

HAY HEISTS

Idaho hay thefts, like hay prices, are climbing.

AG/BUSINESS, A5

KIMBERLY SPLITS WITH WOOD RIVER

SPORTS, D1

Small and Big
Make the most of it

Good Morning



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Low: 63

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Details: B4, and live at
magvalley.com/weather

Times-News

TUESDAY
July 15, 2008
75 cents

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Jerome man charged with murder



Fortino Leon Garcia, 72, seen from the Jerome County Jail by courtroom video feed, is escorted by a Jerome County jail guard as Judge Thomas Borresen ends Garcia's hearing Monday afternoon at the Jerome County Court House.

Fortino Leon Garcia allegedly shot estranged wife, killed man Saturday

By Andrea Jackson
Staff writer

A 72-year-old man accused of shooting his wife and killing a man she was with on Saturday expressed a few concerns Monday in 5th Judicial District Court in Jerome.

Those concerns, however, weren't for the welfare of his estranged wife or the much younger man police say he shot to death.

BREAKING NEWS
You read this story first on
MagValley.com.

The alleged killer, Fortino Leon Garcia, was charged Monday with first-degree murder, aggravated battery and aggravated assault in connection to a Saturday morning shooting outside 221 Fifth Ave. E. that was witnessed by children and neighbors.

Authorities say Garcia shot his 41-year-old wife, Maria Leon and killed Javier Zavala-Panlagua, 22.

Prosecutors could seek the death penalty. On Monday, Garcia told Judge Thomas Borresen through a Spanish-speaking translator that he had memory problems, wanted his medication and requested to talk to his son.

"I don't have a good memory," said Garcia. "I really have

a short memory." Garcia told the judge his income stems only from Social Security payments for a longstanding disability. Garcia also said his doctor placed him on medication and he asked for his prescriptions.

Jerome Police confirmed Monday that Garcia and Leon have had marital issues for a while. Neighbors said Leon

Please see **GARCIA**, Page A3

T.F. School District land prices come in lower than expected

Appraiser blames market for this year's lower value of residential land

By Andrea Jackson
Staff writer

The Twin Falls School District has twice paid the same local appraiser to determine the value of prime land it may sell adjacent to the new Canyon Ridge High School.

But on Monday the school board heard some disappointing returns on two pieces of land it owns in what's been named Riverhawk Subdivision.

This year's appraised value for 6.81 acres of residential land located west of the new high school came in for about half of what it did last year — \$210,000 instead of the \$493,000 it was valued at in 2007.

And a piece of commer-

cially-zoned property that went to bid this month also came back with disappointing returns for the school district. About 4.3 acres of commercially zoned land was appraised both last year and this year at about \$2.4 million. When it went to bid this month, bidders seemed to think it was worth a lot less.

The highest bid for the commercial land, which is located at Washington Street North and what will become Cheney Drive, came in at \$1.05 million. The two other bids on the land appraised at \$2.4 million were even lower: \$850,000 and \$111,777.

School district staff put the blame on bidders looking for a good deal on district-owned commercial land. An appraiser blamed a tanked real estate market for this year's lower appraisal for the district-owned residential land.

"I think someone was Please see **PRICES**, Page A4

URA passes contract for downtown consultant

Florence, Hepworth change roles

By Jared S. Hopkins
Staff writer

The Twin Falls Urban Renewal Agency Board Monday authorized a new contract for a Portland-based consultant who is studying downtown redevelopment.

Under the contract approved Monday, the Leland Consulting Group will receive \$65,000, plus travel expenses, to advise the city on how to pay for the redevelopment of four downtown blocks — and ways to promote it to voters who would likely be asked to approve a bond measure.

Leland has already received at least \$100,000 from the city to advise it on the four-block project, and efforts to revitalize Main Avenue.

Under that contract, two Twin Falls developers were hired through a sub-contract to consult with the city on how best to support their plan to develop the four-block site.

In the new contract, developers Jeff Hepworth and Fran Florence are described as stepping back from a role as members of Leland's "direct team." Instead, they will work with Leland city officials as "developers and members of the Four Block LLC."

In their new role, as in the past, they will work with Leland and the city to determine how best to spend taxpayer money on the development.

In the past, City Attorney Fritz Wunderlich has said that there was no conflict of interest in the employment of the two, but that there could be a conflict if the two later stood to profit from the

Please see **URA**, Page A3

Forest Service denies Galena cell tower

By Nate Poppino
Staff writer

A controversial cell phone tower planned for an area of the Sawtooth National Recreation Area will not be built, U.S. Forest Service officials announced Monday.

The 90-foot tower, pitched in 2003 as a way to bring cell phone coverage to the popular recreational area and improve emergency response times for law enforcement and others, would harm the scenic value of the area, Forest Supervisor Jane Kollmeyer said in a press release issued Monday evening.

"A 90-foot cell tower in that particular location would visually dominate the landscape and create a 'substantial impairment' of this key value," Kollmeyer said, explaining her July 11 decision.

Both proponents and opponents of the tower had awaited the decision for

several months.

The tower would have been installed just north of State Highway 75. Design plans called for hiding the tower in false bark, and its 968-square-foot equipment building in natural vegetation, according

Please see **TOWER**, Page A3



At Your Service directory .C8
Bridge .C9
Calendar .A2
Classifieds .C4-10

Comics .D2
Crossword .C7
Dear Abby .B4
Horoscope .A2

Jumble .C5
Magic Valley .C1
Movies .C2-3
Mutual Funds .A7

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Sudoku .C5
Weather .B4

Freddie-Fannie lifeline puts taxpayers on the hook.

SEE PAGE A10

TODAY'S HAPPENINGS

ARTS AND ENTERTAINMENT

Donald Margulies' drama "Collected Stories," presented by Company of Fools, 7 p.m., Liberty Theatre, 110 N. Main St., Halley, tickets: \$25 for adults, \$18 for senior citizens (62 and over) and \$15 for students (18 and under), 578-9122. "Poker Face," 25th anniversary production presented by JuMP Company, 7:30 p.m., Roper Auditorium, 1615 Filer Ave., E., Twin Falls, \$10 reserved tickets and \$7 general admission, 733-3974 or 733-1041.

CLUBS AND ORGANIZATIONS

Magie Valley Toastmasters meeting and no-host lunch, with a focus on teaching and encouraging members in communication and leadership skills, noon, Golden Coral, 4823 Blue Lakes Blvd., Twin Falls, new members welcome, 316-8534. The 2008 GTFAF Picnic and RPAC auction, with menu: pork barbecue, salads, grilled trout, brownies and beverages: 5:30 p.m., Twin Falls City Park, 733-6421. The Twin Falls County Fair Foundation Membership Drive barbecue, featuring Tri-Tops and fixings and entertainment by Johnny W and Riley Baker, 6 to 8 p.m., Dairy Show Ring, Twin Falls County Fairgrounds, 326-4356.

GOVERNMENT

CANCELLATION: Animal Shelter Advisory Commission meeting cancelled for July. Twin Falls County commissioners, 8:30 a.m., courthouse, 425 Shoshone St. N., 736-4068. Blaine County commissioners, 9 a.m., courthouse, 206 First Ave. S., Halley, 788-5500. Jerome County commissioners, 9 a.m., courthouse, 300 N. Lincoln, 644-2700. Buhl School Board, 6:30 p.m., district office, 920 Main, 543-6436. Burley City Council, 7 p.m., City Hall, 1401 Overland Ave., 878-2224. Castleford School Board, 7 p.m., school library, 500 W. Main, 537-6511. Jerome City Council, 5:30 p.m., council chambers, 100 E. Ave. A, 324-8188. Rupert City Council, 7 p.m., City Hall, 624 F St., 436-9600. Shoshone City Council, 7 p.m., City Hall, 207 S. St. W., 686-2030. Wendell School Board, 7 p.m., high school library, 750 E. Main, 536-6318. Filer City Council, 7:30 p.m., council chambers, 300 Main, 326-5000.

HEALTH AND WELLNESS

Fit and Fall Proof Exercise Class, 10 to 11 a.m., Living Waters Presbyterian Church, 821 E. Main St., Wendell, no cost, 737-5589. Fit and Fall Proof Exercise Class, 10:30 a.m., First Segregation Fire Station, Eden, no cost, 737-5988. Ongoing exercise program for people with Parkinson's disease, offered by Magie Valley Regional Medical Center, 11 a.m. to noon, the Episcopal Church of the Ascension, 371 Eastland Drive N., Twin Falls, no cost, 737-2977. Silversnakers Fitness Program, innovative exercise program designed specifically for Medicare beneficiaries' unique health and physical needs, 11:15 a.m. to noon, Twin Falls YMCA, 1751 Elizabeth Blvd., no cost for Humana-insured or YMCA members and \$5 per class for non-insured, 733-4384. "Strong Woman Stay Young," exercise and nutrition program taught by Rhea Lanning, noon to 1 p.m., Twin Falls County Extension Office, 246 Third Ave. E., Twin Falls, \$15 one-time fee, weights provided, (208) 734-9590 or rhlanning@uidaho.edu. Family Nutrition Class, guest speaker Alice Tabert, N.P., 6 p.m., Jerome Recreation District, 2032 S. Lincoln, Jerome, \$10, 324-3389. Adult Children Anonymous (A.C.A.) meeting, for individuals recovering from alcoholic or dysfunctional family environment, 6 p.m., Canyon View Psychiatric and Addiction Services, 228 Shoup Ave. W. (west entrance), Twin Falls, no cost, 308-5656. Mini-Casella Shelter for Women & Children women's support group, 6 p.m., 123 S. C St., Rupert, (208) 438-0987. Celebrate Recovery, a place to learn life-affirming, healthy behaviors, 7:30 p.m., Magie Valley Evangelical Free Church, 821 N. Ave. E., Jerome, 324-7237.

LIBRARY

Story Hour, 10 a.m., Oakley Free Library, 862-3434. Story Hour: Carnival of Animals, for preschoolers and primary graders, K-3rd, 10 to 10:30 a.m., Declo Community Library, front room, Lance's Custom Meat Cutting, Declo, 654-2722 or 654-9433. Lecture by Martin Indyk, former U.S. Ambassador to Israel and an expert on the Middle East, presented by Sun Valley Center for the Arts, 7 p.m., Community Library, Ketchum, no cost, 726-9491, ext. 10.

MUSEUMS

Faulkner Planetarium WSKY: Radio Station of the Stars/ Live Sky Tour, 2 p.m.; "Blown Away: The Wild World of Weather," 7 p.m.; and "Space Jamm'n!," 8:15 p.m., Herrett Center for Arts and Science, north end of the College of Southern Idaho campus, Twin Falls, \$4 for adults, \$3 for senior citizens, \$2 for students and \$9 for families, 732-6655. "Mitigo in the Jungle" free reptile review, 6 p.m., Herrett Center rain forest, Herrett Center for Arts and Science on the campus of the College of Southern Idaho, no cost, 732-6655.

OPEN HOUSE

Snake River Council Boy Scouts of America open house, introducing new Scout Executive Paul M. Tikalsky, Jr., all past, present or future Scouters invited, 6 to 7:30 p.m., Council Service Center, 2988 Falls Ave. E., Twin Falls, no cost, (208) 733-2067.

To have an event listed, please submit the name of the event, a brief description, time, place, cost and contact number to Suzanne Brown or by e-mail at sbrown@magicvalley.com; by fax, 734-5538; or by mail, Times-News, PO Box 548, Twin Falls, ID 83403-0548. Deadline is noon, four days in advance of the event.

Times-News

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MORNING BRIEFING

Follow that yellow line — if you can



Whaddya know?

If it's odd, quirky, poignant, funny or sad and it happens in south-central Idaho, I want to hear about it. Call me at 733-223, or write to scrump@magicvalley.com. Several readers wonder why there's a 75-yard-long stretch of squiggly lines spat out on pavement on the eastern approach to the intersection to 3700 North and U.S. Highway 93... Some say they've been there for more than 40 years... "It's basically there to warn drivers that there's a stop sign ahead," said Twin Falls Highway District Director Dave Burgess who points out that the 3700 North-93 intersection is over the boundary in the Filer Highway District... "It's not something that we do, but, you see them from time to time..." For generations, Magie Valley rural intersections have been notorious for drivers blowing stop signs, occasionally with tragic consequences... Highway engineers have tried many devices to warn motorists, from flashing lights to rumble strips... A snake-like line painted on the pavement at least gets a driver's attention — maybe enough to make him or her slow down... Squiggly lines, of course, are the stuff of folk legend in the Gem State... Perhaps the most persistent myth is that something, like a bear, was mapping the boundary between Idaho and Montana as Rick Just, author of "Idaho Snapshots," says that in 1894 Governor carried Montana out of Idaho Territory and mandated the crest of the Bitterroot Mountains as

the border... "The story goes that the surveyors were drunk, or they had been paid off by agents from Montana who wanted a bigger territory," wrote Just... "It's a good story, but it isn't true... In fact, the boundary between Idaho and Montana wasn't even officially surveyed until 14 years after Idaho statehood... The states simply got along knowing that the border generally followed the crest of the Bitterroot mountains... JUST ALSO REMINDS ME that Edgar Lee Burroughs, the creator of Tarzan, was once a Magie Valley resident... In 1891, at age 16, the Chicago-born Burroughs was shipped off to his brothers' ranch along the Raft River to escape an influenza epidemic... After graduating from prestigious Phillips Academy, filling the exam to get into the U.S. Military Academy and serving with the 7th Cavalry in Arizona, he came back to Idaho and worked for a dredge company in Minidoka... "But with an abundance of pencils available, Burroughs began to write pulp fiction... He published "Tarzan of the Apes" in 1912... By 1925, Tarzan had made him a millionaire... "I just wonder where he learned to swing from jungle vines in deepest, darkest Cassia County... Steve Crump is the Times-News opinion editor.

AROUND THE WORLD

ENGLAND

3 plead to bomb charges in plot that brought air travel to liquid-restricted chaos

LONDON — In a case that changed the face of air travel, three men charged with a plot to kill trans-Atlantic airline passengers with bombs in soda bottles admitted Monday they intended to cause explosions... But the men appealed to the jury to believe their story — that they wanted to stage an elaborate publicity stunt at one of London's iconic sites to promote a film, rather than commit mass murder.

WASHINGTON

Obama's campaign calls New Yorker cover of him, his wife 'tasteless'

Barack Obama's campaign says a satirical New Yorker magazine cover showing the Democratic presidential candidate dressed as a Muslim and his wife as a terrorist is "tasteless and offensive." The illustration on the issue that his newsstand Monday, titled "The Politics of Fear"

AROUND THE WORLD

The men are charged with a plot to kill hundreds of passengers at the height of the summer vacation season. When police discovered the plot in August 2006, airports around the world immediately changed their security procedures.

WASHINGTON

depicts Barack Obama wearing sandals, robe and a turban and his wife, Michelle, dressed in camouflage, combat boots and an assault rifle helmet... The couple is doing a fist tap in front of a fireplace in which an American flag is burning. Over the mantel hangs a portrait of Osama bin Laden. "The New Yorker may think, as one of their staff explained to us, that their cover is a satirical lampoon of the caricature Senator Obama's right-wing critics have tried to create," said Obama campaign spokesman Bill Burton.

CORRECTION

Stem cell procedure incorrectly described

A veterinary stem cell therapy procedure by former Twin Falls resident Dr. Jerrold Bausman was incorrectly described in an article published Sunday. During the harvest of fat containing the cells, the animal undergoing therapy is fully anesthetized. During reinjection of the isolated stem cells it is only briefly tranquilized. In addition, Bausman's first name was misspelled. The Times-News regrets the errors.

WHAT'S NEW AT MAGICVALLEY.COM

Read documents related to how ammonia is monitored in the state. Want to discuss politics? Meet our two new political bloggers on the Elections 2008 local page.

TODAY IN HISTORY

Today is Tuesday, July 15, the 197th day of 2008. There are 169 days left in the year. Today's Highlight: On July 15, 1971, President Nixon announced the country by announcing he would visit the People's Republic of China. On this date: In 1606, Dutch painter Rembrandt was born in Leiden, Netherlands. In 1870, Georgia became

the last Confederate state readmitted to the Union. In 1918, the Second Battle of the Marne, resulting in an Allied victory, began during World War I. In 1976, a 36-hour kidnap ordeal began for 26 school children and their bus driver as they were abducted near Chowchilla, Calif., by three gunmen and imprisoned in an underground cell. (The captives escaped unharmed.) In 1997, fashion designer Gianni Versace was shot dead outside his Miami home; suspected gunman Andrew Phillip Cunanan was found dead eight days later. Ten years ago: Three days of economics to bury Russian President and his family, who were killed by the Bolsheviks, began in the city of Yekaterinburg.

Five years ago: The Bush administration dramatically raised its budget deficit projections to \$455 billion for the current fiscal year and \$475 billion for the next, record levels fed by the limp economy, tax cuts and the battle against terrorism. One year ago: The Roman Catholic archdiocese of Los Angeles announced it was settling clergy sex-abuse cases for \$660 million.

HOROSCOPE BY JERALDINE SAUNDERS

IF JULY 15 IS YOUR BIRTHDAY: Be on lookout for blessings that could permanently brighten your life in between now and September. Have faith that whatever knocks on your door will create a constructive opportunity. Currently you are in love with the idea of love and may not look too closely at problems beneath the surface. You may meet the "real thing" by next March if you are looking for true love or could hit big major milestone in your career or business. ARTIES (March 21-April 19): Plans definitely got a brand new face. However, it might be Mama who surprises you with unpredictable behavior or a change in plans. The dots are open for frank discussions of new routines and strategies.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): A special someone admires your ingenuity and could find it to be a huge turn-on. Business contacts may be only interested in what you can do for them. GEMINI (May 21-June 20): The novel and extraordinary might attract your interest, but you may find that you don't quite fit into a new group. Social pressures may put you on the spot. CANCER (June 21-July 22): Try toning up on the latest techniques or methods. Make new friends who might offer enlightenment or encouragement. LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Existing relationships may seem slightly dull or tiresome when you are tempted by a change of pace. You may wish to hang out with new faces for

a few hours or escape from the ordinary. VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Shake off self-imposed limitations and bypass obstacles by getting right to the point and using dynamic interpersonal skills. Tackle jobs that require deep concentration. LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): A desire for novelty and excitement can be charming, but can be misunderstood by a loved one. Don't betray the trust of a special someone who looks up to you. SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): The grass always looks greener on the other side because you haven't looked at it closely or walked on it and crushed all the blades beneath your feet. Think twice before breaking off a relationship. SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-

Dec. 21): You must honor a special someone's desire to have additional freedoms without jeopardizing the trust between you. Be generous with friends and exacting with enemies. CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): The allure of something fresh and exciting can bring you into contact with unusual people and progressive ideas. AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Fleeting temporary attractions might instill restlessness, so you must work hard to preserve valuable relationships. PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Rather like molts to a flame, new people who appear in your circle may not be attracted by your warmth, but they also hope your popularity will rub off on them.

Garcia

Continued from page A1

may have been having a romantic relationship with Zavala-Panigun.

Court records filed Monday, however, don't indicate motive in the shooting. Police originally said Garcia's last name was Leon, but on Monday Garcia provided a correction.

Garcia refused to talk to police after his arrest and requested an attorney, records show.

Neighbor Steve Lamm allegedly tried to stop Garcia from driving away after the shooting. Lamm said Garcia's gun was pointed at him, and the trigger was pulled but didn't fire. For

that, Garcia was charged with aggravated assault. He also was charged with aggravated battery for shooting Leon in the arm and chest, along with first-degree murder for fatally shooting Zavala-Panigun in the chest with a gold-colored .25-caliber hand gun. Garcia lives at 429 W. Ave.

F in Jerome, a home with a cluttered backyard, located about 1.2 miles from where the shooting unfolded. No one was at Garcia's home Monday afternoon. According to online court records, Garcia was apparently found guilty in 1998 of obstructing officers in Gooding County, And, in

1991, charges of aggravated battery and assault in Twin Falls were dismissed. Garcia is lodged in the Jerome County Jail on \$400,000 bond and a preliminary hearing is set for July 24. An update on Leon, who

was hospitalized and treated for gunshot wounds to the chest and left arm, was unavailable Monday.

Andrea Jackson may be reached at 208-735-3390 or ajackson@magicvalley.com.

URA

Continued from page A1

success of the city-backed development.

The issue was not discussed Monday, and board members had little to say about the new contract.

"It's a natural progression of our baby steps," said URA Vice Chairman Tom Frank. But prior to the 5-0 vote, new URA board member Kent Cramer said he was concerned the URA and city might be investing too much money without a set goal or price.

"It takes us to some nebulous point in history," he said.

In response, Frank and Chairman Dave VanEngelen, Mayor Lance Clow and Economic Development Director Melissa Anderson said such figures and ideas were part of earlier contracts and previously disclosed.

The concept is a mixed-use development with about 100,000 square feet of offices and retail space replacing low-rise warehouses, vacant lots and small buildings between Second Avenue and Fourth Avenue East, and Stone Street South and Idaho Street.

City officials are planning to include a new city hall to serve as an anchor for the five-block project, but they have not said how much it would cost or how they would build it.

The city has not yet produced an estimate of how much the entire development will cost, and how

much taxpayers would pay. Anderson said after the meeting the those figures have not yet been set.

A possible bond vote might include projects in other parts of downtown in addition to the four blocks, Anderson said, but no dollar amount or date has been set. "City hall is important to the success of the four-block project," she said. She said the URA has 30 to 40 percent of the four-block property it is seeking.

Tax increment financing will not be enough to cover the project but the revenue allocation area should be expanded, according to the contract.

The contract also requires the consultants to form a group of community leaders to promote the advantages of the four-block and Main Avenue projects.

The work approved Monday is scheduled to last 75 to 90 days. A second phase, which will essentially be to identify funding sources and precise amount for the project, is expected to follow.

The URA will pay for half the cost of the contract plus traveling expenses for consultants. Anderson said that she plans to ask the Twin Falls City Council for the rest. The city's preliminary budget for next year includes \$150,000 for "downtown renewal."

In related business, the board agreed to give \$20,000 to the Robert Weed

Plywood Company to help with construction costs.

The Bristol, Ind.-based company recently opened a facility in the Jayco Industrial Park and supplies materials to Jayco, which arrived in Twin Falls with URA assistance. Five employees work there, a staff report shows.

Weed did not meet one of three requirements held by

the URA — that wages exceed the Twin Falls County average of \$12.88 — but Anderson said the company still diversifies the local economy, one of the other two requirements.

Judith Palmer contributed to this report.

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

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Tower

Continued from page A1

to Jennifer Campbell, co-owner of Ketchum-based Idaho Tower Co., the company that sought the permit. It would have cost between \$130,000 and \$150,000, six times as much as a normal tower, Campbell previously said.

Kolmeyer's decision was based on the effects analysis documented in the site's environmental analysis, as well as the forest plan and the law that established the SNRA, according to the release.

The decision notice and environmental analysis are available online at <http://www.fs.fed.us/r4/sawtooth/projects/>. Paper copies and CDs are also available at the Sawtooth National Recreation Area Headquarters Office, the Stanley Ranger Station and the Sawtooth National Forest Supervisor's Office.

The decision is subject to administrative review. Individuals or organizations who submitted comments during the formal 30-day

comment period in April and May 2007 have 45 days to file an appeal.

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Check and top off battery electrolyte
Check and top off battery water
Check and top off battery acid
Check and top off battery cells
Check and top off battery terminals
Check and top off battery connections
Check and top off battery cables
Check and top off battery straps
Check and top off battery hold-downs
Check and top off battery nuts
Check and top off battery bolts
Check and top off battery washers
Check and top off battery spacers
Check and top off battery insulators
Check and top off battery separators
Check and top off battery plates
Check and top off battery grids
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Check and top off battery separators
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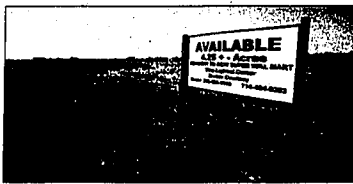
Continued from page A1

looking for a pretty good bargain," said District Facilities Manager Dale Thornberry Monday night during a school board meeting.

The school board Monday rejected that \$1.05 million bid on its commercial parcel, because that's what it has to do according to Idaho law. "In no case shall any real property of the school district be sold for less than its appraisal," state law shows.

The school districts' Twin Falls-based appraiser, Western Appraisal and Investment Company, Inc., blamed the market for the low residential land appraisal.

"Since the original appraisal was completed, the market for residential development ground has tanked," according to the most recent May appraisal report. "Even so, the parcels of land in question are situated in a popular commercial and res-



The Twin Falls School Board reviewed bids and appraisals for two sets of school district property at the new high school Monday.

idential area of the community that has an encouraging economic future. It's an area slated to have an office park, a new Wal-Mart, a new hospital, a new business park, and additional residential subdivisions, according to the May appraisal report.

The school board could decide to sell the land. If it does, the school district needs to have an appraisal within one year of a land sale. School district officials said in March that revenue from potential land sales

budget for construction costs.

Each appraisal costs the school district at least \$3,000, officials have said.

The school board decided Monday night to accept this year's land appraisals without seeing a copy of the appraisal report.

The appraiser said in his report that the school district could potentially make more money on the commercial land by separating it into smaller parcels.

Additionally, the appraiser recommended the school

district hold onto the residential land until the development and home construction markets recover. "This may be a two- to three-year period but that is difficult to predict with a possible national recession looming," the May appraisal report stated.

Andrea Jackson may be reached at 208-735-3380 or ajackson@magicvalley.com.

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Drilling

Continued from page A1

"Failure to act is unacceptable. It's unacceptable to me and it's unacceptable to the American people," Bush said in an event held in the Rose Garden.

"Democratic leaders can show that they have finally heard the frustrations of the American people by matching the action I've taken today, repealing the congressional ban, and passing legislation to facilitate responsible offshore exploration," Bush said.

The president's direct link between record gas prices and offshore drilling glossed over a key point. Even if Congress agreed, the exploration for oil would take years to produce real results. It is not projected to reduce gas prices in the short term. Even the White House routinely emphasizes there is no quick fix.

That did not stop Bush from building his case around today's prices at the pump.

He said every extra dollar that families must spend on gas is one they could be using to put food on their table or to send a child to school. "The American people, he said, are now 'waiting to see what the Congress will do.'"

The White House says that acting now on a long-term solution would send a serious signal to the market that more oil supply will be coming on line. That, in turn, could ease oil prices, advocates say. Business groups and many Republican lawmakers applauded the move to expand the energy supply in the U.S.

Democrats were unmoved. "The Bush plan is a hoax," responded House Speaker Nancy Pelosi. "It will neither reduce gas prices nor increase energy independence."

Several Democratic leaders in Congress said oil companies are already sitting on millions of acres of public and coastal lands.

Yet a proposal by Democrats to release oil from an emergency reserve has been rejected by the White House as a gimmick that won't reduce prices.

So the election-year stalemate remains.

Congressional Democrats, joined by some GOP lawmakers from coastal states, have long opposed lifting the prohibition that has barred easy company access from waters along both the East and West coasts and in the eastern Gulf of Mexico. A succession of presidents, including the current one, has sided with Congress for each of the last 27 years in barring drilling in these waters.

The main goal has been to protect beaches and coastal states' tourism economies, but Bush says that with today's technology, exploration can be conducted along the Outer Continental Shelf in ways that keep the drilling out of sight and protect the environment.

The congressional ban is renewed yearly, typically as part of a spending bill. The White House said it was too soon to comment on a potential Bush veto.

Under Bush's proposal,

states would help decide how drilling would be conducted off their shores. It is unclear how much oil would be available. Bush said it could eventually be enough to produce 10 years' worth of America's current oil production.

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Stocks decline as worries about financials persist

(AP) Wall Street extended its slump into yet another week Monday as investors worried that even a safety net set up for mortgage financiers Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac won't head off further troubles in the financial markets.

Dow Jones Industrials 11,055.19

Nasdaq Composite 2,212.87

Standard & Poor's 500 1,229.30

Russell 2000 664.50

-10.45

TUESDAY
JULY 15, 2008

AGRIBUSINESS

A5

TIMES-NEWS • BUSINESS EDITOR JOSHUA PALMER: (208) 735-3231

FUEL REPORT

Fuel prices in south-central Idaho showed little to no change last week. The average price for a gallon of regular gasoline in the Twin Falls (\$4.25), Jerome (\$4.17) and Burley (\$4.17) areas remained mostly unchanged. Prices in the region are about 8 cents higher than the national average. The average price for a gallon of diesel in south-central Idaho increased about 5 cents to \$4.80. Nationwide, prices hit a new U.S. record just shy of \$4.11 a gallon, according to auto club AAA, the Oil Price Information Service. Diesel prices are also at an all-time high, of \$4.824 a gallon. Analysts say tensions in the middle-east and congressional testimony by Federal Reserve Chairman Ben Bernanke this week could lead to another rise in fuel prices.

Gas prices

- Twin Falls: Fill Mart Phillips 66, 1612 Blue Lakes Blvd. N.: \$4.14
- Jerome: Maverik Country Store, 352 S. Lincoln Ave.: \$4.14
- Burley: Smith's Fuel, 937 E. Main St.: \$4.04

Diesel prices

- Twin Falls: Fill Mart Phillips 66, 1612 Blue Lakes Blvd. N.: \$4.68
- Jerome: Flying J, 5350 U.S. Highway 93: \$4.70
- Burley: Smith's Fuel, 937 E. Main St.: \$4.72

*Prices quotes by Mapquest.com as of Monday afternoon. Subject to change at anytime.

COMMODITY PRICES

Dairy

| Block | Close | Change |
|---------------|---------|--------|
| Average price | \$1.908 | -.016 |

| Barrel | Close | Change |
|---------------|---------|--------|
| Average price | \$1.848 | -.040 |

| Butter | Close | Change |
|---------------|---------|--------|
| Average Price | \$1.534 | -.018 |

| Whey protein concentrate | Close | Change |
|--------------------------|---------|--------|
| Average price | \$1.785 | -.015 |

| Class III milk | Close | Change |
|----------------|---------|--------|
| Average price | \$20.25 | — |

| Class IV milk | Close | Change |
|---------------|---------|--------|
| Average price | \$15.92 | — |

Feed

| Corn (Per 100 pounds) | Close | Change |
|-----------------------|---------|--------|
| Dairy Feed Supply | \$11.25 | — |
| Land O'Lakes | \$13.00 | — |
| Rangen | \$10.60 | — |

| Barley (Per 100 pounds) | Close | Change |
|-------------------------|--------|--------|
| Rangen | \$9.50 | — |
| Ogden | N/A | N/A |
| Idaho | \$9.00 | — |
| Burley | N/A | N/A |

| Hay (Mid/Ton) | Low | High |
|-------------------|----------|----------|
| Alfalfa (Supreme) | \$220.00 | \$230.00 |
| Alfalfa (Good) | \$200.00 | \$220.00 |
| Wheat straw | N/A | N/A |

Small grain

| Soft white wheat | Ask | N/A |
|----------------------|--------|-----|
| Rangen | — | — |
| Wendell Elevator Co. | \$9.00 | — |
| Ogden | \$7.95 | — |
| Pocatello | \$7.15 | — |
| Burley | \$7.00 | — |

| Dry beans (per 100) | Ask | N/A |
|---------------------|---------|-----|
| Rangen | — | — |
| Pink | \$33.00 | — |
| Small Red | \$40.00 | — |
| Pink | \$32.00 | — |
| Soranco | — | — |
| Pinto | \$33.00 | — |
| Small Red | \$40.00 | — |

ADAM (Not releasing prices).
Price quotes as of Monday afternoon.
Prices subject to change at any time.
To be included in this table, call Joshua Palmer at 208-735-3231.

RESERVOIR LEVELS



- 1. Little Wood: 53%
- 2. Lake Whitcomb: 96%
- 3. Britto: 90%
- 4. American Falls: 61%
- 5. Burley: 105%

Thievery on the farm

Idaho hay thefts, like hay prices, are climbing

By Rebecca Boone
Associated Press writer

Officials with the Idaho Department of Agriculture say that hay thefts and illegal hay purchases are on the rise as the price of hay continues to climb.

There have been no reports of hay thefts in south-central Idaho, according to city and county law enforcement officials. But Lori Nebeker, spokeswoman for the Twin Falls County Sheriff's Office, said law enforcement will be keeping

"There's just so much money involved now that people are willing to take the risk."

— Dave Ogden, Idaho Department of Agriculture

ing a close eye on the problem as hay prices continue to rise.

However, state officials say hay thefts have already begun in other parts of the state.

"There's a lot of competition for hay right now," said Dave Ogden, a manager with the department's Warehouse Control Program.

"We're having a lot of problems with unlicensed dealers and speculators and outright thefts. You always have a little of this, but this year it's brazen, happens during the day and it's up a level from what it's been in the past."

"There's just so much money involved now that people are will-

ing to take the risk."
Hay prices are dramatically higher than last year, with supreme-grade alfalfa selling for roughly \$235 a ton in Idaho last week, compared to about \$160 a ton in 2006, according to the U.S. Department of Agriculture's market report.

During all of 2006, the department got about 25 complaints involving unlicensed dealers, said Tiffany Clark, a program manager

Please see HAY, Page A5



Economically, it's even more important now

By Cindy Snyder
Correspondent

HAGERMAN — Finding a substitute for fish meal in fish diets hasn't been easy and now it's becoming more expensive.

For more than three decades researchers have experimented with feedstuffs like soybean meal, corn, barley and even marine processing waste to replace fish meal. Up until 2006, sustainability was the key issue, but economics has become increasingly more important in recent years.

"We expected an orderly transition from fish meal to plant protein concentrate," said Ron Hardy, director of the University of Idaho Fish Culture Experiment Station in Hagerman. "We expected demand would drive supply. That's all wrong now."

Researchers began looking for fish meal substitutes in earnest after an El Nino event in the 1970s drastically reduced fish meal production and set prices to historic highs. Protecting against catastrophic events was one goal, but so was protecting fish populations by not harvesting as many for fish meal.

While fish meal prices have remained relatively stable, prices are about 50 percent higher than just a few years ago. At the same time, the price of corn, soybeans, wheat and rice have soared within



the last year. The 30-year average price for corn is \$2.50 a bushel. At the end of April that had climbed to \$5.91 per bushel, and December futures contract are trading above \$7 per bushel. In Chicago now, soybean meal has climbed from \$230 to \$350 per ton.

"It alters how you think about feeds and alternatives," Hardy told aquaculture producers at the Idaho Aquaculture Producers annual meeting.

"I don't think we have a protein shortage. I think we have the wrong protein in the wrong form and in the wrong place."

In 2006, aquafeeds used 68 percent of the world's supply of fish meal (3.724 million metric tons) and 88.5 percent of fish oil (835,000 million metric tons).

Aquafeeds production is expected to double within 10 years.

World demand for grains is expected to double by 2025, driven largely by an economic expansion in China that is fueling

demand for more animal protein. China's swine herd, for example, is expected to increase by 8 to 10 percent annually. With 650 million head in China compared to 250 million in the European Union and 168 million in the U.S., an annual increase of 10 percent is equal to about half of the U.S. production.

Chinese people typically eat about 45 percent of the meat consumed annually by Americans, increasing that level to one comparable to the U.S. would require 227 million metric tons more of feedstuffs to feed the animals, which in turn would require an additional 27.5 million hectares of farmland to raise that feed.

"There's not much land to be converted," Hardy said. China already uses 3.3 million metric tons of fish meal annually in swine, poultry and fish diets. The country bought one-sixth of the world's supply of fish meal in 2006. That's back when fish meal was priced between \$300 and \$500 a ton, now it's \$850 to \$1,200 a ton.

That's why researchers are shifting from looking at how commodities such as corn or soybean meal can be substituted for fish meal to looking at how co-products from biofuel production may be.

Palatability and providing the right mix of nutrients have presented challenges when substituting corn or soybean meal for fish meal. Those become even more difficult when looking at something like dried distillery grains, a byproduct of ethanol production. DDGs are 27 percent to 30 percent crude protein and that protein is highly digestible, but DDGs are limited in fish diets because of a high level of indigestible carbohydrates, Hardy said. However, there is some potential for including DDGs in grow out diets for tilapia, carp and catfish.

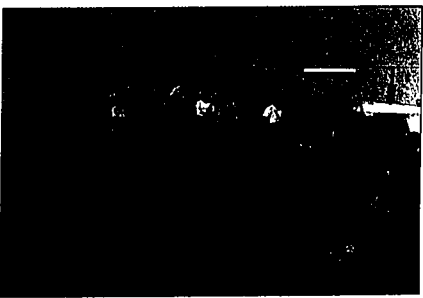
"We're not just taking out fish meal," Hardy said. "Fish meal is minerals, bioactive compounds, a lot of good things."

Researchers are not even sure what all these "good things" are or why plant proteins can't provide them. That's why including a supplement protein made from marine processing plants is likely to be part of any fish meal replacement strategy.

Another issue is simply price. "The price of plant protein concentrate relative to fish meal will continue to be a problem," he said.

But even if price were no object, it's unlikely that fish meal can be completely eliminated from aquafeeds. "Fish meal will balance deficiencies in other alternatives, but it will be reserved for high end diets such as starter for fry and for transition diets," Hardy said.

BETTER PLANTING



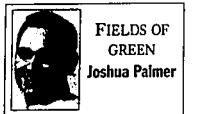
Brad King discusses his research on bed planted potatoes from the tractor seat during a tour at the USDA-Agricultural Research Service Lab at Kimberly recently. Early results indicate bed planted potatoes use both water and nitrogen more efficiently.

Loss of an advocate; reliving the past

Loss of an advocate: Sen. Tom Gannon, R-Idaho, meant a lot to south-central Idaho.

The 62-year-old senator left behind a powerful history of public service, which is evident in his work to bring the Idaho Center for Livestock and Environmental Studies to the region.

"Sen. Gannon could have chosen to leave the Senate, which would have made re-creation easier and perhaps even his chances of survival better," state Bob Naberbusch, executive director for the Idaho Dairymen's Association, in a letter to members of the association. "But instead he took on



FIELDS OF GREEN
Joshua Palmer

the challenge of chairing the Senate Ag Committee because he saw the position gave him a great opportunity to convince lawmakers outside of Magic Valley of the importance of the Idaho Center for Livestock and Environmental Studies." Gannon succeeded in what he set out to do. And now

Please see GREEN, Page A7

Anheuser-Busch sold to InBev for \$52 billion

Sale not likely to impact south-central Idaho operations

By Aofe White and Christopher Leonard
Associated Press writers

BRUSSELS, Belgium — The maker of the King of Beers has agreed to go to work for the Belgian brewer InBev SA. Anheuser-Busch Cos. said early Monday it had agreed to a sweet deal for a \$52 billion takeover bid from InBev, creating the world's largest brewer and heading off what was shaping up as an acrimonious fight for the maker of Budweiser and the Light beer. InBev brands include Stella Artois, Beck's and Bass.

The combined company will be called Anheuser-Busch InBev. As of the end of last week, InBev sold about 1.5 billion bottles a year, making it the world's third largest consumer products company by market capitalization after Procter & Gamble of the United States and Nestle SA of Switzerland.

The sale of the brewing company will not likely affect operations in south-central Idaho, say regional grain buyers, as the majority of barley growers in the region sell to buyers for Coors.

The Anheuser-Busch board accepted the higher takeover offer on Monday night from Belgian-based InBev, according to a joint press release. The deal is expected to close by year-end.

"What consumers care is that their Bud will always be their Bud, and that's what we're committed to, not only the product, the quality, the beer — but also the heritage," InBev CEO Karim Benjelloun said. The deal gives an aggressive company an iconic beer brand — Budweiser — to sell into emerging markets such as China and Brazil, which InBev has already established a wide network.

InBev is the world's second-largest beer-maker, narrowly behind SABMiller. Southwestern Anheuser-Busch is the largest, capturing half of the U.S. beer market and a fifth of China and Russia.

Who will be chief executive officer of the combined company, while Anheuser-Busch CEO August Busch IV will step back into a non-executive role. He will be a member of the new company's board alongside one other nominee from Anheuser-Busch, yet to be named.

"We went through some difficult times together, and our employees did us well, but in the end this is a friendly transaction and we are going to work very hard for our new shareholders," Busch told reporters. Shareholders will receive \$70 a share, a \$5 increase over the offer Anheuser-Busch rejected in June. Both companies' shareholders must approve the deal, as must U.S. and EU antitrust regulators.

Anheuser-Busch shares rose 50 cents to \$67 in afternoon trading after rising to a 52-week high of \$67.55.

The deal drew the attention of Mexico's Grupo Modelo. Anheuser-Busch also owns a 50 percent share in Grupo Modelo, which was mentioned in a statement Monday that its relationship with Anheuser-Busch gives it consent rights to the deal.

But Brito told reporters that he didn't see any impediments coming from Modelo and he was in "positive" talks about keeping the company as a partner. He said there were no immediate plans to buy out Modelo or divest Anheuser-Busch's stake in the company.



An Anheuser-Busch logo is seen behind in a glass case in the brewery's tour center Monday in St. Louis. Anheuser-Busch Cos. says it has agreed to a sweetened \$52 billion takeover bid from the Belgian brewer InBev.



SOURCES: Anheuser-Busch; Impact, AP; M. Shuman; Communications Inc.

despite Anheuser-Busch's existing plans to shed 1,185 positions — mostly by retiring early retirement and not filling existing vacancies.

The companies will, however, sell off "non-core assets" that will not name to raise some \$7 billion to finance the deal. InBev will also borrow \$45 billion and plans to issue new shares to raise another \$9.8 billion.

Shareholders won't see much joy in the short-term. InBev wanted of lower dividends and no benefit to earnings per share until 2010.

But it is promising longer-

term rewards in a falling market. Beer sales in North America and Europe are flat as drinkers turn to wine and spirits. InBev has compensated by finding new drinkers in Latin America, Eastern Europe and Asia that will now be handed a cold Bud.

InBev cost synergies of at least \$1.5 billion a year by 2011 over three years. Most of that will come from managing the supply chain better. InBev's sharp eye on costs — which forces managers to justify every cent spent — will also play a major part.

Monday's kiss-and-make-up announcement from both companies came after several weeks of tug-of-war. InBev said on June 11 it wanted to buy Anheuser-Busch, which distributes its beers in the U.S.

Anheuser-Busch shrugged off the offer first as too low, prompting InBev to seek the removal of all Anheuser's board members. Anheuser countered, claiming InBev hid an "illegal scheme" because the company failed to mention that it owned a brewery in Cuba.

Few products are associated with America as much as Budweiser, which its owner calls the King of Beers. Its Clydesdale horses are fixtures of Super Bowl ads, and even the label is red, white and blue, with an eagle swooping through the "A."

Hay

Continued from page A5 for the Agriculture Department.

"This year, in the first six months, we've already had 20 complaints," Clark said. "Last year we had about 10 complaints as far as nonpayment or theft and this year I've already had seven or eight."

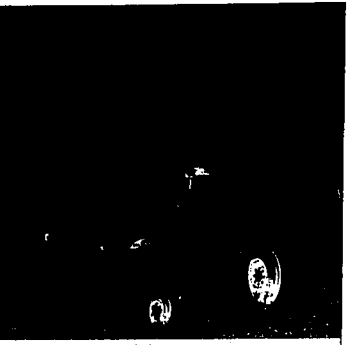
Those numbers don't represent all hay thefts, Clark said — outright thefts are often reported directly to law enforcement agencies, bypassing the department regulators. Law enforcement agencies typically categorize thefts based on property value, not by item taken, making it very difficult to get an accurate count of agricultural produce thefts across the state.

The farm product market is complicated, with strict rules designed to protect the buyers and the sellers, Ogden said. In general, farmers sell their produce or grains to licensed and bonded dealers, and remind dealers to make sure that the contracts are dated and signed by everyone involved. But officials don't have much advice when it comes to the thefts.

"They're out in rural areas and farmers can't be watching all of their fields at the same time," Ogden said. "I don't know what they can do to protect their crops other than just a sort of neighborhood watch program, with farmers paying attention to any unfamiliar trucks in the region."

Hay prices, and the price of fertilizer has doubled, they're just needing everything they can get out of that hay. The prices look real good right now but the price of everything else is up as well."

The Agriculture Department is trying to remind farmers across the state to deal only with licensed and bonded dealers, and remind dealers to make sure that the contracts are dated and signed by everyone involved.



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AUTO PARTS COLLECTIBLES

Model '17 Ford overhauled engine block, head and manifold, no starter or transmission - 2 old Chevrolet wheels - Sears car top carrier - 68 Chevy hubcaps - pickup extension mirrors - Ford auto spot light

SHOP ITEMS

Canvex 2000lb upholstery sewing machine (excellent condition) - many upholstery accessories - roll of scrim for upholstery - Harris acrylene welding cutting outfit with bottles and cart - Ohio Forge 10" table saw - Homelite 330 chainsaw - K/C Collette chain saw - battery charger - Craftsman 1/2" drill - 4" bench vice and stand - bolt cutters - assorted hand tools

ANTIQUES - COLLECTIBLES

RCA battery radio - old Atwater Kent radio - 1924 RCA refinished Radio Super Heterodyne battery operated radio - old Gilman air cooled outboard boat motor - Maytag single piston gas engine - 2 Detroit balance scale scales - old wooden folding picnic table with benches - colored iron jars - lead lids - several hand food grinders - hand sawing buffer - old silversmith and utensils - old stove components - inlets - pair of leather leggings - 1942 Army knap sack - bottle carrier - Browning Target Six 16 box camera - several pieces of old cookware - old spectacles - silver and France Albert tobacco cany - Farm Master counter top hand cream separator - blow hot box - oil cans - creek kick cup solution holder - 2 kraut cutters - assorted old tools - hand corn planer - South Side bean bin bag - hand garden cultivator

MISCELLANEOUS

New Bival electric roaster - new H.P. 8050 Photo Smart photo printer - Cleveland electronic slide rule - large hay trap - 4 aluminum plywood table stands - S4 crank up antenna tower - and other miscellaneous items

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MUTUAL FUNDS

Table of mutual fund performance data including columns for Name, Last Chg, % Chg, and various fund categories like Domestic, International, and Bond.

COMMODITIES REPORT

Table of commodity prices for various futures contracts, including grains, oil, and metals, with columns for Name, Community, High, Low, and Change.

CHEESE

Table of cheese prices for various types of cheese, including Cheddar, Swiss, and Brie, with columns for Name, Price, and Change.

POTATOES

Table of potato prices for various grades and types, including Russet Burbank and Red Skin, with columns for Name, Price, and Change.

LIVESTOCK

Table of livestock prices for various animals, including cattle, hogs, and sheep, with columns for Name, Price, and Change.

BEANS

Table of bean prices for various types, including Soybean, Black, and Pinto, with columns for Name, Price, and Change.

GRAINS

Table of grain prices for various types, including Corn, Wheat, and Soybean Meal, with columns for Name, Price, and Change.

MARKET SUMMARY

Large summary table of market data including NYSE, AMEX, NASDAQ, INDEXES, and STOCKS OF LOCAL INTEREST, with columns for Name, Last Chg, % Chg, and various market indicators.

HOW TO READ THE MARKET REPORT

Explanatory text for the market report, detailing how to interpret the data in the tables, including symbols for up/down, volume, and other market indicators.

Green

Continued from page A5. south-central Idaho will take part in hosting one of the largest dairy research facilities in the nation. A facility that will stand in memory of Geneva's leadership in the dairy industry and the region he served.

Reactions mixed on pepper link to salmonella

Negative publicity could hurt already struggling industry. By Melanie Babovich Associated Press writer. ALBUQUERQUE, N.M. — New Mexico jalapeno farmers should be breathing a sigh of relief. Confirmed as a record 1,065 cases of salmonella poisoning from April 10 to June 26, including 104 cases in New Mexico. In New Mexico, a state known for its spicy, quality peppers and home to Hatch, known for itself as the "Chili Capital of the World," any negative news regarding peppers is a cause for concern.



Farmer Kirk Holtz looks at a pepper plant with his daughter Brianna on their farm near Willard, Idaho.

EDITORIAL

It's raining cats and dogs at the shelter

This is a shaggy dog story. More than 3,000 animals are brought to the Twin Falls animal shelter each year, on average, and those numbers are climbing faster than a retriever after a squirrel.

The sour economy's to blame. Too many folks who live paycheck-to-paycheck are finding those checks don't cover the cost of kibble, let alone neutering, spaying or vaccinating.

So more animals are winding up behind bars, and this is just the beginning.

In the next 18 months, the shelter's staff is bracing for 2,000 more dogs and cats than the almost 3,000 critters it took in this year. It will require up to \$182,000 to handle that number of dogs and cats.

People for Pets Magic Valley Humane Society, a non-profit organization which runs the shelter mostly with financial help from the city of Twin Falls and Twin Falls County, can't cope with those numbers with the resources it has. More animals will be euthanized unless the shelter gets more support.

People for Pets is seeking an additional \$11,000 from the city on top of the more than \$200,000 it received last year. It's also asking for \$3,000 more from the county on top of its current \$40,000 contribution.

It's a tight year at City Hall and the courthouse, but we hope the City Council and the County Commission will provide the extra dollars.

That said, the shelter deserves more support from the private sector as well.

For decades, the city had a tiny animal shelter that could accommodate far too few stray dogs and cats. Animals were euthanized by the pickup truck-full.

So in 2002, People for Pets organized a build-the-shelter campaign that raised \$225,000 to support the city's investment in a new facility. The new shelter on Victory Avenue, adequate for the needs of a county with a population of more than 65,000, opened four years ago.

Today, People for Pets can place about 60 percent of the 2,000 adoptable animals that come through the shelter's doors every year. The Twin Falls community, both city and county, have made a significant investment in animal welfare. A decade ago, most dogs and cats that went to the pound died there.

The shelter needs more public-sector support and private-sector donations to assure that Twin Falls doesn't return to the bad old days. But there's another side to this story. Too many residents of this community still regard dogs and cats as disposable, and the shelter as a place to take them when the animals become inconvenient.

A dog or a cat is a personal and financial commitment, plain and simple. If you're not in this relationship for the long run, do us all a favor and remain pet-free.

Our view: Twin Falls' People for Pets Humane Society is facing a looming financial crisis. Government and the private sector should help solve it. What do you think? We welcome viewpoints from our readers on this and other issues.

Stemming the tide of Medicare privatization

It was the worst of days. It was the best of days. Last Wednesday, Senate Democrats capitulated to the Bush administration on wiretapping — with Barack Obama joining the coalition of the craven.

Later that day, however, those same Senate Democrats won a huge victory on Medicare.



PAUL KRUGMAN

News reports stressed the cinematic quality of the event: Ted Kennedy, who is fighting a brain tumor, made a dramatic appearance on the Senate floor, casting the decisive vote amid cheers from his colleagues. (Only one senator was absent: John McCain.)

But the vote was bigger than the theatrics. It was the first major health care victory that Democrats have won in long time. And it was enormously encouraging for advocates of universal health care.

Ostensibly, Wednesday's vote was about restoring cuts in Medicare payments to doctors. What it was really about, however, was the fight against creeping privatization. Democrats finally took a stand — and, thanks to Kennedy, seem to have prevailed.

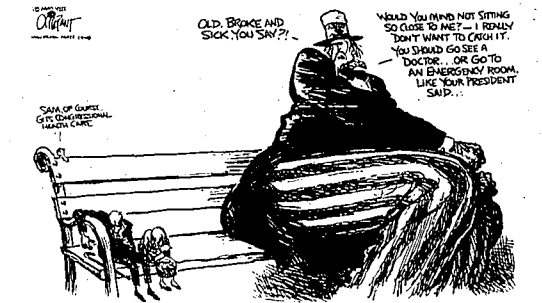
The story really begins in 2003, when the Bush administration renamed the Medicare Modernization Act through Congress, literally in the dead of night. That bill established large de facto subsidies for Medicare Advantage plans — plans in which Medicare funds are funneled through private insurance companies, rather than directly paying for care.

Since then, the number of these plans has been growing rapidly. This has had a destructive effect on Medicare's finances: The fastest-growing type of Medicare Advantage plan, private fee-for-service, costs taxpayers 17 percent more per beneficiary than Medicare without the middleman. It also threatens to undermine Medicare's universality, turning it into a system in which insurance companies cherry-pick healthier and more affluent older Americans, leaving the sicker and poorer behind.

What does this have to do with cuts in doctors' fees? Well, legislation passed a decade ago makes such cuts automatic whenever the growth in Medicare spending exceeds an essentially low target. This year, the automatic cuts would have reduced doctors' payments by more than 10 percent, a pay reduction so deep that many physicians would probably have stopped taking Medicare patients.

In previous years, payments to doctors were maintained through bipartisan funding. Politicians from both parties got together to waive the rules. In effect, Congress kept Medicare functioning by expanding the federal budget deficit.

This year, the Democratic leadership decided, instead,



to link the "doctor fix" to the fight against privatization and offend a bill that maintains doctors' payments — while reining in those expensive private fee-for-service plans. Last month, the Senate took up that bill — but Democrats failed by one vote to override a Republican filibuster. And that seemed to be that: soon after that vote, Sens. Max Baucus and Charles Grassley had another bipartisan fudge all ready to go.

But then Democratic leaders decided to play brinkmanship. They let the doctors' cuts stand for the Fourth of July holiday, daring Republicans to threaten the basic medical care of millions of Americans rather than give up subsidies to insurance companies. Over the recess period, there was an intense lobbying war between insurance companies and doctors.

And when the Senate came back in session, it turned out that the doctors — and the Democrats — had won: Kennedy was there to cast the extra vote needed to break the filibuster, a number of Republicans switched sides and the bill passed with a veto-proof majority.

If the Democrats can win victories like this now, they

should be able to put a definitive end to the privatization of Medicare next year, when they're virtually certain to have a larger congressional majority and will probably hold the White House. There's how it will play out, if all goes well: Early next year, President Obama will send his health care plan to Congress. The plan will face vociferous opposition from the insurance industry — but the Medicare vote suggests that this time, unlike in 1993, Democrats will hold together.

Unless Democrats win even bigger than expected, however, they won't have the 60 Senate votes needed to overcome the filibuster. What the Medicare fight shows is that the Democrats could nonetheless prevail by taking their case to the public, daring their opponents to stand in the way of health care security — so that in the end they get some Republicans to switch sides, and get the legislation through.

A lot can still go wrong with this vision. But the odds of achieving universal health care, soon, look a lot higher than they did just a couple of weeks ago.

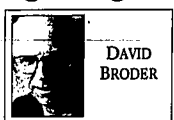
Paul Krugman is a columnist for The New York Times.

Solving a lingering constitutional standoff

WASHINGTON — Just shy of eight years after they squared off in the Florida recount battle, James A. Baker III and Warren Christopher have joined forces to clean up one of the ugly legacies of Vietnam — the misguided piece of legislation called the War Powers Act.

Passed in 1973 when Congress was mightily frustrated with the ill-fated war in Southeast Asia, that statute is proof of the adage that hard cases make bad law. Cases don't come any harder than Vietnam, and the War Powers Act has turned out to be one of the worst bills ever to reach the president's desk and be signed into law.

Its constitutionality is suspect, but no one has ever found a way to test it in court. Now Baker and Christopher, both former secretaries of state before they became lawyers for George W. Bush and Al Gore, respectively, in the 2000 struggle over Florida's decisive electoral votes, have found common cause as co-chairmen of a National War Powers Commission created by the Miller Center of Public Affairs at the University of Virginia. The two have a shared pas-



DAVID BRODER

sion to help the next president and Congress find a way to solve a problem that has vexed the capital since the early days of the Republic. The Founders left a ton of confusion about a pretty important question: Who has the authority to make war? Article I of the Constitution gives Congress the exclusive right to declare war but Article II makes the president the commander in chief. Nowhere does it say where the authority of one stops and the other begins.

The War Powers Act tried to resolve the question by putting a time limit on the president's ability to deploy troops into a combat zone, but no president has accepted as legitimate that limitation on his authority, and Congress has never tried to enforce it.

Baker and Christopher told me that as they dug into the issue, they and their fellow commission members quickly

concluded there was no way to nudge the Supreme Court into settling the issue. The court has an aversion to arbitrating a political question arising from a conflict between the elected branches.

They focused on the question of how to encourage substantive discussions between the branches before the weighty decision is made to put troops into combat. Their proposed substitute is called The War Powers Consultation Act.

It calls on the president to consult with key legislators before sending troops into significant armed conflict, defined as a situation where fighting may last more than a week. It creates a Joint Congressional Consultation Committee, composed of leaders of both parties and senior members of six key committees, and it guarantees that the committee and its staff have access to all the relevant intelligence the president sees.

It requires Congress to vote up or down on a deployment within 30 days, and it permits a cutoff of funds for deployments disapproved by two-thirds of the House and Senate.

That complex procedure, Baker said, is designed to preserve the constitutional authority of both the president and Congress. It avoids some of the practical and legal infirmities of the current War Powers Act. But as he readily conceded, you can't legislate trust, and without trust, no set of procedures can be guaranteed to work. It could be argued that if there were trust between the leaders of the elected branches — as there has been for substantial periods of our history but not in recent years — you would need no statute to replace the War Powers Act.

But Baker and Christopher argue that with a new president and a new Congress arriving in January, agreement on a workable substitute for the War Powers Act could, in itself, be a confidence-building step. I have trouble seeing this as a high priority on the 2009 agenda. But I do think the Florida antagonists have devised a clever way to signal a healthy change toward bipartisanship in foreign policy.

Washington Post columnist David Broder can be reached at davidbroder@washpost.com.

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THE LIGHTER SIDE OF POLITICS

Doonesbury



Mallard Fillmore



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Neighbors put damper on July 4 patriotism

This letter is in regard to all my neighbors on the south side of Twin Falls. Most of you I would like to recognize for your patriotism and would also like to thank you for helping most of the rest of normal citizens that enjoy celebrating our freedom by family get-togethers and barbecues and, most importantly, the all-important lighting of fireworks.

You are the people that make me proud to be an American. Yet, there are those of our neighbors, through their selfishness and loathing, that feel the need to exercise their right to rain on our parade. The one night out of the year that true-blooded patriots band together and celebrate freedom, we citizens of the free world get our patriotism showed back down our throats by those that feel the need to control every aspect of our lives by calling the police and being told we can't be free to celebrate freedom on the day of freedom.

I understand the law enforcement officials are just doing their jobs, and I do appreciate all they do. But I don't appreciate the double-edged sword of freedom being swung by the unpatriotic at those who are. To my neighbors that hate freedom, shame on you! Thank you for the well-designed attack on our party. My brother, serving in the military who was home on leave for the Fourth, appreciates you also. Please enjoy your freedom, for my brother is fighting to protect yours as well. BRYAN ENKS Twin Falls

Cutting Oktoberfest won't benefit BID

Well, another well-thought-out move on behalf of our Business Improvement District canceling Oktoberfest. Bulkley said he did not know exactly how much money the BID lost on the event, or how much it cost the board, so how can you make an informed decision without these numbers in front of you. "Funding for the event will instead be used for First Fridays, said BID Board Chairman Jeff Bulkley." What are First Fridays anyway? No, really, what is it? "It's never been a money-maker downtown and even has lost money for the BID every year," Bulkley said of Oktoberfest. "Since when does everything we do

have to be about making money? I thought Oktoberfest was about community," Bulkley said the new board lacked time to organize the event. So what is this all about? Oktoberfest is an annual event, so doesn't that mean it happens every year? Duh! It's not like this event should be a surprise.

"The common goal of the BID is to get people downtown," he (Bulkley) said. So this statement doesn't make sense at all. By cutting out a major event, how is this helping achieve BID's common goal? So am I picking on Mr. Bulkley? Of course not, I am just aggravated by the business-as-usual attitude feel by the BID.

I would have to say that it is not new to any of us downtown merchants to be left out of the loop when it comes to anything affecting downtown; it is just business as usual. It would be nice to be kept informed through e-mails, newsletters, faxes, word of mouth, sign language or smoke signals.

Communication has never been one of the BID's strong suits; the merchants usually get informed through the Times-News. I have not been contacted by anyone about his decision from the BID, and I am sure most of the merchants haven't either.

ROD KINNEY Twin Falls (Editor's note: Rod Kinney operates Warm Art Tattoo & Body Piercing on Main Avenue North.)

F&G official's letter was personal opinion

The Sunday, July 6, edition of the Times-News contained a letter to the editor from Fish and Game Regional Supervisor David Parrish on the proposed China Mountain wind farm.

For the record, his comments were his own and do not reflect Fish and Game's policy position.

The China Mountain proposal is undergoing federal scoping and we are working with other state and federal agencies and the project sponsors to thoroughly review the proposal.

The Idaho Department of Fish and Game has a responsibility to maintain a balanced perspective on energy and other resource issues in the context of fulfilling its job of responsibly managing Idaho's fish and wildlife.

Cal GROEN Boise (Cal Groen is the director of Idaho Department of Fish and Game.)

Sir, step away from the cell phone

I'm not a good driver, mainly because I consider driving a background activity. Sure, occasionally I have to steer or accelerate, but mostly I'm just conveniently moving forward while I text, eat, check out women, write down ideas, listen to the radio and return calls, sometimes all at the same time. Every so often, when I'm particularly flippety, I'm sad there's no such thing as man makeup.

So when I found out that California cops can now pull you over for talking on a cell phone without a hands-free device, I wanted to know how to avoid a ticket. My first instinct was to buy a hands-free device. But then I realized I could ride around with a traffic cop figure out what tips him off and just avoid doing that stuff.

Officer John Stafford was the worst person the Los Angeles Police Department could have given me. He's so insanely nice and polite that he gets in trouble for averaging only 1.3 tickets a day, compared with three or four issued daily by most officers. "I gave three warnings yesterday," he told me. "I can't do that. I've got to write something."

We were in the squad car about five minutes when he asked me what I wanted to do. I don't know much about policing, but I do know that I should have absolutely no decision-making power over it.



JOEL STEIN

Apparently, cell-phone users have nearly disappeared since the new law went into effect. Still, I tell Stafford I want to go pull over some hands-free scofflaws. So he asks around and gets word that Hollywood's Melrose Avenue is the place. It turns out it's pretty hard to catch someone talking on a cell phone if they see you in a cop car. So we get out on a corner and look for offenders. That's when Stafford is approached by Chance Parker, a music producer with a lot of phone questions. Parker, shocked to hear cops can indeed pull him over just for talking into his phone, turns into a kind of cell phone Supreme Court lawyer.

"Even if your Bluetooth goes out for a second, you can pull me over? What if your Bluetooth isn't working? You're just basically like, 'lost call!'"

The law, as Parker learned, can be cruelly unjust. We spot a lot more drivers from the corner, but it's hard to pull them over from the sidewalk. Luckily, as soon as we get back in the

car, we spot a guy in a Land Rover chatting like a man with no respect for the law or safety or America in general. We put on the lights and pull him over. He does not act at all surprised by this, even though the law is new and one of the people approaching his car is wearing jeans and a T-shirt.

The perp starts in with an excuse about his using Bluetooth despite what we both saw. Which, it turns out, I'm pretty sure is true. His phone, after all, rings straight into his car's speaker system, which we discover when someone else calls him.

Still, the dude held the phone to his face, so Stafford screws up the courage to write the 573 citation.

"I'm bummed that I have to sit here and I wasn't even on the phone," the criminal tells me. "When I'm on Bluetooth I'll chew on it or

hold it up to my face. It's just instinct."

"This is a defense more typically given with a hangdog look and canine whine."

"Here's your copy. Please be careful," Stafford said, handing him the ticket. Then he added, "I guess to be comforting: Officially you're my first ticket of this new law."

Back in the car, Stafford seemed relieved. "It went real good. Boy, he was real cooperative. Real nice."

Our missions accomplished — he finally having written a ticket and I having learned not to drive on Melrose — I told Stafford that I hoped to see him again, although not while he was pulling me over. "I'll let you go," he said. "I already knew that."

Joel Stein is a columnist for the Los Angeles Times. Write to him at jstein@latimescolumnists.com.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Some charities deliver help with no salaries

An article in the July 6, Sunday Times-News titled "Charities reap meager rewards from meager fundraising efforts," mentioned that many charities are nothing more than a "rip-off of taxpayers' money." Examples mentioned noted some nonprofit organizations kept 94 cents of every dollar, others netted fewer than 26 cents per dollar and, in 430 campaigns, charities got nothing.

It is important for the public to know that the board members of the Mini-Cassia Christmas Council Inc. receive no salaries. There are no financial or other compensations paid to any board member or others donating time to this worthy cause, so you may rest assured your donations to this nonprofit organization will be used 100 percent for the purpose it was organized.

Also, we need the interest of younger people who desire to assume leadership responsibilities in the future. Please contact one of the board members as your services will be appreciated. VERLEE FROST Burley

and other car expenses involving council activities. They have contributed not only their time but have occasionally purchased needed items or materials. Their pay consists of satisfaction knowing their efforts will help ensure families in our area enjoy Christmas and have needed food, toys and other necessities.

We also have an attorney and an accountant who donate their time to assist in the organization's needs. You may rest assured your donations to this nonprofit organization will be used 100 percent for the purpose it was organized.

Also, we need the interest of younger people who desire to assume leadership responsibilities in the future. Please contact one of the board members as your services will be appreciated. VERLEE FROST Burley

Advertisement for Handmade Eyewear featuring a muscular man holding a pair of glasses. Text includes: '24 HOURS OF MAKING FINE EYEWEAR', 'Handmade Eyewear', 'HOUSING NOT OFFER', 'FINE EYEWEAR IN ONE HOUR', 'Monday - Friday, 9am - 6pm', '731 North College Road - Twin Falls 208-734-EYES (3937) - Fax: 208-734-7585', 'After hour appointments available'.

MOST STORES OPEN ON SUNDAY

Advertisement for Sherwin-Williams paint. Text includes: 'Now through July 30', 'SAVE \$7/gallon', 'ON A WIDE VARIETY OF SHERWIN-WILLIAMS BRAND PAINTS AND STAINS', 'SAVE UP TO 25% on select painting tools & supplies', 'SAVE 10% on People's Choice custom order wallcovering'.

Advertisement for Saturday's Warrior. Text includes: 'SATURDAY'S WARRIOR FOR A NEW GENERATION', '35 YEARS', 'SHARE THE MAGIC YOU REMEMBER With Your Children & Loved Ones', 'ON TOUR... In a Stunning Revue! & After Intermission: THE WHITE STAR'.

Advertisement for Sherwin-Williams paint promotion. Text includes: '2 Days Only - Most Stores Open on Sunday', 'I take an extra 10% off', 'July 19-20, 2008', 'Ask Sherwin-Williams', 'Share what inspires you and see what inspires others. It's NEW and it's FUN!', 'Visit colorinspiration.com', 'To find a store near you, call 1-800-4-SHERWIN or visit us at sherwin-williams.com'.

Advertisement for Idaho Central Credit Union. Text includes: 'Put your money to work.', '4.10% 15-month CD (New money required)', '4.35% 36-month CD (New money required)', '5.05% 48-month CD (New money required)', 'Making your money work harder for you has never been easier thanks to our special CD offers. Stop by an Idaho Central branch to learn more.', 'Idaho Central Credit Union', '1ccu.com • 733-4777'.

Advertisement for Saturday's Warrior. Text includes: 'SATURDAY'S WARRIOR FOR A NEW GENERATION', '35 YEARS', 'SHARE THE MAGIC YOU REMEMBER With Your Children & Loved Ones', 'ON TOUR... In a Stunning Revue! & After Intermission: THE WHITE STAR', 'Arts Center (Twin Falls)', '8 & 19 • 730 pm', '1-800-888-8888'.

Fannie-Freddie lifeline puts taxpayers on the hook

Magicvalley.com

WASHINGTON (AP) — Now that the federal government has thrown a lifeline to mortgage giants Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac, taxpayers could be on the hook for billions more if the crisis of confidence spreads.

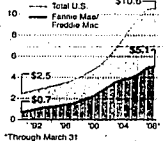
There were encouraging signs Monday for the rescue plan, but also signs of concern — notably on Wall Street, where shares of the two companies slumped further — that the plan won't be enough.

Other banks are already teetering: National City Corp. shares fell nearly 15 percent on rumors of financial trouble, even though it said it was experiencing no unusual depositor or creditor activity. And Washington Mutual Inc.'s shares fell 35 percent, to a paltry \$3.23 amid worries about whether it had enough cash to handle the mortgage market downturn. WaMut said

Half of home debt

Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac accounted for 47.9 percent of the total U.S. mortgage debt at the end of the first quarter.

Outstanding mortgage debt \$12 trillion



SOURCES: Federal Reserve; Office of Federal Housing Enterprise Oversight

that it did.

And worried customers lined up Monday to pull cash out of their accounts at IndyMac Bank, seized on Friday by the federal government.

Some critics said they fear the Fannie-Freddie rescue effort will make more bailouts inevitable by sending a message that some institutions are too big to fail and thus encouraging risky behavior.

"It sends the wrong message to the world," said Joshua Rosner, managing director of research firm Graham, Fisher & Co. in New York.

Sung Won Sohn, an eco-

nomics professor at The Smith School of Business at Cal State Channel Islands, cited soaring oil costs, a weakening economy and an unstable housing market that he said will only get worse.

"I don't think these steps are enough to arrest the deterioration," he said.

As long as more homeowners default on mortgages, losses to financial institutions will mount. Those losses

already exceed \$400 billion, and some analysts believe they will top \$1 trillion before the housing carnage is over.

By comparison, Congress has authorized \$650 billion so far to fight the Iraq war.

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AROUND

THE WORLD

WASHINGTON

FAA: Near-collisions prompt review of takeoff, landing sequences

The Federal Aviation Administration is studying whether to again change takeoff and landing procedures at John F. Kennedy International Airport after a second near-collision of aircraft in less than a week.

At a news conference Monday, acting FAA Administrator Robert Sturgell said a change ordered on Friday for the New York airport might not be permanent.

"Given that we had two in this short a time frame, we're going to take a look at the procedure, we're going to see if there are additional considerations we should add to the procedure, and in the meantime the airport will be using a different configuration," Sturgell said.

The FAA directed a change in the way takeoffs and landings are sequenced on perpendicular runways after two passenger airliners — one taking off, one landing — came within a half-mile of each other. Six days earlier, a similar incident occurred.

Sturgell said a preliminary investigation found that both incidents were due to communication problems.

UNITED ARAB EMIRATES

Dubai cracking down on nudity, indecent behavior on beaches

DUBAI — Westerners were getting too racy on the beaches of this Persian Gulf tourist haven, and a police crackdown on topless sunbathing, nudity and other indecent behavior has resulted in 79 arrests in recent days.

Undercover officers are strolling the sand while others stand guard in new watchtowers to enforce the social mores of this Muslim city-state, which is a booming business center that is attracting growing hordes of foreign tourists.

Authorities said they began the decency campaign after police detained a British man and a woman who were allegedly having sex on one of Dubai's sprawling beaches earlier this month.

Over the past two weeks, police have detained a total of 79 people whose behavior was "disturbing families enjoying the beach," Zuhair Haroun, a spokesman for Dubai's Criminal Investigation Department, said Monday.

First-time offenders may be issued a warning, but if caught twice, tourists could be referred to the public prosecutor for possible criminal charges, authorities said.

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***Annual Percentage Yield as of 6/27/08. Interest rates are variable and may change at the bank's discretion. New money required to open. A minimum deposit of \$25,000 in new money is required to open account. Interest paid on balances of \$25,000 and up. Fees could reduce earnings. Account subject to withdrawal limitations. See branch for details.



INSIDE: Tour de France, B2 | Basketball news, B2 | Scoreboard, B3 | Weather & Dear Abby, B4

Justin time: Morneau spoils Hamilton's HR party

Rangers slugger smashes record 28 1st-round dingers

By Mike Fitzpatrick
Associated Press writer

NEW YORK — Josh Hamilton dreamed it. Now he's done it.

With a dazzling display of power Monday night, the Texas Rangers slugger hit a record 28 homers in the first round of the All-Star Home Run Derby at Yankee Stadium before he was beaten out by Minnesota's Justin Morneau in the finale.

Morneau topped a tired Hamilton 5-3 in the last

round, giving him the derby title. But the night belonged to Hamilton.

Back from drug and alcohol addiction that derailed his career, Hamilton broke Bobby Abreu's mark for one round. Abreu hit 24 home runs in the first round in 2005 at Detroit's Comerica Park.

Hamilton's incredible tale of redemption has made national news this season, and he retold a story Monday afternoon about a vivid dream he had two years ago — he was being interviewed at Yankee Stadium after participating in the Home Run Derby.

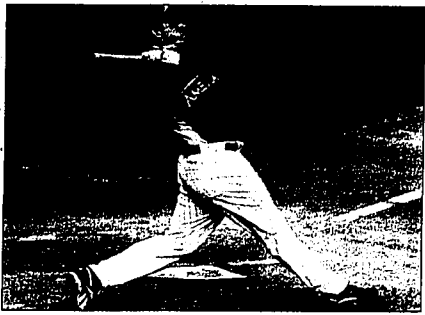
"I can say it was a coincidence, but I don't believe in those," he said.

Mind you, his dream came while Hamilton was still banned from Major League Baseball, and before this year's All-Star game was awarded to the venerable ballpark in its final season.

"Obviously, the dream, I didn't know how many I would hit," Hamilton said in a TV interview after his huge first-round performance. "I just felt blessed to have played here."

With the crowd of 53,716 chanting his name, undoubtedly warmed by his improbable journey to stardom, Hamilton connected on 13 consecutive cuts before falling short of the fences on his final two.

Please see DERBY, Page B4



Minnesota Twins first baseman Justin Morneau watches a home run during the Home Run Derby on Monday in New York. Morneau won the competition but Josh Hamilton stole the show with a record 28 homers in the first round.

AP Photo

Last licks



Wood River pitcher Sean Bence delivers a pitch during the first game of a doubleheader at Kimberly on Monday.

AP Photo/Mike Thompson

Kimberly splits with W.R. in home finales

Staff report

Kimberly almost pulled off a last-ditch come-back in the first game, but made sure it happened at least once in its home finale by winning the nightcap by salvaging a split with Wood River on Monday.

Sean Bence pitched Wood River to a 5-4 win in Game 1, scattering just four hits over his seven innings of work.

He almost gave the Astros (22-8, 18-8 Area C) a come-from-behind win as they scored twice in the seventh

inning to make a game out of it, but he closed the door and picked up the victory.

But Patterson wasn't so lucky in the nightcap, however, as he was given a one-run lead heading into the bottom of the seventh only to see Kimberly's bats come alive when it mattered most.

Astros catcher Willy Mumm singled home Dakota Cummings with the infield drawn in to plate the winning run in a 7-6 victory.

Kimberly assistant Tom Myers said that the differ-

ence in the two games was simply down to execution, and his team obviously got it done in the nightcap.

"We made a lot of little mistakes in the first game that caught us. They really hit the ball well, but they hit it right at us and it kept us in the game. If we eliminate the mistakes maybe we win that one," Myers said. "In the second one we finally stepped up and did some things."

"If we play the game the

right way we can win ball games and that's the bottom line. But they were real good games, both of them."

Kimberly is at Pocatello on Thursday.

Game 1Wood River 5
237 201 2 5 12 2
Kimberly 4
200 202 2 4 4 3Strike out Patterson, Lenoir and Mumm; W. Bence, L.L. Lewis.
Earned run 2 — Wood River; Runker 2, Seayone, Patterson.**Game 2**Kimberly 7
Wood River 6
Wood River 004 222 2 8 23 8
Astros 6 000 202 1 8 23 8
Seayone, Patterson (5) and Ferris, Patterson (3), Bence (2), Crabtree, Schneider (2), Larson (7) and Mumm; W. Lewis, L. Patterson.
Strikeout 1 — Wood River; Runker, Patterson, Runker, Harmon, Cummings, Vance.

Favre finally speaks out, repeats release request

By Chris Jenkins
Associated Press writer

MILWAUKEE — Brett Favre finally is speaking for himself. He wants to play but doesn't feel welcome in Green Bay, so he's asking to be released.

The quarterback's first substantial comments on his latest retirement decision reversal come in an interview with Fox News on "On the Record with Gretchen Van Susteren."

"I am guilty of retiring early and there is a reason for that," Favre said, according to an excerpt provided to The Associated Press before the Monday night broadcast. "And the major issue is 'Why did I retire?'" and "He asked for a release because he doesn't want to play in Green Bay." That's not true, and I hope people are hearing this and saying "OK, that clears it up."

According to Van Susteren, who spoke

to the AP by telephone Monday afternoon, Favre said he was "never fully committed" to retiring and felt pressured by the Packers to make a decision, a notion Packers general manager Ted Thompson and coach Mike McCarthy tried to dispel in an interview with the AP on Saturday.

"Ted always wanted Brett back," McCarthy said. "We always wanted Brett back."

Favre told Fox he understands that the Packers want to move on — but if they're doing so, they should let him go.

"Them moving on does not bother me," Favre said. "It doesn't. I totally understand that. By me retiring March 3rd, I knew that could possibly happen. All I was saying is, you know, I'm thinking about playing again."

Van Susteren — who is from Appleton, Wis., is a Packers shareholder and previously had interviewed Favre

and his wife, Deanna — said Favre made it clear he would not return to the Packers if he wasn't the starter. And while Favre said the Packers asked him for a list of teams to which he would accept a trade, he wants to be released to make sure he ends up on a competitive club.

Thompson said the team wasn't going to release Favre, but he could come back in a "different role than he was" because the team is committed to going forward with Aaron Rodgers.

Thompson and McCarthy wouldn't discuss the possibility of trading Favre and said they hadn't received any trade inquiries as of Saturday.

Thompson and McCarthy gave AP a detailed description of their dealings with Favre throughout the offseason, including an episode a few weeks after

Please see FAVRE, Page B4

Sheets, Lee set to start All-Star Game

By Mike Fitzpatrick
Associated Press writer

NEW YORK — Fired up about his first trip to Yankee Stadium, Ben Sheets had it all planned out. Arrive early and visit Monument Park, gaze up at that famous facade, drink in the entire experience the same way any fan would.

One big difference, though: The Milwaukee Brewers ace also will get the ball to start Tuesday night's All-Star game for the National League.

"I'm not going to let a stadium intimidate me," Sheets said Monday in a hotel ballroom, hours before zipping uptown for batting practice and workouts. "At least while I'm sitting here I'm not."

Cleveland's Cliff Lee was picked by Boston manager Terry Francona to start for the AL, highlighting a remarkable resurgence for the left-hander after he was demoted to the minors last year.

Now, he's the best of the best as Major League Baseball salutes Yankee Stadium in its final season.

"I'm just honored to be here, to be honest with you. To get the start for me is icing on the cake," said Lee, 12-2 with a 2.31 ERA. "I'm kind of awe-struck by it."

NL manager Clint Hurdle of Colorado tabbed Sheets, who is 10-3 with a 2.85 ERA. Several other NL All-Stars pitched Sunday, making the well-rested Sheets a logical choice.

"Really looking forward to this opportunity to go out there, last All-Star game in Yankee Stadium history," Sheets said. "I know one thing, it's going to be glowing as I pull up."

"I'm going to definitely do a sightseeing tour today, and I'm going to enjoy every minute of it."

After getting to the ball-

park, Sheets was struck by the cramped clubhouse and narrow walkways, outdated elements of a venue that opened in 1923.

"It just seems a little bit smaller than other stadiums I've been in," he said. "The other stadiums are new."

Both managers announced their lineups Monday in the same Manhattan banquet room where the Mitchell Report on drugs in baseball was released seven months before.

Seattle right fielder Ichiro Suzuki will bat leadoff for the AL, followed by Yankees shortstop Derek Jeter, Texas center fielder Josh Hamilton, New York third baseman Alex Rodriguez, Boston left fielder Manny Ramirez, Rangers designated hitter Milton Bradley, Red Sox first baseman Kevin Youkilis, Minnesota catcher Joe Mauer and Boston second baseman Dustin Pedroia.

Francona kept more than numbers in mind when putting together his batting order.

"For me, a Derek Jeter deserves to hit at the top of the order. In a place like this especially," he said.

The manager also acknowledged he thought about whether to honor Yankees closer Mariano Rivera with the start in his home ballpark — but only because Francona was asked about it by reporters.

"Mariano may be the greatest reliever of all-time, but he's not a starter," Francona said. "You're putting a guy possibly at risk doing something he's not done. We will treat every player in this game with a lot of respect, certainly knowing that there are Yankees involved in this game. But other than that, I think we are doing it correctly."

Please see ALL-STAR, Page B2



Milwaukee Brewers pitcher Ben Sheets throws during the fifth inning against the Pittsburgh Pirates in Milwaukee on July 4. Sheets will start for the National League in the All-Star game tonight in New York.

AP Photo

Prerace favorite takes yellow jersey in Pyrenees

HAUTACAM, France (AP) — Bruised and sore and aching from head to ankle, Cadel Evans stood on the podium with tears in his eyes and a yellow jersey on his back.

The Australian took the overall lead in the Tour de France on Monday after a punishing 10th stage through the Pyrenees. His surge to the front came a day after he tumbled over his handlebars, leaving him with a cracked helmet and a body coated with cuts. He feared his Tour de France was over.

"Yesterday, I was at what's for me been my 'Tour low,'" he said. "And today, up until this point in the Tour, it's been my 'Tour high.' It's a bit of an emotional roller coaster to say the least."

The 31-year-old Silence Lotto leader, a favorite going into the race, seized the lead from Kim Kirichen of Luxembourg in a stage won by Leonardo Piepoli of Italy on Bastille Day. Evans has the smallest possible lead — one second — over Frank Schleck of Luxembourg as the race takes a rest day Tuesday.

With nine riders within 2½ minutes of Evans, the Tour appears wide open and poised for more racing drama

at a time when organizers hope to get past the doping scandals that have battered the sport's image.

Piepoli won the 97-mile stage from Pau to Hautacam by shedding all rivals except his Saunier Duval teammate Juan Jose Cobo Acobo of Spain on the final uphill climb to the ski station.

Evans rode with pain all the way following his spill Sunday in the first stage in the Pyrenees.

"I'm lucky that I've been very well looked after," Evans said. "My own osteopath who travels with me put me back into pieces, and the team doctor patched me up from ankle to neck — with a few holes."

Evans' eyes welled with tears during the post-race ceremony. This was the first time he has ever held the Tour lead, having finished second behind Alberto Contador of Spain last year.

"I couldn't believe it now and I couldn't believe it then on the podium," he said, adding he was encouraged by sights of the Australian flag on his grueling climb into Hautacam.

"The most painful thing was the descents.... Every swollen part of the body was

bouncing in a bag of abraded skin," he said. "Every speed bump hurt — put it that way."

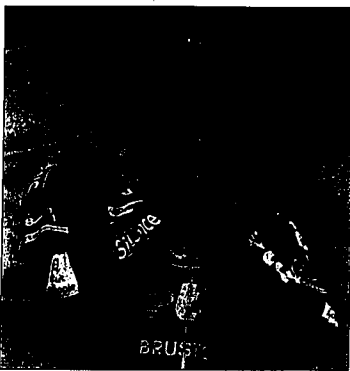
Evans rarely attacked his other favorites, who distanced themselves from the main pack in the 97-mile stage from Pau to Hautacam — climbs so hard they are beyond classification.

The day's biggest loser was Alejandro Valverde, the Spanish national champion seen as a potential threat. He couldn't keep up with his main rivals in the first climb up Tourmalet and continued to lose time. He finished 5 minutes, 52 seconds behind Piepoli and trails Evans by 4:11.

"It's finished for the podium," Calise d'Espagne sporting director Eusebio Unzué said, referring to Valverde's chances of a top-three finish.

History may work in Evans' favor. In the three Tours with a stage finishing at the Hautacam, the rider who emerged with yellow jersey after the grueling 8.9-mile ascent kept the lead all the way to the finish: Miguel Indurain (1994), Bjarne Riis (1996) and Lance Armstrong (2000).

"Like the others who took



Cadel Evans shows his emotion as he prepares to don the yellow jersey as the new leader of the Tour de France on Monday in Hautacam, France.

the yellow jersey on the Hautacam, I hope I can continue in it" until the July 27 finish in Paris, Evans said.

Unlike Armstrong, who benefited from strong US Postal and Discovery Channel teams, Evans has largely had

to go to it alone. He has had little if any escort from his squad.

"I admit that we don't have the strongest team in the race," he said. "But right now, I'm just satisfied about the work I've done today," he said.

Tenth stage recap

A brief look at Monday's 10th stage of the Tour de France: Stage 10: A 98.5-mile ride from Pau to Hautacam, featuring famed Tour ascents up the Tourmalet and Hautacam, among the most difficult in the Pyrenees, and so hard that they do not have a classification.

Winner: Leonardo Piepoli of Italy best Saunier Duval teammate Juan Jose Cobo Acobo of Spain. Both clocked the same time of 4 hours, 18 minutes, 27 seconds. Frank Schleck of Luxembourg was third, 28 seconds back.

Yellow Jersey: Cadel Evans of Australia took the yellow jersey from Kim Kirichen of Luxembourg, who dropped to seventh; Evans grimaced in pain as he tackled the high climbing and fast descents the day after a heavy crash.

Schleck is 1 second behind Evans in second place. Christian Vande Velde of the United States is 38 seconds behind and third.

Next stage: Tuesday is a rest day, Wednesday's 11th stage is a 104.1-mile trek through medium mountains from Lannemezan to Foz.

Packer done after calling 34 Final Fours

CBS shifts Kellogg into commentator role

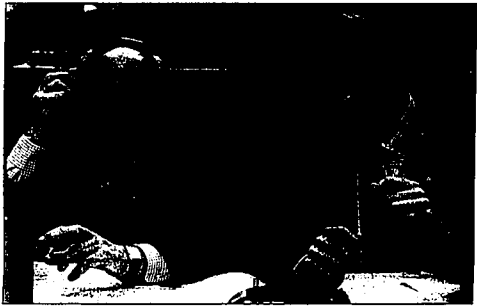
NBSV YORK (AP) — Billy Packer didn't sound like a man who found out his 34-year run as part of the Final Four broadcast had ended.

On Monday, CBS announced that Clark Kellogg would replace Packer after 27 years as the network's lead college basketball analyst, including his earlier years at NBC. Packer had done every Final Four since 1975, an unparalleled run for a national sports championship.

"These are really good circumstances," Packer told The Associated Press by phone. "This decision was made with myself and CBS over a year ago. Their thing to announce it is their business. I have nothing to do with that. I was working on a series of 1-year contracts for several years.... I did say there would be no mention during the season so as not to detract from the games and the guys involved."

Kellogg, a game and studio analyst for CBS for 16 years, will be the man next to Jim Nantz for the 2009 Final Four.

"With his unquestioned popularity and performance over the years, Clark Kellogg earned all rights to this top spot," Senn McManus, president of CBS News and Sports, said in a statement. "Like Billy Packer, Al McGuire or any of the most highly regarded broadcasters, Clark is an original voice with his own style and perspective."



CBS announcers Billy Packer, left, and Jim Nantz laugh during a break in the action in the championship game in the Big Ten Conference tournament in Indianapolis on March 12, 2006. Packer is out after 27 years as the lead college basketball analyst for CBS, making way for Clark Kellogg.

The 68-year-old Packer said he was "happy" for Kellogg, who played at Ohio State and then in the NBA.

"I think he has worked his trade and certainly as a player was a student of the game. His work at CBS and the fact he is such a smart guy should serve him well," Packer said. "I wish him nothing but the best."

Packer also will end his long run as an analyst for Baycom, a regional network

that covers the Atlantic Coast Conference.

"I have had a chance to broadcast most of the great games since college basketball got on national television and I'm not interested in broadcasting any more games," he said. "I enjoyed doing that but I won't be any more."

He said he is involved in a college basketball project that he'll discuss in a few months.

Report: Donaghy made 134 calls to fellow ref

NEW YORK (AP) — Former NBA referee Tim Donaghy made more than 100 phone calls to a fellow official at the same time he was providing information to gamblers during the 2006-07 season, Fox News reported Monday.

Citing court documents and phone records it obtained, Fox reported Donaghy placed 134 calls to referee Scott Foster between October 2006 and April 2007, the period during which he has confessed to betting on games or passing on game information to gamblers.

It's not known what information was exchanged during the calls between Foster and Donaghy, who is awaiting sentencing later this month in federal court.

The 41-year-old Donaghy pleaded guilty last year to felony charges of taking cash payoffs from gamblers in the 2006-07 season. He faces up to 33 months in prison.

The government had complete access to Donaghy's phone records and thoroughly investigated this matter, including conducting an interview of referee Scott Foster, the NBA said

in a statement. "The government has said that they have found no evidence of criminal conduct, aside from that of Mr. Donaghy. One again, the only criminal conduct is that of Mr. Donaghy."

According to a story published Monday on Fox News' Web site, the majority of the phone calls lasted no more than two minutes and occurred before and after games Donaghy officiated and on which he wagered.

Reached for comment by Fox, Foster was asked if he was being investigated by the NBA, the government or anyone else. "Not that I know of," he said.

He declined to comment on his relationship with Donaghy and the nature of the calls.

The only person Donaghy called more often (150 times) was Thomas Marino, to whom Donaghy has said he provided picks to win games and who was the middleman between the former ref and a bookie named James Battista. During this period, the most calls Donaghy made to any other referee were 13, Fox said.

McNeley's 75 gives her first-round lead at MV Amateur

Staff reports

Abby McNeley shot a 75 at Blue Lakes Country Club in Twin Falls to give herself a four-stroke championship-flight lead after the first round of the Magic Valley Amateur on Monday. McNeley leads Randi Fischer, who shot an opening-round 79, with Virginia Undheim and Helen Odenwald a further four shots afloat.

In the first flight, Deborah Richards and Linda Rockne shot matching 91s, one shot better than Lyn Morgan and two ahead of Debi Hondo and Jamye Haynes.

The action resumes this morning with a shotgun start at 9 a.m.

2008 Magic Valley Amateur
At Blue Lakes Country Club
Monday's 91-hole event. Round 1: Deborah Richards, Linda Rockne, Lyn Morgan, Debi Hondo, Jamye Haynes, Virginia Undheim, Helen Odenwald, Abby McNeley, Randi Fischer, Kelly Jones, Matt Holliday, Ryan Braun, Chicago's Kosuke Fukudome in center and Cubs' catcher Geovany Soto.
"It's the best lineup that I've ever written down on paper, so we'll see where it takes us," Hurdle said.
Sheets is set to become the first Brewers pitcher to start an All-Star game — three days before his 30th birthday. His most recent outing was last Wednesday, when he struck out 11 batters in six innings of a loss to the Rockies.
"Kind of got my eye. I'm real smart like that," Hurdle said.
Hurdle said he looked closest at the All-Star pitchers who were voted in by

All-Star

Continued from page B1

Francona wouldn't even commit to calling on Rivera to close out a ninth-inning lead, saying he didn't want to divulge his plans.

"I'm going to stick my neck out there and say we'll prepare for him a little bit, watch a little video," Hurdle said, drawing laughs.

Hurdle put Florida shortstop Hanley Ramirez at the top of his order, followed by Philadelphia second baseman Chase Utley, Houston's first baseman Lance Berkman, St. Louis slugger Albert Pujols at designated hitter, Atlanta third baseman Chipper Jones, Colorado's Matt Holliday in right field, Milwaukee left fielder Ryan Braun, Chicago's Kosuke Fukudome in center and Cubs' catcher Geovany Soto.

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"Kind of got my eye. I'm real smart like that," Hurdle said.

Hurdle said he looked closest at the All-Star pitchers who were voted in by

Abby McNeley of Twin Falls reacts Monday morning to a missed putt on the No. 11 green at Blue Lakes Country Club. McNeley shot an opening-round 75 to take a four-shot lead to the clubhouse.



Magistrate removes himself from flag case

Judge cites past working relationship with defendant

By Cassidy Friedman
Staff writer

A Mini-Cassia Magistrate has removed himself from a controversial case involving desecration of the U.S. flag.

Fifth District Magistrate Rick Bolter disqualified himself Thursday because he had a past working relationship with defendant Dan Luker at a probation and

parole office, according to the magistrate's clerk.

Bolter had earlier told both the prosecutor and defense about the possible conflict of interest, the clerk said. The withdrawal followed notification from Luker's attorney Keith Roark that he intended to ask Bolter to disqualify himself.

The court has not yet reassigned the case to another magistrate.

While the U.S. Supreme Court

has protected desecrating the U.S. flag as a right to self-expression, Minidoka County Prosecutor Nikki Cannon is challenging that protection by prosecuting Luker on a 1961 Idaho state law that no prosecutor has apparently ever charged.

Cannon's office has suggested its willingness to appeal the case as far up as the U.S. Supreme Court. Roark said the court has no place

injecting itself into a politically-charged matter at a local school. He said he would ask a judge to order the case dropped as "clearly unconstitutional."

Cannon charged Luker, an English as a Second Language teacher, with a misdemeanor on allegations that he publicly desecrated a U.S. flag at Mexico High School. He allegedly threw a flag on the floor of a vice principal's office and stomped on it, breaking the wooden stem and ripping the flag off its fastenings. Luker said he was

responding to an incident earlier that day. Cinco de Mayo, in which gym instructor Clint Straitman took a celebrating Latino student's Mexican flag and put it in a garbage can.

Straitman faces no criminal charges because the flag he dumped was a foreign flag, said deputy prosecutor Melissa Aston. Both instructors resigned.

Cassidy Friedman may be reached at 208-735-3241 or cfriedman@magicvalley.com.

Largest budget increase ever?



Descart, practicing for Salma Miramontes' Quinceanera next month, rehearse Monday afternoon at the band shell in the Twin Falls City Park. Capital improvements to city parks comprise a share of items being proposed in the city's budget.

Twin Falls City Council reviews proposed 24-percent increase

By Jared S. Hopkins
Staff writer

Next year's budget for the city of Twin Falls is projected to increase by more than 24 percent to \$51 million, a jump one veteran public official said might be the city's largest ever.

The list of questions from the Twin Falls City Council was also long.

The City Council held an informal, nearly three-hour discussion as city officials walked them through the budget, offering concerns about issues that sometimes fly under the radar.

Twin Falls City Manager Tom Courtney noted about

Reason for the increase

Notable capital items proposed for city budget:

- Chemically enhanced primary treatment: \$1.4 million
- Washington street north: \$1.55 million (city share of grant)
- Northwest sewer line: \$1 million
- Pressure irrigation pump stations: \$1.15 million
- Wastewater treatment plant Phase II design: \$500,000
- Debt service to pay for purchase of Pristine Springs: \$400,000
- CSI safety initiative: \$1.3 million (100-percent grant)
- Park improvements: \$418,000
- Communications center: \$193,000
- Swimming pool upgrades: \$185,000

Source: City Manager Tom Courtney

one-third of the budget will pay for capital projects last year that amount was around 20 percent. Courtney said without such increases, the operating budget would rise

5.5 percent. "I think you can pretty much consider it to be a status quo budget," he said. But Courtney, who became city manager in 1980, said after

the meeting he could not recall a larger annual increase.

The city plans to invest heavily in infrastructure, including the beginning stages of the purchase of Pristine Springs for additional water and to improve water quality. To help cover costs, monthly water and sewer bills are projected to increase by 20 percent and 15 percent, respectively. Any rate increases exceeding 5 percent require public hearings before approval.

Courtney said the city recognizes the economy isn't ideal for raising rates, but Please see BUDGET, Page C3

County, St. Luke's resolve ownership question

By Nata Poppino
Staff writer

St. Luke's Magic Valley Medical Center won't have to pay property taxes on a handful of buildings now confirmed to belong to Twin Falls County.

That decision came

Monday after a meeting of county and hospital officials, and after hospital officials submitted a series of quiet claim deeds, announcing they have no interest in certain properties. The filing came late Friday and early Monday.

The county commissioners

had notified the non-profit hospital that the county would not grant requested tax-exempt status on 12 of 17 properties allegedly used by non-profit St. Luke's for profit-making purposes.

But the county, hospital officials found, owned all but one, a situation that was con-

firmed when the hospital announced it had no ownership interest in them through a series of quitclaim deeds submitted late Friday and early Monday.

On Monday afternoon, the commissioners announced Please see HOSPITAL, Page C3

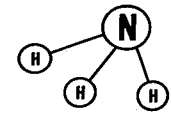
DEQ, ISDA defend ammonia report

By Nata Poppino
Staff writer

An April report on ammonia emissions from Idaho's largest dairies fell victim to computer problems and doesn't accurately summarize the program's effectiveness, state officials said Monday.

"I'm not real pleased with the report, but what can you say?" said Martin Bauer, head of the Idaho State Department of Agriculture's air quality division, of the one-page report and accompanying cover sheet he received on April 29.

The first state to track ammonia emissions in some way, Idaho's monitoring program applies to dairy farms that emit more than 100 tons of ammonia each year. DEQ and the Idaho State Department of Agriculture share the work — the former handling "enforcement actions and technical training," the latter adding ammonia issues into its reg-



ular inspections. As part of the 2006 agreement defining the process, ISDA provides an annual report to DEQ with such items as the number of dairies inspected, violations discovered, corrective actions taken and other ongoing activities. Since it covers the entire state, it's complex work, said Marv Patten, chief of ISDA's Dairy Bureau.

The first year, ISDA staff and former University of Idaho researcher Ron Sheffield did the work all by hand, issuing a detailed report, Bauer said. Fast-forward to spring 2008, Patten said, and the whole thing was

Please see AMMONIA, Page C3



MagicValley.com

SEE: View copies of the April ammonia report and the agreement governing the program.

AROUND THE VALLEY

Boise woman killed in crash near Bliss

Linda Houston, 46-year-old Boise woman was killed this morning at about 7 a.m. in a crash along Interstate 84 near Bliss, after she apparently fell asleep at the wheel, the Idaho State Police said.

BREAKING NEWS

You read this story first on MagicValley.com.

The woman's name isn't being released until her family is notified, said ISP Trooper Nick Walker.

Walker said the woman was headed west and drove her car off the road into a median. The vehicle continued forward in a sideways motion, then rolled into the eastbound lane and came to rest on the side of road near a field.

She was ejected from the vehicle and was not wearing her seatbelt, but airbags deployed, Walker said. Houston died at the scene of the crash.

Bliss is not believed to be a factor in the crash. The incident is still under investigation.

Victims of I-84 crash released from hospital

The driver and passengers involved in a one-vehicle

rollover on Sunday have been treated for their injuries and released from Cassia Regional - Medical Center, Idaho State Police reported early Monday morning.

Kelley Nash, 31, of Anchorage, Alaska, was driving at about 4:30 p.m. on Interstate 84 in her 2004 Chevrolet Suburban and pulling a 2000 Rockwood Travel Trailer. The trailer began to sway because of wind in the area, and Nash lost control of the vehicle near milepost 265, about 10 miles from the Idaho-Utah border. The vehicle rolled a step blocking both of the eastbound lanes, and the trailer was destroyed.

Nash, one adult passenger and six juvenile passengers were all taken by ground ambulance to the hospital. ISP continues to investigate.

Shoshone Falls increases flow

The current flow over Shoshone Falls is 3,200 cubic feet per second, up 2,900 cfs from its previous flow of 300 cfs, Twin Falls Parks and Recreation Director Dennis Bowerly said in a Monday release.

The park, open from 7 a.m. to 9 p.m., charges a \$3 entrance fee per vehicle.

— From staff reports

Ex-Twin Falls lawmaker Richard S. High, one of Magic Valley's most powerful, dies

By Steve Crump
Staff writer

BOISE — One of the Magic Valley's most powerful and highly-regarded former lawmakers has died. Richard S. High, 90, passed away at his Boise home Sunday.

He served seven terms in the Idaho Senate from Twin Falls and co-chaired the budget-writing joint Finance-Appropriations Committee for 10 years.

After leaving the Legislature, High spent six years on the Idaho Public Utilities

Commission.

"He preceded me (in the Senate), and I always modeled myself after him in terms of ethics and responsibility," said Laird Noh, who like High represented Legislative District 24 in the Senate for seven terms. "He was extremely well respected."

A progressive Republican, High served in the Legislature during an era when the Magic Valley in general and Twin Falls County in particular dominated GOP leadership.

It was an extraordinary group, Noh said. "John Barker (of Buhl) chaired the Senate

Education Committee and Bill Roberts of Buhl chaired the House Appropriations Committee. They got CSI going, got the sales tax enacted and adopted the three-legged stool (of taxation) that has served Idaho so

Please see HIGH, Page C3

Ammonia

Continued from page C1

run by n-computer — effective until the employee in charge of wrapping up and operating the program quit.

Hence Patten's frustrated report, written in the 11th hour, he said, after numerous attempts to get the system to work.

"ISDA had great anticipation that the database system ... would work as smooth as butter!" he wrote, adding that the results "looked like cottage cheese."

The page does include two updates for DEQ personnel. One suggests a way to handle potential actions that could be best-management practices, especially if dairymen are already doing them.

The second, an announcement of dairy inspector Matt Griffin's promotion to head of the Ammonia Inspection

Program, details weaknesses of the current system that Griffin had already discovered. Inspections across the state were not uniform, Patten wrote, and different inspectors gave differing credit for some practices. Also, he wrote, facilities need to be inspected at least twice a year for their owners to receive full credit for good practices.

In his report, Patten wrote that his "diatribe" was no excuse for leaving DEQ without solid information, and took full responsibility for improving the situation. Monday he said the ammonia program is supposed to benefit from a department-wide computer upgrade this summer, which he said, since inspectors use the software to know what to check at a dairy when they visit for other reasons.

"I'm not very proud of this report," Patten said Monday. But its content in no way reflects the current status of the program, he said, or ISDA's efforts to improve it.

Bauer echoed that sentiment, saying that though the report may indicate major problems at ISDA, the process is working as far as he can tell.

It's still a very effective program," Bauer said, adding that DEQ is still very happy to partner with ISDA. The ag department's regular inspections account for more than DEQ could with its limited staff, he said. "The fact that they have eyes on the ground three times a year, that's just phenomenal."

Nate Poppino may be reached at 208-735-3237 or npoppino@magicvalley.com.

Idaho ends fiscal year 2008 with surplus

By Todd Dvorak Associated Press writer

BOISE — State officials are reporting a rosy end to fiscal year 2008, despite a slowdown in sales tax collections and revenue projections that fell short of expectations.

State Controller Donna Jones says the state closed its books with a \$223.8 million surplus in the general fund for the fiscal year that ended June 30.

Department officials attribute the one-time surplus to carry-over of the \$247 million surplus in the general fund from the previous fiscal year, conservative spending in an economic downturn and efficient operation by state agencies.

Most of the end-of-fiscal-year surplus in the general fund is money the state was planning on but which the Legislature chose not to spend last year, said Wayne Hammon, state budget

director. "It is our insurance policy against worsening economic conditions in coming months."

Revenue streams that flow into the state's general fund include sales tax, individual and corporate income tax and other miscellaneous revenue, bringing in total \$2.9 billion overall for the year and accounting for nearly 40 percent of the state's funding.

The year-end results offered a little good news after months of economic gloom.

In March, state financial analysts reported declines in home, auto and retail spending, sending sales tax receipts below forecasts. The state reported that sales tax receipts dropped 3.7 percent in February from the same period in 2007.

In June, the state reported more evidence of consumers tightening their wallets. Officials say June sales tax

receipts totaled \$95 million, down from the \$101 million generated in June 2007.

Anticipation that revenue declines would continue also changed the dynamics of the 2008 Legislature, as gloomy forecasts for 2009 prompted Gov. C.L. "Butch" Otter to scale back some of his more ambitious budget proposals and lawmakers looked for ways to cut costs even more.

"We do know that revenue was soft, and it looks like it will be soft for a while going forward," said Brad Ingham, chief deputy controller. "Certainly this cushion helps, but they (downcasters) are going to have tough decisions again when they come back to town next year."

During the last 12 months, individual income tax generated \$1.4 billion, sales tax collections topped \$1.1 billion and the take from corporate income taxes was \$109.7 million, according to the controller's figures.

Hospital

Continued from page C1

the hospital wouldn't have to pay property taxes on the sole remaining building at 1198 Firebird St., a duplex used to house temporary hospital employees, traveling medical students and similar employees.

Intentionally or not, the county's July 8 letter seemed to draft the process of drafting the quitclaim deeds. In their response, hospital officials criticized and questioned the county's decision to require property taxes. Commission Chairman Tom Mikesell said Monday afternoon that the request to review all 12 properties was legitimate, and that he believed both groups would have had to discuss all of them if the deeds hadn't come through.

"We were doing what we perceived was appropriate under the law," he told the hospital officials during the meeting.

The discussion was civil,

though both sides aired their frustrations with each other. Mikesell nearly cut off hospital Chief Financial Officer John Groesbeck at one point but was stopped by John He later told Anne Taylor Pitts after the meeting that he always enjoyed sparring with her.

Mikesell several times referred to past county requests for quitclaim deeds that were never fulfilled. But hospital counsel Taylor Pitts and Groesbeck said they had cooperated with any requests, and that they thought some were instead for deeds to be transferred for property they did not own.

"I have no authority as an agent of St. Luke's Magic Valley Medical Center to deed something to you that I do not own," Groesbeck told commissioners at one point. Mikesell downplayed the previous requests, saying both parties could now move on to other items.

"It just sort of got lost in the

shuffle, and I don't know that that's anyone's fault," he said.

Groesbeck also shed light on one other aspect of the deal. On Friday, County Commissioner Terry Kramer said that at least some of the properties were needed to Magic Valley Healthcare Systems Inc., a non-profit corporation set up in 2001 to help the hospital finance property purchases.

While examining the group's articles of incorporation on Friday, Kramer said he wasn't sure the properties could have gone to the county when the nonprofit dissolved in May 2006. But Groesbeck said Monday that all of the group's assets went to the hospital pre-sale and were needed to the county shortly after. Former hospital CEO and nonprofit President John Kee could not be reached for comment.

Nate Poppino may be reached at 208-735-3237 or npoppino@magicvalley.com.

Budget

Continued from page C1

said the city can moderate the increases. He and Mayor Lance Clow noted that city water and sewer rates are "pretty competitive" with other Idaho cities.

"We've been talking about planning for these projects for years," Courtney said.

The parks department is scheduled to receive \$337,600 in capital projects, including \$70,000 for a restroom at Morning Sun Park and \$70,000 to replace a park at Cascade Park. There is also \$120,000 for the recreation department to buy part of the LDS Soccer Complex.

About \$145,000 of "in-lieu-of" fees — what developers pay the city instead of building a city-required park with subdivisions — will pay for a restroom and playground equipment at the Sunway Soccer Complex.

The budget includes an increase from \$50,000 to \$131,262 to Twin Falls County for animal control services.

"That item drew concern from council members, who said they weren't in opposition but wanted more information.

"I'd definitely like to see their numbers and their justification for this," said Clow.

Courtney said he agreed there might be a better way to raise revenue but said he was guessing there weren't always good statistics to indicate how the 24-hour sales operates.

"I think they can justify the increase and they do a very, very good job," Courtney said.

The budget also includes \$500,000 of grant revenue, which would include the salary for a yet-to-be-hired grant-writer. The money would be distributed to the capital projects.

Although the city's property tax rate will increase by 2 percent — from \$6.65 per \$1,000 of market value to \$6.80 — the statewide home-ownership exemption will provide a decrease in property taxes to the average homeowner, Courtney said.

"They should see a decrease in their tax, essentially," he said.

Council members said they expect at least one more meeting before the budget is adopted. The new

fiscal year begins Oct. 1.

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

Intervale Amusement Inc.
 Moves July 14 to 17, 2008
 at the Magic Valley Casino

Cups and Donuts
 Augustin John & Wife/Ed & Hope 108 830
 In House Cash Bar

Haliboy 2: Golden Army (vs 7:00 9:30)
 Wanted (vs 12:15 9:45)
 Hancock (vs 7:15 9:45) (vs 12:15 9:45)
 Wall-E (vs 12:15 9:45) (vs 12:15 9:45)

Meet Dave (vs 7:15 9:30)
 Journey Center East (vs 7:15 9:30)
 Sex and the City (vs 6:45 9:30)
 What Happened in Vegas (vs 10:15 10:15)
 Emma Smith: My Story (vs 7:00 9:45)
 Koi Nitro (vs 6:45 9:30) (vs 12:15 9:45)

From Mean (vs 12:15 9:30) (vs 6:45 9:30)
 Narnia 2: Prince Caspian (vs 12:45 9:45) (vs 9:30)
 Indiana Jones: Kingdom of the Crystal Skull (vs 7:00 9:45) (vs 9:30)
 Kung Fu Panda (vs 12:15 9:30) (vs 7:00 9:15)
 Get Smart (vs 1:00 4:00) (vs 7:25 9:55)
 Wall-E (vs 12:10 12:50) (vs 2:20 3:00) (vs 4:40)
 5:20 7:00 7:30 8:20 9:50
 Haliboy 2: Golden Army (vs 12:15 1:00) (vs 3:30 4:00) (vs 7:25 9:30) (vs 9:55)
 Hancock (vs 12:15 2:30) (vs 4:45 7:00) (vs 9:15) (vs 12:15)
 Incredible Hulk (vs 7:25 9:55)
 Summer Mathlines #7 - New! (vs 11:00 11:00)
 Ever After High (vs 6:00) (vs 7:00) (vs 8:00)
 Mon. - Thurs. 11:00 - 12:30
 Fri. - Sun. 11:00 - 12:30
 *Subject to change without notice.

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High

Continued from page C1

High was a vocal supporter of public school funding, and during his tenure state funding for schools rose from about 30 percent to 80 percent.

In 1970, he was diagnosed with an incurable eye disease, and lost his sight in the years that followed. In 1989, Gov. Cecil Andrus appointed him to the Idaho Commission for the Blind and Visually Impaired, where he served until 1992.

A railroad engineer's son, High was born in Colorado and grew up in the Phoenix area. He earned a degree in mining engineering and metallurgy from the University of Arizona, and served as a paratrooper officer during

World War II. In the 1950s, the entire High family moved from Arizona to Twin Falls, where High, his father, Sam, and his brother, Bob, formed S.A. High and Sons, which sold and serviced irrigation equipment. They later developed land and farmed in Magic Valley.

High and his wife, Laura, became interested in education while co-chairing a parent-teacher group at Twin Falls High School. That prompted his run for the Legislature in 1968. "My dad ran against him," Mrs. recalled. "I think he thought the best man won."

Nate Poppino may be reached at 208-735-3233, or npoppino@magicvalley.com.



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Classifieds

To place ads, call (208) 733-0931, ext 2. Come see us at 32 Fairfield... or visit us online at www.magivalley.com

Legal Legal Legal Legal Legal

NOTICE OF SALE South Locust Mini Storage, 197 South Locust, Twin Falls, ID 83301 will sell entire contents of 2 storage units to the highest bidder on 5/17/2008 at 9:00 AM, cash only on site...

PUBLISH: July 8 and 15, 2008

PUBLIC NOTICE Actions planned and taken by your government are contained in public notices. They are part of your right to know and to be informed of what your government is doing.

IMPORTANT Please address all legal advertising to: LEGAL ADVERTISING The Times-News PO Box 548 Twin Falls, Idaho 83303-0548

Deadline for legal ads: 3 days prior to publication, noon on Wednesday for Sunday, noon on Tuesday for Monday, noon on Friday for Tuesday and Wednesday, noon on Monday for Thursday and noon on Tuesday for Friday and Saturday. Holiday deadlines may vary. If you have any questions call Ruby, legal clerk, at 208-733-3324.

NOTICE OF TRUSTEES SALE Idaho Code 45-1506 Today's date: June 12, 2008 File No. 7003-2154. Sale date and time (local time): October 14, 2008 at 11:00 AM (Sale location): in the office of First American Title Company, 200 3rd Avenue North, Twin Falls, ID 83301

NOTICE OF FEE INCREASES

Table with columns: Last Year, Proposed Price, Percent Increase. Rows include Admission to Games, Senior Citizens, Students without activity cards, School Lunches, etc.

All citizens are invited to attend a public hearing on the increased food request. The hearing will be held at July 16, 2008 at 7:00 p.m. at the Fire Elementary School Library, 700 Stevens Avenue, Filer, Idaho.

PUBLISH: July 8 and 15, 2008

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- 50 Legal
101 Lost & Found
102 Cards of Thanks
103 Personalities
105 Happy Faces
105 Special Notices
107 Pregnancy Alternatives
108 Professional Service
109 Health & Wellness
110 HomeHealth Care
111 Entertainment Services
113 Child Care Services
114 Miscellaneous Services
115 Community Events

FOUND

FOUND female black lab. Seems well trained. On east Longbow Dr., Near D & B Supply, 420-2558

COMPANION/CARE

Give for middle aged disabled gentleman. Successful applicant will receive room & board, \$30/day. For interview 738-6723.

EMPLOYMENT

- 200 Employment
201 Accounting
202 Clerical
203 Construction
204 Customer Service
205 Dairy
207 Education
208 Farm
209 General
210 Management
211 Medical
212 Miscellaneous
213 Professional
214 Retail
215 Sales
216 Trade
218 Veterinary Careers

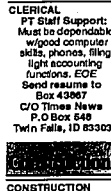
PUBLIC SERVICE MESSAGE

Federal Employment Information is free. Remember, no one can promise you a federal job. For free information about federal jobs, call Career America Connection, *478-757-3000

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Medical Receptionist Multi line phone. Data entry, medical terminology, ICD9 coding. Education or exp. preferred or strong desire to learn. P/T/F/T. Send resume to box 42330

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F/T Position available. In Twin Falls great opportunity for advancement. No Exp. Required. Call 805-694-6128

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Experienced Milker to run shift. Must have exp. with milking and hospital. Housing avail. Call 731-0069 or 358-2078

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Looking for a PT job working mornings & afternoons? We have the perfect job for you! Now hiring for you! Now hiring for you! Now hiring for you!

Read The Classifieds Every Day!

Dairy

DAIRY Dairy help Gooding area Feeding, cleaning, milking, media, training cows. Approx. \$50/hrk 8 days on/1 off. Pay OOE. Must be benefits/ vacation. Need to speak some English. Contact Vanita @ 208-324-6844 or fax 208-324-6924

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TOP GUN Truck Driver CDL Instruction 735-6656

Drivers

John Davis Trucking, Batts Mountain, NV has several openings for the following position: CDL Class A w/ doubles and triples endorsements. Starting wage \$18.00 per hour

Drivers

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Drivers

CDL, Class A, Milk Hauler, Full-time. Call Taylor Trucking 208-643-8044 or fax 208-316-1030

Drivers

CDL, Class A, Milk Hauler, Full-time. Call Taylor Trucking 208-643-8044 or fax 208-316-1030

Lost and Found

FOUND (2) mountain bikes on Monday, June 30 at the road and St. of Oak and Grant. Call 208-410-114 to identify.

LOST

LOST cat on May 16 behind O'Leary Jr. High. Medical dog, white, mouth, green eyes. Answers to Canyon. Reward. Call 208-410-114

LOST

LOST German Shepherd, 8 yr old, in Bull. Medical dog, found him back for health of 6 yr old child. 208-543-5110

LOST

LOST Pommerian brown & tan female, no collar. Lost Sat. night in vicinity of Grandview Drive in REWARD. 280-0034.

LOST

LOST Rabbit, male, white/ivory tipped bob by road near Jefferson St., Filer & Washington. REWARD! Call 208-404-1869

LOST

LOST Small stainless steel pocket knife. Engaged on handle. Reward: 208-678-8879

LOST

LOST Teacup Chihuahua, brown, black, in the Gooding area. If found please contact 358-0294.

FOUND

FOUND on Gibson Creek Rd. Female 3 1/2 yr old "Schnoodle" Schnauzer/Poodle. Complimentary house-break, well mannered. 498-8172 no calls after 7 pm please.

FOUND

FOUND Pit Bull cross, male, about 6 mos. old, white with black spots, found outside of Paul. Call 208-679-4550.

Why keep it when you don't need it. Sell these unwanted items on the Classifieds or 733-0931

HOTFACTS by Yahoo! hotjobs

63% of workers updated their resumes this year.

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Table with columns for delivery routes in Twin Falls, Jerome, and Buhl. Includes addresses like Sherry Dr., Louro Cir., Elizabeth Ave., etc.

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Hiring over the road
Drivers.
2 years experience
preferred, Medical
insurance and 401k
included, vacation after
1 year, \$35 per mile.
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Citizens Milk
Transportation

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Filer School District
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for a full-time
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Experience desired.
There is a 30
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period, upon
completion you are
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per/yr) and sick
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Starting pay is
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Experience a plus!
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14 Casta Baking
(2) Dishwashers
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3-9 shifts only. Week
Also need Lunch
Fulltime cook
(Must be 19 yrs.)
11-2:00 Mon-Fri
Apply in person at
111 South Park
N.W. Ask for Ken

RESTAURANT

Wait Person
Apply person at
Peking Restaurant
824 Blue Lakes Blvd N

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| | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | 1 | 5 | 3 | | |
| | 6 | | 8 | 9 | 2 |
| | | 8 | 6 | 1 | 2 |
| | 4 | | | 3 | |
| 5 | | | 6 | | 8 |
| 3 | 9 | | 4 | | 7 |
| | 7 | 1 | 2 | 5 | 9 |
| | | | | 7 | 1 |

V. EASY # 60

Fill in the grid so that every row, every column, and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1 through 9. That's all there is to it. There's no math involved. The grid has numbers, but nothing has to add up to anything else. You solve the puzzle with reasoning and logic. Find the answers for today's puzzle on page C-10.

LAW ENFORCEMENT



The City of Twin Falls is accepting applications to fill several
RESERVE POLICE OFFICER
positions. Application packets, including
job description and qualifications, can be
picked up in the lobby of the
Twin Falls Police Department,
located at 356 3rd Avenue East.
This is a volunteer position.
If you have questions regarding this
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frfutas@tffid.org. Closing date for this
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We offer an excellent benefits package,
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sell. \$129,000
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with, so benefits of
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efficient cost. 1 acre
w/ well water, home is
reduced heat, AC, and
sprinklers. Reduced to
sell. \$129,000
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402 School

Homes For Sale

BUNH, 3 bdrm, 2 bath
home close to town
with, so benefits of
country living at an
efficient cost. 1 acre
w/ well water, home is
reduced heat, AC, and
sprinklers. Reduced to
sell. \$129,000
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MISCELLANEOUS



Sun Valley Resort has job openings for temporary seasonal
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Job Location: Dollar Mountain and Bald Mountain in Blaine
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Order Number:
Snowmakers, 26 Positions, Job Listing Number 1322646:
Using commercial equipment, make, apply and maintain snow
on mountain ski trails. There is no experience necessary. Entry
level wage \$8.40/hr. This position starts at 35+ hours per week
and will be generally subject to four shifts: 7:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.,
8:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m., 4:00 p.m. - 12:00 a.m. and 12:00 a.m. - 8:00
a.m. Scheduled work days may fall on ANY day during the
week (including national and state holidays).
Dorm housing is available. Dorm housing rates are as follows:
Quad room without bathroom: \$2.50/day
Triple room without bathroom: \$3.00/day
Double room without bathroom: \$3.76/day
Single room without bathroom: \$5.53/day

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Pre-employment drug testing is required for safety sensitive positions. Random drug testing is conducted throughout the season on all employees. Subcontracted authorized medical professionals perform the pre-employment drug testing. Shuttle busses are available between mountain facilities and dorm facilities from 8:00 a.m. until 5:00 p.m. daily. Free local municipal bus service (Mountain Rides) is available for all employees on a scheduled basis. Please send resume with Job Listing Number to: Idaho Department of Labor Central Office Attn: William Reed or ALC Unit 317 W. Main Street, 3rd Floor West Boise, Idaho 83735-0810 Fax: 208-947-0049, Email: William.Reed@labor.idaho.gov Referral instructions will be available from any Idaho Depart- ment of Labor Office with the Job Listing Number.

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or Westerra Real Estate Group
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INSIDE: Comics, D2 | Redbud tree tips, D3 | Gardener's book list, D4

Small spaces, BIG IMPACT

Make the most of tiny gardens

By Melissa Davlin
Staff writer

Want a gorgeous garden, but haven't the soil to spare? Mourn not. It's still possible to garden in small spaces. Whether you have only a tiny bit of ground to work with — or no ground at all — it's easy to bring some color to your surroundings or even grow your own food. We asked local small-gardening experts for tips on how to turn tight spots and empty containers into bountiful, blooming gardens. And don't worry, they said. It's not too late to start planting flowers this summer. Just make sure to keep them well-watered in the hot weather.

Melissa Davlin may be reached at 208-735-3234 or melissa.davlin@lee.net.

Color

Anything goes with color, our experts said. Kelly Bryant, assistant retail manager at Moss Greenhouses in Jerome, said monochromatic and complementary schemes are especially popular. Customers usually want either different shades of one color or two colors that complement each other, like green and red, orange and blue or yellow and purple. Look to the color wheel for your inspiration, she said.

If that doesn't suit you, no need to worry.

Many small-space gardeners simply put together their favorite colors.

"Some people prefer to combine many different colors, kind of like Mother Nature would out in a wildflower field," Bryant said.

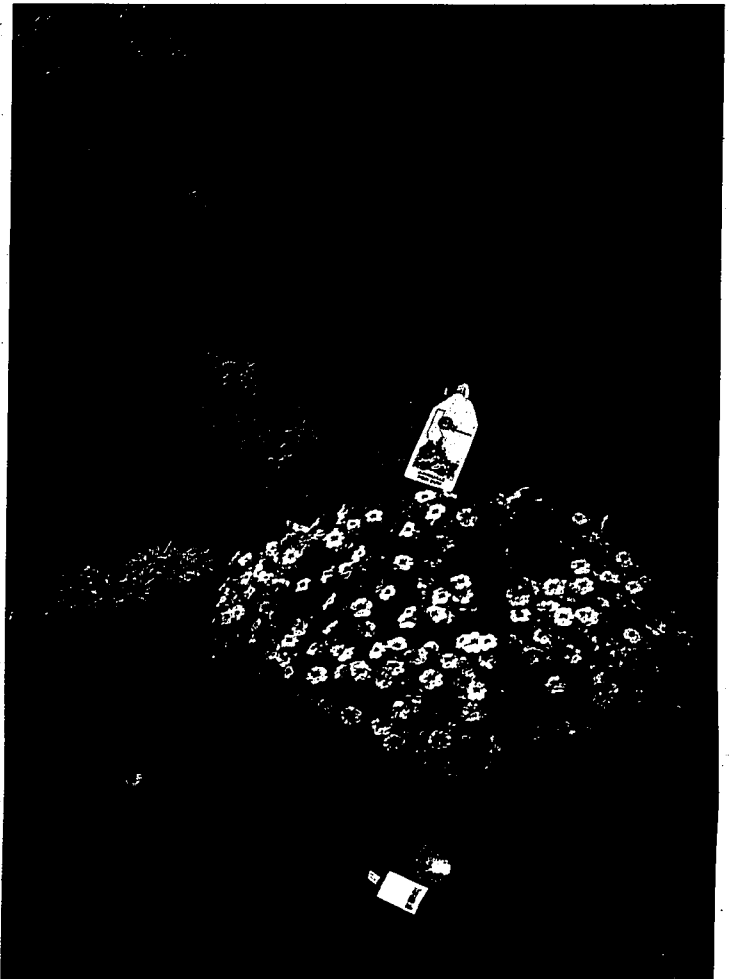
Lacey Smith, nursery team leader at Kimberly Nurseries, agreed. "Container gardening is only limited, really, to your imagination," she said.

Care

When working with a small space, make sure to couple similar plants with each other. Don't put a desert flower next to a water-loving plant, Bryant said, and check that all the plants in the space enjoy the same amount of light. Make sure to water the plants every day, too. Containers don't hold as much water as soil in the ground does, especially when well-drained, Bryant said. And while it's important to get a pot that drains to prevent root rot, it requires a bit more hydration vigilance.

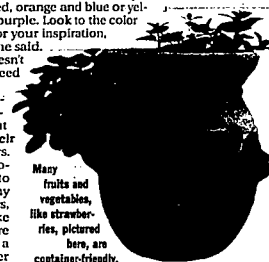
The ease of care makes up for the extra watering. No need to worry about weeds in containers, Smith said. Often, there is no room for the extra plants to grow.

Please see GARDENS, Page D3



Staff photos by MELISSA DAVLIN

Container gardening is an easy way to bring color to small spaces. Here, monobotanical arrangements give a simple, bold look to an outdoor setting at Moss Greenhouses in Jerome.



Many fruits and vegetables, like strawberries, pictured here, are container-friendly.



Kelly Bryant, assistant retail manager at Moss Greenhouses in Jerome, shows off a container she helped assemble for a customer.



Mixing cool and warm colors together is a great way to fire up a patio or small garden, Bryant said.



Don't forget about grasses, Bryant said. Grasses and other greens lend texture and vibrant color to small gardens and container arrangements.

It's a barbecue! It's a hayride! It's an educational expo!

U of I hosts Twilight Tour

Magie Valley residents can enjoy a free family barbecue from 5 to 8 p.m. July 24 while learning about energy crops like switchgrass, rating the quality of beef cuts, handling

odor-measuring "Nasal Rangers" and watching black soldier fly larvae consume dairy manure.

As harvest nears, it's time once again for the University of Idaho's "Twilight Tour" at the Kimberly Research and Extension Center, one mile northeast of Kimberly on Kimberly Road. Participants play

educational games at a variety of booths and climb on hayrides for short trips to research plots. Included in the lineup this year:

- A "potato palace" featuring new varieties and opportunities to guess their weight.
- Dairy booths with touchable udders and rumsen, odor-meas-

ing devices, worm-composting demonstrations and dairy snacks.

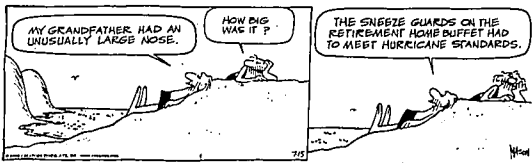
- A display of beef cuts.
- A 4-H target-shooting trailer.
- "Gardeners' delight" displays of typical Magic Valley soils and weeds.
- Question-and-answer quiz games on garden problems, nutrition and food safety.

• Field visits to research plots featuring switchgrasses, organic potatoes, weed control, beans, drip irrigation and crop-water use.

Also, participants can win prizes from local vendors. The Kimberly center is at 3006 N. 3600 E. Information: 423-4691 or kimberly@uidaho.edu.

B.C.

By Johnny Hart



Baby Blues

By Rick Kirkman & Jerry Scott



Beetle Bailey

By Mort Walker



Blondie

By Dean Young & Stan Drake



Dilbert

By Scott Adams



The Elderberries

By Phil Frank and Joe Troise



For Better or For Worse

By Lynn Johnston



Frank and Ernest

By Bob Thaves



Garfield

By Jim Davis



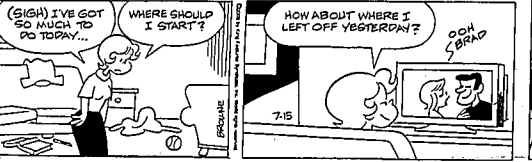
Hagar the Horrible

By Chris Browne



Hi and Lois

By Chance Browne



Luann

By Greg Evans



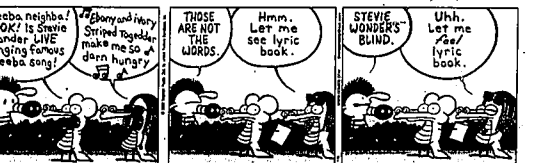
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By Hank Ketcham



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By Brant Parker & Johnny Hart



Zits

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IN YOUR GARDEN

Climate change already challenging many gardeners to plant smarter

By Dean Fozdick
Associated Press writer

NEW MARKET, Va. — Don't look now, but the early signs of climate change have already handed with a thud in our backyards.

Gardeners across the country have to adapt, the sooner the better, said Todd Forrest, vice president for horticulture and living collections with the New York Botanical Garden.

"That means planting smarter and planning for the future," he said. "The first thing gardeners can do is understand they'll have to live with elevated temperatures, including higher nighttime temperatures. In winter, they'll have less snowfall. Those two changes will have a significant impact on what we can grow."

Consider:
• Plants are greening earlier and blooming sooner. They're also lasting longer because of extended growing and frost-free seasons. Heat waves are more intense and frequent, speeding evaporation and drying soils.
• Birds and butterflies are breeding and migrating earlier.

• Many wildlife and plant species are extending their ranges to higher elevations and more extreme latitudes.

Climate change? More like climate change, said Page Spencer, chief of natural resources at Lake Clark National Park and Preserve in Southwest Alaska.

"This is a visible and conscious thing in my lifetime," Spencer said. "We're growing apples in Anchorage now and we've never been able to do that before."

A gradual warming — generally attributed to greenhouse gas emissions produced by burning fossil fuels — has been charted for several decades. But the climate's predictability is increasing, too.

"The weather is bouncing back and forth at a wild rate," Spencer said. "That's leading to a lot of variability and uncertainty... Changes in the



Japanese Fiber Banana trees, hardy to minus 20 degrees Fahrenheit, are seen in Omaha, Neb., in 2007. Gardeners should take a hard look at bending (hardiness) zones to bring new plants into their yards, says Todd Forrest, vice president for horticulture and living collections with the New York Botanical Garden.

salmon runs and berry seasons, for example."

For starters, gardeners across the country should "take a hard look at bending (hardiness) zones to bring new plants into their yards," said Forrest.

For example, he cites crepe myrtles and magnolias in New York: "not considered winter-hardy here at one time, but now they're surviving."

Keep an eye on plants that need cold and may suffer as winters get warmer, said David Wolfe, a professor of plant ecology at Cornell University and a climate change adviser to the New York Botanical Garden.

"Fruit crops all require some duration of cold winter

temperatures to bloom and to produce fruit in the following spring and summer," Wolfe said. As temperatures warm, he said, "apple and berry growers, among others, may have to change crops or at least some varieties."

Prepare to set aside larger chunks of leisure time for weeding. Warmer days and nights will speed the maturity of any foods we grow — and also help along many aggressive weeds like kudzu, garlic mustard, poison ivy and purple loosestrife.

Gardeners also should bone up on pest control. New types of biting insects and plant pests, including locusts, gypsy moths, bagworms, and disease-carrying aphids and mites, may accompany any

Recommended reading:

"The Gardener's Guide to Global Warming: Challenges and Solutions" By the National Wildlife Federation, 11100 Wildlife Center Drive, Reston, Va. 20190-5362.

significant temperature rise. "Those of us living in the northern part of the United States, whether gardeners or farmers, have it easy compared to those south of us with plant pests," Wolfe said. "A lot of (pests) get killed off in winter. But as we get warmer winters, we're getting a higher incidence of plant pests."

Gardeners could adapt by increasing their use of pesticides. "But of course, this has a potential environmental and food safety cast, as well as economic cost," Wolfe said. Since erratic precipitation patterns are expected to bring droughts followed by deluges, consider planting succulents to survive dry periods. And add rain gardens — shallow depressions containing water-tolerant plants — to absorb the flow from heavy downpours.

"That runoff will carry not only acids but pesticides and insecticides into our local waterways," said Patty Gilck, a senior global warming specialist with the National Wildlife Federation in Seattle. "Gardeners should work to capture some of that water."

Finally, prepare soil properly, minimizing tillage to avoid losing valuable organic matter and over-aerating healthy soil. Experts suggest planting trees and shrubs as windbreaks, shelter for wildlife and to help hold moisture. Recycle lawn clippings and select grasses with relatively low nitrogen and water needs (Fescues over Kentucky bluegrasses, for example).

Mow higher to promote better root growth. Use compost to amend poor soils. Recycle. And buy native plants, which are better suited to survive.

Starting redbud tree from cutting takes several steps

By Scott Aker
Special to The Washington Post

Q: How do I start a new redbud tree from a cutting?
A: Look for vigorous growth from a young branch, and make cuttings from stem tips using a sharp knife. They should be three to six inches long. Near the base, score the side of the cutting to create a wound from which callus and roots will grow.

Dunk the bottom of each cutting in water, and dip it in rooting hormone powder. Fill a pot with clean sand,

and make holes for the cuttings with a pencil. Press the sand around each cutting after it is placed, and water the pot gently to saturate the sand. Allow excess water to drain, and place the pot in a zip-top bag. Keep it where it will receive indirect light, and roots should begin to appear within four to eight weeks. Cuttings should spend their first winter in a cold frame, and they can be planted in the garden the next spring.

Scott Aker is a horticulturist at the U.S. National Arboretum.

Gardens

Continued from page D1
Think vertically

H.L. Mahon, a Twin Falls energy engineer, said expanding up, not out, can increase your vegetable garden's production. Grow tubers in the ground, she suggested, then build a framework above that supports cucumbers or tomatoes.

Height

Pay attention to what goes where, Bryant said. Put tall plants in the middle or in the back of the container or garden. Keep small filler plants on the sides.

Smith agreed, also recommending putting trailing plants on the containers' edges to give more dimension to the arrangements.

Come hungry

Vegetable gardens don't need to be acres big, Mahon said. Compact gardens can be just as fruitful, and many vegetables and herbs can be grown effectively in containers.

"We've even done it with potted gardens in apartments in window sills,"

"They have a scent that repels bugs. It's kind of a natural pest control."

— Lacey Smith, nursery team leader at Kimberly Nurseries on Kimberloids and zinnias

Mahon said. Smith said many people aren't aware that so many vegetables can be grown in pots. Even corn can work if you have a big enough pot, she said.

Her favorite potted vegetable? Cucumbers in hanging baskets.

"They are really cool and pretty," she said.

Make the most of the space

Want both flowers and veggies? Plant them together.

Some flowers even help out their edible friends. Plant marigolds and zinnias with your vegetables, for example, to avoid insect damage.

"They have a scent that repels bugs," Smith said. "It's kind of a natural pest control."

Rhododendrons can take severe pruning if healthy

By Scott Aker
Special to The Washington Post

Q: I asked my gardener to trim back my rhododendrons to around six feet. When I came home from work, I found he had cut out all the foliage up to about four feet, leaving two or three large limbs and a crown of several feet on top. Basically, they are now small

trees. Can they be returned to their bushy forms?

At Rhododendrons can take some pretty severe pruning if they are healthy. The light may now be able to penetrate to the base of the shrubs, stimulating new growth over the next several years.

To restore them to a more naturally shrubby shape, you will have to cut back the

tallest stems. Remove no more than one-third of them in a given year. Rather than shorten a stem to the height you want, remove the branch all the way to the ground; this should stimulate new growth at the base. On the remaining branches, you can pinch any new shoots in spring while they are still growing to promote bushier shrubs.

After several years, you should be removing the last of the tallest branches, and your rhododendrons should be small and vigorous again. Be advised that flowering will be much reduced during the rejuvenation period.

Scott Aker is a horticulturist at the U.S. National Arboretum.

Plenty of ways to get rid of forsythia

The Washington Post

Q: I want to get rid of an ugly forsythia. If I cut off the canes, can I "pain" the stubs with an herbicide that will prevent it from resprouting? Will this damage future plantings in this area? I want to replace it with a nandina shrub.

At there are a number of herbicides that work to kill plants when applied to the cut stumps. Most contain either triclopyr or glyphosate. Those containing triclopyr are generally more effective on a broader range of plants. Brush-B-Gon and Vinex are two such herbicides that have directions for treatment of a

cut stump. You need just a small amount of herbicide, and its residual effect should last

only a week.

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The gardener's book list

By Joel M. Lerner
Special to The Washington Post

When it's time to rest from weeding and watering, consider some books on landscaping that will educate you about planting techniques, what to install and how to design.

• "Bringing Nature Home" by Douglas W. Tallamy provides the rationale behind the use of native plants, a concept that has rapidly been gaining momentum in North America and elsewhere. The impact on our environment is huge. Within the food web, according to Tallamy, "count all the terrestrial bird species in North America that rely on insects and other arthropods to feed their young, you would find that figure to be about 96 percent." (*Timber Press, 2007, \$27.95.*)

• "Yard and Garden Makeovers" by George Kay, Brian Kay and Jennifer Derryberry Mann, offers the elements needed for a comprehensive landscape design. Father and son are practicing landscape architects, and Mann combines their theories to present the jargon of landscape design in a simple fashion that amateur and landscape professionals can use to create beautiful gardens. (*Hall Publishing, 2008, \$39.95.*)

• "Small Garden Design Bible" by Tim Newberry, is truly a do-it-yourself book, offering 40 plan view designs, covering numerous uses of garden spaces for children and wildlife, shade, entertaining, simple, formal, fragrant, edible, natural, plus many more. His style is organic, with big beds and sweeping lines, water features, interesting elements, structures, murals and, angles other "bones" that compose the skeleton of a garden. (*Hamlyn, 2008, \$24.95.*)

• "Serene Gardens: Creating Japanese Design and Detail in the Western Garden" by Yoko Kawaguchi presents choices for small-scale Japanese garden designs and outlines steps necessary to install one of these outdoor "rooms," including how to build bamboo fences, install wooden and mixed-media walks, lay boulder stepping stones and determine stone patterns. This is an Asian garden design book illustrating tea-houses, pagodes, lantern sculptures, koi ponds and other Japanese themes that would feel completely comfortable installed in Western gardens. More than 100 photographs and sketches. (*New Holland Publishers, 2008, \$17.95.*)

• "Bleeding Hearts, Corydalis and Their Relatives" by Mark Tobitt, Magnus Liden & Henrik Zetterlund is about a plant family that few people understand and is widely dispersed around the world. The bleeding hearts (*Dicentra*) and corydalis, native to North America, are many people's favorites. They are nectar and host plants for a number of butterflies. Despite a toxic nature that most herbivores dislike, bleeding hearts and corydalis appear to be dainty flowers, but are tough, with varieties that thrive in sun, shade, woodland, rooftops, cliff walks and mountaintops. They have a long flowering period when growing in rocky, well-drained soil and fit beautifully in perennial and herb borders, containers and herb gardens. (*Timber Press, 2008, \$34.95.*)

• "Garden Style Guides," by Caroline Tilston, photographed by Steve Carter, is a series of four paperbacks, each focusing on a specialized part of landscape design. They are written and illustrated in an easy-to-read and understandable style. The author focuses on one design process in each handbook. (*Wiley, 2008, \$16.95 each.*)

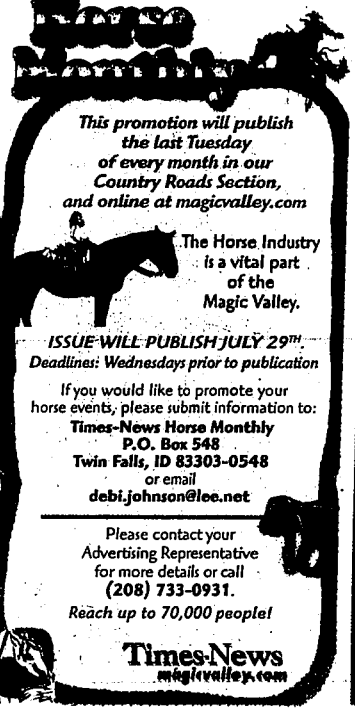
• "Garden Makeovers: Quick Fixes and Designer Secrets to Transform Your Garden" advises homeowners on improving outdoor living spaces. The first half of this 192-page handbook is aimed at ways to develop practical and aesthetically pleasing gardens.

• "Low-Maintenance Gardens: 10 Simple Steps to Beautiful, Easy and Stylish

Outside Spaces" is broken into a section on practical information and one on aesthetic inspiration. First, learn simple planning by choosing from several ideas including: horizontal paving, vertical screening and form.

"Design Your Garden: 10 Simple Steps to Transform

Your Garden" is a landscape design handbook. "Rooftop & Terrace Gardens: A Step-By-Step Guide to Creating a Modern and Stylish Space" includes almost as many innovative design treatments as in-ground garden design suggestions.



This promotion will publish the last Tuesday of every month in our Country Roads Section, and online at magicvalley.com

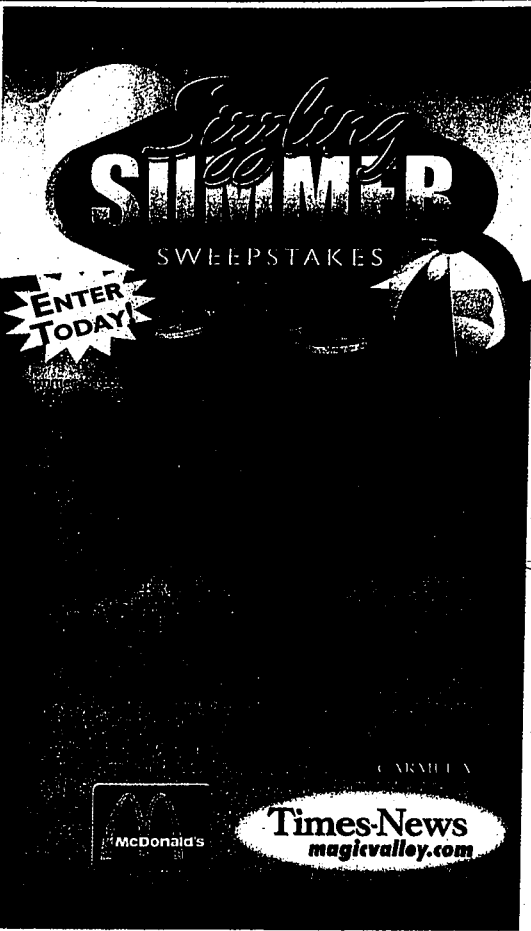
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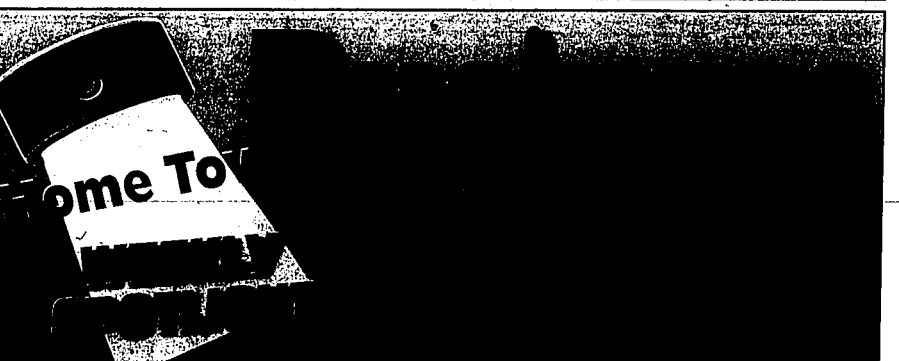


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