

A DYING BREED

Idaho cattlemen cashing out.

AGRI-BUSINESS, C1



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NATION, A10

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Times-News

TUESDAY

July 29, 2008

75 cents

Party foul

License group says liquor proposal likely in coming session

By Jared S. Hopkins
Staff writer

A task force appointed last year by Gov. C.L. "Butch" Otter to study Idaho's liquor laws hasn't produced an official recommendation yet. But some members said they expect one in time for the 2009 Legislature.

"The goal is to decide on something to be prepared for this legislative session," said Ken Burgess, a lobbyist for the Idaho Licensed Beverage Association.

The committee — made up of public officials, lobbyists and businessmen — has focused on the future of the state's quota system.

Liquor licenses in Idaho are awarded by the state on a per-capita basis: one license for every 1,500 people in a city's population.

However, licenses can be sold or leased for an unlimited amount and have led to people spending hundreds of thousands in what some casually refer to as a black market.

Burgess said his group is opposed to eliminating the quota system, and not participating in discussions would indicate it was comfortable with cutting quota system.

"My political analysis of this was that as long as we said, 'No, hell no, we were just going to be tossed aside,'" said Burgess who recently spoke with licensees in Twin Falls about possible changes.

The proposal — which was discussed during a task force

Please see LIQUOR, Page A4

20% >>> to >>> 8.5%
Projected rate increase decline for Twin Falls water rates

13% >>> to >>> 3%
Projected rate increase decline for Twin Falls sewer rates

WATER SLIDE



Lee Gleason, the engineering department project coordinator with the City of Twin Falls, walks the perimeter of the pump station located at the edge of a new Twin Falls subdivision. Gleason says the new pump stations are designed to reduce the size and visual impact of the pressurized irrigation systems.

T.F. Council reviews budget changes to help taxpayers

By Jared S. Hopkins
Staff writer

Turns out size does matter. But when it comes to city budgeting, going big comes at a cost.

The Twin Falls City Council on Monday reviewed possibilities to minimize the impact a 24 percent budget increase could have on taxpayers, including lowering preliminary increases to water and sewer rates.

After receiving direction from the council last week, city staff made adjustments for next year's projected water rate increases to decline from 20 percent to

8.5 percent, and sewer rate increases to decline from around 13 percent to 3 percent.

The increases, however, would be assessed annually for four years to phase in projects, due to growth or otherwise, city officials said. The city would subsequently rely on its reserves as "buffers" during years the city is scheduled to incur deficits.

The preliminary \$51 million 2008-09 fiscal city budget is a more than \$10 million increase from this year. Twin Falls City Manager Tom Courtney has called it one of the largest increases in recent memo-

ry, but has noted the bulk is due to large projects planned for several years that will be paid primarily from reserves. Otherwise, it's a "status quo" increase of around 5 percent, he said.

Under the adjustments proposed to the council, the city would build two pressurized irrigation stations next year, delay two others, and save \$550,000. Another change would incorporate \$400,000 to meet federal arsenic standards into its overall transaction costs in acquiring Pristine Springs.

Please see BUDGET, Page A3

Police: Hells Angels started bar brawl

Bar tender says fight wasn't started by motorcycle gang

By Andrea Jackson
Staff writer

Two Twin Falls, Police officers were allegedly battered as they tried to enter a local bar Saturday night to break up a fight they heard was started by the Hells Angels.

As police arrived at the Pioneer Club on 1519 Kimberly Road, they were told "the Angels started it and you don't want to go in there," court records show.

But bartender Holly Brown said the Hells Angels didn't

start the 11:30 p.m. fight. Some people were wearing vests with Hells Angels logos, but they were gentleman, she said.

About 300 to 500 Hells Angels expected Wednesday through Aug. 3 in Missoula, Mont., for the 2008 USA Run.

Montana authorities are readying for one representative of each Falls Angels chapter to arrive at Marshall Mountain, according to a report from Missoula police.

Motorcycle riders have also been passing through Twin Falls during the past week for the 26th annual Testicle Festival, Brown said. That festival is slated to start

Please see BRAWL, Page A3

Left on the sidelines

Feds have next step in wolf litigation, not F&G

By Nita Poppino
Staff writer

When it comes to wolves, the Idaho Department of Fish and Game was just getting used to calling the shots.

Now, Fish and Game officials are relegated to the sidelines, cheering frantically for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service but unable to do much else. At least, that's the feeling Fish and Game Commissioner Wayne Wright has. Just months after the Canadian gray wolf was removed from the endangered species list in Idaho, Montana and Wyoming, U.S. District Judge Donald Molloy placed it back in the hands of federal officials and regulations, cancelling Idaho's wolf management plan and a hunting season set to begin as early as September.

That still rankles state officials, Wright said, especially since Molloy's ruling didn't seem to criticize Idaho's management plan. The judge cited concerns about a lack of genetic mixing among the three states in his decision, along with several criticisms of Wyoming's plan.

Wright reviewed the decision with his fellow commissioners, Deputy Attorney General Clive Strong and other state officials

Please see WOLVES, Page A3

Nixed initiative?

Returning wolves under federal control affects more than just Idaho Fish and Game. Ron Gillett of Stanley, head of the Idaho Anti-Wolf Coalition, is gearing up for a third go at a statewide ballot initiative aimed at getting rid of wolves. But Fish and Game Commissioner Wayne Wright — echoing a March 2006 advisory letter from the state attorney general's office — said he doesn't think it will work because federal law trumps state law. On Monday, Gillett didn't seem concerned by the thought.

"Let's find out," he said when told federal regulations may prevail. "If we jump through the hoops and get it all done legally, and then they think they're going to trump it and get away from us, let's go to the Supreme Court."

Idaho Secretary of State recesses for 2007 show that Gillett only managed to gather 11,600 of the nearly 46,000 signatures required to put an initiative on the ballot in his last attempt, about the same as a 2006 attempt. But Gillett said again that he estimates he was only about 7,500 short. The difference, he said, comes from his decision last year to not submit the remaining names when he knew he would come up short.



T-N phone lines, voice mail down

If you made an unanswered call to the Times-News on Monday, don't worry, you weren't being ignored.

A computer problem that knocked out the paper's voice mail and phone routing lines last week is still unresolved. The lines could remain down for another week.

But the newspaper still welcomes your call.

To reach a reporter or editor, call their direct line, which is published in the paper.

A list of individual and department numbers is on Page A2.

For calls to the classified department, call 735-3267; to the circulation department, call 735-3347.

Voice mail capabilities are down as well, so keep calling direct lines until you can find the party you wish to speak with.

The Times-News apologizes for the inconvenience, and thanks you for your patience.

Scientists call for scrutiny of national DNA database

By Jason Feich and Maura Dolan
Los Angeles Times

In 2001, Arizona crime laboratory analyst Kathryn Troyer was running tests on the state's DNA database when she stumbled across two felons with remarkably similar genetic profiles.

The men matched at nine of the 13 locations on chromosomes, or loci, commonly used to distinguish people.

The FBI estimated the odds of unrelated people sharing those genetic markers to be 1 in 113 billion. But the mug shots of the two felons suggested that they were not related:

One was black, the other white. In the years after her discovery, Troyer found dozens of similar matches — each defying impossible odds.

As word spread, Troyer's findings raised questions about the accuracy of the FBI's DNA statistics and ignited a legal fight over whether the

nation's genetic databases ought to be opened to wider scrutiny.

The laboratory of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, which administers the national DNA database, tried to stop distribution of Troyer's results and began to block

Please see DNA, Page A4



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

Comics .D2
Dear Abby .B4
Horoscope .A2

Jumble .C7
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Obituaries .A6-7
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Sudoku .C4
Weather .C8

State, groundwater group spread word for pumpers to join mitigation plan.
SEE PAGE A5

TODAY'S HAPPENINGS

ARTS AND ENTERTAINMENT
'Sensational the Musical' presented by Oakley Valley Arts Council, 7:30 p.m. to 10 p.m., Howell's Grocery Warehouse, 118 N. Blaine Ave., Oakley, \$8, 677-2787.
Brian Crowley and Jeanine Tesori's musical 'Violent' presented by Company of Fools, 7 p.m., Liberty Theatre, 110 N. Main St., Hailey. Tickets: \$23 for adults, \$13 for senior citizens (62 and over) and \$15 for students (18 and under), 578-9322.

BENEFITS AND FUNDRAISERS

Tough Enough to Wear Pink Spaghetti Dinner, with entertainment by the Idaho Old Time Fiddlers, hosted by Rodeo Queens of the Magic Valley, 6 to 8 p.m., Merchant's Building No. 3, Twin Falls County Fairgrounds, Flier. Proceeds to benefit breast cancer. 900 Women Commission, \$5 per person or \$20 for family of four or more, 326-4356.

CLUBS AND ORGANIZATIONS

Magic Valley Toastmasters meeting and no-host lunch, with focus on teaching and encouraging members in communication and leadership skills, noon, Golden Corral, 1823 Blue Lakes Blvd., Twin Falls, new members welcome, 316-8534.
Barley Rotary Club meeting, noon, Building 1, 878-8382.
Rupert Kiwanis Club meeting, noon, Rupert Elks Lodge, 850 S. 200 W., Rupert, 436-8124.
Snake River Flats meeting, all-male singing group, 7:30 p.m., Harmony Hall, 123 K St., Rupert, 436-6047.

EXHIBITS

Mike Youngman/Karl Brake art show, 9:30 a.m. to 9 p.m., Jean V. King Gallery, Herrett Center for Arts and Science, campus of College of Southern Idaho, Twin Falls, no cost, open to the public, 732-6655.

FESTIVALS AND FAIRS

Jerome County Fair continues, 'Rock with the Stock' includes vendors, carnival, youth 4-H and FFA competitions and more, Jerome County Fairgrounds, Jerome, through Aug. 2, (208) 324-7200.
Mildreda County Fair continues, 'A Family Affair for 60 years' with lawn mower races, Mutton Bustin! competition, crowning of Grandma Queen and more, Mildreda County Fairgrounds, Rupert, through Aug. 2, (208) 436-9748.

GOVERNMENT

Twin Falls County commissioners, 8:30 a.m., courthouse, 425 Shoshone St. N., 736-4068.
Blaine County commissioners, 9 a.m., courthouse, 206 First Ave. S., Hailey, 788-5500.
Jerome County commissioners, 9 a.m., courthouse, 300 N. Lincoln, 644-2700.
San Valley Planning and Zoning Commission, 9 a.m., City Hall, 81 Elkhorn Road, 622-4438.
Barley Public Library Board, 4 p.m., library conference room, 1300 Miller Ave., 878-7708.

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, 737-5988.
Fit and Fall Proof Exercise Class, 10:30 a.m., First Segregation Fire Station, Eden, no cost, 737-5988.
Ongoing exercise program for people with Parkinson's disease, offered by Magic Valley Regional Medical Center, 11 a.m. to noon, the Episcopal Church of the Ascension, 371 Eastland Drive N., Twin Falls, no cost, 737-5277.
SilverSneakers Fitness Program, innovative exercise program designed specifically for Medicare beneficiaries' unique health and physical needs, 11:15 a.m. to noon, Twin Falls YMCA, 1754 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 Lanting, 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 rhlanting@uidaho.edu.
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.
Collic Support Group of Magic Valley annual family picnic, 6 p.m., 731-9079.

Miss Cassia Shelter for Women & Children women's support group, 6 p.m., 123 S. C. St., Rupert, (208) 436-0987.
Celebrate Recovery, a place to learn life-affirming, healthy behaviors, 7:30 p.m., Magic Valley Evangelical Free Church, 821 H Ave. E., Jerome, 324-7237.

LIBRARY

Story Hour: Farm Fun, for preschoolers and primary graders, K-2, 10 to 10:30 a.m., Downtown Community Library, front room, Lance's Custom Meat Cutting, Declo, 654-2722 or 654-9433.

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 Jam!' at 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.

To have an event listed, please submit the name of the event, a brief description, time, place, cost and contact number to Suzanne Browne by e-mail at sbrowne@magicvalley.com; by fax, 734-8548; or by mail, Times-News, P.O. Box 548, Twin Falls, ID 83403-0548. Deadline is noon, four days in advance of the event.

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MORNING BRIEFING

Grab your sweetie and head for Ms. Prairie Dog

In the mid-1990s, Rolse disc jockey Paul J. Schneider (a Twin Falls native) and other KBOI-AM radio personalities co-located a running gag about Idaho prairie dogs — they meant two-legged prairie dogs, and not in a complimentary sense — and talk eventually turned to organizing a Miss Prairie Dog contest.

about everywhere in town ... 'The event doesn't take itself terribly seriously ... This year's theme is 'Clowning Around Under the Big Top' ... Debut pageant, highlights include pig wrestling at 5 p.m. Saturday and the annual bed race at 7 o'clock ... Among the rules for the latter, the entries must be a twin-size or larger ... Five-member teams and beds must be under control with four pushers and one rider with a switch of riders at the race's turnaround point ... Oh, and the fair's clown theme is encouraged for bed decor ... Once the Carnas fair — and Fairfield for that matter — because it's refreshingly down-to-earth: Nobody wears a Stetson who isn't actually a cowboy ... Fair organizers say that what's new Saturday night dance (starts at 9) on the grass at the community's ballpark ... The fair's other events include the 4-H livestock show at 8 a.m. Saturday, the boys' barbeque at noon and the parade down Main Street at 1 p.m. ... On Sunday, there's an American Legion breakfast on Main Street from 7 to 10 a.m. and a coming to church service in the park at 10:30 a.m. ... Johnny U and Mark Hansen will perform live music in the park from 1 to 5 p.m. ... CEMAS COUNTY, by the way, is the least-choosing county in south-central Idaho, according to the American Religion Data Archives based on a 2000 survey ... At the time, it listed 973 of the 991 Carnas residents as 'unclaimed' ... There were 14 Catholics and four Buddhists ... At the opposite extreme was Cassia County, where 18,304 of the county's 21,416 residents at the time were associated with some religious group ... Almost 11,000 were Mormons ... Steve Crump is the Times-News opinion editor.

Where better to hold it than on the nearest prairie? ... And the Carnas County Fair hasn't been the same since. ... 'Paul J. actually came up and exceeded the first couple of years,' said Carnas County Fair Board secretary Connie Funkhouser. 'And it's been part of the fair since.' ... Well, almost ... 'The woman who runs the contest didn't get it together in the first year,' Funkhouser explained ... So though it's been 21 August since the pageant began, this year's will be the 20th ... The fair starts its five-day

AROUND THE WORLD

IRAQ

Female bombers kill at least 57, wound nearly 300 in separate blasts

BAGHDAD — Four suicide bombers believed to be women struck a Shiite pilgrimage on Baghdad and a Kurdish protest rally in northern Iraq on Monday, killing at least 57 people and wounding nearly 300 in one of this year's deadliest attacks, police said.

blew up their explosive vests in the middle of pilgrims in Baghdad moments after a roadside bomb attack, killing at least 32 people and wounding 102, Iraqi officials said in the oil-rich northern city of Kirkuk, 25 people were killed and 185 wounded when a blast tore through a crowd of Kurds protesting a draft provision extending the law, officials said.

ALABAMA

Yellow Labrador runs for mayor of Fairhope

FAIRHOPE — One of the dog's campaign headquarters, owned by the city, will become Fairhope's next mayor is considerably more hairy than the rest. He also has twice as many legs and a constantly wagging tail. Willie Bean Rose Jr. Coltrane is a 7-year-old yellow Labrador retriever whose owner has taken a satirical poke at politics by launching the pooch into the race. ... But Willie Bean may not be up for that rough-and-tumble world. ... 'When a little dog barks at you, he cringes and he runs away because he's afraid,' said the dog's owner, Rose. ... Turner, 43, manages The Coffee Loft, which is also the dog's campaign headquarters where supporters can purchase T-shirts and yard signs. ... The Associated Press

When women are more easily able to hide explosives under their all-encompassing black Islamic robes, and often are not searched at checkpoints because of sensitivities. ... On Monday, three bombers believed to be women

TENNESSEE

Police: Letter indicates suspect targeted church because of liberal views

KNOXVILLE — An out-of-work truck driver accused of opening fire at a Unitarian church, killing two people, left behind a note suggesting that he targeted the congregation out of hatred for its liberal policies, including its acceptance of gays, authorities said Monday.

The Knoxville News Sentinel reported Monday that Addison may also have chosen the church because his ex-wife was a former longtime member of the congregation. ... He remained jailed Monday on \$1 million bond after being charged with one count of murder. More charges are expected. Four victims were hospitalized in critical condition.

TODAY IN HISTORY

Today is Tuesday, July 29, the 211th day of 2008. There are 155 days left in the year. Today's Highlight:

1950, President Eisenhower ordered the National Aeronautics and Space Act, which created NASA. ... On this date: ... In 1899, artist Vincent van Gogh, 37, died of a self-inflicted gunshot wound in Auvers-sur-Oise, France. ... In 1914, transatlantic telephone service began with the first test phone conversation between New York and San Francisco. ... In 1957, the International Atomic Energy Agency was established. ... In 1967, an accidental rocket launch aboard the supercarrier USS Forrestal in the Gulf of Tonkin resulted in a fire and explosions that killed 134 crew members. ... The Vatican issued an encyclical in which Pope Paul VI reaffirmed the Catholic Church's opposition

to artificial means of contraception, but not say anything now but could undermine your efforts later. ... VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Display affection for a certain someone at the right moment and you can prevent a misunderstanding. Act without premeditation even if you feel that some restraint is in order. ... LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): The Love Boat may change its schedule without advance notice and sail without you unless you get up to speed. Because you are so concerned with everything being perfect, you may lose out in the end. ... SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Although you would like to attain financial freedom, you might be a better time to conserve your resources. Relationships require a steady, but not restrictive, hand. ... SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-

HOROSCOPE BY JERALDINE SAUNDERS

IF JULY 29 IS YOUR BIRTHDAY: Those who help themselves receive the most help. Your fervent prayers will probably be answered in February, but in the meantime you should do everything you can to propel yourself towards success without cosmic assistance. You have a head for business and a flair for negotiation that will help you climb the ladder of success this fall if you act independently and don't follow the lead of friends or certain groups. Next February, opportunity may come knocking — but you will need the wise advice of an older companion to guide you past a mirage that is merely wishful thinking on your part. ... ARIES (March 21-April 19): Steer clear of complications, both financial and emotional. Cupid might be a fickle marksman and hit the heart of a friend, changing a relationship. This isn't the time to injure your heart or your cash. ... TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Something new and exciting might tempt you to spend less time at home. Because you prefer an instant gratification with a certain situation you may look for ways of escape that may prove costly. ... GEMINI (May 21-June 20): A slow methodical start need not hold you back but may actually ensure that you get everything done efficiently. Certain undertakings are a sprint to the finish line. ... CANCER (June 21-July 22): The innovative fast-track might end up costing you more than expected. Hold off on making major purchases or wait for better timing for repairs. ... LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): If you criticize or turn a cold shoulder to someone's needs, you may find yourself out in the cold without a blanket. ... SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Although you would like to attain financial freedom, you might be a better time to conserve your resources. Relationships require a steady, but not restrictive, hand. ... SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-

links between Saudi Arabian intelligence and the Sept. 11 hijackers, saying disclosure would help the enemy' by revealing intelligence sources and methods. ... One year ago: British Prime Minister Tony Blair arrived at Camp David in Maryland for a private dinner as well as meetings with President Bush. Tens of thousands of Iraqis celebrated after Iraq beat third-time champion Saudi Arabia 1-0 to take the Asian Cup. ... Dec. 21: Inquisitive people by want to know privileged or private information but you don't need to provide access. Take coupons along if you must head off on shopping expeditions. ... CANCER (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): You may have a chance to refresh a past experience while socializing with neighbors, siblings or friends. Hold off on tempting joint financial ventures. ... AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): You may be torn between being compassionate and telling it like it is. Remember not to rock the boat. It is best to simply be someone's best friend. ... PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): You may be surrounded by people who know how to handle a business matter adroitly or those who possess practical street smarts. They may not let you in on certain secrets.

Budget

Continued from page A1

Meanwhile, in the wastewater fund, adjustments included phasing in upgrades to the wastewater treatment plant over several years. The changes would minimize the impact to taxpayers while still allowing the city get to where it wants to be in terms of wastewater treatment, Courtney said.

Although no vote was taken, the changes were greeted with general acceptance by the council.

"This is certainly an appropriate year to let at some deferral," Councilman Dave

Johnson said.

Councilman Greg Lanting said that he still wants to see some sort of benchmark for water use — for example, per gallons, he said — that could deter water consumption in homes.

"At what point do we start looking at that?" he asked. "Everybody else seems to be doing that."

Courtney said after the meeting he expects the changes to lower the 24 percent increase, but those figures haven't been refined yet since scenarios discussed Monday are conceptual.

Staff did not outline changes to one-time funding projects that come with grants or money saved from previous years, including the widening of Washington Street North, northeast sewer line remodel and several airport projects.

Although the city's property tax levy rate will increase by 2.11 percent, the homeowner's exemption will also increase and many homeowners will see a decrease in the city share of the property tax, according to a report by Courtney.

The budget will undergo a public hearing Aug 18 before it's approved.

Brawl

Continued from page A1

Wednesday and ran through Aug. 3 in Clinton, Mont., about 22 miles from Missoula.

Twin Falls Police have been called to the Pioneer Club only twice this year, said Capt. Matt Hicks.

But Saturday's response was ample. Almost every on-duty officer in the area was called to help, Hicks said.

"The crowd became hostile to the officers."

The officers said they were pushed and one was struck in the face by a 300-pound employee of the bar, Geoffrey C. Pierce, 32, court records show.

Pierce allegedly tried to keep police out of the bar and also yelled profanities at them.

Police shot their Taser guns three times at Pierce and arrested him for two counts of battery on a law enforcement officer, obstructing police, and not

allowing them access to the bar.

Motorcycle gangs have yet to be a problem in Twin Falls County, said Prosecutor Grant Loebs.

Pierce bonded out of jail and could not be reached Monday for comment. His next hearing is set for Aug. 8. The bar's owner refused to comment Monday.

According to media reports, Hills Angels must be white, with Harley Davidson motorcycles, and without any history of molesting children or law enforcement work.

Liquor

Continued from page A1

meeting as the Legislature met in Boise — would allow an unlimited number of licenses for restaurants but maintain some type of cap on bars.

"That's kind of the concept that's backed by the ILBA," said Burgess, but noted "there's been no deal cut so far."

Committee members said there's been no meeting since the legislature ended.

The committee itself, however, is evolving.

Members said Otter aide Bob Wells is no longer the task force chairman. Rep. Mark Snodgrass, R-Moran, who has pushed for eliminating the quota system, recently lost a bid for the state senate. And the committee's other legislator, House Minority Caucus Chair John Rusele, D-Lewiston, chose to spend the interim on a

different committee.

Snodgrass — technically a task force member until his term expires — hopes the issue stays alive, and that the system continues to burden economic development.

"It's an antiquated system that rewards people for putting their names on the list," he said. "The original intent of the quota system was never to make people winners and losers based on this false market."

The proposal by the ILBA is likely more palatable to licensees, Snodgrass said, because it wouldn't devalue licenses as much. Many have noted the idea of compensating the licensees for financial loss if changes are made.

Otter's office didn't offer many details. "There's no update that I'm aware of," said spokesman Jon Ianlian, who refused to discuss the matter further.

The issue has divided licensees. Brian Donesley, who has represented involved

parties in the past, helped form a group of licensees called the Idaho Beverage Coalition.

He points out that reform requires drastic changes to state law that will be tough to pass in the legislature — and more licensees mean more investigators.

"There are a lot of people with very good reason who don't want to see an Idaho where people can live with the proliferation of unfettered liquor license," said Donesley.

He said he'd be comfortable with tweaking the system or

allowing counties to make decisions.

Burgess said any proposal — whether from the ILBA or to cut the system — wouldn't go to the Legislature until the task force signed off on it.

Dyke Nally, Idaho Liquor Dispensary Superintendent, said he expects another meeting, but there's no guarantee for a proposal.

"What we're trying to come up with is something workable to recommend to the governor and he can do with it what he wants with it," he said.

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• Paul Scarborough

Wolves

Continued from page A1

last week. Though he couldn't say much about state's legal options on Monday, he did say the judge's perceived approval of Idaho's plan is good news overall and that plans to challenge the genetics issue are in the works.

The commission, department, state and Gov. C.L. "Butch" Otter are all interveners in the case. Lawyers for the main defendant, U.S. Fish and Wildlife, told the Associated Press on Friday that they were still deciding how to respond to the injunction.

The commissioners know sportsmen are upset, Wright said — many of them showed up to vent their frustrations at the commission's meeting Wednesday and Thursday in the conference room of a Post Falls Cabela's store.

"Some people seem to think it's our fault, Fish and Game's fault, that this happened," he said. "I can't tell you the number of hours we spent trying to comply by Fish and Wildlife's demands and do this the right way."

Of course, there are some who feel Fish and Game didn't do things right in the first place. Katie Pite, biodiversity director for Western Watersheds Project, itself a plaintiff in the wolf litigation, said the department's plan would have separated central Idaho wolves from Yellowstone wolves by allowing for too many "dead zones" between where ranchers could kill them. That makes it more flawed than was specified in

Molloy's decision, she said.

"If a bright light was shone on Idaho's plan, it might not stand up to a hard look being taken at it," Pite said.

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DNA

Continued from page A1

similar searches elsewhere, even those ordered by courts, according to an investigation by the Los Angeles Times.

At stake is the credibility of the compelling odds often cited in DNA cases, which suggests an all-but-certain link between a suspect and a crime scene. When DNA from blood or skin cells matches a suspect's genetic profile, it can seal the suspect's fate with a jury, even in the absence of other evidence. As questions arise about the reliability of ballistic, bite-mark and fingerprint analysis, genetic evidence has emerged as the forensic gold standard.

But DNA "matches" are not always what they appear to be. Although a person's genetic makeup is unique, his "genetic profile" — a slice of the full genome — may not be. Siblings often share genetic markers, and unrelated people can share some by coincidence.

No one knows how rare DNA profiles are. The odds presented in court are best estimates from the FBI.

The Arizona search was a first: of those ever done in a large state database, and the results were surprising.

Defense attorneys seized on the Arizona discoveries as evidence that genetic profiles match more often than statistics imply and are not unique.

Now, lawyers around the country are asking for searches of their own state databases. Scientists and legal experts want to test the accuracy of statistics using the nearly 6 million profiles in the Combined DNA Index System (CODIS), the national network that includes state and local databases.

"DNA is terrific and nobody doubts it, but because it is so powerful, any chinks in its armor ought to be made as salient and clear as possible so jurors will not be overwhelmed by the seeming certainty of it," said David Falgout, a professor at the University of California, Hastings College of the Law, who specializes in scientific evidence.

FBI officials argue that the use of CODIS is limited to criminal justice agencies. Defense attorneys are allowed access to information about specific cases, not the databases. In general, Bureau officials say, the database has exaggerated or misunderstood Troyer's discoveries.

Indeed, experts agree that many — but not all — of the Arizona matches were to be expected statistically because of the unusual way Troyer searched for them.

In a typical criminal case, investigators look for matches to a specific profile. But Troyer looked for any matches among all the thousands of profiles in the database, greatly increasing the odds of finding them.

As a result, Thomas Callaghan, head of the FBI's CODIS unit, has dismissed Troyer's findings as "misleading" and "meaningless."

Callaghan urged authorities in several states to object to "Arizona searches," as they came to be known, advising them that the probes could violate the privacy of convicted offenders, tie up databases and lead the FBI to expel offending states from CODIS — a penalty that could cripple states' ability to solve crimes.

The FBI's arguments have persuaded courts in several states to block the searches. But in two states, judges overruled the objections. The resulting searches found nearly 1,000 more pairs that matched at nine

or more loci.

"I can appreciate why the FBI is worried about this," said David Kaye, an expert on science and the law at Arizona State University and former member of a national committee that studied forensic DNA.

But "people's lives do ride on this evidence," he said. "It has got to be explained."

After her discovery, Troyer and colleagues in the Arizona Department of Public Safety's Phoenix DNA lab were intrigued.

At the time, states looked at nine or fewer loci when searching for suspects. (States now compare 13 loci, though often fewer are available from old or contaminated crime scene evidence.) Based on Troyer's results, colleagues believed that a nine-locus match could point investigators to the wrong person.

"If you're going to search at

nine loci, you need to be aware of what it means," said Todd Griffith, director of the Phoenix lab. "It's not necessarily absolutely the guy."

Troyer made a poster for a national conference of DNA analysts. It showed photos of the white man and the younger black man next to their remarkably similar genetic profiles. Some conferees had seen similar matches in their own labs.

Three years later, Bicka

Barlow, a San Francisco defense attorney, came across Troyer's poster information on the Internet as she prepared to defend a client accused of a 20-year-old rape and murder.

A database search had found a nine-locus match between her client's DNA profile and semen found in the victim's body. Based on FBI estimates, the odds of a coincidental match were 1 in 108 trillion.

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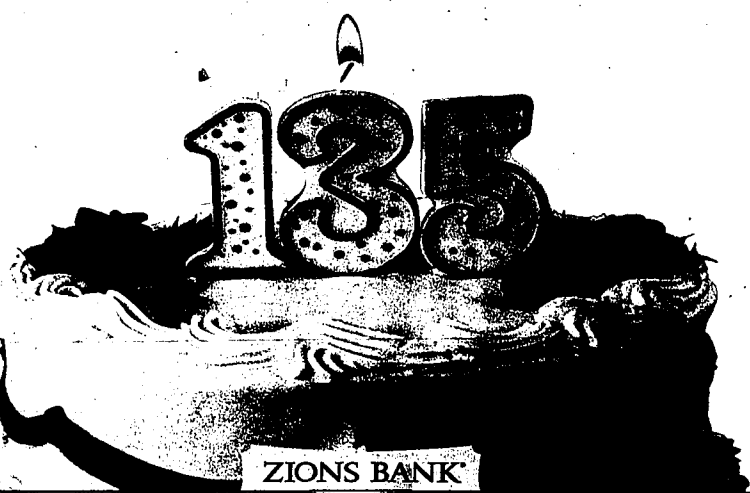
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Joining the party

State, groundwater group spread word for pumpers to join mitigation plan

By Nate Poppino
Staff writer

Creating a water mitigation plan is all well and good. But someone has to provide the water.

And state officials want to make sure no one's left handling the pump all alone.

On July 11, Idaho Department of Water Resources Director Dave Tuthill issued his final order in a water delivery call made by two Magic Valley trout farms, finding that two of their rights had been damaged and ordering groundwater pumpers to provide water for them.

Ten days later, Tuthill sent out another notice — this time to more than 400 people, businesses and cities that had water rights affected by the call. The letter urged the

recipients to join one of two area groundwater districts participating in a mitigation plan created by the Idaho Ground Water Appropriators. "They need to mitigate in some way," Tuthill said on Friday. "One way that's provided is for them to join one of the groundwater districts." The alternative is to go it alone.

"On an individual basis ... that means you've got to find some water to replace what you're taking out or you've got curtailed," IGWA Executive Director Lynn Tomlinaga said.

Water rights holders are allowed to join a groundwater district for purposes of mitigation, meaning they wouldn't be full members but would contribute to the mitigation plan, Tuthill said.

Currently, the focus is on two IGWA member districts

On the Web

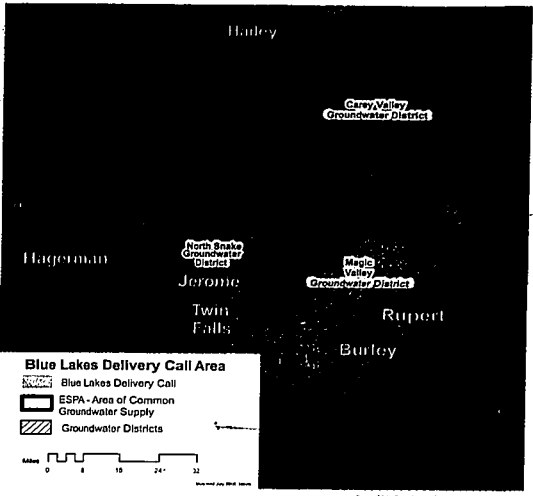


View documents related to the Thousand Springs delivery call. Go to <http://www.idwr.idaho.gov/> and click on "Thousand Springs Area Water Call Related Documents."

In the area of the Blue Lakes Trout Farm call, Magic Valley Ground Water District and North Snake Ground Water District. The farm has already received its 10 cubic feet per second of water following the Pristine Springs deal earlier this year, Tuthill said. But pumpers who aren't members of the two districts, or whose districts don't vote to join the plan, by Aug. 15 will have to find a way to replace their own water.

The districts also have another reason to want new

Please see PARTY, Page A7



MacMillan wants review of IDWR

Proposal now sits with legislators

By Nate Poppino
Staff writer

The spokesman for a trout farm about to challenge the Idaho Department of Water Resources in court has now asked the Legislature to investigate the way the department operates.

Speaking he speaks for a number of water users across the region, Randy MacMillan, vice president of research at Clear Springs Foods, has asked an interim committee of the Legislature to begin a performance review of the Idaho Department of Water Resources. The request, MacMillan said, comes because of a "growing lack of trust" in IDWR's handling of water-rights issues, and is not tied to a water call he's involved in that is about to move to the court system.

"We think that politics has become too much of a part of their decision-making process," MacMillan said, adding that he's not fully willing to accept that he could be wrong. Any investigation would be done by the Legislature's Office of Performance Evaluations, which examines effectiveness of efficient state agencies. Legislators make requests to the Joint Legislative Oversight Committee, which subsequently reviews them and sends approved requests to the OPE.

Recent reviews have touched subjects as varied as virtual public schools, state substance abuse operations and public safety communications networks.

MacMillan brought his concerns to legislators at a July 14 meeting of the Natural Resources Interim Committee. Following presentations on aquifers and curtailment by IDWR Administrator Hal Anderson and Director Dave Tuthill, MacMillan listed problems he saw with the current system, citing delays in the application process for a Twin Falls Canal Company permit at Milner Dam and similar issues.

"Fraudsters got vented, I'd say," said Sen. Chuck Colner, R-Twin Falls, a member of the committee.

Colner said he's not sure if legislators will follow up on the request. He and others are still a little confused about what MacMillan's asking, he said, and want to ensure investigators aren't asked to review previous IDWR decisions or items that were hashed out in court.

"That's not the purpose at all, from my perspective," Colner said.

The request, as MacMillan phrased it Friday, seems to line up with Colner's ideal uses, studying the timeliness of the department's work and what factors may play into that.

"We want objective evaluation, objective criticism if it's warranted, and objective recommendations on how to improve," MacMillan said.

Tuthill said Friday that he was surprised by the tone of MacMillan's presentation, one of three by non-IDWR staff regarding existing water rights issues. He declined comment on his feelings about an investigation, pointing out that the decision whether to request one is now in the hands of legislators.

"That's up to the legislative committee," he said.

It's not clear whether legislators will revisit the request at their next meeting on Aug. 12. That agenda is being prepared, Colner said.

"We'll see if they choose (to follow up)," Colner said of his peers. "We've got some other issues."

Nate Poppino may be reached at 208-735-3257 or npoppino@magicvalley.com.

SPLISH SPLASH



Clarissa Hayes, 10, center, and Nikki Belem, 9, react as their sibling Breanna Belem, 11, makes a large splash in the pool Monday afternoon in front of a friend's home in Twin Falls.

Burley police nab junior high robbers

By Laurie Welch
Staff writer

Two male juveniles were arrested early Sunday morning for burglary when they returned to Burley Junior High School for a repeat performance after stealing \$2,900 in media equipment last week.

Cassia County Sheriff Jim Hignens said police arrested the

suspects at 3:36 a.m. after a concerned citizen reported a suspicious car on the premises.

When officers arrived they found the two juveniles on the roof of the building trying to get inside.

"The report indicates that they were arrested as they were trying to come through the roof," Hignens said.

The officers found evidence of

burglary tools on the two juveniles and Burley Junior High School Principal Steve Copmann identified the individuals as the suspects who showed up on a security tape after an earlier break-in at the school last Wednesday, Hignens said. The tape captured a clear shot of the suspects wheeling a television on a metal cart down the hallway.

The school's custodian, Alvin

Martinez, had reported two television sets and a projector missing from the media room after the first burglary.

Hignens said the juveniles admitted to the earlier crime after they were arrested. The media equipment that was reported missing was recovered by police.

Laurie Welch may be reached at 208-677-8767.

AROUND THE VALLEY

Blowout led to fatal crash

A one-car rollover on Interstate 84 that claimed the life of a 39-year-old male Sunday was caused by a tire blowout, the driver of the vehicle said.

The driver, Gilberto Soto-Rodriguez, 21, told Elmore County Sheriff's deputies the rear-right tire blew out while his 1991 Subaru Legacy was traveling eastbound on Interstate 84 near mile post 132, west of Gooding. Soto-Rodriguez and passenger Scott D. McMahan, 30, were wearing seatbelts and sustained minor injuries, a release from Elmore County Sheriff's Patrol Deputy Kevin Hensley stated.

A 39-year-old male riding in the back seat was not wearing a seatbelt and sustained fatal injuries. His identity is being withheld pending notification of his family, the release stated.

Jerome P&Z plans CAFD ordinance hearing

The Jerome County Planning and Zoning Commission will hold a public hearing at 7:30 p.m. Aug. 4 on Chapter 13 of the county's zoning ordinance, pertaining to "live-

stock confinement operations."

The hearing marks a significant step in the process. Officials have worked to revise the ordinances for more than a year, and originally hoped to have new ones drafted by late 2007.

The hearing will be in the courtroom of the Jerome County Courthouse, 300 N. Lincoln in Jerome. The proposed revision can be viewed at Room 307 of the courthouse, the Jerome City Library at 100 First E. Ave. and on the county Web site: <http://www.jeromecounty.org>.

For more information, contact the Planning and Zoning Office at 208-324-9116.

Idaho Power intervenors must file by Aug. 8

The Idaho Public Utilities Commission has set an Aug. 8 deadline for those wanting to file as "Intervenor" in the Idaho Power Co. rate case. The commission also suspended the effective date for a proposed rate increase for up to six months from the company's requested effective date of July 27.

Idaho Power is seeking an average 9.9 percent rate increase, although the proposed

increases vary for customer class. It filed its application on June 27, claiming the increase is needed to pay for \$578 million in new substations, transmission lines and other needs during the last three years. The PUC is statutorily required to consider all rate increase requests.

Intervenor become parties to the case for the purpose of presenting evidence, cross-examining witnesses and participating in settlement or negotiation conferences. A number of parties have already requested intervention, including the Industrial Irrigation Pumpers Association, the Community Action Partnership of Idaho, the Kroger Company and the Department of Energy, on behalf of the Idaho National Laboratory.

Individual ratepayers will also have a chance to submit written comments and participate in workshops and public hearings. More information on those opportunities will be announced shortly.

For more information: <http://www.puc.idaho.gov>. Click on the "Intervenor" icon, then on "Open Generic Cases," and scroll down to Case No. IPC-E-08-10.

— from staff reports

Blaine Arthur Bird

JEROME — Blaine Arthur Bird, 90, of Jerome, passed away Sunday, July 26, 2008, in Twin Falls.

He was born May 3, 1918, in a small town in Utah, the son of Brigham Abraham Bird and Erma Rasmussen Bird. He graduated from Salina High School in 1937 and joined the Soil Conservation Corps in 1938. On Nov. 12, 1941, he joined the United States Army and served his country in World War II. He trained at Fort Bliss, Texas, and joined the medical corps. He spent 33 days on the ocean traveling around the Cape of Africa to Karchia, India, where he served 31 months in the India-Burma Theater. He was discharged on Oct. 11, 1945, at Bushnell Hospital in Utah. On June 25, 1945, he married Lenore Lester. He worked at Hill Air Force Base from 1950 to 1963. Blaine and Lenore settled in Idaho, where Blaine worked for Triple C Concrete from



1963 until retiring in 1979. He played baseball and golf and deer hunting. In his later years, he enjoyed his cattle, farming, and helping his neighbors.

Blaine is survived by his wife of 63 years, Lenore Bird of Jerome; their daughter, Eva Covey of Hoquiam, Wash.; and his grandson, Cole Covey. He is also survived by two brothers, Elwood Bliss Bird and his wife, Barbara of Elsinore, Utah, and Lorn Lee Bird of Sunset, Utah; and several nieces and nephews. He was preceded in death by his parents, three sisters and two brothers.

At Blaine's request, no service will be conducted. A cremation service at Rasmussen Mortuary will be followed by an interment service in the Jerome Cemetery.

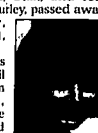
Blaine's family would like to offer a special thanks to St. Luke's Magic Valley Medical Center and Bridgeway Estates for their kind care...

Stella Moline

BURLEY — Stella M. (Rogers) Moline, 87, of Cavendish, Utah, and formerly of Burley, passed away Monday, July 21, 2008.

Stella was born April 23, 1921, in Heinere, Utah. She graduated from Duché High School with honors and was class president her junior and senior year. Stella met and married the love of her life, Benny Moline, and settled in Burley. Together, they raised their son, Ron (Sonny) Moline, and were the owners/operators of the 610 Club. Stella later retired and moved to Centerville.

Stella is survived by her two



granddaughters, Shanna Moline Rondeneau of Boise and Brenda Moline Correlia of Visalia, Calif.; her brother and sister-in-law Wally and Elda Rogers; brother, Dale Rogers; sister, Maxine Wolfe; five great-grandchildren, Kristin Price, Garrett Price, Taylor Correia, Makayla Correia and Danika Correia; and her loving nieces and nephews. She was preceded in death by her husband, Benny; son, Ron; brother, Clarence; and a sister, Pauline.

A private family gathering will be held at a later date. The family is asking that donations be made in her name to the charity of your choice, in lieu of flowers.

Arrangements have been entrusted to the care of the Rasmussen Funeral Home of Burley.

Evelyn Ruth Parke

Evelyn Ruth Parke, age 90, of Twin Falls, passed away Sunday, July 27, 2008, at her home.

She was born July 23, 1918, in Brisco, Idaho, the daughter of Oscar and Mollie Thomas at Homestead, Fla. She moved to Idaho in 1945 from Homestead, Fla., and then to the Magic Valley. On Dec. 21, 1947, she married Hal Parke



at Halley, and he has since passed away. She enjoyed crossword puzzles and was a homemaker.

She is survived by her step-son, Larry Parke of Twin Falls; three step-grandchildren; and numerous step great-grandchildren. In addition to her husband, Hal, she is preceded in death by a step-daughter, Geri Kinzey.

At her family's request, no public service will be held. Arrangements are under the direction of White Mortuary and Crematory.

More obituaries on page A7

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Darlene Dorothy Zink

In loving memory of our mother, grandmother, sister and aunt Darlene Dorothy Zink, 76, of Filer died early Monday morning, July 28, 2008, at her home in Filer.

Darlene was born February 26, 1931, in Broken Bow, Neb., the daughter of Donald and Violet Hanemann Clay. The family moved to Idaho in 1940. She attended schools in Nebraska, Twin Falls, Hansen, Filer and Mora. Darlene married Tom Worley of Buhl in 1950 and moved to Seattle, Wash. They had three children, Dorothy, Donald and Jeffrey. They later divorced. After her divorce, she moved back to Filer and worked at Nelson's Cafe, where she met William "Bill" Worley. They were later married on Dec. 15, 1961, and together raised her three children. They farmed in the Filer area for many years.



Darlene is survived by her two daughters, Dorothy (Robert) Worley-Egorsdorf of Gooding and Violet Zink, Filer; her son, Don (Linda) Zink of Filer; as well as her two sisters, Shirley Hosteter of Kimberly and Lavonne (Betty) Gladis of Twin Falls. Also surviving are her two grandchildren, Amy Worley of Filer and Jeanne (Lucas) Conway of Twin Falls; and five step-grandchildren: Robert Boyce of Twin Falls; David Boyce of Virginia; Jason (Julie) Boyce of Arizona; Bree-Anna Egorsdorf of and Terley Egorsdorf, both of Oregon; as well as four great-grandchildren, Alexandra Boyce of Twin Falls; Sophia and Megan Boyce of Arizona; and Casey Conway of Twin Falls; and many nieces and nephews. She was preceded in death by her parents; her husband, Bill in 2003; her brother, Robert Clay; her brother-in-law, Stiles Hosteter; and two great-nephews.

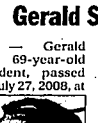
A celebration of Darlene's life will be held as a graveside service at 4 p.m. Wednesday, July 30, at the Filer Cemetery with the Rev. Bruce Stevens officiating. Friends may call from 4 to 8 p.m. Tuesday at Reynolds Funeral Chapel, 246 Addison Ave. E. in Twin Falls.

In lieu of flowers, the family suggests memorials be given in Darlene's name to the United Methodist Church of St. Luke's Magic Valley Hospice. Contributions may be given to funeral chapel staff or mailed to Reynolds Funeral Chapel, P.O. Box 1142, Twin Falls, ID 83303.

Gerald Stormire

HEYBURN — Gerald Stormire, 69-year-old, Heyburn resident, passed away Sunday, July 27, 2008, at Minidoka Memorial Hospital.

Gerald was born July 25, 1939, in Paul, to George and Esther Stormire. In 1957, he graduated from Minico High School and joined the United States Navy. Five years later in 1962, he met and married Patricia Everheart. Gerald worked at Stormire Construction with family members before moving on to work at Ore-Ida and eventually McCain's. He loved the outdoors and spent a week each summer for 46 years at Redfish Lake in Idaho. He was a great teacher and taught his loved ones everything he loved to do such as fishing, hunting, shooting, golfing and bowling; He enjoyed coaching sports and



entertaining the grandchildren.

He is survived by his wife, Patricia Stormire; daughter, Stacy Householder of Chewelah, Wash.; son, Greg (Shannon) Stormire of Paul; eight grandchildren; his mother, Esther Stormire of Rupert; brothers, Merlin Stormire of Kernal, Alaska, and Terry Stormire of Grant, Junction, Colo.; sister, Glenda York of Heyburn; and numerous nephews; nieces and cousins. He was preceded in death by his father and a niece.

The family offers a special thank you to his nephew, Jeff Stormire, who was by his side constantly, the nursing staff members at Minidoka Memorial Hospital, and Dr. Hansen who took excellent care of him.

The funeral will be held at 2 p.m. Thursday, July 31, at Hansen-Payne Mortuary 321 E. Main St. Burial will follow at the Paul Cemetery. A viewing for family and friends will be held from 6 to 8 p.m. Wednesday at the mortuary.

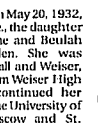
Norma Soulen Rich

BURLEY — Norma Soulen Rich, age 76, of Burley, died Friday, July 25, 2008, at her home.

She was born May 20, 1932, in Ontario, Ore., the daughter of Henry Borne and Paul Johnson Soulen. She was raised in McCall and Weiser, graduating from Weiser High School. She continued her education at the University of Idaho in Moscow and St. Luke's Nurses Training Program in Boise. She married Roscoe J. Rich on July 1, 1958, in Weiser. She was a devoted mother, homemaker and shepherdess, living in Burley during the winter months and Soda Springs in the summer. Norma had a life in the sheep industry her entire life.

She was active throughout the communities of Burley and Soda Springs. She was baptized in the Episcopal Church and attended the Burley First Presbyterian Church. She was a past honored queen of Job's Daughters, was a member of the Kappa Kappa Gamma and PEO Sororities, served as a Pink Lady and worked with the elderly in the Soda Springs Nursing Home. Norma enjoyed golf, bridge, reading, Indian history and visiting with friends and family. She was fun loving and had a great sense of humor. She enjoyed all animals and especially her dogs, Pete, Humphrey, Charlie, Whats, Pearl, Lucy, Agatha and Shis.

She is survived by her children, Diane S. Rich of Denver, Colo., and Tom (Andrea) Rich of Rupert and Soda Springs; her grandchildren, Page (Erik) Eberhardt and Thomas R.C. (C.C.) Rich, all of Burley; three great-grandchildren, Kiersten, Brooklyn and Dusty; one brother, Phillip Soulen; nieces, Tracy Little, Margaret and Hirsna; and nephews, Stephen, and a nephew, Hedy Soulen. She was preceded in death by her par-



ents; husband, Roscoe; sister-in-law, Erlene Soulen; and many beloved friends.

A memorial service will be held at 2 p.m. Thursday, July 31, at the Burley First Presbyterian Church, 2100 Burden Ave., with the Rev. Al Fry officiating. A wake and meal will follow at 4 p.m. at the Ruper Elks Lodge, 85 S. 200 W. of Rupert.

The family suggests memorials be directed to the Idaho Youth Ranch, the Idaho Humane Society, the Oregon Trail Country Club Scholarship Fund or to the Burley First Presbyterian Church.

Arrangements have been entrusted to the care of the Rasmussen Funeral Home of Burley.

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Starley named Miss Magic Valley

Fifty-seven years after the first Miss Magic Valley was named, south-central Idaho is still naming pageant winners.



Starley

This year's Miss Magic Valley Pageant winner, named Saturday night, is Jessica Starley of Twin Falls, who received a \$1,200 academic scholarship. Starley will go on to participate in the Miss Idaho Pageant in June 2009.

- Runners up include:
 - 1st runner-up, Deldre Edmunds, Twin Falls; \$900 scholarship, plus \$200 for placing first in preliminary talent, and \$100 for first-place preliminary private interview.
 - 2nd runner-up, Clarissa Adams, of Twin Falls, \$800 scholarship.
 - 3rd runner-up, Megan Parrish, Jerome, \$700 scholarship.
 - 4th runner-up, Elizabeth Dodds, Twin Falls, \$600 scholarship.

Party

Continued from page A6

members — the Pristine Springs purchase cost them \$11 million, \$10 million of which was a loan from the state.

"We need to get everyone who was a part of that purchase to be involved," Tomlinaga said. "No more free rides."

Those listed as holding the water rights range from farmers to cities, and even Clear Springs Trout Co. itself. It's not clear how many people aren't members yet — Tuthill said it's possible that any of them aren't. But Tomlinaga said most of the cities already belong, and that he didn't think many pumpers needed to join up.

A second plan providing up to 3.59 cfs for Clear Springs is in the works, with a possible public hearing in the near future. And the call isn't

done with — the trout farms have indicated they will appeal to district court, and IGWA filed its own petition for Tuthill to reconsider some aspects of his conclusion.

And it may not be long before the groundwater users have to work on yet another plan, this time for a call put out by the Surface Water Coalition. In an April recommendation to Tuthill, former Idaho Supreme Court Chief Justice Gerard Schroeder found that the Twin Falls Canal Company in particular had been injured by groundwater pumping. Tuthill has less than two months to issue his final order after a series of appeals and an extension requested by the various parties involved.

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

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Lee H. Dean

POST FALLS — Lee H. Dean was born in Twin Falls on July 22, 1925, to Leslie and Ruby (Kunkel) Dean. After graduating from



from Hillsister High School, he joined the Navy in October 1943. He did his boot camp training at Farnagut and went to radar operator training at Pearl Harbor. He was assigned to the aircraft carrier USS Wasp, CV18. This was where he made some of his lifelong friends. After the war, he graduated from the University of Idaho with a degree in horticulture. On May 28, 1950, he married MaryBell Twilton in Moscow. On July 1, 1952, they moved to Post Falls, where they lived for more than 50 years.

Lee was a member of the volunteer fire department for many years. He was also a Boy Scout leader and didn't even have boys. Lee belonged to the Odd Fellows for more than 40 years and received the Degree of Chivalry on Oct. 14, 2000. He was also a life member and past commander of the Veterans of Foreign Wars. He also enjoyed being a member of the Post Falls Historical Society.

Lee worked for the Post Falls Lumber Co. for many years. He also worked in the

shipping department at Diamond International. In 1973, he was elected to the Post Falls City Council and served for eight years. He was then appointed city administrator until his retirement in 1985. The highlight of his career was being able to cut the ribbon at the then city hall. Lee enjoyed his family, camping, fishing and, in his younger years, hunting, arrowheads with his dad.

He is survived by his two daughters, Jan and Dan Litzberger of Post Falls and Julie and Gene Schlander of Bothell, Wash. He has five grandchildren, Tim and Marisa Litzberger, Bill Litzberger, Rebecca and Alex Peachey, Robert and Anne Schlander and Elisabeth Schlander. His first great-grandchild will be born in December. He is also survived by his brother, Leslie (Bill) Dean of Post Falls and numerous nieces and nephews.

He went to join his wife, MaryBell, on Saturday, July 28, 2008, in heaven. The family would like to thank the caregivers at Guardian Angel for taking excellent care of Dad and making him feel at home.

A graveside service will be held at 1 p.m. Wednesday, July 30, at the Evergreen Cemetery in Post Falls. In lieu of flowers, contributions can be made to the Post Falls Historical Society. Arrangements are under the direction of English Funeral Chapel in Post Falls.

5TH DISTRICT COURT NEWS

JULY 28 ARRAIGNMENTS
Geoffrey Craig Pierce, 32, Twin Falls: two counts battery on a police officer; obstructing police; fail to allow police access to premises where liquor is sold; preliminary hearing Aug. 9; \$2,500 bond; pretrial counsel: Curtis Ryan Koch, 20, Twin Falls; minor consumption of alcohol, resisting a police officer; Sept. 9 pretrial; \$1,000 bond
Amenda Quezada, 19, Twin Falls; bat-

tery; released on own recognizance; Sept. 9 pretrial; public defender appointed
Jesse Schorzman, 29, Buhl: possession of a controlled substance, possession of paraphernalia, open container; DUI; Sept. 9 pretrial; \$100 bond; hired private counsel
David Lowe, 44, Twin Falls: attempted murder, child, domestic battery; \$15,000 bond; Aug. 5 preliminary hearing; public defender denied

Find more news at www.magicvalley.com

DEATH NOTICES

Mary E. Carter

HAGERMAN — Mary E. Carter, 91, of Hagerman, died Sunday, July 27, 2008.

A graveside service will be held at 11 a.m. Wednesday, July 30, at the Hagerman Cemetery; visitation from 5 to 7 p.m. Tuesday, July 29, and 9 to 10 a.m. Wednesday at Demary Funeral Service, Gooding Chapel.

Barbara W. Allen

BOISE — Barbara W. Allen, 84, of Boise, died Sunday, July 27, 2008, at a local hospital.

A graveside service will be held at 10:30 a.m. Thursday, July 31, at the Morris Hill Cemetery in Boise, with reception following; visitation from 4:30 to 6:30 p.m. Wednesday, July 30, at the Cloverdale Funeral Home in Boise.

Howard E. Greenwell

BURLEY — Howard Edward Greenwell, 71, of Burley, died Sunday, July 27, 2008, at his home.

Arrangements will be

SERVICES

Keith Niefenegger of Hagerman, graveside service at 10 a.m. today at the Hagerman Cemetery (Demary's Wendell Chapel).

Burt Atkins of Richfield, graveside service at 11 a.m. today at the Richfield Cemetery (Demary Funeral Service, Shoshone Chapel).

William "Bill" D. Avery of Twin Falls, graveside service at 11 a.m. today at Sunset Memorial park; visitation from 5 to 7 p.m. today at Parke's Magic Valley Funeral Home, 2551 Kimberly Road in Twin Falls.

Joshua Eugene Freeman of Gilbert, Ariz., funeral at 11 a.m. today at the Shoshone LDS Church.

Mary Norris of Buhl, funeral

announced by the Rasmussen Funeral Home of Burley.

Evelyn J. Ridgeway

BURLEY — Evelyn Julianne Ridgeway, 83, of Burley, died Sunday, July 27, 2008, at the Cassia Regional Medical Center.

Arrangements will be announced by the Rasmussen Funeral Home of Burley.

Billy R. Hayes

Billy Ray Hayes, 68, of Twin Falls, died Sunday, July 27, 2008.

Arrangements will be announced by White Mortuary in Twin Falls.

Rollin W. Despain

HEYBURN — Rollin W. Despain, 69, of Heyburn, died Monday, July 28, 2008, at Cassia Regional Medical Center.

Arrangements will be announced by the Rasmussen Funeral Home of Burley.

Mass at 11 a.m. Wednesday at the Immaculate Conception Catholic Church in Buhl; visitation from 5 to 5 p.m. today at Farmer Funeral Chapel in Buhl; rosary at 7 p.m. today at the church.

Harold Louis Grant of Twin Falls, memorial service at 2 p.m. Wednesday at White Mortuary in Twin Falls; visitation from 7 to 9 p.m. today at the mortuary.

Robert "Dick" Mikesell of Twin Falls, celebration of life at 2 p.m. Saturday at Sunset Memorial Park (Reynolds Funeral Chapel in Twin Falls).

Steven D. Phifer of Salmon, graveside service at 1 p.m. Monday at the Owyhee Junction Cemetery near Nysa, Ore.

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EDITORIAL

Big decisions about big money for health care

On Aug. 5, Twin Falls County residents will get to weigh in on how the Twin Falls Health Initiative Trust should spend its resources. HIT is sponsoring an open house to gather public comment about a framework for distributing the money.

And it's a lot of money. Initially funded with \$15 million from the sale of county-owned Magic Valley Regional Medical Center to St. Luke's Health System, the trust will rake in an additional \$5 million over a 10-year period. The money for HIT grants comes from investment income on the total amount.

Windfalls for non-profits like this one rarely come along. This is an unprecedented chance to do some real good for volunteer groups that improve the health of thousands of Twin Falls County residents — especially folks who can't afford health care.

At the top of our wish list would be the Mustard Seed Wellness Clinic, a ministry of the Twin Falls Reformed Church run by health-care professionals who volunteer their time. The clinic is specifically targeted at the community's "working underinsured" — people without access to private health insurance, Medicare or Medicaid. That describes at least 20 percent of the county's 37,774-person workforce and their families.

There are many other volunteer efforts, such as the programs run by the College of Southern Idaho Office on Aging, that could expand their services with an infusion of cash, but we hope the HIT board of directors will also think outside the box when it considers where the grants should go.

The Boys and Girls Club of the Magic Valley, for example, offers programs in health and life skills aimed at helping kids make choices that nurture their own well-being. Its sports, fitness and recreation programs promote healthy behaviors.

And the Interfaith Volunteer Caregivers teach self-sufficiency skills that help keep their mostly elderly clients out of nursing homes and hospitals.

In addition, the YMCA, American Red Cross, South Central Community Action Partnership, the Magic Valley SAFE Kids Coalition, the Salvation Army, the Child Trauma Recovery Resource and Twin Falls County's three senior citizens centers — while not specifically health-related volunteer organizations — materially improve the health of many.

Our community has never been wealthier, but we've always had an abundance of caring volunteers committed to their neighbors. This is a one-time-only chance to give them a little more to work with.

The time and place of the HIT open house will be announced later this week. Show up and be part of the solution.

Times-News

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

The members of the editorial board and writers of editorials are Brad Hurd, James G. Wright, Steve Crump, Bill Bitzberg and Ruth Stevens Plerce.

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McCain could still win this election

The professional odds-makers favor Barack Obama two-to-one to win the election. It's no wonder. Americans overwhelmingly believe the country is on the wrong track. They can't stand the current Republican occupant of the White House. The economy is weak and shows little sign of getting significantly stronger before the election. This country is fighting an unpopular war. And Obama, as he reminds us every time he opens his mouth, is all about "change."



I'M UNDECIDED... I WANT MCCAIN... BUT I BEAT OBAMA... BUT I WANT THE THOUGHT OF HILLARY GLOATING.



LINDA CHAVEZ

So why hasn't Obama closed the deal? Most national polls show Obama ahead — but by margins so thin it can hardly give comfort to the putative front-runner. The latest NBC/Wall Street Journal poll of registered voters puts Obama up only six points overall, while the more reliable polls of likely voters — the Rasmussen/NBC/Wall Street Journal poll and the ABC/Washington Post poll — put it at a statistical tie within the margin of error. And Obama is losing his advantage in key battleground states.

A new Quinnipiac poll of likely voters for the Washington Post and Wall Street Journal found Obama losing eight points over his previous poll numbers a month earlier in Minnesota, dropping five points in Colorado and two points in both Michigan and Wisconsin. McCain has pulled ahead of Obama in Colorado, is within the margin of error in Minnesota, and is in striking distance in Michigan. Of the four key states, only in Wisconsin, where Obama's numbers went down slightly but

McCain's didn't go up, is Obama comfortably ahead of McCain by 11 points.

Perhaps most surprising is that Obama has been getting nonstop media attention over the past week with his high-profile visits to the Middle East and Europe. No presidential candidate of either party has been treated to such fawning coverage in the past, with network anchors accompanying them on their overseas trips and cameras everywhere to capture the candidate in formal and informal settings. An amateur tuning in might be forgiven for assuming the election had already taken place as he watched Obama sitting with Iraqi Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki, who seemed to all but endorse Obama's plan for removing American troops within 16 months (before the Iraqi leader decided to hedge his bets a bit by denying he'd say any such thing).

And then there were the pictures of Obama addressing throngs of more than 100,000 adoring Germans — who, judging from the applause differentials when he mentioned his parents' disparate backgrounds, were

for more enthusiastic about Obama's African than his American heritage.

Yet despite the sycophantic media frenzy, average Americans aren't yet convinced Obama's "change" is what they need. When it comes to identifying with the candidates' values, far more likely voters in the NBC/Wall Street Journal poll, 58 percent, say they could identify with John McCain's background and values than with Obama's, 47 percent. And when it comes to their assessment of his knowledge and experience or his ability to be commander in chief, Obama's deficits in voters' minds are so great it's hard to imagine he can ever reassure them. Only 19 percent said he was the more knowledgeable and experienced candidate, and only one in four said he would make a better commander in chief.

Obama's decision to leave American shores in order to burnish his credentials was supposed to fix these problems, but it could backfire. John Kerry tried to convince voters that since the Europeans liked him more than George W. Bush, America would be better off

electing him, only to find that sentiment didn't resonate on Election Day if Obama can't outscore his opponent on the home court, he's not likely to win any points overseas.

Americans have seen far more of Obama than McCain in the last year, but they still aren't sure they know or fully trust him. The nonpartisan Project for Excellence in Journalism found that Obama has led campaign coverage in 78 percent of stories since he clinched the nomination. The McCain campaign has even taken to mocking the obsequious attention the media has bestowed in an amusing web video featuring Frankie Valli's "Can't Take My Eyes Off You" and clips of MSNBC's Chris Matthews telling viewers he fills "this thrill going up my leg" when Obama speaks.

Still, the election should be Obama's to lose. And he may yet convince voters to put aside any misgivings they have, but it's not clear how he is going to do it.

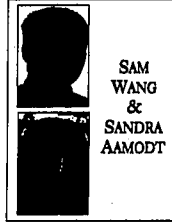
Linda Chavez is a conservative author, commentator and radio talk-show host.

A vast, left-handed conspiracy found in '08 election

When Sens. Barack Obama and John McCain take the stage for the presidential debates, attentive viewers may notice both candidates scribbling notes with their left hands. Political junkies will remember that such a curiosity has occurred before: In 1992, all three contenders — George H.W. Bush, Bill Clinton and Ross Perot — were scribbling.

In the race for the White House, lefties seem to have the upper hand. No matter who wins in November, six of the 12 chief executives since the end of World War II will have been left-handed: Harry Truman, Gerald Ford, Ronald Reagan, the elder Bush, Clinton and either Obama or McCain. That's a disproportionate number, considering that only one in 10 people in the general population is left-handed.

For years, left-handedness was not treated as a point of pride, much less a qualification for high office. Remnants of anti-leftness are everywhere: A right-handed man is indispensable, but who wants a dancing partner with two left feet? The words "adroitness" and "dexterity" derive from the French and



SAM WANG & SANDRA AAMODT

Latin words for "right," while "gauche" or "leftist" — and to eternal damnation. No wonder that, well into the 20th century, children who showed signs of left-handedness when writing were forced to switch hands.

Even today, left-handers are thought to be accident-prone (not true), and a study once showed them to be at risk for early death (it was debunked). But what about their brains? Is it possible that right- and left-handed people — and presidents — think differently? Perhaps. Some left-handers

may be better armed for the challenges of leadership because of the way their brains handle language and dexterity (sorry, there's no other word). For nearly all right-handers, language abilities reside exclusively on one side of the brain — usually the left, which controls the right hand. But one in seven lefties process language on (using) both (end) (of) (the) (two) (possibly) because using their left hands during childhood stimulated the development of the right half.

So Reagan, Bill Clinton and Obama may have left-handedness to thank for their legendary speaking abilities. The benefits of being a lefty aren't only verbal. Many artists and great political thinkers were lefties — Pablo Picasso and Benjamin Franklin, for example. Lefties are overrepresented among the mathematically talented and are also more likely to find unexpected or counter-intuitive solutions on problem-solving tests.

So maybe the number of left-handed presidents isn't so surprising after all. But why did they only start popping up in the past 50 years? Probably because before that, many lefties were turned into

righties by stern tutors and parents, so few presidents before World War II would have been officially left-handed. In fact, the only known left-handed president before the turn of the 20th century was James Garfield. He was ambidextrous, and legend has it that he could write in Latin with one hand while simultaneously writing the same sentence in Greek with the other. Talk about a way with words!

Then again, we know of no historical evidence to suggest that Abraham Lincoln was left-handed, but he had an even better way with words. The first President Bush, on the other hand, was a south-paw but wasn't exactly known for his silver tongue (more like a silver foot, in the late Ann Richards' inimitable phrase). So should we add left-handedness to the requirements for U.S. presidents? As two right-handed scientists, we recommend some ... evenhandedness.

Sam Wang and Sandra Aamodt are co-authors of "Welcome to Your Brain: Why You Lose Your Car Keys but Never Forget How to Drive and Other Puzzles of Everyday Life." They wrote this commentary for The Washington Post.

THE LIGHTER SIDE OF POLITICS

Doonesbury By Gary Trudeau

Mellard Fillmore By Bruce Tinsley

"ASK NOT WHAT YOUR COUNTRY CAN DO FOR YOU; ASK WHAT YOU CAN DO FOR YOUR COUNTRY." — JFK

"MR. GOBAREVY TEAR DOWN THIS WALL!" — REAGAN

"INSTEAD OF WORRYING ABOUT WHETHER IMMIGRANTS CAN LEARN ENGLISH... YOU NEED TO BE MAKING SURE YOUR CHILD CAN SPEAK SPANISH!"

"WHAT?!"

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Mormons are as Christian as other denominations

Before your July 22 editorial appeared, I had written some remarks intended for your Religion section about those people picketing the Twin Falls Mormon Temple.

I've suffered my remarks and am now in the uncomfortable second-string position of having to hand in remarks written with unexceptionable regard for the feelings of people who themselves are doing unexceptionable acts.

I liken those pickets to the disgusting people who picket the funerals of soldiers and gays. You've seen them, I'm sure, hiding behind their shades, indecently elated, holding their signs, smiling like butchers' dogs at closing time, their carriage suggestive of bussters at a sun belt truck stop on a slow day.

I am puzzled, though, as to how those people can convince themselves that their disgraceful behavior would assure sensible people to join them in worshipping what must be, on the face of it, a psychotic god — a god they believe somehow "called" them into action.

Could the answer be innate religious inebriation? Willful blindness? Perhaps a lot of each mixed with jealousy of Mormonism's apparent universal appeal.

If I have yet to vex those awful people (and I include those persons who aren't picketing, but who attended local anti-Mormon church meetings), here's something which might do the job for me.

I'm pushing 70. I've lived in four countries. I've studied under Jesuits and Irish Christian Brothers and earned five university degrees. I've been a baptized member of three major Christian churches and looked curiously at several others.

I've learned that if Mormons aren't Christians, then there aren't any — anywhere.

JOHN WALSH
Burley

world power into a completely subjugated people. During the Second World War, France had the Maginot Line. The Germans simply went around it. The British had Fortress Singapore, invincible to attack from the sea. The Japanese took it by attacking by land. The Russians counted on a thousand miles of winter conditions as a barrier between them and the Germans. The balance came down to days and hard fought-for ground measured in feet. The Americans almost lost the entire Pacific by clustering their planes in small groups. Had the Japanese pressed their advantage, it would have been all over after Pearl Harbor, the same tactical error was unchanged by American forces in the Philippines. The Japanese took over the islands for the French, the British and the Russians, the Americans fought back and armed and supplied the other exhausted and depleted nations and lead them on to victory.

Now there's Iraq. We fight a war we can't win, deplete our own economy and destroy our own national integrity by continuing an unwanted effort while building up a country that will, in all probability, turn on us like a rabid dog once we're through. And where are these other nations to support us?

In other conflicts, America, as a whole, supported the efforts. Even factoring possible defeat, we bought war bonds, collected scrap iron, rubber, fat, copper and aluminum. We suffered then, through shortages and rationing, without complaint.

Now we face astronomical gas prices and food shortages while petroleum companies report billions in excess profits while our impatient government officials sigh and shake their heads.

VAUGHN PHELPS
Twin Falls

Taxpayers stuck with bill for another failed project
I just can't sit on this any

longer. Every time I read about the urban renewal, I get mad. How many people here in Twin Falls remember and attended a meeting when Twin Falls was planning the big step for urban renewal years ago?

I was there! Those opposing such a plan brought in a man from St. Louis, Mo. What did he tell us?

First of all, if Twin Falls fell for it, which it did, the cost would be great, but oh, how beautiful it would be, more appealing, lots of trees, fountains, and of course, less customer parking, which now if you try to find a place to park, they are all reserved. The next step, he told us, oh, yeah, the swells would come! And they did! And he said, "Everyone will go to the malls to shop." Have we? Well, sure we did. Then guess what, the city would have to bring those high-priced consultants back to tell us how to bring the business back to our poor downtown. And are they? This is the last step the consultant from St. Louis said would happen — the taxpayers are stuck again.

Yep, in Sunday's (July 20) paper, front page. But oh, "Dashy restaurants, sleek offices and a landmark city hall." Gosh, I can hardly wait. But the developers say the ambitious project will need some help from the taxpayers. In the past two years, the city and urban renewal have spent \$500,000 on the project. The Portland-based Leland Consulting Group has so far been paid more than \$250,000 for its services.

This man from St. Louis was right. Wake up, you taxpayers, don't be stuck again.

I hardly ever shop downtown. All my stores moved to the mall. Don't get me wrong, I miss the downtown, but can we ever go back? City planners, don't you think we have enough problems with our economy, just trying to survive without throwing this at us again. You guys pay for it, leave taxpayers alone.

EDITH WARD
Twin Falls

Three decades of free-market baby making



GREGORY PENCE

Thirty years ago last week, Louise Brown came into the world amid alarmist predictions that her birth would end sex. Jeremiahs such as writer Jerry Rubin warned that in-vitro ("under glass") fertilization would herald the future Louise. Bioethicist Leon Kass then warned that in-vitro fertilization, or IVF, by sundering the bonds between the act of sex and conception, would damage families.

Because of such fears, when Louise's parents walked down the streets of their English town in 1978, their neighbors led, expecting something scary or monstrous to be in the baby carriage. When they saw a normal baby, their fears disappeared. "IVF is just helping nature along a bit," Louise's father told them, correctly.

Since then, assisted reproduction has helped along hundreds of thousands of American babies. According to 2005 data from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, assisted reproduction helped create more than 50,000 American babies that year alone.

The Vatican perversely persists in condemning IVF but it is hard to see the wisdom behind that thinking. Perhaps no children in history have been so wanted.

Of course, things aren't perfect. Children conceived through IVF have a slightly elevated rate of rare birth defects. It is still not clear why it could be because of the older age of the eggs and sperm of the parents. But 99 percent of IVF kids, just like Louise Brown, are born healthy.

Although infertility clinics advertise great rates of success, real figures often disappear. Few states require insurance companies to cover IVF and the costs run about \$8,000 or more for each attempt. Most couples try two or three times but end in failure. In fact, CDC statistics show that only about 25 percent to 30 percent of couples using IVF take home a baby.

So physicians have looked for new approaches. The next best tool is using eggs of young women. Such eggs, fer-

couples drove 15-year-old cars, rented apartments rather than bought houses or went without vacations. Wholly unintentionally, the U.S. has an federal funding jump-started innovation in assisted reproduction. One by-product was that the National Institutes of Health and ethics committees had no mechanism for regulating research in these private clinics. Those in the U.S. opposed to assisted reproduction miscalculated — and wound up creating one of the fastest-growing areas of American medicine fueled, in part, by competing private clinics.

The experience of 30 years teaches us two things: first, discontinue assistance to assisted reproduction and embrace new ways of making babies. Second, let the market, not government, regulate baby making. One final note. Last year, Louise Brown had her own baby without assisted reproduction, proving yet again how natural she is.

Gregory Pence has been teaching bioethics at the medical school at the University of Alabama in Birmingham for 33 years. He wrote this commentary for the L.A. Times.

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The Dark Knight (11:30 9:30)
Wanted (7:00 9:30)
Wall-E (7:00 9:30)
Odyssey 6 Theatre
Meyer Dairy on 7:15 9:30
Journey Center Earth on 7:15 9:30
Space Chimps on 7:30 9:45
Wanted (7:00 9:30)
Erma Smitz: My Story on 7:30 9:45
Earp Brothers on 7:30 9:45
Tom Cinema 12
Indiana Jones on 10:45 12:15 9:30
King Far Parole on 11:30 1:45 9:30
One Smart on 10:45 12:15 9:30
The Incredible Hulk on 12:15 9:30
Wall-E on 10:45 12:15 9:30
Hancock on 10:45 12:15 9:30
The Dark Knight on 10:45 12:15 9:30
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Virgin Galactic shows off mothership aircraft

By Alicia Chang
Associated Press writer

MOJAVE, Calif. — British billionaire Sir Richard Branson showed off a key piece of his fledgling commercial space program Monday, unveiling a carrier aircraft designed to launch a passenger-carrying spaceship.

A crowd of engineers, dignitaries and space enthusiasts gathered inside a

Mojave Desert hangar for the unveiling countdown. As the hangar door flew open, White Knight Two appeared outside under the sunny desert sky with Branson and American aerospace pioneer Burt Rutan waving from the cabin.

White Knight Two, billed as the world's largest all-carbon-composite aircraft, is "one of the most beautiful and extraordinary aviation

vehicles ever developed," Branson said.

The public showing was the first concrete evidence of progress since the Rutan-designed SpaceShipOne became the first private, manned rocket to reach space in 2004. After the groundbreaking flights, Rutan and Branson partnered to commercialize on the success. Branson dubbed the venture Virgin Galactic.

Despite the buzz surrounding White Knight Two's debut, significant hurdles remain before customers can experience zero gravity for \$200,000 a ticket.

White Knight Two must undergo a rigorous flight testing program, beginning in the fall. Engineers still need to finish building SpaceShipOne's successor, SpaceShipTwo, which is now about 70 percent complete, according to Virgin Galactic.



Virgin Galactic founder Sir Richard Branson, left, and Scaled Composites LLC founder Burt Rutan wave from the mothership aircraft White Knight Two 'Eve' during an unveiling ceremony at Scaled Composites hangar in Mojave, Calif. Monday. More than 250 customers have paid \$200,000 or put down a deposit for the chance to be one of Virgin Galactic's first space tourists. A date for the first launch has yet to be announced.

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INSIDE: Olympic champion won't defend his gold, B4



INSIDE: MLB, B2 | Local roundup, B2 | Scoreboard, B3 | Weather & Dear Abby, B4

'Compulsive gambler' Donaghy to be sentenced today

By Tom Hays
Associated Press writer

NEW YORK — Disgraced NBA referee Tim Donaghy was a compulsive gambler whose road to professional and personal ruin began on the golf course, where he bet up to \$500 a hole, according to an evaluation filed on the eve of his sentencing.

"In short, he could not stop himself from gambling," wrote Stephen Block, a longtime New York-based gambling treatment counselor.

Donaghy, 41, faces up to 33 months in prison at his sentencing today in federal court in Brooklyn, after pleading guilty last year to taking thousands of dollars in payoffs from a professional gambler for inside betting tips. The evaluation was filed by his defense attorney, John Lauro, in a bid for leniency.

Donaghy

his defense attorney, John Lauro, in a bid for leniency.

"In my professional opinion, Mr. Donaghy would never have committed these offenses if he was not a pathological gambler," Block concluded.

Block also interviewed Donaghy in January, tried his problem to 1994, when he started betting up to \$500 a hole and playing card games at various golf clubs in his home state of Pennsylvania.

He was introduced to the world of professional sports gambling, where he bet on football and baseball before becoming embroiled

in the NBA scheme.

"His gambling history demonstrates the need to gamble to fulfill the underlying need for action," Block said. "He continued to gamble despite the consequences and the fear of disclosure of his activities."

Donaghy, like many gambling addicts, successfully concealed his problem for years, Block wrote. "Mr. Donaghy's ability to accurately refer to gambling as a recreational activity, in connection to his compulsive gambling condition," he said. "It is very common for the employers of

pathological gamblers to never notice a decrease in job performance."

The criminal case ended Donaghy's 13-year career with the NBA.

Also, his wife of 12 years has filed for divorce.

"His gambling has caused devastation in many areas of his life," said the report, adding that "continued professional treatment would benefit Mr. Donaghy in his recovery."

Prosecutors declined comment on Monday.

QUIET MONK GETS HIS DUE

Former 'Skins legend to be inducted into Hall of Fame

By Joseph White
Associated Press writer

LEESBURG, Va. — In a sports world where loud is good, controversy equals popularity and sound bites translate into Pro Bowl votes, Art Monk simply went to work — quietly.

And he did his job extremely well, catching more passes than anyone before him. Those who knew him well were outraged when the Washington Redskins receiver was passed over seven times in Pro Football Hall of Fame voting.

Now he's in on try No. 8, with induction Saturday in Canton, Ohio.

He's also become the poster boy for the athlete who maybe gets the unfair shake because he isn't flashy and doesn't have much to say.

"I don't know if it's society that likes it or the media that draws attention to those type of people, people who are self-promoting and just kind of always out in front. Look at me," Monk said in an interview with The Associated Press.

"They seem to get the attention. But for guys like myself, I don't care. That's just not who I am. That's not what I'm about. I'm not doing it for recognition. I'm doing it because I love this sport, and I want to win and do the best I can. If you do that, people will

recognize you." Uncomfortable in a black tie or behind a microphone, few players looked more at ease on the field than Monk. Need to move the chains on third down? He'd go over the middle and get the first down. The 6-foot-3, 210-pound receiver was bigger and stronger than most of his speedy, agile contemporaries, so catching a pass in traffic was no problem.

He set NFL records for most catches in a season (166) and most consecutive games with a reception (164). He became the all-time receptions leader with his 820th catch in 1992 and finished with 940. His records have since been broken, but mainly because rules and philosophy changes have led to a wide-open era in the passing game.

The 1980 first-round draft pick made the Pro Bowl three consecutive years (1984-86), and the Redskins won the Super Bowl three times during his 14 seasons with the team. He retired in 1995 after anticlimactic seasons with the New York Jets and Philadelphia Eagles.

So why the lack of appreciation?

Maybe it was because Monk's best years came when the Redskins didn't win the NFL title. Maybe it was because fellow "Pass" members Gary Clark and Ricky Sanders were perceived as doing the heavy lifting, getting the big gainers and touchdowns.

Monk's big game stats have been criticized, but he had a 40-yard reception in the 1988 Super Bowl win over Denver, and caught seven passes for 113 yards in the 1992 title game victory over Buffalo.

"There's all kind of theories,"

Please see MONK, Page B2

Giants, Pats forget Super Bowl battle

By Dave Goldberg
Associated Press writer

ALBANY, N.Y. — The New York Giants are playing defense, which is what they did very well to shock the New England Patriots in the Super Bowl nearly six months ago. The message:

Only this defense is designed to motivate them to overcome the preseason lack of recognition they perceive they've received since that 17-14 win.

It's on the Web. It's on ESPN, the NFL Network and in most newspapers, including those in their own city. The message this: The Giants are a slightly better-than-average team that got hot late last season, managed to get to the Super Bowl and then handed New England its only loss of the season because the Patriots were overconfident.

New England treats that game as if it never happened.

"I think we do have a chip on our shoulder," said defensive end Justin Tuck. "You read the papers; we have no chance even in the NFC East."

"I don't mind going under the radar. If we're not the team to beat or we're not expected to be the best team it doesn't bother me. This team knows what we accomplished last year and what we did. Last year we didn't always play our best football until the playoffs. Now we have to work on being more consistent and

Please see GIANTS, Page B2



Former Washington Redskins wide receiver Art Monk looks on during a news conference at Redskins Park in Ashburn, Va., on Feb. 5. The former Redskins receiver was passed over seven times in Pro Football Hall of Fame voting, but will finally be inducted Saturday in Canton, Ohio.

San Jose State fuses maturity, growth with change

By Dustin Lapray
Correspondent

In every new season of college football, change comes to the rosters, staffs, fan-bases and outlooks of every team.

In the Western Athletic Conference, change seems to be more drastic than in other leagues.

High-caliber players like Adam Tafa'alis are few and far between.

The two-year starter at San Jose State University is enjoying his first fall camp with the Indianapolis Colts.

And that leaves his former head coach Dick Tomey in the predicament of selecting a new quarterback. To find out for sure which one of his stable of quarterbacks could best back him, he put them under fire.

"I made the decision to hit our quarterbacks all spring," Tomey said. "We didn't wrap them in cellophane. Every drill we are going to hit them. We didn't know who it was. If one gets hurt, he gets hurt. We can't wait for someone to start playing to find out that he can't take a hit, can't avoid the rush."

Myles Eden, a junior from

Canyon Lake, Calif., has apparently earned the job. He didn't turn the ball over in spring ball, completed 60 percent of his passes and rushed for more yards than any of the other quarterbacks who were "getting the hell beat out of them," according to Tomey.

"He's considerably ahead right now," Tomey said. "Our real problem at quarterback is we don't know who the next guy is. Nobody else really emerged."


"Myles got to show that he's the right guy. (But) he can't win the game in practice. You've got to win it in games. He has yet to do that."

One of the main reasons the offense struggled in Tafa'alis' senior season was that he was being protected by one of the youngest offensive lines in the country. Tomey started three freshmen last season.


"There were a lot of people in our backfield and very few of them were ours," Tomey said. "(But) they get better and better and better."

The Spartan offense did take good care of the ball last season.

•SJSU only fumbled the



NINE TEAMS. NINE DAYS.



**NO. 6
SAN JOSE STATE**

COMING WEDNESDAY: NO. 5 LOUISIANA TECH

ball three times in 2007, tied with LSU for tops in the nation.

The team also finished in the top ten nationally in turnover differential (plus-13), and was one of the least penalized teams in the nation.

San Jose State is the oldest team in the WAC, established in 1857. The Spartans will play their 900th game in program history when they face Nebraska Sept. 6 in Lincoln, Neb.

They return their top five receivers from last season, including Kevin Jurovich, who led the team with 89

receptions and nine scores.

Jarron Gilbert should be an anchor at defensive tackle this season. Last season he played defensive end and the 3-technique end when the Spartans ran the 3-4 defense.

This year, his move to tackle was precipitated out of necessity.

Four of our five best defensive linemen are defensive ends, so we had to find a way to get us all on the field," Gilbert said. "I've naturally assumed a leadership position and the guys listen to me for the most part.

"I just try to help the younger guys as much as I can. They're really good about it. They're humble. They listen. They love to learn. I just try to teach them as much as I can about football."

Gilbert said this 2008 Spartans team is the most talented he has seen in his five years in San Jose.

"If it works the way it should, this should be the best season we've had yet," Gilbert said. "We're already put in the work. The foundation is set."

Senior Jeff Schwelger and Carl Ithenacho will fill in the gaps.

Christopher Owens should again put together a solid season at cornerback. He led the team with six picks a season past.

On the special teams side, there is currently only one man.

Jared Strubeck will kick, punt and kick off unless someone else steps in at camp. Strubeck hit all his extra points last season, but only converted half of his 20 field goal attempts.

Tomey also brought in a large contingent of junior college transfers this season.

His team has been hit hard by NCAA regulations on academic expectancy, but it is recovering. He said most of the problems the team faced were results of the previous staff. Tomey has been at SJSU for three years.

"I like our guys. I like the way they practice and go to school, how they lift weights, the way they work and are in tune with each other," Tomey said.

"We just can't wait to get started."

That start may be the roughest of any team in the WAC.

Spartans host UC Davis, then travel to Nebraska and later visit Stanford.

"They do have a favorable WAC schedule this season. Last year they lost three straight against Hawaii, Fresno State and Boise State."

Those games are broken up this season.

This team is a big question mark.

It is picked to finish sixth in the WAC, but surely has its hopes in a higher stake in a quest for the title and a goal to go bowling during winter break.

SCOREBOARD

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NASCAR Sprint Cup Leaders
Driver No Team Driver No Team
1. Jimmie Johnson 48 Chevrolet
2. Matt Kenseth 14 Toyota
3. Tony Stewart 14 Mobil 1

GAME PLAN

TV SCHEDULE
MAJOR LEAGUE BASEBALL
8 p.m.
WGN - Chicago Cubs at Milwaukee

Baseball TV schedule table showing matchups and broadcast times for various leagues.

BASEBALL

Major League Baseball Standings
Team W L Pct GB
New York Yankees 79 44 .643 0
Boston Red Sox 74 50 .597 5.0

CHICAGO CUBS AT MILWAUKEE

Chicago Cubs at Milwaukee game results and box score details.

MINORS

Minor league baseball results and scores.

COLLEGE FOOTBALL

College football game results and scores.

COLLEGE SOCCER

College soccer game results and scores.

NATIONAL LEAGUE

National League baseball standings.

AMERICAN LEAGUE

American League baseball standings.

PGA TOUR

PGA TOUR tournament results and scores.

PGA TOUR

PGA TOUR tournament results and scores.

BASKETBALL

NBA

NBA game results and scores.

NFL

NFL game results and scores.

WTA TOUR

WTA Tour tennis results and scores.

WTA TOUR

WTA Tour tennis results and scores.

TRANSACTIONS

NATIONAL BASEBALL HALL OF FAME
MELVIN D. BEAN, JR.
MELVIN D. BEAN, JR., former pitcher, was elected to the Baseball Hall of Fame.

PGA TOUR

PGA TOUR tournament results and scores.

PGA TOUR

PGA TOUR tournament results and scores.

GOLF

2008 TOURS TO PLAY

2008 TOURS TO PLAY table listing various golf tours.

PGA TOUR

PGA TOUR tournament results and scores.

PGA TOUR

PGA TOUR tournament results and scores.

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PGA TOUR tournament results and scores.

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PGA TOUR tournament results and scores.

Bills RB Lynch won't face NFL punishment over hit-and-run

PITTSFORD, N.Y. - NFL commissioner Roger Goodell won't discipline Buffalo Bills running back Marshawn Lynch for a hit-and-run accident that left a woman injured.

In order to make the schedule work, Utah will not play Utah State in 2010 or 2011.

Sports Shorts

ball will start practice for the 2008 season with equipment checkout on Aug. 14 between 4:30-6 p.m. in the equipment room of the old gymnasium.

Registration will be held at 6 p.m., each night and the clinic will begin at 7 p.m. All officials and coaches must attend one of the meetings.

COLLEGE FOOTBALL

Utah to visit Notre Dame in 2010

SALT LAKE CITY — Utah will visit Notre Dame in 2010 in the first meeting between the two college football programs.

GOLF

Norman turns down PGA invite

JUPITER, Fla. — Greg Norman turned down an invitation Monday to play in the PGA Championship, deciding to stick to a previous commitment.

Kimberly football camp upcoming

KIMBERLY — The Bulldog Junior Football Camp will be held Aug. 11-13 at the Kimberly High School practice field from 6-8 p.m.

JRD holds fall sports sign-ups

JEROME — Jerome Recreation District is offering registration for fall soccer, flag football and volleyball through Aug. 31.

Jack and Jill tours nears

JEROME — Jerome Recreation District is holding sign-ups for the Jack and Jill Good Softball League for the 2008-2009 season.

TWIN FALLS FORECAST

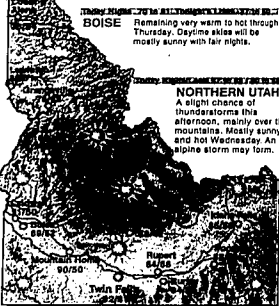
Today: Mostly sunny with near-average temperatures. High 90 to 95.
Tonight: Mostly clear. Low 59 to 63.
Tomorrow: Sunny and a touch cooler. High 87 to 91.

BURLEY, RUPERT FORECAST

Today: Mostly sunny with near-average temperatures. High 83 to 86.
Tonight: Mostly clear. Low 55 to 60.
Tomorrow: Sunny and a touch cooler. High 80 to 85.

IDAHO'S FORECAST

SUN VALLEY, SURROUNDING MTS.
Mostly sunny days and fair nights through Thursday. If thunderstorms can develop today, they will be random and isolated.



Boise Remaining very warm to hot through Thursday. Daytime highs will be mostly sunny with fair nights.

NORTHERN UTAH A slight chance of thunderstorms this afternoon, mainly over the mountains. Mostly sunny and hot Wednesday and Thursday. An alpine storm may form.

Twin Falls Mostly sunny with fair nights through Thursday. Daytime highs will be mostly sunny with fair nights.

Weather key: H: High; L: Low; P: Precip; S: Sky; C: Cloud; T: Thunder; W: Wind; D: Dew; F: Fog; N: Night; B: Breeze; M: Moon; A: Air; S: Sea; W: Water; L: Land; T: Top; B: Bottom; C: Center; E: East; W: West; N: North; S: South; NE: Northeast; NW: Northwest; SE: Southeast; SW: Southwest; ENE: East-Northeast; ESE: East-Southeast; WNW: West-Northwest; WSW: West-Southwest; NNE: North-Northeast; NNE: North-Northeast; SSE: South-Southeast; SSW: South-Southwest; NNW: North-Northwest; NNW: North-Northwest; SSW: South-Southwest.

REGG MIDDLEKUFFER'S QUOTE OF THE DAY

It is enjoyable minutes of your life. Be happy now. Don't wait for anything else to make you happy. This is your only chance to be happy. It is not a matter of if you will or will not. It should be enjoyed & savored.

TWIN FALLS FIVE-DAY FORECAST

Table with 5 columns: Today, Tonight, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday, Saturday. Includes weather icons and temperature ranges.

ALMANAC - TWIN FALLS

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

Moon Phases

Table showing moon phases for August 1st through August 23rd.

Moons and Moonset

Table showing moonrise and moonset times for August 1st through August 23rd.

REGIONAL FORECAST

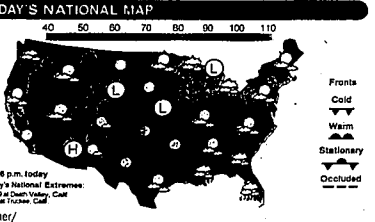
Table with 4 columns: City, Today, Tomorrow, Thursday. Lists cities like Boise, Burley, and Twin Falls.

NATIONAL FORECAST

Table with 4 columns: City, Today, Tomorrow, Thursday. Lists cities like Atlanta, Chicago, Dallas, and New York.

WORLD FORECAST

Table with 4 columns: City, Today, Tomorrow, Thursday. Lists cities like London, Paris, Tokyo, and Sydney.



Today's National Map. Shows high and low pressure systems across the US.

CANADIAN FORECAST

Table with 4 columns: City, Today, Tomorrow, Thursday. Lists cities like Toronto, Montreal, and Vancouver.

Reigning gold medalist Hamm out of Olympics

The Associated Press
Paul Hamm had the best medical care there is, and the drive and determination to make with another spectacular comeback. All he lacked was enough time.



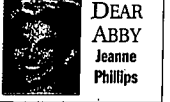
Olympic champion Paul Hamm shows off his hand during a news conference before the men's first day of competition for the U.S. Olympic gymnastics trials June 19 in Philadelphia. Hamm announced Monday that he had a setback in his recovery from a broken right hand and won't be healthy enough to compete in the Olympics.

With less than a week of training time left, the reigning gold medalist withdrew from the Beijing Olympics on Monday because he won't be healthy enough to compete. Besides persistent pain from the right hand he broke 2 months ago, he missed his left rotator cuff in his accelerated recovery effort.

It also clears the way for China's Yang Wei in the all-around, Yang, the two-time defending world champion, is so technically superior that Hamm was considered the only one who could challenge him. "I was giving myself the chance to see how this past week went, to see if I could turn the corner at any point. That just never happened," Hamm said.

Wife who left and never came back now talks of returning

DEAR ABBY: Nine months ago, my wife, "Marie," left me to go shopping and never came back. She took off leaving me and our three sons, ages 12, 14 and 16, without a word. I had been married 25 years. We had no contact for the first three months, and she has not helped support the kids in any way. She told me one - including her family - that she had left. Friends would see me in public and ask where she was.



DEAR ABBY Jeanne Phillips

returns, it is important that you understand why she felt that leaving the way she did was her only option. It will take time for her relationship with the boys to be repaired and for the two of you to rebuild trust. This is not to say that your "house divided" cannot be uninhabited and even made more storm-proof than before.

"playing me." Granted, she had some hard feelings when I divorced her father and married Doug, but we have made up. I feel I need to be at the funeral to support her. There has been no love lost between Janet and Doug. It does not get along with his own kids from a previous marriage either. But should this interfere with my attending the funeral? Doug says my going would be a betrayal to him and has threatened divorce if I go.

Favre still a no-show, saga continues

GREEN BAY, Wis. (AP) - With the Brett Favre standoff still simmering, Aaron Rodgers took his place Monday as the Packers' new starting quarterback. Rodgers is trying to ignore what has become a daily soap opera involving the three-time MVP. Favre is considering filing for reinstatement with the NFL and reporting to camp this week, a move likely intended to pressure Green Bay to grant him his release.

Favre on Saturday, for about 45 minutes each time. They decided it would be best for Favre to stay away from Green Bay for now. "I've all right not gotten to the point where we agree on what the best option is," Thompson said Monday. "We have sort of agreed to disagree, and at that time he suggested he would probably delay coming to training camp for at least a couple of days to see how things worked out."

released, something Thompson opposes. The Packers hold Favre's rights until his contract expires after the 2010 season. "I'm glad to see that there are productive discussions and they're talking directly to one another," Goodell said from Buffalo, training camp Monday. "They're both important to the league going forward, and I'm hopeful they'll reach a proper resolution."

Stocks slide as financials pull back

(AP) Wall Street again surrendered to investors' anxiety about the financial sector Monday, sending the Dow Jones Industrials down 240 points and back into bear market territory.

Dow Jones Industrials 11,131.08

Nasdaq composite 2,284.22

Standard & Poor's 500 1,234.37

Russell 2000 696.11

AGRIBUSINESS

INSIDE: Up or down, there's plenty of crossword fun inside, C6



C
TUESDAY
JULY 29, 2008

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

INSIDE: Stocks, commodities, mutual funds, C2 | Classifieds, C4-10 | Sudoku, C4 | Jumble, C7

FUEL REPORT

Some relief came this week for drivers and equipment operators as regional fuel prices declined for the first time in almost a year. The average price for a gallon of regular-grade gasoline in south-central Idaho dropped about 8 cents — the average price as of Monday was \$4.14 per gallon. The average price for gasoline in the U.S. fell just over a penny to \$3.96 a gallon, according to auto club AAA and the Oil Price Information.

The average price for a gallon of diesel declined about 5 cents last week. The average price for a gallon of diesel in south-central Idaho is \$4.75.

Oil prices rose Monday, but the gains, were tempered by more evidence that high gas prices are causing Americans to drive less — Americans logged 9.6 billion fewer vehicle miles in May compared to the same period last year.

Gas prices fall

- Twin Falls: *Maverik Country Store*, 120 Sixth Ave. W.: \$4.08
- Jerome: *Flying J*, 5350 U.S. Highway 93: \$4.04
- Burley: *Smith's Fuel*, 837 E. Main St.: \$4.04

Diesel prices

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

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

COMMODITY PRICES

Dairy

Block	Close	Change
Average price	\$2.047	+0.93
Barrel		
Average price	\$1.939	+0.21
Butter		
Average Price	\$1.536	—
Whey protein concentrate		
Average price	\$.700	-0.73
Class III milk		
Average price	\$20.25	—
Class IV milk		
Average price	\$15.92	—

Feed

Corn (Per 100 pounds)			
Dairy Feed Supply	\$11.50		-.25
Land O'Lakes	\$11.00		-2.00
Rangen	\$10.50		-.10
Barley (Per 100 pounds)			
Rangen	\$9.20		+30
Ogden	\$10.53		N/A
Pocatello	\$9.20		-1.00
Burley	\$9.50		N/A
Hay (Mid/Ton)			
Alfalfa(Supreme)	Low \$245	High \$245	
Alfalfa(Good)	Low \$200	High \$200	
Alfalfa(Fair)	Low \$180	High \$180	

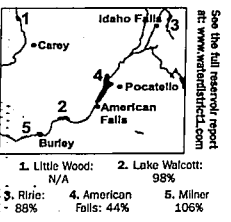
Small grain

Soft white wheat			
Rangen	Ask	N/A	
Wendell Elevator Co.	\$6.45		-2.55
Ogden	\$6.87		+1.08
Pocatello	\$6.58		-.57
Burley	\$6.43		-.57
Dry beans (per 100)			
Rangen			
Pinto	\$34.00		+1.00
Small Red	\$40.00		—
Sonoma			
Pinto	\$33.00		+1.00
Small Red	\$40.00		—

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.

More commodities on C2

RESERVOIR LEVELS



Rising costs have many cattlemen cashing out

Some southern Idaho ranchers finding it more profitable to grow hay instead of raising a herd

By Joshua Palmer
Staff writer

Cattlemen in southern Idaho may be a dying breed.

An increasing number of small beef producers — those raising less than 300 head of cattle — are selling off their stock and leaving the business because revenues are not keeping up

with rising costs.

Feed and fuel costs have risen more than 60 percent since last year, while beef prices have actually declined less than 1 percent during the same time period.

"We're losing small producers at the rate of about one or two a week right now," said Bruce Billington, manager of the Twin Falls Livestock Commission Company. "A lot of them are saying that it's more profitable to sell off the herd and grow hay."

Billington added that the sell-offs seem to be isolated to small producers.

Large cattle producers are avoiding some of the cost increases by producing their own hay.

However, out of 1,500 beef producers in Idaho, more than half are recognized as small operations, according to the Idaho Cattle Association.

Officials say they don't yet know how many have discontinued cattle production — some estimated the loss at about a 100 since early 2007.

"It all comes down to your bottom line," said Dean Kreschik, a small beef producer out of Wells, Nev. "If I don't expect to recover my costs in the coming year, then I'll sell everything at the highest price I can get — and

Please see **CATTLEMEN**, Page C2

GRAIN COMMODITIES

UNEARNED REPUTATION

"The speculator is the friend of an ag hedge."

— Jack Mullenwamy, a broker with Sinclair and Company, Inc. in Twin Falls

By Clady Snyder
Correspondent

As oil and other commodity prices soared ever higher in the last year, one group of market players has received a lot of negative attention. Speculators are often blamed for pushing prices higher without regard to market fundamentals.

It's an unearned reputation, counter commodity traders.

"The speculator is an important part of a transaction," explained Jack Mullenwamy, a broker with Sinclair and Company, Inc. in Twin Falls. "The speculator is the friend of an ag hedge."

Here's how it works. A crop producer looks out to the future and tries to determine a price that will cover production costs plus a desired rate of return. If, for example, the Chicago Board of Trade corn futures price is at that level, the producer sells a contract. The contract gives the producer the right to deliver 5,000 bushels of corn at the December futures price.

The producer is "hedging" against an adverse price move. But in order to sell a contract, someone has to buy the contract. That

Please see **REPUTATION**, Page C2

AGRIBUSINESS BRIEFS

NATION

Fresno County, Calif., still No. 1 farming county in country

FRESNO, Calif. — Fresno County topped the \$5.3 billion mark in agriculture production last year, holding onto its place as the No. 1 farming county in the country.

The county's 2007 crop report released Tuesday shows grapes, almonds and milk as the top three commodities.

The No. 2 county in the nation is neighboring Tulare, which recorded \$4.9 billion in agricultural production value, with milk leading the way.

Agriculture officials say the worry that the current drought and rising prices for fuel, fertilizer and seed make the outlook less certain in 2008.

The drought has hit hardest on Fresno County's west side, where the most prolific farming takes place and some seasonal crops have been plowed under because of water shortages.

Agriculture futures trade higher on CBOT

CHICAGO — Agriculture future traded mostly higher Monday on the Chicago Board of Trade.

Wheat for September delivery fell 13.25 cents to \$7.9775 a bushel; December corn rose 4.75 cents to \$6.0125 a bushel; December oats gained 5.5 cents to \$4.07 a bushel; November soybeans added 9.5 cents to \$13.96 a bushel.

Beef and pork futures traded lower on the Chicago Mercantile Exchange.

August live cattle lost 0.75 cent to \$9.07 cents a pound; August cattle fell 0.6 cent to \$11.15 a pound; August lean hogs dropped 0.05 cent to 78.55 cents a pound; August pork bellies fell 1.87 cents to 72.45 cents a pound.

— from wire reports

Brokers still have a role to play

By Clady Snyder
Correspondent

The phone rings and Jack Mullenwamy picks it up. After a few pleasantries, he turns to his computer and checks a quote. After confirming the price and receiving instructions from his client, Mullenwamy fills out an order and completes a transaction.

It's a typical transaction for Mullenwamy who has worked as a commodity broker for more than 30 years. In the old days, he'd spend all day giving quotes and updating

clients on market news. Now clients can track the markets using delayed quotes and call him to check on a real time quote.

"Their knowledge of the status of the market has changed completely," said Mullenwamy. "But they still ask for advice and counsel."

He has been a trader with Sinclair and Company, Inc. in Twin Falls since the days Sinclair was one of the largest potato futures contract traders in the U.S.

Please see **BROKERS**, Page C2

Expert warns wheat residue too valuable to lose

By Nicholas K. Gerazio
Associated Press writer

SPOKANE, Wash. — Times are good for wheat farmers, but they should resist the urge to harvest their crop residue and sell it for ethanol production, a federal researcher says.

Leaving wheat residue on the ground helps preserve soil while harvesting the residue would speed erosion, said Ann Kennedy, a U.S. Department of Agriculture soil scientist.

Wheat is selling for more than \$8 a bushel, double what it was a few years ago. That is injecting new money into farming areas like the Palouse, the

wheat-producing agricultural area in the northwestern United States.

"In the more than 100 years that we have been cultivating soils in the Palouse, we have lost about half of the original organic matter," Kennedy said.

That organic matter, which consists of decomposed plant material and microbes, provides nutrients, holds water and helps prevent wind erosion, she said.

But farmers are rushing to cash in on the high prices. The amount of land planted in wheat in Washington has risen by 250,000 acres in the past year. Winter wheat acreage grew by 80,000 acres, to approximately 1.8 million acres. Spring wheat grew by 170,000 acres to about 620,000 acres.

The percentage of organic matter in soil varies from region to region, depending on climate, soil disturbance, moisture and vegetation. Kennedy said the soil in the Palouse should have about 3.5 percent organic content, but in reality it is closer to 2 percent.

Kennedy said at least a ton of residue per acre per year is needed to build organic matter over time. Leaving residue on the soil surface works best.

"It will tend to stay around longer, and



In this August 2005 photo, a combine is silaged in light and wheat chaff is seen during an evening of harvest South of Rosalia, Wash.

the microbes will slowly invade it and convert it into organic matter," she said. "We need to constantly replenish organic matter," she said.

Proposals to bale the

MUTUAL FUNDS

Table of mutual funds with columns for Name, Last Chg, %Chg, and various fund details.

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COMMODITIES REPORT

Table of commodity prices for various agricultural products.

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Table of commodity prices for various agricultural products.

MARKET SUMMARY

Summary table for NYSE, AMEX, and NASDAQ markets.

MARKET SUMMARY

Summary table for INDEXES and STOCKS OF LOCAL INTEREST.

MARKET SUMMARY

Summary table for HOW TO READ THE MARKET REPORT.

Cattlemen

Continued from page C1. Many cattlemen in south-central Idaho and northern Nevada were devastated last year when range fires burned thousands of acres of grazing land...

Reputation

Continued from page C1. price swings to make money but aren't solely responsible for the price swings, said James Carr, president of the company...

Reputation

price swings to make money but aren't solely responsible for the price swings, said James Carr, president of the company...

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Brokers. The firm is to reduce price risk by not selling the entire crop at harvest when supplies are plentiful and prices are typically low.

Reputation. Carr usually arrives at the office around 6 a.m. to take care of back office work before the markets open.

Rising costs cause grain elevators to borrow more

Midwest elevators exceed credit limits

By Chris Serres
Star Tribune

Scott Dubbelde has told himself, time and again, that there is no use fretting about things over which he has no control.

Even so, the general manager of a grain elevator cooperative in Hanley Falls lies awake at night, worrying about the ballooning debt his elevator has incurred to finance its inventory.

"I'd be lying to you if I said I wasn't worried," Dubbelde said. "This is about our survival."

These may be boom times for farmers, but the sharp rise in commodities prices is putting unprecedented financial pressure on country grain elevators — the first point of sale for most crops. Just as families have borrowed more to meet rising costs, grain elevators have dramatically increased their debt burden as the prices of corn, soybeans and wheat have soared. Borrowing levels at some grain elevators have more than quadrupled since February. And with little cash on hand, many elevators have stopped buying grain from farmers that won't be delivered within a few months, depriving farmers of a key hedge against falling grain prices.

The financial crunch has led to the closing of one grain elevator in Illinois and another in Nebraska in the last year. Many others across the Midwest have nearly exhausted their credit limits. Another sharp rise in commodities prices — like the one that occurred this spring — could force many more elevators to fold or to sell out to Wall Street investment funds.

The results would be unprecedented bottlenecks in the nation's food delivery system and, ultimately, high-

er food prices for consumers, say economists and agricultural analysts.

"This is extremely serious," said Michael Swanson, an agricultural economist at Wells Fargo. "If elevators start having major problems, the whole food system could be affected."

Longer term, a liquidity crisis could play into the hands of Wall Street investment funds and private investors; they've been sinking billions of dollars into agriculture, in the hope of profiting from the world's ravenous appetite for food.

Tom Trnen, general manager of Central Plains Cooperative in Murdock said he gets at least one letter a month from investment funds looking to buy the farmers' cooperative, which handles about 25 million bushels a year. Even so, he was surprised recently to get a telephone call from an investment banker at Bear Stearns.

"If you're sitting in New York and you're being told that the world's running out of food, you probably see agriculture as the next big hurrah," Trnen said.

And with the costs of doing business skyrocketing, some elevators may be forced to consider selling. The price of corn, the nation's biggest crop, has almost doubled in the past year, partly because of growth in world food consumption and increased production of ethanol from corn. In June, corn futures for December delivery hit a record \$7.99 a bushel, though it since has fallen to \$6.42.

Adding to their financial stress is the fact that many elevators don't just handle grain, but also sell seed, fertilizer and pesticides. The cost of those also have risen to record levels, further pushing up elevators' borrowing costs.

"Any time an industry gets as leveraged as grain elevators are today, it's very worri-

some," said Kendall Keith, president of the National Grain and Feed Association.

Grain elevators may appear to be little more than storage bins. But in many small towns, they remain the largest employer and are the center of economic activity. Minnesota has nearly 600 that together employ 11,000 people and handle more than 9 billion bushels of

grain annually, according to the Minnesota Grain and Feed Association.

And elevators have become increasingly large and sophisticated businesses that use complicated risk-management tools to hedge their large grain purchases. To offset the risk that prices will fall, elevators typically sell futures contracts on the Chicago Board of Trade.

Although designed to mitigate risk, the futures contracts require large amounts of capital in rising commodities markets. When the price of grain moves higher than the price in the futures contract, the elevator has to post more money — known as a "margin call" — to keep the

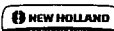
account current. For elevators that handle hundreds of thousands of bushels of corn, those margin calls can be huge. During the sharp run-up in commodities prices in February, it wasn't uncommon for grain elevators to have six-figure margin calls in a single day.

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Classifieds

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SHOSHONE JOINT SCHOOL DISTRICT 312 NOTICE OF FEE INCREASE

The Shoshone Joint School District No. 312, Lincoln and Jerome Counties has proposed to increase its lunch fees by an amount that exceeds one hundred five percent (105%) of the fee charged last year.

Table with 4 columns: Last Years Fee, This Years Fee, Percent Increase, Last Years Cost Per Student, This Years Cost Per Student.

Shoshone High School is adding the following fees for Welding Class - \$20.00 and a Horticulture Class - \$25.00. All citizens are invited to attend a public hearing on the increased fee request.

PUBLISH: July 22 and 29, 2008

CITY OF HOLLISTER 2009 BUDGET

Table with 4 columns: FY07, FY08, FY09. Rows include General Income, Transfer to water, CARRY OVER, PROPERTY TAX, OTHER TAXES, HIGHWAY REV, MISCELLANEOUS, WATER/GARBAGE, etc.

For more information, or to make appointment to view the pickup, contact Helen Meek, Jr. at (208) 857-2284 days. Michael J. Ruffing, Clerk of Three Creek Highway District.

PUBLIC NOTICE OF BUDGET HEARING

The Dietrich Highway District No. 5 will have a budget hearing at the regular meeting August 4, 2008. The hearing will be held at the Dietrich Highway Office at 8:00 PM.

DIETRICH HIGHWAY DISTRICT NO. 5 PROPOSED BUDGET

Table with 2 columns: ESTIMATED REVENUE, ESTIMATED EXPENDITURES. Rows include Highway Users, Material Sales, Tax Receipts, Refunds, Sales Tax, City Maintenance, Accounting & Legal, Advertising, Fuel & Oil, Insurance, Employee Insurance, Work Comp, Maint. of Roads, Office Expense, Payroll Tax, Retirement, Commissioners Salary, Clerk Salary, Employee Labor, Unemployment, Utilities, etc.

PUBLIC NOTICE OF BUDGET HEARING

The Lincoln County Recreation District will hold its regular meeting on August 11, 2008 at 8:00 PM at 113 S. Fall Street West, Shoshone, Idaho.

PROPOSED BUDGET LINCOLN COUNTY RECREATION DISTRICT FISCAL YEAR 2009

Table with 2 columns: ESTIMATED REVENUE, ESTIMATED EXPENSES. Rows include Property Tax, AG Replacement Funds, Pool Receipts, Total Revenue, Administrative Expense, Improvements, Legal, Maintenance & Repair, Other Recreation Programs, Payroll Expenses, Supplies & Chemicals, Utilities, Building Lease, Capital Expenditure, Maintenance Reserve, etc.

PUBLISH: July 29 and August 5, 2008

su do ku

Puzzles by Pappocom

Grid puzzle with numbers 1-9 and empty cells for solving.

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.

Job listings for Drivers, Clerical, and other positions with descriptions and contact info.

HEALTH CARE advertisement for caregivers and health services.

EMPLOYMENT advertisement listing various job openings.

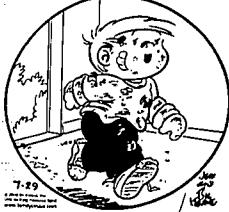
CONSTRUCTION advertisement for various construction services.

PSI advertisement for residential customer service.

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Automotive Immediate Opening! LOT ATTENDANT needed 5 days/week...

CAREGIVERS Needed for residential care facility in Twin Falls...

CUSTODIAL Full and part-time evening positions available...

GENERAL Farm Mechanic and Truck Driver a need...

GENERAL File School District is accepting applications for a Baker...

GENERAL DISCOVERY Day & Swing Shift Positions Available!

COOK Red Lion Canyon Springs is seeking P/T Line Cook...

CUSTODIAL The Jerome School District is accepting applications for Custodial Staff...

GENERAL New Position Open Internat/Waitec...

GENERAL All advertising is subject to the newspaper's policy of acceptance...

GENERAL Part-time Kernel Help needed. Flexible hours...

GENERAL Experienced Cooks, Servers, Cashiers, Dishwasher...

SALES Grover's Play & Pack Electric & Plumbing Supply...

SALES Retail Sales, \$12.25 Full time position...

SALES We offer an excellent benefits package, including medical, dental, vision...

SALES We are an equal-opportunity employer and a drug-free workplace...

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SALES We offer an excellent benefits package, including medical, dental, vision...

SALES We are an equal-opportunity employer and a drug-free workplace...

MECHANIC Small Engine Mechanic wanted FT/3-5 yrs exp...

TRUCK MECHANIC Mid-Level or Journeyman experience required...

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TWIN FALLS 3-4 bdrm, 1.5 bath, approx. 1500 sq. ft. New carpet & vinyl floor, new kitchen. \$153,000. 2144 Alta Vista Dr. Call 734-4432

TWIN FALLS 4 bedroom, 2 bath, 1905 sq. ft. 2005 built, granite, 12" ceiling, crown, tile, Barbo, carpet, Cannon Trax subud \$245,000. 208-420-9721 www.houseforsale.com 476.blogspot.com

TWIN FALLS 5 acre property w/ 5 water shares. This lot contains 2.2 bath home. It all new granite counter tops, 4 gas cooktop, 12" lighting in the kitchen & there is a finished bmt that can be used as a room or more bdrms. There is also a separate building, the bdrm, one bath w/ full kitchen & living room, just built. Pool for the gentleman we have a 3000 sq. ft. 2 car garage, plus other out bldgs \$399,999. Tim Shilly, 208-529-9368

TWIN FALLS BY OREGON 1.5 bath, RV parking with dump. Hot water, great landscaping, ing. floor & back deck, 139,500. 208-231-1378

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TWIN FALLS 1474 sq. ft. 3 bdrm, 2 bath, like new, great neighborhood, near O'Leary School, motivated call \$164,900. 858 Green Tree Way 733-2323 or 420-9195 or 735-7051

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Table of real estate listings with columns for location (e.g., TWIN FALLS, GLENNS FERRY, BUHL), address, and phone numbers.

Call now for more information about routes available in your area. Includes contact info for various areas like Burley, Rupert, Paul, etc.

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ACROSS 1 Terrible tsar 5 "The Raven" monogram 8 Mouthpiece of the gods 14 Trigonometric function 15 A/C today 16 Secures line to cleat on deck 17 First-race 18 ___ Moines, IA 19 Mall occupants 20 Magic-lamp man 21 Wacky 22 Tapclo source 24 Forbidden by law 27 Snuggled 29 Regret bitterly 30 Slice the turkey 34 Foodbag bite 35 Put cargo on 36 Away from the wind 37 Singer Gill 39 Oklahoma city 40 Manufactured 41 Anger 42 William and Brad 43 Aussie bird 44 Thrive 47 Over time 49 Comes forth 54 Lace mat 55 ___ No a position 56 Contract stipulation 58 Cycle or sex lead-in 59 Roughly 60 Maintain a grip 61 Big ___ CA 62 Astonish 63 Scope 64 Had a meal 65 Biblical pronoun

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EXCELLENT 3 ACRES irrigated suitable for Berry Farm Tree or Spiced Apples

TWIN FALLS Million \$ View "Rim Lot" South directly above Bluff, AZ

602 Unfurnished Homes

SHOSHONE 3 bdrms, 1.5 bath, AC, W/D, \$580, \$750 (w/ty)

SHOSHONE 3 bdrms, 1.5 bath, AC, W/D, \$580, \$750 (w/ty)

SHOSHONE 3 bdrms, 1.5 bath, AC, W/D, \$580, \$750 (w/ty)

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BUIH 2 bdrms 1 bath 1100 sq ft, fenced yard, Showing by appointment only

BUIH Nice country home, view, 4 bdrms, 2 bath, garage, \$200,000

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TWIN FALLS 2 bdrms, W/D hookup, back yard, \$180,000, No pets \$550 + dep.

TWIN FALLS 2 bdrms, W/D hookup, back yard, \$180,000, No pets \$550 + dep.

FARMS/RANCHES 281 Acres - Rhotch with hay, pasture, good water rights, 561 AUMs, runs approx 200 head

TWIN FALLS Flat-wood '88 American 1977, 2 bdrms, 2 bath, 2 in established park

BUIH 3 bdrms, 1.5 bath, AC, W/D, \$180,000, No pets \$550 + dep.

TWIN FALLS 2 bdrms, W/D hookup, back yard, \$180,000, No pets \$550 + dep.

TWIN FALLS 2 bdrms, W/D hookup, back yard, \$180,000, No pets \$550 + dep.

TWIN FALLS 2 bdrms, W/D hookup, back yard, \$180,000, No pets \$550 + dep.

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TWIN FALLS 2 bdrms, W/D hookup, back yard, \$180,000, No pets \$550 + dep.

TWIN FALLS 2 bdrms, W/D hookup, back yard, \$180,000, No pets \$550 + dep.

Monday's Puzzle Solved. A crossword puzzle grid with the words 'AMANDA SURFERS' across and 'THEY GET CRYING' down.

ARENA 30,000 sq ft equestrian facility, use permit and permit for 8 RV spots

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JUMBLE THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME by Mike Arginton and Jeff Noorkin. Includes a cartoon and a grid of letters.

Print answer here: A [grid] Yesterday's Jumbles: CROON TACKY FARINA BRUTAL

Merchandise section listing various items like Antiques & Collectibles, Bicycles, and Bedding.

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INSIDE:
Too much
of a good
thing, D3



D
TUESDAY
JULY 29, 2008

INSIDE: Comics, D2

Tuber tour



Idaho's bounty: IdaRose, Red Lady, Yukon Gold, Dark Red Norland, Yellow Finn, Highland Russet and All Blue make a colorful bundle of possibility for your potato choices.

Consumer preferences drive spud research

By Melissa Davlin
Staff writer

KIMBERLY — The potato is a humble tuber, a staple in Americans' homes, a cornerstone of Idaho history.

After all of this, is there anything more we can learn about potatoes?

Absolutely, said Nora Olsen, potato specialist at University of Idaho's Kimberly Research and Extension Center.

At U of I's Twilight Tour on Thursday, Olsen, wearing a potato-adorned crown, helped introduce visitors to the science behind the spud.

Olsen and her team research issues that affect growers across the state, such as storage temperatures and which varieties are most marketable. They shared some of their findings with Twilight Tourists through posters and talks. Some potato strains on display were so new that they didn't have names — just numbers, like A0A95154-1.

"We're pretty excited about this variety," she said, mentioning to the Premier Russet. These potatoes, she said, can be stored at low temperatures and stay light-colored after frying.

Much of the research is consumer-driven, Olsen said. "They're wanting potatoes with more nutritional value," she said. "They're wanting potatoes that fry a lighter color."

Consumers are also interested in different varieties of pota-



Siblings, from right, Gavin Jones, 5, Reagan Jones, 12, Brandon Jones, 7, and Jordan Jones, 10, create artwork with stamps made of potatoes at a booth set up Thursday for the University of Idaho's Twilight Tour. 'I learned that no matter what kind of russet it is they all look the same,' Jordan said. Jennifer Jones, mother of the four children, quickly pointed out to Jordan that though the potatoes look similar, they have different properties.

atoes, like All Blues and Red Ladies.

"All these years, we've been growing Russet Burbanks," she said.

Mary Jo Frazier, support scientist at U of I, gave tours

Please see TOUR, Page D3



At a booth at the University of Idaho's Twilight Tour, a beaker gives a window into the formation of a potato and how the plant grows in Magic Valley's fertile farmland.

As others drop out, wagon master presses on

By Erica Littlefield
Correspondent

CRATERS OF THE MOON — When pioneers crossed southern Idaho on the Oregon Trail, it was hot, dusty work. Anyone retracing their route today would run into some of the same problems — and even just a little taste of what the pioneers went through can be too much for some people.

But not Deil Mangum. On July 9, Mangum set out from Montpellier on a wagon train with four other wagons. The train is following a portion of the Oregon Trail as it makes its way to the Oregon-California Trails Association's 25th annual convention in Nampa on Aug. 5-9. On July 20, as the train moved from Arco to Craters of the Moon, all the wagons dropped out except for Mangum's. But with a pioneering spirit, he is pressing on.

What: The Oregon-California Trails Association National Convention.
When: Aug. 5-9. There are also several optional pre-convention tours Saturday through Monday.
Where: Nampa Civic Center, 311 Third St. S., Nampa.
Cost: Registration for its \$20 for individuals or \$90 for families. Registration for a single day of the convention is \$30. Also, some meals and optional activities cost extra.
Information: www.octa-trails.org; Jim McGill at 208-467-4853 or Roger Blair at 541-966-8854.

Last week, Mangum, a Blackfoot resident, passed through Blaine and Camas counties on his way to Nampa. Mangum, along with Tina and Nick, his team of majestic Shire horses, was determined to finish the trip and pay homage to the pioneers who came before him. "Our forefathers went through some terrible things for us to be doing what we're doing today," Mangum said. "When they went through on the wagons, that was

the latest technology." The 63-year-old Mangum is the leader, or wagon master, for the trip, and he spent months planning the expedition. Mangum travels an average of 18 miles a day at the rate of about 3 mph. That means it will take him a total of 27 days to travel the 456 miles to Nampa. "You enjoy whatever scenery you go by," Mangum said. "It's going by a little slower, so you can do that." Mangum should arrive in Nampa



Deil Mangum and his horses, Tina and Nick, take a rest at Champagne Meadow near Craters of the Moon on July 20. Mangum was prepping and putting the finishing touches on his wagon right up until he left Montpellier on July 9.

on Monday, just in time for the convention's Aug. 5 kickoff. The conference will feature lectures on topics such as trail preservation, food on the Oregon Trail, and keeping kids connected to nature. Several pre-

One week left in summer photo contest

Staff report

Here in Country Roads, the *Times-News* showcases some of its readers' best photographs of rural topics. We don't offer prizes, but we publish our favorites along with our judges' comments.

In the current round, we're particularly interested in the stuff of summer — a fishing trip with Grandpa, perhaps, or a funny image of country kids keeping cool. And just one week remains for you to capture the winning picture.

Here's how to enter:

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

Please see CONTEST, Page D3



Here's an image of spring 2008: Peyton Abery of Coaling, excited to take her fishing grandfather fishing in Hagerman. How will you chronicle southern Idaho's summer?

Tour showcases landscaping uses of Oakley stone

By Terri McAffee
Correspondent

Stone and the landscape go naturally hand in hand. Magic Valley gardeners will have the opportunity to see Oakley stone used to create patios, walls and water features in a garden tour next week.

On Aug. 5, Oakley members of the Mini-Cassia Master Gardeners will host a free gardening clinic and an Oakley Stone and Landscaping Tour. The tour will introduce participants to the wide variety of colors available and how the stone can help solve garden trouble spots.

The clinic will be held from 2 to 4 p.m. beginning at the picnic shelter in Oakley's city park. The program will begin with a short lecture on how to prepare your garden for winter. Mini-Cassia gardeners will answer

Please see STONE, Page D3

Please see MANGUM, Page D3

Too much of a good thing

By Adrian Higgins
The Washington Post

WASHINGTON — Something like 99 percent of the commercial and residential landscapes hereabouts are smothered in mulch. Where soil once dared to bare itself, blankets of chived-up tree trunks safely shield our eyes from dirt.

A lot of people in my neighborhood have mulch laid by landscape crews, either in bags or with a bulk delivery. Otherwise, it's a week-and-a-half job for the do-it-yourselfer. A fairly modest 1,000 square feet of garden beds would consume more than 80 bags of bark or wood mulch.

As I see people hauling and ripping these bags, I wonder, what's driving them? Is it a clear understanding of the benefits of mulch, or is it some civic impulse to conform in what has become Mulch Nation? "We seem to have gone nuts for mulch," said Marylee Orr, an environmentalist who says our addiction to mulch is costing Louisiana its coastal cypress forests.

Without doubt, we decorate our lives with mulch in a way our ancestors would have found strange

and extravagant. In 1912, Robert Gridland wrote a book on how to construct and care for the stylish suburban garden. But scan the index of his "Practical Landscape Gardening" for mulch, and you will find it missing. It is also absent from the book's black-and-white photographs of garden beds.

The use of mulch is advocated in subsequent gardening books, but either as a winter measure to protect marginally hardy shrubs (the mulch is removed in the spring or in the vegetable garden for weed and moisture control). In both cases, the mulch is found with such things as grass clippings, sawdust or cornstalks.

One popular product from outside one's garden was hay that had become wet, no use for livestock feed but great for the cucumber patch. As mulch, it has little to recommend, so too did a demand for a material that was not always handy. Prophetically, the garden writer Ruth Stout wrote in the early 1960s: "If you are a mulch addict, you must demand it. I believe that someone will be eager to supply it."

Today the mulch industry has its own trade group, the Soil and Mulch Council, and

"We seem to have gone nuts for mulch."

— Marylee Orr, an environmentalist

the quantities of ground-up wood generated in the U.S. annually, while not quantified by any government agency, are palpably (or is it palpably?) huge. The council estimates that we spread 40 million cubic yards of the stuff each year. These days, you can't go to a supermarket, mass merchandiser or even gas station without finding bagged mulch displayed for purchase.

But the economic downturn is causing shortages of mulch at fewer acres are cleared for development and the sawmills and paper mills that generate mulch as a byproduct use it instead to fuel their boilers, said Robert LaGasse, the council's executive director.

Concerned that mulch mania is leading to the clear-cutting of Louisiana's coastal cypress forests, an alliance of environmental groups has been formed to fight excessive logging. It is working to raise public awareness of the issue, seek government intervention,

lobby retailers to stop selling Louisiana cypress mulch and urge a consumer boycott.

Most of the old-growth forest was cleared by the 1930s, and what exists now are trees that have grown since, said Orr, executive director of a group called Louisiana Environmental Action Network. Orr and others argue that Mississippi River levees have changed the silting patterns of the forest to the point that the conifers cannot reseed sufficiently and that denuded swamps are being invaded by weed trees, especially the exotic tallow tree.

LaGasse said statistics suggest that cypress growth exceeds removal in the South. He said, however, that the council is looking into whether loggers and landowners are following sustainable practices.

Horticulturists agree that natural mulch, correctly used, makes for healthier plants. A two- or three-inch layer will suppress weeds, conserve soil moisture and



Concerned that mulch mania is leading to the clear-cutting of Louisiana's coastal baldcypress forests, an alliance of environmental groups has formed to fight excessive logging.

moderate soil temperatures. Soil that is too hot kills feeder roots, forcing plants to continuously grow new ones while in a state of chronic stress, said Linda Chalker-Scott, a horticulture professor writing in the Journal of Environmental Horticulture. Organic mulches have been shown to reduce soil temperatures in summer by as much as 50 degrees, she wrote.

I think one of the best mulches is your own compost, or partially rotted leaves, or leaf mold. They are not as pretty as some out of a bag, and they break down quickly, but there is a purpose and history to them. I'm not holding my breath in anticipation of others joining me in that belief, however.

The other key aspect of

mulches is not what you choose but how you use it. Automatic reapplications as soon as the sun bleaches the old mulch will inevitably lead to excessive mulch layers that will harm plants, either as a moisture barrier or in becoming an unwanted growing medium for roots.

And the weird and insane practice of piling mulch against tree trunks continues. These mulch "volcanoes" cause surface root growth and damage a tree's protective bark. "There will be fungal or bacterial infections in areas of trunk coverup," Chalker-Scott said. So when it comes to mulch, like everything else in life, moderation is the key to success. And in these hard times, self-sufficiency is a virtue.

Stone

Continued from page D1

gardening questions, identify plant problems and offer solutions.

After the clinic concludes, the tour begins with a walking segment and ends with a car tour, said Meriel Peterson, a Mini-Cassia Master Gardener. Stops include local Oakley Stone dealers and homes showcasing use of the stone.

"There are various types of stones in a wide variety of colors and uses," Peterson said.

Barry Peterson, owner of Gold Star Stone and Big Sky Stone, gave permission to use among the walls of stones at his business, allowing people to see the many colors and shades of gold, silver and chocolate available.

David and Jim Burch, co-owners of Oakley Valley Stone Inc., will invite people inside

Plant clinic answers your gardening questions

Preceding the Oakley Stone and Landscaping Tour on Aug. 5, a Mini-Cassia Master Gardener plant clinic will begin at 2 p.m. at Oakley Park.

Bring your best gardening questions, plant-disease mysteries and plant-identification problems. Bring samples in self-sealing plastic bags to minimize the spread of disease to other people's plants. For an identification of plant material, provide a sample of root, leaf and blossom, if possible. Insects should also be contained in a plastic bag or a small jar.

Master Gardener Terri McAfee will speak about readying your garden for winter.

their business to discuss cutting and engraving the stone. Oakley Valley Stone offers various shades within each of the stone's color groups.

"A stop will be made at both of the Burch homes," Mini-Cassia Master Gardener and Oakley resident Kathy Poulton said. "Jim has rocked the outside of his home and has created a fountain in the garden."

Participants will also visit Northern Stone, owned by Gary Mullard. Northern Stone

offers an array of colors of Oakley stone including a green variety.

"The tour will end at Barry Peterson's home where two patios, a fence and an outdoor barbeque area that is under construction will be shown and refreshments served."

Poulton said participants may want to finish the tour by driving around the town to see how local people and businesses have used the stone to identify themselves

and their addresses. The Oakley cemetery may also interest some people because of the variety of headstones made from Oakley Stone. The park has a large monument created from the stone as well.

Other Master Gardeners helping with the tour are Oakley residents Kathy Payton and Sandy Roundy.

Terri McAfee may be reached at emt-pat@pmt.org or 208-436-9191.

Contest

Continued from page D1

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

Identify the people in your photograph, and where and when it was taken. And, of course, tell us who shot the photo. (If you

aren't the photographer, you must include the photographer's written permission for publication in the *Times-News*.) If you like, include a few extra comments about the photo.

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

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

Deadline: We must receive your entries by Aug. 7.

Tour

Continued from page D1

of cold-storage facilities. Commercial facilities often hold up to 20 million pounds of potatoes at one time, she said.

"The big ones are the size of a football field," Frazier said.

Jennifer Jones brought her children Brandon, Reagan, Jordan and Gavin to the Twilight Tour from Jerome. The children already knew a bit about potatoes after visiting their farming grandfather in Washington, she said, but were still excited to learn about Idaho potatoes.

"We thought it would be good to learn about the good potatoes from Idaho, not the mushy potatoes from Washington," Jones said.

That's just what the researchers are aiming for. "We're just trying to



Nora Olsen, an Extension potato specialist for the University of Idaho, grins at her booth during the Twilight Tour. "I'm the queen of potatoes for today," Olsen says, referring jokingly to her crown with tiny potato adornments.

engage people, get them to know a little bit more about potatoes," Olsen said.

Heartbreak corral
When horses go blind.
NEXT WEEK IN COUNTRY ROADS

As of Monday, July 14, 2008, Burn Barrel Ash Will No Longer Be Accepted at Any Southern Idaho Solid Waste Disposal Site.

Burn barrels are one of the leading causes of wildfires and structural fires in the United States. Even a burn barrel that feels cool can have live embers in the center that can ignite when the barrel is dumped. As a fire prevention measure, SISW's Board of Directors has decided to ban ash dumping at the transfer stations, effective July 14, 2008.

For more information, please call Southern Idaho Solid Waste at 208-432-9082 or visit www.sisw.org.



Mangum

Continued from page D1

near Hansen.

There's no denying that traveling by wagon can be a perk: It seems to make everything you observe clearer. On July 20, as Mangum rode through Champagne Meadow near Greater of the Valley, he was easy to appreciate things like the sharp yet pleasant smell of sagebrush, the creak of the wagon wheels, the satisfying crunch of gravel under the wagon, and the rich green of the hills — some of which still have traces of snow on their caps.

For most of the trip, Mangum is following the Jeffrey-Goodale Cutoff, a route that took immigrants through southern Idaho and the Boise area to Oregon. Mangum stopped at several local spots along the trail, including Lava Lake Ranch, the Blaine County Fairgrounds in Carey, and the Big Wood River.

Jim McGill, a historic trails preservation officer with the Oregon-California Trails Association, said the Jeffrey-Goodale Cutoff was opened in the 1850s by John Jeremy, then expanded by Tim Goodale in 1862. McGill said the trail provided an alternative to the main Oregon Trail, which was starting to get crowded.

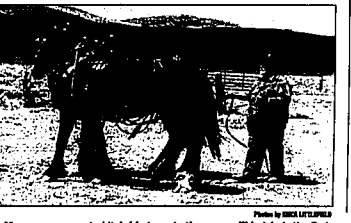
Events like the wagon train, McGill said, can aid in preservation efforts.

"It draws the attention of communities along the way," McGill said. "We like to get the word out and share the historic heritage of the trails."

Mangum has been taking wagon trips for about 11 years, and he believes other people dropped out of the



Dell Mangum of Blackfoot continues his wagon trip across southern Idaho even though other wagons dropped out.



Dell Mangum prepares to hitch his team to the wagon. This is the first time the two horses, Tina and Nick, have run together, so Mangum is still training them to work as a team.

Nampa trip because they didn't realize that traveling by wagon train could be so difficult. Mangum said the others gave a variety of reasons for quitting. Some planned to follow the train for only a few days in the first place. Some thought Mangum was pushing the train too hard, but some told him "they just weren't having any fun" and "didn't have enough time to sit around the campfire and play the guitar," he said.

"I'd bet the pioneers weren't having much fun either," Mangum said wryly. Mangum was understandably disappointed that the other wagons left, but he hasn't been completely alone. Doug and Lynn Davis, a couple from Iowa, met up with him and have been following him with their truck and camper. Despite the unexpected challenges,

Local pre-convention tour
What: A bus tour will visit some local sites connected to the Oregon Trail. The stops include Shoshone, Milner Dam, and the Stricker Station and homestead near Hansen. Lunch will be served on the tour.
When: Sunday
Where: The tour departs from and returns to the Twin Falls visitors center at the south end of the Perrine Bridge.
Cost: \$35 per person; tour participants must be registered for at least one day of the convention.
Information: Marian Posey, 324-3067 or vinclioch@newstnet.net; Curtis Johnson, curtis@mvhyponosis.com.

Mangum was determined last week to follow through with the trip he worked so hard to plan. On Thursday, Mangum was in Gannett and said he's right on schedule and "getting along just fine."

"When you set a schedule and you say you're going to be in a certain place at a certain time, you have to push on," Mangum said.

Erica Littlefield may be reached at 208-961-4515 or erica.littlefield@gmail.com.

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TODAY'S MYSTERY WORD:
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SUMMER SWEEPSTAKES

Horse Monthly

AUGUST 2008 SCHEDULE

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

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

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

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

Thursday Evenings (7pm) **Jackpot Ranch Sorting & Practice** Copus Cove Arena, Buhl, ID. Call 543-6695 or 731-6635.

Wednesday Evenings (7pm) **Jackpot Barrel Racing Shu-Fly Arena** (1772 E. 1400 S. Gooding. www.shuflyarena.com).

Silver Spurs Equestrian Team, would like to welcome new members please contact Charlene Royce (208)539-5804 or Luann Studer (208) 731-4311 or Rochelle Shank (208) 731-9812 for meeting details. The club has put together a fund raiser to raffie a saddle, saddle pad, and saddle rack. Drawing will be at the T.F. County Fair on Sept. 1st. Contact a member to purchase your tickets.

Filer Junior Riding Club, are seeking more members (ages 8-18) in 2008 riding year. Contact Karen Stoker at 308-3277 or Rick Schultz 308-4552.

July 26th - Aug. 2nd - Jerome County Fair & Rodeo, Parade: July 29th (5pm). Junior Rodeo held July 28th & July 30th 7pm at the Jerome Fair Grounds; Jerome, Idaho. More details www.jeromecountyfair.com.

Aug. 1st -3rd (Fri. night, Sat. - 9am) **Idaho Regulators** will host the Idaho State Championships. Cassia County

Fair Grounds, Fri. Night will be a fun shootout and Sat. afternoon will be the rifle competition. Riders carry & shoot 45 pistols, blanks, while engaging 10 targets in a running horse. Competitors are times and encouraged to wear period dress. Guests are invited. For more information call 431-2533.

Aug. 2nd - (11am) Jerome, Idaho Magic Valley Team Sorting Association (MVTSA) Fair Series. For membership & details contact Kayla at 587-9445 or 509-1034 or Penny at 587-9680 or 509-3533.

Aug. 2nd - Silver Spur Supreme Classic Quarter Horse & Paint Horse Sale, Salt Lake County Equestrian Park & Events Center, South Jordan, UT. For more information call (435) 286-2281.

Aug. 8th -10th - (3 Days) Filer, Idaho High Desert JR Rodeo. Open to all kids ages 5-18 as of January 1st, 2008. Call (208)423-4398 for entries and more information. Entry forms are available at www.idahoqrdeorace.com/clinics_events.htm.

Aug 8th-10th - Magic Valley Reined Cowhorse Futurity & Derby Show. Minidoka County Fair Grounds, Rupert, Idaho. Contact Mike Zebarth (208) 423-9055 for more details.

Aug. 9th - ISHSA Show Events. Shows will be held at the Zebarth Arena at the T.F. County Fairgrounds (Filer). Contact Pam Bolton at (208)734-5216 for more details or visit www.ishsa.com for entry forms and details.

Aug. 9th & 10th - Wrangler Team Roping Championships (3T Arena), Nampa, Idaho (Idaho Horse Park). Please contact Jeff Faulkner 539-4218 for more information to enter.

Aug. 10th & Sept. 6th (8:30 am) - The Grass Roots Cutters, which is an equestrian cutting club centrally located in Twin Falls are having two-day shows. For more information, contact Shauna Koopman by email www.praesrotcutters.com for Location

details.
Aug. 11th-16th - Cassia County Fair & Rodeo, Burley, Idaho. Parade: Aug. 13th (11 am). For more details www.cassiacounty.org/fair/index.htm.

Aug. 11th - (7pm) Gooding, Idaho Magic Valley Team Sorting Association (MVTSA) Fair Series. For membership & details contact Kayla at 587-9445 or 509-1034 or Penny at 587-9680 or 509-3533.

Aug. 11th-17th - Gooding County Fair & Rodeo, Gooding, Idaho. Parade: Aug. 14th (11am).

Aug. 12th (7 pm) High Desert Backcountry Horsemen Meeting will old their regular meeting at the home of Anita & Daryl Jacobs in Jerome. Guests are invited. For more information call 324-4754.

Aug. 12th - Wrangler Team Roping Championships (3T Arena), Gooding, Idaho (Gooding Co. Fair Roping). Please contact Jeff Faulkner 539-4218 for more information to enter.

Aug. 13th (6pm) - Shu-Fly Arena (1772 E. 1400 S. Gooding, ID) **Barrel Racing**, 19 fastest high school and under-21ers will get to compete at the Gooding County Fair. Entry forms available on website www.shuflyarena.com details are available for other Barrel Racing, Breakaway, & Team Roping Events.

Aug. 15th (4 pm-8 pm) - Blue Ribbon Training Presents: Clinics at Horseman's School by Paul Butler located at the Billingsley Creek Park (Indoor Arena) in Hagerman, ID. Silver Spurs Equestrian Team. To sign up or more information contact Charlene Royce (208)539-5804 or Luann Studer (208) 731-4311 or Rochelle Shank (208) 731-9812.

Aug. 16th - (9 am) Draft & Mule Show at the Gooding County Fair Grounds. Open to all, horses (big & Small) and mules. No pre-entry required, one day show. Classes will include cart, teams,

and multiple hitches. Everyone from the experienced driver the "first time ever driver" is welcome. Premiums and jackpot money awarded. For more details contact Gert Clarkson at (208) 934-5146 or email clxcls14@gmail.com.

Aug. 16th & 17th (9am-4 pm) - **Blue Ribbon Training Presents: Motivational Horsemanship/Reining School** by Paul Butler located at the Billingsley Creek Park (Indoor Arena) in Hagerman, ID. Silver Spurs Equestrian Team. To sign up or more information contact Contact Charlene Royce (208)539-5804 or Luann Studer (208) 731-4311 or Rochelle Shank (208) 731-9812.

Aug. 18th (Time Onlys 6pm & Jackpot 7:30pm) - **Jerome Barrel Summer Series**. Jerome County fair grounds, Jerome ID. Contact Fair Office at 324-2209.

Aug. 27th - Sept. 1st - Twin Falls County Fair & Rodeo, Filer, Idaho. **Aug. 29th (6 pm) - Twin Falls Livestock Comm. Co. Horse Sale** (Schedule: tack, registered horses, and then grade horses).

Aug. 30th & 31st - Wrangler Team Roping Championships (3T Arena), Gooding, Idaho (Gooding Co. Fair Roping, Labor Day Weekend). Please contact Jeff Faulkner 539-4218 for more information to enter.

Sept. 1st - (1 pm) Filer, Idaho Magic Valley Team Sorting Association (MVTSA) Fair Series. For membership & details contact Kayla at 587-9445 or 509-1034 or Penny at 587-9680 or 509-3533.

Sept. 4th - Idaho Junior Rodeo Association. Top Ten Championship Showdown. Entries must be turned in by Aug. 4th. View www.idahojrta.com for more details.

Sept. 6th - Diamonds of the West Supreme Classic Horse Sale. Golden Spike Arena in Ogden, Utah. For more information call (435) 286-2281.




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