

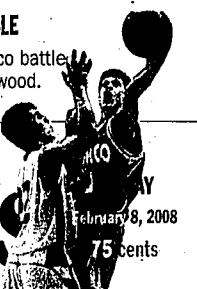
NEW PERSPECTIVE OF THE MOON
Snowshoeing across Craters of the Moon gives visitors new views.

UP TO BUSH
President likely to approve economic stimulus bill.
NATION, A5

T.F. TUSSLE
Twin Falls, Minico battle on the hardwood.
SPORTS, B1

Good Morning
High: 39
Low: 30
Mostly cloudy, starting to dry. Details B8

Times-News



February 8, 2008
75 cents

MagicValley.com

Budget writers raise 'yellow flag' as tax revenue slumps

By John Miller
Associated Press writer
BOISE — Gov. C.L. "Butch" Otter's budget plans for fiscal 2009 may have to be pared back after tax revenue in January took a dip, causing lawmakers Thursday to call for more spending restraint.
The first casualty in Otter's \$3.2 billion budget proposal could be what he calls his top priority, to pay state employees \$78 million more in a

package that boosts their salaries while reducing their benefits. The revenue slump may also further quell enthusiasm for Superintendent of Public Instruction Tom Luna's teacher pay proposal, estimated at more than \$45 million.
At January's end, Idaho tax revenue was \$1.6 billion, or about \$36 million behind forecasts for the current fiscal year ending in June. Until now, tax revenue for 2008 had

Idaho Legislature 2008
been above expectations. Lawmakers hope to have new fiscal 2009 revenue projections by next Friday, in time for budget-setting hearings that are to start three days later.

The biggest culprit behind the downturn was lower individual income tax receipts, \$29 million behind expectations. Sales tax collections missed the mark by \$5.6 million, likely the result of recession fears that dented holiday spending, state economists said.
The tax revenue figures reflect December activity. Though economists say they're uncertain if the

decline will continue or intensify, Sen. Dean Cameron, R-Rupert and chairman of the Joint Finance Appropriations

— Rep. Dean Cameron, R-Rupert
Please see **REVENUE**, Page A3

"While we're not raising the panic flag or the red flag, we are certainly raising the orange or yellow flag. We need to be a little bit cautious."



A truck drives through a large puddle of water formed by melting snow south of Twin Falls Thursday afternoon.

Street crews unclog drains to avert flooding

Winter trash buildup, melting snow keep workers busy
By Andrea Gates
Times-News writer
Small rivers of dirty water trickled and flowed down concrete drains as snow warmed to slush Thursday afternoon along the curbs of Jerome and Twin Falls.
Potential flooding was averted, properties

were protected and city street crews are the ones to thank.
They were out in full force Thursday — during times of snowfall and melt — clearing trash out of drains, and removing snow and ice.
The conditions left a 14-man Jerome city street crew quite busy.
"Last year wasn't too bad. This is the worst probably in three years or so," said Jerome Public Works Director Walt Appell.
He said crews Thursday cleared out drains in town, while grates pulled ice from streets.

INSIDE:
Baby found alive and tornado debris in Tennessee. See page A4
Street Department, which also has a 14 person crew.
If drains weren't cleared of trash or ice then flooding could result.
Twin Falls crews will probably fill some pot-

holes today, which are connected to inclement weather and traffic wear on roads, said Stephens.
As temperatures rise and fall and snow falls and melts, residents are encouraged to move vehicles off the street if possible.
"It makes it easier to get through with plows," said Appell. "It's been a busy two weeks."
While snow was melting around Twin Falls and Jerome, the Mini-Cassia, Camas Prairie

Please see **WEATHER**, Page A3

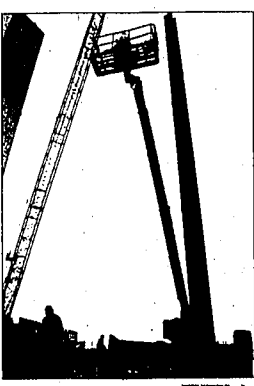
Feds change course on Idaho trout listing
New protection policy angers enviro groups
By Matt Christensen
Times-News writer
The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service announced Thursday it will reconsider an earlier decision not to list a species of Idaho trout under the federal Endangered Species Act.
The change stems from a 2007 settlement agreement with an environmental group and agency rule changes that allow the service to consider listing a species threatened in portions of its habitat, rather than over its entire range, the agency said.
Fish and Wildlife officials say the rule change could result in more species being listed under the federal protection act.
But environmentalists disagree with the government's interpretation, which stemmed from last year's

"We're on schedule and on budget." — Jeff Hull, St. Luke's architecture and construction director

WORK ON NEW ST. LUKE'S TAKES OFF

First above-ground structural work begins for T.F. hospital

By Nate Poppino
Times-News writer
St. Luke's Magic Valley Regional Medical Center is slowly rising, one steel beam at a time.
After months of excavation, the \$170 million, 600,000 square-foot facility to replace the hospital's current Addison Avenue West location began to grow vertically Wednesday with the first steel beams placed for its framework.
Work began this week will form the hospital's inpatient tower and central plant, St. Luke's architecture and construction director Jeff Hull said Wednesday. The four-story building will go up in three phases, and the framework for the diagnostics and treatment section and the medical office building should take shape by the fall, he said.
"We're on schedule and on budget," he said.
The building at Grandview Drive and Pole Line Road is one of several large projects in the city, and was broken into pieces to ease the burden on contractors, architects and hospital administrators themselves. In some ways, that has complicated things, Hull said. For example, the city of Twin Falls requires three different building permits for each piece. But by doing things this way, St. Luke's staff can better plan, and bids on the various pieces remain low enough for locals to participate.
"If we were to try and wait until the entire campus was designed and detailed, (the bid packages) would be in the tens of millions of



Employees of the Boise Steel Erectors, a subcontractor of St. Luke's Magic Valley Regional Medical Center, secure the first column of structural steel which will be part of the inpatient Bed Tower Wednesday afternoon in Twin Falls. Each 50-foot column weighs more than five tons.

dollars," he said.
As it is, Hull has already thrown quite a bit of money about. Of \$10 million in work so far, Magic Valley contractors such as K&T Steel of

Please see **ST. LUKE'S**, Page A3

McCain seals GOP nomination as Romney suspends campaign

By Liz Sidoti
Associated Press writer
WASHINGTON — John McCain effectively sealed the Republican presidential nomination on Thursday as chief rival Mitt Romney suspended his faltering campaign. "I must now stand aside, for our party and our country," Romney told conservatives.
"If I fight on in my campaign, all the way to the convention, I would forestall the launch of a national campaign and make it more likely that Senator Clinton or Obama would win. And in this time of war, I simply cannot let my campaign be a part of aiding a sur-render to terror," Romney told the Conservative Political Action Conference in Washington.



Former Massachusetts Gov. Mitt Romney addresses the Conservative Political Action Conference, Thursday, in Washington, where he announced he was suspending his presidential campaign.

Please see **ROMNEY**, Page A3

At Your Service directory	E12	Classifieds	E1-12	Horoscope	D5	Mutual funds	D5	Sports	B1-6
Bridge	E11	Comics	C6-7	Jumble	E9	Nation	A4-5	Sudoku	E3
Business	D4	Crossword	E10	Magic	E11	Outlawes	C2	Weather	B6
Calendar	A2	Dear Abby	C7	Movies	C3, C5	Opinion	A6-7	World	B8

TODAY'S FORECAST

TWIN FALLS

Today Tonight Saturday



Mostly cloudy, starting to dry

High 39



Partly to mostly cloudy

Low 30



Fading clouds, no new moisture

39/26

MINI-CASSIA

Today: Blustery with a fading threat of snow. High low to middle 30s

Tonight: Partly to mostly cloudy. Low to 20s

Tomorrow: Cool with increasing sun. High's middle to upper 30s

Complete weather report: See page B6

TODAY'S HAPPENINGS

ARTS AND ENTERTAINMENT

Disney's "High School Musical," presented by the Mount Harrison Heritage Foundation, 7:30 p.m., King Fine Arts Center, Burley, \$10 reserved seats, \$8 and \$5 general seats, 678-6688.

A dance for all ages, featuring old western music played by Jesse Vaughn and David Bean, 7 to 10 p.m., Golden Heritage Senior Center, 242 Overland Ave., Burley, \$5, refreshments served, 878-8646.

CHURCH

Lenten Luncheon, with homemade soups, sandwiches, pie and drinks, St. Jerome's Church, 216 Second Ave. E., Jerome, \$5, everyone welcome, 324-3129 or 324-8794.

CLUBS AND ORGANIZATIONS

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

FAMILY

Traditional Storytime, stories and songs for preschoolers, 10:30 a.m., Storytime Kiva, Twin Falls Public Library, no cost, 733-2964 ext. 110.

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

GOVERNMENT

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

HEALTH AND RECOVERY

College of Southern Idaho's Over 60 and Getting Fit programs, 9 to 10 a.m., at several Magic Valley locations: CSI gym, Gooding ISDB gym, Jerome Rec Center, Shoshone High (old gym), Rupert Civic Center and Blaine County Campus gym; and 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. at CSI Burley Outreach Center gym; no cost, 732-6475.

Fit and Fall Proof exercise class, 10:30 to 11:30 a.m., Ageless Senior Citizens, Inc., 301 Main St. N., Kimberly, no cost, 737-5988.

Fit and Fall Proof exercise class, 11 to 11:45 a.m., Oakley Fire Station, 315 E. Main St., Oakley, no cost, 737-5988.

Celebrate Recovery, based on the 12 steps and eight biblical principles, 6 p.m., Cafe Agape, Lighthouse Christian Fellowship, 259 Main Ave. E., Twin Falls, 737-4667.

Al-Anon/Alateen family groups, to help friends and families of alcoholics, hot-line: 1-866-952-3198.

MUSEUMS

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

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

CORRECTIONS

Letter on nuclear power contained errors

A letter to the editor from Larry Parke on Thursday's Opinion page had three typing errors.

The sentences should have read: "Nuclear energy is safe, clean, cheap and available, in spite of Peter Rickards and the Snake River Alliance who offer only

scary 'what if' scenarios but no solutions." "Because of the scare merchants spreading their garbage, we're going to be sitting here cold and in the dark while the rest of the world passes us by," and "Electricity from nuclear power was first produced here in Idaho at the INEL 50 years ago." The Times-News regrets the errors.

COMING TOMORROW

LDS to stay course under Monson

New Mormon leader Thomas Monson pledges to continue building bridges with people of other faiths and holds up young Mormons as 'beacons of goodness' in 'a world of shifting values and standards.'



SATURDAY IN RELIGION

MORNING BRIEFING

Don't say ... Steve Crump

Those of you who doubt that Twin Falls is endlessly entertaining don't use the computer much, do you? ... You've missed a Web site called <http://www.seriouscats.com> that has attracted a cult following across cyberspace for quarter-century-old, locally produced TV commercials for the old-time Cat Meat Market restaurant, which was located on Blue Lakes Boulevard north in the same building that now houses the Riley Creek Restaurant ...

The 60-second spots feature close-ups of steaks (a chopped steak dinner for \$1.99 and "fancier" sirloin platter for \$4.49) and a series of uproarious sketches, including a power ballad about chicken-fried steak, a send-up of Dave Campo's long-running TV ads for Latham Motors, and a mysterious guy in a wolf mask ...

"The spots were produced and aired from 1980 through 1982," blogged their producer, longtime Twin Falls TV production specialist Brian Croner, who was working for KMYT at the time. "Extremely low budget ..."

The Prime Cat Meat Market closed just before Christmas 2001 after 25 years in business, a victim of restaurant com-

petition ... But 15 years earlier (perhaps thanks in part to Croner) business was booming: the restaurant was pulling in 12,000-15,000 customers a month ... "We threw in the wolf-masked guy (who was Bob Henry) at the last minute ... just for fun," Croner said ... "Ad was a parody of the direct response Time-Life book/recordings series of ads that were running at the time ... Those ads opened with some bimbo in front of a computer speaking the same line: 'Hi, I'm Mary ... I'll be back to save you more!'" The ad was shot in an abandoned building in Twin Falls that later became the new site for KMYT television ... It's good to know someone shares my sense of humor. And, yeah, shot in one hour ... that's all the client would pay for ...

Want more? Croner has posted other Prime Cat videos on YouTube, at mircsourcegroup.com.

DEMOCRATS, AND OTHERS:

Don't know if it's significant, but station wagons outnumbered pickup trucks about 2-1 outside the Idaho Democratic caucus in Twin Falls on Tuesday ... One of the wagons may or may not have belonged to a lone Ron Paul supporter who was either very mistaken about the date of his party's primary (it's May 27) or hopeful he'd convince a few Democrats to turn around and go home ... Somewhat forlorn, the fellow paraded outside the Twin Falls Senior Center with his lion Paul sign and got little attention ...

TV reporter Matt Christensen says lots of young folks turned out for Obama, though most looked more like confused CSI art students than pol-savvy youths ... Many didn't know much about Obama's politics — or politics at all, for that matter — but thought the junior senator from Illinois was by far the "coolest" candidate in the field ...

There are worst things for a politician to be called ...

Steve Crump is the Times-News opinion editor.

AROUND THE WORLD

KENTUCKY

Prisoner punches attorney after request denied for new lawyer

GEORGETOWN, Ky. — A public defender who was punched in court by a disgruntled client said Thursday he doesn't blame the man who gave him with two black eyes.

The disorder in the court, captured on video, happened Monday at Scott County Circuit Court after the judge refused defendant Peter Hafer's request for a new attorney.

Hafer, 30, of Cynthia, told the judge he didn't trust his court-appointed lawyer, Doug Crickman. As Judge Ito Johnson began to tell Hafer he couldn't change his public defender, Hafer landed the first punch.

"I just couldn't take it anymore and I just snapped," Hafer said later at the Scott County jail.

Hafer hit the attorney several times in the face and stomach. Hafer was restrained on the ground. Crickman was admitted to Georgetown Community Hospital and released later that day. He said he will not file assault charges.

NEW YORK

UN: 'tobacco epidemic' could kill 1 billion people in 21st century

NEW YORK — The World Health Organization warned in a new report Thursday that the "tobacco epidemic" is growing and could claim 1 billion lives by the end of the century unless governments dramatically step up efforts to curb smoking.

In its first comprehensive report on tobacco use in 179 countries, the U.N. health agency said governments around the world collect more than \$200 billion in tobacco taxes every year but spend less than one-fifth of that on tobacco control, it said.

"We hold in our hands the solution to the global tobacco epidemic that threatens the lives of 1 billion men, women and children during this century," WHO Director-General Dr. Margaret Chan said in an

GOING GAGA OVER FLOCKE



Polar bear cub Flokke sits with a keeper at the Tiergarten Nuernberg zoo in Nuernberg, Germany, recently. Flokke, born in December, rose to star status after being taken from his mother on Jan. 8 amid concerns that she could kill or harm the newborn. German toy makers are rushing to cash in on public excitement about the fluffy, 2-month-old cub by releasing puppets, games and stuffed toys in her image.

introduction to the report. The WHO Report on the Global Tobacco Epidemic 2008 calls on all countries to dramatically increase efforts to prevent young people from beginning to smoke, help smokers quit and protect nonsmokers from exposure to second hand smoke.

IDAHO

After front page photo shows him taking wallet, man gets 30 days in jail

LEWISTON — A man identified in a front-page newspaper photo has been sentenced for what he was doing when another photograph — shown on the same front page — was taken. Michael Millhouse, wearing a blue and black checkered coat, is painting decorative Christmas greetings on storefront windows in one photo published Dec. 18 in the *Lewiston Tribune*. The other image was taken from surveillance video footage that reportedly showed a then-identified man slipping a woman's wallet in the pocket of that same coat and walking away.

Millhouse, 43, of Clarkston,

Wash., entered an Alford plea to third-degree theft Monday in Washington's Asotin County Superior Court. Under such a plea, a defendant admits no wrongdoing but concedes he or she would be convicted if the case went to trial.

Millhouse was sentenced to 365 days in jail with 335 suspended and was allowed to serve the remaining 30 days under electronic home monitoring. He was also ordered to pay \$600 restitution, the amount the woman said was in her purse when it disappeared.

BRITAIN

Winehouse visa denied but she will perform by satellite at Grammys

LONDON — Amy Winehouse will not attend this year's Grammy Awards because her request for a visa was denied, but she will perform by satellite at Sunday's ceremony in Los Angeles.

Winehouse and her acclaimed "Back to Black" album are nominated for Grammys in six categories. She will perform material from the album, an executive

close to the Grammys told The Associated Press on condition of anonymity Thursday.

IRAQ

Angelina Jolie's Baghdad trip includes visits to Petraeus, al-Maliki

BAGHDAD — Hollywood's globe-trotting leading lady swooped into Baghdad on Thursday to highlight the plight of Iraqi refugees, gaining an audience with Gen. David Petraeus, the top U.S. commander in Iraq, and Iraqi Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki, the American Embassy said.

On her mission as a U.N. goodwill ambassador, Jolie also met with Iraqi migration officials to stress that there needs to be a coherent plan for the more than 2 million internally displaced Iraqis who are beginning to trickle back to their homes amid a recent lull in violence. Jolie mingled with American troops during lunch at a dining facility in the heavily guarded Green Zone, which houses the embassy and Iraqi government offices.

— The Associated Press

nowpack levels

Watershed	% of Avg.	Peak
Salmon	117%	76%
Big Wood	113%	76%
Little Wood	110%	76%
Big Lost	110%	72%
Little Lost	122%	75%
Henrys Fork/Teton	110%	72%
Upper Snake Basin	95%	63%
Oakley	100%	76%
Salmon Falls	107%	72%

As of Feb. 7

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735-3233	737-4042
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Vol. 103 No. 39

Revenue

Continued from page A1

budget writing committee, likened the slump to the warning signs that NASCA officials give to drivers: Slow down and keep an eye out for accidents ahead.

"While we're not raising the panic flag or the red flag, we are certainly raising the orange or yellow flag," Cameron said. "We need to be a little bit cautious."

Weather

Continued from page A1

and Wood River Valley regions were still facing the wrath of winter.

The National Weather Service issued winter storm warnings Thursday in the Sawtooth Mountains and Big and Little Wood River valleys.

Romney

Continued from page A1

Romney's decision leaves McCain as the top man standing in the GOP race, with Mike Huckabee and Texas Rep. Ron Paul far behind in the delegate hunt. It was a remarkable turnaround for McCain, who some seven months ago was barely viable, out of cash and losing staff. The four-term Arizona senator, denied his party's nomination in 2000, was poised to succeed George W. Bush as the GOP standard-bearer.

Commenting on his front-runner status — a title he had and lost last year — McCain told the conference, "This time I now have that distinction and I prefer to hold onto it for quite a while."

McCain and Romney spoke by phone after Romney's speech, though no endorsement was requested nor given, according to a Republican official with knowledge of the conversation.

Within hours of Romney's speech, former Republican National Committee chairman Ken Mehlman endorsed McCain and urged all members of the GOP to back him. "Our party has had many outstanding candidates this year, but it is now time for Republicans across the country to unite," Mehlman said.

McCain prevailed in most of the Super Tuesday states, moving closer to the 1,191 delegates needed to win the nomination in this summer's convention in St. Paul, Minn. Overall, McCain led with 707 delegates, to 294 for Romney, 195 for Huckabee and Paul at 14.

Fish

Continued from page A1

settlement. They say the new rule allows Fish and Wildlife to ignore how geographic areas of species decline and instead address only the worst areas of degradation.

The case involves the Bonneville cutthroat trout, a little-known fish found primarily in Utah with small population segments in Idaho, Wyoming and Nevada.

In 2001, Fish and Wildlife determined the species did not warrant protection. The Center for Biological Diversity, an Arizona-based environmental group, sued, and reached a settlement agreement with the government.

Following the settlement, the agency developed the new policy, enabling Fish and Wildlife to consider listings based on whether a species may be threatened in a significant portion of its range, not the entirety of historic ranges.

The environmental group said it's pleased with any protection but says the policy is a cop out.

"From a recovery perspective,

Of Otter's state employee pay proposal, Cameron said, "It's unclear at this stage whether we can actually fit the 5 percent ... into our budget."

Luna didn't immediately respond to requests for comment on whether his teacher-pay plan could fall victim. It's already been criticized, mostly because of a provision to require educators to give up some existing job security in exchange for more money.

Otter aides said that while the governor understands the financial situation, he still believes there will be enough money to pay for his pay package.

"The 5 percent ... remains the governor's top priority at this time," said Wayne Hammon, head of Otter's Division of Financial Management. "There's a lot of other things in the budget that could be cut instead."

Among proposals that could be cut are expanding

to reopen later Thursday. In the north, sections of U.S. Highway 95 and U.S. Highway 12 are closed.

In the southeast, portions of Interstate 15 and sections of U.S. Highways 20 and 26 are shut down. Earlier in the day I-15 between Cassia County and the Utah state line was closed, along with I-86 from the Cassia County

the existing \$26 million grocery tax credit, eliminating Idaho's \$106 million personal property tax on business equipment; more than \$20 million on new or remodeled buildings at the state's public universities; \$50 million proposed for low-income student scholarships; and \$70 million for a new secure facility to house Idaho's dangerously mentally ill.

"He may, like the rest of us, have to adjust his priorities," said Cameron.

junction to Pocatello. Cloudy conditions are expected today with a high near 36 degrees, according to a Thursday evening forecast from the National Weather Service.

Andrea Gates may be reached at 735-3380.

The Associated Press contributed to this report.

St. Luke's

Continued from page A1

Twin Falls have done \$8 million.

"We've really enjoyed working with them," Hull said of local firms.

Space at the current hospital isn't exactly plentiful. But though growing pains were among the reasons for the new building, hospital Chief Operating Officer Kent Loosle said that the facility will meet community needs until the new one opens in 2010. Administrators were even able to shift the hospital's medical records department and make room for more chemotherapy patients at St. Luke's Mountain States Tumor Institute.

"I think that our facility is perfectly adequate to provide services until the new facility is ready," Loosle said.

It will be some time before workers pour the hospital's concrete floors, and even longer before work begins on "envelope" parts such as glazing, windows and exterior work. But for the moment, Loosle said, he's happy to see the work progress above ground level.

"We hope the community is as excited as we are to see the progress of the facility," he said.

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

www.magicvalley.com

Romney's exit surprises Idaho leaders

By Jared S. Hopkins
Times-News writer

BOISE — State lawmakers busy with committee meetings and how to spend a shrinking budget are not immune to national politics — especially when it involves the White House.

Thursday was no exception and many expressed disappointment — and surprise — after former Massachusetts Gov. Mitt Romney's announcement that he was dropping out of the race for the Republican nomination. Almost two dozen state lawmakers have expressed their support for Romney.

"He caught us a little off guard," Sen. Denton Darrington, R-Declo, the body's most senior member, and a Romney supporter. "What's today, Thursday, and the primary election, was Tuesday?"

Romney's strong support in Idaho was highlighted by top figures in political fundraising. Romney earned \$600,806 in 2007, more than half of the total \$1.19 million that was donated last year to candidates and parties, according to the Federal Election Commission's most recent

report on Jan. 31. His strongest financial backing came from the top portion of southeastern Idaho, including Idaho Falls and Rexburg, with \$299,409. But Romney also collected \$50,980 in south-central Idaho.

Idaho Lt. Gov. Jim Risch, who is running to replace Sen. Larry Craig, said he was not surprised by Romney's move given Tuesday's results.

"This is the process," said Risch, who served as chairman of Romney's Idaho campaign. "After Super Tuesday the writing was on the wall and the presumption — or my presumption — was that the nomination was going to go to John McCain."

Romney is a member of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, the largest church in Idaho. Risch said his religion probably didn't contribute to his losses.

"When you're competing at this level, people assess you for various reasons," he said. "It's the court of public opinion."

Risch said that he thinks McCain will unite the party. He added that although he doesn't agree with all of the

Arizona senator's views — he called his immigration plan a form of amnesty — no candidate is perfect.

Romney also had the support of other state leaders, including Republican Rep. Mike Simpson.

"Unfortunately, sometimes the best candidate doesn't always win in politics," said Simpson spokeswoman Nikki Watts, adding that Simpson "hasn't looked into endorsing anyone else."

Rep. Bert Stevenson, I-Rupert, who donated \$800 to Romney's campaign last year, said he liked Romney's business background and was disappointed he dropped out, but said that the decision was probably made after a careful evaluation.

"How much money are you going to spend when you know you are not going to stay in the race?" he asked.

Darrington touted not only Romney's business success, but also his ability to work with Democrats in Massachusetts.

"He looked presidential, he talked presidential, he's presently without scandal," Darrington said. "Nonetheless, he's out of the scene now."

venture capitalist invested more than \$40 million of his own money into the race, counted early wins in Iowa and New Hampshire that never materialized and won just seven states on Super Tuesday, mostly small caucus states.

He would throw his support to Huckabee, the animosity between the two has pervaded the GOP race.

Romney launched his campaign almost a year ago in his native Michigan. The former Massachusetts governor and

listing a third species, the slickspot peppergrass plant native to a small area of south-central Idaho, if a judge sides with Haileys-based Western Watersheds Project in a pending suit.

The government rarely reconsiders a listing on its own, Katzenberger said.

The agency is now conducting a year-long information-gathering process to find out more about Bonneville cutthroat numbers, relying heavily on state agencies for details.

In Idaho, state wildlife officials say the trout isn't thriving, but populations are stable and could rise because of recent federal money for cutthroat programs.

"At least for the portion in Idaho, we're in pretty good shape," said Richard Scully, a fisheries biologist with the state's Pocatello office. "We have good reason to believe things are going to get better."

A final federal decision isn't expected for at least two years.

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

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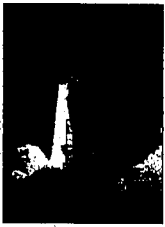
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MODEL SEARCH, BEAUTY PAGEANT & BABY CONTEST
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The space shuttle Atlantis thunders off the launch pad during liftoff Thursday afternoon at the Kennedy Space Center in Cape Canaveral, Fla.

Atlantis averts another delay, streams toward space station

By John Johnson Jr.
Los Angeles Times

The space shuttle Atlantis launched Thursday on an 11-day mission to the International Space Station, following weeks of delays and technical glitches that threatened to set back NASA's station construction schedule.

The spacecraft lifted off from Kennedy Space Center at 2:45 p.m. EST after thick clouds that threatened to cancel the launch suddenly broke over the central Florida coastline.

"Looks like today's a good day and we're ready to go fly," said shuttle commander Stephen Frick.

"We wish you smooth sailing to the New World among the stars," said launch official Jerry Goodsen, making one of many launch-day references to Christopher Columbus' journey to America.

The reason was that Atlantis is carrying a 10-ton, \$2 billion European laboratory module named Columbus in its payload bay. The 23-foot-long, 15-foot-wide laboratory, which will support biological and physical experiments in space, is Europe's major contribution to the space station.

Scores of European scientists and politicians gathered at Kennedy for the much-awaited event. They celebrated the launch with Belgian and French chocolates, as well as grape juice, a substitute for champagne in keeping with NASA's rules against alcohol.

"It's not very European," joked Italian astronaut Paolo Nespoli, as he poured juice into wine glasses.

"This is one of the more significant shuttle launches we'll ever have," said NASA Administrator Michael Griffin. "It brings to the space station truly international participation. It shows this is a real partnership among nations."

The launch appeared to go smoothly, although cameras on the ground and the spacecraft saw three possible incidents of ice or insulating foam flaking off the external fuel tank.

Debris has assumed greater importance since the shuttle Columbia was destroyed by a piece of foam hitting its left wing in 2003. The final verdict on the health of the shuttle won't be rendered until after Atlantis docks on Saturday at the space station.

Congress sends stimulus package to Bush with tax rebates for many

Bush signals approval

By Andrew Taylor
and Julie Hirschfeld Davis
Associated Press writers

WASHINGTON — Congress, facing the prospect of an election-year recession, passed an emergency plan Thursday that rushes rebates of \$600 to \$1,200 to most taxpayers and \$300 checks to disabled veterans, the elderly and other low-income people. President Bush indicated he would sign the measure.

House passage by a 380-34 vote came a few hours after Senate leaders ended a drawn-out stalemate over the bill. Still, by congressional standards, lawmakers approved the legislation with exceptional speed to jolt the weak economy. The plan, which adds \$168 billion to the deficit over two years, is intended to provide cash for people to spend and incentives for businesses to make new investments — boosts for an economy battered by a housing downturn and credit crunch.

Taxbite checks could begin arriving in May. They would be based on 2007 returns, which are due April 15.

The Senate's 81-16 vote capped more than a week of political maneuvering. The logjam broke when majority Democrats dropped their demand that recipients must offer jobless benefits, heating aid for the poor and tax breaks for the home building and energy industries.

GOP senators blocked those ideas, but agreed to add \$300 rebates for older people and disabled veterans to a \$161 billion measure the House passed last week.

Bush said he would sign the final plan, which he called "robust, broad-based, timely, and it will be effective." The compromise, he said in a statement after the Senate acted, was "an example of bipartisan cooperation at a time when the American people most expect it."

The legislation would deliver rebates — \$600 for

individuals, \$1,200 for couples — to most taxpayers, plus an additional \$300 per child. Individuals making up to \$75,000 a year and couples earning up to \$150,000 would get the full rebate, with those making more than that or too little to owe taxes getting smaller checks.

People who paid no income taxes but earned at least \$3,000 — including through Social Security or veterans' disability benefits — would get a \$300 rebate.

"We believe the stimulus, the way it is targeted, will put money into the hands of those who will spend it immediately. Injecting demand into the economy and therefore creating jobs," House Speaker Nancy Pelosi, D-Calif., told colleagues.

The measure also includes steps to boost the ailing housing market. It would temporarily raise the limit on the way that Housing Administration loans and the cap on loans that Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac can buy to \$729,750.

The package was the product of a rare spate of bipartisan cooperation on Capitol Hill, where Democrats and Republicans teamed with the White House on a bill that fell far short of both parties' priorities but could draw broad consensus.

An early agreement forged by Rep. Paul Ryan, D-Ohio, along with Treasury Secretary Henry Paulson enjoyed a fast and smooth ride through the House, with lawmakers loath to stand in the way of a plan that would address their constituents' economic worries in advance of November's elections.

But it bogged down in the closely divided Senate, where Democrats are determined to exact a political price from Republicans by forcing them into tough votes on whether to add popular items such as \$14.5 billion in jobless aid for those whose unemployment benefits have run out, \$1 billion in heating aid for the



Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid of Nev., second from left, meets reporters on Capitol Hill in Washington, Thursday after Senate Democrats and Republicans reached agreement on an economic stimulus package. From left are, Sen. Richard Durbin, D-Ill., Reid, Sen. Max Baucus, D-Mont., and Sen. Patty Murray, D-Wash.

poor and tax breaks for energy companies, including coal producers.

Senate Democratic leaders paired those items with rebates for older Americans and disabled veterans and threatened that Republicans would have to accept them or risk being blamed for leaving those politically powerful groups out of the stimulus plan.

In the end, though, Democrats couldn't draw enough support for their \$205 billion alternative to break a GOP filibuster blocking it.

The turnaround in the Senate came after Democrats on Wednesday fell just one vote short of overcoming the Republican objections and pressing ahead with their more costly plan.

They relented Thursday and allowed a vote on a more limited proposal that included the rebates for the elderly and veterans, plus language designed to prevent illegal immigrants from getting the checks.

"I could have played around with this and tried to

Senate Minority Leader Mitch McConnell of Kentucky, and urged the Senate to stop its infighting and pass the bill.

Thirty-three Republicans joined 46 Democrats and the Senate's two independents to pass the measure. Sixteen Republican senators voted against the plan.

Idaho Rep. Mike Simpson said after voting against the economic stimulus package Thursday, "Our nation would be far better off by passing permanent tax reductions than by offering one time rebates to a select group."

He added, "Congress needs to look at some real, long-term solutions. Instead, they issue 'small bandages' that only allow the problem to get more severe. Adding \$150 billion to our national debt is not the answer."

The two Democratic presidential candidates, Sens. Hillary Rodham Clinton of New York and Barack Obama of Illinois, skipped the vote.

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Clinton, Obama and health insurance

The principal policy division between Hillary Clinton and Barack Obama involves health care. It's a division that can seem technical and obscure — and I've read many assertions that only the most wonkish care about the fine print of their proposals.

There really is a big difference between the candidates' approaches. And new research, just released, confirms what I've been saying: The difference between the plans could well be the difference between achieving universal health coverage — a key progressive goal — and failing far short.

Specifically, new estimates say that a plan resembling Clinton's would cover almost twice as many of those now uninsured as a plan resembling Obama's — at only slightly higher cost.

Let's talk about how the plans compare.

Both plans require that private insurers offer policies to everyone, regardless of medical history. Both also allow people to buy into government-offered insurance instead.

And both plans seek to make insurance affordable to lower-income Americans. The Clinton plan is, however, more explicit about affordability, promising to limit insurance costs as a percentage of family income. And it also seems to include more funds for subsidies.

But the big difference is mandates: The Clinton plan requires that everyone have insurance; the Obama plan does not.

Obama claims that people will buy insurance if it becomes affordable. Unfortunately, the evidence says otherwise.

After all, we already have programs that make health insurance more or very cheap to many low-income Americans, without requiring that they sign up. And many of those eligible fail, for whatever reason, to enroll.

An Obama-type plan would also face the problem of healthy people who decide to take their chances or don't sign up until they develop medical problems, thereby raising premiums for everyone else. Obama, contradicting his earlier assertions that affordability is the only bar to coverage, is now talking about penalizing those who delay signing up — but it's not clear how this would work.

So the Obama plan would leave more people uninsured than the Clinton plan. How big is the difference?

To answer this question you need to make a detailed analysis of health care decisions. That's what Jonathan Gruber of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, one of America's leading health care economists, does in a new paper.

Gruber finds that a plan without mandates, broadly resembling the Obama plan, would cover 23 million of those currently uninsured, at a taxpayer cost of \$102 billion



PAUL KRUGMAN

per year. An otherwise identical plan with mandates — would cover 45 million of the uninsured — essentially everyone — at a taxpayer cost of \$124 billion. Overall, the Obama-type plan would cost \$4,400 per newly insured person, the Clinton-type plan only \$2,700.

It doesn't look like a trivial difference to me: One plan achieves more or less universal coverage; the other, although it costs more, covers only about half of those currently uninsured.

As with any economic analysis, Gruber's results are only as good as his model. But they're consistent with the results of other analyses, like a 2003 study, commissioned by the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, that compared health reform plans and found that mandates made a big difference both to success in covering the uninsured and to cost-effectiveness.

And that's why many health care experts like Gruber strongly support mandates.

Now, some might argue that none of this matters, because the legislation presidents actually manage to get enacted often bears little resemblance to their campaign proposals. And there is, indeed, no guarantee that Clinton will be elected, but I am able to pass anything like her current health care plan.

But while it's easy to see how the Clinton plan could end up being eviscerated, it's hard to see how the hole in the Obama plan could be repaired. Why? Because Obama's campaigning on the health care issue has sabotaged his own prospects.

You see, the Obama campaign has demonized the idea of mandates — most recently in a scandalous mailer sent to voters that bears a striking resemblance to the "Harry and Louise" ads run by the insurance lobby in 1993, ads that helped undermine our last chance at getting universal health care. If Obama gets to the White House and tries to achieve universal coverage, he'll find that it can't be done without mandates — but if he tries to institute mandates, the enemies of reform will use his own words against him.

If you combine the economic analysis with the political realities, here's what I think it says: If Clinton gets the Democratic nomination, there is some chance that she'll know how big — that we'll get universal health care in the next administration, if Obama gets the nomination, it just won't happen.

Paul Krugman is a columnist for the New York Times.

Idaho mustn't make promises it can't keep

One of the biggest frustrations during my six years in Congress was the way in which the federal government danced around the fact that it promises far more than it can deliver.

Whether it's making the promised investments in Rural Communities (RLC) or in rural counties or paying an aging population's Social Security benefits, the bottom line is that the government's fast-growing "unfunded liability" already is burdening future generations of our citizens.

However, many folks don't realize that Idaho faces a similar shortfall in paying for benefits that future state retirees would receive under existing programs. At the same time, our state government work force is getting older and we are at a competitive disadvantage in attracting younger workers.

The question is whether we have the wisdom and political will to do something about both issues before it's too late. I know we have the wisdom, and we must find the political will.

I recently asked the Legislature to make our total compensation package for state employees more attractive



READER COMMENT
C.L. 'Butch' Otter

by approving a 5-percent increase in pay, subject to individual performance and the discretion of managers. The increase is badly needed to bring state salaries closer to those for comparable jobs in the private sector.

To better reflect economic realities and the kind of balance between pay and benefits that private employers increasingly provide, and to make state government more accountable and responsible, I also recommended gradually increasing the share of health-care costs for which employees are responsible from the current 22 percent to about 30 percent over the next five years.

In addition, I asked the Legislature to consider addressing an estimated \$442 million in what the accountants call "accrued and future liabilities for non-

pension post-employment benefits" for our state workforce. That is the amount state government has promised its employees for retiree health care coverage.

The \$442 million liability could be reduced to about \$126 million by:

- Eliminating state retiree health coverage only for those who are eligible for Medicare.

- Setting the state contribution toward health-care coverage of state retirees under 65 at \$165 per month.

- Requiring that employees under 65 must retire directly from state service to be eligible for retiree health-care service coverage.

If those changes aren't made, the state's liability — what future Idaho taxpayers will owe their children and grandchildren — will be over \$800 million by 2016. I will not impose that burden on the next generation.

There are a few facts to chew on:

- The average age of state employees is 47.

- The average age of newly hired state employees is 37.

- Almost one-third of our state employees will be eligi-

ble for retirement in the next 10 years.

- Retirees 65 and over will be able to get comparable supplemental benefits privately for less than they are paying now through the state.

Our goal is to attract some of the best, most capable young people to public service, to meet the legitimate needs of taxpayers and our growing population, and to have the wherewithal to keep the promises we make to those employees as they near retirement.

Let me make it clear that I am not recommending any changes in Public Employee Retirement System of Idaho (PERS) benefits, which continue to be more generous than most in the private sector.

I am committed to properly compensating Idaho's valued state employees, to ensuring Idaho taxpayers get the best, most responsive state government possible for their tax dollars, and to ensuring that we are financially able to keep the promises we make.

C.L. "Butch" Otter, a Republican, is the governor of Idaho.

Saudis get \$100 a barrel, U.S. pays for war on terror

Since 2001 when "the war on terror" began, the Office of Management and Budget reports \$649.9 billion has been appropriated for Operations, Iraq Freedom and Enduring Freedom (Afghanistan). In the budget President Bush just submitted to Congress, there is a request for an additional \$108.1 billion for 2008 and \$70 billion for 2009.

The cost of these wars has been largely borne by the American taxpayer. While the benefits of success in Iraq and Afghanistan will reach far beyond the borders of those countries to the world. If Islamic extremism can be quelled in Afghanistan and Iraq, people the world over will literally breathe freer. Since so many will benefit, isn't it fair to ask them to help subsidize the effort?

USA Today reported last week that America's "allies" in the war on terror have provided what amounts to chump change. Countries that made large commitments to rebuild Iraq have paid just 16 percent of what they had pledged. According to a new report by the Special Inspector General for Iraq Reconstruction, other countries committed to contributions of \$15.8 billion during and after a conference in Madrid in October 2003. The countries that have given the least are the ones that have the most resources to give — and possibly the most to lose, as some are targets of al-Qaida's efforts to replace Arab governments with Taliban-like leaders.

The largest shortfalls in



CAL THOMAS

pledges by 41 donor countries, according to USA Today, are from Saudi Arabia and Kuwait who spent 17.4 percent and 27 percent of the \$560 million each had pledged, according to a separate report released last month by the Government Accountability Office. These are countries we saved in the first Gulf War. So far they have paid just \$135 million (Kuwait) and \$87 million (Saudi Arabia) out of a combined total commitment of \$1 billion. That's still pocket change compared to the hundreds of billions it is costing us.

This is beyond outrageous. Here we are spending billions of dollars on gasoline and home heating oil — money that goes to those nations that sell us the oil — and they in turn refuse to pay more to help win a war whose victory would help repel the same fanatics who so hate them.

Rep. Gary Ackerman, who chairs the House Foreign Affairs subcommittee on the Middle East, makes the point: "They're charging \$100 per barrel of oil, making record fortunes, lecturing everyone else, and then they stiff everybody, including their cousins who they contend to be so very concerned about."

The figures back him up. According to the Department of Energy,

"from 2003 through 2006, Saudi Arabia exported about \$35 billion in crude oil to the United States, as its average price doubled from \$25 to \$56 a barrel."

The under-responsiveness has not just been in the Arab world. Money and other forms of assistance have been lacking from countries that are also threatened by Islamic extremists. Spain seems to have come closest to fulfilling its pledge. The GAO says of the \$248 million Spain promised, it has paid \$213.7 million so far. And Japan, according to a recent report to Congress, has pledged

and disbursed more assistance to Iraq than any other individual country except the United States.

While a freer world is also in America's interests, the people of Iraq and Afghanistan stand to benefit the most. To have these and other nations in the region receive what amounts to welfare while charging us top dollar for oil — and using some of those profits to underwrite radical Islamic extremism — is doubly offensive.

Syndicated columnist Cal Thomas can be reached at timedotcom@tribune.com.

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Illegal Immigration should not be welcomed

Mrs. Nelworth wrote a very inspiring and kind essay on immigrants in the Magic Valley, but she seems to confuse the legal and the illegal in her story.

Being a lawful immigrant myself, I complied with all the requirements imposed upon me by the U.S. Immigration, and I resent being put in the same basket with those lawbreakers.

How would she like to have her house invaded by unwitting guests and have to take care of them by providing work and medical treatment. Undocumented aliens also lower wages for everyone else, and you just have to look into the paper in the help wanted section to see it.

No, Mrs. Nelworth, illegal immigrants should not be welcomed.

GILBERT RIEDWEG
Twin Falls

Phelps ought to toss hat into ring

To Vaughn Phelps: Very humorous definitions. Sounds like you need to throw your hat into the ring and change things.

TERRY RUBY
Gooding

It's likely human race needs to curb reproduction

Years ago, Yellowstone Park got rid of all its wolves, then watched as fragile ecosystems deteriorated (including the decline of aspen trees). After much study, they realized that ecosystems need their predators to maintain balance, so the wolves were reintroduced to the park.

Studies indicate that some coral reefs are now in decline due to overfishing of the predatory fish. Other studies suggest that all ecosystems need their natural predators.

It is highly likely that man

is the only predator whose reproducing needs to be curbed. We live in a country where insurance pays for fertility clinic visits and the resulting multiple births but will not pay for birth control. Some pharmacists have refused to sell birth control pills, but they will sell Viagra.

(This is reminiscent of Monty Python's lovely song, "Every Sperm is Sacred.") Some scientists suggest that humans, with our overpopulating, are a deadly virus on our lovely blue planet.

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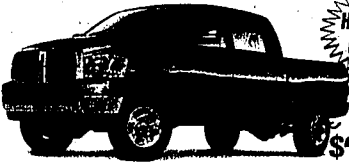
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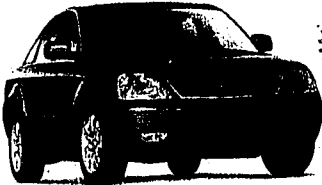
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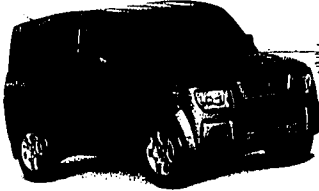
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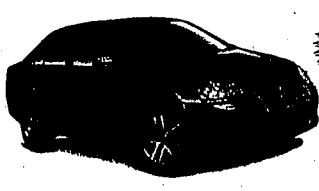
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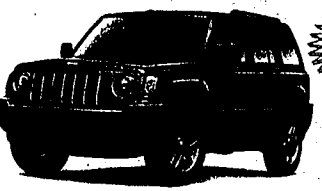
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INSIDE: Prep Rally & local roundup, B2 | NBA & college hoops, B4 | NFL & golf, B5 | Weather, B6

From 1A to NJCAA

Wood handling transition to CSI

By Eric Larsen
Times-News writer

Someday, people will talk about women's basketball in the Magic Valley without mentioning Cassie Wood. Right now, that seems hard to fathom.

More than five years have passed since a 5-foot-7 bundle of nerves in a Richfield High basketball jersey navigated her way through a season-opening 45-43 loss to Mackay.

Tuesday, Feb. 19 will mark the passing of exactly five years since Wood established herself as one of the top Class 1A players in Idaho with a 13-point, 12-rebound effort in a 39-22 state tournament loss to a Rimrock squad that went on to win its 50th straight game to clinch the 2003-04 state championship.

Losses may have punctuated Wood's arrival. She made sure they didn't define the player she'd become.

Nearly half a decade removed from that game, the wake of Wood's high school career is still rippling through Richfield. The Tigers won 75 of the 100 games Wood played for head coach Steve Kent, including the 2006-07 state title this year's 20-3 Richfield squad is intent on defending.

As a College of Southern Idaho freshman, Wood's story has changed. From post to guard, star to role player, face of a program to face in the crowd.

This much of her tale remains the same, however: The team Wood plays for win. As the No. 4 Golden Eagles pit their 21-1 record against the College of Eastern Utah tonight in Price, Utah, Wood will again be ready to do whatever it takes to get the W.

"Cassie, she hates to lose," CSI head coach Randy Rogers said. "And she plays that way."

Now at a smallish 5-9 for the college game, Wood is learning to play differently than the post who averaged 14.7 points and 7.3 rebounds as a high school senior. She's a shooting guard now, one that struggles a bit when opposing defenses force her to dribble with her left hand. Wood averages only 2.2 points and 3.0 rebounds in 14 minutes played per game, but her brand of Ashley Thompson-type toughness that Rogers loves has put her

Please see WOOD, Page B5

CSI's Fields returns to court tonight

Golden Eagles play Eastern Utah on the road

By Eric Larsen
Times-News writer

What makes a great teammate? If a teammate's worth is measured by statistical output, College of Southern Idaho sophomore Terry Fields is a solid one. If a willingness to lose a strip of skin to the gym floor while chasing a loose ball, only to have your praises unsung is the benchmark, Fields is a pretty good teammate.

However, if a teammate is judged on attitude, Fields proved his high value during CSI's previous nine games — each of which he missed while rehabilitating a stress fracture in his right foot. Fields didn't hide on the trainer's table or sulk on the sideline.

In his absence, the 6-foot-5 guard

from Headland, Ala., remained present.

"To be honest with you, as long as I could stay with the team, I was good," Fields said of his month-long recuperation. "If the doctor said I had to sit out, I sat out. It hurt a little bit, but for me to sit there and watch the guys continue to play and win, it just felt great."

As Fields left the CSI gymnasium after last Thursday's practice, head coach Barrett Peery brushed by him with the words, "Counting down the days until you're on the court."

Peery has spoken highly of Fields

Tonight: No. 2 CSI (22-0, 7-0 SWAC) at College of Eastern Utah (13-9, 5-2 SWAC), Price, Utah, 7:30 p.m.

Last time they met: CSI topped CEU 104-88 behind Art Parakhouski's 20 points and eight rebounds earlier this season in Twin Falls.

On the horizon: CSI is back in Twin Falls during the next two weeks, hosting Snow College and Salt Lake Community College in conference action.

On the radio: This weekend's games will be broadcast live on 1270 AM KTR by Jonathan Drew.

CSI season leaders (minimums apply, made/missed in parentheses)

Points: Joey Shaw 382 (17.4); Juan Patillo 335 (17.6). Rebounds: Art Parakhouski 172 (7.8); Bocar Ba 147 (6.7). Assists: Kevin Galloway 189 (8.6); Reggie Guyton 84 (3.8). Steals: Galloway, Hansley Perry 56 (2.6); Nick Hansen 51 (2.3). Blocks: Parakhouski 23 (1.3); Galloway 26 (1.2). Field goal percentage: Parakhouski .634 (123-194); Daquon Montrol .599 (88-147). 3-point percentage: Guyton .412 (21-51); Hansen .384 (63-164). Free throw percentage: Guyton .846 (22-26); Shaw .810 (94-116).

since the sophomore's arrival to Twin Falls, but to the hoops layman, the reasons why are cloudy. Fields, who averaged 22 points and 14 rebounds during his senior season at

Headland High, has never scored more than 24 points in his CSI career. In the 13 games he has played this

Please see FIELDS, Page B5



Wood



Minico's Ty Pebley makes his way around Twin Falls High School's Jake Hanchey during their game Thursday in Twin Falls.

KEVIN MCCOY/Times-News

Spartans surge past Bruins

By David Bashore
Times-News writer

The past week hadn't been kind to the Minico boys basketball team.

After playing poorly against Burley and letting that funk carry over into the first half of the Spartans' game against Jerome, a sluggish start to Thursday's game at Baun Gymnasium saw Minico clinging to a two-point lead at halftime over struggling Twin Falls.

Then Jordan Gillette came to the rescue.

The Minico senior scored all eight of his points in the third quarter, helping

the Spartans blast out a 14-0 run in the second half to cement a 60-48 win over the Bruins.

Jason Harper led the 13-6 Spartans with 12 points — he was one of six Minico players to score at least eight — but it was Gillette's ability to knock down tough shots in transition that made the difference.

"(Gillette) was the instrument. We got him in transition and created some open looks and he knocked them down," said Minico coach Mike Graefe. "That's really what made the difference for us and allowed us to get a bigger lead."

Twin Falls (5-14) hung tough

through a physical first half, but the Bruins were ultimately worn down courtesy of a Minico substitution policy more likely to be seen on a hockey rink than a basketball court — Graefe regularly shuttled in five fresh bodies every 2 1/2 minutes.

Bryant Ward led all scorers with 15 points in defeat for Twin Falls. Though he drew a one-on-one duel most of the night with Carroll-bound Dane Broadhead.

"He's a good athlete, and I look forward to playing (against) him," Ward said of Broadhead. "We banded (in the

Please see BRUINS, Page B4

Tigers take top seed to 4A state

By John Derr
Times-News writer

JEROME — It was basically a game that didn't matter.

Jerome and Pocatello had already accomplished their main goal, making it to state. For the Tigers it was finally getting past Burley after four years without a state berth. For the Indians it was two victories over rival Century on back-to-back nights for their first trip in five years.

Thursday was just for seeding. Basically who would play at 6:15 p.m., and who would play at 8 in the first round of the Class 4A tournament.

Jerome used the defense that had led them all year to manhandle Pocatello 71-44 and claim the top seed from the Great Basin Conference.

It became clear it wouldn't be a normal night as a young man from the Tigers boys basketball team invited one of the Tiger girls to the sweet-heart dance before the national anthem. No word on the answer.

Both teams substituted freely with nearly every player seeing quality time on the floor. Even the officials must have sensed something as only 17 fouls were called.

Pocatello's Hall Coles drained a three-pointer then completed the old-fashioned 3-point play for an 8-7 advantage. The rest of the night would belong to Jerome.

Tigers coach Brent Clark called a time out and got his players focused. A 10-0 run to end the quarter was the result.

"We didn't come out with a lot of intensity and played like it didn't matter," said Clark. "After the time out, the defense stepped up and the offense got going."

Aubree Callen converted a pair of lay-ups and dished a pair of assists as the Tigers pushed the lead to 13 in the second quarter.

"We haven't played someone new for a while. It showed up what we need to work on," said Callen, who finished with 15 points. "At state we need 100 percent focus from everyone."

Jordan Burnham made it 33-10 with a pair of buckets in the paint before the Tigers stretched their lead to 20 at the break.

"This was a hard game to play. Our focus was getting to state and this was just for seeding," said Burnham, who tallied a game-high 17 points. "It was important to win, it gives us the top seed. The time out really motivated us and got us going."

Molly Reid hit a jumper to start the third. Reid, who has

Please see TIGERS, Page B4



Wendell's Whitney Glies (14) drives to the hoop as Valley's Gabi Nava trails during their matchup Thursday in Wendell.

Wendell returns to state

Trojans top Valley for Canyon tourney title

By Diane Philbin
Times-News writer

WENDELL — The Wendell Trojans will once again be making a trip to the Class 2A girls basketball state tournament after rallying to defeat the Valley Vikings 53-52 in the Canyon Conference Tournament championship.

Moments after Camille Sizemore gave Valley a 52-51 lead with 24 seconds remaining, lone Trojans senior Whitney Glies navigated the Valley defense to draw a foul that enabled her to sink two free-throws, including the game winner.

"The kids never thought

about quitting," said Wendell coach Delon Huse. "I know I have said it before but I am just so proud of these girls and how they stepped up and did what they had to. It is a shame we can't both go to state."

The Trojans won in gutsy come-from-behind fashion after trailing by 10 points, 43-33 when Thursday night's fourth quarter began. Within the first two minutes of the final period, the Trojans cut the Valley lead to three, 44-41, aided by back-to-back 3-pointers by sophomore Krystyl Miller.

"The momentum changed when (Miller) hit the two 3-

pointers," said Jamie Cauthorn. "We kind of panicked for a second but then we got it back. Wendell is a good team."

At the 5:24 mark, junior Jaci Lancaster earned her second trifecta of the night, tying the game at 44.

Even with Valley taking back the lead on two baskets by senior Cauthorn, the Trojans stormed back on four made free throws by Lancaster and sophomore Kriston Bradshaw for another tie. Wendell took its first lead of the game, 49-48 at 3:41 as Miller made one of two attempts at the charity stripe.

The two teams traded leads, Valley going ahead, 50-48 on another Cauthorn basket, and

Please see WENDELL, Page B4

Embattled athlete, Willingham gets chance to make last stand

SEATTLE (AP) — Tyrone Willingham has had better months.

The coach who has already been dumped abruptly by Notre Dame after just three years knows adversity. But even this has had a lot of special hurdles to it.

Willingham said with a wry smile this week a rare good one for the Washington Huskies recently.

This lightning rod from South Bend, Ind., to Seattle

was seated inside the University of Washington's Founders Club, a conference room where the school's donors use for program hobnobbing.

Many of them wanted him fired months ago.

"If it doesn't kill you, it makes you stronger. And I think this has made our program stronger," Willingham said of a Huskies program that currently has negativity surrounding it than Britney Spears.

In an interview with The



Willingham

all my life. In some fashion," he said.

He quoted pioneering

newsman David Brinkley. He referred to chats he's had with Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice, the provost at Stanford when he was the coach there, and with President George W. Bush, when he visited Notre Dame.

Willingham, whose demeanor is as even as his 76-76-1 record in 13 seasons as a college coach, said he might have been an elementary school teacher instead, because those kids need role models. He said he and

his family love Seattle enough to make Washington the last stop on a football journey that began as a walk-on athlete at Michigan State in the early 1970s.

He has graduated his players. Most have stayed out of trouble at UW. He just hasn't won enough games.

Wednesday brought rare victories: 26 of them, recruits that included five of the consensus top seven prospects in Washington and some from Southern California. Many

experts rank Washington's incoming class among the nation's top 25.

That's a measure of Willingham's resolve and ramrod persona. It also fuels his belief he will get Washington back to the perennial Rose Bowl days of Don James.

"I tell my football team — I use this quote from David Brinkley: 'A successful man is one who can have a firm foundation with the bricks others have thrown at him,'" Willingham said.

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Pebble Beach leaderboard devoid of golf's big names

PEBBLE BEACH, Calif. — The celebrity watch at the AT&T Pebble Beach National Pro-Am took place everywhere but the top of the leaderboard Thursday.

Kent Jones bled the two most famous par 3s at Pebble Beach and kept bogeys off his golf for a 6-under 66 and a one-shot lead, an encouraging start for someone who has played 270 tournaments on the PGA Tour without finishing in the top five.

Nationwide Tour grad Roland Thatcher was a shot back along with Q-school grad Brad Adams and John Mallinger, third at Pebble Beach last year as a rookie.

The star gazing took place at Poppy Hills, and while it didn't always produce great golf to match the spectacular sunshine on the Monterey Peninsula, it was entertaining.



Greg Norman tees off on the No. 12 hole during the first round of the AT&T Pebble Beach National Pro-Am at the Poppy Hills course in Pebble Beach, Calif., Thursday.

Defending champion Phil Mickelson was on the verge of shooting himself out of the

tournament until a birdie-eagle-birdie-birdie burst enabled him to recover with a 71.

Greg Norman, playing on

the PGA Tour for the first time in 18 months, was holding steady until a four-putt on the 13th hole for a double bogey. He finished with a 76. His fiancée, tennis great Chris Evert, flew in from Florida and didn't make it out to the golf course until Norman was on the 16th.

Evert has no plans to take up golf, saying it was too time-consuming with three boys — "It's like four boys with Greg," she said — and a tennis academy to run. "Tennis only takes one hour," she said, laughing.

These rounds came close to six hours with two pros and two amateurs in every group, and it was a slow, steady grind.

Norman struggled with that and the bumpy greens, but he had no complaints about how he hit the ball.

"It's a long day of concen-

tration, which I'm not used to," Norman said. "You get past four hours, you really have to stay locked in."

Jones, a 41-year-old from New Mexico who has yet to finish in the top 100 on the money list, has been around long enough to realize that one round is too early to get excited, especially in a format that uses three courses, and in a tournament where the leaderboard doesn't begin to sort itself out until Sunday.

"I think I'm just satisfied that I played well and putted well," Jones said. "When everyone is playing different golf courses, being in the lead isn't very important. But it's nice to be playing well, obviously."

J.L. Holmes, coming off a 66 at Spyglass Hill to join a group of 10 players that included Todd Demsey.

The top 14 players on the leaderboard have combined for 10 career victories, and that doesn't include the California State Amateur that Demsey won in 1992.

Davis Love III, returning to the PGA Tour for the first time in four months after a severe ankle injury, overcame an early gaffe on the par-5 14th at Spyglass with three birdies on his back nine for a 70. Vijay Singh also had a 70.

Es 10 shots back at Indian Masters

NEW DELHI — India's Jyoti Randhawa shot a 7-under 65 to take a two-stroke lead in the Indian Masters, while Ernie Els followed his Sunday Bengal. The Indian Open in Dubai with a 75 that included a 9 on the par-5 18th.

— The Associated Press

Two-sided story

Clemens back on Hill; McNamee's lawyers show committee 2 photos of needles, steroids

WASHINGTON (AP) — Roger Clemens spent Thursday going door-to-door on Capitol Hill, lobbying congressmen investigating whether he used drugs. His accuser, Brian McNamee, gave a seven-hour deposition behind closed doors, and the trainer's lawyers presented photographs of evidence they said prove the star pitcher was injected with steroids.

McNamee headed straight for an exit, not speaking a word to reporters, when he entered from his interview with lawyers from the House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform. His attorneys wouldn't discuss the deposition, but they did talk at length about two color photographs they showed the committee for the first time.

"Roger Clemens has put himself in a position where his legacy as the greatest pitcher in baseball will depend less on his ERA and more on his DNA," said one of McNamee's lawyers, Earl Ward.

Less than an hour later, and a short walk away inside the Rayburn House Office Building, Clemens held his own news conference, during which his lawyers repeatedly attacked McNamee's character and scoffed at McNamee's newly presented evidence.

"This man has a total history of lying," Clemens' attorney Rusty Hardin said.

The seven-time Cy Young Award winner's repeated denials of McNamee's allegations in the Mitchell Report about drug use drew Congress' attention. Clemens spoke under oath to the committee Tuesday — the first time he addressed the allegations under oath, and therefore the first time he put himself at legal risk if he were to make false statements.

There is a public hearing scheduled for Wednesday, when Clemens, McNamee and other witnesses, including New York Yankees pitcher Andy Pettitte, are to testify. McNamee, also a former personal trainer for Pettitte, told Mitchell that he injected Pettitte with HGH. Pettitte confirmed in December that he used HGH for two days.

McNamee's attorneys said their client



Brian McNamee, former personal trainer for Roger Clemens, leaves after his deposition before the House Oversight and Government Reform Committee Thursday in Washington.



Former New York Yankees pitcher Roger Clemens pauses during a news conference, after meeting with members of Congress on Capitol Hill Thursday in Washington.

turned over physical evidence to a federal prosecutor for the Northern District of California last month, shortly after Clemens held a Jan. 7 nationally televised news conference at which he played a taped conversation between the two men with conflicting accounts at the center of the issue.

"At that point," Ward said, "(McNamee) decided there was no holds barred."

One photo shows a crushed beer can that Richard Emery, another of McNamee's attorneys, said was taken out of a trash can in Clemens' New York apartment in 2001. Emery said the can contained needles used to inject Clemens. That picture also shows what Emery said was gauze used to wipe blood off Clemens after a shot.

The other picture shows vials of what Emery said were testosterone, and needles — items the attorney said Clemens gave to McNamee for safekeeping at the

end of the 2002 baseball season.

While Clemens' camp called it "manufactured" evidence, Emery said the items were "just a collection of stuff" thrown in a box and "kept in a basement for seven years."

Emery said McNamee kept the items because he "had this inkling and gut feeling that he couldn't trust Roger and better keep something to protect himself in the future."

"We invite Roger Clemens to provide his DNA to the federal government," Ward said, "so a determination can be made whether or not the items we say were taken from him are, in fact, his DNA."

Asked about that, Hardin said the pitcher would comply with any request of that type from a federal authority.

"But they're going to have to come to us," Hardin added. "It's not going to be McNamee getting out here with a bunch of pictures of waste."

NFL

With Spagnuolo out, 'Skins keep looking

WASHINGTON — With the rising star from the Super Bowl out of the running, the Washington Redskins spent Thursday planning their next move.

Will their new coach be Jim Fassel? Ron Meeks? Steve Mariucci?

Or how about another mystery candidate? After all, owner Dan Snyder has kept the process well under wraps since Joe Gibbs resigned Jan. 8. At least two contenders, Fassel and Pete Carroll, weren't known to be on Snyder's list until more than a week after their initial interviews.

And, of course, it was a mystery candidate who got the job four years ago, when Gibbs emerged out of nowhere after Snyder had higher-profile talks with other prospects.

One certainty is that the next Redskins coach will not be New York Giants defensive coordinator Steve Spagnuolo, who withdrew his name from consideration Thursday, citing his desire to remain with the Super Bowl champions.

"This heart is in New York City," Spagnuolo's agent, Bob LaParo, told the Associated Press. "He loves the ownership. He loves the players. He feels he has to stay there."

The Giants promptly rewarded Spagnuolo with a three-year, \$6 million contract.

Sean Taylor autopsy report released

MIAMI — The bullet that killed Washington Redskins safety Sean Taylor ripped first through his right leg and then the left, and possibly came from a 9mm handgun, an autopsy released Thursday said.

The report, obtained by The Associated Press through a public records request, was released after Taylor's Nov. 27 death, notes a bullet perforated the

Johnson, Winslow show Pro Bowl not just a party week

HONOLULU (AP) — Chad Johnson's unhappiness about the absence of his teammates, Kellen Winslow is looking for a new contract, Asante Samuel and Marcus Tullman are preparing for the open market. Who says the Pro Bowl is all fun and games?

Certainly not those NFL players, who spoke Thursday on a variety of topics, including the business of pro ball.

Johnson reiterated his unhappiness with the Cincinnati Bengals. The receiver is in his fifth Pro Bowl, replacing New England's Randy Moss, and he wasn't looking at the surroundings as paradise.

"All the voices talked for 16 weeks," Johnson said of the league's disappointing regular season. "I don't hear one now. Where are you? Now's the time to let it out. The only voice I hear is mine."

While that's not unusual with the loudmouthed Johnson, he wasn't smiling or joking around after the AFC practice. He was defending his self-promoting manner, although he admitted some of it didn't fit the Bengals' approach.

soft tissues and muscles of the right groin and the right femoral artery, a crucial pathway for blood.

The bullet tore through muscles of Taylor's upper right thigh, according to the report from the Miami-Dade Medical Center, then entered the leg and entered the athlete's left thigh.

Aside from the bullet wounds and a small abrasion on Taylor's right biceps, no other injuries were noted. The report also found no drugs in Taylor's system.

— The Associated Press

Wood

Continued from page B1

in the starting lineup during 11 of the Golden Eagles' 22 games. Wood hasn't had a double-digit scoring game during her adjustment to guard at CSI, but ripped 12 rebounds against a taller Northwestern College (Wyo.) squad.

"People have roles on the team and right now my role isn't really scoring," Wood said. "I shoot the ball when I have open looks, and some nights I'll score more, but my role is really to play hard, go after the ball and get rebounds."

And defend, from post to perimeter. That will be CSI's rallying cry tonight and Saturday against a 12-10 record squad this season, exceeding an average of 28 attempts per game. Wood is similar to the North Idaho College team CSI swept last week as both have perimeter-oriented offenses.

Rogers and Wood both expect last weekend's series against NIC to pay dividends against NIC, although the Golden Eagles suffered through a sub-par showing in last Friday's win.

Eagle Eyes

Tonight: No. 4 CSI (21-1, 7-0 SWAC) at College of Eastern Utah (12-10, 3-4 SWAC). Price, Utah, 5:30 p.m.
Last time they met: CSI topped CEU 92-69 in Twin Falls as Maddy Plunkett notched a 23-point, 15-rebound double-double.
On the horizon: CSI hosts Snow College next weekend before facing rival Salt Lake Community College at home in two weeks.
On the radio: This weekend's games will be broadcast live on 1270 AM KTR by Jonathan Drew.

CSI season leaders

(Minimums apply. Averages, made/missed in parentheses.)
Points: Maddy Plunkett 340 (15.5); Soana Lucez 303 (13.8).
Rebounds: Plunkett 168 (7.5); Lucez 155 (7.5); Asaia: Maylene Ornelas 106 (4.8); LaCale Pringle-Buchanan 97 (4.4). Steals: Pringle-Buchanan 105 (4.8); Ornelas 45 (2.1). Blocks: Anita Burdick 22 (1.1); Eva Ivanova 18 (0.8). Field goal percentage: Burdick .531 (86.16); Pringle-Buchanan .518 (73.14); 3-point percentage: Pringle-Buchanan .415 (22.53); Ornelas .337 (31.92). Free throw percentage: Burdick .781 (57.73); Plunkett .717 (44.61).

"It helped us a lot," Wood said. "I think each week we try and get a little bit better, and I think last week we probably didn't do it. So this weekend gives us another opportunity to take a step forward."

A proven winner at the high school level, Wood continues to take her own steps forward in the college game. For a ranch kid from a rural Idaho town with its own unique love for the game,

the chance to remain synonymous with Magic Valley basketball — and most importantly, winning — is what playing at CSI is all about.

"She knows she could be making hay or something right now instead of playing basketball," Rogers said. "I think she appreciates where she's at."

Eric Larsen may be reached at 1-800-658-3883, Ext. 220.

Fields

Continued from page B1

season, Fields is averaging 6.5 points and 3.7 rebounds, and hasn't surpassed 12 points or 10 rebounds in a single game. But to Peery, statistics are a small part of Fields' game.

"Effort," Peery said, is what makes Fields a good player. "His effort is just always the best, so for him, a lot of good things happen. Sometimes he doesn't have tremendous stats, but he can set a tone for us through his effort that other guys will follow."

Fields attributes his effort and leadership capabilities to his upbringing in Headland, a rural town in the southeastern corner of Alabama with a population of roughly 3,700 people. Raised by a mother that calls him a natural leader, Fields picked up southern manners along the way, as he'll often answer questions with a "Yes, sir" or "No, sir." Somewhere along the way, Fields also learned a humility that's almost foreign in the chest-thumping world of junior college basketball.

"You really have to be humble," Fields said. "You can't be cocky about everything. If you're horrible about everything, it's going to work on and off the court."

It's that humility that has made Fields a fit in Peery's team-oriented system as the No. 2 Golden Eagles put their 22-0 season record on the line tonight as Fields

returns to action against the College of Eastern Utah. Against a volatile 13-9 CEU team that sits third in the Scenic West Athletic Conference standings at 5-2, the CSI players' ability to fill their designated roles will be tested.

"Over and over, I think they're the second-most explosive team in the league," Peery said. "I think they really have that ability to go on scoring runs with their talent. They play loose enough that they can make mistakes and play through it."

While the Golden Eagles enjoy quick, physical play, they can't get sucked into playing rec center ball in a hostile environment. CEU officials sold more than 2,000 tickets for tonight's game by Wednesday afternoon, and plan on drawing record crowds over the weekend.

For Fields, the showcase of playing for the top team in the nation in his return is one more chance to remind the SWAC of what he brings to the court.

"I bring a lot of energy," he said. "I take charges, play defense. Basically, what coach asks me to do, I do. I'm not a big scorer or anything, but the little things that other people won't do, I will do."

Yes, sir, that's Terry Fields, plain and simple.

Eric Larsen may be reached at 1-800-658-3883, Ext. 220 or clarsen@magvalley.com.

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Second water hearing finishes in Boise

State close to clarifying complex water laws

By Matt Christensen
Times-News writer

The second of three pivotal water hearings finished in Boise this week, bringing the state and water users one step closer to clarifying who has claim to southern Idaho water.

A hearing between the Surface Water Coalition, which includes Twin Falls Canal Co., and the Idaho Ground Water Appropriators closed Wednesday. Former Chief Justice of Idaho Gerald Schroeder will now weigh the evidence and make a recommendation to Idaho

Department of Water Resources Director Dave Tubill. Schroeder ruled to uphold the state's opinion that groundwater pumps owed water to surface users in a previous hearing that pitted two Magic Valley trout farms against IGWA.

In the coalition case, surface water users are also alleging groundwater pumps have taken water from the Eastern Snake Plain Aquifer that belongs to them under Idaho's first-come, first-served water law.

Many questions of fact in the coalition case were answered in the trout farm case, according to lawyers close to the disputes.

Schroeder is expected to

issue his latest recommendation within 30 days, though it may take longer depending on procedure, according to IDWT.

Groundwater pumps may have to close some of their wells to free up water for the trout farms under conditions in the trout case, but a strong snowpack could prevent curtailment in the coalition case.

A third hearing, involving

the A&B Irrigation District, is scheduled for May.

The outcomes of one or more of these hearings is expected to be the basis for a Supreme Court case, which will determine whether a contested portion of Idaho's water can be applied legally.

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

Police warn of fake money Counterfeit bills passing through area

Times-News

Twin Falls police are warning of new counterfeit \$20 and \$50 bills passing through the area.

There are a number of details that distinguish counterfeit bills from the genuine bills printed through the Federal Reserve, according to a Twin Falls police press release.

Hold up two bills of the same denomination: Portraits on genuine bills appear more lifelike than the "finess and flat" features of the counterfeit, which usually look dark or muted.

Genuine bills contain clearer, more distinct and sharp sawtooth points on the Federal Reserve and Treasury seals. The seals on a counterfeit may have uneven, blunt or broken points.

Borders of genuine bills are clear and unbroken while on fake bills the lines on the outer margin and scrollwork may be blurred and indistinct. Make sure serial numbers have a distinctive style and are evenly spaced. They should also be printed in the same ink as the Treasury seal. Counterfeit bills may be uniform in spacing and may vary in color.

Also look for tiny red and blue fibers embedded throughout the bill. Counterfeiters often try to simulate these fibers by printing tiny red and blue lines on the paper, but on close inspection you can tell whether it's an embedded fiber or resting on the surface.

Twin Falls police ask anyone with information about the counterfeiters to call 735-4357.

Fighting terror with 'tea'



Greg Mortenson, co-author of 'Three Cups of Tea,' talks with students Thursday afternoon at the College of Southern Idaho after a discussion about the building of schools in Afghanistan and Pakistan.

Mortenson tells CSI audience of inroads into Asia

By Cassidy Friedman
Times-News writer

The man who failed to summit Pakistan's K2 mountain, only to become one of America's most effective diplomats in the post-9/11 era, told a Twin Falls audience Thursday that extremist Muslim schools are cropping up in his native land of Tanzania — contrary to the claims of the U.S. government.

Greg Mortenson, an American citizen born in Tanzania, learned that grim news first-hand last summer when he traveled back to his native country, now a popular tourist destination for Americans climbing Mount Kilimanjaro.

Mortenson spoke to a group of 52 honors students and professors at the College of Southern Idaho Thursday, before addressing a standing-room only audience later in the Fine Arts Auditorium.

"My heart sank," said Mortenson, who now lives in Bozeman, Mont. After developing dozens of schools for tens of thousands of students in Pakistan and Afghanistan whose only access to education was through extremist madrassas, Mortenson has made himself a trusted source for

"The real enemy is ignorance."
— Greg Mortenson

struggling American intelligence agencies.

"I knew right away," he said of the burgeoning schools that preach hatred of the West. "I saw those whitewashed little buildings, with Arabic red letters on the side."

His first reaction was "shock" and then true to form, he told his wife, "I've got to start getting schools in here."

Mortenson said the Tanzania of his youth was a peacefully-coexisting blend of Jews, Christians and Muslims. He said American intelligence "has become so technologically based" that it's not likely to discover madrassas have emerged in Tanzania for another five years.

"Even if you're information gathering, you have to have three cups of tea," he said, referring to the title of his 2007 non-fiction book, "Three Cups of Tea" co-authored with David Oliver Reelin.

The title refers to the traditional way

where he built a school — cultivate trust in a stranger.

As Mortenson's Central Asia Initiative built schools in Afghanistan and Pakistan, extremist Muslim groups have outpaced his projects by increasing the number of extremist schools in Afghanistan from 900 to 2,500 since the 1980s. Those sponsors are buying the hearts and minds of young, poor Afghans, a segment of the country that's six times larger than it was before Sept. 11, 2001.

In addition, American policy has been to clear out poppy fields used to manufacture heroin. But Mortenson says opium production increased 60 percent last year. Eradicating poppy fields only steals the livelihood of growers, creating new adversaries for the U.S.

"The real enemy is ignorance," Mortenson told the gathering. "Most people do not like al Qaeda very much. There is the saying, you can rent an Afghan but you can't buy an Afghan. Al Qaeda... they recognize the value of education. We're learning but it's taking a long time."

"The thing we need to remember," he said, "is that young kids don't have

Please see TEA, Page C3

Charter schools accepting applications New school in Gooding sets May 6 deadline

By Andrea Gates
Times-News writer

Two charter schools are taking applications for fall enrollment in Gooding and Twin Falls.

North Valley Academy in Gooding, the area's newest public charter school, is taking applications until May 6 for its first school year, to begin in the fall. The charter school will lease space at the Idaho School for the Deaf and the Blind.

One-year-old Xavier Charter School in Twin Falls, which currently has 260 students, is accepting applications until March 31.

Charter schools can set their own enrollment deadlines, said Idaho Charter School Commission Program Manager Tamara Baysinger.

Xavier Charter School serves kindergarten through eighth grade and is petitioning the Idaho Charter School Commission to add ninth grade, or 30 additional students for next year. Baysinger said the commission will likely hear that request on March 6.

Both schools are publicly funded and operate under the Idaho Charter School Commission, independently of local school districts surrounding them.

They first need to enroll students within their school districts, but if quotas aren't met they can open up enrollment and hold a lottery where priority is first given to school founders' kids, then their siblings and finally non-students.

At Xavier, kids already enrolled this year have first priority for next year, and the application is just a formality, said the school's principal

Please see SCHOOLS, Page C2

For applications

Log on to
www.northvalleyacademy.com
or
http://www.xaviercharter.org

LEGISLATIVE BRIEFS

Legislator suffers stroke on House floor

House Revenue and Taxation Committee Rep. Dennis Lake, R-Blackfoot, a six-term legislator, was transported to a hospital during the middle of Thursday's floor session after an apparent stroke.

As Rep. Jim Clark, R-Hayden Lake, issued closing remarks to his bill, Lake looked weak and couldn't stand up, according to legislators. Several legislators later described the episode as a stroke.



At about 12:20 p.m., Clark was cut off mid-sentence and the House went to ease. Paramedics arrived and Lake was brought to St. Luke's Regional Medical Center. He was later transferred to Saint Alphonsus Regional Medical Center.

As he was moved from the House floor to an elevator, Lake appeared alert, sitting

upright in a wheelchair and waving. Lawmakers said Lake did not lose consciousness.

"My fans," he said with a smile to a crowd of about two dozen people outside the chamber.

The House reconvened and suspended the bill being debated until today.

Rep. Leon Smith, R-Twin Falls, one of Lake's closest friends in the Legislature, said that an hour before Lake needed medical assistance, the two lawmakers had a conversation in the hallway about a bill.

Smith said Lake told him

his left leg was locking up and in his left arm was numb.

Smith said he told him that sounded like the precursor to a stroke and offered him aspirin, but Lake declined.

Senate panel to review home price disclosure

The Senate Local Government and Taxation Committee will review two proposals that would change Idaho's home sales disclosure laws.

One, a bipartisan pitch from lawmakers, would make disclosure of sales price for

homes mandatory to county assessors. Prices would remain private from the public, unless people appealed their property taxes.

The sponsors said that the change would bring Idaho into compliance with a constitutional requirement that property taxes be based on market value.

The bill is sponsored by Sen. Shawn Kentup, R-Sandpoint, and House Minority Leader Wendy Jaquet, D-Ketchikan. They stressed it's a statewide problem. The same bill was proposed last year but left

untouched so that it could be redrafted before sessions.

The committee also voted to hold a hearing on a proposal that would make it mandatory for sales prices of a home to be reported to multiple listing services. Neilsen said Idaho county assessors use multiple listing services, said John Eaton, a lobbyist for the Idaho Association of Realtors, which is sponsoring the bill.

"I think we all agree more information is better," Eaton said. He said the organization

Please see BRIEFS, Page C3

S.V. chamber official sentenced for DUI

Times-News

Carol Waller, executive director of the Sun Valley/Ketchum Chamber and Visitor's Bureau, was sentenced to 18 months of unsupervised probation last week after pleading guilty to driving under the influence.

A Blaine County Sheriff's deputy arrested Waller the evening of Oct. 25 at the intersection of Buttercup Road and Indian Creek Road.

A judge fined Waller, 49, \$400 plus court costs and ordered her to submit to alcohol tests when requested. He allowed her to drive only when she has not consumed alcohol. She must also enroll herself in a vic-



Waller

tim's impact panel and attend court alcohol school. She was credited for serving two days in jail. But a lieutenant at the jail said she was booked at 8:16 p.m. and released at 10:49 p.m. that same day.

A Blaine County deputy prosecutor, who was attending a conference in Boise, did not respond to a request for a clarification. Waller could not be reached Thursday evening.

Scout earns Eagle award

Devin Harris, son of Tracy and Shelly Harris of Kimberly, received his Eagle Scout award at a ceremony held Jan. 30.

Devin is a member of Troop 42 sponsored by the Crossroads United

Methodist Church in Kimberly, with Kathie Clark as Scoutmaster. For his Eagle project, he made and placed 50 wooden crosses on veterans' graves at the Jerome Cemetery. He was also on staff this past summer at Camp Bradley and has earned his BSA Life Guarding Award.

Devin is a senior at Kimberly High School and plans to attend the College of Southern Idaho this fall.

Harris

OFFICERS INSTALLED



Gardner photo

Officers were installed on Jan. 15 at St. Luke's Magic Valley Auxiliary. The Auxiliary is an enthusiastic group that places high priorities on programs such as the Cancer Patient Gasoline Fund, Scholarships, Diabetes Education and special emphasis on alleviating the stress of patients and their families as they come to SLVHMC for medical care. Officers elected include, from left, president, Virginia Becker; first vice president, Betty Taylor; second vice president, Merle Calk; third vice president, Sue Chipman; secretary, Imogene Heath; treasurer, Ila Warren; corresponding secretary, Anna Schwarz; and historian, Geri Hirschkom.

CITIZENS OF THE WEEK



Gardner photo

Robert Elementary School's Citizens of the Week for the week of Jan. 10 include, from left, front: Angelica, Tyler, Collin, Preston; center, Rene, Devin, Cameron, Nayeli; and back, Mitchell, Melissa, Leslie, Sara and Carlos.

Schools

Continued from page C1

Cindy Fulcher. Kids expelled from another school, public or private, could be rejected by charter schools and any other public school, according to a parent said the school threatened to reject her special-needs children.

Xavier made an enrollment mistake last year, and got a letter of defect from the charter commission in September after a parent said the school threatened to reject her special-needs children.

The school now serves "less than 10" special needs kids, has contracts with two special needs providers and it's trying to hire a half-time special needs teacher, said Fulcher.

The school's enrollment mistake was a topic of conversation at a Jan. 10 charter commission meeting, where commissioners discussed the need for new charter schools to understand they can't turn away special needs kids. What Xavier did last year showed a lack of understanding, commissioners said.

North Valley Academy will try to stay clear any enrollment problems. "Everybody's welcome," said Infanger.

Enrollment lotteries at the schools will be held during public meetings, school officials said, and applications are available online.

Andrea Gates can be reached at 735-3380 or Andrea.Gates@ec.net.

CHEERLEADERS VISIT CARE CENTER



The Magic Valley Eagle All-Star cheerleaders shared some Christmas spirit with the residents at the Twin Falls Care Center on Dec. 22. Members from the various squads spent their time caroling and meeting the residents.

T.F. woman to celebrate 80th birthday Saturday

Lora Primm of Twin Falls will celebrate her 80th birthday at an open house from 2 to 4 p.m. Saturday at the Shilo Inn, 1586 Blue Lakes Blvd. N. in Twin Falls.

Lora Teddy was born Feb. 7, 1928. She married Everett Primm. She has lived in the Magic Valley for 80 years.

Her children are Jim (Teresa) Primm, Sharon (Bill) Strickland and Julie (Rie) Mayne. She has six grandchildren and six great-grandchildren.



The event is hosted by her family.

Mary H. Darrell

BUILT — Mary H. Darrell, 87, of Buhl, died Tuesday, Feb. 5, 2008, in her sleep peacefully at her home.

She was born Sept. 20, 1920, to Isaac and Anna (Tannehill) Pyle. She was the third of five children. She attended Lucerne County School. She married Herbert Jack Darrell, and to this union was born three children: Barbara, Jack and Larry. They later were divorced. During World War II, she worked in the shipping yards. She purchased her own property and raised her three children on her own. Among her occupations, she worked on

a farm and was an upholsterer. She enjoyed reading and gardening.

She is survived by her two sons, Jack (Lorena) Darrell and Larry Darrell, all of Buhl; two sisters, Elsie Pryor of Buhl and Nellie Wilson of Boise; 12 grandchildren and eight great-grandchildren. She is preceded in death by her daughter, Barbara LaBrie; one sister, Esther Norris; and one brother, D.L. Pyle.

No service is scheduled. Arrangements are under the direction of Parks Magic Valley Funeral Home, 2551 Kimberly Road, Twin Falls, ID 83301.

SERVICES

Jose "Joe" Zuniga, of Gooding, memorial service at 5:30 p.m. today at the Desert Hills Community Church of the Nazarene in Gooding.

Helen Price Harris of Boise and formerly of Shoshone, service at 10 a.m. Saturday at Howe-Robertson Funeral Chapel in Jerome; visitation from 6 to 8 p.m. today at the mortuary.

Donald C. Tolley of Boise and formerly of Caldwell and Twin Falls, memorial service at 11 a.m. Saturday at Dakan's Funeral Chapel in Caldwell.

William Troy Dickard of Pocatello and formerly of Kimberly, graveside service at 11 a.m. Saturday at the Filer Cemetery; visitation from 6 to 7:30 p.m. today at the Manning-Wheatley Funeral Chapel, 510 N. 12th Ave. in Pocatello.

George B. Sullivan of Gresham, Ore., and formerly of Rupert, funeral Mass at 11 a.m. Saturday at St. Henry's Catholic Church in Gresham; visitation from noon to 4 p.m., with recitation of the rosary at 4 p.m., today at the Gresham Funeral Chapel.

Donna Fay Packard Watson Barrus of El Paso, Texas, and formerly of Twin Falls, funeral at 11 a.m. Saturday at White Mortuary.

in Twin Falls; visitation from 4 to 8 p.m. today at the mortuary.

Floyd Raymond Ricks of Twin Falls, funeral at 11 a.m. Saturday at Demary's Gooding Chapel; visitation from 10 to 11 a.m. Saturday at the mortuary.

Russell Whitney Pincock of Heyburn, funeral at 11 a.m. Saturday at the Emerson LDS Church, 127 S. 950 W. in Paul; visitation from 6 to 8 p.m. today at Rasmussen Funeral Home, 1350 E. 16th St. in Burley, and 10 to 10:45 a.m. Saturday at the church.

Jackie Irene DeBoard of Idaho Falls and formerly of Buhl, Twin Falls and Jerome, graveside service at 1 p.m. Saturday at Sunset Memorial Park in Twin Falls. (White Mortuary in Twin Falls).

Dorothy Aleene Bush of Richland, Wash., and formerly of Twin Falls, funeral at 1 p.m. Saturday at the Central United Protestant Church, 1124 Stevens Drive in Richland; graveside service follows at Sunset Memorial Gardens, 915 E. By-Pass Highway in Richland; reception after graveside service at the church; visitation from noon to 5 p.m. Friday and 8 to 11 a.m. Saturday at Elman's Funeral Home, 915 By-Pass Highway.

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."

Virginia J. Pratt

HEYBURN — Virginia J. Pratt, was born Feb. 6, 1922, in Ogden, Utah, and passed away unexpectedly on Feb. 5, 2008, at her home in Heyburn.

Preceded by Grant L. Pratt Sr., she is reunited with her beloved husband and many friends and family. Survived by her twin brother, Vernon Everson of Orem, Utah; 10 children, Grant Jr., Nicholas (Judee), Janean Hendrickson (John), Karen Pratt, Teri Hall (Bob), James (Jeanne), Rex (Jami), Jeffrey, Craig and Scott; 33 grandchildren and 62 great-grandchildren.

She lived with great faith as a lifelong member of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, holding a



variety of positions. She served a full-time mission with her husband in the Virginia Roanoke Mission. One of her last expressions was "Perfect" regarding the new first presidency of the church organized the day prior to her passing. Though deaf, unable to hear music and communicate freely to others for 40 years, she listened to the melodies of the spirit, and love and deep faith in Jesus Christ were the result.

The funeral will be held at 11 a.m. Monday, Feb. 11, at the Heyburn LDS 1st Ward building, 530 Villa Drive in Heyburn. Burial will follow at the Paul Cemetery. Arrangements are under the direction of Hansen Mortuary in Rupert. In lieu of flowers, donations may be considered for the Missionary Fund of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints.

Mary W. (Andrews) Hoobler

FILER — Mary Winifred Hoobler, of Filer, passed away Tuesday, Feb. 5, 2008, at SunBridge Care and Rehabilitation Center.

She was born Jan. 1, 1927, in Soldier Summit, Utah, to Faye Monroe Andrews and Eunice Reed Andrews. The family moved to northern Idaho, settling on a farm near the small community of Sagie. Mary attended the Morton Grade School and Sandpoint High School. After graduating from high school, Mary joined her sister, Susie Messinger, in working at the bean houses in Twin Falls. She met Robert Hoobler in Hansen. They were married in July of 1947 in Sandpoint. They made their home in Twin Falls, where both sons were born, R. Gordon and Douglas Lee. In 1960, the family moved to Filer, where Mary resided until her death.

Mary became an LPN in 1961, working until 1973 when an injury prevented her from working. Mary loved to make quilts and crochet in the winter. During the summer, she raised a big garden, canning everything that grew. She loved to make jellies, jams and pickles for her sons and grandchildren. Mary was a member of the Hansen Assembly of God Church.

Survivors include her husband, Robert Hoobler of Filer; a son, Gordon Hoobler (Nancy) of Deary; one brother, George Andrews of Sandpoint; four grandchildren; 13 great-grandchildren; and many nieces and nephews. She was preceded in death by her parents, one son and daughter-in-law, four sisters and two brothers.

A service will be held at 11 a.m. Monday, Feb. 11, at the Hansen Assembly of God Church in Hansen. A viewing will be held prior to the service starting at 10 a.m. In lieu of flowers, the family encourages contributions to be made in her memory to the Hansen Assembly of God Building Fund, in care of White Mortuary, P.O. Box 845, Twin Falls, ID 83303. Arrangements are under the direction of White Mortuary.

Mary Jo Harvey

Mary Jo Harvey passed away Feb. 5, 2008, at the age of 85.

She was born in Independence, Mo., where she met her husband in Eugene Harvey. They moved to Sacramento, Calif., in 1940, where they lived and raised their family. Mary Jo moved to Twin Falls in 2002 to be

closer to her daughter, JoAnn Harvey. She passed away peacefully at her daughter's home. She will be interred next to her husband at East Lawn Cemetery in Sacramento, Calif.

Arrangements have been entrusted to White Mortuary, "Chapel by the Park," in Twin Falls.

DEATH NOTICES

Kenneth D. Lahn Jr.

KIMBERLY — Kenneth Donald "Ken" Lahn Jr., 38, of Kimberly, died Thursday, Feb. 5, 2008, from injuries sustained in an electrical accident at a job site in Jerome. The funeral will be held at 2 p.m. Tuesday, Feb. 12, at Reynolds Funeral Chapel, 2466 Addison Ave. E. in Twin Falls; visitation from 4 to 8 p.m. Monday, Feb. 11, at the mortuary.

James H. Spafford

KIMBERLY — James H. Spafford, MD, 79, of Kimberly, died Thursday, Feb. 7, 2008, at his home. Arrangements will be announced by Parks Magic Valley Funeral Home of Twin Falls.

Dwight Brandon

Dwight Brandon, 80, of Twin Falls, died Thursday, Feb. 7, 2008, at his home. Arrangements will be announced by Parks Magic

Valley Funeral Home of Twin Falls.

Helen M. Cooper

WENDELL — Helen Mary Cooper, 89, of Wendell, died Thursday, Feb. 7, 2008, at St. Luke's Magic Valley Regional Medical Center in Twin Falls.

Arrangements will be announced by Demary's Wendell Chapel.

Barbara Drenker

Barbara Drenker, 85, of Twin Falls, died Thursday, Feb. 7, 2008, at Bridgeview Estates.

Arrangements will be announced by White Mortuary in Twin Falls.

Genese Sevall

Buhl — Genese Sevall, 84, of Buhl, died Thursday, Feb. 7, 2008, at Bridgeview Care Center in Twin Falls.

Arrangements will be announced by Farmer Funeral Chapel in Buhl.

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Fed judge: Schools' lawsuit against Idaho Supreme Court to continue

BOISE (AP) — A lawsuit brought by school districts against the Idaho Supreme Court will move forward in the federal courts, U.S. District Judge B. Lynn Winnill ruled Thursday.

Citing what he called "the Idaho Supreme Court's lack of clarity in its decisions and pronouncements," Winnill told both sides to be ready to schedule future hearings. Then the judge suggested that the state high court could avert a possible trial by simply clarifying its earlier ruling.

"In the interest of judicial economy, and to save the state of Idaho and its taxpayers unnecessary expenses associated with this case, the court will note that an expedited order by the Idaho Supreme Court clarifying the posture of the state-court action may be all that is needed to facilitate a quick and inexpensive resolution of this case," Winnill wrote.

The school districts sued the Supreme Court last June to force the

justices to order a remedy phase for a case the districts won two years ago. In 2005, the high court upheld a lower court ruling in favor of a 1990 lawsuit filed by the districts that contended Idaho's school funding system was unconstitutional because it did not set aside enough money. The June lawsuit contends the justices have done nothing to make sure the 2005 ruling was obeyed.

In his ruling Thursday, Winnill rejected the Idaho Supreme Court's request to throw out the districts' latest lawsuit. He also rejected the school districts' request for a summary judgment, saying the complicated case involved too many factual questions for an immediate ruling.

"We are as pleased as a possum in a pea patch" with this decision," said Robert Huntley, the lawyer for the school districts and himself a former Idaho Supreme Court Justice.

Merlyn Clark, the lawyer representing

the high court justices, said the districts may ask Winnill to reconsider.

That argument — that the federal court doesn't have the jurisdiction to order a state supreme court to take action — isn't the only troublesome part of the ruling, Clark said. Some of the Idaho Supreme Court justices who were sued in the case have since retired, and it's not clear if the court would have to reconvene with the justices who were on the case at the time or if the current panel would be sufficient, Clark said.

Still, Clark said, the Idaho Supreme Court justices are taking Winnill's recommendation to clarify their earlier ruling "very seriously."

The original lawsuit argued that the state was not fulfilling its responsibility under Idaho law to provide public schools. In 2005, the high court said the districts were essentially right — Idaho's system was unconstitutional because poor school districts were unable to build safe schools for children.

Pioneer female ad executive Adrienne A. Hall dies at 81

By Jocelyn Stewart
Los Angeles Times

Adrienne A. Hall, who became a leader in the advertising industry at a time when few women held such positions, and who later helped create prestigious organizations for high-achieving women, died Saturday in a nursing home in Los Angeles from complications of Lou Gehrig's disease. She was 81.

In 1970 Hall and Joan Levine formed Hall & Levine

Advertising, which was often described as the first U.S. advertising agency headed by women.

The agency's clients included such companies as Max Factor and Neutrogena, said Stefanie "Hall," Hall's daughter.

Six years after the agency was formed, the Western States Advertising Agency Association changed the name of its "Man of the Year Award" to "Advertising Award of the Year" and gave it to Hall and her partner.

5TH DISTRICT COURT

FEB. 5 AND 6
ARRAIGNMENTS

Santos L. Ahuelican-Zayateco, 25; Gooding; intimidating a witness; no plea; public defender appointed; preliminary hearing Feb. 15; \$50,000 bond.
Tigre D. Martinez, 38, Twin Falls; delivery of a controlled substance; no plea; public defender appointed; preliminary hearing Feb. 15; posted bond.
Manuel J. Garcia Jr., 39, Twin Falls; felony possession of a controlled substance and driving under the influence; no plea; public defender appointed; preliminary hearing Feb.

15; \$100,000 bond.
Benjamin I. Graf, 33, Twin Falls; domestic battery; innocent plea; public defender denied; pretrial hearing Feb. 26; released on recognizance.
Bryce A. Shindle, 35, Twin Falls; domestic battery; innocent plea; public defender appointed; pretrial hearing Feb. 26; released on recognizance.
John W. Sprotto, 33, Phoenix; open container; innocent plea; public defender appointed; pretrial hearing Feb. 26; \$100 bond; driving under the influence, excessive; innocent plea; public defender appointed; pretrial hearing Feb. 26; \$5,000 bond.

Briefs

Continued from page C1

would oppose the other bill.

Senate panel will hear one-mile bill again

The Senate Local Government and Taxation Committee agreed to review legislation that would allow people living farther than one-mile from proposed feedlots to testify at public hearing.

The exact same bill cleared the Senate overwhelmingly last year, but failed to get a hearing in the House. Some senators voiced concern they'd be wasting their time, but offered to give the legislation another shot.

Sen. Jeff Sidoroway, R-Treton, who last week told the *Times-News* he was

"instrumental" in keeping last year's bill from having a hearing, tried unsuccessfully to kill the proposal.

"To me it's not a fairness issue, it's a local issue," said Sidoroway, an elk rancher who was among four senators to vote against last year's bill.

House passes energy efficient buildings bill

The House approved a bill 55-11 that would require all major state building projects and renovations be designed with a standard that is at least 30 percent more energy efficient than the state energy code.

Rep. George Eskridge, the bill's chief sponsor, said that over the next five years, Idaho will save \$1 million. He

said the hope is that leadership can be demonstrated to the private sector and local governments to follow.

Rep. Leon Smith, R-Twin Falls, opposed the measure on the grounds that state buildings are already too costly. He said that while energy efficiency is beneficial, there were too many questions with the bill, including who would decide how the buildings would pay for themselves within 10 years.

"It just adds another layer of bureaucracy," he said after the vote.

The bill applies to only state government buildings and not local government or public buildings. It also exempts community colleges and school districts.

— Jared S. Hopkins, *Times-News*

Tea

Continued from page C1

another option besides those madrasas."

According to Mortenson's co-authored book, Rep. Mary Bono, R-Calif., told him she learned more about the crisis in Afghanistan from just one of his speeches than from all her committee briefings in Congress.

Mortenson has experienced setbacks. On Sunday, several members of a construction team building a set of schools for a village in Afghanistan were killed, including some decapitations. Despite the tragedy, the community — excited to finally have a school — continued to thrust forward the project.

"As long as people there

want education, I think we should continue to help them," he said.

So far, Mortenson has rejected offers from about 30 Hollywood producers who have aggressively pursued making his movie. His caution comes from fear that it will disrupt his efforts in central Asia.

He noted the recent film "The Kite Runner" about the region has been banned and its actors threatened. He said he's considering the possibility of a documentary to encourage American involvement in his projects.

As Mortenson prepared for his next speaking event at the Herrett Center across campus, an audience mem-

ber said he thought he could secure enough money to build multiple schools from his rich friends in London. A popular theme in Mortenson's book is that he never knows where his next breakthrough might occur.

Could his next big donation come from Twin Falls?

Bruce James, a pharmacy student who brought his 10-year old daughter along, lavished Mortenson with praise usually reserved for church.

"I think what you're doing is quite awesome," James said. "You're not a savior but I bet you could walk on water."

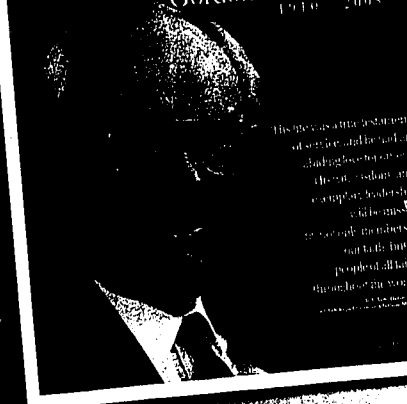
Cassidy Friedman can be reached 735-3241 or cffriedman@magicvalley.com.

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RAMBO Sylvester Stallone 7:30 • 9:35 (R) P S N V	27 DRESSES Katie Holmes & Jesse Branson 7:20 • 9:20 (PG-13) P S N V
BUCKET LIST Jack Black & Morgan Freeman 7:20 • 9:20 (PG-13) P S N V	

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Heavy snow causes problems across much of Idaho

BOISE (AP) — Heavy snow across much of Idaho is causing problems ranging from loose dogs walking over fences to buried vehicles on city streets apparently being left by owners for the spring thaw.

In northern Idaho, officials have captured 12 dogs in Post Falls since Jan. 22.

"People are calling in left and right with missing dogs and realizing dogs are just walking over their fence," said Post Falls animal safety officer Kristi Williams.

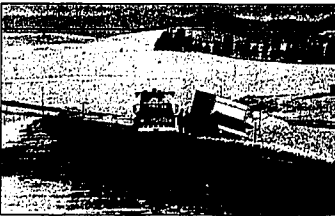
Coeur d'Alene also has had dogs go missing.

"If they had a city license on, they'd have gotten a ride home instead of to the shelter," said Coeur d'Alene police Sgt. Christie Wolfe said.

In Coeur d'Alene, more than 55 vehicles buried by snow have been tagged by police and will be towed if not moved within 48 hours.

"It takes a considerable amount of our resources to address these vehicles that have become a hazard," said police Chief Wayne Longo. "I encourage vehicle owners to take responsibility for their vehicles and get them removed. This will help ensure that emergency vehicles are able to respond to the needs of our citizens."

by Brodenbach, a National



A tow truck stops to help a stranded motorist Thursday on US Highway 95 in Coeur d'Alene. High winds and icy roads closed the highway for most of the day.

Weather Service hydrologist in Boise, said Coeur d'Alene has received about 15 inches of snow so far this winter, more than double the average.

More is on the way, with about a foot of snow is expected at elevations above 5,000 feet from central Idaho north.

Lower elevations could see rain, he said. "Northern Idaho is still under the gun," he said Thursday. "It looks like we head into the weekend, more snow."

Brodenbach said what's unusual this winter is the amount of snow at lower elevations.

In Coeur d'Alene, front-

end loaders have been clearing snow from around vehicles so that a waiting tow truck could take them away. So far this week, about a dozen cars and trucks have been towed away.

Police said owners of towed vehicles can expect to pay from \$85 to \$145, plus

\$30 a day for storage.

"In a way, I hate to have it done," said Lavern Shaffer, owner of Lavern and David Shaffer's Towing. "I hate to charge people for towing their own cars in front of their houses. It's not a good thing, but they should abide by the law and get them off the street in the first place."

In Idaho Falls, more than \$1 million has been spent removing snow.

"We're definitely over budget, but we're still going to stand tall and plow the streets," Idaho Falls Mayor Jared Fuhrman said.

"We're going to plow regardless," said Public Works Director Chad Stanger, adding that the city might start repaving residential streets Friday. "We'll worry about the budget later."

Fuhrman said that once winter is over, the City Council will look at how to pay the bill.

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Wolves follow big game to lower elevations

ST. LOU, Idaho (AP) — Deer, elk and moose have been moving to lower elevations because of heavy snow in the mountains along the St. Joe River, and a recent kill shows wolves have been quick to follow.

Some residents in the rugged, sparsely populated area southeast of Coeur d'Alene are concerned, although state Fish and Game Department experts say the wolves don't pose a danger to people.

Renee McQuade met with a conservation officer, Jerry Hugo, last week after her children found the carcass of a deer killed by three wolves about 200 feet from their bus stop in Shoshone County.

"I assured Renee the wolves are after this and not your kids," Hugo said.

"A lot of people don't understand the wildlife behavior enough to begin with, so they have a predisposed fear of them," he said, "but they are just as afraid of us as we are of them."

Even so, McQuade supports the removal of wolves from the federal endangered species list in the state, which could happen this month, and a proposed wolf hunt as part of a state management plan.

"Anytime there's a predator in the area, I'm concerned," she said.

Hugo said he would prefer "the rhetoric to simmer down on both ends of the spectrum."

"I know wolves are new and they're back on the scene," he said, "but it's just another carnivore."

"If the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service delists them, we're ready to start managing them just like we manage mountain lions and black bears."

He said the deer carcass was hardly eaten, indicating the wolves had been spooked and left.

John and Renee Walters, who photographed the aftermath of the kill, said wolves are competing with hunters for deer, elk and moose and could pose a threat to small children.

Renee Walters said she saw a wolf at another bus stop a few years ago. She said she's seen others, including one that circled her car when she pulled over to look at it, apparently while it was guarding its kill. A dead moose calf was found nearby.

"It's a daily thing around here, someone finding a dead elk or deer that's been killed by a wolf or a pack of wolves," she said.

The Walters say deer and elk populations appear to have decreased as wolf packs have become established in the area after they were reintroduced into Idaho in 1995.

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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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Officer, gunman amongst 5 dead after standoff

LOS ANGELES (AP) — A gunman killed three apparent relatives and a veteran SWAT officer before police shot him to death early Thursday in a home that erupted in flames during a long standoff. A woman escaped near the end of the siege.

Police Chief William Bratton said investigators going through the house afterward believed there may be an additional victim inside, so "we are even at this stage of the game not certain how many victims we have."

Two other SWAT officers received minor fragment wounds in a barrage of gunfire, Bratton said.

There was no immediate explanation of what triggered the bloodbath in the modest San Fernando Valley home, leading to the first line-of-duty death in the 41 years of the Los Angeles Police Department's elite



Los Angeles Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa, left, listens as Police Chief William Bratton speaks to reporters after a man barricaded in a house killed three relatives and opened fire on a SWAT team in Los Angeles Thursday.

SWAT team. The unidentified gunman was killed about 11 hours after barricading himself in

the house and telling police in a 911 call he had killed three relatives, police said. Those victims' identities were not immediately known.

The shooting occurred at the home of a man, his wife and their three sons, said Armando Rivera, who identified himself as a cousin.

The slain officer was Randall Simmons, 51, who left a wife and two children. His colleague James Veenstra, 51, was in stable condition after surgery, said Assistant Chief Jim McDonnell. Veenstra's wife is a police captain.

"Today's a sad and tragic day here in the city of Los Angeles," said an emotional Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa, who revealed that both officers, 20-year members of SWAT, were assigned to protect his children last year.

Veenstra had three hours of surgery at Northridge Medical Center to remove

fragments of the bullet that went through his hip and shattered his jaw, said Dr. Gabriel Aslanian.

Veenstra's prognosis "should be very good," Aslanian said.

Bratton said entering the home was a proper SWAT tactic.

"If there's a belief that a hostage is in danger, they will seek to make entry," SWAT did what we would have expected them to do," the chief said.

Bratton said preliminary information from the 911 call indicated as many as six people were in the house.

Preliminary information gave no hint of problems with police actions, but a complete review will be done, consistent with policy, said Police Commission Inspector General Andre Biotte, whose panel functions as the civilian overseer of the Police Department.

A SWAT team surrounded the house minutes after the 911 call about 9 p.m. Wednesday. About three hours later, officers entered the one-story home and were met with a barrage of gunfire, authorities said.

Inside, they found two males dead and another who might have been alive, Assistant Chief Michael Moore said.

After the two officers were shot, police retreated with their wounded colleagues and the other person, who was pronounced dead outside.

Moore said the three men might have been related to one another or to the family that lived in the house.

Authorities then located family members of the gunman, who asked him to surrender.

"Unfortunately the suspect had absolutely no contact with us, made no effort to surrender," Moore said.

A woman who ran from the rear of the home during the siege was rescued. Police believe she had been hiding inside during the entire ordeal.

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NYC sweep results in dozens of mob arrests

NEW YORK (AP) — Authorities arrested dozens of people Thursday in a sweeping Mafia takedown aimed at closing the book on decades-old gangland killings and other crimes and knocking out what's left of the onetime-gangster family.

A federal indictment in Brooklyn named 62 people, including the three highest-ranking members of the Gambino clan and the brother and nephew of the late John Gotti, the notorious boss who ran the family in its heyday. State prosecutors separately charged 26 others with running a gambling ring that took nearly \$10 million in bets on professional and college sports.

New York raids coincided with an Italian operation, code-named "Old Bridge" and centered on the Sicilian capital of Palermo, targeting Mafia figures who were strengthening contacts between mob groups in Italy and the United States.

Authorities said the investigations, though technically unconnected, signaled an international attempt to disrupt Sicilian ties to the Gambino family, which has been decimated by prosecutions since Gotti's fall.

The U.S. investigation ensnared whatever members of the Gambino hierarchy were still at liberty and will bring "closure to crimes from the past," U.S. Attorney Benjamin L. Campbell said, including the slaying of a court officer, drug trafficking, robberies, extortion at a failed NASCAR track and other crimes dating to the 1970s.

The probe's scope shows the mob "still exists in the city and the state of New York," said New York Attorney General Andrew Cuomo. "We like to think that it's a vestige of the past. It's not."

Most of the suspects were in custody following a series of raids Thursday, including the reputed acting boss of the Gambino family, John "Jackie the Nose" D'Amico, who is accused of playing a lead role in a broad racketeering conspiracy. His lawyer could not immediately be reached for comment.

Joseph Corozzo, accused of being a high-level Gambino adviser, pleaded not guilty to



John "Jackie the Nose" D'Amico, right, arrives at the Federal Courthouse in Brooklyn in March 1992 for continued testimony in the John Gotti case. The other men are not identified. D'Amico, the reputed acting boss of the Gambino crime family, was named in a federal indictment, authorities said Thursday.

multiple racketeering counts including cocaine trafficking. "He's never been involved in drugs," his attorney and son, Joseph Corozzo Jr., said outside court.

Among the 29 people arrested or sought in Italy were members of clans linked to Salvatore La Piccola, the

Sicilian Mafia boss arrested in November, Italian officials said.

"We have cut short a dangerous connection that would have been the basis for new illegal trafficking," Palermo Prosecutor Francesco Messina said.

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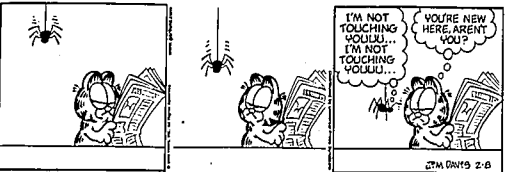
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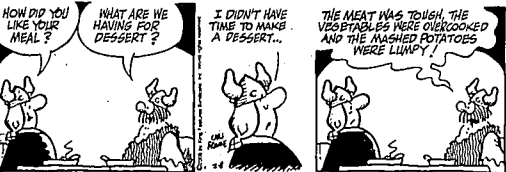
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By Jim Davis



Hagar the Horrible

By Chris Browne



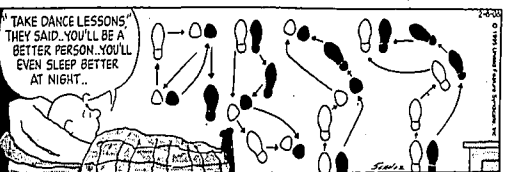
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THE FAMILY CIRCUS

By Bil Keane



Man's marriage proposal may become family affair

DEAR ABBY: I have waited 36 years to marry. Most would say I was the quintessential bachelor. When I was younger, I never thought I'd date anyone with a wild, I didn't want to deal with the "baggage" I thought came with dating a single mother. Needless to say, I have been dating a delightful woman who has a 4-year-old son with whom I get along great. We've dated for a year and a half. I love her, and it's time I propose.

The three of us are a little team, and I'm wondering, when I ask her to marry me, should I involve her son and buy something for the proposal, and if so, what? I was thinking of a custom-made charm for a chain (remember, he's only 4). I would like it to be something he can keep with him the rest of his life. Your advice would be greatly appreciated.

—BACHELOR
IN DOVER, N.J.

DEAR BACHELOR: Your sentiments are endearing. Because you are a "team," it would be wonderful to involve the child in the proposal. You might include him in the "surprise" for his mother, or even propose becoming a family to both of them.

However, at 4, the boy is too young to deal with the piece of expensive jewelry — and by the time he would



DEAR ABBY
Jeanne Phillips

be old enough to wear and appreciate it, a charm might not be in fashion, so I don't recommend it. The promise of your love and support is gift enough.

DEAR ABBY: My wife, "Yvonne," has been struggling with a painful issue most of her adult life. Her parents show no interest in her. This has been the case since she was young. Yvonne has continually reached out to them without success. Her mother calls maybe once a year and never sends anything for her birthday or Christmas. Her father is pretty much nonexistent.

This has been affecting my wife more and more as she gets older. She's 29 and a wonderful mother and wife, but every time she sees a mother and daughter spending time together on TV or in public, it makes her very sad. She always comments that she wishes she was like that with her mother. I have tried to console her the best I can, but it doesn't help much. What

can I do to help her overcome this?

—HURTS FOR MY WIFE
IN WARREN, MICH.

DEAR HURTS FOR MY WIFE: It appears you're doing all you can, but filling this hole in your wife's heart is more than a "civilian" can accomplish. She may need the help of a psychologist in order to repair the damage caused by her parents' neglect. Please suggest it to her because your wife may be more resilient than she thinks. I say this because she has been able to be an effective mother even though she had a poor role model to follow.

DEAR ABBY: I just found out that my mother has become engaged. I don't have a problem with it except for the fact that her fiancé, "Harry," is younger than my brothers and me.

My father has passed away, and I do not intend to call Harry anything other than his first name. When I refer to him in conversation, should I call him my stepfather or my mother's husband?

—"STEPCHILD" IN VIRGINIA

DEAR "STEPCHILD": You are all adults. Therefore I see nothing disrespectful in referring to Harry as your mother's husband. That's what he will be.

TODAY IN HISTORY

Today is Friday, Feb. 8, the 39th day of 2008. There are 327 days left in the year.

Today's highlight:

On Feb. 8, 1968, three college students were killed in a confrontation with highway patrolmen in Orangeburg, S.C., during a civil rights protest against a whites-only bowling alley.

On this date:

In 1587, Mary, Queen of Scots was beheaded at Fotheringhay Castle in England after she was implicated in a plot to murder her cousin, Queen Elizabeth I.

In 1693, a charter was granted for the College of William and Mary in Williamsburg, Va.

In 1837, the Senate selected the vice president of the United States, choosing Richard Mentor Johnson after no candidate received a majority of electoral votes.

In 1904, the Russo-Japanese War, a conflict over control of Manchuria and Korea, began as Japanese

forces attacked Port Arthur.

In 1910, the Boy Scouts of America was incorporated.

In 1915, D.W. Griffith's groundbreaking as well as controversial silent movie epic about the Civil War, "The Birth of a Nation," premiered in Los Angeles.

In 1924, the first execution by gas in the United States took place at the Nevada State Prison in Carson City as George, a Chinese immigrant convicted of murder, was put to death.

In 1974, the last three-man crew of the Skylab space station returned to Earth after spending 84 days in space.

In 1978, the deliberations of the Senate were broadcast on radio for the first time as members opened debate on the Panama Canal treaties.

In 1989, 164 people were killed when an American-chartered Boeing 707 filled with Italian tourists slammed into a fog-covered mountain in the Azores.

Ten years ago: Olga Korbut of Russia won the first gold medal of the Nagano Winter Games in 15-

kilometer classical cross-country skiing.

Five years ago: The chief U.N. arms inspectors arrived in Baghdad for a new round of crucial talks with Iraqi officials. In a jab at major U.S. allies, Defense Secretary Donald H. Rumsfeld told a security conference in Munich that countries such as France and Germany that favored giving Iraq another chance to disarm were undermining what slim chance existed to avoid war. Tens of thousands of Venezuelans marched in support of 35,000 oil workers fired for leading a two-month strike against President Hugo Chavez.

One year ago: Model, actress and tabloid sensation Anna Nicole Smith died in Florida at age 39 of an accidental drug overdose. A federal judge in Fargo, N.D., sentenced Alfonso Rodriguez Jr. to death for the slaying of college student Dri Sjoдин. Rival Palestinian leaders signed an agreement on a power-sharing government at Saudi-brokered talks in Mecca.

TODAY'S BIRTHDAYS

Composer-conductor John Williams is 76. Actor Jack Larson is 75. Former ABC News anchor Ted Koppel is 68. Actor Nick Nolte is 67. Comedian Robert Klein is 66. Actor-musician Creed Bratton is 65. Country singer Dan Seals is 60. Singer Ron Tyson is 60. Actress Brooke Adams is 59. Actress Mary Steenburgen is 55. Actor John Grisham is 53. Rock singer Vince Neil (Mötley Crüe) is 47. Rock singer-

musician Samy Llanas (The Cheetahs) is 47. Actor Gary Coleman is 40. Actress Mary McCormack is 39. Actor Seth Green is 34. Actor Josh Morfitt is 34. Rock musician Phoenix (Linkin Park) is 31. Actor Ryan Pinkston ("Judging Amy") is 16.



Koppel

THOUGHT

"To maintain one's ideals in ignorance is easy."

—Uta Hagen, German-born actress (1919-2004)

Honey, are we insured for this?

SUTHERLIN, Ore. (AP) — They say problem gamblers never quit while they're ahead, and one properly insured Oregon man apparently didn't either.

Authorities recovered a stolen antique slot machine worth \$4,000 and arrested the 30-year-old, who they said asked his wife to help file an insurance claim to cover damage done to his van during the heist.

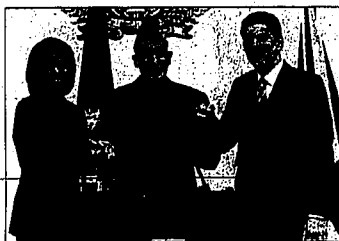
The slot machine was reported stolen in a burglary

Monday night at a home in Sutherlin, 170 miles south of Portland, Douglas County sheriff's deputies said. Investigators learned that the victim's housekeeper filed a police report a day earlier claiming someone had thrown a piece of sheet metal through the window of her parked van.

The sheet metal turned out to be from the back of the stolen slot machine, with the serial number attached.

Deputies said the housekeeper's husband stole the machine, which tipped over as he drove away, breaking the van window. He told his wife the van had been vandalized and asked her to report the damage so insurance would cover it, deputies said.

The husband and a 25-year-old man were charged with burglary and theft, but the wife wasn't charged. The case was still being investigated.



From left, U.S. Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice, Afghan President Hamid Karzai and Britain's Foreign Secretary David Miliband stand together during a joint press conference at the Presidential palace in Kabul, Afghanistan, Thursday. Rice was on the visit with Britain's Foreign Secretary David Miliband.

Rice visits Afghanistan's dicey Kandahar region

By Paul Richter
Los Angeles Times

KANDAHAR, Afghanistan — The top diplomats from Britain and the U.S. made an unexpected visit to one of Afghanistan's most dangerous corners Thursday in a show of support for NATO allies that have been willing to suffer casualties in the fight.

Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice and British Foreign Secretary David Miliband flew to this southern city, the cradle and former headquarters of the militant Taliban movement, to salute 800 NATO troops at the sprawling Kandahar Air Base.

"On behalf of the people of the United States, thank you, thank you, thank you," Rice told the troops, who were primarily Canadian, Dutch, British and Australian.

Although she denied any intention to slight other countries, her words carried a bite because NATO is locked in an intensifying internal struggle between member nations that have been willing to send combat troops to the most dangerous parts of Afghanistan and those that have limited assignments to safer zones.

Rice spoke to the forces in the southern town just weeks after Defense Secretary Robert M. Gates criticized NATO troops there as lacking adequate training in counterinsurgency techniques, touching off a political firestorm.

U.S. officials also have been pushing hard for other countries to increase their presence in the hot spots, and have suggested that their refusal could undermine the alliance.

Gates, speaking ahead of Thursday's meeting of NATO

defense ministers in Vilnius, Lithuania, said Wednesday in Washington that the division "puts a cloud over the future of the alliance" that could "get even worse."

Rice made it clear, as Gates has, that she intended to continue pressing the Western allies to step up their contributions.

"It's not an overwhelming number of forces that is being sought here," Rice said. "This is a troop contribution level that NATO can meet and should meet."

Miliband signaled that he expected the debate over deployments to remain intense.

"As the debate heats up about what you are doing here, we will be defending you heart and soul," he told the group, which had gathered amid low-slung beige buildings and barbed-wire-fenced walls.

The defense ministers gathered in Lithuania are discussing how to reorient the 6-year-old mission, which some observers believe is losing ground.

NATO leaders have been trying to avoid an open quarrel over the issue, and Rice and Miliband muted their comments in Kandahar and later in the afternoon, when they appeared at a joint news conference with Afghan President Hamid Karzai at the U.S. Embassy in Kabul. But some senior European officials have made it clear that they resent the pressure, which has been aimed at such countries as Germany, Italy and France.

Rice said in London on Wednesday that the NATO countries were facing a test and that their citizens had to understand that the job was more than just peacekeeping.

CIA chief: Legality of waterboarding is in doubt under current law

WASHINGTON (AP) — Debate over waterboarding flared Thursday on Capitol Hill, with the CIA director raising doubts about whether it's currently legal and the attorney general refusing to investigate U.S. interrogators who have used the technique on terror detainees.

Vice President Dick Cheney, meanwhile, said "it's a good thing" that top al-Qaida leaders who underwent the harsh interrogation tactic in 2002 and 2003 were forced to give up information that helped protect the country.

"It's a good thing we had them in custody, and it's a good thing we found out what they knew," Cheney told the Conservative Political Action Conference in Washington.

Since the Sept. 11, 2001, terror attacks, President Bush has "made the right decisions for the right reasons," Cheney said, "and would I support those same decisions again



Mukasey

today? You're damn right I would."

Waterboarding involves strapping a person down and pouring water over his or her cloth-covered face to create the sensation of drowning. It has been traced back hundreds of years, to the Spanish Inquisition and is condemned by nations around the world. Critics call it a form of torture.

This week, for the first time, the Bush administration acknowledged it waterboarded al-Qaida detainees Khalid Sheikh Mohammed, Abu Zubaydah and Abd al-Rahim al-Nashiri. CIA Director Michael Hayden on Thursday said waterboarding was used, in part, because of widespread belief among U.S. intelligence officials that

more catastrophic attacks were imminent.

In 2006, the CIA banned waterboarding by its personnel in the wake of a Supreme Court decision and new laws on the treatment of U.S. detainees.

"It is not included in the current program, and in my own view, the view of my lawyers and the Department of Justice, it is not certain that that technique would be considered to be lawful under current statute," Hayden told the House Intelligence Committee.

Hours earlier, Attorney General Michael Mukasey pushed back against Democrats on the House Judiciary Committee demanding to know whether he would prosecute U.S. interrogators who used waterboarding in the past.

"Are you ready to start a criminal investigation into whether this confirmed use of waterboarding by U.S.

agents was illegal?" the committee's chairman, Rep. John Conyers, D-Mich., asked, calling the technique an "odious practice."

"No, I am not," Mukasey answered bluntly.

He said the Justice Department could not investigate or prosecute people for actions that it had authorized earlier. Mukasey has refused to say publicly whether he considers waterboarding legal. On Thursday he said it "was found to be permissible under the law as it existed" in the years immediately following 9/11.

Critics say waterboarding violates the U.N. Convention Against Torture and U.S. laws outlawing legal treatment of detainees. The Justice Department long has resisted exposing the Bush administration and its employees to criminal or civil charges or even international war crimes if waterboarding were declared illegal.

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Experts: Iran starts testing own version of advanced centrifuge

VIENNA, Austria (AP) — Iran's nuclear project has developed its own version of an advanced centrifuge to churn out enriched uranium much faster than its previous machines, diplomats and experts said Thursday.

They said that few of the IR-2 centrifuges were operating and that testing appeared to be in an early phase, with the new machines rotating without processing any uranium gas.

More significant, the officials said, is the fact that Iran appears to have used know-how and equipment bought on the nuclear black market in combination with domestic ingenuity to overcome daunting technical difficulties and create highly advanced centrifuges.

Iran's uranium enrichment work has raised concerns in Washington and other Western capitals because it can produce the radioactive material needed for nuclear bombs.

Tehran says it is only pursuing lower-level enrichment to make fuel for atomic reactors that will generate electricity.

Iran is under two sets of U.N. Security Council sanctions for refusing to suspend uranium enrichment, which it started developing during nearly two decades of covert nuclear activity but on illicit purchases and revealed only five years ago.

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INSIDE: A sleeping bag you can walk around in? B2



INSIDE: Outdoor briefs, D3 | Ask the Officer, D3 | Skywatch, D3

Remington: Going great in 2008

Gun makers, of late, seem to be taking comfort in the adage, "united we stand or divided we fall."

Many of the old guard manufacturers have been consolidating their assets into a few lines within highly diversified management corporations. Remington — America's oldest gun company and our only native manufacturer of both firearms and ammunition — recently announced its merger with Cerberus Capital Management. Cerberus the company should not be confused with just plain Cerberus, the three-headed, dragon-tailed dog of Greek mythology assigned to guard the gateway to Hades. If they are indeed one in the same, not a single stockholder has bothered to mention it in the firm's portfolio.



SHOOTING
THE BULL
Rich
Simpson

In much the same manner that a giant three-headed hound could gobble up the entire contents of a Wal-Mart doggie food aisle in short order, Cerberus has been very busy shepherding American gun producers into its corporate kennel. In April of 2006 and then in December of '07, two proprietary makers of civilian and law enforcement AR-15 type rifles, Bushmaster and DPMS Panther — joined the Big C's fold.

Prior to its merger with Cerberus in 2007, Remington Arms itself had announced another New England suitor, the Marlborough-based, Marlfin Firearms Co. of North Haven, Conn., which had earlier incorporated with N.E.F. (New England Firearms) and H&R (Harrington and Richardson) as primary makers of single-shot rifles and shotguns, and the resurrected double barrel shattergun maker L.C. Smith. With the massive infusion of capital afforded by its new corporate status, and additional legal protections from reckless/unlawful suits by renegade anti-gun groups and city governments, Remington (The Big Green) has greatly expanded its product lines for 2008.

First up on the menu is Remington's enhanced line of fine rifles.

Good manners dictate that I begin with the company's flagship long gun, the ubiquitous Model 700. This is without doubt America's most popular bolt action rifle. With sales in the millions since its introduction in 1964, this basic push-feed gun has annually spawned more variations than a welfare dandy — I count no less than 24 in the firm's 2008 online catalog (www.remington.com/rifles).

With an absolutely mind-numbing array of stock style and material options, stainless, blued, or matte finished barreled actions, a generous selection of barrel lengths and diameters, as well as a very well rounded assortment of cartridge chamberings, the Model 700 is the uncontested "Swiss army knife" of rifled weapons. In an effort to "keep up with the Joneses," Remington opted to update its already excellent trigger system. Coined the X-Mark Pro Trigger, this little jewel is easily adjusted for pull weight and trigger travel. Samples that I have tugged on exhibited no sluggishness whatsoever and broke as

Please see GUNS, Page D2

F&G looks to boost mule deer numbers

Agency releases 10-year plan

For the Times-News

The Idaho Department of Fish and Game recently released its 10-year plan for mule deer management for public review before it goes to the Idaho Fish and Game Commission at next month's meeting in Boise.

Created in response to a 2006 survey in which respondents complained of a stark

lack in mule deer — primarily bucks — sightings despite having an overall enjoyable experience, the plan hopes to alleviate concerns of citizens and help the mule deer population thrive.

Fish and Game noted the importance of mule deer to the Idaho outdoorsman's way of life, and has undertaken a series of guidelines it hopes to have implemented

by 2009 to better manage the mule deer population.

Specific directions for the South Hills area include improving key seasonal habitats by planting an average of 5,000 native shrub seedlings annually as well as treating an average of 100 acres of aspen stands annually to foster growth in habitat for deer to survive in all seasons.

The specific local plan also includes increasing the department's involvement in land-use proposals that may

affect the mule deer population and improving the management of motorized vehicle (ATV) use to diminish conflict between motorized and nonmotorized hunters.

The latter may not come without some level of concession for hunters, however. Concessions in Units 54 and 55 may include additional motorized vehicle use restrictions in the Sawtooth National Forest and access restrictions to winter ranges. Statewide guidelines

include: Implementing predator management actions when and where appropriate to aid in achieving management objectives; establishing short-term and long-term population objectives that represent maintenance of, or increase in, current mule deer population levels; improving and protecting over 10,000 acres of habitat annually; encouraging land management agencies to

Please see DEER, Page D2

A softer perspective Snowshoes help visitors view Craters in a different light

By Mike Cothem

Times-News correspondent

Moving slowly through the fresh powder, many visitors were experiencing the winter landscape at Craters of the Moon for the first time. Little was said between stops as they contentedly absorbed the tranquil day's silence, broken only by the rhythmic shuffle of snowshoes.

At key spots, park naturalist Doug Owen gathered his group of 20 and described a particular scene's story. Combining nearly 12 years of experience at Craters with an ex-teacher's skill at conveying knowledge, Owen enjoyably revealed some of the monument's unique secrets.

Owen's class, formally called the Winter Ecology Snowshoe Workshop, actually started earlier that morning in a classroom at the visitor center. Craters of the Moon National Monument and Preserve, jointly administered by the National Park Service and the Bureau of Land Management, conducts the workshop — contingent on adequate snow depth — every Saturday. The full-day event combines an outdoor excursion with some insight on how plants and animals survive the harsh conditions.

"Wildlife have three choices for coping with the winter world: escape, avoid, or



Group members break their own trail during a recent Winter Ecology Snowshoe Workshop.

adapt," Owen said. He explained that while some animals, like mule deer, simply migrate southward to lower elevations, not all have that luxury.

Smaller mammals that cannot escape, such as the yellow-bellied marmot, head underground for a deep sleep. Taking hibernation to the extreme, they exhibit physiological change worthy of scientific study. Rather than a normal 80 beats per minute, their heart rate slows to only four, while their body temperature drops from 98.7 to 37 degrees.

Smaller rodents such as voles and mice, often leading solitary lives, may share communal nests in the winter and enter into a much lighter hibernation than the

If you go ...

The Winter Ecology Snowshoe Workshop held on Saturdays at Craters of the Moon is limited to 20 people. Recent generous snowfall has allowed for the scheduling of an extra sign-up for February 23. For those interested in cross-country skiing, the loop road is groomed weekly. For further information call 527-3257. The monument headquarters is located on Highway 93/20/28, approximately 90 miles northeast of Twin Falls.



Doug Owen discusses timber piles, disease, and the Clark's Nutcracker.

marmots. They also occasionally awaken, use the facilities, snack on some cached food, and even head

up to the snow's surface for a brief outing before retreating and resuming their slumber.

Filled with knowledge from these and many other examples of how both wildlife and vegetation survive winter, class was dismissed. The "students" then strapped on their own temporary adaptations and eased out into the wild.

The group generally proceeded in single file over the two-foot snow depth, with several members taking turns breaking trail. On downhill jaunts, they were encouraged to strike out and blaze their own paths.

The highlights were numerous. On the first stop Owen talked about the limber pine, the monument's principal tree. Usually found at elevations several thousand feet higher, this conifer claims a niche on the rocky landscape. Besides trying to survive in an unforgiving environment, the limber pine struggles against diseases such as dwarf mistletoe and white pine blister rust. This in turn impacts the Clark's Nutcracker, a bird largely dependent on the tree's cone as a food source.

Another stop had nothing to do with ecological principles and species survival, but focused on Native Americans who occasionally spent time at Craters. At a cave still bearing evidence of the significance of the site

Please see CRATERS, Page D2



Tracks from a deer mouse wander across the snow.



The Pioneer Mountains serve as a backdrop to the Craters of the Moon landscape.

Photo by Mike Cothem

S.W. Idaho area closed to help deer

High snowfall forces animals into lower elevations

The Associated Press

BOISE — The Idaho Department of Fish and Game has closed the 33,500-acre Boise River Wildlife Management Area east of Boise to help mule deer survive the winter.

The high snowfall this winter has forced deer into lower elevations, and Ed Bottum, manager of the area, said humans disturbing deer can cause them to use up energy they need to survive until spring.

"Their strategy is to minimize the amount of energy they use so their body

reserves will last as long as possible," Bottum told the *Idaho Statesman*. "It's kind of a race to see if their body fat will last until spring greens up."

Bottum said that not disturbing the deer on the management area means they will be more likely to stay there, where they won't be hit by vehicles, chased by dogs, or eat shrubs near homes.

Fish and Game tries to track the health of deer herds in the state by placing radio collars on some animals. It currently has collars on 850 deer.

On average, Fish and Game

officials say, about 85 to 90 percent of does survive. Usually, about 50 percent of fawns survive, though that can drop to 20 percent during tough winters and rise to 80 percent during mild ones.

Fawns usually start dying in late February, officials said, and those deaths are tracked throughout the winter.

So far, Fish and Game has not started emergency winter feeding in southwest Idaho, though that is being done in some other parts of the state.

Summer and fall forage conditions also influence deer survival during the winter, said Brad Compton, Fish

and Game big-game manager.

He said a mild, wet fall allowed deer to find more food, and that big snowstorms didn't start in southern Idaho until the middle of December. He also said temperatures "have not been unusually cold."

If deer can survive the winter snow, he said, the additional moisture this spring will mean they'll likely have plenty of food.

"There's a strong correlation between deer populations and precipitation," Compton said. "We may take a bit this winter, but in the long term, we end up with healthier, more productive deer populations."

Despite higher ammo costs, shooters pay to play

By Eric Barker
This Lewiston Tribune

LEWISTON — Recreational shooters and hunters are feeling the pinch of rising ammunition costs.

But most avid shooters are biting the bullet and continuing to participate in shooting sports despite the higher prices.

A conflagration of events has caused the cost of bullets, shotgun shells and reloading supplies to spike sharply upward. Among the factors blamed are the thriving Chinese economy, the price of fuel and the ongoing wars in Iraq and Afghanistan.

is playing a primary role in the rising prices. The cost of fuel also is making shooters feel the pinch.

"It's on their minds, the price of fuel and the price of ammo," Jones said.

Avid shooters are combating the higher prices by shopping around for shooting cheaper brands, others have turned to reloading. But the price of reloading supplies also is on the rise.

A year ago Black Sheep Sporting Goods at Lewiston sold bags of shot for \$18. Today the price is more than \$36 and some retailers are charging close to \$50 a bag. Many reloaders have caches of supplies, which have insulated them against rising costs, said Dan Caldwell, president of the Lewiston Gun Club and a reloader.

More great gear from the trade show

Editor's note: This is the second in a two-part series of columns on new gear debuted at the 2008 Outdoor Retailer Winter Market trade show, an event late last month in Salt Lake City, Utah.



THE GEAR JUNKIE
Stephen Regenold

From wearable sleeping bags to Swiss Army Knife backpacks, new gear at this year's Outdoor Retailer Winter Market trade show in Salt Lake City took the cake in its innovation and good of red-blooded American resourcefulness. Here are five items that stood out:

Lippi USA Selt Sleep Wear System: Essentially a sleeping bag that you wear, Lippi USA's Selt Sleep Wear System was made for comfort, warmth and mobility. While wearing this "bag," you can walk around camp, prepare food, use a restroom, and lie down to sleep wherever you choose. The sleeping bag suit will come in three warmth levels and two sizes, fitting large and small campers in temps down to about 15 degrees Fahrenheit. (\$149 to \$349, depending on warmth level; www.lippioutdoor.com; available in March)

Ibex Wool Sports Bra: Utter the words "wool sports bra" in an outdoors shop 10 years back and you might have been thrown out the door. But wool today from companies like Ibex Outdoor Clothing is silky and soft. It wicks sweat well, doesn't stink even after much use, and is less harmful than most synthetics on the environment. Thus, Ibex has designed the Woman's Balance Sports Bra, a machine-washable and seamless wool bra with a hint of spandex for stretch. It is made to fit A, B and C cups during medium- to low-impact activities like paddling, hiking and biking. (\$49; www.ibexwear.com; available now)

Wenger Zernex Backpack: Wenger, the company that makes the Swiss Army Knife, has a new pack that reflects the multifunctional nature of its knives: The Wenger Zernex backpack is made for activities from skiing to backpacking to mountaineering. Features include a removable lid that converts into a lumbar pack; a water bottle pocket that can be secured on one of four receptors on the pack; multiple attachment points for skis, snowboards, trekking poles, sleeping bags and climbing equipment; and specialty pockets, including a fleece-lined pouch for electronics, a first aid kit pocket, and a small pocket on the waist belt for a Swiss Army Knife. The Zernex pack comes in two sizes, with 3,000 or 3,600 cubic inches of capacity. (\$249 to \$269, depending on model; www.wenger-na.com; available this spring)

REI eVent jacket: REI took the Outdoor Retailer Show to unveil an apparel line that is the first nationally distributed brand to feature eVent fabric technology. eVent is a waterproof and breathable laminate made by a subsidiary of the General Electric Company. It competes with Gore-Tex. When it comes out next fall, the REI Gear

& Apparel line will include the men's REI Shuksan eVent jacket and pant, and the women's REI Kulshan eVent jacket and pant, all waterproof and breathable pieces made to handle rain, snow, sleet, wind, and any type of weather. Jackets are \$249, pants, \$229. www.rei.com; available in the fall

Zoot Sports Triathlon Shoe: The UTI Tri Footwear Collection of running shoes were made for the sport of triathlon, where quick transitions are essential in the battle against the clock. As such, these shoes have a quick-lace system to go on fast. They do not require socks, allowing athletes to jump off a bike and get into their running shoes with minimal fuss. There are several models in Zoot Sports' line, including the Men's ULTRA Race and Women's ULTRA Race, top-end models that are lightweight and made for speed. The men's ULTRA Race, for example, in a size 9, weighs a mere 6.4 ounces. (Price: Men's and Women's ULTRA Race, \$130; www.zootsports.com; available in March)

Stephen Regenold writes *The Gear Junkie* column for eleven U.S. newspapers. See <http://http://www.THEGEARJUNKIE.com> for video gear reviews, a daily blog, and an archive of Regenold's work.

Lippi USA Selt Sleep Wear System is essentially a sleeping bag that you wear.



Zoot Sports Triathlon Shoe allows athletes an easy transition from hiking to running.

Craters

Continued from page D1

relating to cave layout and its orientation to sunrise at the winter solstice. Unfortunately, the cave was desecrated during an excavation following an unspoken rumor about stolen gold.

At the crown of Paisley Cone, summited shortly after lunch, the snowshoos received an excellent view of the monument's northern edge. When asked about exploring some of this region on their own, Mike Setlock, BLM Park Ranger, who was assisting the expedition, emphasized caution.

"The monument places few restrictions on most locations, but we recommend that visitors stay away from the lava flows," he said. "The snow covers a lot of cracks and holes that can't be seen until you step right into them."

In addition to the view of the surrounding monument, the perspective left sights of more distant land-

forms. Rising from the plain to the east stood Big Southern Butte. Further north sat the Lost River Range's lower end. Finally, just across the highway, the was evident. The Pioneer Mountains which, according to Owen, also marks the beginning of the Northern Rockies.

After completing the nearly five-mile loop, satisfaction among the group was evident. The Pioneer, who along with his ten-year-old daughter, Kate, had come from Pocatello, remarked: "What a great way to spend the day. It's been so nice to find a place in the middle of winter and just slow down, relax, and take in some peace and quiet."

Indeed, seeing Craters of the Moon in a softer perspective, with most of the lava landscape covered in a was evident. The Pioneer, who along with his ten-year-old daughter, Kate, had come from Pocatello, remarked: "What a great way to spend the day. It's been so nice to find a place in the middle of winter and just slow down, relax, and take in some peace and quiet."

Guns

Continued from page D1

cleanly as an icicle. As a Model 700's like yours and mine. Life is good!

Most of us, I would assume, are primarily big game hunters and my vote for the most practical Model 700 variant to fill this role would have to be the new M700 XCR (Xtreme Conditions Rifle). Its stainless steel metal work is shielded by a new proprietary TriNyte coating touted to offer more scratch and corrosion resistance than any other finish available on the market today. The classically-styled synthetic stock features Hogue rubberized overmolded panels on the grip, forearm, and swivel studs for secure handling in any weather. This is one rifle that is not going to slip from your sweaty palms, no matter how big

that buck or bull is. This streamlined little weather-beater is available in all your favorite calibers from the gentle, but efficient 7mm-08 to the thundering game stopper — the 375 Rem. Ultra Mag.

Anxious to tap into the lucrative civilian and law enforcement market for the "dreaded black assault rifles," as AR-type platforms have been characterized by the dim and uninitiated, Remington has fielded its Bushmaster-inspired semi auto — the R-15 VTR (Variable Tactical Rifle) Modular Repeating Rifle. Hope I don't have to repeat all that! Designed primarily with the predator hunter in mind, three versions of the R-15 will be offered initially. Each version will be dressed in Advantage Max-1 HD camo and chambered in .223 Rem. and .204 Ruger. Additionally, all rifles will

feature button-ripped barrels with six longitudinal flutes. recessed muzzle crowns, single-stage triggers, pistol grips, machined aluminum free-floated fore-ends, three drilled and tapped for accessories, and the handy receiver-length Picatinny rail mounting system up top. Each R-15 variation comes equipped with a five round magazine, but they are entirely compatible with all after-market AR magazines and accessories. Good marketing!

My choice for loping prairie wolves or skulking bobcats would be the Predator model. With its substantial 22-inch barrel and 7.34lb. heft, it should hold steady for quick off-hand shots and secure right down on a rest for "yodels" at the far end of the sage flats. If you hunting involves lots of walking about or continual climbing on and off your

four-wheeler or in and out of your 4x4, then either the 18-inch barreled Predator Carbine or Predator Carbine CS (collapsible stock) might be more to your liking. These shorter versions would certainly not be out of place in the home for self-defense purposes in which long guns might be appropriate. For my money, I'll wager that these guns will be well received.

If you want one, you might be wise to purchase it before November. May the Saints preserve us and the 2nd Amendment. If either Hillary or Barack get to hang their hat in the Oval Office. For firearm and shooting aficionados, things would certainly not be great in 2008.

Good shooting.

Ritch Simpson may be reached at rsimpson29@hotmail.com.

Deer

Continued from page D1

incorporate mule deer habitat needs in agency decisions; evaluating a cost-effective and reliable habitat monitoring program; implementing special investigations to improve population and habitat management capabilities; ensuring continued citizen involvement in mule management.

Predator management and the practice of antlerless harvests are two pinpointed areas of prime focus in the department's eight-page executive summary of

the plan. In that same document Fish and Game details that meeting most of all the guidelines will help reach short-term (one to three years) and long-term (three to 10 years) goals for mule deer populations.

The executive summary and the entire 78-page plan are both available for review via the department's Web site, <http://fishandgame.utah.gov/apps/arcs/muledeer/index.cfm>. Comments may be left at the base of the index page.

OUTDOOR BRIEFS

Project WILD classes upcoming

The Idaho Department of Fish and Game released its Project WILD workshop dates for the winter season. Those participating in the program can learn more about trout and how to raise them in the classroom, and about how to mule deer survive in Idaho's rugged environment.

WILD about Mule Deer is being offered Feb. 22 and 23, and will be held at the Idaho Department of Fish and Game Regional Office in Jerome. The classes will run from 4 to 9 p.m. on Friday with the Saturday session going from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Project WILD is a wildlife-oriented, multi-disciplinary set of activities developed for educators, youth leaders or anyone working with the youth. The activities develop awareness, knowledge, and skills concerning the relationships between humans, wildlife, and the natural world. Wildlife concepts are related to social studies, mathematics, language arts and other subjects and do not take time away from established curricula.

The workshop actively involves participants in the learning activities and demonstrates techniques for integrating the supplementary materials into classrooms and informal learning settings. Cost for the 15-hour workshop is \$20, and participants may opt to receive one hour of graduate or undergraduate credit for an additional fee of \$50.

Young people are fascinated by the study of wildlife, opening windows of learning into all subjects. Project WILD is used in 50 states and seven countries, and is based on the premise that young people and their teachers have a vital interest in learning about the earth as home for people and wildlife.

More than 70 percent of Idaho teachers currently incorporate Project WILD activities into their curriculum. To register, contact Kelton Hatch, Magic Valley Regional Conservation Educator at khatch@idf.idaho.gov or (208) 324-4359, or download a registration form at http://fishandgame.idaho.gov/cvms/education/project_wild/.

Ducks Unlimited banquet set for Jackpot

Jackpot's 26th Annual Ducks Unlimited banquet and auction is slated for Saturday at Cactus Pete's Ruby Mountain Ballroom at 5 p.m.

Banquet prices include Ducks Unlimited membership as well as Cactus Pete's four-diamond buffet consisting of prime rib, roasted duck, Atlantic salmon, shrimp scampi, various salads, and dessert.

Games will include toss-the-dice, slots, raffles, and pop-the-balloon; we will also have a silent auction and a live auction. Prizes and auction items include guns, prints, sculptures, decoys, miscellaneous items, and local donations.

For more information and reservations, contact Karen or Mark Smith at (208) 326-4446.

Herrett Center to open for total lunar eclipse

The Centennial Observatory at the Herrett Center for Arts and Science will be open the evening of Wednesday, Feb. 20, for people to watch a total

lunar eclipse. The moon rises at 6:06 p.m. The darkest phase of the eclipse will begin at 6:43 and end at 10:08. Mid-eclipse is at 8:26 p.m. Viewing will be free of charge. The next total lunar eclipse visible from Idaho will occur on June 15, 2011.

HONA to hear about Yellowstone, Yosemite

High Desert Nordic Association members will hear about ski journeys across sections of Yellowstone and Yosemite National Parks when they meet Wednesday at 7 p.m. at Idaho Joe's Restaurant.

Dennis Kinead and Alan Blund, veteran back country skiers and members of the cross-country ski association, made the week-long Yellowstone trip in late winter 2007.

They skied from the Old Faithful area along the Bechler River trail, which leads to the southwest corner of the park. The pair followed the Yosemite High Route in the winter of 2006.

Association members will complete plans for outings in late February and early March as well as conducting other business.

Further information may be obtained by calling Dan Cress at 326-3172, Valdon Hancock at 324-6935 or by visiting the association web site at <http://www.skidna.org>.

Jerome Ducks Unlimited banquet set

The Jerome Ducks Unlimited will be having its Annual Couples Banquet on Feb. 23 at the Jerome Fair Grounds. It will be catered by the Snake River Grill. Doors open at 5:30 p.m. For more information please call Randall Rector at 208-5425.

ATV association meeting Wednesday

The Magic Valley ATV Riders group will have its next meeting on Wednesday at Idaho Pizza Company on Kimberly Road, at 7 p.m.

Dinner is at 6 p.m., and the riders will apply for lunch prices will apply for those attending the meeting. There will be two special speakers as well as an update on the ATV licensing bill and Valentine's Day door prizes for members.

For more information visit <http://www.mvavr.org> or call group president Stan Mail at 733-5901.

ATV Riders headed to Brunau Canyon

The Magic Valley ATV Riders are staging a ride from Hammett to Brunau Canyon on Saturday, Feb. 23.

Staging will begin at 9:30 a.m. and the ride will commence at 10 a.m., weather permitting.

For more information contact Stan Mail at 733-5901.

SWF to host rally

Sportsmen for Fish and Wildlife will host its Sixth Annual Magic Valley Chapter Rally for Wildlife Banquet and Fundraiser on March 1 at the Furniture Now building on Kimberly Road.

Doors open at 5:30 p.m., and there will be a Dutch oven-meal, silent and live auction, and several speakers including Gov. C.L. "Butch" Otter and Fish and Wildlife Commissioner Doug at 316-3633 or Jack at 420-1233.

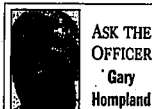
— staff reports

Plenty of things for outdoorsmen to do

Question: "In last week's column, you described several hunting and fishing opportunities available this time of year. You left out numerous shooting clubs and the shooting preserves. Does the Department maintain a list of those opportunities?"

Answer: I apologize to the dozen or so licensed shooting preserves and ranges in the Magic Valley for not including them in last week's column.

Shooting preserves are fee hunting opportunities on private property to hunt pen-reared game birds. Shooting preserves are licensed by the Department and are required to maintain records of hunters and birds released. The shooting preserve hunting season runs from Aug. 15 through April 15. A regular hunting license or a shooting preserve license is required for all hunters. To locate shooting preserves in your area, a list of them can be found on the main hunting page of the Department's website under



ASK THE OFFICER
Gary Hompland

"Sporting Access."

Shooting is a perishable skill that requires good hand-eye coordination. There are several ranges available to the public to maintain good shooting fundamentals and have a great day afield without having to clean birds. The Department does not keep an all-encompassing list of the shooting ranges in the area but I've included a few below.

The Jerome Rod & Gun Club, located north of Jerome, offers outdoor shooting opportunities like sporting clays, trap shooting, big bore rifle & pistol, and cowboy action shooting. The Twin Falls and Burley Gun Clubs also offer trap and skeet shooting. As the weather improves, the

Blaine County Gun Club has big bore rifle, pistol, trap, skeet and sporting clays shooting. For indoor shooting during cold weather small bore rifle and pistol shooting is available at rifle and pistol clubs in Rupert, Twin Falls and Burley.

Archery enthusiasts can maintain their skills at indoor ranges operated by the Magic Valley Bowhunters, Minidoka Bowmen, or at Advantage Archery in Twin Falls. Archery shooting games, including National Field Archery Association-sanctioned meets as well as interactive bowhunting games such as "Techno Hunt," are available in organized shooting leagues or individual shooting for a variety of big game animals at Advantage Archery in Twin Falls.

Now is the time many organized sporting groups hold their annual fund raising banquets. During these banquets the groups raise money used for habitat and

conservation projects around the country. Participants may also purchase products sponsored by the conservation organization.

Avid sportsmen that would like to assist or teach youth the proper techniques and ethics of hunting are encouraged to sign up for a hunter education instructor workshop on March 8 at the Magic Valley Regional Office in Jerome. Lastly, spring hunter education classes are gearing up. Interested students or parents should check out classes scheduled in the Magic Valley on the Department's website listed below.

If you have any further questions you may call the Magic Valley Regional Office of the Idaho Department of Fish and Game at (208) 324-4350 or e-mail the Fish and Game Web site at <http://fishandgame.idaho.gov>.

Gary Hompland is a regional conservation officer for the Idaho Department of Fish and Game.

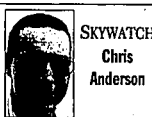
Get a look at Saturn's rings before they disappear

For telescope owners there are few targets more iconic than Saturn, with its picturesque rings. But the rings sometimes do a disappearing act.

My first telescope was a Christmas gift when I was thirteen. It was a cheap little refractor on a wobbly wooden tripod, and I didn't have the slightest idea what to point it at, nor what it would show me. My first time out, I stood in the back yard snow after sunset, waiting for the stars to appear. As luck would have it, one of the brightest "stars" was Saturn.

When the rings came into focus, I was dumbstruck. It was like seeing the Grand Canyon for the first time, and I was hooked.

In the years that followed I



SKYWATCH
Chris Anderson

learned how to cope with my telescope's limitations. But I yearned for more. When I saw ads in an astronomy magazine for the "world's best reflector telescope for under \$300," I started saving my pennies.

By my senior year in high school I had finally scraped together enough money. I'll never forget my first look at Saturn with my new pride and joy: The rings were gone! I had "discovered" some-

Sky Calendar through Thursday:

Planets:
One hour before sunrise:
Venus: SE, extremely low
Jupiter: SE, very low
Saturn: W, low
One hour after sunset:
Mars: ESE, very high
Moon: First quarter
Wednesday, 8:33 p.m.

thing that Galileo saw four centuries before.

With his modest instrument, the rings appeared as indistinct blobs flanking the planet, which then vanished some years later. Twice every 30 years orbit of Saturn's tilted rings turn edge on. On my first view of Saturn the

rings were opened wide. But by 1800, nearly a quarter orbit of Saturn later, the razor-thin rings had turned edge on, disappearing from view.

Saturn's rings are still in view, but they won't be for much longer.

Next year, Saturn will have completed one full orbit since I bought my new telescope three decades ago, and once again its rings will disappear.

Next week: Proving the Earth is round.

Chris Anderson is a production specialist and observational manager at the Herrett Planetarium at the Herrett Center for Arts and Science at the College of Southern Idaho.

Sage grouse recommendation due by December

BILLINGS, Mont. (AP) — Federal officials say they plan to decide by December whether greater sage grouse should be listed as an endangered species across much of the Rocky Mountain West.

A U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service declaration that the bird is in danger of extinction could lead to new restrictions on residential, oil and gas, and agricultural development.

However, those seem

unlikely until well into 2009. The process of listing the bird as endangered could take another year following December's decision on whether it is warranted, said Fish and Wildlife Service spokeswoman Diane Katzenberger. The chicken-sized grouse, which spends much of its life on the ground, is found on the sage brush plains of 11 states — from Colorado to California and north to the Canadian border.

The government plans

next week to launch a year-long population evaluation of the grouse after a judge in Idaho said an earlier determination that it was not endangered was "tainted."

U.S. District Judge B. Lynn Winnill in December overturned a 2005 Bush administration decision not to list the bird. Winnill said it faces "accelerating threats" from invasive weeds, fires, oil and gas

development and livestock grazing.

The judge's decision came in a lawsuit filed by the Western Watersheds Project.

The sage grouse population has been declining for decades and the bird now occupies about half of its original, year-round habitat. In January 2005, the Fish and Wildlife Service estimated that there were between 100,000 and 500,000 greater sage grouse.

Share your outdoors tales

You could be the talk of the town in next week's issue. Times-Herald Outdoors accepts the following:

- photos of big game/fish catches
- first-hand accounts (please keep these to 500 words maximum if possible) of hunting, fishing, hiking, etc. adventures
- suggestions for possible story ideas

All submissions should be sent to outdoors editor David Bashore at dashore@magvalley.com, or at Times-Herald, P.O. Box 546, Twin Falls, ID 83303. Alternatively, photos may be brought to the Times-Herald at 132 Fairfield St., W.

We are a debt relief agency. We help people file for bankruptcy relief under the bankruptcy code.

BANKRUPTCY

Chapter 7 & 13
Stop Collections, Foreclosures & Garnishments
Fast • Experienced

Question: I need to file bankruptcy because of overwhelming hospital bills. I co-signed with my mother on a bank loan on mom's car. Will she lose the car if I file a bankruptcy?

Answer: Your bankruptcy will discharge the debt as to you, but not as to your mom. The bank's lien on the car remains valid even though you are bankrupt. If the car payments are not being made, the bank has the right to take the car. However, if mom has a good payment record and continues to make her car payments on time, her car is probably safe. If your bank is mean-spirited, or if mom has been late with payments, the bank might declare the loan in default just because you filed a bankruptcy. To be absolutely certain that mom can keep the car, you may want to reaffirm that particular debt. If you do, that debt will not be discharged in the bankruptcy. There are pros and cons regarding reaffirmation under these circumstances, so you should consult with an experienced bankruptcy attorney.

Bradley E. Rice
Attorney at Law
Email: brar@rlg-pmt.org
212 2nd Ave. West, Suite 200
P.O. Box 329, Twin Falls

Free Consultation
734-3367



Super shark caught on video

HONOLULU (AP) — A video of a giant shark taken off Molokai is drawing some attention on the Internet.

A crew including University of Hawaii oceanographer decided to post the 2006 video on YouTube to help educate people on sharks in Hawaiian waters.

The shark seemed to be 16 feet long with six gills in a deep-sea variety known as Hexanchus griseus.

The video was taken from Hawaii Undersea Research

laboratory's Pisces V submersible anchored 3,000 feet deep about two miles from Molokai.

UH professor Eric Vetter says he felt the sub move when the shark nudged against it.

He says the crew believes the shark was attracted by a large chunk of chit the crew was using to attract scavengers for research. He says little is known about the population of that type of super shark around Hawaii.

D4

BUSINESS

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

FRIDAY

FEBRUARY 8, 2008

Introducing Idaho

State economic officials meet with firearms manufacturers

By Joshua Palmer
Times-News writer

LAS VEGAS — State and regional economic officials met with more than 35 firearms manufacturers earlier this week at the world's largest gun show.

The meetings were part of the state's latest and most aggressive campaigns to attract firearms manufacturers to Idaho.

Among nearly 60,000 manufacturers, distributors and buyers of firearms and other accessories who gathered in Las Vegas for the annual Shot Show, representatives from Idaho Department of Commerce, Southern Idaho Economic Development Organization (SIEDO) and two other Idaho economic development groups met face-to-face with manufacturers from around the nation.

After the show, more than 35 gun manufacturers met in private with Idaho officials.

"I think we were all surprised at how well it turned out," said Jan Rogers, director of SIEDO. "We didn't really know what to expect, but the level of interest had (Idaho officials) very excited."

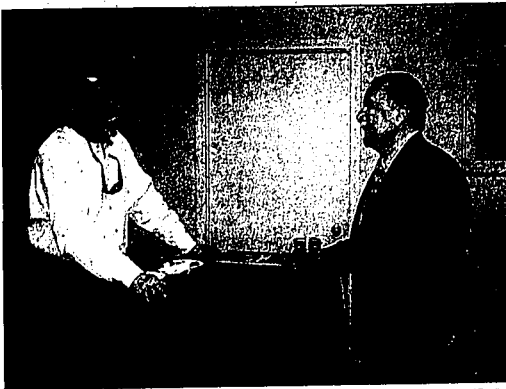
— Jan Rogers, director of SIEDO

Talks are already under way with at least three manufacturing companies from other states, said officials from the Department of Commerce. All three states have imposed more rigid laws on gunmakers or have raised taxes, providing new incentives to move to Idaho's more gun-friendly climate.

The response on Monday night to the state's campaign has prompted state officials to set the firearms industry at fourth-place on its list of recruitment targets, following only green energy, aviation technologies and food processing.

"A couple of companies said they had us in their bulls-eye," said Bibiana Nertney, communications director for Idaho Commerce.

Although state officials would not release the names of the prospect com-



Greg Selbert, left, an Idaho Department of Commerce economic development specialist, makes a pitch during a private gathering in Las Vegas Monday. State and regional economic development officials met with makers of firearms and other accessories during a campaign to attract out-of-state businesses to Idaho.

"I think we were all surprised at how well it turned out. We didn't really know what to expect, but the level of interest had (Idaho officials) very excited."

— Jan Rogers, director of SIEDO

panies, as is common in economic development circles, they did say the companies like Idaho's gun- and business-friendly laws.

"We understand that it is tough to do business as a firearm or ammunition manufacturer in many states," said Greg Selbert, economic development specialist for Idaho Department of Commerce. "Some states have punitive taxes or allow frivolous lawsuits on these companies, while Idaho's laws protect the rights of these manufacturers and firearms owners."

Times-News has learned that a California maker of shotguns recently scouted sites in southern Idaho.

The state is now home to about 35 small manufacturers of firearms and accessories, as well as Lewiston's

Idaho isn't alone
State one of four states aggressively pursuing firearms manufacturers.

Idaho has an aggressive campaign to bring gun manufacturers into the state, but it has stiff competition. So how does Idaho compare?



ATK CCI Spears, one of the nation's largest ammunition makers.

State officials quietly kicked off the campaign less than a year ago after surveying industries that would "be a good fit in Idaho."

"One of the great things about these companies is

that they can help support a small town in some of Idaho's more remote areas," Selbert said. "These businesses want to set up shop close to where they want to play."

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

Some businesses at mercy of Google see hope in Yahoo bid

By Kim Hart
The Washington Post

Phil Davies relies heavily on Google for his two online businesses. The search engine drives half the traffic to his antiques retail Web site. But when Google recently made a change to the algorithm that it uses to rank sites, it bumped him from a slot on the first page of results to the sixth. That sent traffic — and sales — plummeting.

So he's keenly interested in Microsoft's \$44.6 billion bid for Yahoo. For Davies, it is a possible alternative to Google.

"It almost destroyed our business — the amount of control that company has is frightening," said Davies, who eventually recovered by recoding his pages to conform to Google's requirements. Davies also allows Google to sell advertising on his consulting site, BigNews.biz, and that mar-

keting revenue has become a large source of his income.

In many cases, working with Google has become essential to an online company's existence. The majority of the world's Web searches are powered by Google, and online firms pay top dollar for advertisements that pop up alongside every search result.

With Microsoft's bid to take over Yahoo, the face-off over the online advertising industry has hit full tilt. Google is in the midst of trying to complete its acquisition of DoubleClick, a leader in display advertising. Yahoo is also strong in that area. Microsoft, in turn, recently acquired aQuantive, a company specializing in technology that targets ads based on Web surfers' habits. Both companies view the need to build up their roster of advertisers and publishers — Web sites like Davies' that attract the

Please see **GOOGLE**, Page D5

Shoppers pull back further in January

Retailers report weakest results in nearly four decades

By Anne D'Innocenzo
Associated Press writer

NEW YORK — The nation's retailers delivered more evidence of a stumbling economy Thursday, as merchants reported their weakest January performance in nearly four decades, extending a malaise that has deepened since the holiday shopping season.

The sales figures made it clear that consumers are wrestling with high gas and food prices, a slumping housing market, an escalating credit crisis and a weakening job market. Retailers reported that they had to slash prices on many necessities — even when redeeming their holiday gift cards. The disappointments cut across all sectors including discounters like Wal-Mart Stores Inc., teen retailers including Pacific Sunwear of

Retail sales

Slumping sales figures suggest consumers wrestling with troubling economic news. Shoppers bought mostly necessities.

Percent change in major retailers' sales compared to Jan. 2007

January 2008	% Change
Costco Corp.	7.6%
Wal-Mart Stores Inc.	0.5%
Target Corp.	-1.1%
J.C. Penney Co.	-1.9%
Nordstrom Inc.	-6.6%
Macy's Inc.	-7.1%
Limited	-8.0%

NOTE: Sales include those from stores open for at least one year. Reporting periods vary slightly.

California Inc. and mall-based apparel chain Limited Brands Inc. Even affluent shoppers are pulling back, hurting stores like Nordstrom Inc. "Clearly, this is a reflection of a very difficult environment for the consumer," said Ken Perkins, president of RetailMetrics LLC, a research company in Swampscott, Mass. "It looks like consumer spending is stalling."

Jerome to hold community focus group to determine city's strengths

The City of Jerome will hold its first community focus group from 6 to 8:30 p.m. on Wednesday at the Con Paulos Dealership Conference Room at 901 S. Lincoln.

The purpose of the focus group is to bring residents and businesses together to analyze the community's strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats.

The city plans to discuss the following topics:

- Community Livability
- Regional Cooperation
- Land Use
- Transportation/circulation
- Economy
- Aesthetics
- Public Safety
- Community Coordination
- Housing
- Parks and Recreation
- Environmental Considerations
- The direction the city is heading

- Land Use
- Transportation/circulation
- Economy
- Aesthetics
- Public Safety
- Community Coordination
- Housing
- Parks and Recreation
- Environmental Considerations
- The direction the city is heading

Jerome residents are invited to attend the meeting. To reserve a seat, call 324-8189.

BUSINESS BRIEFS

Unemployment claims decline

WASHINGTON — The number of newly laid off workers filing applications for unemployment benefits dropped last week, but not enough to indicate that strains on the labor market are easing.

The Labor Department reported Thursday that 356,000 claims for jobless benefits were filed last week, a decline of 22,000 from the

previous week. The decline only erased a part of the 72,000 claims two week ago. The four-week average for jobless claims rose to 335,000, which is the highest level in a month.

Consumer borrowing slows in December

WASHINGTON — Consumers increased their borrowing in December at the slowest pace in eight months, additional evidence

that economic activity was slowing significantly at the end of last year. For all of 2007, consumer credit rose at the fastest clip in three years.

The Federal Reserve reported Thursday that consumer borrowing rose at an annual rate of 2.1 percent in December, a sharp slowdown from an 8.2 percent jump in November. It was the weakest showing since credit had increased just 1.6 percent in April.

— from wire reports

STOCKS OF LOCAL INTEREST

Con Agra	21.29	▲ .02	Dell Inc.	19.43	▲ .36	Idacorp	31.79	▼ .13
Lithia Mo.	14.10	▲ .48	Micron	7.12	▲ .13	Supervalu	29.23	▲ .42

COMMODITIES

For more see page D5

Live cattle	92.68	▲ 1.23	March Oil	88.11	▲ .97
March gold	907.8	▲ 5	March Silver	16.80	▲ .255

COMMODITIES REPORT

[illegible]

HOW TO READ THE MARKET REPORT

[illegible]

When distributed, w - When issued, w - Warrants, ww - With warrants, xw - Without warrants.

25.61	1.7	-2.9
10.64	1.7	-2.9
-38.09	-6.8	-1.9
-16.62	-5.3	-2.9
18.06	6.3	11.3
35.18	1.4	-7.5
24.84	-7.1	-4.9
23.97	-7.2	-13.5
23.97	-7.2	-13.5

Dividend Footnotes: a = Also extra or addrs. b = Annual rate plus stock dividend. c = Liquidating dividend. e = Declared at stock plus proceeding 12 mos. f = Annual rate, less estimated cash value. g = Declared or paid in stock. h = Annual rate, less estimated cash value. i = Declared or paid in stock. j = Paid the year, dividend omitted, deferred or no action taken at last meeting. k = Declared or paid this year, accumulative issue with dividends in arrears. m = Annual rate, reduced on last declaration. n = In-lt div. annual rate unknown. r = Declared or paid in proceeding 12 mos plus stock dividend. t = Paid in stock in last 12 mos, estimated cash value on ex-dividend or distribution date. x = Ex-dividend or ex-right-of-dividend. y = Dividend not paid. z = Dividend not paid.

Google _____

Continued from page 114

viewers who click on Google—as central to winning that battle.

The ads have the edge right now. Its unmatched reach on the Web — both through its dominant search engine as well as its large base of advertisers and publishers — allowed it to wield so much power that it can shape markets, anoint winners and declare losers, and set prices for advertising, leaving customers like Davies feeling they're at Google's mercy.

Many Web sites trying to reach online consumers feel they have to do business with Google to be visible on the Internet, and some are starting to resent the lack of choice, says said Shor VanBuskirk, an analyst with Forester Research, a market-research firm.

"There does seem to be an attitudinal shift," she said. "Two years ago, Google was everyone's salvation," because it enabled small Web site owners to easily make money by selling ads, she said. "Now people feel like it has too much control. They may prefer to work with a player that doesn't have as much power in the market."

Recent defections from Google to Microsoft include CNBC.com and Viacom, the parent compa-

ny of MTV, Comedy Central and other entertainment properties. Both were highlighting losses for Google.

Like executives, the parent company of the *Times-News*, has partnered with Yahoo to offer Yahoo Ho!jobs.

There are two ways to address using Google. One of them involves using Google's AdWords, the advertising system that allows marketers to buy ads associated with certain search terms. Every time an advertiser's ad matches for a keyword on Google, the company's software conducts a split-second auction for the top spot on the paid advertising results.

The second method involves letting Google to sell and place ads on other sites.

Separately, the actual results of a Google search — which are not bought or sold through advertising — are being given the center of the page, ranked according to Google's own proprietary calculation based on relevance of content as well as the number of other sites linked to it.

VanBuskirk said some smaller online firms and retailers often get frustrated with Google's process for ranking pages for search results because the process seems to change arbitrarily.

We're going to print reruns for the next 2 months.



One chilly charity



Armed Patriots, 37, John A. and Kathy Buehler during the 2007 Annual Fundraiser on Feb. 6 in Twin Falls. The event raised money for the John F. Kennedy Library and the John F. Kennedy Center.

Freeze on Skis raises money for scholarships

By John F. Kelly
Times-News writer

TWIN FALLS—You have to see it to believe it.

When my editor asked me to report on skiers who were raising money for charity through a winter sports event, I was skeptical. I would be kidding.

It was the annual Freeze on the Skis event, where the local winter sports enthusiasts were raising money for the John F. Kennedy Library and the John F. Kennedy Center.

And even though it hasn't been an annual

"It was so cold I could hardly breathe. Oh, well. It's for a good cause."

— Aaron Patterson

tradition in Twin Falls for 20 years, it still surprises visitors and newcomers to the Twin Falls area.

Kathy and Donald Buehler of Pullman, Wash., arrived to see the skiers. They are the way back from a family visit in Pullman where they stumbled onto the event.

"We came here to see the skiers, but we were passing by my husband said,

"There's a line there in some sort of miles away from them," said Donald Buehler. "I said it's weird and it's too cold to wait, but then we saw a closer look and saw that people were skiing. It was so weird."

While the Buehlers watched the crowd of people gathered around the ski slope, they were skiing up one of the two ski lifts that descended for the event. Visitors from the town reached the top of the ski lift about 11:30 a.m. and saw about 20 skiers on the ski lift.

But even with freezing temperatures, the mood was as festive as the Fourth of July.

Please see FREEZE, Page A3

GERALD R. FORD
1913-2006



President and Mrs. Bush pause to pay their respects to the late President Ford at the Gerald R. Ford Library in Washington.

Bush silently pays respect to Gerald Ford

By Bob Schuchman
Associated Press writer

WASHINGTON—President Bush on Monday bowed his head to salute a few moments, as if it were the flag-draped casket of a fallen soldier, before the president said a word about the man who preceded him.

On a rainy, gloomy afternoon, Bush and first lady Laura Bush joined thousands of other mourners in paying their respects to the late President Ford at the Gerald R. Ford Library in Washington.

But even with freezing temperatures, the mood was as festive as the Fourth of July.

Please see BUSH, Page A3

Economy to hit red light in 2007

By Mark Chodura
Associated Press writer

WASHINGTON—The slowdown that hit the U.S. economy will probably last 2007 as the once hot housing market continues to suffer through a serious correction, analysts say.

At the new year begins, many private analysts are forecasting the economy will perform at the slowest pace in five years, a full percentage-point lower than growth in 2006.

One such analyst is Mark Chodura, chief economist at Global Insight, a forecasting firm. "The weakness 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."

— Mark Chodura, chief economist at Global Insight

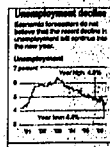
on the consumer," he said. "The bad news on housing has been offset by good news on wages, jobs and the stock market."

While the slowdown will cause the unemployment rate to rise, economists remain

Energy costs lowered
The decline in energy costs over the past year has helped to lower the price of many goods and services.

Weekly gasoline prices
The price of gasoline has fallen significantly over the past year.

Unemployment declines
The unemployment rate has fallen significantly over the past year.



described as a scenario in which growth slows enough to avoid a recession.

Please see ECONOMY, Page A3

A cheddar world

Flavor cops out in force during the snackingest time of year

By David Lee
The Washington Post

The American appetite for snacks, much to the chagrin of the U.S. of A., is not going away any time soon.

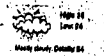
What exactly is it that we eat? The snack is a staple of the American diet, and it's not just the fast-food restaurants that are responsible for the snack.

Christened and New York City's old are good that it involved a little bit of the old and a little bit of the new.

Strictly speaking, cheddar is not English cheddar, but could be as close as home-



Please see SNACKS, Page A3



Weekly gasoline prices

Scientists genetically engineer cows free of proteins that cause mad cow disease

By Paul Kim
Associated Press writer

SAN FRANCISCO—Scientists have genetically engineered a cow that is free from the proteins that cause mad cow disease, a breakthrough that may make the disease impossible to

transmit to humans.

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 that cause mad cow disease.

The researchers said the cow was born without the proteins that cause mad cow disease, a breakthrough that may make the disease impossible to

transmit to humans.

An international team of researchers from the U.S. and Japan reported Sunday that

See Country Roads, page D1

Our readers' best shots of life in the country.

... 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).

Wheels

& classifieds

The Times-News

Friday, February 8, 2008

Page E-1

2008 FORD FOCUS COUPE

New Attitude, Modern Presentation!

RoadWorthy!

By Ken Chester, Jr.

Motor News Media Corporation

With its spirited driving character, contemporary exterior appearance and smart interior, the Ford Focus continues to be among the leaders in the small car segment. For 2008 the small Ford brings a bold exterior design, all-new interior and improved driving dynamics to the American motorist. For the first time, the Focus model line includes a two-door coupe.

Drawing inspiration for the larger and very successful Fusion sedan, the automaker's design teams adopted its prominent chrome-bar grille design, flared wheel arches and sweeping, crisp lines to create a small car with a sporty stance.

Available in S, SE and SES trim levels, the front-drive Focus is powered by a strong Duratec 20 2.0L four-cylinder engine that receives a four hp bump in power for 2008. A super-clean version of the Duratec engine (201) is the standard engine in Focus vehicles sold in California, New York, Massachusetts, Vermont and Maine.

Torque from both engines is communicated to the pavement via the standard five-speed manual gearbox. A four-speed automatic transmission is optional. The transmissions revised final drive ratios, which let the engine turn at a lower rpm rate during highway driving to get better fuel economy. In addition to powertrain refinements, fuel economy gains were



2008 Ford Focus Coupe

also achieved by weight reduction and aerodynamic improvements.

On the road, the Focus coupe is solidly capable -- a nice daily driver that will not break the bank to purchase or operate. For 2008, the control hardware was redesigned and retuned to further improve overall driving dynamics. The cross-car beam located beneath the instrument panel was significantly stiffened. The steering column is mounted to this beam, which means minimal vibration in the steering wheel over rough and uneven roads.

The suspension setup features MacPherson struts up front and an independent multi-link design in the rear. The spring rates, dampers, stabilizer bars and bushings are all new. In addition, improvements to steering and handling were accomplished by careful tuning and increasing the size of the front stabilizer bar.

Inside the cabin, an all-new interior design features unique materials and new levels of craftsmanship, delivering a sense of modern, contemporary openness and provides even

more flexible storage space. The new Focus offers a larger center console as well as added space in front of the shifter for extra storage. Newly designed door trim features larger bins and cupholders in the doors. The console also provides three additional cupholders.

New seats improve contours and offer more lateral and lumbar support. A new cloth pattern is featured for 2008, while the optional leather seats include contrast stitching for an added touch of craftsmanship. The rear seating area features a 60/40 fold down seat back

for added cargo carrying capabilities.

A new "top of dash" display positioned at eye level at the top of the center stack puts much of the vehicle's information in one place, making it easier and quicker to read while driving. New ice blue lighting on the instrument cluster, center console, steering wheel, door lock and window switches presents a cool, crisp light to enhance the overall feel of the interior and make it easy on the eyes when driving at night.

2008 Ford Focus Coupe By The Numbers

PRICING:

The base Manufacturer's Suggested Retail Price (MSRP) for the 2008 Ford Focus two-door coupe starts from \$14,075 for the S model; \$15,075 for the SE and \$16,075 for the top-of-the-line SES. Destination charges add \$620.

WHEELBASE:

102.9; overall length: 175.0; width: 67.9; height: 58.6 -- all vehicle measurements are in inches.

ENGINE:

140 hp at 6,000 rpm and 136 lbs.-ft. of torque at 4,250 rpm (22V) -- 132 hp at 6,000 rpm and 133 lbs.-ft. of torque at 4,250 rpm.

TRANSMISSION:

five-speed manual or four-speed automatic.

EPA FUEL ECONOMY:

24 city/35 hwy (manual); and 24 city/33 hwy (automatic).

CARGO CAPACITY:

13.8 cu. ft.

SAFETY FEATURES:

Dual front airbags, front seat-mounted side-impact airbags, side-curtain airbags, SecuriLock passive anti-theft ignition system, tire pressure monitoring system and battery saver. SE adds fog lamps. Optional safety features include: alarm system, four-wheel anti-lock brakes, traction control and full-size spare tire.

WARRANTY:

Basic: 3 year/36,000 miles, bumper-to-bumper. Powertrain: 5 year/60,000 miles. Corrosion: 5 year/unlimited. Roadside assistance: 24-hour.

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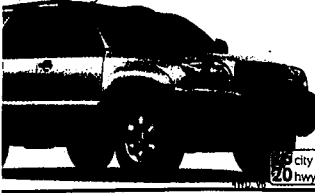
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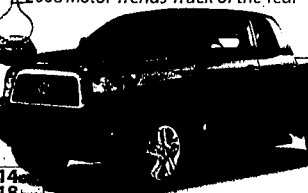
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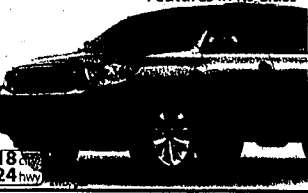
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¹Based on R.L. Polk & Co. total passenger new car registration for CUV 2003-2006 in the U.S.
²2007 Kelley Blue Book, www.kbb.com
³Based on Insurance Institute for Highway Safety 40-mph



⁴See www.fueleconomy.gov
⁵Based on active and passive safety features
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8				2	
	9				
		7	8		3
4	8				2
9	1	3			8
8	7		2	6	
6		4	9		
	6			7	
	2			9	

MEDIUM #21

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 E-12.

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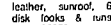
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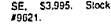
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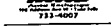
CADILLAC '99 DeVille,
low mils, like new,
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Blazer, like new,
\$6000. '99 Chevy 4x4
plu, must see \$3500.
Call 208-733-9687.



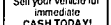
CADILLAC '99
Deville, 68K miles,
power package.
With a little TLC this
will make for a class-
ic ride. Asking
\$2,500/offer. Con-
tact 944-9084 or
410-7311



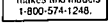
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garaged, new perfor-
mance tires, battery,
60,700 easy miles.
27-30+ mpg. \$15,500.
Call 208-732-8254.



CHRYSLER '95 Se-
bring, touring, V6,
very clean, only
\$10,900.

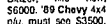


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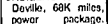


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Like new, AT, 4 door,
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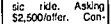


Harms Auto
Sales

2378 E 990 S
Hazelton, ID 83435
208-926-5000



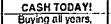
'06 Pontiac G6,
factory warranty,
\$13,450. Stock
#101.



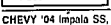
'02 Dodge 1 ton,
diesel, 8 spd,
manuel, \$18,350.
Stock #134.



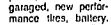
'00 Dodge Durango,
SLT, leather,
\$6,950. Stock #112



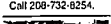
'98 Ford V-10n,
\$3,550. Stock #135.



'94 Chevy 2500, 24,
4 door diesel,
\$4,950. Stock #133.



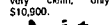
'99 Ford Windstar,
7 passenger, \$3,850.
Stock #102.



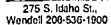
'03 Chevy Suburban,
\$13,550. Stock
#136.



Snowmobile Trailer
2nd enclosed,
\$7,495. Stock #137

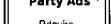


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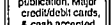


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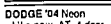


DODGE '04 Neon
Like new, AT, 4 door,
35 mpg, \$5,500/offer.
Call 420-6722

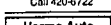


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Sales

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Hazelton, ID 83435
208-926-5000



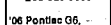
'06 Pontiac G6,
factory warranty,
\$13,450. Stock
#101.



'02 Dodge 1 ton,
diesel, 8 spd,
manuel, \$18,350.
Stock #134.



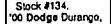
'00 Dodge Durango,
SLT, leather,
\$6,950. Stock #112



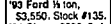
'98 Ford V-10n,
\$3,550. Stock #135.



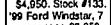
'94 Chevy 2500, 24,
4 door diesel,
\$4,950. Stock #133.



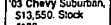
'99 Ford Windstar,
7 passenger, \$3,850.
Stock #102.



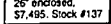
'03 Chevy Suburban,
\$13,550. Stock
#136.



Snowmobile Trailer
2nd enclosed,
\$7,495. Stock #137



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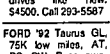


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FORD '02 Taurus, 4 dr,
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immaculate, runs &
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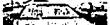
FORD '92 Taurus GL,
75K low miles, AT,
PS, PW, Runs awes-
ome. \$2,200/offer.
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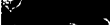
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PONTIAC '00 Grand
Am GT, \$3,995. Stock
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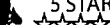


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DODGE '97 Intrepid,
\$1,300. Ford '92
Mustang, \$1,100. Call
355-0680.



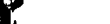
MERCURY '98 Mys-
terio, 4 door, 4 cylin-
der, power everything,
one owner, 32 mpg.
60,000 actual miles.
\$3,900. 283-5587.



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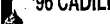


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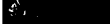


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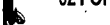
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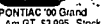
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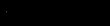


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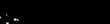


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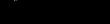
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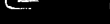
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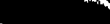
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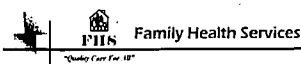
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Canyon Ridge High School
to start during 2008-2009 school year.

Selected candidate will spend first year preparing school for 2009 opening. Must meet state certification requirements, have Master's degree in secondary school administration. 4 years experience as a secondary classroom teacher plus 3 years experience in secondary school administration desired.

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Do you enjoy irrigating in the rain?
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The City of Kimberly is
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**Entry Level Position available in our
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Applications will be accepted until February 29th 2008. Successful Applicant will have a High School Diploma or equivalent and a current Valid Drivers License. All applicants must currently hold a level I Distribution and/or level I Sewer Collection licenses or the ability to obtain one within 1 year of employment.

Application and Job Description available online at: www.cityofkimberly.org
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PRODUCTION



PRODUCTION SUPERVISOR

High Desert Milk is seeking an experienced production supervisor to assist in the starting and running of a new Milk Drying Plant (NFD). The plant will be completed by June 2008, and will process 2 million pounds of milk daily, with an annual output of 65 million pounds of Non-Fat Dry Milk.

The person chosen for this position must have extensive knowledge of Dairy Evaporation and Drying. The Production Supervisor will provide guidance and leadership to all department personnel. The Production Supervisor will assist with planning, scheduling, monitoring and operating.

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Career Do's and Don'ts from 2007

Real-Life Lessons From Leaders and Celebrities

Tom Musbach, Yahoo! Health

Stars like Matt Damon, Oprah Winfrey, and Rosie O'Donnell are just a few of the public figures whose actions in 2007 - good or bad - offer career lessons for us all.

Whether it was bravely stepping out on "Dancing With the Stars" or getting fired for romancing a subordinate, understanding the six do's and don'ts below can help you move your career forward next year.

DO leverage your strengths. Matt Damon has long been known as a widely talented actor. This year, he built on the strength of his previous two "Bourne" films with his performance in the highly successful "Bourne Ultimatum," bolstering his status as one of the most successful action-film stars in Hollywood.

"Finding out what you are good at and then working to get better at it is a much more efficient use of your time and energy than trying to become a star in an area where you may not have much talent to begin with," says Richard Phillips, founder of Advantage Career Solutions.

DON'T use inappropriate language at work. Radio host Don Imus was fired from his longtime job for racially inflammatory language about the Rutgers women's basketball team.

"In general, steer clear of topics involving sex, drugs, race, and politics. Even if you think a comment is perfectly innocuous, someone else may very well see it differently," says Alexandra Livitt, author of "They Don't Teach Corporate in College." Once people perceive you as casual, sexist, or prejudiced, no amount of hard work in the world will restore your reputation in that organization.

DO acknowledge mistakes and take action to learn from them. After an abuse scandal surfaced at Oprah Winfrey's school for girls in South Africa, the talk-show host accepted responsibility for "inadequate" employee screening. She also traveled to the school to meet with parents and address their concerns.

Andrea Nierenberg, author of "Million Dollar Networking," says, "It takes a strong person to say, 'I was wrong,' and then to take the action to correct the problem. People respect you more and know that you will make mistakes - you it is an admirable person who goes the extra mile to quickly correct the mistake and take another action step."

DON'T get personally involved with a subordinate. The Red Cross ousted married CEO Mark Everson for having a personal relationship with one of his employees. The organization said the relationship showed "poor judgment" and damaged his credibility.

"Besides showing poor judgment, it is also unfair to the subordinate, whose career will likely be negatively impacted," says Phillips.

DO step outside your comfort zone. Racer driver Hella Castronoves took a risk to learn ballroom dancing and perform on "Dancing With the Stars." He backed it up with hard work and won the contest, opening up his career to new possibilities.

"Living in your safety zone year after year can make you stagnant and, well, boring," says Debra Davenport, a master professional mentor and career counselor. "If you're risk-averse, try conquering smaller challenges. Then, expand your horizons as you grow more comfortable. Who knows? You might even start your own business or embark on an entirely new and wonderful career!"

DON'T badmouth people who might be good references. Rosie O'Donnell's embattled tenure on "The View" ended prematurely this year, as her clashes with cohosts Elizabeth Hasselbeck and Barbara Walters were played out in the media.

"Rosie O'Donnell is your typical example of a workplace hothead - someone who says exactly what they're thinking when they're thinking it regardless of the consequences," says Livitt. "You want them to communicate in a manner that shows that you respect other people's points of view, colleagues won't want you around no matter how talented you are. The View continues to offer examples (see last year's Star Jones mention) of how burning your bridges is never a good idea."

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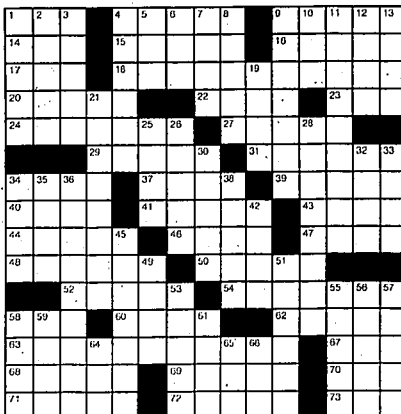
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- 20 Theater offering
- 22 Playthings
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- 24 Orchestra section
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- 64 Feedbag
- 65 morsel
- 68 Palm fronds
- 69 II-gotten gains
- 70 Lyric poem
- 71 Brown ermine
- 72 Prepare to propose
- 73 For each



Thursday's Puzzle Solved



2/8/08

DOWN

- 1 Honored poets
- 2 Geometric
- 3 Doing ballistics
- 4 Large tropical lizard

502

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