

WHERE'S GANNON?

State senator leaves '08 session early.

PLAYING COWBOY

Valley residents revive old West.

FIND A CAREER

6th Annual Southern Idaho Career Fair can help you find your way to success.

COUNTRY ROADS, D1

TODAY AT CSI

Good Morning

High: 52

Low: 35

Cloudy, slight chance of showers. Details: B6

Times-News

TUESDAY

March 25, 2008

75 cents

MagicValley.com

Court requires INL to remove nuclear waste

Decision upheld in circuit court to remove all transuranic waste

By Matt Christensen
Times-News writer

The 9th Circuit Court of Appeals has affirmed an earlier federal district court decision requiring the federal government to remove all transuranic nuclear waste from the Idaho National Laboratory near Idaho Falls.

The ruling is a victory for the state of Idaho, which has pushed

the federal government to remove buried nuclear waste from the site since the late 1980s, and a setback for the federal government, which has said removing all the waste is unnecessary and too expensive.

"We're happy about this, of course," said Curt Fransen, deputy director of the state's Department of Environmental Quality.

The decision from the three-judge panel means the federal Department of Energy will have to remove tens of thousands of cubic meters of nuclear waste from the site by 2018, Fransen said. The DOE had proposed removing just a fraction of the waste.

The case stems from a 1995

WHAT'S THAT?

Transuranic means heavier than uranium. Transuranic elements do not produce the amount of heat or penetrating radiation that fission products do, but they take much longer to decay. Transuranic wastes account for most of the radioactive hazard remaining in high-level waste after a thousand years.

Source: U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission

agreement between the state and the federal government brokered by then-Gov. Phil Batt. In the deal, commonly called the Batt

Agreement, the feds agreed to remove all transuranic waste at the site.

But shortly after the agreement was reached, the federal government began to question what it had agreed to.

"This whole case," Fransen said, "is about the word 'all' — whether 'all' means 'all.'"

The DOE argued it was not obligated to remove all the waste. The state of Idaho — and the courts — have disagreed.

Last week's decision marked the second time the buried waste question has gone before the 9th

Please see INL, Page A3

MYSTERIOUS SOUNDS

Air Force admits role in Monday blasts

Theories remain for cause of last week's rumblings

By Matt Christensen
Times-News writer

The Air Force says it may have caused a series of earth-rattling rumbles heard Monday morning in western Twin Falls County but it continues to deny responsibility for similar sounds reported last week across the region.

The most recent noises, which shook houses in Hagerman and were heard in Twin Falls, may have been caused by aircraft flying 30 miles west of Twin Falls, said Air Force Staff Sgt. Rodney Ivey at Mountain Home Air Force Base.

"We did have a situation," he said Monday afternoon. "Something happened today. We were doing some flying close to that area, and because of atmospheric conditions, (witnesses) could be hearing aircraft."

Please see SOUNDS, Page A3

Changing definitions



Ana Rosa Vega, 21, a full-time student at the College of Southern Idaho, exits the library Monday afternoon on the campus. CSI is planning on tuition changes for next year that will raise per-credit costs of full-time enrollment and drop the price for students enrolled part-time.

Some students split on proposal to change tuition, definition of full-time, part-time students

By Andrea Gates
Times-News writer

The College of Southern Idaho Student Senate Monday discussed the array of student support it has heard for proposed tuition changes at the college.

Hours later, the CSI Board of Trustees heard about the issue during a regular meeting.

Under the proposal, the definition of a full-time student would change from one taking 10 credits to one taking 12. The plan calls for a \$10 reduction in the cost per credit for part-timers from \$105, which is the current charge, to \$95.

But it would mean an increase in tuition for full-time students taking at least 12 credits — they

would pay \$90 more, compared to current charges.

The plan was endorsed by the Student Senate — a group of full-time students — said CSI Dean of Students Graydon Stanley. "I thought it was unselfish on their part."

About 64 percent of CSI students are taking fewer than 12 credits, according to the college.

Twenty-five students recently shared their opinions on a survey dispersed during student elections March 10-14, Stanley said.

"It was an equal split, close to 50-50," said Karlee Hatfield, a CSI Student Senate member.

During Monday's Student Senate meeting, Hatfield said

Please see CSI, Page A3

A strong little survivor

Baby born after mother's accident defies odds

By Cassidy Friedman
Times-News writer

Not long after her mom died in January, Baby Shay, no bigger than a fist, lay on her great-grandmother Elmorne Vance's chest, listening to her great-grandma's heartbeat.

For several hours the two lay together alone in a room and bonded. Vance, at that time, did not know how Shay was going to recover from her emergency delivery by cesarean-section.

But today, Baby Shay has not only survived a Dec. 30 car crash from which

Please see SURVIVOR, Page A3



Known as Baby Shay, the infant daughter of Shaylin Davis now has the legal name of Katelyn Shay Bates.

Cost of cancer treatment putting doctors, patients in tight spot

By Lauran Neergaard
Associated Press writer

WASHINGTON — You've just been diagnosed with cancer, and the doctor is discussing treatment options. Should the cost be a deciding factor? Chemotherapy costs are rising so dramatically that later this year, oncologists will get their first guidelines on how to have a straight talk with patients about the affordability of treatment choices, a topic too often sidestepped.



On the Web

Prescription assistance programs:
<http://www.pparx.org>

"These are awkward discussions," says Dr. Allen Lichter of the American Society of Clinical Oncology, which is writing the guidelines. "At least we can bring this out in the open."

It's a particular issue for patients

whose cancer can't be cured but who are seeking both the longest possible survival and the best quality life — and may be acutely aware that gaining precious months could mean bankrupting their families.

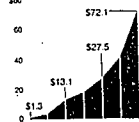
The prices can be staggering. Consider: There are two equally

effective options to battle metastatic colon cancer, the kind spreading through the body — but one costs \$60,000 more than the other, says Dr. Leonard Saltz of Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center.

Please see COSTS, Page A3

High cost of treating cancer

Since 1963, the cost of treating cancer has risen continuously, reaching \$72.1 billion in 2004.



SOURCE: National Cancer Institute

At Your Service directory	C6	Classifieds	C3-8	Dear Abby	B5	Movies	A5, C2	Opinion	A6-7
Bridge	C7	Comics	B4-5	Horoscope	B4	Manual Funds	B5	Sports	B1
Calendar	A2	Country Roads	D1-2	Jumble	C5	Nation	A5	Sudoku	C4
		Crossword	C8	Magic Valley	C1	Obituaries	C2	Weather	B8

TODAY'S FORECAST

TWIN FALLS

Today	Tonight	Wednesday
Mostly cloudy, slight chance of showers	A slight chance of showers	A touch cooler with showers possible
High 52	Low 35	47/31

MINI-CASSIA

Today: A slight chance of showers. Light westerly winds. Highs in the middle 50s.
 Tonight: Mostly cloudy with a small chance of rain or mixed rain and snow showers. Lows in the middle 30s.
 Tomorrow: Cooling off slightly. A better chance of showers. Highs in the middle 40s.

Complete weather report: See page B6

TODAY'S HAPPENINGS

CLUBS AND ORGANIZATIONS
 Magic Valley Troutmasters meeting and no-host lunch, with a focus on teaching and encouraging members in communication and leadership skills, noon, Golden Corral, 1823 Blue Lakes Blvd., Twin Falls, new members welcome, 736-2010.

FESTIVALS AND FAIRS
 The 6th Annual Southern Idaho Career Fair, includes representatives from wide variety of businesses, schools and agencies, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., College of Southern Idaho gymnasium, Twin Falls, no cost, 735-3267.

GOVERNMENT
 Twin Falls County commissioners, 8:30 a.m., courthouse, 425 Shoshone St. N., 736-4068.
 Blaine County commissioners, 9 a.m., courthouse, 206 First Ave. S., Hailley, 785-5500.
 Jerome County commissioners, 9 a.m., courthouse, 300 N. Lincoln, 644-2700.
 Jerome School Board, 7 p.m., Carter Luther Vocational Ag. Building, high school, 104 Tiger Drive, 324-2392 ext.1010.
 Twin Falls City Planning and Zoning Commission, 6 p.m., council chambers, 305 Third Ave. E., 735-7267.
 Glenns Ferry City Council, 7 p.m., City Hall, 110 E. Second St., 366-7418.
 Jerome City Planning and Zoning Commission, 7 p.m., council chambers, 100 E. Ave. A, 342-8189.
 Shoshone Planning and Zoning Commission, 7 p.m., City Hall, 207 S. Rail St. W., 886-2030.
 Hagerman Planning and Zoning Commission, City Hall, 191 State St. N., 837-6636.

HEALTH AND RECOVERY
 College of Southern Idaho's Over 60 and Getting Fit programs, 9 to 10 a.m. at Fil Elementary and Hagerman High School Gym; and 10:30 to 11:30 a.m. at the old gym in Buhl, no cost, 732-6475.
 Fit and Fall Proof Exercise Class, 10 to 11 a.m., Living Waters Presbyterian Church, 821 E. Main St., Wendell, no cost, 737-5988.
 Fit and Fall Proof Exercise Class, 10:30 a.m., First Segregation Fire Station, Edon, no cost, 737-5988.

Ongoing exercise program for people with Parkinson's disease, offered by Magic Valley Regional Medical Center, 11 a.m. to noon, the Episcopal Church of the Ascension, 371 Eastland Drive N., Twin Falls, no cost, 737-2977.
 SilverSnakers Fitness Program, innovative exercise program designed specifically for Medicare beneficiaries' unique health and physical needs, 11:15 a.m. to noon, Twin Falls YMCA, 1751 Elizabeth Blvd., no cost for HumanInsured or YMCA members and \$5 per class for non-insured, 733-4384.
 Free Immunizations for South Central Idaho teens ages 12-18, includes Tdap (adult tetanus, diphtheria and pertussis), Hepatitis A and B, MMR, Meningitis and Chickenpox; does not include HPV (cervical cancer vaccine), 4 to 6 p.m., South Central Public Health District office, 1020 Washington St. N., Twin Falls, 737-5266 by appointment only.
 Arthritis Walking Class, 5:15 to 6:15 p.m., First Christian Church, 601 Shoshone St. N., Twin Falls, no cost, 737-5988.
 Adult Children Anonymous (A.C.A.) meeting, for individuals recovering from alcoholic or dysfunctional family environment, 6 p.m., Canyon View Psychiatric and Addiction Services, 228 Shoup Ave. W. (west entrance), Twin Falls, no cost, 308-5656.
 Mini-Cassia Shelter for Women & Children women's support group, 6 p.m., 123 S. C. St., Rupert, (208) 436-0987.
 Celebrate Recovery, a place to learn life-affirming, healthy behaviors, 7:30 p.m., Magic Valley Evangelical Free Church, 821 H. Ave. E. Jerome, 324-7237.

HOBBIES AND CRAFTS

Burley Bluegrass Jam, traditional bluegrass focus (all skill levels welcome), 7 to 10 p.m., The Chadwick Grille, 139 W. Main St., corner of Main and Oakley, Burley, (208)670-4858 or robcurtis@gmail.com.

MUSEUMS

Faulkner Planetarium "Blown Away: The Wild World of Weather" 7 p.m., Herrett Center for Arts and Science, north end of the College of Southern Idaho campus, Twin Falls, \$4 for adults, \$3 for senior citizens, \$2 for students and \$9 for families, 732-6655.

To have an event listed, please submit the name of the event, a brief description, time, place, cost and contact number to: Suzanne Browne, by e-mail at sbrowne@magicvalley.com; by fax, 732-6655; or by mail, Times-News, PO Box 548, Twin Falls, ID 83303-0548. Deadline is noon, four days in advance of the event.

Snowpack levels

Watershed	% of Avg	% Season	Upper Snake Basin	97%	91%
Salmon	107%	99%	Oakley	102%	100%
Big Wood	98%	91%	Salmon Falls	98%	95%
Little Wood	92%	98%	* A comparison of basin snowpack on this day, with a 30-year average.		
Big Lost	91%	94%	** An indicator of basin snowpack for the entire snow season, which peaks in spring.		
Little Lost	102%	95%			
Henrys Fork/Teton	106%	99%			

www.magicvalley.com

MORNING BRIEFING



... don't say ... Steve Crump

T.F. scouting won't be the same without Nelson

When you say "Boy Scouts of America" in Twin Falls, you're talking about Steve Nelson. Nelson, the director of the 6,500-scout Smoke House Council for the past six years, is leaving soon to head the Philmont Scout Camp in the Sangre de Cristo Mountains on northern New Mexico. "The facility gets about 25,000 scouts a year," Nelson said, an eastern Idaho native who has been involved with scouting since age 14. "It's a major destination area for scouts."

Philmont covers 137,493 acres — 215 square miles — of mountain wilderness, and includes 32 staffed camps and 50 unstaffed camps in terrain that ranges from 6,500 feet to 12,441 feet. "It's a tremendous opportunity," Nelson says. "The director of the Snake River Council is leaving behind hundreds of friends — and his daughter, who's attending the College of Southern Idaho. "I'll never forget," he said. "Philmont, a Boy Scout wilderness camp since 1938, was part of a ranch chartered by the Mexican government in 1841 ... Kit Carson once lived there, and the spread was a stop on the Santa Trail, bringing American trade goods in New Mexico. "It's an ideal place for Scouts," he said.

Share the news
 If it's new, quirky, odd, silly or poignant and it happens in south-central Idaho, I want to know about it. Call me at 735-3223, or write to him scrump@magicvalley.com.

FIFTY YEARS OF POLISHING RINGS
 In the mid-1960s, Duane Rasmussen got a big break — his friend Don Jensen, owner and founder of Jensen Jewelers in Twin Falls, was ready to expand to a second store, and Rasmussen was ready to get to work. "I had just finished two years at Boise Junior College, and he was going to enroll at Idaho State University to get a business degree, but the number of prerequisite classes was daunting ... "I thought, hell with it, I'm ready to get out in the real world."

Jensen bought an existing jewelry shop in Burley called Scholers and opened the second Jensen store ... He made Rasmussen the store manager ... Things worked out. Rasmussen was a natural-born salesman, and he hit the ground running. "There were three other jewelry stores in Burley at the time ... The downtown area was vibrant ... Even today, the Jensen jewelry store continues to thrive because Rasmussen took care of his customers. "It's the last one standing

— all of the other jewelry stores that used to exist in Burley are gone," says Brad Siegel, chief operations officer of Jensen Jewelers in Twin Falls. "The jewelry business is built entirely around trust ... And when you get a guy who's been in the business that long — that trust is like concrete." ... A Twin Falls native, Rasmussen, 65, is retiring after 50 years of service with Jensen Jewelers ... He will continue to work diamond shows and elk ivory shows for Jensen from time to time, but after the end of this month, he'll have more free time to pursue his own personal interests with his wife, Monica, and with his hunting and fishing buddies ... Rasmussen's career with Jensen actually began in 1958, when he was a freshman in high school, and Jensen needed someone to sweep the floors and wash windows, among other chores ... The Jensen family were friends of the Rasmussen family ... "Tragedy struck while Rasmussen was in BJIC, and his father was killed in an automobile wreck ... Being a friend of the family, Jensen reached out to the young man and helped him get started in his career ... "Don kind of took him under his wing and gave him a new start in life," Siegel says ... "Don and I used to go fishing together, play golf and go pheasant hunting together," Rasmussen says. "He was a great guy." ... In the early days, Jensen

stores sold not only jewelry but things such as tool sets, pots and pans, stereos, trinkets, clocks and other hardware items. "We carried a broad mix of items to get people to come into the store," he says. ... But after a while, people in Burley got to know Rasmussen on a personal basis, and he was a fun guy to be around ... Remae Samples, for example, befriended Rasmussen because she worked at Parsons Insurance nearby, and she'd cut through the jewelry store on the way to the coffee shop ... "If you keep doing that, you're going to have to pay a toll to get through the door," Rasmussen joked ... "I've always loved the attention, and he and Samples formed a friendship that's lasted over 35 years ... She'd bring him brownies for his birthday and Christmas every year, and she'd volunteer to wrap Christmas gifts for customers ... When a reporter was in the Burley store recently talking to Rasmussen about his life, Samples wandered in to say hello ... "Go to hell," he said as a greeting to Samples, who just laughed and said, "I've already been there." ... Stop by and bid Rasmussen adieu on Thursday from noon until 7 p.m. Refreshments are free ... Steve Crump is the Times-News opinion editor.

AROUND THE WORLD

WASHINGTON
FBI recovers remains of 2 U.S. contractors kidnapped in Iraq
 Authorities have recovered the remains of two U.S. contractors who were kidnapped in Iraq more than a year ago, the FBI said Monday. The men were among six Western contractors kidnapped in separate incidents. Their disappearance received new attention earlier this month when the severed fingers of several men were sent to the U.S. military in Iraq. The FBI identified the contractors Monday as Ronald Withrow of Roaring Springs, Texas, and John Roy Young of

Kansas City, Mo. Withrow worked for JPI Worldwide when he was kidnapped in January 2007. Young worked for Crescent Security Group when he was kidnapped in November 2006.

MICHIGAN
Detroit mayor, former aide charged with perjury
 DETROIT — Mayor Kwame Kilpatrick was charged with perjury and other offenses Monday — and got a stern lecture about the importance of telling the truth — after a stroke of raunchy sex musings contradicted his sworn denials of an affair with his chief aide. The 37-year-old "Hip-Hop

Mayor" who brought youth and vitality to the job in this struggling city of 300,000 could get up to 15 years in prison for perjury alone and would be automatically expelled from office if convicted. Ignoring mounting demands that he step down, Kilpatrick said: "I took forward to complete exoneration once all the facts have been brought forth. I will remain focused on moving this city forward."

TURKEY
Cheney says Hamas sabotages Israel-Palestinian peace talks
 ANKARA — Vice President

Dick Cheney concluding two days of talks with Israeli and Palestinian leaders, said Monday that Hamas militants and their backers in Iran and Syria are playing the role of spoiler in Mideast peace talks. "It is clearly a difficult situation, in part, because I think it's true, there's evidence, that Hamas is supported by Iran and Syria and that they're doing everything they can to torpedo the peace process," Cheney told reporters before heading to Turkey, the final stop on his 10-day trip to the Mideast. Cheney said there's ongoing concern about the extent to which arms are being smuggled across the Egyptian border into Gaza. — The Associated Press

TODAY IN HISTORY

Today is Tuesday, March 25, the 85th day of 2008. There are 281 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History
 On March 25, 1965, the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. led 25,000 marchers to the state capitol in Montgomery, Ala., to protest the denial of voting rights to blacks.

On this date:
 In 1634, English colonists sent by Lord Baltimore arrived in present-day Maryland.

In 1865, during the Civil War, Confederate forces attacked Fort Steadman in Virginia, but were forced to withdraw by counterattack.

ing Union troops. In 1894, Jacob S. Coxey began leading an "army" of unemployed from Massillon, Ohio, to Washington to demand help from the federal government.

In 1908, movie director David Lean ("Brief Encounter," "The Bridge on the River Kwai," "Lawrence of Arabia," "Doctor Zhivago") was born in Cropton, England.

In 1911, 146 people, mostly female immigrants, were killed when fire broke out at

the Triangle Shirtwaist Co. in New York.

In 1947, a coal mine explosion in Centrailla, Ill., claimed 111 lives.

Ten years ago: Shaken by horror stories from the worst genocide since World War II, President Clinton grimly acknowledged during his Africa tour that "we did not act quickly enough" to stop the genocide of up to a million Rwandans four years earlier.

Five years ago: The Senate voted to slash President

CORRECTION

Name misspelled
 Twin Falls Parks and Recreation Director Dennis Bowyer's last name was misspelled in a March 23 story. The Times-News regrets the error.

Times-News

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CUSTOMERS		

INL

Continued from page A1
 Circuit Court, in an earlier review of the case, a three-judge panel remanded it back to the federal district court in Idaho to consider the parties' extrinsic evidence of the agreement's interpretation.

The case returned to U.S. District Court Judge Edward J. Lodge, who sided with the state's interpretation of the word "all." Then on appeal, the 9th upheld Lodge's ruling.

The circuit court's recent decision could mean the DOE will have to abandon a \$1 billion proposal that called for removing just some

of the waste. Removing all of the waste would cost about \$12 billion and unnecessarily expose workers to radiation, Rick Provencher, DOE's department manager for cleanup, has said in the past.

The DOE has already sent some of the material to the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant near Carlsbad, N.M., for storage.

Tens of thousands of cubic feet of nuclear waste was buried at the INL site between about 1950 and 1970, sometimes haphazardly rolled into trenches in barrels off the back of trucks. Since then, nuclear waste has threatened an aquifer

beneath the site that's a drinking water source for tens of thousands of Idahoans.

Fransen said he hopes the decision will lead to negotiations with the DOE on a plan to begin removing all the waste.

Calls to the DOE seeking comment for this story were referred to the U.S. Department of Justice in Washington, D.C., where an agency spokesman said the department is reviewing the decision.

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

Survivor

Continued from page A1
 doctors removed her from her dying mom. She's also off a respirator, and has officially been adopted by another grandfather.



Davis

On top of that, she's big by Baby Stays standards, weighing in at slightly over seven pounds.

"To see that little girl mature, she is a miracle," Vance said. "It's a miracle."

Shalyn Davis, 17, a Twin Falls girl was injured in a Dec. 30 traffic accident near Jerome.

At St. Luke's Magic Valley Medical Center, an obstetrician, a surgeon, a pediatrician and an ER doctor launched an emergency cesarean section, delivering the baby that had been in Davis' womb for 6 1/2 months. They placed her on an artificial breathing apparatus. Davis was then flown to a Boise hospital, where she died two days later.

Baby Stays underwent reg-

ular physical therapy to build fluid in her joints, Vance said.

She still needs to be fed once every three hours around the clock. As she grows, Baby Stays increasingly resembles her mother, Vance said.

"It's hard," Vance said. "You just take it day by day. You still think she is going to walk through that door any day, any minute. Between her little sister, my husband and I, we just work as a team. We have good days and we have bad days."

Sounds

Continued from page A1

The Air Force continued to deny on Monday that it was involved in similar noises heard shortly after 11 p.m. on at least two nights last week.

Air Force officials had said those noises may have been caused by simulated mortar-attack training at the base but later changed their story after witnesses as far away as Burley reported hearing the sounds. The officials later said the noises may have been caused by earthquakes.

Seismologists questioned about last week's rumblings — which witnesses described as "thunder-like" and "popping" — were skeptical of that theory, and some suspected the Air Force may have been involved.

The mysterious sounds corresponded with Exercise

Coronet White, a five-day training operation at Mountain Home AFB involving numerous F-15E Strike Eagle jets that flew two-hour missions over southern Idaho.

But Air Force officials say jets did not fly near Twin Falls, Huley or Burley, where residents reported loud, bizarre rumbles shortly after 11 p.m. on Monday and Tuesday nights last week.

The most recent noises sound similar to those reported last week, said Tony Messner, who has lived in the Hagerman area for more than 30 years.

"The concussions were shaking our house," he said. "Now I'm going to have to check for cracks."

Meanwhile, Magic Valley residents continue to specu-

late on what caused last week's noises. More than 650 people responded to an informal Times-News poll at Magicvalley.com, where most respondents — 357 — picked the military as the cause.

Others had more unusual suspicions.

"I saw the mother ship," posted one voter. Another blamed well-timed cow flatulence.

"It was the reptilian people burrowing underground, building their secret city," another poster wrote.

Whatever caused the noises, they were loud enough to scare many residents, some of whom were left questioning their sanity.

"I am glad I am not the only one who has heard it," wrote a poster. "At least now I know I am not crazy."

CSI

Continued from page A1

some students who responded to the survey thought the proposal was unfair because full-time students have less time to work compared to part-time students, but they would be charged more.

She said students in favor of the initiative liked the idea of saving money.

Only students taking 12 credits can get a full-time

financial aid award, according to information from the college.

CSI officials have said they've been balancing the budget on the backs of part-time students, and this would be a revenue neutral move.

According to a separate survey conducted by the college for five-year strategic planning, about 84 percent

of respondents said the cost of tuition is important to them, said Edit Szanto, CSI vice-president of student services.

The elected CSI Board said little during the discussion, and will cast a vote at a future meeting.

Andrea Gates may be reached at 735-3380 or Andrea.Gates@tw.net.

Costs

Continued from page A1

What's the difference? The cheaper — one, Irinotecan, causes hair loss that makes it impossible for people trying to keep a job to hide their cancer treatment, he explains. The pricier oxaliplatin can cause nerve damage in hands and feet that might make it a worse option for, say, a musician or computer worker.

Saltz offers a tougher example: A drug for pancreatic cancer — an especially deadly cancer with few treatment options — can cost \$4,000 a month. Yet while Tarceva has offered some people remarkable help, research suggests that extra survival on average is a few weeks.

"Is it a good investment, a high-risk investment, or buying a lottery ticket?" is how Saltz puts these choices.

Drug prices are a growing issue for every disease, especially for people who are uninsured. But cancer sticker shock is hitting hard now, as a list of more advanced biotech drugs have made treatment rounds costing \$100,000, or

even more, no longer a rarity. Also, patients are living longer, good news but meaning they need treatment for longer periods. The cost of cancer care is rising 15 percent a year, Lichter notes.

Make no mistake: Some of these newer drugs have greatly helped some patients. Gleevec, for example, has revolutionized care for a type of leukemia — and the prices reflect manufacturers' years of research and development investment.

Also, drug companies do donate a certain amount of medication to prescription assistance programs that provide them for free to patients who otherwise couldn't pay. Since 2005, nearly 5 million people — cancer patients and people with other diseases — have been matched to such programs through the drug industry's "Partnership for Prescription Assistance."

But few patients get a Gleevec-style home run, and there's very little research that directly compares competing treatments to guide cancer patients on which might offer the best shot at survival for

the money. "As long as a therapy provides a benefit, it will tend to be offered to patients. Whether it's a small benefit or a moderate benefit, it may be offered with the same level of enthusiasm," says Dr. Neal J. Meropol of Philadelphia's Fox Chase Cancer Center, who is leading the panel writing ASCO's new guideline on how to weigh treatment costs.

The idea: treat cost essentially as another side effect to weigh in choosing a therapy. Meropol has watched patients do these calculations on their own, like the colon cancer patient who asked to switch from oral chemo to cheaper but more laborious intravenous chemo, or the woman who refused a pricey anti-nausea drug that would make her chemo more bearable.

Even if doctors want to discuss cost, they may not know it — it's not included in treatment standards. At a meeting of the standard-setting National Comprehensive Care Network earlier this month, Sloan-Kettering's Saltz and other doctors urged

adding chemo prices to those treatment guidelines.

"If there's a need to spend it, let's talk about it. If we can

do it just as well less expensively, I think doctors should know that and be able to make a decision," Saltz says.

Even the well-insured are feeling the bite as patients are having to shoulder a higher portion of the bill.

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Amish man's new miracle idea helps home heat bills hit rock bottom

Miracle heaters being given away free with orders for real Amish fireplace mantles to launch the new invention that slashes heat bills, but Amish craftsmen under strain of winter rush impose household limit of 2

Saves money: uses about the same energy as a coffee maker, so turn down your thermostat and never be cold again

By MARK WOODS
Universal Media Syndicate

(UMS) Everyone hates high heat bills. But we're all sick and tired of turning down the thermostat and then being cold.

Well now, brand new HEAT SURGE™ miracle heaters are actually being given away free to the general public for the next two days starting at precisely 8:00 a.m. today.

The only thing local readers have to do is call the National Distribution Hotline before the 48 hour deadline with their order for the handmade Amish Fireplace Mantles. Everyone who does is instantly being awarded the miracle heaters absolutely free.

This is all happening to launch the new HEAT SURGE Roll-n-Glow™ Amish Fireplace that actually rolls from room to room so you can take the heat with you anywhere. That way, everyone who gets them first can immediately start saving on their heat bills.

For the first time ever, portable Amish fireplaces are being delivered directly to the doors of all those who beat the deadline.

These miracle fireplaces have what's being called the 'Fireless Flame' technology that gives you the peaceful flicker of a real fire but without any flames, fumes, smells, ashes or mess. Everyone is getting them because they require no chimney and no vent. You just plug them in.

The Fireless Flame looks so real it fools everybody but it has no real fire. So what's the catch? Well, the soft spoken Amish craftsmen who hand make the mantles are imposing a strict household limit of 2 during the strain of the winter rush.

"We can barely keep up ever since we started giving heaters away free. Now that it's really cold outside, everyone's trying to get them. Amish craftsmen are working their fingers to the bone to be sure everyone gets their delivery in time to save a lot of money," confirms Timothy Milton, National Shipping Director.

"These portable Roll-n-Glow Fireplaces are the latest home decorating sensation. They actually give you a beautifully redecorated room while they quickly heat from wall to wall. It's the only way to dress up every room, stay really warm, and slash your heat bills all at the same time," says Joette Holland, Home Makeover Expert to the rich and famous.

And here's the best part. Readers who beat the 48-hour order deadline are getting their imported hi-tech miracle heaters free when encased in the Amish built real wood fireplace mantles. The mantles are being handmade in the USA right in the heart of Amish country where they are beautifully hand-rubbed, stained and varnished.

You just can't find custom made Amish mantles like this in the national chain stores. That makes the oak mantle a real steal for just two hundred ninety-eight dollars since the entire cost of the miracle heater is free.

This free giveaway is the best way to slash heating bills and stay warm through the dead of winter. The HEAT SURGE Roll-n-Glow Fireplace gives you all the beauty and warmth of a built-in fireplace but it can also save you a ton of money on heating bills.

Even people in California and Florida are flocking to get them so they may never have to turn on their furnace all winter. And since it uses about the same energy as a coffee maker the potential savings are absolutely incredible.

"We are making sure no one gets left out, but you better hurry because entire communities of Amish craftsmen are straining to keep up with winter demands. For now, we have to turn away dealers in order to let readers of today's newspaper have two per household just as long as they call before the deadline," confirms Milton.

It's a really smart decision to get two right now because for only the next 48 hours you get both miracle heaters free. That's like putting five hundred bucks right in your pocket and you can save even more money on your monthly heating bills.

"Everyone's calling to get one but those who really want to save a lot on their heating bills are surprising the whole family by getting two. So when lines are busy keep trying or log onto



■ GENUINE AMISH MANTLES MADE IN THE USA: Everyone wants to save money on heat bills this winter, so entire Amish communities are working from the crack of dawn to finish. These fine real wood Amish made fireplace mantles are built to last forever. The oak mantle is a real steal at just two hundred ninety-eight dollars because all those who beat the order deadline by calling the National Hotline at 1-800-242-6155 to order the fireplace mantles are actually getting the imported hi-tech Fireless Flame HEAT SURGE miracle heaters for free.

amishfireplaces.com. We promise to get to every call. Then we can have a delivery truck out to your door right away with your beautiful Amish made Roll-n-Glow Fireplace," Milton said.

"You'll instantly feel bone soothing heat in any room. You will never have to be cold again," he said. ■

On the worldwide web: www.amishfireplaces.com

HEAT SURGE™ Fireless Flame

How it Works: The HEAT SURGE miracle heater is a work of engineering genius from the China coast so advanced, you simply plug it into any standard wall outlet. It uses about the same energy as it takes to run a coffee maker. Yet, it produces an amazing 5,119 BTUs. An forces hot air out into the room so you feel the bone soothing heat instantly. It even has certification of Underwriters Laboratories coded UL listing. It also comes with a full year Money Back Guarantee.



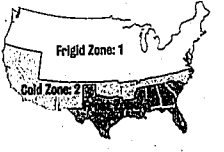
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How to get 2 free heaters

The National Toll Free Hotlines are now open. All those who beat the 48 hour order deadline to cover the Amish made Fireplace Mantles and shipping got the HEAT SURGE miracle heaters free.

They have imposed a strict limit of 2 per household. Since some home woodworkers want to build their own mantle piece, they are letting people get the imported miracle heater alone for just \$249. Or, with the Amish made mantle you get the miracle heater free.

Use the map below to locate the weather zone you live in and call the Hotline number for your zone.



Claim Code: FP3888

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START CALLING AT 8:00 A.M. TODAY 1-800-242-6155	START CALLING AT 8:30 A.M. TODAY 1-800-310-7731	START CALLING AT 9:00 A.M. TODAY 1-800-625-7259



■ ON THEIR WAY: Winter rush orders have turned country roads into pipelines to the big city delivery system. Everybody wants a fireplace that comes fully assembled with a handmade Amish mantle in oak or cherry and gets delivered by truck right to your door. All you do is plug it in.

Rolls anywhere to throw an instant heat wave with no chimney, no vents, no wood and no smoke



■ EASILY ROLLS ANYWHERE: This is the portable Roll-n-Glow™ Fireplace that easily rolls from bedroom to living room. No vents, no chimney and no tools. Just plug it in.



■ SAVES ON BILLS: Everyone gets low bills and stays warm and cozy. Naomi Abrams' new Roll-n-Glow Fireplace saves a ton of money and makes her front room look like a million bucks.



■ SAFE: The Fireless Flame looks so real it fools everybody but there is no real fire. That makes it safe to the touch. It's where the kids will play and the cat and dog will sleep.



■ FREE: Get this \$249 miracle heater free. It is being given away free to all who beat the 48 hour order deadline for your choice of the oak or cherry Amish Mantles. The free heater comes already encased.

President Bush says 4,000 U.S. deaths in Iraq will 'merit the sacrifice'

By Ben Feller
Associated Press writer

WASHINGTON — President Bush called it a day of reflection. He never explicitly said why, but the reason was clear: 4,000 U.S. dead in Iraq.

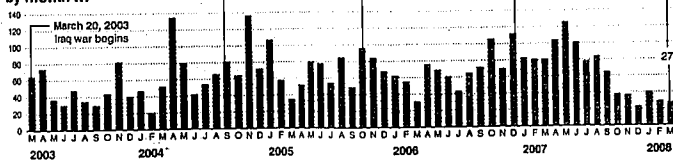
That is the new toll of the five-year-old war, the kind of raw, rounded number that sticks in the public's mind.

So on a day that began with so much lightness — Bush hugging the Easter Bunny, cheerful children frolicking on the South Lawn — the president ended up offering sympathy for grieving families.

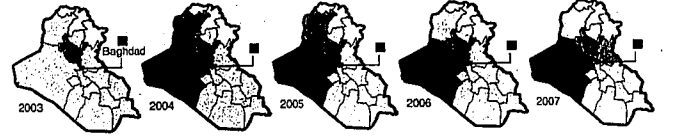
"One day people will look back at this moment in history and say, 'Thank God there were courageous people willing to serve, because they laid the foundations for peace for generations to come,'" Bush said in unscheduled remarks at the State Department.

"I have vowed in the past, and I will vow so long as I'm president, to make sure that

U.S. troop deaths by month ...



... by Iraqi province



SOURCE: AP News Research Center

those lives were not lost in vain," he said.

A roadside bomb in Baghdad killed four U.S. soldiers Sunday night, pushing

the death toll to 4,000. That number pales compared with those of other lengthy U.S. wars, but it is much higher than many Americans,

including Bush, ever expected after the swift U.S. invasion of Iraq five years ago. "The question now is when will President Bush provide

the answer that all Americans are waiting for," said Sen. Edward Kennedy, D-Mass. "With 4,000 Americans having lost their lives, when will

the national nightmare the Iraq war has become finally end?"

Bush proclaimed the end of major combat operations in Iraq in May 2003. Almost all of the U.S. deaths there have happened since then. The White House signaled anew that additional troops won't be pulled out soon, as Bush and military commanders try to protect gains in security in Iraq.

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Twin Cinema 12

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 The Spiderwick Chronicles on 7:00 P-15
 10000 BC on 7:00 P-15
 College Road Trip on 7:00 P-30
 Horton Hears a Who on 7:30 P-45

Wife, four kids of indicted bank exec found dead in Iowa

By Melissa Syed
Associated Press writer

IOWA CITY, Iowa — A woman and her four children were found dead in their home Monday morning, and police later found a sixth body in a burning, wrecked van owned by the woman's husband — a former bank executive who had been charged with embezzlement.

Iowa City police said they were all but certain that the body in the van was that of the husband, Steven Sueppel. A lockdown for city schools and an alert for the University of Iowa were lifted after the body was found.

Police Sgt. Troy Kelsay wouldn't release the names of the victims, but he said they were Sueppel's



Jean Falk, 60, of Iowa City, kneels down next to roses she placed in front of where police found the bodies of a woman and her four children Monday.

wife and children, ages 3, 5, 7 and 10. Police said they were found in the unlocked house Monday morning after someone called dispatchers,

said officers needed to respond to the home immediately and hung up. Initial alerts said there had been a shooting at the home,

but Kelsay said further investigation shows the deaths could have been the result of some other trauma. Autopsies for the six bodies were scheduled for Thursday.

"I'm not certain that a firearm was ever involved. Nobody reported hearing any shots fired," Kelsay said.

The family's van crashed and caught fire on Interstate 80 about nine miles from the home. No other vehicles were involved.

"It's not possible to do an ID short of an autopsy. The fire was that intense," Kelsay said.

He added, however, that "if I was a betting man I would comfortable betting a fair chunk of money" that the body was Sueppel's.

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An astounding time for planetary discoveries

By Marc Kaufman
The Washington Post

WASHINGTON — It used to be that planets were familiar places such as Mars and Saturn that orbited our sun and were well known to all schoolchildren.

Since astronomers identified the first planet outside our solar system 13 years ago, however, that idea has become downright quaint. Because now, according to the Extrasolar Planets Encyclopedia, there are 277 confirmed "extrasolar" planets, and quite a few more on the list of those suspected but not yet confirmed.

"This is an absolutely astounding time for this field," said Mark Swain, of NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory, who last week reported finding the first "exoplanet" to have organic methane in its atmosphere.

So far, most of the far-away planets are large, super-hot gas giants like Jupiter and Saturn, which are not expected to be able to support life. They are also so far away that humans are unlikely to ever directly observe them. The planet with methane is a very close one — it would take a spaceship traveling at the speed of light 63 years to get there — but most others are hundreds or thousands of light-years away.

But with astronomers regularly finding ingenious ways to locate and examine distant planets — sometimes with new technologies, sometimes because of inventive new ways of analyzing data — many in the field say it is just a matter of time before they detect Earth-size, rocky planets elsewhere in the cosmos.

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EDITORIAL

M.V. livestock center could transform CAFOs

It's a tall order. The proposed Idaho Center for Livestock and Environmental Studies strives to become a state-of-the-science research center for dairy technology — and at the same time a good neighbor that will teach others in the industry to be good neighbors.

Organizers have narrowed their search for the center, an unprecedented, nearly 4,000-head confined-animal feeding operation and research complex, to a 20-mile circle around the College of Southern Idaho.

The facility's planners say they want to be close to Twin Falls so that researchers can commute easily from town and CSI can send students for instruction and practical experience.

By industry accounts, the center would be unique, as well as the nation's biggest dairy research operation.

Organizers must work out a lot of details in the two years before the first cow is milked, but lawmakers, industry officials and scientists agree that the Magic Valley is the best location for the facility to be owned by the university and managed to an independent board of directors.

The money will come in part from the dairy industry. That bothers critics of the industry, who fear that it will become all about production and not about science.

But if the center were just for dairy research, the state wouldn't need to be so heavily involved. There's already enough technology and money available to teach cows how to make more milk.

Taxpayers are involved because we all need to help dairymen co-exist better with the folks next door.

Dairies simply can't continue to expand in areas where they're not wanted. That means research into making CAFOs less intrusive and in reducing their footprints.

It also means a strong emphasis on best practices, the kinds of workaday policies that head off the problems which bring CAFOs in conflict with the quality of life in the Magic Valley.

Look, dairymen understand theirs is an industry with wars. And as an industry they have the resources to change the way they do business.

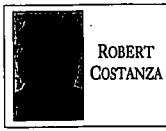
So the dairy lab can't just be for the dairy industry. It must be an independent, academically rigorous research endeavor to maximize production while minimizing impacts. And it must be transparent — that research, wars and all, must be shared with the public.

It's up to the Legislature to keep the dairy research center honest. After all, this taxpayer-assisted effort is about solving problems, not rewarding them.

Our view:
The proposed Idaho Center for Livestock and Environmental Studies must be more than just for the dairy industry.
What do you think?
We welcome viewpoints from our readers on this and other issues.

Quality of U.S. life is real recession

The news media and the government are fixated on the fact that the U.S. economy may be headed into a recession — defined as two or more successive quarters of declining gross domestic product.



ROBERT COSTANZA

The situation is actually much worse. By some measures of economic performance, the United States has been in a recession since 1975 — a recession in quality of life, or well-being.

How can this be? One first needs to understand what GDP measures to see why it is not an appropriate gauge of our national well-being.

GDP measures the total market value of all goods and services produced in a country in a given period. But it includes only those goods and services traded for money.

It also adds everything together, without discerning desirable, well-being-enhancing economic activity from undesirable, well-being-reducing activity. An oil spill, for example, increases GDP because someone has to clean it up, but it obviously detracts from well-being. More crime, more sickness, more war, more pollution, more fires, storms and pestilence are all potentially positives for the GDP because they can spur an increase in economic activity.

GDP also ignores activity that may enhance well-being but is outside the market. The unpaid work of parents caring for their children at home doesn't show up in GDP, but if they decide to work outside the home and pay for child care, GDP suddenly increases. And even though \$1 in income means a lot more to the poor than to the rich, GDP takes no account of income distribution.

In short, GDP was never intended to be a measure of citizens' welfare — and it functions poorly as such. Yet it is used as a surrogate appraisal of national well-being in far too many circumstances.

The shortcomings of GDP are well known and several researchers have proposed alternatives that address



While the U.S. GDP has steadily increased since 1950 (with the occasional recession), GPI peaked about 1975 and has been relatively flat or declining ever since. That's consistent with life-satisfaction surveys, which also show flat or dropping scores over the last several decades.

them, including William Nordhaus' and James Tobin's Measure of Economic Welfare, developed in 1972; Herman Daly's and John Cobb's Index of Sustainable Economic Welfare, developed in 1989; and the Redefining Progress think tank's more recent variation, the Genuine Progress Indicator.

Although these alternatives — which, like GPI, are measured in monetary terms — are not perfect and need more research and refinement, they are much better approximations to a measure of true national well-being.

The formula for calculating GPI, for instance, starts with personal consumption expenditures, a major component of GDP, but makes several crucial adjustments. First, it accounts for income distribution. It then adds positive contributions that GDP ignores, such as the value of household and volunteer work. Finally, it subtracts things that are well-being-reducing, such as the loss of leisure time and the costs of crime, commuting and pollution.

While the U.S. GDP has steadily increased since 1950 (with the occasional recession), GPI peaked about

1975 and has been relatively flat or declining ever since. That's consistent with life-satisfaction surveys, which also show flat or dropping scores over the last several decades.

This is a very different picture of the economy from the one we normally read about, and it requires different policy responses. We are now in a period of what Daly — a former World Bank economist now at the University of Maryland — has called "uneconomic growth," in which further growth in economic activity (that is, GDP) is actually reducing national well-being.

How can we get out of this 33-year downturn in quality of life? Several policies have been suggested that might be thought of as a national quality-of-life stimulus package.

To start, the U.S. needs to make national well-being — not increased GDP — its primary policy goal, funding efforts to better measure and report it. There's already been some movement in this direction around the world. Bhutan, for example, recently made "gross national happiness" its explicit policy

goal. Canada is developing an Index of Well-being, and the Australian Treasury considers increasing "real well-being" rather than mere GDP its primary goal.

Once Americans' well-being becomes the basis for measuring our success, other reforms should follow. We should tax "bads" (carbon emissions, depletion of natural resources) rather than "goods" (labor, savings, investment). We should recognize the negative effects of growing income disparities and take steps to address them.

International trade also will have to be reformed so that environmental protection, labor rights and democratic self-determination are not subjugated to the blind pursuit of increased GDP.

But the most important step may be the first one: Recognizing that the U.S. is mired in a 33-year old quality-of-life recession and that our continued national focus on growing GDP is blinding us to the way out.

Robert Costanza is the director of the Gund Institute for Ecological Economics at the University of Vermont. His worst commentary for the Los Angeles Times.

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LETTER TO THE EDITOR

People must be open to different ideas

The adage about politics and religion causing arguments and dissent has never been more true than at this time, but I have just about reached saturation point.

Take the latest flap over the sermons of Barack Obama's pastor. Were they outrageous, upsetting? Yes! If my pastor talked like that, I would I leave the church! I don't think so! I do not follow a pastor, I follow Jesus, who was big into dialogues with those who opposed him. How do we get people to change minds and attitudes if we turn our backs

and run instead of opening discussions and seeking solutions?

Do I want to know a politician's background? Yes! I also know that people grow and change over time and what really matters is who and what they are today.

Think heaven my southern in-laws chose to ignore the fact that my great-grandfathers (plural) fought in the Union Army. They accepted me for who and what I am. Have I changed them? Have they changed me? The answer to both questions is an emphatic, "Oh, yeah!"
NANCY MARTIN
Mountain Home

Cooperation, not confrontation, in Jerome Co.

"The times — they are a-changing. It's an old saying but one that truly applies when we look at the dynamics of growth in our great state. Statistics prove what those of us living here already know — Idaho is one of the fastest growing states in the nation and the Magic Valley is no exception.

Living here all my life, I have had a unique opportunity to see first hand how population and economic growth are changing the face of my community — Jerome County. We are like a magnet, attracting people and businesses who seek the rural, easy-paced lifestyle we have enjoyed for so long.

With change come challenges. Jerome County is not the first to have to deal with the clash between the traditions of agriculture and a growing non-agriculture population. How we handle these challenges will determine what our community will look like in the future. The key is to embrace the change without sacrificing



READER COMMENT
Cathy Roemer

our hometown appeal and rural heritage.

It's no secret that agricultural production and the value added businesses it has created have long been the economic drivers of Jerome and the Magic Valley. Today, farmers are receiving record high prices for their commodities. It makes the time honored adage, "A rising tide lifts all ships," more true than ever. When agriculture is profitable, it benefits the entire community.

The issue of a growing population living compatibly with agriculture must be resolved. One thing is certain — there are no easy answers. Tough issues put greater responsibility on those we elect to represent us.

Successful county government can only begin when

leadership has a firm commitment to solving problems. An elected official must go beyond the call of duty to ensure equal representation for all citizens. It is vital that a county commissioner work cooperatively with fellow commissioners for the good of the county. He or she must be willing to study the issues carefully, have respect for the opinions of others, listen attentively without bias and weigh all the options before making decisions.

Keeping county government on an even keel is crucial when considering the future economic growth in Jerome County. Continuing conflict and strife among the board of county commissioners serve only to drive away the upscale, environmentally sensitive businesses we want for Jerome.

Dependable, consistent leadership is what our county needs to take us where we want to go.

It's important to remember, too, that a county is not an island. Reaching across county, city and even regional

boundaries to coordinate plans for growth will keep us on course toward a well-planned community. By understanding the complexities of the region, we can encourage development that best fits our needs, whether it is commercial, agriculture, industrial or residential.

Like it or not, Jerome has been discovered. Wise planning for the future will create the kind of community we all want — one that takes the lead, is economically strong, yet sensitive to our environment.

The rewards will be great. There will be opportunity now and for generations to come.

As a candidate for Jerome County commissioner, I am committed to restoring balance and civility to our county government. I ask for your vote in the May 27 Republican Primary election.
Cathy Roemer is a candidate for the Republican nomination for the District 1 Jerome County Commission seat.

Get in your two cents

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It's time for a new New Deal

Putting together everything we learned over the past 10 days about high finance in Manhattan, one thing is clear: If Eliot Spitzer had saved the money he apparently paid "Kristen" and her co-workers at the Empress Club, he could have bought Bear Stearns.

Manhattan's culture of conspicuous consumption and conspicuous collapse has been on display in the city since 1929. Now, as then, an edifice of shaky credit is toppling. Now, as then, what we took to be prosperity turns out to have been a bubble.



HAROLD MEYERSON

Of New Deal regulations on how old-line banks cover and extend credit, but investment banks and other institutions not legally obliged to keep a certain amount of cash in reserve operated under no such constraints.

The key lesson Americans need to learn from today's troubles is how to distinguish false prosperity from the genuine article. Over the past hundred years, we've experienced both. In the three decades after World War II we had the real thing. Led by our manufacturing sector, productivity increased at a rapid clip and median family incomes rose at a virtually identical rate. The value of the American work product grew significantly and that value was shared with American workers.

But we've had other periods of apparent prosperity that were based not on broad increases in personal income but on the inflation of assets. So it was with stocks in the late 1920s, a time when most Americans lacked substantial purchasing power. So it was with the dot-com bubble of the late '90s. And so it was with the rising value of American homes in recent years.

In the broadest sense, the American economy over the past three decades has been powered by ever more ingenious extensions of credit to people whose incomes were going nowhere, unless they were in the wealthiest 10 percent of the population. There were some limits, as a result

hitherto extended only to regulated commercial banks — It's only proper that those firms be subjected to regulations similar to those under which banks operate (which themselves need strengthening). Otherwise, the government is assuming risks incurred by the wildest operators on the Street.

Which, of course, is exactly what the Fed did in agreeing to take \$30 billion of Bear Stearns' risky securities off J.P. Morgan's hands as a condition of its purchase of Bear. The Fed justifies these extensions of credit and assumptions of risk as necessary to prevent a financial meltdown, and the Fed is probably right. But what about the issue of equity in both senses of that word — ownership and fairness?

Specifically, if the Fed's role in the Bear buyout is a model for its dealings in future Wall Street failures, it could well pay good money for warehouses of worthless paper while future J.P. Morgan's make off the money-making sides of the beleaguered banks. This solution doesn't look to be a great deal for the American public. It looks even worse when we recall that other governments — including those of China, Abu Dhabi and Kuwait — have also been bailing out our banks, through sovereign wealth funds, while getting shares in those companies in return.

Can't the American people get as good a deal as the Chinese when our government bails out a major American bank? At minimum, some public representation on the bank's board? Reshaping the U.S. economy, now part of the global economy, so that it actually benefits Americans won't be easy. But it must be done. Bring on the new New Deal.

Los Angeles Times columnist Harold Meyerson is editor-at-large of American Prospect and the L.A. Weekly.

See what's new at magicvalley.com

America can still win in Iraq, Afghanistan

WASHINGTON — No one can return from the battlefields in Iraq and Afghanistan, as I recently did, without believing that these are wars that can still be won. They are also clearly wars that can still be lost, but visits to the battlefield show that these conflicts are very different from the wars being described in American political campaigns. Most of the debates outside the United States.



ANTHONY H. CORDESMAN

These conflicts involve far more than combat between the United States and its allies against insurgent movements such as al-Qaida in Iraq and the Taliban. Meaningful victory can come only if tactical military victories end in ideological and political victories and in successful governance and development. Dollars are as important as bullets, and so are political accommodation, effective government services and clear demonstrations that there is a future that does not need to be built on Islamist extremism.

The military situations in Iraq and Afghanistan are very different. The United States and its allies are winning virtually every tactical clash in both countries. In Iraq, however, al-Qaida is clearly losing in every province. It is being reduced to a losing struggle for control of Nineveh and Mosul. There is a very real prospect of coalition forces bringing a reasonable degree of security if decisions such as Shiite cleric Muqtada al-Sadr's announcement Friday to extend his militia's ceasefire six months continue over a period of years.

Military victory is far more marginal in Afghanistan. NATO and international troops can still win tactically, but the Taliban is sharply expanding its support areas as well as its political and economic influence and control in Afghanistan. It has secured major gains in Pakistan, which is clearly the more important prize for al-Qaida and has more Pashtuns than Afghanistan.

U.S. commanders privately warn that victory cannot be attained without more troops, without all members of NATO and the International Security Assistance Force fully committing their troops to combat, and without a much stronger and consistent effort by the Pakistani army in both the federally administered tribal areas in western Pakistan and the Baluchi area in the south.

What the situations in Iraq and Afghanistan have in common is that it will take a major and consistent U.S. effort throughout the next administration at least to win either war. Any American political debate that ignores or denies the fact that these are long wars is dishonest and will ensure defeat. There are good reasons that the briefing slides in U.S. military and aid presentations for both battlefields don't end in 2008 or with some aid compact that expires in 2009. They go well beyond 2012 and often to 2020.

If the next president, Congress and the American people cannot face this reality, we will lose. Years of false promises about the speed with which we can create effective army, police and criminal justice capabilities in Iraq and Afghanistan cannot disguise the fact that mature, effective local forces and structures will not be available until 2012 and

probably well beyond. This does not mean that U.S. and allied force levels cannot be cut over time, but a serious military and advisory presence will probably be needed for at least that long, and rushed reductions in forces or providing inadequate forces will lead to a collapse at the military level.

The most serious problems, however, are governance and development. Both countries face critical internal divisions and levels of poverty and unemployment that will require patience. These troubles can be worked out, but only over a period of years. Both central governments are corrupt and ineffective, and they cannot bring development and services without years of additional aid at far higher levels than the Bush administration now budgets. Blaming weak governments or trying to rush them into effective action by threatening to leave will undercut them long before they are strong enough to act.

Any American political leader who cannot face these realities, now or in the future, will ensure defeat in both Iraq and Afghanistan. Any Congress that insists on instant victory or success will do the same. We either need long-term commitments, effective long-term resources and strategic patience, or we do not need enemies. We will defeat ourselves.

Military historian Anthony Cordesman holds the Arleigh A. Burke Chair in Strategy at the Center for Strategic and International Studies. He wrote this commentary for The Washington Post.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Paul supports sovereignty

I have been learning about this man because he comes highly recommended by multiple persons in the Magic Valley, because I discovered a well-done Ron Paul business card in the office supplies section of a Twin Falls store, and because the media is efficiently ignoring the man.

When a teenager, I learned about secret meetings that wealthy individuals attended on Jekyll Island in 1913, thereby forming the Federal Reserve to gain personal power and wealth at the expense of United States' citizens. Ron Paul is the first candidate in my memory who has ever broken the "silence barrier" on this subject. It takes some extensive knowledge of history and economics, bravery, personal conviction and leadership to educate ordinary citizens and Congress about the unconstitutional financial powers and controls given to the Federal Reserve resulting in much of America's financial ills today, including control of interest rates.

Let me highlight some

issues addressed by his Web site: (1) Cutting taxes on Social Security benefits, small firms and businesses, homeowners, tips and gratuities. (2) Less government intrusion such as control of Internet as seen in unfree societies (nebulous grounds of "home-grown terrorism" as reason); prohibition of federal funds for establishing a national identification for citizens and/or a mandatory mental health screening. (3) Cutting big-time government spending; no bailouts of banks or mortgage lenders (with the money going to banks and those who made irresponsible decisions); and exiting the United Nations so the United States can have its own sovereign apart from rule by foreign nations. (4) Foreign conflict, national security and immigration concerns.

Dr. Paul was a medical doctor specializing in women's health issues. I believe he would bring common sense, experience and compassion to the office of President... and to the American people for whom health issues are becoming more pressing.

JAN WIMBERLEY
Buhl

COWBOY POETS CATERIN'

It's a cultural event
Designed to soothe and content,
So mosey on down
To Hagerman town.
You'll be glad ya' went!



Some of the best musicians, poets and storytellers of tall tales in the western United States will be there. If you appreciate good music and like to laugh, then come on down Friday or Saturday evening—or both! **MARK YOUR CALENDAR...**

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7:00-10:00 pm - Admission *10
American Legion Hall - Hagerman**

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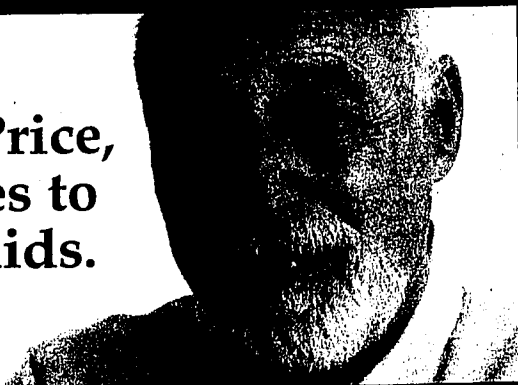
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323-1395

Nampa
324 A Caldwell Blvd
463-0133

Pocatello
1219 Yellowstone Ave. Ste. B
238-8260

INSIDE: Billups, Pistons aim to halt Suns' seven-game string, B6



INSIDE: NL preview, B2 | Scoreboard, B3 | Comics, B4-5 | Weather, B6

Tamed Tiger: Ogilvy snaps Woods' six-month streak

By Tim Reynolds
Associated Press writer

DORAL, Fla. — Even someone like former U.S. Open champion Geoff Ogilvy can acknowledge being a bit mesmerized by seeing Tiger Woods win tournament after tournament after tournament. "It's quite fun to watch," Ogilvy said. Sure, but it doesn't compare to beating Woods — especially when the world's No. 1 hasn't lost in six months. Ogilvy won the CA Championship on Monday, saving a round that seemed in peril with a chip-in for

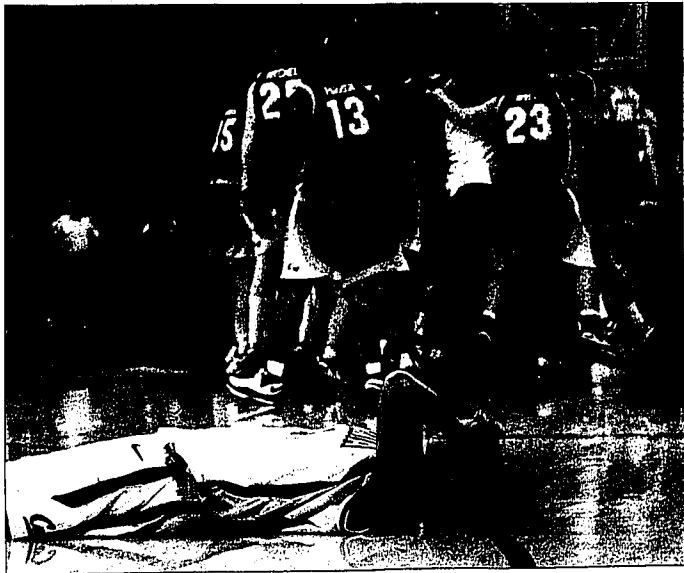
par at the 13th hole and going on to claim his second victory in a World Golf Championship event. And not only did Ogilvy take down Tiger, he did it at Dorale, where Woods had won each of the past three years. So much for that perfect-season talk. The streak is over. "It was going to end at some point," Ogilvy said. "I'm very glad that I did it. It's a nice place to do it, too, because he's obviously owned this place for the last few years. He just had one of those weeks." A final round of 1-under 71 — with nothing but nine pars Monday — was enough for Ogilvy to finish at 17 under, one shot better than Retief

Goosen, Jim Furyk and Vijay Singh, who all closed with 68s in the rain-delayed tournament. Woods was fifth at 15 under, losing for the first time in six PGA Tour starts and seven official ones worldwide, not counting his win at the Target World Challenge. "As players, it's nice to see somebody else lift a trophy for a change," Goosen said. With the win, Ogilvy joined select company — only Woods (15) and Darren Clarke (two) have more than one WGC title. "People don't really understand, you need to have something happen, a positive thing happen to you

out there in order to win tournaments," Woods said. "I heard Geoff bladed one in the hole for par. That's what you need to have happen. Those are the things that have happened to me, and things weren't going that way this week." Indeed, Ogilvy got the biggest break at the most crucial time. Woods started the morning five shots back with seven holes remaining and made his typical charge, closing within two strokes after making a 4-footer at the 17th. He hit the 12th to start his day, then hit the tee shot within a foot at the par-3 15th for a tap-in. At that very moment, two holes

behind, Ogilvy seemed in trouble. He pulled his 2-iron tee shot at the par-3 13th way left, and his chip from thick, deep grass didn't even reach the green — making bogey seem probable — until a most improbable shot followed. Ogilvy's second chip hopped twice, hit the pin and dropped straight in, giving the Australian a break he desperately needed. If it went past the cup, he surely could have been looking at double-bogey — since the ball clearly would have kept rolling for a while. "That was moving," Ogilvy said. "That's why you have to hit it on line. Flag gets in the way."

The Madness continues



California's Ashley Walker, bottom, lies on the floor as the George Washington team celebrates behind her in the second round of the NCAA women's basketball tournament in Stanford, Calif., Monday. Washington won 55-53.



Jerome High School senior Christina Paulos chips onto the No. 9 green Monday afternoon at Blue Lakes Country Club.

Burnham, Jerome win at home invite

Times-News

Jerome's girls golf team wasn't a particularly good host at the 2008 Dale Mowrer/Subway Jerome Invitational. At least, not in the traditional sense. Rather than let the guests have their way, the Tigers rode the hot shooting of medalist Jordan Burnham, who shot a low round of 88, and second-place Christina Paulos (91) to take a comfortable 38-stroke team victory at Blue Lakes Country Club on Monday. Jerome's team score of 431 easily outdistanced Rigby, Middleton, Burley and Blackfoot, which rounded out the top 5. Burley ace Brenna Pace led the Bobcats' fourth-place finish with a fourth place individually, sneaking in just under the century mark at 99 for her round. Boys scores were not available at press time.

2008 Dale Mowrer/Subway Jerome Invitational

At Blue Lakes Country Club
Girls
Sven scores: 1. Jerome 431; 2. Rigby 463; 3. Middleton 472; 4. Burley 480; 5. Blackfoot 526; 6. Preston 534.
Individual scores: 1. Jordan Burnham, Jerome 88; 2. Christina Paulos, Jerome 91; 3. Brenna Pace, Burley 95; 4. Brenna Pace, Burley 99; 5. Jenna Rebeck, Middleton 100.
Boys by team
Jerome: Jordan Burnham 88, Christie Patten 91, Kaitie Montgomery 110, Sara Taylor 142
Rigby: Diego Sorenson 93, Mercedes Lumbard 121, Roni Driggs 123, Matt Howell 128
Middleton: Berna Hopkins 102, Marlene Loan 114, Terrika DeWard 124, Brenna Baker 132
Burley: Brenna Pace 99, Juana Pace 100, Jesse Winick 135, Abby Peterson 137
Blackfoot: Lynn Stanley 128, Katie Kauerer 128, Morgan Kauerer 131, Kay Gray 133
Preston: Amya Robertson 129, Cami Sear 147, Jarrett Severson 159, Meaka Driggs 162
Wood River: Anne Colton 143, Avery Coe 147, Wood River, Anne Colton, not reported; Kyle Robinson, not reported

Nail-biters, upsets kick off women's second round

The Associated Press

DES MOINES, Iowa — Andrea Riley sank a free throw with 0.7 seconds left in overtime to give Oklahoma State a 73-72 victory over a gritty Florida State team Monday night in the second round of the New Orleans Regional.

The back-and-forth game appeared headed to a second overtime when Riley was trapped 18 feet from the basket with time about to run out. She went up for what would have been an awkward shot and official Teresa Dahlem whistled a foul on Florida State's Shante Williams just as the buzzer sounded. The officials then checked the

TV monitor and put 0.7 seconds on the clock. Riley, who had missed two free throws on her previous trip to the line, bricked the first, one and nailed the second, then intercepted Florida State's long inbound pass, allowing the Cowgirls to escape.

LSU 68, MARIST 49

BATON ROUGE, La. — Sylvia Powles had 19 points and 13 rebounds, and Erica White had 15 points to help LSU and the Red Foxes' 22-game winning streak.

SPOKANE REGIONAL

PITTSBURGH 67, BAYLOR 59
ALBUQUERQUE, N.M. — Shaivante Zellous scored 19 points and grabbed a key late

rebound to lead the No. 6 seed Panthers over No. 3 Baylor.

STANFORD 88, UTEP 54

STANFORD, Calif. — Candice Wiggins scored a school-record tying 44 points in her final game at Maples Pavilion to lead second-seeded Stanford past UTEP.

VANDERBILT 64, WEST VIRGINIA 46

ALBUQUERQUE, N.M. — Christina Wirth scored 21 points and reserve Jessica Mooney added 11 to help Vanderbilt beat West Virginia.

GREENSBORO REGIONAL

GEORGE WASHINGTON 55, CALIFORNIA 53
STANFORD, Calif. — Sarah-Jo

Lawrence rebounded a missed shot and beat the buzzer with a shot from the baseline to give No. 6 George Washington a comeback victory over No. 3 California.

RUTGERS 69, IOWA STATE 58

DES MOINES, Iowa — Kia Vaughn scored 23 points to lead Rutgers in double figures and four players in the regional semifinals for the fourth straight season by beating Iowa State.

OKLAHOMA CITY REGIONAL

TEXAS A&M 63, HARTFORD 39
BATON ROUGE, La. — Danielle Gant scored 21 points on 8-of-11 shooting to lead Texas A&M to a dominant victory over 10th-seeded Hartford.

Nowitzki out indefinitely, hopes to be back in a week or two

By Jaime Aron
Associated Press writer

DALLAS — Dirk Nowitzki came out of the locker room wearing a blue practice jersey and gray sweat pants, then headed downstairs to the Dallas Mavericks practice court. He slapped hands with Jason Kidd's son and joked with a few other folks nearby. His light mood changed once he reached the crowd waiting for him.

Nowitzki met with reporters for about 10 minutes Monday to discuss the previous day. He said he feels fortunate it's only a moderate high-ankle sprain and a mildly sprained knee and he hopes to be back in a week or two. But he also realizes it could be longer and the Mavericks might miss the

playoffs without him. "This is probably the most painful time to miss games," Nowitzki said. "That's very discouraging." The medical staff can't even set a rehabilitation plan for the reigning MVP until the swelling is gone, which will give them a better feel for the damage. "We'll take it day-by-day, trust our trainers, trust our doctors, then go from there," Nowitzki said. "Hopefully I can move where I can already go on the underwater treadmill a little bit in the next couple of days so at least I can put some pressure on it and see how it feels." If there was any good news for the Mavs, it's that the big German moved pretty quickly for a guy with a bulky protective boot on his left leg. And, while Nowitzki was talking, Kidd was put-

ting in extra work on his jump shot. Dallas will need all the scoring it can get without Nowitzki's 23.6 points per game. "I think this is a great challenge," Kidd said. "We feel that we still have a lot of the pieces to be successful. We know that it's not going to be easy." It wasn't going to be easy, even with Nowitzki. The Mavericks have lost three straight and are only 9-8 since Kidd arrived in a blockbuster trade that was supposed to bolster their championship chances. Now, with 12 games left, Dallas has some work to do to keep alive a streak of seven straight playoff trips. The Mavericks were a half-game ahead of Golden State and two up on Denver pending Monday night games for the Warriors and Nuggets.

Getting passed by Golden State would only drop Dallas from the seventh seed to the eighth. Also getting passed by Denver would sink the Mavericks into the lottery. "Three of the Mavs' next five games are against Golden State and Denver. Life without Nowitzki begins Tuesday night at home against the Clippers." "In this league anything's possible," Nowitzki said. "Everything's so tight. So, we'll just see what happens, but I'm confident in the guys and we'll go from there." Nowitzki has had plenty of traditional ankle sprains, but never a "high" one, which is closer to the shin. Local sports fans know all about them — because Cowboys receiver Terrell Owens missed three weeks with the same injury, then returned for the playoffs. "Usually I'm good with

recovering from injuries," Nowitzki said. "I know I'm not 20 any more, but I still feel young, my body feels young. So hopefully I can recover pretty quick." Should Nowitzki return in two weeks, he'd likely be back for the final five games. Should the injury linger, it could have international ramifications: Germany is among 12 national teams vying for the three remaining spots in the Olympics. The qualifying tournament is in July. Mavericks owner Mark Cuban has never been fond of his players taking part in international events. He said Monday he hadn't discussed with Nowitzki how this injury might affect that. Nowitzki has missed only 26 games over 10 seasons. Dallas is 0-1 without him this season, losing to Houston a few weeks ago

when he was suspended. "I think we were a little bit in a fog against the Rockets, but now that we know he's not coming back right now, hopefully guys won't look to the locker room," coach Avery Johnson said. "There's no Dirk coming out of a phone booth or anything." That Rockets game is proof teams can keep winning after losing an All-Star. Houston won 10 straight after Yao Ming was injured. Nowitzki was hurt when he landed awkwardly after running to block a shot during the third quarter of a loss to San Antonio on Sunday afternoon. An MRI exam Monday morning confirmed the diagnosis. "I'm trying to see the positive and it could've been a lot worse," Nowitzki said. "It could've been a season-ending injury or even career-ending."

SCOREBOARD

BASEBALL

Table with columns for team names and statistics. Includes Boise State, Idaho State, and other regional teams.

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GAME PLAN

LOCAL

MINOR LEAGUE
HIGH SCHOOL
BOYS' OUTLET

TV SCHEDULE

10 a.m.
TGC - PGA Tour, charity tournament, Livestock, Cup, Final round at Woodmont.
MEN'S COLLEGE BASKETBALL

SKI REPORT

Boise State - Men's ski racing...
Idaho State - Men's ski racing...
Boys' ski racing...

BASEBALL

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San Francisco to forfeit draft pick for tampering with Bob Briggs

NEW YORK — The San Francisco 49ers have forfeited their fifth-round pick in next month's NFL draft for commissioner Roger Goodell deemed them guilty of tampering with Chicago linebacker Lance Briggs.

Kevin Frandsen ruptured his left Achilles tendon in a minor league game Monday and could miss the entire season. Frandsen, who was expected to be a utility infielder and perhaps start at times as second base, injured his leg while rounding second on a bunt hit against Baltimore on Tuesday.

Sports Shorts

North Side Baseball sign-ups today
Registration for North Side A and AA American Legion Baseball will be from 5:30-7:30 p.m. today and Thursday at the Terrace Community District. Tryouts will be held at 1 p.m., Saturday at Jerome High School.

NHL

Crosby not ready for return
UNIONDALE, N.Y. — Sidney Crosby ruled himself out for Monday night's game against the New York Islanders after skating with his teammates in the morning.

MAGIC VALLEY

WRD holds sign-ups
The Wendell Recreation District will hold registration for summer T-ball, baseball and softball from 6-8 p.m., Friday and from 9 a.m. to noon on Saturday at the Wendell High School.

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B.C. By Johnny Hart

YOU GOTTA GET THIS SPIDER OFF ME!
NO DICE! THERE'S NOTHING SCARIER THAN SPIDERS! EXCEPT MAYBE SNAKES, OR POSSIBLY TIGERS...
OR WANDER, MAYBE, OR LEFT ENGINES... OR PAULY SHORE MOVIES, OR THINGS MADE OF VELVET... OR...
ALRIGHT, I GET IT!

Baby Blues By Rick Kirkman & Jerry Scott

The Days Are Long...
But The Years Are Short

Baldo By Hector D. Cantu and Carlos Castellanos

WHEN I WIN THE LOTTERY, I'M GONNA SPEND FOUR MONTHS A YEAR AT MY SOUTH BEACH CONDO...
FIVE MONTHS A YEAR AT MY SOUTH BEACH CONDO...
AND SIX MONTHS A YEAR AT MY GIBRIBIAN BEACH HOUSE...
YOU'RE FITTING IS MONTHS INTO ONE YEAR!
ISN'T IT GREAT WHAT YOU CAN DO WITH MONEY??

Brevity By Guy & Rodd

HEY, JUST AS A GOOF, LET'S STOP AT THAT PLANET AND BUILD SOMETHING TOTALLY RANDOM, LIKE... DUNNO... PYRAMIDS.

Dilbert By Scott Adams

CAROL, I HIRED FAMED ARCHAEOLOGIST DOGBERT TO FIND THE BUDGET REPORT IN THE CLUTTER OF YOUR DESK.
THIS APPEARS TO BE A COPIER REPAIRMAN SKULL, POSSIBLY A RICOCH OR KYOCERA.
I THINK HE USED TOOLS.
NOT FAST ENOUGH.

Doonesbury By Gary Trudeau

WHEW! THAT'S WHO MUGS!
I WENT IN TO CHECK ON HER THIS MORNING AND SHE WAS JUST GONE!
SHE COULD HAVE ESCAPED ANYTIME DURING THE NIGHT!
OHAY! SO THE ARMY ESCAPED? HAS GOTTA BE SOME SORT OF MISTAKE!
HANDS OFF! HANDS OFF! HANDS OFF!

The Elderberries By Phil Frank and Joe Troise

AN CAN'T BELIEVE UPS WOULD ASK YOU BACK AFTER SO MANY YEARS, BONE.
I'M IN NO SHAPE TO BE DELIVERING PACKAGES AGAIN, THEY'RE ASKING YOU TO RETURN TO YOUR OLD POSITION...
They're not?
They're asking you to represent the company in a TV commercial!
Well, I've got to go back to you back to you just for each day is like Christmas!
Exactly! Ya set yer expectations for 'em and they'll be disappointed for the worse.
Didn't you read the whole letter?

For Better or For Worse By Lynn Johnston

THAT'S GREAT! WOULD YOU LIKE TO BE THE GROOM?
I WENT IN TO CHECK ON HER THIS MORNING AND SHE WAS JUST GONE!
SHE COULD HAVE ESCAPED ANYTIME DURING THE NIGHT!
OHAY! SO THE ARMY ESCAPED? HAS GOTTA BE SOME SORT OF MISTAKE!
HANDS OFF! HANDS OFF! HANDS OFF!

Frank and Ernest By Bob Thaves

YOU'RE MY VERY FIRST PATIENT... MIND IF I YOUTUBE THIS?

Luann By Greg Evans

I LOVE YOUR TI... IT LOOKS LIKE TIRE TREADS.
THAT'S WHY I PICKED IT. I KNEW YOU'D LIKE IT.
GUYS THINK ABOUT THEIR DATE WHEN THEY'RE GETTING DRESSED? I THOUGHT ONLY GIRLS DID THAT.
WERE YOU THINKING ABOUT OUR DATE WHEN YOU PICKED THIS DRESS?
ACTUALLY, I WAS THINKING ABOUT THE WEATHER.

Mallard Fillmore By Bruce Tinsley

OBAMA Issue Brief # 17:
HI, I'M BARACK OBAMA. I SUPPORT THE RIGHT TO BEAR ARMS! AND I SUPPORT THE D.C. LAW THAT PROHIBITS LAW-ABIDING CITIZENS FROM OWNING HANDGUNS.
IF YOU SAID WHAT I JUST SAID, YOU'D SOUND UNCOMFIDENT, OR, AT BEST, UNINFORMED! BUT NOT ME, BECAUSE I'M BARACK OBAMA!
I'M BARACK OBAMA, AND I APPROVED THIS MESSAGE.

Pearls Before Swine By Stephan Pastis

Bad news, employees. We run out of money. Dis mean layoffs.
Dat best part of job.

Pickles By Brian Crane

HAVING FUN?
I WAS JUST THINKING WOULDNT THIS BE A GREAT IDEA FOR A TOILET SEAT?

Rose Is Rose By Pat Brady

I KNOW A REALLY POPULAR PLACE WHERE WE CAN GRAB A BITE!
THE MENU CHANGES DAILY AND THERE ARE PLENTY OF SELECTIONS!
THERE MAY BE A LITTLE BIT OF A WAIT!
HE MUST BE JOKING!

Zits By Jim Borgman and Jerry Scott

TELL ME ALL ABOUT YOUR DAY AT SCHOOL, JERRY?
DONT LEAVE OUT A SINGLE DETAIL!
WHAT??
WHA! IN A GUY, I HAVE NO DETAIL!

Keep your cheerful demeanor, Cancer.

HOROSCOPE
Jeraldine Saunders

IF MARCH 25 IS YOUR BIRTHDAY, in April and May concentrate on networking, participating in groups or associations or spending extra time with friends. During June and July you must buckle down to dedicated hard work and be vigilant about meeting obligations. People in authority or simply make sound decisions for your future.

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Maintain a calm temper and prioritize your tasks. A loved one could beckon you to have to fit love matters into stolen moments.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): You may have some unique insights into what will detract an argument or difference of opinion. You can't afford a dispute with someone you must work with for years to come.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Impatience can put you in the doghouse, so don't go on the defensive. Friends may find ways to get you to dip

into your pocket but long-term savings are unaffected. A financial guru may offer beneficial tips.

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Your happy-go-lucky attitude and cheerful demeanor will keep the wolf from the door. Authority figures may rush you when slow and easy might be a better tactic. Keep your cool when placed under stress.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): If you are willing to sacrifice anything and everything to please a special someone, you can avoid a rift. Don't take crabby words at face value; look beneath the surface.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): You have numerous goals, but are overly anxious to achieve them. It is a good idea to find a quiet place and meditate so that you can control your impulses.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Argument and aggression make people uncomfortable, so make a determined effort to be charming. You could receive valuable clues to monetary success by keeping ears open.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): A significant other could demonstrate solidarity in public and by doing so spill up your reputation. You have a tendency to err on the side of generosity with dollars.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): An embarrassment of riches should be a joyful problem. Overriding the entertainment scene could strain your piggy bank. Words of wisdom and love are the truly valuable things to treasure.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Sometimes a little competition makes you better appreciate those who are your best allies and staunchest supporters. Apply ample common sense to gain cooperation and acceptance from adversaries.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Don't get swept away by grandiose schemes and enthusiasms. Remember what is said about jumping from the frying pan into the fire.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Keep the messages of your dreams in mind when decisions must be made. New and exciting friends could enter your world over the next few days.

Non Sequitur By Wiley

THAT WHOLE THING ABOUT LEMMINGS IS JUST A MYTH. POLITICAL PARTIES ON THE OTHER HAND...

Strange Brew By John Deering

WELL WORK THROUGH THIS INSOMNIA PROBLEM OF YOURS SCIENTIFICALLY, MR. TALBOT, BUT ITS GETTING AWFULLY LATE- LETS BRANK FOR SOME HOT COFFEE!
EARLY SLEEP DISORDER CLINICS

Beetle Bailey

By Mort Walker



Blondie

By Dean Young & Stan Drake



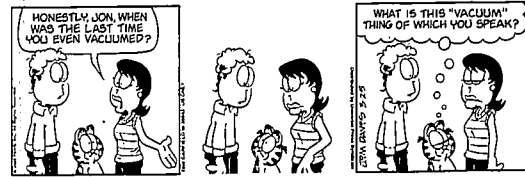
The Born Loser

By Art Sansom, & Chip



Garfield

By Jim Davis



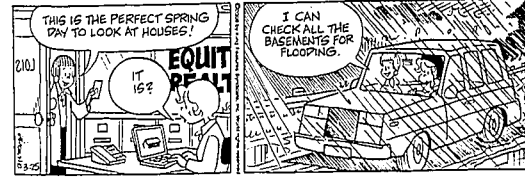
Hagar the Horrible

By Chris Browne



Hi and Lois

By Chance Browne



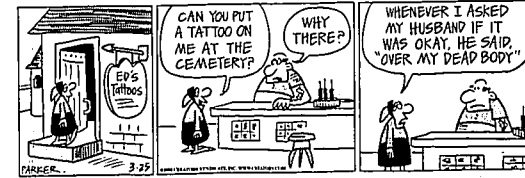
Classic Peanuts

By Charles M. Schulz



The Wizard of Id

By Brant Parker & Johnny Hart



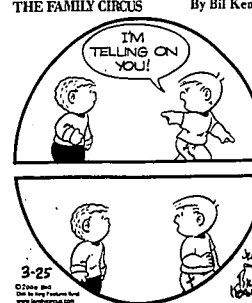
Dennis the Menace

By Hank Ketcham



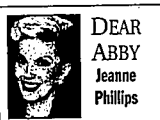
THE FAMILY CIRCUS

By Bil Keane



Parents' view of gays leads unhappy son to take his life

DEAR ABBY: I am struggling with the question of whether or not to reveal a confidence made more than two years ago. My boyfriend at the time, "Jerry," revealed to me that he was gay. We remained friends, but I moved on and started dating someone else. Jerry never confided his secret to anyone else and, eventually feeling overcome with depression, took his own life. Jerry told me more than once that he knew how his parents would feel if he told them he was gay. He saw the way they snickered when they saw a gay couple. They made it very clear to him that they didn't think it was normal. Jerry was sure, seeing the way his parents viewed gay people, that this was how he, too, would be viewed. His parents are now blaming me for the fact that Jerry took his own life. They say it was because we broke up. Would it be selfish of me to tell them the truth — that they are the real reason? Or should I continue to keep his secret?



DEAR ABBY
Jeanne Phillips

evening of quiet conversation. The trend in recent years has been to create a "scene" with hustle and bustle and enough noise that the tables can be turned fairly quickly.

For them to continue pointing the finger at you than to accept that they had a role in their son's suicide.

DEAR ABBY: My husband and I went to a restaurant tonight hoping to enjoy a relaxing evening of quiet conversation. Unfortunately, a man dominated all the conversations in the small restaurant in a very loud voice.

The same thing happened several months ago, when our quiet dinner was interrupted by an elderly woman across the room who talked loudly the entire time we were there. She seemed to be hard of hearing, so we felt some sympathy for her. The man tonight, however, seemed to hear just fine. Abby, if my children were talking that loudly in a public place, I'd admonish them to use their "indoor voices." How do we handle the situation when the loud speaker is an adult and a stranger? — INDOOR VOICE

DEAR LVP: Please restaurants today offer diners a place to enjoy "a relaxing

if someone was conversing so loudly that I could not enjoy a meal, I would ask the host to be seated elsewhere. And if that didn't solve the problem, I would find another restaurant that was more conducive to the kind of evening I had in mind and patronize that one.

DEAR ABBY: I make embroidered tablecloths as wedding gifts for my nieces and nephews. Some of their marriages have failed. Would it be tacky of me to request these gifts be returned to the family member for whom I made them? I put a lot of time and love into those tablecloths, and I'd like to see them stay in the family.

— TALENTED STITCHER
DEAR TALENTED STITCHER: You could try asking nicely. Often wedding gifts are divided according to which side of the family — the bride's or the groom's — gave the gift in the first place. However, when the divorce is a bitter one, the division of property sometimes must be decided by a judge. The time to get something like this settled would be before matters go that far, if possible.

ONE BAD BUG



The Blount County Sheriff's Office's 'new' 1973 Volkswagen Beetle cruiser is pictured on Saturday, in Maryville, Tenn. Assistant Chief Deputy Archie Garner put as much as \$2,000 of his own money into restoring the car which was seized in a DUI case.

VW Beetle turned police cruiser won't be catching criminals in high-speed chase

MARYVILLE, Tenn. (AP) — Blount County's newest police cruiser has been turning heads, but whether it could keep up in a high-speed chase seems unlikely. Assistant Chief Deputy Archie Garner retrofitted a 1973 Volkswagen Beetle to add to the sheriff's fleet of

police interceptors, but with a top-end speed of about 70 mph, he's not writing a lot of speeding tickets. The "bug-ceptor" was seized in a DUI case and booted a new paint job, sheriff's decals and tags, a siren, radio, barred rear side windows, a side-mounted spot-

light and police lights. The car even has the same number, 53, as Herbie the Volkswagen race car in the movie "The Love Bug." Garner said the car will be used mostly as a public relations tool for the department, making appearances in parades and at school events.

Longtime Beatles friend and business associate Neil Aspinall dies at age 66 in New York City

NEW YORK (AP) — Neil Aspinall, a longtime friend of the Beatles who managed their business enterprises and helped make the group a moneymaking phenomenon decades after they split up, has died. He was 66. Aspinall's death was announced Monday in a statement from surviving Beatles Paul McCartney and Ringo Starr, the widows of John Lennon and George Harrison, and the band's Apple Corps Ltd. company. Aspinall died Sunday night at Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center in New York City, where he had been receiving treatment for lung cancer, according to Geoff Baker, who formerly represented both Aspinall and Apple Corps. Aspinall's wife and five children were by his side; McCartney visited him before

his death. He was a childhood friend of McCartney and Harrison in Liverpool, England. While he didn't contribute musically, he played several key roles in support of the Beatles, most notably as the head of their Apple Corps business, which oversaw the commercial concerns of the group, including licensing. "I've known Neil many years and he was a good friend. We were blessed to have him in our lives and he will be missed," Starr said in a statement Monday. Harrison's widow Olivia and the couple's son Dhani said: "Neil talks with him the love and history of his extended family. He was our constant and avuncular caretaker for so many years; there is no way to measure how much he will be missed." Aspinall and the late Mal

Evans were the Beatles' roadies. Aspinall would drive them to gigs in his van before they became famous, and never left the band's tight-knit circle. He took over the management of Apple Corps in 1968, and continued to oversee the group's business affairs in the decades after they broke up in 1970. As head of Apple Corps, Aspinall was executive producer of the hugely successful "Beatles Anthology" album and was behind other successes, including the "Beatles One" album and the recent Cirque du Soleil production "Love," which has been a hit in Las Vegas. "As a loyal friend, confidant and chief executive, Neil's trusting stewardship and guidance has left a far-reaching legacy for generations to come," the band's statement said.

TWIN FALLS FORECAST

Today: A slight chance of showers. Light westerly winds. Highs in the lower 50s.
Tonight: Mostly cloudy with a small chance of rain or mixed rain and snow showers. Lows in the middle 30s.
Tomorrow: Cooling off slightly. A better chance of showers. Highs in the upper 40s.

BURLEY/RUPERT FORECAST

Today: A slight chance of showers. Light westerly winds. Highs in the middle 50s.
Tonight: Mostly cloudy with a small chance of rain or mixed rain and snow showers. Lows in the middle 30s.
Tomorrow: Cooling off slightly. A better chance of showers. Highs in the middle 40s.

IDAHO'S FORECAST

SUN VALLEY SURROUNDING MTS. Scattered snow showers are possible today and tonight. Snow chances increase Wednesday with some accumulations. Holy Snow showers look to stay in the forecast on Thursday.

Today Highs 33 to 38. Tonight's Lows 18 to 28. BOISE Most of the region will see partly cloudy skies today and no rain. Showers develop tonight, becoming likely at times on Wednesday. Mixed rain and snow remains possible Thursday.

Today Highs 48 to 54. Tonight's Lows 24 to 33. NORTHERN UTAH A few rain and snow showers will be possible today and Wednesday. Wednesday night looks to go in a better chance of snow.



Yesterday's State Extremes: 57 at Burley. Low: 14 at Duo weather kept itsizzard, cooled by the heavy snow. All areas, except snow, mostly cloudy with evening rain, but only showers in the morning, before a heavy rainstorm.

TWIN FALLS FIVE-DAY FORECAST

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

ALMANAC - TWIN FALLS

Table with 2 columns: Today, Yesterday. Rows include Temperature, Precipitation, Humidity, Barometric Pressure, Sunrise and Sunset.

MOON PHASES

Table showing Moon Phases for March 2008: Last O, New Moon, First O, Full Moon.

REGIONAL FORECAST

Table listing regional forecasts for various cities including Boise, Burley, and other Idaho locations.

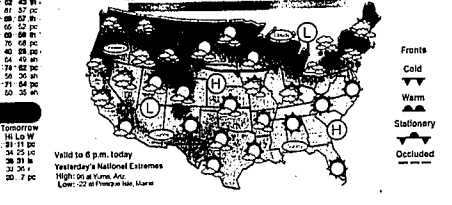
Yesterday's Weather

Table showing yesterday's weather for various cities: City, Hi, Lo, Prop, and other weather details.

WORLD FORECAST

Table listing world forecasts for various international cities including London, Tokyo, Sydney, etc.

TODAY'S NATIONAL MAP



REGG MIDDLEKAUFF'S QUOTE OF THE DAY. Access doesn't come to you, you go to it. Includes a photo of Regg Middlekauff.

Billups helps Pistons snap surging Suns' winning streak in OT

AUBURN HILLS, Mich. — Chauncey Billups scored nine of his 32 points in overtime, helping the Detroit Pistons beat the Phoenix Suns 110-105 on Monday night. Phoenix entered with a seven-game winning streak, but lost to the Pistons for the second time in a month. The Pistons were missing All-Star guard Richard Hamilton

(hip) and backup Juan Dixon (ank), which meant Lindsey Hunter played for the first time since Jan. 10. NETS 106, KNICKS 91, OT NEW YORK — Vince Carter scored 27 points, Dwyane Wade added 26 and the New Jersey Nets moved within one game of the final Eastern Conference playoff spot.

ROCKETS 108, KINGS 100 HOUSTON — Rafeal Alston scored 28 points and Tracy McGrady added 17 as Houston beat Sacramento to give coach Rick Adelman his 800th career victory. MIAMI — Chris Gundy, filling in for an injured Jason Williams, scored a career-high 24 points to lead the Miami Heat past the

Milwaukee Bucks. NUGGETS 120, GRIZZLIES 106 MEMPHIS, Tenn. — Allen Iverson had 26 points and seven assists, while Carmelo Anthony finished with 23 points as the Denver Nuggets used a big second half to defeat the Memphis Grizzlies. — The Associated Press

Advertisement for Career Fair. Text: 'better pay. better boss. better hours. better hurry to the Southern Idaho Career Fair Tuesday • March 25 • 10-4 CSI Gymnasium'. Includes logos for various sponsors.

JOIN THIS LIST OF SPONSORS AT SOUTHERN IDAHO'S LARGEST JOB FAIR

- List of sponsors including Ag Pro Travel, Bridgewater Estates, Exceptional Child Centre, Idaho State University, Middlekauff Modern Woodman of America, Professional Driving School, Sun Bridge Care, US Navy, etc.

Advertisement for Magic Valley Office of Idaho Commerce and Labor (Job Service). Text: 'We'll have experts on hand to give you expert advice on your resume from the Magic Valley Office of Idaho Commerce and Labor (Job Service)'. Includes logos for Yahoo!, hotjobs, APXALARM, glanbia, St Luke's, IDAHO STATE UNIVERSITY, and Times-News.

INSIDE: Obituaries, C2 | Community, C2 | Classified, C3-8 | Sudoku, C4 | Jumble, C5 | Service directory, C6 | Bridge, C7

State Sen. Gannon, ill, asks wife to finish session

By Jared S. Hopkins
Times-News writer

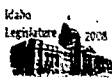
BOISE — State Sen. Tom Gannon, R-Buhl, who has been sick the entire 2008 Idaho Legislature, on Monday appointed his wife, Jeanne, to finish the remainder of the session.

Gannon, a prostate cancer survivor, has been battling stomach-related problems. He has said they are unrelated to the cancer and that he is improving daily, but the past weekend was difficult. Gannon, 62, the Senate

Agricultural Affairs Committee

Chairman and now serving his third term, has filed for re-election in the upcoming primary. He said his plans have not changed, but will have surgery in mid-April to fix a blocked bile duct.

The Gannons, who have been married for almost 40 years, own a condominium in



the Boise area. Jeanne Gannon gave group tours of the Capitol before it closed a year for remodeling, and said she is familiar with the topics debated.

"She stays up on all the issues," said Tom Gannon when reached at home. "She's kind of like my sounding board."

The Gannons' GOP leadership teams hope to end the session Friday. Gannon is among a handful of

lawmakers with ongoing health concerns. Senate Minority Leader Clint Stennett, D-Ketchum, had brain surgery and is undergoing chemotherapy. Stennett temporarily stepped down from his position, but has since served.

Jeanne Gannon said she was a little nervous about the position, but was beginning to get a hang of the process.

"I talked with Tom. I know where he stands on a lot of things," she said. During Monday's morning floor session, Jeanne Gannon talked via telephone with her husband, who

watched debates from home on television. She also spoke, both on and off the floor, with other legislators, including Sen. Chuck Colner, R-Twin Falls.

"I'm willing to be supportive and helpful in any way possible," Colner said.

Among her votes Monday, Gannon opposed — one of seven lawmakers to do so — a measure to give county commissioners authority to approve property tax exemptions for five years to companies that spend up to \$3 million in manufacturing plants.

High altitude Committee: Costly air show should pay for itself

By Nate Poppino
Times-News writer

Assuming Air Magic Valley did its math right, the group's 2008 air show should easily come in on budget.

That's the conclusion the Twin Falls City Council came to Monday night after more than a half-hour of questions for air show committee Chairman Phil Hafer and airport Manager Bill Carberry. The two attended the meeting to present the show's preliminary \$312,000 budget, which is based on budgets from similar shows recently conducted in nearby states.

"This one, I think people have some pause because it is larger than most events," Carberry said of reaction to the budget, which is four times larger than that of the city's air show in 2007. "But there's a strong possibility it will break even or make some money."

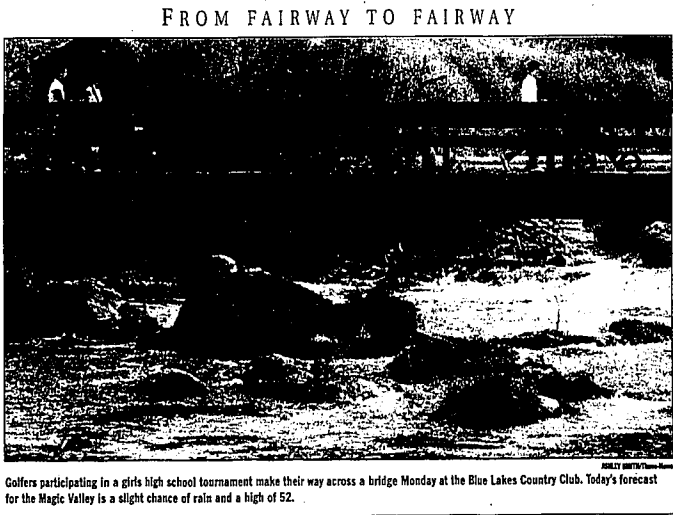
The increase is largely due to a planned appearance by the Blue Angels, the U.S. Navy's elite performance team. The team accounts for at least half of the money. Hafer said, requiring 75 hotel rooms, rental cars, two truckloads of parts from Mountain Home Air Force Base and three 50-gallon drums of snake oil for their performance.

The budget was apparently too high for Twin Falls County commissioners, who earlier in the day pulled out of the show after receiving the same presentation. The city and county previously pledged a joint \$15,000. City Council members took the county's withdrawal in stride. "Tickets are \$10 a head," Mayor Lance Clow joked upon hearing that the commissioners just wanted to attend.

Other performers are beginning to sign up — along with aerial acts, Hafer said he expects to have nearly 80 aircraft on display for the July 25-27 show. But the Blue Angels dominated the discussion, with air show officials and council members crediting them as the reason the show will make its money back.

The draft budget plans for \$150,000 in business sponsorships, \$24,000 in concession revenue and \$600,000 in gate fees for a total of \$462,000 in projected revenue. The air show already has \$75,000 in sponsorships and an expected \$18,400 coming from 23 concessions stands, Hafer said.

With tickets at \$15 per person, 10,000 attendees would put it in the black if another \$25,000 in sponsorships



Coiffers participating in a girls high school tournament make their way across a bridge Monday at the Blue Lakes Country Club. Today's forecast for the Magic Valley is a slight chance of rain and a high of 52.

FROM FAIRWAY TO FAIRWAY

Ron Paul supporters launch bid for local elections

By Nate Poppino
Times-News writer

It's the first step, Rick Martin said, of many.

In an election where "change" has become a national buzzword, a group of Idaho conservatives are seeking some of their own. Inspired by Republican presidential candidate and U.S. Rep. Ron Paul, R-Texas, Martin said he and other seek to reform Idaho's Republican Party, returning it to the conservative values he said it held in the days of former U.S. Rep. Helen Chenoweth.

"It's kind of motivated us," Martin said of Paul, who won a fraction of the delegates of party nominee Sen. John McCain, but whose campaign has produced fervent supporters.

Martin's concerns are numerous. Members of Idaho's congressional delegation, he said, have failed to listen to the people who elected them. The party has drifted away from promoting small government and fiscal discipline. And he disagrees completely with McCain, whom he faulted among other things for supporting President Bush's immigration reform that many

conservatives criticized as amnesty.

Eventually, Martin said, he hopes all that will change. But first, he and other volunteers have to create change on the county level. His group, he claimed, has a member in almost every precinct election in Twin Falls County, and others are doing the same thing in other parts of Idaho.

"It's a nationwide effort to return to our roots," he said.

The elections determine the members of the county's Republican Central Committee, whose jobs largely consist of things like promoting party candidates and driving people to the polls on Election Day. But the two-year post carries a bigger responsibility. If any public county official resigns or passes on, the committee is in charge of selecting candidates to submit to Gov. C.L. "Butch" Otter to replace them.

For a group bent on changing the state party, they could be sitting in valuable positions. But Mike Mathews, Twin Falls County committee chairman, said he's welcoming any in the group with an interest in working hard for the party.

"If they want to come out and work

hard for the party, that's great," said Mathews, adding that he'd only met a handful of them once or twice. "I just hope when it's all said and done, we can all come together and support whoever the Republicans elect."

Other committee members weren't as charitable. Stephen Hargen, also a state committee member, said the local committee candidates all seem to be good people, but pointed to a Web site run by the group that hints they plan to use the local, state and national conventions to make Paul the party's nominee.

The Paul supporters, he said, seem to be solely motivated by ideology while running for positions that require the kind of participation and meat-and-potatoes work he's never seen them display.

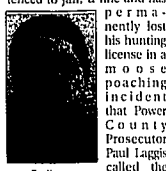
"I don't see anything in their materials that suggests they're prepared to run things in any management sense," Hargen said. "They're basically trying to take back a decision that the American people appear to be making collectively about another candidate."

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

T.F. man sentenced in moose poaching

By Cassidy Friedman
Times-News writer

A Twin Falls man was sentenced to jail, a fine and has



permanently lost his hunting license in a moose poaching incident that Power County Prosecutor Mark Beebe and Leggett called the most blatant disregard for local wildlife he's seen as prosecutor, according to Idaho Department of Fish and Game officials.

Douglas A. Faulkner pleaded guilty March 12 to two misdemeanors for shooting a calf moose Nov. 17, 2007, and leaving it to waste along Cold Creek Road in Power County. Sixth District Magistrate Mark Beebe sentenced Faulkner to 60 days jail; \$2,191 in fines and restitution; and lifelong suspension of his hunting license. Fish and Game officials get to keep his rifle for sale.

No charges were filed against two sons, though officers say they were hunting with him.

In his defense, Faulkner said he was hunting deer and mistakenly shot the moose thinking it was a deer, according to Idaho Department of Fish and Game officials who attended his sentencing hearing.

With special hunting rights newly conferred to him as a Shoshone Bannock Indian, he was also hunting where his rights extended. Lastly, he said it was getting dark when he shot the animal from 200 yards and he was unable to find the kill.

But the state argued he was much closer to the animal. Officials located a shell casing only 70 yards from the moose.

"Judge Beebe told Faulkner he was the guy we don't want in the hills with a rifle," said W. Scott Wright, a conservation officer for Idaho Fish and Game in American Falls.

Faulkner's Indian status allowed him to hunt on the reservation. The Rudeen Ranch Mitigation property where he was hunting, however, is off the reservation.

In November, game officers received a tip about possible illegal deer hunting and "stumbled on to the moose," Wright said. Witnesses told Fish and Game they saw Faulkner hunting in the area, Wright said. Based on their statements and evidence collected from the kill site, Fish and Game officers searched his home at 302 Fish Ave. N., where a large moose hide was hanging on the garage. Officers arrested Faulkner on Feb. 4 at his home in Twin Falls.

Personal property tax bill moves to Senate

Senate panel approves it 5-4

By Jared S. Hopkins
Times-News writer

BOISE — Despite hearing several hours of testimony mostly of opposition, the Senate Local Government and Taxation Committee narrowly approved a bill Monday to eliminate as much as \$120 million annually on business equipment.

Under the legislation, the personal property tax would be phased out over five years as long as the state's general fund increases by 5 percent annually. Supporters say that growth will carry the bill even if the legislature doesn't meet the benchmark, the tax would be elim-

inated by 2015. "There's no other way to get rid of it than to get rid of it," said Committee Chairman Brent Hill, R-Redbury, who tipped the committee's vote 5-4. "What is fair about business paying personal property if they're the only people paying it?"

The bill, sponsored by the Idaho Association of Commerce and Industry, has been pushed since the personal property tax on agriculture equipment was removed in 2000. Supporters say businesses will use the money to invest in their businesses, hire more employees and make Idaho more competitive.

"I'm just asking trust us, trust us to get it done right," said Sen. Jeff Siddaway, R-Terreton, who conceded legislators will likely revisit the issue in a year. "I think the way we're easing into this makes it less injurious to those affected."

Just five people testified in favor of the bill, while nearly two dozen officials from cities, counties and school districts testified in opposition. The bill would freeze personal property tax values to their numbers of 2008 values, which the officials said could devastate budgets, force tax shifts and raise levy rates in school bond elections.

Two Democrats and two Republicans opposed the bill. Senate Assistant Majority Leader Joe Stegner, R-Lewiston, said the bill is an unfair tax shift, lacked a way to measure effectiveness and force future legislators to worry about the fiscal impact.

Please see TAX, Page C2



PLAYING COWBOY

Valley residents revive Old West

By Melissa Davlin
Times-News writer

JEROME—A visit with Steve Baxter dispels two myths: You need a time machine to visit the wild West, and playing dress up is just for kids. Baxter is a member of the Snake River Western Shooting Society, an Old West re-enactment group that shoots outside Jerome. Members portray the period between 1860 and 1889. They don western garb, go by names like Missy Mable and Hoppy Nine Toes and act out shooting scenarios with props, metal targets and guns.

It's a way for Baxter, aka Lefty Way, to escape his everyday adult life.

"Ninety-nine point nine percent of the people out there probably played 'cowboys and Indians' when they were kids," he said. Western shooting is more complicated than the children's game. Participants are given a specific order in which to hit multiple targets. Time violations are doled out for safety violations, missing the targets and shooting out of order. Not only do shooters have to be accurate, they have to be fast — and safe.

Baxter said dressing up isn't the only thing that sets western shooting apart from other target shooting. The smell of the black powder burning, the metallic clang of bullets hitting steel targets and the challenge of shooting different scenarios all combine for a unique experience.

"It's just relaxing and rewarding, especially when you shoot the target and hear the clank," Baxter said. The same excitement is felt on Tuesday nights at the Twin Falls Rifle & Pistol Club, where the Cowboy Fast Draw Association meets. Recently, beginners Travis Van Meter and April and Ron Nicolos shot alongside veteran fast drawers. Shooters stood 21 feet from large steel targets and waited for a light to flip on before shooting. On cue, they whipped out their pistols, cocked them and fired at the target — all in under a second.

Ron Nicolos managed to shoot in .67 seconds on his first night, and will definitely be back for more, he said. April Nicolos, who came from Mountain Home to shoot with her husband, was especially impressed with how friendly the members were, pointing out that they let her use their equipment.

"That was one of the cool things," she said. The sport is beginner-friendly, said Dave "Dangerous Dave" Gyorfy. Speed doesn't matter if you can't hit the two-foot target, and sometimes mental games are more effective than accurate shooting when up against a

Please see WEST, Page D2



Jim McCray, alias 'Barrowed Eye,' takes a shot on a cold, windy Saturday morning at the Snake River Western Shooting Society meeting at the Jerome Rod and Rifle Club. Members take up aliases, join posses and dress like Old West cowboys and cowgirls at monthly events to see who has the fastest shot in the valley.



Steve 'Lefty Way' Baxter, pictured in his Jerome backyard, loves the camaraderie of an Old West shooting society and enjoys recreating a version of the past.



Jim McCray shoots at targets through a saloon facade Saturday morning during a meeting of the Snake River Western Shooting Society outside Jerome. The shooting produces loud plings of metal hitting metal.



Eloise Pearce of Nampa, alias 'Belinda Belle,' carries her rifles to the target area where she and others in her posse will compete for speed.

REPORTER'S NOTEBOOK

An outlet for the inner John Wayne

Once again on this assignment, I found a pistol in my hands.

And unlike last time ("The Right Shirt for Shooting," March 10), I walked away with no wounds.

Dave Gyorfy, president of the Buhl Rifle & Pistol Club and one of the fastest draws in the valley, walked me through the process of cowboy fast draw.

And yes, this time I wore a sweater. It took lots of practice to gain confidence — my sternum still hurt from my last gun encounter — but soon enough I was at the line, whipping out a borrowed pistol and channeling my inner John Wayne.

And it worked. By the end of the night, my time was under a second. I went home happy and tried to convince my fiancé to buy me a six-shooter and light blue boots.

So, dear readers, look for my new byline: Muckraker Missy, the Gun Slingin' Queen. Yee-haw.



—Melissa 'Muckraker Missy' Davlin

Let your camera lens capture the spirit of spring

Times-News

You've come to expect it and we won't disappoint: a spring photo contest.

Here in Country Roads, the Times-News showcases some of its readers' best photographs of rural topics.

We don't offer prizes, but we publish our favorites along with our judges' comments.

In the current round, we're particularly interested in the stuff of spring — but not just swelling buds and pretty scenery. Watch for Grandma navigating the muddy lane

in her boots, for example, or junior feeding the chicks.

Here's how to enter:

- Photos must be taken in Magic Valley, Mini-Cassia or the Wood River Valley.
- Stick to recent photos, please. Nothing older than approximately one year.

- For our ease of judging, submit prints (they can be plain-paper printouts or standard photo prints). After we choose winners, we'll ask them to e-mail high-resolution digital versions for publication.
- Identify the people in

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

extra comments about the photo.

- include your address, phone number and e-mail address.

- Mail entries to Virginia Hutchins, Features Editor, Times-News, P.O. Box 548, Twin Falls, ID 83303.

Horse Monthly

APRIL 2008 SCHEDULE

Disclaimer: The dates and times of events listed below may change.

Every Saturday (12:00-2 pm) Magic Valley Pony Club meetings at the Southwind Ranch in Jerome, Idaho www.ponyclub.org or call 324-1496 for more details.

Every Tuesday & Thursday (6pm-8pm) College of Southern Idaho Equestrian Team meetings at the CSI Expo Center or at the Arrow E Arena when the CSI Expo Center is being used for other events. www.hsainc.com or call 324-1496 for more details.

Second Monday of each Month (7 pm) Magic Valley Reined Cowhorse Association meetings at Travelers Oasis Eden, ID. Contact Mike Zebarth (208) 423-9055 for more details.

Silver Spurs Equestrian Team would like to welcome new members please contact Charlene Royce (208)539-5804 or Luann Shank (208) 731-4311 or Rochelle Studer (208) 731-9812 for more details.

The Sawtooth Pony Club is bringing U.S. Riding Team Coach, Daniel Stewart, to the Wood River Valley to put on seminars and clinics. Included will be a clinic on Horse Sport Psychology, a Video Analysis & Clinic, and a workshop on Symmetry & Balance using a specially built balance board for equestrians. Call for particulars. Seating is limited. Contact Wendy Jones at 208 788-4156 or email driflor@svskvlan.net (reference: Stewart Clinic).

March 25th (6 pm-9pm) —Shu-Fly Arena (1772 E. 1400 S. Gooding, ID) **Team Roping Practice** www.shufflyarena.com. Public Welcome to enter open practice \$20-person, \$10-member, or \$15-High School kids.

March 28th & 29th—Utah Valley State College Rodeo, Heber City, UT

March 28th (Enter: 5pm • Rope 6pm)

March 29th (Enter: 8:30am • Rope 10am)

March 30th (Enter: 8:30am • Rope 10am) Wrangler Team Roping Championships, Guthrie Indoor Arena in Inkom, ID. Please contact Jeff Faulkner 539-4218 for more information to enter.

March 29th & 30th —Shu-Fly Arena (1772 E. 1400 S. Gooding, ID) **2-day Barrel Races** www.shufflyarena.com.

March 29th & 30th (8:30 am-6:00pm)

—The Grass Roots Cutters, which is an

equestrian cutting club centrally located in Twin Falls are having a show each day at the Arrow E Arena, formerly Tuls Arena in Twin Falls. It's inside, warm, lunch is available for purchase, and the Magic Valley Eagles Cheerleading squad will be there with snacks for purchase as well. We hope everyone can take the time to get familiar with an awesome equestrian event, once you try it, you're usually hooked!!!! For more information, contact Shauna Koopman by email koopic33@yahoo.com, or our website www.grassrootscutters.com. We hope to see you there!

April 1st - 6th District National High School Rodeo Association Cutting at Shane Prescott's.

April 1st (6 pm-9pm) —Shu-Fly Arena (1772 E. 1400 S. Gooding, ID) **Team Roping Practice** www.shufflyarena.com. Public Welcome to enter open practice \$20-person, \$10-member, or \$15-High School kids.

April 4th, 5th & 6th District National High School Rodeo Association Buhl Rodeo.

April 5th & 6th Cowhorse Clinic by Brandon Staebler from CA (winner of the World Champion Saddle Bit Futurity in Reno, NV). Located at the Schaeffer Arena in Paul, ID. Contact Mike Zebarth (208) 423-9055 for more details.

April 5th & 6th —Shu-Fly Arena (1772 E. 1400 S. Gooding, ID) **Terry Woods Gates Barrel Clinic**

Terry is a Dodge National Finals Champion - many times Wilderness Pro Rodeo Circuit Champion and a nationally renowned futurity trainer with wins at many of the major futurities in the country. Terry will be assisted by her mother - Norma Wood, also a nationally known barrel horse trainer and professional barrel racer. The clinic is offered to riders and also spectators. For more information on this clinic or to get a registration form - please contact Lana Parker at 208-536-2772 or visit www.shufflyarena.com.

April 8th (7pm)—High Desert Backcountry Horsemen. Interested Horsepersons are invited to the membership meeting. Location is at the home of Jennie Bolts. Contact Kathy Kerley at 324-4754 or 539-7766 for

more information.

April 8th (6 pm-9pm)—Shu-Fly Arena (1772 E. 1400 S. Gooding, ID) **Team Roping Practice** www.shufflyarena.com. Public Welcome to enter open practice \$20-person, \$10-member, or \$15-High School kids.

April 10th FFA State Horse Judging Competition Located at the CSI Expo Center. The Equine Club at CSI hosts this show and the Equestrian Team often provides the horses and riders for the performance classes.

April 11th, 12th - 6th District National High School Rodeo Association Filer Rodeo.

April 12th (12 pm (noon))—Ages 1-16 can participate in **The Little Buckaroo Rodeos** at the Rocky Mountain Events Center (the old Simper Barn in Rupert, ID) Information (schedule & entry information) is located at www.littlebuckaroo.rodeo.com or contact Lalynn Tuckett at 645-3176.

April 13th -19th—**Legendary Horse Whisperer/Gentling Specialist Frank Bell & Jim Rea** will be holding a **Safe Horsemanship Clinic** at the White Stallion Ranch in Tucson, Arizona. Intensives are designed for the serious minded who sincerely want to vastly improve their communication skills with horses. Professionals as well as pleasure riders benefit greatly from this week of study and fun as each day builds on the previous.

As the week progresses, each session takes on its own personality as side trips riding into the mountains, swimming, and adult camaraderie develop. Campfires, guitar music, storytelling, and dancing are options available to all. Even veteran equine professionals are awed by the knowledge they bring home. Working with a large variety of horses with varying issues, is an invaluable opportunity and critical to the learning process. There is absolutely no substitute for handling dozens of horses in one week! Horses are provided and you may contact Jean at Danes with Horses Inc., 800-871-7635 or email: jean@horseswhisperer.com

to reserve space.

April 15th-6th District National High School Rodeo Association Cutting at Copus Cove.

April 15th (6 pm-9pm)—Shu-Fly Arena (1772 E. 1400 S. Gooding, ID) **Team Roping Practice** www.shufflyarena.com. Public Welcome to enter open practice \$20-person, \$10-member, or \$15-High School kids.

April 18th & 19th—6th District National High School Rodeo Association Rupert Rodeo.

April 18th & 19th-5th District National High School Rodeo Association Glenns Ferry Rodeo.

April 19th & 20th —Shu-Fly Arena (1772 E. 1400 S. Gooding, ID) **4D Barrel race Road to Reno** www.shufflyarena.com.

April 22nd (6 pm-9pm)—Shu-Fly Arena (1772 E. 1400 S. Gooding, ID) **Team Roping Practice** www.shufflyarena.com. Public Welcome to enter open practice \$20-person, \$10-member, or \$15-High School kids.

April 25th (6 pm) -Twin Falls Livestock Comm. Co. Horse Sale (Schedule: tack, registered horses, then grade horses).

April 25th & 26th-5th District National High School Rodeo Association Gooding Rodeo.

April 29th-6th District National High School Rodeo Association Cutting at Schaeffer's.

May 2nd & 3rd-6th District National High School Rodeo Association Burley Rodeo.

May 2nd & 3rd-5th District National High School Rodeo Association Shoshone Rodeo.

May 3rd -Wrangler Team Roping Championships, Hamilton, MT. Please contact Jeff Faulkner 539-4218 for more information to enter.

May 4th (11am-5:30pm)—Shu-Fly Arena (1772 E. 1400 S. Gooding, ID) **4D Barrel race Road to Reno** www.shufflyarena.com.

May 9th & 10th-5th District National High School Rodeo Association Carey Rodeo.

May 10th -Diamonds of the West Supreme Classic Horse Sale. Golden Spike Arena, Ogden, UT. Call (435) 286-2281 for more information.

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D4 BUSINESS

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

TUESDAY
MARCH 25, 2008

Independent Meat expanding plant

By Joshua Palmer
Times-News writer

Independent Meat Co. based in Twin Falls has begun construction on a 3,000-square-foot expansion that will nearly double the capacity of the plant on Orchard Road. The expansion comes at a time when the company is experiencing growth in domestic and foreign markets — Independent Meat began shipping pork products directly to China in January.

"The No. 1 reason (for the addition) is that as we expand our business, we need more capacity," said Patrick Florence, manager of the Independent Meat Co. "The second reason is to have more consistency in our product, and the third reason is to reduce energy usage."

Florence estimates that new equipment will reduce natural gas, electricity and water usage by up to 30 percent, while almost doubling the company's pro-

duction capabilities.

The expansion will include new smokers to cure ham, bacon, sausage and hot dogs. It will also add a chilling system.

Because of increased automation, the expansion will dramatically expand production with only a potential labor force expansion of 12 to 15 jobs, Florence said. Independent Meat Co. in late 2007, with the help of Idaho officials, broke through trade barriers that had pre-

vented the business from shipping directly to mainland China.

Although the company had in the past shipped overseas, new contracts with distributors in mainland China are expected to fuel greater sales.

"Our projected growth forecast is looking at 15 percent growth in the coming year," Florence said.

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



Employees slice Falls Brand ham Monday afternoon at Independent Meat Co. on Orchard Road south of Twin Falls. The company is undergoing an expansion which will add 3,000 square-feet to the facility as well as two new ovens that will be 35 percent bigger which will allow for larger production in their processed meats department.

JPMorgan Chase increases acquisition price of Bear Stearns

By Joe Bel Bruno
Associated Press writer

NEW YORK — JPMorgan Chase & Co. increased its offer Monday for Bear Stearns Co. to \$10 per share from a bargain-basement price of \$2 per share, hoping to assuage shareholders of the ailing investment bank.

Bear Stearns shares, which had already been trading higher than the initial offer price, surged above the new bid level.

The move was clearly aimed at diffusing a backlash among Bear Stearns shareholders who felt the original deal undervalued the 85-year-old institution.

JPMorgan Chase Chief Executive Jamie Dimon spent most of the week trying to woo Bear Stearns employees, who collectively own about a third of the company.

"We believe the amended terms are fair to all sides and reflect the value and risks of the Bear Stearns franchise," Dimon said in a statement, "and bring more certainty for our respective shareholders, clients, and the marketplace."

The new deal values Bear Stearns at about \$1.19 billion — still a fraction of what the company was worth

Please see PRICE, Page D5



An entrance to Bear Stearns is shown on Monday in New York. JPMorgan Chase & Co. increased its offer Monday for Bear Stearns Co. to \$10 per share.

Online ad showdown

Media companies form ad networks to challenge reach of larger portals

By Anick Jesdanun
Associated Press writer

NEW YORK — Traditional media companies trying to stem the flow of advertising dollars to Google and other large Internet companies are increasingly building ad networks of their own, anchored by their brands.

The latest, Forbes Inc., announced Monday that it will start selling ads this spring for about 400 financial blogs. In recent months, Conde Nast, Viacom Inc., CBS Corp. and other major media companies also have unveiled topic-specific ad networks to lure advertisers that want to buy more ads than any single site can sell.

If newspapers, magazines and broadcasters cannot

Adding networks

Some Web firms collectively spent about \$11 billion to acquire online ad agencies. In 2008, U.S. online advertising is expected to rise nearly 23 percent.

Recent acquisitions of online ad agencies by top Web firms in dollars (rounded ad agencies)

Microsoft Corp. (1)	\$5.9
Google Inc. (1)	\$3.24
AOL LLC (0)	\$1.0
Yahoo! Inc. (2)	\$1.69
U.S. online advertising spending, in billions	\$21.1
Projected	\$25.9

expansion online ad inventory, they are "under threat of becoming less and less relevant to the advertiser," said Russ Fradin, chief executive of Adify Corp., whose technology runs ad networks for Forbes and others.

Please see ADS, Page D5

'WHEN IT QUIT, IT QUIT'

After year of rain, Texas drought tough on farmers, ranchers

By Elizabeth White • Associated Press writer



L A PRYOR, Texas — Hal Jessee looks at a shovelful of dirt and assesses it as only a lifelong farmer can.

"It's not looking good," says Jessee, 83, who farms 400 acres about 100 miles southwest of San Antonio. "If you go down, you get dry dirt... It should be wet all the way down."

With his land consumed by drought, Jessee probably isn't going to plant milo on three-quarters of his farm acreage this year. As a dry land farmer, he relies on rainfall to keep the ground moist enough to support his crops.

Jessee said the .7 inches of rain he got earlier this month provided the first measurable moisture in six months. His land is visibly dry and dust devils spring up with the wind.

For farmers in a large swath of land west and south of San Antonio, the downpours of last summer that in some cases threatened to ruin crops have all but disappeared, leaving them to make hard decisions about whether to plant and hope for rain or cut their losses now.

Last July, the state was declared drought-free for the first time in a decade. No more.

"It was so wet, then when it quit, it quit," Jessee said.

Gene Corrigan, who lives just a few miles up the road from Jessee, got a full inch of rain earlier this month. He's taking the gamble and planting at least 200 acres of milo — out of 600 acres he farms.

"You just never know. It's just like going to Las Vegas," Corrigan said.

Except for east Texas, the state ranges from "abnormally dry" to some level of drought, according to the U.S. Drought Monitor.

Much of Zavala County, where Jessee and Corrigan live, is in an extreme drought — the second-worst category. All or parts of 10 other nearby counties are also reporting extreme drought.

"In this case it was weird because 2007 started out great as far as rainfall. We were on pace to have the wettest year in Texas on record for the state as a whole" until rainfall dropped off around September, said Texas State Climatologist and Texas A&M University professor John Nielsen-Gammon.

"If it were evenly distributed through the year we'd be fine but it wasn't. Unfortunately, Texas weather has this nasty habit of alternating between too much rain and too little rain."

The state averaged about 37 inches of rain for 2007, nearly 10 inches above normal, said Victor Murphy, of the National Weather Service Southern Region Headquarters. It was the seventh wettest year on record going back to 1895.

Planting for crops such as corn, cotton and grain sorghum, or milo, usually begins about now in the area that is currently driest, said Travis Miller, an AgriLife Extension specialist at A&M. Planting can be put off for a few weeks, but not indefinitely.

"What they'll do is say, 'I'm not going to plant corn, I'll plant (grain) sorghum. Well, I'll grow cotton,'" Miller said. "It just goes downhill from there."

Jessee plans to plant on 100 acres of irrigated land. Other growers who have irrigation systems may not skip the planting season entirely, but that creates another problem.

Without a natural source of

water, growers will run irrigation systems and pumps overtime, which will increase their energy costs and eventually draw down reservoirs replenished by last year's rain.

"Up to now it's taken twice as much irrigation water to grow crops," said Ed Ritchie, who farms in several drought-stricken areas.

"It's just been extremely dry, very unusual strong winds. It sucks the moisture right out of the ground."

The wind, Nielsen-Gammon said, can be blamed on La Nina, which creates dry, warm winters and causes strong, drying winds from the southwest and west.

The drought also hurts ranchers. Joe Hargrove, president of A&M Southwest Livestock Exchange in Uvalde, said some cows are already coming in weak and underweight from the lack of green grazing grass. He said some ranchers are selling cattle now, fearing that the drought will be even worse later on.

Miller and Bryan Black, a spokesman for the Texas Department of Agriculture, said it's too early to estimate the economic impact on growers, ranchers and consumers.



Farmer Hal Jessee, 83, stands on his farm in La Pryor, Texas, Wednesday. He and other farmers across much of Texas are again facing drought conditions and must decide whether to plant crops and hope for rain or cut their losses now.

STOCKS OF LOCAL INTEREST

Con Agra	21.87	▼ .39	Dell Inc.	20.56	▲ .55	Idacorp	32.70	▼ .08
Lithia Mo.	11.19	▲ .79	Micron	5.84	▼ .14	Supervalu	28.65	▲ .14

COMMODITIES

Live cattle	90.43	▼ .25	April Oil	100.86	▼ .98
April gold	918.7	▼ 1.3	March Silver	17.06	▲ .262

For more see page D5

MUTUAL FUNDS table with columns: Name, Best, Chg, and various fund names like American Mutual, Bond, Equity, etc.

MUTUAL FUNDS table with columns: Name, Best, Chg, and various fund names like American Mutual, Bond, Equity, etc.

COMMODITIES REPORT table with columns: Commodity, High, Low, and various market data for futures.

NYSE, AMEX, NASDAQ, and GAINERS/LOSERS tables with columns: Name, Last, Chg, and various stock symbols.

MARKET SUMMARY table with columns: Index, Value, and various market indicators like Dow Jones, S&P 500, etc.

HOW TO READ THE MARKET REPORT table with columns: Name, Last, Chg, and various market data.

UNCLAIMED PROPERTY table with columns: Name, Address, and various property details.

Price table with columns: Name, Last, Chg, and various stock prices.

as part of their retirement plans... The amended offer was Dimon's attempt to ward off any competition, and quickly move on with the acquisition. The two sides also changed certain guarantees JPMorgan made related to Bear Stearns positions.

Olympic flame-lighting ceremony disrupted by protests against China over Tibet

By Stephen Wilson and Nicholas Papfotis
Associated Press writers

ANCIENT OLYMPIA, Greece — The head of Beijing's Olympic committee had just started his speech. The high priestesses in flowing robes were waiting to start the ancient ceremony to kindle the Olympic flame.

Suddenly, a protester evaded tight security, ran behind Beijing Olympic committee guard and held up a black banner slinging the Olympic rings as handcuffs. Lu stopped briefly, then continued, while uniformed Greek police dragged the protester away.

What was supposed to

have marked the symbolic, joyous countdown to the Beijing Games began Monday with a statement against China's human rights policies and crackdown in Tibet — foreshadowing the prospect of other protests and disruptions right up until the Aug. 8 start of the Olympics.

Forecasts of clouds and rain had been considered the main threat to the pomp-filled torch-lighting ceremony, which included Greek actresses portraying high priestesses and a special mirror to light the flame. But in the end, while the sun sparkled the flame to life, it was the protesters who

turned the joyful bow to the Olympics' roots into a political statement for China over its crackdown in Tibet and other rights issues.

Three men advocating press freedom ran onto the field at the ceremony in Ancient Olympia before they were seized by police. Minutes later, a Tibetan woman covered in fake blood briefly blocked the path of the torch relay.

The incidents came after International Olympic Committee President Jacques Rogge told The Associated Press in an interview that he was engaged in "silent diplomacy" with the Chinese but wouldn't inter-

vene in politics to try to change their policies.

"We are discussing on a daily basis with Chinese authorities, including discussing these issues, while strictly respecting the sovereignty of China in its affairs," Rogge said.

Protests are bound to follow the torch throughout its 85,000-mile, 136-day route across five continents and 20 countries. China pledged strict security measures to ensure its segment of the relay won't be marred by protests.

Tibetan activists have already said they plan to demonstrate elsewhere on the route.



Police detain a protester holding a banner at the beginning of the flame-lighting ceremony for the Beijing 2008 games in ancient Olympia, Greece, on Monday. Protests by pro-Tibet groups disrupted the flame-lighting ceremony Monday.

In Fallujah, peace comes through brute strength

By Sudarsan Raghavan
The Washington Post

FALLUJAH, Iraq — The city's police chief, Col. Faisal Ismail al-Zobai, a bulky man with a leathery face and a firm voice that resonates with authority, ordered an aide to shut his office door. He turned to his computer.

Across the screen flashed a video, purportedly made by the Sunni insurgent group al-Qaida in Iraq.

In the video, branches are thrown into a pit the size of a coffin, then doused with kerosene and ignited. The camera pans to three blindfolded men, kneeling, mouths sealed with tape. Six armed men in black masks stand behind them. One declares: "These three men fought and killed al-Qaida. We will punish them according to Islam."

The masked men then kick the three into the burning grave.

Zobai angrily turned off the video. "How can we show mercy to those people?" he asked.

Zobai, 51, knows the nature of the men in black masks. He is a former insurgent. Now, as the police chief, he has turned against the insurgency, especially al-Qaida in Iraq. The U.S. military showcases Fallujah as a model city where U.S. policies are finally paying off and is spending hundreds of millions of dollars in the region to promote nation-building efforts and the rule of law.

But the security that has been achieved here is fragile, the result of harsh tactics recalling the rule of Saddam Hussein, who was overthrown five years ago. Even as they work alongside U.S. forces, Zobai's men admit they have beaten and tortured suspects to force confessions and exact revenge.

In the city's overcrowded, Iraqi-run jail, located inside a compound that also houses a U.S. military base and U.S. police advisers, detainees were beaten with iron rods, according to the current warden. Many were held for months with no clear evidence or due process. They were deprived of food, medical care and electricity and lived in utter squalor, said detainees. Iraqi police and U.S. military officers, who began to address the problems three weeks ago. Last summer, the warden said, several detainees died of heatstroke.

In Zobai's world, to show mercy is to show weakness. In a land where men burn other men alive, harsh tactics are a small price to pay for imposing order, he said.

"We never tortured anybody," he said. "Sometimes we beat them during the first hours of capture."

His men, he added, abuse suspects because "they don't surrender easily. They don't confess. They say: 'I am innocent, I haven't done anything.' They start to defend themselves."

The story of Zobai and his police force opens a window onto the Iraq that is emerging after five years of war. American ideals that were among the justifications for the 2003 invasion, such as

promoting democracy and human rights, are giving way to values drawn from Iraq's traditions and tribal culture, such as respect, fear and brutality.

Bhutto loyalist elected Pakistani prime minister

ISLAMABAD, Pakistan (AP) — The deposed chief justice emerged from house arrest Monday after Pakistan's new prime minister ordered police to pull back razor-wire barricades and release judges ousted last year by President Pervez Musharraf.

The judge's appearance on the balcony of his Islamabad villa drew cheers from hundreds of flag-waving, drum-beating supporters and dramatically underlined how power is slipping away from a stalwart U.S. ally.

Illkhar Mohammed

Chaudhry and his family had been confined to the house since Musharraf declared a state of emergency in November and sacked 60 senior judges ahead of a Supreme Court ruling that could have invalidated his reelection as president.

"I have no words to thank you for the way you struggled for nearly five months for the enforcement of the rule of law and our constitution," said a beaming Chaudhry as lawyers and opposition activists clapped and threw rose petals.

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