

BAKER'S DOZEN
Burley, Jerome girls top full night of games.
SPORTS, B1

'HIGH SCHOOL MUSICAL' HITS HOME
Also:
• 'Zarahemia' premieres.
• Cowboy poetry.
• 'Freeze Frame' recital.

ENJOYING THE BUZZ
Local actor's film popular at Sundance.
COMUNIDAD, B7

Good Morning
High: 23
Low: 20
Cloudy, chance of snow.
Details: B8

Tim News

THURSDAY
January 24, 2008
75 cents

Anti-discrimination law might not get a hearing

Senate leaders say bill lacks support

By Jared S. Hopkins
Times-News writer

BOISE — Efforts to make it illegal to fire someone based on sexual orientation might already be over — just two days after they formally began.

On Monday, a Senate committee agreed to introduce legislation that would amend

the state's 1968 Human Rights Act by prohibiting discrimination by employers or landlords based on sexual orientation. Currently discrimination based on race, color, religion, sex or ethnicity is prohibited.

But the bill is unlikely to get a hearing because it lacks support to make it to the Senate for a full vote, said Senate State Affairs Committee Chairman Sen. Curt McKenzie, R-Nampa.

McKenzie said the committee reviews the "hot social

issues" since it consists of party leaders and requires an invitation to sit on it. Therefore, he said, the committee is a good measure of how the bill would fare in the full Senate.

"I'm not going to hold a hearing if it's going to die in the committee," McKenzie said Wednesday. "I voted to print it as a courtesy to the sponsors."

The committee voted 6-2 to print the legislation. Voting against introducing the legislation was Sen. Majority

Idaho Legislature 2008

To read more about the Legislature in Jared S. Hopkins' blog, go to MagleValley.com and hit the "Legislature 2008" button.

Leader Bart Davis, R-Idaho Falls, and Sen. Denton Darrington, R-Decla.

The bill's sponsors, including Rep. Nicole Lefavour, D-Boise, the Legislature's only openly gay legislator, have said that the bill is not about homosexuality or identity, but rather about being judged on skill and ability.

The decision to not hold a hearing surprised Sen. Chuck Colmer, R-Twin Falls, a co-sponsor. He has said the bill simply adds a group of individuals who were left out 40 years ago when it was adopted.

Colmer, who is co-sponsor-

ing the bill with two Democrats and another Republican, said the bill "absolutely" should have a hearing.

"We didn't put it out there not to have it heard," he said. "You get it printed to have it talked about."

Senate Pro Tem Bob Geddes, R-Soda Springs, said that it could "possibly" receive a hearing when the bill's sponsors can assume its passage from committee. But

Please see **LAW**, Page A3

Reading the signs

T.E. progresses on sign enforcement

By Nate Poppino
Times-News writer

A year and a half into its work, a Twin Falls committee tasked with rewriting the city's sign ordinance has compiled an early draft of its work, a step several early committees failed to reach.

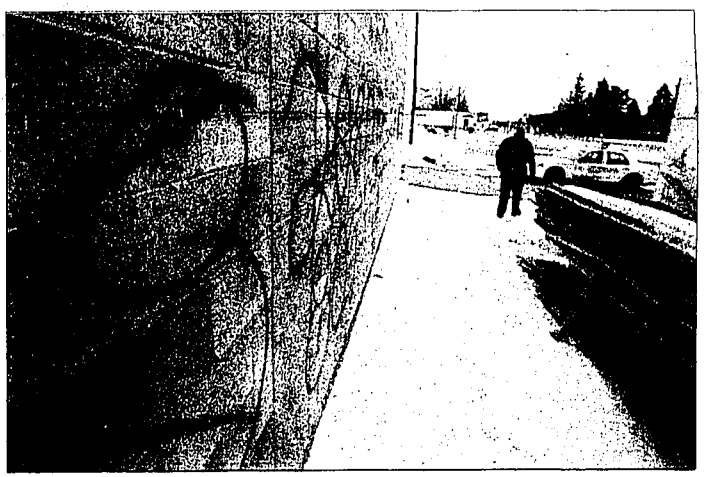
At the same time, the city has stepped up its enforcement of the existing sign code in an attempt to clean

up major arterials and educate businesses as to what they're allowed to do, city staff said.

Ryan Horsley, chairman of the Twin Falls Planning and Zoning Commission, said Wednesday that the draft ordinance was assembled earlier this month — struck a good balance between business needs and the safety and

Please see **SIGNS**, Page A3

TAGGED WITH A GANG PROBLEM



Cassia County Sheriff's Office Deputy Mark Merrill walks past a wall Monday afternoon with graffiti in Burley. Merrill's been logging the increase in graffiti during the past six months.

Man's sickness prompts debate on predator poison ban

By Matthew Daly
Associated Press writer

WASHINGTON — Dennis Slaughter and his brother were riding all-terrain vehicles when they noticed what looked like a survey stake, marking federal land in eastern Utah's rugged Cowboy Canyon.

Curious, Slaughter touched the stake, and it exploded, spewing a cloud of sodium cyanide in his face and chest. Slaughter, 65, of Vernal, Utah, said he suffers long-term health effects from the

2003 spraying. He has difficulty breathing, vomits almost daily and can no longer work driving heavy equipment because he is too weak.

The cyanide device, called an M-54, is one of two poisons used by the federal government to kill coyotes and other wild animals that threaten sheep and other livestock. M-54 and sodium fluoroacetate, more commonly known as Compound 1080, are distributed

Please see **POISON**, Page A3

Negotiators grapple with stimulus plan

By Andrew Taylor
Associated Press writer

WASHINGTON — Pushing deficit concerns aside, Democratic and Republican leaders appeared close to agreement with the White House Wednesday night on emergency tax cuts and benefit increases to jolt the economy out of its slump.

"We'll have more to say tomorrow morning," said House Minority Leader John Boehner, R-Ohio, made his remarks exiting his third extended negotiating

More red ink for budget

In 2008, the federal deficit is projected to reach about \$260 billion after three consecutive years of declining deficits.

Budget surplus or deficit

Year	Budget Surplus or Deficit (\$ billion)
2003	223.0
2004	255.0
2005	413.0
2006	250.0

SOURCE: Congressional Budget Office

Please see **PLAN**, Page A3

Mini-Cassia area sees resurging gang concerns

By Cassidy Friedman
Times-News writer

Authorities knew on July 28 that 2007 was going to be a rough year for gang activity in Mini-Cassia.

That night about 17 gang members broke into a brawl in the Wal-Mart parking lot. It obliterated a lot of hopes.

Mini-Cassia's gang problem seemed to freeze since 2001 — the year when the area's gang problem was dubbed the second-worst in Idaho, behind Canyon County.

But law enforcement authorities say Mini-Cassia now has more than 200 gang members — more than ever before.

In the hours leading up to midnight of July 28, deputies first broke up a fight at a local gas station, then another at the Overland Shopping Mall. Finally, the violence reached the Wal-Mart parking lot, where authorities found bashed cars, fleeing fighters and a youth who had been beaten with a tire iron.

After the fight this summer, the Mini-Cassia jails swelled with inmates, aged 15 to 32, who were tied to that fight. The cases filled local courts for months.

It was far from an isolated

incident, and the suspects are believed to be returning to gang activity as they are being released from custody, Bret Wright, senior probation officer for Mini-Cassia Juvenile Probation said Wednesday.

"Last this morning ... one of our local schools took a cell phone of a student (who) had videotaped a 3½ minute fight," Wright said. "It was one-on-one. About a dozen kids were there watching it. The place was tagged up."

Wright said gangs are nothing new in Mini-Cassia, but gang enlistment has reached an all-time high.

Burley alone has an estimated 100 gang members,

said Cassia County Sheriff Jim Higgins, who added that the level of gang-related violence has been worse elsewhere.

"We haven't seen what is happening up in the Caldwell area with drive-by shootings," he said. "We have had some drive-by shootings in the past. But we are not seeing more gang violence."

Wright said there are still more gang members in Burley.

Some Mini-Cassia cities are branches of larger groups based in other states or other Idaho cities. Others are homegrown. What they have in common is a contentious nature and willingness to escalate small fights or graffiti tagging into more serious confrontations.

Please see **GANGS**, Page A3

INSIDE: Wall Street makes huge comeback after large opening dip. / **BUSINESS**, B5

"People think of gangs as being these lower class unintelligent kids. And that's not true at all."

— Bret Wright, senior probation officer for Mini-Cassia Juvenile Probation

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TODAY'S FORECAST

Table with 3 columns: Today, Tonight, Friday. Includes weather icons and temperature forecasts.

MINI-CASSIA

Today: Flurries of light snow possible. Highs near 30. Tonight: Snow from heavy gradually tapering off. Lows upper teens.

Complete weather report: See page B8

TODAY'S HAPPENINGS

BENEFITS AND FUNDRAISERS

American Loggin Bingo, 7:20 p.m. Bonanza bingo and 7:30 p.m. Regular bingo, 610 W. Main, Wendell, \$500 and \$1,195 Black outs, 536-6358.

CLUBS AND ORGANIZATIONS

Desert Sage Quilters Guild monthly meeting, with Larry Himple of Twin Falls Sewing Center on "Take Care of Your Best Friend," 7 p.m., KMWI Station community meeting room, 1100 Blue Lakes Blvd. N., Twin Falls, visitors welcome, 733-3478.

Preceptor Alpha Kappa Chapter of Beta Sigma Phi meeting, 7 p.m., at the home of Doris Finney, 425 Pierce, Twin Falls, 734-5591.

EDUCATION

The Burley Public Library evening book club first monthly meeting, an organizational meeting and book talk on "From Beirut to Jerusalem" by Thomas Friedman, 7 p.m., at the library, 1300 Miller Ave., no cost, open to the public, 878-7708.

EXHIBITS

"Ceramics from the Bray: The Idaho Connection," with featured artists Donna Flanery, Margaret Gregg, Jeannette Rakowski, David Peters, Kaila Jackson and Peter Rudi, 9:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Jean B. King Gallery, Herrert Center for Arts and Science, College of Southern Idaho campus, no cost, 732-6655.

GOVERNMENT

Twin Falls County commissioners, 8:30 a.m., courthouse, 425 Shoshone St. N., 736-4068. Sun Valley Planning and Zoning Commission, 9 a.m., City Hall, 81 Elkhorn Road, 622-4438. Bellevue City Council, 7 p.m., City Hall, 115 E. Poplar, 788-2128.

HEALTH AND RECOVERY

College of Southern Idaho's Over 60 and Getting Fit programs, a guided walking workout with stretching and gentle resistance training, 9 to 10 a.m. at Filer Elementary and Hagerman High School Gym; and 10:30 to 11:30 a.m. at the old gym in Buhl, no cost, 732-6475.

TOPS (Take Off Pounds Sensibly) ID No. 48 Chapter of Jerome, a weight-loss support group, 10 a.m., Jerome Public Library, 100 First Ave. E., 420-3823.

Fit and Fall Proof Exercise Class, 10 to 11 a.m., Living Waters Presbyterian Church, 821 E. Main St., Wendell, 737-5988.

Fit and Fall Proof exercise class, 10:30 a.m., First Segregation Fire Station, Eden, no cost, 737-5988.

SilverStreakers fitness program, innovative exercise program designed specifically for Medicare beneficiaries' unique health and physical needs, 11:15 a.m. to noon, Twin Falls YMCA, 1751 Elizabeth Blvd., no cost for Humana-insured or YMCA members and \$5 per class for non-insured, 733-4384.

Exercise program for people with Parkinson's disease, offered by Magic Valley Regional Medical Center, 11 a.m. to noon, the Episcopal Church of the Ascension, 371 Eastland Drive N., Twin Falls, no cost, 737-2977.

Arthritis walking class, 5:15 to 6:15 p.m., First Christian Church, 601 Shoshone St. N., Twin Falls, no cost, 737-5988.

Colaborate Recovery, a place to learn life-affirming, healthy behaviors, 6:30 p.m., Firestone Room of the Nazarene Fellowship Hall at Yakima and Main, Filer, 734-0557.

A.C.T.S. program, a 12-week, ongoing course based on self-help, recovery and education, 7:30 to 8:30 p.m., Bethel Temple Apostolic Church, 929 Hankins Road (behind D & B Supply), Twin Falls, no cost, 733-3210.

HOBBIES AND CRAFTS

Pinochle, 1 p.m., Twin Falls Senior Center, 530 Shoshone St. W., fifty cents, open to the public, 734-5084.

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

MORNING BRIEFING AROUND THE WORLD

MASSACHUSETTS Big Dig firms to shell out more than \$450M for tunnel death, flaws

BOSTON — Contractors will pay more than \$450 million to settle the state's lawsuit over a fatal tunnel collapse and to cover the costs of leaks and design flaws in the Big Dig, officials said Wednesday.

Bechtel/Parsons Brinckerhoff, the consortium that oversaw design and construction of the nation's costliest and most complex highway project, has agreed to pay \$407 million, U.S. Attorney Michael Sullivan said in announcing the deal. Several smaller companies will pay about \$51 million collectively.

"The citizens of Massachusetts entrusted Bechtel/Parsons Brinckerhoff to act as their eyes and ears on the Central Artery Project," Sullivan said. "They grossly failed to meet their obligations and responsibilities to the citizens of Massachusetts and the United States."

Under the settlement, Bechtel/Parsons Brinckerhoff will not face criminal charges in the deadly head-on collision that led to the collapse in July 2006. Milena Del Valle, 39, of Boston, was crushed by 25 tons of concrete as she and her husband drove to Logan International Airport.

FIRST-OF-KIND RHINO TURNS ONE



Budapest Zoo's southern white rhinoceros calf, named Layla, is seen at her first birthday in Budapest, Hungary, Wednesday, Layla, who was born last year on Jan. 23, is the world's first rhino conceived by artificial insemination. Veterinarians of the Budapest Zoo raised the 750 kg calf after taking it away from its 27-year-old mother, Lulu, who couldn't feed the newborn.

into an underground garage and then entered the downtown civil court building.

A court spokesman said she got through a security metal detector, then announced, "I want to leave," and returned to her car. A lawyer for Spears' ex-husband Kevin Feduliano said that behavior may have played a role in a Superior Court commissioner's decision that she would remain barred from seeing sons Sean Preston, 2, and Jayden James, 1.

"When you're trying to convince a judge that previous orders are not necessary, the court has to have the opportunity to observe, to hear from and to assess the demeanor of the person," attorney Mark Vincent Kaplan said last week outside court.

Spears, 26, was not under orders to be at the hearing, which was not scheduled but resulted from both sides filing motions seeking to be heard.

NEW YORK

Rapper sentenced on assault charges

NEW YORK — Busta Rhymes pleaded guilty Wednesday to assaulting his ex-driver and a fan in a deal that will bring three years' probation and 10 days of community service.

The 35-year-old rapper also must pay a \$1,250 fine, plus court costs, for driving while intoxicated and with a suspended license.



Rhymes

He pleaded guilty to the charges — one related to four separate incidents — in Manhattan Criminal Court on the day he was set to stand trial.

Rhymes (real name: Trevor Rhymes) met to enroll in a DWI program, too.

"I just want to say that I'm very grateful to the judge, and I'm very grateful to the system. I believe in the system," Rhymes said as he left court.

Judge Larry Stephen Rhymer, a driver's license for six months and signed an order of protection directing him to stay away from his former driver.

CALIFORNIA

Britney Spears loses bid for visitation rights

LOS ANGELES — Britney Spears came to a courthouse Wednesday in cocktail party attire and then bolted before a hearing began that could have restored her right to visit her children.

Wearing bright pink lip-stick, sunglasses, shiny gold platform shoes and a very short black dress with a ruffled hem, Spears was driven

aggravated murder and six counts of aggravated arson, city police said. It wasn't immediately clear whether Davis had an attorney or knew the victims.

NEVADA

Search turns up no sign of Reno student; kidnapper suspected

RENO — An extensive search has turned up no new clues to the disappearance of a 19-year-old college student last seen sleeping near an unmarked door at a friend's home, police said Wednesday.

Brianna Denison was last seen around 4 a.m. Sunday on the couch. When her friends awoke later that morning, she was gone — but there were clues, such as a purse and cell phone were left behind.



Denison

"All the indicators are that Brianna has been abducted," police Cmdr. Bob Holladay said. "It is our sincere hope that she'll come walking in the door any minute, but the longer it goes, the less the chances are of that occurring."

Police questioned a man who had given Denison's friend a ride home the night Denison disappeared from the home near the University of Nevada, Reno, but investigators said he is not a suspect.

"From our perspective, we don't have any credible leads in which to follow up at this point," UNR Police Chief Adam Garcia said.

Investigators with search dogs have combed the neighborhood.

"We have not discovered any shoe prints, anything that might lead us to a direction that a suspect may have taken her," Holladay said.

Detectives were awaiting test results on whether a silver dollar-size stain on the pillow Denison was using is blood.

Woman charged with cutting trees near Lake Tahoe to improve view

RENO — A woman has been indicted on charges that she had three large trees up to a century old cut down on sensitive federal land near Lake Tahoe to improve her view, prosecutors said Wednesday.

Officials said they weren't aware of any similar federal prosecutions.

Patricia M. Vincent, 58, was indicted last week on charges of theft of government property and willfully damaging government property. If convicted, she faces up to 10 years in prison and a \$250,000 fine for each count.

The three ponderosa pines stood on a plot the U.S. Forest Service had designated as environmentally sensitive as part of a water quality plan to help protect the clarity of Lake Tahoe. The trees were estimated at 80 to 100 years old; trees that age would be at least 2 feet in diameter at the base of the trunk.

"It is important that public lands, which are held in trust for the benefit of all citizens, are appropriately protected by our land management agencies," U.S. Attorney Gregory Brewer said in a news release. "Individuals who unlawfully encroach on these lands and cause damage will be prosecuted."

TEXAS

Military reverses itself, says F-16s were in area where UFO reported

FORT WORTH — Fighter jets were training nearby the night dozens of Stephenville-area residents reported seeing a UFO this month, Air Force Reserve officials said Wednesday, backtracking on earlier statements.

The announcement did little to satisfy residents of Texas' duty county, who swear that what they saw in the sky Jan. 8 was no airplane. Some said it even bolstered their claims, because several people reported seeing at least two fighter jets chasing an object.

"This supports our story that there was UFO activity in that area," said Kenneth Chery, the Texas director of the Mutual UFO Network, which took more than 50 reports from locals at a meeting last weekend. "I find it curious that it took them two weeks to 'fess up.' I think they're feeling the heat from the publicity."

Officials at the Joint Reserve Base Naval Air Station in Fort Worth initially said that their planes had been in the area but on Wednesday they said 10 F-16s were there that day. The officials said they were mistaken and wanted to set the record straight "in the interest of public awareness."

— The Associated Press

IDAHO LOTTERY

Idaho Lottery results for Wednesday, Jan. 23. Includes Wild Card, Mega, and Power Play results.

Times-News Classifieds section with various ad categories like Publisher, Newborn, Advertising, and Classifieds.

Times-News subscription information and contact details for the newspaper.

Times-News page number and date information.

Snowpack levels chart comparing various locations like Salmon, Big Lost, and Upper Snake Basin.

Signs

Continued from page A1

appearance of the city. The commission met with the nine-member committee, which includes City Council members David E. Johnson, Don Hall and Greg Lanting, on Tuesday for a progress report on the committee's work.

"It's a balancing act, and a lot of times it's really political," Horsley said of the rewriting process. "We want to make sure it's fair for everyone."

Political squabbles, he said, helped derail several previous committees, one of which he served on. But they seem to have largely been

avoided during the current committee's discussions. The result is the 19-page draft, which updates sign definitions, including those for new types of signs, and details exactly how enforcement of the ordinance should be carried out.

Included in the draft are banner signs, which businesses can temporarily attach to store fronts or stake into the ground. Those signs were previously unaddressed by the ordinance, and therefore banned. The draft now proposes permitting individual banner signs for six weeks at a time for a total of 300 days a year. It also restricts where and how they can be placed and provides a permit exemption for

religious organizations. The draft also better defines what types of signs are and aren't licensed — residential nameplates and garage sale ads, for example, are not — and completely overhauls the format of the ordinance, extending it from four code sections to 10.

But the content, city Community Development Director Mitch Humble said, isn't as important as the fact that the draft exists. And much of it is still likely to change.

"It's maybe a third of what it will be, and even the stuff that in there isn't really a draft," Humble said, adding that there's still no timeline for the revisions to be completed. "There's a lot that still

could very well get changed." But the draft exists, he said, and that's progress. Previous committees that addressed the issue, Humble said, were set up for other purposes — general beautification, for example — and weren't able to change much as a result. The current committee, formed in August 2006, was formed specifically to overhaul the old ordinance. While it's taken some time to do so, he said, it's doing its job.

"It's more organized. It's more focused," Humble said. "The work comes as the city has started cracking down on signage offenders. City planner Amber Westenskow said a staff member with the city's sanitation department has been the main enforcer since

the last employee to focus specifically on sign code quit earlier last year. The city has focused on main, business-heavy arterials such as Blue Lakes Boulevard and Kimberly Road, Westenskow said, and has spent as much time educating businesses as citing signs.

"That's important to do, Horsley said, because many businesses may just be taking cues from their peers. Who in turn didn't know any better. "For the most part, a lot of businesses can't really be faulted for that," he said. "There's been no education. There's been no enforcement."

Nate Poppino can be reached at 735-3237.

Law

Continued from page A1

he said his concerns are rooted in legal logistics, not ideology.

"What I'm worried about is the consequence of adding one more area to that particular law," he told reporters Wednesday. "It's not really the issue, in my opinion. People get fired for various reasons but you can go to court for any reason."

There are 20 other states with such bans in place, and 11 others have passed executive orders issuing similar restrictions, said Leslie Goddard, director of the Idaho Human Rights Commission.

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.

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

Gangs

Continued from page A1

"None of these are about a winner and loser," Wright said. "Because if you lose a fight, you just get more 'hombies.'"

The evidence of these battles is all over town. Gang members recently splashed Burley with a series of high-profile graffiti strikes all over town, and Rupert is seeing similar levels of vandalism. On Dec. 16, one gang covered a Rupert alley with its graffiti. The next night, a rival gang sprayed over it with its own symbols, totaling 20 acts of vandalism in all in one place in 24 hours. The city of Rupert has since cleaned up that graffiti.

While the names of the gangs are widely known, Times-News policy is to not report them. To do so would reward them for criminal acts aimed at gaining attention.

Wright, who is faced with the daunting task of stopping the gangs, currently manages 63 kids on probation for high-profile crimes and gang activity in Minidoka County. Almost all his clients claim to be in gangs.

About a third of juveniles who enter the Mini-Cassia criminal justice system are involved in gangs, said Dixie Tate, the chief probation officer.

"The way that beyond punishment, there are two programs aimed at harness-

ing the amount of graffiti on the streets. For eight years, juvenile court judges who ordered defendants to community service have sent them to clean up graffiti.

"People think the work is amenable. This spring, juvenile probation hopes to send out a paint-over detail twice a week in both counties.

"You have to start somewhere," Tate said.

The days of gang members being only the problem of a neighborhood's dysfunctional family are over, Wright said. Gangs recruit members from the third grade up, and women are increasingly joining, he said.

"People think of gangs as being these lower class unintelligent kids," Wright said. "And that's not true at all.

You have gang members who come from higher class families. They might not be that strong and get picked on. So they join a gang for protection."

Tate is completing the groundwork for a second plan she hopes Minidoka and Cassia counties will implement in classrooms across the region. The program, called Gang Resistance to Education and Training, which seeks to discourage kids from joining gangs along the same model of the DARE anti-drug program.

"The program will require funding from the Idaho Juvenile Justice Council. None of that funding has yet been secured."

"We're always trying to

combat it," she said.

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

Poison

Continued from page A1

by the Wildlife Services agency, an arm of the Agriculture Department. The poisons killed more than 14,000 wild animals in 2006, including coyotes, foxes and wolves, the agency said.

Slaughter encountered the gas canister on public land in a canyon that empties into the White River near the Colorado state line.

In Idaho, the poisons are seen most often by wildlife officials with Wildlife

Services in Boise. Compound 1080, used in "livestock protection collars" — strapped onto sheep or goats, hasn't been used in at least five years, said Todd Grimm, a manager with Wildlife Services.

M-43 is restricted to private land in Idaho, Grimm said, though it's becoming less common as the wolf population increases.

"It's getting more and more limited because we're trying to avoid the wolves."

The Agriculture Department says the devices are a relatively humane way to kill

predatory animals, adding that because the poison is contained in specific delivery devices, the risk to non-target animals is reduced.

Compound 1080 is used in the protective collars, while sodium cyanide is used in an ejector baited to attract predators but not livestock. It releases poison into the wild animal's mouth.

After years of complaints by environmental groups, the Environmental Protection Agency said last week it is investigating Slaughter's poisoning, which critics say is only one of a

host of mishaps in which hundreds of dogs and other pets have been killed, and dozens of people have been poisoned or injured.

"It's only a matter of time before someone is killed," said Brooks Fahy, executive director of Predator Defense, an Oregon-based group that works to protect coyotes and other wildlife.

"These devices cannot differentiate between a coyote, a wolf, a dog or a person," Fahy said. "When pulled on, essentially the device sprays enough sodium cyanide to kill a person."

Plan

Continued from page A1

session of the day with Idaho Speaker Nancy Pelosi, D-Calif., and Treasury Secretary Henry Paulson. Another, perhaps final, meeting was slated for Thursday morning.

Democratic aides said greater GOP flexibility over giving income tax relief to poor families with children — who would not be eligible under President Bush's tax rebate proposal — had moved the talks forward.

Asked if agreement was near, Pelosi said, "We're moving toward that, but all the issues are not resolved."

Lawmakers learned during the day that the government's deficit already would swell to \$24 billion this year because of falling corporate tax revenues — then they signaled they were willing to balloon it higher by more than \$100 billion with a stimulus package.

As they met behind closed doors, Wall Street deflated volatility, dropping again to most of the day before soaring to a big gain just before closing. The Dow Jones industrials ended the day up just under 300 points.

The federal deficit, which has been dropping in recent years, could reach \$379 billion for 2008 — more than twice last year's red ink — once the costs of the economic rescue measures are factored in, said House Budget Committee Chairman John Spratt Jr., D-S.C.

"We should act, and act now, to strengthen the economy ... mindful, however, of the long-term budget challenges, the structural deficits that we face unless we act and act seriously," Spratt said.

President Bush expressed optimism about quick action.

"I'm confident that we can get something done," Bush said in brief comments to reporters. "There's a spirit that says we need to take a fundamentally strong economy and help it."

The economic growth measure would add about \$16 billion to the deficit for the budget year ending Oct. 1, according to back-of-the-envelope calculations by Spratt. All sides agree that the stimulus measures should be temporary.

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Officials: Ledger had six prescriptions, but no illegal drugs

By Tom Hays and Karen Matthews
Associated Press writers

NEW YORK — Six different types of prescription drugs were found in Heath Ledger's apartment — including anti-anxiety medications and sleeping pills — though the cause of his death won't be known for several days after a preliminary autopsy Wednesday was inconclusive, authorities said.

A rolled-up \$20 bill was also found on the floor near the Australian actor's bed, but lab tests detected no traces of drug residue. Police also said no illegal drugs were found in the apartment.

Among the prescription medications found were pills to treat insomnia and anxiety, and an anti-anxiety drug, according to two law enforcement officials who spoke on condition of anonymity because the investigation is ongoing. Three of the drugs were prescribed in Europe, the sources said.

A \$20 bill was found on the floor near Ledger's bed, and New York Police Department spokesman Paul Brannan said lab tests found nothing to indicate it had been used to snort drugs.

The Australian-born actor was found dead Tuesday by his housekeeper and a massage therapist — lying naked and face-down on his bed, police said. The pills were found in bottles in Ledger's bedroom and bathroom, and police said the death was caused by a possible drug overdose and appeared to be accidental.

Ellen Borakove, a spokeswoman for the medical examiner's office, said the autopsy on the 28-year-old actor was inconclusive and that more would be known in about 10 days, when more tests were completed.

Police said Ledger probably died Tuesday between 1 p.m. and 2:45 p.m. At 1 p.m., the housekeeper went into his bedroom to change a light bulb, saw him sleeping and heard him snoring.

At 2:45 p.m., the massage therapist showed up for Ledger's appointment, knocked on his door and got no answer. She later noticed Ledger was unconscious and called Mary-Kate Olsen, whose number was programmed into Ledger's cell phone, to seek advice.

Olsen said she would send over her private security. In the ensuing moments, the massage therapist realized that Ledger might be dead, and called 911. Paramedics and Olsen's security people arrived minutes later.

News of the death stunned family, fans and colleagues. "Working with Heath was one of the purest joys of my life," said Ang Lee, who directed Ledger. "He brought to the role of Iamz more than any of us could have imagined — a thirst for life, for love and for truth, and a vulnerability that made everyone who knew him love him. His death is heartbreaking."

Lee Daniels, who produced the critically acclaimed "Monster's Ball" in which Ledger starred, strongly disputed any notion that Ledger had a drug problem.

"The definition of substance abuse is really up to one's perspective," Daniels said. "I didn't see him as a drug addict. I saw him as



Australian actor Heath Ledger arrives for the screening of his latest movie 'In My Hot Stars' at the 64th Venice Film Festival, in Venice, Italy, in September 2007. An autopsy on Ledger, who was found dead Tuesday with sleeping pills nearby, was inconclusive, and more tests are needed, the medical examiner's office said Wednesday.

someone who enjoyed life. I know drug addicts, he was not a drug addict."

He said he saw Ledger a couple months ago and that he was in a great spirit. "He was in a good mood, he was in a great place ... he was excited about living in New York."

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Towns try to collect fees for police services from out-of-town drivers blamed for accidents

By Jeffrey McCurry
Associated Press writer

ERLANGER, Ky. — The self-proclaimed "Friendship City" has decided it's tired of being a dorm for motorists from neighboring communities. When police in this Cincinnati suburb respond to an accident in which an out-of-town driver is at fault, the city plans to start issuing a bill: \$14 for the first 30 minutes that an officer is on the scene and an additional \$7 for every 15 minutes thereafter. Use of a police car

brings an additional \$154 charge. Erlanger is just the latest example of cities using such methods to try to recover the costs of providing police services. Most of the communities have been small towns, but medium-sized cities, such as Ocala, Fla., are also poised to act, and even metropolitan areas have expressed interest.

"There has to be a way to obtain some funding to keep providing these services that doesn't come out of the pockets of the people who own a

house in Erlanger," Mayor Tom House said.

Erlanger, with 17,000 residents, is a heavily traveled crossroads where four major highways intersect. According to city records, 82 percent of the accidents police responded to in 2007 did not involve an Erlanger resident.

A review by The Associated Press of the 343 vehicle crashes in Erlanger in November and December showed that only 49 were carrying someone from the city.

Most of the bills for police services go to motorists' insurance companies. In the first year, the system is expected to generate about \$100,000.

But critics of the plan say it could hurt the very people Erlanger wants to attract: Out-of-towners who regularly pass through the city with money to spend.

"Of all the bureaucratic moneymaking schemes I've heard of, this is the worst," wrote John Ryan, a resident of neighboring Covington, in an e-mail to the mayor.

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Breakthrough spares kidney transplant patients lifetime of anti-rejection drugs

The Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — In what's being called a major advance in organ transplants, doctors say they have developed a technique that could free many patients from having to take anti-rejection drugs for the rest of their lives.

The treatment involved weakening the patient's immune system, then giving the recipient bone marrow from the person who donated the organ. In one experiment,

four of five kidney recipients were off immune-suppressing medicines up to five years later.

"There's reason to hope these patients will be off drugs for the rest of their lives," said Dr. David Sachs of Massachusetts General Hospital in Boston, who led the research published in today's New England Journal of Medicine.

Since the world's first transplant more than 50 years ago, scientists have searched for

ways to trick the body to accept a foreign organ as its own. Immune-suppressing drugs that prevent organ rejection came into wide use in the 1950s. But they raise the risk of cancer, kidney failure and many other problems. And they have unpleasant side effects such as excessive hair growth, bloating and tremors.

Eliminating the need for anti-rejection drugs is "a huge advance," said Dr. Suzanne Hladstad, a University of

Louisville immunology specialist who had no role in the work.

"It still needs some fine-tuning so that everyone who gets treated gets the same consistent outcome ... It's not the holy grail of tolerance yet," she cautioned.

The results do not mean that it is safe for current transplant patients to go off their medicines. Doing so could lead to organ rejection and even death, doctors warn.

In the 1990s, Sachs showed

the treatment could work in a kidney recipient who was a good genetic match. The woman, who had an organ and narrow transplant in 1998, has not needed anti-rejection drugs for a decade.

The new study involved five people who got kidneys from parents or siblings who had slightly different tissue types from the patients. Since many kidney transplants are similarly mismatched, there is hope more people might one day be spared immu-

suppressing drugs.

The breakthrough has changed the life of a Las Vegas man who was one of Sachs' patients.

Derek Besenfelder was born with a genetic kidney disease. After a year on dialysis, he decided to enroll in the experiment and received a kidney and narrow transplant from his mother in 2005. He took anti-rejection pills for eight months, but then was weaned from them. He has been drug-free for two years.

Proposal would cut soldiers' war tours from 15 months to 12 months

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Soldiers' battlefield tours would be cut from 15 months to 12 months beginning Aug. 1, under a proposal being considered by the Army as part of an effort to reduce the stress on a force battered by more than six years of war.

The proposal, recommended by U.S. Army Forces Command, is being reviewed by senior Army and Pentagon leaders, and would be contingent on the changing needs for troops in Iraq and Afghanistan.

"Our top priority is going to be meeting the combatant commanders' requirements, so there may be no decision until we get more clarity on that," Army Col. Edward Gibbons, chief of the command's plans division, said Wednesday. He said the goal was to meet those demands while still reducing soldiers' deployments and increasing their time at home between tours.

Gen. George Casey, chief of staff of the Army, has been pushing to move back to one-year deployments, citing the heavy burden that the 15-month stays put on troops and their families. Just last week he hinted the shorter tours could begin this summer.

But defense officials have been reluctant to talk much about the shift because it will depend heavily on what Gen. David Petraeus, the top U.S. commander in Iraq, recommends when he gives his assessment of the war to Congress in March or April.

Defense Secretary Robert Gates ordered the move to 15-month deployments about a year ago, as the Pentagon struggled to fight wars on two fronts.

Under the new proposal, any Army brigade that deploys to Iraq or Afghanistan on or after Aug. 1 would spend 12 months on the battlefield, Gibbons said. Four of the brigades currently deployed would serve 12-month tours, six would have tours of 13 to 14 months, and five would stay for the full 15 months.

Over time, the shift to year-long deployments would give soldiers more time at home — ranging from at least a year to as much as 15 months. Currently units are deploying for 15 months and getting about 12 months at home.

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EDITORIAL

Troubling creative financing in Pocatello

As public-sector financing proposals go, this one's a corker:

The cities of Pocatello and Chubbuck plan to ask residents next month to raise their property taxes to pay for renovation of Idaho State University's 38-year-old sports complex, Holt Arena.

The catch: For their \$20 million contribution, neither city would actually get an ownership stake in Holt Arena. Down the line, ISU would be free to do what it wants with the facility, potentially leaving those local taxpayers holding the bag.

True, Pocatello would get to use Holt Arena as something of a community events center and the Pocatello School District would gain free access to the building.

But the proceeds from the bond issue would be the university's. In legal terms, Pocatello and Chubbuck would be interested spectators.

Maybe voters in the two cities are willing to pay that price, but this strikes us as bad precedent. There are dozens of higher education facilities all over the state in need of repair. Will we be seeing the University of Idaho asking voters in Latah County to help remodel the Kibbie Dome? What if Lewis-Clark State decides it needs an extra infusion of cash from I-15 voters to help refurbish its aging physical plant?

Since statehood, property taxes have paid for public schools, but not for higher education. That's as it should be. There are Idahoans from all 44 counties attending ISU, but a taxpayer in, say, Bonner County shouldn't be responsible for helping support Pocatello High School.

By law, state funds can't be used for athletic facilities. That's why the name above the door of Boise State's basketball complex is Taco Bell Arena; PepsiCo paid for naming rights.

Students themselves carry a big load in financing such enterprises in Idaho, but there's a limit to their resources. So if ISU can raise \$20 million from the private sector to renovate Holt Arena, where should it come from?

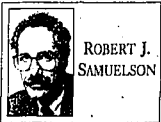
The City of Pocatello and the Chamber of Commerce, which are pushing this proposal, say Holt Arena is worth \$30 million a year to the local economy. Fair enough, but Pocatello and Chubbuck should own a piece of the dome — and have a say over how it's run. That would require action by the Legislature, but there's no fundamental reason why institutions of higher learning and the cities they serve can't join forces to fund a facility to serve both.

But local taxpayers should be partners, not just contributors.

Our view:
The idea of local taxpayers bailing out a state university is a bad one — unless they have a stake in the result.

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

WASHINGTON — Amid the mayhem on world financial markets, it is becoming clear that capitalism's most dangerous enemies are capitalists. No one can have watched the "subprime mortgage" debacle without noticing the absurd contrast between the magnitude of the failure and the rewards heaped on those who presided over it.



ROBERT J. SAMUELSON

At Merrill Lynch and Citigroup, large bonuses on subprime securities cost CEOs their jobs — and they left with multimillion-dollar pay packages. Stanley O'Neal, the ex-head of Merrill, received an estimated \$61 million.

Everyday Americans will conclude (rightly) that this brand of capitalism is rigged in favor of the privileged. It will be said in their defense that these packages reflected years of service, often highly successful. So? It's not as if these CEOs weren't compensated in all those years. If you leave your company in shambles — with losses to be absorbed by lower-level employees, some of whom will be fired, and shareholders — do you deserve a gold-plated sendoff? Still, the more serious problem transcends the high pay itself and goes to the wider consequences for the economy.

Wall Street pay practices perversely encourage extreme risk-taking that can destabilize the economy. Subprime mortgage losses may be the canaries in the mine. Now there are signs of problems involving securities known as "credit default swaps." Never mind the details. Concentrate on the possible fallout. If banks and investment houses sustain losses, the nation's credit system will be further wounded and so will the economy. The Federal Reserve Tuesday cut its key overnight interest rate from 4.25 percent to 3.5 percent — a sign of concern about the possibility that the economy will be further weakened and so will the economy. The Federal Reserve Tuesday cut its key overnight interest rate from 4.25 percent to 3.5 percent — a sign of concern about the possibility that the economy will be further weakened and so will the economy.

Drivers, skiers have to be in sync at Freeze on Skis

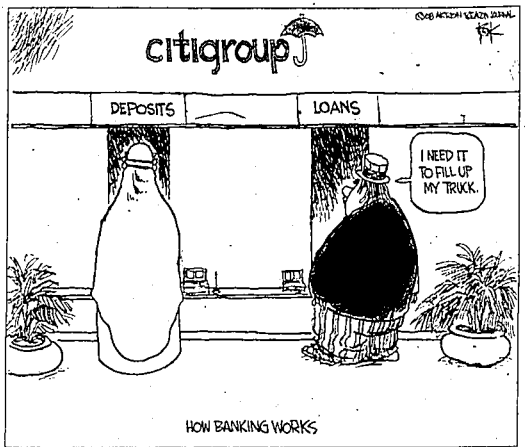
There's not much that goes on Jan. 1. It may be a holiday, but it happens to be one of the latest and least celebrated due to the fact that it was celebrated the night before.

One dynamic thing that does happen on the first of the year, aside from the formation of soon-to-be-broken resolutions, is a truly beneficial fundraiser, Freeze on Skis. It's for a great cause, supporting a different philanthropy each year. Many very generous sponsors graciously give their time, equipment and money to the event annually.

The downfall of Freeze on Skis is that each year more participants are deciding not to take part in the event. The problem is not what most participants are doing. Being pulled behind a boat in sub-zero temperatures. That part is grueling enough, but defi-

ON PAPER: The Times-News welcomes letters from readers who can respond to any of the issues published from publication. Because of space constraints, please limit letters to 300 words. Include your signature, mailing address and phone number.

Wall Street shouldn't be running our nation's economy



By "Wall Street," I mean all the commercial banks, investment banks, mutual funds, hedge funds and the like that comprise the financial sector — but particularly investment banks. Pay is eye-popping. In 2007, Lloyd Blankfein, chief executive of Goldman Sachs, received compensation estimated at \$68 million.

But pay is also heavily skewed toward annual "bonuses" based on the profits that traders and bankers generate. I asked Johnson Associates, a compensation consulting firm, for typical Wall Street pay packages. The results describe "managing directors" based in New York with 10 or 15 years of experience. Most would be in their 40s.

Here are estimates for 2007:

- **Investment banker:** \$2.1 million, consisting of \$25,000 in base pay plus \$1.2 million in cash bonus and \$625,000 in long-term bonus. (An investment bank helps firms raise capital by selling new stocks and bonds and also advises on mergers and acquisitions.)
- **Bond trader:** \$1.525 million, with \$240,000 in base pay, \$975,000 in cash bonus and \$310,000 in long-term bonus.
- **Hedge fund manager:** \$145 million in base pay, plus a salary of \$265,000 and \$1.585 million bonus.

Just why investment bankers and traders earn, say, doctors or computer engineers is a question I've never heard convincingly answered.

Are they smarter? Unlikely. Do they contribute more to the economy? Questionable. Free Wall Street often performs a vital function. It channels savings into productive investments.

It helps provide access to capital and credit. In 2006, U.S. companies raised nearly \$4 trillion through new stocks and bonds.

Many financial innovations, including mortgage-backed securities, have benefited individuals and companies. It or 15 years of experience. Most would be in their 40s.

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But Wall Street also frequently misallocates capital and credit. The "tech bubble" of the late 1990s was one episode. Now we have subprime mortgages. Why? The herd in the land of financial crazes has a long history. But compensation practices skewed so heavily toward bonuses based on annual profits make matters worse.

"People self-select for careers. On Wall Street, they self-select for the money," says pay consultant Alan Johnson. "Wall Street is a sales business — they sell bonds, securities, transactions, ideas. ... They're not paid to be philosophers, philosophical, reflective." The pressure is to do the next

best, sell more stocks and bonds, do more trading — whatever — boosts current profits and bonuses, the long-term consequences be damned.

"These are my MBA students, not just mine but MBAs (masters of business administration) from Harvard, Stanford, Pennsylvania," says economist Allan Meltzer of Carnegie-Mellon University. "They were buying and selling this garbage (subprime mortgages securities). Are they stupid? They got compensated for doing it. If they didn't do it, they'd lose their jobs."

"To be fair, the real estate bubble had many causes, including how interest rates, the political popularity of home ownership and the (mistaken) belief that housing prices could never fall. This may explain why, so far, the backlash against Wall Street has been muted.

But if the subprime failure turns out to be a prelude to a larger financial breakdown, flowing from the creation of new securities that offered short-term trading possibilities but whose value was grossly underestimated, then the mood could turn uglier. Indeed, many Americans may conclude that capitalism has run amok.

Newsweek columnist Robert J. Samuelson writes about economics.

Times-News

Brad Hurd ... publisher Steve Crump ... opinion editor

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

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Grand juries aren't justice

Thank God the integrity of a grand jury indictment is being questioned. The case is tragic and certainly the victim and his family have a right to justice. But there is no justice in this system.

Grand juries are unconstitutional. It is a proceeding in which people are deprived of the right to face their accuser, to have counsel, to hear testimony, to have their own witnesses and to be present in body at the hearing. This system can be used to protect a "status quo," where truth is smothered and witnesses silenced all under a veil of secrecy where the jury is sworn to silence by threat of prosecution.

A person may not know they are being investigated or that anything they say or do at this time may be used against them in a court of law. Prosecutors may call multiple grand juries until

they get the indictment they desire. On another note, if I wanted to put the kibosh to any chance of real reform, I'd pick a poor test case with very little chance of proving the grand jury was anything less than right.

The grand jury system is an unending nightmare that resolves nothing and protects secrecy at all costs at the expense of the real truth and justice. It denies goodness and light in the heart of the free man. If left to continue, we shall all be enslaved to the darkness of fear and secrecy, and our lives will be completely spent on tit-for-tat retaliation.

And once again a system set up to serve and protect has turned into a self-serving tyrant that uses people as pawns and degrades precious lives of God's creation into a dead-end dog game of survival.

Isn't there a better way?
CHERI A. MARTIN
Jerome

Drivers, skiers have to be in sync at Freeze on Skis

There's not much that goes on Jan. 1. It may be a holiday, but it happens to be one of the latest and least celebrated due to the fact that it was celebrated the night before.

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The downfall of Freeze on Skis is that each year more participants are deciding not to take part in the event. The problem is not what most participants are doing. Being pulled behind a boat in sub-zero temperatures. That part is grueling enough, but defi-

nately worth the cause. The problem is the way in which they are being pulled.

There is a common knowledge among all boaters. A boat driver must be very attentive to his surroundings and to the condition of the person they are pulling. When you pull a skier out of the water or off of the dock, you do it quickly. The boat driver must provide the person being pulled with enough speed to remain on top of the wave, especially in bad weather conditions. Without the initial and constant power of the roaring engine, the pullee will lose the much anticipated plane above the water. If the driver lets off of the throttle as soon as the skier is up, they will sink. At this point they either hold on, partially immersed in the water or are forced to let go and fall into the freezing water. This is exactly what happens to many of the participants in Freeze on Skis

each year.
NICOLE HUDDLESTON
Twin Falls

Jack-in-Minidoka should stay in Minidoka County

It is illogical, insane and criminal to have the residents of the Jackson area depend on Burley, Cassia County, for their emergency services.

First, it takes 10 to 15 minutes to travel from Rupert, Minidoka County, to Jackson, Cassia County, versus 30 to 35 minutes from Burley. It doesn't take an Einstein to discern which would be more beneficial for the people of the Jackson area, especially in a case of life and death.

Just a couple of months ago, a young man rolled his truck and was ejected into my field where he laid and died while we waited for the ambulance for more than one hour! I personally called Cassia's 911 for more than 20 minutes. Would the outcome of this tragedy have

been different if we had been recipients of Rupert's emergency response?

So now, in order to give Jackson better services, Cassia has changed our addresses so they can find us. This only adds insult to injury. Is a change of address going to lessen the mileage from Burley to Jackson? Obviously, our county commissioners seem to think so, or do they have a hidden, not-so-secret motive? Follow the money. The question is: Is the security of Jackson's residents compromised because it is valued less than revenues? Where is the logic and the dedication to do what is best for the people of Jackson? Please, commissioners, do what is right. Leave our addresses alone and let us be under Minidoka County's jurisdiction. We the people of Jackson have spoken. Please, just
MARIE GRAY
Rupert

Get in your two cents

ONLINE: At magicvalley.com, you can respond to any of the issues published from publication. Because of space constraints, please limit letters to 300 words. Include your signature, mailing address and phone number.

ON PAPER: The Times-News welcomes letters from readers who can respond to any of the issues published from publication. Because of space constraints, please limit letters to 300 words. Include your signature, mailing address and phone number.

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Writers who sign letters with false names will be permanently banned from publication. Letters may be brought to our Twin Falls office: mailed to P.O. Box 548, Twin Falls, ID 83403; faxed to (208) 734-5538; or e-mailed to letters@magicvalley.com.

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OTHER VIEWS

Here's what Idaho newspapers are saying about ...

... transparency in Blaine County

Wood River Journal, Halley

The higher the potential social or economic risk, the more involved a consumer becomes in his or her decision to make a purchase. For many of us, the biggest purchase we will make in our life will be the purchase of a home. Does Idaho's nondisclosure law make potential buyers more apprehensive to purchase a home due to uncertainty of what to pay?

In lower-average home price areas in Idaho there is most likely less negative impact, as the risk is less for a fever priced home. However in the Wood River Valley, where the real estate market is less robust than in recent years and the average home price is over \$400,000, a lack of information could increase the risk for post-purchase anxiety. Post-purchase anxiety is most commonly caused by a lack of information or fear of having paid too much.

Presently home sale price disclosures are done on a voluntary basis and these are few and far between. This week Blaine County Commissioners considered a proposed ordinance that would require price disclosures for some property sales. The preference is that the law would be changed on the state level, but Blaine County's proposal will at the very least send out the message to state legislatures that the county with the most valuable property in the state is willing to open its doors to price disclosure.

This is a win/win for all and should help to increase property sales as buyers will feel that they are paying a fair market value for their home. In addition, this allows our real estate agents to be more professional as they can actually pull "comps" based on sale prices in their area and both buyers and sellers. Disclosure also creates fairness in our local property taxation. It will also save taxpayer dollars as our Blaine County assessor's office will no longer have to play a property price guessing game, as will not be using tax dollars where property owners appeal the assessor's office's home valuations.



... taxing Internet sales

Lowiston Tribune

The next time Idaho's Main Street retailers send their sales tax collections to state government, they should also send this message to the legislative branch of that government:

Thinkers ever so ready for continuing the tax advantage out-of-state Internet retailers have over us.

It is difficult to believe how legislators can abuse in-state merchants year after year with impunity. They say they refuse to let Idaho participate in a multistate plan to require Internet and catalog retailers to collect tax on in-state sales because they oppose taxes. But as long as Idaho's brick-and-mortar merchants must charge customers an additional 6 cents on every dollar, they are unfairly burdening with tax, the people they should be most protective of.

Last year, legislation to



permit Idaho's participation in what is called the streamlined sales and use tax agreement was killed on the House floor. This year, it didn't even make it out of the House Revenue and Taxation Committee. Wednesday, the committee voted 10-8 to kill it.

The State Tax Commission estimated (the) bill would bring in an additional \$500,000 in taxes, while estimates of the take from the bill the committee killed range from \$50 million to \$80 million.

When did Idaho voters instruct the House to stop making sense?

... community health centers

Idaho Statesman, Boise

If Idaho wants to fix its health care problems at home, state leaders need to think a little differently.

Or maybe, just spend a little bit differently.

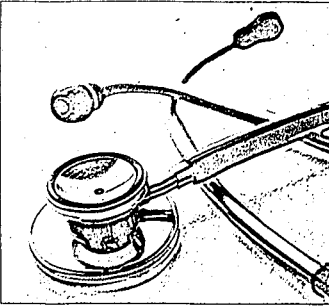
State leaders recognize the value of providing low- or no-cost preventive care for poor and uninsured Idahoans. Ninety-seven of

Idaho's 105 legislators voted last March to create a grant program to fill this need — and Gov. Butch Otter signed the bill into law.

The only thing missing was the money. And unfortunately, that money isn't on the way in 2008.

Until something changes, community health centers will remain one of the smartest unfunded ideas in state government. What a shame.

Community health centers



provide medical, dental or behavioral health care — the kind of primary care that can treat a health problem before it gets worse. Patients pay fees on a sliding scale, but no one is turned away based on ability to pay.

The centers are hardly a new concept. Last March, the Sampa-based Terry Heilly Health Services clinics marked their 35th anniversary — after treating 25,359 adults and children in calendar year 2006. Two-thirds of

these clients had no health insurance.

The state deserves some credit: a \$150,000 state grant helped open a Terry Heilly clinic in Caldwell in September 2006. It was the

first time Idaho put state dollars into a community health center.

And still the only time. The 2007 bill created a framework for future grants, "subject to appropriation of the Legislature." The Legislature didn't put in any grants, and Gov. Otter did not include any funding in his 2008-09 budget proposal.

Good intentions and stated support only go so far. In a state with some 220,000 uninsured people, the hospital emergency room becomes the clinic of last resort. When patients arrive there, often with a health condition that has grown worse with neglect, they too often run up a large medical bill that might have been avoided with upfront care. Whether hospitals write off uncollectible ER bills, or whether counties use property tax dollars to cover indirect health care hits, we all pay.

Or we can pay a little less for preventive care, and keep some of our neighbors healthier in the bargain ...

Check out what's new online at www.magicvalley.com

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Pomerelle's Giant Slalom competition for ages 6-18 is a timed elimination, two-run race for skiers or boarders. USA and other rules will be posted and announced at the race registration.

Awards are broken into many age classes. Eighteen-year-olds must still be enrolled in high school to compete in this race. 12

Entry fee is \$16 per person if entry form is received by January 25, 2008, \$20 per person if registration takes place on race day. Same day registration closes at 10:30 am sharp.

Go to website for registration and general information.



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Obama: Clinton engages in double-talk on bankruptcy law, trade

The Associated Press

ROCK HILL, S.C. — Democrat Barack Obama questioned Hillary Rodham Clinton's candor and trustworthiness Wednesday, saying she has indulged in double-talk on bankruptcy laws, trade and other issues.

The Illinois senator's comments, continuing a theme he has stressed in recent days, may have contributed to an outburst by former President Clinton, who rebuked Obama and sharply accused journalists of treating him more gently than they treat the Clintons.

The atmosphere grew more tense throughout the day after Clinton's campaign aired an ad in South Carolina suggesting Obama approved of Republican ideas.

Questions about the candidates' honesty and consistency have been paramount since Monday's testy presidential debate between Obama and Clinton, with former senator John Edwards sometimes chiming in. Obama, campaigning exclusively in the state ahead of Saturday's Democratic primary, is portraying Sen. Clinton as an old-school politician willing to shade the truth.

Politicians "don't always say what they mean, or mean what they say," he told about 500 people at Winthrop University. "That is what this debate in this party is all about."

At two stops Wednesday, Obama mocked the New York senator for saying she voted for a 2001 bankruptcy bill but was happy it did not become law.

"Senator Clinton said, 'Well, I voted for it, but I hoped the bill would die,'" he said, drawing hoots from the crowd.

In a similar vein, Obama said Clinton originally praised the North American Free Trade Agreement, enacted during her husband's presidency, but now criticizes aspects of it.

"You can't always tell what Senator Clinton's position on trade has been," he said.

Talk and its meaning seemed to dominate the day.

In a Clinton radio ad that uses a clip from his recent interview with the Reno Gazette-Journal editorial board, Obama is heard saying: "The Republicans were the party of ideas for a pretty long chunk of time there over the last 10, 15 years."

An announcer says: "Hillary Clinton thinks this election is about replacing disastrous Republican ideas with new ones, like jump-starting the economy."

Obama's campaign planned to run a response ad. But it first enlisted supporters in South Carolina to denounce the Clinton piece as selective editing. Former Gov. Jim Hodges protested that Clinton's campaign seemed determined to win "at all costs."

Obama's comment about Republicans came as he discussed objections that represented shifts in political direction. The full quote is: "I think it's fair to say that the Republicans were the party of ideas for a pretty long chunk of time there over the last 10-15 years in the sense that they were challenging conventional wisdom."

He preceded the remark by noting that John F. Kennedy also had shifted the direction of the country. "I think we're in one of those times right now, where people feel like things as they are going aren't working," he said. "That we've bogged down in the same arguments that we've been having, and they're not useful. And the Republican approach, I think, has played itself out."

Bill Clinton, who has been campaigning for his wife in South Carolina this week, said Obama and the media had stirred up tensions over race in response to criticism from some Democrats about the couple's strategy.

Southern drought could force nuclear plants to close

The Associated Press

LAKE NORMAN, N.C. — Nuclear reactors across the Southeast could be forced to throttle back or temporarily shut down later this year because drought is drying up the rivers and lakes that supply power plants with the huge amounts of cooling water they need to operate.

Utility officials say such shutdowns probably would

result in blackouts. But they could lead to shockingly higher electric bills for millions of Southerners, because the region's utilities may be forced to buy expensive replacement power from other energy companies.

Already, there has been one brief, drought-related shutdown, at a reactor in Alabama over the summer.

"Water is the nuclear industry's Achilles' heel,"

said Jim Warren, executive director of N.C. Waste Awareness and Reduction Network, an environmental group critical of nuclear power. "You need a lot of water to operate nuclear plants." He added: "This is becoming a crisis."

An Associated Press analysis of the nation's 104 nuclear reactors found that 24 are in areas experiencing the most severe levels of drought. All but two are

built on the shores of lakes and rivers and rely on submerged intake pipes to draw billions of gallons of water for use in cooling and condensing steam after it has turned the plants' turbines.

Because of the scorching dry spell gripping the region, the water levels on those lakes and rivers are getting close to the minimums set by the Nuclear Regulatory Commission. Over the next several

months, the water could drop below the intake pipes altogether. Or the shallow water could become too hot under the sun to use as coolant.

"If water levels get to a certain point, we'll have to power it down or go off line," said Robert Yarity, a spokesman for South Carolina Electric & Gas Co., which operates the Summer nuclear plant outside Columbia, S.C.



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SPORTS

SCOREBOARD

BASKETBALL

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GAME PLAN

LOCAL
HIGH SCHOOL
BOYS BASKETBALL
Girls Basketball
Men's College Basketball

TV SCHEDULE

EXTREME SPORTS
ESPNU - Winter X Games, at Aspen, Colo. (cablecast)
ESPN - Winter X Games, at Aspen, Colo. (cablecast)

SKI REPORT

Idaho
Big Bear - Sun-Sat packed powder machine good-65
Snow Mountain - Sun-Sat packed powder machine good-65

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FOOTBALL

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Troy Tulowitzki and Rockies finalize \$31 million, 6-year contract

DENVER — Troy Tulowitzki went into spring training last season just hoping to secure a spot on the Colorado Rockies'...

that the organization knows that, everybody in baseball knows that, I'm going to be here for the next six years, I hope he wants to join me.

CS to send bus to games at SLCC
TWIN FALLS — The College of Southern Idaho Twinner Club will sponsor a bus to the...

Co-ed volleyball tournament nears
TWIN FALLS — Twin Falls High School will host a co-ed volleyball tournament on Saturday, Jan. 26 at Blue Lakes Gymnasium.

Sports Shorts

USC's Mayo may have broken NCAA rule by accepting Lakers tickets

Magic Valley
TENNIS
Australian Open

FOOTBALL
NFL Playoffs

COLLEGE FOOTBALL
Huskiers' Pelini to earn \$1 million

After off-course issues, Woods, Mickelson headline Buick

SAN DIEGO (AP) — At sunrise Wednesday at Torrey Pines, the PGA Tour began a slow shift back to golf.

Tiger Woods and Phil Mickelson have not been on the same piece of property in nearly four months, since celebrating a U.S. victory at the Presidents Cup in Montreal. They were on the first tee together in the chilly morning of the Buick Invitational pro-am 1 p.m., TGC — Woods on the South Course, Mickelson on the North Course — before making their 2008 debut.

This was one day after a player meeting on the new anti-doping policy that brought the occasional outburst.

This was two days after Woods' first public comments on a Golf Channel anchor getting suspended for jokingly suggesting that young players "hate" Woods in a back alley. Only three days before that, a magazine editor was fired for putting a mouse on the cover.



Tiger Woods pulls out his driver on the fourth tee while playing a practice round on the North Course at Torrey Pines while practicing for the Buick Invitational golf tournament Tuesday in San Diego. This is Woods' first 2008 PGA Tour appearance.

Popular PGA Tour caddie struck by car, killed

SAN DIEGO (AP) — Steve Duplantis, a popular PGA Tour caddie known for bringing out the best in his players, was killed early Wednesday when he was struck by a taxi while crossing a street.

Duplantis was in Del Mar when he stepped off a center median and into the path of a taxi, said Sgt. Randy Webb of the San Diego Sheriff's Department. The 35-year-old Duplantis was pronounced dead on the scene.

He was working at the Buick Invitational for Eric Axley. Axley was visibly shaken when he arrived at Torrey Pines and asked for a few days before he commented.

A free spirit after hours and regard-

ed among the best caddies inside the ropes, he previously won four times with Jim Furyk early in his career, with Rich Beem at the Kemper Open and with Tommy Armour III when he set the PGA Tour's 72-hole scoring record at the Texas Open in 2003.

Among the nicknames caddies gave Duplantis was "Asbestos," because he was thought to be fireproof. Even though he often showed up late for work after a night on the town, his value as a caddie was too much for players to replace him.

"He was one of the better caddies," Armour said. "That's why he kept getting hired. He was very confident with what he said."

season-openers, and allow him to tie Arnold Palmer in career tour victories with 62.

And while the majors don't start until April at Augusta, consider this week a sneak preview of the U.S. Open, which will be held at Torrey Pines in June and will be substantially tougher.

Woods caused a stir earlier this month by saying the Grand Slam was "easily within reason," and he hasn't backed off.

"For most of my career, I've won more than four tournaments per year, and all I have to do is win the right four," Woods said. "And I've done those a few times. I think if you put it all together, have luck on your sides, all the stars will line up, and it certainly is possible."

One challenge could come from Mickelson, whose season last year was slowed by a wrist injury. He won two of the last four events he played, including a duel with Woods outside Boston and his first international victory at the HSBC Champions in China.

Duncan, Spurs roll to win over Lakers

SAN ANTONIO — Tim Duncan had 20 points and 17 rebounds to lead the San Antonio Spurs to a 91-81 win over the Los Angeles Lakers on Wednesday.

Ime Udoka added a season-high 18 points and four other Spurs scored in double digits to give San Antonio its second straight victory.

Kobe Bryant led the Lakers with 29 points and 12 rebounds, and Ronny Turiaf scored 14 points. Sasha Vujacic and Lamar Odom added 11 points apiece.



San Antonio Spurs forward Tim Duncan (21) is defended by Los Angeles Lakers center Kwame Brown, left, during the first quarter in San Antonio, Wednesday.

BULLS 108, PACERS 95

CHICAGO — Kirk Hinrich scored a career-high 30 points, and Chicago beat Indiana with its two best players were injured.

The Bulls learned earlier in the day that forward Lu Deng would be unable to travel to Chicago because of his recurring left Achilles' tendinitis. Then, they found out that leading scorer Ben Gordon would sit out with a sprained right wrist.

Kevin Garnett scored 26 for Boston.

20 points, seven rebounds and seven assists. Carlos Delfino was 5-for-5 from 3-point range.

PISTONS 86, 76ERS 78

PHILADELPHIA — Richard Hamilton scored 21 points and Chauncey Billups had 19 to help the Pistons snap a rare three-game winning streak.

Willie Green scored 16 points, Andre Iguodala had 15 and Lou Williams 13 for the Sixers.

HUGGETS 107, HAWKS 100

DENVER — Alton Lister scored 20 points and Linas Kleiza added 23 to lift Denver, playing without All-Star Carmelo Anthony, to a victory.

Marcus Camby finished with 13 points and grabbed 21 rebounds for Denver.

Josh Smith had a triple-double with 22 points, 12 rebounds and 10 assists.

TIMBERWOLVES 117, SUNS 107

MINNEAPOLIS — Al Jefferson hauled in a career-high 30 points and 15 rebounds, and the Timberwolves won two in a row for the first time this season.

Amare Stoudemire led Phoenix with 33 points, but only 10 of them came in the last 43 minutes. Steve Nash had 21 points and 16 assists.

CAVALIERS 121, WIZARDS 85

CLEVELAND — LeBron James scored 23 points, Zydrunas Ilgauskas had 24 without missing from the floor and Cleveland destroyed Washington for its season-high fifth straight victory.

Ilgauskas went 10-of-10 from the field.

Drew Gooden added 10 points and Sasha Pavlovic 13.

MAGIC 112, GRIZZLIES 85

MEMPHIS, Tenn. — Hedo Turkoglu scored 26 points, and Orlando Magic made a team-record 13-3 points.

Dwight Howard and Rashard Lewis scored 16 points apiece for the Magic.

Rudy Gay led Memphis with 20 points.

HORNETS 96, TRAIL BLAZERS 81

NEW ORLEANS — Jameno Pargo scored a season-high 24 points in 24 minutes, and New Orleans extended its season-best winning streak to six games.

Keith Van Horn scored 22 for the Hornets, who have won 13 of 16 games and lead the Southwest Division after their best first half of a season in franchise history.

MAVERICKS 102, BOBCATS 95

CHARLOTTE, N.C. — Devin Harris scored 23 points, Josh Harris scored 15 points and 12 rebounds and Dallas withstood a late rally by Charlotte.

Dirk Nowitzki had 20 points and eight rebounds for the Mavericks.

— The Associated Press

RAPTORS 114, CELTICS 112

BOSTON — Jose Calderon converted a go-ahead, three-point play with 10.5 seconds left and finished with 24 points and 13 assists to lead Toronto past Boston.

Chris Bosh and Anthony Parker scored 23 points apiece for the Raptors, and Andrea Bargnani had

fast enough.

Woods and Mickelson headline the field at the Buick Invitational, which is sure to have some sizzle behind the fact they are No. 1 and No. 2 in the world ranking and the

two biggest personalities in golf.

They have combined to win this tournament six of the last eight years, and Woods is the three-time defending champion. A victory this week would be his sixth victory in 12

biggest personalities in golf.

They have combined to win this tournament six of the last eight years, and Woods is the three-time defending champion. A victory this week would be his sixth victory in 12

TENNIS: AUSTRALIAN OPEN Federer leads young trio into semis

MELBOURNE, Australia (AP) — It's fine for Roger Federer to talk about the tension and nerves players feel before a Grand Slam semifinal. He is about to play in his 15th in a row, after all.

But while it might reassure Novak Djokovic to hear that the man he'll be facing in his first Australian Open semifinal experiences some nerves too, he'd better be wary of the rhetoric.

"I remember when I made my first Grand Slam semifinals or my finals, I was so nervous," Federer said in an almost confiding tone, after beating James Blake 7-5, 7-6 (5), 6-4 on Wednesday. "Now it's been so many that it's almost become some sort of a routine. That's helped me a great deal being able to cope with those moments."

Federer has a brilliant conversion rate, reaching the last 10 Grand Slam finals and winning 12 of the last 18 during his first at Wimbledon in 2003.

The momentum and experience gives Federer the edge, he says: "Maybe they blink a little bit in those important moments, whereas maybe usually they wouldn't."

At 26, Federer is the oldest of the men's semifinalists, and will meet the youngest — 20-year-old Djokovic on Friday. The third-ranked Djokovic beat No. 5 David Ferrer of Spain 6-0, 6-3, 7-5 to complete a run to the semifinals at all four majors.

Rafael Nadal, who will play unseeded Frenchman Jo-Wilfried Tsonga in the other semifinal, is the longest-serving No. 2 in tennis history, and he's only 21. Nadal knows something about catching Federer on a bad day in a Grand Slam, though, after beating the Swiss star last year in the French Open final.

Still, Federer is in the best of form, and No. 3 players as potential rivals at the end of each major.

"It's great that Rafa made it through, as well, with Novak. It's good for tennis," he said. "It's not just one guy, but it's a few guys now who have been playing very consistently."



Roger Federer, right, talks with James Blake at the net after Federer won their men's singles quarterfinal match at the Australian Open in Melbourne, Australia, Wednesday.

"It's going to be interesting to see. I'm excited playing against Novak, no doubt."

Djokovic has two fellow Serbians in the women's semifinals.

No. 3 Jelena Jankovic ousted defending champion Serena Williams, and No. 4 Ana Ivanovic beat Venus Williams 7-6 (3), 6-4.

It's the second time in four majors that the Serbian trio has made it to the semis, repeating their run at the last French Open, and gives the end of the women's draw a distinctly eastern European accent.

Ivanovic, who lost the French final to Justine Henin, faces Slovakia's Daniela Hantuchova, who advanced to her first Grand Slam semifinal with a 6-2, 6-2 defeat of Agnieszka Radwanska.

Jankovic takes on last year's losing loser, another four years ago by Emma Swanwick of Russia, who ended No. 1-ranked Henin's 32-match winning streak in the quarterfinals.

Ivanovic had never taken a set off Venus Williams in four meetings, including the semifinals at Wimbledon and the fourth round at

the U.S. Open. But she was sharper from the start against Williams, who had her left thigh heavily wrapped.

"I was looking forward for some revenge," Ivanovic said. "I'm just so, so happy I managed to step up."

In the late men's doubles match, two-time defending champions and top-seeded Bob and Mike Bryan went down 6-4, 5-7, 7-6 (5) to Mahesh Bhupathi and Mark Knowles in the quarterfinals.

Federer had more to play for against Blake than just his 10-0 record against the American and his bid for a 15th major, which would move him within one of Pete Sampras' record.

One of the anomalies of the rankings is that despite his domination last season — 60-9 with a tour-high eight titles — Federer could have lost the top spot. He's held since February 2001. Nadal would have taken over if he'd reached the Australian Open final and Federer lost to Blake.

"I heard rumors I could lose," Federer said, mockingly. "Someone reminded me of it."

Coach trying to raise awareness for shoeless children in Africa

INDIANAPOLIS (AP) — For once, Ron Hunter won't be able to stomp. Hunter will coach barefoot in IUPUI's game against Oakland University on Thursday to raise awareness for needy children. His goal is to send 40,000 pairs of shoes to Africa in honor of the 40th anniversary of the death of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

"If a five- or six-year-old kid can walk around their entire life with no shoes on, then surely, in a warm cli-

IUPUI's Hunter will coach barefoot tonight

mate. In a basketball environment, I can do it," he said. "They may not hear my stomps like they usually do."

Hunter is working through a Charlotte, N.C. charitable organization called Samaritan's Feet, which was founded four years ago by Emmanuel "Manny" Ohonme.

A native of Nigeria, Ohonme received his first pair of shoes at the age of 9 from an American missionary. He eventually earned a scholar-

ship to play basketball at the University of North Dakota-Lake Region.

Samaritan's Feet wants to send 10 million pairs of shoes to children around the world in 10 years.

Hunter said he learned about Samaritan's Feet after a mutual friend gave him a number to Ohonme. Samaritan's Feet came up with the idea for Hunter to go without shoes.

"They told me the idea, and I had 1 kind of laughed, because I thought surely they were joking about that," he said. "But they weren't."

two years.

BYU 59, SAN DIEGO ST. 56

PROVO, Utah — Trent Plaisted scored 17 points and pulled down 11 rebounds to lead Brigham Young to a 59-56 win over San Diego State on Wednesday night.

Plaisted connected on a free throw with 1:24 remaining in the game to put the Cougars (14-5, 3-1) ahead 57-53.

Kyle Spain responded with a 3-pointer to pull the Aztecs (14-5, 4-1 Mountain West) back to within one with 1:07 left. But Sam Burgess hit two free throws with 2.9 seconds left to push the lead to three.

— The Associated Press



Memphis' Derrick Rose, left, shoots against Tulsa's Jereme Jordan in Tulsa, Okla., on Wednesday.

Memphis fights past pesky Tulsa in first game at No. 1

TULSA, Okla. — Chris Douglas-Roberts scored 20 points, Derrick Rose added 19 points and top-ranked Memphis beat pesky Tulsa 56-41 Wednesday night to avoid the fate that befell the Tigers their only other time with the No. 1 ranking 25 years earlier.

Memphis (18-0, 5-0 Conference USA) didn't take a double-digit lead until Doug-Roberts' two-handed jam with 6:21 remaining made it 40-38.

No. 2 KANSAS 83, IOWA STATE 76

LAWRENCE, Kan. — Darnell Jackson had 21 points and 11 rebounds to help the Jayhawks stay unbeaten.

No. 5 NORTH CAROLINA 98, MIAMI 82

CORAL GABLES, Fla. — Tyler Hansbrough scored 27 of his season-high 35 points after halftime. Ty Lawson scored 15 of his 23 points in the opening 20 minutes, and the fifth-ranked Tar Heels got back to their winning ways.

No. 7 INDIANA 65, IOWA 43

BLOOMINGTON, Ind. — D.J. White scored 19 points and Eric Gordon added 17 to help the Hoosiers extend their winning streak to 13.

No. 13 PITTSBURGH 81, ST. JOHN'S 57

NEW YORK — Sam Young scored 26 points and No. 13 Pittsburgh con-

tinued its recent success at Madison Square Garden.

No. 25 COLLEGE 116, NO. 18 TEXAS A&M 110, SUT

BROOKER STATION, Texas — Curtis Jernell scored a career-high 36 points, including 11 in the fifth overtime to lead No. 25 Baylor to a 116-110 win over No. 18 Texas A&M on Wednesday night.

Baylor (16-2, 4-0 Big 12) won its fifth in a row.

RUTGERS 80, NO. 19 VILLANOVA 68

PISCATAWAY, N.J. — Anthony Farmer and Mike Coburn each scored 23 points to help the Scarlet Knights get their first victory against a ranked opponent in more than

two years.

BYU 59, SAN DIEGO ST. 56

PROVO, Utah — Trent Plaisted scored 17 points and pulled down 11 rebounds to lead Brigham Young to a 59-56 win over San Diego State on Wednesday night.

Plaisted connected on a free throw with 1:24 remaining in the game to put the Cougars (14-5, 3-1) ahead 57-53.

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— The Associated Press

Market comes back from the depths

Wall Street rebounds from early loss to gain just under 300 points

By Madlen Reed
Associated Press writer

NEW YORK — Wall Street pulled off a stunning comeback Wednesday, surging higher in late trading and wiping out what looked to be yet another precipitous decline. The Dow Jones Industrials, down more than 323 points in earlier trading, ended the day with an advance of just under 300

points, according to preliminary calculations.

While such volatility has become a hallmark of Wall Street's performance in recent months amid the ongoing housing and credit crisis, analysts saw some positive signs in the day's trading.

"There does come a point and time when the market itself recognizes that it got out of hand, and that is when bargain-hunters can come in," said Peter Cardillo, chief market economist at Avalon Partners.

The Fed's decision Tuesday to lower its federal funds rate by 0.75 percentage point to 3.5

percent has been met with some skepticism, but it gave intrepid investors Wednesday a reason to buy the severely dented stocks in the financial sector.

"You might say this is a belated reaction to what the Fed did this week, compounded by hopes for the Fed to do more next week," Cardillo said. Traders who bet on the Fed's target fed funds rate were pricing in on Wednesday a 100 percent chance of a 0.50 percentage-point cut by the central bank when it meets next week.

Rate cuts will eventually

Please see MARKET, Page B6

Dow Jones Industrials	+288.68
	12,270.17
Nasdaq composite	+24.14
	2,316.41
Standard & Poor's 500	+28.10
	1,338.60
Russell 2000	+21.86
	693.43

For a complete stock listing, go to MagIvalley.com



Trader Daniel Ryan laughs as he works on the floor of the New York Stock Exchange Wednesday. Wall Street pulled off a stunning comeback Wednesday, surging higher in late trading and wiping out what looked to be yet another precipitous decline.

N. Idaho home sales drop

Average home prices also on the decline

The Associated Press

COEUR D'ALENE — Sales of single-family homes in northern Idaho's Kootenai County dropped 18 percent in 2007 compared with the previous year, the Coeur d'Alene Association of Realtors said.

However, real estate agents in the region on Tuesday said they remain optimistic about the market in the fast-growing area.

"Thank God we're in North Idaho," Kim Cooper, public relations chair for the association, told the Coeur d'Alene Press.

The association reported that 1,909 homes, each on less than one acre, sold in Kootenai County in 2007, compared to 2,325 in 2006, and 3,421 in 2005.

Jim Gillespie, president and CEO of the U.S. residential division of Coldwell Banker Real Estate, said that sales in 2007 dropped 10 percent nationally.

It was in the area Tuesday on a visit from his home office in Parsippany, N.J.

In Coeur d'Alene, sales dropped only 4 percent from the previous year. The average price of a home fell from \$240,892 in 2006 to \$231,124 in 2007.

Sales fell 28 percent in nearby Post Falls, with 548 sales in 2007 compared to 764 in 2006, and 1,074 in 2005.

In Kootenai County, the average price of a single-family home fell 3 percent to \$239,261 in 2007.

"There are a lot under \$180,000, which means we have affordable housing for a lot of people," Cooper said.

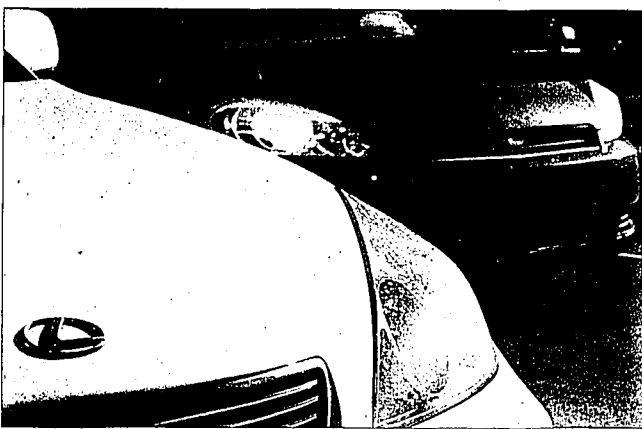
In 2007, new construction accounted for 27 percent of sales, compared to 32 percent in 2006.

Gillespie said there is a 10-month inventory nationwide of homes for sale. In Kootenai County, there were 2,602 homes for sale on Dec. 31.

He also said that a combination of lower interest rates for mortgages and that home prices might make home ownership possible for new buyers.

"I hope first-time home buyers will be able to get into the market," he said.

IN A DEAD HEAT GM



A General Motors Chevrolet, right, pulls up to a traffic light beside a Lexus, Toyota's high end car line, in downtown Pittsburgh, Wednesday. General Motors Corp. has lost the sole claim it held for 76 years as the world's auto sales leader, as totals for 2007 released Wednesday showed the company in a virtual tie with Toyota Motor Corp.

GM in virtual tie with Toyota in global sales

By Tom Krisher
Associated Press writer

DETROIT — General Motors Corp. has lost the sole claim it held for 76 years as the world's auto sales leader, as totals for 2007 released Wednesday showed the company in a virtual tie with Toyota Motor Corp.

GM said it sold 9,369,524 vehicles worldwide last year, up 3 percent from 2006. Earlier this month, Toyota reported global sales of 9.37 million vehicles. The Japanese automaker said Wednesday it would not release more precise numbers.

"The race is too close to call," Mike DiGiovanni, GM's executive director of global market and industry analysis said during a conference call Wednesday. "I don't think anybody knows at this point."

Detroit-based GM has held the title of world's largest automaker since 1931, but Toyota's strong growth in the United States and GM's U.S. sales decline helped Toyota move closer to the top spot in recent years.

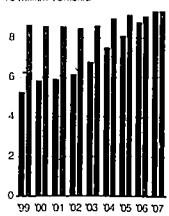
Toyota's share of the U.S. market has more than doubled since 1990, when it controlled only 7.5 percent, when it just over 1 million in sales, according to Ward's AutoIntelligence. Its sales have grown briskly in recent years, sometimes by double-digit percentages, as people bought its smaller, fuel-efficient cars with a reputation for reliability. By 2007, Toyota controlled 16.3 percent of the U.S. market, selling 2.6 million vehicles.

GM, while still the U.S. sales leader, has seen its U.S. market share drop dramatically since 1990, when it controlled about 35 percent by selling nearly 5 million vehicles. Last year

Rising in the East

General Motors Corp. and Toyota Motor Corp. finished 2007 in a tie, each with 9.37 million vehicles sold worldwide.

Annual auto sales
■ Toyota ■ GM
10 million vehicles



SOURCE: The companies AP

GM's share was roughly 23.4 percent, with sales of 3.8 million vehicles.

Aaron Bragman, an analyst with the consulting firm Global Insight, said GM and Toyota have expanded almost evenly in most emerging global markets, but GM has been hurt by sales declines in North America.

"A lot of that volume reduction has come here," Bragman said. "They did very well in every other market except North America."

Much of GM's U.S. decline has been deliberate, he said, as the company cut inventories and reduced low-profit sales to rental car companies. GM's U.S. sales last year were 6

percent below 2006 figures, due largely to a 100,000 cut in fleet sales. "If they had kept that fleet volume up, it wouldn't even be a competition," Bragman said.

Globally, GM said it did well in 2007, reporting the second-highest sales total in its 100-year history. For a third straight year and the fourth time ever, GM sold more than 9 million vehicles worldwide last year.

The company said it set a sales record in China last year, selling just over a million vehicles, and doubled its sales in Russia to a record 2,500,000. It also set a record in Brazil, when it sold nearly 500,000 cars and trucks, the company said.

"What we've really focused on here is running our business for the long-term profitably and growing," DiGiovanni said. "I think we've done a heck of a job in positioning ourselves very well in where the growth in the world is in terms of the emerging markets, particularly Latin America, Asia Pacific, China, Russia, India."

GM Chairman and Chief Executive Rick Wagoner has pledged to defend the global sales tie, but said the company would not abandon its U.S. strategy of reducing incentives and low-profit sales to rental car companies in order to win.

"Great cars, smart marketing, growth in the emerging markets. And hopefully that will keep us on top. If not, we'll come back to work the next day and work even harder," Wagoner said earlier this month.

The tie in coming years likely will be decided by sales in burgeoning markets such as China, Russia, South America and other regions with a growing middle class.

Idaho Power reaches settlement in rate case

Company agrees to cut increases in half

By Matt Christensen
Times-News writer

Idaho Power Co. has reached an agreement with several customer groups that would cut in half a rate increase proposed by the company last year.

If approved by the Idaho Public Utilities Commission, customers would pay an average 5.2 percent more for electricity — about \$3 more a month — as of March 1, not 10.4 percent as the company had proposed in June.

"It's a settlement that was brought about through a cooperative effort between our customers, regulators and our company," IBC Vice President Idaho Power's vice president for regulatory affairs, said in a statement.

Irrigators, in particular, had objected to the proposal, because the power company wanted them to pay about 20 percent more than their current rates. Residential customers would have paid about 4.5 percent more.

The company wanted permission from the IPUC, which

Please see CASE, Page B6

AT&T making more hotspots free to users

By Michelle Roberts
Associated Press writer

SAN ANTONIO — AT&T Inc. said Wednesday it will make its 10,000 Wi-Fi hotspots free to nearly all of its broadband internet customers starting early next week.

Only subscribers to AT&T's premium broadband services previously had free access to its hotspots, leaving out the majority of high-speed users, who have the 1.5-Mbps service. Now, more than 10 million broadband customers, most of AT&T's high-speed Internet subscribers, will be able to use the hotspots free of charge.

"It's a differentiator for us when people are choosing between competitors," said AT&T spokesman Fletcher Cook.

STOCKS OF LOCAL INTEREST

Con Agra	21.50	▼ .06	Dell Inc.	20.12	▼ .13	Idacorp	33.20	▲ 1.00
Lithia Mo.	13.06	▲ 1.16	Micron	6.70	▲ .41	Supervalu	29.70	▲ 1.95

COMMODITIES

For more see page B6

Live cattle	90.45	▼ .58	March Oil	86.99	▼ 2.22
Feb. gold	883.1	▼ 7.2	March Silver	16.05	▼ .055

What to expect
today in business

• WASHINGTON — National Association of Realtors reports on existing home sales for December.

• WASHINGTON — Labor Department reports on weekly jobless claims.

• NEW YORK — Freddie Mac reports on mortgage rates.

MUTUAL FUNDS

Table of mutual fund performance data including columns for Name, Bail, Chg, and various fund names like AMERIFUND, AMERIFUND, AMERIFUND.

COMMODITIES REPORT

Table titled 'CLOSING FUTURES' showing market data for various commodities like Soybean, Corn, Wheat, etc.

CHEESE

Order cheese from the Dairy Market... Prices for various cheese types.

LIVESTOCK

Prices for various livestock including cattle, hogs, and sheep. Includes 'CATTLE' and 'HOGS' sections.

METALS/MONEY

Key exchange rates and prices for various metals and currencies. Includes 'Key Exchange Rates' and 'Gold'.

BEANS

Market data for various types of beans including Soybean, Black, and Pinto.

GRAINS

Market data for various grains including Corn, Wheat, and Soybean.

MARKET SUMMARY

Summary table of market indices including NYSE, AMEX, NASDAQ, and various Indexes.

NYSE

Most Active (1st 100) and Most Active (Last Chg) for NYSE.

AMEX

Most Active (1st 100) and Most Active (Last Chg) for AMEX.

NASDAQ

Most Active (1st 100) and Most Active (Last Chg) for NASDAQ.

INDEXES

Market indices including Dow Jones Industrial, S&P 500, etc.

STOCKS OF LOCAL INTEREST

Table of local stock market activity with columns for Name, Last, Chg, %Chg.

LOSERS

Table of losing stocks with columns for Name, Last, Chg, %Chg.

DIARY

Table of dairy stock market activity.

HOW TO READ THE MARKET REPORT

Explanatory text for market report symbols and abbreviations. Includes 'Name: Stocks are cited alphabetically by the company's full name'.

PROBATES

Legal notices for probate proceedings. Includes names like Stover, Michael Peters; Park, Daniel G.; Murrell, Dean Carl; etc.

Market

Continued from page B5. Analysis of market trends, including 'The groups that typically lead here are banks and other lenders'.

Case

Continued from page B5. Analysis of market cases, including 'When the company had the request for loans'.

NEW COMEDY FEATURING LOCAL MAN HAS SUNDANCE ALL

A b u z z

Actor enjoys success in films, follows dream

By Pat Marcantonio
Times-News writer

PARK CITY, Utah — Albert Huerta is enjoying the buzz. Namely, the buzz about "Adventures of Power," a comedy playing at the Sundance Film Festival going on this week at Park City. The former Minicassia resident has a supporting role, which he calls his breakthrough.

"It was incredible," said Huerta, 46. "It's a humbling experience to be quite honest."

"I saw it last night; everybody loved it," said Trevor Snarr with the Utah Film Commission. "It was amazing. It has some 'Napoleon Dynamite' humor in it. I highly recommend it."

Huerta plays Raül in "Adventures of Power," which is about the world's greatest air drummer who saves the day. Yes, an air drummer. The film stars and is directed by Ari Gold and features Adrian Grenier of "Entourage" and veteran Michael McKean, whose film credits include "Best in Show" and "Spinal Tap."

Huerta says he is featured throughout the movie and has scenes with Gold and McKean.

"It's really funny and has a good message," he said. "The funny thing was that Huerta had never been to

Sundance, the place to be for independent films, before this year when he volunteered. To his delight, "Adventures of Power" accepted to the festival and had its world premiere last Sunday. The film plays again today in Salt Lake City and Saturday in Park City.

He worked on the film in Helper, Utah, for about three weeks.

"I know Albert; he seemed pretty excited about the whole scenario," Snarr said. "And I'm excited it was filmed in Helper, Utah."

Acting is Huerta's side job. His day job is an industrial engineer technician at Hill Air Force Base. He lives with his family in Sunset, Utah, north of Salt Lake City.

Born in Utah and raised in the Helper area until he was about 17, Huerta then lived in Pocatello before returning to Utah when he was 28. He still has family in the Minicassia area and Jerome.

Huerta got into acting on a dare. He used to coax his sons — he has seven of them — to audition for plays, he said. And as he watched others act, he proclaimed that he could do that. It got so that his wife Charly told him he should just audition.

He did and got a part in a church play. "That was 10 years ago and ever since, he has acted and appeared as an extra in films such as



Albert Huerta, left, a former Mini-Cassia resident, and Trevor Snarr with the Utah Film Commission at the Sundance Film Festival. Huerta has a supporting role in "Adventures of Power," a film that played in the festival.

"The Last Sin Eater" and Disney's "Rugby: Strong Hold."

When he visited a friend who was an extra for "Con Air," which starred Nicolas Cage, Huerta ended up getting hired as an extra. He got \$150 per day for three days.

"It was awesome," he said. He found that he loved acting, and went through the Sundance Institute Acting Lab in 2006 and other training.

"You basically have to come out or your shell," he said. "And I became very natural with it ... When I came in front of a camera I

level I can transform. I've been gifted with a talent."

When he says that it sounds more of a statement than boast.

Another reason he got into acting was to break the stereotyping of Latino people, to portray Latinos as more than immigrants and drug lords.

"I really believe the Latin community is a big contributor to society and a lot of times we are misrepresented and that's why I wanted to get into acting."

Leaving something behind also appealed to him. A handprint he calls it.

"I know there is a movie that will carry me through the times," he said. "I feel fortunate that you left your handprint through the arts."

He now has an agent and prospects, including being cast in another movie and auditioning for another.

Meanwhile, the filmmakers are negotiating to get "Adventures of Power" to more audiences. Huerta hopes the buzz will help his acting career. In other words, "get the ducks while they're flying."

The fact that he is now eligible to join the Screen Actors Guild creates excitement in his voice during the telephone interview.

"I really believe the Latin community is a big contributor to society and a lot of times we are misrepresented and that's why I wanted to get into acting."

— Albert Huerta

ment in his voice during the telephone interview.

"I'd love to do it (act full-time)," he said. "For now, it's keeping the day job. I have to do first things first and take care of my family."

"You don't have to tell him that about business is tough. But now, I'm rubbing shoulders with people I see on TV and asking myself, 'How did I get here?'"

After a few disappointments at earlier auditions, he was ready to give up, but his other brother (Snarr) advised him keep at it. Shortly after that, Huerta landed the role of Raül. Not giving up is the advice he has for anyone with a dream.

"I strongly encourage all Latino people to get involved," he said. Whether their dream be acting or whatever, don't give up. "I really mean that ... Through perseverance you'll be able to achieve your dream. I'm a firm believer. I've achieved farther than I've ever imagined and I feel like I'm just beginning."

Lieutenant to Mexico's top alleged drug trafficker captured

Official touts arrest as victory for President Calderon

MEXICO CITY (AP) — Mexico's army on Monday captured the lieutenant of the powerful Sinaloa cartel who allegedly commanded squads of hit men and organized drug shipments north, officials said.

Alfredo Beltran Leyva was arrested in the northwestern city of Culiacan in Sinaloa state, home to the cartel, with two suitcases containing \$900,000, an assault rifle, a luxury SUV and 11 expensive watches, the army said.

U.S. Ambassadors to Mexico Tony Cardoza, calling the arrest "a significant victory."

"When Mexico takes dangerous criminals like Beltran Leyva and his crew off the streets, the people in Mexico stand to benefit," Cardoza wrote in a statement. "This arrest demonstrates once again the ongoing commitment of President Calderon and his administration to hit the criminal underworld where it hurts."

Army Gen. Luis Arturo Olivera said Beltran Leyva commanded two groups of hit men for the cartel, whose reach extends from the northwestern state of Sonora to the southern state of Oaxaca. He was allegedly in charge of transporting drugs, bribing officials and laundering money for the cartel, which is led by Mexico's

most-wanted alleged drug lord, Joaquin Guzman, Beltran Leyva — and four of his brothers — Hector, Marcos, Mario and Carlos — are key leaders in Guzman's criminal organization, Olivera said.

Dressed in jeans, a dark jacket and boots, the black-headed Beltran Leyva was led in handcuffs past reporters at the airport hangar of the Mexican attorney general's office, before authorities flew him by helicopter to an undisclosed location.

Guzman escaped from federal prison in 2001 in a laundry cart after bribing guards. Beltran Leyva's arrest follows two weeks of bloody attacks and raids, and black-jacked Beltran Leyva was led in handcuffs past reporters at the airport hangar of the Mexican attorney general's office, before authorities flew him by helicopter to an undisclosed location.

Guzman escaped from federal prison in 2001 in a laundry cart after bribing guards. Beltran Leyva's arrest follows two weeks of bloody attacks and raids, and black-jacked Beltran Leyva was led in handcuffs past reporters at the airport hangar of the Mexican attorney general's office, before authorities flew him by helicopter to an undisclosed location.

Francisco Irujo Salazar, operations coordinator for the Ciudad Juarez police, had been leaving for work when gunmen sprayed his SUV with bullets.

Police were still investigating his killing, city Public Safety Secretary Guillermo Prieto Quintana said. On Sunday, police Capt. Julian Chairez Hernandez was shot to death in his patrol car.

OSCAR NOMINEE



This photo released by Miramax shows actor Daniel Day-Lewis in a scene from 'No Country for Old Men.' That film and 'There Will Be Blood' lead with eight Academy Awards nominations, among them best picture and acting honors for Daniel Day-Lewis and Bardem. The two films will compete for best picture against the melancholy romance 'Monument,' the pregnancy comedy 'Juno' and the legal drama 'Michael Clayton.'

Tijuana police chief knows he's a marked man

Los Angeles Times

TIJUANA, Mexico — The bullet holes pockmarking the walls of his home were just three days old when Alberto Capella Barra took over as chief of this violence-plagued city.

Twenty gunmen dressed in black had swarmed his yard in the middle of the night, and he had fought them off, firing an automatic rifle.

Taking office Dec. 1 as the city's secretary for public security, Capella, a longtime activist, declared war on organized crime and challenged citizens to join him in the battle.

Even he had no idea it would get so bloody.

Seventeen people were killed last week as organized crime struck back. Last Monday night and Tuesday morning, heavily armed men killed three of Capella's senior police officers, shooting one at his home along with his wife and two daughters. Two days later, schoolchildren ran for their lives as police

and soldiers battled with drug cartel members in a normally quiet neighborhood. Police found six executed kidnap victims inside the suspects' house.

A federal agent and a gunman died in the slaying of Capella, a chubby, soft-spoken 35-year-old with no police training, is at the center of the storm. He moves around the city in a six-car convoy with 20 bodyguards.

He can't even stop at a taco stand without scaring off customers who fear gunmen will drive up and blast away.

Originally a corporate lawyer, Capella gained prominence as an outspoken advocate for crime victims. He has long assumed that killers would come for him one day.

Still, in his role as the head of both the police and fire departments, he keeps the pressure on organized crime and corrupt cops while reassuring citizens during what he calls some of the saddest days ever seen in the city.

In a first, Paraguay nominates woman for president

ASUNCION, Paraguay (AP) — Paraguay's ruling party nominated a woman as its presidential candidate on Monday, a first for the South American nation, but the candidacy of Education Minister Blanca Ovelar still faces a court challenge from within the party.

The Colorado Party's official nomination of Ovelar as its candidate in the April

20 presidential election came more than a month after a razor-thin primary election that was challenged by Vice President Luis Castiglione. The party's electoral commission said Monday that Ovelar won the Dec. 16 contest with 45.01 percent to Castiglione's 44.5 percent.

Ovelar, 50, dismissed the objections to her victory.

"Our campaign aims now at the election in April," she told reporters. "Our platform gives priority to the fight against poverty and to the creation of jobs."

But Castiglione is vowing to go to court to undo the nomination.

"I do not recognize and I will never accept my alleged defeat because I have proof that 30,000 votes cast for

me were stolen," he said. Ovelar's opposition is generally divided between Fernando Lugo, a left-leaning former Catholic bishop who has attracted strong support among the nation's large Indian population, and former Army commander Cesar Lino Ovelado, a charismatic retired general who went to prison for plotting a coup.

TWIN FALLS FORECAST

Today: Mostly cloudy with a chance of snow. High: 19 to 20. Low: 10 to 11. Tonight: Snow showers ending. Low: near 20. Tomorrow: Mainly dry and clearing. High: 19 to 20. Low: 10 to 11.

TWIN FALLS FIVE-DAY FORECAST

Table with 5 columns: Today, Tonight, Friday, Saturday, Sunday. Includes weather icons and temperature forecasts.

Yesterday's Weather

Table with 2 columns: City, HI Lo Prep. Lists weather for Topeka, Lawrence, Junction, Lowell, Manhattan, and Stanley.

BURLEY/RUPERT FORECAST

Today: Periods of light snow possible. High: 19 to 20. Low: 10 to 11. Tonight: Snow showers ending. Low: near 20. Tomorrow: Mainly dry and clearing. High: 19 to 20. Low: 10 to 11.

IDAHO'S FORECAST

SUN VALLEY SURROUNDING MTS. Over the next several days periods of light snow will be possible over the mountains. Snow amount: light to moderate.

Map of Idaho showing weather forecasts for Boise, Sun Valley, and Northern Utah. Includes text about snow conditions and forecasts for various regions.

ALMANAC - TWIN FALLS

Table with 3 columns: Temperature, Precipitation, Humidity. Includes monthly and daily data.

MOONRISE AND MOONSET

Table with 2 columns: Friday, Saturday. Lists moonrise and moonset times.

REGIONAL FORECAST

Table with 3 columns: City, Today, Tomorrow. Lists forecasts for various cities in the region.

NATIONAL FORECAST

Table with 3 columns: City, Today, Tomorrow. Lists forecasts for major national cities.

WORLD FORECAST

Table with 3 columns: City, Today, Tomorrow. Lists forecasts for various international cities.

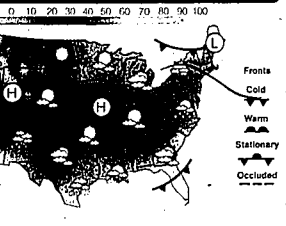
REGG MIDDLEKAUFF'S QUOTE OF THE DAY

What you get your heart up on, that's what you get your heart up on. That's what you get your heart up on.

CANADIAN FORECAST

Table with 3 columns: City, Today, Tomorrow. Lists forecasts for major Canadian cities.

TODAY'S NATIONAL MAP



Redskins, Bills, Pats provided key moments for Giants in '07

EAST RUTHERFORD, N.J. (AP) — Looking back on the final game of the regular season may have been the stepping stone for the New York Giants' improbable ride to the Super Bowl. Sound odd? It's not. In making the New England Patriots work hard for a 38-35 win on Dec. 29 that capped a regular season, the Giants proved to themselves that they could compete with anybody. That should prove extremely valuable a week from Sunday, when New York (13-6) gets another crack at the Patriots (11-0) in the NFL title game in Glendale, Ariz. "We had played in some tough games and had bad weather conditions, but we were able to win. It was a great win for us," said Tom Coughlin. "We were going to try to beat an undefeated team and we played good football. We gave ourselves a shot to win, we fell short, but we got our confidence back." In the ensuing three weeks on the road, the Giants beat the Buccaneers 24-14, knocked off the Cowboys in Dallas 21-17, and overcame Brett Favre and frigid temperatures in Green Bay to beat the Packers 23-20 in overtime. "I got his playing good football, it got us back to a rhythm and then on that one we have been on a hot streak," Manning added. "We have been playing great football and finding ways to win." What made the performance in the loss to the Patriots so memorable: New York had nothing at stake in the game as Giants Stadium in East Rutherford, N.J., was set for a wild-card playoff game at Tampa. There was nothing to gain and everything to lose, especially if players got hurt. That's exactly what happened to three starters: linebacker Kawika Mitchell (knee), cornerback Sam Madison (stomach) and center Shaun O'Hara (knee). Mitchell saw limited action the following week. O'Hara missed the Buccaneers game and Madison didn't play again until last weekend. Coach Tom Coughlin insists the Giants never thought about relaxing. "We had a statement in our meeting rooms that we want to prepare, practice, and



play as if we lost our last game," Coughlin said. "It is just a mentality which tells you to keep the pedal to the metal." That focus has not wavered in a season in which New York lost its first two games and gave up 400 points in the process. It also was the key to the season's two other crucial turning points. The first came on Sept. 23 against Washington in the third game. Down 17-3 at the half, the defense allowed 81 yards in the second half and staged a last-minute, goal-line stand from the 1-yard line to preserve a 24-17 win. After Washington spiked the ball on first down to stop the clock, Jason Campbell misfired on a pass and Ladell Betts was stuffed on third and fourth down. "If I put you in that huddle, your ears might bleed," defensive tackle Barry Coffield said after the game. "At that point, it's not about technique, it's not about the call. It's all about getting fired up and realizing what's at stake. We just came off the ball and did what we had to do."

It was the Steve Spagnuolo that new defensive coordinator Steve Spagnuolo's aggressive, blitzing defense would work. The following week, New York tied an NFL record with 12 sacks. says Atlanta made the right choice. "I've played against his defense more than anybody in the world," Leftwich said. "I did it every day in practice for four years. I think he's a great guy for the job." A lot of people might not know his name, but I've seen the work he puts in every game, how guys were so prepared on Sundays that they knew exactly what teams were going to do." Smith, a former defensive assistant with Baltimore, had the league's No. 12 defense

Last year's AFC title game loss fueled Patriots to Super Bowl

FOXBOROUGH, Mass. (AP) — The Patriots needed just 4 yards for a first down late in last year's AFC championship game. Succeed and they'd almost certainly reach the Super Bowl. They failed. All the hard work in the offseason, the pressure of the regular season, New England owner Robert Kraft said in an interview with The Associated Press in his Gillette Stadium office. "And then, boom! It's cruel the way it ends. It's really cruel." He watched Tom Brady's short pass to Troy Brown fall incomplete on third down at the New England 46-yard line with 2:27 left in Indianapolis. The Patriots had to punt and the Colts took over at their 20 with 2:17 and just one timeout left. Peyton Manning went to work, eating up chunks of yardage. With the clock showing 1:40, Joseph Addy got in for the winning touchdown before an RCA Dome full of ecstatic fans, completing a comeback from a 21-3 deficit to a 38-3 win. The Colts went on to win the Super Bowl. The Patriots went home. "We'll come back next year and try to do it better," a despondent Brady said afterward. How's this for better? The Patriots haven't lost since. Last Sunday, they weren't about to give up the ball late in their 21-12 win over the San Diego Chargers, which put them in the Super Bowl against the New York Giants on Feb. 3.



New England Patriots quarterback Tom Brady walks off the field after throwing an interception in the final minute against the Indianapolis Colts in the AFC Championship game on Jan. 21, 2007 in Indianapolis. The motivation to avoid a repeat of one of the most painful days in the Patriots' decade of dominance was powerful.

ter Dan Kuppen said. "To put together a drive like that in the biggest game of the year, I couldn't have pictured it any differently." Maybe he blocked out the picture of last year's AFC title game. The motivation to avoid a repeat of one of the most painful days of the Patriots' decade of dominance was powerful. "All we kept stressing to one another is not this year," cornerback Ellis Hobbs said. "Not this year." Even a single loss? Not this year, the Patriots hope. One win shy of the first 19-0 season in NFL history, and possible acclaim as the best team ever, New England is determined. The Miami Dolphins are the only team to finish a season unbeaten when they went 17-0 in 1972 and won the Super Bowl. So close to that goal, the Patriots have built a roadblock at their goal line — no goal. Even a single loss and just six field goals allowed in their last six quarters. They were tied with Jacksonville 14-14 at halftime of the divisional playoff game and won 31-17. They led San Diego 14-0 at intermission, and won by nine, finishing off with a 15-play drive that only ended when the game did. "When you have to make one or two first downs in order to move on to the next game, we've all been trying to get to, it's an exciting time," tight end Benjamin Watson said after Kraft walked out of the Patriots locker room with the AFC championship trophy Sunday. "It was exciting for us."

Falcons hire Jaguars defensive coordinator Mike Smith as head coach

ATLANTA — The Atlanta Falcons hired Jacksonville defensive coordinator Mike Smith as their new head coach Wednesday night. "Mike possesses all of the key qualities we were looking for in a head coach," said general manager Thomas Dimitroff, in his first month on the job. Dimitroff said the 48-year-old Smith, a 26-year NFL coaching veteran, "has strong experience with winning teams, a track record of success, a solid, smart approach to the game, and high charac-

ter and integrity." Smith, the Jaguars' defensive coordinator since 2003, had a successful interview with the Falcons on Friday. He has never been an NFL head coach, but Falcons quarterback Matt Ryan was with Smith in Jacksonville for four years,

with Jacksonville this season after ranking second in 2006 and sixth in 2005. Leftwich said Smith would never receive enough credit in Jacksonville because many assumed Jaguars coach Jack Del Rio, a former defensive coordinator, was the real mastermind of the defense. Jaguars defensive end Marcellus Wiley confirmed that opinion when he said on ESPN Wednesday, "Jack Del Rio was the defensive coordinator, and if it wasn't him, it was (linebacker) Mike Peterson." Wiley said Smith "was just a

guy who stood at the front of the room when Jack Del Rio was leading the defense." Wiley said the Falcons "really went down low on the talent pole." Leftwich said he was aware of the Wiley's comments but said of Smith: "I was with him for four years. Somebody had to be calling those plays in Jacksonville. It was him."

Pro Bowl Redskins to honor Sean Taylor ASHBURN, Va. — Sean Taylor, the first player voted posthumously to the Pro Bowl, will have his jersey number worn at the game by two of his former Washington Redskins teammates. The NFL announced Wednesday that tight end Chris Cooley and tackle Chris Samuels will be wearing No. 21 at the game Feb. 21 in Honolulu. Taylor died Nov. 27, a day after being shot at his home in Florida. The 24-year-old Cooley was leading the NFL in interceptions at the time.

INSIDE:
Forget the
crops, sell
the water
C3



INSIDE: Obituaries, C2 | Community, C2 | Idaho & World, C4-5 | Comics, C6-7

AROUND THE VALLEY

Wind chill warning issued for region today

The National Weather Service in Boise issued a wind chill warning for the western portion of the Magic Valley on Wednesday evening until 11 a.m. today.

The agency said the area of main concern is Jerome County, where east winds up to 25 mph and temperatures near zero will result in wind chill temperatures near 20-below zero.

A wind chill warning means the combination of very cold air and winds will create dangerously low wind chill values. Exposure to low temperatures in that range could result in frostbite and hypothermia if precautions are not taken.

The winter series forecast for Magic Valley today is for a 30 percent of snow after 11 a.m., and a high near 24, with a wind-chill low between 2 and 8-below.

Qwest gives \$5,900 to local teacher

A local teacher from J.B. Perrine Elementary School was given a \$5,900 grant Wednesday for an interactive white board that will be used with second-grade students, according to a release from Qwest.

The teacher, Leeb Bess, can use the blackboard for interactive lessons. Classes will be able to view talking clips or photos when they're talking about a country, the release shows.

Ten Idaho teachers received Qwest grants this year totaling \$75,000.

This is a great opportunity for Qwest to make a positive difference in the lives of Idaho students and to help teachers," according to the release.

The Qwest grant program began in 2003 to support teachers integrating technology into their curriculum.

T.F. school foundation doles out dollars

The Twin Falls School District Foundation, a non-charitable organization, gave \$1,000 to almost every school in town Wednesday for things such as textbooks and math supplies.

One school, the Bidge Academy, received \$500, while the other seven schools received double that because Bridge is a smaller school, said Superintendent Wiley Dobbs.

The foundation was officially incorporated in 1991 by the Idaho Secretary of State to enhance education in local schools. The idea for the foundation originated with a Twin Falls High School gardening class, said Dobbs, who is a non-voting member of the foundation's board.

The foundation drew in \$33,737 total revenue in 2006, and expended \$42,661, with just under \$400,000 in net assets. About \$13,290 was raised in direct public support, and \$20,447 came in donations on interest holidays, according to city officials.

The foundation has an 11-member board, which receives requests from each of the principals and approved them all this year, Dobbs said.

He said money has been given to schools for the past four years.

"The way that it works has grown, has become more and more profile in the ways that they've helped our district," Dobbs said. "It's a nice feeling to have that support."

Mini-Cassia Democrats prepare for caucus

BURLEY — Mini-Cassia Democrats are preparing for the Feb. 5 Super Tuesday caucus at the Burley Best Western Inn.

To qualify for the caucuses, participants must live in Blaine County or Cassia County, be 18 years of age at the time of the November general election and sign a pledge to be a member of the Democratic Party. Pledges and sign-in must be completed before meeting rooms close at 7 p.m. The evening will begin with separate caucuses adhering to congressional district boundaries.

Information: Bill Rice, 431-9361 or Joey Bryant, 679-7793.

Airport meeting scheduled for February

The city of Twin Falls will hold a public meeting for a presentation by the Federal Aviation Administration and Lundrum and Brown to discuss the regional airport concept and airport sponsorship.

The agenda includes the presentation and a question-and-answer period. Public comments will not be accepted.

— From staff reports

House tax panel votes against lifting exemption

By Jared S. Hopkins
Times-News writer

BOISE — If the price of candy in your office vending machine increases, state lawmakers don't want you to blame them.

The House Revenue and Taxation Committee voted Wednesday against lifting an exemption on cheap items sold in Idaho vending machines, citing concern that vendors would raise the cost of products — resulting in little gain to the state while consumers pay more.

The bill, which was defeated along party lines, would have repealed a tax exemption for products sold in the vending machines that cost between 11 cents and \$1.01. It was the only recommen-

dation from an interim committee studying exemptions to actually receive a hearing.

Repealing the exemption would hurt the vending industry — which is struggling with high transportation costs — and even cause some companies to outright shut down, said Jerry Weber, who was representing a handful of vendors, including Western Music in Twin Falls.

"It's the only thing left to help us along," he told the committee. He added that without the exemption, vendors would be forced to increase prices, causing their sales to decrease — and thereby less sales tax revenue for the state.



Last year, the state exempted about \$1.14 for every \$1 it received in sales tax. But lawmakers voiced skepticism about the estimated \$2.5 million. The figure was based on estimates from more than a decade ago, said Dan John of the state tax commission. He added that finances associated with vending machines is difficult to measure because they are often incorporated into the overall cost structures of companies.

Assistant House Majority Leader Scott Bedke, R-Oakley, might have swayed everyone when he pointed out that vendors will simply increase the price for the products currently exempt — and thereby

make the exemption moot.

"Is there an incentive to make the bottle of pop \$1.25 instead of \$1?" he asked.

Other lawmakers said that with how the economy and market has been moving, the exemption will eventually work its way out.

"Sometimes you just need to back up and shut up and let the things work out," said anti-tax hawk Rep. Lenore Barrett, R-Challis. House Minority Leader Wendy Jantzen, D-Ketchum, said there wasn't enough data available and tried unsuccessfully to get the bill amended to just lower the threshold from \$1.01 to 99 cents. A motion to lift the exemption completely by Rep. Nicole Lefavour, D-Boise, died.

Ready for the rink



Cory Beard, a driver for the Twin Falls Fire Department, controls the hose as firefighter Tristan Jones and Capt. Allen Shropshire move down the slope of Jason Woodland Hills Park in Twin Falls Wednesday afternoon to help dam up the water for the creation of an ice rink.

T.F. city plans makeshift ice skating rink

By Blair Koch
Times-News correspondent

Ice may not be much fun for driving, but it sure is fun for skating. And Twin Falls may soon have a rink of its own, sort of.

Tucked into the city's Jason Woodland Hills Park, on the southwest corner of Stadium Boulevard and Carrage Lane, sits the perfect place for a makeshift pond, according to city officials.

The proper landscape, a few thousand gallons of water — courtesy of the Twin Falls Fire Department — frigid temperatures and presto, a pond. Or so hope city officials.

"I've thought about this for a long time," said Mayor Lance Clow. "One of the disadvantages to living in Twin Falls is the cold winters, but we can take advantage of that. I thought it would be fun to create a spot to put some water out to freeze and see if people are interested in putting on some skates."

Clow wanted to see the skating area at City Park as he said it would be a more central location, but the area was unfeasible. "My first thought was to put it in front of the band shell, but the other park already has a natural pond-like area that can be dammed-up and easily flooded for the ice," Clow said.

Got skates?

The Twin Falls Parks and Recreation Department is seeking ice skates to loan. For more information: 736-2265.

"About a year and a half ago the drain got clogged and it was basically a whole lake then, so I think, pretty permitting, the water should set up very good," Hoyer said.

The fire department brought its first load of water to the park Tuesday and sprayed au-

Please see RINK, Page C3

Audit committee expands to review State Board budget

Local developer Ken Edmunds to be part of reviews

By Andrea Gates
Times-News writer

The duties of an Idaho State Board of Education audit committee have expanded because of recent internal budget problems, a State Board spokesman confirmed Wednesday.

The State Board has committed recent budgeting mistakes that resulted in a \$1.4 million deficit in 2007. That deficit forced the board to drop state assessment tests for second and ninth graders, and created a shaky future for a scholarship program aimed at helping low-income kids.

"I think it would be fair to say we are taking a much stronger look at all our financial practices," said State Board spokesman Mark Browning. Browning confirmed the increased oversight of finances is occurring because of recent budget issues. "The board feels it's important to have a set of fresh eyes, especially the citizen perspective ... Sometimes you don't see



Edmunds

the forest through the trees," he said. The new responsibilities for the State Board Audit Committee will include looking at financial practices for State Board budgets, beyond just board-controlled university audits.

The only non-State Board member appointed so far to the audit committee, Twin Falls developer Ken Edmunds, said Wednesday he was asked on Tuesday by State Board Chairman Milford Terrell to do more work.

"I was asked to become involved with financial over sight, since I'm an independent person ... It's really undefined what that means at this point," Edmunds said.

Please see EDMUNDS, Page C3

Latham Jr. arrested on domestic violence charge

By Cassidy Friedman
Times-News writer

Robert A. Latham Jr., owner of Latham Motors in Twin Falls, was arrested by Teton County sheriff's deputies over the weekend and was charged with felony attempted strangulation.

Latham Jr., 48, posted bond after he was arrested Sunday at 3259 Woodridge Drive in Twin Falls County. Deputies responding to a 911 call from the home encountered Latham at the front door, and then spoke with his girlfriend, Tiffany Dustrup. In another part of the house, they observed "marks and scratches on the lower right side of her neck and upper chest area," according to an affidavit filed in 4th District Court in Twin Falls.

Dustrup told deputies "Dobby had been drinking" and said she called 911 after



Latham

he "pushed and threw her down in the kitchen area three or four times, then when she was on the floor by the refrigerator Dobby got on top of her and began choking her with both hands," the affidavit states. Latham was charged in July with misdemeanor battery in a separate case involving Dustrup that was eventually dismissed. In that case, deputies in court records wrote that they responded to a 911 hangup call from the home and watched through a window as Latham blocked Dustrup from leaving a bedroom, grabbed her by the

Please see LATHAM, Page C3

Herman W. Reed

JEROME — Herman W. Reed, 83, of Jerome, passed away Jan. 22, 2008, after an extended illness. He was surrounded by his family and loved ones.

He was born Feb. 10, 1924, in Louisville, Miss., the son of R.J. Reed and Jeannette Huff Reed. He received his education in Winston County, Miss., at Ellison Ridge School. He worked the land in both Mississippi and Idaho. Herman served his country in the United States Navy from Nov. 15, 1943, to Feb. 15, 1945. While in the service in Pensacola, Fla., he returned to Louisville and married his sweetheart, Ruby Kirk. They resided in Pensacola until Herman was honorably discharged and an ardent supporter of Jerome school activities. He frequently could not talk for days following Jerome High School



football games. He also enjoyed hunting and fishing. No one really ever was able to "out-fish" Herman.

Herman is survived by his sweetheart of 64 years, Ruby Reed of Jerome; two sons, Michael D. Reed and (Della L. Donovan) of Marquette, Mich., and J. Manley Reed of Jerome; and his daughter, Martha Jane (Steve) Hopkins of Boise. He is also survived by five grandchildren; two great-grandchildren; and two sisters, Mrs. Gregory and Olean Pickett. He was preceded in death by his parents, three brothers and four sisters.

Herman's family would like to extend a heartfelt thanks to Dr. Lohmann and his staff, especially Heekey, and also acknowledge the staff of First Choice Hospice, including Evelyn, Lisa, Laurie and Sulema for their kind care and assistance in our time of need. The family is also appreciative of Pastor Wandcock and the Rev. Whitaker of the Jerome Bible Baptist Church. With the support of all our friends, this time has been made more comfortable.

A memorial service for Herman will be conducted at 11 a.m. Saturday, Jan. 26, at the Jerome Bible Baptist Church, 132 Second Ave. E. in Jerome, with Pastor Rodney J. Wandcock officiating. Herman's family suggests that in lieu of flowers, donations be made in his name to the Jerome Bible Baptist Church, 132 Second Ave. E. Jerome, ID 83338 or First Choice Hospice, 147 Main Avenue E., Twin Falls, ID 83301. Arrangements will be under the care of Farnsworth Mortuary, 1343 S. Lincoln, Jerome, ID 83338.

BOOK DONATION



Christian Hansen presented 600 books and \$500 to the Mini-Cassia Reading Foundation. These were collected as part of his Eagle Scout project. He wrote a letter soliciting donations, and took it around to community members. He also put drop boxes at local churches, and, with the help of his mother and members of Team 23 and 14, collected donations of books; his leader was Dr. Mark Dowdle. He says he learned how good it feels to help in the community, and knows the importance of reading.

From left, front, Christian Hansen, Connor Hansen, Seth Catmull and Helen Almanza; and back, Janet Hansen, Gordy Hansen and Samuel Handy.

MEALS ON WHEELS



Debbie Barnes of Sharpflint International of Burley presents a check for \$500 to Sharon Hardy-Mills for use in the Meals on Wheels program offered through Golden Heritage Senior Center in Burley. Meals on Wheels is a program that delivers meals to elderly and homebound individuals in the area. Meals on Wheels is offered free of charge to those in need. Those who are able are asked to donate \$4 per meal. For more information on the program: Golden Heritage Senior Center, 878-8646 or Mindoka County Senior Center, 436-9107.

Reitsma earns Eagle Scout Award



Reitsma Church, 821 E. Main.

WENDELL — Preston Reitsma, 18-year-old son of Gadio and Carey Reitsma of Wendell, will be presented with his Eagle Scout Award at 7 p.m. Saturday at the Living Waters Presbyterian Church.

Reitsma earned 26 merit badges. For his Eagle project, he rebuilt the bleachers at the baseball diamonds for Wendell School District. He was assisted by seven Scouts, his grandfather and his scout leader. He belongs to Troop No. 95, sponsored by Living Waters Presbyterian Church. His scoutmaster is Gadio Reitsma. He is a senior at Wendell High School and is the worship leader for his youth group. He enjoys playing the guitar.

RAFFLE WINNER



Joan Howard and Dwayne Meyers were the winners of the Jubilee House Benefit Raffle. They each will receive one-half of a home-grown, hormone-free hog. From left, Joan Howard and Dwayne Meyers.

Police chief discounts report critical of officer

BOISE (AP) — Boise's police chief and the Boise Police Union say they disagree with a report by the city's community ombudsman that criticizes an officer's use of force during the arrest of a state senator's son.

Police Chief Mike Masterson said the officer's use of force was appropriate and there will be no disciplinary action, basing his decision partly on a security camera that captured the incident, though with dark and grainy images.

The video "clearly shows the actions of the officers were reasonable and necessary," he said.

Ombudsman Pierce Murphy issued the report earlier this month, saying that the unidentified officer violated the police department's policy on the use of force and that the officer failed to properly record the incident with a digital recorder.

Masterson said the digital recorder wasn't running because of a mechanical problem.

The ombudsman's report stems from a 2006 incident involving the two sons of Sen. Mike Burkett, D-Boise. Michael "Mac" Burkett and Thomas Burkett were cited for vandalizing U.S. flags after police said they damaged two flags on the Capitol Mall that were part of a memorial to soldiers killed in Iraq.

"The officer forcibly put Michael Burkett on the ground after police say he interfered with their investigation," Michael Burkett, who was then arrested, was not injured.

"Here in Boise we've had a lot of experience with some heavy-handed police work over the years, and this particular officer on this particular officer on this particular night was overboard and out of control," the state senator told the *Idaho Statesman*.

In his report, Murphy put Michael Burkett on the ground had no legal right to make him leave a public sidewalk.

"The vice president of the police union, Guy Bergan, also disagreed with Murphy's report."

"This is the difference between reading a book about police work and actually doing police work," he said. "That will account for the difference in interpretations."

Alice May Aitken

WENDELL — Alice May Aitken, 93, died Tuesday, Jan. 22, 2008, at Creekside Assisted Living surrounded with her family.

She was born Aug. 12, 1915, in Sarles, N.D. She moved with her family to Idaho in 1923. Alice married John "Boley" Aitken in 1936 in Hailley, Idaho.



Vernon Hall of Filer; five grandchildren, 11 great-grandchildren and three great-great-grandchildren. She was preceded in death by her parents, four brothers and two sisters.

A memorial will be held at 2 p.m. Friday, Jan. 26, at the First Baptist Church in Jerome, with Pastor Rudy Baender officiating. The viewing will be from 1 until 2 p.m. at the church.

The family would like to thank the caretakers at Creekside and First Choice Hospice for the care of mom. The family requests in lieu of flowers to please make donations to First Baptist Church of Jerome. Funeral arrangements are under the care of Demaray's Wendell Chapel.

Dorothy Marie Ball

BURKINGHAM, Wash. — Dorothy Marie Ball, age 88, a longtime resident of south-central Idaho, the Magic Valley, passed away on Saturday, Jan. 19, 2008, at the General Hospital.



Dorothy lived in Burlington, Wash., for the past four years close to her daughter.

Dorothy is survived by her daughter and son-in-law, Barbara and Robert Hill of Burlington, Wash.; son, John Ball of Emmett; grandchildren, Tony Ball, Megan Hill,

Amy Ball and Paige Hill; one brother, William Phillips; and one sister, Marjorie Barclay. She was preceded in death by her husband, Eugene E. Ball; and son, Ronald Glenn Ball on Nov. 25, 2006.

A graveside service will be held at 2 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 26, at Sunset Memorial Park. A visitation will be held from 10 a.m. to 12 noon Saturday at White Mortuary, "Chapel by the Park." You may share your memories and offer your condolences to Dorothy's family online by signing her guest register at www.kenofuneralhome.com. Local arrangements are under the direction of White Mortuary.

Gooding bridge club results

GOODING — Gooding Duplicate Bridge released its results for:

- Jan. 4, Section A, first, Billy Burton and Kathy Honecy; second, Max Thompson and Edna Pierson; third, Veeva Hoberts and Rueben Tschakofski; and fourth, Jodi Faulkner and Louise Smith.
- Section B, first, Veeva Hoberts and Rueben Tschakofski; second, Louise Smith and Jodi Faulkner; third, Don and Lorna Bard.
- Jan. 11, Section A, first, Jodi Faulkner and Louise Smith; second, (Gee) Billy Burton and Edna Pierson; Don and Lorna Bard; and third, Jeanne McCombs and Rueben Tschakofski.
- Jan. 18, Section A, first,

SERVICES

Virginia Gayle Kuhn of Gooding, funeral at 11 a.m. today at Demaray's Gooding Chapel.

Harlow E. Cheney, formerly of Rupert, funeral at 11 a.m. today at the Heyburn LDS Church, 530 Valley Drive; visitation from 10 to 10:45 a.m. today at the church (Basmussen Funeral Home in Burley).

Betty Marie Emerson of Jerome, memorial service at 1 p.m. Saturday at Farnsworth Mortuary, 1343 S. Lincoln in Jerome.

John Walter Carpenter Sr. of Wendell, gathering for family and friends from 2 to 5 p.m. Saturday at the American Legion Hall in Wendell (Demaray's Wendell Chapel).

Gladys Irene Sanderson of Pocatello and formerly of Kimberly and Hansen, funeral at 1 p.m. today at White Mortuary Chapel, 136 First Street. In-lieu of flowers, visitation one hour before the funeral today at the mortuary.

Brandon Ray Hunter of Rupert, graveside service at 2 p.m. today at the Rupert Cemetery (Basmussen Funeral Home in Burley).

Gregory "Gregg" Alan Roberts, formerly of Bull and Wendell, memorial service at 11 a.m. Friday at Demaray Funeral Service, Wendell Chapel.

Joseph Paul Robert of Twin Falls, funeral Mass at 11 a.m. Saturday at St. Edward the Confessor Catholic Church, 161 Sixth Ave. E. in Twin Falls; rosary prayer service at 7 p.m. Friday at Reynolds Funeral Chapel, 2466 Addison Ave. E. in Twin Falls; visitation from 4 to 7 p.m. Friday at the mortuary.

DEATH NOTICES

Marlis L. Jordan

MIDVALE, Utah — Marlis Lynn "Mimi" Jordan, 43, of Midvale, Utah, and formerly of Twin Falls, died Friday, Jan. 11, 2008.

A memorial service will be held at 4 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 26, at the LDS Church, 525 Acome Road in Midvale.

Utah (Deseret Mortuary in Midvale, Utah).

Kenneth E. Sackett

Kenneth E. Sackett, 80, of Twin Falls, died Tuesday, Jan. 23, 2008, at his home. Arrangements are pending and will be announced by White Mortuary in Twin Falls.

For obituary rates and information, call 735-3266 Monday through Saturday. Deadline is 3 p.m. for next-day publication. The e-mail address for obituaries is obits@magicvalley.com. Death notices are a free service and can be placed until 4 p.m. every day. To view or submit obituaries online, or to place a message in an individual online guestbook, go to www.magicvalley.com and click on "Obituaries."

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Growers pass on crops, sell water

FRESNO, Calif. (AP) — In a state where water has become an increasingly scarce commodity, a growing number of farmers are betting they can make more money selling their water supplies to thirsty cities and farms to the south than by growing crops.

The shortages this season — among the most intense of the last decade — are already shooting water prices skyward in many areas, and Los Angeles-area cities are begging for water and coaxing farmers to let their fields go to dust.

"It just makes dollars and sense right now," said Bruce Rolan, a third-generation farmer in Northern California's lush Sacramento Valley. "There's more economic advantage to following than raising a crop."

Instead of sowing seeds in April, Rolan plans to leave his rice stubble for the birds and sell his irrigation water on the open market, where it could fetch up to three times the normal price.

"It's been a good decade since there's been this much interest in buying and selling water on the open market," said Jack King, national public affairs manager for the California Farm Bureau Federation. "We're prepared to see significant following in several key parts of the state."

Water from Northern California rivers irrigates most of the country's winter vegetables and keeps farmers flowing in the Los Angeles area. But it must be shipped south through a complex network of pumps, pipes and aqueducts, and



Maywood Mayor Felipe Aguirre holds a bottle of discolored tap water that was brought to him by a city resident, in Maywood, Calif., Jan. 15. A growing number of farmers are betting they can make more money selling their water supplies to thirsty cities and farms to the south than by growing crops.

that system recently developed a kink when a federal judge ordered new restrictions on pumping to save a threatened fish.

As Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger and California legislators argue about how to solve the state's water crisis, the bottleneck has sent the demand for water soaring in cities and farming districts far to the south.

Residents of Long Beach can't run fountains, and it's now illegal for restaurants to serve customers a glass of water unless they ask for it.

Near Bakersfield, the shortages are expected to force some almond and pistachio growers to triage which of their nut trees should survive.

And cities across California are drawing down underground stashes meant to carry them through dry years just to

avoid any new purchases.

The high premium for water has been especially painful for those served by Los Angeles' massive Metropolitan Water District, whose other main source of water, the Colorado River, is in its eighth year of drought. The agency recently proposed a rate hike for next year of 10 to 20 percent on the water it sells to cities.

Prices have jumped from the \$30 per acre-foot typical in wet years to as much as \$200 per acre-foot, a unit that measures the amount of water needed to cover an acre of land one foot deep, said Dean Reynolds, a scientist who oversees water transfers for the Department of Water Resources.

So far, conservation efforts and a set of storms earlier this month have helped replenish dwindling reservoirs and stave off a need for rationing.

5TH DISTRICT COURT NEWS

Twin Falls County

ARRAIGNMENTS (JAN. 22)
 Ryan J. Ferguson, 21, Belgrade, Mont.; trafficking in marijuana; no plea entered; public defender appointed; preliminary hearing set for Jan. Feb. 1; \$25,000 bond; possession of drug paraphernalia; pleaded innocent; public defender appointed; pretrial hearing set for March 4; \$100 bond.

Donavan M. Davis, 28, Twin Falls; felony driving under the influence; no plea entered; public defender appointed; preliminary hearing set for Jan. Feb. 1; posted bond; driving without privileges; pleaded innocent; public defender appointed; pretrial hearing set for March 4; posted bond.

Julio A. Ortiz, 22, Twin Falls; possession of drug paraphernalia, possession of a concealed weapon, resisting/obstructing an officer, battery, petty theft; pleaded innocent; public defender appointed; pretrial hearing set for March 4; posted bond.

Joseph R. Pate, 34, Twin Falls; felony driving under the influence; no plea entered; public defender appointed; preliminary hearing set for Jan. Feb. 1; \$50,000 bond; driving without privileges; pleaded innocent; public defender appointed; pretrial hearing set for March 4; \$100 bond.

Robert A. Latham Jr., 46, Twin Falls; attempted strangulation; no plea entered; private counsel; preliminary hearing set for Jan. Feb. 1; posted bond.

Scott A. Skiles, 32, Twin Falls; battery; pleaded innocent; public defender appointed; pretrial hearing set for March 4; released on own recognizance.

Robert L. Meeks, 39, Twin Falls; possession of drug paraphernalia, provide false information to an officer; pleaded innocent; public defender appointed; pretrial hearing set for March 4; \$100 bond.

"The officers falsely arrested me...they don't have a statement of the facts and the truth and the case will come out at a later date."

The felony charge is scheduled for a Feb. 1 preliminary hearing.

Police investigating graffiti at Jerome Co. fairgrounds

By Cassidy Friedman
Times-News writer

Jerome police are investigating who sprayed graffiti over a 25-foot wide section of the race paddock at the Jerome County fairgrounds on Tuesday night.

"They must have been pretty bored to be out there in this cold weather," said Kathleen Diederich, the county fair's manager.

Diederich filed a police report Tuesday morning and ordered the grounds' maintenance employee to erase the bold blue and black marks today.

Diederich said the tagging occurred after she left work Tuesday night. The fairgrounds, which are fenced in, have entrances that are left open overnight.

"I've got my gut feelings," said Jay Gardner, Jerome Police Department's school resources officer at Jerome High School.

Gardner said the culprits could be students, former

students or possibly neither. He reserves doubt because he has known people to replicate common graffiti tags to frame of usual suspects.

Gardner recognized some of the graffiti but other words were new to him.

Cases of graffiti have spiked in the past six months in Jerome, Gardner said.

"There's more graffiti than I've ever seen," said Detective Duane Rubink, who guesses there are hundreds of graffiti tags throughout Jerome.

"The property owner is required to remove it," he said. "And some of them have done really well at keeping that up and others have just kind of given up on it. It's just kind of frustrating."

Diederich, who has managed the fair for two years, said she does not know of any previous graffiti vandalism cases on the fairgrounds.

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Latham

Continued from page C1

upper arms and violently pushed her backwards.

Dastrop later offered a "plea" to "undo the whole thing," the officer wrote, saying, "my life would be ruined."

The battery charge was dismissed in October when Dastrop declined to testify against Latham.

"The contact was consensual and not a battery," Dastrop's attorney wrote in a statement that was filed with the court

before the case was dismissed. Latham, who was arraigned in court Tuesday, said he expects this case will also be dismissed.

"This has been blown out of proportion," Latham told the Times-News Wednesday

night. "The officers falsely arrested me...they don't have a statement of the facts and the truth and the case will come out at a later date."

The felony charge is scheduled for a Feb. 1 preliminary hearing.

Edmunds

Continued from page C1

Edmunds ran for political office in 2004, seeking the Senate seat for District 24 that includes Twin Falls. He fell short in the three-candidate Republican primary that was eventually won by Chuck Coiner. Edmunds

said he approached State Board member Laird Stone about participating in board issues.

Previously the audit committee, which is composed of Edmunds and four State Board members, only reviewed audits for the

state's institutions of higher education — with the exception of the College of Southern Idaho and Northern Idaho College. He said on Tuesday that as a State Board Audit Committee member since 2005 he's seen "nothing out

of the ordinary" for university audits.

The State Board is also currently seeking another non-State Board member for the audit committee.

The Associated Press contributed to this report.

Rink

Continued from page C1

additional layer Wednesday. The department plans to add water to the area as needed, until the ice reaches four to six inches deep.

"Hopefully we'll get water on the ice every day this week," Bynser said.

The process, as city officials know, is easier said than done.

"Every time we get the pond built up, the temperature warms up. We're in the banana belt of Idaho, so you never know."

Besides a warmer day anticipated for Friday, the next two weeks are looking pretty cold, Scott said.

"We want people to enjoy the ice but also strongly

encourage people to be safe," she said. "When the pond is ready for the public, the city will alert the media and let people know."

In the meantime, city officials encourage residents to dig out their lawns.

"If it gets as cold as it's supposed to, it looks like the pond will be ready this week-

end," Scott said.

Blair Koch may be reached at 316-2607 or blairkoch@gmail.com

Say, "Be Mine" with a Love Line

Do you have special people in your life? Let them know how much you care this Valentine's Day with a love line.

All Love Lines will be published in the Times-News and online. The receiver will get an email directing them to Love Lines on magicvalley.com on Thursday, February 14th. Sweet, silly or sentimental, Love Lines are the perfect way to tell the people you care about exactly how you feel. The cost is just \$25 for 25 words and 25¢ each additional word. To send a Love Line, fill out the entry form and submit it, along with the fee, to the newspaper by 5 pm, Tuesday, February 12.

Love Line Entry Form

You may send as many Love Lines as you would like. A separate entry form is required for each submission. Payment must accompany each entry form. Mail or drop off all entries to the newspaper by 5 pm, Tuesday, Feb. 12th.

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Otter selling private prison plan

By John Miller
Associated Press Writer



Correction predicts Idaho will have nearly 9,400 inmates in its system by 2012, up from about 7,400 now. The agency has prison beds for just 6,300 inmates, so it's shipped about 500 to Texas and Oklahoma, with others housed in county jails across Idaho.

Otter, a former businessman who tours free-market divisions, says the state's Corrections Corporation of America and Florida's The GEO Group, build a \$250 million, 2,100-bed prison, starting as soon as possible. The companies are building tens of thousands of private prison beds across America.

"The governor thinks there is a huge benefit to having a private entity fund the construction of the facility and then operate the facility," said Otter. He says the state would own the facility, but Otter's attorney, adding Idaho still owes \$71 million in bond payments for its last prison. "The governor is concerned taking on another \$250 million in bond payments is quite an undertaking," Senate President Pro Tem

Robert Geddes, Idaho Soda Springs, agreed Otter needs a new prison.

Still, the system where ownership has remained in state hands has worked well, he said. If things change, Geddes raised concerns about repeating problems in Texas, where one Idaho inmate killed himself in March and where prisoners have been moved several times after alleged abuse by guards.

"If you allow a private prison to develop...they're obviously looking to maximize their profits," Geddes said. "Does that mean we're going to become what we have utilized Texas for?"

In addition, members of the majority GOP are raising questions over financial estimates Otter aides are using to tout cost advantages of a privately owned prison.

In documents obtained by The Associated Press, officials estimated that a state-owned prison built in 2012 would initially be more expensive than a privately owned prison, but over time, construction would become cheaper by year 2019 due to projected rising payments Idaho would have to make to a company to cover its costs of building the privately owned prison, according to the documents. But Otter and members of

his administration were dissatisfied with those figures, and demanded revisions.

New estimates emerged Tuesday, concluding that a privately owned prison would actually be less expensive than a state-owned prison until at least 2042. The big difference: The new estimates assume a private company would ever demand that Idaho increase its annual payments to cover construction costs. Hensley acknowledges there are no guarantees, but that Idaho could request such a freeze in an eventual contract.

However, Sen. Dean Cameron, ID-Rupert and co-chairman of the Joint Finance-Appropriations Committee, said it's unlikely an investor-owned company like GEO or Corrections Corporation of America would be satisfied with leaving payments to cover construction state for decades.

"What the analysis fails to take into account are potential increases in the cost of money over time," Cameron said. Meanwhile, Rep. Maxine Bell, ID-Jerome and the other co-chairwoman of the budget-writing panel, said allowing a private company to own such a facility could leave Idaho without adequate control.

Clerks pitch scaled-back vote by mail package

By John Miller
Associated Press Writer

BOISE, Idaho — Registered voters would be able to cast an absentee ballot without having to request one every two weeks, officials said. It all introduced Wednesday in the Legislature's passes.

A year ago, a broader vote-by-mail package similar to laws adopted in neighboring Oregon was filed by conservative House leaders.

This year, county clerks from across Idaho say they want to make it easier for their residents to vote by promoting a scaled-back plan they're calling "permanent absentee."

"I'm always looking for ways to make it more convenient for the voter," Minidoka County Clerk Diane Smith told the House State Affairs Committee. "It's an added convenience to the voter."

Lawmakers agreed to give the bill another hearing. Just four states — Oregon, Washington, California and Nevada — now offer permanent absentee voting, according to the Minneapolis-based Center for Civic Participation. Idaho is among 24 states with some form of absentee voting, while 22 others require voters to physically go to the polls.

Currently, Idaho voters who want to cast absentee ballots must request them from their county clerks every two years. Those people then receive their ballots in the mail.

At Wednesday's hearing, some lawmakers brought up the same concerns expressed a year ago when House Speaker Lawrence Denney, ID-Idaho Falls, helped kill the vote-by-mail plan, even though it passed the State Affairs Committee. Denney said late last year that a permanent absentee voting system is more favorable to him than outright vote-by-mail.

Rep. Brent Crane, ID-Nampa, said he fears a permanent absentee system could lead to elections fraud. Voting seems to be working fine now and isn't in need of fixing.

House moves aquifer management bill ahead

By Todd Dvork
Associated Press Writer

BOISE, Idaho — A bill that would give state water officials \$20 million to study, monitor and develop plans for future management of private water aquifers scattered across the state cleared its first legislative hurdle Wednesday.

The House Resources and Conservation Committee agreed to consider the bill, which supporters say is a critical component to planning for population growth, dealing with climate change and averting future water battles like those unfolding around the Snake River Aquifer in southern Idaho.

"This is really vital," said Hal Anderson, an administrator at the Idaho Department of Water Resources. "You look at some of the states like Washington and Oregon, they're spending millions and millions of dollars doing the very same thing."

We need to get started now." The bill calls for spending \$20 million over the next 10 years to gather technical data, monitor and better understand aquifers in nearly every corner of the state.

It would also grant the Idaho Water Resources Board the authority to develop plans for managing how each aquifer is used or preserved in the face of increased demand for water from growth in cities, agriculture and other uses.

The bill emerged from meetings of the interim Natural Resources Committee last summer, and earlier this month earned a nod from

Gov. C.L. "Butch" Otter, who is mentioned in his State of the State address.

House sponsor Rep. Dell Raybould, ID-Herby, said it's critical that the state get a better grasp of its water resources, especially in areas dealing with explosive growth like the Treasure Valley.

"With the development in the Treasure Valley... aquifers are going down," Raybould told the committee Wednesday.

If the bill is approved, hydrologists would begin in 2009 to study the aquifers serving the Treasure Valley and the Bathrum Prairie aquifer in northern Idaho.

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Ophileum Theatre
National Treasure Book of Secrets (no. Day) 4:30-9:30
Cloverfield (no. Day) 7:00-9:15
27 Dresses (no. Day) 7:00-9:30
Bucket List (no. Day) 7:30-9:45
Odyssey 6 Theatre
Great Debaters (no. Day) 7:00
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Thousands of Palestinians cross into Egypt as border breached

By Ibrahim Barzak
Associated Press writer

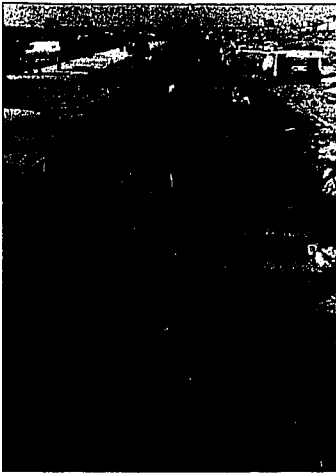
RAFAH, Gaza Strip — On foot, in cars and in donkey carts, tens of thousands of Gazans flooded into Egypt on Wednesday through a border fence blown up by militants — puncturing a gaping hole in Israel's airtight closure of the Gaza Strip and giving a boost to Hamas.

In a shopping spree that was both festive and frenzied, Gazans cleared out stores in an Egyptian border town, buying up everything from TV sets to soft drinks to cigarettes.

As waves of people swarmed through the destroyed barrier — some entering the crowd in the hundreds of thousands — Egyptian security forces lined up on one side of the border and Hamas forces lined up on the other side. None of them interfered in any way, and it appeared Hamas militants actively participated in the border breach.

That breach, though likely temporary, seemed certain to strengthen Hamas in its showdown with Israel, the West and its Palestinian allies — relieving some of the pain of an international blockade of the Gaza Strip following Hamas' violent takeover of the coastal territory in June.

It also raised Israeli fears of an influx of weapons and militants to Gaza and threatened to undermine crucial Egyptian participation in a Mideast peace push by President Bush.



Palestinians cross the border after militants blew up the wall between Gaza Strip and Egypt, in Rafah, southern Gaza Strip, Wednesday. Thousands of Gazans trapped in their territory by a tight blockade poured into Egypt to buy food, fuel and other supplies that have become scarce.

Official reaction to the day's events ranged from dismay to embarrassment to outright anger.

The United States expressed concern about the border breach, Israel demanded that Egypt take control of its border. Hamas called on its rivals to help

come up with new arrangements for Gaza's crossings. And Egypt's leader said he had no choice but to let in the beleaguered Palestinians.

For ordinary Gazans, it was a day of joy and plenty.

Osama Hassan, 25, said the border opening will enable him to marry his 17-year-old

fiancee next week, because they were able to buy items they need to set up a household. He bought a special mattress for his injured hand and she assembled kitchen supplies.

Hassan said he belongs to Rafah, not Hamas, but still wants to "kiss the forehead of Gaza's Hamas prime minister."

Hamas did not take responsibility for a series of explosions that destroyed the fence, but it seemed unlikely the systematic operation could have happened without its approval, if not active involvement. Residents said Hamas-linked militants cut through the metal wall with blow torches a month ago — weakening the structure and that it could fall easily when the blasts went off.

The appearance of the fall-back wall backed up that assertion. It was neatly sliced at knee-level, with the bottom section still standing and the rest toppled over.

Hamas police quickly took control of the shopping exodus, channeling the crowds through two sections of the frontier.

"Freedom is good. We need no border," said Muhammad Abu Ghazal, a 29-year-old out-of-work Gaza.

Children bought soft drinks and chocolate, women scouted up cheese and chewing products, and men stacked up on cigarettes — all expensive or unavailable in Gaza because of Israel's shutdown of cargo crossings.

Other Palestinians staggered over toppled metal plates that once made up the border fence, carrying TV sets, cell phones, tires and plastic bottles filled with fuel. Some brought in goats and chickens.

Four Palestinians in wheelchairs were pushed over the border, where ambulances picked them up for treatment in Egypt.

At one point, a dozen people crowded around a motorcycle to lift it over a low border wall in Egypt.

Shoppers depleted stores in the border town of Rafah, prompting Ashraf al-Sayyid, an Egyptian, to ride his

motorbike into the Gaza Strip — going against both traffic and logic.

"I need to buy bread for my children," he said. "The Palestinians left us with nothing. It's me, they are dear to us, but today, they were like locusts."

Stranded gunmen used 17 explosive charges before dawn to tear down the border fence — erected in 2001 by Israel when it controlled Gaza.

After news of the breach spread, people across Gaza boarded buses and piled into rickety pickup trucks heading for Egypt. It was a rare chance to escape Gaza's isolation.

Police investigate 7th apparent suicide in Welsh town in a year

By Gregory Katz
Associated Press writer

BRIDGEND, Wales — There is a deepening sense of foreboding and helplessness in this South Wales market town as the number of young people who have killed themselves keeps rising. The 25th "There is something amiss, but we don't know what."

Police say there appears to be no common link between

suicides were prevented by last-minute intervention — seems to be the only topic under discussion in the cafes and shops of this former coal-mining community of 40,000.

"People are saying it might be some sort of cult, but we don't know," said Luke Willis, 25. "There is something amiss, but we don't know what."

Police say there appears to be no common link between

the deaths. But at least one newspaper published a photograph of two of the dead together, fueling speculation of suicide pacts struck among friends linked by Internet social networking sites.

"It's nothing like that. What people are saying is not true," said Alicia Johns, a friend of 17-year-old Natasha Randall, who was found dead last week.

"People get down and they

do it," she added, saying the young people acted on their own and were not influenced by others. "It's all from the same group. I knew these people."

In addition to Randall, six men between the ages of 17 and 27 have also been found dead in the area. Authorities have ruled three of the cases to be suicides. The others are under investigation, but suicide is suspected.

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C110W171200W Efficient 1.6 gallon low-pipe toilet. Features Trap 17" standard rim and rough-in. White. (Seat not included)
49.95

METAL HANDLE LAV FAUCET
ET52003 (Set valve assembly, Metal handle. Chrome-plated body construction. 50/50 brass pop-up. 4" center.
35.88
ET53025S Saddle offset \$41.44

PRESSURE BALANCE TUB/SHOWER VALVE
ETPVT5220 CH Single acrylic handle. Chrome.
81.76
ETPVT5220 CH shower only \$74.85

3-PIECE TUB/SHOWER
ET52028 Local low-maintenance tub/shower. Delightful Acrylic tub/shower is standard with soft foam on exhaust back wall. Right side tub/shower.
343.84

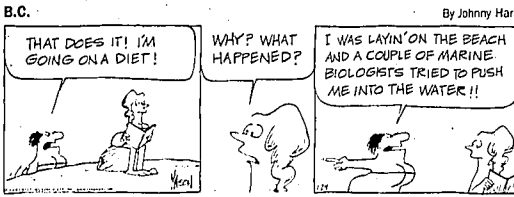
COMFORT HEIGHT TOILET
COMFORTHEIGHT 1.6 gpf flush toilet. 15 1/2" comfort height. Equipped ball valve. (Seat not included)
148.83

PEX PIPING
PEX cross-linked polyethylene is a duct, corrosion resistant, flexible, and easy to install. PEX piping is used in residential and commercial water distribution systems. Helps save labor time. Installing PEX is faster than copper. (See full installation.)
1" x 100' **\$25.94**
2" x 100' **\$43.94**

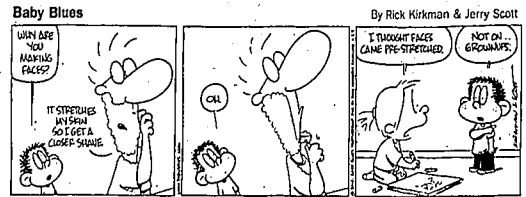
GROVER
ELECTRIC AND PLUMBING SUPPLY
130 Eastland Drive South • Twin Falls, Idaho
It's Worth the Drive!
733-7304
Monday-Friday 8:00-6:00 • Saturday 8:00-5:00 • Sunday 9:00-4:30
Visit us at www.groverelectric.com
Some items limited to retail sales. Certain items may not be readily available at all locations.
Special order and backorder orders. Prices effective through January 30, 2008.

WATER HEATER BLANKET
660. Insulates water heater for greater efficiency and energy savings. 2" thick insulation. 86 resistors. Fits for 50 gallon water heater.
15.99

PIPE INSULATION
Protect the pipes in your home (steps, crawlspace, basements, attics, etc.) from freezing. Made of recycled foam. 600000 BTUs.
1 1/2" x 60' 12" thick wall **\$3.60**
2" x 60' 12" thick wall **\$4.94**
1" x 180' 12" thick wall **\$5.36**
1 1/2" x 180' 12" thick wall **\$6.70**
2" x 180' 12" thick wall **\$8.45**
1" x 180' 12" thick wall **\$5.39**



B.C. By Johnny Hart



Baby Blues By Rick Kirkman & Jerry Scott



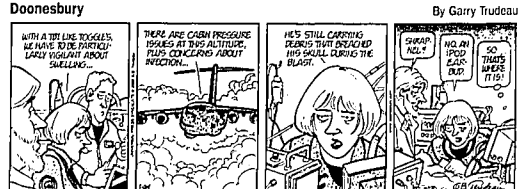
Baldo By Hector D. Cantu and Carlos Castellanos



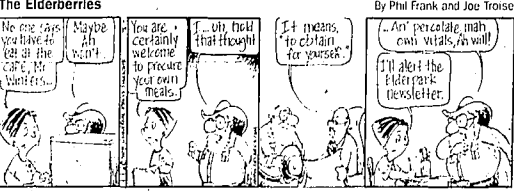
Brevity By Guy & Rodd



Dilbert By Scott Adams



Doonesbury By Garry Trudeau



The Elderberries By Phil Frank and Joe Troise



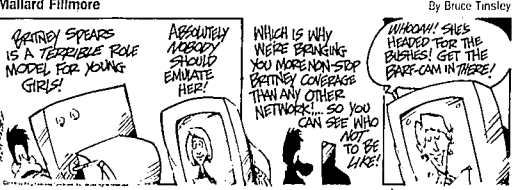
For Better or For Worse By Lynn Johnston



Frank and Ernest By Bob Thaves



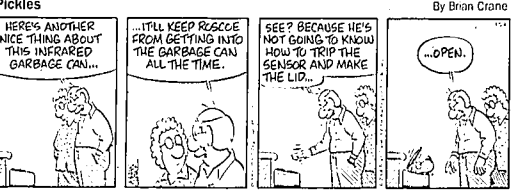
Luann By Greg Evans



Mallard Fillmore By Bruce Tinsley



Pearls Before Swine By Stephan Pastis



Pickles By Brian Crane



Rose Is Rose By Pat Brady



Zits By Jim Borgman and Jerry Scott



Non Sequitur By Wiley

Get an early start on your day, Leo

IF JAN. 24 IS YOUR BIRTHDAY: Make the most of cosmic benefits that shower down upon you during the next several weeks. Right now you will have heavenly assistance with any important plan or activity on your agenda. Get professional advice from doctors or accountants and it will be advantageous. In late February, early March and once again in June, you should stick to routines, avoid borrowing or lending money and avoid being saddled with contracts or crucial contracts. During those months you will need to work hard and focus on doing the best job possible.

ARIES (March 21-April 19): A love interest wants to possess your heart and soul, but you may prefer the freedom to come and go as you please.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Make agreements or promises based on what is fair for all parties concerned. Selfish interests lag far behind in any transactions that take place. Romantic playtime might sizzle with passion tonight.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): This is an excellent time to pair up with influential contacts or complete a contract.

HOROSCOPE
Jeraldine Saunders

Great a special someone with open arms and you may be pleasantly surprised.

CANCER (June 21-July 22): A certain someone may believe your wish is his or her command. You are fated to have someone enter to whom every desire and may be thrilled by passionate pampering.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Ask for favors or begin projects early in the day. Make plans for the future that will allow you to spend more time with a very special someone.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Put a positive spin on your public image by being seen in the right places—even if you would prefer to hide under a snug comforter. Dive back in tonight and cuddle all night long.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Someone's breezy independent style might weaken your interest, but you have permanent devotion in mind. A friend's companionship might not satisfy a need for total intimacy.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): No "discouraging word" will be heard when riding the range searching for a romantic hookup. Use wisdom with purchases, as you may become obsessed by a desire for something expensive.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Financial expertise is at your disposal, either through experience or through the advice of others. You will not take half measures with love or money.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): If you get what you ask for, then it is probably good for you. If you don't, then it is for the best. Instate important matters, sign agreements or accept offers early in the day.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): You have the ability to gather the necessary data to launch viable plans. Agreements made early in the day should be fulfilled within a single hitch.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Resolve issues that concern joint funds or possessions while the other party is in a receptive mood. You can make changes or take the initiative without ruffling anyone's feathers.

Beetle Bailey

By Mort Walker



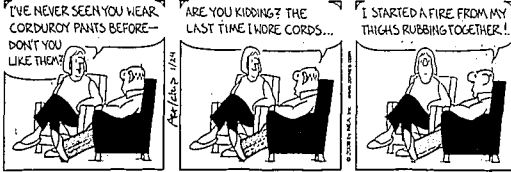
Blondie

By Dean Young & Stan Drake



The Born Loser

By Art Sansom, & Chip



Garfield

By Jim Davis



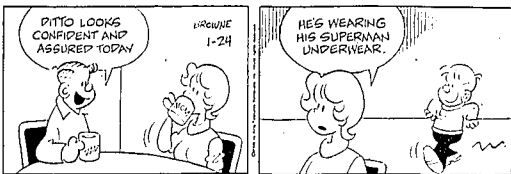
Hagar the Horrible

By Chris Browne



Hi and Lois

By Chance Browne



Classic Peanuts

By Charles M. Schulz



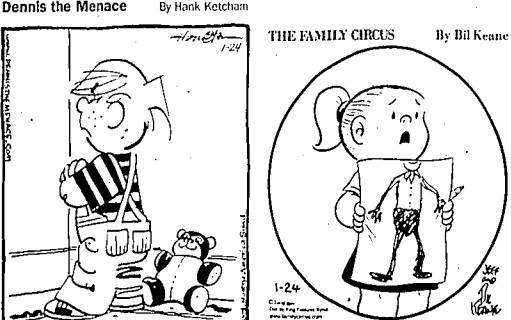
The Wizard of Id

By Brant Parker & Johnny Hart



Dennis the Menace

By Hank Ketcham



Wife's flagging libido may be fault of inattentive husband



DEAR ABBY
Jeanne Phillips

improved considerably. —SMILING IN MIDDLETOWN, DEL.

DEAR ABBY: Your advice to "Considering It" in San Mateo (Nov. 20), who asked you if it was permissible to have an affair because his wife of 34 years no longer wanted to have sex, was good, but you missed a couple of important points.

Does he bathe every day? Is he kind, loving and considerate of his wife during the day? Are her hormones imbalanced? Is she depressed or anemic?

Before "Considering It" goes jumping at another opportunity, he might want to consider showing affection and concern to the woman who has been with him for so long.

—BETSY IN HOUSTON
DEAR BETSY: Some readers scolded me for my response to that letter, not realizing that part of my reply was tongue-in-cheek. (No, I do NOT advocate adultery.) Others felt I didn't go far enough in my reply. Head on:

DEAR ABBY: Has "Considering It" done anything to ensure that his wife is well both physically and mentally? Has he lost interest in sex he liked to depression, post-menopausal hormone imbalance or another physical condition?

In a loving way he should urge her to see her physician and her gynecologist. If she refuses, he should contact them and ask for advice or help. He should also take a

long, hard look at how he presents himself.

Finally, he might speak with a counselor, because lack of sexual activity can signal problems elsewhere in their relationship. Marriages do work — even those that have lasted 34 years.

—SUSAN IN NEW WINDSOR, N.Y.

DEAR ABBY: I am a nurse-practitioner, and for years I have heard women in their 40s and 50s complain about loss of libido. In our area, a group of gynecologists has begun offering bioidentical hormone replacement. This term refers to hormones that are exactly the same in structure and function as those produced by the human body.

My husband had also quoted the article regarding "having regular sex would improve you." Do these men really think we are happy with symptoms like hot flashes, fatigue, weight gain, etc? When I started experiencing symptoms similar to your reader's wife, I decided to see for myself. I had been married 15 years, 10 months since I started bioidentical hormone treatment, and things have

improved considerably. My husband and I have had sex more often than we did before. She could be depressed, which affects interest in sex. Menopause can also cause significantly reduced sex drive. Some hormone replacement medicines may help with this. These conditions can be evaluated and treated by her doctor or OB/GYN.

The man should also evaluate the way he treats his wife. Men often remind their wives that they desire sex, but forget to show affection and romance and stimulation, perhaps he should try a different approach?

Before stepping out of the marriage, with or without her permission, he should consider these possibilities. Infidelity is destructive for the family and personal psyche.

—NURSE-PRACTITIONER, NEWBERRY, ILL.

DEAR ABBY: There are some great medications on the market for women with low or no libido. My husband suggested it to me — very nicely — and I promised to check it out. I did, and, oh my goodness, we're acting like teenagers again!

—ONE HOT OLD LADY, AND I DON'T MEAN HOT FLASHES, GLENDALE, ARIZ.

TODAY IN HISTORY

Today is Thursday, Jan. 24, the 24th day of 2008. There are 342 days left in the year.

Today's highlight:

Jan. 24, 1900, is considered the starting date of the Boy Scouts' movement in England, under the aegis of Robert Baden-Powell.

On this date:

- In 1742, Charles VII was elected Holy Roman Emperor during the War of the Austrian Succession.
- In 1840, James W. Marshall discovered a gold nugget at Sutter's Mill in northern California, a discovery that led to the gold rush of '49.
- In 1922, Christian K. Nelson of Omaha, Iowa, patented the Eskimo Pie.
- In 1924, the Russian city of Petrograd (formerly St. Petersburg) was renamed Leningrad in honor of the late revolutionary leader.
- (However, it has since been

- renamed St. Petersburg.
- In 1943, President Franklin Roosevelt and British Prime Minister Churchill concluded a wartime conference in Casablanca, Morocco.
- In 1965, Winston Churchill died in London at age 90.
- In 1978, a nuclear-powered Soviet satellite, Cosmos 1514, plunged through Earth's atmosphere and disintegrated, scattering radioactive debris over parts of northern Canada.
- In 1987, gunmen in Lebanon kidnapped educators Alan Stein, Jesse Turner and Robert Pollard and Mathewshwar Singh. All were eventually released.
- In 1993, confessed serial killer Theodore Bundy was put to death in Florida's electric chair.
- In 1993, retired Supreme Court Justice Thurgood Marshall died in Bethesda, Md., at age 84.
- Ten years ago: Pope John Paul II, delivering hard political messages during his visit

- to Cuba, called for the release of "prisoners of conscience" and respect for freedom of expression, initiative and association.
- President Clinton, in his weekly radio address, unveiled a proposal to tort out Medicare fraud.
- Five years ago: The new Department of Homeland Security officially opened as its head, Tom Ridge, was sworn in. Comment: became the first state to take part in the U.S. government's plan to inoculate a half-billion health care workers against smallpox. (Only four doctors appear to be vaccinated that first day.)
- One year ago: The Democratic-controlled Senate Foreign Relations Committee of Houseless President Bush plans for a troop buildup in Iraq as "not in the national interest" of the United States. Calibrated: the Sackie had four assists to lead the Western Conference to a 12-9 victory in the NHL All-Star game.

TODAY'S BIRTHDAYS

- Actor Ernest Borgnine is 91.
- Evangelist Oral Roberts is 90.
- Actor Jerry Maren ("The Wizard of Oz") is 89.
- Actor Martin Kaplan ("Top Cat") is 81.
- Cajun musician Doug Kershaw is 72.
- Singer-songwriter Ray Stevens is 69.
- Singer-songwriter Neil Diamond is 67.
- Singer Aaron Neville is 67.
- Actor Michael Ontkean is 67.
- Actor Daniel Auteuil is 58.
- Country singer-songwriter Becky Hobbs is 58.
- Comedian Yakov Smirnov is 57.
- All is 29.
- Actress Mischa Handwerker-musician Jools

- Holland is 50.
- Actress Nastassia Kinski is 49.
- Rhythm-and-blues singer The Peoples is 47.
- Country musician Ketch Bakerwater (Lonestar) is 45.
- Comedian Phil LaMarr is 41.
- Olympic gold-medal gymnast Mary Lou Retton is 40.
- Rhythm-and-blues singer Stevie Nicks (Fleetwood Mac) is 38.
- Actress Merrilee Gump is 37.
- Actor Ed Helms is 34.
- Actress Tatum O'Neal is 22.

THOUGHT

"Trust has no special time of its own. Its hour is now — always."
— Albert Schweitzer, German-born missionary and Nobel laureate

Mistake puts 'horse for sale' ad in Michigan newspapers' food classifieds section

AKRON, Mich. (AP) — Kristen DeGroat just wanted to sell her horse to another animal lover, but her ad ended up under "Good Things to Eat" in the classified sections of two newspapers.

DeGroat's ad, offering the registered pinto for \$200 or for people interested in buying horse meat.

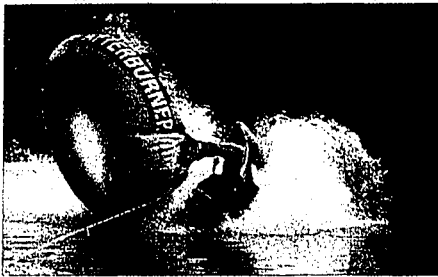
The best offer was intended to run Sunday and Monday under the classified ad heading for horses and stables in *The Saginaw News* and *The Bay City Times*.

However, human error landed the ad under the food heading in the classified sections of both newspapers.

We're going to print reruns for the next 2 months.



One chilly charity



Sen. Peltola, 37, takes a well-deserved break during the 20th Annual Press on Ski in Teton Falls. The event raised money for the John Peltola CIS Scholarship Fund and Cherry Hillside Park.

Freeze on Skis raises money for scholarships

**By Andrea Palmer
Times-News Staff**

TWENTY-FIVE — You have to see it to believe it.

When my editor said she to report on skiers who were raising money for charity Monday I wondered which mountain resort I would be visiting.

In my disbelief, I was sent to Oboshone Falls.

It was the Annual Press on Ski event, where the local news-reporter contingent brewed beverages to raise money for the John Peltola CIS Scholarship Fund and Cherry Hillside Park.

And even though it was a seasonal

"It was so cold I could hardly breathe. Oh, well! It's for a good cause."

— Aaron Peltola

condition in Teton Falls for 20 years, it will surprise visitors and newcomers to the Teton Falls area.

Class and Donald Bond of Pullman, Wash., arrived in the Oboshone Falls on their way back from a hardy ski in the Teton area when they married into the event.

"It came here to see the waterfall, but as we were passing by my husband said,

"I hope I think there is some sort of winter party over there," said Don Bond. "I said it was cold and I was cold to notice, but then we took a chair lift and saw that people were wearing things that I was sure."

While the snow reached the crowd of people gathered around the tracks along Oboshone Falls, the Oboshone Sports was revving up one of the two old buses it donated for the event. Volunteers from the bus had asked of one of the old buses it donated for the event. Volunteers from the bus had asked of one of the old buses it donated for the event.

That even with freezing temperatures, the snow was as heavy as the Fourth of

GERALD R. FORD 1913-2006



President and Mrs. Bush pause to pay their respects Monday by the casket of former President Gerald R. Ford in the Capitol Rotunda in Washington.

Bush silently pays respect to Gerald Ford

**By Bob Weisman
Associated Press Writer**

WASHINGTON — President Bush on Monday bowed his head in silence before the flag-draped casket of Gerald R. Ford — a man the president said saved a calm, steady hand to guide the nation after the tumultuous 1960s election.

On a rainy, gloomy afternoon, Bush and first lady Laura Bush joined thousands of other mourners in paying their respects to the 14th president lying in state at the Capitol.

Silence fell under the digital dome when the president walked toward the ca-

linch, illuminated by spotlights and greeted at each corner by members of the military honor guard. He and Mrs. Bush bowed their heads for a few moments, as if to forgive, then turned and walked away across the Rotunda's polished stone floor, which reflected the light and the rain outside.

Bush, who said nothing during his one-minute stop in the Rotunda, is regarded as Ford's locker as the former president of the National Cathedral. After the deed last Tuesday, Bush called him a "true gentleman" and mentioned how Ford stepped into the Oval Office when the president walked toward the ca-

Economy to hit red light in 2007

**By Martha Crutcher
Associated Press Writer**

WASHINGTON — The shows that for the U.S. economy will remain in 2007 as the more volatile housing market continues to suffer through a season correction, analysts said.

The new report brings many private analysts are forecasting the economy will perform in the slowest pace in five years, a full percentage point lower than growth in 2006.

Forecasts from the National Bureau of Economic Research, Citigroup's chief economist at Citigroup, and a forecasting firm. The recession in the housing market does not seem to have had much of an impact

"The bad news on housing has been offset by good news on wages, jobs and the stock market."

— Harriet Baber, chief economist at Citigroup

on the economy," he said. "The bad news on housing has been offset by good news on wages, jobs and the stock market."

While the slowdown will cause the unemployment rate to rise, economists remain hopeful that the economy will remain on track to achieve the Federal Reserve's hoped-for "soft landing." That is

Unemployment declines
Seasonal adjustments in the unemployment rate in 2007. The unemployment rate fell to 4.6% in December.

Energy costs lowered
The decline in energy costs has put pressure on prices to lower weekly gasoline prices.

Forecast
The economy is expected to grow at a slower pace than last year.

High 33
Low 28

Index	Value
S&P 500	1,245.12
Dow Jones	10,875.34
Nasdaq	2,456.78
Commodities	123.45
Oil	78.90
Gold	1,234.56
Platinum	987.65
Palladium	456.78
Copper	3.45
Aluminum	1.23
Zinc	0.98
Nickel	0.87
Lead	0.76
Silver	15.67
Iron Ore	123.45
Coal	12.34
Uranium	23.45
Wheat	2.34
Soybeans	1.23
Corn	0.98
Rice	0.87
Wool	0.76
Cotton	0.65
Sugar	0.54
Cocoa	0.43
Orange Juice	0.32
Live Cattle	0.21
Hog	0.10
Chicken	0.09

Scientists genetically engineer cows free of proteins that cause mad cow disease

**By Paul Doe
Associated Press Writer**

SAN FRANCISCO — Scientists have genetically engineered a clone cow to be free from the proteins that cause mad cow disease, a breakthrough that may make the animal immune to the brain-wasting illness.

An international team of researchers from the U.S. and Japan reported Sunday that they had "knocked out" the gene responsible for making the proteins, called prion, that cause mad cow disease.

The disease didn't take hold when brain tissue from one of the genetically engineered cows was exposed to bad prions in the laboratory, they reported.

Experts said the work may offer another layer of security to people concerned about eating infected beef, although any food derived from genetically

A cheddar world Flavor cops out in force during the snackingest time of year

**By David Paul
The Washington Post**

The American appetite for cheddar has made the U.S. of the world's largest market for the red-gold flavor cheese.

What made it possible to reach the number one spot is the cheddar's versatility. It can be used in a wide variety of ways, from a sandwich to a pizza to a snack.

Christman said the cheddar is so good that it's become a staple in many homes and schools. It's also a favorite among children.

But it's not just the taste that makes cheddar so popular. It's also its versatility. It can be used in a wide variety of ways, from a sandwich to a pizza to a snack.

See Country Roads, page D1

... just kidding. Our writers are already busy reporting the news, and gathering the stories that matter.

Times-News

magicvalley.com

It's all fresh, it's unscripted. This is reality (without the TV).

LEGAL NOTICE OF TRUSTEE'S SALE

Trustee's Sale No. 02-FH-50450 NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT, PIONEER LENDER TRUSTEE SERVICES, LLC, the duly appointed Successor Trustee... IN THE LOBBY OF ALLIANCE TITLE & ESCROW, 1411 FALLS AVENUE EAST, SUITE 1315, TWIN FALLS, ID.

PUBLISH: January 17, 24, 31 and February 7, 2008

SUMMONS BY PUBLICATION TO: DUSTIN JAMES BROWER

You have been sued by Jaime Wynne Lee Brower, the plaintiff, in the District Court and for Fifth Twin Falls County, Idaho, Case No. 08-13-0108. The nature of the claim against you is for divorce.

PUBLISH: January 10, 17, 24 and 31, 2008

NOTICE OF TRUSTEE'S SALE

Idaho Code 45-1506 Tole's date: January 4, 2008. File No.: 7307/22500. Sale date and time (local time): May 07, 2008 at 11:00 AM. Location: in the office of First American Title Company, 260 3rd Avenue North, Twin Falls, ID.

PUBLISH: January 10, 17, 24 and 31, 2008

IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF THE FIFTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT OF THE STATE OF IDAHO, IN AND FOR THE COUNTY OF TWIN FALLS MAGISTRATE DIVISION

CASE NO. CV-07-587A NOTICE TO CREDITORS
In the Matter of the Estate of, NATHAN R. FOX, Deceased.

PUBLISH: January 10, 17 and 24, 2008

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-07-587A NOTICE TO CREDITORS
In the Matter of the Application of SAMANTHA LYNN HOLLINGER, for change in Name.

INVITATION TO BID

Sealed bids will be received by the Board of Trustees of Twin Falls School District #411, 201 Main Ave. West, Twin Falls, Idaho, 83301 for the Bickel Elementary School and Multipurpose Room Addition.

PRE-BID CONFERENCE: To be held at 2:00 PM, January 29, 2008 at the office of Twin Falls School District #411, 201 Main Ave. West, Twin Falls, Idaho, 83301. Attendance is strongly recommended.

The Board of Trustees reserves the right to accept or reject or to solicit any number of offers, and to award any contract without any obligation to award the awarding of the bid is delayed for a period exceeding thirty days.

AGC Plan Rooms - Boise, Idaho Falls, and Twin Falls, Idaho
Twin Falls Plan Room - Twin Falls, Idaho
Associated General Contractors - Salf Lake City, Utah
McGraw Hill Plan Room - Boise, Idaho
Centers for Health Care - Las Vegas, Nevada
Brann Construction - Falls office mailing address: 340 Falls Ave., Twin Falls, Idaho 83301. Phone number: (208) 733-4800. Fax number: (208) 733-4912.
E-Mail: Dave.Frigo.dave@brantcon.com

PUBLISH: January 17, 24 and 31, 2008

IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF THE FIFTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT OF THE STATE OF IDAHO, IN AND FOR THE COUNTY OF TWIN FALLS MAGISTRATE DIVISION

CASE NO. CV-07-5722 NOTICE TO CREDITORS
IC 15-1630. NOTICE: YOU ARE HEREBY ADVISED THAT MARILYN M. ROWE has been appointed personal representative of the above-named decedent.

PUBLISH: January 10, 17, 24 and 31, 2008

IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF THE FIFTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT OF THE STATE OF IDAHO, IN AND FOR THE COUNTY OF JEROME MAGISTRATE DIVISION

CASE NO. CV-2007-919 ANOTHER SUMMONS
STATEWIDE COLLECTIONS, INC., Plaintiff, vs. LENNY BREAUULT Defendant.

NOTICE: YOU HAVE BEEN SUED BY THE ABOVE-NAMED PLAINTIFF. THE COURT MAY ENTER JUDGMENT AGAINST YOU WITHOUT FURTHER NOTICE UNLESS YOU RESPOND WITHIN 20 DAYS. READ THE INFORMATION BELOW.

PUBLISH: January 10, 17, 24 and 31, 2008

IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF THE FIFTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT OF THE STATE OF IDAHO, IN AND FOR THE COUNTY OF TWIN FALLS MAGISTRATE DIVISION

CASE NO. CV-2007-919 ANOTHER SUMMONS
STATEWIDE COLLECTIONS, INC., Plaintiff, vs. LENNY BREAUULT Defendant.

NOTICE: YOU HAVE BEEN SUED BY THE ABOVE-NAMED PLAINTIFF. THE COURT MAY ENTER JUDGMENT AGAINST YOU WITHOUT FURTHER NOTICE UNLESS YOU RESPOND WITHIN 20 DAYS. READ THE INFORMATION BELOW.

PUBLISH: January 10, 17, 24 and 31, 2008

NOTICE OF TRUSTEE'S SALE

On Tuesday, January 1, 2008 at 3:00 PM the Trustee, Twin Falls Title & Escrow Company, at their office of 905 Shoshone Street North in Twin Falls, Idaho, will sell, at public auction, to the highest bidder, for cash in legal money of the United States, all property as follows:

This sale will be made without covenant or warranty regarding title, possession or encumbrances to satisfy the obligation secured by and pursuant to the power of sale contained by a Deed of Trust executed by William M. Manker (Borrower) and Leah A. Manker and wife, as Grantors, to Twin Falls Title & Escrow as Trustee, and American General Finance, as Beneficiary, dated the 6th day of January, 2006 and recorded on February 7, 2006, as Instrument No. 2006-06047. In the records of Twin Falls County, Idaho, Book 1 of Falls, pages 81, records of TRIN FALLS COUNTY SUBDIVISION ONE HUNDRED AND 00/100 DOLLARS (\$66,100.00) and other amounts due.

IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF THE 5TH JUDICIAL DISTRICT OF THE STATE OF IDAHO, IN AND FOR THE COUNTY OF TWIN FALLS SMALL CLAIMS DEPARTMENT

CASE NO. CV-07-5773 SUMMONS
WILSON-BATES, INC., Plaintiff(s) vs. ROBERT RICHEY DEBRA A. RICHEY, Defendant(s).

YOU ARE NOTIFIED THAT a claim has been filed against you, the defendant(s) who filed the claim with the court with which the claim is filed, and the case number assigned to your case are listed above.

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-07-3181 SUMMONS
ROSSELL PROPERTIES L.L.C., L.T.D., an Omo Limited Liability Company, Plaintiff, vs. JOANN LANGE, an individual, Defendant.

NOTICE: YOU ARE HEREBY ADVISED BY THE ABOVE-NAMED PLAINTIFF(S). THE COURT MAY ENTER JUDGMENT AGAINST YOU WITHOUT FURTHER NOTICE UNLESS YOU RESPOND WITHIN TWENTY (20) DAYS.

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

Notice is hereby given that the Planning and Zoning Commission for the City of Twin Falls, Idaho, that a public hearing will be held on February 12, 2008, a Tuesday, at the hour of 7:00 o'clock in the morning at the Planning Commission, located at 305 Third Avenue East, Twin Falls, Idaho, to hear a request by:

CANYONSIDE TOWING AND RECOVERY, INC. Requests a Special Use Permit to operate a vehicle towing business, impound yard, and service and repair on property located at 252 Hankins Road.

GLORIA GALAN Requests a Special Use Permit to operate an in-home daycare on property located at 1963 Elizabeth Blvd.

DAVID WOODHEAD Requests a Special Use Permit to serve alcohol for consumption on-site on property located at 233 and 243 5th Avenue South.

AMERITEL INNS, INC. Requests a Special Use Permit to serve alcohol for consumption on-site on property located at 539 Polo Lane Road.

YOUNG ELECTRIC SIGN CO., ON BEHALF OF MAZATIEN GRILL Requests a Special Use Permit to operate a 15 (+/-) sq. ft. message center sign on property located at 10996 Kimberly Road.

UNITED OIL CO RUISS LIVELY Requests a Non-Conforming Building Expansion Permit to expand an existing non-conforming garage on property located at 2192 Falls Avenue.

STEINER STATION Requests a Special Use Permit to operate a gasoline service station in conjunction with a retail store on property located at 2259 Addison Avenue East.

A complete description is on file with the Twin Falls City Planning and Zoning Administrator at P.O. Box 852, Twin Falls, Idaho 83303-0852. Any and all persons desiring to comment may appear and be heard at the appointed time. Persons needing special accommodations at a public hearing should contact a member of the City of Twin Falls at 735-7287 at (B) working days prior to the meeting.

PUBLISH: Thursday, January 24, 2008

Legal NOTICE OF BID

Notice is hereby given that the Twin Falls School District #411 will receive sealed bids for Janitorial Supplies for the 2008-2009 school year...

TWIN FALLS SCHOOL DISTRICT #411 BY: Michelle Lucas, Clerk of the Board

PUBLISH: January 24, 2008 January 31, 2008 OPEN: February 14, 2008

Legal NOTICE

The Twin Falls County Democratic Caucus shall be held at 7:00 pm February 6, 2008 at the Senior Center at 4335 Shoshone Street...

Open Process. The delegates election process is open to all those who wish to participate as Democrats.

PUBLISH: January 17 and 24, 2008

Legal NOTICE OF BID

Notice is hereby given that the Twin Falls School District #411 Twin Falls, Idaho will receive sealed bids for supplying Consumable Paper Supplies for the 2008-2009 school year...

TWIN FALLS SCHOOL DISTRICT #411 BY: Michelle Lucas, Clerk of the Board

PUBLISH: January 24, 2008 January 31, 2008 OPEN: February 14, 2008

Legal NOTICE OF TRUSTEE'S SALE

Idaho Code 45-1506 Today's date: December 19, 2007. File No. TW21-268177 Sale date and time (local time): April 22, 2008 at 11:00 AM...

Public Notice. Actions planned and taken by your government are contained in public notices...

PUBLISH: January 24, 2008 January 31, 2008 OPEN: February 14, 2008

Legal NOTICE OF TRUSTEE'S SALE

T.S. No. 07-150-1000-182A NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT, FIRST AMERICAN TITLE INSURANCE COMPANY the duly appointed Successor Trustee of the Trust created by a certain deed...

PUBLISH: January 17 and 24, 2008

Legal NOTICE OF TRUSTEE'S SALE

Idaho Code 45-1506 Today's date: January 10, 2008. File No. 7023-14743 Sale date and time (local time): May 12, 2008 at 11:00 AM...

PUBLISH: January 17 and 24, 2008

Legal NOTICE OF BID

Notice is hereby given that the Twin Falls School District #411 Twin Falls, Idaho will receive sealed bids for supplying Consumable Teaching and Office Supplies for the 2008-2009 school year...

TWIN FALLS SCHOOL DISTRICT #411 BY: Michelle Lucas, Clerk of the Board

PUBLISH: January 24, 2008 January 31, 2008 OPEN: February 14, 2008

Legal NOTICE OF RESCHEDULED TRUSTEE'S SALE

On February 22nd 2008 at the hour of 10:00 a.m. on said day, at the front door of the First American Title Company, 260 3rd Avenue North, Twin Falls, Idaho #8303 Bruce J. Blchowicz, as Successor Trustee, will sell at public auction...

PUBLISH: January 17, 24 and 31, 2008

Legal NOTICE OF TRUSTEE'S SALE

On May 15th 2008 at the hour of 10:00 a.m. on said day, at the front door of the First American Title Company, 260 3rd Avenue North, Twin Falls, Idaho, #8303 Bruce J. Blchowicz, as Successor Trustee, will sell at public auction...

PUBLISH: January 3, 10, 17 and 24, 2008

Legal NOTICE OF TRUSTEE'S SALE

Idaho Code 45-1506 Today's date: December 27, 2007. File No. TW21-268177 Sale date and time (local time): April 22, 2008 at 11:00 AM...

PUBLISH: January 24, 31, February 7 and 14, 2008

Legal NOTICE OF TRUSTEE'S SALE

Idaho Code 45-1506 Today's date: December 27, 2007. File No. TW21-268177 Sale date and time (local time): April 22, 2008 at 11:00 AM...

PUBLISH: January 24, 31, February 7 and 14, 2008

Legal NOTICE OF HEARING ON NAME CHANGE

A Petition to change the name of Lawrence Clark Brocks, born March 12, 1949, in Twin Falls, Idaho, is pending at the Washington Pine Drive, Twin Falls, Idaho. The name will change to Lawrence Clark Eldredge...

PUBLISH: January 17, 24 and 31, 2008

Legal NOTICE OF HEARING ON NAME CHANGE

A Petition to change the name of Holly Rae Macthach Farnham, born Nov. 22, 1981 in Twin Falls, Idaho, is pending at the Court of the Washington Pine Drive, Twin Falls, Idaho. The name will change to Lawrence Clark Eldredge...

PUBLISH: January 3, 10, 17 and 24, 2008

Legal IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF THE FIFTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT OF THE STATE OF IDAHO, IN AND FOR THE COUNTY OF TWIN FALLS MAGISTRATE DIVISION

Case No. CV-07-4035 SUMMONS Plaintiff, MAGIC VALLEY COLLECTIONS & RECOVERY, INC. vs. Defendant, SCOTT MABIE.

YOU ARE HEREBY NOTIFIED THAT IN ORDER TO DEFEND THIS LAWSUIT, AN APPROPRIATE WRITING RESPONSE MUST BE FILED WITH THE ABOVE DESIGNATED COURT...

1. If you wish to appear in person at the Court, you should do so promptly so that your appearance, if any, may be filed in time and other legal rights protected.

2. If you wish to appear by counsel, you should do so promptly so that your appearance, if any, may be filed in time and other legal rights protected.

3. If you wish to appear by counsel, you should do so promptly so that your appearance, if any, may be filed in time and other legal rights protected.

4. If you wish to appear by counsel, you should do so promptly so that your appearance, if any, may be filed in time and other legal rights protected.

5. If you wish to appear by counsel, you should do so promptly so that your appearance, if any, may be filed in time and other legal rights protected.

PUBLISH: January 10, 17, 24 and 31, 2008

Legal NOTICE OF TRUSTEE'S SALE

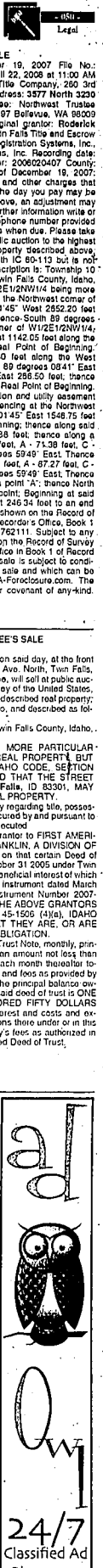
Idaho Code 45-1506 Today's date: January 11, 2008. File No. TW21-2407 Sale date and time (local time): May 14, 2008 at 11:00 AM...

PUBLISH: January 10, 17, 24 and 31, 2008

Legal NOTICE OF HEARING ON NAME CHANGE

A Petition to change the name of Holly Rae Macthach Farnham, born Nov. 22, 1981 in Twin Falls, Idaho, is pending at the Court of the Washington Pine Drive, Twin Falls, Idaho. The name will change to Lawrence Clark Eldredge...

PUBLISH: January 3, 10, 17 and 24, 2008



USU Legal
USU Legal

PUBLIC NOTICE OF THE IDAHO POULTRIN PRODUCERS ASSOCIATION AND THE NATIONAL PORK BOARD

The election of pork producer delegate candidates for the 2008 National Pork Producers (Pork Act) Delegate Body will take place at the Annual Meeting on Saturday, February 16, 2008 at 10 AM at the Hampton Inn in Mendocino on 4th and E. in Reno, NV. All pork producers are invited to attend.

Any producer who is a resident of the state and has paid all Assessments due to be considered as a delegate candidate and/or participate in the elections. All eligible producers are encouraged to give a safe, receipt proving that hogs were sold in their name and the checkoff deducted. For more information contact the Idaho Pork Producers Association at 208-898-0454.

PUBLISH January 24, 2008
ADVERTISEMENT FOR BIDS

Sealed bids will be received by the City of Twin Falls, Idaho, at the Office of the Deputy City Clerk until 10:00 o'clock A.M., prevailing local time, February 8, 2008, at which time they will be opened publicly and read in the City Council Overlook Room, 305 Third Avenue East, Twin Falls, Idaho.

Bids will be received for the purchase of Irigation Pump Station Skids & Enclosures.

Bids must be submitted on bid forms provided by the City of Twin Falls. Bid forms are available at 247 E. 1st Street, Rm 321, Second Avenue East, Twin Falls, Idaho.

Sharon M. Bryan
 Deputy City Clerk
 City of Twin Falls
 305 Third Avenue East
 P.O. Box 1907
 Twin Falls, ID 83303-1907

PUBLISH January 24, 2008 and January 30, 2008
OPEN February 8, 2008

INVITATION TO BID

Sealed bids will be received by the Hagaman Fire Protection District until 7:00 P.M. prevailing local time on February 4, 2008, at which time they will be opened publicly and read at the Hagaman Fire District Office, Hagaman, ID. Bids will be received for the purchase of a 1975 Dodge 600 2", ton truck, 1,000 gallon water tank, like new 200 GPM hot water pump, Diaphragm and Stratton 10 HP V-Wire engine. Hoses 1/2" inch with 200 feet of 1 inch hoses. Two sections of 10 foot 2", inch duct half with strainer. 3 storage compartments, 361 gas motor, 51 inch standard tires, 1000 lbs. axle weight. Two axle Power steering, 45,161 miles. Minimum bid will be \$5,300.00.

Bids may be seen at the Hagaman Fire District Office at the corner of State and Salmon in Hagaman.

Mail bids to the Hagaman Fire Protection District, PO Box 52, Hagaman, ID 83332.
 Judy Osborne, Secretary

PUBLISH January 24 and 31, 2008

ANNOUNCEMENTS

101 Lost and Found

FOUND honey aid, at backfield ball games, Twin Falls, Christian School
 Call 208-324-5109

FOUND Lab-Chow mix, large female dog, on Hwy 25, 1 mile east of Hazelton 420-3373

FOUND Mini Pinchweaver
 Torrier mix Pinchweaver
 2008 & 2100 E. on Polkline 113, yr old, found on Hwy 25, 1 mile east of Hazelton, call 208-324-5109

FOUND Miniature Dachshund, female, wearing sweater, found in grocery Shopping Center.
 Call 208-734-6399 or 208-734-6399

FOUND mgc ladies, found in parking lot of Canyon Mills. Share, call 208-324-8060

FOUND Miniature Dachshund, female, wearing sweater, found in grocery Shopping Center.
 Call 208-734-6399 or 208-734-6399

FOUND Cargy dog, she shows up on our doorstep. Saturday evening she wants to go home. Please call 324-6487 Y mesg

FOUND crank, gray, found at 10th & Pompeiro in Burley. Call 208-677-8775

FOUND Dog Medium sized male White with black and brown ears on Hwy 26 in Richfield. Call 208-1771

101 Lost and Found

FOUND bike in the Hazelton area. The bicycle has a character theme. Call to identify 208-324-5109

FOUND Border Collie Cries, tired, with blue and brown eyes, by Glambra in Gooding 208-208-2100

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FOUND Border Collie Cries, tired, with blue and brown eyes, by Glambra in Gooding 208-208-2100

24/7 Classified Ad Placement
 magicvalley.com

Classified Deadlines
 For line ads
 Tues. - Sat. - 1 p.m. the day before.
 For Sun. & Mon.
 2 p.m. Friday.

Lost and Found

LOST Black Lab, 4 month female puppy, lost on Hwy. Answers to Magy
 Course ID
 Call 208-324-3716 or 208-639-6542

LOST Mail, 5 yr. old male, social and medication \$500 reward offered. Lost around mile mark on Hwy 20 between Wendell and Jerome.
 Call 208-536-0002 or 208-536-4604

LOST Bull Mastiff, male, lost on 1720 on Interstate between Wendell and Jerome to a spouse.
 REWARD \$30-212
 or 536-2002-536-6614

LOST German Shorthair, female, approx 12 yr old, male, brown coat of white N and 2500 E. Walk Nover color 734-2440

LOST German Whelpar, female, approx 12 yr old, male, brown coat of white N and 2500 E. Walk Nover color 734-2440

LOST Yorkie, black and white, female, approx 12 yr old, male, brown coat of white N and 2500 E. Walk Nover color 734-2440

200 Employment

200 Employment
 201 Accounting
 202 Education
 203 Construction
 204 Customer Service
 205 Dairy
 206 Drivers
 207 Education
 208 Farm
 209 General
 210 Management
 211 Medical
 212 Mechanical
 213 Professional
 214 Retail
 215 Sales
 216 Restaurants
 217 Newspaper Careers

200 Employment

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 201 Accounting
 202 Education
 203 Construction
 204 Customer Service
 205 Dairy
 206 Drivers
 207 Education
 208 Farm
 209 General
 210 Management
 211 Medical
 212 Mechanical
 213 Professional
 214 Retail
 215 Sales
 216 Restaurants
 217 Newspaper Careers

201 Accounting

ACCOUNTING
 Accounting
 201 Accounting
 202 Education
 203 Construction
 204 Customer Service
 205 Dairy
 206 Drivers
 207 Education
 208 Farm
 209 General
 210 Management
 211 Medical
 212 Mechanical
 213 Professional
 214 Retail
 215 Sales
 216 Restaurants
 217 Newspaper Careers

204 Personals

Everyone woman's dream!
 Hugely handsome man with big muscles, small brain-free to control ev-
 erything (alcohol). Wanted
 woman to go with, 160 smor,
 non drinker, likes to travel,
 health oriented. Must be able
 to appreciate a man with
 big ambitions and little talent.
 I am tall, 210 lbs, white,
 brown hair, blue eyes,
 hard worker, successful
 businessman. Very
 graduate, loves kids,
 excellent father. I'm a
 good and want the same
 one to love and care
 for likes to cook, fish
 and bow hunt. Small
 mail photo and full
 details first letter to
 Harry Highgett, Box
 9284, P.O. Box 548,
 Twin Falls, ID 83303.
 I'll respond with a
 photo, photos and
 references - clip ad
 for a hand?

207 Clerical

CLERICAL
 Processing warranty
 claims, general office
 duties, phone
 and computers
 Mon-Fri, 8:00-5:00
 EOE. Call 208-735-4000
 Send resume to:
 Office Manager
 P.O. Box 1656
 Twin Falls, ID
 83303-1656

203 Construction

CONSTRUCTION
 C-N-R Construction
 is looking for reliable
 people to work on
 Please e-mail resume to
 fax 208-245-9595.

205 Dairy

DAIRY
 Dairyman position,
 ERP in herd health,
 milking, etc.
 Call 958 pm-Mon-Sat
 at 208-423-4252.

206 Drivers

DRIVER
Rangen inc.
 Rangen Logistics is
 looking for a
 qualified OTR Driver.
 Top dollar pay,
 need someone that
 is willing to run long
 miles. RFL and 3
 years experience
 and possesses
 professional status on
 the job.
 Please call Sandra
 at 208-643-2458
 EOE

108 Professional Services

Bankruptcy Chapter 7
 Guaranteed lowest
 price for attorney representation. We are a
 debt relief agency.
 Free Consultation.
 Call 1-866-688-2389.

FARM
 Farm Labor, livestock manure spreading,
 and repairs/maintenance; 3 months exp
 required must provide current driver's
 abstract showing no acceptable driving
 record with air brake endorsement, tools,
 equipment, and housing provided free.
 Transportation expenses to worksite
 provided, and upon completion of 50%
 of work contract, or earlier and return
 transportation to the place of recruitment
 upon completion of work period;
 \$8,760; 3 wk work period guarantee from
 2/15/08 to 2/15/09, P&I Land &
 Livestock, BUH, ID.
 Apply for this job at the nearest Idaho
 Commerce & Labor Office with
 Job Order 1301565.

DRIVER
 Full or part-time Driver
 to haul equipment
 around the state
 731-6172 or 731-6108

DRIVER
 Now Hiring
 Bus Drivers
 Paid Training
 Western States Bus
 Call 208-733-8003

DRIVERS
 Hiring over the food
 Drives
 2 years experience
 preferred. Medical
 insurance and 401k
 offered, vacation after
 1 year, \$5.35 per mile
 Apply at:
 45 E. 205 E.
 Jerome, Idaho
 208-224-4516
 Giltner Trucking
 Transportation

CLASSIFIEDS
 It pays to read this
 free print
 Call The Times-News
 to place your ad at
 208-733-0931 ext. 2

208 Farm
Farm
 Classified Private
 Party Ads
 Requires
 pre-payment
 prior to
 publication
 *Major Credit/Debit
 Cards, and cash
 accepted
 733-0931 ext. 2
 Times-News

209 General

COOK
 Immediate opening at
 Twin Falls Connection
 at work in an incredi-
 ble dining is a plus.
 Competitive wages
 and benefits. Must
 pass background
 check and pre-employ-
 ment drug screen.
 Contact Maria at
 208-735-4114 or fax
 to 208-735-4395
 e-mail resume to
 hr@tblmanagement.com
 EOE

210 Management

MANUFACTURING
SPARS Mfg Co.
 is a very stable
 employer and is ac-
 cepting applications
 for the following
 full-time positions:
 *Packaging
 *Warehouse
 *Fabrication
 *Machining and
 *Material Handlers
 \$9-\$12hour
 (depending on
 position)
 Company benefits,
 employee health,
 dental, life insur-
 ance, vacation,
 paid holidays, &
 401k plan.
 Applications avail at
 Sparks Mfg.
 Call or call Office
 2152 S. Lincoln
 Jerome, Idaho
 Spars is an Equal
 Opportunity Employer

211 Medical

All advertising is
 subject to the
 newspaper's
 standard of
 acceptance.
 The Times-News
 reserves the right to
 edit, abbreviate, or
 decline or properly
 classify any ad.
 Receipt of copy via
 e-mail, does not
 constitute final
 acceptance by this
 newspaper. The
 advertiser, per the
 newspaper's
 assumptions, will
 be responsible for
 the inthful content
 of their advertiser
 message.

211 Medical

PERSONAL CARE
 Assistants, part or full-
 time for small assist-
 ing. Insurance avail.
 Serious inquiries only.
 208-212-0115

SEE CRIMINAL BUSINESS
 AND SERVICES DIRECTORY
 to assist you in your
 home repairs. 733-0931.

212 Medical

PhoneBase Research
 currently has immedi-
 ate opening in our
 interviewing depart-
 ment. This position
 involves conducting
 public opinion polls
 over the telephone.
 PhoneBase
 Research, Inc.
 507 Idaho
 Gooding, ID 83330
 208-324-4321
 www.phonebasere.com
 The District provide a
 Filing preference for
 qualified women.

213 Professional Services

DISPATCHER
 Dispatcher needed
 for local trucking
 company hauling
 animal feeds. Duties
 include daily dispatch
 of grain, corn, cotton
 seed and other feeds.
 Customer service and
 customer train-
 ing. Loading operators
 and Compeletion DOE
 contact
 Scott Jackson
 Trucking
 P.O. Box 58
 208-324-3004

214 Retail

GENERAL
 Floral Designers &
 Delivery Drivers
 needed for upcoming
 events.
 Day Holidays, PT,
 seasonal positions.
 Driver applicants must
 be at least 21 with a
 clean driving record.
 Call 743-2800 to apply.

GENERAL
 Local trucking company
 looking for
 Drivers
 Detail oriented, ability
 to team department
 of transportation rules
 regarding logs, assist
 the safety director as
 needed. Expense
 preferred will train
 Our company is drug
 free, smoke free,
 health/dental/medical
 insurance available.
 Send resume to:
 Box #1200
 C/O Times News
 PO Box 58
 Twin Falls, ID 83303

215 Medical

GENERAL
 Barista
 Apply at Cafe Mocha
 591 Addison Ave W

GENERAL
 Mill help wanted
 Benefit package and
 vacation Contact
 Performance Plus
 208-736-0064

RESTAURANT
 Now accepting
 applications for
 Waitresses
 Mandarlin House
 735 Blue Lakes Blvd
 Twin Falls

MANAGEMENT
 Operations and Mill
 Manager for Rail Road
 Trans loading,
 storage and corn
 grinding facility.
 Exp with trans load-
 ing, mill dispatch
 interface and
 employee supervision
 preferred. Excellent
 opportunity with
 growing company.
 Salary DOE contact
 Scott Jackson
 Trucking
 PO Box 58
 Jerome, ID
 208-324-3004

216 Restaurants

SHEEPHERDERS
 Wanted experienced Shepherders from
 3/1/08-2/28/09 and to lend/move sheep
 flocks grazing on range; prevent animals
 from straying, protect flock from predators
 & bad weather, & assist with milking.
 Workers to be on-call, 24 hours a day,
 7 days a week, including holidays.
 Employer guarantees for % of contract
 period, starting immediately.
 Employer provides tools, supplies &
 equipment at no cost to worker; inbound
 transportation & subsistence upon 50%
 completion of contract & outbound
 transportation & subsistence to origin
 upon contract completion. \$750 month
 + room & board. Must have 3 months
 experience, and 1 reference.
 Apply for this job at the nearest Idaho
 Commerce & Labor office using Job
 listing 1302450 for
 Forrest Arthur, Paul, ID or 1302456
 for David Rogers, Rupert, ID.

su do ku
 © Puzzles by Pappocorn

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

EASY #12

Fill in the grid so that every row, every column, and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1 through 9. That's all there is to it. There's no math involved. The grid has numbers, but nothing has to add up to anything else. You solve the puzzle with reasoning and logic. Find the answers for today's puzzle on page D-7.

209 General

BARISTA
 Help wanted.
 Apply at Cafe Mocha
 591 Addison Ave W

GENERAL
 Mill help wanted
 Benefit package and
 vacation Contact
 Performance Plus
 208-736-0064

RESTAURANT
 Now accepting
 applications for
 Waitresses
 Mandarlin House
 735 Blue Lakes Blvd
 Twin Falls

211 Medical

PERSONAL CARE
 Assistants, part or full-
 time for small assist-
 ing. Insurance avail.
 Serious inquiries only.
 208-212-0115

SEE CRIMINAL BUSINESS
 AND SERVICES DIRECTORY
 to assist you in your
 home repairs. 733-0931.

218 Newspaper Carriers

TIMES-NEWS
 The Times-News is
 currently looking for
Motor Route Carrier

TWIN FALLS
 \$700-\$800
 Every 4 Weeks

SIGN ON BONUS FOR ALL ROUTES

If you live in the area and are interested in being a newspaper carrier. Please contact Dave, 735-3347 For More Info.

210 Management

MANUFACTURING
SPARS Mfg Co.
 is a very stable
 employer and is ac-
 cepting applications
 for the following
 full-time positions:
 *Packaging
 *Warehouse
 *Fabrication
 *Machining and
 *Material Handlers
 \$9-\$12hour
 (depending on
 position)
 Company benefits,
 employee health,
 dental, life insur-
 ance, vacation,
 paid holidays, &
 401k plan.
 Applications avail at
 Sparks Mfg.
 Call or call Office
 2152 S. Lincoln
 Jerome, Idaho
 Spars is an Equal
 Opportunity Employer

215 Sales

SALES
 Route Sales
 TBC opening a
 business and distribution of Bakery
 Product. Base
 commission, benefits.
 Valid drivers license
 with good record.
 HS diploma or equiv.
 1501 Hiland Ave,
 Burley, ID 83318
 EOE/AAE

301 Business Opportunities

301 Business Opportunities
 302 Homebased
 304 Investments
 305 Colleges & Majors
 307 Financial Services

215 Medical

PERSONAL CARE
 Assistants, part or full-
 time for small assist-
 ing. Insurance avail.
 Serious inquiries only.
 208-212-0115

SEE CRIMINAL BUSINESS
 AND SERVICES DIRECTORY
 to assist you in your
 home repairs. 733-0931.

215 Trades

MECHANIC
 Diesel Service & Lube
 Tech position
 available at Rich
 Thompson Trucking
 Inc. Wage DOE.
 Exc. benefit package.
 Apply at
 323 West Rex Perce,
 Jerome or call
 208-324-3511

304 Investments

DRACO INVESTMENT CORP
 CASH for Deeds of
 Trust, Mortgages and
 Real Estate Contracts.
 Call today for a free,
 no-obligation quote.
 (208)733-3021

Start your new year with a NEW JOB!
 New Wage Scale for 2008

RNs or LPNs
 Full-time & Part-time, Afternoons/NOC

CNAs
 Full-time & Part-time, All Shifts

We offer competitive pay and full-time includes an excellent package offering certification classes for those to become CNA. Apply in person or contact Pat McKay at Sunbridge Care & Rehab, 601 1st Avenue West, Twin Falls. Phone: 208-734-8645.

Times-News
 magicvalley.com

NEWSPAPER CIRCULATION

The Times-News and South Idaho Press are seeking a **District Sales Manager** in our Circulation Department. This is an excellent opportunity for an energetic and ambitious person to bring his or her skills and ideas to an entry-level management position with advancement opportunities. Responsibilities include managing and training youth and adult carriers, sales promotions, collections and customer service. The successful candidate must have a valid driver's license and good driving record along with good time management skills. Must be dependable and be able to work alternating weekends.

The Times-News offers an excellent benefits package which includes medical, dental, vision, life insurance, 401(k) retirement, employee stock purchase plan, paid holidays and vacation. Check out our website at www.magicvalley.com

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

Sudoku Answers:

Grid of numbers for Sudoku answers, including columns 1-9 and rows 1-9.

POWER SCREED, screed king with 14 ft. used & home use. \$1,300. 208-948-0731

INVACARE semi elec. mod. home care. Like new. Home care. \$425. 734-8000

RECREATION 901 ATVs 902 Motorcycles HARLEY DAVIDSON 97 Sportster. \$5,000. 208-338-0327

906 Snow Vehicles ARCTIC CAT '07 RM 550 mias, black, w/extras. \$8,000. 208-731-6697

906 Snow Vehicles POLARIS '98 Indy Lite. Perfect for a young boy. \$1,500. 924-7117

907 Travel Trailers HILO '92 Full Line, 20'00. 600 sq. ft. AC, new tires, good cond. \$14,500. 208-734-9114

810 Furniture & Carpet

SLEIGH BED solid wood, brand new, 10' x 12'. List \$699. 500. \$249. Can deliver. Call 208-428-6359

810 Miscellaneous For Sale

HOT DOG COOKER \$200. Wyatt burner. \$200. Call 208-428-4743

Wanted To Buy

WANTED 300 rifle preferably Savage. 208-543-5784

Wanted

WANTED Antiques and pottery, pictures, horse bridle, rugs, Indian items, and estates. Call 208-324-4721

901 ATVs

902 Motorcycles 903 Boats & Motors 904 Cars & Trucks 905 Motor Homes & RVs 906 Snow Vehicles

905 Motor Homes & RVs

YAMAHA '91 FT180 runs good. \$500. 208-474-3489

906 Snow Vehicles

ARCTIC CAT '04 King Cat. \$1,200. 208-410-1410

907 Travel Trailers

ARCTIC CAT '05 16' 5" 16' 5" track, low miles, good cond. \$1,800. 208-731-2189

811 Heating and Air Conditioning

ELECTRIC FURNACE 15' to \$500, pellet stove, \$600. wood insert, \$150. 731-1554

812 Auctions/Auctioneers

DOWNSAIZON (208) 467-1712 www.downsazon.com Committed to Excellence!

Wanted

WANTED Old coin collections, any quantity in condition. Call James 208-320-0437

812 Auctions/Auctioneers

WARD ACTION & Appraisals 'Putting value to your valuables' Personal Property Appraisals Auction Service (208) 590-0253

812 Auctions/Auctioneers

WARD ACTION & Appraisals 'Putting value to your valuables' Personal Property Appraisals Auction Service (208) 590-0253

812 Auctions/Auctioneers

WARD ACTION & Appraisals 'Putting value to your valuables' Personal Property Appraisals Auction Service (208) 590-0253

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Thursday, Jan. 24, 2008

THE ACES ON BRIDGE Bobby Wolff

If a little knowledge is dangerous, there is the man who has so much as to be out of danger? — Thomas Henry Huxley

The best material for bridge reporters often comes when declarer thwarts the best efforts of the defense...

Bridge hand analysis: NORTH 01-24-A, WEST, EAST, SOUTH. Includes card counts and suit symbols.

Vulnerable: East-West Dealer: North. The bidding: South West North East. Opening lead: What would you do?

BID WITH THE ACES. South holds: 8 hearts, K Q J 7 2 clubs, K Q J 10 8 diamonds, 7 3 spades.

ANSWER: Although it is tempting to raise to game, you should pass. You have shown your hand already...

If you would like to contact Bobby Wolff, e-mail him at b.wolff@tntimes.com

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Find something to do this weekend

Phenomenon hits home

Life imitates art
for 'High School
Musical' cast.
Page 3

Staples

Movies Page 15

Events calendar

..... Pages 8-9

Karaoke Corner Page 7

On the cover

ARIEL HANSEN/TNT
Lacelle Jones, playing the Head Cheerleader, performs a scene from "High School Musical" during a rehearsal on Jan. 17 at the King Fine Arts Center in Burley. The production runs Feb. 1-5.

TNT

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TOP 5

THE WEEK'S MOST POPULAR MUSIC

TELEVISION

1. "NFC Playoff Post Game," Fox.
2. AFC Playoff: Jacksonville vs. New England, CBS.
3. College Football: LSU vs. Ohio State.
4. "Terminator: The Sarah Connor Chronicles," Fox.
5. "CSI: Crime Scene Investigation," CBS.

From Nielsen Media Research

FILM

1. "The Bucket List"
2. "First Sunday"
3. "Juno"
4. "National Treasure: Book of Secrets"
5. "Alvin and the Chipmunks"

From Media By Numbers LLC

VIDEO RENTALS

1. "War"
2. "Resident Evil: Extinction"
3. "The Kingdom"
4. "Shoot 'Em Up"
5. "Rush Hour 3"

From Billboard magazine

DVD SALES

1. "Resident Evil: Extinction"
2. "War"
3. "Harry Potter and the Order of the Phoenix"
4. "Rush Hour 3"
5. "Shoot 'Em Up"

From Billboard magazine

ITUNES MOVIE DOWNLOADS

1. "Shooter"
2. "Pirates of the Caribbean: At World's End"
3. "Jacksass 2.5"
4. "Ratatouille"
5. "National Treasure"

From iTunes.com

ITUNES MUSIC DOWNLOADS

1. "Low," Flo Rida feat. T-Pain.
2. "Don't Stop the Music," Rihanna.
3. "Love Song," Sara Bareilles.
4. "With You," Chris Brown.
5. "Take You There," Sean Kingston.

From iTunes.com

MUSIC SINGLES

1. "Low," Flo Rida feat. T-Pain.
2. "No One," Alicia Keys.
3. "Apologize," Timbaland feat. OneRepublic.
4. "Kiss Kiss," Chris Brown feat. T-Pain.
5. "Clumsy," Fergie.

From Billboard magazine

ALBUMS

1. "As I Am," Alicia Keys.
2. "In Rainbows," Radiohead.
3. "Juno," soundtrack.
4. "Growing Pains," Mary J. Blige.
5. "Taylor Swift," Taylor Swift.

From Billboard magazine

CONCERT TOURS

1. Van Halen
2. Dane Cook
3. Hannah Montana/Miley Cyrus, "Best of Both Worlds"
4. Neil Young
5. Stevie Wonder

From Pollstar

BOOKS

- Fiction*
1. "Diary of a Bad Year," by J. M. Coetzee.
 2. "People of the Book," by Geraldine Brooks.
 3. "World Without End," by Ken Follett.
 4. "The Shooters," by W.E.B. Griffin.
 5. "A Thousand Splendid Suns," by Khaled Hosseini.

Nonfiction

1. "In Defense of Food," by Michael Pollan.
2. "The Dangerous Book for Boys," by Conn and Hal Iggliden.
3. "The Secret," by Rhonda Byrne.
4. "Born Standing Up," by Steve Martin.
5. "I Am America (and So Can You)" by Stephen Colbert.

From the Los Angeles Times

INSTANT Critic

Be an 'Instant Critic'

Because you have opinions, and we want them

Send us 50 words — and mean just 50 words — on the musical arts and entertainment you could write about. You could be a local artist, a player, or that guy who plays flute on the street corner. Anything written, painted or performed in Magic Valley. Reviews of arts in Boise, Salt Lake City or other not-too-distant burgs are also welcome.

In addition to your 50 words, include a basic de-

scription of the performance or artwork, such as location, date, title, author or artist.

Also, your name and a phone number where we can reach you during the day. No objectionable language, please, or your review will be deleted.

Weekly deadline for submissions is non Mondays, to arl.hansen@tnc.net or through the form on www.tnticket.com.

Music: FourStroke Bus

Seen Jan. 19 at Papa Henri's Hideaway, 310 E. Main St. Ketchum.

When this Ketchum blues band formed, the members knew they'd had ideas for band names, but the only one they could remember was "FourStroke Bus."

Fortunately, their music is more organized, with a traditional sound that blends well with the Hideaway's roadside atmosphere. Perfect accompaniment to fries, beer and friedls.

— Ariel Hansen, Times-News assistant features editor

Theater: Twin Falls High School Drama Department's production of "You Can't Take It With You"

at the Roper Auditorium*

The production takes you back to the days of good old-fashioned theater. The casting of Danny Maront as Grandpa was inspired. As the central "grounded" character of this zany family, Maron's performance was a natural. Other outstanding performances were given by Koye Brown, Michelle Sorlea (uncredited) and Jessica Ibe.

— Carolyn White, program director
for the Magic Valley Arts Council

'We're all in this together'



Photo by STEVE MCCOY/Thinkstock

Local high school students rehearse a scene from 'High School Musical' the evening of Jan. 17 at the King Fine Arts Center in Burley. The popular Disney Channel movie was made into a stage production, now performed at schools and theaters across the country.



Sneak peek

Watch the cast rehearse, at Magjival.tvc.com.

'High School Musical' cast mirrors play's theme

BY ARIEL HANSEN
Times-News writer

BURLEY — Odds are, if you've never heard of "High School Musical," you have no children or grandchildren under age 20, and you may have been in a coma since January 2006. That's when the made-for-TV Disney Channel movie premiered in the U.S. to 7.7 million viewers.

Since then, the anti-clique story has become a pop-culture phenomenon, spawning dozens of international versions, a best-selling soundtrack, countless branded products, a sequel and a stage production designed to be performed at high schools across the nation.

Now it's in Burley, with a cast of about 60 kids from high schools throughout Mini-Cassia taking on "High School Musical's" starring roles. The Mount Harrison Heritage Foundation production has also proved to be a case of life imitating art, with those diverse students stepping past their school loyalties to form a close-knit group.

If you go ...

What: Disney's "High School Musical," performed by the Mount Harrison Heritage Foundation

Where: King Fine Arts Center, 2100 Parke Ave., Burley

When: 7:30 p.m. Feb. 1, 2, 4, 8 and 9, and 2 p.m. Feb. 9

Tickets: \$10 reserved seating, \$8 adult general seating, \$5 student general seating (18 and under). Tickets are available at The Book Plaza in Burley and The Book Store in Rupert, and at 678-6868.

Want more? A pep rally for kids prior to the Feb. 2 performance will be held at the Burley High School cafeteria. Featuring the cast of the musical, the rally will include dinner, a sing- and dance-along, face painting and prizes. The event is recommended for kids ages 6-12, and costs \$10. Tickets to that evening's performance are not included.

"We didn't really know very many people (when rehearsals began), but we're one huge family," said Emily Silva, 15, of Burley, who plays the female lead, Gabriella Montez. "I want people to see



Ainsley Edgar, rehearsing as Sharpay, right, interrupts Emily Silva, playing Gabriella, during a beginning scene of 'High School Musical.'

that on-stage."

The cast spends as much time together as some families, often 20 to 25 hours a week. It might be surprising, then, that they find time to hang out together outside of the production, but the new friends often get together for sandwiches after rehearsals, to rebuild their energy. They need it, said Ainsley Edgar, 17, of Declo, who plays the "mean girl" in the production, the role of Sharpay Evans.

"It's crazy fun, you get to basically goof off the entire time, but it's what you're supposed to do," she said. Edgar said she

enjoys playing a character whom she doesn't resemble. "I like it because I get to step outside the box and be someone else for a while."

That notion — stepping outside the box — is central to the plot of "High School Musical," although the characters realize that it is only by transcending the roles that are expected of them that they can become the people they are supposed to be. The female lead is a shy brainiac, and the male lead a popular jock, but together they earn the lead roles in their high

Please see MUSICAL, Page 4

Cover story

Musical *Continued from page 3*

school musical, to the chagrin of their cliques and the theater kids who have always won those roles. The story has been compared to Shakespeare's "Romeo and Juliet," but director Kay Webster prefers to liken it to the movie "Grease."

"I like how it says people can do whatever they want, whatever they feel they can do," said Jonathan Hale, 15, of Oakley, who plays the male lead, Troy Bolton. "And hey, it's a love story, can't argue with that."

Webster, who has acted in Mount Harrison productions but is making her debut as a director with "High School Musical," said she sees parallels between the story and the real-life production.

As the auditions progressed, narrowing 150 hopefuls to about 60 in the cast, Webster noticed something interesting.

"I have never seen kids that probably play so many different kinds of roles in their own lives and their own schools come together and be friends. They didn't come in with all these preconceived ideas about each other," she said. "As we were auditioning and doing call-backs, I said to my production people, 'We are in the midst of living this show,' because the show is about auditions and call-backs and people with hurt feelings."

Although there was wide interest from people younger than high-school age — Webster had numerous moms tell her the movie was their 8-year-old's favorite, and couldn't she find a role? — high-schoolers fill all but two of the parts in the production. Webster is pleased to get so many young people involved in a community production, because many had roles in only school plays before. And no one was a show-in; they all had to prove their abilities to sing and perform the show's complicated choreography.

The grueling rehearsal schedule meant many of the performers had to make tough choices

The cast

A partial cast list of Mount Harrison Heritage Foundation's production of "High School Musical":

Role	Actor
Gabriella Montez	Emily Silva
Troy Bolton	Jonathan Hale
Sharpay Evans	Ainsley Edgar
Ryan Evans	Dallin Breshars
Kelci Nielson	Elizabeth Kidd
Ripley	Brandon Young
Martha Cox	Brennan Oliveira
Taylor McKessie	Carmelita Delujosto
Jackie Scott	Katie Turner
Chad Danforth	Jared Byington
Zeke Baylor	Phillip Turner
Coach Bollon	Matt Seely
Ms. Darbus	Debra Condie

plus 45 others in supporting roles

"I like how it says people can do whatever they want, whatever they feel they can do."

— Jonathan Hale, 15

about what to be involved in: Silva reduced her participation in student council and clothing, and Hale didn't try out for the basketball team he had been on in previous years.

"I had to miss this season, but it's probably worth it," he said.

They've also noticed the ethic of the play bleeding into their school lives.

"At Oakley, we're so patriotic to our school," Hale said, so he was a little cautious about performing with students from rival institutions. "Now we realize they're just the same," he said. Silva finished the thought: "That competition goes away."

Competition between high schools and the cliques among students are nothing new, and that explains some of the appeal of "High School Musical."

"The man who wrote this play, what he said kind of struck me," Webster said. "He said that

this show brings people back to their days of high school. Even the older people who may not be familiar with the music or the story, what it will do for them is take them back to their high school days."

The show does have a built-in audience — those tweens and teens who made the movies such a phenomenon for Disney — and Webster is certain there will be lots of those young

fans in the audience come showtime. She hopes to see some older faces too.

"It's just good clean fun. I think what the kids love about it is the music, definitely the music and the dancing. Of course, the characters are very lovable," she said.

"There are so many different types of characters in the show that everyone can find someone to relate to. I am 46 years old and I love the music from 'High School Musical.' It's cheesy but so much fun, it gets stuck in your head and you can't stop singing it to yourself."

At a recent rehearsal, the young performers backstage played around with each other, keeping their energy high until they next scene, but many were also mulling along with the onstage singers or bopping heads or feet.

If you go, expect to be hitting your own head, perhaps sitting next to a young fan who knows the words at least as well as the actors on stage. That fan's thrill to see the movie she knows so well played out by young people from her own town may be contagious, so you'd better come ready to smile.

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

Chubbuck dinner theater features 1950s music, Mini-Cassia singers

Times-News

It's 1950... something, and Kaye, Peggy, Cheryl and Donna, four singing sisters from Muppig, Ind., are making their national TV singing debut on "Spotlight on Music." The fictitious weekly 1950s television show on real-life Dumont Television Network sets the framework for an evening of some of the greatest hits from the 1950s.

"The Taffetas" promises to be a nostalgic stroll down memory lane for people who love music and are young at heart," said Terry Communs of Mysteque Theater in a press release.

"The Taffetas" pays tribute to the sounds of The McGuire Sisters, The Fontaine Sisters and the Chordettes. Opening Off Broadway almost two years before

"Forever Plaid," "The Taffetas" made nostalgia what it is today.

Spend an hour and a half with "The Taffetas" and remember what Sunday-night television was like on your 12-inch black-and-white TV screen. It's the ideal theater piece for audiences who remember the '50s.

"We are so excited that we are able to host these incredibly talented women on our stage," said

"The Taffetas"

What a dinner theater production of Mysteque Theatre

Where: Mysteque Theatre, 158 E. Chubbuck Road, Chubbuck

When: Dinner is served at 7 p.m. and the show starts at 8 p.m. on Friday, Saturday, Jan. 31 and Feb. 1 and 2.

Tickets: \$25 covers choice of prime rib, chicken cordon bleu or pasta Sicily. VIP seating is available for an additional charge. Reserve at 238-8001.

Communs.

The show features four '50s debutantes harmonizing to that era's hits, warming the heart on these dreary, cold winter nights. Together, the quartet has performed "The Taffetas" and "A Taffeta Christmas."

They have performed extensively in Mini-Cassia as well as Boise, Sun Valley, Woods Cross and Salt Lake City; Portland, Ore.; Spokane, Wash.; and Overton, Nev. They all live in the Rupert and Burley areas.

"The Taffetas" is directed by Alan Hale and features live accompaniment by Hale, Jim Kezzer and Kevin Robbins. The show recently returned to Idaho following an engagement in Nevada.

Former CSI art student to lecture on pottery

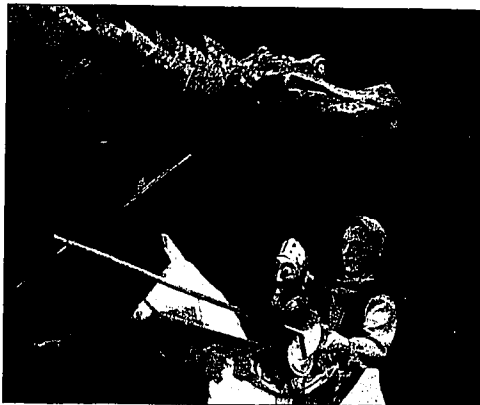
Times-News

Donna Flanery, a former College of Southern Idaho art student and now a resident artist at the renowned Arden Bray Foundation in Helena, Mont., will visit CSI art students and the public at 6 p.m. Wednesday in room 115 of CSI's Shields building.

Flanery, who received a bachelor's degree in fine arts at the University of Montana after leaving CSI, will demonstrate her pottery methods in a slide show. She will also show the slides to students in the college's pottery lab on Jan. 31 and Feb. 1.

The public is welcome to attend the Wednesday slide show, which is free.

'The Reluctant Dragon,' a puppetry performance, will be in Kelchum this weekend. And since it's a nice dragon, you won't need to bring your asbestos pants.



Courtesy art

A dragon for a neighbor?

Puppet show features twist on fairy tale

BY KAREN BOSSICK
For the Times-News

You can't always judge a dragon by its scales.

Such is the case with "The Reluctant Dragon," which is moving into the nexStage Theatre this weekend, courtesy of Tears of Joy Puppet Theatre.

The puppet show is based on the story of a dragon who is more interested in art and poetry than snorting fire through his nose. But try to convince the villagers of that when he moves into their neighborhood!

The villagers summon Sir George, the renowned dragon slayer, to save them. When Sir George discovers the dragon is no threat to anyone, he and the dragon stage a mock battle in which Sir George wins and the dragon promises to be good and everyone lives happily ever after.

The story was written by Kenneth Grahame, who also wrote "The Wind in the Willows."

If you go ...

What: "The Reluctant Dragon" puppet show
When: 7 p.m. Saturday; 3 p.m. Sunday
Where: nexStage Theatre, 120 S. Main St., Kelchum
Cost: \$10 for children and \$15 for adults available at nexStage box office or by calling 726-4TKS.

Grahame was born in Scotland in 1859 when dragons were the stuff of imagination. But while the dragons of Europe were thought to be dangerous, dragons from China and Asia were considered protectors and therein lies the twist to Grahame's story.

The musical score for the piece is written for harpsichord, alto flute and bass clarinet in the form of ballads.

Tears of Joy Puppet Theatre uses several styles of puppetry in telling the tale. The villagers are hand-and-rod puppets where the puppeteers are not seen. The boy and Sir George are

adaptations of bunraku puppets — a traditional Japanese puppet form in which large puppets with complex faces are manipulated by as many as three people.

In this case, the boy and Sir George are operated by puppeteers dressed in view of the audience playing the parts of the father and mother.

The dragon is operated by the puppeteer's arm inside its neck, while a control allows the puppeteer to operate its mouth and eyes.

Tears of Joy has been staging puppet shows in the Portland, Ore., and Vancouver, Wash., area for nearly 37 years.

The group has received American puppetry's highest honor — the Citation of Excellence in the Art of Puppetry — for three of its productions.

A resident company at the Portland Center for the Performing Arts, it presents six productions a year, taking four of them on the road.

19th Annual



WINTER GAMES
OF IDAHO

Ski, Board or Skate The Great Potato

2008

January 25 - February 23

POMERELLE TYKES TO TEENS

SKI & BOARD CHALLENGE

Saturday • January 26 • 12 Noon

Pomerelle's Giant Slalom competition for ages 6-18 is a timed elimination, two-run race for skiers or boarders. USSA and other rules will be posted and announced at the race registration.

Awards are broken into many age classes. Eighteen-year-olds must still be enrolled in high school to compete in this race.

Entry fee is \$15 per person if entry form is received by January 25, 2008. \$20 per person if registration takes place on race day.

Same day registration closes at 10:30 am sharp.

Go to website for registration and general information.



www.wintergamesofidaho.com

Local

Passage to Twin Falls

BY ERICA LITTLEFIELD
Times-News correspondent

Twin Falls may not be Hollywood, but it can still have movie premieres.

"Passage to Zarahemla," the first film from author Chris Heimerdinger, had its Idaho premiere on Friday in Twin Falls. The action-adventure movie is playing at the Odyssey Theatre in the Magic Valley Mall, and the opening was celebrated with a book signing at Crowley's — The Quad.

Heimerdinger, who lives in Utah with his family, is the writer, director and executive producer of the film and a member of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints.

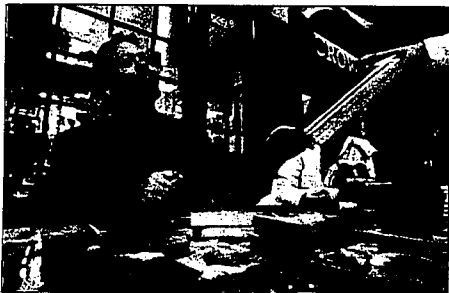
He acted in one of the roles and wrote the songs for the soundtrack. When Heimerdinger introduced the film at the first showing on Friday, he said making a feature film has been his dream since high school.

"It's been the most complex and stressful thing I've ever done, but the rewards are worth it," Heimerdinger said.

Heimerdinger is best known for his series of books called "Tennis Shoes Among the Nephites," "Passage to Zarahemla" is also based on one of Heimerdinger's books, and it has elements of adventure, science fiction, romance and even comedy, with themes related to the LDS faith.

In the movie, Kerri McConnell and her 11-year-old brother Brock flee Los Angeles to avoid being split up after their mother dies. They travel to visit relatives in Leeds, Utah. Once they discover a rift in time between the modern day and ancient

Filmmaker brings first movie to Magic Valley



Chris Heimerdinger, author of the book 'Passage to Zarahemla,' signs books Friday night at the Magic Valley Mall. Heimerdinger has made the book into a movie, which had its Idaho premiere in Twin Falls last week.

Get your popcorn ready

What: "Passage to Zarahemla"
Where: Showtimes are 7:15 p.m., and 9:30 p.m. daily, with additional showings at 12:30 p.m., 2:45 p.m., and 5 p.m. on Saturdays and Sundays.

Where: Odyssey Theatre at the Magic Valley Mall
Information: Interstate Amusement, 734-2402

times, and their troubles from California catch up with them.

According to Heimerdinger, "Passage to Zarahemla" was always intended to be a movie. Heimerdinger said he wrote the screenplay in 1999, and the novel followed in 2003.

"We put right on the cover of the book, 'Soon to be a major motion picture,' which was a bold move because we hadn't raised a single dime," Heimerdinger told the audience at the Twin Falls premiere.

The movie was filmed in Utah and Costa Rica in 2005, then spent two years in editing and post-production. The movie's

public premiere was Oct. 12 in Salt Lake City. It has since finished a successful Utah run and is moving on to other cities in Idaho and across the West, including Las Vegas, Sacramento and Mesa, Ariz.

Richard Crowley, owner and operator of Crowley's — The Quad bookstore, contacted Heimerdinger about bringing the film to Twin Falls and doing a book signing. Crowley and Heimerdinger both said the bookstore's location — right across from the Odyssey Theatre — made it an ideal location.

"We've been trying to get Chris to come to Twin Falls for years," Crowley said. "This was a perfect event for him to come and get the movie off the ground."

Although the film does deal with events and people from the Book of Mormon, it doesn't alienate anyone who is not familiar with the scriptures, Heimerdinger said. The focus of the movie is the adventures, Kerri and Brock have and the fun they take, not the religion. Most of Heimerdinger's family is

not LDS, and he tries to keep them in the back of his mind as he works.

"The audience has to care about the story," Heimerdinger said. "If they don't care about the story, they're not going to care about any kind of message in the film."

Magic Valley residents have responded positively to Heimerdinger's film. Brian Scott of Jerome and his wife, Anne, have been familiar with Heimerdinger's work for several years. The couple attended the book signing and the premiere, and Brian said he was impressed by the quality of the acting and the engaging story.

"It's an action adventure, but it was clean, which was a nice change for this day and age," Brian Scott said.

Judy Craig of Twin Falls also saw the movie opening weekend. Craig said she was drawn in by the characters, especially Brock and Kerri, and believes the story has universal appeal.

"I think it would be a great movie for parents and children to see together," Craig said.

Cast chosen for Oakley's 'Frog and Toad'

Times News

After auditions at Howells Opera House, the Oakley Valley Arts Council announced the cast of its upcoming production of "A Year with Frog and Toad": Aaron Martsch as Frog and Denny Davis as Toad.

Joyce Merrill, Jolene Smith and David Kozlowski will play several characters in this fun family musical.

Kent Evensen is director, Lori Wilson is assistant/musical director, Anna Lee Elkquist is choreographer and Amber Tribe is rehearsal pianist.

The production will be 7:30 p.m. on Feb. 29 and March 6-8, 10-11 and 13-15. A matinee will be 2 p.m. March 1.

All performances will be at Howells Opera House in Oakley. Tickets are \$8 and will be available to the public beginning Tuesday, call 677-2787 Monday through Saturday.



Looking for an audience?

Southern Idaho bands, singers and musicians may submit information about themselves in the Local Vocals section of www.Intelcok.com. The free submissions are searchable by the Web site's users. Entries with objectionable language will be removed.

For information: Pat Marcantonio at 735-3228.

KARAOKE CORNER

DAILY

Twin Falls
Karaoke, 8 p.m. to 1 a.m. Friday and Saturday and 9 p.m. to 1 a.m. Sunday through Thursday, at the Clover Klub Lounge, 402 Main Ave. N. No cover charge.

THURSDAY, JAN. 24

Twin Falls
Katwalk Karaoke, 9 p.m. at Kruger's Night Life, 121 Fourth Ave. S. No cover charge.

Pioneer Karaoke by Kim, 8:30 p.m. to 1 a.m. at the Pioneer Club, 1519 Kimberly Road. No cover charge.

Burley
Kroakers Karaoke, 9 p.m. to 1 a.m. at the Riverside, 157 W. U.S. Highway 30. Cover charge is \$2.

Declo
Karaoke by Lou Brown, 8 p.m. to midnight at Shakers, 826 Idaho Highway 81. No cover charge.

FRIDAY, JAN. 25

Twin Falls
Pioneer Karaoke by Kim, 8:30 p.m. to 1 a.m. at the Pioneer Club, 1519 Kimberly Road. No cover charge.

Burley
Karaoke, 9 p.m. to 1 a.m. at the 610 Club, 1054 Overland Ave. No cover charge.

Prepare for your chocolatey doom

Times-News

Pack a bib, because this event is going to make you drool.

The third annual Death by Chocolate will be held Jan. 31 at Radio Rondevo in downtown Twin Falls, featuring cocoa contenders in the cake, brownie, cookie, candy and unique dessert categories.

With 25,000 pieces of chocolate mixed and baked by local chefs, the 6-9 p.m. event will be a chocoloholic's delight.

Admission is \$10 per person in advance and \$15 at the door, with advance tickets sold at Everybody's Business in Twin Falls. There will be a no-hust bar and live bluegrass music by Strings Attached, and a silent

Rupert
Kroakers Karaoke, 9 p.m. to 1 a.m. at the Melody Bar, 502 Sixth St. No cover charge.

Warrior-be-a-Star Karaoke, 9 p.m. to 1 a.m. at the Blue Room, 613 Fremont. No cover charge.

SATURDAY, JAN. 26

Twin Falls
Pioneer Karaoke by Kim, 8:30 p.m. to 1 a.m. at the Pioneer Club, 1519 Kimberly Road. No cover charge.

Burley
Karaoke, 9 p.m. to 1 a.m. at the 610 Club, 1054 Overland Ave. No cover charge.

Kroakers Karaoke, 9 p.m. to 1 a.m. at the Riverside, 157 W. U.S. Highway 30. Cover charge is \$2.

Rupert
High Mountain Karaoke, 9 p.m. to 1 a.m. at the Blue Room, 613 Fremont. No cover charge.

Declo
Miller Time Karaoke, 9 p.m. to 1 a.m. at the Big Kahuna, 9 E. Main. No cover charge.

TUESDAY, JAN. 29

Burley
Kroakers Karaoke, 9 p.m. to 1 a.m. at Cheers, 163 W. U.S. Highway 30. No cover charge.

GET OUT!

Times-News
magivalley.com

winter adventure series

Coming this Sunday,
January 27

Your
West End
Tour Guide,
Melissa Davlin

auction and raffle throughout the evening. Proceeds from the event will go to local charities including Valley House and Salvation Army.

This year's chocolate participants are: Beacon Burger & Brew; Blue Lakes Country Club; Cold Stone Creamery; Costco; Crowley's Soda Fountain; CSI Culinary Students; Daisy's; Gretchen's Goodies; Hooked on Chocolates; Jim Bob's Bakery; Magic Valley High School; Pandora's; Rock Creek; Subway; The Cookie Basket; The White House; Heritage-Woodstone Living; and Zulu Bagels.

There's just a week left before the temptation to gorge will be overwhelming, so get on that treadmill now!

Events calendar

THURSDAY, JAN. 24

Poker/Twin Falls
Twin Falls Poker League will hold Texas Hold'em tournaments at 9 p.m. at Kruezer's Night Life. No entry fee. Kruezer's is at 121 Fourth Ave. S.

Lecture/Sun Valley

Erik Weihenmayer, the first blind climber to ascend Mount Everest, will speak about his experience at 7 p.m. at the Community School Theatre. Weihenmayer, who has completed some of the highest summits on each of the seven continents, wrote the book "Touch the World" in 2001. The book was made into an A&E movie, which aired in June 2006. He has also written "The Adaptive Advantage: Turning Everyday Struggles Into Everyday Greatness." Free. The School is at 181 Dalder Road.

Art/Ketchum

The Sun Valley Center for the Arts will hold a guided tour in English of the exhibition, "Tribajo Mexican/Mexican Works," at 5:30 p.m. at the center. The brochure for the exhibition is in English and Spanish, and admission is free. The Center is at 191 Fifth St. E.

Dance/Bolise

Idaho Dance Theatre presents "Rapid Transit," a new work by Maria Hansen, with a solo performance by Jennifer Gorman, a former company member. The performance will be at 8 p.m. at Boise State University's Special Event Center, 1800 University Dr. Tickets, which are \$26 for adults and \$12 for seniors, students and military, are available 331-9592 or at the door.

Carnival/McCall

The annual **McCall Winter Carnival** kicks off with events continuing through Feb. 3. Snow sculptures, dog races, and hairy leg contests are on the fun-packed schedule. Times, dates and locations of the events vary, so for information call the McCall Chamber of Commerce at (800) 260-5130 or visit mccallwintercarnival.com.

Cross/Salt Lake City

Brad Paisley will perform at 7:30 p.m. at EnergySolutions

Calendar deadlines

Don't miss your chance to tell southern Idaho about your adventures. The regular deadline for entries for the TNT entertainment calendar is 9 a.m. the Friday prior to publication. Submissions should be sent to Ramona Jones at ramona@magicalvalley.com.

Arts

Tickets, which are \$32.75 and \$48, are available at Ticketmaster.com. EnergySolutions is at 301 W. South Temple.

Lecture/JAN. 25

Friday/Twin Falls
The Brown Bag Lecture Series will be held from noon to 1 p.m. at the Twin Falls Public Library program room. The first lecture in the series will be on by Louis Atebery with "The Vardis Fisher I Know." The program is presented by the Magic Valley Arts Council, Twin Falls. Magic Valley Reads! and Idaho Humanities Council. The event is free and open to the public. Bring your lunch or pre-order a box lunch: \$24.99. Twin Falls library is at 301 Fourth Ave. W.

Planetarium/Twin Falls

The Faulkner Planetarium at the Herritt Center for Arts and Science on the College of Southern Idaho campus will present "Key Words" and "Saving the Night" with live music by Tom at 7 p.m.; and "Lynrd Skynrd: Fly On Free Bird" at 8:15 p.m. Tickets are \$4 for adults, \$3 for seniors, \$2 for students and \$9 for families.

Blues/Twin Falls

George Marsh Unplugged will perform 6:30-9:30 p.m. at Pandora's. No cover charge. Pandora's is at 516 Hansen St.

Country-rock/Twin Falls

Mixed Emotions will play from 8:30 p.m. to 12:30 a.m. at the Montana Steak House. The band features bass player Mike Gray, drummer Eddie Doty, guitarist Benny Pulgado and keyboardist Tony Pulgado. No cover charge. The Montana Steak House is at 1826 Canyon Creek Drive.

Dance/Bolise

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Poker/Twin Falls

Twin Falls Poker League tournaments at 9 p.m. at Kruezer's Night Life. No entry fee. Kruezer's is at 121 Fourth Ave. S.

Variety/Twin Falls

Martin! Night will be featured at Kruezer's Night Life. Doors open at 8 p.m. No cover charge for women; \$5 cover charge for men. Kruezer's is at 121 Fourth Ave. S.

Country/Jerome

Country Classics will play live music at the Jerome Senior River Eiks Lodge. Cover charge is \$5 per person or \$9 per couple. Everyone is welcome. Dinner available 6-9 p.m. The lodge is at 412 E. 200 S. on U.S. Highway 93.

Country/Declo

The Fugitives will play from 9 p.m. to 1 a.m. at Shakers. No cover charge. Shakers is at 826 Idaho Highway 81.

Variety/Burley

Kraokers DJ featured from 9 p.m. to 1 a.m. at the Riverside. Cover charge is \$2. Riverside is at 197 W. U.S. Highway 30.

Bluesgrass/Ketchum

Hal Trick will play a mix of traditional bluegrass and original songs 6:30-9:30 p.m. at Papa Henri's Hideaway. No cover. The Hideaway is at 310 S. Main St.

Dance/Bolise

Idaho Dance Theatre presents "Rapid Transit," a new work by Maria Hansen, with a solo performance by Jennifer Gorman, a former company member. The performance will be at 8 p.m. at Boise State University's Special Event Center, 1800 University Dr. Tickets, which are \$26 for adults and \$12 for seniors, students and military, are available 331-9592 or at the door.

Rock/Bolise

Roger McGuinn (formerly of The Byrds) will perform at 8 p.m. at the Capitol Theatre. Tickets, which are \$34 and \$37, are available at the Egyptian and 387-1273 between noon and 7 p.m. The Egyptian is at 700 W. Main St.

Dance/Burley

A dance for all ages will be held from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at Golden Heritage Senior Center, featuring western music played by Jesse Vaughn and David Bean. Refreshments will be served. The senior center is at 2421 Overland Ave. Information: 878-8646.

Theater/Burley

Burley Bobcat Theatre presents the mystery thriller "Walk Until Dark" at 8 p.m. at the King Fine Arts Little Theatre. General admission is \$6 for adults, \$3 for children under 12 and \$18 for families (6 people). Tickets are available at www.burleytheater.com for more information. Call 878-KING.

Carnival/McCall

The annual **McCall Winter Carnival** continues with daily events through Feb. 3. Snow sculptures, dog races, and hairy leg contests are on the fun-packed schedule. Times, dates and locations of the events vary, so for information call the McCall Chamber of Commerce at (800) 260-5130 or visit mccallwintercarnival.com.

Planetarium/Twin Falls

The Faulkner Planetarium at the Herritt Center for Arts and Science on the College of Southern Idaho campus will present "Planet Patrol: Solar System Stakeout" at 2 p.m.; "The Great Migration of the Stars" at 4 p.m.; "Key Words" and "Saving the Night" with live sky tour at 7 p.m.; and "Fly Free Bird: Dark Side of the Moon" at 8:15 p.m. Tickets are \$4 for adults, \$3 for seniors, \$2 for students and \$9 for families.

Gospel/Twin Falls

Tri Grows appears with Magic Valley Jubilee at 8 a.m. on KART 1400 AM every Saturday.

Fundraiser/Twin Falls

The 19th annual **Freeze Frame Dance show** will be held at 2 and 7 p.m. at the College of Southern Idaho Fine Arts Center auditorium. Live studies from throughout southern Idaho will participate; 5,6,7,8 Dance Studios, Centre for Dance, Footlight Dance Center, Julie's Danceworks, and Julie's Jazzworks, Molsons School of Dance, Nielson's School of Dance, Rocky Top Stage and The Dance Center. New this year is the addition of area high school dance teams from Filer, Jerome, Malco and Twin Falls. Each show will feature different dancers and routines. Proceeds will fund scholarships for dancers to attend the Idaho State Dance Camp in July. Tickets are \$6 for adults and \$3 for senior citizens and children; or for both shows, \$10 for adults and \$5 for senior citizens and children. Tickets are available at OS Stage in Twin Falls or at the door. Information: Centre Stage, 678-3970 or OS Stage at 735-0904.

Fundraiser/Twin Falls

The Twin Falls YMCA 5th annual dinner auction, celebrating Mardi Gras, will be held at 6 p.m. at the Radio Rodeo. Danny Marona will be master of ceremonies. Tickets, which are \$40 per person, \$75 per couple and \$25 for youth (17 and under), are available at the YMCA office, 400 E. Broadway, Canyon Rim YMCA or the YMCA/City Hall. Information: 733-4384. Radio Rodeo is at 241 Main Ave. W.

Blues/Twin Falls

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Theater/Burley

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Winter games/Albion

The Winter Games of Idaho kicks off at noon at Pomerelle with the giant slalom race performance by Jennifer Gorman, a former company member. The performance will be at 8 p.m. at Boise State University's Special Event Center, 1800 University Dr. Tickets, which are \$26 for adults and \$12 for

Snow sculptures and hairy legs

What kind of event brings these two things together? The Great Snow McCall Winter Carnival, of course. Compete in a variety of contests, or just watch the fun from the sidelines.

Country-rock/Shoshone

The Traveless will play from 9 p.m. to 1 a.m. at Columbia from Horse Saloon, No cover charge. The Columbia is at 210 N. Rail St.

Country-rock/Twin Falls

Mixed Emotions will play from 8:30 p.m. to 12:30 a.m. at the Montana Steak House. The band features bass player Mike Gray, drummer Eddie Doty, guitarist Benny Pulgado and keyboardist Tony Pulgado. No cover charge. The Montana Steak House is at 1826 Canyon Creek Drive.

Dance/Twin Falls

Dance Party will be held at 8 p.m. at Kruezer's Night Life. Doors open at 8 p.m. Cover charge is \$3. Kruezer's is at 121 Fourth Ave. S.

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Video games/Filer

Halo 3 Tournaments will be held at the Filer Digital Coliseum at 1 p.m. (free for all) and 8 p.m. (free for all for single players and 5 p.m. (two-person teams, single elimination). Registration for doubles tournament is limited to the first 16 teams. Cash

THURSDAY-FEB. 7

prizes. Cost is \$12 per person at the door or \$10 if pre-registered. Information: 733-6228, www.filer.com or www.mysport.com/tillecc. Filer CD is at 303 Main St.

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Country-rock/Twin Falls

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FRIDAY

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Dance/Twin Falls

Dance Party will be held at 8 p.m. at Kruezer's Night Life. Doors open at 8 p.m. Cover charge is \$3. Kruezer's is at 121 Fourth Ave. S.

Blues/Twin Falls

George Marsh Unplugged will perform 6:30-9:30 p.m. at Pandora's. No cover charge. Pandora's is at 516 Hansen St.

Theater/Burley

Burley Bobcat Theatre presents the mystery thriller "Walk Until Dark" at 8 p.m. at the King Fine Arts Little Theatre. General admission is \$6 for adults, \$3 for children under 12 and \$18 for families (6 people). Tickets are available at the door. For more information, call 878-KING.

Winter games/Albion

The Winter Games of Idaho kicks off at noon at Pomerelle with the giant slalom race performance by Jennifer Gorman, a former company member. The performance will be at 8 p.m. at Boise State University's Special Event Center, 1800 University Dr. Tickets, which are \$26 for adults and \$12 for

FRIDAY

prizes. Cost is \$12 per person at the door or \$10 if pre-registered. Information: 733-6228, www.filer.com or www.mysport.com/tillecc. Filer CD is at 303 Main St.

Country-rock/Shoshone

The Traveless will play from 9 p.m. to 1 a.m. at Columbia from Horse Saloon, No cover charge. The Columbia is at 210 N. Rail St.

Country-rock/Twin Falls

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SATURDAY

prizes. Cost is \$12 per person at the door or \$10 if pre-registered. Information: 733-6228, www.filer.com or www.mysport.com/tillecc. Filer CD is at 303 Main St.

Country-rock/Shoshone

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MOTION ON DISPLAY

'Freeze Frame' dance recital set for Saturday

BY COREEN HART

Times-Tribune correspondent

Want to see several hundred Magic Valley dance students in one spectacular show? Nine studios and five high schools will participate in the 19th annual "Freeze Frame" on Saturday, making this the largest dance recital in recent Twin Falls history.

"It's bigger than ever, and I recommend buying tickets in advance to avoid the long line at the door," said On Stage owner Lari Ward. "All the dance studios are participating, and the high schools have all accepted invitations to their dance teams."

She said there will be dance styles not seen before in the recital's history.

"We'll be seeing military, ethnic, ballet, tap, lyrical, flamenco, clogging, you name it," said Jennifer Sager of Burley's Centre Stage, who produces Burley's annual ballet, "The Nutcracker."

Heather Barnes, who studied dance in Burley and at the College of Southern Idaho, coaches Filer's high school dance team.

"Our team is only two years old, but the girls have had to learn a lot very quickly," she said. "They have worked really hard, and I know it will be a good experience for them."

Her team will present a jazz number and a hip-hop piece.

One dancer is Kandice Peters, who also works at On Stage, a dancewear specialty shop. She helps customers select their shoes, leotards and other dance necessities.



Photo by JUSTIN JACKSON/Times-Tribune

Jessica Droebeck, a dancer at Julie's Jazzworks, practices Tuesday afternoon in Twin Falls. About 400 Magic Valley dancers are expected to participate in the Freeze Frame recital Saturday.

"I feel like dance gives me something healthy to do after school," Peters said. "It keeps me in shape, and I like it. It just also makes me feel more like a part of the school."

Cassia Myers, instructor at Julie's Jazzworks of Twin Falls, said her students will do five numbers. There will be two jazz

pieces, two tap numbers and a lyrical dance.

"Lyrical is a fluid dance form that is kind of like ballet, but the dancer responds to the emotion of the music rather than learning a set routine," she said. "It's very intense, very beautiful."

One of her dancers is Kith Carpenter, 15, who has studied

dance for 12 years. She dances, like most students, for the love of music and movement. She will perform in a jazz number called "Le Disco" for Julie's Jazzworks, but also will dance with the Twin Falls High School dance team.

"I tell people it is my sport," Carpenter said. "Other people have basketball or other sports. I dance. I love showing what I can do. Competition is good for us as a team, because we can show what we can do, what our school is made of, what we've worked so hard for. We show our school spirit."

Shannon Edwards of Rocky Top Cloggers said there will be 50 dancers from her studio. They're polishing a Spanish number that showcases 32 dancers including nine young matadors in capes, and she has choreographed a lighthearted piece in-

spired by a "Pirates of the Caribbean" medley. The pirates will have plenty of action, including sword fighting and yo-ho-ho-ing.

"It's not only fun but challenging to adapt clogging to other styles of music," Edwards said. "This show is a great opportunity for our students to see oth-



Ashley McBride, a dancer with Julie's Jazzworks dance studio, practices a routine with the rest of her class Tuesday at Julie's dance studio in Twin Falls.

"Freeze Frame"

What? Approximately 400 dance students, including those from 5,6,7,8 Dance Studios, Centre Stage Studios, Footlight Dance Centre, Julie's Jazzworks, Julie's Jazzworks, Motion's School of Dance, Nielsen's School of Dance, Rocky Top Cloggers and The Dance Center.

Teams from Minico, Filer, Jerome and Twin Falls high schools are performing for the first time by special invitation.

Where: The College of Southern Idaho Fine Arts Center auditorium
When: 2 p.m. and 7 p.m. Saturday

Tickets: \$6 for adults and \$3 for senior citizens and children. A ticket to attend both performances is \$10 for adults and \$5 for senior citizens and children. Buy tickets at the door or at On Stage in Twin Falls.

Whom It benefits: Proceeds go to provide scholarships for the Summer 2008 Dance Camp, a two-week CSI-hosted teaching program which includes outstanding imported faculty.

See it later: Order a DVD from Luis Vargas at Midnight Productions, (800) 6-SOUND-6. The discs will be \$16-20, depending on the length of the show.

er dancers—their style of music, dance, putting on makeup, doing their hair. This is my favorite recital of the year. There is so much fantastic art."

She said all the studio owners have jobs beyond organizing and teaching their students. They will be selling tickets at the door—don't forget to buy yours!

Capitol Steps: Equal opportunity offenders

BY KAREN BOSSICK
For the Times-News

Elaina Newport and her co-workers don't watch the presidential primaries with the same criteria that most Americans do.

"We wake up every morning thinking, 'Alright, who's funny and what rhymes?'" says Newport.

Recap the benefits Sunday when the Capitol Steps comedy group performs at 7 p.m. at the Community Campus Auditorium in Halley.

The satirical comedy group will present a fresh look at the presidential primaries, as well as other current events through funny songs and skits.

The timing couldn't be better, points out Dan Markin, director of performing arts in the Sun Valley Center for the Arts: "By Jan. 27 Democrats and Republicans in Iowa, New Hampshire, Michigan, Nevada and South

'The Capitol Steps'

When: 7 p.m. Sunday

Where: Community Campus Auditorium in Halley

Tickets: \$25 for Sun Valley Center for the Arts members; \$30 for non-members, available at www.sunvalleycenter.org, by calling 726-9431, ext. 10, or at The Center in Ketchum.

Rating: Is the performance suitable for children? "The Capitol Steps' language is a lot cleaner than Dick Cheney's that's for sure," says Elaina Newport, member of the group. But some routines may include sexual innuendo.

Want a taste? Visit www.cap-steps.com to hear streaming audio of several parodying songs.

Carolina will have held primaries or caucuses with Florida coming up on the 29th and more than 20 states scheduled to vote on Feb. 5.



The Capitol Steps

The Capitol Steps got its start in 1981 when Newport and a couple other staffers for Sen. Charles Percy were planning entertainment for a Christmas party.

They considered staging a nativity party, Newport recalls, but

couldn't find three wise men or a virgin in the entire Congress. So they created a handful of song parodies and skits based on the headlines of the day.

"Working 9 to 10" poked fun at then-President Ronald Reagan's penchant for taking a nap, and

"Mine Every Mountain," was directed toward Interior Secretary James Watt.

The act proved so popular that they were immediately booked for other Christmas parties on Capitol Hill. But, still, they had low fear they might lose their jobs.

"Republicans are not known for their sense of humor," said co-founder Bill Strauss, before his death in December following an eight-year bout with pancreatic cancer.

All changed when the actor they worked for lost his bid for reelection.

The then-jobless staffers named themselves the Capitol Steps after a ryst that then-Congressman John Kenneth had with his wife on the Capitol steps. They began performing regularly at D.C.'s Shoreham Hotel.

Please see CAPITOL, Page 14

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 Carlos Mencia, Feb. 23rd (2 Shows)
 Howie Mandel, Feb. 29th
 Night Ranger, Mar. 1st
 Michael Bolton, Mar. 7th
 Craig Morgan, Mar. 8th
 Sara Evans, Mar. 14th
 Glen & Debby Campbell, Mar. 15th

Restless Heart, Mar. 21st
 Terry Fator, Mar. 22nd
 Travis Tritt, Mar. 28th
 Bill Cosby, Apr. 4th (2 Shows)
 Rick Springfield, Apr. 5th
 Tony Orlando, Apr. 11th
 Sinbad, Apr. 18th
 Neal McCoy, Apr. 19th
 Wayne Newton, Apr. 25th
 Lewis Black, Apr. 26th
 Trace Adkins, May 2nd
 Billy Ray Cyrus, May 3rd
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Capitol *Continued from page 13*

They went national, appearing on such shows as "20/20,"

"Nightline," "All Things Considered" and the "Today Show." And they recorded albums — 27 so far, including "Four More Years In the Bush League," "Papa's Got a Brand New Baghdad" and "Between Iraq and a Hard Place."

"Today the Capitol Steps is made up of five groups of five, most of whom have worked on Capitol Hill. They've performed for five presidents — "six if you include Hillary," Newport quips. And one group performs every Friday and Saturday at the Ronald Reagan Building in Washington, D.C.

"Though the founding group was predominantly Republican, they've taken pains to employ Democrats in a bid to become "equal opportunity offenders."

They've skewered Idaho Sen. Larry Craig with "Top Three Times" done to the tune of "Knock Three Times." They've taken on the diaper-wearing astronaut, airport security, baseball's steroid scandal, Enron, Osama and Paris Hilton.

"They've even done a Christmas album, skewering President Bush with "Do You Fear What I Fear?," taking on the National Rifle Association with "Gun Nuts Basking They Can Open Fire" and poking fun at the American Civil Liberties Union with "Away With the Manager."

Former President Bill Clinton represented the Capitol Steps' Golden Age, Newport says. Not only did his administration have Monica Lewinsky, but there was also Surgeon General Ioseflyn

Warning: Former Surgeon General C. Everett Koop says that the Capitol Steps can cause your sides to split.

— From Capsteps.com

Elder's insistence that school kids could avoid sexually transmitted diseases by masturbating. John Kerry was great, she adds, because it's so easy to find things that rhyme with his name.

George W. "has been very good to us," inspiring such songs as "Bomb Iran" to the tune of the Beach Boys' "Barbara Ann," Newport acknowledges. But the first four years of his administration were very difficult because everyone in power was Republican.

"It's always funnier when you can pick on people from both parties," she says.

The Capitol Steps has found no shortage of material in the current presidential primary throng. Their signature song for presidential candidate Mitt Romney is "Help Me Fake It to the Right," done to the tune of "Help Me Make It Through the Night." John Edwards easily lent himself to "I Feel Pretty" with his \$400 haircut.

And then there's Hillary.

"Women have never gotten to play a president before. We look forward to that," she says.

"What's more, it also evokes the idea of Bill as first spouse with an apron on. And what could be funnier than that!

"The thing is: No candidate is going to solve all our problems so we might as well get a good laugh out of them."

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And then there's Hillary.

What's playing

TWIN FALLS

TWIN CINEMA

"National Treasure: Book of Secrets"
 "The Bucket List"
 "One Missed Call"
 "Alvin and the Chipmunks"
 "Al Legend"
 "Cloverfield"
 "The Kite Runner"
 "Enchanted"
 "Atanarjuat"
 "The Pirates Who Don't Do Anything: A VeggieTales Movie"
 "In the Name of the King: A Dungeon Siege Tale"
 "27 Dresses"
 "June"

ODYSSEY THEATER

"The Great Debaters"
 "No Country for Old Men"
 "P.S. I Love You"
 "First Sunday"
 "Mad Money"
 "The Orphanage"
 "Passage to Zanzibar"

THE ORPHANIM

"Sweeney Todd: The Demon Barber of Fleet Street"

HAILEY/KETCHUM

SKITIME CINEMAS

"June"
 "The Kite Runner"

BIG WOOD CINEMA

"27 Dresses"
 "Cloverfield"
 "No Country for Old Men"
 "The Bucket List"

MAGIC LANTERN

"There Will Be Blood"
 "The Bucket List"
 "Cloverfield"
 "Atanarjuat"

SUN VALLEY OPERA HOUSE

"National Treasure: Book of Secrets"
 "Sun Valley Semester"
 Warren Miller Ski Films

BURLEY

CENTURY CINEMA

"Cloverfield"
 "The Bucket List"
 "27 Dresses"
 "Mad Money"
 "P.S. I Love You"

GUILLET THEATRE

"August Rush"

JEROME

JEROME CINEMA

"National Treasure: Book of Secrets"
 "Cloverfield"
 "27 Dresses"
 "The Bucket List"

Movie nuggets

Los Angeles Times

- **"Cloverfield"** — Five young New Yorkers throw their friend a going-away party the night that a monster the size of a skyscraper descends upon the city. Told from the point of view of their video camera, the film is a document of their attempt to survive the event. With Michael Stahl-David, Mike Vogel and Odette Yustman. Directed by Matt Reeves. PG-13 for violence, terror and disturbing images.
- **"Mad Money"** — Diane Keaton, Queen Latifah and Katie Holmes star in a comedy about three ordinary women who form an unlikely friendship and decide to rob one of the most secure banks in the world. Directed by Callic Khouri. PG-13 for sexual material and language, and brief drug references.
- **"27 Dresses"** — Katherine Heigl stars as a woman who reevaluates her perennial bridesmaid status when her little sister wins the heart of the man Jane has had a secret crush on in this romantic comedy. With James Marsden, Edward Burns and Malin Akerman. Directed by Anne Fletcher. PG-13 for language, some innuendo and sexuality.
- **"Atanarjuat"** — As directed by Joe Wright and acted with fervor by Keira Knightley and James McAvoy, this is one of the few adaptations that gives a splendid novel (by Ian McEwan) the film it deserves. An assured and deeply moving work, "Atanarjuat" is at once one of the most affecting of contemporary love stories and a potent meditation on the power of fiction to destroy and create, to divide and possibly heal. It is about the effects it young girl's false accusations have on her lover sister (Knightley) and her older sister (McAvoy). (2:03) R for disturbing war images, language and some sexuality.
- **"June"** — Ellery Page plays a pregnant teen who tries to find

the right set of adoptive parents for her unborn baby in this seriocomic tale from writer Diablo Cody and director Jason Reitman. With Jason Bateman, Jennifer Garner and Allison Janney. PG-13 for mature thematic material, sexual content and language.

- **"The Kite Runner"** — This film, an epic tale charting Afghanistan's history from the end of the monarchy through the brutal Taliban rule, is a house divided against itself. The Marc Forster-directed version of the Khaled Hosseini novel does one part of its Afghanistan story — childhood sequences in a peaceful Kabul — so well that its success underlines what's lacking in what remains. (2:02) PG-13 for strong thematic material including the sexual assault of a child, violence and brief strong language.

- **"National Treasure: Book of Secrets"** — In this sequel to "National Treasure," Nicolas Cage returns as the "treasure-protecting" Benjamin Franklin Gates, positioned as a contemporary Indiana Jones tap-dancing his way through a cornucopia of U.S. history, myth and legend and a heavy dose of conspiracy theory. Even if you're fully prepared to accept the franchise's preposterous plot twists and connect-the-dots historiography (which can be admittedly clever at times), this edition wears out its welcome pretty quickly. Everything has been significantly amped up — bigger, louder, further removed from reality — but it also feels that much more forced. (2:11) PG for some violence and action.

- **"Sweeney Todd: The Demon Barber of Fleet Street"** — Director Tim Burton and Johnny Depp team for the sixth time in an adaptation of the Stephen Sondheim-Hugh Wheeler musical about a murderous London barber. It is graphic bloody violence.

- **"There Will Be Blood"** — This joint venture between actor Daniel Day-Lewis and director Paul Thomas Anderson might be the most incendiary combina-

tion since the Molotov cocktail. This *morality play* set in the early days of California's oil boom can be over the top and excessive, but it also creates considerable heat and light. (2:39) R for some violence.

- **"The Bucket List"** — This travelogue of triteness is the story of two older men with terminal medical conditions. It arrived on Christmas Day to give us to live life to its fullest and leave no cliché unturned. Its watchability almost entirely depends on your tolerance of Morgan Freeman and Jack Nicholson doing the things that made them stars and won them Oscars, only much more so. (1:37) PG-13 for language, including a sexual reference.

- **"Enchanted"** — This is one film that lives up to its name. An adroit combination of wised-up and happily-ever-after, its story of an animation princess thrust into New York's gritty reality gently mocks the mighty Disney fantasy machine without losing the core of the franchise's family appeal. Amy Adams is as good as it gets in the princess role. (1:47) PG for some scary images and mild innuendo.

- **"One Missed Call"** — People begin receiving cellphone calls that broadcast their final moments, and it's up to a traumatized woman (Shannyn Sossamon) and a police detective (Elijah Wood) to solve the mystery before they get calls themselves. With Ana Claudia Talancón, Ray Wise and Margaret Cho. Screenplay by Andrew Klavan, based on a story by Miwako Daima and Yasushi Akimoto. PG-13 for intense sequences of violence and terror, frightening images, some sexual material and thematic elements.

- **"The Orphanage"** — Horrors-effects wizard Guillermo del Toro produces Izabella Yonova's first feature, a creepy, atmospheric and surprisingly poignant ghost story that doesn't really resemble his films. Thirty-year-old after leaving the small orphanage where she spent her first, happy years, Laura (Belén Rueda) returns to the house with her husband, Carlos

(Fernando Cayo), and her young son, Simon (Roger Prince), with the intention of starting a school for sick and disabled children. When her son disappears, however, she finds herself pulled back over her own past and the events that led to the closing of the orphanage after her departure. (1:40) R for disturbing content.

- **"Alvin and the Chipmunks"** — Don't call it a comeback. The Chipmunks, those high-frequency crooners of yore, luridly even went away — they released music and videos right up through 2004. Now the rambunctious rodents are the latest franchise to get a reboot, bouncing and warbling through multiplexes in "Alvin and the Chipmunks," a live-action/computer-generated holiday movie aimed straight at kids. And, dang it, the little animated rodents are cute. (1:31) PG for some mild rude humor.

- **"I Am Legend"** — This film is ostensibly based on Richard Matheson's much-adapted 1956 science-fiction novel about a last man on Earth living among vampires, but the latest version, written and produced by Akiva Goldsman, directed by Francis Lawrence and starring Will Smith, has a lot more in common with Danny Boyle's "28 Days Later." In fact, "Legend" is "28 Days" on steroids. Or on Hollywood, which amounts to the same thing. A doomsday scenario wrought by scientists trying to cure cancer (those meddling do-gooders), the movie imagines an apocalypse in the form of a genetically engineered "virus that mutates and turns the world's population into zombies. (1:40) PG-13 for intense sequences of sci-fi action and violence.

- **"In the Name of the King"** — A simple faulty man (Jason Statham) becomes a reluctant warrior after an army of murderous beasts commanded by an evil sorcerer (Ray Liotta) ransacks his peaceful village and captures his wife (Claire Forlan). With John Hays-Davies, Iain Pirman and Ben Reynolds. Directed by Uwe Boll. PG-13 for intense battle sequences.

Festival

Grab the future by the horns

Elko festival promotes future of ranching in the West

BY JARED DURBACH
For The Times-News

ELKO — "The New West Grabbing The Future By The Horns" isn't just a theme; the National Cowboy Poetry Gathering has applied to this year's event. It's a frame of mind more and more people are adopting in the face of a threatened way of life.

Many factors threaten the future of ranching — economics, environmental policies and increasing globalization among them. Without the next generation to carry on the proud ranching tradition, the family ranch will soon be no more.

Statistics indicate there's a move by ranching youth to more urban areas, answering a call to the luscious and bustle. There are some youths, however, who choose to continue the traditions associated with ranching.

Oscar Anker, 16, is one of these. Anker is among the few young performers at this year's gathering. He specializes in reciting poetry of "real, old-time cowboys," as he puts it. Although he hasn't confirmed whether he'll take the

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plunge into writing poetry of his own in the near future. He has confirmed his dedication to a life on the back of a horse. Anker lives with veteran poet and horseman Boss Knox in Tucson, Ariz., where Anker works with a few outfits at starting colts for more extensive training. For him, this kind of work is in his blood.

"I grew up on ranches my whole life," Anker said. "I've cowboyed with quite a few. My dad worked and helped on ranches when he could." For Anker, being a cowboy is more than just another job.

"It's sort of a mindset and a lifestyle," he said.

Anker said the gathering helps promote a realistic view of ranching in the eyes of the public.

"The cowboy poetry helps people see how it's done and that it's still alive," Anker said. "Sometimes it's funny; sometimes it's sad, but it's telling a story."



Cowboy poet Paul Zarzycki of Montana shouts out a poem for the crowd in honor of the opening of the E.L. Wiegand Gallery last January at the Western Folklife Center. This year's Cowboy Poetry Gathering begins Thursday.

Ann Johnson/The Daily Free Press

author and speaker Dan Dagget is this year's keynote speaker. Dagget has been involved with environmental and conservation organizations for the past, but his focus now is on consulting to improve understanding of land stewardship and sustainability.

According to Dagget, not only is it possible for ranchers and en-

vironmentalists to work together, but they should work together for mutual benefit.

Dagget said kicking ranchers off the land is potentially devastating because it has multiple effects on flora and fauna that could cause more problems than those that already exist.

Like it or not, there is a connection between cattle and the

ranch. Dagget also said people often forget that cattle are natural, too.

"Cows are natural when compared to a tractor or a hydro-scooter," he said.

This story first appeared in the Elko Daily Free Press, a Nevada newspaper affiliated with the Times-News.

Ian Tyson to headline at Cowboy Poetry Gathering

BY JOHN SENTS
For The Times-News

Throughout most of its 24 years of success and growth, two things have held true at the National Cowboy Poetry Gathering in Elko: The winds will blow cold and Ian Tyson will play.

"He is someone we always want to have involved (in the gathering) because he is a true poet," said Meg Glaser, the Western

Folklife Center's artistic director. "I think he speaks for the cowboy community very well ... It is hard to think of a gathering without Ian."

The "cowboy crowd" and music lovers in general have three opportunities this year to catch Tyson, one of the gathering's most popular mainstays.

Two of these shows are sold out, but as of Jan. 22, tickets remain for "Five Decades

of Performance," scheduled for 11 a.m. Feb. 1.

Through the years, Tyson has participated in every gathering save one — when he sang in the 1988 Winter Olympics in Canada.

While he no longer plays Elko with a dance band, he is still a crowd favorite. His style of songwriting has always remained true to the ranching way of life.

"Ian is to cowboy music what Mozart was to classical music," said Boss Knox, a southeast Arizona cowboy, poet and friend of Tyson's. "He knows what he is writing about ... It is one of the shows cowboys don't want to miss."

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