

A DEMURE, NOT DULL, PROM
Teens try to find modest dresses.

FAMILY LIFE, F1

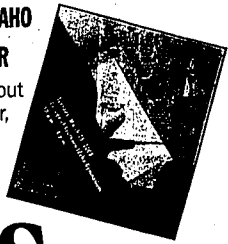
Sunday

March 23, 2008 | \$1.50

SOUTHERN IDAHO

CAREER FAIR

Find out all about the career fair, which will be held Tuesday.



INSIDE TODAY'S PAPER

TAKING SIXTH

CSI falls in OT at nationals.



SPORTS, D1

Happy Easter!



High: 6Q
Low: 36

Mostly cloudy skies and mild temperatures. Details: D8

Times-News

MagicValley.com

Downtown development plans by a Portland consulting group and local interests could mean big changes and possible conflicts as the city weighs...

The cost of REVITALIZATION?

Who owns these PROPERTIES?

1. Urban Renaissance	2. Salvation Army	3. Fastenal Co.	4. Leland Group	5. NIMBY LLC	6. Strobel Family Trust	7. The Alley Inn	8. Mac Evans	9. McEllett	10. Serrano	11. Crum	12. Old Towne Properties
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Other property owners within the four-block area:

TD Enterprises	Harshbarger	Down	Fred Krull	T.F. Bank/Wells Fargo
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By Joshua Palmer • Times-News writer

The Twin Falls Urban Renewal Agency is paying local developers \$50,000 to advise it on how to re-develop downtown — including whether the city should invest in its own project.

The agreement is part of a \$100,000 deal signed in November by the city, its Urban Renewal Agency and the Portland-based Leland Consulting Group.

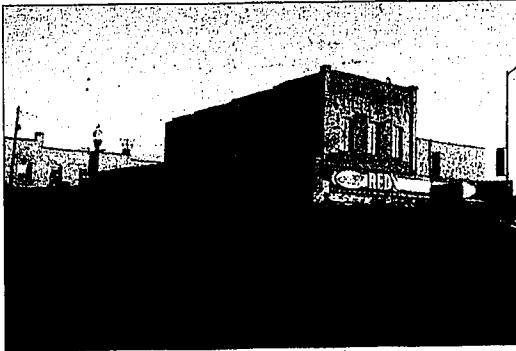
The Leland Group's hire was widely discussed last fall, but the sub-contract for two prominent businessmen has been a closely guarded secret. Principals in the deal say they didn't want word to leak out before they could lock down properties to be redeveloped, though downtown business owners have known about it for months.

Under the agreement, David Leland, managing director of the consulting group, hired developer Francis Florence and attorney Jeff Hepworth to lay the groundwork for leveling most of four blocks to make way for major new office buildings.

Downtown Twin Falls has a lot of potential, but it's very tired in terms of the buildings and the commerce in the area," Leland said.

He describes a mixed-use development with about 150,000 square-feet of offices and retail space replacing low-rise warehouses, vacant lots and small buildings between Second Avenue and Fourth Avenue East, and Shoshone Street South and Idaho Street.

Businesses in the area include Red's Trading Post,



A new Twin Falls City Hall could be located on the block where Red's Trading Post is now.

the Fastenal Co, Crum Electric, Kruger's Nightlife and River Rat. Whitewater Toys. Some would likely remain, with new development around them.

Exactly how much the city would invest is unknown. Urban Renewal long ago targeted the area for redevelopment and owns more than a quarter of the site.

The city also would cover site preparation costs such as relocating and improving utilities, parking lots and driveways, Leland said.

And the city may provide an important anchor tenant — a new City Hall, he said.

Quiet moves

Florence and Hepworth



Magicvalley.com

See a copy of a contract between the city of Twin Falls, Leland Consulting Group and developers to re-develop a four-block area of downtown Twin Falls.

quietly started assembling land for their development more than a year ago. Many property owners in the area say they have been asked to either sell outright or put their land into a limited liability corporation.

"I was asked if I would be a part of (the LLC) and right now I'm not completely decided," said land owner Curtis Eaton. "It's not because I don't think it's a good idea. I think the project... has a lot of promise."

The developers say at

least four of the area's 16 property owners are already partners in the LLC. Florence said he would not have a partner's share in the LLC, but would manage it for 10 percent of any profit, with Hepworth taking 5 percent. The arrangements could not be confirmed because corporation papers are not yet filed.

If the development goes forward, the LLC would stand to profit from city investment that would increase property values,



Defense lawyers with the Twin Falls County Public Defender's Office talk Tuesday morning in a Twin Falls courtroom. Attorneys at the Twin Falls office handle nine times as many court assigned cases as public defenders in Blaine County. According to officials at the National Legal Aid and Defender Association, disparities in public defender's offices are rife in seven states that provide no state funding to keep a balance.

'Lowest rung on the ladder'

State audits caseloads of public defenders

By Cassidy Friedman
Times-News writer

Michelle Mellinthin was no angel.

Charged with grand theft, meth possession and forging a bank card, her public defender in Canyon County didn't waste time finding out if she was actually guilty of all those charges, the Idaho Supreme Court later determined.

So when a county prosecutor offered an early plea bargain, the public defender leapt at it. Her attorney refused to wait for the state lab to finish testing a white crystal substance found in her possession. Had he waited, he would have learned the substance was not meth.

A judge ruled that it was too late and let the guilty plea stand. After that, the same public defender and a second one each failed to help her file a direct appeal.

Mellinthin went to prison. "My guess is that Ms. Mellinthin just gave up," said State's Deputy Appellate Public Defender Sara Thomas.

In 2002, Thomas appealed Mellinthin's case on grounds that her public defenders had provided an ineffective defense. And she won.

Mellinthin's case was far from the first or only time a busy county public defender blew a case, citing too little time and resources. A wide disparity exists between the time and resources some Idaho county public defenders have compared with others.

But until recently the state wasn't paying much attention to county public defenders.

Public defenders in Blaine County, Magic Valley's wealthiest county, handle nine times fewer cases as public defenders in Twin Falls County. Not to mention, they're paid more.

Idaho is one of only seven states — along with Pennsylvania, Michigan, South Dakota, Arizona, Utah and California — that provide no state funding for county public defenders to ensure representation for the poor is adequate not just in some counties.

"You get wide variations in the quality of service," said David Carroll, who directs research for the National Legal Aid and Defender Association. "Counties that are poorer tend to have higher crime rates. They also have a higher percentage of poor people. High crime and high poverty level mean there is even greater need for indigent services. You are really crippling those counties."

After completing an audit of Idaho's State Appellate Public Defender system in March 2007, Carroll alerted the governor's Idaho Criminal Justice Commission to that danger. That led to the commission's approval for Idaho's first public defender. The results will be released in fall.

Carroll's research team, funded by an Open Society Institute grant, has already studied Ada and Canyon counties. Next up are Blaine, Bonanza, Canyon, Kootenai, Nez Perce and Plover counties — a diverse

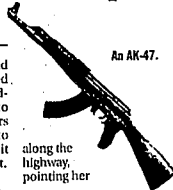
Please see DEFENDERS, Page A6

'Arms race' has law officers carrying deadlier weapons

By Keith Ridler
Associated Press writer

BOISE — The 30-year-old mother of three jumped from her disabled SUV holding a gun to her head to keep police back. Officers moved in close enough to fire a stun gun, but it bounced off her heavy coat.

Then investigators say she tried opening the door of another vehicle stopped



along the highway pointing her

Please see WEAPONS, Page A5

SEE THE REST OF THE STORY ON PAGE A6



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SudokuC2
TravelD7
WeatherD8
WinesD9

TODAY'S FORECAST

Table with 3 columns: Today, Tonight, Monday. Includes weather icons and temperature ranges.

MINI-CASSIA

Today: Morning sunshine with increasing afternoon clouds. Highs near 60. Tonight: Mostly cloudy, cool and mostly dry. Lows in the middle 30s.

Complete weather report: See page D8

TODAY'S HAPPENINGS

CHURCH

Easter Worship Services

EXHIBITS

'For Want of a Horse': Cultural and Natural History of Horses, exploring the history and evolution of the horse and its shoes.

To have an event listed, please submit the name of the event, a brief description, time, place, cost and contact number by noon.

To have an event (including on-going events) listed in the April monthly calendar, please submit the name of the event, a brief description, time, place, cost and contact number by noon.

FOUR-DAY PLANNER

ARTS AND ENTERTAINMENT

March 24 — Magic Valley Arts on Tour 'The Golden Dragons,' a Chinese acrobatic troupe, 7:30 p.m., College of Southern Idaho Fine Arts Center auditorium.

CLUBS AND ORGANIZATIONS

March 24 — Twin Falls Chess Club / Magic Valley Chess Club meeting, 6 to 9:30 p.m., Barnes & Noble Bookellers.

EDUCATION

March 26 — Magic Valley Medical Assistants, one CEU with class by Community Connection Assistant Mindy Hosokove on LifeLine Service.

March 26 — Ready? Set! Grow! Kindergarten Orientation, for all children ages 4 and 5 who will attend kindergarten next year.

EXHIBITS

March 26 — Opening day of 'Lincoln and Idaho' Traveling Exhibit, focusing on the life and presidency of Abraham Lincoln and his relationship with Idaho.

HEALTH

March 24 — 'Destination: Heart Healthy Eating,' a LIFE GROUP activity, 7 p.m., Clover Trinity Lutheran School.

March 24, 25, 26 and 27 — Free Immunizations for South Central Idaho teens ages 12-18, includes Td (adult tetanus, diphtheria and pertussis), Hepatitis A and B, MMR, Meningitis and Chickenpox.

CORRECTIONS

Headline wrong on Saturday's vehicular manslaughter story

Sam Naranjo, who pleaded guilty to vehicular manslaughter Friday in the death of a Twin Falls man in June, is from Heyburn.

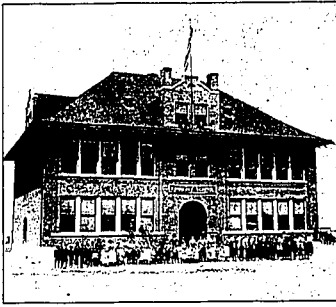
Date incorrect in photo caption

A caption identifying a photograph from the Bissbee Collection at the Twin Falls Public Library taken sometime between 1909-1910.

nowpack levels. Table with columns: Watershed, % of Avg, % Season, Little Lost, 107%, 94%, 92%, 88%, 82%, 81%, 87%, 83%.

MORNING BRIEFING PHOTOGRAPHIC MEMORY

The Magic Valley's history as seen through the lens of photographers, then and now...



The Kimberly School, left, was finished in 1909, had eight classrooms and held grades 1-10. The brick that was used to construct the building came from a local brick maker...

AROUND THE NATION

FLORIDA

Astronauts complete final spacewalk

CAPE CANAVERAL, Fla. — Endeavour's astronauts embarked on the fifth and final spacewalk of their mission Saturday, this time attaching a 50-foot inspection pole to the International Space Station for use by the next shuttle visitors.

Michael Foreman and Robert Behrken floated out the hatch late in the afternoon as the linked shuttle and station soared more than 200 miles above the Pacific.

You're the gladiator, Mike," astronaut Richard Linnehan called from inside, playing a five-second sound clip from the 2000 film "You Don't Know Jack."

The shuttle astronauts used the laser-tipped inspection boom at the beginning of their 16-day mission and again Friday night to check for any damage to their spaceship. It's become a routine safety procedure ever since the 2003 Columbia accident.

Discovery won't have room for a boom when it flies in May; the Japanese Kibo lab is so big it will take up the entire

CALIFORNIA

Marine reunited with dog he rescued in Iraq

SAN DIEGO — A San Diego-based Marine major was reunited on Saturday with one of his closest war buddies — a 2-year-old dog named Nubs.

Nubs greeted Maj. Brian Dennis at Miramar Marine Corps Air Station when the fighter pilot returned from Iraq. It was the first time the two were together since Dennis' family and close friends helped raise \$3,500 to fly the dog to San Diego about a month ago.

Dennis, 36, of St. Pete Beach, Fla., had spotted the mongrel dog while on patrol in Anbar province and later nursed the animal back to health after finding him stabbed with a screwdriver.

He named the dog Nubs after learning someone cut the ears off believing it would make the dog more aggressive and alert.

Clerical error sending woman back to prison

LOS ANGELES — Just days after her release on parole, a

former 1970s radical was headed back to prison Saturday to serve at least one more year after corrections officials said a miscalculation resulted in her early release.

Criticism over the early release from prison Monday of Sara Jane Olson, who lived as a fugitive for years in Minnesota, spurred a review of her sentence and the timing of her parole.

The department is sensitive to the impact such an error has had on all involved in this case and sincerely regrets the mistake," Kernan said.

He said the review was ordered "after many concerns raised in the media." The union that represents Los Angeles police officers and the son of a woman killed in a decades-old botched robbery at a bank near Sacramento opposed Olson's release.

Olson, 61, was detained at Los Angeles International Airport on Friday night and told her right to leave the state had been rescinded. She was sent to stay with family in

Palmdale, where authorities kept watch outside the house overnight, and was arrested Saturday and imprisoned in Corona, about 50 miles south-east of Los Angeles, Kernan said.

MISSOURI

Technicality could dash speller's dream to compete in contest

ST. JOSEPH, Mo. — Seventh-grader Morgan Brown thought her dream to compete in the national spelling was about to come true when she won her regional contest. But her family found out this week that her school was not registered with the Scripps National Spelling Bee.

Her father said Morgan, who has had to adapt her learning skills to cope with a vision disorder, has dreamed of competing in the national spelling bee since she was 9 and now he faces a "heavy heart situation."

"The first thing we have to do is try to explain to an innocent child how a legal interpretation of an (unclear) application has now disqualified her," father said.

— wire reports

TODAY IN HISTORY

Today is Easter Sunday, March 23, the third day of 2008. There are 283 days left in the year.

Today's highlight:

On March 23, 1775, Patrick Henry delivered his famous call for American independence from Britain, telling the Virginia Provincial Convention, "Give me liberty, or give me death!"

On this date:

In 1743, George Frideric Handel's oratorio "Messiah" had its London premiere. (During the "Hallelujah Chorus," Britain's King George II, who was in attendance, stood up — followed by the entire audience.)

Pacific coast, began their journey back east. In 1919, Benito Mussolini founded his Fascist political movement in Milan, Italy.

In 1933, the German Reichstag adopted the Enabling Act, which effectively granted Adolf Hitler dictatorial powers.

In 1965, America's first two-person space flight began as Gemini 3 blasted off from Cape Kennedy with astronauts Virgil Grissom and John Young aboard for a nearly five-hour flight.

In 1983, President Reagan first proposed developing technology to intercept incoming enemy missiles — a proposal that came to be known as the Strategic Defense Initiative, as well as "Star Wars."

In 1806, explorers Lewis and Clark, having reached the

in Afghanistan, killing all six people on board. Grenades exploded at the 101st Airborne command center in Kuwait, killing two officers; a U.S. soldier, Sgt. Hasari Akbar, was later convicted of murder and sentenced to death.

Ten years ago: President Clinton hailed "the new face of Africa" as he opened a historic six-nation tour in Ghana. The Supreme Court allowed term limits for state lawmakers.

Russian President Boris Yeltsin fired his Cabinet. At the Academy Awards, "Titanic" tied the record by winning 11 Oscars, including best picture, director (James Cameron) and song ("My Heart Will Go On").

Ten years ago: A U.S. Army maintenance convoy was ambushed in Iraq; 11 soldiers were killed, seven were captured, including Pvt. 1st Class Jessica Lynch, who was rescued on April 1, 2003. A U.S. Air Force helicopter crashed

in Afghanistan, killing all six people on board. Grenades exploded at the 101st Airborne command center in Kuwait, killing two officers; a U.S. soldier, Sgt. Hasari Akbar, was later convicted of murder and sentenced to death.

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IDAHO LOTTERY. Power Play: 3. Saturday, March 22. 7 25 28 48 48. Powerball: 10. WILDARD. Saturday, March 22. WILD CARD. Queen of Hearts. 4 21 23 26 30. March 21 4 9 2. March 21 5 1 1. March 20 7 2 9.

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The Fed's bold moves

Actions to stabilize economy bring praise, but also new scrutiny

By Tom Raun
Associated Press writer

WASHINGTON — The Federal Reserve has taken its boldest action since the Great Depression, invoking rarely used powers in an effort to contain a panic threatening to undermine the economy. The central bank acted with speed the White House and Congress only could envy.

The Fed is largely free from many constraints that bog down other policymakers. Also, it is the only U.S. institution with the authority and ability to create money out of thin air.

For now, the steps orchestrated by Chairman Ben Bernanke, in the first critical test of his leadership since succeeding Alan Greenspan in early 2006, are earnings praise from the Bush administration, Congress and presidential contenders Barack Obama, Hillary Rodham Clinton and John McCain.

But the Fed's moves are raising questions about whether its regulatory powers, established in the early 20th century, need overhauling and whether it took on some responsibilities that Congress and the administration should have shouldered.

In a remarkable week, the Fed:

- Engineered the fire sale of bankruptcy-headed Bear Stearns Cos. to J.P. Morgan Chase & Co. with a \$30 billion loan.

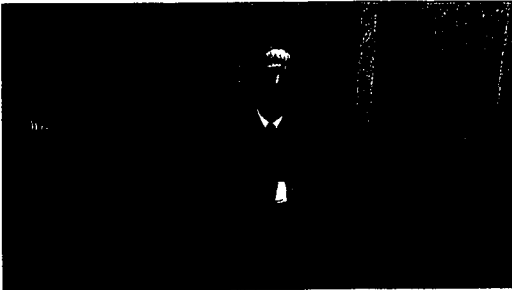
- Offered emergency loans to other securities dealers under terms normally reserved for regulated banks.

- Slashed a key short-term interest rate by three quarters of a percentage point, to 2.25 percent. The cut was sixth since September.

These steps followed moves to lend \$100 billion in cash to banks and \$200 billion in Treasury bonds to cash-strapped investment banks. The goal was to keep the financial system from seizing up.

"I spent 35 years on Wall Street, have been a Fed watcher for a long time and I have never seen the potential for a more severe credit crisis than this one," said David Jones, chief economist at DMJ Advisors and a former Wall Street economist. "It looks like we turned the corner precisely because of what the Fed did."

Was this the first look at a more activist Fed or just a tar-



Federal Reserve Board Chairman Ben Bernanke stands in the board room of Federal Reserve headquarters in Washington on Jan. 26, 2007. The Fed has taken bold actions to contain financial panic undermining the U.S. economy.

"It looks like we turned the corner precisely because of what the Fed did."

— David Jones, chief economist at DMJ Advisors and a former Wall Street economist

geted response to a looming economic meltdown?

Either way, the financial sector and its regulators are expected to come under congressional scrutiny in the days ahead.

Lawmakers from both parties are coming up with suggestions for restructuring the regulation of financial markets.

The Treasury Department is working on its own blueprint for change.

Rep. Barney Frank, chairman of the House Financial Services Committee, is proposing new regulations on investment banks similar to those that apply to regular banks. That includes mandatory requirements for cash reserves to cushion losses.

Frank, D-Mass., said the Fed or other government entity should be designated as a "financial services regulator" with the power to limit risky practices.

White House spokeswoman Dana Perino said the administration would study the concept and other ideas "as we consider if there's additional things that we need to do."

Bear Stearns' unraveling and the credit woes facing other financial companies

brought new attention to the Fed, which is part of the government and part of the commercial banking system.

Congress created the Fed in 1913 to prevent financial panics such as runs on banks and set it up as an independent entity. Its powers grew in 1933 and 1935. Although the Fed is subject to congressional oversight, its decisions do not have to be ratified by the president or Congress. Fed officials are not paid with money appropriated by Congress.

It has a seven-member board of governors, led now by Bernanke, and headquarters in Washington. Fed members are nominated by the president and confirmed by the Senate. There are two vacancies currently.

The system includes 12 Reserve Banks in major cities. These banks have their own boards of directors, two-thirds of whom are elected by commercial banks in the region and one-third by the Fed board in Washington.

With this combined government-financial industry heritage, the Fed serves as the nation's central bank. It manages the money supply, sets or influences certain key short-term interest rates, engages in open market buys and sales of government securities, and oversees and provides financial services to banks.

Because of the Fed's direct influence over interest rates, the money supply, and the larger economy, some have called the Fed chairman the second most powerful job in Washington after the president.

Economist Lawrence

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Mmm, nutraloaf

Court to decide if highly unpopular prison food isn't food at all

By Wilson Ring
Associated Press writer

MONTPELIER, Vt. — When shooping suspect Christopher Williams acted up in prison, he was given nutraloaf — a mixture of cubed whole wheat bread, nondairy cheese, raw carrots, spinach, seedless raisins, beans, vegetable oil, tomato paste, powdered milk and dehydrated potato flakes.

Prison officials call it a complete meal. Inmates say it's so awful they'd rather go hungry.

On Monday, the Vermont Supreme Court will hear arguments in a class action suit brought by inmates who say it's not food but punishment and that anyone subjected to it should get a formal disciplinary process first.

Prison officials see nutraloaf as a tool for behavior modification. "It's commonplace in other states as a way of providing nutrition in a mechanism that dissuades inmates from throwing feces, urine, trays and silverware," said Vermont Corrections Commissioner Rob Hofmann.

"It tends to have the desired outcome," Hofmann said. "Once the offender relents, we stop with the nutraloaf. That's our goal, to protect our staff and not have them subjected to behavior that the average Vermontor would find incomprehensible."

Seth Lipschutz, an attorney with Vermont's Prisoner's Rights office, says the state has a legitimate interest in changing the behavior of inmates who misbehave. But he says a diet of nutraloaf is punishment, plain and simple. To call it anything else is "playing with words to get what they want. It's wrong and it's sad," Lipschutz said.

"If it's punishment, you've got to follow the rules," Lipschutz said. "Even in prison you get a little bit of



Nutraloaf, a product from the cafeteria of the Chittenden Regional Correctional Facility, sits atop an inmate's bunk bed at the facility in South Burlington, Vt. on Friday. Nutraloaf is made of whole wheat bread, non-dairy cheese, raw carrots, spinach, seedless raisins, beans, vegetable oil, tomato paste, powdered milk and dehydrated potato flakes.

due process."

Even Hofmann doesn't care for the taste of the stuff. "It reminded me of eating my vegetables and I'm not necessarily a big fan of vegetables," he said.

Nutraloaf and its equivalents have been used for decades in prisons across the country. In 1978, the U.S. Supreme Court ruled that a concoction used in Arkansas known as "grue" might be tolerable for a few days and intolerably cruel for weeks or months.

A federal judge ruled in 1988 that the use of nutraloaf

by the Michigan Department of Corrections was punishment.

Now, Michigan inmates are only given nutraloaf after going through the disciplinary process that lands them in segregation, department spokesman Russ Marjan said.

"It's done very infrequently, but it seems to accomplish its goal of preventing prisoners from using or abusing food or their containers in a way that could adversely affect our staff," Marjan said.

The National Prison Project of the American Civil Liberties Union gets occa-

sional inmate complaints about nutraloaf, but the issue hasn't been involved in the group's litigation in years.

"Our position is that it shouldn't be used unless a violation has to do with food. It shouldn't be used as punishment," said the Prison Project's Public Policy Coordinator Jody Kent. "And even in those circumstances, they have to make sure it won't put at risk their health."

Vermont Assistant Attorney General Kurt Kuehl, who will argue the case for the Department of Corrections, said the use of nutraloaf isn't punishment.

Instead, Kuehl said, it's as if a correctional officer were to find an inmate with a knife. He wouldn't have to hold a hearing to take the knife away.

"It's taking an administrative action to protect the facility," said Kuehl.

Afterward, the inmate can be subject to a separate disciplinary hearing for the conduct that led to being fed nutraloaf.

Most Vermont inmates given nutraloaf have used their eating utensils to throw body waste. Nutraloaf, however, is served on a simple piece of paper, removing from the inmates' reach the utensils that can be used to store the waste before it is thrown.

Hofmann said Vermont prisons average about one nutraloaf episode a month.

Christopher Williams, 29, who is charged in a 2006 school shooting that killed two people in Essex, was given nutraloaf after he'd assaulted guards and smeared excrement in his cell.

Since then, his name hasn't appeared on the list of inmates given nutraloaf. "His name was nowhere to be found," Hofmann said. "I presume it was effective."

FDA warns of salmonella risk from cantaloupes

WASHINGTON (AP) — People should throw away cantaloupes from a Honduran grower and packer believed to be linked to a salmonella outbreak, the government said Saturday.

The Food and Drug Administration issued the alert for the melons from Agropecuaria Montellbano. Grocers are advised to remove from their stock any cantaloupes from this company. People should check with stores to see if recently

purchased cantaloupes came from Honduras. So far, 50 people have become sickened in 16 states and nine have become ill in Canada after eating the cantaloupes. No deaths have been reported, although 14 people have said.

The government also is seeking to detain all cantaloupes shipped to the United States by Agropecuaria Montellbano.

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Dan, Verlene & Bob

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Weapons

Continued from page A1

handgun at the two nearest deputies. They fired their assault rifles and Sarah Marie Stanfield of Boise fell to the ground, hit eight times with bullets designed to break apart on impact to increase internal damage. She died of multiple gunshot wounds to the chest.

Along with nonlethal devices like stun guns, an increasing number of rank-and-file patrol officers across the U.S. have started carrying high-powered assault rifles.

Law enforcement officials say it's part of a trend that has accelerated in the last year because of more shootouts with guns, standoffs in which police were outgunned, rising officer fatalities in 2007 and mass shootings of civilians where heavily armed "active shooters" kill until being killed.

"If you get into a fire-fight, you want to be the winner," said Scott Knight, police chief for Chaska, Minn., and chairman of the firearms committee for the International Association of Chiefs of Police. "Our departments are moving to those weapons out of necessity across the country."

Chaska is a town of about 24,000 residents, 25 miles southwest of Minneapolis, and earlier this month Knight ordered the department's first 10 assault rifles, each with two 30-round magazines.

Only patchwork information is available on how many other law enforcement agencies are outfitting sheriff's deputies and patrol officers with assault rifles, the kind of freepower once reserved for specialized SWAT teams. But from Chaska to the city of Miami to college campuses in Arizona, agencies are acquiring AR-15s or M-4s, both close relatives of the military's M-16.

All three weapons fire .223-caliber bullets. While the M-16 can fire as an automatic, the M-4 and AR-15 are generally configured to fire one round with each squeeze of the trigger.

The rifles can carry clips that hold 30 rounds, can fire bullets with enough velocity to pierce some types of body armor and have greater accuracy at longer range than handguns. Police say the guns are more accurate than a handgun in life-and-death situations.

Law enforcement officials see another benefit: many officers are former soldiers familiar with the M-16 who can make an easy transition to police assault rifles, which cost about \$500 to \$1,500. In Miami, Police Chief John Timoney late last year authorized his patrol officers to carry AR-15s because of a rise in assault rifle use by criminals.

The chief blamed the 2004 expiration of the federal ban on assault weapons for the escalation of heavily armed violence on Miami's streets. He said AK-47s have become a "gun of choice" for criminals. "My police officer who was killed (in January), that was an AK-47 bought by an 18-year-old," said Timoney, whose agency now has about 50 AR-15s and expects to eventually get 150 more. "This is a national problem. Police agencies all over the U.S. are going to bigger weapons."

In 2007, according to preliminary numbers compiled by the National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial Fund, 69 officers were shot to death, up from 52 in 2006 and the most in five years. Last year included six shootings where two or more officers were killed in the same event, said spokesman Kevin Morrison.

"There just seems to be a more brazen, cold-blooded killer out there," he said. "Officers being shot multiple times and multiple officers being shot in the same incident. That's fueling a lot of concern among law enforcement professionals."

The American Civil Liberties Union and the Violence Policy Center declined to comment on the trend of police agencies going

to assault rifles.

The Brady Center to Prevent Gun Violence said it understood the move, but blamed the expiration of the assault weapons ban for making it necessary.

Law enforcement officials say the trend toward issuing assault rifles to regular patrol officers started in Los Angeles after a 1997 shootout following a botched bank robbery. There, two heavily armed men wore body armor that stopped bullets fired by the standard-issue 9 mm Beretta handguns carried by police. 11 of whom were injured along with six civilians. The two bank robbers were eventually killed. The Los Angeles Police Department now issues AR-15s.

Two years later came Columbine High School in Littleton, Colo., where two teens killed 13 people and wounded two dozen others before both committing suicide, forcing police to rethink a strategy based on securing areas and waiting for negotiators and SWAT teams.

The new strategy played out last month in Oregon's Linn County, south of Portland, when 51-year-old Robert Earl Thompson used a shotgun to take 16-year-old high school sophomore Nicole Street hostage at a gas station. A sheriff's sergeant used his AR-15 to kill Thompson within a few minutes of arriving.

"The people we protect expect us to go in and resolve that situation and save that hostage," said Linn County Sheriff Tim Mueller, who is still building the department's arsenal of AR-15s.

While officers in the field can react more quickly than SWAT teams, law enforcement officials say that's of little use if patrol officers are outgunned when they arrive. That concern has increased based on past shootings

where assailants carried multiple weapons and hundreds of rounds of ammunition.

In Arizona, police departments at that state's three large public universities are arming themselves with assault rifles. Officials say the

high-powered rifles will give school officers the ability to shoot at targets at the end of long hallways or atop tall buildings.

In the Idaho case, Stanfield was wanted on a probation violation, but her motivations

for running from police and ignoring their instructions remain unclear.

An investigation cleared the Ada and Payette county deputies earlier this month, noting they risked their lives attempting to use a stun gun

on a person armed with a handgun before firing their assault rifles.

"Anytime that we perceive great bodily harm or death may result, we may take action," said Ada County Sheriff's Lt. Scott Johnson.

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The cost of REVITALIZATION?

Continued from page A1

Hepworth also owns the Gem State Paper building and at least three other adjacent properties, which could increase in value.

While the LLC managers would control most of the properties in the four blocks, Leland said their role in long-term development is still "undetermined."

"The first phase is to identify if we have a real project here and what we need to do — the next step will get defined at that point," he said. "It sounds loose, but it's the nature of the business."

An unusual agreement

Melinda Anderson, the city's economic development director, selected Leland in 2007 to create a downtown revitalization plan. In April, the consultants met Florence and Hepworth. It was a perfect "alignment of motives," said Leland.

Under terms of their contract, Hepworth and Florence are being paid to:

- Negotiate agreements between the city, tenants and land owners.
- Conduct due diligence for property acquisition; determine ability to buy land or otherwise control development rights; and set reliable acquisition costs.
- Work with city staff to see if codes hamper the "usually agreed to vision of the project objectives."
- Set a building program for relocating businesses.
- Make an initial estimate of development costs.
- Analyze potential return on investment and financing. Those are routine functions in any development, but in this case the city is paying the developers to put together a deal that relies on public investment, then to advise if the deal is a good one — all the while having a financial stake in its success.

A unique opportunity

City officials say the development is critical to downtown, and that the contract with Florence and Hepworth is the only way to get it done.

"Leland hired Fran and Jeff to be their eyes on the ground because they have the relationships with a great tenant property owners," Anderson said. "They also have knowledge of the tenants who are interested in potentially relocating to the project area — that's something that city and city urban developers don't have the staff resources to do."

"The developers agree the city needs them."

"You have to understand that it is very, very difficult to work with all the property owners in the area so that it works in their best interests and also the city's," said Hepworth, a past member of the Urban Renewal Agency board, as well as the Historic Downtown Business Improvement District board.

City officials say they deal with Hepworth and Florence and the LLC plan is common in economic development.

"I think that we are paying them for services rendered, so it's not a conflict of interest," said Mayor Lance Clow, who signed the contract in November.

But when asked if he was concerned about paying developers who would also profit from their work, Clow said he was not. "I'm aware of those numbers, so I cannot comment on it."

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Meet the players



Jeff Hepworth

A Twin Falls native, attorney Jeff Hepworth has been a board member for several community and civic groups — including the Historic Downtown Business Improvement District and the city of Twin Falls Urban Renewal Agency. He is currently on the board of the Twin Falls Area Chamber of Commerce.

Hepworth is a partner with Robertson Siste Hepworth Wortz & Stover, PLLC, which has renovated and now owns the former Gem State Paper Co. building in the Historic Townsite.

Hepworth also owns several downtown properties.



Fran Florence

A Reator and Twin Falls native, Fran Florence, has been pivotal to development along the canyon rim.

As chairman of the city's Planning and Zoning Commission in the early 1990s, he helped redefine building ordinances along the Snake River and Rock Creek canyon rims.

He has been a partner in several developments, including The Forks Road Subdivision and Henderson Pointe — a five-story multiuse building on the canyon rim.

Florence began his real estate career after forming Western Real Estate Group, of which he is still a principal owner. He and his wife also manage Milestone Builders and Developers, which builds homes and commercial properties in Idaho, Oregon, and Washington.



David Leland

David Leland, managing director of the Portland, Ore.-based Leland Consulting Group, has worked as an advisor, developer and owner of real estate development for more than 40 years.

According to his company's Web site, he has overseen the development of more than 3,000 real estate projects.

A graduate of the University of Oregon, Texas A&M and Portland State University, he is a member of the Counselors of Real Estate and the Urban Land Institute.

He lives in Portland, Ore.

he has suggested it to the city in the first place." Leland said. "I see it as an absolute alignment of motives — and in this case, to get the job done there is no alternative."

City Attorney Fritz Wonderlich reviewed the contract before it was signed and determined it is legal, but he told the *Times-News* he also had concerns.

"I had the same question when I heard of this," Wonderlich said. "But there is no conflict of interest, according to the agreement. Also, you have to understand that a MOU (memorandum of understanding) is a very loose agreement that is more like a verbal commitment than a written contract."

Progress on the development and downtown revitalization when the Urban Renewal board approved a land swap as part of the deal. The agency will buy a property to trade to Fastenal, which the developers want moved to find a lucrative corner lot, and determine if it is legal, secret, but Florence confirmed that he arranged to buy Fastenal's future home in expectation that Urban Renewal would take his place and finish the trade.

Tenants on the line?

In November, the Leland group wrote that Florence, along with Hepworth, "has been holding discussions with five significant businesses presently located in Twin Falls to determine their interest and willingness to participate in a major redevelopment project...."

"Without such a redevelopment project, the probability of these businesses remaining or relocating in downtown is very low. Therefore, this project has a particularly high priority."

The contract names only four prospects: the *Times-News*, Magic Valley Regional Medical Center, Obenchain Insurance and Glanbia. Executives of the businesses say they attended presentations by the developers, but are not yet on board.

Glanbia CEO Jeff Williams said his company is only discussing downtown as one of several options.

Times-News Publisher Brad Hurd said that, "It's an impressive project but my company is nowhere near making a commitment. Regardless, we're staying downtown."

Kent Loosley, St. Luke's chief operating officer, said the hospital needs office space away from its new Pole Line Road campus and is considering many options.

Timothy Obenchain said he was also involved in discussions with Florence and Hepworth. He was also asked to be a partner in the LLC, but Obenchain said he could not talk about the partnership until a later date.

Not mentioned in the contract is what could be its market for revitalization.

"There has been discussion about a City Hall in downtown, but nothing concrete," Clow said.

The city has long talked about putting a new City Hall or police station in the area to help push revitalization.

How much new city offices would cost or how they would be financed is unclear, but Clow has mentioned "creative financing" for a new City Hall in recent speeches.

"I have been very open about this and the fact that we will have to think creatively to finance this because we have outgrown the building we are in," Clow said.

The City Council last week approved a separate creatively financed project to house the public works department. The city plans to lease land it owns to a non-profit, economic development group that would float a bank loan, build offices and rent them back to the city for \$4.5 million over 20 years.

City officials say the annual rental agreement allows them to sidestep state law requiring public approval of any long-term debt.

Clow said the same option is available to provide a City Hall in the redevelopment zone.

"I'm not eliminating the idea of a bond election, I'm just saying that we need to look at all options," Clow said. "Other cities, like Eagle, have done some things like leasing their city hall instead of buying them."

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

Defenders

Continued from page A1

cross-section of counties and types of public defenders' offices.

Members of the commission who voted for the study say if the system in some counties is broken, it needs fixing.

A priority for due process

The right to a competent defense was a fundamental principle in the Constitution's Bill of Rights. It states that "In all criminal prosecutions, the accused shall enjoy the right ... to have the assistance of counsel for his defense."

For 45 years, taxpayers have footed the bill for lawyers for the poor based on a 1963 U.S. Supreme Court ruling in *Gideon v. Wainwright*.

"Even the intelligent and educated layman has both the skill and knowledge adequately to prepare his defense ...," according to the opinion of the court. "He requires the guiding hand of counsel at every step in the proceedings against him."

Idaho counties adjusted as they could to that new law but only now will the state learn how well they have transitioned, said Idaho State Appellate Public Defender Molly Huskie, who voted for the statute.

"I think for too long public defense work has sort of been considered the lowest rung on the ladder," Huskie said. "And I think it's the highest rung."

"In my experience people are very concerned about justice," she said, "because justice is not just for the people that are the socio-economically enfranchised. And while some people might have different opinions about the money that should be dedicated, I believe that everyone wants a fair system."

The association identifies each attorney's caseload, and rates them according to its own criteria and against 10 principles developed by the American Bar Association.

At least one member of the commission, Twin Falls County Prosecutor Grant Loeb, opposed the study.

Loeb said the standards are too high and meeting them is too costly.

"Because it [the study] is based on unrealistic standards it will result in a finding that public defenders are inadequate," Loeb said. "Their recommendations are certain to cost the state millions of dollars, if the courts force their implementation. The state doesn't have millions and millions of dollars."

Stretching time and money

Public defenders, like prosecutors, must stretch limited time and dollars to work large caseloads. Loeb says that, but the difference in caseloads for public defenders in Blaine County and Twin Falls County public defenders paints a picture of disparity — and possibly of different quality representation.

Last year, each contracted public defender in Blaine County handled on average 52 felony and misdemeanor cases, court records show. Seven Blaine County attorneys from five private law firms take turns getting assigned public defender cases. They are paid better than public defenders in Twin Falls County and yet still most of their income comes from private clients.

In fiscal year 2006, each of the seven full-time attorneys at the Twin Falls County Public Defender's Office was assigned an average 487 felony and misdemeanor cases — more than nine times as many cases as in Blaine County.

National legal aid standards recommend no more than 75 felonies and 200 misdemeanors per attorney.

Twin Falls County's steeper caseload "cranks another name — 'rocket docket.'" How that caseload wears on the county's ability to represent poor clients is unclear. County public defender Marilyn Paul, who has nine deputies, did not respond to numerous requests for comment.

County commissioners, who appoint the defender, said they had no problem with her not commenting on this issue and others. So Paul, whose office handles the vast majority of the daily dockets, defers all comments on cases to the county prosecutor.

Avoiding a fight

Joe Rockstahl, one of three Jerome public defenders, accepted the county contract to get some training. When his office's contract expires, he won't reapply.

He said that because of his high caseload he rarely contests a case in court.

"I do thousands of these," he said. "Every once in a while I get a sweet one that I want to take to trial. I tell many of my clients, 'you don't have a defense.' Over the last three years I took 20 cases — misdemeanors and felonies — to trial."

But Rockstahl knows when to pick a winning case — he's won a third of those trials.

"I would like to take more to trial," he said. "I would love to take one a month, but the courts are backlogged and the prosecutor keeps dropping the deal down to where the guy will accept it."

Rockstahl enjoys a laugh when told the commission is auditing Blaine County.

"It's its own special little blue county full of money," he said. "They own their public defendering different from the rest of us."

To get at the heart of whether some Idaho counties deliver inadequate defense services, Brent Reinke, director of Idaho Department of Corrections, said the state needs to "work closely with public defenders."

In this first step, Reinke said, "We are trying to gather as much information as we can so we can give the information to legislators and see where to go with it."

Improving county public defender's offices may repay some of its own costs, Huskie said. It may help avoid cases such as Mellinhuus, whose appeals cost Idaho taxpayers thousands of dollars, she said.

Carroll said, "If the appeal is successful it goes right back to the county. And the worst thing for a victim is to make them relive the horror of their crime. You want finality but you want the right person in the jail."

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River crests but town's new levee holds

VALLEY PARK, Mo. (AP) — Residents of small towns along the Meramec River breathed a sigh of relief Saturday as the stream finally crested following days of flooding caused by torrential rainfall across the Midwest.

At Valley Park, the river rose to a peak of 37.8 feet Saturday morning, well above the flood stage of 16 feet but still below the record of 39.7 feet, according to the National Weather Service.

It was the first trial of the town's \$49 million levee, which stands a few feet above Saturday's crest and was designed to withstand the biggest flood that might be expected in a century.

"It's a 100-year event, and it's a 100-year levee," said Army Corps of Engineers Col. Lewis Sulliff. "It got tested, and it passed."

Elsewhere, rivers were still rising in southwest Illinois and parts of Arkansas, chasing people from their homes and into shelters. Rivers had mostly begun receding in Ohio.

At least 16 deaths have been linked to the weather over the past week, and two people are missing in Arkansas.

Thousands of people in Missouri had fled to Red Cross shelters or to the homes of friends or relatives.

The high water pushing against the other side of the Valley Park levee didn't bother customers at Meramec Jack's bar and grill, where owner Tracy Ziegler was pouring cold beer Saturday morning.

Ziegler, 47, had been confident all along that the levee would hold.

"I haven't even lifted my computer off the floor in the office," said Ziegler, who bought the bar in 2005, just after the Army Corps of Engineers finished the levee a few hundred yards away.

In southern Missouri, water poured through several breaches in levees and led authorities to evacuate towns west of Cape Girardeau. At least 200 homes and 13 businesses had been evacuated in Cape Girardeau County, said emergency management director Dick Knaup. At least 70 Missouri counties have reported flooding this week.

Much of the flooding in Illinois was in sparsely populated areas, but several dozen people were evacuated from their homes in Murphysboro on Saturday, said Patti Thompson, a spokeswoman for the Illinois Emergency Management Agency.

"For some of these places, this is their 500-year flood," she said.

Authorities were keeping an eye on a levee near Grand Tower, Ill., because of a threat that the Big Muddy River could breach it and threaten the town of about 750 people. Some Illinois streams may not crest until Monday,

Thompson added. Across Arkansas, some rivers were hitting their highest levels in 90-odd years. The Arkansas River crested in Little Rock and points upstream at 22 feet, about a foot below flood stage in the

capital city. At Pine Bluff, Ark., the Arkansas River was expected to crest during the night at nearly a foot above flood level, said weather service hydrologist Steve Bays in North Little Rock.

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Police: Man may have died from Atlanta tornado

ATLANTA (AP) — Workers found a body on Saturday while clearing rubble from a building damaged over a week ago when a tornado slammed into downtown Atlanta, police said.

"We may have the first tornado victim in the city of Atlanta, but we won't know for sure until the medical examiner" returns with results, Officer James Polite said.

The man had no identification, but he was wearing a wedding band, he said.

The front of the damaged building had been a store while the rear had been rented out to a local church. Workers using a Bobcat to scoop up bricks and debris saw a hand sticking out of the rubble and called police, Polite said.

Investigators brought in two cadaver dogs to search the rubble east of downtown, but no other bodies were found.

The tornado ripped through the city's downtown March 14, knocking out hundreds of windows, scattering debris across the city's core and sending trees crashing into homes in nearby neighborhoods. At least 27 people were injured in the storm.

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(AP) For the week, the S&P rose 3.21 percent, while the Nasdaq gained 2.05 percent. Though the week was a shortener for Wall Street, the volatility packed into four days made it feel much longer. Thursday's gains came a day after a steep drop that eroded most of a 420-point gain in the Dow on Tuesday — the biggest in more than five years — following the Fed's decision to lower its benchmark interest rate by 0.75 percentage point to 2.25 percent.

Week's close	12,361.32	Week ago	11,951.09
Dow Jones Industrial average:	1,329.81	1,288.44	
Standard & Poors 500:	1,329.81	1,288.44	
Commodities Index:	197.37	215.83	

BUSINESS

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

INSIDE: Truckers are slowing down their rigs to save fuel, B2



B

SUNDAY
MARCH 23, 2008

INSIDE: Your Business, B2 | Opinion, B6-7

A buyers market

Most farmers haven't seen anything like the current market for machinery

By Joshua Palmer
Times-News writer

Jared Fowler, a retired farmer from Burley, can't remember the last time that farmers were in a buyer's position.

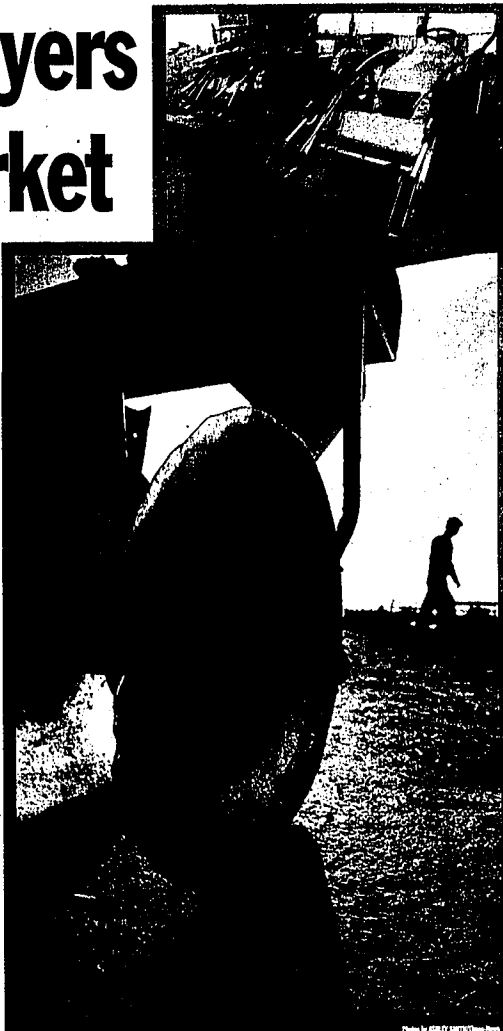
"In all the years that I farmed, my income just barely paid off my costs — there wasn't much left to buy new equipment," he said as he walked with his son, Richard Fowler, who was pursuing a tractor sales lot in Twin Falls. "Now these young (farmers) are in a good spot because prices are finally pretty good — they won't have to horrow their son's bike chain to fix the spreader."

With commodity prices at record highs and a recent change to the tax code that allows farmers to write off as much as \$250,000 on capital investments, most farmers are trying to purchase equipment they need to improve efficiency and productivity.

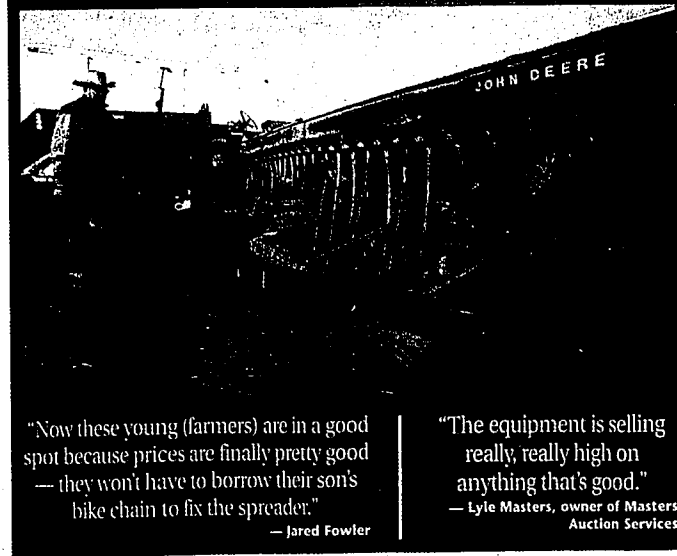
However, the sudden rise in demand for farm equipment nationwide and in emerging agricultural nations such as China is driving up prices on used equipment and causing waiting periods of up to one year for new machinery.

South-central Idaho tractor dealers say sales of new farm equipment started to rise in 2006 when overseas demand for wheat increased and domestic production declined due to drought. In February, domestic production was at its lowest level.

Please see MARKET, Page B3



TOP: New Holland tractors at Twin Falls Tractor & Implement. ABOVE: A disc waits to be sold Thursday at the rodeo grounds in Buhl. With higher commodity prices, it's a good time to purchase items for a capital write off. BELOW: Tom Williams looks at a used grain drill Thursday at an auction in Buhl.



"Now these young (farmers) are in a good spot because prices are finally pretty good — they won't have to borrow their son's bike chain to fix the spreader."

— Jared Fowler

"The equipment is selling really, really high on anything that's good."

— Lyle Masters, owner of Masters Auction Services

Credit crunch

Leery lenders demand more from borrowers

By Alan Zibel and J.W. Elphinstone
Associated Press writers

WASHINGTON — Just when consumers and the U.S. economy need banks to lend more freely, the mortgage industry is making it harder to borrow — even for those with good credit.

Mortgage insurers, whose backing is required for borrowers who can't afford the traditional 20 percent down payment on a home, have already flagged nearly a quarter of the nation's ZIP codes — including southwest Idaho — where they

refuse to insure some home loans.

That encompasses a wide variety of neighborhoods: McMansions in Scottsdale, Ariz.; luxury Miami condos; 1960 ranch houses in Flint, Mich.; and early 20th century kit homes in Metuchen, N.J.

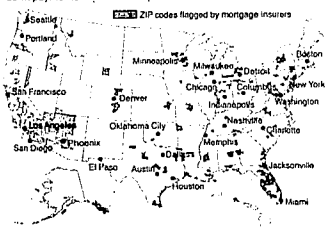
The entire states of California, Florida, Arizona, Michigan, Ohio and Nevada — which have seen the highest foreclosure rates and the worst price declines — are blackballed on some mortgage insurers' lists.

Banks that have lost billions because of bad bets during the housing boom are now reverting to strict lending standards not seen in nearly 20 years, according to industry data and interviews with lenders.

Please see CREDIT, Page B3

Mortgage insurers flag large areas

More than 8,600 ZIP codes have been flagged by mortgage insurers where they won't insure loans for investment properties, adjustable-rate or interest-only mortgages and buyers making down payments of less than 3 percent.



SOURCES: AIG; Rodan Group Inc.

You can go home again, if you're forced to

Economy making some children move home with parents — even in middle age

By Emily Fredrick
Associated Press writer

MILWAUKEE — After being laid off from her job as an events planner at an upscale resort, Jo Ann Bauer struggled financially. She worked at several lower-paying jobs, relocated to a new city and even declared bankruptcy.

Then in December, she finally accepted her parents' invitation to move into their home — at age 52. "I'm back living in the bedroom that I grew up in," she said.

Taking shelter with parents isn't uncommon for young people in their 20s, especially when the job market is poor. But now the slumping economy and the credit crunch are forcing some children to do so later in life — even in middle age.

Financial planners report receiving many calls from parents seeking advice about taking in their grown children following divorces and layoffs.

Kim Foss Erickson, a financial planner in Roseville, Calif., north of Sacramento, said she has never seen older children, even those in their 50s, depending so much on their parents as in the last six months.

"This is not like, 'OK, my son just graduated from college and needs to move back in' type of thing," she said. "These are 40- and 50-year-old children of my clients that



Jo Ann Bauer is seen with her parents Bill and Shirley Smith in their home Wednesday, in Eden, Wis. Laid off from her job as a special events manager at an upscale resort, Bauer struggled for four years on her own until December, when she accepted her parents' offer to move into their central Wisconsin home.

they're helping out." Parents "jeopardize their financial freedom by continuing to subsidize their children," said Karin Maloney Stiller, a financial planner in Hudson, Ohio, and a board member of the Financial Planning Association. "We have a hard time saying no as a culture to our children, and they keep asking for more."

Bauer's parents won't take rent money or let her help much with groceries. She's

Please see ECONOMY, Page B3

Coming in the week ahead

Wall Street to get data on housing, personal spending

Few investors expect next week's readings on the housing market and personal spending to be especially strong. But

many are hoping the data show at least a few clues that an economic rebound is on the horizon.

More than six months have passed since the Federal Reserve started lowering interest rates; usually, this is the point

when there's evidence that a rate cut is having a salutary effect on the broader economy.

The stock market has begun to act as if it believes the Fed's rate and lending actions are helping to revive the limping

financial system, but investors aren't completely confident. S&P 500 trading led to big gains in stocks this week, but the intense volatility indicated that investors are still on edge.

— Associated Press

YOUR BUSINESS

MILESTONES

Kitchen Tune-Up

receives annual awards

Local owners of Kitchen Tune-Up of Twin Falls, Donna and Noel Erickson, recently returned from their eleventh annual national training conference in Jacksonville, Fla. They joined with owners of over 300 franchises in the United States and Canada for three days of advanced training in various aspects of kitchen remodeling, including cabinet refacing, kitchen designing, restoration of white-washed or stained wood cabinets, and marketing.



Noel Erickson



Donna Erickson

Noel and Donna were among 30 franchisees who earned a week's Caribbean cruise this April by achieving the fiscal goal set by Kitchen Tune-Up's president. They also received a trophy in recognition of their 74 percent gross sales increase in 2007.

They offer a free in-home consultation and can be reached at 736-1036 or kitchenetup.com/nderrickson.

Coldwell Banker Conklin & Company lauded

KETCHICUM — The Ketchicum office of Coldwell Banker Conklin & Company has been named a Coldwell Banker Premier Office, the highest honor given to Coldwell Banker offices.

The Ketchicum office of Coldwell Banker Conklin & Company was recognized for its achievement at the Coldwell Banker International Business Conference, held Feb. 21-23 at the Gaylord Palms Resort and Convention Center in Orlando, Fla. The annual event brought thousands of Coldwell Banker sales associates, brokers, managers and employees together for an intensive professional development program and awards ceremony.

Janet Grosshans

Janet Grosshans will be retiring at the end of March after a 45-year career in banking. Grosshans is an administrative assistant for farm and ranch and trust management in U.S. Bank's Private Client Group in Twin Falls. Grosshans began as a teller with First Security Bank of Twin Falls before moving to Idaho First National Bank in 1973. She has worked in many areas of banking, including retail, consumer and commercial loans and agriculture. Grosshans is appreciated by her many customers and colleagues for her positive attitude, hard work and common sense.

Conklin-Rizzo named No. 1 Coldwell team

KETCHICUM — Todd Conklin-Rizzo with Coldwell Banker Conklin & Company in Ketchicum has been recognized as the Number One Team in Idaho in Closed Adjusted Gross Commission Income in 2007 for independently owned and operated affiliated companies.

The residential team is comprised of Todd Conklin, the lead broker/partner; George Rizzo, client manager/partner; Kimberly Senson, sales associate; Stephanie Reed, sales associate; Sandy Meyers, closing coordinator; and Susan Butler, listing manager.

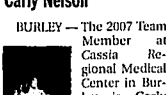
Todd Conklin is the team leader in the Residential Services Division for Coldwell Banker Conklin & Company, specializing in high-end resort properties in the Wood River Valley. He has many years of real estate experience in the valley and has been continually been top agent in the area.

Last year he received the Coldwell Banker President's Elite award for being in the top three percent of all sales associates nationally. This office has also been recognized as a Premier Office, the highest honor given to Coldwell Banker offices.

Jack King, Coldwell Banker Western Regional Director, presented Team Conklin-Rizzo with the award at the Coldwell Banker International Business Conference, held Feb. 21-23 at the Gaylord Palms Resort and Convention Center in Orlando, Fla.

Carly Nelson

BURLEY — The 2007 Team Member at Cassia Regional Medical Center in Burley is Carly Nelson. Nelson is an exemplary employee, according to administrators. She is an active part of Cassia Regional and participates in the employee activities committee and quality committee. She works as a temporary lead in the housekeeping department and works other shifts to fill in the gaps when needed.

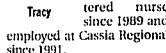


Nelson

"She has been a great source of information for her team members and department as well as helpful to patients and visitors."

Bonnie Tracy

BURLEY — The 2007 Customer Service Member at Cassia Regional Medical Center in Burley is Bonnie Tracy.



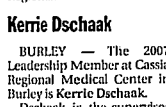
Tracy

Tracy has been a registered nurse since 1989 and employed at Cassia Regional since 1991.

She has worked in the birth center since 1992 and frequently receives comments from patients on the care

Kerrie Dschaak

BURLEY — The 2007 Leadership Member at Cassia Regional Medical Center in Burley is Kerrie Dschaak. Dschaak is the supervisor of the Internal Medicine Clinic as well as the manager of staff for two physician's offices. Since accepting this role, she has worked through many challenges and is well respected by staff members, administrators say.



Dschaak

"She is described by co-workers as 'one who truly strives to promote the values of the organization with her staff.'"

Coldwell Banker employees

KETCHICUM — The Residential and Commercial teams of Coldwell Banker Conklin & Company have been recognized as International President's Premier Teams. The prestigious membership is awarded to the top seven percent of all sales associate teams nationally. As recipients of the company's International President's Premier Team, each member of the residential and commercial teams will be invited to attend the "Elite Retreat," a three-day conference held exclusively for the brand's top sales associates.

The residential team is comprised of Todd Conklin, the lead broker/partner; George Rizzo, client manager/partner; Kimberly Senson, sales associate; Stephanie Reed, sales associate; Sandy Meyers, closing coordinator; and Susan Butler, listing manager. The commercial team includes Tim Phillips, commercial leasing special-

Alyssa Walton

PAUL — John Crouch, chief executive officer of the American Angus Association, announced that Alyssa Walton of Paul will exhibit Angus cattle at the 2008 Western Regional Junior Angus Show in Reno, Nev., April 26-28.

Walton, a junior member of the American Angus Association, is one of 88 young Angus breeders who have entered a total of 211 head to compete for championship honors. The Western Regional Junior Angus Show is sponsored by the American Angus Association and the Western States Angus Association. It is one of seven junior Angus shows the national organization sponsors each year for its nearly 11,000 active junior Angus members in the United States.

Terry R. Downs

Terry R. Downs of Twin Falls, a representative of Modern Woodmen of America, has been named to Modern Woodmen's 2007 President's Club. This distinction recognizes Downs' high achievement in life insurance sales among the organization's representatives nationwide.

Founded in 1883 as a fraternal benefit society, Modern Woodmen of America celebrates 125 years of serving members and their communities. The organization offers financial services and fraternal member benefits to individuals and families throughout the United States.

Rex Koyle

BURLEY — Western Hills Realty announced the addition of Rex Koyle to their staff of professional realtors.



Koyle

he prides himself on watching out for his clients' interests at every turn. He is a native of the area and has strong family values.

Koyle will be working at Western Hills Realty located at 2300 Overland Ave. in Burley.

Marlin Egbert

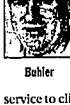
Professional Truck Driving School in Twin Falls has announced that Marlin Egbert graduated on March 13 and obtained a Class A commercial driver's license with tankers, doubles-triples and hazardous materials endorsements.



Egbert

Twayne O. Buhler

Twayne O. Buhler, a local investment adviser representative with Buhler Agency in Twin Falls, has been approved for membership in the 2008 Million Dollar Round Table (MDRT). Buhler is a qualifying member with seven years of membership in MDRT.



Buhler

MDRT's values and principles are to increase members' knowledge, ethics, service to clients, and productivity. To this end, the Round Table has planned another outstanding Annual Meeting featuring dynamic speakers who will motivate, inform and challenge in Toronto, Canada June 22-26. Buhler joined the Buhler Agency in 1971. The organization was founded in 1965 by his father, Jay O. Buhler.

We want YOUR BUSINESS news

Your Business allows local businesses to announce employee changes, advancements and promotions. Business openings, closing and location changes are also welcome. To submit contributions to the YourBusiness section, send information and photographs to Times-News Business Editor Joshua Palmer at jpalmer@magivalley.com or call (208) 735-3231. The deadline to submit an announcement for Sunday is Wednesday at noon. The Times-News reserves the right to edit content for length and clarity. Promotion of sales and for-profit events will not be considered for publication.

Homeland Security promises to try again on controversial Social Security matching program

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) — U.S. District Judge Charles Breyer wrote in a document issued late Friday that the department addressed several of the judge's concerns, saying among other things that the rule doesn't create new legal obligations for businesses.

"It simply outlines clear steps an employer may take in response to receiving a letter from the Social Security Administration indicating that an employee's name does not match the Social Security number on file," the department said. The document says the department intends to press ahead with the same set of rules the judge blocked in October.

Truckers slow down their rigs to save fuel

By James MacPherson Associated Press Writer

BISMARCK, N.D. — Coast-to-coast trucker Lorraine Dawson says fellow drivers used to call her "Lead Foot Lorraine." But with diesel fuel around \$4 a gallon, she and other big-rig drivers have backed off their accelerators to conserve fuel.

"I used to be a speed demon, but not more," said Dawson, based at Tacoma, Wash. "Most drivers have cut their speed considerably."

Dawson said she's cut her speed by five to 10 miles per hour to save money for her company. Many independent owner-operators have slowed even more, she said.

"My fiance is an owner-operator and he's been crying a lot about the price of fuel," Dawson said. "It's been slowing way down." Truckers and industry officials say slowing a tractor-trailer rig from 75 mph to 65 mph increases fuel mileage by more than a mile a gallon, a significant bump for machines that get less than 10 miles per gallon hauling thousands of pounds of freight. Even starting still with the engine idling, a rig gulps about a gallon of diesel every hour. "We just can't afford it," Dawson said of her fuel tanks at a Bismarck truck stop. When she started driving trucks in 1997, diesel was about \$1.97 a gallon, \$2 a gallon cheaper than what she paid Wednesday in Bismarck.



Lorraine Dawson fills up her tractor-trailer at truck stop in Bismarck, N.D., on Wednesday. Dawson, of Tacoma, Wash., and other big-rig drivers say they are backing off their accelerators to conserve fuel.

Rigs like hers have two fuel tanks, typically holding 300 gallons each. The nationwide average for a gallon of diesel on Thursday was \$4.03, up from \$2.74 one year earlier, AAA North Dakota spokesman Gene LaDoucer said. The average in North Dakota on Thursday was \$3.99, up from \$2.82 a year ago, he said.

"Twenty-four states are paying \$4 or higher," LaDoucer said Thursday. The climb is blamed on record crude oil prices and global demand, LaDoucer said. "Diesel is the predominant fuel used in foreign countries, and there is a lot more demand for it globally than that helps bid up the price that we are paying here," LaDoucer said. Fuel accounts for about a

quarter of carriers' operating cost, and now is surpassing labor as the biggest expense for some carriers, said Tiffany Wlazowski, a spokeswoman for the Arlington, Va.-based American Trucking Associations.

"And rising fuel costs do increase the cost of consumer goods," she said. Trucks haul 70 percent of all freight tonnage in the U.S., according to the American Trucking Associations. State troopers have noticed the decline in truckers' speeds, said North Dakota Highway Patrol Capt. Eric Pederson. "We see it when we're out patrolling," Pederson said. "In talking to the drivers, a lot of the large companies are setting policies that give the drivers a little more leeway on the time on their loads —

just to save on the fuel."

Wlazowski said the U.S. trucking industry expects to spend \$136 billion on diesel this year, up from \$112 billion in 2007. There are 3.5 million truck drivers in this country, she said.

"For every one-penny increase in the price of diesel, it costs our industry \$391 million," she said. "In the last month, it's gone up 50 cents." Wlazowski said the trucking industry does "anything that will help them save fuel." She said that includes outfitting trucks with aerodynamic fairings and special tires to improve mileage. Drivers also are using more efficient routes and reducing idling times.

Trucking company Con-way Inc. of Ann Arbor, Mich., announced this month that it adjusted speed governors on the engines of the 8,400 semis in its less-than-truckload division, Con-way Freight.

Truckload carriers usually dedicate a shipment to a single customer, and move freight directly from the shipper to the receiver. Less-than-truckload carriers are filled with shipments from multiple customers, and may redistribute it at terminals along routes.

Con-way spokesman Gary Frantz said the maximum speed of the trucks has been cut from 65 mph to 62, a move that should cut fuel consumption by 3.2 million gallons a year. "It's a significant savings," Frantz said.

Market

Continued from page B1

since 1948 and prices were up 50 percent compared to August.

However, wheat wasn't the only crop destined see higher profits.

According to reports from the Chicago Board of Trade, corn prices surged from \$1.86 in 2005 to more than \$4 in February — largely due to increased demand for corn used in ethanol.

Even alfalfa prices have risen more than 65 percent in south-central Idaho since 1990 due to growing demand from the region's thriving dairy industry.

The price increases put most farmers in a better position to make long-overdue

investments.

"People are getting more mechanized because of a labor shortage, which is getting tighter because of restrictions on migrant labor and also because the economy is taking workers from those farm payrolls," said Cleve Butters, owner of Agri-Service of Twin Falls.

For decades, farmers struggled to afford new equipment. A large-frame tractor, for example, now costs between from \$50,000 to \$100,000.

Fowler said during the 40 years that he farmed in eastern Oregon and southern Idaho, he accumulated "hundreds of thousands of dollars" in debt to purchase the

equipment he needed to stay in business — now he's watching his son pay for equipment with profits.

"We've never seen anything like this," Butters said. "We got a waiting line on Heston hay balers that goes into July even though we ordered them a year ago — that's unprecedented."

A lag in production has left many dealerships with little floor. Consequently, more farmers are attending auctions to find equipment they need now.

At auctions, such as Masters Auction Service in Buhl, where farmers from south-central Idaho sell used equipment, prices have

increased about 25 percent on machinery that is in "good" condition.

"This is the 50th year that I've been doing this, and in all those years I haven't seen anything like this," said Lyle Masters, owner of Masters Auction Services. "The equipment is selling really, really high on anything that's good."

Farmers waiting to bid on farm machinery at a Thursday morning sale said prices for used equipment have almost doubled since last year — and they're willing to pay it before commodity prices return to normal.

Joshua Palmer may be reached at 735-3231.

Spring selling

Stores push bright color fashions, but customers still not in the mood to buy

By Anne D'Innocenzo
Associated Press writer

NEW YORK — The nation's stores are awash with orange patent leather sandals and coral printed dresses, but gray or black would be a better match to shoppers' moods these days.

"The climate out there is frightening," said Judith Lederman, a public relations executive who was laid off from Lord & Taylor three weeks ago. The Scarsdale, N.Y. resident says she'll bypass the mall and dig into her closet for her spring wardrobe.

The spring season, the last big chance to grab consumers before the back-to-school business, was already expected to be tough for retailers, particularly apparel merchants. An early Easter — this Sunday's is the earliest since 1913 — historically doesn't help sales of lightweight clothing and deteriorating economic conditions have made shoppers even more nervous in recent weeks.

Consumers already worried about rising prices, weak jobs and housing markets and tight credit got another jolt with the near collapse of investment firm Bear Stearns Cos., a major casualty of the mortgage crisis.

"As you pile on uncertainty, there is a greater burden on consumers," said Lynn Franco, director of the Conference Board's Consumer Research Center. The Conference Board is slated to report next week that its consumer sentiment index will remain at a 17-year low of 75 in March, after tumbling 12 points in February. That's the lowest level since the index registered 64.8 in February 2003, just before the U.S. invaded Iraq. The index has been on a decline since it registered 111.9 last July.

"That's bad news for retailers and the U.S. economy, which need consumers to

be in a good mood. Consumer spending accounts for two-thirds of economic activity.

Michael Niemira, chief economist at the International Council of Shopping Centers, is sticking with his March same-store sales growth forecast of only 1 percent for the 50 merchants he tracks, after a 1.9 percent gain in February. Same-store sales, or sales at stores opened at least a year, are considered a key indicator of a retailer's health.

"It's a tough month. It probably doesn't get much better," said Niemira.

He noted that soaring gasoline prices in particular are squeezing customers from all income groups. According to a survey conducted by CSC earlier this month, 64 percent of about 1,000 consumers polled said that higher gasoline prices were curbing their ability and willingness to spend, with 38 percent noting "a considerable cutback."

There is little relief in sight. Gas is averaging \$3.28 a gallon and is expected to peak between \$3.50 and \$4 this spring. Also, Niemira and others are worried that consumers will use the tax rebate checks being mailed out in May to pay down debt, not to spend and spur the economy as the government hopes.

Meanwhile, national retailers are closely following the developments on Wall Street.

The near failure of Bear Stearns "presents a scare tactic for the rest of the country," said Faith Hope Consolo, chairman of Prudential Douglas Elliman's retail leasing sales division.

Betsy Storm from Chicago said that her confidence in her own financial security was shaken after hearing the news about Bear Stearns. The self-employed marketing professional said the latest news served as a reminder to remain frugal. In recent months, Storm has been shopping more at outlet stores instead of full-price stores.

"Whatever we do will be far more trimmed down," she said.

Credit

Continued from page B1

For new home buyers and those seeking to refinance, it can mean higher down payments and a higher bar for credit scores among other requirements. The toughest restrictions are in markets where home prices are falling, though regions where property values are rising are not immune.

"We're in the midst of an epic broad, sweeping change in the mortgage industry," said Chris Sipe, a loan officer with America East Mortgage in Frederick, Md.

The reluctance to extend credit comes despite a flurry of government initiatives, including steady interest rate cuts by the Federal Reserve, intended to make it easier for would-be borrowers and those facing interest-rate resets on their mortgages.

Lenders' growing concerns threaten to dampen sellers' already soggy prospects for the spring home-buying season — and that means more pain for the already battered housing sector and the broader economy.

In recent weeks, mortgage lenders have flagged more than 9,600 ZIP codes in at least 34 states where they won't insure certain types of home loans — those for investment properties or second homes, those with riskier adjustable-rate mortgages, or for buyers making down payments of less than

3 percent.

With banks and mortgage insurers pulling back, state and federal programs for first-time buyers and people with poor credit are attempting to fill the void.

Don Brekke, an equipment operator from Colorado Springs, Colo., tried to buy a bank-owned 1950s ranch home for \$113,000. At first he couldn't get a loan because the house was in a potentially declining market, and lenders required a 10 percent down payment, more than he could afford.

Ultimately, he was able to qualify for a 100 percent loan from Colorado's state financing authority, and the plans to close in the coming days.

"It was a bunch of headaches — going around and around to get this done," Brekke said.

The combination of sinking home prices and tighter lending standards has been a major aggravation for Ron Broussard, a 38-year-old sales representative for a housing builder.

Broussard took advantage of soaring Southern California property prices three years ago to refinance a loan on a house he had owned since the late 1990s. Today he's still stuck with a \$720,000 mortgage and has been renting it out since moving with his family. Texas a year ago. Once appraised for \$1.1 million, Broussard's lender now says it's worth about

\$300,000 less.

He does not yet owe more than the property is worth, but Broussard worries that is a possibility.

"The way the market's going, you know, who knows?" he said.

Broussard has found little sympathy from his lender, Countrywide Financial Corp. While Broussard accepts responsibility for taking out a mortgage whose monthly payments are due to skyrocket once the unpaid principal exceeds the home's value by 15 percent, he feels betrayed by the lender's unwillingness to negotiate better terms.

The stringency of banks is showing up in home loan statistics: The value of all new mortgages plummeted to \$450 billion in the fourth quarter of 2007, down 38 percent from a year earlier, according to trade publication Inside Mortgage Banker.

Subprime loans, made to borrowers with poor credit, virtually disappeared from the market, plummeting 90 percent to \$13.5 billion in the October-December quarter.

There is a silver lining: The Federal Reserve has repeatedly cut interest rates, helping borrowers whose mortgages were just about to reset to higher rates and people with student loans. Reflecting the Fed's efforts, rates on 30-year mortgages dropped below 6 percent this week for the first time in more than a month.

Economy

Continued from page B1

trying to save several hundred dollars a month for a house, while working at a meetings coordinator.

Bauer would prefer to live on her own, but without her parents' help would "probably be renting again and trying to stick making money in the bank," she said.

Shirley Smith, 80, said she and her husband didn't hesitate when they invited Bauer to return to their home in Eden, Wis. Buying groceries for another person isn't stretching her budget too much, she said.

"I've got three kids and any of them can come home if they want," she said.

But plenty of well-meaning parents must delay retirement or scale back their dreams because they need to help their children, Stiffler said.

Some of Erickson's clients are giving as much as \$50,000 at a time to their kids, many of whom have overextended themselves with big houses or lavish lifestyles. And the sliding economy might threaten their jobs.

Parents feel guilty if they don't offer help, but she warns them to be careful with their savings.

"I almost have to act like a financial therapist if you will," she said. "Here is the line I'm drawing for you. That's fine. You can do up to this point, but at this point, now you're starting to erode your own wealth."

Anna Magglore, 27, lost her job as a publicist in Los Angeles about a year ago and moved into her parents' house in Los Alamos, N.M.

She tried to find jobs, but nothing stuck, so she

enrolled full-time at the College of Santa Fe to finish her bachelor's degree in business.

She figures her parents spend about \$1,000 a month on her, including a car payment, car and health insurance, school and other costs. Her father is a retired nuclear physicist and her mother, a guidance counselor, will retire this spring. Now Magglore is looking for work so she can supplement their income.

"It's kind of hitting me finally that I need to get out there and find a job," she said. "Even if it's just part-time just to help out however I can."

A new survey by the retiree-advocacy group AARP found that one-fourth of Generation Xers, those 28

to 39 years old, receive financial help from family and friends.

The online survey of nearly 1,800 people ages 19 to 39 also found 57 percent believed they were "financially independent." But in a separate question, 33 percent said they received financial support from family and friends.

Bauer was caught by surprise when her job at a resort in Kohler, Wis., was cut four years ago, one year after she got divorced. The single mother bounced around to several lesser-paying jobs, declared bankruptcy and even moved 60 miles south to Milwaukee.

Her daughter, now 12, moved in with Bauer's ex-husband near her hometown.

Bauer decided to move to be closer to her and in December she found a job with the Experimental Aircraft Association in nearby Oshkosh. She tried to buy a house but needed 5 percent down. She only had 2 percent. She's now saving for a down payment and hopes to have it as early as June.

Bauer said she gets along well with her parents and knows she'll never get to spend so much time with them again. But it hurts her ego to live at home.

"I've had people say to me, 'Oh God, I could never do that,'" she said. "But you take humble steps in order to move forward."

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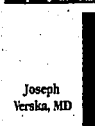
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At-home test for bipolar disorder?

Experts: Gene tests based on thin data

By Marcus Wohlsen
Associated Press Writer

SAN DIEGO (AP) — Dr. John Kelsoe has spent his career trying to identify the biological roots of bipolar disorder. In December, he announced he had discovered several gene mutations closely tied to the disease, also known as manic depression.

Then Kelsoe, a prominent psychiatric geneticist at the University of California, San Diego, did something provocative for the buttoned-down world of academic medical research: He began selling bipolar genetic tests straight to the public over the Internet last month for \$399.

His company, La Jolla-based Psynomics, joins a legion of startups racing to exploit the boom in research connecting genetic variations to a host of health conditions. More than 1,000 at-home gene tests have burst onto the market in the past few years.

The proliferation of these tests troubles many public health officials, medical ethicists and doctors. The tests receive almost no government oversight, even though many of them are being sold as tests for making serious medical decisions.

Health experts worry that many of these products are built on thin data and are preying on individuals' deepest anxieties.

"People are always rushing to the market on the basis of one or two studies," said Dr. Mun Khoury, director of the National Office of Public Health Genomics at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. "We have very little evidence that telling people their genetic information is going to make any difference."

Tests have become available claiming to help predict and diagnose everything from serious illnesses like cancer and Alzheimer's to athletic ability and a person's ideal diet. Psynomics' offering is one of the first psychiatric gene tests on the market.

Kelsoe, 52, acknowledges that bipolar disorder probably results from a combination of genetic factors and life experiences, and that the presence of these gene variations does not at all mean that someone will, in fact, develop the disease. He admits, too, that his findings about the genetic basis of the illness are far from complete. But he said his test is a vital starting point toward moving away from the notoriously tricky practice of diagnosing bipolar disorder based purely on a person's behavior.

"The goal of this is to try and help doctors make an accurate diagnosis more quickly so the patient can be treated appropriately," Kelsoe said. "Anything is going to help, even if it just helps a little bit."

Bipolar sufferers experience intense mood swings as they cycle between mania, sometimes delusional highs



Dr. John Kelsoe, co-founder of Psynomics, explains his research in a laboratory at the University of California-San Diego as faculty member Dr. Xianlin Zhou works in the background, Feb. 28 in San Diego. Kelsoe has spent his career trying to identify the biological roots of bipolar disorder.

and depressive lows that can lead to suicide if untreated. The disease is often misdiagnosed as other forms of depression, which delays treatment and can result in the prescribing of antidepressants that make some patients' symptoms worse.

To take the test, patients receive by mail a plastic cup that they spit into, seal and send back to Psynomics. The company analyzes DNA in the saliva.

Psynomics will send patients' test results only to their doctors to avoid the risk of self-diagnosis.

The report that accompanies the results instructs doctors that a positive test means patients are two to three times more likely to have bipolar disorder. But the studies from which those figures come also show the gene variations themselves are rare even among those with bipolar.

The report also points out that for now, the test is valid only for whites of Northern European ancestry who show some behavioral symptoms and have at least one other bipolar family member. Patients taking Psynomics' bipolar test may feel braided by a positive result, even if they are not ultimately diagnosed with the disorder, said Hank Greely, a professor of law and genetics with the Stanford Center for Biomedical Ethics. Or they may feel false hope from a negative result, despite the company's disclaimers.

Likewise, doctors have little training beyond what

companies tell them when it comes to applying the test results. "They may make a foolish decision that backfires to put you on meds," Greely said. "Or they may make a decision that backfires not to put you on meds."

Unlike many tests for other conditions on the market, Psynomics does not claim its bipolar test can predict a person's risk of developing the disorder later in life. It is meant to be used as a purely diagnostic tool for patients already showing symptoms.

That is an important distinction that makes the Psynomics test more responsible than others that promise a glimpse into the genetic crystal ball, according to Dr. Greg Feero, head of genomic health care at the National Human Genome Research Institute.

"Now you're talking about an individual who has symptoms or signs that already put them in a very different risk category than someone who has no symptoms or signs," Feero said.

Among hundreds of families Kelsoe has studied, one of the gene variations in the Psynomics test showed up in 1 percent of those unaffected by the disorder versus 3 percent who are affected. The other variation appeared in 7 percent of those without bipolar compared to 15 percent who have the disease.

Many other genes interacting with a patient's environment contribute to the development of bipolar disorder, Kelsoe and other researchers believe, meaning no single

genetic variation ultimately causes the disease. Researchers in Kelsoe's lab are working to track down more genes.

"Why are we starting before it's finished? You've got to start somewhere," Kelsoe said. "Even if we knew everything about the genes, which we certainly don't, it's never going to be 100 percent predictive."

Psynomics has sold only a few tests so far but is projecting sales of 1,800 tests in 2008 and 30,000 in the next five years.

In coming months, at least two other startups led by genetic researchers are set to release their own psychiatric genetic tests. One test claims to predict the risk of developing schizophrenia. The other is designed to forecast the likelihood that some medications for major depression could heighten suicidal thoughts in patients.

The American Psychiatric Association has yet to create an official policy on genetic testing.

Sisters sell Illinois-shaped corn flake for \$1,350 on eBay

CHICAGO (AP) — Two sisters from Virginia sold their Illinois-shaped corn flake on eBay Friday night for \$1,350.

"We were biting our nails all the way up to the finish, seeing what would happen," said Melissa McIntire, 23. "There's a lot of relief involved."

The winner of the auction, which lasted more than a week, is the owner of a trivia Web site who wants to add the corn flake to a traveling museum.

"We're starting a collection of pop culture and Americana items," said

Monty Kerr of Austin, Texas. "We thought this was a fantastic one."

Kerr owns TriviaMania.com and said he will likely send someone to Virginia to pick up the flake by hand, so it won't be damaged. This isn't the first corn flake that Kerr has tried to buy.

He said he purchased a flake billed as the world's largest, but that by the time it was delivered it had crumbled into three pieces.

The McIntires said they'll likely use the money for a family vacation.

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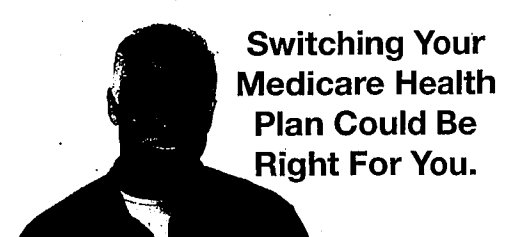


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Bomb kills 3 U.S. troops; death toll nears 4,000

U.S. strike sparks tensions with Sunnis

BAGHDAD (AP) — A roadside bomb killed three American soldiers north of Baghdad on Saturday, pushing the U.S. death toll in the five-year conflict to nearly 4,000.

Also Saturday, Iraqi authorities reported that a U.S. airstrike north of the capital killed six members of a U.S.-backed Sunni group — straining relations with America's new allies in the fight against al-Qaida.

Two Iraqi civilians also died in the roadside bombing, which occurred as the Americans were patrolling the area northwest of the capital, the U.S. military said in a statement.

Two of the soldiers were killed in the blast and the third died of wounds, the statement said. The soldiers were assigned to Multinational Division-Baghdad, the statement said, but gave no further details.

The latest deaths brought to 3,996 the number of U.S. service members and Pentagon civilians who have died since the war began on March 20, 2003, according to an Associated Press count. Rocket or mortar fire killed one U.S. soldier and wounded four others Friday south of Baghdad, the military said.



Members of the Awakening Council, a Sunni group fighting al-Qaida, inspect the site where six of their comrades were killed in a U.S. airstrike near Samarra, Iraq, Saturday.

With the war entering its sixth year, President Bush paid tribute Saturday to America's fallen service members, saying in his weekly radio address that they will "live on in the memory of the nation they helped defend." Speaking for the Democrats, however, Sen. Robert Menendez of New Jersey called on Bush to "face the reality" in Iraq and "tell us the truth" about the cost of the conflict as America is struggling with a faltering economy and mounting casualty tolls.

U.S. officials have pointed to a number of positive signs, including a 60 percent drop in violence since Bush ordered 30,000 U.S. reinforcements to Iraq early last year.

Iraqis have also made some limited progress in power-sharing deals among rival Shiite, Sunni and Kurdish communities.

However, U.S. military commanders have been careful to point out that security gains are fragile and that major violence could erupt abruptly.

Much of the progress has been due to a move by thousands of Sunnis to abandon the insurgency and join pro-U.S. defense groups — known as "awakening councils." Another was a ceasefire called last August by firebrand Shiite cleric Muqtada al-Sadr, leader of the feared Mahdi Army militia.

On Saturday, a U.S. attack helicopter fired on two checkpoints manned by U.S.-allied Sunni fighters near Samarra, 60 miles north of Baghdad, killing six and injuring two, Iraqi police said.

The U.S. military said an AH-64 Apache helicopter fired on the positions after five people were "spotted conducting suspicious terrorist activity" in an area notorious for roadside bombs.

"Initial reports suggested the attack may have been a Sons of Iraq checkpoint," the military said, using a term for the armed U.S.-backed groups. "The incident is currently under a joint Iraq- Coalition Force investigation."

A local official of the U.S.-backed group said the attack

occurred about two hours after American soldiers stopped at the two checkpoints to meet the Sunni fighters.

"They asked us general questions like: 'Have you gotten your IDs?' and 'Do you need anything?' and then they left," Sabbar al-Bazi told The Associated Press. "Two hours later, after I had gone

home, I heard two explosions, probably caused by two missiles, and machine-gun fire from a helicopter."

Lt. Col. Dhiya Mahmood Ahmed, an Iraqi military officer in charge of security in the area, said he told the Americans after the attack that he had been aware of the friendly checkpoints for two days.

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Cheney: U.S. will not pressure Israel to take steps that threaten its security

JERUSALEM (AP) — Vice President Dick Cheney said Saturday the U.S. has an "enduring and unshakable" commitment to Israel's security and its right to defend itself against those bent on destroying the Jewish state.

At the start of a weekend of talks with Israeli and Palestinian leaders, Cheney also said the Bush administration wants to see a "new beginning" for the Palestinian people and is committed to pursuing a Mideast peace deal.

Cheney's visit is part of the U.S. strategy to keep the pressure on the two sides, despite recent bloodshed, to agree on a framework for peace before President Bush leaves office in January.

"America's commitment to Israel's security is enduring



Cheney

and unshakable, as is our commitment to Israel's right to defend itself against terrorism, rocket attacks and other threats from forces dedicated to Israel's destruction," Cheney told reporters before an evening meeting with Israel's prime minister, Ehud Olmert.

"America's committed to moving the process forward," Cheney said. But, he said, "it is not America's role to dictate the outcome." The U.S. wants to see a resolution to the conflict and will provide support and encouragement to help make that happen.

Cheney reaffirmed

Washington's commitment to the establishment of a Palestinian state and assured Palestinian leaders that "they, too, can be certain of America's good will" as the U.S. tries to help Israel and the Palestinians reach an accord.

"We want to see a resolution to the conflict, an end to the terrorism that has caused so much grief to Israelis and a new beginning for the Palestinian people," he said.



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Pope baptizes prominent Muslim

VATICAN CITY (AP) — Italy's most prominent Muslim, an iconoclastic writer who condemned Islamic extremism and defended Israel, converted to Catholicism Saturday in a baptism by the pope at a Vatican Easter service.

An Egyptian-born, non-practicing Muslim who is married to a Catholic, Magdi Allam infuriated some Muslims with his books and columns in the newspaper Corriere della Sera newspaper, where he is a

deputy editor. He titled one book "Long Live Israel."

As a choir sang, Pope Benedict XVI poured holy water over Allam's head and said a brief prayer in Latin.

"We no longer stand alongside or in opposition to one another," Benedict said in a homily reflecting on the meaning of baptism. "Thus faith is a force for peace and reconciliation in the world; distances between people are overcome; in the Lord we have become close."

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EDITORIAL

Why cut funds for drug treatment when Idaho prisons are overflowing?

Sometimes it's hard to figure out Gov. Butch Otter's logic. He wanted to spend \$4.8 million this year to transform a prison warehouse south of Boise into a drug-treatment facility. And yet on Thursday, the governor line-item vetoed \$16.8 million from two drug treatment bills approved by the Legislature. Most of the money would have paid for drug courts and to fund substance-abuse treatment for probationers and parolees. This in a state with so many inmates that it must export some to Oklahoma and Texas. In January, Idaho's prison population was 7,372; it's projected to increase 23 percent by the end of 2009. Eighty percent of those inmates are substance abusers, and it costs taxpayers \$15,000 annually to keep each of them behind bars. "The Legislature over the last several years has had a paradigm shift," said Dean Cameron, R-Rupert and chairman of the Senate Finance Committee. "We don't want to be building more prisons. We want to be investing in treatment. It's obvious some haven't made that shift. We're disappearing."

Our view: The Legislature shouldn't let Gov. C.L. 'Butch' Otter get away with gutting the state's drug abuse treatment programs. What do you think? We welcome viewpoints from our readers on this and other issues.

So are we. Otter said lawmakers should have limited the state's contribution to \$7 million annually but instead more than doubled it before Office of Drug Policy Director Debbie Field had documented the program's effectiveness to his satisfaction. He also objected to money for direct treatment services, though federal grants were aimed at developing community-based resources. "Those are bureaucratic excuses. Lawmakers sought to use the appropriations to preserve efforts that began in 2005 with a three-year, \$21 million federal grant. The federal money ran out in 2007, and legislators wisely opted to continue with state money. But with the stroke of a pen, the governor essentially cut funding for state- and federally-supported drug abuse treatment programs in half. That's unacceptable. We hope the Legislature will either reopen the Office of Drug Policy's budget to adjust funding levels or attempt to override Otter's veto.

Times-News

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

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Hillary always exaggerates and blows up her actions

We all should study the past actions of the three candidates for president. All three have been in the Senate for years and have let this country deteriorate. *Time* magazine dated March 24, Pages 28 and 29, states, "Hillary Clinton has staked her candidacy on her years as First Lady. A look at the record shows both the range and limits of her actual experience." Regarding children's health care, Clinton did lobby for it but many others did as well. She argued then that the White House should keep its focus on the more politically popular plan and focus on children. She claims she "helped to bring peace to Northern Ireland." The bottom line is that Clinton played a role in hearing the concerns of Irish women, encouraging them to put pressure on their men to pursue negotiation. She did not conduct or lead the talks that result-

ed in the 1998 Good Friday Agreement. A former minister of Northern Ireland said that Clinton was not involved in the process and her claims to have played a direct role were "a wee bit silly." She says she negotiated opening the borders for fleeing refugees into safety from Kosovo. She did visit the Macedonian camps and held talks with the leadership. The bottom line is that she did personal diplomacy that did involve some change. But the return of American business partners is not the same as opening the borders to thousands of refugees. That accomplishment was the result of U.S. and European efforts during the war. Hillary always exaggerates, blows up her actions and panders at every opportunity. The release of her official papers by the Clinton Library may be fascinating. Judicial Watch had to sue to get them released. XENIA WILLIAMS Jerome

We're all victims of drive-by goofiness

The reason educators have trouble teaching science is that scientists call their explanations of things theories. The reason governments and business lobbyists can bamboozle the public is that economists call their explanations laws.



TOM BLACKBURN

So, parents are told by some educators that the theory of evolution should be discarded because it is "only a theory" — even though in science, a "theory" is something that's been tested and considered to be true. Lately, we have been seeing the law of supply and demand — one of the most useful laws of economics — violated at the gas pump. Who says so? How about the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries. The law of supply and demand says that if buyers want a lot of something and only a little is available, the price will rise. If that applied to gasoline, though, we would not be paying higher prices at the gas station. OPEC, which should know, said in its March meeting, "the market is well-served." There is more oil on hand than there was, on average, for the past five years. With that much oil, the price should be fairly steady at where it used to be. There is so much oil on the market as there was when oil was \$60 a barrel and gas was \$2 a gallon. How, then, does OPEC organize \$100 a barrel? The organization "noted, with concern, that the current price environment does not reflect basic fundamentals, as crude oil prices are being strongly influenced by the weakness in the U.S. dollar, rising inflation and significant flow of funds into the commodities market." Those three factors are



The law of supply and demand says that if buyers want a lot of something and only a little is available, the price will rise. If that applied to gasoline, though, we would not be paying higher prices at the gas station.

interrelated. Oil is not the only thing going through the roof. Gold, corn, milk and other commodities are selling for prices above any visible new demand. Corn is a bit of an exception because nowadays you can make fuel from it as well as eat it. That's a new use for corn, but it doesn't explain gold, oil or platinum. Economists assume that most people will be mostly rational most of the time. Lately, too many people were more than halfway goofy. First, they loaned mortgage money to people who can't pay it back. Then they sold those loans as bonds to banks and shrewd investors, such as the Carlyle Group's affiliate in Amsterdam, who didn't understand what they were buying. Then the loans started going bad. Then the banks and investment houses got the queasy feeling that their

lending squeeze are part of how we got to a weak dollar. The weak dollar leaves a person who has money with a question. Where to put it? Not in dollars, which are losing value, nor in anything that pays off in dollars. How about in something intrinsically valuable? Gold is valuable. So is oil. So, they buy oil, and the law of supply and demand kicks in for them. There are new buyers but no new oil to buy, so the price goes up. The buyers don't want to refine it or put it in their gas tanks. The demand isn't really for oil. It is for something sounder than the dollar, which happens to be oil. And, of course, it is creating a oil bubble. The bust can be predicted. Supply and demand remains a law, but not where you would expect it — at the gas pump. In a goofy world, the purpose of oil changed. It became more a hedge against inflation than a fuel. People who use it to run their cars are victims of escalating drive-by goofiness. Palm Beach, Fla., Past columnist Tom Blackburn may be reached at blackburn@pfbpost.com.

'Eastern' and 'liberal' aren't necessarily the same

There's no truth to the rumor that we called Thomas Friedman. Friedman also graces our opinion pages, is taking a sabbatical to write a book. His column will resume in a few weeks. Some of our readers can't wait for Tom's return. Others would rather he be dead and everyone else who ever formed a thought east of the Mississippi would just butt out. Yes, I'm talking about those loathsome "liberal easterners" like Maureen Dowd and Paul Krugman. "One of the advantages of living in the Magic Valley is that we are isolated from the 'big city' pinheads and crazies John Doherty shall write in a letter to the editor earlier this month. "Why the *Times-News* prints op-ed articles from *The New York Times* is puzzling and offensive to many of us. "In case you haven't noticed, this is a very conservative part of the world and we like it that way," Mr. Doherty wrote. "If so, you'd think that we need to be 'exposed' to this kind of ranting, believe me when I say that most of us have already been exposed to enough of this kind of hate speech." We actually have a fairly well-balanced lineup, even when it comes to writers who work for the *New York Times*. Reading from left to right, we have Friedman, Dowd and Krugman, all from the *Times*. The middle is held by David Broder from *The Washington Post* and Robert Samuelson from *The Wall Street Journal*. On our right flank there's Cal Thomas, a syndicated writer, and two more from the *Times*: David Brooks and William Kristol. So why not run only conservatives? Mr. Doherty has a point: South-central Idahoans tend to be conservative folk. Why not shield them from the outside world? The short answer is that we care about democracy and the future of the



132 FAIRFIELD ST. WEST
James G. Wright

United States of America. A newspaper should be a marketplace of ideas — a community crossroads where we present the best available facts and hash out the issues of the day. If all goes well, truth and good ideas will win out, and the body politic will chart the best possible course for our great nation. That's what the framers of our Constitution had in mind when they made protection of freedom of speech and the press a headliner in the Bill of Rights. If we limit that marketplace of ideas only to thoughts that reinforce the dominant political culture — be it conservative, liberal or libertarian — we weaken the democratic process and, ultimately, the nation. Being conservative isn't the same as being closed-minded. It should only mean that you've examined the whole smorgasbord of political thought and have made informed choices that make sense to you. If your ideas cannot withstand contact with the enemy, you might want to re-think a few things. The same holds true for liberals, libertarians and everyone else. We also run some letter-than-thou columnists because we try to present a little bit of everything for all of our readers. There are unconfirmed reports that a Democrat has been sighted near Filer and we hope he'll subsist.

Nancy Lawrence of Twin Falls was NOT ONE BIT AMUSED by one of our headlines this week.

We also run some letter-than-thou columnists because we try to present a little bit of everything for all of our readers.

She clipped it and sent it back our way with a pithy critique: "It isn't comic, it isn't cute, it isn't courteous. It is crass; to be found on the front page of the *Times-News* on March 18, 2008." Pasted on the page was a headline from coverage of the annual downtown St. Patrick's Day celebration: "Hundreds flock to Main Avenue with booze, brats and beads." It appeared just to the left of a picture of a cute kid in a green wig. Mrs. Lawrence, a subscriber longer than I've been a breather, tends to be rather irritated by alliteration — the repetition of an initial consonant, as in Peter Piper picked a peck of pickled peppers. (Sorry 'bout that, Mrs. L, but I had to use an example to explain it.) And we added insult to injury by calling otherwise well-mannered children "brats." Ours... We were actually talking about bratwurst sausage, which anyone from Sheboygan knows as a brat — pronounced in a way that rhymes with "lot." Reporter Andrea Gates, a native of Twin Falls, observed the parade and used the word in the headline she suggested for her story, but neglected to mention bratwurst in the story itself. Had she done so, it might have helped calm things a bit. Or not. *Times-News* Editor James G. Wright may be reached at 208-735-3255 or james.wright@tee.net.

Add your two cents

ONLINE: At MagValley.com, you are invited to air your opinions or stories in today's edition. First register online for free and then give us your two cents.

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OTHER VIEWS

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

... cutting state benefits

Lawston Tribune

That crisis that Sen. Joe Stegner of Lewiston returned to Wednesday before the Idaho Senate voted to reduce health benefits for retired state employees looks mostly like a crisis of credibility.

Legislators have discovered an emergency late in the legislative session that must be resolved with haste, without hearings and with little explanation to the people affected. And although the bill's sponsors ... say that resolution will save the state \$4.6 million in current financial liability, and much more later, they also say retirees won't be hurt by it ...

This bill was introduced two months into the current legislative session, and all the action on it is taking place in the session's final days. Many retirees have no idea what this complex legislation is about to do to them,

and several who do know are unhappy with it.

The bill itself appears to be designed to be opaque. Both its initial description and final statement of purpose begin talking about the Department of Administration creating an advisory committee rather than about the actual benefit cuts.

It is little wonder that retirees, who were promised more than this bill delivers, complain that they are being subjected to double-talk. Before the bill passed the Senate on a nearly party line vote Wednesday ... Pocatello Democrat Dean Sagness offered his colleagues great advice.

"Stop this action now and take a year to do this process properly," Sagness said. "I know there are retired employees virtually worried sick over this. What we are about to do is a travesty."

If retirees are wrong to be so worried, that year would give them time to learn that. But the process that Republican leaders, who everyone agrees have greased this bill for quick passage, have chosen invites nothing but suspicion ...



... consolidating elections

Post Register, Idaho Falls

Legislators provide virtually nothing in state dollars for school construction, forcing educators to turn to the dreaded property tax. Worse yet, school districts must persuade voters to approve school bond levies by a two-thirds majority.

Local schools survive by cherry-picking voters. Elections are held in winter — when people who might vote aren't leaving town. Educators get out the pro-school vote by holding events such as "Doughnuts with Dad" or "Back to School Night" simultaneously with school bond elections ...

Now lawmakers want to change the rules. Under their bill, schools would have four — or maybe two — dates to hold a bond election yearly. Each would coincide with elections for state and local

office or other taxing district issues.

Sponsors pulled it Wednesday, but promised to revive it in 2009.

By restricting election dates, they would encourage more people to participate in our representative democracy. Just the same, you can see where this leads — a widening gap between the haves and have-nots.

Some high-growth school districts ... may continue to pass bonds. They're building new schools, which are easier to sell, especially when an expanding tax base leaves property tax rates unchanged.

Districts with flat enrollments and older schools ... must persuade taxpayers to upgrade and maintain facilities. Maintenance isn't sexy and it's hard to sell.

Poorer districts ... will have a tougher time still because if you don't know how to generate relatively small amounts of money.

You'll see more inefficiency. Building elementary schools is an 18-month process. If you overshoot, kids have to transfer in mid-year. If you undershoot, a completed building — with mounting utility and insurance bills — sits empty for a few months. Force schools to hold bond elections in March or September, or worse May or November, and you virtually guarantee one of those scenarios.

But that assumes anything passes. And how likely is that when the Legislature stacks all manner of property tax issues — say a city police

station, a county jail and a new school — on the same election ballot. Sticker shocked voters will turn down everything ...

... this (is) less about consolidating elections and more about legislators displaying their contempt toward public schools.

... apprenticeship success

Coeur d'Alene Press

... the School-to-Registered-Apprentice Program ... was developed by the U.S. Department of Labor. Its implementation in Kootenai County as a pilot program suggests it will become a model for the rest of the state.

The program works with high school students in teaching them, through apprenticeships, skills ... in high demand. By the time the student graduates, she or he can anticipate a good-

paying job with benefits, as well as a promising career ladder. Many of these students will quickly be earning more than their friends who graduate from college, and with every bit as much earning potential further down the employment road.

... society frowns upon those who pursue vocational careers. It's been all too common for several generations to insist that only the best and brightest go on to college. Know what? Three out of every four high school graduates in our region will never finish college ...

Unfulfilled students drop out of college, feeling like failures and facing at least an immediate future of no job prospects and potentially high debt from school loans. Employers desperate for skilled workers under-achieve, holding back business and stalling the creation of more good jobs.

STRAP is an exciting new step in the right direction ...



These folks are doing good by doing well

Fashions in goodness change, just like fashions in anything else, and it says some of the noblest people have assumed the manners of the business world, even though they don't aim for profit. They call themselves social entrepreneurs, and you can find them in the neediest places on earth.

The people who fit into this category tend to have plenty of resume bling. Bill Drayton, the godfather of this movement, went to Harvard, Yale, Oxford and McKinsey before founding Ashoka, a global network. Those who follow him typically went to some fancy school, did a stint with Teach for America or AmeriCorps before graduate school. Then, they worked for a software firm before deciding to use what they'd learned in business to help the less fortunate.

Now they work 80 hours a week, fighting bureaucracies and funding restrictions in order to build, say, mentoring programs for single mothers. Generations of beneficiaries thought that social service should be like sainthood or socialism, but this one thinks it should be like venture capital.

These thoroughly modern do-gooders dress like venture capitalists. They talk like them. They even think like them. That means that aside from the occasional passion for heirloom vegetables, they are not particularly crunchy. They don't wear tie-dyed t-shirts or Birkenstocks. They



DAVID BROOKS

don't devote any energy to countercultural personal style, unless you consider excessive niceness a subversive fashion statement.

Next to them, Barack Obama looks like Abbie Hoffman.

It also means they are not that interested in working for big, sluggish bureaucracies. They are not hostile to the alphabet-soup agencies that grow out of the New Deal and the Great Society; they just aren't inspired by them.

J.B. Schramm created a fantastic organization called College Summit, which provides students with practical guidance through the college admissions process. Gerald Chertavian, a former software entrepreneur, created Fear Up, which helps low-income students get apprenticeships in corporations and packages its fund-raising literature in the form of an IPO prospectus.

The venture-capital ethos means instead that these social entrepreneurs are almost willfully blind to ideological issues. They will tell you even before you have a chance to ask, that they are data-driven and accountability-oriented. They're always showing you multivariate

regressions or explaining why some promising idea "didn't pencil out." The highest status symbol in their circles is a Band study showing that their program yields statistically significant results.

Bill Gates, who fits neatly into this world, came to dinner with journalists in Washington last week. He looked utterly bored as the conversation drifted to presidential campaign gossip. But when asked about which programs produce higher reading scores, the guy lit up and became a fountain of facts and findings.

The older do-gooders had a certain policy model: government identifies a problem. Really smart people design a program. A Cabinet department in a big building administers it.

But the new do-gooders have absorbed the disappointments of the past decades. They have a much more decentralized worldview. They don't believe government on its own can be innovative. A thousand different private groups have to try new things. Then we measure to see what works.

Their problem now is scalability. How do the social entrepreneurs replicate successful programs that they can be big enough to make a national difference?

America Forward, a consortium of these entrepreneurs, wants government to do domestic policy in a new way. It wants Washington to expand national service (to produce more social entre-

preneurs) and to create a network of semipublic social investment funds would be administered locally to invest in community-run programs that produce proven results. The government must not operate these social welfare programs, but it would in essence guarantee one of those scenarios.

There's obviously a danger in getting government involved with these entrepreneurs. Government agencies are natural interferers, averse to remorseless competition and quick policy shifts. Nonetheless, these funds are worth a try.

The funds would head us toward this new policy model, in which government sets certain accountability standards but gives networks of local organizations the freedom to choose how to meet them. President Bush's faith-based initiative was a step in this direction, but this would be broader.

Furthermore, we might as well take advantage of this explosion of social entrepreneurship. There are some of the smartest and most creative people in the country. Even if we don't know how to reduce poverty, it's probably worth investing in these people and letting them figure it out.

They won't stop bugging us until we do ...

David Brooks is a columnist for The New York Times.

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The Times-News requires letter writers to use their full names on pieces they submit for publication. Starting Monday, we'll be requiring the same of those who comment on our Web site, magicvalley.com. Under the old policy, bloggers could create an

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LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Where were talk-show patriots during Vietnam?

Cheers to Barack Obama and John McCain for distancing themselves from hate-mongers. Bigoted comments made by Obama's former preacher, Jeremiah Wright, were beyond the pale, and Obama was correct in condemning them. The same can be said for McCain's condemnation of conservative talk radio host Rush Limbaugh. Obama's junior high school behavior for dwelling on Obama's middle name, Hussein. Both candidates understand that despite the bigoted extremists in their camps, the majority of voters are middle-of-the-road moderates, and that without their support, they cannot

be elected.

As a white man, I would be a fool to claim that I understand the schism between Obama and Wright, but as former military, I can relate to McCain's obligation to being identified with self-anointed "microphone" patriots like Cunningham — they do not speak for us. Real patriots take an oath to support and defend the Constitution against all enemies, foreign and domestic. Veterans, especially have an obligation to denounce bigots, as well as those who praise bigots because bigotry itself is the domestic enemy, a fact thatphony patriots fail to grasp because they have never taken this oath themselves.

When the guns sounded

in their youth, they stayed home with the children, thumping the Bible and waving the flag, while real patriots went forth to do the dirty work. There is a conspicuous absence of military service — or any service — in the backgrounds of Vietnam-age talk radio hosts claiming the title of patriot. McCain knows this. He also knows that this absence was mainly due to cowardice.

The hypocrisy that these phony patriots failed to live up to the same standards they now demand of others has not been lost on today's soldiers serving in Iraq, and McCain needs real patriots, not phony patriots, to vote for him come November.

GARY ELLER
Twin Falls

QUOTE

"I think it would be a great thing if we had an election year where you had two people who loved this country ... And people could actually ask themselves who is right on these issues, instead of all this other stuff that always seems to intrude itself on our politics."

— Former President Bill Clinton campaigning for his wife Sen. Hillary Rodham Clinton

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With information flow staunched in Tibet, China puts out its own story

CHENGDU, China (AP) — With restive Tibetan areas swarming with troops and closed to scrutiny from the outside world, China's government turned up efforts Saturday to put its own version of the unrest before the international public.

Information barely trickled out of the Tibetan capital Lhasa and other far-flung Tibetan communities, where foreign media were banned and thousands of troops dispatched to quell the most widespread demonstrations against Chinese rule in nearly five decades.

The Chinese government was attempting to fill the vacuum with its own message. It disseminated footage of Tibetan protesters attacking Chinese and accusations of biased reporting by Western media via TV, the Internet, e-mail and YouTube, which is blocked in China. The communist government's leading newspaper called for "resolute crackdown" of the Tibetan demonstrations.

The media barrage underscored that the government campaign is moving into a new phase of damage control ahead of the much-anticipated Beijing Olympics in August.

While China's rigorous policing of the Internet is far from foolproof, its official Internet is pervasive and there is no easy access to an alternative in the country. The difficulty of confirming what is going on inside Tibet may also be hindering a stronger world reaction.

"They've successfully managed the messages available to the average Chinese citizen, and this has fueled broad public support for a heavy-handed approach to controlling unrest," said David Bandurski,

a Hong Kong University expert on Chinese media. "There will be no nuances to Tibet coverage."

CNN's bureau in Beijing has been deluged in recent days by a barrage of harassing phone calls and faxes that accuse the organization of unfair coverage. An e-mail to United Nations-based reporters purportedly from China's U.N. mission sent an state television program showing Tibetans attacking Chinese in Lhasa.

A slideshow posted on YouTube accused CNN, Germany's Der Spiegel and other media of cropping pic-

tures to show Chinese military while screening out Tibetan rioters or putting pictures of Indian and Nepalese police wrestling Tibetan protesters with captions about China's crackdown.

Though of uncertain origin, the piece at least had official blessing, with excerpts appearing on the official English-language China Daily and on state TV.

China raised its death toll from the violence in Tibet by 5, to 22, with the Xinhua News Agency reporting that the charred remains of an 8-month-old boy and four adults were pulled from a burnt-out garage.

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INSIDE: Video by teens shows dangers of drunk driving, C7



INSIDE: Obituaries, C2 | Community news, C3 | Idaho/West, C4-6 | Mini-Cassia, C7

Naming names in the mud and the blood and the beer

"Some gal would giggle and I'd get red
And some guy'd laugh and I'd bust his head,
I tell ya, life ain't easy for a boy named Sue."
— Johnny Cash

I had a classmate named Farrell (rhymes with fern, which means "wild") Butts. Nice kid, or would have been if he hadn't had to fight his way home from school every day.

Knew his parents, too. Good people, and they didn't see anything funny about their surname or anything cruel about the first names they had given their children: Bertram, Lenott and Bernadine, Farrell's siblings.

DON'T ASK ME Steve Crump

Most couples who saddle offspring with off-the-wall monikers are trying to be clever, but there are some — like the Buttses — with absolutely no sense of irony.

More's the pity. The new list of bizarre Idaho first names has just been released by the Idaho Department of Health and Welfare.

Somewhere in the Gem State there's a boy named Razor. There's also an Achilles, a Backlash, a Blend, a Chalk, a Daily, a Polo, a Sacramento, a Spur, a Tucson and a Wracer. All were born in 2006. Among girls, there are 2-year-olds named Penhane Meadow, Cedeo, Russia, Blayde, Kalispell, Navy and Yochabelle.

What were their parents thinking? "Studies showed that children with odd names got worse grades and were less popular than other classmates in elementary school," writes *New York Times* columnist John Tierney, whose middle name is Marion. "In college they were more likely to flunk out or become 'psychopaths.' Prospective bosses spurned their resumes. They were over-represented among emotionally disturbed children and psychiatric patients."

But a just-published book, "Bad Baby Names" by Michael Sauter and Matthew Rayback (Ancestry.Com, \$9.95), suggests otherwise.

The authors interviewed Candy Stohr, Cash Guy, Mary Christmas, River Jordan, Rasp Berry and Happy Day. "They were very proud of their names, almost overly proud," Sherrod told the *Times*. "We asked if that was a reaction to getting pummeled when they were little, but they said they didn't get that much ribbing. They got a little tired of hearing the same jokes, but they liked having an unusual name because it made them stand out."

They asked Cleveland Evans, a psychologist and past president of the American Names Society, if weird names build character. "Researchers have studied men with cross-gender names like Leslie," Evans said. "They have found one major positive factor: a better sense of self-control. It's not that you fight more, but that you learn how to let stuff roll off your back."
So if, in 20 years or so, you meet an Idahoan named Howdy or Bronco or Ryhnum or Xzavvyer, shake his hand. Gingly.

Steve Crump may be reached at 735-3223 or scrump@magicvalley.com.

Going the way of the dinosaurs

Hagerman seeking new community event to replace annual Fossil Days

By Blair Koch
Times-News correspondent

Hagerman is saying goodbye to Fossil Days. After 20 years, this Memorial Day weekend event will be the city's last,

said James "Scotty" Scott, president of the Hagerman Valley Chamber of Commerce. It may be the final Fossil Days, but not necessarily the end of events during Memorial Day weekend.

Find out more
For more information about Fossil Days and the Hagerman Valley Chamber of Commerce, visit www.hagermanchamber.com.

Scott said. The chamber has long taken the lead organizing and promoting local pulling off the 20-year celebration.

It was getting more difficult to find volunteers and attendance has tapered off over the last five years, Scott said. This year's Fossil Days, while smaller than in years past, will still host traditional events such as a parade, senior and community breakfast, school reunions and tractor pull.

See HAGERMAN, Page C2

Finding the golden eggs

Hundreds of children show up for annual Easter egg hunt in Twin Falls City Park

By Andrea Gates
Times-News writer

Five-year-old Aleah Lattin had only golden eggs on her mind Saturday during the annual community Easter egg hunt at Twin Falls City Park.

While other children scurried to fill their baskets and bags with as many of the 300 dozen colorful hard-boiled eggs strewn about the park, Lattin only sought out the rare golden egg, which carried a prize of two \$1 coins.

And she found her golden egg Saturday, just as she had done for the past four years, said her proud father, Roy Lattin. "She's the golden egg queen ... She didn't care about anything else."

Roy Lattin said he also participated in the Easter egg hunt at Twin Falls City Park when he was a child. The event was sponsored by the Twin Falls Recreation Department and the Twin Falls Optimist Club. All the eggs were dyed Friday by about 30 senior residents at Heritage Retirement Center.

Children collected all the eggs within about 20 minutes after the 10 a.m. kickoff. Senior residents also had moved quickly, dying all the eggs within about an hour Friday morning.

Saturday morning's turnout of child Easter egg hunters was normal to peeps a bit light, said Ken Colner, a member



A young Easter egg hunter eyes his next prize even before he has the one safely in his basket at the annual Easter egg hunt at Twin Falls City Park on Saturday. Organizers said they placed more than 3,600 real eggs around the park for the kids to find.

of the Twin Falls Optimist Club. "One thing though, it's spring break so some parents have probably got their kids on vacation."
Four egg hunting grounds were partitioned off by yellow

tape for different age groups, and three golden eggs were hidden in each section. "We want to make sure the older kids don't get them all," said Dennis Boyer, Twin Falls Parks and Recreation director.

And in the end, all the golden eggs had been found, he said.

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

Furious final week awaits legislators

BOISE — Senate Majority Leader Bart Davis, R-Idaho Falls, keeps an index card-sized "Go Home" list in his shirt pocket. It's got open a dozen items — prisons, open primaries and local-option sales tax, to name a few that need to be addressed, but not necessarily approved.

Davis has crossed out a few issues. For example, a new grocery tax credit cleared the Legislature last week. And an election cost-solidation bill was killed the day before. But others, such as repealing the personal property tax, just reached the Senate.
Starting his 12th week tomorrow, the 2008 Legislature is now beyond the scheduled conclusion lawmakers spoke so restly about in January. Instead, it's evolved into the usual — and, for some, uncomfortable — grinding time of negotiating deals to let everyone go home.
"There are a lot of issues left unresolved. There are competing interests there

LEGISLATIVE NOTEBOOK
Jared S. Hopkins

and it will get contentious," said Jim Weatherly, a retired Boise State University political science professor and longtime observer of the Legislature. "That doesn't mean it will get personal, but the governor isn't getting all he's asked for and the legislators aren't going to get everything they want."
The big thorn is transportation and finding a revenue-raising package sound to the Senate, the House and Gov. CL. "Butch" Otter. It's expected to include higher taxes on gasoline sales and car rentals, and increases in car and truck registration fees.
Last week, House leadership refused to move on any bills until the Senate adopted a resolution for an audit of

the Idaho Transportation Department. After a Senate committee passed it Thursday, lawmakers

seemed optimistic. "But on Friday, the full Senate didn't convene. And the House won't meet again until Tuesday; instead they plan to hammer out the transportation legislation."

TOP leadership teams in both chambers deny postponing full chamber meetings for political leverage. Instead, they spent Friday afternoon discussing the funding.

Lawmakers are saying the session will end Wednesday or Friday. Each day the Legislature meets costs about \$300,000 of taxpayers' money.
Other topics within the cramped quarters of the Capitol Annex.
On Thursday, Otter issued his first veto, striking \$16.8 million in funding for substance abuse treatment that lawmakers have made their priority. He wants justification for whether the programs are justified.

Lawmakers can override the veto with two-thirds in each chamber or re-open the budget.

It was surprised it was done," Davis said Friday in his office, adding Otter made no mention of it Thursday morning during a weekly meeting with leadership.

Thursday, the Senate passed a constitutional amendment to make it easier for local governments to incur debt on projects. Meanwhile, the House passed its own amendment Friday to cement a two-thirds voter approval for any local option sales tax.

The House on Friday voted 39-31 in favor of repealing the personal property tax, a decision companies have demanded for years. Senators have expressed mixed opinion. The elimination of as much as \$120 million will be phased out over five years if the state's general fund grows 5 percent annually.

See NOTEBOOK, Page C2

Mayor presents ideas for improving downtown

By Damon Hunziker
Times-News correspondent

In a Saturday town-hall meeting hosted by Mayor Lance Clow at Pinedrops, about 20 people discussed ways to attract more crowds and increase economic activity to the original townsite of Twin Falls.

During the quiet first half, the mayor explained developments and ideas in progress while citizens and other officials sat around a large table eating french fries.

Clow presented the idea of constructing a memorial to honor veterans, and civilians who have protected and contributed to American freedoms. Clow hopes to secure federal funding for the project.

He also mentioned a Parks and Recreation pond to be used for ice skating and hockey. The location and funding specifications have yet to be determined. City planners have to think about Christmas when most people have just paid off — and, as Clow said, "This past year, the downtown area did very little in terms of Christmas decorations." He proposed LED displays of Yuletide decor for the lamps along downtown streets, which would cost the city \$30,000, to \$40,000.

"The mayor said he wants to "create an environment of success, a new attitude of entrepreneurial spirit."
"Some people keep doing the same thing over and over again everyday and wondering when more people are going to show up," he said.

In an unusual but ambitious comparison, Ron Yates, a member of the Twin Falls Historic Preservation Commission who recently returned from Australia, suggested that street musicians and vendors similar to those in Sydney's shopping areas could help make downtown Twin Falls a shopping destination.

But the mayor, who earlier in the meeting expressed his interest in bringing Chuck E. Cheese to town, offered the most unique suggestion: magic acts downtown every weekend. "There's a lot of amateur magicians out there — I'm kind of one of them," he said.

Tony Prater, a local proprietor and former president of the Historic Preservation Commission, later told the *Times-News*. "I think the main benefit of the meetings is to promote a vision of what can happen, to build synergy and excitement about the townsite ... to revitalize the core of the city." Prater cited Boise's Eighth Street events as a way to maintain interest.

"We could create a neighborhood in the townsite where people would like to live again," Yates told the *Times-News*. "People's emotions are stimulated by the atmosphere of the past." The historic architect's view of downtown Twin Falls, he said, lends itself to outdoor events such as musicians and demonstrations. But, he concluded, "We lack art and the public support of art."

Clow and the attendees considered ideas to bring more families downtown, across the parking lot, Woody's contrasted the prevailing spirit by advertising a contest for hot moms. While it's not a magic act, it may still attract a crowd.

Easter chicks can evolve into messy problem

COEUR D'ALENE (AP) — Live chicks start as cute and fluffy Easter gifts, but Karen Weppner warns that by next year, many won't be around.

Take Joy and Hope, a pair of chickens purchased as Easter gifts that arrived at Weppner's Promised Land Family Farm last year.

The Weppner family, owners of an 80-acre hobby farm, took them in after their own quickly discovered there is more to pet chickens than meets the eye.

"I want to encourage families to educate themselves before they buy chicks as gifts," Weppner said in a story Saturday in the *Coeur d'Alene Press*. "I want them to be aware of the breed they are choosing and do a little research before they do."

To illustrate her point, Weppner recounts the story of the Cornish cross hens.

Within three months after being brought to the Promised Land farm, Hope was killed by a predator.

Cornish cross hens were developed by the meat industry to be sold as broilers.

While their bodies quickly grow big and meaty, the Cornish cross hens' legs can't bear their weight.

"They're bred so they will finish for butchering between 6 and 8 weeks of age," Weppner said.

Joy remains on the farm and lives in a barn with other Easter cast-off poultry. Joy looks like a sad, stuffed roaster on legs next to the others, which are members of other breeds.

While the other birds dart, peck and run about, Joy has trouble walking and struggles to breathe and lies alone by the barn fence most of the time.

At night, when the other chickens fly up and roost

together in the barn's rafters, Joy remains alone in the spot by the fence.

The chicken is too large to clean itself properly and has frequent hygiene problems.

"It's not typical that one would still be here to see another Easter," Weppner said.

Other breeds make better pets, Weppner said.

Weppner knows baby chicks are hard to resist, but owners don't realize the amount of work required to keep them as pets, Weppner said.

Chicks are required to be kept warm with a heat lamp, but the temperature must be lowered a bit each day.

"The mother hen does this naturally. It's not as much fun if you have to do it yourself," Weppner said. "They foul their water. They play in it. They make an astounding mess."

Single chicks get lonely and their cute peeping becomes a never-ending stream of chicken cries, she said.

"One of the other things to find out is if you're zoned for chicks," Weppner said. "If you're not, have a farm for a back up so when you're finished with your pet, it can go there to live out its life."

Weppner said she would rather people consider buying toy chicks.

"For a 5-year-old, there's really no big difference," Weppner said. "If you squeeze that, nothing untoward happens, unlike a live, baby chick."



Kate Weppner, 6, stands in her family's barn Friday near Coeur d'Alene, Idaho as one of her chickens, Joy, hovers over a feed pan. Joy, a breed of chicken genetically engineered for meat production, was brought to the Weppner farm by a family who purchased the Cornish cross chick as an Easter gift last year.

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Baby dies after emergency delivery

BOISE (AP) — A baby delivered by Caesarian section after his mother was killed in a car crash has died after seven weeks in a coma.

Jennifer Storch was 30-years-old and 37 weeks pregnant at the time of the Jan. 29 crash south of Boise. Doctors performed an emergency caesarian section and delivered Kalekaumaka Storch, who was placed on a ventilator and was comatose.

Family members say the infant was taken off life support at Saint Alphonsus Medical Center and died late Thursday night.

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Deal ends grazing on land near Yellowstone

DUBOIS, Wyo. (AP) — Ranchers have agreed to retire grazing rights on 35,000 acres of federal land south of Yellowstone National Park to end conflicts between cattle and wolves and other predators.

The National Wildlife Federation and other groups brokered a deal between the Diamond G Ranch near Dubois and the Shoshone National Forest. The agreement will pay the Diamond G Ranch \$150,000 to secure grazing elsewhere.

The deal, the 29th of its kind since 2002, is intended to reduce conflicts between livestock and predators in prime wildlife areas in the Yellowstone ecosystem. Hank Fischer, special projects coordinator with the National Wildlife Federation, said about 550,000 acres of federal grazing allotments have been retired so far.

"This is all voluntary. We don't twist anybody's arms. The reason why this works is we're only focusing on allotments that have long-term, chronic conflicts," Fischer said.

The DuNoir grazing allotment, along the east and west forks of the DuNoir River, has seen many such conflicts.

Stephen Gordon, Diamond G Ranch president, said predators had caused hundreds of thousands of dollars of losses over the years. He said those who have included cattle, horses, family dogs snatched from the front porch and a young colt killed in a corral.

"It's really been hell for us," he said. "We're 27 miles as the crow flies from the southeast corner of Yellowstone, so we're really right in the line of fire."

Wildlife officials have confirmed 31 cows killed by grizzlies since 1991, and Gordon said the actual losses may be three times higher. Although a lot of bears live on the ranch, ranch managers found ways to work around them.

But Gordon said the arrival of wolves after their reintroduction in the park in 1995 and 1996 proved too much. He said that over the past 13 years, verified losses to wolves include 27 cows, eight dogs and four horses. He said the actual number of depredations may be about eight times higher.

The increasing number of wolves in this area makes future ranching operations difficult at best and could eventually lead to sale or subdivision of our property," said Gordon. He once sued the federal government to have wolves removed from the ranch.

The deal reached among the Shoshone National Forest, Diamond G and the wildlife federation would retire the upper portion of the allotment — an area with abundant wildlife and the most roadless habitat. It allows grazing to continue the lower 14,500 acres connected with private property. Gordon said the decision to retire part of the grazing allotment was done "with some reluctance."

Fischer said the retired area offers spectacular hiking and recreation opportunities as well as plentiful wildlife.

Over the past 20 years, wildlife trackers have counted at least 52 individual grizzlies using the area. It also has been occupied since 1899 by the Washackie wolf pack, which now has 11 members. It's home to elk in the fall, bighorn sheep in the winter and moose year-round.

Last year, the groups brokered a deal to retire about 178,000 acres of national forest southeast of Grand Teton National Park. Other deals involved about 74,000 acres south of Big Timber, Mont., and 84,000 acres in the Bridger-Teton National Forest.

With the latest agreement on the DuNoir allotment, four of the five allotments with the most intense livestock/predator conflicts in the Yellowstone ecosystem have been retired.

Homeowners, developer agree on smaller marina

SANDPOINT (AP) — Homeowners and a developer have agreed to settle a lawsuit over planned expansion of a marina on the Pend Oreille River.

District Judge Steve Verby recently dismissed the lawsuit filed against Willow Bay Holdings after the developer agreed to drop 24 boat slips from 139 planned for the marina across the river from Laclede.

The current marina has fewer than 30 boat slips. The homeowners sued the developer and the Idaho Department of Lands in 2006.

The agreement calls for the developers to obtain Department of Lands approval for any more than 115 boat slips.

Charges contemplated after dogs found in unsanitary conditions

BOISE (AP) — The Idaho Humane Society says five dogs found in a cramped, smelly and unsanitary conditions in a Gem County trailer have been taken to its facility in Boise.

Gem County Sheriff's Lt. Dave Timony says no charges have been filed, but officials hope to complete their investigation into possible cruelty to animals and neglect of animals next week.

Jeff Rosenhalt of the Idaho Humane Society says the dogs were found chained outside in freezing January temperatures in New Plymouth.

A tip led investigators to the tiny Gem County trailer. Cruelty to animals and neglect of animals are misdemeanors, with possible six months in jail and fines of up to \$5,000.

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- In Sunday's Fred Meyer sales flyer, how much can you save on Lilly Miller and Ed Hume Seed Packets on page 1? _____
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- In Sunday's Kmart sales flyer, what is the price of the Dirt Devil Swivel Glide Vacuum on page 6? _____
- In Sunday's Rex sales flyer, what is the price of the JVC 1000-Watt Home Theater System on page 2? _____
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- In Sunday's Rite Aid sales flyer, what brand of Toothpaste is priced at "Buy 1 Get 1 Free" on page 1? _____
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- 1) Times-News Take Me Shopping Trivia Contest begins February 17, 2008, and ends March 27, 2008.
- 2) No purchase or consideration is necessary to enter. Entry forms will be printed weekly from February 17, 2008, through March 23, 2008 in the Times-News. Entry forms may also be picked up at The News Customer Service Center at 132 Fairchild Street, Tallahassee, Fla., or on magicvalley.com/takemeshopping. The last day to enter is March 27, 2008.
- 3) The sweepstakes is open to all legal residents of the United States. Entries must be at least 18 years of age as of February 1, 2008. Employees of Lee Enterprises aka the Times-News, their parent or their companies or any immediate family members are ineligible.
- 4) One weekly winner will be drawn through correct entries at random for a total of 6 weeks. Weekly winners will receive \$100 in gift credits from selected area stores. One grand prize winner will win \$1000 in gift certificates to select area stores.
- 5) No substitutions or transfers of a prize by a winner are permitted.

- 6) A winner reserves 18 fields and agrees that Lee Enterprises, the Times-News and their affiliates, subsidiaries, agencies and employees have no liability in connection with the sweepstakes or use of their prizes. A winner shall be solely responsible for all federal, state and local income and other taxes associated with the prize and for any insurance related to the use of any prize. This sweepstakes is sold where prohibited by law. Federal, state and local laws and regulations apply.
- 7) To enter the sweepstakes, complete the entry form with the correct answers. Only one (1) entry per person per week is permitted. Only one (1) entry will be accepted per envelope. Do not include checks, forms or letters with entry. Only original entry forms will be accepted. No copies or facsimiles of entry forms are permitted. Entry forms may be mailed to: Take Me Shopping Trivia Contest, Times-News, P.O. Box 548, Tallahassee, FL 32301-0548. Lee Enterprises is not responsible for undelivered or delayed mail. People who live outside the delivery area of certain sales flyers may participate by logging on to magicvalley.com/takemeshopping and completing and submitting an online entry form.
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- 9) By acceptance of any prize, a winner consents to the use of his or her name, picture and/or likeness for purposes of advertising or trade, without further compensation, and/or release for purposes of advertising or trade, without further compensation, pictures prohibited by law.

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INSIDE: Rain halts third round, Tiger's slide at Doral, D6



INSIDE: CSI baseball & MLB, D2 | Your Sports, D4 | NCAA Tourney & NBA, D5 | Travel, D7-8 | Weather, D8

West Virginia shows Duke the door

Mountaineers upset No. 2 seed Blue Devils

By Howard Fendrich Associated Press writer

WASHINGTON — Back at his alma mater, back in the NCAAAs, Bob Huggins looked and sounded just like the Bob Huggins everyone remembers.

He yelled. He groused. He drew an early technical foul. And he willed his No. 7-seeded West Virginia past second-seeded Duke.

Playing tough man-to-man defense, grabbing what seemed like every loose ball, West Virginia used Joe Alexander's 22 points

Men's NCAA Tournament

Saturday's scores

West Region
West Virginia 73, Duke 67
Xavier 85, Purdue 78
UCLA, Texas A&M

Midwest Region
Wisconsin 72, Kansas State 55
UNLV 75, Kansas 56

South Region
Stanford 82, Marquette 81, OT
Michigan State, Pittsburgh

East Region
Washington State 61, Notre Dame 41

Today's games on CBS

West Region
San Diego vs. Kentucky, 12:40 p.m.
Midwest Region
Siena vs. Villanova, 10:10 a.m.
Georgetown vs. Davidson, 12:40 p.m.
South Region
Texas vs. Miami, 12:15 p.m.
Memphis vs. Mississippi St., 2:45 p.m.
East Region
North Carolina vs. Arkansas, 3:15 p.m.
Tennessee vs. Butler, 12:30 p.m.
Louisville vs. Oklahoma, 3 p.m.

and 11 rebounds and all sorts of contributions from unlikely sources for a 73-67 victory over Duke on Saturday, getting to the NCAA tournament's round of 16 in Huggins' first season.

"His passion, his lack of fear, is something we try to put out on the court," said Alex Ruffoff, whose 17 points included a 3 at the shot-clock buzzer that tied the game at 37 in the second half. "When you

INSIDE:

see that passion on the sideline, the last thing you want to do is let that man down." While the Mountaineers (26-10) will face No. 3-seed Xavier in Phoenix on Thursday, the Blue Devils (20-6) must deal with a second consecutive early exit. Every year from 1997 through 2006, Duke was a participant in the round of 16. Every single year.



West Virginia players, from left, Cam Thoroughman, Joe Mazzulla and Jonnie West celebrate their 73-67 victory over Duke in a second-round NCAA West Regional game, Saturday in Washington.

Please see UPSET, Page D6

Let's rodeo

District VI kicks off high school action

By Diane Philbin Times-News writer

District VI began the 2008 high school rodeo season at the Eldon Evans Expo Center's Shawn Davis Arena Friday night.

The rodeo opened with no qualified rides in bareback riding but concluded with four riders going the full eight seconds in bull riding. Colton Bedke of Oakley won the event with a score of 62 points followed by Jace Hutchinson of Raft River with a 59 and Brody Osterhout of Declo scored a 51 to finish third.

"It was pretty much just another bull ride," said Bedke. "He had me off for about a half a second but I got back in the middle and made the ride."

Bedke closely watched Cody Wadsworth of Kimberly on the bull Bedke drew for Saturday night. After six seconds, Wadsworth's ride stopped bucking and stood as though waiting for the 8-second buzzer to blow.

"He just had a bad night," said Bedke. "I've been looking forward to getting on him."

The Kimberly cowboy was given a score of only 28 points and finished fourth. Wadsworth was offered a re-ride, which the junior turned down. Asked why he declined a second ride, Wadsworth said, "Not for just a few more points. I still had calf roping and I didn't want to take a chance of getting hurt."

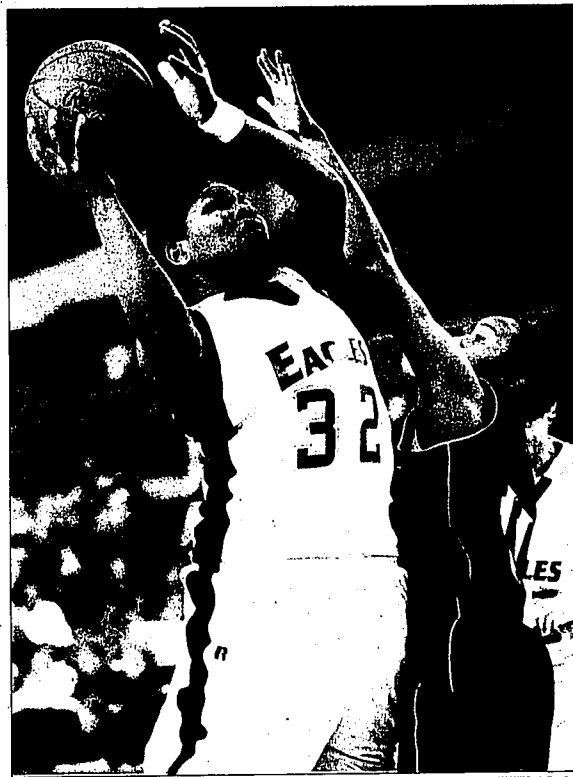
Wadsworth placed in the top four in each of his events. He also teamed with partner Megan Crist to take second in team roping and added a pair of third-place finishes in tie-down and steer wrestling.

Despite a "little" bobble in her dismount in goat tying that actually could have turned into a bad wreck, Crist had a good opening night, notching first-place finishes in breakaway and pole bending.

A few months ago, Crist lost the horse that she had ridden for many years and first competition together. On her get-off in the goat tying, Crist's four-legged partner crossed in front of her knocking

Please see RODEO, Page D2

CSI SLIDES TO SIXTH



College of Southern Idaho guard LaCale Pringle-Buchanan shoots over Midland's Moriah Smith during the first half of Saturday's NCAA Women's National Championship tournament fifth-place game at the Bicentennial Center in Salina, Kan. Midland College defeated CSI 77-71.

Midland tops Golden Eagles in OT decision

By Eric Larsen Times-News writer

SALINA, Kan. — Saturday night, the Golden Eagles slept easy.

Partially, it was due to their exhausting 77-71 overtime loss to Texas' Midland College in the fifth-place game of the NCAA Division I Women's Basketball Championships in Salina, Kan. Partially, it was a product of knowing that at 32-4 and sixth nationally, they'd become the second-most successful season in program history.

"I think it was a really good experience for our sophomores to get a chance to get looked at by (NCAA) Division I schools," said sophomore guard Maylene Ornelas, who finished with 13 points before fouling out against the Chaparrals. "I think it was a good experience to know how hard it is, and how much it takes to win here."

Saturday's overtime finish took more than the Golden Eagles could ultimately muster. After taking a 31-28 halftime lead, CSI came out of the break to play some of its worst basketball of the season for 13 minutes as a 31-6 Midland squad rallied to take a 60-48 lead with 6:47 remaining.

"It's a funny game," CSI head coach Randy Rogers said. "If you make shots, everything goes better. But if you don't make shots, you lose focus, your head drops on defense, and I think that's what happened tonight."

Though CSI looked defeated at times during the Chaparrals' run, it wasn't. The Golden Eagles surged back with a 25-7 run to end regulation with the score knotted at 67-67. Freshman Soana Lucec scored eight of her 14 points in the game's final 4:42 to help force the extra period, and hit the game-tying shot with 5.7 seconds, taking an Amy Higbee pass

Please see EAGLES, Page D2

Coats pitches Bruins to win

Twin Falls splits with Vauxhall

By Zach Kyle For the Times-News

TWIN FALLS — The Vauxhall Academy Jets traveled all the way from central Alberta, Canada, for their doubleheader against Twin Falls Bruins at the College of Southern Idaho's Skip Walker field. Pitching was the story of both games, as Twin Falls' Jacob Coats kept Vauxhall in check to key a 6-2 Bruins win in Game 1, and Jets hitters jumped all over Twin Falls pitchers to take Game 2, 10-2.

"Coats kept Vauxhall hitters off balance in a strike-out, complete game effort. The Jets consistently made contact off of Coats, banging out seven hits, but Coats spread the hits around, giving up two hits in an inning only once."

"He located his fastball really well," Twin Falls coach Mike Federico said of Coats. "His changeup was down in the zone all night. He kept kids off balance, and we played good defense behind him too."



Twin Falls' Remington Paille tags a runner out at second base during the Bruins' doubleheader with Canada's Vauxhall Academy Saturday night in Twin Falls.

Those came in the sixth inning, when Vauxhall right fielder Mark Clauson nailed a two-run line drive over the center-field fence. Any Vauxhall runs had to come via the long ball. With only two walks, Coats wasn't issuing free passes, and with zero errors, the Twin Falls defense wasn't feeling charitable.

The Bruins busted the game open with a five-run fourth inning that featured four of Twin Falls' nine hits, capped by designated hitter Jayson Welker's RBI double. But Vauxhall was also its own worst enemy, first

Please see BRUINS, Page D2

Salt Lake men fall in JUCO title game

Times-News

The list of teams that have bested the vaunted Salt Lake Community College defense now stands at three.

South Plains College of Levelland, Texas claimed the 2007-08 NCAA Division I Men's Basketball National Championship, topping the Bruins 67-56 Saturday evening in Hutchinson, Kan. After trailing 17-4 in the game's early stages, South Plains surged behind the hot 3-point shooting of Nick Okorie, who outdukked SLCC sophomore shooting guard Brian Green.

Okorie scored 20 of his game-high 29 points in the second half as the 30-5 Texans steadily extended a 24-22 halftime lead to run away with the victory. South Plains' Jonathan Hall scored 13 and was named tournament MVP after the game.

Sophomore point guard DaVell Jackson led the 32-4 Bruins with 19 points. Andy Palmer added 10 while Green was held to four points on 2-for-12 shooting. Green was, however, honored with the Small

Please see SLCC, Page D2

SCOREBOARD

BASEBALL
MIDWEST Yearling
All-Time Record
ATLANTA BRUINS

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GAME PLAN

TV SCHEDULE

ESPN - PBA, Golf Classic
MEN'S COLLEGE HOCKEY

ESPN2 - NCAA Tournament
Selection Show

NBC - PGA TOUR: WGC
Championship, final round

TCC - PGA TOUR: Puerto Rico
Open, final round

MAJOR LEAGUE BASEBALL
ESPN - Presentation, Chicago
White Sox vs. Kansas City
ROYALS COLLEGE BASKETBALL

CBS - NCAA Division I tournament, second round

ESPN - NCAA Division I tournament, first round

ESPN2 - NCAA Division I tournament, first round

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At The Pool Center

Michigan State vs. Pittsburgh
Colorado State vs. Utah State

Stanford vs. Michigan State
North Carolina vs. Duke

Arizona vs. Oregon
Texas Tech vs. Oklahoma

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Wimmer wins in Nashville; Bowyer takes Nationwide Series lead

GLADEVILLE, Tenn. — Scott Wimmer piloted Richard Childress Racing's number one Chevrolet...

MAGIC VALLEY
Skateboarding camp scheduled
TWIN FALLS — The 628 Skateboarding camp and competition will be held April 2-4 in Twin Falls...

SPORTS SHORTS
Note: Send Magic Valley briefs to sports@magvalley.com

Wimmer takes Nationwide Series lead
TWIN FALLS — Entries are being accepted for the 2008 Nationwide Series...

COLLEGE HOOPS

Mass rallies past Akron in NIT
AMHERST, Mass. — Ricky Harris scored 20 points and Massachusetts went on a 19-5 run to finish the game for a 68-63 win over Akron on Saturday in the second round of the National Invitational Tournament...

BILLS Place benefit tourney nears
TWIN FALLS — The Fifth Annual Benefit Golf Tournament for BILLS Place will be Saturday, April 19, at Twin Falls Municipal Golf Course...

JRD holds Jerome Jim tourney
JEROME — Sign-ups are open for the Jerome Recreation District's Third Annual Jerome Jim Basketball Tournament...

District V's Rodeo Boxing Smoker nears
GODDING — The 16th Annual District V High School Rodeo Boxing Smoker will be at 7:30 p.m., Friday, April 4 at Godding High School...



Judo club competes in Caldwell

The Twin Falls College of Southern Idaho Judo Club competed at the Boise Valley Judo Tournament in Caldwell on March 8. The team competed in both the junior and senior divisions...

Hannold to compete Down Under

Josh Hannold of Kimberly has been invited to represent Idaho in the 20th annual Down Under Sports Tournament to be held this summer in Australia and New Zealand...



Josh Hannold

BOWLING

MAGIC BOULDER TWIN FALLS SUNDAY ROLLS MEN'S SERIES: RD Adams 630, Vance Huxon 631, Stan Voecker 612, Keith Kelly 559...

WARMER 591. MEN'S GAMES: Rick Fredrickson 219, Bryan Warriner 228, Boys Back 235, Shane Ruckham 230...

MEN'S SERIES: Chris Ivan 525, Shawn Goshaw 493, John Hannah 422, Jeff Kimm 422...

380 LUCI GIANTS BOYS' SERIES: Braden Lowe 302, Cooper Hays 217...

GAMES: Verna Haddad 174, Matt Schreier 170, Carol Ralder 159, Doug Schroeder 157...

Don Helton 598, Eric Nielson 597, Tiffany Heger 595, Stacy Heo 551, Krista Johnston 481...

Marlins swim well at Snake River Championship event

The Magic Valley Marlins competed at the 2008 Snake River Winter Championship Pool, Feb. 22-24 in Idaho Falls. Below are individual results for Magic Valley swimmers.



Magic Valley Marlins pose after the 2008 Snake River Winter Championships in Idaho Falls. Pictured, from left, in water: Parker Twiss, Amanda Crist, Jessica Ajphorn and Hannah Biedelbach...

Table with swimmer names, events, and times. Includes categories like 50 Back, 100 Breast, 200 Free, etc.

Table with swimmer names, events, and times. Includes categories like 100 IM, 200 Free, 500 Free, etc.

Rain stops a Tiger slide at Doral

Ogilvy holds a one-shot lead

DORAL, Fla. (AP) — Tiger Woods finally looked human Saturday at the CA Championship.

Then came some help from the heavens. Woods couldn't make a putt, scowled more than he smiled, and was struggling to stay at par on a day when the Blue Monster was yielding birdies. What stopped his slide was a rumble of thunder and a torrential storm that dumped 3 inches of rain and suspended the third round until Sunday morning.

Geoff Ogilvy was at 14-under par through 11 holes and kept his one-shot lead, only now it was Adam Scott on his heels, not the world's No. 1 player who has won every tournament he has played since September.

Woods was at 11 under, even for the day, the only player among the top 10 who was not under par for the round.

Scott was practically flawless, making up five shots in five holes against Woods, taking the outright lead with a 25-foot birdie putt that swirled around the cup before falling, looking confident with every hole he played. Ogilvy still hasn't made a bogey this week, and to date birdies allowed him to regain the lead.

And then it rained. "If it was our day," Scott said, "it was cut off way too short."

They will resume play



Tiger Woods reacts to a missed putt on the fourth hole during the third round of the CA Championship golf tournament in Doral, Fla. Saturday.

Sunday at 8:30 a.m. — if conditions allow — to finish the third round, with the final round of this World Golf Championship scheduled for Sunday afternoon.

The break could not have come at a better time for Woods, who three-putted his first three holes, had two other putts slip off the lip and picked up his only birdie when his wedge stopped 30 inches away on No. 7.

"I'm right there, only three

back," Woods said. "A lot of holes to be played tomorrow. And hopefully, I can get it going and get hot for the rest of the day."

The CA Championship looked like it might be a three-man race, but now is loaded with possibilities. Although the third round is incomplete, Woods headed back to his yacht in a three-way tie for third place.

Vijay Singh was 8 under for his round through 16 holes

and faced a 7-foot birdie putt on the 17th when he returned. Also at 11 under for the tournament was Tim Clark, who was 7 under through 15 holes. Graeme Storm nearly made an ace on the par-3 15th that put him at 10 under with three holes remaining. Jim Furyk was 10 under through 13 holes.

Five shots separated eight players when the third round was stopped.

"No one was complaining. 'Look, it's where you want to be,' Ogilvy said. 'You want to be leading with 25 holes to play. I'm happy with where I'm at. If I can keep playing the way I'm playing and putt well, you never know.'"

All signs pointed toward Woods seizing control of this tournament. He is the three-time defending champion at Doral and at this WGC event, he was swinging well, making every important putt and had the good vibes of winning six straight official events around the world.

Woods gets weary when people point him before the trophy is handed out, and he showed what can happen Saturday.

He reached the back of the green on the par-5 opening hole, but left himself 70 feet on the fringe. He lagged to about 4 feet, but his birdie putt banged off the back lip. That ended Woods' streak of 18 consecutive birdies or better on the first hole at Doral.

Then he three-putted the next hole, lipping out from 3 1/2 feet and making bogey.

"To three-putt the first two holes right out of the gate, never a good thing," Woods said.

Upset

Continued from page D1

It's a stretch that featured three trips to the Final Four and the 2001 national championship. But now Krzyzewski's team is on a two-year drought, having bowed out in the first round in 2007.

"No matter how well or how hard you're playing, you've got to put the ball in the basket," said Krzyzewski, whose team was held to 38 percent shooting and missed 15 consecutive 3-pointers in one stretch. "We didn't do that today."

Gerald Henderson scored 18 points for Duke. But DeMarcus Nelson had only six points on 2-for-11 shooting a game after scoring two in the Blue Devils' eked out a one-point victory over No. 15-seed Belmont in the first round.

This time, there was no escaping. Instead, Huggins could appreciate a quick period of success this is, after all, a guy who was out of work

Last-second upset winners meet today

TAMPA, Fla. (AP) — Ty Rogers had 172 text messages waiting for him Friday after his 26-foot buzzer-beat gave Western Kentucky a dramatic overtime win against Drake in the NCAA tournament.

His cell phone was still blowing up a day later. De Jon Jackson had a similar experience. Jackson got more congratulatory calls and messages than he could possibly handle after his jumper in the waning seconds of UT helped San Diego out college basketball powerhouse Connecticut.

"It was a little crazy," Jackson

said Saturday. "I'm not sure if I had 172, but I had a lot of text messages. It was kind of exciting for me."

Rogers and Jackson hit the biggest shots of their lives, producing two huge upsets and sealing their spots in school history and tournament lore. Now, they're trying to put all the accolades and extra attention aside and get ready for the next game — against each other no less — when 12U-seeded Western Kentucky (28-6) faces No. 13 seed San Diego (22-13) in the West Region today.

two years ago.

He got fired at Cincinnati — a school he led to the 1992 Final Four — after a drunken driving arrest, then sat out a season before surfacing at Kansas State in 2007. He took that team to the NIT, losing in the second round.

Now he's back home in West Virginia, at the school

he played for and back among basketball's elite.

"People think I sit around and think about that stuff. I don't," Huggins said in the hallway outside his team's locker room, his voice barely a whisper between bites of popcorn. "I don't think about the past. I mean, I try to learn from the past. But I don't dwell on the past."

And that is precisely the attitude he sought from West Virginia (26-10) after a first half in which it was outscored 34-29, missed 0-for-6 on 3-pointers and missed — by Huggins' count — five layups.

The Mountaineers gathered at the break to hear about their failings. And there was certainly some of that in Huggins' speech, delivered after his players heard a loud bang emanate from the coach's office. Some speculated it was the sound of a tossed chair, given that, as Ruoff put it, "He does that sometimes."

But Huggins actually offered a positive twist: "This message," Alexander said, "was that we couldn't play any worse and we were down by five."

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3/29/08 TWIN FALLS - CSI's Evergreen Bldg. Computer Lab C93 315 Falls Avenue

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Times-News
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Fish upsets Federer in Indian Wells semi

INDIAN WELLS, Calif. (AP) — No. 98 Mardy Fish stunned No. 1 Roger Federer 6-3, 6-2 Saturday in the Pacific Life Open semifinals. Fish, pulling off by far the biggest of a string of upsets he's put together in the tournament, dominated the match against the three-time Indian Wells champion.



Mardy Fish celebrates after winning a point during his 6-3, 6-2 win against Roger Federer in the semifinals of the Pacific Life Open tennis tournament in Indian Wells, Calif., Saturday.

The 26-year-old Fish, who ended Federer's 41-match win streak against Americans dating to a 2003 loss to Andy Roddick, moved into Sunday's final against Novak Djokovic, a 6-3, 6-2 winner over defending champion Rafael Nadal.

Federer's loss, even more surprising because it was so lopsided, continued his frustration this season. The once invincible-seeming Swiss star has lost three times this year, beaten by Djokovic in the Australian Open semifinals and Andy Murray in the opening round at Dubai.

The 26-year-old Federer had been slowed by mononucleosis earlier in the year but said during the Indian Wells tournament that he was OK again. Before facing Fish, he hadn't lost a set in the tournament and had a walkover in his Friday quarterfinal when Tommy Haas withdrew because of a sinus infection.

Federer looked like just another player Saturday, with his backhand especially mediocre. He hit just one winner and had 13 unforced errors with his backhand against his American foe. Fish kept constant pres-

sure on him, serving seven aces to Federer's two, and peppering the lines with hard groundstrokes. Fish hit 26 winners to Federer's 14 in defeating him for the first time in six career meetings.

"This obviously wasn't Roger's best day, but hopefully I had a little something to do with that. I put the pressure, extremely, on him from the word go," said Fish.

Australian Open champion Djokovic, ranked No. 3 to Nadal's No. 2, avenged last year's loss to the Spaniard in the Indian Wells final.

The 20-year-old Serbian served eight aces to two by Nadal, and hit 20 winners to the Spaniard's 11.

In Sunday's women's final, Ana Ivanovic will face Svetlana Kuznetsova.

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Airing their grievances

NEW TSA BLOG LETS PASSENGERS DO THE TALKING

By Megan K. Scott
Associated Press writer

NEW YORK — The name alone oozes suspense: "Evolution of Security," and the tagline adds a special thrilling kick: "Terrorists Evolve. Threats Evolve. Security Must Stay Ahead. You Play A Part."

It's not often that the federal government invites people to air their grievances. But the Transportation Security Administration is welcoming people to complain, criticize and question TSA operations on its "Evolution of Security" blog — tsa.gov/blog — which went live Jan. 30. A TSA blogger team reads all of the comments and posts almost all of them, no matter how harsh or how cranky the poster.

The blog's goal is to help TSA connect with passengers, says Christopher White, a TSA spokesman and a blogger. White and several others post four or five times a week with few editorial constraints.

"We are posting, 'why we do what we do,' 'how we do it,' and then the public is blogging back and commenting," says White. "It's a great way to get in touch with people."

TSA Administrator Kip Hawley kicked things off, with a "Welcome" message, where he wrote that in the airport rush, "there is no time to talk, to listen, to engage with each other" and not much opportunity for security officers to explain why certain policies are in place.

"The result is that the feedback and venting ends up circulating among passengers with no real opportunity for us to learn from you or vice versa," he said. "Our ambition is to provide here a forum for a lively, open discussion of TSA issues."

Within the first 24 hours of the blog, there were 700 comments, says White. Some praised TSA for creating the forum; some were skeptical; and others launched right into a list of gripes, ranging from the liquid rule to concern about catching germs from removing shoes. One poster claimed to have invented a machine to dispense surgical booties directly to passengers' feet — no bending down to put them on required.

The Evolution Blog Team answered several questions in subsequent posts.

One included a video of liquids blowing up and like a TSA Myth Busters page about liquids. In response to the germ question, the blog noted that the TSA commissioned a study in 2003 with the Department of Health and Human Services and found that if the floors aren't moist, then the possibility of contracting athlete's foot is



These photos were taken during security screening at Seattle-Tacoma International Airport in Seattle on May 31, 2007.

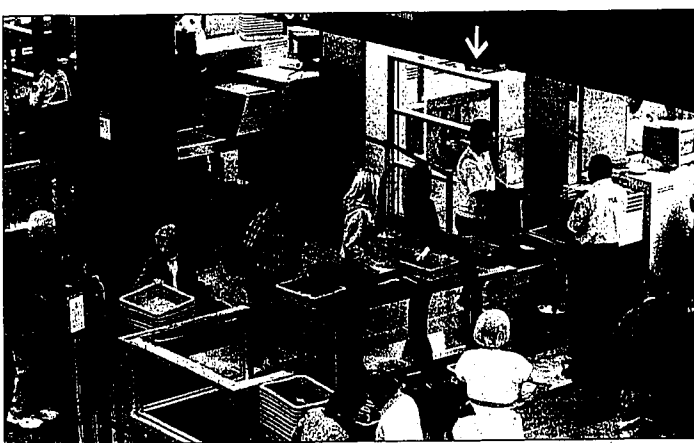
"extremely small to remote."

But some of the bluntness of the posters shows how deep public contempt for the TSA runs: "When can we quit this charade and begin to carry our water and toothpaste with us again?" and "I think you seriously need to stop stealing toiletries from people." An Associated Press poll in December found that only the Federal Emergency Management Agency ranked below the TSA among the least-liked federal agencies.

One poster wrote: "DHS (Department of Homeland Security) and TSA are fundamentally broken. Disband both immediately and return our civil liberties," before launching into a tirade. "Thank goodness Richard Reid did not conceal something in his underpants or these people would be strip-searching every poor grand-

ma... When asked if TSA was worried about such harsh criticism, White responded: "Not at all. We welcome that feedback." He said there is not much censorship on the posts; comments are deleted if they contain foul language, threats, attacks, or require TSA to divulge sensitive information. A Delete-O-Meter on the blog shows how many comments have been deleted so far — 112 as of early March.

So far, the blog has gotten a lukewarm response from aviation analysts, who praise the TSA for listening but wonder whether the agency can really



take action in response.

"There are a lot of legitimate grievances and complaints from the traveling public," says Richard Bloom, director of terrorism, intelligence and security studies at Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University. "To collect them and read them and think about them and take action is a positive thing to do."

But "only so much can be done to react to public feedback," he says, because of budget and political constraints. For example, can TSA

pay screeners more and provide better training?

White says in less than one week, posters impacted TSA operations. TSA learned that certain airports were requiring passengers to remove all electronics from carry-ons. TSA investigated and found out that local TSA offices set up the exercise. TSA had the exercises stopped and posted a "HOOTRAY BLOGGERS!" message.

"Blackberries, cords and iPods began to flow through checkpoints like the booz-

ing was flowing on Bourbon Street Tuesday night (Fat Tuesday of course)," the post read in language that was surprisingly glib for a government agency. (White says the blog is written in a style that is consistent with the blogosphere.)

TSA is also using the blog to solicit feedback on "Black Diamond," says White, a pilot program that allows passengers to choose a security line based on how comfortable they feel with the process.

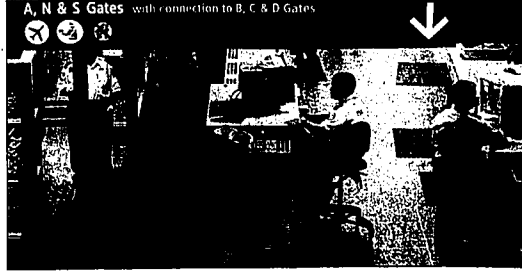
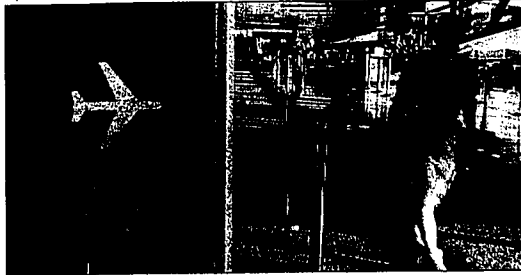
"Because of things like the

blog, we have decided to expand this program," he says.

Of course, not everyone's gripes can or will be addressed.

But posting to the blog is more constructive than complaining at the security checkpoint, says Jerry Chandler, a travel blogger for cheap-flights.com.

"You can do more than vent," says Chandler. "You can put yourself in a position where people are going to listen."



TWIN FALLS FORECAST

Today: Mostly cloudy, breezy and mostly dry. Highs near 60.
Tonight: Cloudy to mostly cloudy skies and possibly a few showers. Lows in the middle 30s.
Tomorrow: A touch cooler with mostly cloudy skies and scattered showers. Highs upper 50s, low upper 30s.

BURLEY/RUPERT FORECAST

Today: Morning sunshine with increasing afternoon clouds. Highs near 60.
Tonight: Mostly cloudy, cool and mostly dry. Lows in the middle 30s.
Tomorrow: Mostly cloudy to cloudy skies, a little cooler and mostly dry. Highs in the middle 50s.

IDAHO'S FORECAST

SUN VALLEY, SURROUNDING MTS.
Mostly dry for today in the mountains but scattered snow showers will become possible tonight. Light mountain snow is likely at times Monday and Tuesday. Lower elevations will see mixed showers.

Map of Idaho showing weather patterns and forecast details for various regions like Boise, Twin Falls, and Burley.

REGG MIDDLEKAUFF'S QUOTE OF THE DAY
I'm not the successful person I've known to be the who do things listening like thinking.

TWIN FALLS FIVE-DAY FORECAST

Table with 5 columns: Today, Tonight, Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday. Includes weather icons and temperature ranges.

ALMANAC - TWIN FALLS

Weather statistics including Temperature, Precipitation, Humidity, Barometric Pressure, Sunrise and Sunset, Moon Phases, and Moonrise and Moonset.

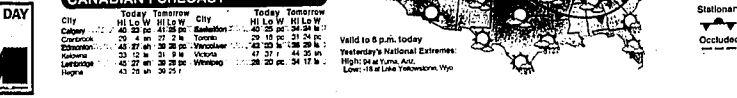
REGIONAL FORECAST

Table showing weather forecasts for various Idaho cities including Boise, Burley, and Twin Falls.

CANADIAN FORECAST

Table showing weather forecasts for various Canadian cities.

TODAY'S NATIONAL MAP



Hanging chads, historic ballot boxes in Montana State exhibit

BOZEMAN, Mont. (AP) — A new Montana State University exhibit on voting includes chads from the 2000 presidential election, historic ballot boxes, and a signed speech by President John Kennedy.

ing in this country has never been just a given, this exhibit invites us to think hard about both who we vote for and how our votes are counted," said Robert W. Rydell, MSU history professor and director of the Humanities Institute.

1 p.m. will launch the exhibit in Wilson Hall at MSU. It will be on display in the northwest corner of the hall's main floor through the fall semester and can be seen any time the building is open usually 7 a.m.-6 p.m., Monday-Friday.

Large advertisement for Career Fair with text: 'better pay. better boss. better hours. better hurry to the Southern Idaho Career Fair Tuesday • March 25 • 10-4 CSI Gymnasium'

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Sunday, March 23, 2008

THE ACES ON BRIDGE® Bobby Wolff

Dear Mr. Wolff:
Playing with a new partner for the first time in a matchpoint event, I held ♠ K-Q-2, ♥ —, ♦ K-10-4-3, ♣ K-Q-J-9-4-2. Our unopposed auction went as follows: 1♣ - 1♥ - 2♠ - 2♦ - 3♦ - 3♠ and so on ... We missed a slam because of a divergence of opinion about what the three-spade bid meant. Is it asking or telling, since we have already found a diamond fit?

Do Tell, Raleigh, N.C.

ANSWER: When you are below three no-trump, any call in the fourth suit works as a no-trump probe unless a major suit has been agreed upon and an eight-card fit guaranteed. It is only if the inquiring hand bids on over three no-trump that the probe becomes, in retrospect, a cuebid.

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GENERAL

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The Wood River Journal in Halley and Ketchum, Idaho has an immediate opening for a Managing Editor.

Applicant must have experience with AP style, have strong editing and headline writing skills, be proficient in page layout, and have experience managing a newsroom team. Knowledge of Quark Xpress, Adobe Photoshop, strong communication, organizational and management skills are necessary.

This is a full-time salaried position that offers health and dental insurance, paid vacations, holidays, and more. Plus the opportunity to work with a group of talented and hardworking people in the beautiful resort area of Sun Valley.

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Interested applicants should contact:
Trey Spaulding, Publisher,
The Wood River Journal, PO Box 988,
Halley, ID 83333
publisher@woodriverjournal.com EOE

Trey Spaulding, Publisher
The Wood River Journal
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Dear Mr. Wolff:
With ♠ A-7-2, ♣ A-2, ♠ A-J-9-6, ♣ Q-10-3-2, would you come into your opponents' auction after hearing one club on your left and one heart on your right? If so, what would you bid?

Courtesy Lion, Anchorage, Alaska

ANSWER: The choice between passing, doubling, and bidding one no-trump is indeed a close one. Your high cards make it safe to double. It's a little less safe to bid one no-trump since you can more easily get doubled for penalty. If you pass, you may find it more dangerous to balance at your next turn, so I would double now.

Dear Mr. Wolff:
When your partner opens one no-trump and the next hand over-calls to show the majors, we cannot agree on what a double should mean. Any ideas?

Boontown Rat, Trenton, NJ

ANSWER: I suggest that when a two-suited bid is made by naming one of the two suits, you play double as takeout. When the call is not in one of the suits held, play double to show cards, interested in defending. Pass then double is also takeout. Opener's first double after opening one no-trump facing a passing partner should always be takeout. All subsequent doubles by either player should be penalty, of course.

Dear Mr. Wolff:
Recently, you described a hand as a moose. Is this a Texas location or does it have a specific meaning known to bridge players?

Elke Club, North Hay, Ontario

ANSWER: A moose just means an enormous hand. For a second I was wondering whether you were kidding me as a Canadian, but then I realized I might be betraying my age by using an out-of-date term. It's not even in the Encyclopedia of Bridge ... I must be getting old!

Dear Mr. Wolff:
Just recently I read about a deal in which a player as a passed hand responded two clubs to one heart with a singleton club and nine points. Do people use this call as a cue-bid after passing?

Funny-Bunny Bid, Bristol, Va.

If you would like to contact Bobby Wolff, e-mail him at bobbywolff@mindspring.com
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501 Open House

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INSIDE: Senior calendar, F2 | Dear Abby, F3 | Horoscope, F3 | Stork report, F5 | Engagements, weddings, anniversaries, F5

Demure, NOT DULL

Twin Falls girls look for modest, attractive prom dresses

By Melissa Davlin
Times-News writer

Finding the perfect prom dress is an adventure already. What's in fashion? What's a reasonable price? What are the other girls wearing?

But Deldre Hegstrom and Alyssa Atkins have even more to juggle in their search for a gown.

The Twin Falls High School seniors are looking for modest prom dresses. Not only must the frocks cover their shoulders, backs and chest, but they also want their get-ups to look good.

"They're hard to find, but not impossible," Hegstrom, 17, says.

Modest dresses are abundant, she said, but many don't fit her tiny frame or are common with girls who dress conservatively.

"There are about three — dresses that go around Twin that every modest girl owns," Atkins, 18, says.

She and Hegstrom are looking for something special and are prepared to tear the town apart to find it.

Their first stop in their hunt during spring break is Marcia Jensen's Twin Falls home. Jensen, a family friend, has five daughters and a closet full of formal dresses and accessories.

Jensen purchased a few of the gowns in her arsenal with sleeves already



ABOVE: Alyssa Atkins, 18, at left and Deldre Hegstrom, 17, dig through a rack of dresses at Hart's Tax and Gowns on their second stop at the Twin Falls store in search of modest prom dresses. TOP: Hegstrom and Atkins look over a gown that could pass as modest, but both decide against trying it on Thursday afternoon during their shopping trip. They will head to Boise and Salt Lake City to look for different styles.

attached, but most were originally strapless or halter tops that she altered to fit her family's modesty standards.

The shortage of attractive modest dresses forced Jensen to flex her sewing muscles. One dress's sleeves are made from its own hem; another's are made from an accompanying shawl.

Now that her daughters are grown, she offers the

dresses up for her friends' children.

And it's a service that's much appreciated. Atkins arrives at Jensen's house with a blue dress under her arm to return to the collection. She wore the dress to a February dance and is ready to exchange it for a prom gown.

"Some of these dresses

Please see PROM, Page F3



Atkins, Hegstrom, and Marcia Jensen hold up prom dresses at Jensen's home in Twin Falls. Jensen has experience altering dresses to be more modest.

"They're hard to find, but not impossible."

— Deldre Hegstrom, 17, of modest prom dresses

Girls gone mild: Teens consider modesty

By Martha Waggoner
Associated Press writer

CARY, N.C. — Imagine a home with a teenage girl where the most contentious argument over clothes involves whether it's OK for the lace on a camisole to peek through the top or bottom of a shirt.

That seems to be the case with 15-year-old Morgan Morrisette, whose mother, Shelley, is the founder and organizer of a local Pure Fashion group, a Catholic-based organization that promotes modesty and purity among teenage girls.

"I think it's modest because it's a camisole with lace on it," Morgan says. "And my dad's like, 'you know what the guys think, they think it's underwear with lace on it.'"

It's a small quibble in these days where fashion seems to find a new body part to expose each season — from bare midriffs to cleavage to the cheeks not on the face.

Pure Fashion is one group of teenage girls moving the

other direction. At spring fashion shows by 18 affiliates in the U.S. and Canada, teens model clothes that abide by guidelines such as "necklines no lower than four fingers below the collar bone" and pants that fit loosely enough that they can be pulled away from the leg.

Groups such as Pure Fashion could be a mere blip on the fashion radar screen, aided by a poor economy that says hemlines go up when life is good and down when the dollar plummets. Or it might be the start of a movement to excise from public memory images of Janet Jackson's nipple or Britney Spears' nether regions.

Shelley Morrisette of Cary hopes it's the latter. She and Morgan went to a Pure Fashion Show in Atlanta two years ago, attended by about 2,200 people.

"At least for that day, everybody was embracing the message of modesty and

"Lots of girls have really good instincts but the media, peers — and sometimes even parents — can wear them down, all under the guise of empowerment."

— Wendy Shall, author of 1999's 'A Return to Modesty: Discovering the Lost Virtue' and 2007's 'Girls Gone Mild'

purity, and the girls were on board," Shelley Morrisette said of the Atlanta show. "It felt good. I think, to them, to know that there were others out there who want the same message."

When Pure Fashion began about 10 years ago, the fashion was cropped shirts with low-rise jeans. Keeping the girls' stomachs covered was the major issue, said Therese Walters, another mother involved in Pure Fashion.

"Today, the shirts are much longer, but now the challenge is the plunge, the cleavage, everything is cut so low and the spaghetti straps," Walters says.

Her daughter, Hannah, is a 17-year-old who attends a Catholic school. Cardinal Gibbons in Raleigh, Morgan is in her first year of public school, attending Green Hope High School, where she says she works at converting friends to dressing modestly.

They may have help this year, when a quick glance through stores shows high-collared, demure dresses and coats with names like "The Jackie" as in Kennedy or "The Audrey" as in Hepburn. In February, London Times fashion editor

Please see MODESTY, Page F3



From left, Christine Prosser, Gabrielle Fain and Maribeth Raab walk the runway during the Pure Fashion Show in April 2007.

ENGAGEMENTS

ELLIOTT-CAMPBELL

Mike and Cindy Elliott of Bliss announce the engagement of their daughter, Michelle Rae Elliott, to Michael Aaron Campbell, son of Susan and Diana Campbell of Turley.

Elliott is a 2006 graduate of Bliss High School and attends the College of Southern Idaho. She works at Twin Falls Care Center.

Campbell was home schooled and attends CSI. He works at the Gooding, Blasque Center.

The wedding is planned for



Michael Campbell and Michelle Elliott Friday, March 28. A reception will follow at 7 p.m. at the Gooding, Blasque Center.

HAZEN-HOLCOMB

Rebecca Hazen of Twin Falls announces the engagement of her daughter, Michelle Lynn Hazen, to Christopher Michael Holcomb, son of James Holcomb of Alta, Calif., and Cheryl and Andy Montaurer of Nevada City, Calif. Hazen is also the daughter of the late Floyd Hazen.



Christopher Holcomb and Michelle Hazen

Hazen is a 2001 graduate of Twin Falls High School and a 2005 graduate of Albion College of Idaho. She works at the Guidance Center in Flagstaff, Ariz., and will pursue a master's degree in counseling at Prescott College.

Holcomb is a 2007 graduate of Albion College of Idaho. He works at Grand

Canyon Trust in Flagstaff and is pursuing a master's degree in environmental science and policy at Northern Arizona University.

The wedding is planned for Sunday, July 27, in Stanley. The couple will reside in Flagstaff.

ANNIVERSARY

THE BAYSINGERS

Lloyd and Rosie Baysinger of Jerome will be honored at an open house for their 50th wedding anniversary. Friends and relatives are invited from 1 to 4 p.m. Saturday, March 29, at Jerome Senior Center, 212 West Ave. E.

Rosie Baysinger and Rosena "Rosie" Parks were married March 22, 1958, at the Christian Church in Jerome. They lived in Burley for 10 years and in Jerome for 40 years. He worked at Jerome Highway District for 30 years. She worked as a house cleaner.



Rosie and Lloyd Baysinger The event is hosted by their two children, Rose (Stan) Russell of Nampa and Lenora (Jo) Turner of Buhl. The couple has two grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.

STORK REPORT

St. Luke's Magic Valley Medical Center

Ashlynn Kaye Heller, daughter of Katie Nicole Suttom of Twin Falls, was born March 2, 2008.

Reld James Lancaster, daughter of Lindsay Jane Lancaster of Twin Falls, was born March 4, 2008.

Dorothy Gail Jensen, daughter of Emily Lea and Gary Louis Jensen of Bliss, was born March 4, 2008.

Reid Martin Holland, son of Sarah Beth and Matthew Martin Holland of Hagerman, was born March 8, 2008.

Connor Jay Huddleston, son of Lora Ellen and Sean Ernest Huddleston of Twin Falls, was born March 9, 2008.

Samara Anastasia McCartney, daughter of Margaret Ann and Samuel John McCartney of Twin Falls, was born March 10, 2008.

Tarj Robert Rodriguez, son of Cady Mae Christensen and Brian Albert Rodriguez Jr. of Jerome, was born March 10, 2008.

Elena Marie Koch, daughter of Maria Elena and Dustin Lee McKeane of Wendell, was born March 11, 2008.

Jeremiah Robert Brown, son of Rachel Dawn Boyer and Jacob Lee Brown of Twin Falls, was born March 11, 2008.

Karina Castro, daughter of Linda and Fidel Castro of Shoshone, was born March 11, 2008.

Molly Ashley Ann Jones, daughter of Julie Ann Lux and Mark Ernest Jones of Twin Falls, was born March 11, 2008.

Addison Lee Voss, daughter of Anissa June and Christopher Carl Voss of Buhl.

Carley Jean Baker, daughter of Angela Megumi and Christopher Lee Baker of Kimberly, was born March 12, 2008.

Olivia Anne Lohnes, daughter of Regina Lee and Bruce Alan Lohnes of Eden, was born March 12, 2008.

Logan Marcus Magee, son of Lisa Marie and Jonathan Michael Magee of Twin Falls, was born March 12, 2008.

Jaydan James Tibbets, son of Jacqueline Kay and Jeffery Dean Tibbets of Hagerman, was born March 12, 2008.

Landen Parker Peterson, son of Tabitha Yvonne Shives and Darlek Luke Peterson of Gooding, was born March 13, 2008.

Iman Omari Leon, son of Flor Morena Sedano and Glany Ivan Leon of Jerome, was born March 13, 2008.

Aunicea Fae Henage, daughter of Britney Leigh and Zachary Shake Jackson Henage of Jerome, was born March 13, 2008.

Raylee Lynn Palmer, daughter of Maggie Rose Louise and C.J. Palmer of Richfield, was born March 13, 2008.

Adalyn May Pearson, daughter of Rebecca Ann and David Arthur Pearson of Buhl, was born March 13, 2008.

Ashley Valencia, daughter of Lucilla and Fidel Valencia of Wendell, was born March 14, 2008.

Jacob Brent Wilson, son of Jennifer Ann and Richard Mario Wilson of Twin Falls, was born March 14, 2008.

Elijah Ryan Kelso, son of Ondrea Nicole and Ryan Hal Kelso of Twin Falls, was born March 15, 2008.

No such thing as 'just' a mother

By Lorraine V. Murray
Cox News Service

ATLANTA—The question arises at nearly every cocktail party. People hovering over the onion dip and meeting someone for the first time will inquire, "What do you do for a living?"

Psychiatrists can attest that their answer makes the onion-dip eaters look nervous, as if the doctor might detect their neuroses on the spot.

English teachers often get the reaction, "Oh, I'll be careful with my grammar around you!"

But the mention of one profession often leads to a stunned silence.

"Just a mother," somebody will reply. This elicits a polite grimace from the questioner, who suddenly remembers he must refresh his drink.

Problem is, mothering lacks wages, benefits and promotions, so many people think it is a worthless undertaking.

As for me, I think motherhood is one of the greatest professions ever, and I deeply admire women who pursue it full time.

Sill, I wish they'd come up with a new description.

Saying "I'm just a mother" is like saying "I'm just a saint or just a hero. It's like saying I'm just a Nobel Prize winner or just the inventor of the wheel."

When the first baby is cooing in the crib, a mother's tasks seem endless and unwieldy, and it might be tempting to disparage them.

"The baby eats and grows hungry again, almost instantly."

The baby has to be changed, countless times.

The baby cries and has to be comforted.

Even with these basic tasks, though, something wondrous is happening. The baby is "just" learning that someone loves him and someone will take care of him.

Before long, there may be another baby in the crib, and the job responsibilities of motherhood increase exponentially.

At the same time she is giving round-the-clock care to the new infant, she must

explain to a toddler why the sky is blue and what makes a cow say moo.

And how to protect their children from more difficult. And Mom "just" has to know ethics, geography, history and science.

She must teach children how to be a true friend. How to control their tempers.

Much of mothering involves scrubbing, dusting, sweeping and laundry, and many people look down their noses at these down-to-earth tasks.

But really, what is more soul-nourishing than a clean home, fresh clothing and a hot meal on the table?

"There's no place like home" was the mantra of Dorothy in "The Wizard of Oz," and the truth of that statement has never diminished. Anyone in the saturated world can attest to the lovely mental image of home that soothes the heart during the most stressful moments on the job.

Many are able to endure the terrible long commute to a clean home, fresh clothing and a hot meal on the table?

Then being mobbed by little children running to hug their knees.

Home truly is where the heart is.

And the mothers who reign there keep the rest of the world spinning for the entire family.

If you are a full-time mother, please do me a favor. Next time you're at a party and someone asks what you do for a living, tell them that you run the world.

Lorraine V. Murray's new book is "Confessions of an Ex-Feminist" (Aqueduct Press). She also is the author of "Grace Notes: Embracing the Joy of Christ in a Broken World" and "Why Me? Why Now? Finding Hope When You Have Breast Cancer."

RICHARDSON-BOWMAN

Brook and Kelly Brodeen of Twin Falls announce the engagement of their daughter, Ashlee Marie Richardson, to Phillip Bowman, son of Gary McHardie of Boise and Elaine Bowman of Twin Falls. Richardson attends the College of Southern Idaho, pursuing a social work degree. She works at Casey's Kids Daycare in Twin Falls.



Ashlee Richardson and Phillip Bowman

Bowman was honorably discharged from the U.S. Marine Corps and received a Purple Heart.

He works at Stutzman

Excavating in Twin Falls. The wedding is planned for 6 p.m. Friday, July 25, at T-T Ranch in Twin Falls. A reception will follow.

WEDDINGS

GRILL-KLEINKOPF

Natalie Suzanne Grill and Brett Mack Kleinkopf were married March 8 at Venetian Resort in Las Vegas.

The bride is the daughter of Dr. Robert and Sarah Grill of Twin Falls. The groom is the son of Kurt and Patty Kleinkopf of Twin Falls.

The Rev. Jack Williams officiated.



Natalie and Brett Kleinkopf

Katie Grill, sister of the bride, was maid of honor. Bridesmaids were Eleanor Jones and Kylie Pierce, friends of the bride, and Katy Kleinkopf, sister of the groom.

John Beck, friend of the groom, was best man. Groomsman was Travis Hofland, friend of the groom.

Special guests included Jerry and Donna Kleinkopf of Twin Falls, grandparents of the groom; and Eleanor Babcock of Placenta, Calif., and Geraldine Grill of Seal

Beach, Calif., grandmothers of the bride.

A wedding-dinner reception was held March 22 at Blue Lakes Country Club in Twin Falls.

The bride is a nurse at Boise Asthma and Allergy Clinic. The groom is an assistant golf professional at Hillcrest Country Club in Boise.

The couple resides in Boise.

DARRINGTON-RICE

Jill Darrington and Steven William Rice were married March 22 at the Boise LDS Temple.

The bride is the daughter of Tim and Jana Darrington of Declo. The groom is the son of Mike and Bonnie Rice of Meridian.



Jill and Steven Rice

The bride is a graduate of Declo High School and is pursuing a master's degree and graduate certificate in gerontology at Boise State University. She works at Idaho Health Care Association—Idaho Center for Assisted Living in Boise.

The groom is a graduate of Meridian High School and attends BSU, pursuing a degree in construction management. He is a self-employed, college pro fran-

chise owner in the Meridian and Eagle areas.

A reception will be held from 7 to 9 p.m. Friday, March 28, at the Declo LDS Stake Center. An open house will be held from 7 to 9 p.m. Saturday, March 29, at the Rice residence in Meridian.

The couple will reside in Meridian.

Weekly deadline

Times-News welcomes engagement, wedding and anniversary announcements and photos. (That is, anniversaries of 50 years or more.) To submit an announcement, e-mail it to rmonan@magivalley.com. The photo needs to be sent in jpeg format as an attachment. The deadline is 5 p.m. Tuesday for publication the following Sunday.

How to pick out the best shoes for your toddler

By Beth Whitehouse
Newsday

Question: How important are really good toddler shoes? My 19-month-old is walking and running like crazy, and I haven't purchased a really good pair of walking shoes. They seem nice, but I will purchase them if they really make a difference.

Answer: Buying shoes at a specialty store would be more important for ensuring the correct fit than for the actual shoe, said Dr. Piskin, chief of podiatry at North Shore University Hospital in Manhasset, N.Y.

"Toddlers grow so rapidly, you have to have a shoe that fits properly, has room for growth and is very flexible," Piskin said. "The most important thing initially is that there is no irritating factor." The shoe shouldn't be too tight or rub anywhere, he said.

If you think you can properly size a shoe yourself, adhere to the following guidelines, Piskin said.

"Take the shoe in your hand and bend it—it should bend right at the ball of the foot, Piskin said. "If you can't bend it in your hand, you should not buy the toddler that shoe," Piskin said. Then put the shoe on the child and be sure that when the child walks or runs, the shoe is bending at the ball of his foot. That would ensure the best fit, Piskin said.

Piskin recommends a canvas or leather shoe, rather than synthetic material that doesn't breathe well. He also recommends a rubber or leather sole. "My rule of thumb is the earlier the stage of walking, the thinner and

more flexible the sole should be."

Dr. Robert Eckles, a podiatrist and dean for clinical education at New York College of Podiatric Medicine in Manhattan, agrees that sole flexibility is key. "There was in my lifetime, growing up, a tendency to want to put toddlers in these stiff-soled, laced shoes. Sometimes they were like little boots," Eckles said. "I don't think that's beneficial at all, and it may in some instances not be good."

A toddler really needs all the balance he can get, and a stiff-soled shoe doesn't allow the

foot to bend. You should look for something that mimics the child being barefoot, Eckles said.

"There is only one requirement—that the bottom of the child's foot is protected from things that could hurt the foot. Protect them from things that are sharp. And they should have traction. You don't want to put kids in something smooth on the bottom. You don't want to have them fall more than they already do."

If you look for any kind of support, it should be a little support in the arch, not the

ankles, Piskin said. "Toddlers have such a flat foot, a little bit of arch support is OK," he said.

Only in cases in which the child is experiencing problems—such as being pigeon-toed—might he need special accommodations. But then the child should see a podiatrist, because the child might need more than just a particular kind of shoe, Eckles said.

When a child is 3 or 4, he develops a heel-to-toe walking gait and a different kind of shoe might become more appropriate, both doctors said.

SINUSITIS or COLD?

Because the symptoms of sinusitis sometimes mimic those of colds, you may not realize that you need to see a Sinus Specialist. If you suspect that you have sinusitis, review these signs and symptoms. If you suffer from three or more symptoms, Sinus Center-Idaho can help!

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Facial pressure/pain	Over 10-14 days	Sometimes
Duration of illness	Over 10-14 days	Under 10 days
Nasal Discharge	Thick, yellow green	Thick whitish or thin
Fever	Sometimes	Sometimes
Headache	Sometimes	Sometimes
Pain in upper teeth	Sometimes	No
Bad Breath	Sometimes	No
Coughing	Sometimes	Yes
Nasal Congestion	Yes	Yes
Sneezing	No	Yes

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Floating with 'Fabulous Fishes'

Artist brings underwater creatures to life

By Raymond M. Lane
Special to The Washington Post

WASHINGTON — "I start with words," says author-illustrator Susan Stockdale. "Spiked fish, striped fish, sand fish, land fish, clownfish, round fish — anything that comes out of my head. I want to hear what my book might sound like first."

Stockdale, a mother of two who lives in Chevy Chase, Md., is explaining how her newest work, "Fabulous Fishes," came to be. Like her previous books, it's mostly for young children, but don't be fooled by the simple rhyming pattern. Every turn of the page reveals vivid paintings of exotic as well as common underwater creatures to delight all ages.

If the paintings are the feast, Stockdale's words are the dessert. And she selects them carefully.

"Words are always important, and they were really fun when I was growing up," she says. Her childhood was spent in Florida and Ireland, where her father was U.S. ambassador. Stockdale fondly recalls how her mother, a published poet, used words "creatively to enchant her five kids."

"Mom would make things up, right at the dinner table: 'Suzie, Sozie, strong and able, get your elbows off the table,' for example," she says, laughing. "Who can forget to keep their elbows off the table with such a line from their mother?"

Words were just the beginning of "Fabulous Fishes."

"Once I had them down on paper I had to go right to the library because I didn't know what I was talking about," she says, laughing again. "Clownfish? Spiked fish? I made all that up in my head."

Apparently Stockdale hadn't seen "Finding Nemo," because it was at the library she discovered that "strong enough, there is a clownfish, a beautiful striped thing that lives among poisonous sea anemones. And there really is a spiked fish, the porcupinefish."

That was just the beginning of a year of hard work to produce the book.

Scientific help came from experts at the Smithsonian's National Museum of Natural History and the Monterey Bay Aquarium in California.

Stockdale and her husband even took up snorkeling so she could be "right in the water with the fish." Her biggest thrill was when her snorkeling guide waved her over, pulled back a rock and there, looking up at her, was a porcupinefish — the spiked fish of her story!

The porcupinefish, when frightened, puffs itself up so it won't fit in a predator's mouth.

"This little guy was all eyes and a tiny mouth and this big, puffy body," she recalls. "It was so cute, I think I smiled so hard I nearly drowned."

Back on land, the challenge was to capture what she "felt about that fish," not precisely what it looked like. "That's what art does," she explains. "If you wanted something exact, do a photo. But art is something different, something deeper."

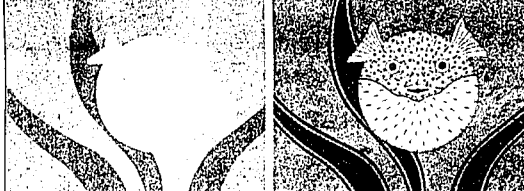
It's a feeling she first experienced when she was 5 and went to an arts camp in Florida.

"I did this animal drawing, and I remember being so excited about creating art and just being with people who did art," she says. "It's what I tell all the kids when I do school visits: You can be an artist and write books if you just try."

Stockdale visits 50 to 60 schools each year. "Every time I'm in a classroom, I hear kids say, 'When I grow up I'm going to be a painter or writer or whatever. I always ask, 'Are you doing art today? Are you writing today?'"

If the answer is yes, she responds: "Then you are a painter, you are a writer, a poet. You don't have to wait to be 53 years old like me. You can do art right now."

To learn more about Stockdale, go to www.susanstockdale.com.



Creating and re-creating

Using her close encounter with the porcupinefish while snorkeling, along with images from the Internet and books from the library, artist Susan Stockdale set about creating a spiked fish for her new book. After a few sketches, she settled on one idea — "the little

guy looking right at me. Just like when we met underwater" — and transferred that outline onto tracing paper and then onto Bristol paper, the thick paper on which she paints.

"Each step has its own rhyme and reason," she says. "After the lines are inked in, I begin

experimenting with color, sometimes doing a dozen different patterns until I get it right."

Once satisfied with an image, she applies coats of paint. Each color is mixed to create a picture found nowhere else in the world.



TOP: Chevy Chase, Md., author-illustrator Susan Stockdale tries to capture how she feels about her subjects: "If you wanted something exact, do a photo. But art is something different, something deeper."

ABOVE: Stockdale in 1958 with her first book, poems of prayer and thanksgiving by Io Orleans.

"Spiked fish, striped fish, sand fish, land fish, clownfish, round fish — anything that comes out of my head. I want to hear what my book might sound like first."

— Susan Stockdale

Virginia fifth-graders write, illustrate and publish their 'Underground' adventures

By Maira E. McLaughlin
The Washington Post

WASHINGTON — It all started with a single sentence: "I'm Danny and I'm a regular boy."

Sean Pickering was in second grade when he wrote that. His mom wanted him to practice writing. Little did either of them think that those seven words would one day become the opening line of a 78-page book, "The Adventures of Danny and Spike Underground."

How did Sean go from one sentence to a published book?

A year ago he enlisted two friends and classmates, Scott Morrill and Dylan Peacock, to help him. The three fourth-graders sat in the back of the bus on their way to Pinebrook Elementary School in Aldie, Va., discussing the book's characters: Danny, Sean, Dylan, Rachel and two talking dogs, Spike and Scotty.

At lunchtime they would talk some more and put their thoughts on paper.

"We just started writing,"

Author tips

Sean Pickering offers this advice to young authors:

- **Write something different and interesting.**
- **To get ideas,** ask your friends what they would like to read about.
- **Rewrite.** A story is never perfect. It can always be improved.
- **Never give up.** Don't let anyone discourage you.

Sean says. "We'd think about stuff and think about ideas."

Dylan was the main writer, Sean was the illustrator, and Scott, the boys agreed, was the "idea man." One of Scott's ideas was to name a dog after himself. "I like being a dog," he says.

Sometimes the three would disagree. For example, Sean thought the main character's full name should be Danny Fitzgerald Robinson. Dylan and Scott said that sounded weird. They still haven't resolved the name problem: Danny has no last name in the book.

Do you have the write stuff?

A Kansas City, Kan., publisher has a contest for young authors who would like to be published. There are three age categories: 6-9, 10-13 and 14-19.

One author from each group will receive \$15,000 for college and a trip to Kansas to have his or her book edited before it is published by the company, Landmark House Ltd. To be considered, a book must have been written and illustrated by one person. There is an entry fee of \$20, and all entries must be postmarked by June 1.

For contest rules and other information: www.landmarkhouse.com/scripts/contest.asp.

Classmates asked if they could be characters in the book.

And although the story is based in part on people they know — the boys wouldn't say who — mostly it's a fantasy about kids (and talking dogs) who ride a magic subway and meet good and bad dwarves, mean pythons, goblins, fairies and a Dark Wizard.

Writing and illustrating the book took about a year. The boys' parents and teachers helped edit it.

"I knew I wanted to try to get it published," says Sean. So they pooled their money and came up with \$500 to

have five copies printed. Their parents helped pay for more.

The book came out in October and has sold more than 500 copies. One day in November it was Number 43 on the top-100 list of Barnes and Noble.

The boys have had newspaper interviews and book signings. Sean says he gets "kind of nervous talking to strangers."

He better get used to it. The boys are working on a sequel about Danny, Spike and their friends — a longer story that has aliens and a faraway place called Puppy Planet.

BOOK REVIEW

Pets 'Who Changed Civilization'

The Washington Post

"100 Dogs Who Changed Civilization" and "100 Cats Who Changed Civilization," both by Sam Stall

You've heard of man's best friend, the dog. This book spotlights 100 best friends for their feats of heroism, acts of love and contributions to the sciences and arts.

There's Laika, a simple mutt from the streets of Moscow who became the first earthling in space. Her historic 1957 flight handed the Russians a major victory in the race to land a man on the moon. (Laika died several hours into her mission, however, probably from fright.)

And there's Ginny, a schnauzer/husky mix who was named "Cat of the Year" in New York because of her knack for finding and rescuing stray cats and kittens. Not a dog person? Not to worry. Check out the

author's companion book, "100 Cats Who Changed Civilization." Featured felines include Oscar, a shipboard cat who survived three sinkings in World War II, and Palcinella, a composer's cat who inspired 18th-century harpsichord sonatas by walking up and down the keyboard.



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Map of booth locations..... pages 10-11
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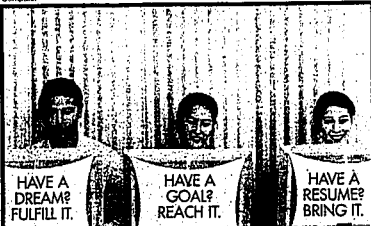


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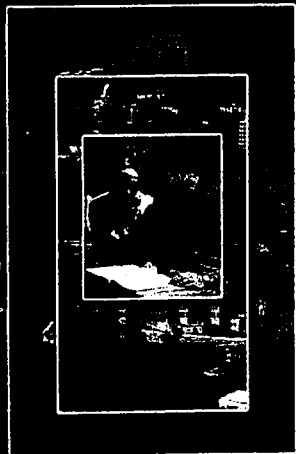


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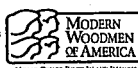
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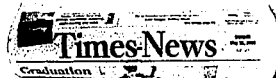


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