

DOWN SIZING

More modest housing on the way for T.F.

BUSINESS, D1

A LEAGUE OF THEIR OWN

Writers group celebrates 60th anniversary.

INSIDE TNT

ALSO: M-C artists open studios to public. Concert for child with cancer. Author battles through pain.

DOMINATION

Bruin golfers romp in home invitational.

SPORTS, C1

Good Morning

High: 55
Low: 32
Mostly sunny and mild. Details: C3

Times-News

THURSDAY
April 3, 2008
75 cents

MagicValley.com

Idaho Legislature adjourns after frenzied final day

By Jared S. Hopkins
Staff writer

BOISE — The 2008 Idaho Legislature adjourned Wednesday evening after frenzied final days of bickering between the Senate and House over a handful of divisive issues. The end capped an 87-day

session marked by declining state revenue, political battles — particularly within the Republican Party — and, towards the end, almost weekly criticism by Gov. C.L. "Butch" Otter. Legislators had hoped to end a week and a half ago, but were bogged down by disagreements over transportation funding, pri-



mary elections and tax exemptions. "It's always a sense of



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Find more stories about the Idaho Legislature, a blog by Jared S. Hopkins and more by hitting the Legislature 2008 button.

relief," said Rep. Leon Smith, R-Twin Falls, a five-term lawmaker. "It's just like the last day of school."

Wednesday's finale came after the Legislature compromised an exemption on personal property tax on business equipment. Other issues included local-option taxes,

reformed primary elections and a constitutional amendment — fell victim to the political process towards the end.

The personal property tax compromise remains similar to the Senate's version — a majority of the House. Please see LEGISLATURE, Page A3

FEELING what they FEEL

Exhibit highlights effects of AIDS epidemic on African children

By Nate Poppino
Staff writer

Through the headphones, a soothing voice welcomes you to Africa. The sound of a heartbeat grows stronger as you're encouraged to take several deep breaths. Separate yourself from the world you know, the voice says.

Then you're on your way into the maze — one of many Magic Valley residents who will walk the path of four young African children this week as part of the World Vision Experience, which opened Wednesday.

A traveling exhibit, the experience combines a carefully created, maze-like exhibit with audio cuts to introduce participants to the threat AIDS poses to young children in Africa. Four separate stories are possible, all focusing on real children encountered by World Vision, a Christian humanitarian organization that deals with the causes of poverty.

This week is one of the exhibit's few rural stops in its three-year history, and the first time it's been set up in a school — tucked in a gym on the College of Southern Idaho campus. Midway through the exhibit's first day, tour manager Jonathan Brown said he was very happy with the community's response and turnout, partly due to CSI.

"The schools so tied in with the community," he said, which got the word out to more people.

Brown's used to larger, urban audiences. But things aren't that different in a rural area, he said, and the exhibit's obviously the same.

"The message doesn't change from city to city," he said. "This is the same thing we talk about in Los Angeles."

That message can be gripping if one lets the setting soak in. A series of small rooms separated by bead or fabric curtains contain authentic props and images taken from the appropriate regions of Africa. The recordings, stored on small iPods, encourage visitors to interact with the sets, nestling down in blankets or sitting in a replica of a small family hut. A small chapel at the end



Francisca Tapla, a student at the College of Southern Idaho, listens to an audio tour of the World Vision Experience exhibit that began Wednesday at the gymnasium facilities on campus. The free exhibit features the stories of four African children and how their lives have been changed by HIV/AIDS.

LEARN MORE

"World Vision Experience: AIDS" is open from 10 a.m. to 9 p.m. daily through Sunday in the College of Southern Idaho recreational gym. The event is free. To reserve tickets: <http://www.worldvisionexperience.org/>

Not Chuck, just cheesy

Man's Cheeto sells for \$16

By Melissa Davlin
Staff writer

The public has spoken, and they're unimpressed with the Chuck Norris Cheeto.

Jared Reichel of Twin Falls put the Cheeto up for sale on eBay after seeing in it a likeness of "Walker, Texas Ranger" star Norris.

Out of 162 votes on a Magicvalley.com poll, only 10 percent agreed that the snack bore any resemblance to the martial arts

superstar and actor. Voters' comments ranged from profane to supportive. Many suggested alternative look-alikes, including Homer Simpson, Oompa Loompas and Joseph Merrick. Reichel isn't worried about the haters, though. A San Diego bidder bought the Cheeto for \$16 on Tuesday evening. Reichel was hoping for more, but isn't disappointed. "It's all right," he said. "Sixteen dollars for a Cheeto isn't bad."

Melissa Davlin may be reached at 208-735-3234.



Magicvalley.com

See a video tour of the exhibit and hear from others as well as view a photo gallery.



Jared Reichel of Twin Falls, photographed Saturday afternoon, says this Cheeto caught his eye because of its resemblance to martial artist and action star Chuck Norris. And an eBay bidder bought that argument.

Huh? Boise ranked 10th most vulnerable to terrorism

Capital is only city west of Mississippi River to be in top 10

By Stuart Glascock
Los Angeles Times

SEATTLE — People in Boise have taken pride in favorable lifestyle rankings their city has picked up recently. No. 2 on Forbes' best places for business and careers; No. 9 on Inc.com's hottest cities for entrepreneurs; No. 1 National Geographic adventure town; and No. 8 on Money magazine's best places to live.

But one title started and baffled nearly everyone: city most vulnerable to terrorism in the Western United States. In a study funded by the Homeland Security Department, Idaho's state capital was the only Western city in the top 10 among 132 urban centers ranked by vulnerability based on a unique mathematical calculation.

The top five seemed logical: big cities with exposed ports and bridges. The list reads like a who's who of Eastern and Southern port cities: New Orleans; Baton Rouge, La.; Charleston, S.C.; New York City-Newark, N.J.; and Norfolk, Va.

Please see BOISE, Page A3

Scientists find genetic variations linked to cigarette addiction

By Seth Borenstein
Associated Press writer

WASHINGTON — Why do some 90-year-old chain smokers avoid lung cancer, while other people who smoke far less wind up dying of the disease? How can some people light up now and then without getting hooked, while others are addicted practically from their first puffs?

The answer, at least in part, may be in your genes.

Scientists have identified certain genetic variations that appear to make people more likely to get hooked on cigarettes and more prone to develop lung cancer.

The findings could someday lead to screening tests and customized treatments for smokers trying to kick the habit.

The discovery by three separate teams of scientists makes the strongest case so far for the biological underpinnings of nicotine addiction and sheds more light on how genetics and lifestyle habits join forces to cause cancer.

Please see GENES, Page A3



New microchips leave IDs open to electronic pickpockets.

NATION, A4



At Your Service directory .E4
BridgeE5
CalendarA2
ClassifiedsE12

ComicsC7
CommunidD3
CrosswordE3
Dear AbbyCS

HoroscopeA2
JumbleE8
Magic ValleyB1
MoviesB3-4

Mutual FundsD2
ObituariesB2-3
OpinionA6-7
Su[ic]ideE2

TODAY'S HAPPENINGS

ARTS AND ENTERTAINMENT

The U. S. Navy Band Sea Chanters Chorus, sponsored by College of Southern Idaho and Times-News, 7:30 p.m., C.S.I. Fine Arts Center-auditorium, Twin Falls, ticket holders come early, some remaining seats on first-come, first-served basis, 735-3327.

BENEFITS AND FUNDRAISERS

American Legion Bingo, 7:20 p.m., Bonanza bingo and 7:30 p.m., Regular bingo, 610 W. Main, Wendell, \$500 and \$1.95 Black outs, 536-6358.

CLUBS AND ORGANIZATIONS

Twin Falls Monarch Lions club meeting and co-host lunch, noon, Long Hing Restaurant, 1719 Kimberly Road, Twin Falls, 735-9092 or 733-3429. Kickstart Southern Idaho, with guest speaker Bruce Perry, managing director of Corporate Finance Associates on "Business Valuation and Exit Strategies," 6 to 7:30 p.m., Pandora's Restaurant, 516 Hanson St. S., Twin Falls, no cost, appetizers and drink tickets provided by Idaho TechConnect, brandon.armstrong@idahotechconnect.com or (209) 324-3455.

EDUCATION

AIDS Awareness, featuring video by Bono - AIDS in Africa, 6:30 p.m., Fireplace Room, Taylor building, College of Southern Idaho, Twin Falls, no cost, www.csi.edu/aidsawarenesssevents or 732-6293.

EXHIBITION

"World Vision Experience: AIDS" traveling exhibit, visitors equipped with personal audio devices to hear story of one of four children of African village (allow 20 minutes per tour), 10 a.m. to 9 p.m., College of Southern Idaho's Student Recreation Center gym, C.S.I. campus, Twin Falls, free admission, parental caution: some situations may be emotionally disturbing to young children, 732-6293.

FAMILY

Rhyme Time, toddlers are invited for songs, rhymes, and finger plays, 10:30 a.m., 559 Invincible Kiva, Twin Falls Public Library, no cost, 733-2954 ext. 110.

GOVERNMENT

Twin Falls County commissioners, 8:30 a.m., courthouse, 425 Shoshone St. N., 736-4068. Bellevue Planning and Zoning Commission, 7 p.m., City Hall, 115 E. Poplar, 788-2128. Kimberly Public Library Board, 7 p.m., library, 120 Madison W., 423-4556. Wendell City Council, 7 p.m., City Hall, 300 Main St., 536-5161.

HEALTH AND RECOVERY

College of Southern Idaho's Over 60 and Getting Fit programs, 9 to 10 a.m., at Filer Elementary and the High School; Gym; and 10:30 to 11:30 a.m. at the old gym in Buhl, no cost, 732-6475. TOPS (Take Off Pounds Sensibly) ID No. 48 Chapter of Jerome, a weight-loss support group, 10 a.m., Jerome Public Library, 100 First Ave. E., 420-3823. Fit and Fall Proof Exercise Class, 10 to 11 a.m., Living Waters Presbyterian Church, 821 E. Main St., Wendell, no cost, 737-5988. Fit and Fall Proof Exercise Class, 10:30 a.m., First Segregation Fire Station, Eden, 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. SilverSnacklers Fitness Program, interactive exercise program designed specifically for Medicare beneficiaries' unique health and physical needs, 11:15 a.m. to noon, Twin Falls YMCA, 1751 Elizabeth Blvd., no cost for Humana insured or YMCA members and \$5 per class for non-insured, 733-4384. Overeater's Anonymous, 6 p.m., 109 Seventh Ave. E., (red log building with carport), Jerome, 324-5019. Celebrate Recovery, a place to learn life-affirming, healthy behaviors, 6:30 p.m., Fellowship Room of the Nazarene Fellowship Hall at Yalinda and Main, Filer, 734-0557. A.C.T.S. Program, a 12week, ongoing course based on self-help, recovery and education, 7:30 to 8:30 p.m., Bethel Temple Apostolic Church, 929 Hankins Road (behind D & Supply), Twin Falls, no cost, 731-3210.

HOBBIES AND CRAFTS

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

TOWN HALL MEETINGS

SIPAD and Safe and Drug Free Schools Underage Drinking Town Hall meeting, with many media presentations for parents, students, educators, community leaders, and concerned citizens, 7 p.m., Roper Auditorium, campus of Twin Falls High School, 1615 Filer Ave. E., 423-5541 ext. 3149 or 734-1822. Rupert Town Hall meeting, all welcome; questions and comments welcome, 7 p.m., Wilson Theatre, Rupert, 436-3982.

MORNING BRIEFING

AROUND THE NATION

MARYLAND Ex-Army Ranger found guilty of second-degree murder of comrade

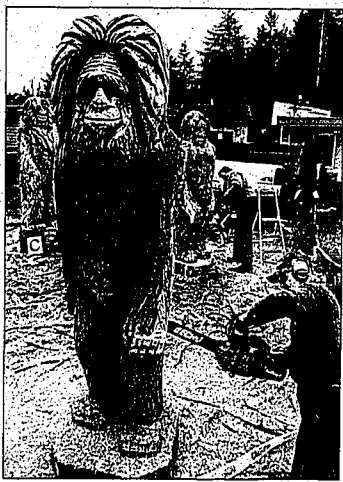
ROCKVILLE — A Maryland jury has found a former Army Ranger guilty of second-degree murder in the shooting death of a fellow Ranger he had served with in Afghanistan.

Gary Smith, 25, was accused of killing Michael McQueen, 22, with a gun shot to the head in the apartment in Gaithersburg in September 2006.

Smith claimed McQueen's death was a suicide, and that McQueen was dependent over issues such as his job prospects and a break up with a girlfriend.

Prosecutors didn't provide a specific motive for their theory, but said Smith killed McQueen and was upset when McQueen said he planned to move out of the apartment.

The two soldiers had served two tours together in Afghanistan with an intelligence unit with the Rangers.



Three bigtoos are carved out of cedar with chainsaws as part of a contest Sunday in Federal Way, Wash. The winning carving (front) was by Charlie Hubbard of Gig Harbor, Wash. (Story below.)

their own rules and policies.

IDAHO State investigating wolf kill report in E. Idaho

BOISE — State wildlife officials are investigating the shooting of a pair of wolves reported by a landowner near Ashton.

The Idaho Department of Fish and Game says the wolves, but said Smith killed Tuesday by an unidentified man, who later reported his actions.

State officials say wolves had been seen near the shooter's residence and his 20 horses Tuesday morning.

The investigation comes just days after wolves ranging in Idaho, Montana and Wyoming were removed from the federal Endangered Species List.

That decision gave each state the responsibility to manage the predators under

WASHINGTON Federal Way doctor's office gets replacement for stolen Bigfoot

FEDERAL WAY — Tom Payne has a new and bigger Bigfoot to replace the carving that was stolen from outside his chiropractic clinic and was recovered only after the feet had been amputated.

Payne is replacing Sasquatch-San, mounted outside his clinic for more than five years, with the top choice of spectators who watched three local chainsaw artists carve new versions at his office Saturday and Sunday.

The contest was conceived by the Pemco Insurance marketing department, partly for the company's "A Lot Like You" advertising cam-

aign featuring characters such as "Bumper Sticker Idealist," "Recumbent Bike Commuter," "Smug Hybrid Driver," "Super-Long Coffee Orderer," "Software Geek" and — in this case — "Roadside Chainsaw

Woodcarver." "We thought we might get a little exposure for us and do something kind of cool for the community," Jon Osterberg, Pemco marketing and communications manager, said Sunday. "We approached Dr. Payne about it, and he thought it would be great."

The winning carving was made by Charlie Hubbard, 56, of Gig Harbor, whose 9-foot work was taller than the pieces made by George Kenny of Allyn and Mark Herrington of Wilkeson.

Parachute found buried isn't hijacker D.B. Cooper's, FBI says

SEATTLE — A tangled, torn parachute found buried last month is not the one used by plane hijacker D.B. Cooper when he bailed out of a plane over the Pacific Northwest, the FBI said Tuesday.

Investigators reached that conclusion after speaking with parachute experts, including Earl Cossey, who packed the chutes provided to Cooper that a rainy November night in 1971.

"From the bits we could learn from the people we spoke to, it just didn't look like it was the right kind of parachute in any way," said FBI spokeswoman Robbie Burroughs.

— The Associated Press

CORRECTIONS

Tuesday's story on the state's grocery tax credit gave an incorrect figure. Senior citizens over age 65 in Idaho currently receive a \$35 credit annually.

and smaller average incomes than most states.

Sunday's sports story on Kori Bingham gave incorrect season statistics. Bingham averaged 6.6 points in 31 games for the University of Wyoming Community College (Wyo.) Generals, and finished the regular season as the fourth-best 3-point shooter in Region IX.

The Wednesday story on Idaho's funding for public schools misrepresented a quote from Sen. Dean Cameron, R-Rupert.

Cameron said the statistics are not surprising because Idaho has more kids, a smaller revenue base

and smaller average incomes than most states.

One year ago: An ex-con shot and killed his ex-girlfriend at the CNN headquarters in Atlanta before being arrested by a security guard. (Arthur Mann was later convicted of murdering Clara Biddles and sentenced to life without parole.) A high-speed French train broke the world speed record for conventional rail trains, surpassing 357.2 mph.

TODAY IN HISTORY

Today is Thursday, April 3, the 93rd day of 2008. There are 272 days left in the year.

Today's highlight On April 3, 1968, the day before he was assassinated in Memphis, Tenn., the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. delivered his famous "I Have a Dream" speech to a rally of striking sanitation workers.

On this date In 1783, author Washington Irving was born in New York. Irving is fully legendary: many Express began service between St. Joseph, Mo., and Sacramento, Calif.

In 1865, Union forces occupied the Confederate capital of Richmond, Va.

In 1882, outlaw Jesse James was shot to death in St. Joseph, Mo., by Robert Ford, a member of James' gang.

In 1936, Bruno Hauptmann was electrocuted in Trenton, N.J., for the kidnap-murder of the Lindbergh child.

In 1948, President Truman signed into law the Marshall Plan, designed to help European allies rebuild after World War II and resist Communism.

In 1968, North Vietnam agreed to meet with U.S. representatives to set up preliminary peace talks.

In 1996, an Air Force jetliner carrying Commerce Secretary Ron Brown and American business executives crashed in Croatia, killing all 35 people aboard.

Ten years ago: Douglas Fred Grant, a disgruntled spy find by the CIA, was charged with espionage and extortion. (Grant later pleaded guilty to trying to extort \$1 million from the agency, and was sentenced to five years in prison.) Five years ago: Moving with a sense of wartime urgency,

the House and Senate separately agreed to give President Bush nearly \$90 billion to carry out the battle against Iraq and meet the threat of terrorism.

One year ago: An ex-con shot and killed his ex-girlfriend at the CNN headquarters in Atlanta before being arrested by a security guard. (Arthur Mann was later convicted of murdering Clara Biddles and sentenced to life without parole.) A high-speed French train broke the world speed record for conventional rail trains, surpassing 357.2 mph.

AGUIARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): You might feel like the star of the show, but you will find greater success by being a team player. Acting like a prima donna could bring your own grief on the ground and be more humbling.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): It may seem that a love connection has soured. It is possible that business has become more thrilling than pleasure. This downward mood swing won't last. Share your thoughts with a trusted friend.

IDAHO LOTTERY What's New at MAGICVALLEY.COM. See a video of excerpts from the murder sentencing of Nicole Baker. Also, see a video of local reaction to an AIDS exhibit at CSI.

Times-News. PUBLISHER: 735-3345. MANAGING EDITOR: 735-3346. EDITOR: 735-3347. NEWS EDITOR: 735-3348. ADVERTISING: 735-3349. CIRCULATION: 735-3350.

Be aware of dangers in workplace, Virgo

HOROSCOPE Jeraldine Saunders. Pay attention to those who are in the know and use their wisdom to your advantage. Listen carefully, as there is much to be learned today. Know when to speak and when to keep your thoughts to yourself.

and may step on a few toes in the process. You would do well to heed the words of others. The right advice will lead you down the correct path. VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Safety first. Be aware of dangers in the workplace and make sure you follow the rules. Remain open to new ideas and don't try to control others. It may be time to settle problems that have arisen at home.

Legislature

Continued from page A1

rejected it Tuesday — and exempts up to \$100,000 of equipment for 10 percent of Idaho businesses at a cost of \$17.8 million. They also agreed for the exemption to be enacted when the state's general fund grows by 5 percent and to grant the exemption to one site per county.

The bill came Wednesday morning at a rare conference committee of three Senators and three House members. The measure later sailed through both chambers unanimously, paving the way for adjournment.

"If you don't know what this bill does at this point, you probably don't deserve to be re-elected," Senate Tax Committee Chairman Brent Hill, R-Tetbury, said prior to voting.

Minutes later, the House speaker, Rep. Jim Clark, R-Hayden Lake, offered the only debate and it was brief.

"It's a good bill, should pass," he said.

Part of the bill's tension was due to the downturn in the economy, a notion that

"There's a big difference from January. It was more optimistic. Now, it's like walking through a funeral."

— Jasper LiCalzi, a political science professor at the College of Idaho

only grew after the Legislature convened in January. The result was a higher hold on spending by legislators, including scaled back salary hikes for teachers and state employees.

"There's a big difference from January. It was more optimistic," said Jasper LiCalzi, a political science professor at the College of Idaho, while visiting the Capitol Annex. "Now, it's like walking through a funeral."

There were other items raising controversy in the waiting hours Wednesday.

A House committee killed a bill that would reform medical benefits for retired state workers, by dropping state coverage for retirees 65 and older and require them to use Medicare.

After the Senate passed a bill to make public the ballot

a voter chooses in elections, the House opted not to address the issue.

Finally in the afternoon the Senate killed — in its third revision — a constitutional amendment to make it easier for counties, cities and hospitals to enter debt to fund projects. The bill was introduced Wednesday and had already passed through the House floor — which some said was skirting the political process.

"A constitutional amendment in 24 hours? That's a heck of a death," said Sen. Tim Gardner, R-Mountain Home, on the floor.

Despite the problems, the halls of the Capitol Annex — the Temporary Legislature as the Capitol is remodeled — rang with quieter echoes of exhaustion than in 2007 when lawmakers spent an

extra week fighting over transportation funding.

The 2009 session was still five days longer than that one, but substantially shorter than the 118-day marathon in 2003.

In the Senate, annual speeches to send off retiring lawmakers were bitter-sweet, particularly for south-central lawmakers.

Sen. Tom Gammon, R-Huhl, a prostate cancer survivor who's been battling stomach sickness, appointed his wife to finish his term. Senate Minority Leader, Clint Stennett, D-Ketchum, is undergoing treatment for brain cancer.

"Sen. Stennett and Michelle, what a fighting team and how I love to see that team win," Senate Pro Tem Bob Geddes, R-Soda Springs, said on the floor.

Sen. Gammon, Tom and Jeanne, kept fighting and got Tom to that surgery that he needs, that he promised to us in caucus meeting."

Jasper S. Hopkins may be reached at 420-6371 or jhopkins@maglevall.com.

Boise

Continued from page A1

Not a single West Coast city, from Seattle to San Diego, fared more than an eyebrow.

Juneau, Alaska, ranked least vulnerable.

Out West, at No. 10, stood landlocked Boise, population about 200,000, nicknamed the City of Trees.

"It surprised us too," said researcher Walter A. Piegorsch, a mathematics professor at the University of Arizona, coauthor of "Benchmark Analysis for Quantifying Urban Vulnerability to Terrorist Incidents."

The report, which relies on a complex formula for a "place-based vulnerability" score, first appeared in December in the journal Risk Analysis. Communities it identified have since been trying to absorb its meaning.

Scores depended on three main considerations: social demographics, natural hazards (floods, wildfires, earthquakes, extreme weather, etc.) and infrastructure vulnerability (roads, bridges, tunnels, ports, dams, skyscrapers, etc.).

Boise, it seems, faces high risk from extreme events such as wildfires or failure of a large dam upstream. Piegorsch said vulnerability miles northeast of Boise, Lucky Peak Dam extends 2,340 feet long and 340 feet high. The 12-mile-long reservoir, behind it stores 300,000 acre-feet of water.

"That dam could be a very likely target, or possibly target," he said, noting that Boise's recent experience with disaster flooding, property loss and casualties also elevated its rank.

The index says more about extreme events than it does about terrorism, but Piegorsch said, "You can't predict the next terrorist. But you can predict vulnerability."

The high vulnerability rating stunned Idaho law enforcement and emergency management agencies.

"Everybody was surprised," said Charles McClure, a spokesman for the Boise Police Department. "Basically, we don't understand how they arrived at that conclusion."

Idaho officials are working with the FBI and the state's attorneys to determine if the findings can lead to improved procedures, said Lt. Col. Tim Marsano, spokesman for the Idaho Bureau of Homeland Security.

"It raised some flags among the emergency management community within this state, and we are taking it seriously," Marsano said. "We hope to pull things out of it that will further enhance our preparedness."

Co-written by Susan L.

Cutter at the University of South Carolina and Frank Hardisty at Pennsylvania State University — the research investigated relationships between vulnerability and terrorist outcome.

The project, four years in the making, crunched data from 1970 through 2001 related to natural or man-made disasters and hazardous events, including terrorism. The data boiled down to a single place-based vulnerability index.

The index borrowed from statistical methods used in research involving identifying cancer-causing substances. The National Cancer Institute funded part of the study.

Researchers assigned the cities threat-level color codes: green (low), yellow (medium) and red (high).

A series of red cities stretched from Houston to New York. Several cities in the Carolinas (Raleigh/Durham, Charlotte, Charleston and Columbia) were red.

Most cities in the West and North were yellow or green. Western locations, in general, covered more land.

"Once you sprawl, you lower vulnerability," Piegorsch said. "You can't hit a less concentrated location as easily."

Some cities have questioned whether statistical research about America's most vulnerable places should be so easily accessible, Piegorsch said, but he thinks it's better to understand vulnerabilities and address them.

"The bad guys have figured this out already," Piegorsch said.

Studying vulnerability is an important part of understanding risk, said Bruce H. Willis, a director at Rand Corp., a Santa Monica, Calif.-based think tank. He called the study "a novel way of thinking about the vulnerability of cities."

"They developed a measure of vulnerability that goes beyond what people have used in the past," he said.

Experience

Continued from page A1

contains 11 candles, Bibles and photos of those affected by the disease.

The stories are stark and alarming. One boy, Emmanuel, is too young to understand his father's death from AIDS. As the tale progresses, the disease claims his mother, and the collapse of the family's home leaves him and his older brother struggling to

survive in a forest. A cough Emmanuel develops hints that his fate may be similar to his parents.

The entire exhibit left a strong impression on those who walked through it Wednesday. Twin Falls resident Suzy Heath, who brought in new ear-bud headphones to help her partially deaf son understand the audio, said she wasn't sure what to expect

but that the exhibit blew her away. Headphone splitters are available at the exhibit for those wishing to share an iPod.

"It's life-changing," Heath said. "You have to totally adjust your thinking in a very positive way."

The event was brought to Twin Falls by CSI and the Twin Falls Reformed Church. Marty Solomon, the church's director of

evangelism and missions, said he hoped the exhibit would inspire people to act, including several groups of students who toured it Wednesday morning.

"They're so moldable at that age, we hope it really affects them."

Nate Poppino may be reached at 735-2337 or nppoppino@magic-valley.com.

Genes

Continued from page A1

"This is kind of a double whammy gene," said Christopher Amos, a professor of epidemiology at the M.D. Anderson Cancer Center in Houston, and author of one of the studies. "It also makes you more likely to be dependent on smoking and less likely to quit smoking."

A smoker who inherits these genetic variations from both parents has an 80 percent greater chance of lung cancer than a smoker without the variants, the researchers reported. And that same smoker on average lights up 40 more cigarettes a day and has a much harder time quitting than smokers who don't have these genetic differences.

The researchers disagreed on whether the variants directly increased the risk of lung cancer or did so indirectly, by causing more smoking.

The three studies, funded by governments in the U.S. and Europe, are being published Thursday in the journals Nature and Nature Genetics.

The scientists studied the genes of more than 35,000 white people of European descent in Europe, Canada and the United States. Blacks and Asians will be studied soon, and may yield different results, scientists said.

They aren't quite sure if what they found is a set of variations in one gene or in three closely connected genes. But the gene variations govern nicotine receptors on cells.

"This is really telling us that

the vulnerability to smoking and how much you smoke is clearly biologically based," said psychiatry professor Dr. Laura Bierl of Washington University in St. Louis, a genetics and smoking expert who did not take part in the studies. She praised the research as "very intriguing."

The smoking rate among U.S. adults has dropped from 42 percent in 1965 to less than 21 percent now.

The new studies are surprising in that they point to areas of the genetic code that are not associated with pleasure and the rewards of addiction.

That may help explain why some people can quit and others fail, said Dr. Nora Volkow, director of the National Institute of Drug Abuse in Bethesda, Md., which funded one of the studies.

"It opens our eyes," Volkow said Wednesday. "Not everyone takes drugs for the same reason. Not everyone smokes cigarettes for the same reasons."

One clue is in the location of the just-discovered variants, on the long arm of chromosome 15, Volkow said. It is in an area that, when damaged during tests on animals, makes them depressed and anxious. While some people smoke because it helps them focus or gives them a physiological reward, others do it to stave off depression.

That suggests that adding antidepressants to some smokers' treatment could help them kick the habit.

There isn't a simple, inexpensive test could be devel-

Cancer-causing

Lung cancer is the leading type of cancer caused by smoking.

Lung, trachea, bronchus	71%
Larynx	59
Upper aerodigestive*	39
Bladder	27
Kidney	26
Pancreas	21
Liver	21
Lukemia	12
Leukemia	12
Stomach	11
Cervix	10
Colon	10

*Includes lip, mouth, tongue, nose and throat.

Source: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

AP

might drop their coverage, he said.

"The good news is that getting these risk estimates will help focus anti-smoking campaigns, and some people will want to voluntarily get into anti-addiction programs early, where they will probably work better," Caplan said in an e-mail. But if such testing is done, it should be voluntary, and the results should be kept private, he said.

Smoking-related diseases worldwide kill about one in 10 adults, according to the World Health Organization.

Among the findings:

- Smokers who get the set of variants from only one parent are at risk of lung cancer that is about one-third higher than that of people without the variants. They also smoke about one more cigarette a day on average than other smokers. This group makes up about 45 percent of the population studied.
- Smokers who inherit the variants from both parents have nearly a 1-in-4 chance of developing lung cancer. Their cancer risk is 70 to 80 percent higher than that of smokers without the genetic variants. They smoke on average two extra cigarettes a day. This group accounts for about one in nine people of European descent.

737-9553

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Co-written by Susan L.

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Obama, Clinton woo labor vote in Penn.

PHILADELPHIA (AP) — Sen. Barack Obama was endorsed Wednesday by a labor union and two Democratic superdelegates, as a poll showed he has cut Sen. Hillary Rodham Clinton's lead in Pennsylvania almost in half since mid-February as he strives to deny her a resounding victory in the state's presidential primary.

The Illinois senator pried off an affiliate of the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees, which has endorsed Clinton. The Philadelphia-based local of the National Union of Hospital and Health Care Employees has about 16,000 members.



Democratic presidential hopeful, Sen. Hillary Rodham Clinton, D-N.Y., campaigns at Mercyhurst College in Erie, Pa., Tuesday.

Its president, Henry Nicholas, announced the endorsement while introducing Obama at a meeting of the Pennsylvania AFL-CIO.

Nicholas, who also is president of the 150,000-member national union and an AFSCME international vice president, said he took the step "because justice told me it was the right position to take."

Meanwhile, Wyoming Gov. Dave Frederick and former Montana Sen. John Melcher endorsed Obama. As superdelegates to the national convention, they are among the Democratic Party leaders who will decide the nomination because,

although Obama leads Clinton in delegates, neither candidate can win solely with pledged delegates they've won through primaries and caucuses. Obama handily won Wyoming's March 8 caucus; Montana holds a Democratic primary June 3.

Since last Friday, Obama has cut Clinton's lead among superdelegates by four; she has 262 to his 220.

Asked on MSNBC's "Hardball" about the possibility he could finish the primary season with a lead among delegates but still not get the nomination, Obama

said it was too early to worry about the nomination. "Most of the superdelegates who have not yet decided, I think will recognize that we've earned this nomination. That's not guaranteed and I don't take anything for granted," Obama said. "I'll let the probabls of the party make a decision as to how they want to deal with it."

As Obama and Clinton campaigned in Pennsylvania, where the Republican to the left showed him cutting into her lead by drawing more support from men and young

voters, Clinton's 16-percent-age-point lead in mid-February slid to 12 points in mid-March and now to nine points, according to the Quinnipiac University telephone poll, which ended March 31.

Clinton is well ahead of Obama among Pennsylvania's white voters, 59 percent, while he gets nearly three of four black voters. She is well ahead among women, while the two are even with men.

With both candidates wooing union members, displaced workers and anxious families, they quarreled again over which of them would oppose the mostly trade deals such as the North America Free Trade Agreement. Some labor leaders blame NAFTA for sending U.S. jobs overseas, a claim that many economists dispute.

As many as 830,000 union voters are expected to have a strong say in how more than 4.1 million Democrats, a record registration for Pennsylvania, allocate the state's 150 delegates to the Democratic national convention.

Obama told the AFL-CIO gathering that he will oppose pacts that threaten U.S. jobs. "What I refuse to accept is that we have to sign trade deals like the North Korea Agreement that are bad for American workers," Obama said.

Security experts: New chips leave IDs open to electronic pickpockets

By David Montgomery
The Washington Post

Stuck on the tarmac, flipping through a travel magazine, you're struck by the blurbs for metal-lined wallets. Purpose: to prevent digital pickpocketing by blocking radio frequencies.

These handsome babies start at \$79.99 and top out at the \$225 Italian Leather Teju Lizard Embossed Travel Wallet.

Your reaction: Wow! Luxury accessories for paranoids!

But you would be wrong, Maybe.

Because, said electronic security expert Bruce Schneier, crystallizing the view of many: "As weird as it sounds, wrapping your passport in tin foil helps. The tin foil people, in this case, happen to be correct."

"The issue is bigger than just the new style of passports, which contain chips that emit information that can be read by a scanner. We're also talking about your employee ID/building access card, your automobile high-way toll pass, your public transportation card, the newest wave of credit cards and gas purchasing cards, even digital drivers' licenses being developed in some states.

All of these fifty bits of plastic employ versions of radio frequency identification technology, or RFID. That is, they toss out bits of data that are caught by receivers, with little or no contact, just through the air in some cases. The new credit cards, such as MasterCard's PayPass, don't even have to be swiped through a machine: You need only lightly tap the PayPass on a terminal to register a purchase.

Neato. It feels as if you're living in the future, or in an episode of "24," when you slip your purse on a subway

tunnels and the gate opens, or you wave your ID badge at a node on the wall and your office door beeps open (and then your face and all your recent movements around the office — yikes! — pop up on the security guard's computer).

Alas, just as every problem has a solution, so every solution has a problem, right?

According to some security gurus, even when there is no receiver, the vicinity your digital secrets are leaking merrily from the cards in your wallet, like sound from a radio that you can't turn off.

So, (ital) conceivably, (end ital) a pickpocket with a laptop and an antenna could find the digital contents of your wallet. This modern Arfar Dodge would never reach his fingers under your jacket. I'd be that guy with a backpack slouched on a bench in a subway station or airport, vacuuming up bits and bytes as crowds lusted past.

Paranoid? The scenario has mainly been re-created by researcher-hackers under simulated conditions. The makers and issuers of RFID cards insist the data are encrypted and safe. Yet some security watchdogs assert the need to cover, or shield, these cards when they aren't in use. A thin metalized nylon can do the trick, based on the classic Faraday cage design, to disrupt RFID communications.

"If I had an RFID that didn't have a cover, a driver's license, a credit card, a corporate ID card ... suddenly a (stupidly) wallet isn't such a stupid idea," said Schneier, an author of books on security and the chief technology officer of Santa Clara, Calif.-based BT Counterpane, a network security company.

"RFID creates security and privacy risks," said Marc Rotenberg, president of the Electronic Privacy Information Center in Washington.

McCain working to announce his choice of running mate

PENSACOLA, Fla. (AP) — Sen. John McCain disclosed Wednesday he is in the "embryonic stages" of selecting a vice presidential running mate and hopes to unveil his choice before the Republican National Convention to avoid the type of problems that plagued Don Quayle's debut two decades ago.

"It's every name imaginable," he said of his list-in-the-making, about 20 in all.

The disclosed none of them

and declined even to identify the individuals he has approached to supervise the vetting that will inevitably winnow the field.

In expressing his hope to announce his choice before the convention opens in September, McCain added, "I'm aware of enhanced importance of this issue because of my age." He is 71, and if he wins, would be the oldest president elected.

McCain's comments seemed to startle his top

aides, who have scripted an elaborate weeklong series of events designed to introduce the Republican to a wider audience of voters and emphasize his military service.

The day's itinerary included stops at the Naval Academy in Annapolis, Md., where McCain graduated in 1958, and Pensacola, Fla., where he took his flight training.

There, he drew a loud ovation when he said, "We could

and should call on universities to allow ROTC a presence on their campuses. That they are justifying denial of that privilege is disgraceful."

The Arizona senator's remarks on a vice presidential search made clear his campaign has entered a new phase after a month spent asserting control over the party apparatus, emphasizing fundraising and trying to heal the wounds of a hard-fought struggle for the GOP nomination.

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Senate leaders agree on bill to ease housing crisis

WASHINGTON (AP)—A bipartisan Senate bill designed to ease the slumping housing market won tepid reviews Wednesday, and even its sponsor acknowledged that much more is needed to help millions of families threatened with foreclosure.

The scaled-back proposal unveiled by Senate Banking Committee Chairman Christopher Dodd, D-Conn., contains an amalgam of ideas aimed at boosting demand for housing and helping homeowners saddled with subprime mortgages avoid foreclosure.

The plan contains \$4 billion in grants to local governments to buy and refurbish foreclosed homes, new authority for states to issue bonds to be used to refinance subprime mortgages, and a temporary \$7,000 tax credit for people buying new homes or properties in foreclosure.

Those provisions, and others, were the product of a bipartisan negotiation that avoided the usual government-denominator approach to the crisis.

"There's a lot more that needs to be done," Dodd said, "but it's a step in the right direction."

The White House weighed in with serious doubts about the bill, and economists across the spectrum were skeptical that it would do much to ease the wrenching crisis in the housing market and the wave of foreclosures spreading across the country.

White House Spokesman Tony Fratto said the administration was skeptical that it would do much to ease the wrenching crisis in the housing market and the wave of foreclosures spreading across the country.



Sen. Richard Shelby, (R-La.) left, talks with Sen. John Thune (R-S.D.) following a bipartisan meeting where Democrats and Republicans agreed to draft a housing rescue bill on Capitol Hill on Wednesday. Democrats and Republicans reached a tentative deal on a package of legislation to help homeowners facing foreclosure, including new tax breaks intended to help stabilize the wider housing market.

"Some of these provisions that are purportedly to help homeowners actually would not help them and in some cases could hurt them," Fratto said. For example, he said, the tax credit for buyers of foreclosed and newly constructed homes could force down prices for many other sellers.

White supporters said the measure would boost demand for housing, help people refinance adjustable-rate mortgages and help communities beset with abandoned homes, many economists cautioned that the measure's benefits would be modest —

and would help banks and homebuilders while doing hardly anything for people facing foreclosure.

"They're good steps, but they're small steps and certainly not big enough steps to solve the problem," said Mark Zandi, chief economist for Moody's Economy.com. "I don't think it's going to be enough to solve the housing problem, at least not in 2008."

The measure also contains a provision dropped from February's stimulus measure that would permit homebuilders and other money-losing businesses to reclaim previously paid

taxes, new disclosure requirements aimed at preventing unsophisticated borrowers from being duped by mortgage brokers, and additional money to promote counseling to people threatened with foreclosure and help them in negotiating with their lenders.

Republicans forced Democrats to drop efforts that Zandi and other economists said might have proven more effective in alleviating the crisis, including a controversial plan opposed by banks and their GOP allies to change bankruptcy laws to help borrowers trapped in subprime mortgages keep their homes.

Banking Committee Chairman Christopher Dodd, D-Conn., was also forced to leave out of the bill a plan to have the Federal Housing Administration guarantee perhaps \$100 billion worth of refinanced loans if lenders reduce loan amounts to reflect reduced home values. Dodd told reporters he would continue to work on the idea in hopes of advancing it later in the year.

Republicans won a scaled-back version of a plan by Johnny Isakoch, R-Ga., to provide a temporary tax credit to people buying foreclosed or newly built homes. Isakoch sought \$150 million in tax credits spread over three years — aimed at boosting demand in the slumping housing market — but GOP negotiators settled for a \$7,000 credit awarded over two years.

Liberals and conservative economists alike questioned the merits of the idea, however, saying it would have relatively little effect on demand and that to the extent it would lift demand it would boost foreclosure sales for banks who made bad loans and homebuilders who built homes despite signs that the market was slowing.

Boy kills man who attacked his mother

HYATTSVILLE, Md. (AP) — A 12-year-old boy fatally slashed a man who was attacking his mother at the boarding house where they lived, authorities said.

Salomon Noubissie, 64, died in a hospital after he was slashed across the neck Monday night in the home in the landowner area.

Cpl. Diane Richardson, a spokeswoman for Prince George's County police, said Wednesday that authorities hadn't decided whether the boy would be charged with anything. They were reviewing the case with the state's attorney's office.

The boy said he had been playing a video game Monday night when he heard his mother, Cheryl Stamp, scream. He found her on the kitchen floor, straddled by a fellow resident who was choking her.

"I kept saying, 'Stop! Stop! Stop!'" the boy told The Washington Post, which published his account without giving his name. "But he just ignored me. He didn't stop. He just kept hurting her."

The boy said he took a knife and swung at the man. Police say they found Noubissie with a knife wound to the upper body.

Barely a 12-year-old implicated in a homicide, and even less often does a child that age kill someone to protect his mother.

Man admits causing death of 7-year-old immigrant who disappeared from home

SOUTH SALT LAKE, Utah (AP) — A man held in the killing of a 7-year-old girl who vanished from her family's complex admitted he caused her death inside his apartment while hundreds of people searched for her, police said Wednesday.

Estar Met, 21, was being held on charges of aggravated murder, kidnapping and evidence tampering. The body of Iser was found in the apartment where Met had been living for about a month.

Police Chief Chris Snyder said Iser knew Met's four roommates and had played in the apartment many times. Wah said he had knocked on the door during the search but got no answer.

After Iser died, Met hid the body and left the apartment, Snyder said. The police chief declined to disclose details about how she was killed.

Met's roommates were not home at the time of Iser's death, and they "had no idea" what had happened until police entered, Snyder said at a news conference.

Candles, stuffed bears and flowers were placed at the apartment complex Wednesday.

Volunteers had searched for Iser after she walked away from her apartment following an argument with an older brother Monday. Iser had four brothers, one born just a few weeks ago.

The family is among more than 500 refugees from Myanmar living in Utah, said Norman Nakamura, Utah's coordinator for refugee resettlement. The country is governed by an authoritarian military regime and has numerous documented cases of human rights abuses, according to the U.S. State Department.

Authorities were still looking into the background of Met, who does not have a criminal record in the U.S., said Snyder, the police chief.

Met

found Tuesday, more than 24 hours after she disappeared from her family's apartment at the South Parc complex. Her body was found in the apartment where Met had been living for about a month.

Iser and her family are natives of Myanmar, formerly known as Burma, and settled in Utah last summer. The girl's father, Cartoon Wah, said through an interpreter Wednesday that he was grateful for an outpouring of public support.

Police Chief Chris Snyder said Iser knew Met's four roommates and had played in the apartment many times. Wah said he had knocked on the door during the search but got no answer.

After Iser died, Met hid the body and left the apartment, Snyder said. The police chief declined to disclose details about how she was killed.

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EDITORIAL

Investment — personal and communitywide — raises wages

It's an economic paradox: How can a region with one of the state's lowest unemployment rates also have Idaho's lowest wages?

That's been a reality in the Magic Valley since community economic development campaigns began in earnest a generation ago, and there are few signs of change.

A new report from the Bureau of Economic Analysis shows the average wage in south-central Idaho increased 36 percent from 1996 to 2006, to an average of \$13.68 per hour. The statewide average grew more than 40 percent during that period, to \$15.62.

More than 15 companies with at least 100 employees have expanded or relocated here in the past 12 years, bringing good jobs.

But not always well-paying jobs.

More than 90 percent of those employers require high-school educated, non- or semi-skilled laborers. The average hourly wage for these jobs is about \$13.

Only about 20 percent of the region's jobs require skilled labor.

Until that percentage increases, it's likely that Magic Valley wages will continue to lag.

There's no question that many of those companies are here for low-cost labor.

But in business circles, and labor market analyst Ian Roesser sees evolution as a route to higher pay. "What we are seeing is more automation in some businesses, which will need employees with the skills to do things like calibrate the machinery," said Roesser, who works for the Idaho Department of Labor. "It will get our workforce out of doing mundane things while also increasing wages."

Still, pay seldom increases in a seller's market. Take retailing, for example.

There's stiff competition for employees in that sector. But the 10,000 folks who work in retailing here earn an average of just \$11.36 — 4 percent below the state average for retail workers and 17 percent behind the region's average wage for all jobs.

The real money is in skills. Electricians, for example, average \$24.22 an hour in the Magic and Wood River valleys. A computer programmer earns \$26.59, an elementary school teacher the equivalent of \$25.36 an hour.

Job-specific skills require training, which is the specialty of the College of Southern Idaho. It's not at all unusual for CSI students to go from an entry-level retail wage of \$6.55 an hour to a registered nurse's starting salary of \$19.81 an hour.

When more south-central Idahoans fall into the "skilled" category, wages will rise across the board.

Economic development pays dividends, but education pays even better.

Times-News

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Hillary is actually doing Obama a favor

Democrats getting jittery about the alienating effects of the endless soap opera they call their campaign should buck up. These "hand-wringers," as the Hillary strategist Harold Ickes calls them, are not seeing the larger picture.

Hillary is crucially misunderstood, and she deserves more credit for her benevolence. Not only does she have a lot in common with Rocky, as she said on Tuesday in Philadelphia. She has a lot in common with another famous cultural character — the Marchallin in Strauss' comic opera "Der Rosenkavalier."

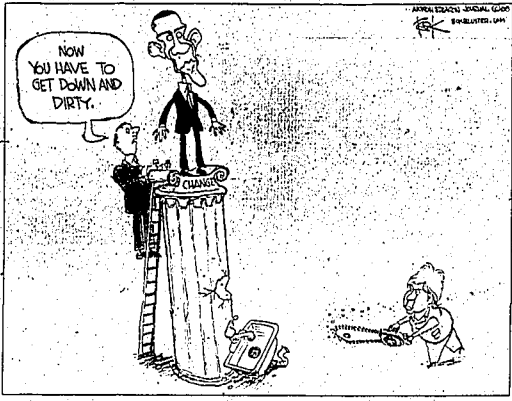


MAUREEN DOWD

The Marchallin is a princess married to a Viennese field marshal who has a *laissez-dangereuse* with a younger man, Count Octavian. Though she's worried about her fleeing youth and the fickleness of men, she instructs the young man on the ways of love and then gracefully lets him free, allowing him to find happiness with young Sophie as a serving-waiter plays.

Whether or not she wins, Hillary has already given noble service as a sophisticated political tutor for Obama, providing her younger colleague with much-needed seasoning. Who else was going to toughen him up? Howard Dean? John Edwards? Dennis Kucinich?

Obama had not been hard on this campaign; he sailed through his Senate race. Without Hillary, he never would have learned to be a good debater. He never would have understood how to calmly answer distorted and personal attacks. He never would have been warned about how harmful an unplugged spouse can be. He never would have realized how a luminous speech can be effective damage control.



When pressed about whether he's ready for Swift-boating, Obama has seemed a bit cavalier. But the Hillary camp will gorge him with his mistakes until he fully appreciates what garroting feels like. Ickes told a Web site on Tuesday that he has been pursuing superdelegates by pressing the Rev. Wright issue. Besides coaching Obama, Hillary is also shielding him. If she had not fibbed about the "Aloha airport landing, and then fibbed to get out of a fix, the press would have stayed focused on Wright. She has been an invaluable lightning rod.

Hillary has clearly taught Obama the importance of courting the ladies. Touring a manufacturing plant in Allentown, Pa., on Tuesday, he was flirtatious, winking and smiling like a chicken working there, calling one a "Sweetie," telling another she was "beautiful," and imitating his daughters' dance moves by twirling around. Later, at a Scranton town hall, he went up to Denise Mercant, a pharmacist from Danmore, wearing a Hillary button. "What do I need to do? Do you want me on my knees?" he charmed, before promising: "I'll give you a kiss."

Obama has been less adept at absorbing the lesson of Hillary's metamorphosis from entitled queen of the party to scrappy blue-collar mums. His in-the-know and insider-tentatively hilarious efforts to woo working-class folk in Pennsylvania have only made him seem more effete. Keeping his tie firmly in place, he genteelly sipped his pint of Yeungling beer at Sharky's sports cafe in Lantham and bowled badly in Allentown. Challenging Obama to a bowl-off, Hillary kindly offered to "spot him two frames."

At the Wilbur cluckalote shop in Litz on Monday, he spent most of his time skittering away from chocolate goodies, as though he were a startled obessing on a svele avalanche.

"Oh, now" the woman managing the shop told him with a frown, "you don't worry about calories in a chocolate factory."

The *New York Times'* Michael Powell reports that, after watching five plump, white-haired women in plastic halos spin the chocolate into such confections as "Phantom of the Opera" masks and pink high heels, he ventured: "Do you actually eat the chocolate or do you get sick of it?" They giggled at his

stiffness. He looked even more concerned when he was offered a chocolate cake with white chocolate frosting. "Oh, man!" he said. "That's too decadent for me."

One of the most valuable lessons the gritty Hillary can teach the languid Obama — and the timid Democrats — is that the whole point of a presidential race is to win. It's not to save power, or force the squabbling couple into an arranged marriage. The winner wins, even if it's only by a fraction of a percentage point or one Supreme Court justice. Winning has no margin of error, as the Democrats should have learned by now. And the winner gets to decide his or her running mate.

But the ultimate favor Hillary can do for the Illinois first-come is to fight him until he finds and then gracefully release him so he can find happiness with another.

Hillary's work is done only when she is done, because the best way for Obama to move his' ready to stare down Almadrid is by putting away someone even tougher.

Maureen Dowd is a columnist for *The New York Times*.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Voters' passage of school levy is much appreciated

On March 11, nearly 3,000 voters in the Twin Falls School District turned out to approve by supermajority the renewal of the 10-year plant facilities levy. That is almost twice the number of voters that turned out in 1997, the last time this levy was up for a vote.

Two years ago, patrons of the Twin Falls School District also voted for a \$49.7 million levy, the third-largest in Idaho's history, to build a new high school and to improve the facilities at nearly every other school in the district.

We are very appreciative of the patrons of the Twin Falls School District who voted in support of both levies. Your votes are sure to be rewarded by providing a quality education and a safe and secure environment for the students in this community.

In addition, we are so proud of our PTA-O presidents and members, our high school and district office team, our teachers and staff members for the extra effort it took to help inform our

patrons and to inspire a higher level of participation. We would also like to acknowledge the *Times-News*, KMYT and numerous radio outlets for the outstanding and professional coverage of the issues. The endorsements from the Twin Falls Education Foundation, the Twin Falls Chamber of Commerce and the *Times-News* editorial board were pivotal to the success of both elections and sent a clear message that investment in great schools boosts the local economy.

It is an exciting time to be a part of the Twin Falls School District No. 411.

BRYAN MATSUOKA
Twin Falls
(Editor's note: Bryan Matsuoka is chairman of the Twin Falls School District board. Other members of the board who signed this letter were Lori Ward, Vera Holman, Kamey Young, John Atkins and Superintendent Wiley Dobbs.)

Misguided leaders show we need to get involved

"Of course people don't want war. But after all, it's the

leaders of the country who determine the policy, and it's their job to make sure the people know what they're doing. It's democracy, a fascist dictatorship, or a parliament, or a communist dictatorship. Voice or no voice, the people can always be brought to the hildings of the leaders. That is their job. And if you don't like them it's their job to change it. They are being attacked and denounce the pacifists for lack of patriotism and exposing the country to greater danger." — Herman Goering at the Nuremberg trials.

We have more than 2,000 nuclear bombs, so does Russia. China has plenty, India some, Pakistan some, North Korea some, England some, Israel some, and we are to tremble in our boots because pig squeak Iraq might be able to build one? Herman, you fascist \$586, you are so right!

Our borders are a joke. Thousands of tons of illegal drugs every month are smuggled into our country. Only an estimated 10 percent of the produce coming through our ports are checked, and terrorists are

supposed to go to Iraq and get shot before coming to the United States? How were we ever sold on that pile of shit?

The question now is: Are we going to stand still while our country goes bankrupt (\$3 billion a week) and our soldiers keep getting wounded and killed? We heard this one way for Obama to win the course? "Start the course?" he must not have any grandchildren?

All the generals say it will take at least another 10 years if they will commit at all, and maybe as Mc Cain has said, 100 years. "Start the course?" Our Constitution says a government "by the people and for the people." It is past time for the people to start governing again. We have pathetic rulers electing our rulers. Check them out. Get involved! Vote!

MATT SMITH
Twin Falls

THE LIGHTER SIDE OF POLITICS

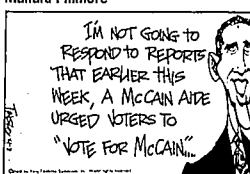
Doonesbury



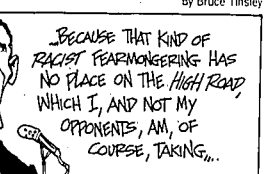
By Garry Trudeau



Mallard Fillmore



By Bruce Tinsley



OTHER VIEWS

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



... the grocery tax

Post Register, Idaho Falls

If ever you needed an argument for simply repealing the sales tax on food, the Idaho Legislature just handed you one.

Rather than take that step, lawmakers passed — and Gov. C.L. "Butch" Otter has signed — another expansion in Idaho's sales tax grocery credit. Over time, it will rise to \$100 per individual — though it jumps immediately to \$50 per person in low-income families and \$20 per individual for everybody else.

Not that it's cheap. Presumably, repealing the 6 percent sales tax on food

would cost more — but probably not that much more. But the full cost of the expanded credit comes close, about \$122 million by 2016.

Before you think the credit is generous, consider the following: Idaho is one of only seven states that fully taxes food purchases.

It is one of only five states that offers a credit to mitigate the tax.

And until Otter signed this new law, Idaho was the only state that withheld this tax credit from the poor ...

At least the new law removes that odious policy. But anybody drawing food stamps won't get the credit — a policy the Center on Budget and Policy Priorities says is unique to the Gem State ...

In Idaho, an estimated 157,000 people live close enough to the federal poverty line — \$21,200 for a family of four — to qualify for food stamps. About 62 percent of them receive the help, which averages \$233 a month.

... even the most frugal households of four would spend another \$3,200 a year on nutrition ... In other words, that family pays another \$200 a year in sales taxes on food ...

A good start: Repeal the sales tax on food.

... wolves

Idaho Statesman

Starting (last week), Idaho



wolves became our responsibility. And a challenge to us all.

The state officially assumed management of a growing population of some 800 wolves, as the federal government removes the wolves from its endangered species list.

So ends a 13-year process that reestablished the wolf as one more threat to our livelihood ... but reopened a bitter debate over its place in Idaho.

Environmentalists cheered the predator's return. Ranchers painted the wolf as one more threat to their livelihood ... They were joined in the debate by increasingly vocal hunters, who say wolves are literally eating their way through the state's big-game populations.

Meanwhile, the wolf population behaved as any force of nature would. Packs found pristine, vacant habitat in Idaho's best forests

time has come for the Department of Fish and Game — the agency charged with protecting Idaho's wildlife — to manage this species as well.

We all recognize the value of placing jurisdiction in the hands of the government closest to the people. We also recognize the need to balance the interests of all Idahoans, from hunters and ranchers and pet owners to wildlife watchers and wolf advocates ...

... a double penalty

Spokesman-Review, Spokane, Wash.

... for (Idaho) residents whose incomes can't keep up with spiraling tax bills can be enough of a burden to crush household budgets. In extreme cases, delinquent tax bills put homes on the auction block.

As if that weren't sad enough, Idaho law contains an injustice that makes matters even worse. When a tax deed sale is held and the delinquent taxes have been paid, along with legitimate governmental costs associated with the process, the remaining proceeds don't go back to the previous owner who may have spent years building up equity. They go to the government. That windfall would have been ended by a bill that passed the Idaho Legislature this year, but Gov. Otter vetoed it. Both the Senate and House approved SH

1385 by comfortable margins — 32 and 51, respectively — but Otter called it "preferential treatment" to let residents keep what's left of their investment after taxes and other bills had been paid.

The consequences of the law were demonstrated most conspicuously more than seven years ago when a Bonner County woman, JoAnn McGuckin, fell \$8,444 behind in taxes on her home and 40 acres. To cover the arrearage, an auction was held, and an out-of-state buyer paid more than \$50,000 for the property. McGuckin never saw a penny of it all of the surplus went to local taxing districts.

In Otter's veto message, he noted that some houses that might be covered by the bill are abandoned or former meth addicts who require costly refurbishment before they can be sold and put on the tax rolls. That's a valid concern, but easily resolved: Sign the bill and call on lawmakers to add such expenses to the list of associated costs that the law already allows to be recovered in a tax deed sale ...



Snake River is salmon's Noah's Ark

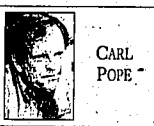
A global warming bears down on our Western rivers and watersheds, it is thought one of the great symbols of Western abundance wild salmon. With each passing year, their numbers have dropped precipitously. This decline is believed to be in part the result of warming temperatures in streams and rivers.

Last month, government fishery managers moved toward a ban on salmon fishing off the California and Oregon coasts because of the diminishing numbers of chinook salmon.

If we hope to save the salmon, we must do two things: Stop the rise in greenhouse gases as quickly as we can and secure our watersheds' health against the warming that has begun and will continue. This is a river-by-river job, and each river matters. But there is one part of the job that is critical — the piece that unites sportsmen, biologists and scientists who care about salmon.

The biggest, wildest, highest, coldest, healthiest and best-protected salmon habitat left south of Canada spans millions of acres and thousands of stream miles in central Idaho, eastern Oregon and southeast Washington in the headwaters of the Snake River. It is Noah's Ark for salmon — the haven they need to reach to survive and carry on.

Scientists believe the salmon that spawns in this place probably have the best chance of any salmon populations to adapt to, and thus survive, global warming. This habi-



CARL POPE

cat, nearly all above 4,000 feet in elevation, will stay cool as temperatures rise in other areas. It will give salmon the firmest footing from which to self-adapt in the face of warming. And because the area is protected as wilderness and public land, it probably will face less development pressure and could offer refuge for years to come.

In the face of the great flood, Noah had to build an ark, but this one comes already made. All we need to do is help the salmon get there.

The heart of the refuge lies in the Salmon River Mountains high above the Pacific Ocean, hundreds of miles from the coast. But the route between the ocean and the spawning ground — the ark — is choked by eight dams, which kill as much as 90 percent of the area's native salmon as they journey out to sea and back again.

If salmon are to survive climate change, four of these dams on the lower Snake River must go. Once the dams are removed, the salmon would be able to reach the ark, and scientists give such a plan a 50 percent to 90 percent probability of restoring productive populations.

If the dams stay, the salmon will lose their best

chance to survive global warming.

It is less expensive to remove these four dams than to keep them. The modest electricity benefits they offer to local wheat farmers can and should be replaced by clean energy sources, such as wind and solar power.

This does not mean we throw up our saltion in southern or lower-elevation rivers. We should continue to do everything we can to protect their habitats from logging and development.

Realistically, low-elevation rivers will warm more, putting salmon there more at risk. Filling the high-elevation ark with salmon is our best insurance policy against what global warming could do to these valuable fish.

We have reached a tipping point. Only four sockeye salmon returned to the ark last year, and in a few years the area's chinook salmon could also reach the brink of extinction. We must act now, and if we do, the odds of success are excellent.

Get out a map of America. Find the wild stretch of Idaho, eastern Oregon and southeast Washington through which the Snake River winds, a region with very few roads or towns, nearly all of it public land. This is Noah's Ark for salmon, the place fish must reach if they are to survive climate change. But the salmon can't do it on their own. Like Noah, we must help them to safety.

Carl Pope is executive director of the Sierra Club. He wrote this commentary for the Los Angeles Times.

How not to save housing

In politics, it is imperative to be seen as "doing good." The present housing crisis is a case in point, as Congress now seems increasingly intent on aiding millions of homeowners who can't easily pay their mortgages and may face foreclosure. This sort of rescue looks good, even though it is a bad idea and might adversely delay the housing recovery.

No reasonable person takes pleasure from seeing people lose their homes, and Congress is understandably upset. Estimates of defaults in 2008 run up to 2 million. If realized, that would be roughly twice the 2006 level and about 2.7 percent of the nation's 75 million owner-occupied homes. It would be the highest rate since World War II but well below much higher rates during the Great Depression, says economist Kenneth Snowden of the University of North Carolina at Greensboro.

The best-known congressional proposal comes from Rep. Barney Frank (D-Mass.), chairman of the House Financial Services Committee. (The Bush administration is reportedly considering a similar plan.) It would authorize the Federal Housing Administration (FHA) to guarantee \$300 billion of new home loans to strapped homeowners, allowing them to refinance their existing mortgages at lower rates and lower outstanding amounts.

Under it, homeowners who borrowed from Jan. 1, 2005, to July 1, 2007, would be eligible for new loans if their monthly payments of interest and principal exceeded 40 percent

of their income, well above a more prudent level of 30 percent.

Existing lenders would have to take a sizable write-down to qualify for having their loans repaid by the government. The FHA would pay the existing lender no more than 85 percent of the property's present appraised value; the FHA would then charge the homeowner for a loan at 90 percent of the appraised value. The extra 5 percent is a cushion against losses. (Example: A \$200,000 home with a 100 percent mortgage has already declined 10 percent to \$180,000. The FHA loan repays the existing lender 85 percent of that, about \$153,000. The existing homeowner's new loan is at 90 percent of that, or \$162,000.)

Everyone wins from this arrangement, say its supporters. Homeowners — some victims of deceptive lending practices — stay in their houses. Neighbors don't suffer the potential blight of numerous foreclosures. Housing prices don't go into a free fall, depressed by an avalanche of foreclosures. Although lenders take a loss, the loss is less than they would be if homes went into foreclosure. That's a costly and lengthy process that could involve losses of 50 percent or more.

The Frank proposal and others like it put politicians on the barricades, trying to protect needy homeowners. The message is flattering. But there are two glaring problems: one moral, the other economic.

About 50 million homeowners have mortgages. Who wouldn't like the government to cut their monthly payments by 20 percent or 30 percent? But Frank's plan reserves that privilege for an estimated 1 million to 2 million homeowners who are the weakest and most cashless borrowers. With the FHA now authorized to lend up to \$729,750 in high-cost areas, some borrowers could be fairly wealthy. By contrast, people who made larger down payments or kept their monthly payments at manageable levels would be made relatively worse off.

Government programs have promise and rewards irresponsibility. Inevitably, there would be resentment and pressures to extend relief to other "needy" homeowners.

Foreclosure is a bad place for both creditors and debtors. Although the process is messy, promising to lubricate it with massive federal assistance may retard it as both want to see if they can get a better deal from Washington, which would then assume the risk for future losses.

Netester/Staff columnist Paul Samuelson writes about economics.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

All too often, poachers get away with crime

I would like to praise Idaho Fish and Game for thoroughly investigating and the prosecutor for aggressively pursuing the recent moose poaching in Power County. The man sentenced in moose poaching. Times-News, March 25, 2008.

The poacher pled guilty to illegally killing the calf moose and simply leaving her there along the road. In the end, he

was sentenced to jail time, fines and restitution, as well as having his hunting license suspended for life.

Wildlife officials estimate that for every wild animal killed legally — tens of millions of animals per year — another is killed illegally.

And all too often, poachers

are not caught.

It is great to see Idaho officials sending a strong message to all poachers to think twice before robbing Idaho's citizens of valued wildlife.

DAVID PAULI Billings, Mont. (Editor's note: David Pauli is the regional director for the

Northern Rockies Region of the Human Society of the United States.)

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Military feels the gouge of fuel costs as Iraq, allies watch oil profits soar

Vehicles, tanks, planes, generators guzzle fuel.

WASHINGTON (AP) — Think you're being gouged by Big Oil? U.S. troops in Iraq are paying almost as much as Americans back home, despite burning fuel at staggering rates in a war to stabilize a country known for its oil reserves.

Military units pay an average of \$3.23 a gallon for gasoline, diesel and jet fuel, some \$88 a day per service member in Iraq, according to an Associated Press review and interviews with defense officials. A penny or two increase in the price of fuel can add millions of dollars to U.S. costs.

Critics in Congress are fuming. The U.S., they say, is getting suckered as the cost of the war exceeds half a trillion dollars — \$10.3 billion a month, according to the Congressional Research Service.

Some lawmakers say oil-rich allies in the Middle East should be doing more to subsidize fuel costs because of the stake they have in a secure Iraq. Others point to Iraq's own burgeoning surplus as crude oil prices top \$100 a barrel. Baghdad subsidizes jet fuel only about \$1.36 a gallon.

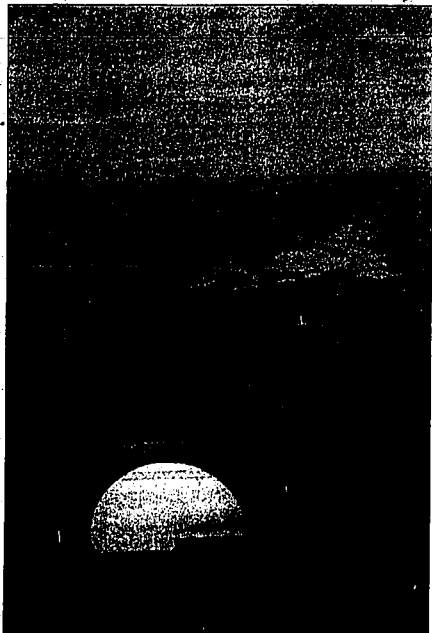
The U.S. military, through its Defense Energy Support Center, buys fuel on the open market, paying from \$1.99 a gallon to as much as \$5.30 a gallon under contracts with private and government-owned oil companies. The center then sets a fixed rate for troops, currently \$3.51 a gallon for diesel, \$3.15 for gasoline, \$3.04 for jet fuel and \$13.61 for avgas, a high-octane fuel used mostly in unmanned aerial vehicles.

Kuwait does grant substantial subsidies, but they cover only about half the fuel used by the U.S. in Iraq. And the discount is eaten up by the Energy Support Center's administrative costs and fluctuations in the market.

Overall, the military consumes about 1.2 million barrels, or more than 50 million gallons of fuel, each month in Iraq at an average \$127 a barrel. That works out to about \$153 million a month.

Historically, these figures are astounding. In World War II, the average fuel consumption per soldier or Marine was about 1.67 gallons a day; in Iraq, it's 27.3 gallons, according to briefing slides prepared by a Pentagon task force established to review consumption.

The surge in demand can be attributed in



LEFT: The sun sets as a Black Hawk helicopter hovers over Baghdad's protected Green Zone in November 2006. U.S. troops in Iraq are paying the same gas prices as Americans back home, despite consuming fuel at staggering rates.

part to the military's expanding aviation fleet, including helicopters, and its reliance on planes to shuttle cargo and troops between the U.S. and Iraq. Vehicles, too, are more heavily armored and require more energy to run. Another major contributor is the widespread use of generators to cool troops.

The Pentagon's demand for fuel in Iraq has had little if any effect on global oil prices. Frank Verrastro, director of the energy and national security program at the Center for Strategic and International Studies in

Washington, said the military's use of 1.2 million barrels a month — or roughly 40,000 barrels a day — represents a small chunk of the 86 million barrels demanded each day on the global market.

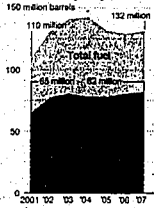
Instead, Verrastro says, the hike in oil prices since the 2003 invasion is more likely due to a "fear factor."

"Prices rise when Iran saber-rattles, or there's a disruption potential in Nigeria," he said. An even larger driver of fuel costs is global demand, fed by robust economies in Asia and the lack of available alternative fuel

Burning up jet fuel

Jet fuel accounted for 52 percent of the fuel provided to the military during fiscal year 2007.

Fuel for military usage, FY 160 million barrels



LEFT: The sun sets as a Black Hawk helicopter hovers over Baghdad's protected Green Zone in November 2006. U.S. troops in Iraq are paying the same gas prices as Americans back home, despite consuming fuel at staggering rates.

sources, according to Verrastro. Still, some lawmakers say the U.S. is paying too much to secure an oil-rich nation that resides in a neighborhood of swimming in the natural resource.

Rep. Gene Taylor, D-Miss., a member of the House Armed Services Committee, said he was

shocked last December to watch U.S. troops in Kuwait filling diesel tanks at higher prices than he would have paid to fill up his boat in Mississippi.

"The Kuwaitis have been good allies. But let's face it, that nation would not be there if not for the American liberation of Kuwait," he said, referring to the 1991 conflict.

When Taylor pressed Pentagon and embassy officials on the matter, he was told Kuwait was actually offering a more discount. Unlike other oil-rich allies, Kuwait is estimated to have saved the U.S. government \$1.2 billion in four years, from 2002 to 2006. U.S. Embassy officials told the congressman in a Jan. 3 letter.

Under the current agreement, the Kuwait-owned company supplies 7,000 gallons per day of free fuel to U.S. forces operating inside Kuwait. For troops in Iraq, Kuwait offers 860,000 gallons of jet fuel a day at less than half the market price. This discounted fuel represents more than half the fuel the U.S. uses in Iraq each day.

The rest of the fuel — about 100,000 to 200,000 gallons a day — is sold to the U.S. military at market rate. When Taylor asked whether more could be done by Kuwait and other oil-rich allies in the Middle East, a senior Pentagon official said the U.S. wants to see an even bigger reduction in prices from Kuwait but indicated there was no guarantee that would happen.

Experts doubt 3rd-graders would have carried out plot to attack teacher

WACHOSSE, Ga. (AP) — Allegations that 3rd-graders hatched an attack plot to knock out, handcuff and stab their teacher were met with shock by neighbors and with doubt by psychiatry experts who said it is unlikely that children that young seriously intended to hurt anyone.

Police say the plot at Center Elementary School began because the children, ages 8 to 10, were apparently angry after the teacher disciplined one of the students for standing on a chair.

Students brought a crystal paperweight, a steak knife with a broken handle, steel handcuffs and other items as part of last week's plot, police said Tuesday. They said nine students were involved, but prosecutors are seeking juvenile charges against only three of them.

Experts said children that age are certainly imaginative and capable of creating elaborate games. But Dr. Louis Kraus, a child psychiatry expert at Rush University Medical Center in Chicago, said he doubts

they would have actually attacked.

Most premeditated acts of student violence in schools usually don't occur until high school, Kraus said. Younger children have been known to bring knives or other weapons to school, experts said, but often it's more a matter of showing off or acting tough than part of a deliberate assault attempt.

Police said the plot had been organized enough that some students were assigned specific roles such as covering classroom windows and cleaning up any mess. Most children under the age of 12 don't generally experience the kind of long-standing anger necessary for a premeditated crime, said Dan Mears, an associate professor at Florida State University's College of Criminology and Criminal Justice.

The district attorney is seeking juvenile charges of conspiracy to commit aggravated assault against an 8-year-old boy and two girls, ages 9 and 10. The girls are also charged with bringing weapons to school.

FBI: Man accused of trying to bring explosives on Fla. plane wanted to show bomb-making skills

ORLANDO, Fla. (AP) — A Jamaican arrested after trying to check luggage containing pipe bomb-making materials onto a flight home explained that he wanted to show his friends there how to make them, authorities said Wednesday.

Investigators were questioning whether Kevin Christopher Brown had ever been to Iraq — where he said he'd seen similar bombs made, according to court documents — and looking into his mental health history after his arrest Tuesday at Orlando International Airport.

Authorities and airline officials repeated their assurances that passengers were never in danger.

Transportation Security Administration officials nonetheless touted the 32-year-old's arrest as a victory for new covert screening techniques involving plainclothes officers mingling with travelers.

Cleveland Laycock, a manager in TSA's behavioral



Brown - Jamaica

detection program who was walking in civilian clothes, first spotted Brown approaching the Air

counter. He told a uniformed subordinate to watch the man, and soon that officer called another for backup.

Behavior detection officers Frank Skowronski and Jose Zengotta wouldn't specify what Brown did that looked

suspicious, saying it would undercut TSA's strategy. But they generally study facial expressions and body posture for fear, stress and deception.

The officers watched Brown drop off two bags to be checked, and had security officials set them immediately.

Inside were two glass vials, bottles containing nitromethane, a colorless liquid used as a fuel for drag racing, in manufacturing and as a cleaning solvent, the FBI said in a court filing. Brown told officials he hoped the liquor bottles would disguise the nitromethane, the docu-

ment states. The baggage also had a model rocket igniter, galvanized pipes, end caps, two small containers containing BBs, batteries, a laptop, and instructions on how to make bombs, the FBI document said.

Dave Platt, a TSA bomb appraisal officer who searched the luggage, described the instructions as something that could be downloaded from the Internet.

He said the bags held virtually everything necessary to make a pipe bomb, and someone of his experience could assemble it in 15 seconds.

PET OF THE WEEK



"Jake" is a one-year-old border collie mix. He is a neutered male who has the basics of training down pat and is a ready-to-go dog.

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INSIDE: Obituaries, B2-3 | Idaho/West, B4

Baker gets 12 years to life for involvement in murder

By Cassidy Friedman
Staff writer

Nicole Baker was handed down a tough sentence of 12 years to life on Wednesday for her involvement in the planned South Hills murder of Jesse Coates. The judge's sentence followed an even tougher berating by the victim's family, who would have sent her to prison for life.

"All I have heard is, 'poor me, poor me,' the victim's sister Andrea Coates, 22, read from a letter written by their mom. Hatred and contempt is how Judy Coates described her reaction to the defendant after attending each of Baker's court

Magicvalley.com



Watch excerpts from the sentencing hearing.

appearances since Baker was arrested for the December 2006 murder. "Because of you, I talk to my boy through concrete and cinderblock."

"You are a waste of good oxygen and space on this earth," Andrea Coates read, causing Baker to cry and heave as she faced in her chair away from media cameras. "You will



Baker

rot in hell."

In sharp contrast to the family's reaction, 5th District Judge Randy Stoker was less clear for what level of participation in the crime he was sentencing Baker. Baker pleaded guilty — in a spirit of contrition, she said tearfully Wednesday — to first-degree murder and conspiracy to commit a murder with three men she had known only for a week before enlisting in the plot. But while she said she knew the plan was to harm Coates so he wouldn't go to police about a slew of armed robberies the group had committed, she maintains she never knew the others planned to kill Coates.

"You've yet to tell me what I think the truth is in this case," Stoker said. If Baker's plan was not to intentionally kill Coates, "we shouldn't be sitting here. The case should be going to trial."

But Baker pleaded guilty and Stoker accepted her plea, a plea that implies she intentionally participated in the murder. On the basis of her plea in August rather than her state-

ments Wednesday, Stoker went along with the prosecutor's capped recommendation of 12 years to life, which had been reached through plea bargaining. Conflict Public Defender Tim Williams asked for 10 years to life, the minimum punishment for first-degree murder.

But Stoker, who said it was clear Baker's actions contributed to the murder, stopped short of believing all the state's evidence.

Senior Deputy County Prosecutor Julie Sturgill used statements from other inmates at the jail, a spurned lover and other co-defendants

Please see MURDER, Page B3

Gooding man, infant grandson killed in Blaine County wreck

Mother survives, now recovering from bone fractures, other injuries

By Matt Christensen
Staff writer

A Gooding man and his infant grandson are dead following a car wreck in Blaine County last week.

Police say Dennis Faulkner, a 64-year-old Gooding resident, and Sage Carpenter, an 8- or 9-month-old infant, of Eugene, Ore., died at the scene of a collision on March 27 along Idaho Highway 75, despite efforts by police and motorists to save their lives.

"Children did stop at the scene to try and assist and keep the scene safe from further accidents," said Lt. Jay Davis of the Blaine County Sheriff's Office. "They used blankets and coats, etc., to try to keep the victims warm due to wind-blown snow and cold temperatures."

The child's mother, 31-year-old Jesse Carpenter, also of Eugene, is recovering from head injuries and hip and arm fractures in a physical-therapy unit at Saint Alphonsus Regional Medical Center in Boise. Carpenter, who was riding in the backseat, had to be extracted from the 2004 Toyota truck driven by her father, officials said.

According to police, Faulkner lost control of the pickup in windy, icy conditions about 1:30 p.m. as he traveled north between Shoshone and Bellevue near the junction of Highway 75 and U.S. Highway 20. The vehicle crossed over the center line and collided with a semitrailer driven by Brian Easton, who'd slowed his rig when he saw Faulkner sliding toward him.

Easton, who sustained minor injuries, could not be reached Wednesday by telephone at his home in Kimberly.

A former carpenter, Faulkner died as he was trying to spend more time with family during his retirement, said his wife Sarah Faulkner, also an Oregon resident.

"It was just living life, gardening and taking the time he never had before his retirement," she said. "We were a really close family."

Matt Christensen may be reached at 208-735-3243 or at matt.christensen@tw.com.

Magic Valley H.S. sees enrollment highs



Students at Magic Valley High School sit in the entryway to the school located in downtown Twin Falls. The alternative high school is experiencing enrollment highs and students say that the increases are due to a positive atmosphere where some feel like they are part of a family — something that they say their previous traditional high schools could not provide.

Increase due to word of mouth, students say

By Andrea Jackson
Staff writer

Life at Magic Valley Alternative School in Twin Falls has been extra cozy for students during the past three years with all-time high enrollment numbers.

The average enrollment had been about 93 students between the years 1992 and 2005, and then in September 2006 and 2007 it bumped up to an all-time steady high of 146, according to

numbers provided by the school.

Principal Jack Altencross said he doesn't know exactly why enrollment has taken on the high and steady dynamic but invited students to chime in.

A handful of them on Wednesday — all dropouts from traditional public schools — shared some ideas.

"The word got out," said 16-year-old student Brandi Bradford. "Kids are graduating."

And Bradford's right. Graduation rates

at the school have steadily increased during the past three years at the school, from 52 percent in 2004-05 — to 62 percent in 2005-06 — to 64 percent last year, according to the Twin Falls School District.

Magic Valley High School accepts students who have dropped out of high school. Some said they've spread positive words about the school to their friends

Please see HIGHS, Page B3

M-C airport proposal gains traction

By Sven Berg
Staff writer

BJHJLJ — More than a decade after a joint committee took up the task of building a new airport in Mini-Cassia, the idea appears to be gaining traction again.

Mini-Cassia Economic Development Commission Chairman Mark Maier emerged from a meeting Tuesday with representatives of several local cities, saying he will begin the process of promoting an airport coalition.

At issue is whether to move ahead with plans to build a new airport just north of Interstate 84 and west of State Highway 27 — a site preferred by Burley officials but disputed by some who say the land's potential commercial value would be wasted by an airport.

One dissenter is Blincoe Farms Inc., which owns about half the land on the proposed site. Blincoe has requested annexation by Heyburn and commercial zoning of its property. Burley officials fear commercial zoning of the property may raise the cost of acquiring it beyond what the city can pay.

The Heyburn City Council is scheduled to vote on annexation and zoning of the Blincoe property at its April 9 meeting.

Burley officials say its current airport, located just north of East Main Street, will eventually be closed because its runway is too short to accommodate any but the smallest airplanes. Mini-Cassia may soon be left without any airport at all if a new one is not built soon, they say.

An airport coalition would differ from a formal airport authority in that it would operate through a single city or county acting as the vote for the other cities or counties. Maier said a formal airport authority is unlikely to become reality because, as a taxing body, its formation would require supermajority approval from voters in each participating government.

Details of how the coalition — if formed — would operate have yet to be determined. Chief concerns are money and representation. Exactly how much weight each government's vote would carry and how much funding each entity would provide may take months to determine.

Several of the six Burley officials who attended Tuesday's meeting warned forming a coalition may result in the same futility encountered in 1997. Former Councilman Don Dean, a vocal advocate for building an airport at Burley's preferred site, said it was politics in 1997 that doomed joint efforts to build

a new airport. He said each governing body preferred a site beneficial to itself, and squabbling between the parties eventually brought all negotiations to a halt.

Burley City Administrator Mark Mitton said the 1997 failure led to Burley's unilateral effort in seeking a new airport. And since it is Burley pursuing that airport alone, he said, the city must make its own concerns a priority.

For example, if the city built an airport distant from its fire, protection and street-paving services, the cost of maintaining the airport would be greatly increased. Extension of infrastructure like water and sewer lines is also a concern with any remote site.

Paul City Councilman Bob Dempsey said Tuesday he understands the areas need for an airport and Burley's concerns as it pursues its preferred site, but he would like to see other governments involve themselves in the process of selecting a site.

"At some point in time, somebody has to step up, and that somebody is the city council," he said. "Mini-Cassia won't be the same place in 10 years if that airport's closed."

Sven Berg may be reached at 208-677-8764 or sberg@southidahopress.com.

Buhl changes graduation date

By Blair Koch
Correspondent

Buhl School Board trustees decided to follow the recommendation of Superintendent Margaret Cox to move graduation ceremonies from Friday, May 23 to Saturday, May 24.

"It is very important to make decisions based on valid data and to attempt to involve stakeholders in appropriate decisions," Cox said.

The date change, announced during a special meeting Monday, stems from a scheduling conflict surrounding the state track meet scheduled in Boise for May 22 to 24.

Cox's recommendation followed the results of a survey taken of the senior class at Buhl High School. Out of 63 graduating seniors, 61 students completed the survey. Thirty-three students said they preferred that the date of the graduation ceremonies be changed. 13 students wanted the date to remain and 16 students had no opinion on the matter. The meeting, held at

the district office, drew students, parents and community members.

"I came because I wanted to support changing the day for graduation," said senior Colton Laynes. "I have a lot of friends in track and want them to be here for the senior breakfast and all."

Buhl High's graduating class this year is intimately small, said senior Jillian Villaro. A lot of the students remember attending kindergarten together. To participate in commencement ceremonies or any of the other activities without fellow classmates would have put a damper on the event, she said.

"I'm in track and all of my friends are in track," Villaro said. "We're a small class and even if just a few of us would make it to state, if those students are not here, it would affect the whole class. I supported changing graduation to make sure the entire class could be together."

Blair Koch may be reached at 208-316-2607 or blairkoch@gmail.com.

Josephine Lovenia Lawrence Murphy

In the early morning hours of March 28, 2008, Josephine Lovenia Lawrence Murphy slipped away to join Guy, Linda, and other dear departed ones in Jesus' arms.



She was born in Logan, Okla., on Dec. 3, 1915, the fifth of seven children. Her parents were Richard Van Buren Lawrence and Lovenia Street Lawrence (one of the five Street sisters who were raised on the prairie by frontiersman Robert Sylvester Street). Her siblings were Walter, George, Preston, Larry and Ray, all of whom have gone on before her (Tram and Larry while serving their country during World War II).

She attended school in the Oklahoma panhandle, riding her horse, Peetah. Dust Bowl uprooted the Lawrence family who traveled in their truck, living in a tent. Near Kansas, Okla., she met and married Guy Thomas Murphy. They farmed near there for several years. Their first three boys, Lawrence, Doyle and Bill, were born there. After the war, Guy joined the CCC's and came to Idaho, working on the crews.

Later (in the fall of 1930), he moved the family to Wendell, while still in Oklahoma. Mom received the answer to her prayers, a little girl, Linda. Teddy and Rita were born in Wendell, Idaho. Despite working hard for low wages and raising six kids, Guy and Linda managed to buy a home in Buhl. There came the great trial of her life. Linda became

sick. Over the next three years, Mom did everything to save her. Trips to special hospitals around the country including the Mayo clinic and two surgeries made no difference. The cancer ate away at her until she died a few days before her 13th birthday. All this time, Mom hardly left her side.

Guy and Jo lived in Mauraugh for two years, Oakley for three, then in the late '40s, settled in Burley. Their marriage lasted 52 years until Guy passed away in 1966. Both Guy and Jo were real Christians, serving their Lord and Savior Jesus Christ all of their lives. Never did we children observe their faith better, even during the most difficult times.

Mom had to work hard most of her life, many years taking seasonal work. She worked nineteen years at Ore-Ida, retiring in 1979. She helped raise several of her grandchildren. Her most fervent wish was for her children and grandchildren to be educated.

She is survived by four sons, Lawrence Murphy of Paul, Bill and Bonnie Murphy of Paul, Doyle and Ruth Murphy of Burley, and Ted and Jana Murphy of Twin Falls, one daughter, O.D., and Rita Baker of Kansas, Okla.; 21 grandchildren, 48 great-grandchildren and four great-great-grandchildren. The funeral will be at 11 a.m. Friday, April 4, at the Payne Memorial Chapel, 221 W. Main in Burley, with visitation one hour before the funeral; burial will be at 3:30 p.m. Friday at the West End Cemetery in Buhl.

Please donate honorariums to The American Cancer Society.

Roy Lee Koch (Cookie)

Roy Lee Koch (Cookie) passed away March 10, 2008, after a long battle with cancer. Roy was born May 6, 1927, in Lamar, Mo. In 1939, he moved to Idaho. He joined the Navy and served from 1945 to 1948. Roy married the love of his life, Peggy O'Dell, on Feb. 19, 1947. After leaving the Navy, he worked for Home Lumber and later Nelson and Miller Construction



before moving to California. In 1964, he moved his family to California, where he joined the Carpenters Union and worked in the trade until his retirement. He remained in California until his death. He is survived by Peggy, his wife of 61 years; daughters, Cindy (Gary) Strifoff and Rhonda (Fabien) Chappell; son, Rodney (Gladys) Koch; two granddaughters, Chelsea and Casey Chappell; and two brothers, Harold of Kimberly and Wayne of California. Roy will be missed by his many family members and friends.

Peggy Delpha Sturgeon

Peggy Delpha Sturgeon passed from this life on March 31, 2008, to be with her Dad and her Savior, Jesus Christ.



Peggy was born July 2, 1950, in Gooding, to Mickey and Esther (Meyer) Sturgeon. Peggy was one of God's special angels. She was a joy to all who knew her. Peggy left many sweet and loving friends at the Center for Independent Living. The people at the center were her close family friends. We love these people for the love and care they gave Peg, Bradley and Sharon, her close friends, will miss Peggy. Peggy's life was full of music. She really loved Dean Martin and The Wizard of Oz. Peggy graduated from Jerome High School in 1979. She has spent most of her time at the Center for Independent Living. Peggy enjoyed her weekly bowling and pizza outings and creat-

ing ceramics at the Ceramic Palace.

She was preceded in death by her father, Mickey Sturgeon; and is survived by her mother, Esther; three brothers, Larry (Dana) Sturgeon and Terry (Carole) Sturgeon, both of Shoshone; and Bill Sturgeon of Umapine, Ore.; one sister, Penny (Dave) Swanner of Gooding; and a half sister, Audrey Dean of Logan, Utah; and Carol Morrison of Twin Falls. Peggy's friend and care provider for the past two years, plus many nieces and nephews. Special thanks to Dr.'s Ippolito and Micki and the excellent staff in the ICU unit of St. Luke's Magic Valley Medical Center. The funeral will be held at 11 a.m. Saturday, April 5, at Reynolds Funeral Chapel in Twin Falls. Burial will follow at 3 p.m. at the Shoshone Cemetery. Friends may call from 9:30 a.m. until the time of the service Saturday at Reynolds Chapel. Please use mem.com to express your thoughts and tributes on behalf of Peggy's family.

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

Bill Smith

PAUL — Bill Smith, 79, of Paul, passed away Monday, March 31, 2008, surrounded by family and loved ones. He was born Sept. 16, 1928, in Bedford, Mo., the son of Fred and Maude Smith. Bill was married from 1945 to 1960 to Betty Joan (McNally) Smith, to which two daughters were born, Sue and Mary Smith. Bill was an energetic businessman who followed his heart to Southern California, where he owned and operated several small bars. In 1966, Bill married Edna Marie (McDonald) Smith; together they had one son, Mitchell Smith. After leaving California, Bill moved with his wife and son to Paul, where he purchased "The Becky Ann Cafe," which he owned for nearly 15 years.



He often considered the "cafe" his life's work; through it, he met remarkable people and made many lasting friendships. Bill was an active member of the Paul Chamber of Commerce, the Mount Harrison Snowmobile Club, the Elks, and he was a board member of the Paul Housing Authority until his death. Bill loved the outdoors and was an avid hunter, fisherman and snowmobiler. He enjoyed traveling and playing cards with the "boys." Bill is survived by his children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren. He was preceded in death by his wife, Jessie; his parents and his siblings.

A viewing for family and friends will be held from 4 to 6 p.m. Friday, April 4, at the Hansen Mortuary (Rupert Chapel, 710 Sixth St.). A private interment service will be held at a later date.

Constance 'Connie' Marie Eubanks Vipperman

Constance 'Connie' Marie Eubanks Vipperman, 58, of Twin Falls, passed away Saturday, March 29, 2008, at St. Luke's Magic Valley Medical Center.



Connie was born Dec. 11, 1949, in Kingston, the daughter of Carlos and Eula Mae Phillips Eubanks. Connie married S.L. "Vip" Vipperman on Nov. 19, 1968, in Twin Falls. She has lived the last 30 years here in Twin Falls. She loved fishing, being outside and spending time with family and friends.

Connie is survived by her beloved husband of 20 years; children, Tina Eubanks of Twin Falls, Frank (Peggy) Martinez of Boise, Zak (Karen) Martinez of Ikerika, Alaska, and Eula Martinez of Twin Falls; four stepchildren. A viewing for family and friends will be held Monday, April 7, at the Highland Cemetery in Casper, Wyo. The family suggests memorial donations to the Wyckoff Bible Translators or the Hallelujah Handbells and the music ministry at First Presbyterian Church of Twin Falls. Services and arrangements are under the direction of White Mortuary in Twin Falls. Family and friends are invited to share their memories and thoughts at www.mem.com.

Jess (Cindy) Vipperman, Jeri Spradley and Gary (Lauri) Vipperman, all of Orangeville, Utah, and Jim Vipperman of Twin Falls; 19 grandchildren; 14 great-grandchildren; brothers, Jim Eubanks, Buck Eubanks and Smokey Eubanks, all of Fairbanks, Alaska; DeWayne Eubanks of Tri-Cities, Wash., Marvin Eubanks of Cutbank, Mont., and Cooper Pellowski of Tri-Cities, Wash.; and three sisters, Wanda Skilton of Twin Falls, Kathy Kennew of Tri-Cities, Wash., and Dortha Eubanks of Spokane, Wash. She was preceded in death by her parents and two sisters, Carol Hagan and Pauli Leighton. A memorial service will be held at 11 a.m. Saturday, April 5, at White Mortuary "Chapel by the Park." Cremation was under the direction of White Crematory. Please go to www.mem.com for an online announcement and guest book.

Dorothy D. House

Dorothy Donner Richards House, of Twin Falls, died Monday, March 31, 2008, at Twin Falls Care Center.



She was born Oct. 12, 1925, in San Jose, Calif., to Clair T. and Edna H. Richards. Shortly after her birth, the family moved to Poncha, Colo. She graduated from Poncha High School and later from North Central University in Minneapolis, Minn. She married Robert C. House in Denver, Colo., on May 29, 1948. They lived in Laramie, Wyo., from 1950 to 1954, then moved to Casper, Wyo., to raise their family. Dorothy moved to Twin Falls in 2000.

Dorothy was preceded in death by her husband, Robert in 1992; her mother in 1971; her father in 1969; her sister, Norma in 1976; and her son-in-law, Roy Mix in 2000. She is survived by her daughter, Barbara Mix of Twin Falls; sons, Donald Richards of Twin Falls and Kéimeth Richards of Austin, Colo. She is also survived by eight grandchildren, Annie of Hillsboro, Ore., Adam of Twin Falls, Krista of Highlands Ranch, Colo., Alex, Andrew, Alyssa, Alysha and Kyle of Austin, Colo.; three great-grandchildren, Bethany of Hillsboro, Ore., and Brendan and Aidan, both of Twin Falls. Dorothy is also survived by her brothers, the Rev. Claire Richards of Cheney, Wash., and William Richards of Lynnwood, Wash. A memorial service will be held at 11 a.m. Saturday, April 5, at the First Presbyterian Church of Twin Falls. A grave-

side service will be held Monday, April 7, at the Highland Cemetery in Casper, Wyo. The family suggests memorial donations to the Wyckoff Bible Translators or the Hallelujah Handbells and the music ministry at First Presbyterian Church of Twin Falls. Services and arrangements are under the direction of White Mortuary in Twin Falls. Family and friends are invited to share their memories and thoughts at www.mem.com.

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Patient Spotlight

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I have many other choices in Boise, but for me it's worth the trip to see Fritz!"

Mary McCormell
Mountain Home

DEATH NOTICES

Harriett M. Dains

GOODING — Harriett M. Dains, 80, of Gooding, died Wednesday, April 2, 2008, at Sunbridge Care and Rehabilitation Center in Twin Falls. Arrangements will be announced by Demary's Gooding Chapel.

Donny C. Morrow

GOODING — Donny "Dad" Morrow, 79, of Gooding, died Wednesday, April 2, 2008, at his home. Arrangements will be announced by Demary's Gooding Chapel.

Melnie Nessa

Melnie "Mel" Nessa, 89, of Twin Falls, died Wednesday, April 2, 2008, at his home. Arrangements will be announced by Reynolds Funeral Chapel in Twin Falls.

More obituaries and services are on page B3

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Lorraine Nelson Stevens

Lorraine Nelson Stevens, 74, of Twin Falls, passed away Monday, March 31, 2008, at St. Luke's Magic Valley Medical Center in Twin Falls.



Lorraine was born and raised in Dietrich, where she graduated from high school. She attended two years at Idaho State College and married Wayne Stevens on Aug. 16, 1953.

Lorraine moved to Twin Falls in 1972, where she worked for the College of Southern Idaho for 22 years. She retired in 1995 but continued to find time to assist at the start of each semester in handling out financial aid to CSI students.

Mildred Mae Jones Carr

SHOSHONE — Mildred Mae Jones Carr, 95, passed away peacefully on Monday, March 31, 2008, at the Shoshone Living Center in Shoshone.

Highs

Continued from page B1
struggling in traditional schools from Buhl to Twin Falls. "It's comfortable here," said Bradford.

member of PEO, 20th Century Club, Twin Falls County Election Board and Christian Women's Fellowship, and served several elementary schools as a mentor to students who needed extra help with reading and a "grandma's ear" to listen to them.

In the last few months of her life, Lorraine was blessed with the love and companionship of a very special man, Joe Miller. She and Joe were engaged to be married on April 12.

She is survived by her daughters, Georgia (Donna) Magie, Kelly Nelson, and Linda (Robert) Miles of Texas; grandchildren, Megan Miles, Scott Miles, Kristopher (Amber) Boatman, Bryan Boatman, Mark Boatman and his fiancé, and Morgan Simms; brothers, Walter Nelson and Jerome; and Philip Nelson of Twin Falls.

The funeral will be held at 11 a.m. Saturday, April 5, at the First Baptist Church, 2282 Hilland Ave. in Burley.

Hamilton throws hat in ring for Buhl School Board

By Blair Koch Correspondent

BUIL — Mike Hamilton said his goal in running for the Buhl School Board is to restore confidence, cooperation and trust between the community and board.

Hamilton is running for the Zone 1 trustee seat now held by Ron McDonald, who has not indicated whether he will seek reelection.

Hamilton has two sons, 12 and 15, and has been volunteer coach for youth baseball, football and basketball.

SERVICES

Lula May Young of Burley, funeral at 11 a.m. today at the First Baptist Church, 2282 Hilland Ave. in Burley.

Mark Edwin Durfee of Spokane, Wash., and formerly of Alma, funeral at 11 a.m. Friday at the UBS Church.

Gary George Sallis of Jackpot, Nev., public viewing at 11 a.m. Friday at the Anderson and Sons Mortuary, 49 E. 100 S.

George Oscar "Buster" Taylor of Glens Ferry, graveside interment service at 11 a.m. Friday at the Glenn Rest Cemetery.

the constituency, with what the people want," he said.

The supports the development of a policy allowing for more open public comment during school board meetings, he said, as well as enforcing district administration to act in relation to the direction given by the board.

"People are getting involved, and that's a plus," he said. "If the trust is there with the board, the public will not have to be there."

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HEARING COUNSELORS

Advertisement for Hearing Counselors and Audiologists featuring a photo of a man and the slogan "Suddenly It's All So Clear".

Lions meeting place changed

The Twin Falls Lions Club has changed its meeting place. Club members will meet at noon at Norm's Catering Room, 827 Main Ave. W. in Twin Falls.

Murder

Continued from page B1
to paint a picture of Baker as dangerous, incoherent, self-centered and, after the murder, lacking remorse.

James said Baker confessed to them that she premeditated the murder. Sturgill said. She bragged even of being the trigger man — a claim the judge disputed.

"A psychologist found that Baker, who has an unhealthy need to attract men's attention, waited to appeal to Rudy Hernandez-Juarez, one of the two men who pleaded guilty to spearheading the murder."

"I fully understand the passions set forth by the family," Williams said. "The judge, he argued, 'must find a balance' between the family's harsh desire for a

are various speakers on topics important to the community. Visitors are welcome. The meeting includes a no-host lunch. For more information: 312-55067.

life sentence and excessive lenience — neither of which Baker hoped to receive.

"She knew there was going to be harm done," Williams said. But never a murder. After the shooting, Baker did not return to save Coates, who ultimately died slowly from exposure rather than the bullet wounds, Sturgill said.

"Because of guilt and fear, I don't know if I'll ever be able to live with myself," she said. "I think I'm more a danger to myself than I am to others."

Cassidy Friedman may be reached at 735-3241 or official.magicvalley.com.

Large advertisement for Stover Estate Auction, listing various vehicles, tools, and equipment for sale.

Advertisement for Century Stadium 5 & Burley Theatre in Burley, listing movie showings.

Advertisement for Oticon Delta hearing aids, including a contact information table for Twin Falls, Burley, and Hailley.

Senator chides Kempthorne over polar bear decision

WASHINGTON (AP) — The chair of the Senate Environment Committee Wednesday slammed Interior Secretary Dirk Kempthorne for failing to appear before her panel to explain why the Bush administration has delayed a decision on whether to protect polar bears under the Endangered Species Act.

Sen. Barbara Boxer, D-Calif., said it was wrong that Kempthorne declined her invitation to appear before the Senate Committee on Environment

and Public Works. "It's wrong that Mr. Kempthorne is not here," Boxer said after the hearing, which went on without an appearance from Kempthorne or any other administration official. "I like him, but it's wrong."

The deadline for the listing on Alaska's polar bears as threatened under the Endangered Species Act was Jan. 9. Conservation groups positioned to list polar bears as threatened more than three years ago because their habi-

tant, sea ice, is shrinking from global warming.

Boxer said Kempthorne and other administration officials were "ducking their responsibility to the American people" by delaying a decision on the bears — and then failing to appear at a hearing to explain why.

Boxer said she was especially troubled because the administration did not hesitate to open a major bear habitat to oil leases. The Interior Department opened a large area of the Chukchi Sea

to oil and gas leases in early February, despite sharp criticism from environmentalists who note that one-fifth of the Arctic's polar bears depend on sea ice in their hunt for food.

"There's a rush to drill, and no rush to list" polar bears as threatened, Boxer said.

A spokesman for Kempthorne declined immediate comment, but in a letter to Boxer, Kempthorne said he "respectfully" declined her invitation to appear at the hearing, since he is a named defendant in a lawsuit over

the polar bear listing filed by an environmental group.

Kempthorne, Idaho's former governor and senator, said he understands that the delay in the polar bear decision is frustrating to Boxer and others who advocate additional protections for the bear.

But he said the oil and gas leases opened up in February do not pose a threat to the bear, citing the "localized nature" of the proposed oil and gas developments. If the bear is listed as threatened,

any oil and gas exploration would be subject to the Endangered Species Act, regardless of when the leases are sold, Kempthorne said.

Sen. John Warner, R-Va., said he spoke with Kempthorne this week, and Kempthorne expects a decision on polar bears "before early summer."

The Interior Department's inspector general, responding to conservation groups, said last month it is investigating why the department had not made its listing decision.



A bull bison wanders outside the boundaries of Yellowstone National Park in Wyo., last month.

Bison slaughter program faulted in new GAO report

BILLINGS, Mont. (AP) — A government report released Wednesday faulted state and federal bureaucracies for failing to stop the slaughter of bison leaving Yellowstone National Park — even as the number of animals killed this year set a new record.

More than 1,400 park bison have been removed or killed since February, under a federal-state agreement meant to prevent the spread of a livestock disease to cattle ranches surrounding the park.

The bison are captured as they migrate to lower elevations outside Yellowstone in search of food.

In a report by the Government Accountability Office, sharply criticized federal and state agencies for failing to expand the area where bison can freely roam outside the park, as called for in the 2000 agreement.

That lack of progress occurred despite almost \$16 million spent on bison management since 2002, according to the report.

Another \$14 million was spent on land and conservation easements just outside the park in an area where bison often attempt to migrate. But part of that deal was never completed and the land remains off limit to bison.

The GAO report was requested by House Natural Resources Committee Chairman Nick Rahall, D-WV, and Rep. Maurice Hinchey, D-NY. The commission released a copy of the report Wednesday.

"It's been clear for some time now that the current (bison management plan) is not working," Rahall said in a statement. "Both federal and state agencies could and should do much more to protect these magnificent animals while still safeguarding the cattle industry."

The slaughter program's impact on the park's bison population has been dramatic. This year's slaughter has driven the population

down more than a third, from 4,700 animals last summer to an estimated 3,000 in a count released last week.

Since the 2000 agreement was signed, more than 3,200 bison have been killed.

However, the GAO report said the program had succeeded on at least one count — keeping bison separate from cattle to prevent the transmission of brucellosis. The disease can cause pregnant animals to abort their young, and a widespread outbreak in Montana could cost the livestock industry tens of millions of dollars in lost sales and decreased cattle prices, according to the report.

All such animals at National Park Service spokesman at Yellowstone, said the agency was doing its best to balance bison protection with the brucellosis threat.

Bison, often referred to as buffalo, are considered an icon of the West's natural heritage and serve as the symbol for the National Park Service.

Once numbering in the millions and found across most of North America, they were virtually wiped out by early European settlers in the late 1800s. By the time Yellowstone's bison population began to rebound late last century, the park's wildlife had emerged as one of the country's last reservoirs of brucellosis.

With the disease now eradicated from the rest of the country, the livestock industry has pressed for Yellowstone's bison to remain contained.

Conservation groups contend such pressure has prevented those involved in the slaughter program from showing greater tolerance for bison even in areas where cattle no longer graze.

The 2000 agreement was signed by the National Park Service, U.S. Forest Service, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS), Montana Department of Livestock and Montana Fish Wildlife and Parks.

Senate passes primary bill in bid to help GOP chairman Sullivan

BOISE (AP) — The Senate voted 20-15 Wednesday to make public the party ballot choices of voters in Idaho's primary elections.

Republicans who voted for the bill saying they did so to help GOP Chairman Kirk Sullivan survive a challenge from conservatives who want him replaced at the party's state convention in Sandpoint in June.

The House declined to take up the bill because the Legislature is adjourned Wednesday. But the vote immediately drew barbs from critics who said the Senate should rise above issues of political expediency.

The bill approved by the Senate would have made a public record out of whether voters choose Republican, Democratic or other party ballots. It also would have let Republicans pay for their own primary elections, if they still weren't satisfied.

Sullivan has opposed efforts by former Republican state Sen. Rod Beck and other members of the party's arch-conservative wing to close Idaho's 36-year-old open pri-

mary, to prevent Democrats from switching sides and skewing results in favor of more moderate candidates.

Beck's lawsuit in U.S. District Court failed in 2007, but 70 percent of the party's central committee in January favored a closed primary resolution and pledged to sue if the 2008 Legislature didn't make the necessary changes.

After Wednesday's vote, Senate President Bob Geddes, R-Soda Springs, said he doesn't support changing Idaho's primary, but that he hoped the chamber's decision to take up the bill will at least appease some of those who've criticized his head.

All Senate Democrats voted against the measure, saying they don't want to change Idaho's primary. They say the GOP allowed an intraparty issue to improperly

spill over into the Legislature.

The votes help illustrate the fracture between Idaho's GOP mainstream and Beck's more conservative brand of Republican activist who believes Sullivan and others haven't been as aggressive on issues including abortion and school choice. Some local GOP officials have even suggested that if Beck wins,

more-moderate Republicans could form a new Idaho party.

Beck faced a tetchy reception when he testified on the primary-election issue two weeks ago in the Senate State Affairs Committee. He said it was inappropriate for the Senate to vote on a matter simply to influence the future GOP leadership in Idaho.



Idaho Legislature 2008

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Small quake rattles Carlin

ELKO, Nev. — Northwestern Nevada continued to shake Wednesday, with a 3.1 earthquake registered near Carlin.

The quake shortly after 2 a.m. struck about 10 miles northeast of the town, according to the U.S. Geological Survey. It follows a 6.0 tremor near Wells on Feb. 21.

No one called police dispatch to report feeling Wednesday's quake.

Several earthquakes in the 3.0 to 4.5 range on the Richter scale have occurred in the Elko area in recent years, including a 3.9 near the same location of Wednesday's quake in February 2002.

According to a Nevada Seismological Laboratory report from that year, 71 earthquakes had occurred within a 50-mile radius of Carlin since 1900, the largest measuring 5.1.

Wells residents have continued to feel aftershocks, including a moderate jolt Tuesday morning. There were no reports of injuries or damage from the magnitude 4.1 quake Tuesday centered 11 miles northeast of Wells. It hit at 6:16 a.m.

Wells was hit by a magnitude 6.0 quake on Feb. 21 that damaged hundreds of homes and the town's historic district; no one was hurt.

This individual has been classified as a High Risk Offender by the Idaho Sex Offender Classification Board.

Name:
Dewey Boatman
Address:
120 Washington Street
Apartment 1
Twin Falls, Idaho
Conviction: Rape,
Assault on Commit Rape
Twin Falls
County Sheriff's Office

Intestate Amusement Inc.
Moves March 31 to April 3, 2008

Orpheum Theatre 814 Myrtle Street Phone: 734-2929	Oliver Brothers Gift 1001 Broadway Phone: 734-2929
Jerome Cinema 4 935 Myrtle Street Phone: 734-2929	Orpheum Theatre 814 Myrtle Street Phone: 734-2929
Orpheum Theatre 814 Myrtle Street Phone: 734-2929	Orpheum Theatre 814 Myrtle Street Phone: 734-2929
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PEDERSEN AND WHITEHEAD is located in Twin Falls, Idaho. Our law firm is committed to providing the highest level of service for clients statewide. We offer skilled, ethical and uncompromised representation to achieve the absolute best results.

Areas of Practice:

- Wrongful Death and Profound Personal Injury
- Insurance Bad Faith/Consumer Fraud
- Products Liability
- Professional Negligence/Medical Malpractice
- Toxic, Environmental and Pharmaceutical Torts
- Highway Sign and Faulty Design
- Medical Device Litigation
- Auto/Truck Accidents

Churches

Magical Valley

Advertise your special programs or daily services in the Times-News. Inform the community about what is happening in your church.

Call your advertising consultant today for special rates.
Karen at 208-735-3270 • email: churches@magicalvalley.com
P.O. Box 548 • 132 Fairfield St., W. • Twin Falls, ID 83401

St Luke's
Magical Valley

Open House

Canyon View Psychiatric & Addiction Services of St. Luke's Magical Valley is pleased to welcome two new psychiatrists to our community, Dr. Arthur Forsyth and Dr. Mark Edlund.

Dr. Forsyth will be practicing primarily outpatient psychiatry for St. Luke's Magical Valley.

Dr. Edlund will be primarily working on the inpatient unit at Canyon View and performing consult/liaison services at the medical center.

An Open House will be held on Thursday, April 3, from 4 - 6 p.m. in the Canyon View West Group Room (228 Shoup Avenue West, Twin Falls). Refreshments will be served. For more information call 734-6760.

Dr. Forsyth

Dr. Edlund

INSIDE: Jazz throttle Timberwolves to earn 50th victory of season, C5



INSIDE: Local roundup, C2 | NBA & MLB, C5 | Tennis & NFL, C6 | Comics, C7 | Weather & Dear Abby, C8

Kansas forward Darrell Jackson dunks during the first half of an NCAA Midwest Regional semi-final basketball game against Villanova on March 28 in Detroit.



SHADOWED BY TRAGEDY

Darnell Jackson helps send Kansas to Final Four

By John Marshall Associated Press writer

LAWRENCE, Kan. — Tragedy keeps following Darnell Jackson. It first found him in Oklahoma, taking his father, leading him to the crime scene of a classmate's murder. It tracked him down at Kansas, snatching the lives of friends and relatives — his beloved grandmother among them — and maiming his mother.

Tragedy's pursuit has been relentless, flogging Jackson at nearly every turn, crumming a lifetime of heartache into 22 years. But each time, Jackson pulled himself up — sometimes reluctantly — pounding his chest in defiance. "You have to keep getting up," he said. "It's the only way you can keep going." Jackson was in the eighth grade when his absentee father was killed by Oklahoma City police after he

attacked a jogger. During his senior year at high school, Jackson stumbled across the dead body of a classmate. It didn't get better when he arrived in Lawrence. His close friend was killed by gang members, his paternal grandfather died and one of his uncles was beaten to death with a hammer. Then came the crash. It was May 29, 2005, and Jackson's mother and grandmother were heading back after taking younger brother

INSIDE: Even to see his father in Las Vegas. An 18-year-old drunken driver swerved into their lane, causing a head-on collision. Jackson's mother, Shawna Jackson, was left with a mangled right arm and a Please see KANSAS, Page C4



Twin Falls High School freshman Jenna Sharp watches her shot from the No. 11 tee box Wednesday at the Twin Falls Municipal Golf Course.

No contest



Bruins dominate home invite

The guys are still very good. The girls are unmatchable. The defending Class 5A state champion Twin Falls High School golf team swept the boys and girls team titles during Wednesday's Twin Falls 5A Invitational at the Twin Falls Municipal Golf Course. The Bruins boys finished in 298 strokes to top second-place Generalty by three, while the Twin Falls girls won in runaway fashion, their team score of 332 a full 19 strokes better than second-place Caldwell.

of 79, while fellow junior Sara Federica's 81 put her in the clubhouse in a tie for second. Freshman Jenna Sharp came through with a solid round of 81, while Allison Federica's 90 rounded out the scoring for the freshman girls. Derek McDowell led the Twin Falls boys, tying Highland's Quinn Carhol for medalist honors with 70 strokes. Jordan Hamblin made the familiar trip around the Suni with a three-over 72, while Bruins teammates Casey Faight and Connor Lee each finished in 74 strokes to round out the Twin Falls scoring. The Twin Falls girls are back in action on Monday at the Clear Lake Invitational in Buhl, while the boys travel to Flexing on Tuesday to golf at Lemon Lakes Golf Course, along with Madison.

Twin Falls junior Casey Faight watches after chipping the ball onto the No. 4 green.

CSI softball 13th in latest rankings

Salt Lake moves up to No. 6 in NJCAA

By Eric Larsen Staff writer

Four days after suffering his 13th loss of the season, the College of Southern Idaho softball team slipped to No. 13 in the most recent RINGOR/NJCAA Division I Softball Poll, released Wednesday.

Table with columns: Rank, Team, RINGOR/NJCAA Division I Softball Poll, RINGOR/NJCAA Division I Baseball Poll

The 32-13 Golden Eagles dropped three of four games to host North Idaho College last Friday and Saturday in Lewiston, which accounts for CSI falling two spots in the poll, as well as falling out of first place in the Pacific Northwest Athletic Conference standings. Salt Lake Community College overtook CSI in the conference standings. In doing so, the 20-6 (10-3) SWAC finisher inched up two spots in the national poll to No. 6. The Golden Eagles hold a 16-6 conference record, and are two games behind the Bruins entering this pivotal weekend of conference play.

Table with columns: Rank, Team, RINGOR/NJCAA Division I Softball Poll, RINGOR/NJCAA Division I Baseball Poll



"Oh, we want it. We want it back," sophomore infielder Candice Benard said of the conference lead. "We're willing to do whatever it takes to get it back. We know SLC's not going to go down easy, but we're just going to have to work that much harder to get it." CSI's immediate success will greatly test on its ability to hit the two-pitcher Coyotes staff of Maely Fajin and Christina Jones. CSI managed only 15 hits during the first three games of a 2-2 series split in Henderson, Nev., before connecting on 10 in an 10-9 victory in the series finale.

Buhl's Leslie Hunter throws a pitch during the Indians' doubleheader against the Devils Horns Wednesday afternoon in Buhl.

Buhl softball takes two from Declo

In the fifth inning, Buhl sent nine batters to the plate and scored five runs with only two hits and a walk. Leslie Hunter's RBI double scored Amber Scovel, and freshman Katherine Hunter drove in her sister with a single. Some wild pitches helped move Buhl around the bases to plate additional runs. Buhl tacked on three more runs in the sixth. Katherine Hunter finished with two hits, drove in a run and scored twice. The Hornets had four players, Geary, Silcock, Melissa Carso and Breescheer that finished 1-for-3.

up, they can battle back." Buhl coach Shelly Hart was pleased with the support her team gave Katherine Hunter in the second game. "The girls stepped up with a freshman pitcher and made some fantastic plays for her," said Hart. "This team needs to learn how to bring intensity to the beginning of the game and to figure out that you can be young and still be a leader." Buhl (7-3, 2-2) will play in the Kimberly Tournament this weekend, while Declo travels to Kimberly on April 9.

By Diane Phibbin Staff writer

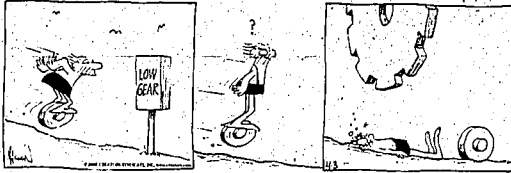
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Buhl 13, Declo 3, Pre Innings

B.C.

By Johnny Hart



Baby Blues

By Rick Kirkman & Jerry Scott



Beetle Bailey

By Mort Walker



Blondie

By Dean Young & Stan Drake



Dilbert

By Scott Adams



The Elderberries

By Phil Frank and Joe Toiso



For Better or For Worse

By Lynn Johnston



Frank and Ernest

By Bob Thaves



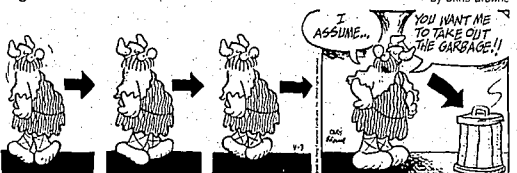
Garfield

By Jim Davis



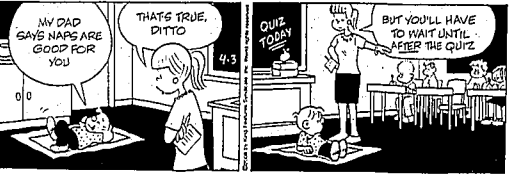
Hagar the Horrible

By Chris Browne



Hi and Lois

By Chance Browne



Luann

By Greg Evans



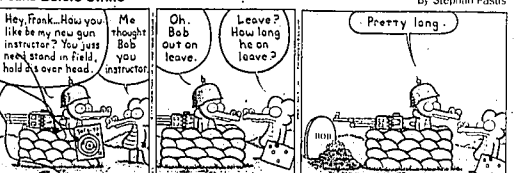
Classic Peanuts

By Charles M. Schulz



Pearls Before Swine

By Stephan Pastis



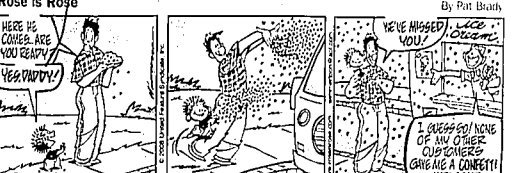
Pickles

By Brian Crane



Rose Is Rose

By Pitt Bark



Non Sequitur

By Wiley



Dennis the Menace

By Hank Ketcham



The Wizard of Id

By Brant Parker & Johnny Hart



Zits

By Jim Borgman and Jerry Scott



TWIN FALLS FORECAST

Today: Mostly sunny, dry and mild with light breezes. Highs in the middle 50s.
Tonight: Mostly clear in the evening, a few clouds moving in overnight. Lows in the lower 30s.
Tomorrow: Partly cloudy and slightly warmer. Highs in the lower 50s.

BURLEY/RUPERT FORECAST

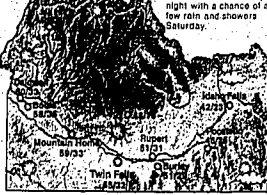
Today: Mostly sunny, dry and mild with light breezes. Highs in the lower 50s.
Tonight: Mostly clear in the evening, a few clouds moving in overnight. Lows in the upper 20s.
Tomorrow: Partly cloudy and slightly warmer. Highs in the middle 50s.

IDAHO'S FORECAST

SUN VALLEY, SURROUNDING MTS.
Mostly sunny skies and great-looking weather to hit the alpine slopes. Clouds creep in later tonight. Friday will generally be partly cloudy, but light snow becomes possible by Friday night and Saturday.

BOISE
Today: Mostly sunny and mild today. Skies will become partly cloudy Friday with slightly higher temperatures.
Saturday: Looks mainly dry, but Sunday may see a few showers.

NORTHERN UTAH
Today: Highs: 20s to 40s. Lows: 10s to 20s.
Partly to mostly cloudy. Friday. Clouds increase Friday night with a chance of a few rain and showers Saturday.



Weather key: 1st forecast, 2nd day, 3rd day, 4th day, 5th day, 6th day, 7th day, 8th day, 9th day, 10th day.

REGG MIDDLEKAUFF'S QUOTE OF THE DAY
All our dreams can come true - if we have the courage to pursue them.

TWIN FALLS FIVE-DAY FORECAST

Table with 7 columns: Today, Tonight, Friday, Saturday, Sunday, Monday. Includes weather icons and temperature ranges (High 55, Low 32).

ALMANAC - TWIN FALLS

Table with 4 columns: Temperature, Precipitation, Humidity, Barometric Pressure. Includes sunrise and sunset times.

Table with 4 columns: Moon Phases, Moonrise and Moonset, U.V. Index.

Table with 4 columns: Regional Forecast, National Forecast, World Forecast.

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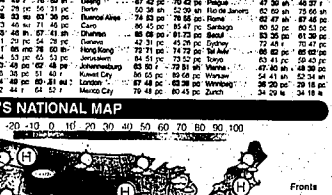


Table with 4 columns: Regional Forecast, National Forecast, World Forecast.

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Mariah Carey surpasses Elvis in hits; Beatles are now in range

LOS ANGELES (AP) — With an 18th chart-topping "Touch My Body," Mariah Carey has passed Elvis Presley for the most No. 1 singles on the Billboard Hot 100, and is now second only to the Beatles.



U.S. singer Mariah Carey arrives at a department store in central London for a signing, Tuesday. The event was the only planned signing in Britain for her latest single "Touch My Body."

But while the diva was in full celebration mode over learning of her latest milestone, she was also quick to put her accomplishment in perspective. "I really can never put myself in the category of people who have not only revolutionized music but also changed the world," Carey told The Associated Press on Tuesday via phone from London.

Like that album, Carey said "MC2" continues her sense of freedom and rebirth: "It's like emancipation of Mariah Carey to the second — power and beyond." Carey, 38, said this is the most enjoyable point of her nearly two-decade old career, and that's her priority these days, not trying to set sales records or even making pop history.

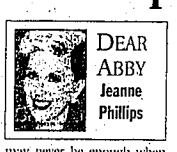
When it comes to sex, length (of time) matters: Sex therapists say 3-13 minutes is best

NEW YORK (AP) — Maybe men had it right all along: It doesn't take long to satisfy a woman in bed. A survey of sex therapists concluded the optimal amount of time for sexual intercourse was 3 to 13 minutes. The findings, to be published in the May issue of the Journal of Sexual Medicine, strike the notion that endurance is the key to a great sex life.

of those who believe that "more of something good is better, and if you really want to satisfy your partner, you should last forever." The gender-specific, said Cory (who, it must be noted, is male). But he said prior research has shown that both men and women want to prolong and sexual intercourse to last longer. "Dr. Irwin Goldstein, editor of the Journal of Sexual Medicine, cited a four-week study of 1,500 couples in 2005 that found the median time for sexual intercourse was 7.3 minutes. (Women were armed with stopwatch- es.) It's difficult for both older men and young men to make sexual intercourse last much longer, said Marianne Brandon, a clinical psychologist and director of Wellbody in Annapolis, Md.

Daughter lauds mom's efforts to intergate multiple selves

DEAR ABBY: I was offended by your response to "True Love Texan" (Jan. 18) when he asked about having a woman with multiple personalities. I am not. I am a woman with Dissociative Identity Disorder. Individuals with DID have survived severe childhood abuse. It was they coped with by splitting into different personalities. DID can be treated through intense psychotherapy, which attempts to integrate the personalities into one.



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gravity of this illness before he makes a lifetime commitment. —WISHER IN CALIFORNIA
DEAR ABBY: When a child is denied "normal" defenses and abused by those who are responsible for providing safety, some children do the most sane thing possible. They retreat into their own minds to a place of safety. We choose to call this by a new term, Multiple Personality Gift (MPG).

—PROUD OF MOM IN PENNSYLVANIA

DEAR PROUD OF MOM: I received a slice of mail about this. My response to "True Love Texan" was not meant to minimize the seriousness of Dissociative Identity Disorder. This man must understand what is involved before he makes a lifelong commitment. The following responses offer personal insights meant to support him as well as possible. However, it is possible to have a successful marriage with a person who has DID. My husband and I will celebrate our 20th anniversary this summer, and he is a multiple. We know the seriousness of his personalities when we began dating, but others have surfaced as the years went on. It has not been easy, and I have had to deal with different folks coming out at awkward times. But as my husband said, "Your life will never be boring if you marry me." and he was right. —WIFE TO ONE OF MANY IN VANCOUVER, WASH.

Advertisement for 'The Snow Center' featuring a photo of a person in a winter setting and the text 'Updated Daily at Imagicalvalley.com'.

Advertisement for 'Tires LES SCHWAB' with a logo and the text 'DEAR ABBY: I know from firsthand experiences that the love, devotion and loyalty'.

Stocks decline
as oil price spike
causes worries

NEW YORK — Wall Street turned lower Wednesday as investors worried that a sharp jump in oil prices could be another sign that consumers are under stress in an economy that is already showing signs of a recession.

Dow Jones Industrials -48.53
12,605.83

Nasdaq composite -1.35
2,361.40

Standard & Poor's 500 -2.85
1,367.53

Russell 2000 -1.63
712.27

For a complete stock listing, go to Magickvalley.com

BUSINESS

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

INSIDE:
Plenty of
drama in
author's new
biography, D3



D
THURSDAY
April 3, 2008

INSIDE: Mutual funds and commodities, D2 | Comunidad, D3 | World, D4

Planned home construction rises as average home price falls

Builders say market remains strong in south-central Idaho

By Joshua Palmer
Staff writer

Builders in south-central Idaho say they expect sales to remain strong into the

summer months even amid reports about home sales declining throughout Idaho and the rest of the nation.

A report of building permits for the month of March, data that is used to measure future residential development, seems to support predictions being made by local builders.

The city of Twin Falls approved 22 permits for single

family homes in March — only one permit less than the same month in 2007.

March permits are still less than half of what the city approved during the same month from 2002 to 2006 — when a strong economy and easy credit fueled housing markets across the nation. However, the latest figure brings the number of permits issued during the

month closer to the 10-year average of 33 permits issued.

The median price of homes slated for construction has fallen for the fourth consecutive month to an average price of \$121,000 since December.

"Based on the feedback we're getting from clients, they are more willing to go without custom landscap-

ing and granite countertops in order to have a lower price," said Justin Winslow, marketing director for Wolverton Homes. "We've had a few homes within the \$120,000 range and they sold pretty quickly, but I would say that our average selling price is still between \$150,000 to \$165,000."

Please see HOMES, Page D2

Median price of single-family home permits

December, 2007: \$186,756
January, 2008: \$155,842
February: \$144,862
March: \$121,002
Source: City of Twin Falls Building Department

Bernanke warns of possible recession

Fed hopes stimulus package will end economic slump

By Jeannine Aversa
Associated Press writer

WASHINGTON — Federal Reserve Chairman Ben Bernanke said Wednesday a recession is possible and policymakers are "fighting against the wind" in trying to steady a shaky economy. He would not say if further interest rate cuts are planned.

Bernanke's testimony to the Joint Economic Committee of Congress was a more pessimistic assessment of the economy's immediate prospects than a report he delivered earlier this year. His appearance on Capitol Hill came amid a trio of economic slumps in the housing, credit and financial areas.

"It now appears likely that gross domestic product (GDP) will not grow much, if at all, over the first half of 2008 and could even contract slightly," Bernanke told lawmakers. GDP measures the value of all goods and services produced within the United States and is the best barometer of the United States' economic health. Under one rule, six straight months of declining GDP would constitute a recession.

Bernanke said "a recession is possible" but he also said he expects more economic growth

Please see RECESSION, Page D2

Auto sales fall flat

Consumers holding back on big-ticket purchases

By Dee-Ann Durbin
Associated Press writer

DETROIT — Automakers began 2008 expecting the worst year for U.S. auto sales in a decade. So far, they're getting what they anticipated.

Sales dropped by double digits in March, even for usual stalwarts like Toyota. And with fragile consumer confidence, falling home values, tightening credit and high energy prices, it may be some time before auto sales recover.

General Motors and Chrysler both reported a 19 percent drop in U.S. sales on Tuesday. Ford's sales fell 14 percent and Toyota was down 10 percent compared with last March. Nissan fell 4 percent and Honda reported a 3 percent drop.

If the March sales rate held steady for the full year, U.S. sales would be 15.1 million units in 2008, according to Autodata Corp. That's down from a rate of 16.2 million units last March, and the lowest monthly sales rate since October 2005, when a summer of heavy discounts hurt fall sales.

GM remained upbeat, saying demand is building up and the federal economic stimulus package could help boost sales in the second half of the year.

"We hope we are in the trough and we are now gradually coming back," Mike DeGiovanni, GM's executive director of global markets and industry analysis, said in a conference call.

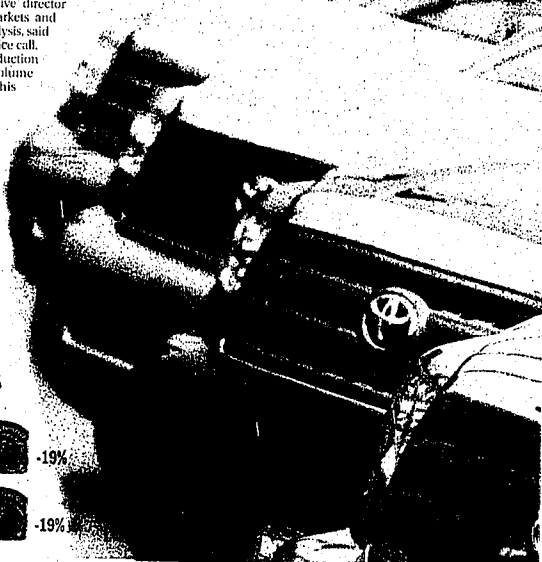
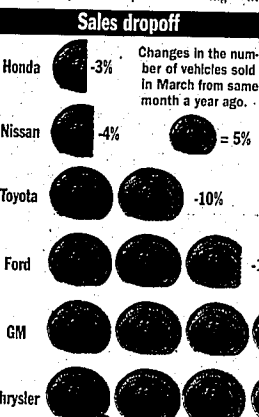
The introduction of high-volume products this fall, including the

"It's not because people can't afford to buy a car. It's because they don't know what's going to happen and they've lost trust in the stability of the economy."

— Jesse Toprak, chief industry analyst for the auto information site Edmunds.com

new Ford F-Series and Dodge Ram pickups, also should boost sales. But

Please see SALES, Page D2



BUSINESS BRIEFS

Idaho Power requests proposals for up to 600 Mw of firm power

BOISE — Idaho Power issued a Request for Proposal Tuesday to negotiate between 250 and 600 megawatts of firm energy by June 2012. Completed responses are due by the fourth-quarter of this year.

Transmission constraints make it likely that any proposals will need to identify a new generation resources within Idaho Power's control area as the source of the energy and capacity used to fulfill the request.

A pre-bid conference will be held at 1:30 p.m. May 8 at the Idaho Power offices located at 1221 W. Idaho St. in Boise.

The proposal due date is 4 p.m. Oct. 17. For more information, visit <http://www.idahopower.com/>.

Factory orders drop twice as much as expected

WASHINGTON — Orders to U.S. factories fell for a second straight month, a worse-than-expected performance that reinforced worries that the risk of recession is rising.

The Commerce Department reported Wednesday that factory orders dropped by 1.3 percent in February, about double the downturn that economists had been expecting. Orders had fallen an even bigger 2.3 percent in January, the largest decline in five months.

The falloff in demand was widespread, with steep declines to orders for motor vehicles, various types of heavy machinery and demand for iron and steel.

— from staff and wire reports

Tax time gives small business owners lessons in how to run companies better

NEW YORK — Small business owners often learn some painful lessons at tax time, and not just about deductions or the mechanics of compiling a return. Some find themselves learning a few basics about running a business.

Shari Goldstein's lesson came from abandoning her practice of faithfully setting aside a portion of all her income to pay her taxes.

"I used to be very disciplined and every time a check came in, I took a certain

SMALL TALK
Joyce M. Rosenberg

of her business, the burden is hers to carry alone. "There's no room to fool around with this stuff," she said.

Her failure to put the money aside was compounded by the fact that Goldstein, who uses an accounting program to keep her books, didn't look at her year-to-date figures to see what her tax liability might be.

"It's really a function of looking at it, of financial mindfulness," she said.

Please see SMALL TALK, Page D2

STOCKS OF LOCAL INTEREST

Con Agra	23.88	▼	.32	Dell Inc.	19.95	▼	.38	Idacorp	32.98	▲	.21
Lithia Mo.	10.48	▲	.18	Micron	6.39	▲	.39	Supervalu	30.71	▼	.26

COMMODITIES

Live cattle	86.20	▼	1.20	May Oil	104.83	▲	3.85
April gold	897.8	▲	12.4	March Silver	17.41	▲	.52

For more see page D2

What to expect today in business

WASHINGTON — Labor Department reports on weekly jobless claims.

WASHINGTON — Freddie Mac, the mortgage company, reports on mortgage rates.

WASHINGTON — Senate Banking, Housing and Urban Affairs Committee hearing on the financial markets.

NEW YORK — The Institute for Supply Management releases its non-manufacturing index.

MUTUAL FUNDS

Table listing various mutual funds with columns for Name, Last, Chg, %Chg, and Vol.

COMMODITIES FUTURES

Table listing commodities and futures contracts with columns for Name, Last, Chg, %Chg, and Vol.

CLOSING FUTURES

Table listing closing futures prices for various commodities.

COMMODITIES FUTURES

Table listing commodities and futures contracts with columns for Name, Last, Chg, %Chg, and Vol.

CHEESE

Checklist cheese on the Chicago Mercantile Exchange. Burell, 11/5000, +0.025, Burell, 11/5000, +0.025.

LIVESTOCK

Information livestock. Livestock Auctions. Producers Livestock Market. Producers Livestock Market. Producers Livestock Market.

METALS/MONEY

NYMEX metals. NYMEX metals. NYMEX metals. NYMEX metals. NYMEX metals.

NYSE

Table listing NYSE Most Active stocks with columns for Name, Last, Chg, %Chg.

AMEX

Table listing AMEX Most Active stocks with columns for Name, Last, Chg, %Chg.

NASDAQ

Table listing NASDAQ Most Active stocks with columns for Name, Last, Chg, %Chg.

MARKET SUMMARY

Table providing a market summary with columns for Index, Points, %Chg.

HOW TO READ THE MARKET REPORT

Market report instructions: Name: Stock name listed alphabetically by the company's full name. Div: Dividend information.

Homes

Wolverton and another local builder, TKO Custom Homes, accounted for most of the building permits issued in March.

Recession

Businesses as well as the Fed's aggressive reductions to a key interest rate.

Stocks of Local Interest

Table listing local stocks with columns for Name, Last, Chg, %Chg.

Sales

U.S. Toyota division, said the company is lowering its full-year sales forecast.

Small Talk

Tax professionals say a lack of financial discipline or vigilance is often a problem for small business owners.

Diary

Table listing dairy products with columns for Name, Last, Chg, %Chg.

Diary

Table listing dairy products with columns for Name, Last, Chg, %Chg.

Diary

Table listing dairy products with columns for Name, Last, Chg, %Chg.

Sudoku Answers:

Grid of numbers for Sudoku answers, arranged in a 9x9 pattern.

902 Motorcycles

HARLEY DAVIDSON '06 Road King Classic 4000 miles, cobalt blue/silver, new condition. \$15,900. Call 838-9062.

902 Motorcycles

HARLEY DAVIDSON '97 Sportster, good cond., 11,000 miles. \$5,500/offer. Call Charlie 308 9327.

902 Motorcycles

HONDA '99 Shadow, 750 American Classic Edition, excellent condition, garaged, wind shield, new battery and tires. 11K miles. \$3,500. Call 208-677-4967 or 208-431-9667.

902 Motorcycles

HONDA '06 CRF100, Exc. condition! \$1800 cash. After Sun 208-423-4257 message.

902 Motorcycles

HONDA trail bike, 80cc, runs great, \$500. Call 208-733-9544.

903 Boats And Accessories

CHRYSLER T1 HUI LO '150hp, complete, radio, good family fishing boat. \$1600/offer. 208-320-0757.

903 Boats And Accessories

LUND '02 17 1/2' John boat, with 80 hp Yamaha js. 38 hrs. many extras. \$14,200. For details 308-8341.

903 Boats And Accessories

SEA RAY '02 200 Sundancer LTD, steps 4, 340 hrs., exc. cond., new fish finder, many extras. \$17,000. Call 208-736-5300.

903 Boats And Accessories

SEA SWIRL '94 180 SE, inboard/outboard, 770 hours, metal craft trailer, \$10,000. Call 208-423-4480.

904 Campers And Shells

SUPRA '90 ski boat, mint condition! Low hours. 637-6224 or 539-0402.

904 Campers And Shells

CAMPER SHELL LOW, fiberglass, short box, for Ford F-350, H-03-07, \$600. Call 208-290-0600.

904 Campers And Shells

CARIBOU '90 11.5' ski boat, complete with shower, microwave, camper stand \$2,800. Gary 539-7027.

905 Motor Homes & RVs

HOLIDAY RAMBLER '99 Vacationer, 10,400 miles, 6.8L V10 gas motor, 4 speed automatic transmission, 1 slide out, excellent condition. \$45,000. Call 208-734-1890.

905 Motor Homes & RVs

FOUR WINDS '02 5000, Microwave, AC, generator, 40K hrs, 23 1/2" x 50" 34-4398.

906 Snow Vehicles

Looking for Snow Machines. We have a variety of snow machines for sale. Call 208-733-4504.

906 Snow Vehicles

YAMAHA '07 Phazer Mountain Extreme, 4 stroke motor, all stock sled. \$6,200. Call 208-300-8620.

1002 Auto Parts And Accessories

TIRES (4) 215/60/16, all seasons, plenty of tread, first come for call \$100.

822 Wanted To Buy

WANTED barn wood, old fence posts, boards, etc. Will tear down and haul away. 308-7424 or 316-2740.

823 Medical Supplies

WANTED: Cards for chips, "Spins" plastic bags, used Indian hand work, Western items. Call 208-948-9992.

824 Guns & Rifles

WANTED: Have very beautiful 9x12 hand action 100% wood Indian gun, very well made. Trade for w/ky trader. 208-9554.

826 Sporting Equipment

WANTED: Ski gear, skis, poles, boots, etc. Call 208-733-9444.

901 ATVs

WANTED: 1998 Chevy Blazer, 1999 Chevy Blazer, 2000 Chevy Blazer. Call 208-431-4007.

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WIN A BRAND NEW CAR!

Rob Green Auto Group Giant Tent Event at the Magic Valley Mall. 600 VEHICLES, 9 DEALERSHIPS, 3 STATES. 9am-9pm Monday-Saturday, 10am-6pm Sunday.

Rob Green Nissan and Hyundai section. 2008 Nissan Altima, 2008.5 Nissan Titan, 2008 Hyundai Accent, 2008 Hyundai Sonata, 2008 Nissan Versa, 2007 Nissan Frontier LE Crew.

Rob Green GMC and Pontiac section. 2008 GMC Sierra Crew 4x4, 2008 GMC Yukon, 2008 Pontiac Vibe, 2008 Pontiac Lucerne, 2008 Hyundai Santa Fe, 2008 Hyundai Elantra.

Rob Green Buick section. 2008 Buick Sierra Crew 4x4, 2008 Buick Lucerne, 2007 GMC Sierra 4x4.

USED CAR SPECIALS table listing various car models, years, and prices.

Rob Green Auto Group website advertisement. \$10 GIFT CERTIFICATE, \$50 GIFT CARDS. Custom Wheels/Tire Sunroof/Tint XM Radio. To be given away on April 12th.

1002 Auto Parts And Accessories. Tires, batteries, etc.

1003 Autos Wanted. Vortec engine, etc.

1004 Antiques and Collectibles. Buckle, etc.

1005 Semis And Heavy Equipment. Forklifts, etc.

1006 Trucks. Chevrolet, etc.

1007 Trucks. Chevrolet, etc.

1008 Trucks. Chevrolet, etc.

1009 Trucks. Chevrolet, etc.

1010 Trucks. Chevrolet, etc.

1011 Trucks. Chevrolet, etc.

1012 Trucks. Chevrolet, etc.

1013 Trucks. Chevrolet, etc.

1014 Trucks. Chevrolet, etc.

1015 Trucks. Chevrolet, etc.

1016 Trucks. Chevrolet, etc.

1017 Trucks. Chevrolet, etc.



INVITATION TO BID
Sealed bids will be received by the Board of Trustees of Twin Falls School District #411...

ADVERTISEMENT FOR BIDS
Notice is hereby given that Teton County, Idaho, hereinafter referred to as the "Owner," will receive sealed proposals in the current Teton County Courthouse...

NOTICE OF PENDING ISSUE OF TAX DEED
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN to each of the owners or claimants of the property hereinafter described that under the provisions of laws of the State of Idaho, the County Treasurer as Tax Collector of Teton Falls County, in said state is deemed to be the purchaser, in trust, of certain property described in delinquency notices made January 1, 2005 or prior in regard to unpaid taxes for the years 2004 and prior respectively and in regard for which the time for redemption will expire May 23, 2008 at 10:00 o'clock A.M. Further purchasers of said delinquency notices being as follows to wit: The first column lists the delinquent parcel NUMBER and PROPERTY ADDRESS. The second column lists the NAME and last known ADDRESS of the record owner. The third column lists the LEGAL DESCRIPTION. The fourth column lists the TAX amount, LATE CHARGE, two percent (2%) and INTEREST, one percent (1%) per month from January 1, of the delinquent year, and COST FEES.

PRE-BID CONFERENCE: To be held at 3:00 P.M. March 28, 2008 at Northern Construction's field office at the Canyon Ridge High School Project located at 300 E. College in Twin Falls, ID. A site visit will be conducted after the meeting. Attendance is strongly recommended.

NEW TETON COUNTY COURTHOUSE COURTHOUSE DRIVE BLOCK 53, LOT 4 - HUNTSMAN SPRINGS DRIGGS, IDAHO

DELINQUENT ENTRIES SUBJECT TO TAX DEED MAY 23, 2008

The envelope containing the sealed proposals shall be clearly marked to indicate that it is a proposal for the above-named project and shall show the name and address of the bidder. Such proposals will be received by the County and will be opened and read aloud at 2:00 P.M. MDT on Monday, the 5th day of May, 2008. Each proposal must conform and be responsive to all the pertinent Contract Documents. The project shall be awarded under one General Contract and will include all labor, materials, equipment and services necessary to perform all work to complete the project as shown on the Drawings and as outlined in the Specifications. First Copies of the Contract Documents will be on file after April 7, 2008 and open to public inspection in the office of Plan One/Architects, 189 North Main Street, Suite 112, Driggs, Idaho, 83422. Bidders may obtain one (1) set of Drawings and Specifications from the office of the Architect, upon deposit of \$10.00. General Contractor Bidders may obtain one (2) additional set of Drawings and Specifications upon deposit of an additional \$100.00 per set. Those who do not obtain bid items may obtain return of deposit by returning same in good condition within seven (7) days after proposals have been received. Those who do not obtain bid items will forfeit deposit unless same are returned in good condition within seven (7) days before proposals are received. Individual Drawings and Specification Sheets may be obtained upon specific request for a non-refundable service charge of \$3.00 for each Drawing Sheet and \$0.50 for each Specification Sheet requested. All proposals must be accompanied by a Cashier's Check, irrevocable Letter of Credit or a Bid Bond, executed by the Bidder, as Principal, and a cashier's check for a non-refundable service charge of \$3.00 for each Drawing Sheet and \$0.50 for each Specification Sheet requested. Bid Bond must be accompanied by a certified copy of Power of Attorney and signed and acknowledged by an agent of the bonding company. The Cashier's Check, Irrevocable Letter of Credit or Bid Bond will be returned by the Owner as liquidated damages if the successful bidder refuses or fails to enter into a contract or to furnish a Contractor's Payment and Performance Bond, and the owner reserves the right to award the contract in accordance with the Specifications within ten (10) days after being notified of the award of the contract. The Owner shall not be held liable for claims or other collateral or surety acceptable to the Owner that shall be furnished by the successful bidder in the amount of one hundred percent (100%) of the contract price, each bond. Such performance or Payment Bonds shall be accompanied by a certified copy of Power of Attorney and shall be signed and countersigned by an agent of the bonding company. No bidder may withdraw his proposal for a period of thirty (30) days after the bid is opened. Bids are not available for examination at the following locations: AGC Plan Rooms Boise, Idaho Falls, and Twin Falls, Idaho. Twin Falls Plan Room: Builders Exchange - Pocatello, Idaho Associated General Contractors Salt Lake City, Utah. McGraw Hill Plan Room Boise, Idaho W.B. Dodge Salt Lake City, Utah

Notice is hereby given that Teton County, Idaho, hereinafter referred to as the "Owner," will receive sealed proposals in the current Teton County Courthouse at 89 North Main St., Driggs, Idaho, 83422 up to but no later than 5:00 p.m. on Monday, the 5th day of May, 2008, for the General Construction of: NEW TETON COUNTY COURTHOUSE COURTHOUSE DRIVE BLOCK 53, LOT 4 - HUNTSMAN SPRINGS DRIGGS, IDAHO. The envelope containing the sealed proposals shall be clearly marked to indicate that it is a proposal for the above-named project and shall show the name and address of the bidder. Such proposals will be received by the County and will be opened and read aloud at 2:00 P.M. MDT on Monday, the 5th day of May, 2008. Each proposal must conform and be responsive to all the pertinent Contract Documents. The project shall be awarded under one General Contract and will include all labor, materials, equipment and services necessary to perform all work to complete the project as shown on the Drawings and as outlined in the Specifications. First Copies of the Contract Documents will be on file after April 7, 2008 and open to public inspection in the office of Plan One/Architects, 189 North Main Street, Suite 112, Driggs, Idaho, 83422. Bidders may obtain one (1) set of Drawings and Specifications from the office of the Architect, upon deposit of \$10.00. General Contractor Bidders may obtain one (2) additional set of Drawings and Specifications upon deposit of an additional \$100.00 per set. Those who do not obtain bid items may obtain return of deposit by returning same in good condition within seven (7) days after proposals have been received. Those who do not obtain bid items will forfeit deposit unless same are returned in good condition within seven (7) days before proposals are received. Individual Drawings and Specification Sheets may be obtained upon specific request for a non-refundable service charge of \$3.00 for each Drawing Sheet and \$0.50 for each Specification Sheet requested. All proposals must be accompanied by a Cashier's Check, irrevocable Letter of Credit or a Bid Bond, executed by the Bidder, as Principal, and a cashier's check for a non-refundable service charge of \$3.00 for each Drawing Sheet and \$0.50 for each Specification Sheet requested. Bid Bond must be accompanied by a certified copy of Power of Attorney and signed and acknowledged by an agent of the bonding company. The Cashier's Check, Irrevocable Letter of Credit or Bid Bond will be returned by the Owner as liquidated damages if the successful bidder refuses or fails to enter into a contract or to furnish a Contractor's Payment and Performance Bond, and the owner reserves the right to award the contract in accordance with the Specifications within ten (10) days after being notified of the award of the contract. The Owner shall not be held liable for claims or other collateral or surety acceptable to the Owner that shall be furnished by the successful bidder in the amount of one hundred percent (100%) of the contract price, each bond. Such performance or Payment Bonds shall be accompanied by a certified copy of Power of Attorney and shall be signed and countersigned by an agent of the bonding company. No bidder may withdraw his proposal for a period of thirty (30) days after the bid is opened. Bids are not available for examination at the following locations: AGC Plan Rooms Boise, Idaho Falls, and Twin Falls, Idaho. Twin Falls Plan Room: Builders Exchange - Pocatello, Idaho Associated General Contractors Salt Lake City, Utah. McGraw Hill Plan Room Boise, Idaho W.B. Dodge Salt Lake City, Utah

Table with columns: Parcel #, Record Owner, Description, 2004 Tax Due. Includes entries for Parcel # RP11517E020601A, RP11517E020601A, RP11517E020601A, etc.

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NOTICE OF TRUSTEE ELECTION DECLARATION OF CANDIDACY
Gooding Joint School District No. 231
Gooding-Linn County, Idaho

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TNT

Thursday, April 3, 2008

www.tnticket.com

4/14



Find something to do this weekend

... and
then ...

Twin Falls writers celebrate anniversary

A League of their own

Page 3

Staples

Movies Page 14-15
 Events calendar
 Pages 8-9
 Karaoke Corner ... Page 15

On the cover

Photo by MICHAEL TRIMMER/Staff Photographer
 Illustration by BRADLEY COOPER/Staff Graphic Designer

The Twin Falls chapter of the Idaho Writers League is celebrating its 50th anniversary this year, and the election of the first chapter member to the state league's highest office. Linda Helms was elected state president this year.

TNT

A publication of the
 Times-News

Publisher

Brad Hurd 735-3345

TNT Editor

Ariel Hansen ... 735-3376

Designer

Eric Gopdell

Advertising

Janet Goffin 735-3254

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Mail information

The Times-News (UPS 631-080) is published daily at 132 Fairfield St. W., Twin Falls, by Lee Publications Inc., a subsidiary of Lee Enterprises Inc.

Periodicals paid at Twin Falls by the Times News. Official city and county newspaper pursuant to Section 6C-108 of the Idaho Code. Thursday is hereby designated as the day of the week on which legal notices will be published.

Postmaster, please send change of address form to: P.O. Box 548, Twin Falls, Idaho 83303.

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TOP 5

The week's most popular media

TELEVISION

1. "American Idol" (Tuesday), Fox.
2. "American Idol" (Wednesday), Fox.
3. "Dancing With the Stars" (Monday), ABC.
4. "Dancing With the Stars" (Tuesday), ABC.
5. "Two And a Half Men," CBS.
From Nielsen Media Research

John Mayer.

From iTunes.com

HOT FIVE

1. "Bleeding Love," Leona Lewis.
2. "Love In This Club," Usher feat. Young Jeezy.
3. "Sexy Can I," Ray J & Yung Berg.
4. "With You," Chris Brown.
5. "Love Song," Sara Bareilles.
From Billboard magazine

FILM

1. "Dr. Seuss' Horton Hears a Who!"
2. "Tyler Perry's Meet the Browns"
3. "Shutter"
4. "Drillbit Taylor"
5. "10,000 B.C."
From Media By Numbers LLC

ALBUMS

1. "Welcome to the Dollhouse," Danity Kane.
2. "NOW 27," Various artists.
3. "Tilts," Rick Ross.
4. "Mail On Sunday," Flo Rida.
5. "Sleep Through the Static," Jack Johnson.
From Billboard magazine

VIDEO RENTALS

1. "No Country for Old Men"
2. "Hitman"
3. "Dan in Real Life"
4. "Bee Movie"
5. "American Gangster"
From Billboard magazine

CONCERT TOURS

1. Hannah Montana/Miley Cyrus "Best of Both Worlds."
2. Barry Manilow.
3. Russell Platts.
4. Keith Urban.
5. Ozzy Osbourne.
From Pollstar

DVD SALES

1. "Bee Movie"
2. "No Country for Old Men"
3. "101 Dalmatians: Platinum Edition"
4. "Hitman"
5. "Dan In Real Life"
From Billboard magazine

BOOKS

Fiction

1. "The Appeal," by John Grisham.
2. "Lush Life," by Richard Price.
3. "The Silver Swan," by Benjamin Black.
4. "Change of Heart," by Judi Picoult.
5. "A Prisoner of Birth," by Jeffrey Archer.

Nonfiction

1. "Beautiful Boy," by David Sheff.
2. "Human Smoke," by Nicholson Baker.
3. "The 11th Jesus," by Deepak Chopra.
4. "In Defense of Food," by Michael Pollan.
5. "sTORI Telling," by Tori Spelling.
From the Los Angeles Times

INSTANT

Critic

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Send us 50 words — and we really mean just 50 — about local arts and entertainment. You could write about a local artist, a play, even that guy who plays flute on the street corner. Anything written, painted or performed in Magic Valley. Reviews of arts in Boise, Salt Lake City or other not-too-distant burbs are also welcome.

In addition to your 50

words, include a basic description of the performance or artwork, such as location, date, title, author or artist.

Also, your name and a phone number where we can reach you during the day.

No objectionable language, please, or your review will be deleted.

Weekly deadline for submissions is noon Mondays, to arlehansen@lee.net.

Music: Justin Nielsen (piano), Aaron Miller (bass), Brent Jensen (sax)

Heard March 28 at Rudy's — A Cook's Paradise in Twin Falls

After being gone from Twin for a few years, it's always nice to hear the talents of Miller and Jensen. Vinifera may have passed on, but it was good to see Rudy's and other venues in town are still dedicated to providing excellent jazz.

— Nate Poppino, health and human services reporter

Looking for an audience?



Southern Idaho bands, singers and musicians may submit information about themselves in the Local Vocals section of Ticketnet.com. The free submissions are searchable by the Web site's users. Entries with objectionable language will be removed.

For information: Pat Marcantonio at 735-3228.

Don't write them off

League welcomes dabblers and professionals

BY ARIEL HANSEN
Staff Writer

With 60 years under their collective pens, members of the Idaho Writers League's Twin Falls chapter are critical of each other — but in a good way.

"There is a way of critiquing things so people don't get their feelings hurt," said Loy Ann Bell, a Jerome writer and current secretary and treasurer of the chapter. "It's important to accentuate the positive also, and not just do a hatchet job on someone."

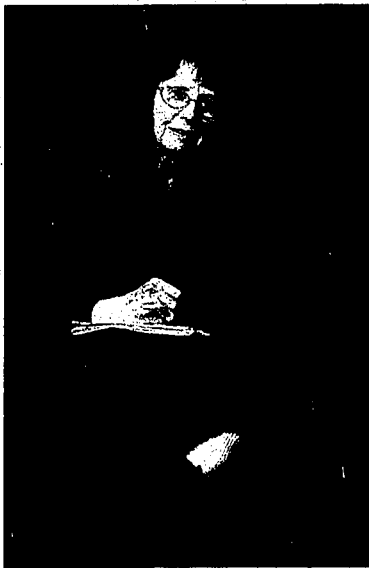
The critique groups, which meet twice a month in Magic Valley, are a main reason many of the League members ponied up their 25 bucks to join. Before paying dues, many attended the group's meetings for months or even years, benefiting from the constructive criticism and camaraderie.

It's not professional editing, of course.

"If you really want somebody to go over every word, every paragraph, every line, spend hours and hours on it, you have to pay for it," said Linda Helms, who has been a member for more than 20 years. "We give our opinion, and we do it for free."

You needn't be an established writer to benefit from the League, though those who are published are more than welcome — and those who make a living at it are an inspiration to those who don't.

"We have novelists who are pushing books to editors and agents, we have some who are writing essays, we have children's writers, we have poets. If someone writes just for themselves and does not want to publish, that's OK too," Helms



HELMES IS TWENTY-TWO PAGES OLD

Linda Helms was recently chosen as the Idaho Writers League's first president from the Twin Falls chapter. Helms has been a member of the league for more than 20 of the chapter's 60 years.

said. "Come and find out what we're like; we're all different ages, anywhere from 18 to 85."

The Idaho Writers League was formed in 1948 just months before the Twin Falls chapter launched, but in the chapter's history there has never been a state president until this year, when Helms was elected to that

post. The state organization boasts 156 members in six chapters, with 25 paying dues to the Twin Falls chapter — and an additional five or so people who regularly come to the Magic Valley meetings but haven't joined yet.

Come to meetings to get familiar with the League, mem-

bers suggest, and then open your wallet when you're ready for the full benefits of membership: office-holding, reduced admission to the statewide annual conference and entry into the League's writing contests. This year, all the members from the Twin Falls chapter who entered won a prize; Bell noted that only one other chapter could boast that.

Seeing that small monetary reward for her efforts spurred Helms to join in 1988.

"They were handing out checks in the writing contests they have every year," she said. "I thought, wonderful, maybe I can make some money at this."

Since then, Helms has submitted numerous pieces of writing to magazines, and she is working on a book of Jerome history; "My writing's not perfect and I do need other people to look at it before I send it to a contest or publisher," she said. "You learn so much from the other people at these meetings."

Loyd Bakewell, current president of the Twin Falls chapter, said the critique groups haven't always been as supportive as they are now.

"The weakness that I saw, and slowly, it hasn't completely gone yet, is the negative thing. It is being worked on and there are several people who are being more aware of how we handle beginning writers; that we don't scare them off and damage them before they have a chance to succeed," Bakewell said. "Once I in a while my pride's a little wounded, but that's part of learning."

Even when a session feels more critical than constructive,

Please see WRITERS, Page 6



Pick up your pen (or your keyboard)

Meeting times of the Idaho Writers League Twin Falls Chapter:

- Noon on the third Saturday of each month at Pandora's (516 Hansen St. S., Twin Falls). A short business meeting is followed by a speaker or program, Q&A time and sometimes a short critique, ending at 2 p.m.

- 10 a.m. to noon on the first Saturday of each month at Countryside Estates Club House (1605 N. Grandview Drive, Twin Falls). A critique meeting.

- 10 a.m. to noon on the fourth Saturday of each month at Links Apartments Community Room (1285 S. Lincoln Ave., Jerome). A critique meeting.

- Annual dues are \$25 per year; \$10 stays with the local chapter, and \$15 goes to the state organization to fund annual conferences and contests.

Information: twinfallswriters@yahoo.com, geocities.com/twinfallswriters, P.O. Box 303, Jerome, ID 83338. Or call an officer: Linda Helms, state president, 324-7694; Loyd Bakewell, chapter president, 734-0557; Loy Ann Bell, chapter secretary/treasurer, 539-0269.

Dynamic duo

Buhl sisters round out top five in Idaho's Lil' Rising Star competition

BY BLAIR KOCH
Correspondent

Only one can be named Idaho's Lil' Rising Star.

Although both Alexa and Jené Johnson, Buhl sisters, sang their way through the semifinal competition, securing top-five placement and a chance for the top honor during May's Idaho Festival of the Arts, it's big sigs with the real chance to win, said Alexa, 12.

"My sister, she has so much talent. When Jené's on stage, it's hers, she doesn't seem nervous at all," Alexa said.

Even with unwavering support for Jené, the Xavier Charter School eighth-grader said disappointment sliced through her when it seemed she hadn't made the cut during Friday's showdown, held at the Nampa Civic Center.

The Lil' Rising Star competition, open for 8- to 15-year-olds, and the Rising Star competition, for older competitors, are sponsored by the Idaho Arts Charter School Foundation.

For the semifinal round each girl chose a song she felt would showcase her vocal talent; Alexa sang a Kelly Clarkson tune, "Where is Your Heart," and Jené picked "Mirror" by Barlow Girl.

"They called Jené's name first and I was so proud of her, but with each following name that was called, and it wasn't mine. I got a little more disappointed that maybe I wouldn't be heading to final competition after all," Alexa said. "My name was called last and I was excited but it seemed I was on an emotion-



Above: Alexa Johnson, left, and her sister Jené, both of Buhl, are two of the five finalists in the Idaho's Lil' Rising Star competition. At right: Jené, top, sang Barlow Girl's "Mirror" and Alexa, bottom, sang Kelly Clarkson's "Where is Your Heart" on March 28 to earn their spots in the finals, to be held May 10.

Sister against sister

Buhl sisters Alexa and Jené Johnson will compete for the title of Idaho's Lil' Rising Star on May 10, at the Idaho Festival of the Arts at the Nampa Civic Center. For information on the event, sponsored by the Idaho Arts Charter School Foundation, visit idahofestivalofthearts.com.

roller coaster during those few minutes and I wasn't as excited for myself as much as I was when Jené's name was called."

Jené, 15, a Twin Falls High School sophomore, shrugs at her seemingly easy competition in the spotlight.

"I have three years on Alexa. This was her first competition and I've been through it before," she said. "I didn't even think of it as competing against her. When she was on stage, I was standing just off stage, mouthing along to her song. Really, I wanted her to make it more than I wanted it myself."

Supporting aside, each girl wants the title to herself, as any rising star would. Both desire a career in the biz, Alexa as a pop

singer and Jené as a Christian musician.

The winner of Lil' Rising Star will receive a \$500 scholarship for vocal and dance lessons for a year, professional photographs and an opportunity to perform in other venues.

"It would be cool to win," Jené said.

But what will the family do, if one sister earns the title? What happens if neither does?

"I guess we're not even really thinking about that," said their mother, Donna Marie Johnson, "Of course, one would be a little disappointed, but both of them



are so supportive of each other that I really think their happiness for the other would outweigh any negativity."

In the meantime the Johnson sisters are using the rivalry to boost their competitiveness.

"I know I have to try and measure up to Jené. In a way, I do try harder knowing she'll be up on stage competing for the same thing I am," Alexa said. "But at the end of the day, it's about support and we support each other, no matter what happens or who wins."

Blair Koch may be reached at 208-316-2107 or blairkoch@gmail.com.

First Friday gives April a lively start

Staff Report

Whether the twang of Cowboy Country or the bright spring colors of Ibrahim Faye's paintings on glass, this First Friday is proof it's April.

The free event, held on the first Friday of most months in downtown Twin Falls, is put on by downtown businesses, many of which stay open later than usual as an evening invitation to residents and visitors.

This Friday, Rudy's — A Cook's Paradise (147 Main Ave. W.) will welcome Cowboy Country with Johnny U, Rob Harding, Byron Walcher and Bill Liles, from 6 to 9 p.m., and chef Eric Eitesvold will be busy in the kitchen.

At Magic Valley Arts Council and Full Moon Gallery of Fine Art (132 Main Ave. S.) see "Sea Slugs — A Perspective" by Mary and Peter Toft at the Galeria Pequena, in the Main Street Plaza see the "Fourth Annual Idaho Paints Idaho" exhibit featuring Idaho Artists Painting Idaho Scenes. And don't miss the new artwork in the Full Moon Gallery by member artists. Rick Kuhn will provide live music during the opening event, 7-9 p.m.

From 7:30 to 10:30 p.m., Hands On and The Divine Grind will host Coffee house Night, with live music from 8 to 10 p.m. by Ethan Tucker. The evening features \$2 drink specials and studio fee-free painting. The businesses are at 147 Shoshone St. N.

At Jensen Ringmakers (109 Main Ave. E.), reverse glass painter Faye will continue to show his artwork. The gallery is open until 8 p.m.

Sun Valley Center offers decoupage magnet class

Staff Report

John local crafter and blogger Cassi Griffin in creating magnets that are perfect for you, your kids or as gifts.

Delightful decoupage

What: Workshop on making decoupage magnets with Cassi Griffin, presented by the Sun Valley Center for the Arts. **When:** 5:30-7:30 p.m. Tuesday.

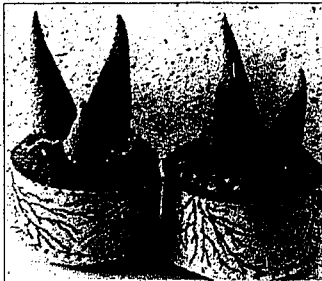
Where: The Center, 191 Fifth St. E., Ketchum.

Cost: \$20 for Center members, \$25 for non-members.

Contact: Kathryn McNeal, 726-9491, ext. 23, or kmcneal@sunvalleycenter.org.

Griffin shows off her crafty know-how on her blog Bella Dia (belladia.typepad.com). She's got a keen thrift store sense and can recycle anything vintage into something new and different. On her blog, she offers a wealth of tips, tutorials and projects from tins to quilt cards and softies. Her crafts range from fabric collage to pincushions to crocheting — and for a Tuesday class in Ketchum she'll teach students to create fun magnets.

Griffin will lead students through painting, cutting, gluing and decoupage. The class is appropriate for all ages and abilities.



This piece, titled "Middle Earth," is one of the inspirations for a one-night decoupage magnet class put on by the Sun Valley Center for the Arts on Tuesday.

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Artist Marilyn Miller works in her Burley studio at 637 W. 18th St., which will be one of the art studios open to the public during a free studio tour on Thursday. Miller's studio will also feature the work of Malza Bowers and Lori Caudill.

LAURIE WELCH
Staff Photographer

Mini-Cassia artists open studios during monthly tour

BY LAURIE WELCH
Staff writer

A group of Mini-Cassia artists plan to open their studios and offer their work for sale during April's studio tours. Tours will be held regularly on the first Thursday of each month, beginning this month.

Artist Marilyn Miller said the idea was modeled after a similar tour in Boise.

"We have a lot of talented artists in this area and it is fun to visit the studios. It also raises awareness of what's going on in the art community," Miller said. "It seems like if a quarterback breaks his toe, we know about it, but if an artist paints the Eiffel Tower pink, we don't always know about it."

All of the participating studios will have artwork for sale, some offering the works of multiple artists. Many artists will be working on current projects so visitors can watch them, and there will be refreshments available at some of the studios. Miller said there are many types of

artists in the area and she believes the tour could grow to encompass about 30 studios offering the public regular opportunities to view and purchase local artwork.

"We want to include all types of art, including Aunt Tillie's crocheted dollies. We don't want to exclude anyone," Miller said.

Miller said there are no meetings, dues or commitments for artists who want to join the tour.

"If an artist wants to open their studio one month and not the next that is perfectly fine," she said. "It will be really free-form."

Studio set-up as well as publicity, pricing and refreshments are the responsibility of the participating artist.

To include a studio in the monthly tour or for more information call Miller at 874-7540.

Laurie Welch may be reached at 877-8767 or lwelch@southidahopress.com.

Watch them work

What: Free self-guided studio tours

When: 4-8 p.m. Thursday

Where: Maps available at each artist's studio.

- 326 S. 250 E., Burley — Wheel-thrown and hand-built ceramics by artists Nicole Maier, Kathleen Hawkins and Marie Ellingson.
- 494 E. 200 S., Burley — Oil paintings by Claudette Gray, and June Carey, and metal-worked jewelry by Billie Larios.
- 575 S. 400 W., Heyburn — Paintings, printmaking, etchings and pottery by artists Dee Ann and Gene Goodwin.
- 637 W. 18th St., Burley — Landscapes and floral oil paintings by Marilyn Miller, watercolor landscapes by Malza Bowers and landscape photography by Lori Caudill.
- 19 N. 850 W., Pavi — Watercolor and oil paintings by Blaine Call and watercolor and casein paintings by Stephanie Cal.
- 90 S. 1050 W., Pavi — Silk paintings, printmaking and water media by Rikki Bested.

Writers

Continued from page 3

though, Bakeyell said he enjoys the fellowship of other writers.

"They may see something I didn't see and they're always helpful in their comments," he said. "The strength of the league would be the support, the moral support and encouragement you're getting from other writers."

For all the help she has gotten from the League, Marilyn Aggeler said she's surprised more people don't hear about it and join.

"I don't even think people realize there are many authors here, writers who are published," Aggeler said. "You form a bond with these people, where you almost feel you've created a family, because everybody works together."

Aggeler, who writes mainly mysteries, is working on a non-fiction piece about her family's struggle with her mother's Alzheimer's disease. "I had a hard time expressing myself as to the things that went on in those years that the family was so torn apart," she said. Through the League, she found a woman who is working with her one-on-one to make this story the best it can be — though that's more unusual than the quick critiques the group usually offers.

In addition to the critique groups, the League frequently brings in speakers — most often professional writers. Some of these have been local writers like former Piler police chief Cliff Johnson or other industry professionals like Idaho magazine publisher Kitty Fleischman, who will speak at the April 19 meeting.

League members welcome anyone who is interested in learning more about the group to their meetings, which are free. In September, the annual two-day League conference will be held in Idaho Falls, and the following year, it will be in Twin Falls.

'Operation A.J.' presents local talent

Concert to help child with cancer

Staff Report

This Friday, the College of Southern Idaho's student senators hope to set a hopeful precedent.

They are launching what they expect to be an annual event called "Change for Children," which will benefit a child in need. This year's beneficiary is A.J. Azevedo, an 8-year-old who is fighting stage two astrocytoma, a form of brain cancer.

Azevedo is too young for radiation, but his single mother, who works full time, drives him to Boise twice a week for chemotherapy and other treatments.

The CSI concert will feature local artists and performers, including dancers, singers and musicians, and all proceeds this year will go to Azevedo and his mother to help offset the costs associated with his illness.

In addition to donations collected at the door, the student senate is collecting pledges — either flat donations or pledge amounts related to the number of people who come to the concert. Contact the senate at asspres@csi.edu or 732-6221 to pledge.



A.J. Azevedo, 8, was diagnosed with stage two astrocytoma, a type of brain tumor without a prognosis. The College of Southern Idaho student senate has chosen him as the beneficiary of a fundraising concert this Friday.

On the lineup:

- Master of ceremonies — Broc
- Samantha Howard — voice
- CSI Chamber Choir, directed by Carson Wong
- Elite Dance Force
- Carson Howerton — clogging
- Becca Stonemets — piano
- Jubilant Dance Co.
- Christine Isom — violin
- Matthew Hancey — saxophone
- Stephanie Santos — voice
- Latoya Crabtree — voice
- CSI Cheerleaders and Dance Team
- CSI Student Senate Quartet

'Change for Children'

What: Fundraising concert for A.J. Azevedo.

When: 7 p.m. Friday.

Where: The College of Southern Idaho Fine Arts auditorium.

Cost: Free, but donations help with fundraising.

Information: CSI student senator Jesse Maher, 421-0252 or jmaher@csistudents.csi.edu

Christine Santos
This textile piece, titled 'Vanishing Yellow,' is part of the exhibit of contemporary fiber arts at the Sun Valley Center for the Arts in Ketchum.

Free weaving class offered at Ketchum Center

Staff Report

Weaving is for all ages. Make a loom, load up your shuttle and you are ready to over-under-over-under!

For Family Day at the Sun Valley Center for the Arts in Ketchum, families can make a woven coaster or tiny art piece using all kinds of fun and flashy fibers. In just a few minutes, you can make something spectacular.

'Just weave it'

What: Family Day activity with Becka Bahr, presented by the Sun Valley Center for the Arts.

When: 3-5 p.m. Sunday.

Where: The Center, 191 Fifth St. E., Ketchum.

Cost: Free.

Information: Kathryn McNeal, 726-9491, ext. 23, or kmcneal@sunvalleycenter.org.

Guest instructor Becka Bahr is a self-proclaimed jack-of-all-trades when it comes to textile art. She has taught at the Textile Center of Minnesota for more than four years, making art with everyone from toddlers to grandmas. In her spare time, she specializes in creating cuddly puppets and whimsical embroidered pieces. You can see Bahr's work at beckabahr.com.

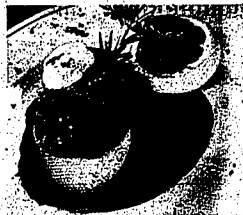
Family Days at the Sun Valley Center for the Arts are free drop-in activities, with no registration necessary. Projects are inspired by current gallery exhibitions, and many activities require adults to be hands-on helpers for their children.

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Books

SERIAL ART

TF author battles chronic pain to publish first novel

BY MELISSA DARLIN

Staff Writer

Larry Anderson hates typical author mug shots.

"Specifically, he can't stand how writers are made to look inspired in the photos.

"Anyone who's written knows that's not how it works," Anderson said. You have to be self-critical, he said. Flip the work to pieces before it's finished. "And you have to really love it."

So instead, the picture on the back of his novel, "The Order of the Beloved," shows the Twin Falls man smiling with his wife and three dogs.

It's what he wants, and how he's done it all along.

The philosophy has worked. The self-published novel has won both Editor's Choice and Publisher's Choice awards from publishing company iUniverse.com.

In three words

"Eco meets Brown"

Anderson's book, the first for the Harvard graduate and former state senator, is a psychological thriller told from five points of view. He drew on his knowledge of world religions and his desire to be "the next Umberto Eco," an Italian philosopher, academic and novelist he idolizes.

Anderson first got the idea for the story when his grandmother had a strange encounter with a

man at her trailer

outside of Eden. The man told her he fell into a ditch, then asked for a sandwich. She told him to wait outside, then went inside to go get him a towel. When she returned, the man had disappeared.

When Anderson spoke to his grand-

Vital Vita

Name: Larry Anderson

Age: 50

Hometown: Twin Falls

Occupation: Author, former politician

mother later, she expressed concern that she had wanted away one of the three Nephties, who are immortal figures in Latter-day Saint scripture.

The experience made Anderson think about immortality. "That's 2000 years of walking around, falling into ditches and asking for sandwiches," he said. "That'd drive me nuts."

So Anderson set out to write the book, told from a collection of letters and journal entries. Religious, conspiracies, murder mysteries and legends of immortals fill the story and are reminiscent of "The Da Vinci Code." He described the nameless first-person narrator in the frame tale as a "rucky son-of-a-bitch" — and reminiscent of

young, more political Anderson.

"That was quite a long time ago," he added.

One trial at a time

The desire to pen stories is nothing new to Anderson.

"I've always wanted to write," he said. "But there was always family things and business and politics."

After an accident left him suffering from chronic back pain, though, Anderson was forced to slow down. In the early '90s, he dropped politics and stopped working to take care of himself. During that time, he wrote the first draft of "The Order of the Beloved" while rehabilitating.

It took years to conquer the pain. After several surgeries, doctors finally implanted a device that pumps painkillers straight into his spine. Finally, he was able to focus on writing and revising his novel.

"I had my mind back," he said. "I didn't have my whole body back, but I had my mind back."

Anderson gets emotional when he talks about his injury and how his wife has supported him.

"If it weren't for her, I wouldn't be sitting here today," he said.

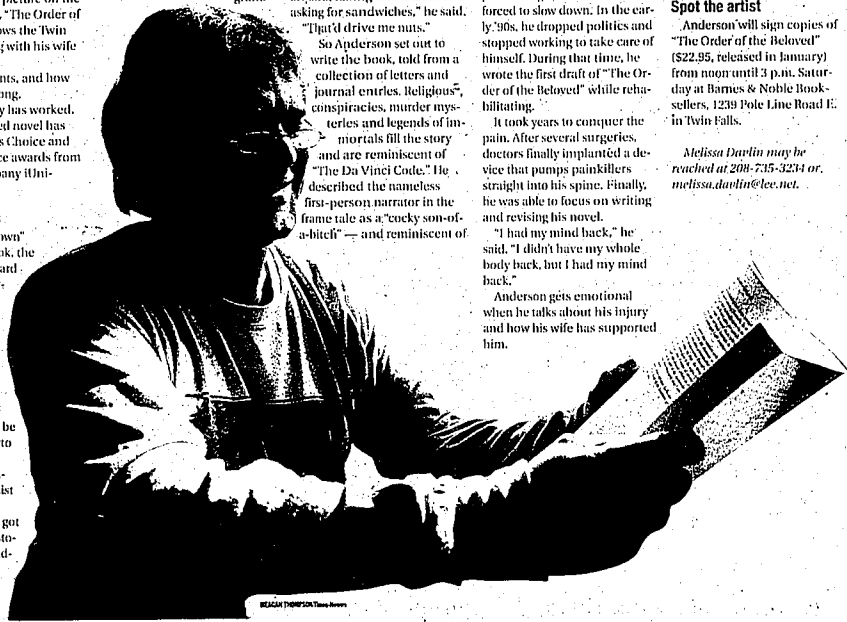
All those trials have shaped Anderson into a new person. He's still not back to his old self — he has problems walking, and his formerly aggressive type-A personality is now more subdued — but it's a change that Anderson welcomes.

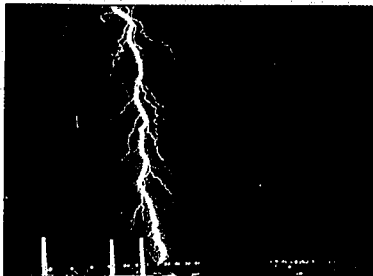
"It'd be kinda cool to get into politics now," cause boy, I'd be different," he said.

Spot the artist

Anderson will sign copies of "The Order of the Beloved" (\$22.95, released in January) from noon until 3 p.m. Saturday at Barnes & Noble Bookstore, 1239 Pole Line Road E. in Twin Falls.

Melissa Darlin may be reached at 208-735-3234 or melissa.darlin@lee.net.





Get 'blown away' at planetarium show in Twin Falls

Staff Report

So, where does weather really come from? The answers can be found in the Faulkner Planetarium's newest program, "Blown Away: The Wild World of Weather."

"This show gives you the chance to explore everyday and not so everyday weather," said Faulkner manager Rick Greenwald. "Sunny, pleasant days give way to thunderstorms, lightning, tornadoes and hurricanes — all from the safety and comfort of your seat. It's a great program for anyone of any age who has wondered why we have the weather we do and where it comes from."

The program studies the forces exerted on Earth from the sun, the moon and the way Earth tilts on its axis. It also points out the extremely delicate balance of living condi-

Weather — or not?

What: "The Wild World of Weather" at the Faulkner Planetarium.

When: 7 p.m. Tuesdays, Fridays and Saturdays until mid-June. Closing date depends on attendance.

Where: The planetarium is at the Herrett Center for Arts and Science on the College of Southern Idaho campus.

Cost: Planetarium shows are \$4 for adults, \$3 for seniors and \$2 for students, or \$3 for families of two adults and up to three children. Admission to the Herrett Center is free.

Information: 732-6655 or csi.edu/herrett.

tions on Earth and why those conditions would not be survivable if the planet's atmosphere were even the slightest bit more or less dense.

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Movie review

'LEATHERHEADS'

Clooney's latest lacks winning game plan

BY DAVID GERMAIN
AP Movie Writer

Maybe the best offense in a real football game is a good defense. Not so in a movie about the early years of the sport, when pro football was a poor cousin to the college game.

George Clooney's "Leatherheads" plays everything safe, offering up all the solid defensive moves it needs. Great period costumes, jazzy music, 1920s slang, all of which combine for a nice re-creation of the feel of the era, with Renee Zellweger a sound choice to play a saucy reporter opposite Clooney's grid-iron grunt.

Yet the movie never takes any risks, never goes on the offensive, never dances giddily along the sideline on some hold story-telling equivalent of a broken-field run the way you'd like to see in a throwback to old screwball comedies.

It's all perfectly pat, and sadly, perfectly boring, for the most part. In chronicling pro football's transition from laughable frivolity to true spectator sport life in 1925, "Leatherheads" proves feather-light.

There's no figure in modern Hollywood more amiable and admirable than Clooney, and "Leatherheads" was a chance for him to lighten up as a filmmaker after his strange but sober directing debut "Confessions of a Dangerous Mind" and his masterful drama "Good Night, and Good Luck."

Taking the lead role in a film he's directing for the first time, Clooney starts with a premise that you're just dying to know. His aptly named Dodge Connolly is an artificial dud who comes to save his destitute Duluth Bulldogs and elevate the grungy pro circuit by signing flashy college star Carter Rutherford (John



In his image re-released by Universal Pictures George Clooney, center, leads his bundle in a scene from 'Leatherheads.'

'Leatherheads'

Starring George Clooney, Renee Zellweger, John Krasinski.

Rated PG-13 for brief strong language.

Playing at Twin Cinema, Magic Lantern.

Krasinski).

The movie opens with Carter besieged by sportswriters wanting to know what he'll do after his final season at Princeton.

"You could always go pro," one reporter suggests.

There's a perfect pause, then Carter and his audience let out a belly laugh, no better way to summarize the shabby stature of professional football then, an era where teams such as Duluth groveled in turp fields to a few dozen fans while college squads played in huge, sold-out stadiums.

That's about the biggest laugh "Leatherheads" musters, and it's never a promising sign when the best moment in a movie comes at the outset.

In a nod to the fast-talking journalists of such screwball-comedy classics as "The Philadelphia Story" and "His

Girl Friday," Zellweger's Chicago Tribune reporter Lexie Littleton comes on the scene to ferret out the real story of golden boy Carter.

Touted as a World War I hero who single-handedly forced the surrender of a trench full of Germans, Carter seems the ideal poster boy to sell football tickets. But Lexie's editor has an inside scoop that Carter's war record may not be so shiny.

Also in line with the ghosts of screwball past, Lexie ends up in a romantic triangle involving pretty boy Carter and wily Dodge. Jonathan Price complicates the action for everyone as CC Frazier, Carter's oily agent.

The cast, particularly Clooney and Zellweger, deliver their lives in a suitably curt and affected style reminiscent of the lightning patter of 1930s comedies. Yet the dialogue itself is surprisingly bland given that the screenplay comes from former Sports Illustrated reporters Duncan Brantley and Rick Rottly, the latter known as one of sportswriting's premier humorists.

Here and there, Clooney and his collaborators craft some

funny slight gags, and the visual trappings are superb, from the grand hotel lobbies and muddy football fields to the chugging trains and slightly ratty motorcycle and sidecar Dodge drives.

Randy Newman, the man behind such period scores as "Ragtime," "Scarborough" and "The Natural," has created another lively musical backdrop for "Leatherheads." And the movie is filled with colorful character actors, a screwball-comedy staple, notably Clooney's "O Brother, Where Art Thou?" colleagues Stephen Root and Wayne Duvall.

With all of that going for it, "Leatherheads" just never streaks downhill. Actor Clooney is lovable, but filmmaker Clooney can't quite give the story the spark it needs, and he falls back repetitively on gimmicky black-and-white photos and newspaper headlines to make transitions from scene to scene.

The film leaves you longing for a few Hal Mary-end-zoned passes, while the filmmakers stick to a story that tries to pound it out with a safe, tedious ground game.

What's playing

TWIN FALLS

Twin Cinema
"Dr. Seuss' Horton Hears a Who!"
"The Bucket List"
"Amper"
"College Road Trip"
"10,000 B.C."
"Foot's Cold"
"Leatherheads"
"Superhero Movie"
"Win's Island"
"The Spiderwick Chronicles"
"Dribbit Taylor"
"National Treasure: Book of Secrets"

Odyssey Theater

"Shutter"
"The Other Boleyn Girl"
"Yankee Point"
"21"
"Bella"
"Juno"

The Orphium

"The Rules"

HAILEY/KETCHUM

S&Timo Cinema
"Miss Pettigrew Lives for a Day"
"The Bank Job"

Big Wood Cinema

"10,000 B.C."
"Dr. Seuss' Horton Hears a Who!"
"Shutter"
"The Other Boleyn Girl"

Magic Lantern

"21"
"In Bruges"
"Superhero Movie"
"Dribbit Taylor"
"Leatherheads"

Sun Valley Opera House

"Dr. Seuss' Horton Hears a Who!"
"The Other Boleyn Girl"
"Sun Valley Serenade"
Warren Miller ski films

BURLEY

Century Cinema

"Jim's Island"
"Dr. Seuss' Horton Hears a Who!"
"Superhero Movie"
"Dribbit Taylor"
"10,000 B.C."

Burley Theater

"National Treasure: Book of Secrets"

JEROME

Jerome Cinema

"Dribbit Taylor"
"Jim's Island"
"Dr. Seuss' Horton Hears a Who!"
"Superhero Movie"

Movie nuggets

"Superhero Movie" — In the spirit of "Airplane," a spoof of the men in tights genre. With Sara Paxton, Leslie Nielsen, Kevin Hart, Marion Ross and Brent Spiner. Written and directed by Craig Mazin. PG-13 for crude and sexual content, comic violence, drug references and language.

"21" — A team of cunning MIT students uses counting cards and an intricate system of hand signals to break the bank at Las Vegas casinos. With Jim Sturgess, Kate Bosworth, Laurence Fishburne and Kevin Spacey. Directed by Robert Luketic. PG-13 for some violence, and sexual content including partial nudity.

"The Bank Job" — Leave it to a trio of crafty veterans to pull a fast one with this lively heist drama set in early 1970s London and inspired by an incredibly strange true story.

Longtime screenwriters Dick Clement and Ian La Frenais have woven a masterful narrative full of odd twists and dark humor while director Roger Donaldson and a prime cast headed by Jason Statham mine plum characters and a tight plot to satisfying effect. R for sexual content, nudity, violence and language.

"Dr. Seuss' Horton Hears a Who!" — The good news about this film is that it actually looks Seussian, which is more than you can say for the nightmare-inducing adaptations of "How the Grinch Stole Christmas" and "The Cat in the Hat" sprung on a trusting public in 2000 and 2003. The bad news is that although it retains, at intermittent intervals, much of the gentleness and sincerity of the book, the rest of the time it tries too hard to act cool around the other animated movies, which for some reason still swear by the sardonic, pop culture-laden, celebrity-voiced, sitcom-candenced corporate-speak that keeps trying to pass itself off as humor. G.

KARAOKE CORNER

DAILY

Twin Falls
Karaoke, 8 p.m. to 1 a.m. Friday and Saturday and 9 p.m. to 1 a.m. Sunday through Thursday, at the Klover Klub Lounge, 402 Main Ave. N. No cover charge.

THURSDAY, APRIL 3

Twin Falls
Karaoke, 9 p.m. at Kruzer's Night Life-121 Fourth Ave. S. No cover charge.
Burley
Pioneer Karaoke by Kim, 8:30 p.m. to 1 a.m. at the Pioneer Club, 1519 Kimberly Road. No cover charge.

Burley
Kroakers Karaoke, 9 p.m. to 1 a.m. at the Riverside, 197 W. U.S. Highway 30. Cover charge is \$2.

FRIDAY, APRIL 4

Twin Falls
Pioneer Karaoke by Kim, 8:30 p.m. to 1 a.m. at the Pioneer Club, 1519 Kimberly Road. No cover charge.

Burley
Karaoke, 9 p.m. to 1 a.m. at the 610 Club, 1054 Overland Ave. No cover charge.
Rupert
Wanna-be-a-Star Karaoke, 9 p.m. to 1 a.m. at the Blue Room, 613 Fremont Ave. No cover charge.

Kroakers Karaoke, 9 p.m. to 1 a.m. at the Melody Bar, 502 Sixth St. No cover charge.

SATURDAY, APRIL 5

Twin Falls
Pioneer Karaoke by Kim, 8:30 p.m. to 1 a.m. at the Pioneer Club, 1519 Kimberly Road. No cover charge.
Burley
Kroakers Karaoke, 9 p.m. to 1 a.m. at the Riverside, 197 W. U.S. Highway 30. Cover charge is \$2.

Karaoke, 9 p.m. to 1 a.m. at the 610 Club, 1054 Overland Ave. No cover charge.
Rupert
High Mountain Karaoke, 9 p.m. to

1 a.m. at the Blue Room, 613 Fremont Ave. No cover charge.

DeLoe
Miler Time Karaoke, 9 p.m. to 1 a.m. at the Big Kahuna, 9 E. Main St. No cover charge.

TUESDAY, APRIL 8

Burley
Kroakers Karaoke, 9 p.m. to 1 a.m. at Cheers, 163 W. U.S. Highway 30. No cover charge.

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 9

Twin Falls
Kroakers Karaoke, 8:30 p.m. to 1 a.m. at Montana Steak House, 1026 Canyon Crest Drive. No cover charge.
Pioneer Karaoke by Kim, 8:30 p.m. to 1 a.m. at the Pioneer Club, 1519 Kimberly Road. No cover charge.

Paul
Kroakers Karaoke, 9 p.m. to 1 a.m. at Red's Bar, 6 E. Idaho St. No cover charge.

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