

**Good Morning**

High: 69  
Low: 42

Partly cloudy, dry and warm.  
Details: D8

# Times-News

MagicValley.com

## Internal combustion

### Otter memo points to tighter administration

By Jared S. Hopkins  
Staff writer

Gov. C.L. "Butch" Otter appears to be rounding up his state officials much as he would herd cattle on his ranch.

Last week his communications director, Mark Warbis, sent an e-mail to department heads — plus those working for elected officials such as Attorney General Lawrence Wasden — and agency spokespersons reminding them to alert him about media interviews and to allow him to review potentially controversial press releases before they go public.

He scolded state workers for violating the policy — described as "unacceptable" to Otter — and causing the governor to learn about agency squabbles in newspaper articles.

Please see **OTTER**, Page A3

### Inside

Read the text of the memo sent to state agency officials.

See page A3

## Border Patrol lets some illegals go — over and over again

By Alicia A. Caldwell  
Associated Press writer

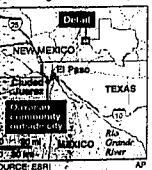
EL PASO, Texas — Josefa Gonzalez Loya has sneaked across the Mexican border at least 128 times in the past eight years. And each time, the Border Patrol has been nice enough to give her a lift home.

Gonzalez and a group of other women and children — all Indians from the southern Mexican state of Oaxaca — have no interest in staying in the United States.

Please see **PATROL**, Page A5

### Border loophole

When Oaxacan Indian immigrants cross into El Paso, Texas, U.S. border agents may arrest them, but use discretion to keep some adults and children together and out of jail.



# Busing Blues

## Idaho State University's Magic Valley commuter bus in peril



Michelle Montgomery, a student at Idaho State University, studies in the early morning hours of April 23. The ISU commuter bus picks up students at four stops starting in Twin Falls, a gas station in Hansen, a department store parking lot in Burley and another gas station in south of Rupert.

Story by Andrea Jackson • Photos by Meagan Thompson

Idaho State University may soon end its 20-year practice of operating a commuter bus from Twin Falls to Pocatello, saying the service is losing money.

University officials say ridership has dwindled over the past four semesters — where 45 students once took the bus, only 28 now ride it on Tuesdays and 17 on Fridays.

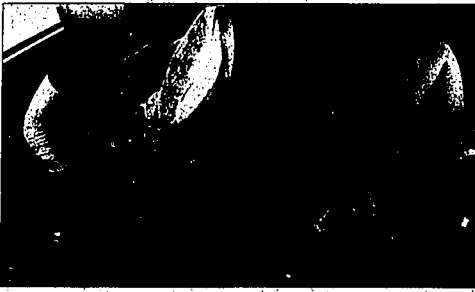
Students pay to ride the ISU bus, but it ran up a \$50,695 deficit in the fall and spring semesters as the cost for fuel jumped, according to an ISU budget document. The university now wants the service to be self-supporting.

ISU plans to advertise the bus to increase ridership in the fall, and will more than double the cost of a five-day pass for each semester that now runs \$843 to \$1,728.

And if at least 28 students don't sign up by Aug. 1 for the fall semester, the service will be cancelled.

ISU officials recently briefed the Twin Falls City Council on the issue but didn't ask for city help. Twin Falls Mayor Lance Glow said the bus was a valuable tool, but the City Council made no moves to help alleviate the system's strain.

"We set the Aug. 1 date to give us a chance to contact all potential riders," said Darrell Buffalo, associate vice president of ISU Facilities Services. "That date will also allow us to give students who signed up for the bus time to make other transportation arrangements before school starts if the bus is cancelled."



Idaho State University students Whitney Holman, left, and Jaelene Brunson stretch out to sleep during their commute to Pocatello. After 20 years of service, the ISU bus may shut down next semester. University officials say closure of the commuter route is due to high fuel prices and dwindling ridership.

### Uncertain future

The university bus service operates five other commuter coaches that move students between Idaho Falls and the Pocatello campus. Those lines make money, Buffalo said, and have been subsidizing the Twin Falls route.

That's not fair, said Buffalo. "The money to pay that (Twin Falls bus deficit) off came from Idaho Falls riders," Buffalo said.

The ISU bus leaves from the Twin Falls Knarr parking lot at 5:20 a.m. Monday



### Magicvalley.com

See a slideshow of ISU students riding the commuter bus between Twin Falls and Pocatello.

through Friday. The bus also picks riders up before dawn in the Burley area for a slightly reduced cost of \$755 for a five-day semester pass.

But fees are going to balloon next year.

Please see **BUSING**, Page A4

# Busing By the numbers

The number of ISU students that list Twin Falls County as their permanent address on their university applications during fall semesters is at a five-year high. This includes students who could be taking online classes, commuting by bus, car or learning through ISU on the College of Southern Idaho campus, ISU officials said.

2003	.....365
2004	.....394
2005	.....434
2006	.....403
2007	.....473

The number of ISU students taking classes on the College of Southern Idaho campus in Twin Falls is also at a five-year high, ISU officials said. Here's a run-down over the years for fall semesters:

2003	.....227
2004	.....233
2005	.....242
2006	.....198
2007	.....330

## Mullen: U.S. 'vulnerable' after presidential election

By Ann Scott Tyson  
The Washington Post

WASHINGTON — The nation's top military officer warned Wednesday that the transition to a

new American president will mark a "time of vulnerability" as the United States fights two wars, and said military leaders are already actively preparing for the changing of the guard.

The chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, Navy Adm. Michael Mullen, said the U.S. political transition will be "extraordinarily challenging," particularly as the military is engaged in Iraq and

Afghanistan and faces interference in both those countries from Iran.

"Iran is not going away," Mullen

Please see **MULLEN**, Page A5



Mullen



At Your Service directory	..E9	Crossword	.....E11	Jumble	.....A2	Opinion	.....B6
Bridge	.....E5	Dear Abby	.....E5	Magic Valley	.....C1	Sudoku	.....E7
Calendar	.....A2	Family Life	.....F3	Movies	.....C4, C7	Travel	.....G1
Classifieds	.....E1-12	Horoscope	.....A2	Obituaries	.....C2	Weather	.....D8

Salt Lake City by day and by night.  
TRAVEL, G1

TODAY'S HAPPENINGS

BENEFITS AND FUNDRAISERS

Bethel No. 18 fundraising "bakedst," with pancakes, scrambled eggs, hash browns and sausage, 8 to 10:30 a.m., Masonic Lodge, 1519 Overland Ave., Burley, freewill offering, 436-5671 or 677-4085.
First Sunday of the Month Lunch, with salads, hot scones, honey and desserts, 11 a.m. to 2 p.m., Wendell United Methodist Church, 175 E. Main St., freewill offering, 536-6583.
Ageless Senior Center Sunday dinner, featuring baked ham, potato casserole and cake with lemon sauce, noon to 1:30 p.m., Ageless Senior Citizen Center, 310 Main St. N., Kimberly, suggested donation: \$6 for adults and \$3 for children under age 12, take-outs available if call ahead, 423-4338.

EXHIBITS

"For Want of a Horseshoe: Cultural and Natural History of Horseshoes," hosted by Hagerman Fossil Beds National Monument, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., at the Visitor Center, Hagerman, no cost, (208) 837-4793 ext. 5227.

HEALTH AND FITNESS

Free for all mothers in honor of Mother's Day, four weeks of self-defense and fitness for all mothers, grandmothers and step-mothers, Success Martial Arts, 1300 Kimberly Road, Twin Falls, no cost, no obligation, 733-8910 to schedule orientation.

HOBBIES AND CRAFTS

Wonder Cut Ruler 10th Quilting Retreat, 8 a.m. to 1 p.m., Marsh Creek Event Center, Albion, (208) 678-1317.

THREE-DAY PLANNER

ARTS AND ENTERTAINMENT

May 7 — District IV Middle School Music Festival includes over fifty bands, choirs, and orchestras hosted by Jerome High School fine arts department, 7:50 a.m. to 4 p.m., no cost, (208) 329-0523.
May 7 — Idaho Old Time Fiddlers Association (OTFA) jammin' for the crowd and meeting, members will jam and entertain the public from 6 to 8 p.m., with monthly meeting to follow, Idaho Pizza Company, 1859 Kimberly Road, Twin Falls, open to the public and prospective members, 735-1580.

BENEFITS AND FUNDRAISERS

May 7 — "Women Helping Other Women" WHOW fundraiser, to benefit the community food bank; includes Black Rock Clothiers style show, information booths, raffle and no-host bar, 6:30 p.m., Eighth Street Center, 200 Eighth Ave. N., Buhl, \$8, 543-6682.
May 7 — First Christian Praise Chapel sixth annual plant and flower sale, featuring quality hanging baskets and various annuals, perennials, grasses and vegetables, 9 a.m. to 6 p.m., Wednesday through Friday, at the church, 1110 Eighth St., Rupert, 436-0449.

BUSINESS

May 5 — "Wingate by Wyndham" Hotel Chamber of Commerce Ribbon Cutting, 4:30 p.m., 379 Crossroads Point Blvd., Twin Falls/Jerame (across from the Fyng J), (208) 644-1200.

CHURCH

May 7 — Centering Prayer Practice, monthly topic and video: "Reflections on Beauty," 7:30 p.m., Ascension Episcopal Church, 371 Eastland Dr. N., Twin Falls, no cost, open to the public, 734-9499 or 733-8881.

CLUBS AND ORGANIZATIONS

May 5 — Dilettante Group of Magic Valley annual meeting and no-host dinner, with election of officers; dues-paying members eligible to vote, 7 p.m., Maxie's Pizza, 170 Blue Lakes Blvd., Twin Falls, 734-5511.
May 6 — Magic Valley New Neighbors Club luncheon, program: election of officers, 11:30 a.m., Garden Cafe, 2221 Addison Ave. E., Twin Falls, \$12, 731-2082 for reservations by today.
May 6 — Mary Time Club meeting, includes visit to Twin Falls Museum, 1 p.m., Curry Crossing Cafe, 735-5223.
May 6 — Wendell Guild, 6:30 to 9 p.m., The Fat Quarter Quilt Shop, 112 W. Main, Wendell, no cost, 934-4591.
May 7 — American Mothers, Inc. of Magic Valley meeting and potluck luncheon, noon, Bridgeview Estates Great Room, 1818 Bridgeview Blvd., Twin Falls, 733-5133.
May 7 — Bliss Flower and Garden Club meeting, guest speaker: Master Gardener Dave Adair; co-host Jan Lemons, 1 p.m., home of Shirley Thannan, 532-4260.

Fairs and Festivals

May 7 — Beginning day of three-day FFA Ag Expo, Rupert Fairgrounds, (208) 436-9748.

FAMILY

May 5 — "Special Parents - Special Kids" support group, for parents of children with special needs; free childcare available, 6 to 8:45 p.m., meal served and 7 p.m. meeting, Twin Falls Reformed Church, 1631 Grandview Drive N., (corner of Grandview Drive North and Pole Line Road), no cost, (donation for meal), 733-6128; summer schedule: 733-9060.

GOVERNMENT

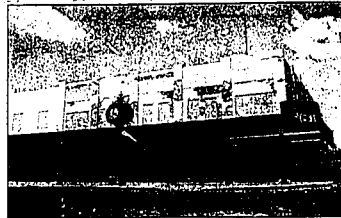
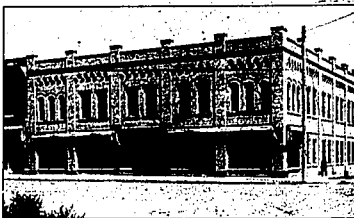
May 5 — Jerome County Planning and Zoning Commission public hearing, 7 p.m., courthouse, 300 N. Lincoln, 324-9116.
May 7 — Meet the Candidate evening, informative question/answer session for all Gooding county citizens and all Republican primary candidates for county, state and national offices hosted by Gooding County Republican Central Committee, 7 p.m., 4-H Building, Gooding County Fairgrounds, 200 Lucy Lane, no cost, refreshments, 536-5632 or gene@win.myrf.net.

SCHOOLS

May 5, 6, 7 — Tickets on sale for Minics High School 2008 Senior Celebration, includes games, food, music, prizes and a hypnotist; several drawings for door prizes and gift for each student, May 21 Graduation night, 11 p.m. (gates close), Minidoka County Fairgrounds; \$10 tickets (during lunch hours), 532-4599 or 438-5260 for donations or to volunteer.
May 6 — Hagerman School District kindergarten registration, for children age 5 before Sept. 1; proof of child's immunizations and certified birth certificate required, 9 a.m. to 2 p.m., Hagerman Elementary, 837-4777.

MORNING BRIEFING PHOTOGRAPHIC MEMORY

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



Consolidated Wagon and Machine Company, located on Main Avenue North shown in this is now the Caine's Home Furnishing building in Twin Falls. Consolidated Wagon and Machine Company started in 1907, and in 1909, moved to this building, designed by L. T. Wright. The building has a lava rock foundation and sandstone brick walls. It also had one of the early elevators in Twin Falls. The Company, which assembled wagons and such, required 32 stoves throughout the building to generate enough heat to get the work done. In 1962, Caine's Home Furnishings took over the building. (Information taken from A Tribute to the Past, A Legacy for the Future, ed. Donna Scott; and Twin Falls Centurybook, 1904-2004 by Mary J. Inman.)

Rep. Mike Simpson, R
Rep. Jill Solari, R
Sen. Mike Crapo, R
Sen. Larry Craig, R

IDAHO TALLY: HOW YOUR LAWMAKERS VOTED



Table with 4 columns (N, Y, Y, Y) and 4 rows of legislative items. Items include Combustible-Dust Rules, Regulations Delay, Gene-Testing Bias, Highway Transit Spending, and Aviation Budget.

TODAY IN HISTORY

Today is Sunday, May 4, the 125th day of 2008. There are 241 days left in the year.
TODAY'S HIGHLIGHT
On May 4, 1945, during World War II, German forces in the Netherlands, Denmark and north-west Germany agreed to surrender.
ON THIS DATE
In 1932, mobster Al Capone, convicted of income-tax evasion, entered the federal penitentiary in Atlanta.
In 1946, a two-day riot at Alcatraz prison in San Francisco Bay ended, violence claiming five lives.
In 1970, Ohio National Guardsmen opened fire on anti-war protesters at Kent State University,

killing four students and wounding nine others.
Ten years ago: Unabomber Theodore Kaczynski was given four life sentences plus 30 years by a federal judge in Sacramento, Calif., under a plea agreement that spared him the death penalty.
Five years ago: Tornados swept across the Central Plains and Midwest, resulting in 38 deaths and causing a wide swath of destruction.
One year ago: A judge sentenced hotel heiress Paris Hilton to 45 days in the Los Angeles County jail for violating probation in an alcohol-related reckless driving case by driving with a suspended license.

JUMBLE word game section with a grid of letters and a cartoon illustration of a man thinking.

HOROSCOPE BY JERALDINE SAUNDERS

IF MAY 4 IS YOUR BIRTHDAY: Right now you need extra exercise or sports to help burn off excess energy and remove a chip from your shoulder. However, in July the cosmic weather improves and you can succeed at anything you put your mind to doing.
Taurus (April 20-May 20): Partnerships make good sense this week. At the moment you may feel insecure or suffer from self-criticism. Rest assured that others in the immediate vicinity will buoy your ego and help you later in the week.
Gemini (May 21-June 20): Rise above the mundane. You don't need to listen to stories of frustration, alienation and, desperation. It isn't that problems will disappear if you

and self-control are helpful.
Libra (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Cushion yourself against insensitive remarks. Don't let criticism undermine your self-confidence. Instead, use it as a fulcrum to become a better person. By midweek you will find your love life improves.
Scorpio (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): A rose by any other name would smell as sweet. If you consider someone a thorn in your side now, be aware that you may be thankful for their prodding later in the week.
Sagittarius (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Make a dazzling difference. Discussions are futile as romantic partners might misunderstand today. You can act on your ideas later in the week and make purpose-

ful changes.
Capricorn (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Financial austerity can provoke new thinking. Your refusal to spend money due to peer pressure may get you tagged as a rebellious leader before the week is out. You don't have to follow the herd.
Aquarius (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): It is time for a reality check. Acting on a whim or speaking without thinking can backfire. Examine your motives and be sure that you only act on the best of intentions later in the week.
Pisces (Feb. 19-March 20): Change your mind. During the week ahead you may have a change of heart due to new information. Don't make decisions based on a sudden whim or brainstorm.

and self-control are helpful.
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IDAHO LOTTERY advertisement with logo and winning numbers.

Times-News advertisement with contact information and subscription rates.

# Otter

Continued from page A1

In some cases those media reports actually have involved what amounts to public disagreements between state agencies over a point of policy," Warbis said. "As you know, the governor puts a premium on all state agencies cooperating and working as a team to serve the people. Public disputes on points of policy are inconsistent with that goal. Our media policy is designed to prevent those, but it requires your full compliance."

The memo — which was leaked to the media — sparked chatter in political circles in the blogosphere. It surprised Republican lawmakers and upset Democrats. And people on both sides of the aisle said they're confused about why Otter doesn't appear to trust his own employees to make decisions.

Meanwhile, political observers said Otter was simply running his organization like any other business. "The government should be run like a business — but noted that it's yet another sign he's determined to exert tight control over his administration and those within it."

It can have a chilling effect on what people say, said Jasper LiCalzi, a College of Idaho professor of political economy. "But if you're in charge, this is what you want people to do. You want everyone reading from the same page."

Rich Carlson, a Filer-based Idaho Rural Council attorney who regularly speaks and works with state agency officials, said it appears Otter runs state government like a "public relations department" rather than an open government.

"The public ought to be able to hear from state employees, especially those department heads," he says directly, without their comments pre-sanitized, pre-shrunk, or pre-spun," he said after reviewing the e-mail.

LiCalzi said the directive might have been the work of Jason Kirtland, Otter's chief-of-staff who joined the administration in November.

"It sounds like someone hasn't been following this policy," LiCalzi said. "This is a wake-up call for some people — a smack in the back of the head."

Attempts to reach Otter were unsuccessful. Phone calls to Warbis and spokesman Jon Hanian were not returned.

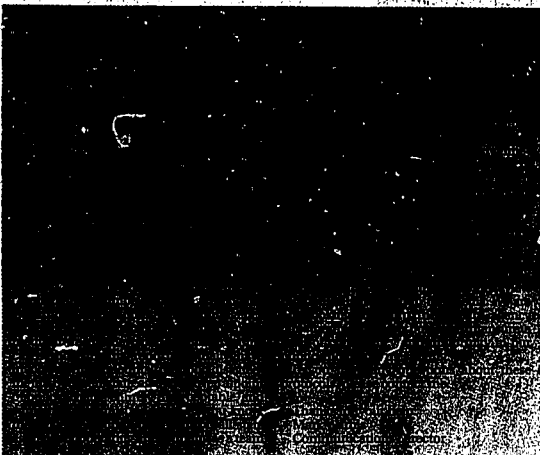
Some Republican lawmakers said the order from the governor's office is odd.

"I've never heard of a governor putting clamps on all state agencies," said Rep. Leon Smith, R-Twin Falls. "It seems he has control over their directors. I don't know why he would have to exercise control over press releases."

The e-mail reminded House Minority Leader, Wesley Inayat, D-Ketchikan, of Gov. Phil Batt, who she said required staffers to notify him of both legislative and media contact. She called Otter's tactic outdated in an era when businesses and governments allow employees to express opinions more openly.

"I don't think it's really good for government," she said. "People sort of get intimidated. They wonder if they should talk to you or should not talk to you."

The memo was also sent to officials in Wasden's office and the Idaho State Department of Education, two agencies that are accountable to their own elected, constitutional offi-



cers, not Otter. Spokespersons from both offices said they have independent media policies but keep Otter's office informed.

State government in Idaho is large; there are 19,500 state employees. Marc Johnson, chief-of-staff for former Democratic Gov. Cecil Andrus and now a partner in The Gallatin Group political consulting firm, said governors have to find a way to stay on top of things but also to allow the government to communicate with voters in a timely fashion.

"You're kind of balancing the need to speak with one voice with the need to be transparent and open," he said, adding that Andrus had a "no surprises" policy.

But working apart from the media — or at least trying to control information — is not something new for Otter.

He's favored closed meetings, including conferences to study health care, water policy and liquor laws. He rarely holds news conferences, unlike prior govern-

ors who often met the media.

"It's more a corporate mentality," said LiCalzi. "Most CEOs don't have press conferences or allow any comments from some division manager that doesn't go through the CEO. It's much more like how a business should be run."

In the memo, Warbis noted the policy of sending press releases for his review has been in effect since Otter began his term in January 2007. He also praised officials of the departments of Environmental Quality, Health and Welfare, Correction, Lottery and Finance for keeping him in the loop.

Nathan Jerke, the south-central region's spokesman for the Idaho Transportation Department, said he wasn't aware of the policy until he received the memo. He said he alerts the ITD's main spokesman, Jeff Stratton, about any media contacts.

ITD was one of several agencies that received the memo, though it — among others — doesn't even

answer to Otter.

"The ITD Director, Pam Lowe, answers to the seven-member transportation board. Members are appointed by the governor and approved by the Idaho Senate. The Department of Fish and Game operates the same way."

LiCalzi noted not only that the reminder was placed in writing, but also that it seems to indicate that someone did something wrong and things aren't going smoothly 18 months into Otter's tenure.

"If everybody was following this, why would you send it out?" he asked. "You compare the governor to the President in the White House — no one says anything in disagreement ... Here's it's a little more informal, and they're trying to make it more like the White House."

Jared S. Hopkins may be reached at 208-735-3204 or jhopkins@magicvalley.com.

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(Spring, 2009)

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At left, at the early hour of 5:30 a.m., Amanda Packham gives in to a yawn as she cracks open her books and uses the two-hour bus ride from Twin Falls to Pocatello to study for her Idaho State University classes. She is majoring in secondary education and has one more semester at ISU before she starts student teaching in Twin Falls. At right, Packham immediately starts to study as the ISU bus pulls away from the university at 5 p.m. Packham's busy day isn't over when she reaches the Kmart parking lot in Twin Falls at 7 p.m. she will have to rush over to the College of Southern Idaho for another class. "If the bus went away I would probably be forced to drive or carpool," says Packham. "I'm a single mother and it's my last semester so I would have to make it work somehow."

## Busing

Continued from page A1

by at least 205 percent — assuming 28 people continue to ride from Burley and Twin Falls combined, said Andrew Taylor, ISU spokesman.

"Should the bus continue to operate and there is more ridership than expected, the bus pass costs will be reduced and refunds provided based on the number of paid riders," Buffaloe wrote in an April 30 letter to ISU Twin Falls commuters. "We are hopeful that the Twin Falls bus route can continue ..."

As April 30, only 15 students had signed up to ride, according to ISU.

ISU students on a recent bus commute said they'd be willing to pay more.

"I'd be willing to pay a higher price," said Stephanie Harris, 21, of Burley.

But Harris, a full-time student working on an education degree, said she probably wouldn't pay more than \$1,600. She said \$1,000 would be reasonable.

### A sleepy ride to Pocatello

At the start of a 14-hour day of commuting and class, students pull their vehicles up quickly to the Kmart parking lot, load up and take the stairs of a humming bus bound for Pocatello that illuminates the dark morning sky.

Their days begin well before 5:20 a.m., when they board the bus. Most sleep through the 117-mile drive to Pocatello, where they step off around 7:20 a.m.

Morning rides are as quiet as they are dark, with a heavy helping of pillows, blankets and refunds.

Groupy students tote their pillows, backpacks, lunch sacks and blankets onboard for the trip.

Then they snooze for most of the drive on a dark bus. The student driver pulls the bus into the ISU lot and fuels up, he quickly changes his shoes from black boots to sneakers, and limply runs to make his 8 a.m. class.

Other students, however, have time to kill before class, which leaves time to study.

Students are more active on the way back to the Magic Valley. They're alert, awake and conversational on the bus ride home.

Dry landscape is illuminated by sunshine on the ride home, which leaves at about 5 p.m. Peppered by the natural beauty of the Raft River Plains and the curves of the Snake River, riders peer out their windows while conversing and studying.

There's a strong mix of men and women on the bus and most riders are students in their 20s.

Hopkins said he'll soon move to Pocatello, but has been based in Twin Falls while his wife finished a nursing program at the College of Southern Idaho.

"I think it's an asset for everyone," Hopkins said about the bus. "I think ISU could do a better job of letting everyone know it's there for them."

Harris, one of the few passengers with her overhead



Whitney Holman shares a laugh with fellow commuters as the ISU bus makes its way back to Twin Falls. "Please at least give us an estimate of what we would need to pay," said Whitney about the university's decision to cut the bus.

light on during the morning eastbound trip, read through a textbook and used the early morning ride to study. She said riding the bus gives her ample time to prepare for school.

If the bus shuts down, Harris said she may attend another school. Driving isn't an option, nor is moving to Pocatello, she said. "I want to stay in the Magic Valley."

The remaining coursework Harris needs to get her degree isn't offered through ISU on the CSI campus in Twin Falls, she said.

### Where did the riders go?

Students and ISU administrators said they don't know why fewer ISU students are taking the 48-seat bus from Twin Falls.

"For whatever reason, ridership has decreased," said Kent Tingey, ISU vice president for university advancement.

Buffaloe said he isn't sure when the bus started for Twin Falls commuters, but it was probably around 1985.

"We had enough students indicate they would ride the bus from Twin Falls that we decided to try it for a semester," Buffaloe said. "It was successful so it continued ..."

Enough students supported it by riding that it paid for itself," ISU officials considered replacing the large Twin Falls commuter bus with a smaller one as ridership fell, but determined it wouldn't save much money.

"The only real savings would be from the cost of fuel," Buffaloe said. Costs for replacement, maintenance and drivers would stay the same, he said.

University brass would like to see ridership grow, but they aren't saying whether they'd prefer students take ISU

classes from the extension office at CSI, register to learn online, move to Pocatello or simply find another ride.

"We don't have an answer for that," said Tingey. "We want to provide education to people of Twin Falls County ... Our plan is to continue to grow our enrollment."

Tingey said he doesn't know how many ISU students drive themselves to Pocatello from Twin Falls.

ISU students that listed Twin Falls County as their permanent address on applications reached a five-year high during the fall 2007 semester, with 473.

That number includes students taking online classes, commuting by bus, personal vehicle, or learning through the CSI extension office, said Tingey.

The number of ISU students learning from CSI also reached a five-year high in fall 2007, with 330 students, he said.

Enrollment at the Twin Falls center has gone up quite rapidly, said Tingey.

Online learning through ISU is also expected to grow, he said.

For the fall 2007 semester, for example, 109 students were learning online. But that online number wasn't tracked until recently, said Tingey.

"Twin Falls is very important to Idaho State University," he said.

"Pulling the huge rig back into its parking place on the CSI campus is a relief after a long day of driving and school, at least for Hopkins, who is studying social work when he's not at the wheel of the bus.

"It's tiresome, but people can do hard things," he said. "I go home and want to sleep as late as I can, and my wife just wants to go play."

Andrea Jackson may be reached at 735-3300 or [Andrea.Jackson@lee.net](mailto:Andrea.Jackson@lee.net).

### More info

For more on the Twin Falls ISU commuter bus schedule and fares, [www.isu.edu/departments/trans/commuter/schedule\\_twin.html](http://www.isu.edu/departments/trans/commuter/schedule_twin.html)

for that," said Tingey. "We want to provide education to people of Twin Falls County ... Our plan is to continue to grow our enrollment."

Tingey said he doesn't know how many ISU students drive themselves to Pocatello from Twin Falls.

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# Mullen

**Continued from page A1**

Said. "We need to be strong and really in the deterrent mode, not to be very predictable" regarding Iran, he said in a meeting with editors and reporters at The Washington Post.

Mullen spoke on a day when Pentagon officials announced a second U.S. aircraft carrier group, the USS Lincoln, had arrived in the Persian Gulf for a brief overlap with another carrier. Having two carriers in the Gulf will provide additional air power for strikes and reconnaissance in the combat zone, giving commanders added flexibility, said Lt. Gen. Carter Ham, the Joint Staff operations chief. "It allows us, also, to demonstrate to our friends and allies in the region a commitment to security in the region," he said.

Defense Secretary Robert Gates said Wednesday that the carrier could serve as a "reminder" to Iran. But its presence is part of a regular fluctuation of U.S. Navy ships in the region and does not mark an "escalation" of force,

he told reporters traveling with him in Mexico.

In a wide-ranging interview, Mullen detailed how Iran continues to supply weapons, training, and financing to insurgents not only in Iraq but also in Afghanistan. He said the Iranian involvement with Taliban fighters "intrudes what they are doing with Iraq, although on a smaller scale."

"There's training going on, weapons which are entering," as well as technology — assistance that is "very well-connected" with the Taliban leadership, particularly in western Afghanistan, he said.

A State Department annual report on terrorism released Wednesday said that Iran's Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps, or Quds Force, last year provided to the Taliban grenades, mortars, 107mm rockets and possibly shoulder-fired air defense weapons.

In Iraq, the report said, Iranian authorities continued to supply Shiite militias with advanced rockets, sniper rifles and possibly formed projectiles (FPs), which have

killed thousands of coalition and Iraqi forces. U.S. troop casualties rose in April to 50, the highest number since September, partly as a result of intensified fighting with Iranian-backed militias in Baghdad and elsewhere.

Mullen said recent unrest in the southern Iraqi city of Basra demonstrated that Iran is "very involved" in the southern Iraq in ways that had not been highlighted, adding that "they want to have a weak Iraq."

Offering an unusual insight into how senior military leaders are anticipating the transition to a new president, Mullen said he is continually thinking about how military decisions taken today will play out under a new administration.

"There are very few other briefings on meetings that I'm

in that I'm not thinking about. How does what we're talking about right now transition to next spring?" Mullen said. He said U.S. commanders in regions overseas, as well as chiefs of the different services, are having similar discussions.

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# Patrol

**Continued from page A1**

States. All they want to do is panhandle outside El Paso businesses, using the children as lures.

At the end of a productive day, they wait for the Border Patrol to come pick them up and drive them back to the border.

Little dramas like this play out day after day, accounting for thousands of arrests but hardly any prosecutions in the past several years.

The Oaxacans fall under a loophole that gives border agents discretion to keep some adults and children together and out of jail.

"They do qualify for jail and prosecution," Border Patrol spokesman Ramiro Cordero said. "However, we've got to look at the humanitarian factor first if we are going to have to separate the family."

Nearly 500 Oaxacans (pronounced wah-HAH-ken) women and children in colorful serapes have been rounded up since the fiscal year began in October, accounting for thousands of arrests.

The middle-aged Gonzalez and some of the others make a mad dash across the Rio Grande with the help of a guide.

Occasionally they get caught trying to slip across, but evidently they are good at evading the Border Patrol, even though they use the same general area over and over. Sometimes, authorities realize they have arrived when they see the little footprints the diminutive immigrants leave along the banks of the Rio Grande.

Once she makes it across, Gonzalez, who speaks only a language common among Indians in Oaxaca, catches a bus to a strip mall a few miles away from the border, just far enough into El Paso to evade agents on patrol. There she starts begging for spare change.

Border agents say when she and her entourage are ready to go home, they muster in front of a store. Then they wait, knowing their presence will create enough of a nuisance that agents will come pick them up. When they do, the beggars' ransoms are taken and their fingerprints checked. Then they are walked back across the border.

Gonzalez has been arrested 128 times. Despite a crackdown on illegal immigration along much of the border, she and most of her tribal members have never been jailed.

Most illegal immigrants cannot count on the goodness of immigration officials' hearts. Unlike the Oaxacans and other Mexicans caught near the border, illegal immigrants arrested in the U.S. interior are routinely separated from their children, with some youngsters placed in foster care while their parents are deported.

Cordero said agents have the authority to "look at the totality of the circumstances" when deciding if an illegal immigrant should be prosecuted.

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# Seven die in severe storms in Arkansas, raising year's toll to 26

By Kelly P. Kissel  
Associated Press writer

SILOAM SPRINGS, Ark. — Residents of communities across Arkansas on Saturday faced the wreckage of homes torn apart by violent weather that has pushed this year's storm death toll in the state up to at least 26.

"You can see the bags under the eyes of the people who consistently over and over again are called on to respond," Gov. Mike Beebe said Friday. "That's their job and that's our job and we'll do it, no matter how many hours it takes or how many days it takes."

Seven Arkansans were killed Friday in thunderstorms that tore up parts of four states, and two dozen or more were injured. Emergency officials initially revised the figure downward Saturday. Meteorologists said more than 25 tornadoes may have touched down across middle America late Thursday and early Friday.

On Saturday, the National Weather Service posted tornado watches during the morning for parts of Louisiana, Mississippi and



A house chimney remains standing from a tornado-destroyed home, as the damaged Caldwell Feed Co. building, right, is seen Saturday near Damascus, Ark. Residents of communities across Arkansas on Saturday faced the wreckage of homes torn apart by violent weather that has pushed this year's storm death toll in the state up to 23.

Alabama as an arc of strong thunderstorms rolled across the region. One Saturday morning storm damaged homes in southeastern Louisiana, and state police Sgt. James O'Quinn said a highway in St. Tammany Parish was blocked by water as much as 3 feet deep.

Destruction in Arkansas

on Friday ran from Siloam Springs near the Oklahoma line to tiny communities along the Mississippi River. Powerful tornadoes killed 13 people in the state on Feb. 5 and another person on Jan. 8.

"This year it just seems like we're getting pounded," Van Buren County Sheriff Scott

Bradley said. Eighteen Arkansas counties reported damage, including some 400 homes damaged or destroyed, Renee Preslar, spokeswoman for the Arkansas Department of Emergency Management, said workers Saturday.

"There is clean up going on everywhere," Preslar said.

# Bills seek punishment for use, display of fake weapons

By Lucas L. Johnson II  
Associated Press writer

NASHVILLE, Tenn. — Concerns that realistic-looking toy weapons are confusing police and threatening safety have led 15 states to try going beyond gun control and cracking down on fake firearms.

Officer Michael Hoover knows a fair amount about guns as a sniper instructor for a Tennessee SWAT team. He recalls the night two years ago when a car pulled up beside him on a highway and the passenger waved what looked like a Uzi.

"It scared me," he said. "If anyone is in their right mind, I don't see how it wouldn't."

Hoover was off duty and called for police help. A 20-year-old man was charged with aggravated assault after police found a black plastic Uzi submachine gun under the car's passenger seat, but he was acquitted because jurors felt the officer should have been able to tell it was only a toy.

Lawmakers across the country are coming to a different conclusion, deciding that it is so hard to differentiate the toys from the fakes that public safety demands they be taken.

Among these 15 states, seven bills limiting fake guns are pending this year and 21 have been enacted since 1990, according to the National Conference of State Legislatures. Some states have enacted or are considering multiple measures. They range from prohibiting imitation firearms in vehicles to banning the toys from convenience stores.

Tennessee lawmakers are considering a proposal by state Rep. John DeBerry to make it a misdemeanor to intentionally display or expose "an imitation firearm in a public place in a threatening manner." Exceptions include justifiable self defense, lawful hunting, and displays such as a museum collection.

DeBerry said he wants to prevent incidents like one last year in which a 12-year-old boy was killed in West Memphis, Ark. DeAunta Farrow was shot by a police officer who said he thought the boy was carrying a gun and that the youngster refused to obey orders to halt. DeAunta's father later said DeAunta had a toy gun.

"It's important that a child cannot walk into one of these little convenience stores, plop down a dollar and walk out with something that can get him shot on the spot without question," DeBerry said.

A spokeswoman for the Toy Industry Association declined to comment on the trend

toward fake gun legislation but referred a reporter to its Web site, which states that it "emphatically rejects the scenario that casts toys as villains."

Federal law requires toy guns or imitations to bear an orange tip to indicate they're not real.

However, lawmakers say those tips are often disguised or removed.

It only takes 30 seconds for a kid to either take a marker or some paint, or shoe polish, and that orange tip is gone," said DeBerry. He said the imitation guns are nearly identical in size, design and color to real ones.

"One of the imitation weapons I got at a convenience store looked very much like the assault weapons that



State Rep. John DeBerry, D-Memphis, displays a toy gun that looks like the real thing during a committee meeting in Nashville, Tenn., Thursday. Concerns that realistic-looking toy weapons are confusing police and threatening safety have led 15 states to take a crack at going beyond gun control to implement fake-gun control.

the secret service and other FBI agents carry under their suits," he said. "Another one was a handgun that had a silencer on it."

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# Bush says administration 'clear and candid' on economy

By Ben Feller Associated Press writer

CRAWFORD, Texas — President Bush, defending his record and his rhetoric, said Saturday that his administration has been "clear and candid" about the nation's economy.

"We saw the economic slowdown coming, we were up front about these concerns with the American people, and we've been taking decisive action," Bush said in his weekly radio address.

The president's comments appeared at least partly in response to a drumbeat of criticism from Democratic critics, who say his view of the economy is rosy and unrealistic.

Bush sounded an upbeat tone following a modest uptick of economic news this week.

The economy grew in the first quarter of the year, but only by a meager 0.6 percent. Yet it was not the contraction that some analysts feared. Employers slashed fewer jobs in April than they had in earlier months. The unemployment rate in April also fell slightly.

"No temporary setbacks can hold back the most powerful force in our economy — the ingenuity of the American people," Bush said. "Because of your hard work and dedication, I am confident that we will weather this rough period and emerge stronger than ever."

Consumer confidence, a vital part of the economy's health, has hit record lows. And in the public's mind, the president's handling of the economy has taken a serious blow, too.

In Bush's final year in office, families have been hit from all sides — soaring gas prices, crumbling mortgages, rising grocery bills, struggles to afford college loans.

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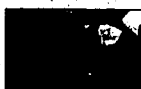
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# BUSINESS

TIMES-NEWS • BUSINESS EDITOR JOSHUA PALMER: 735-3231 JPALMER@MAGICVALLEY.COM

INSIDE: Service companies charge tax to cover skyrocketing gas prices, B3



B

SUNDAY  
MAY 4, 2008

INSIDE: YourBusiness, B2 | Opinion, B6-7

## Building a BETTER BEAN



A handful of pinto beans are seen on the left, while a handful of yellow beans are displayed on the right.

A long process started early in south-central Idaho

By Joshua Palmer  
Staff writer

What began as a popular strain of bean in Mexico and other bordering nations has become a potential cash crop for dry bean seed in south-central Idaho. It's called the yellow bean — earning its namesake from its vivid yellow color that stands in stark contrast to the earthy colors of other beans — and its popularity among food connoisseurs has spread from Mexico to other nations such as the United States.

But despite its popularity the bean is also susceptible to bacteria and

Idaho beans BY THE NUMBERS

- Idaho bean exports in 2006: \$1.37 million
- Idaho bean exports in 2007: \$1.78 million
- Idaho bean exports projected for 2008: \$2.7 million

other diseases commonly found in North America, which make it difficult to grow for domestic markets.

So about eight years ago a group of bean growers and plant researchers in south-central Idaho saw an opportunity to make a better yellow bean.

That was when the University of Idaho Foundation set out to create a yellow bean that would not only be immune to bacteria in the United States but would also be more marketable in the foreign markets where it originated.

Assuming the researchers succeed, south-central Idaho could soon be one of the primary producers for the yellow bean.

However, growers and researchers alike are learning that patience is necessary to the project's success.

It was a lesson that members of the Idaho Bean Commission and the University of Idaho learned early in the process as they worked with officials in Mexico.

"This has been going on for some time now but it's something that you really have to be careful about how you handle," said Bill Bitzenberg, chairman of the Idaho Bean Commission. "For example, as a commission state regulations said that we couldn't recommend any of the 30 (seed) dealers in our area."

Please see BEANS, Page B3

## State to deposit unclaimed property into its own account

By Joshua Palmer  
Staff writer

More than \$1.8 million in assets that include everything from the contents of safety-deposit boxes to cold, hard cash will be deposited into Idaho's general fund by the end of the month.

That's because thousands of Idahoans failed to claim property that was being held by the State Tax Commission, which oversees the process of returning unclaimed property to its rightful owner.

Most of the property is in the form of unclaimed checks.

"A lot of it has to do with our society becoming very mobile," said Melanie Wade, spokesperson for the Idaho State Tax Commission's Unclaimed Property Program. "Quite often, an employee moves away and the employer doesn't know where to send their last paycheck."

She said businesses are forced to count the unclaimed wages as an outstanding liability — something that can skew a small business's bottom line.

According to the Association of Unclaimed Property Administrators, a non-profit group that oversees state unclaimed property programs, there is an estimated \$1.8 billion in unclaimed property currently recorded as liabilities on the books of nearly 2 million businesses.

One business in Twin Falls, which asked not to be identified due to the sensitivity of payroll, said it had accumulated about \$5,000 in unclaimed wages last year after it experienced average turnover.

"Businesses are happy to hand it over to the state because they can erase that liability," Wade said. "It also leaves the state with the work of trying to find those people."

The process of trying to return unclaimed

Please see PROPERTY, Page B3

## MAINTAINING A SMALL BUSINESS CAN BE HARD FOR ANYONE. USE THESE TIPS TO KEEP YOUR BUSINESS AFLOAT DURING CURRENT TURBULENT ECONOMIC TIMES

### Plan expansion wisely, or disaster looms

Know your area and your customer

By Jamie Herzlich  
Special to Newsday

MELVILLE, N.Y. — Expanding your business' footprint can be tricky. After all, what works in one geographic area may not succeed in another.

That's why it pays to be extra careful when entering new markets, say small-business experts. The wrong move could spell disaster.

"You have to be careful because bigger isn't always better," said Lucille Wesnofske of the Small Business Development Center at Farmingdale State College in New York. "The wrong choice could drain the existing resources of your business."

So before you take on any expansion, she said, it's important to do

### Frequent missteps

Common pitfalls to avoid when entering a new market, according to Frances McGuekin, chief executive of SmallBiz Pro.com Services and author of "Taking your Business to the Next Level":

- Choosing a rental space for a store that is cheap because of a poor location.
- Expanding with the idea that "more locations mean more money." If the planning isn't done, it could mean losing money.
- Expanding to get out of a bad cash-flow situation.
- Getting overly excited about a project and not doing the required research and homework.
- Underestimating and not differentiating your business from the competition.

your homework. Start by looking at the information that is readily available, like your own customer pro-

files. If you understand who your customers are, she said, you can start to target areas that offer a similar customer base.

"If you really, truly know who your demographic, then you are in a very powerful position," noted Sean O'Halloran, president of Geo-Marketing Research, a business location specialist based in Oreland, Pa.

He advises that you ask yourself who's buying your product and how far they are willing to drive to get it. And, he added, it is important to understand what you are.

"A McDonald's could pretty much survive anywhere," for example, while a Cartier jeweler couldn't succeed in every neighborhood.

By understanding what you are, and who your target audience is, you can better assess where you may do best. And once you have a location or market in mind, you will need to find out more about it.

Please see PLANNING, Page B3

### Loans for small business can be tough to get your hands on

By Jamie Herzlich  
Special to Newsday

MELVILLE, N.Y. — Raising capital can be challenging in a good economy, but it's likely to get much more difficult given the current economic downturn.

Lending experts say there is money out there for small businesses, though getting your hands on some may require more work and diligence.

"Banks have become more cautious," says Keith Leggett, a senior economist with the American Bankers Association in Washington. "That reflects the fact that we are seeing fairly flat economic growth at this time and an increased probability that we may be slipping into a recession."

Banks are "getting more conservative," tightening credit standards and starting to lower their

loan-to-value ratios, notes Roslyn Goldmacher of the Long Island Development Corp., which provides financing and technical assistance to small businesses and not-for-profits. This means banks may tend up to 65 percent

of the value of the collateral you pledge for a loan, she explains, rather than 85 percent or more in better times.

But tighter credit doesn't mean you shouldn't try approaching your lender, she says. You just need to be better prepared. Have the necessary financial information organized and up to date, she says, including three years' worth of historical

Please see LOANS, Page B3

### The week ahead

WASHINGTON — This week's data will offer a possible confirmation of the better-than-expected readings on the economy that came from last week's reports on the trade deficit and gross domestic product. Monday, the Institute for Supply Management will release its survey of service businesses. Economists expect a reading of 49.1, which would signal a slight contraction. (A reading above 50 means the non-manufacturing businesses surveyed are

expanding.) On Wednesday, we will get data on productivity in the first quarter, a chance to see whether this fundamental driver of the nation's prosperity — how much stuff workers make for each hour on the job — remained strong as the economy slowed this winter.

— The Washington Post

# YOUR BUSINESS

## CAREER MOVES

**Pamela Marquís**  
Pamela Marquís, master esthetician, graduated from Skin Science Institute in Salt Lake City. She has training in chemical peels, microdermabrasion, facials, and product knowledge and philosophy of skin. Marquís owns and operates Face to Face Skinare.



Marquís

### Dave Horton

Dave Horton has joined Pioneer Insurance, formally Covenant Insurance, as a licensed agent working in personal and commercial lines.



Horton

Horton has been a licensed insurance agent in the Magic Valley since 1995 and brings excellent performance and service records to his new

position with Pioneer Insurance.

### Daron Brown

Staff Sergeant Daron Brown was promoted to lieutenant of the Law Enforcement Division of the Twin Falls County Sheriff's Office on April 24.

Li. Brown began his career in law enforcement in 1986. He joined the Twin Falls County Sheriff's Office in January of 1989 and joined the marine patrol unit in 1991. During his career with the sheriff's office, Li. Brown has supervised rural patrol, recreational law enforcement including marine patrol, the Search and Rescue unit, and animal control.

Li. Brown recently received the State of Idaho Department of Parks and Recreation 2008 Marine Law Enforcement Officer of the Year award.

He has also been nominated by the Idaho Department of Parks and Recreation for Officer of the Year for the regional states.

## MILESTONES

### PARTY CENTER



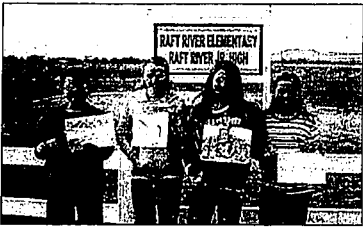
Party Center is located at 1703 Addison Ave. E., Twin Falls. They recently celebrated their new business and facility with a ribbon cutting assisted by the Twin Falls Area Chamber's Ambassadors. They can assist you with planning your personal or business parties including food, flowers, etc. For more information: 733-9337. Pictured from left, Debbie Rydahl; Darsi Mason and Kim Mason, owners.

### CSI BUILDERS



The College of Southern Idaho won Rookie of the Year honors in the International Builders Show in Orlando, Fla., this spring on the strength of its new Residential Construction Program, which takes a large-scale home construction project from groundbreaking to completion each year. Fifty-four teams competed in the show from 30 four-year universities, 12 two-year colleges, and 12 high schools and technical schools. The CSI delegation to the show are from left, Ken Triplett, cabinetmaking instructor; Jordan Phelps, cabinetmaking student; Andrew Coleman, drafting student; Gabe Pehrson, residential construction student; Jacob Koch, drafting student; Brandon Larson, residential construction student; Alan Heck, residential construction instructor, (not visible in back) Pat Ferrell, drafting instructor.

## CONTRIBUTIONS



The Idaho Farm Bureau Women's Committee put on a drawing contest for Cassia County children in sixth through eighth grades. The theme was agriculture and children draw pictures of what they thought agriculture was. All participants received \$10, the first place winner received \$50 and the second place winner received \$25. Cassia County's winner, Gevin Steed, also took second place in the district contest and will receive another \$50. From left are Steed (first place), Taylor Rodgers (third place), Taryn Whitaker (second place) and Jackie Carpenter (third place).

### Zions Banks teaches children how to save

Filer Elementary's second grade students learned financial ABC's from Zions Bank employees Jodi Schultz and Jen Tanner on April 29. Schultz, the customer service manager, and Tanner, a teller at the Twin Falls Canyon Park Office, were two of more than 200 Zions employees who volunteered to teach 10,000-plus students in Idaho and Utah in honor of the National Teach Children to Save Day.

Students learned the concepts of interest, budgeting, and discussed "needs" versus "wants." They were also given their own calculators to help them figure their income and expenses.

According to the National Council for Economic Education, a 2007 survey by the National Assessment Governing Board shows that 79 percent of students have an understanding of at least the basics of economics, but only 42 percent performed at a proficiency level, and only 3 percent had a grasp of advanced economics.

On top of that, Idaho's per capita income ranks in the bottom third nationally, while its consumer debt hovers in the top third among other states, according to the Idaho Financial Literacy Coalition.

National Teach Children to Save Day is an annual nationwide program sponsored by the American Bankers Association Education Foundation.

**H D Stamp** is a new business open at 2211 Overland Ave. in Burley. The business is owned and operated by Jason Cannon and offers custom made rubber stamps, engraving, vinyl lettering, trophies, awards; custom license plate frames, police badges and t-shirts. The business is open 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday and Saturday by appointment. The business can be reached by calling 678-1505. Pictured, center with scissors is Jason Cannon, owner.



Farmers National Bank has a new facility located at 319 Pole Line Road in Twin Falls. They recently celebrated with the Twin Falls Area Chamber of Commerce's Ambassadors as they cut the red ribbon. They can assist customers with all of their banking needs. For more information: 734-1917. Pictured from left, Pat Hamilton; Mrs. J.P. Hamilton, John Gibson; Carl Bolton; Vince Hamilton; Lou Hoopman, director; Ivan Skinner, director; Hirvi Lemayna, director; Ron Brown, director; Mike Hamilton; Ann Livley; Lee Cline and Kathy Amoth.



Nagraj Narasimhan, right, was awarded as 'outstanding physician for excellent service to dialysis patients.'

### Local doctor recognized as 'outstanding physician'

DaVita Inc. (NYSE: DVA), a nationwide provider of kidney care services for those diagnosed with chronic kidney failure and disease, has awarded Dr. Nagraj Narasimhan its divisional Dr. Pepper award for outstanding care provided to communities throughout Southern and Southeastern Idaho.

Dr. Narasimhan is one out of only 20 physicians to be recognized with this honor nationwide and was selected out from numerous physicians serving 96 dialysis facilities in the states of Idaho,

Utah, California, Oregon and Washington.

Dr. Narasimhan is board certified in Nephrology and has been serving Idaho's dialysis needs for over 22 years. In winning the Dr. Pepper award Dr. Narasimhan exemplifies DaVita's core values of Service Excellence, Integrity, Team, Continuous Improvement, Fulfillment, and Fun. He has strong quality outcome measures with regards to the care of his patients and actively participates in DaVita's Wall of Fame patient program. Dr. Narasimhan has advocated politically for his dialysis

## IDAHO ELKS REHABILITATION



Idaho Elks Rehabilitation — Pediatrics Rehab is located at 552 Shoup Ave. W., Twin Falls. The Twin Falls Area Chamber's Ambassadors assisted with cutting the red ribbon recently to celebrate their new membership to the chamber and their new facility. Visit their facility and let their professional staff assist your family with any pediatric rehabilitation that is required. For more information: 733-1759. Pictured from left, Kerl Harris, Tammy Emerson, Zeke Kelsey, Michelle Koepnick and Shelly Botch.

## CITY OF TWIN FALLS



The City of Twin Falls planning, building inspections and engineering departments have a new address. They are now located at 324 Hansen St. E., Twin Falls. The Twin Falls Area Chamber Ambassadors helped cut the red ribbon to open the new facility. Pictured from left, Rene Caraway, Mitch Humble and Mellinda Anderson.

patients and regularly participates in events and celebrations with his patients at their dialysis units.

Dr. Narasimhan was specifically recognized for working with the patient-led organization Dialysis Patients Citizens (whose membership recently exceeded 22,000) to encourage local members to visit dialysis centers to recruit new patients to DPC.

### Intermountain Homecare finds home

Over the past two years Intermountain Homecare of Cassia has outgrown their home at the hospital. They are now located in the Park View Medical Plaza, 2303 Park Ave. in Burley, formerly the dialysis's cashiers.

To welcome Intermountain Homecare, Park View Rehab has planned an Open House Ribbon cutting ceremony to be held from 5 to 7 p.m. Monday, May 12. Food, entertainment, refreshments and door prizes will be provided. Intermountain Homecare

### Covenant joins with Pioneer Mortgage and Insurance

Covenant Insurance has joined forces with Pioneer Mortgage and Insurance, a division of Pioneer Financial Services LLC, a wholly owned subsidiary of Pioneer Federal Credit Union.

The Twin Falls and Rupert locations and service hours of Covenant Insurance remain the same but the same friendly, professional folks, Ray, Tiffany, Michelle, Perary and Nancy of the Covenant agency will have a new agency name and logo. For more information: www.pfiomortgage.com or www.pfisurance.com.

**We want YOUR BUSINESS news**

Your Business allows local businesses to announce employee changes, advancements and promotions. Business openings, closing and location changes are also welcome.

To submit contributions to the YourBusiness section, send information and photographs to [jaalmer@gmavcvalley.com](mailto:jaalmer@gmavcvalley.com) or call (208) 735-3231. The deadline to submit an announcement for Sunday is Wednesday at noon.

The Times-News reserves the right to edit content for length and clarity. Promotion of sales and for-profit events will not be considered for publication.

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# Fuel price frustration

## Service companies charge tax to cover skyrocketing gas prices

By Ronald D. White  
Los Angeles Times

You know fuel prices have gotten out of control when even your dog walker is adding a surcharge to the bill. In the week ended Monday, self-serve regular gasoline rose nearly a nickel a gallon in California to an average of \$3.892 — a record — while nationwide the average jumped nearly a dime to a record \$3.603, according to the Energy Department's weekly survey of service stations.

For Melissa Roth, owner of Pet Concierge, filling the tank of her 2003 Ford Explorer costs nearly \$90 instead of the \$74 tab when she opened her company in July 2006.

"It's so scary," said Roth, who logs as many as 300 miles a week to walk and care for her clients' four-legged family members. "One of my biggest expenses now is gasoline."

To keep her company operating, Roth is planning to increase the price of options, and an extra fee for clients who live more than 10 miles from her base.

Businesses traditionally are loath to be the first to raise prices and risk losing customers. They may wait until they can to reduce their own costs first and then hope for the usual seasonal gas relief.

But this year, fuel prices have followed one course: sharply up. Companies are increasing out-of-pocket costs, and fuel costs are being tacked onto goods and services beyond the expected airline tickets and package delivery.

"Sellers will absorb these costs for a while, but sooner or later, those increases are going to be passed on to U.S. consumers. It's just a matter of time. It's inevitable," said economist Edward Leamer, director of the University of California, Los Angeles Anderson Forecast.

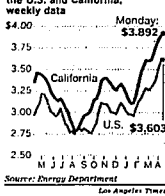
"Over the last couple of months, we have been looking at fuel costs in our surveys. We



Melissa Roth, owner of Pet Concierge, prepares to take Olive, a 1-year-old dachshund, to the Silverlake Dog Park in Los Angeles. With the cost of filling her tank soaring, Roth is planning to raise prices and charge a mileage fee.

### At the pump

Average price per gallon for self-serve regular gasoline in the U.S. and California, weekly data



Source: Energy Department  
Los Angeles Times

nationwide conducted by Angie's List, a 650,000-member home improvement referral Web site, 85 percent said gas prices were eating into their profits. About 60 percent of the businesses said they were passing those costs to their customers in the form of higher prices or fuel surcharges.

"Over the last couple of months, we have been looking at fuel costs in our surveys. We

wanted to know how the companies were handling them, and we wanted customers to have a clear understanding of what they are going to be paying for," said Angie Hicks, founder of the Angie's List Web site, where consumers review and rate contractors and other types of service providers. "Service providers around the country are struggling with how to respond to the skyrocketing fuel costs," Hicks said.

Roth, for instance, limits her pet-sitting jobs these days. "If I get a call from the Westside now, I have to turn it down. It's just not cost effective for me," Roth said.

She also has switched to electronic invoicing to save money on her paperwork, started a direct marketing campaign to find more clients in the areas she still serves and uses door-knob-hanging ads that she distributes herself — on foot.

Like Pet Concierge, Jerry Dino's housecleaning franchise is a young company on the hunt for new customers.

Until recently, Dino had been willing to send four-person teams out from his Tustin, Calif., office for a single housecleaning. He now tries to consolidate nearby jobs onto the same days.

"I had a team going out to Lake Forest three days in a row. Each was just one job. That wasn't a big deal the first couple of years," Dino said. "We put a lot more planning into our scheduling now, and we use one team to do all of these jobs."

Dino couldn't cut corners on products or team size, which are mandated by Maid's Home Service. And he couldn't improve on his vehicles: 2005 Ford Focuses that could comfortably carry four passengers and all of the cleaning equipment and still get as much as 37 miles a gallon on the freeways.

So Dino raised prices by 16 percent at the end of the year — then watched with disbelief as gasoline prices kept climbing.

Bean Commission. "If a variety adopted to Sinaloa's environment can be identified, it will offer Idaho dry bean seed growers and dealers a new market for their seed."

Dry beans account for a small percentage of Idaho's agricultural exports, but the state is still the seventh largest producer of the crop that grows well in the climate of south-central Idaho.

Joshua Palmer may be reached at 208-735-3231 or at [jpalmer@magicvalley.com](mailto:jpalmer@magicvalley.com).

## Beans

Continued from page B1

we just had to give them a list and tell them to start calling."

In April, Gov. C.L. "Butch" Otter traveled to Mexico to discuss Idaho's bean seed exports.

Other challenges also seemed to slow the process, such as language barriers as well as health and sanitary regulations between the two years to see results."

However, south-central Idaho may not be the only region in the United States that is searching for ways to build a better yellow bean.

Plant breeding programs

are typically low-key when developing new strains of bean seed, but officials from the bean commission say that the full implementation of the North American Free Trade Agreement has prompted many U.S. companies in the dry bean seed business to identify strains that can be marketed in Mexico as disease free and immune to common bacteria.

"Most of the time we are able to locate the general area where the owner or a relative lives," Wade said. "In those cases we advertise the unclaimed property in the local paper."

The Times-News began advertising unclaimed property in December. There were 75 names listed last month for Twin Falls County alone.

Idaho and Indiana are the only states that assume ownership of unclaimed property after 10 years. Other states hold the property in perpetuity — auctioning off large warehouses filled with

unclaimed real property and then holding the funds indefinitely for owners.

In June, more than \$1.8 million of Idaho's nearly \$50 million in unclaimed property will go to the state's general fund.

Lawmakers will decide in the next legislative session where to spend the money.

Joshua Palmer may be reached at 208-735-3231 or at [jpalmer@magicvalley.com](mailto:jpalmer@magicvalley.com).

## Property

Continued from page B1

property to the rightful owner requires a little investigation and a lot of luck. However, the average return rate for money that \$3 billion is unclaimed property throughout the United States is less than 30 percent.

Idaho has one of the highest success rates with more than 40 percent of unclaimed property returned to owners.

In some cases, employers can provide the program off-

ers with the owner's social security number, which is then matched with the last tax return associated with the number.

In cases that include tangible property like coins or cash left in safety deposit boxes, unclaimed property programs simply advertise on the state Web site.

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expert and president of National Marketing Federation Inc. in Key West, Fla. Reach out to the major media outlets responsible for selling advertising and ask them for any Scarborough research, which provides insight into shopping patterns, media behaviors and demographics.

You also want to have an idea of what is going to cost to enter the market. The last thing you want to do is underestimate the costs and start draining your core business.

That's a mistake you can't afford to make.

# Commodities bubble starts to worry analyst

By Steven E. Levington  
The Washington Post

WASHINGTON — The commodities price bubble is starting to look scary, in the eyes of Tobias Levkovich, chief of U.S. equity strategy at Citigroup Investment Research. In a warning about the huge run-up in prices, Levkovich expressed "deep concern" over what he described as "excessive enthusiasm" for commodities investments.

He likened the rush into agricultural commodities to the dot-com craze of the late 1990s. "We remain very worried about these incredibly 'crowded trades' that could unwind quickly," he wrote last week.

He acknowledged that his earlier warning in March, in a report titled "The Case for Crumbling Commodities," was premature. Now, however, he said he believed the commodity index, the CRB, was showing some cracks. The CRB is up about 30 percent in the past year. But an under-the-hood look reveals that components such as gold, milk, silver and cotton are showing relative to the index's overall climb. This suggests that investors are wise to be selective in their commodities investments. "The broader commodity index price has been held up by corn, stainless steel, hogs, amongst other meats, and oil," Levkovich wrote. "Thus, one needs to be very careful

Tobias Levkovich, chief of U.S. equity strategy at Citigroup Investment Research likens the rush into agricultural commodities to the dot-com craze of the late 1990s.

about lumping together commodities within one mindset."

He also worries that a key theme underlying the commodities price surge, the soaring demand for the products from developing economies, may be peaking. This theme — growth of the world's infrastructure — accounts for about 30 percent of the value of the Standard & Poor's 500-stock index, Levkovich said, adding that that percentage "raises our anxiety levels." He pointed out that the energy account for about 30 percent to 30 percent of the S&P before sharply declining. Information technology rose to 35 percent of the index in early 2000. "Everybody knows what happened after that," he said. "In our opinion, this is a time to be very wary of the infrastructure theme," he wrote.

## Loans

Continued from page B1

Beyond that, it may be worth considering alternative financing sources.

"Venture capitalists are still investing," says Bob Brill of Newlight Management in Jericho, N.Y., which manages \$150 million in investments. "Such investors continue to look for good deals, albeit cautiously, he notes."

"If you just walk in cold off the street, banks may be a little more cautious to lend to you than if you're someone who is an existing customer," he says.

But if you follow that strategy and don't get a loan, don't give up. Government lending programs of the Small Business Administration and state and local assistance agencies are available, Goldman Sachs says.

For instance, Richmar Printing Inc. in Farmingdale, N.Y., snagged a \$250,000 loan through the New York State Targeted Industry Revolving Loan Fund, which is for targeted industries, such as manufacturers, like Richmar. The printing company specializing in cosmetic inserts worked with the Long Island Development Corp. and will use the funds to buy more folding equipment, says President Richard Goldstein. He also got a loan from Wells Fargo.

You can learn more about targeted loans from state, county or local economic development offices. Expect credit advances of 75 percent to 85 percent of eligible accounts receivable and 40 percent to 50 percent of eligible inventory, notes James Occhiogrosso, executive vice president of Rosenthal & Rosenthal, an asset-based lending company in Manhattan. And as your assets increase, he explains, so does your ability to borrow more.

"It's definitely an alternative, especially in a weakened economy," he says.

## Planning

Continued from page B1

"If you have done thorough research before you geographically expand your business, the challenges should be less of a surprise, if not expected, and more easily overcome," said Frances McGuckin, chief executive of SmallBizPro.com Services in Langley, British Columbia.

You can hire a market research firm or location specialist to assist you, or you can do research on your own. Try reaching out to regional players such as the local chamber of commerce, economic development office or government agency.

You want to enter a market well prepared, said Kevin Wert of Sunshine Solar Technologies in Jericho, which did a good amount of research before its recent expansion into the Boston area. The company, which sells and installs solar panels to heat water for homes and swimming pools, enlisted the help of a market research firm.

"We looked for an area that not only had good population density, but also good population density," said Wert.

A colleague living in the Boston area was willing to serve as the company's terri-

tory manager. "I think with any business, if you're going into a new area, you've got to try and have a presence there," Wert said. "That person who is managing the territory is a critical piece."

It's also important to have a marketing plan for the region you've chosen, he said. "In fact, it makes sense to revisit the marketing plan of your business plan, advised Wesnosko.

Develop your marketing plan by evaluating the media that will best reach your target audience, suggests Kim T. Gordon, a small-business

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# Film details Hispanic Marine's acts in WWII

By Adrian Sainz  
Associated Press writer

MIAMI — Armed but alone, Marine Pfc. Guy Gabaldon roamed Saipan's caves and pillboxes, persuading enemy soldiers and civilians to surrender during the hellish World War II battle on the island.

Using the Japanese language skills he learned as a boy, he warned the Japanese they would die if they stayed hidden and told them Marines were not torturers as they had heard. The Marines, he said, would feed them and give them medical care. Many agreed, and Gabaldon, just 18, led them back to U.S. lines.

By the battle's end, Gabaldon had coaxed more than 1,000 Japanese out of their caves. He was praised as being brave and compassionate, and he received a Silver Star — later upgraded to a Navy Cross. His actions were recounted on television and in movies.

Now, almost two years after his death, there is a renewed campaign to give Gabaldon the Medal of Honor, the nation's highest military award. A new documentary, "East L.A. Marine," asks whether Gabaldon's Hispanic heritage prevented him from receiving the medal, though others blame his tough and outspoken nature.

Critics question whether Gabaldon deserves the medal, saying his feats do not measure up to those of others on Saipan.

"It's a much bigger issue than any of us realize," said Steve Rubin, who directed the documentary, which will be available online May 6.

Angels. Gabaldon became close with a Japanese-American family and made friends with Japanese boys. He also picked up the language as he delivered Japanese newspapers and picked crops with Japanese-Americans.

After Japan attacked Pearl Harbor on Dec. 7, 1941, more than 100,000 people of Japanese heritage, including Gabaldon's friends, were sent to internment camps.

"He got very upset when the government put the Japanese in concentration camps," said his second wife, Chelene Gabaldon, who lives in Old Town in central Florida.

Gabaldon joined the Marines in 1943, becoming a scout observer and interpreter, and hit the shore of Saipan in the Northern Mariana Islands on June 15, 1944.

Combat was often in close quarters in jungles and caves, and more than 3,200 Americans and 23,800 Japanese were killed, according to a 1934 Marine Corps pamphlet. "Breaching the Marianas: The Battle for Saipan."

Civilians, some prisoners of Japanese soldiers, hid in caves. They included women and children, and were hungry and suffering from shell shock, leprosy, dengue fever. Fearing the Americans, Japanese civilians hid themselves up with grenades or jumped off cliffs.

Gabaldon did his share of killing, but one day he ventured alone behind enemy lines and brought back a group of Japanese prisoners. Gabaldon was scolded by his commander, Col. John Schwabe, but went out alone again and returned with more Japanese.

Satisfied, Schwabe let Gabaldon continue.

"He would go up to the mouth of that cave and jabber, jabber, jabber, and pretty soon somebody would drift



This undated photo provided by Ohana Gabaldon shows U.S. Marines Guy Gabaldon, right, and James Gilmer, left, with a captured Japanese soldier during World War II. Gabaldon was hailed a hero for capturing more than 1,000 Japanese during the bloody battle for Saipan in 1944.

to a hospital, according to the document provided by the Marine Corps History Division.

Schwabe said in a 1960 letter that there was confusion after Saipan over who was responsible for recommending Gabaldon for the Medal of Honor.

In June 1957, he was featured on the TV show "This is Your Life." Two Japanese friends also appeared. In 1960, "Hell to Eternity" was released, starring Jeffrey Hunter, who clearly was not Hispanic, and at 6 feet tall looked nothing like 5-foot, 4-inch Gabaldon.

"That part of him is com-

pletely obliterated ... people who are familiar with this issue are really appalled by that," said Maggie Rivas-Rodriguez, a University of Texas journalism professor who interviewed Gabaldon and hundreds of other men and women of the World War II generation.

However, the film started a push for the Medal of Honor and Schwabe officially recommended him for the honor. In December 1960, the Pentagon upgraded Gabaldon's Silver Star to a Navy Cross, but the Medal of Honor never came.

Gabaldon, who eventually settled in Florida, suffered a stroke in the late 1990s but never mellowed or abandoned his love for fishing and other adventures, his wife said. He died in September 2006 at age 80.

Gabaldon's wife said he talked about racism he experienced as a serviceman. But Gabaldon never lost his love for the Marines: "He was a Marine first, and then Guy," Ohana Gabaldon said.

However, he was hurt that he never learned why he hadn't gotten the Medal of Honor, leading him and others to wonder whether his ethnicity played a part, his wife said.

"Nobody came up with the truth," Ohana Gabaldon said. "I guess what Guy wanted to hear from the Marine Corps is that 'We goofed.' He told me he wasn't going to see the Medal of Honor in his lifetime."

The documentary compares Gabaldon's exploits to others who did win the Medal of Honor, such as the Army's Audie Murphy, the nation's decorated soldier in World War II.

In the film, narrator

Freddie Prinze Jr. asks: "What caused this inequity? Was it because Guy Gabaldon was of Hispanic heritage? Was it because he had a big nose and wasn't afraid to say what he felt?"

University of the South professor Harold J. Goldberg said in his book "D-Day in the Pacific: The Battle of Saipan" that some Marines estimated that Gabaldon captured only about half of the number he claimed.

Marine Sgt. David Dowdakin said in the book that while Gabaldon had advocated for the medal, he is an important glory seeker who is playing the race card. But, then, the two traits often go together: bravery and glory seeking.

Capt. Amy Malugani, a Marines spokeswoman, said in an e-mail to The Associated Press that the Marines are precluded from discussing whether any individual has been recommended for a medal.

But Malugani also said the Secretaries of the Army is reviewing all of the service records of each Jewish and Hispanic-American veteran who won the Navy Cross for actions during World War II, the Korean and Vietnam wars, and Operation Desert Storm, to determine if any should be awarded the Medal of Honor.

Gabaldon's widow said politics could be involved in the decision.

"We're becoming not so much an identity anymore," said Ohana Gabaldon, who is of Japanese and Mexican descent. "Maybe this is the time that the Latino vote counts, what Washington cares about so much."

"They're taking the opportunity to right the wrong and be aware of what Latinos have done for this country,"

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### 2008 AA Baseball Schedule

AT TWIN FALLS COVEYS

DATE	OPPONENT	GAME	LOCATION
Tue, Jun 3	Idaho Power	21:00pm	Twin Falls Park, ID
Thu, Jun 5	Idaho Power	21:00pm	Twin Falls Park, ID
Mon, Jun 9	Idaho Power	21:00pm	Twin Falls Park, ID
Tue, Jun 10	Idaho Power	21:00pm	Twin Falls Park, ID
Thu, Jun 12	Idaho Power	21:00pm	Twin Falls Park, ID
Fri, Jun 13	Idaho Power	21:00pm	Twin Falls Park, ID
Sat, Jun 14	Idaho Power	21:00pm	Twin Falls Park, ID
Sun, Jun 15	Idaho Power	21:00pm	Twin Falls Park, ID
Mon, Jun 16	Idaho Power	21:00pm	Twin Falls Park, ID
Tue, Jun 17	Idaho Power	21:00pm	Twin Falls Park, ID
Thu, Jun 19	Idaho Power	21:00pm	Twin Falls Park, ID
Fri, Jun 20	Idaho Power	21:00pm	Twin Falls Park, ID
Sat, Jun 21	Idaho Power	21:00pm	Twin Falls Park, ID
Sun, Jun 22	Idaho Power	21:00pm	Twin Falls Park, ID
Mon, Jun 23	Idaho Power	21:00pm	Twin Falls Park, ID
Tue, Jun 24	Idaho Power	21:00pm	Twin Falls Park, ID
Thu, Jun 26	Idaho Power	21:00pm	Twin Falls Park, ID
Fri, Jun 27	Idaho Power	21:00pm	Twin Falls Park, ID
Sat, Jun 28	Idaho Power	21:00pm	Twin Falls Park, ID
Sun, Jun 29	Idaho Power	21:00pm	Twin Falls Park, ID
Mon, Jun 30	Idaho Power	21:00pm	Twin Falls Park, ID

### 2008 A Baseball Schedule

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Sun, Jun 29	Idaho Power	21:00pm	Twin Falls Park, ID
Mon, Jun 30	Idaho Power	21:00pm	Twin Falls Park, ID

# As economy slows, is any area really 'recession-proof'?

**EDITOR'S NOTE** — This story, part of the continuing series *The Uneasy Economy*, explores why some areas have been insulated from the downturn, so far.

By Allen G. Brees  
Associated Press writer

**RALEIGH, N.C.** — The catering business isn't what economists would call "recession-proof." Luckily for J.W. Walton, most of his biggest clients are.

The Catering Company of Chapel Hill specializes in gala affairs, with fireworks, floral centerpieces and menus that feature things like panna cotta with Macedonia di Frutti and orange muffins with smoked turkey and lemon verbena jelly. About 70 percent of the firm's business comes from the Triangle's three big research universities — Duke down the road in Durham, North Carolina State in Raleigh and, of course, the University of North Carolina's flagship campus right there in Chapel Hill.

Even with the national economy slipping toward the doldrums, business is steady here.

"We're in a funny place," says Walton, a partner and the firm's catering/decor services designer. "The universities and the hospitals and that kind of business in this area are somewhat less driven directly by the economic conditions."

"There's all kinds of talk these days about companies, industries and careers that are immune to these economic downturns. But are there 'recession-proof' places? Business consultant Mark Hovind thinks so.

Using data from the Bureau of Labor Statistics, Hovind, president of Jobhat.com, compared job expansion in a number of key industries and workforce growth in various metropolitan areas. He came up with a list of about two-dozen areas where jobs outpaced the workforce during the recessions of 1980 and 2001, and in the past year, and figured they'd likely fare well in another downturn.

"It's like keeping up with inflation," says Hovind, an engineer who describes himself as a career coach for six- and seven-figure executives. "When the cost of living goes up 3 percent, you need a 3 percent raise just to stay even."

Among the metropolitan areas making his list were Phoenix, Ariz.; Fayetteville, Ark.; Bakersfield, Calif.; Grand Junction, Colo.; Bend, Ore.; Valdosta, Ga.; and Morgantown, W.Va.

Each has an economy built around some industry — or mix of industries — that doesn't follow the business cycle pattern," says Matt Martin, an economist with the Federal



J.W. Walton, a partner in The Catering Company of Chapel Hill, is seen in the kitchen of the Chapel Hill, N.C., catering business on March 5.

Reserve Bank's Charlotte office. They're regional health-care centers, state capitals or university towns.

Like State College, home of Pennsylvania State University, which is also on the list. With its 24,000 full- and part-time employees and record fall enrollment of 42,200 students, the school is the economic engine that runs this town nestled amid the hills and the wood forests of Central Pennsylvania.

On a recent weekday mid-morning, waitresses at the Original Waffle Shop on West College Avenue bustled about the bright, cheery restaurant, filling the coffee mugs of salesmen in suits and redies gossiping about Penn State football. John Dimakopoulos says business has done nothing but climb since he opened the doors in 1972.

"For State College to feel the crunch, that means every place else will be suffering," says Dimakopoulos, 59.

Outside town, things aren't quite as cheerful. Corning Inc. laid off more than 1,000 workers in 2003 when it shut down a television-cathode-ray plant in College Township, and Bolton Metal Products announced earlier this year it was closing a century-old brass rod factory in nearby Bellefonte and cutting almost 200 jobs.

But job gains at the university were nearly enough to offset those losses. Penn State economist Ted Fuller says. A new law school building is currently under construction, and a university-affiliated retirement community about a mile from Beaver Stadium is attracting alumni and newcomers to the town.

That might make State College "somewhat of a one-industry town," Fuller says. But locals are fortunate that it's a clean, white-collar industry that pays well, continues to

add jobs, and is nearly immune from the changing fortunes of the business cycle.

"The same is true in Morgantown, home of the West Virginia University Mountaineers. "If somebody's cutting back, it's not really affecting their travel," says Renee Briley, an agent with National Travel. "With my people, it's business as usual. ... I'm doing the Middle East, Egypt, Italy."

Flashing on her computer screen is an itinerary for a home trip with a price tag of \$1,889. That same trip a year ago would have cost much less, she says.

"It's blowing my mind, but they're buying," she says, noting that one customer booked a \$9,000 spring break trip for a 13,000-joint to Hawaii. "They're still asking questions like, 'Will \$2,000 on a weekend get me a better hotel?' So they're not cutting back."

"They should be, but they're not."

In Olympia, Wash., the local cash cow is state government. At the seafarmer's tip of scenic Puget Sound, the population of this small city of 44,000 swells during the legislative session, when lawmakers, lobbyists and special interest groups swarm downtown coffee shops and eateries. Olympia is home not only to the Capitol and the hustle of politics that surrounds it, but also to two regional hospitals, Evergreen State College and a lively arts community.

In addition to numerous galleries, downtown Olympia hosts the Washington Center, home to the Olympia Symphony Orchestra, Har-

lequin Productions at the historic State Theater, as well as the Capital Playhouse. The 125-seat, black-box theater runs 11 musicals a year, and the three-week shows were so popular they added another weekend to each musical starting last September.

"None of those things individually is a significant driver by themselves, but what they do do is drive the economies of other businesses," says Jeff Kingsbury, who founded the playhouse. "It's such a diverse mix of businesses and the thriving arts, it really helps stabilize the economy all the time."

Located between Seattle and Portland, and close to both the mountains and the coast, Olympia also earns points for air quality, low crime and other quality-of-life measures. But it's that constant of state government that is "the great equalizer for us," says Michael Gude, executive director of Thurston County Economic Development Council.

"State capitals are good, especially if ... state government's large relative to the size of the town," says Martin, the Fed economist.

Of course, even these "well-insulated" places — Martin's term — would feel the effects of a recession.

Hovind says his use of the term "recession-proof" shouldn't be misconstrued as meaning a place is untouched by economic malaise. "It's not absolute. You can't look at it in those terms. This is a continuous sea of gray," he says.

Despite continued job growth and housing prices that are still climbing,

the Triangle didn't make Hovind's list.

People got the mistaken impression that the Triangle — with the state government in Raleigh, the pharmaceutical firms of the Research Triangle Park, and the major research centers of Duke, NC State and UNC — is recession-proof, says NC State economist Michael Walden.

But the area is also heavily dependent on the technology and financial services sectors. "But the area is also heavily dependent on the technology and financial services sectors, both of which are in hard luck in 2001 and would likely suffer in another recession, he says. "So we do go through economic swings just like the rest of the nation," he says.

At the Chapel Hill caterer, bookings have remained stable. But Walton has noticed some effects from the slow-down.

People aren't cutting back on the food they request, but they are being more conservative — maybe opting not to have as many waiters or to run the bar themselves.

"It's not as simple to say they're not choosing our upscale Menu No. II; they're picking moderate, priced Menu No. III," he says. "In the long run, if the economy continues to tank or continues to find a further bottom, we may see more people who drop out of our level of entertaining."

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EDITORIAL

An innovative Rx for our labor shortage

In a national economy that's looking more and more like recession, the Magic Valley's problem isn't idle workers. It's nonexistent ones.

Specialized jobs go begging in south-central Idaho. We simply don't have enough employees around here with the right skills.

That hamstringing economic development. If you can't find enough, say, widget-makers in the Magic Valley, you take your widget factory elsewhere.

But a new alliance of regional economic development organizations, school districts, the College of Southern Idaho and businesses will spend a \$5 million federal grant trying to change that over the next three years.

The highest-profile development will take place in the Twin Falls, Jerome-Cassia County and Blaine County school districts. The Workforce Development Alliance will aggressively promote careers in fields such as computerized machining and residential construction.

All four school districts now offer limited programs. The WDA proposes to expand such offerings to accommodate more students as well as a greater variety of programs. Federal grants will buy equipment.

Similar training programs now offered in local school districts for dual credit are popular. In the Twin Falls School District, there are 129 students enrolled in a computerized metal machining class; next year the district expects 217.

"It's a course that helps kids get industry certification before they graduate and even find jobs in that field after they leave," said Wiley Dobbs, Twin Falls schools superintendent.

CSI involvement is critical. It specializes in meeting the specific training needs of new businesses, and it can quickly ramp up course offerings.

But CSI would be more effective if it didn't have to start from scratch. Training should begin in high school.

The need for residential construction skills is obvious in the burgeoning Magic Valley, but more metal machinists would be attractive to mechanized industries such as firearms manufacturing.

These are well-paying jobs with a future — the kind that allow young people to make a good living without leaving south-central Idaho.

TimesNews

Brad Hurd . . . publisher Steve Crump . . . Opinion editor

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

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

McCain, Obama, face uphill battles

The Klu Klux Klan could not have done a better job of lynching Barack Obama's political aspirations than Jeremiah Wright did. Yet Wright's words were a direct lift from the '60s black power movement, a distant echo of Eldridge Cleaver and Bobby Seale. Politics and ideas that existed before Obama, yet ones that he is now being held to account for.

How Obama will explain his 20-year association with the likes of Wright will be an interesting watch, and for many young voters, it may not matter. But for older voters, Wright's words were heard as ringing bell. Divisive group politics are evident today as they were 40 years ago. And this just describes the left.

On the right, McCain still has to balance the demands of the red meat talk radio crowd — a group that would not accept a new idea if it was presented with an 8-pound hammer — with

those of moderate Republicans believing that there are more pressing issues than abortion, gay marriage and prayer in school.

As a Vietnam veteran, McCain must deal with the lingering animosity of draftees sent to Vietnam with those who avoided it. The claim that all young men were treated equally during the war is a flat lie. Those who had the resources to purchase a college deferment had a distinct advantage over those who did not. Today's armchair patriots challenging the credentials of Americans who choose not to wear a flag lapel pin fall distinctly into the latter category. It is blatant hypocrisy that these same people now assume the right to act as gatekeeper for the Republican Party.

It will be interesting to watch how McCain balances the demands of what he has called "circus clown" talk radio icons with the votes they can produce. GLENN ELZER Twin Falls

The Democrats' great cultural divide

Fifty-five years ago, 80 percent of American television viewers, young and old, tuned in to see Milton Berle on Tuesday nights. Tens of millions, rich and poor, worked together at Elks Lodges and Rotary Clubs. Millions more, rural and urban, read general-interest magazines like Look and Life. In those days, the owner of the local bank lived in the same town as the grocery clerk, and their boys might play on the same basketball team. Only 7 percent of adult Americans had a college degree.



DAVID BROOKS

Our view: Economic development means finding the right workers to fill the right jobs. Or training them.

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

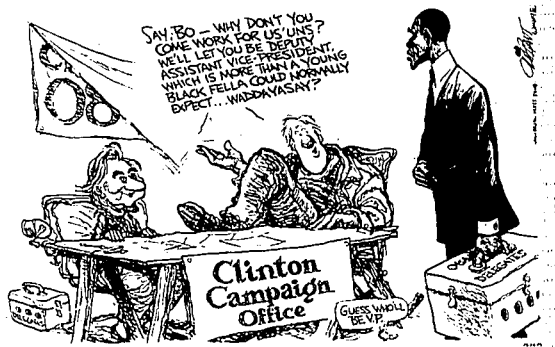
But that's all changed. In the decades since, some social divides, mostly involving ethnicity, have narrowed. But others, mostly involving education, have widened. Today there is a mass educated class. The college educated and non-college educated are likely to live in different towns. They have radically different divorce rates and starkly different ways of raising their children. The non-college educated not only can't read, they smoke more, get more obese and die sooner.

Retailers, home builders and TV executives identify and reinforce these lifestyle clusters. There are more niche offerings and fewer common experiences.

The ensuing segmentation has reshaped politics. We're used to the ideological divide between Red and Blue America. This year's election has revealed a deep cultural gap within the Democratic Party, separating what Stuart Rothenberg calls the two Democratic parties.

In state after state (Wisconsin being the outlier), Barack Obama has won densely populated, well-educated areas. Hillary Clinton has won less-populated, less-educated areas. For example, Obama has won roughly 70 percent of the most-educated counties in the primary states. Clinton has won 90 percent of the least-educated counties in a state after state. Obama has won a few urban and inner-ring suburban counties. Clinton has won nearly everywhere else.

This social divide has overshadowed regional differences. Sixty-year-old, work-



In Pennsylvania, Obama did everything conceivable to win over Clinton's working-class voters. The effort was a failure.

ing-class Catholics vote the same, whether they live in Fresno, Scranton, Nashua or Orlando.

The divide has been overshadowed by campaigning. Surely the most interesting feature of the Democratic race is how unimportant political events are. The candidates can spend tens of millions of dollars on advertising, but they are not able to sway their opponent's voters to their side. They can win a stunning victory, but the momentum doesn't carry over from state to state. They can make horrific gaffes, deliver brilliant speeches, turn in good or bad debate performances, but these things do not alter the race.

In Pennsylvania, Obama did everything conceivable to win over Clinton's working-class voters. The effort was a failure. The great art of politics is to persuade isn't important. Social identity is everything. Demography is king.

Over the years, different theories have emerged to describe the educated/less-educated divide. Conservatives have gravitated toward the culture war narrative, dividing the country between the wholesome masses and the decadent cultural elites. Some liberals believe income inequality drives everything. They wait

The road to the White House

Remaining delegates needed to clinch the Democratic presidential nomination: 300; Barack Obama 437; Hillary Clinton

Remaining Democratic and Republican presidential primaries and caucuses:

- Tuesday — Indiana, North Carolina
• May 13 — West Virginia (Democrats), Nebraska (Republicans)
• May 18 — Hawaii (Republicans only)
• May 20 — Kentucky, Oregon
• May 27 — Idaho (Republicans only)
• June 3 — South Dakota, Montana (Democrats only), New Mexico (Republicans only)

for an uprising of economic populism. Other liberals divide the country morally, between the enlightened urbanites and the racist rednecks who will never vote for a black man.

None of these theories really fit the facts. It's more accurate to say that the country has simply drifted apart into different subcultures. There's no great hostility between the cultures. Americans have a fuzzy sense of where the boundaries lie. But people in different niches have developed different unconscious maps of reality. They have developed different communal understandings of what constitutes a good leader, of what sort of world they live in. They have developed different communal definitions, which they can't even articulate, of what they mean by liberty, security and virtue. Demographic groups have begun to function like tribes or cultures.

We can all play the parlor game of trying to figure out why Obama, a Harvard Law grad, resonates with the less educated, while Clinton, a Yale Law grad, resonates with the less educated. I'd throw in

that Obama's offer of a secular crusade hits a nerve among his fellow boobies, while Clinton's talk of fighting and resilience plays well down market.

But these theories only scratch the surface. The mental maps people in different cultures form are infinitely complex and poorly understood even by those who hold them. People pick up millions of subtle signals from body language, word choice, facial expressions, policy positions and biographical details. Efforts to rebound a candidate to appeal to down-market voters are inevitably crude and counterproductive.

The core message is that even if you take away the ideological differences between the parties, you are still left with profound social gulfs within the parties. There's poignancy to that. The upscale liberals who revere Obama have spent their lives championing equality and opposing privilege. But they've smashed the old WASP social hierarchy only to create a new educational one.

David Brooks is a columnist for The New York Times.

Is it time to do away with Sunday TV listings?

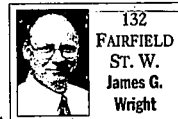
What would happen if we dropped our Sunday television guide?

My doctor says it's OK for me to ask — I've healed nicely since I last sought reader advice (who knew Peanuts fans could be so angry, or so well armed), and can likely survive another round of abuse.

So let me start with a confession. I watch way too much television. Hours and hours of everything from Battlestar Galactica (The president is a Cylon, trust me) to CSI-Castleford to whatever captured Nazi propaganda film the History Channel is airing this month.

But I never, ever look at our television book. It's not relevant to me because I get my TV listings onscreen and can, with one button push, send the digital video recorder (DVR) to catch programs that will air decades into the future.

Our TV listings come in a 36-page tabloid — the same amount of newsprint and ink needed to produce 18 broadsheet pages. By way of comparison, our typical Monday paper is 24 broad-



132 FAIRFIELD ST. W. James G. Wright

sheet pages.

Each Sunday I put on my fuzzy rabbit slippers and get my paper from the box. Look at all the ads, read all the fascinating stories and then deposit the TV book in the recycling bin. I wonder how many of our readers do the same.

Are we wasting entire Amazonian rain forests and blowing resources we could put into news by continuing to produce a TV book when the vast majority of our readers get their video fix from satellite or cable, which have program listings on their remotes? Should we keep the book, or scrap it?

If we keep it, can we make it more useful? Should we keep the grids but cut back on the movie lists, the Soap Opera digest and other features to save paper?

Then there's VCR-Plus. Once upon a time, people

Once upon a time, people actually used tape recorders to view movies at home. Anyone under the age of 25 thinks this is just a myth, but I can tell you it's true.

actually used tape recorders to view movies at home. Anyone under the age of 25 thinks this is just a myth, but I can tell you it's true. I saw it all the time, read all the fascinating stories and then deposit the TV book in the recycling bin. I wonder how many of our readers do the same.

Hollywood last released a feature film on tape in 2005, but some people still use them to record TV shows. Trouble is, only people with advanced engineering degrees from really good schools and children younger than 11 can program a VCR to start and stop at the right time. The rest of us had to sit watching the VCR clock blink 12:00 over and over while waiting to hit the "record" button at the start of the show.

To overcome this difficulty, National Security Agency cryptographers developed VCR-Plus, which attaches code numbers to each TV program. Using that number, owners of some VCRs

could set their machines to tape the show without having to mess with programming.

Like many other fine inventions, we buy the VCR-Plus codes and run them in our TV listings. Lots of people still have VCRs, but does anyone still use the recording codes in this digital age? Would you notice if we dropped them and I used that money to hire a proof reader?

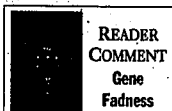
In search of answers I conducted extensive research — a call to Mel Quale, who has been supplying Twin Falls TV junkies since 1966.

Mel said the last customer who asked about VCR-Plus was on his way to the Packard dealership to buy a new car.

Let me know what you think... Editor James G. Wright may be reached at 208-735-3255 or james.wright@lee.net.

# Snowpack, demand drive electricity rate decisions

On April 16 every year, the telephones at the Idaho Public Utilities Commission start ringing. "Idaho Power has filed for another rate increase!" understandably frustrated calls ask.



**Speak your mind**  
Staff from the Idaho Public Utilities Commission will conduct workshops on Idaho Power Co.'s power cost adjustment on Tuesday at 7 p.m. in the Twin Falls City Council chamber. Staff will be on hand to present information about the PCA and answer questions. Contact the commission at 208-334-6330 or 800-432-0369.

2007 wasn't normal. Snowpack and river flows from the winter of 2006-07 were below normal and reservoirs were low. In addition, temperatures broke the 100-degree mark 14 times in July alone. Idaho Power's record for customer demand was broken five times before setting an all-time high of 3,193 megawatts on July 13.

The phones ring on April 16 because on or about April 15 of every year for the last 15 years, Idaho Power Company files its annual power cost adjustment, or PCA. And every year, the media treat it as a stunning new development.

charge. The money is kept in a deferred account, which we audit. PCA revenues must be used by the company to pay its power suppliers and its fuel expenses. In simple terms, much of the PCA is Idaho Power's "power bill."

During those years when weather and market conditions are normal and runoff from the snowpack that helps to power Idaho Power's hydroelectric plants is also normal, customers get a barely noticeable surcharge or credit.

to go to the wholesale market and buy power. It had to fire up its natural gas peaker plants to meet load during those peak-use days. It ran up an approximate \$163 million power bill buying power and natural gas. If the commission approves the PCA in its entirety, residential customers will see about a 10 percent one-year surcharge added to their bill.

It recover prudently incurred expenses. For planning purposes, customers should be prepared for an adjustment to their bill on June 1 of every year, be it a surcharge or a credit.

system by reducing your consumption. Use your appliances during early morning or late night hours, particularly during the summer. Participate in Idaho Power's load reduction programs. Install compact fluorescent light bulbs.

The PCA application is not the same as a rate case that permanently changes your base electric rate, though, admittedly, the PCAs result can be an increase to your overall rate. It can also be a rate reduction. In 2006 customers got an average 16 percent credit. During those years when the PCA is a surcharge, no one is happy. Not even Idaho Power, since the utility doesn't get to keep the money raised from the sur-

The biggest item on your power bill is the energy charge. The base rate energy charge covers the company's fixed costs of serving customers and most of the variable cost of supplying energy. However, costs for energy vary from year to year requiring customers to pay more than the base rate charge in the form of a one-year surcharge or, during good years, less than the base energy rate with a one-year credit.

2007 wasn't normal. Snowpack and river flows from the winter of 2006-07 were below normal and reservoirs were low. In addition, temperatures broke the 100-degree mark 14 times in July alone. Idaho Power's record for customer demand was broken five times before setting an all-time high of 3,193 megawatts on July 13. Due to lack of hydroelectric generation, Idaho Power had

The commission's job now is to review the company's power-purchase decisions to ensure Idaho Power found the most reasonably priced power it could to serve customers. If we find the company was efficient in its power supply purchases, state statute requires that we allow

We recognize the burden increased electric rates places on customers, particularly those on low and fixed incomes. You can reduce demand on Idaho Power's

Gene Fadness is the public information officer for the Idaho Public Utilities Commission.

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### Bush administration keeps making up lies

Is there nothing about which this administration does not lie? Mark Morford writes: "The truth is bad as it is revolting: You have been lied to, again and again, perhaps even more than you imagined... perhaps like no other time in American history, in a more fully orchestrated and widespread effort than any presidential administration has managed to attempt in the past."

don't they stop spending money on fancy entertainment for prisoners and put the short-term convicts in prison camps. It doesn't cost a lot of money to put up fences around a group of tents.

### Get in your two cents

ONLINE: At Magicvalley.com, you can respond to any of the local opinions or editorials in today's edition. Just register online for free and then give us your two cents. ON PAPER: The Times-News welcomes letters from readers on subjects of public interest. Because of space constraints, please limit letters to 200 words. Include your signature, mailing address and phone number. Writers who sign letters with false names will be permanently barred from publication. Letters may be brought to our Twin Falls office, mailed to P.O. Box 548, Twin Falls, ID 83303; faxed to (208) 734-8538; or e-mailed to letters@magicvalley.com.

in. In most cases, cleanup efforts have been fairly successful in keeping the damage in check. But not always. Increasingly, vulnerable caves are being damaged at a rate that requires stronger measures.

violation of federal cave protection laws, punishable by fines and/or imprisonment.) So, our message is this: If you wish to explore our local caves, please do so with care and respect for these fragile and irreplaceable wilderness environments. If, however, you wish to abuse our caves, please don't accuse the government of heavy-handed tactics when eventually all the caves are gated shut — you'll have no one to blame but yourself.

George W. Bush and seven top officials made at least 935 false statements just in the two years after 9-11 concerning the "threat" posed by Saddam Hussein. Surge success: Besides adding 30,000 more troops in Iraq, the United States created militias from at least 80,000 Iraqis, the majority Sunni militants some of whom previously assisted American forces, who are paid \$10 a day and operate outside the control of Iraq's government.

Our military personnel are living in tents, and they are overseas fighting for freedom. Criminals have broken the law, why should they be treated better than our soldiers? Prison is a place for punishment, not a Holiday Inn with gyms, exercise equipment, libraries and everything else that the do-gooders keep crying about. If they want these fancy prisons, then let them pay for them. Most Americans want the criminals off of the streets. If prison was not so nice, maybe we wouldn't have so many repeat offenders.

only exacerbates the problem. We voters have the power to end this stupidity, and if we do not, we are guilty of supporting an endless war and the senseless killing and maiming of our best and brightest. It is time to demand that our brave troops be brought home, and we use this wasted money to rebuild our nation. MATT SMITH Twin Falls

trash is picked up, the majority of the refuse is plastic. I read where this is making such an impact on landfills in certain areas that sale of bottled water may be restricted.

If this is such a potential problem, why are steps not being taken to circumvent the problem? JOHN E. PETERSON Jerome

ROBERT WILKINSON Twin Falls (Editor's note: Robert Wilkinson is the chairman of Silver Sage Grotto.)

Since 2003, about \$20.4 billion has been approved for training Iraq's Security Forces to take over U.S. missions. See recent news reports on Basra. KBR has avoided taxes by classifying its American workers as employees of Cayman Islands well controlled for at least four years. There is a great loss to the government, especially Social Security and Medicaid trust funds.

I think that sometimes the politicians get carried out so that the public will be willing to give them more money to build fancier prisons and to hire more guards. Putting criminals back on the street early is a form of blackmail. RAY WIMAN Twin Falls

### Kimberly student in favor of supplemental levy

I am a student at Kimberly High School and an writing concerning the supplemental levy that my school district is currently seeking.

Explore local caves with care and respect  
Our group, the Silver Sage Grotto (caving club), has been exploring our local lava tubes for nearly a decade. In addition to visiting caves for enjoyment, we have also spent many hours removing trash and graffiti in an effort to repair the increasing damage done by both the carelessness and the malicious. We welcome anyone who is interested in cave exploration to join us. (Information about our club can be found at www.caves.org/grotto/ssg)

See what's new at Magicvalley.com

Bush's claims of vet importance aren't matched by his budgets. He led an emergency funding in 2003 for \$275 million for veterans' medical care; his 2004 budget fell \$1.9 billion short of maintaining what we know is substandard care. His 2005 budget cut funding by \$3.5 billion over five years. VA-provided number of suicide attempts in 2007 was 790. A recently uncovered email revealed a same-time e-mail: "Our suicide prevention coordinators are identifying about 1,000 suicide attempts per month among veterans we see in our medical facilities." Add the military experts "support" for the Iraq fiasco coordinated by the White House. Look it up. STAN METCALF Gooding

### It's time to bring our troops home from Iraq

War! Really? No front lines, the potential for civilian deaths, troops are ours, opponents in street clothes, no one with the power to call a truce, continuing puss spots of independent warriors attacking our troops from door ways, our raids may be successful but the damage than positive results, and we obviously have no effective program that will lead to our withdrawal.

I recently attended one of my school board meetings and learned about the levy that the district is trying to pass. I would like to say that all who are capable should vote to pass this levy. I usually wouldn't get involved in things like this, but after learning about it, I believe that the Kimberly School District students would support greatly if this doesn't go through.

Nearly all of our local caves are on public lands, where state and federal land managers have been charged with their protec-

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### Prison camps could be the answer to overcrowded jails

When the article in April came out about prison overcrowding, I wrote this response and you informed me that because you had already published a letter from me, you could not publish another one in the same month. So I am resending this letter at this time, but it probably won't have the same effect it would have had if it had been published just after the article was on people's minds.

Our military is the finest in the world with dedicated personnel. The public support is phenomenal. Five years of our government saying things are improving and a Hollywood production of mission accomplished that accomplished nothing. Seventy percent of our people want us to withdraw and 65 percent of the Iraqis wish we would go home. After five years of "things are improving," we can't even keep the tiny green zone from being attacked. The *Nation* reports that we have killed 1 million Iraqis and displaced 5 million. This is a police action and police actions never end. The generals have been trying to tell us this in their own subtle way without getting their pants in Jeopardy. Remember all the dire consequences that would happen if we pulled out of Vietnam?

This levy will be used to continue all of the programs that are currently going on at the schools. Many have asked why they don't take more to buy sports, if this happened, you would see students begin to falter in grades and overall performance in school. Sports give students something to work toward and all students in sports excel more academically than the student body as a whole.

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## Your Vote Affects Your Taxes, The War, Your Kids' Education, Your Life.

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### Prison camps could be the answer to overcrowded jails

What would have happened if some nation had interfered with our Civil War? Would we still be in a life of Of course, it was a terrible war with brothers fighting each other but it has glued our country together forever. Just like Vietnam, the only way to bring our troops home is to bring them home. There is no other way, delay

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### Not many places to recycle plastic in M.V.

After reading the article on recycling in the Magic Valley, I was interested to find there was hardly a place to recycle plastic. I take my newspaper home to be dropped every week, but when my

### Not many places to recycle plastic in M.V.

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# Ravaging wildfires reveal the past

By Janet Wilson  
Los Angeles Times

CLEVELAND NATIONAL FOREST, Calif. — It was early January. The team charged with stabilizing the scorched, slide-prone Santa Ana Mountains above suburban Orange County had hiked for miles up twisting ravines when they spotted jagged hunks of steel rooted in the earth.

A U.S. Forest Service "smoke jumper" — trained to vault out of airplanes into wildfires — recognized the tangled debris.

"Looks like an airplane wreck to me," he said. They pinpointed the coordinates and phoned Forest Service officials. What was this dismembered carcass of an airplane doing in the middle of a forest?

When the Santiago fire roared through the Santa Ana Mountains in October 2007, it scoured vast stretches of land, leaving behind black rock, burnt roots and these strange, shiny pieces of metal.

It was a fresh example of the wonders, oddities and sad scraps of history exposed when large swaths of wilder-

ness in the American West are burned clear. Murder victims' bones, ancient stone villages and rusted jalopies have all been found.

"It's ground rediscovered," said Tom Lavignino, a Forest Service spokesman who has seen such finds in several states. "After a major burn, it's a lot easier to navigate in these remote areas without getting jabbed in the face or the arm by a bush. So you'll find things. Old cars. Dead people. We've found toxic waste too."

Overwhelmed with post-fire duties, forest staff didn't immediately respond to the call about the plane wreck. But pilots chattered about the mystery find for weeks, zooming low over the wreckage scattered across the bare hills.

Word of the wreck spread. Cleveland National Forest trails manager Debra Clarke took notice, and had an idea: Call Pat.

Within sight of the Santa Ana Mountains, G. Pat Macha, a retired high school teacher, was sitting in his Mission Viejo home office researching an obscure plane wreck when the phone rang.



Los Angeles Times photo by STEVE L. GRAY

Pat Macha, a retired schoolteacher and self-trained aviation archaeologist, walks past wreckage from a 1969 crash in the Santa Ana Mountains near Orange County, Calif. For decades, he has studied such sites from the peaks of the Sierra Nevada to the depths of the Pacific.

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*Jodi Shultz, Twin Falls Customer Service Manager*

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## Tossing out the clutter



Twin Falls District Bureau of Land Management staff members and volunteers came together Saturday to make the land north of the Snake River Canyon a little cleaner during the Great American Cleanup event. Justin Miller, left, carries garbage to the bin as he surveys a pile of collected trash.

## Local governments, civic groups tidy up valley

By Nate Poppino  
Staff writer

Counties do spring cleaning, too.

Several Magic Valley groups took time Saturday to clean up the litter that accumulated over the past year along public roads and in parks. The city of Kimberly opened a dump site for its residents' waste. And Joe Baratti and Bud Compher spent their day picking up the bright orange trash bags that dotted Twin Falls County, part of the 39th annual Johnny Horizon Day.

Saturday wasn't the end of their travels; Baratti said. After all, they have to make

sure no bags were missed.

"We'll come out (today) and run again," he said. To the east, Loring Brock and his fellow Boy and Cub Scouts scoured a road south of the Magic Valley Speedway. The scouts have helped out for years, said Loring, 14.

The group was followed by Loring's mother, Carolyn Brock, who said the volume of trash always surprises her.

"It's amazing how many people just kind of dump it," she said.

The Johnny Horizons may have had it easy compared to their neighbors to the north. The Snake River Canyon Krawlers, an offshoot of the Southern Idaho Off-Road Association, has swept the north rim clean for about 10 years now, club president Bob Colver said.

Nearly 30 volunteers were

"It's amazing how many people just kind of dump (trash)."

— Carolyn Brock

on the job by 9:30 a.m., and more came later in the day. While combing the future park site, they found roofing, carpet, jackets and a bull snake hiding under a large concrete slab.

"That's why you don't put your hand under stuff," Filer resident Bill Bridges joked while watching the latter incident.

Bridges, not a member of any of the organizing groups, said he brought his family to help after his kids read about it and wanted to volunteer. Faced with the trash, he seemed unsurprised if bemused.

"I don't understand, but I don't understand most people," he said.

The event started when the Krawlers, who regularly visit the site, offered to help clean it up. Other groups joined in — the Beck County Horsemen of Idaho showed up Saturday — and the event has paid off for the Bureau of Land Management, which leases much of the land to Jerome County.

Culver said he wasn't sure how many tons of garbage were picked up this year. But the group filled two large red trash containers, he said, as well as four BLM dump trucks.

Nate Poppino may be reached at 208-735-3247 or npoppino@magicvalley.com.

## Easy riders

Kramer, Mikesell first uncontested duo in 24 years

By Jared S. Hopkins  
Staff writer



Mikesell

Kramer

Sometimes the sweetest victory comes from avoiding a fight alone.

The two sitting Twin Falls County commissioners are unopposed in the May Republican primary and will not have opponents in the November general election either, a scenario that hasn't occurred since 1984.

Commissioners Terry Kramer and Tom Mikesell will not face a Republican challenger in the May 27 primary. They also won't have opponents — including any Democrats — in the Nov. 4 general election. Two commissioners haven't gone unopposed like that in 24 years, according to the county clerk's office.

In 2004, commissioners Jim Felton and Marvin Hempleman ran unopposed in both the Republican primary and general elections. The last time any Republican commissioner faced no opponent in a primary was Hempleman in 1992 (who also was unopposed in the general election).

Kramer, a Castleford farmer who spent six years on the county's planning and zoning board, was elected in 2006 and represents District 1. Kramer, who is finishing a two-year term, is running for the four-year commissioner term this year.

Mikesell, who was elected in 2002 and again in 2004, is a former small-business owner and represents District 2. Commissioner George Urie was elected in 2006 and faces re-election in 2010. He is vying for the two-year commissioner term.

"I'm happy that no one filed against me to run," said Kramer. "It takes some pressure off of me. I'm just glad the people feel I'm doing OK."

But Kramer, who often pushes for agriculture causes and helped see the creation of a mosquito abatement district — said, "You barely have your feet wet in two years."

"I was truly surprised," said Mikesell, who replaced Hempleman in 2003. But asked what to take from having no opponents, he said: "I

can't speculate on that. There's two sides to every issue."

Twin Falls County commissioners are full-time elected officials who work five days a week and sit on various public committees. They are paid \$17.14 annually, and oversee the county budget — more than \$34 million this year — for the county's agencies and offices of treasurer, prosecutor, clerk, coroner.

While the Republican-controlled county offices in Twin Falls aren't anything new, there are normally opponents in one of the two elections. Two years ago, Kramer upset Commissioner Gary Grindstaff in the primary with 61 percent of the vote.

Some party insiders said the uncontested races reflect the commissioners' practice of smart government.

"I think it means they're doing a great job as commissioners," said Mike Mathews, chairman of Twin Falls Republican Central Com-tee, who works in the local office of U.S. Sen. Larry Craig. "They're responding to what the public wants and are doing a good job."

Among his achievements, Mikesell said, are improving county employee salaries, acquiring a second Safe House and the sale of the system when it's all said and done.

There aren't any Democrats running, either.

Deborah Silver, chairwoman of the Twin Falls County Democrats, said the excitement and strong turnout at Idaho's presidential caucus showed there was urge for change, but that it came too close to the March 15 filing date. She said that they are already fielding candidates for 2010.

"Everyone feels that the tide is running more on an individual basis," he said. "This feeling, that maybe the Democrats are making some headway here, came too late for this particular election."

Jared S. Hopkins may be reached at 208-735-3201 or jhopkins@magicvalley.com.

## AROUND THE VALLEY

### Shoshone Falls, Dierkes Lake closed two days

Shoshone Falls and Dierkes Lake both will be closed Monday and Tuesday for road and parking lot paving. They are expected to reopen Wednesday.

### Rockchuck Derby raised \$25,000

BLISS — Twenty five thousand dollars. That's how much money was raised for the Hannah Bates Memorial Athletic Fund through the Outlaws and Angels Rockchuck Derby Challenge, held April 26 and 27.

The shootout, sponsored

by the Outlaws and Angels Bar in Bliss, drew more than 700 competitors. Money was raised through an auction and entry fees collected for the derby.

"It was really neat. At one point, there were hundreds of people in the parking lot waiting to get their chucks weighed in," said bar owner Frank Adams. "How clean an amount of money we were able to raise ... is that not mind-blowing or what?"

The memorial fund was created by Hannah Bates, of Hagerman, who died in February after a six-year battle with Ewing's sarcoma, a rare type of cancer. Proceeds will be used to support Magic Valley athletes.

The new "O and A World Record Rockchuck," award went to Mike Gauker of Buhl, who bagged a 15-pound, eight ounce rodent. His team, which included David Davidson and Ronan Wiebe, also took first place, with 41 pounds seven ounces of critters captured.

### Injured BASE jumper released from hospital

Kynan Cooksey, 32, has been released from St. Luke's Magic Valley Medical Center following an injury sustained during a BASE jump.

Cooksey, of Las Vegas, was discharged late Friday. He was taken to the hospital by

helicopter around 1 p.m. Friday after hitting a ditch at the bottom of the Snake River Canyon. Cooksey told Twin Falls sheriff's deputies that he waited too long to deploy his chute, and that his steering and brake lines failed, leaving him unable to effectively control it.

A fellow jumper, who called in the injury said Cooksey appeared to have a broken ankle.

BASE is an acronym for building, antenna, span and earth the places jumpers use. The Perrine Bridge is the nation's only span where unrestricted jumping is permitted year-round.

— from staff reports

## Moving forward

Buhl school board looks to fill vacancy

By Blair Koch  
Correspondent

BUHL — During a special Buhl school board meeting on Thursday trustees made the first move necessary in filling the board to capacity.

By officially announcing the zone four vacancy, created by the April 15 recall of board Chairman Gene Cleaver with a 63-42 vote.

Trustee Jim Barker suggested in his motion that along with declaring the vacancy, the district should contact several media outlets to advertise the need. Barker said those interested in becoming a trustee should file their name and credentials, in writing, at the district office.

However, Trustee Jay Anderson felt those wanting to serve should just speak up and that it wasn't necessary

residents do so in writing.

"It must keep some from coming in," Anderson said. The board agreed and unanimously approved the motion to declare and advertise the vacancy, noting that residents can simply contact the district office to be considered.

**For more information: 543-6436**

"We'll get applicants and then review and discuss those as a board," Barker said. "It would be nice to get 30 applicants, but you never know and well just have to see."

In the meantime, trustees are optimistic about patching relations with the public. "It's time to focus on the needs of district students and move forward," said Trustee Jackie Frey.

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

### Don't ask me until Wednesday

Steve Crump is on vacation. His column will return Wednesday.



## Idaho Mexican consulate approved

BOISE (AP) — Over the objections of an Idaho congressman, the U.S. State Department has given the go-ahead for construction of a Mexican consulate in Boise, a spokesman says.

The Mexican government is still looking for a site and hasn't determined how large the staff will be, said Ricardo Alday, D.C., spokesman for the Mexican Embassy, told the Idaho Statesman in a story published Saturday.

Rep. Bill Sall, R-Idaho, last week asked Secretary of

State Condoleezza Rice to delay approval for the Boise location until the U.S. government had addressed "the moral and constitutional duty to take into consideration how foreign consulates affect our fellow citizens here in our own country."

The newspaper reported that Gov. Butch Otter's office would not say whether he discussed plans for an Idaho consulate during his recent trade mission to Mexico.

Other spokesman Jon Hanlin said the subject

wasn't on the trip itinerary. But he noted that the governor has said in the past that a consulate would help Idaho increase trade with Mexico and would mutually benefit both governments.

Sall raised concerns that "consular cards" issued by the Mexican government at consulates in the U.S. could be used by illegal immigrants for identification to rent housing or open bank accounts.

The consulate, which requires State Department Please see CONSULATE, Page C3

### Mildred 'Millie' Rebecca Perkins

MURTAUGH — Mildred Rebecca Perkins, 100, of Murtaugh, passed away peacefully in her sleep early Thursday morning at the Twin Falls Care Center, where she had been a resident for the last two years.

"Millie" was born June 28, 1907, in Yost, Utah, to Charles Lehi Randall and Sylvia Emily Mecham Randall. She was the oldest of 10 children, including five sisters and four brothers. She went to grade school in Pico, Idaho, where family moved to Artesian City, south of Murtaugh, when she was 9 years old. She continued her education in Murtaugh. She married her high school sweetheart, Newell Severn, and out of this union a daughter, Marjorie, was born. Shortly after Oleah's birth, Newell and Millie were divorced. She fell in love with John Clyde Perkins. They were married in 1928. A son, John Clyde Perkins, soon joined the family. Clyde and Millie farmed in Murtaugh until his death in 1975. Millie dedicated her life to hard work and helping others. She loved to grow beautiful flowers and her gardens were to be envied. She loved sharing the fresh produce, scrumptious jams, and her grandchildren's favorite homemade bread.

Millie had industrious hands that created beautiful handiwork. She always had a



project of embroidery, crocheting or a fancy quilt started. As soon as the project was finished, she'd make a call and deliver it to a close friend or family member. She was a member of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints.

She is survived by her daughter, Oleah Craner of Murtaugh; a sister, Bessie Barkes, also of Murtaugh; numerous grandchildren; even more great-grandchildren; and several great-great-grandchildren. She was preceded in death by her husband, John Clyde Perkins; her parents; four sisters and four brothers; and her son, Keith Clyde Perkins.

A viewing for family and friends will be held from 4 to 7 p.m. Sunday, May 4, at White Mortuary, "Chapel by the Park" in Twin Falls. A graveside service will be held at 2 p.m. Monday, May 5, in Sunset Memorial Park in Twin Falls.

The family would like to thank the staff at Twin Falls Care Center for their tender, loving care during her stay.

### Doris Tracy Edwards

ALMO — Doris Meryl Edwards, age 78, of Almo, passed away at Rosetta Assisted Living in Burley on May 2, 2008, where she had been battling Alzheimer's.

Doris was born Oct. 26, 1929, in Burley, Idaho, to



"Hannah" flowers. She received her education in Burley, graduating from Burley High School. She married Bert Franklin Tracy on Feb. 20, 1948, in the Logan LDS Temple. They made their home in Almo, where they raised their five children. Upon her husband's death in 1981, Doris continued in his role as postmaster in Almo. On Dec. 4, 1982, Doris married Larry Edwards and was fortunate to assist him in raising his two children, Jennifer and John. She loved life and she retired as postmaster and then filled her time helping Larry plant the garden, cut firewood and care for the sheep.

Her passion for animals was evident as her grandchildren later referred to her as "Grandma Lambie." She mothered the lambs and fed them like newborn babies. She loved animals and had many dogs and cats. Doris was a great cook and made sure that a good meal was always on the table. Her children loved coming home to visit and always went home well fed. She enjoyed life with Larry and often told her children how much of the great outdoors she saw when Larry

came into her life. One of her favorite memories was their trip to Alaska. That was the last trip that they were able to take prior to the onset of Alzheimer's. Larry cared for her and together they fought a great fight.

Doris was an active member of the LDS Church, where she served in various callings and especially enjoyed serving as ward librarian and ward music director.

She was preceded in death by her parents; and brothers, Rex, Neil and Clyde A. "Tope" Boatright.

She is survived by her husband, Larry Edwards of Almo; her children, Paul (Ann) Tracy of Pueblo, Colo., Marcell (Jordan) Edwards of Elba, Idaho (Jim) Hellstrom of Salt Lake City, Utah, Lex (Trudy) Tracy of Sandy, Utah, and Mike (Kerl) Tracy of Vernal, Utah; her stepchildren, Stacey (Dave) Stephens of Provo, Utah, and Cody (Kris) Edwards of Centerville, Utah; 22 grandchildren; 19 great-grandchildren; her sister, Alice Peterson of Paul; and her sister-in-law, Rachel RaMal "Maize" Bowers of Burley.

The family expresses their sincere appreciation to the staff of Rosetta Assisted Living who so lovingly cared for our wife, mother and grandmother.

The funeral will be held at 11 a.m. Wednesday, May 7, at the Almo LDS Church, with the Rev. Kent R. Durfee officiating. Burial will be in the Sunny Cedar Rest Cemetery. Friends may call from 6 until 8 p.m. Tuesday at Rasmussen Funeral Home, 1350 E. 16th St. in Burley, and from 10 until 10:45 a.m. Wednesday at the church.

### Thomas H. B. 'Benton' Smith

JEROME — Thomas H. B. "Benton" Smith, 84, of Jerome, passed away May 2, 2008, in Twin Falls, Idaho. Benton was born July 24, 1923, in Keytesville, Mo., the son of Paul Wesley Smith and Olga Lucille Crawford Smith. He was raised in Keytesville and attended schools there. Benton served his country in the United States Army during World War II.



He married Florence R. Foglesong on Nov. 17, 1946, in Keytesville. They raised three children. Benton spent most of his working life in dairy agriculture. He spent 16 years with the state of California Department of Corrections Dairy Unit as a dairy foreman. He and Florence settled in Jerome, where Benton was a herdsman and dairyman. Benton loved gardening, camping and especially gatherings with his family and friends.

He is survived by his loving wife and friend of 61 years,

Florence Smith of Jerome; their daughter, Beverly (Rundy) Robertson of Aurora, Colo.; their son, Stephen (Linda) Smith of Huntsville, Mo.; 17 grandchildren (including spouses), as well as 15 great-grandchildren who all loved and have learned so much from "Grandpa." He is also survived by five sisters, three brothers and many nieces, nephews and friends.

Benton was preceded in death by his parents; his son, David Smith; and his brother, Wayne Smith.

The funeral will be conducted at 11 a.m. Tuesday, May 6, at Farnsworth Mortuary Chapel, 1343 S. Lincoln in Jerome, with Pastor Laura Rockwell of the Jerome United Methodist Church officiating. A visitation for family and friends will begin at 10 a.m. prior to the service. Interment will take place in the Asbury Cemetery in Keytesville, Mo. The family suggests that in lieu of flowers, memorials be made in Benton's name to Jerome United Methodist Church, 211 S. Buchanan, Jerome, ID 83338.

### John Aspitarte

GOODING — John Aspitarte, at the age of 80, passed away on Wednesday, April 30, 2008, at his home.

John was born in Burrell, Calif., on Sept. 29, 1927, to John and Elvira Aspitarte. They later moved to Idaho. He started grade school at Shoestring and finished the rest of his education at Gooding. He served in the Merchant Marines and later was drafted into the Army. He served most of his time in Germany. John worked several years for Idaho Power as a surveyor. He then worked for the Bureau of Land Management as a control inspector where he retired.

John is survived by his little

dog, Mitzee, his faithful companion of 14 years; a brother, Manuel (Donnie) Aspitarte of Twin Falls; two sisters, Mary Fields of Gooding and Georgia (Al) Day of Mesa, Ariz.; a brother-in-law, Bill Mays of Gooding; as well as many nieces and nephews and many special friends. He was preceded in death by a brother, Joe Aspitarte of Seattle; a sister, Marle Mays of Gooding; and his longtime companion of 50 years, Beulah Looney.

John had many interests and talents. He mastered a wide variety of skills throughout his life.

A memorial graveside service will be held at 10:30 a.m. Saturday, May 17, at the Elmwood Cemetery in Gooding. Cremation and funeral arrangements are under the direction of Demary's Gooding Chapel.



### Braidin William 'Will' Lickley

JEROME — Braidin William "Will" Lickley was born April 29, 2008, and passed away May 3, 2008. Although Braidin was only here a short time, he touched many hearts and lives.

He is survived by his parents, Dustin and Kim Lickley; grandparents, Paul and Kay Delaney, and Marie Lickley; Roland and Connie Ruby; and numerous great-grandparents, aunts, uncles and cousins. Braidin was a fighter and will be greatly missed.

A service will be held at 4 p.m. Wednesday, May 7, at Howe-Robertson Funeral Chapel, 629 E. Third in Jerome, Idaho, with a graveside service to follow. In lieu of flowers, donations can be sent to St. Luke's Regional Medical Center, 190 E. Bannock St., Boise, ID 83712 or to the Ronald McDonald House, 101 Warm Springs Ave., Boise, ID 83712. Funeral services are under the direction of the Howe-Robertson Funeral Chapel in Jerome.

### Stephen V. Southwick

DIETRICH — Stephen V. Southwick, former Lincoln County Sheriff, 62, of Dietrich, died April 30, 2008, at Saint Alphonsus Regional Medical Center in Boise, where he was flown after a serious motorcycle accident near his home town of Dietrich, Idaho. He never regained consciousness after the accident on April 4.



Stephen Verlon Southwick was born July 20, 1945, in Ogden, Utah, to Verlon and Edith Southwick. As a boy he lived in various parts of the Intermountain West as his family moved frequently. He got most of his education in Idaho, where he graduated from the Salt Lake Trade Technical Institute in 1966. He worked as an electronic engineer. He served as a missionary for The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints in Germany. He married Cheryl Bird in 1970 in Logan, Utah. He graduated from Weber State College with a bachelor's degree in electronic engineering in 1972. They established their home in Dietrich in 1977, where they raised their family.

They have seven children, Wendy (Steve) Fischer of Dietrich, Idaho, Verlon Clinton (Brenda) Southwick of Shoshone, Idaho, Victor

Charles (Courtney) Southwick of Bonifant, Utah, James (Trent) Wilcox of Twin Falls, Idaho, Holly (Shawn) Olson of San Marcos, Texas, Robin Southwick of Dietrich, Idaho, and Scott Bird Southwick of Dietrich, Idaho. Stephen and Cheri have nine grandchildren.

Stephen became a full-time sheriff deputy in 1981. He was elected sheriff in 1992 and served as sheriff for 14 years. He was an active leader in his church, in the Boy Scouts of America, and in the Idaho Sheriff's Association.

Stephen is survived by his wife, Cheri; his children and grandchildren; two brothers, Wanless Southwick of Rexburg, Idaho, and Mark Southwick of Dietrich, Idaho; and three sisters, Alana Barkes of Logan, Utah, Sandra Tupin of Le Claire, Iowa, and Marcia Stimpson of Dietrich, Idaho. He was preceded in death by his parents and one brother.

The funeral will be held at 11 a.m. Monday, May 5, at the Dietrich High School gymnasium in Dietrich, Idaho. Burial will follow at 5 p.m. at the Liberty Cemetery in Liberty, Utah. Visitation for family and friends will be from 5 to 6 p.m. Sunday, May 4, at Demary's Funeral Service, Shoshone Chapel, and from 9 to 10 a.m. Monday, May 5, at chapel, located at 404 W. B in Shoshone, Idaho.

### DEATH NOTICES

#### Andrea J. Williams

HAILEY — Andrea Jean Williams, 38, of Boise, died Wednesday, April 23, 2008, at her home.

A memorial service will be held at 1 p.m. Monday, May 5, at Wood River Chapel in Hailey.

#### Alyce D. Verhoef

Alyce D. Verhoef, 71, of Twin Falls, died Friday, May 2, 2008, at Alterra Wynwood in Twin Falls.

A graveside service will be held at 1 p.m. Wednesday, May 7, at Sunset Memorial Park; celebration of life will

follow at 2:30 p.m. Wednesday at Twin Falls Reformed Church; visitation from 4 to 6 p.m. Tuesday at Reynolds Funeral Chapel in Twin Falls.

#### Tom Asher

ALBION — Tommy "Tom" Preston Asher, 67, of Albion, died Sunday, Dec. 23, 2007, at St. Luke's Magic Valley Medical Center in Twin Falls.

A graveside service with an interment will be held at 11 a.m. Saturday, May 10, at Pleasant Hill Cemetery in Albion (Rasmussen Funeral Home in Burley).

#### Funeral Chapel in Buhi:

Robert "Bob" Jackson of Gooding, graveside interment service at 2 p.m. Tuesday at the Elmwood Cemetery Gooding (Demary's Funeral Service, Gooding Chapel).

#### Cemetery in Portland, Ore.:

Hall Scott Peterson of Buhi, funeral at 11 a.m. Tuesday at the Immaculate Conception, Catholic Church in Buhi; rosary at 7 p.m. Monday at the church; visitation from 1 to 5 p.m. Monday at Farmer

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### SERVICES

Orveldo "Veda" Kathrine Danuser, memorial service at 2 p.m. Monday at Demary's Gooding Chapel.

Wanda L. Brown of Burley, graveside service at 2 p.m. Monday at the Pleasant View Cemetery; visitation from

noon to 1 p.m. Monday at the Hansen-Payne Mortuary, 321 E. Main in Burley.

Marvin "Neal" Yost of Portland, Ore., and formerly of Kimberly, military memorial service at 3 p.m. Monday at the Willamette National

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@magvalley.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.magvalley.com and click on "Obituaries."

# Aftershocks continue in Reno

RENO, Nev. (AP) — More than two dozen aftershocks shook Reno on Saturday as a nine-week-long swarm of tremors prompted some residents to spend nights outside in campers and trucks.

Since a magnitude 4.7 quake emptied store shelves and cracked walls on April 25, Phil Oberlander has spent nights in his boat parked in front of the house.

"I was in a car wreck that was less violent than the earthquake," Oberlander told the San Francisco Chronicle. "When you get a hundred of them in one day, you start to feel like you are in Berlin in 1944."

Residents are hoping for an end to the sequence of mostly minor quakes that began Feb. 28 on the densely populated west edge of the city.

"I know people in the Bay Area think we are wimps, and 4.7 is not very big," said Sandy Wyosnick, who now sleeps in a camper in the backyard. "But when it's right under your feet, it's big."

The strongest aftershock Saturday measured 2.3 and was recorded shortly before 2:30 a.m.

The swarm has produced more than 600 quakes greater than magnitude 1 and 5,000 tremors at some

level, said John Anderson, director of the seismological laboratory at the University of Nevada, Reno.

While the number of tremors has leveled off over the last several days, Anderson said, the threat of a major quake is not over.

Scientists urged residents to prepare for a major quake after the 4.7 tremor. They have said the swarm was unusual in that the quakes had started out small and built in strength.

Reno's last major quake measured 6.1 on April 24, 1914.

Local officials are pondering their options after the 4.7 quake triggered a rockslide that destroyed part of a wooden flume that carries water to one of two Reno treatment plants.

It might be impossible to repair because the rocky slope above it remains highly unstable, said Truckee Meadows Water Authority officials.

With peak water demand looming as summer approaches, "we are in the scramble mode," Paul Miller, manager of operations and water quality for the water authority, told the Reno Gazette-Journal.

Up to 200 feet of the flume was taken out by the rocks jarred loose by the quake.

# SOMEBODY NEEDS YOU

**Drivers** — Twin Falls Senior Citizens Center needs drivers to deliver hot meals to the homebound. Volunteers can drive one day a week or more. Information: Karen, 734-5084.

**Volunteers** — Intermountain Hospice is in need of hospice volunteers to provide companionship, spiritual support and comfort, assistance with hobbies or projects, work with children, caregiver support, light housekeeping, developing office skills and fundraising education. Training is provided and begins May 15. Information: Marcie, 678-8844.

**Mentors** — The Retired and Senior Volunteer Program is in need of volunteers, age 55 and older, in Jerome and Twin Falls counties to mentor children of prisoners. Volunteers must undergo a complete background check and be willing to mentor a child for a minimum of one hour each week for one year. Information: Ken, 736-2122, ext. 2394, kwhting@oa.csi.edu.

**Drivers** — The Retired and Senior Volunteer Program is in need of volunteer drivers, age 55 and older, in the Mini-Cassia area to take senior citizens to doctor appointments and for grocery shopping. Volunteers are reimbursed mileage and are covered by excess insurance. Information: Kitty, 677-4872, ext. 2.

**Volunteers/donations** — The College of Southern Idaho Refugee Program is in need of volunteers to spend time with families to practice conversational skills. Bring donated items to the office at 1526 Highland Ave. E., 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. (closed noon to 1 p.m.), Monday through Friday.

## Want to help?

This public service column is designed to match needs in the Magic Valley with volunteer help. If you need a volunteer, contact the Retired and Senior Volunteer Program (RSVP) at 736-2122, ext. 4764, before 4:30 p.m. Wednesday for Sunday publication. RSVP is a United Way-sponsored agency at the College of Southern Idaho.

Information: Shannon, 736-2166; scptowe@spro.net.

**Respite** — Volunteers are needed to give respite to elderly homebound clients so their main caregivers can take a break. Volunteers are needed in Twin Falls for two to four hours, once a week. Information: Edith, 736-4764.

**Volunteers** — Idaho Home Health and Hospice is inviting caring people to be a part of the hospice team by making a difference for caregivers and for those facing end-of-life issues. Information: Heidi, 734-4064 or stop by the office at

826 Eastland Drive in Twin Falls.

**Volunteers** — Hospice Visions Inc. is in need of volunteers for its new program, Eleventh Hour Angels.

Volunteers are needed to spend time with patients who are in their final hours of life. Training is available. Information: 735-0121.

**Volunteers** — Twin Falls County Historical Museum is in need of volunteers to help with archival preservation, cataloging, research and greeting the public. The museum is open from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Tuesdays through Saturdays. Information: Darleen at 736-4675.

**The Family of Ruby Black** wishes to express our sincere thanks and appreciation to all our friends, neighbors and relatives for the cards, flowers, food, visits and all other acts of kindness that were so graciously extended to us during our recent loss. They were deeply appreciated.



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# Consulate

approval, would become the Mexican government's 49th in the U.S. The State Department also approved the Mexican government's plans to open a consulate in Anchorage, Alaska, Alday said.

Last week, President Bush and Mexican President Felipe Calderon reopened a consulate in New Orleans that closed in 2002, causing an estimated 30,000 Mexican citizens in southeast Louisiana to go to Houston, Texas, for diplomatic services.

Currently, Mexican citizens in Idaho must travel to Salt Lake or Seattle, the closest Mexican consulates. Once open, the Mexican consulate in Boise will be the first full consular office in Idaho.

Boise is home to honorary consular officials from France and other countries. Typically, a consulate's role is to protect citizens abroad, provide government services, strengthen relations between countries and promote cultural and business ties.

Often, the government

chooses places where local government or business leaders have requested a consulate or where there is a significant need in the population, Alday said.

Boise officials said Friday they had not received an application for a Mexican consulate.

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# Jail, not hospital for elderly killer

SALT LAKE CITY (AP) — A judge has ordered an ailing, elderly man to prison — not hospital care — after a jury convicted him of a pair of 1991 shooting deaths.

Edgar Tiedemann is ill, frail and confined to a wheelchair, but 3rd District Judge Judith Atherton said his crimes were among the worst she's seen while on the bench. Prison is the only place Tiedemann should be, Atherton said during a sentencing hearing Friday.

"I have seen many, many cases," Atherton said. "I do not remember a case that is more brutal than this."

Atherton ordered Tiedemann to serve two terms of five years to life in prison on two first-degree felony murder charges and a term of one to 15 years for second-degree felony attempted murder.

In February, a jury found the 61-year-old guilty of the shootings at his West Valley City trailer that left Susan Sessions and Charles Timberman dead, Sessions' 14-year-old son, Scott Bunnell, was also shot and left paralyzed. He died 10 years later.

# 3 dead, 3 injured in McCall airport collision

McCALL (AP) — Two small airplanes collided at the McCall Municipal Airport and burst into flames, killing three and sending three others to hospitals, a federal aviation official said Saturday.

Airport Administration spokesman Ian Gregor in Los Angeles said the accident happened when a Cessna 172 with two people aboard was landing and struck another Cessna 172 with four people aboard on the runway about 7 p.m. Friday.

Both aircraft exploded on impact, he said.

KTVB in Boise reported that Bill Keating, 52, of McCall, the pilot of one of the aircraft, and two grandsons, ages 1 and 6, from Caldwell, died at the scene.

Another grandson, 2, was flown to the University of Utah Burn Center in critical condition with third-degree burns. KTVB reported. A spokeswoman said she could give no information on the child's condition Saturday because of federal privacy laws.

The pilot of the other aircraft, Justin Money, 30, of Post Falls, and passenger Mark Fuller, 27, of Hayden, pulled the 2-year-old from the burning plane. They were treated and released from McCall Memorial Hospital, a nursing supervisor said Saturday.

# 'Normalizing' Utah's liquor laws results in more confusion

By Brock Vergakis  
Associated Press writer

SALT LAKE CITY — If Cinco de Mayo isn't enough reason for some Utah revelers to party, consider this: The amount of liquor allowed in the standard cocktail is increasing by 50 percent to 1.5 ounces.

The first major change to state liquor laws in years will take effect Monday as part of an effort to improve the state's teetotaling image and appeal to more tourists around the world.

Utah has some of the nation's strictest liquor laws and the most in years will be the only state that caps how much alcohol can be served in a shot or a cocktail, according to the National Conference of State Legislatures.

"Complain about the size of the martinis and the cost of everything," said Matthew Kallio, a bartender at a downtown hotel.

By allowing up to 1.5 ounces of liquor, Utah's drinks will be more in line with the industry standard.

But if there ever was a day that could illustrate how convoluted and quirky the state's liquor laws remain, it could be on the holiday that celebrates Mexico's "troops' defeat of a French army on May 5, 1862."

Traditionally, Mexican beer, margaritas and tequila are the drinks of choice at many bars on Cinco de Mayo.

But if anyone in Utah has an unfinished margarita on the table or bar Monday, ordering an accompanying shot of tequila will be illegal.

The rule will apply to all

cocktails — ordering a shot of the same liquor that's already in your drink is impermissible. All other liquor is fair game. Servers must keep track of the pitcher liquor in everyone's drink before serving a round of shots.

Bar owners are already pondering the legal gymnastics that customers and servers are about to perform along with windy explanations of Utah's new law.

"There's ways around it, but it makes absolutely no sense whatsoever," said Dave Morris, owner of Piper Down: An Olde World Pub in Salt Lake City.

"That's what's the really, really messed up part of this whole thing. Say you do order a margarita, which we'll make with Jose Cuervo, and then you want a shot of tequila. You can do it, you're just going to have to order a different shot ... say a shot of Patron."

Utah's liquor laws have left tourists scratching their heads in confusion for decades.

However, resident drinkers and frequent visitors have learned to navigate them so well that increasing the amount of booze in the standard cocktail is actually an attempt by lawmakers to reduce consumption.

Currently, the amount of liquor allowed in a shot or cocktail is 1 ounce. An additional 1.75 ounces of liquor considered "flavoring" is also allowed in some drinks.

Customers can order a second shot known locally as a "sidecar," they can take in one gulp our pour into their drinks as long as the total amount of alcohol doesn't

exceed 2.75 ounces. Asking for a double and having a bartender pour it is illegal.

"You can get drunk here, you just need to know how to work the system," said Eric Anderson, an engineering consultant from Los Angeles who frequently travels to Utah for business. "Maybe I won't have to order eight drinks now."

But allowing customers to get a buzz by ordering fewer drinks wasn't part of the sales pitch for the new liquor law. The catch, if it can be called one, was proposed by Tom Gunneby, an owner of the high-end Gastro restaurant chain. It was Gunneby who approached Republican Gov. Jon Huntsman about changing Utah's liquor laws.

His proposal: Eliminate the sidecar in favor of a stiffer, standard drink. Huntsman agreed.

The change in liquor law benefits Gunneby because restaurants where liquor is served are not allowed to serve sidecars. Customers frequently complain about weak, overpriced martinis.

"We were literally the biggest rip-off in the United States," Gunneby said of the 1 ounce pour. "It was embarrassing."

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Sat - Sun 12:30-2:45 7:00-9:15

**Horton Hears a Who** (G) Daily 7:30-9:30  
Sat - Sun 1:00-4:00 7:30-9:30

**Never Back Down** (R) Daily 7:10-9:30  
Sat - Sun 1:00-4:00 7:10-9:30

**Oppenheim Theatre**

**88 Minutes** (R) Daily 7:30-9:45  
Sat - Sun 12:45-3:00 5:15-7:30 9:45

**Under the Same Moon** (R)  
In Spanish with English Subtitles  
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**Harold & Kumar Escape** (R)  
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**Theatrical One** (R) Daily 7:00-9:30  
Sat - Sun 1:00-4:00 7:00-9:30

**Forgotten Sarah Marshall** (R)  
Daily 7:00-9:30  
Sat - Sun 12:45-3:00 5:15-7:30 9:30

**The Rules** (R) Daily 7:15-9:30  
Sat - Sun 12:30-2:45 5:00-7:15 9:30

**Orpheum Theatre**

**Horton Hears A Who** (G)  
Daily 7:30-9:30  
Sat - Sun 12:45-3:00 5:15-7:30 9:45

**Baby Mama** (R) Daily 7:30-9:45  
Sat - Sun 12:45-3:00 5:15-7:30 9:45

**Expelled: No Intelligence Allowed** (R)  
Daily 7:15-9:45  
Sat - Sun 12:30-2:45 5:15-7:15 9:45

**Iron Man** (R) Daily 6:45-7:25 9:30-9:55  
Sat - Sun 12:15-2:00 4:00-4:20 6:45-7:25 9:30-9:55

**Foals Gold** (R) Daily 7:15-9:45  
Sat - Sun 1:00-4:00 7:15-9:45

**Leatherheads** (R) Daily 7:00-9:30  
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**Forbidden Kingdom** (R)  
Daily 7:00-9:30  
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**Nim's Island** (G) Daily 7:30-9:45  
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# Virginia schools begin classes on Internet safety for kids

By Theresa Vargas  
The Washington Post

WASHINGTON — Alan Portillo didn't think much, if at all, about his online vulnerability. Then the 15-year-old heard technology teacher Wendy Maitland list three pieces of information an online predator would need to find him.

Birth date, she said. Alan's age was on his e-mail.

Gender. His full name was also on his e-mail and topped his MySpace page.

"ZIP code! A photo on the page showed an area near his neighborhood, with Arlington embazoned across one building.

"I thought it was nothing. But when I saw the examples, I started thinking, it's a big deal," the high school freshman said. After the February lesson, he said, he deleted the photo and his last name from the page.

Virginia public schools will soon teach Internet safety lessons across all grade levels, responding to a state mandate that is the first of its kind in the nation. Even though today's students have known no life without the Internet, only a couple of states have laws that recommend schools teach online safety.

Virginia school systems have been rewriting policies, running pilot programs and putting final touches on lesson plans to be offered from kindergarten through 12th grade starting in September.

"One of the things we realized is there is no one-size-fits-all approach," said Timmy McGraw, the Virginia Department of Education's director of educational technology. "Ultimately what we're trying to do is ensure we have safe and responsible Internet users."

The state's goal is to integrate safety skills into the curriculum, not simply teach them in one lesson. An English lesson on truth and fiction, for example, could require a paper on what information online should be trusted.

"It's not something that we think can really be addressed by bringing children together in an assembly," McGraw said. "We think they have to think about it all the time."

One recent afternoon, two 15-year-old girls at Wakefield High School in Arlington, Va.,

discussed what they learned in a pilot Internet safety class: Misunderstood text messages can lead to hurt feelings; parents, too, can dole out too many details online about their children; and risks abound in using social networking sites.

Lily Pinna, a freshman, sets her MySpace page on private and lists her age as 99. But she said a friend's 4-year-old sister recently ventured onto the site, writing friendly messages with her name and age and noting that she lives "in a big house."

"I said, 'You don't want to tell people that,' she said. 'Why?' Lily said, adding that it's hard because she doesn't want to scare the girl but wants to keep her safe. "I said, 'Because some people aren't nice.'"

"They still believe everyone is good and the bad guy always loses," added freshman Labiba Ahmed.

One in seven children ages 10 to 17 has been sexually solicited while online, according to the National Center for Exploited and Missing Children. Thirty-four percent of those youths also acknowledged communicating online with individuals they did not know, and more are posting personal information and photos on the Internet, according to the organization.

"The reality is, kids have this sense of immortality and can do some remarkably dangerous things, putting themselves at risk," said Ernie Allen, National Center for

Exploited and Missing Children's chief executive.

Del. William H. Fraulin Jr., R-Roanoke, said he introduced the Virginia legislation, which passed in 2006, when his oldest child was 10 and had just started using the Internet. He said his wife raised the question of safety.

"She said, 'How do we know who he's talking to and what's going on?' and I said, 'I don't know,'" Fraulin said.

The state initiative calls for including parents. One chapter in a state resource book covers "What Parents, Grandparents, and Caregivers Need to Know."

Linda Wilkoff, an elementary-school guidance counselor in Alexandria, Va., said children were still singing songs about Internet safety weeks after a class there ended.

To make her points to the youngsters, Wilkoff drew age-appropriate analogies. Posting personal information is like a dinosaur footprint that exists forever. Or like toothpaste: Once it's squeezed out of the tube, it can't be put back in.

"One of my students said, 'You know Ms. Wilkoff, this is making me kind of worry,'" she said. "I said, 'That's good.'"

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# A first for Saudis: Mozart performed publicly and women attend

By Donna Abu-Nasr  
Associated Press writer

RIYADH, Saudi Arabia—It's probably as revolutionary and groundbreaking as Mozart gets these days. A German-based quartet staged Saudi Arabia's first-ever performance of European classical music in a public venue before a mixed gender audience.

The concert, held at a government-run cultural center,

broke many taboos in a country where public music is banned and the sexes are segregated even in lines at fast food outlets.

The Friday night performance could be yet another indication that this strict Muslim kingdom is looking to open up to the rest of the world.

A few weeks ago, King Abdullah made an unprecedented call for interfaith dialogue with Christians and

Jews—the first such proposal from a nation that forbids non-Muslim religious services and symbols.

"The concert is a sign that things are changing rapidly here," said German Ambassador Juergen Kriehoff, whose embassy sponsored the concert as part of the first-ever German Cultural Weeks in Saudi Arabia.

"Evidently the government has decided that a minimum of openness in our new world

economy and in our information-based world is necessary for us and also for good understanding among cultures," he added.

Public concerts are practically unheard of in the kingdom. Foreign embassies and consulates regularly bring musical groups, but they perform on embassy grounds or in expatriates' residential compounds, and the shows are not open to the public. In the past couple of

months, however, there has been a quiet, yet marked increase in cultural activities in Saudi Arabia. Lectures and a couple of segregated folk music performances were held on the sidelines of Riyadh's book fair. And Jeddah's annual Economic Forum opened with a surprise this February—a performance of Arab and Western music.

"For half an hour, we did not quite know whether we

had stumbled into an unknown Jeddah nightclub or mistake that would suddenly stop," wrote Michel Coustins in the English-language daily Arab News, describing the 30-minute show.

Friday's concert of works by works by Mozart, Brahms and Paul Juon was the first classical performance held in public in Saudi Arabia, said German press attache Georg Klusmann.

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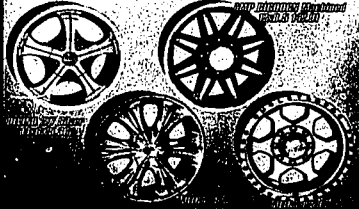
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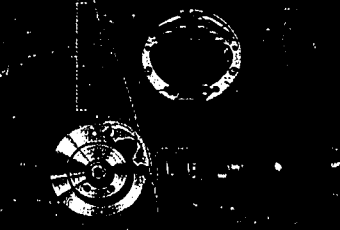
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# China increases efforts to stop deadly virus

By Charles Hutzler  
Associated Press writer

BEIJING — China's Health Ministry ordered heightened efforts to stem the spread of infectious diseases Saturday following an outbreak of a virus that has caused the deaths of 22 children in one city and is spreading.

The outbreak of enterovirus 71, a type of hand, foot and mouth disease that children are susceptible to, is another headache for the communist government as it prepares for the Beijing Olympics already tarnished by an uprising among Tibetans and an international torch relay disrupted by protests.

Strengthened vigilance by health bureaus and hospitals to prevent the spread of infectious diseases was necessary to guarantee the smooth staging of the Beijing Olympics and Paralympics and to preserve social stability, said the order posted



A child infected by Enterovirus 71 virus (EV71) at Fuyang No. 2 Peoples Hospital in Fuyang city, east China on April 29. China is stepping up surveillance of the infectious virus after an outbreak in east China's Anhui province killed 22 children.

on the ministry's Web site. Prompting the government to act was an unusual jump in cases of the enterovirus, known as EV-71, in Fuyang, a fast-growing city set in the rural heartland of central China. As of early Saturday, 3,736 cases of EV-71 were reported

in Fuyang's mainly rural outskirts, a rise of 415 in about 24 hours, health officials said. Besides the 22 deaths, 1,115 people remain hospitalized, 42 of them in serious or critical condition, said the health department of Anhui Province, where Fuyang is located.

State-run television footage showed workers spraying disinfectant around houses in rural areas outside Fuyang and medical teams visiting families with small children. Meanwhile, nearly 800 other cases were reported in other parts of Anhui, the health department said on its Web site. In Guangdong province, 1,000 miles to the south, preliminary tests showed an 18-month-old boy who died Friday was infected with EV-71, and a second suspected death is under investigation, the Xinhua News Agency said.

Cases of hand, foot, and mouth outbreaks have been reported in at least two other provinces, Xinhua said. The health Ministry said it expected infections to climb and peak in June and July. While the order singled out hand, foot and mouth disease, it also mentioned hepatitis A, measles and other infectious diseases.

## AROUND THE WORLD

### CHINA

#### Olympic torch arrives on mainland China

SANYA — After a much-protested journey, the Olympic torch reached this southern Chinese seaside resort Saturday night, beginning what organizers and Chinese citizens promised would be a trouble-free national tour.

The protests and last-minute route changes that haunted the torch along its international relay route were expected to be over. Instead, locals talked excitedly about welcoming the Olympic flame.

"Even if no police were here, we would protect the torch with our bodies!" said an 18-year-old vendor who gave his family name as Zhao. He was selling Chinese flags near the stage where the torch was to be lit Sunday morning.

Actor Jackie Chan and basketball star Yi Jianlian were to be among the 208 people carrying the torch Sunday along with torchbearers looking out over the South China Sea. Organizers and police said security measures were being taken, but refused to give details. Media access to the torch's arrival was limited to three Chinese outlets, organizers said.

Criticism of China's human rights record has turned the torch relay into one of the most contentious in recent history. Protests dogged stops in Greece, Paris, London and San Francisco.

### JERUSALEM

#### Rice pushes progress on Israel-Palestinian peace

Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice said Saturday she will ask Israel to remove more physical barriers erected in the West Bank as a bulwark against Palestinian militancy.

The Bush administration also would like to see speedier progress toward a political settlement between Israel and the Palestinians, a goal of President Bush in his final year in office. Rice said her route to Israel and the West Bank for weekend meetings.

Bush's top diplomat said it's too early for pessimism, despite a lack of obvious accomplishment in talks Bush began with Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Olmert last month ago. Rice suggested she will lean on Israel to yank West Bank roadblocks that Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas says strangle the Palestinian economy. "I understand that everyone — President Abbas, I, the president, would like to see things move more quickly," Rice said. "That's why we keep coming and pressing all the parties to meet their obligations."

### WEST BANK

#### Palestinian troops take up positions in Jenin

JENIN — Hundreds of flag-waving Palestinian troops

took up positions in the former militant stronghold of Jenin on Saturday, part of President Mahmoud Abbas' attempt to assert control over once lawless West Bank towns and encourage an Israeli withdrawal.

The Israeli military and Abbas sharply disagree over whether the Palestinian forces are ready to replace Israeli troops in the West Bank, the only area Abbas controls following the June 2007 violent takeover of the Gaza Strip by Hamas militants.

The West Bank city of Nablus, which several months ago became the test case for Abbas' forces, is still raided regularly by Israeli troops searching for fugitives, Palestinian officials say such raids undermine their security forces, but Israel's Palestinian troops too often co-opt, rather than confront, militants.

Jenin is the second town in which newly trained Palestinian troops were

deployed in large numbers, and the city of Hebron is next. "I hope this will be a step in the direction of restoring full (Palestinian) security jurisdiction in these areas," said Palestinian negotiator Saeb Erekat. "So far this has not been done, and if the Israelis continue coming ... to Nablus and Jenin, this would undermine our effort."

### IRAQ

#### U.S. missile strike takes out militant holdout

BAGHDAD — The U.S. military fired guided missiles into the heart of Baghdad's booming Sadr City slum on Saturday, leveling a building 55 yards away from a hospital and injuring nearly two dozen people.

AP Television News footage showed several ambulances destroyed and on fire, thick black smoke rising from them as firefighters

worked to put out the flames. The strike, made from a ground launcher, took out a militant "command-control center," the U.S. military said. The center was located in the heart of the eight-square-mile neighborhood that is home to about 2.5 million people, Iraqi officials said at least 23 people were injured, though none of them were patients in the hospital.

The U.S. military blamed the militants for using Iraqi civilians as human shields. "This is a circumstance where these criminal groups are operating directly out of civilian neighborhoods," military spokeswoman Spc. Megan Burmeister told The Associated Press in an e-mail.

She said it presents a "complex and very difficult" challenge for U.S. forces to strike the militants when they are "putting themselves next to municipal buildings." — Wire reports

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# Bluestones reveal new origins for Stonehenge

By Tina Clark  
Los Angeles Times

AMESBURY, England — The mysterious circle of stones that rises on Salisbury Plain here has stood as an archaeological marvel for thousands of years, its origins and purpose shrouded in the mists of history.

But a just-completed excavation of Stonehenge, the first within the ancient circle in more than 40 years, could provide some of the first reliable explanations for one of the greatest wonders of the prehistoric world.

A team of British archaeologists hopes to prove its theory that nearly 4,000 years ago Stonehenge was regarded not as a place of sacrament for the dead, but as a temple with unique healing powers.

The dig is looking closely at the presence of about 82 bluestones — a double circle of large rocks, some weighing as much as 4 tons, that were brought in during the second stage of Stonehenge, which began about 2150 B.C. and account for the first stone construction at the site.

About 150 years later, these were rearranged and surrounded by a circle of the much larger sarsen stones that have become iconic of Stonehenge.

Yet it is the bluestones, somehow hauled to the Salisbury Plain from the Presell Hills in Pembrokeshire, Wales, that researchers say hold the key to the clouded mystery of Stonehenge.

Although the researchers found it dismaying that the area they examined had been tampered with in Roman times, they still hope the excavations will help show that the bluestones were once viewed as therapeutic.

Over the years, Stonehenge's legends have been many. Some said the devil bought the stones from a woman in Ireland; another story suggests they were placed on the plain by the wizard Merlin; others have sworn that aliens built the monument and left it as a place for worship, or that Druids built it as a temple for sacrificial ceremonies.

"You could put 10 archaeologists in a room, and you'd get 10 different answers," said Dr. Andrew Fitzpatrick of Wessex Archaeology, a private company involved in the excavation, which was approved by English Heritage, which manages Stonehenge.

"I think the one thing everybody would agree on is that Stonehenge is a temple, which is easy to lose sight of in the kind of to-ing and fro-ing of ideas."

But the recent realization that the site contained stones from the mountains 250 miles away in Wales shed new light on Stonehenge's origins.

Tim Darvill, a professor at the University of Bournemouth, and Geoff Wainwright, president of the Society of Antiquaries of London, have spent the last six years researching Stonehenge and the rocky outcrop Carn Menyn, thought to be the exact site in the Presell Hills from which the bluestones were taken.

Darvill and Wainwright, the co-directors of the dig, found the Welsh site to be a center for ceremony and burials, where the springs that flowed below the rocks were regarded by ancients as having medicinal powers. They hope that by finding evidence to tie the stones from the Presell Hills to those at Stonehenge, they will have an answer to the age-old mystery of the site's purpose.

Darvill and Wainwright hope to establish a more precise timeline for the construction of Stonehenge to within 10 years by collecting samples from the excavation and comparing them to those taken from the site in Wales through radiocarbon dating.

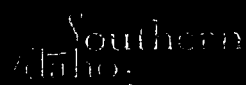
The scientists also hope to shed light on whether the stones were transported manually, as Darvill believes, or whether perhaps the former Irish Sea Glacier pushed the stones to Salisbury. But one fact is certain: The resonance at Stonehenge makes it unique among the stone circles of its era.

"Once they arrive here, this

monument becomes very different from any other kind of monument in the British Isles. ... And when they come here they elevate this monument into something rather special," Darvill said one recent afternoon.

"You can make the analogy with a medieval cathedral — it's a bog-standard Paris church until they get those relics, and at that point it becomes a beautiful, marvelous building," he said. "It changes its purpose at about that time from a fairly standard henge to a temple of really European renown."

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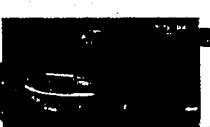







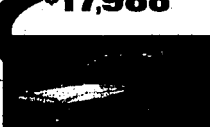









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INSIDE: Big Brown lives up to big billing with Kentucky Derby win, D4



INSIDE: Prep tournament coverage, D2 | MLB, D5 | Your Sports, D6 | Weather, D8

## Meet the Dirtbags



Minico baseball seniors Shelby Coats, Bubba Christiansen, R.J. Salvi, Cody Winmill and Dase Broadhead love to get dirty on the diamond and that approach has helped the Spartans to 22 wins this season.

Staff photo by MATT BECKMAN

## Indians beat Bulldogs for SCIC crown

By Diane Phibbin  
Staff writer

**BUFIL** — When Buhl baseball coach Troy Rulter was informed his Indians would be hosting the Sawtooth Central Idaho Conference championship game, he told senior pitcher Gaige Owen that it was his game and Owen said that he wanted it more than anything else.

Saturday, Owen and his teammates backed up those words. "Gaige has been coming around," said Rulter. "It's a great feeling to see him getting control and pitching his game. It is what I expect from a senior."

Owen felt his best pitch was his curve ball. "We had some errors early but we stayed in there," said Owen. "We started out the season with some doubts. We haven't had Brad (Twiss) most of the season and it was really good to get him back because he gives us a lot of leadership and hits the ball well. The three of us seniors are feeling pretty confident."

With the score tied 4-4 heading into the home half of the seventh, back-to-back errors on ground balls hit by Matt Hamilton and Jack Hamilton and a walk by Kimberly reliever Evan Jerke to J.D. Leckenby loaded the bases. Brad Twiss hit a ground ball to short forcing Matt Hamilton at home for the first out. Brooks then launched a deep fly to right field that bounced off the glove of his layo and Leckenby scampered home for the winning run.

Please see **TROBE**, Page D7

## Minico baseball team thrives on the stain of hustle

By Zach Kyle  
Staff writer

There they are, swimming in the infield, rooting in the soil. See the dust and black smeared across their unkempt faces, the filth caked from their cleats to their wild eyes. See how the gleam of teeth escapes crazy smiles.

Behold the Minico Dirtbags, quite possibly the best Class 4A baseball club in Idaho, taking their ritualistic dirt bath after another win.

The 22-2 Dirtbags, aka Spartans, haven't shaved their faces since coach Ben Frank turned on the Dirtbag effect on April 2.

After every game, they slide and roll in the dirt until their uniforms are coated in the blessed stuff. Any uniform left untouched by the stain of hustle earns extra running for the whole team.

They say cleanliness is next to godliness, but it never won a baseball game. "It's a positive baseball thing — guys going hard, guys getting dirty. More of a mental approach than anything," Frank says as he watches his players wallow in the dirt. "The not-shaving deal is a mental thing, too. I want it to be where guys go to the mirror or feel their face, and they are all screaming, they are thinking about baseball."

After a particularly frustrating loss during the 2006 season, Frank — then in his fourth season as manager — noticed something unnerving: every Spartan uniform was white. Pristine, immaculate, virginal white.

### Online:

Watch the Minico baseball team talk dirty and play dirty at [MagicValley.com](http://MagicValley.com).

### Inside:

See how the Spartans fared in Saturday's Great Basic Conference West title game on page D2.



That was simply not acceptable. Frank ordered his pretty boys back onto the field to roll in the dirt, and a tradition was born.

Each year since, Frank has instituted Dirtbag status at some point midseason when Minico needed a jumpstart. This season, the Spartans had won 10 straight but didn't really turn it on until the third or fourth inning of some outings.

Frank flipped the switch, and the Dirtbags reached to get the intensity, extending the winning streak to 21.

Down in the dirt, there's pitcher and third baseman Bubba Christiansen. Against Twin Falls last week, he blasted a homer, then several innings later worked the count full after falling behind 0-2. He extended his arms to protect the outside corner and flipped a fastball into center field for a single. He is a Dirtbag.

Center fielder and pitcher Dase Broadhead is on his chest getting his daily dose of Vitamin D. He has as many homers, seven, as strikeouts and he's batting a gaudy .558. He's a Dirtbag.

R.J. Salvi and Shelby Coats, Alex Moon, Chris Joyce, Landon Barnes, Barak Frank and the rest of the Spartans are, yep, all getting their filth on. They, too, are Dirtbags.

Then there's first baseman and pitcher Cody Winmill, who has a no-hitter and four home runs to his name.

Please see **DIRTBAGS**, Page D7



Staff photo by MATT BECKMAN  
Buhl's Gaige-Owen looks to the runner at first base before returning to the mound Saturday during the Indians' 5-4 victory over Kimberly in the SCIC championship game.



College of Southern Idaho player Cassi Merrill (10) celebrates her two-run homer against Salt Lake Community College in the first of two championship games Saturday in Salt Lake City. The Golden Eagles fell 11-4 in the first title tilt, but rebounded in a big way to win the second game 21-1 to earn a trip to the NCAA Division I World Series in Plant City, Fla.

Photo by MATT BECKMAN

## A Golden finish

### CSI takes Region 18 softball title in blowout

By Eric Larsen  
Staff writer

**SALT LAKE CITY** — A year ago, the College of Southern Idaho softball team hit the wall in the final game of the Region 18 Tournament. Saturday afternoon, the Golden Eagles ripped that wall off its foundation and hit fifth-ranked Salt Lake Community College with it, along with everything else they had.

The second-year CSI program secured its first trip to the NCAA Division I World Series with a 21-1 shellacking of the Bruins in the second of two championship games in Salt Lake City. Less than an hour after falling 11-4 to a Lindsey Palmer-led Bruins'

### Region 18 Tournament

At Salt Lake Community College  
Saturday's game  
Elimination Finals  
No. 5 Salt Lake CC 4,  
Southern Nevada 2  
Championship  
Game 1: No. 5 Salt Lake CC  
11, CSI 4  
Game 2: CSI 21, No. 5 Salt  
Lake CC 1.

team in the first title tilt; the Golden Eagles blew the doors off of the declining game in the first inning. Sophomore catcher Anna Sorrell pasted a two-strike pitch from Palmer to connect

on a line-drive grand slam to left that put CSI up 6-0. The blast didn't lift 20 feet over the Bruin Ball Field

but cleared the outfield fence, and sent Palmer out of the game.

"The first inning to get off on her (Palmer) like that and make her cry, that was the best part of the tournament for us," Sorrell said. "It was our whole goal. We knew we had to beat her."

With Palmer out of the game, the rout was on. CSI connected for 17 hits on Bruin relievers Kara Bend and Erica Park. Every Golden

Please see **CHAMPS**, Page D7

Spartans edge Tigers for GBW title

Wolverines move into championship game

By Zach Kyle
Staff writer
RUPERT — The Minico Spartans held on to beat the Jerome Tigers 7-5 Saturday to claim the Great Basin Conference West Tournament championship...



Jerome's Nathan Bobrowski dives back to first base as Minico's Bubba Christiansen attempts to make the catch during Saturday's Great Basin Conference West championship game.

By John Derr
Times-News writer
JEROME — With pitching like this, who needs offense? Wood River, which only had two conference wins during the regular season, matched that Saturday while being nearly perfect in the circle...

GBW Softball Tournament
At Jerome HS Saturday
Game 1: No. 4 Burley 9, No. 1 Jerome 5
Game 2: No. 3 Wood River 4, No. 2 Minico 1

GBW Baseball Tournament
Thursday
No. 1 Minico 13, No. 4 Wood River 3
No. 3 Jerome 13, No. 2 Burley 3
Saturday
Championship, Minico 7, Jerome 5
Wood River 5, Burley 2

Bobcats, who lost a loser-out game against Wood River 5-2. The Bobcats hit eight singles off of Wood River pitcher Pat Patterson but couldn't string any timely knocks together until the sixth inning...

Burley knocked off top-seeded Jerome 9-5 in the other early game, sending the host Tigers to an elimination game on Tuesday...

WOOD RIVER & BURLEY 1
Engleman says their season ended on the mound as the junior didn't allow a hit while scoring a pair of runs to lead the Wolverines to the championship game.

Those are the kind of games we're going to see at state, so it was good to get one in before we go up there, Broadhead said.
As they did in Thursday's win over Burley, the Tigers arrived ready to play, hitting three singles off Cody Wynmill...

season by scores of 15-4 and 11-2, but the Tigers won seven of their last eight games and are playing their best baseball of the season. Stauffer said the Tigers now know they can play with anybody.

GBW Baseball Tournament boxes
Minico 7, Jerome 5
Jerome 5, Burley 2
Wood River 5, Burley 2

BURLEY 9, JEROME 5
The two teams combined for 13 errors and 18 hits, but it was the Bobcats that made the most of them.

MINICO & JEROME 2
Alle Thain didn't want this to be her last game. The senior responded from the tough loss to the Wolves with a victory over the Tigers...

Jerome's lead didn't last. In the bottom of the inning, Minico pieced together four hits, including an RBI single from Bubba Christiansen...

WOOD RIVER 5, BURLEY 2
Minico brought the conference crown back to Mini-Cassia, but the tournament was less kind to the Burley

Nellie Makings was nearly perfect. That meant Kimberly's offense didn't need to be. The top-seeded Bulldogs had only three hits against Burley on Saturday...

WOOD RIVER 4, MINICO 1
Hannah Gove had a no-hit performance going through two outs in the seventh inning.

GBW Softball Tournament boxes
Wood River & Minico 1
Burley & Jerome 5
Jerome 5, Burley 2

CSI suffers shutouts vs. CSN

The College of Southern Nevada played like a team closing in on a conference title. The College of Southern Idaho baseball team did not.

Barrett threw well for us," said Walker. "There's not always positives when you play, but that's about as close to a positive as we had this week-end."

Makings, 'Dawgs reach SCIC final

Freshman Tanya Hill picked a good time for her first varsity hit, Making her varsity debut, Hill connected for a game-winning single in the bottom of the seventh...

It was "just fun and the defense played well behind me," said Gove. "We pitched the ball and had good at-bats."

GBW Softball Tournament boxes
Wood River & Minico 1
Burley & Jerome 5
Jerome 5, Burley 2

Southern Nevada (41-14, 30-10 SWAC) will host the NCAA Region III Baseball Tournament, beginning Wednesday in Henderson, Nev.

Game 1 Southern Nevada 7, CSI D
Southern Nevada 423 000 - 7 12 0
CSI 000 000 - 0 0 0

FILDER 4, DECLO 3
Cody Windsworth of Kimberly led the boys competition with a pair of wins and a seventh-place showing in calf roping.

WOOD RIVER 5, BURLEY 1
Burley lost the game to Minico on Saturday night in the elimination game.

Golden Eagles (30-26, 21-19) mustered only one run in four innings against the Coyotes and never crossed the plate on Saturday.

Game 2 Southern Nevada 6, CSI D
Southern Nevada 300 000 - 5 4 0
CSI 000 000 - 0 0 0

BURLEY — District VI rodeo moved into Burley on Friday night and the cowgirls came out roping fast in breakaway as five ladies turned in times of four seconds or less in the event.

two in saddle bronc with Tubbs earning 73 points to beat the 67 by Manning. Tyler Wadsworth moved up the win in calf roping at 11.23 seconds.

Friday results from Burley
Buckeye: 11.23
Manning: 11.33
Manning: 11.43

Wilson wins District V bareback

SITUATION — Kash Wilson of Gooding won his fourth bareback riding event with a 64-point ride Friday night at stop No. 5 in Shoshone on Friday night.

Friday results from Shoshone
Barnhart: 1.00
Wilson: 1.05

HIGH SCHOOL RODEO District VI cowgirls shine in breakaway

BURLEY — District VI rodeo moved into Burley on Friday night and the cowgirls came out roping fast in breakaway as five ladies turned in times of four seconds or less in the event.

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Friday results from Burley
Buckeye: 11.23
Manning: 11.33
Manning: 11.43

Wilson won his fourth bareback riding event with a 64-point ride Friday night at stop No. 5 in Shoshone on Friday night. The girls all-around leader, Chyannea Robinson of Gooding appears back on the winning track as second in breakaway, barrel racing and pole bending.

Friday results from Shoshone
Barnhart: 1.00
Wilson: 1.05

Friday results from Burley
Buckeye: 11.23
Manning: 11.33
Manning: 11.43

SCOREBOARD

BASEBALL

Table with columns for teams (Seattle, Tampa Bay, Detroit, etc.) and statistics (R, H, E). Includes 'ALL SCORES' and 'TODAY'S SCHEDULE'.

Table with columns for teams (Chicago, Detroit, Tampa Bay, etc.) and statistics (R, H, E). Includes 'MILWAUKEE WHITE SOX' and 'TODAY'S SCHEDULE'.

Table with columns for teams (Detroit, Tampa Bay, Los Angeles, etc.) and statistics (R, H, E). Includes 'MILWAUKEE WHITE SOX' and 'TODAY'S SCHEDULE'.

Table with columns for teams (Tampa Bay, Detroit, Los Angeles, etc.) and statistics (R, H, E). Includes 'MILWAUKEE WHITE SOX' and 'TODAY'S SCHEDULE'.

Table with columns for teams (Detroit, Tampa Bay, Los Angeles, etc.) and statistics (R, H, E). Includes 'MILWAUKEE WHITE SOX' and 'TODAY'S SCHEDULE'.

GAME PLAN

TV SCHEDULE

Auto racing, ESPN2 - NBC, TGC - ESPN, TGC - ESPN, TGC - ESPN.

NHL Hockey

Table with columns for teams (Detroit, Tampa Bay, Los Angeles, etc.) and statistics (R, H, E).

NBA Scores

Table with columns for teams (Detroit, Tampa Bay, Los Angeles, etc.) and statistics (R, H, E).

NFL Scores

Table with columns for teams (Detroit, Tampa Bay, Los Angeles, etc.) and statistics (R, H, E).

Table with columns for teams (Detroit, Tampa Bay, Los Angeles, etc.) and statistics (R, H, E).

BASEBALL

Table with columns for teams (Detroit, Tampa Bay, Los Angeles, etc.) and statistics (R, H, E).

BASKETBALL

Table with columns for teams (Detroit, Tampa Bay, Los Angeles, etc.) and statistics (R, H, E).

HOCKEY

Table with columns for teams (Detroit, Tampa Bay, Los Angeles, etc.) and statistics (R, H, E).

SOFTBALL

Table with columns for teams (Detroit, Tampa Bay, Los Angeles, etc.) and statistics (R, H, E).

Table with columns for teams (Detroit, Tampa Bay, Los Angeles, etc.) and statistics (R, H, E).

Champions Tour FedEx Cup

Table with columns for teams (Detroit, Tampa Bay, Los Angeles, etc.) and statistics (R, H, E).

PGA WACHOIA Championship

Table with columns for teams (Detroit, Tampa Bay, Los Angeles, etc.) and statistics (R, H, E).

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PGA WACHOIA Championship

Table with columns for teams (Detroit, Tampa Bay, Los Angeles, etc.) and statistics (R, H, E).

De La Hoya wins easy decision over Forbes to kick off tour

CARSON, Calif. Oscar De La Hoya showed he could still beat to shreds off ringside in his main kickboxing championship.

knock out an opponent who had never been stopped in 38 previous fights, like he had vowed to do before the bout.

Sports Shorts

NOTE: Send Magic Valley briefs to sports@magvalley.com. Due to gymnasium floor resurfacing at CSI, space will be limited to the first 60 applicants to camp.

Gooding benefit dinner planned

GOODING — Gooding High School will hold a benefit dinner at 5:30 p.m., Monday, May 5. The cost is \$5 per person or \$20 per family (up to five people).

NHL

Upshall's goal lifts Flyers

MONTREAL — Scott Upshall scored with 3:04 remaining in the third period with the Philadelphia Flyers advanced to the Eastern Conference final with a 6-4 win over the Montreal Canadiens on Saturday night.

MAGIC VALLEY

CSI volleyball takes camp sign-ups

TWIN FALLS — The College of Southern Idaho volleyball program is currently accepting registrations for its summer camps. Three individual camps and one team camp will be offered from June 30 to July 12.

Kimberly Boosters to meet Monday

KIMBERLY — The Kimberly Boosters will hold a meeting at 7 p.m., Monday, May 5, in the Kimberly High School media center.

Jerome tennis drops matches

The Jerome High School tennis team fell 10-2 to Pocatello and 7-5 to Century in a pair of road matchups on Saturday.









WINDY AFTERNOON CASE

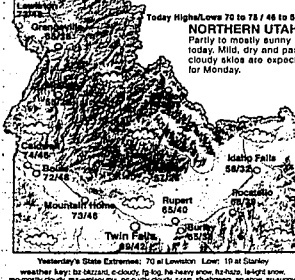
Today: Partly cloudy, dry and seasonably warm. Highs in the upper 60s. Tonight: Fair to partly cloudy and not too cool. Lows in the lower 40s. Tomorrow: A mix of clouds and sunshine. Highs around 70.

DRIVE THROUGH DROPCAST

Today: Partly cloudy, dry and seasonably warm. Highs in the middle 60s. Tonight: Fair to partly cloudy and not too cool. Lows around 40. Tomorrow: A mix of clouds and sunshine. Highs around 70.

ROAD'S FORECAST

SUN VALLEY, SURROUNDING MTS. Variably cloudy today with a slight chance for rain or snow showers. Partly cloudy and a bit warmer on Monday. More light shower activity is possible on Tuesday. Today Highs 45 to 50 Tonight's Lows 21 to 28 BOISE Partly cloudy today and Monday. Temperatures will be seasonably warm.



REGG MIDDLEKAUFF'S QUOTE OF THE DAY... You can paint someone's picture in your mind, you hide an inner process... and you are presented in response to an image of it... Every person who explores must have the promise of a better life.

WINDY AFTERNOON CASE

Weather forecast table for Tulsa, Okla. showing conditions for Today, Tonight, Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday. Includes icons for clouds, sun, and rain, and temperature ranges.

ALMA MATER... I WILL BE THERE

Table showing temperature, precipitation, humidity, barometric pressure, sunrise and sunset, and pollen count for Tulsa, Okla.

Table showing moonrise and moonset times for Tulsa, Okla.

REGIONAL FORECAST

Regional forecast table listing weather conditions for various cities including Dallas, Houston, Chicago, and New York.

CANADIAN FORECAST

Canadian forecast table listing weather conditions for various Canadian cities like Toronto, Montreal, and Vancouver.



NCAA's career rushing leader hopes to make impact with Jets

HIMPSTAD, N.Y. (AP) — Danny Woodhead took the football, cut quickly to his left and then disappeared... The NCAA's career rushing leader was still somewhere on the New York Jets' practice field, but it was difficult to pick out his small frame among all the big backs...

Woodhead is already something of a celebrity in the Jets' locker room, despite his humble, aw-shucks demeanor. The native of North Platte, Neb., was one of the NFL draft's most intriguing stories last weekend, when ESPN sent a camera crew to his home to chronicle the whole experience. After going undrafted, the camera caught Woodhead on the phone. The Jets were on the other end, telling him they wanted to sign him to a free-agent contract.

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Advertisement for Samsung Hue mobile phones, featuring images of the phones and the text 'Add Family Lines starting at \$9.99/mo' and 'BUY ONE GET ONE FREE'.

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EDUCATION

Filer School District is accepting applications for the following position for 2008-2009 school year.

EDUCATION

Filer Middle School Applicants may hold a 6B or secondary certification. The salary is according to the negotiated salary schedule.

EDUCATION

Filer School District is taking applications for (2) Special Education Teachers for the 2008-2009 school year.

EDUCATION

Mathematics Instructor, Hanson School Dist. 415 Contact: Burt Hurnsh, 560 S Main Hansen, ID 83334

EDUCATION

Full-time 2nd Grade Teaching position for the 2008-09 school year. Position is open until filled.

EDUCATION

St. Edwards Catholic School is currently seeking a Full-time 4th Grade Teacher position for the 2008-09 school year.

ELEVATOR SPECIALIST



Molson Coors Brewing Company, the 5th largest brewing company in the United States, Canada, and the United Kingdom, is looking for an Elevator Specialist to join our elevator team in Burley, Idaho

In this position you will be assisting in the shop and receiving orders, as well as, the repair and maintenance of the elevator. The qualified individual will be required to work in adverse conditions. Also some shift work might be required during harvest.

To apply for this position, please go to coorsjobs.com. Please apply for the specific requisition number 08-1146.

Coors Brewing Company is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

EDUCATION

Executive VP/ Chief Academic Officer position requires doctorate, five years experience. Apply online to www.csu.edu/jobs

EDUCATION

Filer School District is accepting applications for Speech/Language Pathology Asst. for the 2008-2009 school year.

EDUCATION

Filer School District is accepting applications for Special Education Teachers. Apply at 700 B Stevens Ave.

EDUCATION

Kimberly Middle School is looking for a Math Teacher for the following subjects utilizing a block schedule.

EDUCATION

Kimberly Middle School is looking for a Math Teacher for the following subjects utilizing a block schedule.

EDUCATION

Mathematics Instructor, Hanson School Dist. 415 Contact: Burt Hurnsh, 560 S Main Hansen, ID 83334

EDUCATION

Full-time 2nd Grade Teaching position for the 2008-09 school year. Position is open until filled.

EDUCATION

St. Edwards Catholic School is currently seeking a Full-time 4th Grade Teacher position for the 2008-09 school year.

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GENERAL

Seastrom - Seastrom Mfg. has an opening for a Maintenance Technician. Requires above avg. mechanical ability.

GENERAL

Jerome County Airport is seeking a Part-time person to perform maintenance and gas attend work.

PRODUCTION



High Desert Milk is seeking experienced individuals for a New Milk Drying Plant in Burley, Idaho. Quality Control Technician. Dairy microbiological testing experience.

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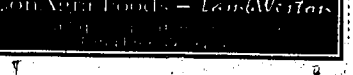
Ability to install, maintain, and trouble shoot lighting and power systems; electronic equipment, conduit and wire, control systems, and instrumentation.

Waste Water Treatment Operator

Working knowledge of industrial pre-treatment facility and/or operational knowledge of the food processing industry. Ability to operate/maintain industrial equipment.

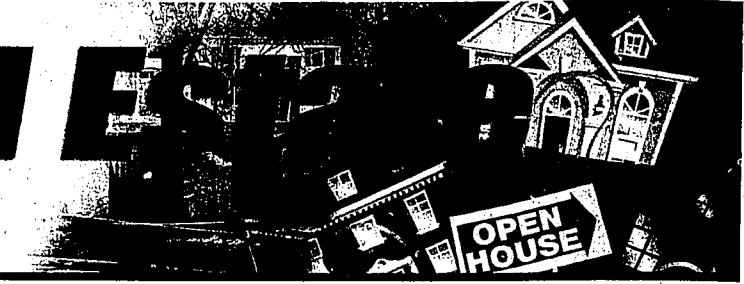
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502 Homes For Sale TWIN FALLS Vntage home on a tree shaded street, 2 b bath home, 2295 sq. ft., gas heat, central air...

502 Homes For Sale TWIN FALLS Sale or lease option, 2 1/2 acre property. Beautiful 3 bedroom, 2 bath with detached shop and addition, 2 bedrooms, \$225,000.

501 Open House ROCK CREEK CANYON Saturday 10am-6pm Sunday 10am-5pm 2492 Rock Creek Rd. 4+ bdrm, 3 bath, great formal, stable/corals, RV garage, 10 acres, \$463,000

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501 Open House TWIN FALLS Must see New in 2006, beautiful 3 bedroom, 2 custom bath home, in new townhome subdivision. Established lawn, vinyl deck, 2 car garage, great floor plan. Save big! No roofler fees.

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501 Open House JEROME Good acreage? Bad credit? No credit? No problem! Large acreage option to buy. Affordable, spacious, beautiful. Never lived in brand new, 3 bdrm, 2 1/2 bath, plus large bonus room. 2,556 sq. ft., master bedroom walk-in closet, open living area wrap/ceiling and ceiling fan. Light & bright kitchen with attached bar area & appliances included except refrigerator, 2 tone interior, attached garage w/auto door opener, and keyless entry.

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501 Open House TWIN FALLS NEW ON THE MARKET 5 bdrm 3 bath, 2-story, 2459 sq. ft. In premium NE neighborhood near shopping & schools. Office upstairs family room, 3 car garage, big backyard, \$299,000.

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501 Open House JEROME 208-316-3921 Canyonside Realty FILER 2 bedroom, 2 bath home, gas heat, wood stove, fenced yard, arid, 2 car garage on large lot, \$129,900.

501 Open House TWIN FALLS Well Maintained 3 bdrm, 2 bath home built 2005, one level, 1710 sq. ft., Open floor plan, big garage with workshop, room for RV parking, \$243,000.

501 Open House TWIN FALLS Vntage home on a tree shaded street, 2 b bath home, 2295 sq. ft., gas heat, central air, new or roof and garage on corner lot, \$121,000.

501 Open House BURLEY (Northwest) of town, 5 acres for sale. Highest quality location, excellent view. Some restorations, horses & cattle ok.

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LIVING ESTATE AUCTION Saturday, May 10th - 11 AM 67 W 100 N - Rupert, ID HOUSEHOLD FURNISHINGS Bedroom Set - queen bed w/box springs & mattress, 7-drawer dresser w/mirror - Bedroom Set - double bed w/box springs & mattress, 5-drawer chest, 6-drawer dresser w/mirror & nightstand, oak finish - Bedroom Set - double bed w/box springs & mattress, 4-drawer chest, 3-drawer dresser w/mirror & 2 nightstands - 2 Drawers - oak finish - Double Dresser Desk - oak finish - Small China/China w/ glass doors - (2) Lano Recliners - tan - Occasional chair - mauve - Round Mirror Dinette Table w/4 chairs - Lighted Bookend - 2 Drawers - Glass Storage Cabinet - White Shell Unit - (2) Folding Tables - 5-Drawer Chest - Kolman's Chest Freezer - Sharp Carousel Microwave w/stand - Bread Maker - Assorted cookware, pots & pans, pyrex & etc. - Assorted glassware, stoneware, cups & saucers, & dishes - Plus other items!

BURLEY New brick home, 3,774 sq. ft., 5 bedroom, 3 bath, on 1.88 acres, granite, knotty birch, white oak hardwood floors, jetted tub, theater room, natural gas, central vacuum, new well, land level paved pasture, 20'x35' shop RV, 16'x24' insulated storage shed, \$549,900.

601 Classified Department Classified Sales Representatives available from 9:00 am-5:30 pm Monday-Friday Call our office in Twin Falls 733-0931 ext. 2

Very Nice All Brick Home Situated On 2 Large Lots On The Edge Of Rupert, Idaho OPEN HOUSE FOR PREVIEW Tues., May 6th & Thurs., May 8th - 5:00 to 7:00 PM Opening Bid of Only \$50,000 !! This country ranch has 2507 square foot all on one level. Includes 4 bedrooms and 2 1/2 baths, living room, dining room, family room, kitchen and utility room. Split bedroom plan would make total in-law suite or large in-home office. The home is heated with radiant electric in the ceilings. There is a large detached double garage with a separate shop area. The home is on its own well and septic system. Also, the roof has been recently replaced. The two lots comprise of .8 acres. This is a fantastic family home located in a very desirable and established neighborhood. Call for complete terms & conditions.

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501 Open House TWIN FALLS Vntage home on a tree shaded street, 2 b bath home, 2295 sq. ft., gas heat, central air, new or roof and garage on corner lot, \$121,000.

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Sunday Crossword

Edited by Wayne Robert Williams

NOT... By Ed Voile, Gillette, Wyoming

15x15 crossword puzzle grid with numbers in starting squares.

- ACROSS: 1. Once a year... 59. Bawled Marie... 123. Became fixed... 51. Some fruits... 80. Congressional...

Grid of 100 numbered vehicle advertisements for various models like Ford, GM, Chevrolet, and Dodge, including prices and features.

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## Mamas meeting up

### Local mothers use Internet for play dates and advice

By Melissa Davlin  
Staff writer

When Sharon Abbott moved to south-central Idaho in 1999, she was a stranger.

"I knew nobody here," Abbott said. "I had no family. Nobody."

The Kimberly mother kept that feeling of isolation in mind when she started her new Web site, [cityofmoms.com](http://cityofmoms.com), earlier this year. She hopes the site will become a one-stop source for mothers looking for advice and friendship.

"I noticed that there was not a lot for local moms and not a lot of references just all about mothers — single, married, divorced, older, grandmothers," she said.

Abbott's Web site is one of many online resources used by southern Idaho mothers to network, find activities or ask for advice. Some sites, like Abbott's, are local. Others, like [cafemom.com](http://cafemom.com), are national with local groups within the site.

Had she found the same resources when she first moved here, Abbott said, she would have had an easier time making friends.

"The Internet has grown so much," she said. "And a lot of people go on the Internet just to research what can I do, who can I hang out with."



Shaunna Coit holds her 1-year-old son, Thomas, on Wednesday morning at the Episcopal church in Twin Falls while Chelsea Reichel, left, looks on. Coit, who's new to the area, has been attending MOMS Club events for the past two months.

"When you've given advice that kind of clicks and it's like an epiphany to somebody, and they're like, whoa. I love the wow moments. I don't know how else to explain it."

— Nancy Horn, who regularly reads [Mamasource.com](http://Mamasource.com)

#### Inside

A list of online sites where you can get connected.

See page F3

The same philosophy worked for mothers of the MOMS Club of Twin Falls and Jerome. The local branch of the national Moms Offering Moms Support club, started by former member Abbott in 1999, has seen its membership double since it went online in November, said membership director Becky Wildman of Twin Falls.

"Probably one of the reasons it took off is because of the Internet. I imagine," said president Mary Ordway of Twin Falls.

The site is a tool that Wildman could have used when her first child was born four years ago. She had heard about the

club but wasn't sure how to get in touch.

"By the time I was ready to join, I couldn't find it," she said.

Now that they're online, Ordway said, MOMS Club members can connect with each other quickly to organize meetings.

Please see MOMS, Page F3



Becky Wildman of Twin Falls hugs her daughter Skylar, 4, while her daughter Ariel, 2, plays in the foreground at the Wednesday gathering of mothers.

## OH BABY, BABY, BABY

### It's time: Twin Falls family ready for triplets' arrival

By Melissa Davlin  
Staff writer

The last few months have been a waiting game for Marcus and Crystal Olson.

When they found out in February that Crystal was expecting triplets, they knew they had to wait up to 15 more weeks to see their babies. When Crystal was admitted to St. Luke's Boise Medical Center, she knew she'd have to wait until the girls were born to come home to Twin Falls. Every day, Crystal's children, Emily and Ethan, know they have to wait until their weekly Wednesday trip to Boise to see their mother.

Finally that wait is almost up for the Olsons. As of Wednesday, Crystal was

#### Following the family

Times-News reporter Melissa Davlin and photographer Ashley Smith are following the Olson family of Twin Falls through the birth of the triplets and the first few months of the girls' lives. Watch for upcoming stories on Sundays in Family Life.

#### The baby blog

check in on the Olsons at [magicaltravels.com/blog/familylife](http://magicaltravels.com/blog/familylife). Read about the parents' experience in their own words, and post messages and questions for them.

scheduled on Thursday night to stop taking the medicine that would stop her from going into labor. The babies — naturally conceived identical triplet girls — were

expected to be born this weekend.

It's not a moment too soon for Crystal, who has suffered nearly sleepless nights lately because of the discomfort, contractions and anxiety.

"She's just miserable, unable to get comfortable," Marcus said. "She only gets, like, a couple hours of sleep a day. Everything is kind of piling on top of each other, keeping her awake now."

Marcus isn't faring much better.

"I sleep well at night when I actually get to go to sleep,

but between doing all the household stuff, taking care of kids and talking to Crystal on the phone in the evening time ..."

He trilled off, then added: "We're getting there."

While he waited for the weekend, he kept his mind occupied with his parenting duties for Emily, 5, and Ethan, 6, while preparing the house for the girls, Madalynn, Makenzie and Meiya. He rearranged the room and constructed a diaper pail.

And he can't wait for



Crystal Olson of Twin Falls is helped off her Boise hospital bed by her husband, Marcus Olson, in early April. The couple expected their triplets to be born this weekend.

Crystal to get home.

"I have a whole slow appreciation for single parents," he said.

Melissa Davlin may be reached at 208-735-3234 or [melissa.davlin@lee.net](mailto:melissa.davlin@lee.net).



# A class for the budget bride

Staff report

Do you have what it takes to plan the wedding of your dreams on a budget? The Twin Falls Parks and Recreation Department says it has a class to help brides

lay out the perfect wedding outline. Danielle Worlton will provide hints and tips that will help keep the cost down and make the wedding picturesque. Class will be held from 10

a.m. to noon and 1:30 to 3 p.m. Saturday in the Parks and Recreation conference rooms, 136 Maxwell Ave. Cost is \$25 per person. Register as soon as possible: 735-2265, or stop by the office.

# Moms

Continued from page F1

play dates and other activities. Last week, they reached a picnic at the last minute because of uncooperative weather.

Before the switch to online coordination, "we'd be on the phone all day calling everybody to make those changes," Ordway said.

The mommy sites are also good sources of information. Jerome mom Nancy Horn regularly reads Mamasource.com for advice and support. The site brings mothers together from across the nation to exchange tidbits on everything from potty training and temper tantrums to birth control. Now that her sons are older, she can give advice that helps younger moms going through the same thing she did years ago.

"When you're given advice that kind of clicks and it's like an epiphany to somebody, and they're like, 'whoa,'" Horn said. "I love the wow moments. I don't know how else to explain it."

Shoshone mother Melissa Brown agreed, saying she reads Mamasource for advice.

"It's nice to feel like you can just vent," Brown said.

MOMS Club member and stay-at-home Jerome mom Destiny Nielson feels the same way about socializing with mothers during play dates.

an outlet for moms to be able to be adults," Nielson said as she watched her only child, 2-year-old daughter Natalie, play with other children at a recent play group. The outings benefit Natalie as much as they do Nielson. "It's great to see her interact



Sharon Abbott of Mamberly, creator of a local Web site for moms, city-moms.com, says her site provides resources for moms to network with each other.

with other kids, because we don't get that at home."

As the tots played Wednesday morning in a Twin Falls church nursery, the mothers took advantage of their kids being distracted and dished on pregnancy frustrations, crafts and swimming lessons. They met for only half an hour, but it was enough of a break to help the ladies maintain their sanity. Even if the networking

techniques are high-tech, the driving force is familiar to mothers from all generations: the need for support and companionship.

"I just thank God every day that I have been included in this club and been able to make friends like that," Ordway said.

Melissa Davlin may be reached at 208-735-3234 or melissa.davlin@ec.net.

# Teen not ready to propose to girlfriend seeking promise

DEAR ABBY: For the last three years I have been dating this girl, "Annie," whom I love very much. We're both 18, and I am starting college in the fall and plan to go into the military.

My problem is that Annie is already talking about marriage and kids. I am now hearing from some of her friends that she's disappointed I haven't given her a promise ring yet. I'm not against giving her one, but I'm not sure I'm mentally prepared for the next step.

I don't want Annie to think I don't care for her, because I do. She is perfect. I just need some advice from someone outside the family. What do you think I should do?

— UNDECIDED

DEAR UNDECIDED: Lay your cards on the table with Annie. Tell her that, although you think she is "perfect," you're not ready to propose — or even promise that you will. You are about to enter college, but you did not mention what her plans are.

Allow me to offer more advice. You and Annie have been involved since your sophomore year of high school. You would both be better served to continue your education, date others for a while, and grow as individuals before making any lifetime commitments.

DEAR ABBY: I have gone to a family-owned hair salon for more than 10 years. I love



DEAR ABBY  
Jeanne Phillips

my stylist, "Suzie," and the other employees. The salon has a comfortable and welcoming atmosphere. However, I think that Suzie, who is one of the owners, has become "too" comfortable.

She's constantly on the phone during my appointments. I wouldn't mind if Suzie picked up the phone when the receptionist was busy, but most of the calls are from family members involved in some sort of drama or crisis. During a single appointment there are several multiple calls, some extremely long.

It seems like styling has become Suzie's "side" job, which is interfering with her "emergency" counseling practice. I feel I'm paying a lot of money for very little attention. Is this how salons are run today? Am I wrong to expect her undivided attention? How can I express my dissatisfaction without ruining our relationship?

— MIFFED IN MINNEAPOLIS

DEAR MIFFED: Hairdressing is a business, and the behavior you have described is unprofessional.

Hairdressing involves far more than twisting and trimming tresses. It also involves concentration, and you are being shortchanged in that department.

You do not have to be rude in asserting yourself, just firm. Tell Suzie that you expect more of her attention than she has been devoting to you, or nothing will change. You'll actually be doing her a favor. Her inattention to her business could lose her clients in droves, because I'm sure you're not the only person she's treating this way.

DEAR ABBY: My husband and I will celebrate our 50th wedding anniversary soon. We do not want a party or gifts. However, I would like to send out an announcement with a recent family photo commemorating the occasion. In other words, I'd like to share my entire family with friends who haven't seen my grandchildren. Is this proper?

— MR. AND MRS. P. IN WASHINGTON STATE

DEAR MR. AND MRS. P.: To send an announcement and photo before the event could seem like a solicitation.

However, if you do it after your anniversary — with a short note explaining that you thought they might enjoy seeing all three generations — I see nothing improper about it.

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**Get connected**

**CafeMom** — One of the most popular online sites, CafeMom connects moms from across the nation. Make a profile, add pictures of your dear children, and join groups to network with like-minded ladies. (The lobby participated)

**Magic Valley Mama's** group has almost 100 members; many are looking to start play dates or meet with other ladies just to chat. [www.cafemom.com](http://www.cafemom.com)

**City of Moms** — A startup site run by Kimberly mom Sharon Abbott. The site fills in the infancy, the growing to toddler, and the preschooler activities, articles and links. Members sign out for message boards, coming soon to moms.com

**Mamasource** — A site for moms to get advice from other moms. [www.mamasource.com](http://www.mamasource.com)

**MeetUp** — A tool to organize meetings with local people who have the same interests. A stay-at-home mom group is just getting started for Magic Valley mothers. It's free to join if someone else has already started a group, but it does cost a monthly subscription fee to organize a meeting. [www.meetup.com](http://www.meetup.com)

**MOMS Club of Twin Falls and Jerome** — An active local branch of the national organization. Members meet for play dates, moms' nights out and other activities and often get together at least twice a week. Membership dues are \$25 annually. Information: Betsy Wildman at [msclubtd@msn.com](mailto:msclubtd@msn.com). [www.geocities.com/momscub.tw/falls/home.html](http://www.geocities.com/momscub.tw/falls/home.html)

**Fireplaces can make a home hazard for kids**

The Washington Post

Children burn themselves by falling toward gas flames or stepping themselves against hot glass for balance, pediatricians warn. Some are simply curious and because toddlers learn by touching, they may explore hot glass which can cause a burn. Parents should consider erecting barriers to keep children at a safe distance or use the fireplace only after children under 5 are in bed. University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center suggest.

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# Adult day care can give caregivers a break, as well as helping aging spouses, parents

By Melissa Kossler Dutton  
For The Associated Press

When Dick Lundgren realized that caring for his wife was taking a toll on his own health, he turned to adult day care.

Lundgren, who lives south of Seattle, found a program that catered to patients with Alzheimer's and made arrangements for his wife, Dorothee, to go there two days a week.

The break was good for both of them, said Lundgren, whose wife was diagnosed with the progressive brain disease seven years ago. He recently placed her in a group home that provides round-the-clock care to six residents.

"I firmly believe, looking back, that (day care) gave me a chance to keep my wife home a year longer," the 61-year-old said.

Finding the right adult day care center can offer respite to caregivers while offering their charges a chance to socialize and take part in supervised activities. Facilities vary from those that focus on medical care to those that are mostly recreational, offering games, gardening or crafts.

There are about 3,500 providers across the country, according to industry experts, who say the number grows annually. In recent years, churches, nursing homes and national franchises have opened day care centers.

Medicaid or private insurance occasionally will pay for the care, which can range in price from \$31 a day to \$130 a day. The average cost is about \$61 a day, according to the American Association of Adult Day Care Services.

Many facilities offer a sliding scale based on income.

Deciding what works best for your family requires doing some homework, said Ellnor

Ginzler of the AARP, the senior advocacy group.

• First, decide whether the older person needs a health-based program staffed with medical professionals. Even a more recreational center should have a nurse or doctor on staff. Patients with Alzheimer's, Parkinson's or other chronic health conditions probably require a center that focuses on care.

• The AARP or local Area Agency on Aging should have a list of providers. Only about 6 percent of adult day-care centers are accredited, but most are inspected by state agencies, said Peter Niostrafano of the American Association of Homes and Services for the Aging.

Practices and policies vary by state, but the inspection records should be available for review, Ginzler said.

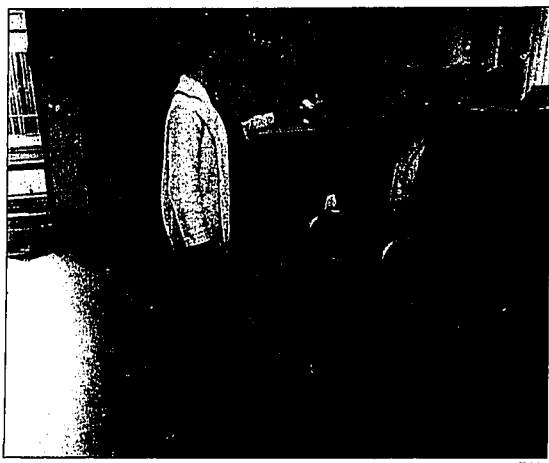
• Visit the facility to meet the staff and ask about its training policies, experts advise. Watch the interactions between staff and clients, the quality of the programs, and the cleanliness, eating areas and bathrooms.

"See how engaged people are," said Donna Schempp, a program director at the Family Caregiver Alliance in San Francisco. "Are they sitting around in wheelchairs and being ignored, or are people trying to engage them in different kinds of activities?"

The workers should seem interested in their elderly charges and treat them kindly, said Lundgren, a board member of Washington Elder Care, a group working to create a local day health program geared to dementia patients.

"It's always the people and their attitude and their commitment to their work," he said.

• Ask to see a schedule of activities. If possible, come back for an unscheduled visit



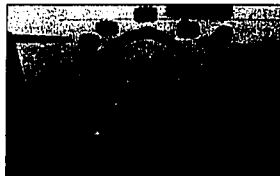
Social worker Jenny Hammer, left, greets Lorraine Aho, right, as Aho arrives at an ElderHealth Northwest adult day care center March 20 in Seattle for a day of meals, exercise and other social programs. Finding the right adult day care can offer respite to caregivers while providing their loved ones a chance to socialize and take part in safe, supervised recreation.

during an activity you loved one might enjoy, and see how it's run.

Mealtime also is a good time to visit and see how workers treat clients, said Niostrafano.

• Look for a center that satisfies the caregiver's needs as well as the loved one. Most centers serve lunch, but many provide other services, including transportation or medical screenings. Some may offer bathing services and transportation to doctor's appointments.

• Find out whether the center takes field trips, uses volunteers or invites in children for special programs, said Ginzler.



Jananita Simon, a program assistant at ElderHealth Northwest, leads an exercise class with hand weights March 20 in Seattle.

"Adult day centers should encourage and promote opportunities to engage in the world around them," she said. "That should include bringing the world in and going out into the world."

• Find out whether the staff will help participants use the

restroom, and how they handle episodes of incontinence, suggested Nora Gibson, executive director of ElderHealth Northwest, in Seattle.

"Many older adults need assistance or reminders to go to the bathroom," she said. "You don't want anyone to

## What to ask

Questions to ask before choosing an adult day care:

1. How much does the program cost? Is there a sliding scale? Is there grant money available? Are veterans eligible for any funding?
2. Is transportation provided? How long will my loved one be on the bus?
3. How long does the average employee stay on the job? (High staff turnover can signal problems with the program.)
4. May I contact a current client? (If so, then ask that person for a list of the facility's pros and cons, whether they would recommend it to a friend, and if they've seen changes in their loved one since they started attending.)
5. Do you have any strategies to help me introduce the idea of day care to my loved one?
6. What is your staff-to-client ratio? (The national average is 1 to 7.)
7. Do you manage clients' medication while they are here?
8. What kind of food do you serve? Can you accommodate special dietary restrictions?

have the humiliation of going home in wet pants or a wet dress."

• Find out what type of training the center requires for employees and whether it provides ongoing training. Centers should continue to train staff for the duration of their employment, Ginzler said.

• Many centers will help families introduce the idea of day care to their loved ones. Directors often suggest stressing the opportunities for socialization and organized activities. Many will invite the potential participant in for a meal or activity. Others encourage seniors to try out the facility for a week or two.

## Old-boyfriends rule: Don't go there

When you get married, you shouldn't talk to old boyfriends. That's just a rule I came up with. Even if the old boyfriend represents nothing beyond innocent friendship, any chance of hurting the husband isn't worth it. Even if you have a reasonably secure husband who does not tend toward jealousy, stepping into old love stories is entering dangerous terrain that will do nothing, absolutely nothing, to strengthen your marriage. So, done there.

Years ago, the Russian called. Of all the old boyfriends, he might have represented the most dangerous territory. He was: high drama. We met in Moscow while we were in teaching there. He was bilingual, and I was not, so everything I learned about the collapsing Soviet Union was filtered through him. We got into the middle of a riot once — people in Sverdlovsk standing over vodka — and he grabbed me tight and dragged me behind a warehouse door, where we breathed the exhausted, exhilarating air of escaped prisoners.

He was recently divorced, sad. I was unattached and free and used to falling in love in foreign countries. It's what I did. It took years of melodramatic heartache to finally recognize the pattern: Foreign land plus man with thick accent with whom I had absolutely nothing in common — really, the less the better — equaled new love story set in a mysterious geography, where romantic adventures belonged. There's tears, tragic goodbye airport, flurry of scratchy long-distance midnight calls, heartache of the highest order. He lives on the other side of the world!!!

It wasn't all that crazy. Plenty of people in their 20s are thrill-seekers. Anyone with a fear of commitment but a tremendous need for love will find a way to exer-

**PERSONAL FILE**  
Jeanne Marie Laskas

cise the heart while keeping it closed. No one gets in, not for long, not if there are whole oceans to isolate you. But with the Russian, it wasn't so simple. He ended up coming over here. I ended up going back there. Back and forth, all those airports, all those tears — and then his ex-wife re-entered the picture, and he remarried her.

Back then, the man who would eventually become my husband was my best friend. So he knew about the Russian and all my emotional hiding tricks. He would shake his head and try to help. What I didn't know, of course, was that he was waiting for a long time, just waiting for me to grow up.

Who knows how it happens? You're lucky enough to have someone like that waiting. Lucky enough not to get yourself killed while getting adventures out of your system, which you never really do. Real love, the kind a husband has to offer, becomes the new adventure, infinitely richer.

So when the Russian called, years ago, I was newly married. He called to say a business trip was bringing him to town. I'm sure he meant it when he said our visit would just be as old friends. But what if he gave me a look? The risk felt foolish and uninteresting. If there was a chance, even a slim one, of hurting the husband, I had to say no. So, that's what I did.

"You know, I never forgot you," the Russian said. I could have truthfully said the same. But I didn't. Was that cruel?

His most recent attempt to reconnect was in an e-mail.

Or maybe it was a voice mail. It was 2005. I remember because I was with the mother of two. He wanted to know how I was doing, said he really wanted to talk. I should have explained: Look, when you get married, you shouldn't talk to old boyfriends. That's just a rule I came up with. But I didn't. I responded with silence. I was a wife and a mother, and that was the right thing to do.

Yesterday, I got to thinking about him. Yesterday, I got to missing him in a general, sort of funny way. I had just returned from a foreign country, where I didn't fall in love, and I was noticing how far removed I am from that old pattern.

Hey, I am cured! I can cross the 50-year boundary without falling in love with a stranger! Somehow, I was ready to exhale. Ready to reconnect with a person I genuinely once loved, if only to smile at innocence and the earnestness of youth.

So, this morning I Googled his name. And the first thing that came up was an obituary. And even as I read it and everything added up, I swore it wasn't him, swore it was just coincidence. As I kept reading, I felt bullets small fierce explosions, in my stomach. I scanned, hoping the cause was a car accident or any crazy, short burst of violence that hit him before he knew it. But no, he battled cancer, died in 2006, some months after the call I never answered.

He is survived by his wife and two children, and all I can do is sit here in blank, brutal regret. Drowning in remorse over all I never said. When the husband gets home, I'll tell him. He'll probably say he's sorry that he didn't know I had that stupid rule about old boyfriends, because he would have tried to talk me out of it.

Jeanne Marie Laskas writes her column for The Washington Post.

# Thank You!

Edward Jones

Jerome School District

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Applebee's Restaurant</li> <li>Jensen Jeweler's</li> <li>Oasis Stop N' Go</li> <li>Sportsman's Warehouse</li> <li>Crowley's Soda Fountain</li> <li>Babbels Cleaners</li> <li>Prasai's Thai Cuisine</li> <li>Outback Steakhouse</li> <li>Everybody's Business</li> <li>Golden Corral Buffet &amp; Grill</li> <li>Rudy's</li> <li>Depot Grill</li> <li>Kregel's True Value Hardware</li> <li>Idaho Pizza Company</li> <li>Maxie's Pizza &amp; Pasta</li> <li>Sizzler Restaurant</li> <li>Shari's Restaurant</li> <li>Subway</li> <li>Janizio Restaurant</li> <li>9 Beans &amp; A Burrito</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Charles Cutler MD PA</li> <li>Don's Irrigation</li> <li>Johnson Chiropractic</li> <li>Wood River Counseling Center</li> <li>Longview Fibre</li> <li>Franklin Building Supply</li> <li>Western Real Estate</li> </ul>
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# What's it like to be in space?

A former astronaut tells all

By Brenna Maloney  
The Washington Post

WASHINGTON — Were you afraid?

Don Thomas, a four-time space shuttle astronaut, gets asked that a lot. Also: What does liftoff feel like? What happens if you get sick in space? And: Seen any aliens? "I usually say that I (was) 25 percent scared out of my mind," admits Thomas. "It's like going on a roller coaster: You get on that thing and you are scared and excited."

Thomas answered those and other questions recently in an appearance at Towson University in Maryland. The former astronaut directs a program there that encourages kids to study math and science.

Thomas logged 44 days and more than 20 million miles in space on his four missions — three on the shuttle Columbia, one on Discovery — in the mid-1990s. Each mission required as much as two years of preparation, but Thomas, says that nothing quite prepares you for launch. It's the "toughest" phase, he says. "There's a lot of vibration. You're sitting on half a million gallons of highly explosive fuel. So many things can go wrong."

For the 53-year-old Thomas, the path to becoming an astronaut was clear but not easy. "I was in kindergarten when the first American went up: May 5, 1961, Alan Shepard on top of a Redstone rocket."

Thomas remembers kids watching the historic moment on a black-and-white TV in the school cafeteria. "That event had a huge impact on my life. I was 6 years old. I don't know anything, but I (know I) want to do that."

He adds, "Statistically speaking, I shouldn't have made it" as an astronaut. He grew up in a lower-middle-class, single-parent household, but "I had the drive" to succeed.

Thomas applied to be an



astronaut four times. How did he finally get chosen? "It's a bit of a mystery," he says with a laugh. "So how does it feel to be in space?"

About a third of astronauts experience space motion sickness. "Some of them are puking their guts out, and that may last a few days," Thomas says. On his first mission, his stomach was shaky the first day so he didn't eat much. The next day he felt fine.

Most astronauts adjust well, he says, and enjoy being weightless: "You can do somersaults and flip around. Almost every astronaut will put their sleeping bags on the ceiling and sleep up there, just so they can tell their friends back at home."

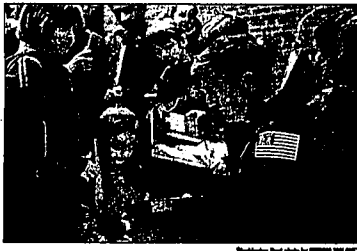
Missions last about two weeks, and astronauts are busy every waking moment, Thomas says. "You have so many demands on you, you're very focused."

So focused, in fact, that it's possible to miss the big picture: "One of my jobs on my first flight, after launch, was to get out of my seat and take pictures of the huge orange fuel tank as it falls away. So I get out of my seat, grab the camera and take pictures."

But Thomas says he didn't really see what he was look-



Don Thomas, a four-time space shuttle astronaut, directs a program at Towson University in Maryland that encourages kids to study math and science; he logged 44 days and more than 20 million miles in space on his four missions in the mid-1990s.



Former astronaut Don Thomas autographs shuttle books after his talk at Towson University in Maryland.

ing at until he put the camera down. "It's tank, tank, tank, wow! That's the Earth there! My God, how beautiful!"

The pull of Earth's gravity is a reminder that the mission is ending. "You start hitting the atmosphere at 1 1/2 times the force of gravity —

which doesn't sound like much, but when you are used to floating, you feel really heavy."

Oh, and about those aliens? "I've seen things that are really weird" in space, Thomas admits. But no aliens.



Astronaut Don Thomas corals printouts of messages from ground controllers on his next-to-last mission aboard the space shuttle Columbia in April 1997.

## Gamers, Guinness has a record book just for you

By Marylou Toussaint  
The Washington Post

If you own one of the 155 million Pokemon video games ever sold or if you love to burn off calories playing Dance Dance Revolution, Guinness World Records wants to add this new record to your at-home library.

"Gamer's Edition 2008" traces the history of video games, with bazillions of records set between 1972 and now.

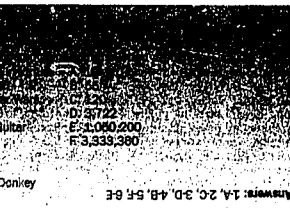
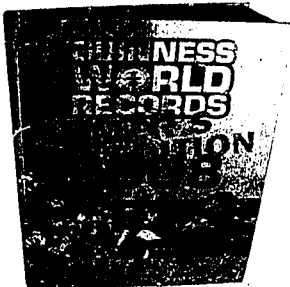
But you don't have to be a passive observer of what other players have accomplished. Apply for your own record: One of the first things you'll find in the book is information on how to get yourself included in the 2009 edition.

What's to like: As with all Guinness lists, this book is a series of "ests": the biggest, fastest, youngest, oldest, smallest, largest. Anything that can be listed is listed: the top 100 games, the highest scores, the best sellers — you name it, spread over 256 boldly illustrated pages.

There's a thorough recapping of the early days (ask Grandpa about "Pong"), which could be an excellent resource for a class report on video games. Check out the history of game hardware and the two-page reviews of dozens of classics such as Super Mario, Donkey Kong, Madden NFL and Guitar Hero. You'll also learn about games that were big hits in Japan but never caught on elsewhere.

Meet composer Tommy Tallarico, who has worked on the soundtracks of more than 275 games, and get tips from Victor De Leon III, the world's youngest professional game player (he turns 10 in May).

What's not to like: For one thing, there is so much information you can't possibly take it all in, even in several sittings. Unless you are a total gamer, your brain might begin to frazzle after 10 minutes. Also, parents with younger children might not approve of the space (and artwork) given to games for teens and adults, some of which have violent themes.



## BOOK REVIEW

### 'Tracking Trash: Flotsam, Jetsam and the Science of Ocean Motion'

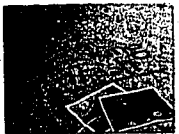
The Washington Post

By Loree Griffin Burns, for ages 10-14

In 1990 hundreds of Nike sneakers began washing ashore in Oregon and Washington. Two years later some rubber ducks, frogs and other tub toys did the same thing farther north.

Both incidents began far out in the Pacific when large containers broke free from ships and dumped their contents into the ocean. Surface currents then carried this flotsam (floating wreckage or cargo) toward the West Coast.

Curt Ebbersmeyer and W. James Ingraham Jr. are scientists who study ocean currents and floating trash such as the Eastern Garbage Patch, a swirling rubbish heap in the North Pacific that's as big as Alaska! Their work, explained here in a



kid-friendly way, helps other scientists learn more about how ocean currents and floating debris are changing the habitat of marine life, birds and even people. (That fish you had for dinner last week might have eaten a jellyfish that ingested contaminated plastic bits from a soda bottle that someone tossed in the ocean five years ago.)

The book makes a strong pitch for the three R's of environmental awareness: Reduce. Reuse. Recycle. Oceans cover nearly 3/4 of Earth's surface. Their survival is tied to our own.

# TRAVEL

YOUR GUIDE TO THE WORLD

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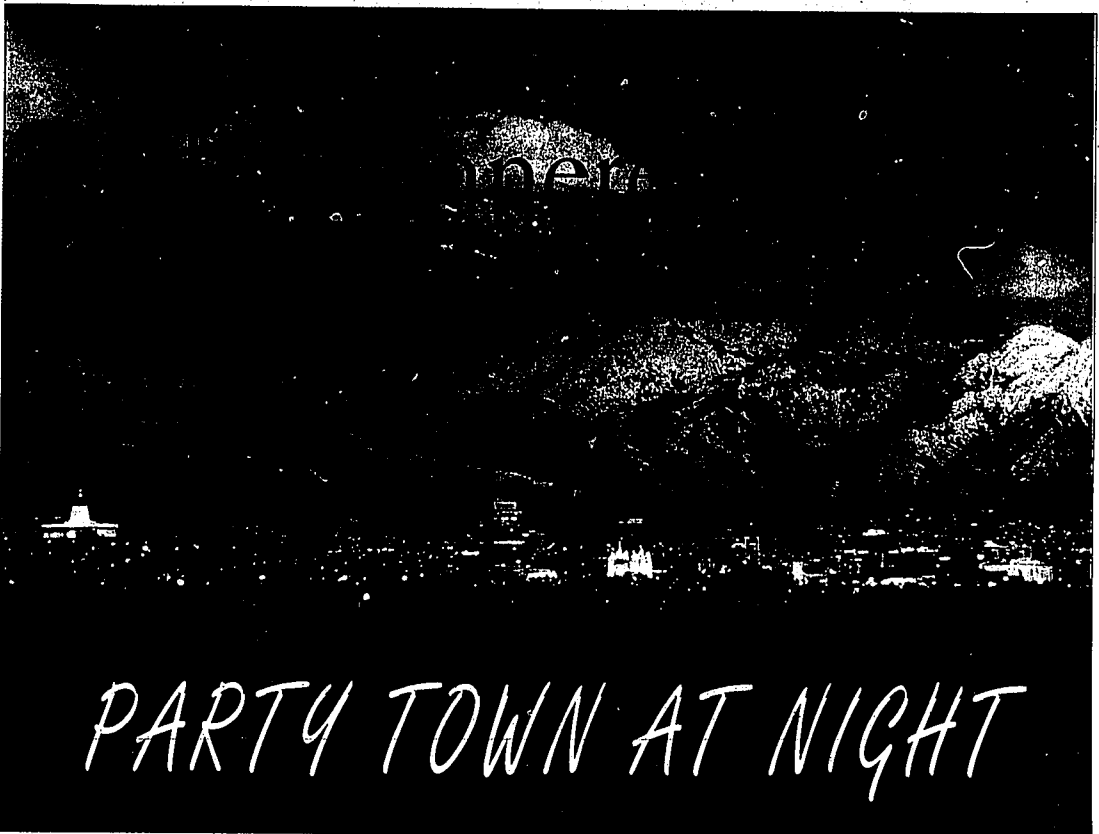
INSIDE: A new culinary landscape greets airline passengers, G3



# G

SUNDAY  
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INSIDE: Emergency kit for travelers, G4 | Upgrades at no cost, G5 | European vacations on a budget, G6



## PARTY TOWN AT NIGHT

Quiet by day, Salt Lake City boasts an active and spirited nightlife scene.

Wallpaper Post photo by Andrea Sachs

### By Andrea Sachs The Washington Post

Sister Gibbons has big blue eyes, apple cheeks and a sweet disposition. I met the 21-year-old Mormon missionary at Temple Square on my first day in Salt Lake City.

Damien Drake wears a lip ring, a dragon tattoo and an expression halfway between a snarl and a smile. I bumped into the 20-year-old mechanic at a hard-edged nightclub after hours.

Most likely, Gibbons and Drake will never share a dance. Both inhabit the same city, yet each represents a starkly different side of the Utah capital: one that shines by day, the other that thrives in the dark.

To many, Salt Lake City is an enigma. A large number of visitors use the city only as a jumping-off point to the area's top-notch ski resorts and national parks. The mystery also stems from the veiled Mormon society, whose members make up an estimated 45 percent of the area's nearly 1 million residents. Adherents of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints refrain from drinking, for starters, and some of these practices pervade the state's politics and recreation — especially the cocktail culture. Among the biggest bafflements for visitors are Utah's Byzantine drinking laws. (So, I have to eat in order to drink alcohol at a restaurant, but I can imbibe sans nachos at a private club.)

But these days, fewer out-of-towners are skipping town. "We have seen tourism grow for at least the last two years," said Shawn Johnson, director of communications at the Salt Lake Convention & Visitors Bureau. "It's not by leaps and bounds, but it's gradual."

The reason for the uptick: In Salt Lake City, urban attractions and the great outdoors flow together as naturally as the valley and the mountains.

For example, if the Wasatch Mountains seem too intimidating, there's the Gateway, an open-air retail center that was built just before the 2002 Winter Olympics and features more than 125 shops and restaurants, a planetarium and a fountain with dancing waters. The Foothill Cultural District offers more opportunities to exercise the mind and legs in its two-square-mile area, which includes Red Butte Garden, the Utah Museum of Fine Arts and Hogle Zoo. And for a credit card workout, Sugarhouse Village is a small bastion of bohemia threaded with outlets (shopper alert: Sundance Catalog and Patagonia stores).

In an attempt to demystify Salt Lake City, I formulated a plan: "During daylight hours, I would hit the landmarks and the eye-popping lake. When the sun dropped and the neon beer signs switched on, I'd slip on my party shoes and dance until the DJ packed up his gear and bade us good night."

I thought that cracking Utah's drinking laws would be my biggest thrill. But after a blur of cocktails and clubs, the novelty soon wore off. The real buzz, I realized, came from the natural surroundings.



Great Salt Lake, from which the name of Utah's capital is taken, is 75 miles long and 28 miles wide, the largest lake west of the Mississippi.

### By Day

Salt Lake City knows how to start a day — with a bright yellow sun that bounces off the Wasatch Mountains, turning its snowy white peaks into cones of sparkling diamonds. The sun, blue sky and crisp air call you outdoors. Or, in my case, push you into the arms of Mormons.

The city resembles a large-scale model of a ski resort town, though its dominant piece of architecture is not childlike towers but the multi-spined Mormon temple, which dates from the 1850s. Downtown is based on a grid plan, with streets running north-south and east-west from Temple

Square, the control center of the LDS church.

The plaza buildings include Salt Lake Temple, which is closed to all but the faithful; the Tabernacle, the performance hall of the famed choir; and the Conference Center, which boasts a rooftop garden landscaped with mountain and desert flora. The Temple Square visitors center offers free tours every 15 minutes from 9:30 a.m. to 8:15 p.m. daily. Mine was starting in five minutes. I quickly learned that if you don't stay in continual motion, you will be caught in the web.

"Have you been here before?" asked an elder, leaving his position behind the welcome desk to

approach me. "Would you like to learn more about the church?"

Why, certainly. In a nutshell: In the summer of 1847, Brigham Young took the torch from LDS founder Joseph Smith, who had been assassinated in Illinois, and carried it westward, to a rugged valley ringed by mountains. With 148 religious freedom seekers at his side, Young proclaimed, "This is the right place."

The conversation soon grew to three, when a Mormon missionary from Africa joined us and started asking about my beliefs. This was like a docent at an art museum telling you that your love for pointillism is

Please see SALT LAKE, Page G2

## SALT LAKE CITY: DETAILS

The most elegant property in town... Little America Hotel (500 S. Main St., 801-596-5792; \$27), a... Visitors Bureau, 801-534-4900, VisitSaltLake.com.

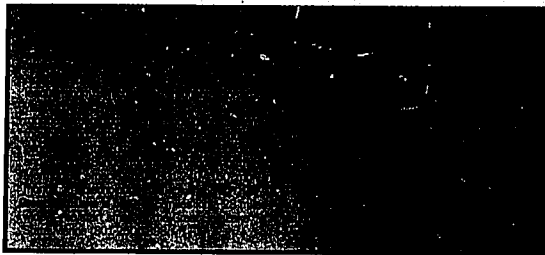
# Salt Lake

Continued from page G1

wrong, you should look only at impressionism. I wanted to escape, and was saved by the arrival of two young women dressed in matching long wool coats and black boots. Thank go ... odness? Sisters Gibbons and Thorn — which is how they introduced themselves to me — walked me through a visual display of "This Is Your Life, Jesus," then took me outside to view the haunting fortress of the Assembly Hall, a former church now used for events. The missionaries pointed out the interior design secrets while pine painted to resemble marble, for example) and answered my questions.

I stay at home and watch a movie," said Gibbons when I asked about her nighttime divisions. "I don't want to do any harm to my body."

Before they departed, Gibbons asked if I wanted the Book of Mormon, their



sacred text, delivered free to my home in Washington. I demurred, so she gave me a short homework assignment: to read the introduction in my hotel room. (Sorry, Sister. I forgot. I was distracted by the flat-screen TV.)

But before I left the square, I wanted to hear a pin drop at the Tabernacle. The acclaimed concert hall, which was built in 1875 and

modeled after an egg, has pitch-perfect acoustics. To demonstrate this, Sister Lee walked to a dais 170 feet away and shredded a piece of paper that sounded as crisp as a juicy apple. Then she dropped three pins and a nail into a cup. The sound was clear and strong.

After being surrounded by tall structures and endless conversation (sometimes

one-sided), I was ready the next day for some peace and quiet.

Utah's capital is named for Great Salt Lake, which at 75 miles long and 28 miles wide is the largest lake west of the Mississippi. I had been warned about its unique musky odor, said to smell of rotting fish left outside in the heat. But when a new day broke, bursting with sun-

shine and promise, I didn't care about my nasal passages. I had to see the lake — and the Sea-Monkeys.

Brine shrimp are commercially sold as Sea-Monkeys, those magic crystals that grow up to be childhood pets. (The shrimp eggs, which are packaged as Sea-Monkeys, eventually mature into tiny alien creatures.) The lake is full of them — they are the source of the stink — but in winter, the critters are dormant. No odor, but (sob!) no Sea-Monkeys, either.

I walked along the shore near a marina, the spongy earth trying to suck off my footprints. The place was empty except for some roosting seagulls and a dad and daughter collecting salt water for her school project.

Brynn, the brazen lass, took off her shoes and mucked around in the mud. I, however, was content with watching the salt form an arch around my shoe, transforming my boot into the

rim of a margarita glass.

The lake's character changes dramatically depending on the angle and approach. To experience a more remote section, I drove 30 miles north to Antelope Island State Park, the largest of the lake's 10 isles. I crossed a causeway that felt like a secret back road leading to Narnia.

The 28,022-acre island was desolate and silent, a wide-open space dusted with snow and trimmed with white-sand beaches. In the distance, staggered mountains blocked out any hint of civilization.

During warmer months, hikers, bikers and campers come out to play, mingling among bobcats, antelopes and a 600-strong herd of American bison. But on a day better suited for hot chocolate and a fireplace, even those with woolly coats were no-shows. However, I didn't need wildlife to complete the picture.

## By Night

"You have to eat," explained the bartender at Jerseys Sports Grill, handing me a menu as I attempted to order two Polygamy parts.

Faced for the first time with Utah's drinking law, I looked helplessly at Daryl Acumen, the 37-year-old Maryland native who runs JerseyUtah.com and who had agreed to be my club-hopping chaperon. Was I going to be forced-fed potato skins?

Would the manager call the cops if I didn't have chicken-finger breath? As we slid into a booth within eyeshot of a TV airing a Utah Jazz basketball game, Acumen reminded me of the "intention to eat" rule. (Just pretend you're going to eat by hanging on to the menu, he had advised me, but don't really order.) Then he sent me off to collect the beers.

While I was standing at the bar, Acumen decided he was hungry and ordered bruschetta. We waited for his appetizer, draining our pints in the meantime. Then, thinking his food was never coming, we canceled the order and headed out the door. We tried to abide by the law, but the kitchen wasn't there to enforce it, officer.

Salt Lake City zones its private clubs and taverns — only two per block — but the after-dark options are nearly infinite, touching on every taste in venue, music and nighttime species. With a t.a.m. last call and so much ground to cover, we tried to be as efficient as a wedding coordinator on the big day. We could not stumble.

From Jerseys, we walked past Brevvies, a movie house that serves beer, and settled into ZanZibar, a lively lit jazz and blues club with a giant wingglass for hand tips. This, excitedly, was my first private club. I was ready to be interviewed — Why are you deserving of our membership? If you were a martini, what kind would you be? — and to woe them with my worthiness. Unfortunately, it went like this:

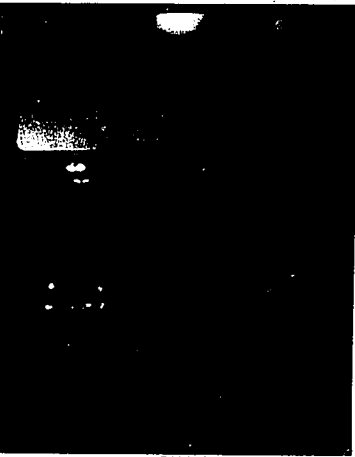


Photo by Steve Brummond — Salt Lake Dispatch & Photos Bureau

After sunset, the partygoers come out to drink and dance in Salt Lake City. However, to avoid a cocktail-hour faux pas, it's best to learn the state's quirky alcohol laws.

The host asked if I was a member; I said no. But because Acumen was, I could be his guest. I showed my driver's license, then sat down.

No huggles here, no confetti was thrown, no toasts were made to the newest member.

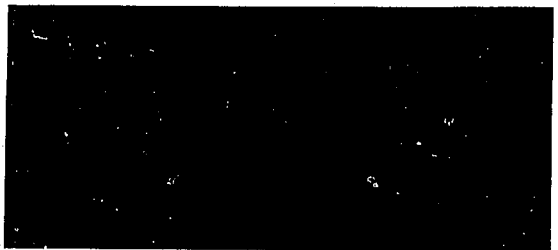
My first cocktail had a sour taste.

As the night shortened, so did our club list. We ordered a bottle of white and some lobster bisque at Sky Bar's rooftop restaurant, then slid

over to the other side, where a military wedding party was hip-hopping alongside street scenesters in baggy pants.

When we left, the club was shifting to Latino Night: a crash of Hispanics was already lining up to take over.

Our next stop was Area 51, an all-ages sanctuary for misfits, including Goth kids dressed in shades of soot and coal and adults still in their Robert Smith phase. Walking around the maze of



rooms and desperately wishing I had a flashlight, I bumped into hypnotized dancers spinning in their own private doom and goggled plastic mannequins crouching in a makeshift bomb shelter.

"The Mormons hate us because they think the minors want to drink," said Darlene Drake, who was twirling rare lights to the industrial beat. "But we like being the way we are, accepting everyone."

I feared an oncoming hug

and worried that if I didn't turn my head in time, I'd be lacerated by his lip ring. I quickly left under the cover of darkness for the brighter night sky.

Before the evening was up, our roving party made two final stops, to Manhattan, a rap club with a dress code of short shorts and four-inch heels, and Port O' Call, where a line of shivering hopefuls snaked down the block.

Though a private club, Port O' Call is the opposite

of discriminating. Everyone from Utah, plus southern Idaho, was seemingly crammed inside the 1912 building, where each floor had a different purpose (billiards, dancing, flirting, etc.).

Swarmed by blond mixxes in silvers of fabric and raffish guys with slacker style, I finally decided to pack up my membership and rejoin society.

If anyone asked, though, I had the receipt to show that I once belonged.

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# Airlines tout celebrity chefs to lure travelers

By Victoria Brett  
For the Associated Press

First-class airline passengers can say goodbye to mystery meat.

While complimentary meals have all but disappeared for most coach flights, there's a whole new culinary landscape for first class. In the latest effort to lure customers and create buzz, airlines are serving up gourmet menus cooked up by celebrity chefs.

Travelers flying to South America or Japan on United Airlines can expect an award-winning chef Charlie Trotter's appetizer of sauteed prawns and crispy short rib wontons with organic Thai barbecue sauce and chilled sweet-and-sour cucumber relish. Going to Europe on American Airlines? Try the rosemary-scented shrimp drizzled with garlic sauce and served with lemon rice and artichokes.

"Everything has been upgraded," says Stephan Pyles, who is known for his creative Southwestern cuisine and has signed on as one of American's three culinary celebrities. "Just as the customer in a restaurant has become more sophisticated, refined and demanding in terms of their food, that demand has filtered to the airlines."

For Delta, hot Miami chef Michelle Bernstein came up with entrees such as roasted chicken breast with goat cheese and pepper pesto crust served with polenta and ratatouille. Pair that with a wine picked out by the airline's sommelier or shake it up with a "Mile High" mojito from Rande Gerber's signature cocktail menu.

"Shaking the cocktails in the aisle, it's a very exciting and cool part of the atmosphere of the aircraft," says Jake Frank, Delta's Director of Product Development and Delivery.

For those stuck in coach, on the other hand, an airline sommelier might sound like a punchline.



A food preparation employee places fruit into a fruit and cheese plate inside the Delta Airlines Gate Gourmet facility at the Cincinnati Northern Kentucky International Airport on April 22 in Erlanger, Ky.

Thanks to financial pressures that began with the 2001 terrorist attacks and have only worsened as fuel prices have soared, complimentary coach meals have become an endangered species. Continental is the only major U.S. airline that still offers complimentary meals — designed by their "Congress of Chefs" — in economy class for domestic travel.

While most of the gourmet action is in first class, Delta Air Lines enlisted celebrity chef Todd English to design its fee-based coach meals — a chicken bistro salad with goat cheese crostini and organic spinach for \$8 — available on certain flights longer than 2 1/2 hours.

"There is no question that competition is fierce in this industry and we are looking

for ways to differentiate," says Frank. "People will choose to come back with us, creating repeat business and loyalty."

Preparing and presenting airline food still has its challenges that even celebrity chefs can't alter. Airline meals are prepared cafeteria-style hours before they are served, and food 30,000 feet in the air doesn't behave the same way it does on the ground.

"Just because the food is gorgeous and delicious in a restaurant doesn't mean it will be that way in the plane," says Bill Oliver, vice president of the Boyd Group Inc., an aviation consulting firm.

Travelers seem to agree. Web sites dedicated to user reviews of airlines abound with tales of disappointing food.

"Although it sounded promising, this meal tasted as



Several prepared meals are displayed with wine inside the Delta Airlines Gate Gourmet facility at the Cincinnati Northern Kentucky International Airport on April 22 in Erlanger, Ky.

if it was prepared last month," one first-class passenger traveling from Atlanta to Zurich wrote on AirGuideOnline.com.

Others, however, have seen more promise. "This was probably the best meal I've had in an airplane," a business-class flyer going from Newark to Honolulu wrote. "The steak, though slightly overcooked, was tender and juicy, the vegetables were fine, the risotto cake was delicious and the sauce accented the meal nicely."

If it's not quite restaurant quality, don't blame the chefs. Aircraft pressurization can make food dry and flavorless, says Guillaume de Syon, a history professor at Allegheny College who has written about the history of airline food. Pressurization can affect passengers, too.

"Your taste buds change, your breathing changes, you get stuffed up and it affects how things taste. You become very thirsty and people tend to drink alcohol, when they should be drinking water," de Syon says.

And while the meals are designed by a celebrity chef, they certainly aren't made by

them. The thousands of meals served each day are prepared at airport catering companies like LSG SkyChefs or Gate Gourmet.

US Airways and Northwest decided not to join the celebrity chef trend. Instead, US Airways announced last fall it has upgraded its first class and fee-based coach menus to provide healthier and better quality food.

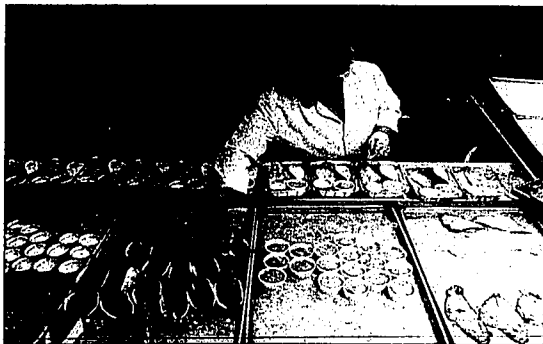
"We don't think that customers really care who designed their meals or that they choose which airline they're going to fly because of the celebrity chef. They just want the meals to taste good," US Airways spokeswoman Valerie Wunder explained in an e-mail. "This isn't the first time airlines have turned to celebrity chefs to dazzle passengers — the trend has come and gone through the decades. Oliver says. Opting out may be a smart money-saving move for airlines."

"The travel decision is based on three fundamentals: pricing, schedule and frequent flyer card," he says. "I just don't see food being in the top three."

English understands the in-flight challenges, but says the food doesn't have to suffer because of the environment. "It's 30,000 feet in the air, but now people can get a decent organic salad and a cheese and fruit plate with a nice glass of wine," he says. "How hard can that be?"

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Food preparation employee Rita Brinegar packs hot food inside the Delta Airlines Gate Gourmet facility at the Cincinnati Northern Kentucky Airport on April 22 in Erlanger, Ky. In the latest effort to lure customers and create buzz, airlines such as Delta, American, Continental and United are serving up gourmet menus dreamed up by a bevy of celebrity chefs.

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Getting you back into life

# In case of emergency

By Vanl Rangoar  
Los Angeles Times

What should every traveler's first-aid kit contain? Here is a list of items recommended by Dr. Brian Terry, a specialist in travel medicine who practices at the Healthy Traveler Clinic in Pasadena, Calif., and Dr. Christopher Van Tilburg, an emergency and wilderness physician and editor of Wilderness Medicine magazine in Salt Lake City:

- Antibiotic: Depending on where you're headed, include a broad-spectrum prescription antibiotic such as Zithromax or Cipro.
- Antibiotic cream to treat cuts
- Antifungal creams
- Antihistamine (such as Benadryl) for allergies and bug bites
- Anti-malarial medication, if you are traveling to a part of the world where the risk is high
- "It's absolutely vital," Terry says.

- Bug spray with DEET
- Terry recommends Ultrathon.
- Condoms, for safe sex
- "People don't talk about these things, but they are very important," Terry says.
- Cotton swabs
- Dental floss and an emergency dental kit (for example, temporary dental cement)
- Digital fever thermometer in a hard carrying case so it won't break
- Ear plugs
- Elastic (Ace) bandages, 1 1/2 or 2 inches wide
- These bandages are useful for blinding minor wounds, says Van Tilburg.
- Electrolyte tablets to combat dehydration
- Eyeglass repair kit
- First-aid tape
- "My favorite is Johnson & Johnson's waterproof first-aid tape," which sticks well and can be used to treat wounds and blisters, Van Tilburg says.
- Hand sanitizers
- But keep it in your purse or backpack, Terry says.

- Hydrocortisone ointment or cream to get the itch out of bug bites
- Ibuprofen or other pain reliever
- Imodium for symptomatic relief of diarrhea
- "But take it with an antibiotic," Terry says.
- Indigestion remedies, such as Gaviscon or Maalox
- Mole skin or mole foam for blisters
- Motion sickness medicine (over the counter, such as Dramamine or prescription scopolamine tablets or patches)
- Nasal decongestant spray (such as Afrin)
- Nitrile gloves
- Nitrile is more flexible and less likely to cause allergies than latex, Van Tilburg says.
- Pencil and notebook or Post-it Notes
- For writing directions if you are looking for a doctor," Terry says.
- Safety pins
- Scissors that fold
- Terry recommends Slip-N-



A first-aid kit should include the usual — bandages, pain relievers, lozenges — plus other items including sunscreen and earplugs.

Snips, about \$5 online or at retail establishments.

- Sunscreen, waterproof, with an SPF of 25 or higher and UVB and UVA protection
- The waterproof kind stays on longer when you sweat, Van Tilburg and Terry say.
- Throat lozenges (such as Cepacol)
- Tweezers
- Get "a good pair of metal tweezers that work with a

pointy or flat tip," says Terry (who uses jeweler's forceps).

- Urinary-tract-infection medication
- Carry whatever your doctor recommends, Terry says.
- Wilderness trips: Van Tilburg recommends items for wound care, water purification and CPR.
- For wound care, take adhesive bandages, soap and hand sanitizers. "The key to

wound care in the wilderness is cleaning it properly," he says. For water purification, he recommends chlorine tablets because they taste better than iodine and work faster. Also: a CPR mask and a pair of vinyl or nitrile gloves. "Some store-bought first-aid kits don't come with these," Van Tilburg says.

- Yeast-infection medication.

## All-inclusive great way for family vacation

By Nicholas K. Geranios  
Associated Press writer

### If You Go...

**NUOVO VALLARTA, Mexico** — Decisions can be tough to make at Marival Resort & Suites: Margarita or martini? Steak or calamari? Tennis or climbing wall?

All without pulling a peso from your pocket.

Marival is a giant all-inclusive resort, a sort of dryland cruise ship where you pay one upfront fee for lodging, food, drink and entertainment.

Gasp if you will, reader of Conde Nast Traveler, but for a vacation in a foreign country with four children, this is the only way to go.

**MARIVAL GRAND & CLUB SUITES NUEVO VALLARTA:** All-inclusive resort in Nuevo Vallarta, near Puerto Vallarta, Mexico. [Marival.com](http://Marival.com) or 011-52-322-226-8200. Rates vary by season, room, number in party, and travel provider. Typical rate per night for two, booked online for April, starts at \$304, including unlimited food and drink and access to most activities and facilities. For a family of four for five nights in March, excluding airfare, Judy & Maria's Travel of Coatesville, Pa., quoted \$2,150 for a standard room and \$2,950 for an oceanfront suite.

beach in Nuevo Vallarta, Mexico, just north of the famous vacation city of Puerto Vallarta. It was advertised as family friendly.

Booking a room was easy. We were also wanted to make our dinner reservations at the same time, to make sure we could get into the better restaurants.

The place was gorgeous, open and airy. We had two rooms, which were small but functional, overlooking the lighted tennis courts (we play tennis as a family and courts were mandatory).

We immediately rushed down to the beach, well-

stocked with chairs and umbrellas.

Then we went to our rooms, showered and dressed up for dinner. Marival has four formal restaurants — serving Italian, Mexican, steak and "international" cuisine. To get into these places you need reservations, and it is too late to get them once you get there. They also ask that you dress up a bit. Otherwise there is a huge buffet restaurant, and snack bars scattered throughout the grounds.

The first night we ate at the international place, located outside in a center courtyard. The service and food were good—You could order anything off the menu and anything you wanted to drink. There was no bill at the end.

Afterward, we walked on the beach, took in the evening song-and-dance show put on by the hotel, and went to bed.

We settled into a routine of taking breakfast and lunch in the huge buffet restaurant,

which had a mixture of the common items you might find in a casino buffet, plus a few exotic items apparently common to Mexico. My 12-year old became enamored of Zuchartas (Sugar-Frosted Flakes), which he liked to say.

We shared Marival with a lot of Americans, including what seemed to be entire classes of California high schoolers on their senior trip. Kids also filled the resort's disco, Cesar, which did not open until 11 p.m. each night, and featured mobs of kids dancing to pop music.

For me, the place was perfect. The kids didn't have to constantly beg for money. They could snack whenever they wanted. There was a gym, game room, numerous recreational facilities, kids' programs, cooking classes. We never ran out of stuff to do, even with kids who were 20, 17, 12 and 10 years old.

Our family was so overdue for a vacation that we barely left the resort the five days we were there.

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# WILD OATS

Written by James McClure

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# Working the system to get upgrades

By Elissa Leibowitz Poma  
Specialist to The Washington Post

On airplanes, do you ever wonder how the college-age girl in non-designer jeans got that first-class seat? How about the ill-suitcase man in scuffed shoes who nabs the top-floor suite at a hotel? In many cases, they paid heavily for the upgrade or cashed in loads of frequent-flyer miles or loyalty points. But those others? They worked the system. To unlock the secrets of free or discounted upgrades for planes, hotel rooms, rental cars and cruise cabins, we went to industry experts and frequent travelers. Here are their tips.

## AIRLINE UPDATES

- Use the upgrade certificates airlines send you for being a frequent flyer, or ask friends holding tickets for coupons with looming expiration dates if you can take them off their hands.
- Though airlines most frequently award their elite passengers upgrades, it never hurts to be the first in line at the gate counter and inquire about a bump in class. (Ask the gate representative, not the check-in agent, who does not control domestic first-class seating assignments.) Depending on the repositioning and the circumstances, the bump in class could be free or, at the very least, less expensive than if you had originally booked the top-tier seat. Alternately, double the fare to board; have back in case economy seats are needed and there is extra space in first class — you just might be offered

that elite seat.

- If you have a flexible schedule and your flight is overbooked, volunteer to give up your seat and ask the agent if you may have a first-class seat on the next available flight.
- To increase your chances of flying in a higher class, book flights on wide-bodied planes, such as the 747 or 777, which have more first- and business-class seats. Check SeatGuru.com (www.seatguru.com) for plane configurations. In addition, request upgrades on flights to destinations with little business traffic, such as Albuquerque.

## RENTAL CAR UPDATES

- Book the car by phone and ask if an upgrade is available. If it's not, ask the rep to make a note in your record, then remind the clerk of that notation when you pick up the car. If one is available, it should be yours at no extra cost.
- Reserve the rental car location's most popular model (inquire upon booking most likely it will be an economy Ford). If the car is sold out when you arrive, you probably will receive a free upgrade — but remember the larger car will guzzle more gas.

## HOTEL UPDATES

- If you visit one city repeatedly, stay at the same hotel and befriend the front-desk staff. Upon check-in, mention that you are a frequent guest and politely ask if an upgrade is available.
- If you are staying for a

single night, be bold and ask for a free upgrade. It's just for one evening.

- For a weekend or holiday trip, book a room at a hotel in the business district or one popular with business travelers. The higher-end rooms probably will be empty during this slow period, and the front desk may be more willing to upgrade you gratis.
- If you are planning a meeting, family reunion or party, negotiate upgrades as part of the contract.
- If your hotel stay coincides with a birthday, anniversary or celebration, inform the front desk of the special occasion and ask for an upgrade. The hotel also might post a birthday or anniversary promotion on its Web site, so check before you book.

## CRUISE CABIN UPDATES

- Work with a cruise specialist. Forging a personal relationship with an agent can garner many perks, including cabin upgrades.
- Use the cruise line's guarantee program: You reserve an inside cabin at the lowest price available and the cruise line guarantees at least that category's lowest level of cabin; however, the line often says it will try to assign a better cabin within that category. (Note: Steven Hattem, vice president of marketing for Cruise Inc. and CruiseCline, says upgrades from one category to another are rare.)
- Cruise during off-peak times in popular seasons. The Caribbean, for example, is teeming with ships during winter but the period between Thanksgiving and Christmas and the first few

weeks of January are the least in demand.

- Once onboard, register with the purser for an upgrade. The line will accommodate you if possible.

## UPGRADE TIPS

- Go online. E-newsletters from such travel Web sites as Travelzoo.com (www.travelzoo.com) and SideStep.com (www.sidestep.com) alert travelers to upgrade specials; Car Rental Upgrade.com (www.carentalupgrade.com) also lists deals. And eBay

(www.ebay.com) frequently auctions off airline and car rental upgrade certificates. Or go straight to the source: Check the Web site of the hotel, car rental firm, etc., for upgrade specials.

- Stockpile loyalty points. Don't hesitate to cash in points for an upgrade; your points have a greater value for upgrades than for securing a free flight in economy. To increase your supply, join interconnected programs. Bob Greenberg, who works at a Reston, Va., Web security company, uses points from


his Marriott and Hertz rewards programs toward United Airlines upgrades. Additionally, use credit cards with rewards programs that allow you to earn points for every dollar spent. Finally, if you have separate personal and business credit cards, link the accounts to pool the points.

- Dress well. Whether traveling by air or road, a passenger in a nice suit or neat casual wear is more likely to get upgraded than a sloop in a tattered sweater and old jeans.

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## How to run away from home — as a grown-up

BERKELEY, Calif. (AP) — If early retirement and an empty nest have you yearning for a new adventure, consider taking your next cue from "Running Away From Home: Making a New Life Abroad" by Rosanne Knorr (Thorndike Press, \$14.95). The book, now out in its second edition, can help you think through the logistics, risks and potential pleasures of living in another country

for a year or longer. The book offers advice on downsizing, budgeting, packing, staying in touch, handling health issues, dealing with guests from back home and settling in to your new locale.

The idea may be especially appealing to baby boomers who spent years putting in long hours at work, raising kids and paying mortgages. "As we reach middle age, it's our children — the students in high school or college —

who participate in a year abroad," writes Knorr in introduction. "We see them and say, 'I wish I could have done that.' Then one day, my husband and I asked, 'Why can't we do it now?'"

They ended up living in a French village and used their new home as a base for other adventures exploring Europe. "After spending years raising our kids, we became the kids we wanted to be," Knorr said.


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# Stretching your dollars on a European vacation

By K.C. Summers  
The Washington Post

The abysmal state of the dollar in Europe has prompted some travelers to rethink their vacation itineraries. But if you still have your heart set on a European vacation, here are a few ways to economize:

- Travel in the off season. Airfares and hotel rates are much more affordable during the winter months or in "shoulder" season (early spring and late fall) than they are at the height of summer. Another advantage of traveling then:

Smaller crowds.

- Think small: Stay in a family-owned pension or B&B instead of a big hotel. You can save big bucks, and you'll have a more personal experience (and the shared bath won't kill you). Or stay in hotels outside the city center. The savings can more than make up for the half-hour train ride into town each day.
- Stay in hotels that

include breakfast in the room rate and fill up on that. Have picnic-type food at lunchtime (pick up bread and cheese at a local market or take-away) and reward yourself at the end of the day with a nice dinner out.

- Visit bargain-centric Eastern European countries that aren't on the euro yet, such as Croatia, Hungary, Poland and the Czech Republic. They're less over-

run with tourists, but just as packed with culture and great natural beauty.

- Consider taking a sea or river cruise, where you can lock in the cost when you book and not have to worry about rising hotel and food prices.

When traveling abroad, it's always smart to check the U.S. State Department's Website for updates on safety and security in the country

you're visiting. But the department's classifications for travel warnings and alerts has always been a bit confusing. What's a "consular information sheet," anyway, and how does it differ from a "public announcement?" Now the department has made the system easier to understand.

- General reports on current conditions in all countries (formerly called

Information Sheets) are now called Country Specific Information.

- Reports about conditions that are expected to be short-lived are now called Travel Alerts (formerly Public Announcements).
- Travel Warnings are still Travel Warnings — basically, "don't go."

For more information: Travel.state.gov.

## Tour by horseback: Equestrian vacations

MILBROOK, N.Y. (AP) — If you love riding horses and you love travel, consider booking a vacation with Cross Country International, which offers equestrian vacations.

Packages offer a range of riding experiences and can accommodate all levels, from relaxed trail rides to intensive cross-country training, dressage, and "hunt seat"-style rides. Guests can also choose English or Western saddle, and should expect to spend from one to more than three hours a day on horseback, depending on the package chosen.

A range of accommodations is also offered, from bed-and-breakfasts to castles, farms and four-star hotels. On some trips, accommodations change nightly as guests tour the region.

Riding vacations are offered in many locations around Europe, Central and South America and the U.S. For some trips, the company creates its own itineraries and hires the guides, but it also packages trips offered by other tour operators.

Rates vary depending on locale. A seven-day inn-to-inn riding trip in Provence offered on a variety of dates from late April through early October is \$2,325 per person, double occupancy, including all meals, rides on five days, six nights of lodging, transfers from airports and train stations, and guides. (Airfare not included.)

The company, based in Milbrook, N.Y., also arranges hiking and golf vacations. Details at [Equestrianvacations.com](http://Equestrianvacations.com) or (800) 828-8768.

## Take the train instead of parking

The Washington Post

Q: I want to drive to New York City but not park in Manhattan. What are my options?

A: Thank goodness for New Jersey. From there, park and take a form of a commuter train into the city. Two options:

- New Jersey Transit trains operate from numerous locations, but the Metropark station is convenient to the New Jersey Turnpike (take Exit 11 and go north on the Garden State Parkway to Exit 131A) and has ample parking. Parking is \$9 per day, with an additional \$5 tacked onto the daily rate after 24 hours. Info: 800-626-7433, [NJtransit.com](http://NJtransit.com).
- NY Waterway operates ferries to midtown and lower Manhattan from several ports in Jersey, including Hoboken and Weehawken. Parking, schedules and rates vary by location. Info: 800-53-FERRY, [Nywaterway.com](http://Nywaterway.com).

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