSE SEVENTEEN TIMES?
IT WASN'T SEVENTEEN TIMES. IT WAS ONLY THREE.
STEADY. WAIT.
AND YOU'RE ALMOST OUT OF GAS.

Non Sequitur By Willey

HE ALWAYS INSISTED ON HAVING A BACKUP SYSTEM FOR EVERYTHING.

Strange Brew By John Deering

TELL THE COMMANDER THERE'S NO SIGN OF JOHNSON, AND NO SIGN OF...
JOHNSON
SEE?
HEY?

A slow down could be good, Capricorn

IF JAN. 22 IS YOUR BIRTHDAY: You may develop a desirable ambition or fall head over heels with a special someone this month. Keep your goals firmly in mind even if during April you are presented with setbacks or delays. During April avoid making agreements, signing contracts, or adding to your debt load. You should have clearing through the summer and in October your business expertise could land you an important job, contract or position.

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Pull up your shirt sleeves and dive right into new ideas. Switch creative power on high for the best success. Some people will be impressed by your actions even if they do not agree with your ideas.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Harter your way to the head of the class. Be willing to strike a compromise and negotiate terms in order to get the ball rolling quickly on a new project or agreement. Past lessons can be a useful tool.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Don't refuse to try on some new hats because there could be a sterling chance to

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): If you have been discouraged about your career, your bills or just life in general, you will start to see a trend in the other direction. Remain optimistic about finances.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Your patience and forbearance should pay off during the next few days. You may enjoy both monetary and spiritual rewards through a lucky break.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): You might feel like a magnet that attracts good luck and fortunate events. Even a slow down or a downward trend could turn out to be for the best in the end.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Today's full moon might light up the dark corners of a key relationship. A cloud of controversy might have a silver lining. Even if you do not agree on key issues, you can still tolerate someone else's point of view.

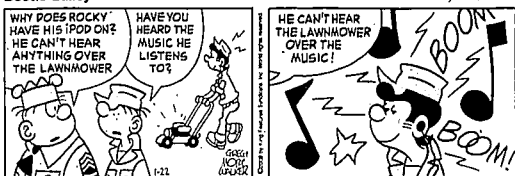
PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): You may receive a favor or a gift from someone you thought was somewhat miserly. Cast suspicions aside as a bighearted person has a genuine desire to help you.

HOROSCOPE

Jeraldine Saunders

Beetle Bailey

By Mort Walker



Blonde

By Dean Young & Stan Drake



The Born Loser

By Art Sansom, & Chip



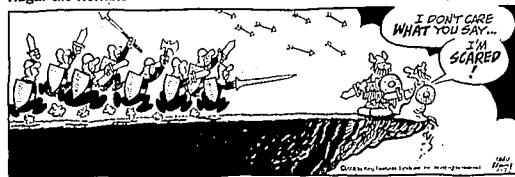
Garfield

By Jim Davis



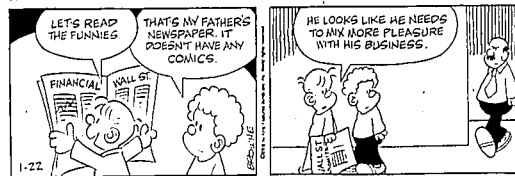
Hagar the Horrible

By Chris Browne



Hi and Lois

By Chance Browne



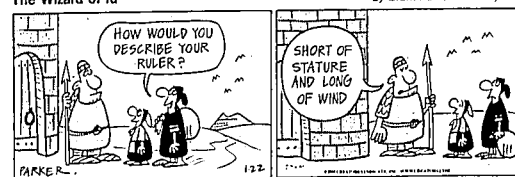
Classic Peanuts

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



"Mommy's cooking my favorite dinner. It's called 'leftovers.'"

Woman can't contain her rage at breakup with her boyfriend



DEAR ABBY Jeanne Phillips

talk to some older women you can trust so they can share their wisdom with you. You are in my prayers.

DEAR ABBY: To be honest with you, if I had a gun, I could shoot either myself or my ex-boyfriend. I was in love with him from the first day we met. We talked about everything in life and also about our relationship. Now he says he's "not ready" for a relationship!

I don't understand men. Don't they know that we have hearts? How could he just wake up one morning and make a decision without considering my feelings or how it will affect me?

Abby, I have a child, and my breasts are not that attractive. I even told him I would go under the knife to make them just the way he wants them. Now I'm left wondering if I should still go for the surgery so maybe he'll be attracted to me again and come back. I can't bear the idea that maybe he has found someone else who is more attractive.

I need your help because sometimes I feel so much hate for him that I feel like getting revenge and doing something to him so no woman will ever be attracted to him anymore, and he'll feel what I'm feeling now. I will wait upon your answer so I'll know what to do next.

—RAGING IN DUBAI
DEAR RAGING: The first thing you must do is calm yourself. Do nothing until

your anger subsides and you are again thinking clearly — which you aren't right now. I know you are hurting, and your disappointment and anger are palpable, but you have something far more important to consider than "getting revenge," and that is the welfare of your child. How would your actions affect your child?

A man who would criticize your breasts was not truly interested in you — the person attached to them. Having plastic surgery in the hope that a man who rejected you will return is the wrong reason for having it done. You could have breasts like the Venus de Milo, and it wouldn't win the heart of a man who simply craves variety. I am not familiar with the mental health services that are available in Dubai. If you lived in the United States, I would urge you to talk to a psychologist because I feel strongly that you have underlying issues that predate this experience you have described in your letter. If that is not possible, then please

DEAR ABBY: My mother-in-law lives alone, but comes to our house every day to eat lunch and dinner. She has a son who lives in the same town as my wife and me, but she never goes to his house. My wife doesn't like this arrangement either, but she doesn't know how to gracefully tell her mother to stay away once in a while. We're both in our late 40s; her mother is 62. We would like to spend some time alone.

When I say my mother-in-law is here every day, I mean every day! Please tell me if this is normal. You have described a woman who appears to be isolated and friendless. Could she also have money problems or a physical disability that prevents her from shopping and preparing her own meals?

If you and your wife would like some time alone, then you both are going to have to find the backbone to say so. And, if necessary, you and your wife should prepare a dish that her mother can eat in her own home.

TODAY IN HISTORY

Today is Tuesday, Jan. 22, the 22nd day of 2008. There are 344 days left in the year.

Today's highlight :

On Jan. 22, 1973, the U.S. Supreme Court, in its Roe v. Wade decision, legalized abortions using a trimester approach.

On this date:

In 1901, Britain's Queen Victoria died at age 81.

In 1908 (New York) educators, thousands of demonstrators thinned their ranks were fired in St. Petersburg on what became known as "Bloody Sunday."

In 1908, Katie Mulcahey became the first woman to run afloat in New York City's just-passed ban on female smoking in public. Declaring, "No man shall dictate to me," Mulcahey served a night in jail after being unable to pay a \$5 fine.

In 1917, President Woodrow Wilson pleaded for an end to war in Europe, calling for "peace without victory" (By April, however, America also was at war).

In 1922, Pope Benedict XV died; he was succeeded by Pius XI.

In 1931, Thornton Wilder's play "Our Town" was performed publicly for the first time, in Princeton, N.J.

In 1944, during World War II, Allied forces began landing at Anzio, Italy.

In 1958, the fast-paced sketch comedy series "Rowan & Martin's Laugh-In" premiered on NBC-TV.

In 1973, former President Lyndon Johnson died at age 64.

In 1995, Rose Fitzgerald Kennedy died at the Kennedy compound at Hyannis Port, Mass., at age 104.

Ten years ago, Theodore Kaczynski pleaded guilty in Sacramento, Calif., to being the Unabomber in return for a sentence of life in prison with-

out parole. On the first full day of his visit to Cuba, Pope John Paul II celebrated Mass, preaching the message, "Be not afraid."

Five years ago, Countering blunt talk of war by the Bush administration, France and Germany defiantly stated they were committed to a peaceful solution to the Iraq crisis. Opponents and supporters of abortion rights rallied on the 30th anniversary of the Supreme Court's "Roe versus Wade" ruling. Pulitzer Prize-winning cartoonist Bill Mauldin, who had immortalized World War II soldiers with his characters Willie and Joe, died in Newport Beach, Calif., at age 81.

One year ago, A car bombing of a predominantly Shiite commercial area in Baghdad killed 98 people. Iran announced it had barred 39 international inspectors on a United Nations list from entering the country in apparent retaliation for U.N. sanctions imposed the previous month.

TODAY'S BIRTHDAYS

Former Sen. Birch Bayh, D-Ind., is 80. Actress Piper Laurie is 76. Actor Seymour Cassel is 73. Author Joseph Wambaugh is 71. Actor John Hart is 60. Singer Steve Perry is 59. Country, singer-musician Teddy Gentry (Alabama) is 56. Movie director Jim Jarmusch is 55. Hockey Hall-of-Famer Mike Bossy is 51. Actress Linda Blair is 49. Actress Diane Lane is 43. Actor-rop DJ Jazzy Jeff is 43. Country singer Regina Nicks (Regina Ingham) is 43. Rhythm-and-blues singer

Marc Gay (Shai) is 39. Actor Gabriel Byrne is 36. Actor Balthazar Getty is 33. Actor Christopher Moltisano is 29. Pop singer Willy DeVille is 27. Rhythm-and-blues singer Kelton Kessee (BMX) is 27. Actress Bevelly (Mitch) is 27.



Blair

THOUGHT

"Praise undeserved is satire in disguise."

— Henry Broadhurst, English politician (1840-1911)

Posthumous generosity surprises many

LOWELL, Mich. (AP) — Farmer Willis Hatch and his schoolteacher wife, Arlene, lived simply but blissfully together for 57 years before dying in an auto accident in November.

Now, about 70 of their friends and neighbors are surprised to find themselves a collective \$1.6 million richer as the beneficiaries of the late couple's frugality and generosity.

The recipients of their generosity were beneficiaries of deposit ranging in value from \$5,000 to more than \$100,000. The couple's estate was valued at \$2.9 million and included the CDs, the farm and some stocks.

"Isn't that something," said Sandra VanWoelden, 72, whose family, including three grown children,

received about \$250,000 from the Hatches, who never had children of their own and lived into their early 90s.

Before they retired, Willis — known to his friends as "Fish" — worked at the store from just south of Lowell, and Arlene taught at Lowell Middle School.

The couple went everywhere together: church services, community pancake breakfasts, school plays. They enjoyed winter trips to Asheville, Texas, but allowed themselves few other luxuries.

"They was normal people, good people," Harry Erickson, 72, told The Grand Rapids Press for a story published Thursday. "And it didn't matter to them if you had one dollar or 10, they'd be your friend."

Judging by the amount of money they doled out, the couple had many friends, including fellow parishioners at Alto United Methodist Church, where many of the beneficiaries are members.

"We, the whole church, are obviously grateful to them, and grateful to God that he gave them to us," said the Rev. Dean Bailey.

Added Bailey's wife, Jan, "they left a lot to the people they loved, and I think everybody was surprised."

That included the Baileys, who were notified that the Hatches had left the church about \$50,000 toward a fund trying to raise \$800,000 for a new building. Their gift, said the pastor, represents about a year's worth of our fundraising capability."

PLANT FOR WINTER INTEREST

By Joel M. Lerner
Special to The Washington Post

WASHINGTON — One of my greatest pleasures is enjoying a garden in winter. The forms of plants are expanded, and many display handsome habits. You find surprises, like a bloom or beautiful bark.



Oriental hellebores have been hybridized to flower in many colors, including shades of pink.

There are a variety of ways to add winter interest to the garden. (Now's not the time to plant them, just to enjoy them.) Here are a few of my favorites:

- **Female hollies.** Their large, red berries have an ornate quality, especially this time of the year. Birds eat the berries, and the shiny evergreen foliage creates nesting areas. Plant American, Foster or Nellie R. Stevens hollies in larger spaces. Use dragon lady and red hollies for smaller sites.

- **Witch hazels.** Hybrid witch hazels, such as *Hydrangea 'Jelena'* ("Jelena"), exhibit reddish-orange flowers in winter. Arnold Promise is a hybrid with fragrant yellow flowers in late winter. Witch hazels are also shade-tolerant with showy fall foliage.

- **Camellias.** These are among the showiest flowering, broadleaf evergreens. There are hardy hybrids that do well in woodland and sun in protected locations.

- **Sherry candelabras** are available in full-flowering Japanese varieties bloom late winter to spring. Ackerman hybrids were bred at the National Arboretum and are hardy to zero degrees. A list of Ackerman hybrids is available on the Web site of the Camellia Society of the Potomac Valley (members.aol.com/camsoc1).

- **Rosemary.** A tender perennial in some regions, this woody evergreen dies in bitterly cold weather (below zero). Most are Department of Agriculture Hardiness Zone 7 and 8 plants. Rosemary planted in a sunny, protected area should weather most winters. If you live in a region in spring, with an eastern exposure, near the house, Arp is a hybrid considered to be cold-tolerant to Zone 6.

- **Hellebores.** These winter-flowering evergreen perennials are available in a variety of colors. Oriental hellebores have been

do at that moment but enjoy their appearance in the landscape.

Surviving the cold

There are some steps you can take to protect plants before an ice or heavy snowstorm. A good time to take care of this is while you are outside taking down the Christmas decorations.

Shore up branches of boxwoods with wire threaded through an old garden hose that can be cut the length of the wire. Wrap around inside branches so as not to be seen.

Tender roses, especially hybrid tea varieties and tritelo miniature Japanese maples, can be protected by surrounding them with half-inch reinforcement bars or two-by-two-inch stakes about five to six feet long, pounded in the ground. Attach burlap or landscape fabric to the stakes to protect plants from freezing, drying winds, especially in temperatures below 15 degrees.

Tough hybrid crape myrtles were introduced in the 1970s by Donald Egolf at the National Arboretum. Their winter bark display is outstanding because the wood defoliates and the trunks turn colors of mottled red to tan and brown.

Form counts

Don't forget plant form. The contorted filbert, also known as Harry Lauder's walking stick, is a large shrub to small tree. In leaf, it looks like a woody plant with no special qualities, but without leaves in winter, the curlicue branches are interesting. Harry Lauder's caskins elongate late in winter, and the twisted twigs are decorated with miniature tail-like male flowers.

Many Japanese maples are admired as much for their form as their foliage. Ice and heavy snows can break their limbs and set back the shape of the tree or shrub. Don't worry about their safety. There is nothing you can

Barking up the right tree

Many woody plants have ornamental bark. Paperbark maple (*Acer glabrum*) has a cinnamon-red, peeling bark. Kousa dogwoods have brown and almost white to light tan lacy bark. Lacebark elm (*Ulmus parvifolia*), lacebark pine (*Pinus banksiana*) and striped maple (*A. pennsylvanicum*) are all aptly named. The branches of coralbark Japanese maple (*A. palmatum* "Sango Kaku") turn brilliant red in winter. The long, straight stems of red osier dogwood shrubs (*Cornus sericea*) become an outstanding blood red in cold temperatures.

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Take care of weeds now before they become a big problem

The Washington Post

Mild weather encourages the growth of winter weeds that should be removed before they get too mature and start to produce seed. Examine

garden beds for henbit, chickweed and wood sorrel. A sharp hoe will make quick work of the weeds without subjecting the soil to herbicides. Continue to police beds between now and April.

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Inman

Continued from page D1
www.incoveringamerica.com. Several cable channels, including The Learning Channel and The History Channel, have expressed interest in using that footage, Inman said, and publishers approached Inman to write a book about the journey. None of these plans are finalized, Inman said.

Although he has 544 personal e-mails to return that he's done with the ride, Inman said, he still invites correspondence from people who are interested in the journey or who have been affected by it.

Inman also has not finalized plans for the next part of "Uncovering America," which he said might involve teams of riders or himself switching off several horses to get back to the Inman home in Blackie, needs a break). For now, though, the Inmans are staying in North Carolina, visiting Brenda's family and hoping they won't soon become unwanted houseguests.

At the meantime, Inman wants the success of his journey to inspire others to get out, slow down and enjoy America.

"You can make a plan and you can get there; it's not out of reach," he said.

Ariel Hansen may be reached at ariel.hansen@loc.net or 735-3376.

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