

TIGERS ON TOP

Jerome girls look to stay at top of 4A.

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NEVER TOO OLD

Adults skateboard for health, fun.

HEALTHY & FIT, B1

TIMES-NEWS

Monday, November 17, 2008

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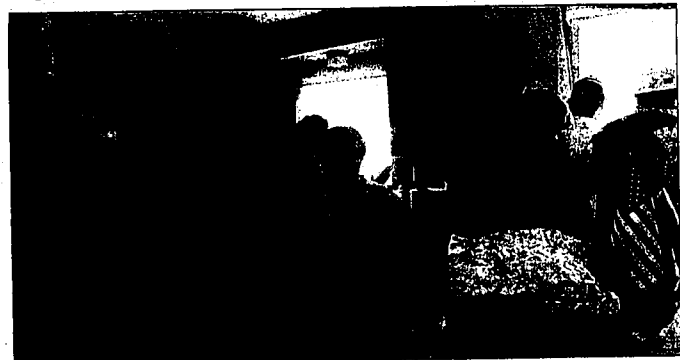
The forgotten WAR

Air Force captain returns home from Afghanistan, reflects on experiences.



An American flag stands firmly planted in the grass while Air Force Capt. Fred W. Saunders speaks with family during a homecoming Saturday afternoon in Twin Falls.

JUSTIN JACKSON/Times-News



JUSTIN JACKSON/Times-News

Air Force Capt. Fred W. Saunders takes a snapshot of Kathy Truesdell, 10, during a homecoming Saturday afternoon in Twin Falls. Saunders recently returned from Afghanistan.

By Nate Poppino Times-News writer

There were hugs and cries of joy. A few tears may have been shed. And after eight months in the deserts and mountains of Afghanistan, Air Force Capt. Fred Saunders, 41, returned to Twin Falls on Saturday for an early Thanksgiving dinner. Afghanistan was Saunders' third war in his 23 years with the Air Force. He also served in the first invasion of Iraq in 1991 and returned to Iraq in 2007.



Photo courtesy CAPT. FRED SAUNDERS

Air Force Capt. Fred Saunders, right, and a U.S. Marine colleague stand at the top of a mountain in Afghanistan. Saunders returned Saturday from the country, his third war posting in his 23-year career.

This time, he returned home with an extra decoration — the Defense Meritorious Service Medal, awarded for saving a number of civilian lives during an attempt to assassinate Afghan President Hamid Karzai. It's the third-highest peacetime defense award. The incident, during a military parade, combined a surprise attack on potentially vulnerable Afghan and U.S. leaders with spooked civilians, a crowd of which came rushing down a hill toward Saunders' position.

"I prevented them from shooting, which saved a bunch of lives," Saunders said. Military service is a strong tradition in the family. Saunders' father, uncles and grandfather all served in various branches. And just more than a year ago, the family was mourning the death of Capt. Saunders' cousin, Army Spc. Adam Davis, in a roadside bombing just 70 kilometers from where Saunders was stationed. The memory left family

members just that much more grateful to see Saunders return safe and sound, said one of Saunders' sisters, Suzi Thomas. "We didn't have any doubts" that Saunders could take care of himself, she said. "But yes, we were very worried." For his part, Saunders said he worked to make sure his cousin didn't die in vain. And he encouraged his counterparts in the Afghan military to hunt all of those responsible for the bombing. The two insurgents who set off the

bomb were arrested right after the incident, according to reports from the military. "You go out there, and you figure out who those guys are, and you take care of them," Saunders recalled telling Afghan soldiers. Saunders' responsibilities were primarily mentoring Afghan generals and traveling across the country recruiting people to serve as commandos in the Afghan military. But it wasn't always easy to

Please see SAUNDERS, Page A2

Ahead of schedule

Kimberly School District construction moving along, some buildings could be done earlier than expected

By Ben Botkin Times-News writer

Kimberly School District has construction projects under way at several schools to provide more classroom space for students in a growing district. The projects are funded by a \$10.25 million school bond that district voters passed in October 2007. A new building is going up with six classrooms, a computer lab and a library for third-grade students. That building will be connected with a breezeway to another existing building for fourth- and fifth-grade students, creating a complex for intermediate elementary students. "We'll be done well in time for the schools to be able to hold classes in all the facilities for next school year," said

Please see KIMBERLY, Page A2



ASHLEY SMITH/Times-News

Brian Wilson, of Pratt Masonry, works Wednesday on a new addition at Kimberly Middle School. Kimberly School District is completing construction projects at the high school, intermediate elementary school, and middle school that a \$10.25 million bond is funding.

California residents flee as wildfires spread

By Justin Pritchard Associated Press writer

DIAMOND BAR, Calif. — More residents of Southern California were urged to leave their homes Sunday despite calming winds that allowed a major aerial attack on wildfires that have destroyed hundreds of homes and blanketed the region in smoke. Fires burned in Los Angeles County, to the east in Riverside and Orange counties, and to the northwest in Santa Barbara County. More than 800 houses, mobile homes and apartments were destroyed by fires that have burned areas more than

Please see FIRES, Page A4

BY THE NUMBERS

- 34 Square miles burned since Thursday
- 800 Houses, mobile homes and apartments destroyed by fires
- 1,400 residents in Los Angeles County evacuated Sunday
- 26,500 People who remained under evacuation orders Sunday in Los Angeles County

Sugar beet case cracked

DEQ: Beets in creek escaped from feed pile

By Nate Poppino Times-News writer

The mystery of the floating sugar beets is solved. Wind and rain from early November storms apparently pushed roughly 100 to 200 cubic feet of beets into Rock Creek from a site southeast of Twin Falls, said Sonny Buldhar, the Department of Environmental Quality regional water quality manager. The

Please see BEETS, Page A2

"By January or February, we won't have anything left."

— Sonny Buldhar, the Department of Environmental Quality regional water quality manager on the remaining beets in Rock Creek

A way of life from an era long ago

Man on 2,000 mile horseback trek makes stop in Idaho at Zeb Bell's ranch

By Manuel Valdes Associated Press writer

SEATTLE — More than halfway through his 2,000-mile horseback journey across the West, Mark Ryan stopped at Zeb Bell's ranch outside a tiny town

in southern Idaho. "He just showed up at my back door, all of the sudden there he was," remembered Bell, a 61-year-old pro-rodeo announcer. "He introduced himself and asked to just stay here for the night. It's not the

first time we've had someone like him. Bell described Ryan as a long rider — someone who rides horseback for hundreds, if not thousands, of miles as part of a way of life that echoes an era long gone. But to 46-year-old Ryan, riding across the West on his horse Mister Doodles — to visit a

Please see JOURNEY, Page A2



Mark Ryan, of Kingfisher, Okla., makes his way north on Highway 530, north of Coeurville, Wash., Thursday. Ryan, his horse and a packman, started out from Oklahoma for Ferndale, Wash., on June 2 to visit a friend. Ryan said he always asks permission to camp on private property every night and usually gets it. Ryan's horse is on its sixth set of horseshoes and his mane is to its thigh. AP photo



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High: 68 Low: 32
Sunny to partly cloudy
days. Details: B12
and live at magvalley.com/weather

MORNING BRIEFING

TODAY'S HAPPENINGS

BENEFITS AND FUNDRAISERS

The Power of a Simple Gift: Operation Christmas Child, fill a shoebox with special gifts today through Nov. 23. Drop off locations: Brigdevote Estates, 1828 Brigdevote Blvd., Twin Falls, 736-2933; First Christian Presb. Chapel Church, 1101 Eighth St., Rupert, (208) 436-0449; www.samaritaspurse.org/occ for more information.

CLUBS AND ORGANIZATIONS

Macular Degeneration support group, sponsored by the Commission for the Blind, 12:30 p.m., Jerome Senior Center, 324-6833.
Sons of Norway, Magic Valley Viking Lodge monthly meeting and potluck, Norwegian culture and rosemaling presented by Roger and Joanne Hultstrand, 7 p.m., Our Savior Lutheran Church, 454 Carnegie Lane N., Twin Falls, public invited, 736-1792.
Burley Music Club meeting, 1 p.m. at Heyburn LDS Church, 530 Villa Drive, Heyburn. Singer Felicia Horsley Potet performing. Public invited. Free admission.

GOVERNMENT

Twin Falls County commissioners, 8:30 a.m., courthouse, 425 Shoshone St. N., 736-4068.
Cassia County commissioners, 9 a.m., courthouse, 1459 Overland, 878-1302.
Jerome County commissioners, 9 a.m., courthouse, 300 N. Lincoln, 644-2700.
Minkidoka County commissioners, 9 a.m., courthouse, 715 E. St., Rupert, 436-7111.
Twin Falls City Council, 5 p.m., council chambers, 305 Third Ave. E., 736-7274.
College of Southern Idaho Board, 5:30 p.m., Student Union Room 248, Taylor Administration Building, 315 Falls Ave., Twin Falls, 732-6261.
Hatley Planning and Zoning Commission, 6:30 p.m., courthouse, 206 First Ave. S., 788-9815.
Hansen School Board, 7 p.m., school library, 550 S. Main, 423-8593.
Ketchum City Council, 5:30 p.m., City Hall, 480 E. Ave. N., 726-3841.
Gooding City Council, 7 p.m., City Hall, 308 Fifth Ave. W., 934-5669.
Jerome County Planning Advisory Committee Commission, 7 p.m., courthouse, 300 N. Lincoln, 324-9116.
Blaes School Board, 7:30 p.m., school library, 601 E. Highway 30, 352-4445.

Minkidoka County School Board, 7 p.m., library, Minico High School, Rupert, 436-4727.

HEALTH AND WELLNESS

College of Southern Idaho's Over 60 and Getting Fit program features a workout with stretching and gentle resistance training, 10 to 10 a.m. at several Magic Valley locations: CSI gym, Gooding ISDB gym, Jerome Rec Center, Shoshone High (old gym), Rupert Civic Gym, Blaine County Campus Gym and Flair Elementary; 10:30 to 11:30 a.m. at the Bull old middle school gym and 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. at C.S.I.'s Bulley Outreach Center gym, no cost, 732-6475.
Fit and Fall Proof Exercise Class, 10 to 11 a.m., Blaine County Senior Connection, 721 S. Third Ave., Hailey, no cost, 737-5988.
Fit and Fall Proof Exercise Class, 10:30 to 11:30 a.m., Ageless Senior Citizens, Inc., 310 Main St. N., Kimberly, no cost, 737-5988.
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, 1751 Elizabeth Blvd., no cost for Human-insured or YMCA members and \$5 per class for non-members, 736-7274.
Fit and Fall Proof Exercise Class, 1:30 p.m., front lounge, Woodstone Assisted Living Facility, 491 Caswell Ave. W., Twin Falls, no cost, 737-5988.
Choices for Recovery, a non-traditional, 12-step spiritual program open to all faiths, issues and addictions, 4 to 5:30 p.m., west conference room, Minkidoka Memorial Hospital, Rupert, no cost, 433-3741.
Recovery for Life: Find Help, Discover Hope, Experience Healing, includes Divorce Care, Grief Share, Financial Peace, Co-dependency for Women, 12-Step HOPE (addiction recovery), 6 to 8:45 p.m. meal served and 7 p.m. meet-and-greet, Twin Falls Refuged Church, 1623 Grandview Drive N. (corner of Grandview Drive North and Pole Line Road), 733-8128.

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@magvalley.com; by fax, 734-5538; or by mail, Times-News, P.O. Box 548, Twin Falls, ID 83303-0548. Deadline is noon, four days in advance of the event.



6 and go today

• Club Canyon Volleyball tryouts have been moved to this week and will be held from 5 to 7 p.m. at the Jerome Recreation Center on Lincoln Street. Girls in grades 7-8 try out today. Girls in grades 9-12 try out Tuesday and Wednesday. There's a \$10 tryout fee. Players should bring their own knee pads and water.
 • The Buttons and Bows Club offers square dance lessons at 8:30 p.m. at the War Memorial Hall across St. Benedict Family Medical Center on North Lincoln Street in Jerome. Tonight it's free. You can get more info from Willard Allison at 324-5030 or Betty Rice at 536-2243. This will be good exercise and fun at the same time.
 • Sit down with pencil and paper and develop a logo for the Jerome Public Library.

Take your ideas to the library at 100 E. First Ave., or mail to Friends of the Jerome Public Library care of the library. The winner walks away with \$50. You have until Nov. 22, so get drawing.

Have your own pick you want to share? Something that is unique to the area and that may take people by surprise? E-mail me at pam@magicalvalley.com.

Gooding charter considers new facility

By Ben Botkin
Times-News writer

North Valley Academy officials are interested in possibly buying Gooding School District's Accelerated Learning Center building. The academy, which opened this year in Gooding, is a charter school for students in kindergarten through eighth-grade. The school, now on the campus of the Idaho School for the Deaf and the Blind, could use more space, said Doby Infanger, chairman of the charter school's board. The academy will add high school grades in the fall of 2009. While there's room for the growth at its current location, the Gooding School District's building would provide assets like a cafeteria, gymnasium and a playground, Infanger said. "We really like where we're at, but they're kind of cramped on space," she said. The school district and NVA officials have not begun negotiations yet. At this point,

both parties are waiting for the building's sale to be realistic. Charter schools, while public, are separate entities from school districts and cannot levy taxes. Charter school officials are exploring possible financing through a bank loan and the U.S. Department of Agriculture. The charter school has 162 students. The school is limited to 24 students in each grade. When the high school grades become available, 96 students can attend ninth through 12th grade. If the charter school stays at its current location, there would be space for high school students in remodeling an adjoining area, Infanger said. "We'd still have room, but it will get even more crowded," she said. The charter school is looking at providing regional bus routes that bring in students next year from surrounding communities, Infanger said.

Heather Williams, superintendent of Gooding School District, said it may take several months for the appraisal to be finished. The Gooding district is facing decreased state funding from plummeting enrollment because of students moving to the charter school. The district has lost 120 students — about 10 percent of last year's enrollment. The district has to look at ways to increase its funding, and the building's sale may be one option, Williams said. The Accelerated Learning Center is an alternative high school with 60 students. No decision has been made about where the students would go if the building is sold. The building, which has 21 classrooms, also has other uses. Gooding High School students take health occupations courses at the center, and Gooding County's 4-H organization has classes moving to the building. Williams said any sale would be a decision with community input.

Saunders

Continued from page A1
 find recruits, especially when many men ages 20 to 35 had already died in fighting, he said. And he had to find just the right people. The Afghan military is structured to keep any of the country's ethnic groups from having a majority. "That way we avoid civil war," Saunders said. The policy doesn't always make sense. Tajiks, for example, are often in the best physical shape to be combat soldiers, he said. But a unit will include an Uzbek who tests better than the others, just to maintain the balance. That said, Saunders boasts that the commandos he's helped organize are Afghanistan's best fighters.

public consciousness in the United States, Saunders said, which is unfortunate. The citizens and military of the country want a U.S. presence there, he said, and issues such as a resurging Taliban require more attention. The country, he said, has made huge strides. Its citizens have largely moved past tribal ties to develop a sense of national unity, something missing in Iraq, he said. The military now numbers 60,000 and is planned to reach 133,000 within two years. And it is gradually taking on more responsibility — including, in the near future, the controversial raids across the Pakistan border to hunt for al-Qaida. Non-military challenges remain, especially finding

ways to fight the country's poverty. "Iraq is a very rich country," Saunders said, because of its vast oil reserves. In comparison, "Afghanistan will never have anything." There, too, the U.S. is helping, he said, citing the example of a Blackfoot Wal-Mart that sent over boxes of donated shoes. "Some of us there think that's the way to win the war," Saunders said. It's one he said wants to be a part of. Saunders probably could return from active service, but he said he'd go back one more time. "The Afghan people are worth it," he said.

Note: Poppina may be reached at 208-735-3237 or nppoppina@magvalley.com.

Beets

Continued from page A1
 beets were piled near the edge of the creek, he said on Friday. "It just gave," he said of the pile. Buhidar received calls about beets littering the creek on Nov. 3 and began searching for the bulk of them after confirming the tip. But he had little luck, he said, until a Nov. 6 Times-News story prompted several more calls. The owner of the property where the beets were piled had used them as cattle feed and fertilizer, Buhidar said. The beets were too small to be processed for sugar, and the pile also included parts of beets trimmed off during processing. The beets are often reused by farmers and ranchers, he said.

"It's not a bad practice at all," Buhidar said. The man was cooperative, he said, and has both moved his pile back from the edge of the creek and placed the most of the beets left in the water. Both the Idaho Department of Water Resources and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers issued emergency permits and allowed Buhidar to not share the man's name, but said he was initially unaware of the problem and was anxious not to be embarrassed publicly. Some beets are sure to still be in the creek, Buhidar said. It would be "almost impossible" to remove every one. Large amounts of beets can be a threat to water quality, he

said, affecting the oxygen content of the water as they fall apart and stirring up dirt and other substances. The few that are left will be pushed to the sides of the creek by low-hanging branches and other obstacles, and sliced apart by rocks, he said. "By January or February, we won't have anything left," he said. The unusual case illustrates the power the public has to help out DEQ, Buhidar said. He encouraged anyone with water or other environmental concerns to contact the agency: 208-738-2190 or to visit the Twin Falls office at 1563 Fillmore St. "We have more eyes out there, and that's really helpful," he said.

Journey

Continued from page A1
 friend provided a chance to see the country in a way not many other people do. He left an impression on the dozens of people he met as he rode through seven states, from Oklahoma to Washington. "It's part of life, you just kind of get an urge to do something before you get too old," Ryan said. "There's nothing like traveling 2 miles an hour." By his own reckoning, Ryan camped at dozens of different places, stayed with more than 60 people, and his

horse and mule were down almost 10 sets of shoes. He brought with him only maps, no Global Positioning System or even a cell phone. At some places, Ryan said he rode on highways where cars were an arm-length away from his horse. His border collie, Bailey, accompanied him until Kanasa, where she blistered her feet on the hot pavement and had to be picked up by Ryan's wife, Eva. In Wyoming, there were prairie full of rattlesnakes. At one point in the Idaho backcountry, Ryan got lost for a full day. "It didn't seem like a big deal at first, but it was a lot of work," Ryan said. "Some of

them mountains, boy, it got cold. Frost on the tent, rainy days and a lot of hot days. All we carried was 60 pounds of gear, at times 50 pounds of feed." He left his hometown of Kingfisher, Okla. on June 2 and didn't arrive at Fernalde, Wash., a small town about 20 miles south of the Canadian border, until mid-October. By that time, he had been on the road for almost five months. "You can't believe he actually did it," said Ardy Smith, one of the kind of Ryan was visiting. "It's kind of a John Wayne thing." Smith's husband had invited Ryan to visit their home,

and Ryan said he'd ride his horse to Washington. He didn't believe him. While the Smiths waited for him, Ryan was meeting different all sorts of people. There was the county sheriff and the pro-rodeo announcer in Idaho, the widow in Kansas, and many others. He kept the names and addresses of all of them. In Laramie, Wyo., residents called animal control after seeing Mister Doodles and the mule — named Festus — resting at a park in town. When animal control worker Terese Bingham arrived, she saw Ryan reading his Bible. The animals were fine, Bingham said, and she talked

to Ryan for a while. "It takes a lot to pull off a trip like that, not many people call pull off being alone like that," Bingham said. Outside Brush, Colo., Floyd Pickett helped Ryan get new shoes for Mister Doodles and Festus. The retired ranch foreman said it takes a lot of guts to get on a horse and ride for such a long distance. "I had a lot of admiration because he had the guts to go to it," Pickett said. "I'm 67 years old, and I always wanted to do it." By October, Ryan had reached the suburbs east of Seattle, which drew a sharp contrast from the backcountry that had been his home

for months. "You'll have so much more traffic here in Western Washington than any other state I've been," he said. He stayed with the Smiths for a few weeks, but because the weather was getting cold, Ryan decided not to ride back to Oklahoma. He looked for rides, but ended up buying an old truck, his wife Eva Ryan said. But the truck broke down in Oregon. "He doesn't have the money to fix another or fix the engine," Eva Ryan said. "He's waiting for a ride. If he wants to ride back, he'll have to wait until spring, wait until at least May."

Times-News

PUBLISHER	
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News Editor	735-2220
News Editor	735-2266
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News Editor	478-2121
News Editor	737-5441
News Editor	788-3475
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CLASSIFIED	
Classified	735-0211, ex. 2
Classified manager	735-2521
ONLINE	
Online sales	735-2507

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 Classified phone open 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. daily and 9 a.m. to 11 a.m. on weekends for questions about delivery, new subscriptions and circulation rates. If you can't reach our office by 5:30 a.m., call the number for your area before 10 a.m. on weekdays.
MAIL INFORMATION
 The Times-News (ISSN 0160-2625) is published only on Wednesdays and Saturdays.
 Publications Inc., a subsidiary of Lee Enterprises, Inc., is the publisher. Postmaster: Please send address changes to The Times-News, P.O. Box 548, Twin Falls, Idaho 83303.
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Kimberly

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 Superintendent Kathleen Noh, adding that the projects are on budget and on schedule. With the intermediate building, the concrete foundation is finished and workers have started the masonry, said Michael Arrington, president of J. Starr Corporation, the contractor overseeing the project. Construction crews are

also working on a four-classroom addition to Kimberly High School. With that project, which started in July, crews are doing interior work on the electrical and mechanical systems, Arrington said. That project will be done sooner than the others, and the district is tentatively planning to begin using the addition this spring, Noh said.

By the end of the month, work will begin on a building on the high school grounds that will have agriculture classes, Arrington said. The middle school is getting an addition with six classrooms, two of which will be science labs. "The concrete work is pretty well done and the masonry work is under way," Arrington said.

Enrollment at Kimberly School District has grown in recent years. At the end of the 2006-07 school year, enrollment was 1,377. By the end of the 2007-08 school year, it had grown by 36 students to 1,413. The district now has 1,421 students.

Ben Botkin may be reached at 208-735-3239 or bbotkin@magicalvalley.com.

Twin Falls Bomb Squad ready to receive new vehicle, trailer

T.E. Council to consider giving extra height to new hotel

Times-News

The Twin Falls City Council is scheduled to sign off tonight on a new vehicle and trailer for the city's bomb squad. The items will be bought by the Idaho Bureau of Homeland Security.

The IBHS awarded the Twin Falls Police Department Bomb Squad \$55,000 for the purchase of a new response vehicle — a pickup truck and accompanying 24-foot trailer with a bathroom, according to a staff report prepared by police.

A City Council approval will impact the city's budget with vehicle costs, including maintenance, the report said. The state reimburses costs directly related to the bomb squad.

The funding allows police to meet dual-response capa-

bilities, the report said. For eight years, the bomb squad has averaged 30 calls for service. As a unique resource in southern Idaho, it helps other cities as well.

Police did not include bids in the staff report but said quotes were received from local dealerships, and Rob Green Auto Group can provide the pickup and trailer together.

Police will receive a new four-door diesel pickup and a Hallmark trailer. Funds can be used only on the items, so extra money pays for amenities, the report said.

The current ambulance trailer will be retained as secondary, the report said. Other agenda items include:

- A request by Summit Hospitality V for additional building height for a proposed Courtyard by Marriott Hotel in the 1800 block of Harrison Street N.

The company wants to build a 118-room hotel 60 feet high. Zoning rules limit

height at 35 feet. The City Council recently granted extra building height to two other hotels.

The City's Planning and Zoning Commission last week approved a special use permit for the hotel to operate.

- Consideration of a request to approve the annual Festival of Lights Parade, scheduled for Dec. 5 at 6 p.m. About 30 float entries are expected for the event that is organized by the Business Improvement District, according to a staff report.

Police expect to spend \$1,920 in overtime on nine officers and four non-sworn employees.

- Consideration of an agreement for engineering services with Riedesel Engineering for construction and equipment upgrades at Joslin Field, Magic Valley Regional Airport.

City Council meetings begin at 5 p.m. and are held at 305 Third Ave. E. They are open to the public.

Three injured in crash near Glenns Ferry

Times-News

Four motorcyclists crashed on Interstate 84 near Glenns Ferry on Sunday. Three of them were sent to the hospital with injuries, police said.

At around noon, Russell Campbell, 47, of Meridian, was driving a motorcycle eastbound near mile post 130.5 when his bike broke mechanically and he lost control, according to a release from Idaho State Police.

The crash caused a "chain reaction" of crashes of three nearby motorcycles being driven by Frank Nichols, 45, of Boise, Dean Cusimano, 48, of Boise, and Matthew Casey, 35, of Boise, police said.

Campbell was transported via ambulance to Elmore Medical Center in Mountain Home.

Nichols and Casey were life-flighted to Saint Alphonsus Regional Medical Center in Boise with unknown injuries.

police said. Cusimano was treated and released at the scene. No one was wearing a helmet, police said.

Eastbound lanes of I-84 were blocked for about an hour as authorities tended to the crash.

ISP is investigating the crash.

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TIMES-NEWS
magicvalley.com

Online degrees appealing option for soldiers

By Ivan Moreno
Associated Press writer

DENVER — When he can't sleep, Ian Newland, a 28-year-old veteran of the Iraq war, gets on his computer and does homework.

Diagnosed with post-traumatic stress disorder and recovering from a grenade attack, Newland wanted to pursue a business degree after his 2007 discharge from the Army — but was daunted by the challenges of attending a traditional university.

The world of online higher education has given thousands of vets like Newland — and active-duty soldiers — the opportunity to work at their own pace. "Being online, I can work on my col-

lege work at 3 a.m. If I'm feeling rambunctious," Newland said.

Online education is increasingly attractive for military veterans, according to Denver-based Jones International University, a Web-exclusive institution accredited by the Higher Learning Commission. About 350 current or former soldiers are pursuing a degree at Jones, three times the number last year. The university has a total of 2,000 students.

"Being fully online, we go to whoever that service member goes," said Bruce Ricketts, vice chancellor for military programs for JIU, which has pursued military students. Some students keep up with their classes

from Iraq and Afghanistan. "A deployment doesn't mean that your education necessarily has to stop," Ricketts said.

Other universities with online programs that accommodate service members and veterans include American University, the University of Phoenix and Troy University, according to Edventures, a research and consulting firm specializing in higher education.

Jim Selbe, assistant vice president for lifelong learning at the American Council on Education, said about 50 percent of active duty service members receiving tuition reimbursement from the Department of Defense are taking online courses.

Heat Bill Assistance For Income Eligible Households!

South Central Community Action Partnership, Inc., may be able to help you with your heating bills through the Heating Assistance Program. Assistance is based on income, type of heat, living arrangements and region of the state.

This no-cost assistance program ends March 31, 2009. Don't wait another day!

Call the Twin Falls Office: (208) 736-0676, or Toll Free 1-800-627-1733.
For the Northern Counties: (208) 324-8856 and Mini-Cassia area (208) 678-3514.

The following documentation will be required to complete an application: Proof of 3 month gross income for all household members, most recent heating bill, and proof of mailing & residential addresses. Other documentation may be requested.

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Details in the Thanksgiving Day Times-News.

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NOVEMBER

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OCTOBER 8 - NOVEMBER 1

NOVEMBER 1
BATTERY PARK

NOVEMBER 8
RANDOM SAM

NOVEMBER 15
THE GOLDEN GLOBE

NOVEMBER 22
Desert Harmony

NOVEMBER 29
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Uproar over federal drilling leases next to parks

By Paul Foy
Associated Press writer

SALT LAKE CITY — The view of Delicate Arch natural bridge — an unspoiled landmark so iconic it's on Utah's license plates — could one day include a drilling platform under a proposal that environmentalists call a Bush administration "fire sale" for the oil and gas industry.

Late on Election Day, the U.S. Bureau of Land Management announced a Dec. 19 auction of more than 50,000 acres of oil and gas parcels alongside or within view of Arches National Park and two other redrock national parks in Utah: Dinosaur and Canyonlands.

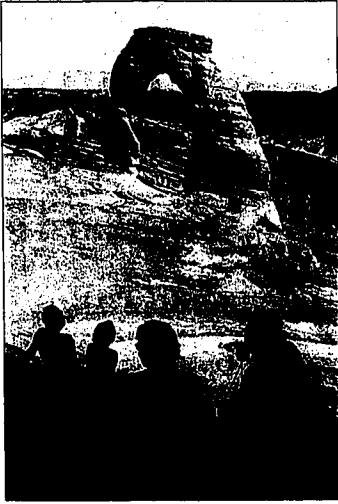
"The National Park Service's top official in the state calls it 'shocking and disturbing' and says his agency wasn't properly notified. Environmentalists call it a 'fire sale' for the oil and gas industry by a departing administration."

Officials of the BLM, which oversees millions of acres of public land in the West, say the sale is nothing unusual, and one is "puzzled" that the Park Service is upset.

"We find it shocking and disturbing," said Cordell, the chief Park Service administrator in Utah. They added 51,000 acres of tracts near Arches, Dinosaur and Canyonlands without telling us about it. That's 40 tracts within four miles of these parks.

Top aides to Interior Secretary Dirk Kempthorne stepped into the fray, ordering the sister agencies to make amends. His press secretary, Shane Wolfe, told the Associated Press that Interior Secretary Lynn Scarlett "resolved the dispute within 24 hours" last week.

A compromise ordered by the Interior Department



AP file photo

Tourists sit quietly as they view Delicate Arch in Arches National Park, Utah, in August 2008. Two months before President George W. Bush leaves office, two federal agencies are bickering over the proposed lease of more than 50,000 acres of oil and gas parcels alongside or within view of three of Utah's redrock national parks. "If you're standing at Delicate Arch, like thousands of people do every year, and you're looking through the arch, you could see drill pads on the hillside behind it. That's how ridiculous this proposed lease sale is," said Franklin Seal, a Moab, Utah-based spokesman for Wildland CPR, a group conducting reconnaissance on the parks.

requires the BLM to "take quite seriously" the Park Service's objections, said Wolfe.

However, the BLM didn't promise to pull any parcels from the sale, and in an interview after the supposed truce, BLM state director Selma Sierra was defiant, saying she saw nothing wrong with drilling near national parks. "I'm puzzled the Park Service has been as upset as they are," said Sierra.

"There are already many parcels leased around the parks. It's not like they've never been leased," she said. "I don't see it as something we are doing to undermine the Park Service."

Roy and conservation

groups dispute that, saying never before has the bureau bunched drilling parcels on the fence lines of national parks.

"This is the fire sale, the Bush administration's last great gift to the oil and gas industry," said Stephen Bloch, a staff attorney for the Southern Utah Wilderness Alliance.

"The tracts of land offered here, next to Arches National Park or above Desolation Canyon, these are the crown jewels of America's lands that the BLM is offering to the highest bidder," he said.

An examination of the parcels, superimposing low-resolution government graphics onto Google Earth maps, shows that in one case drilling parcels bordering Arches National Park are just 1.3 miles from Delicate Arch.

"If you're standing at Delicate Arch, like thousands of people do every year, and you're looking through the arch, you could see drill pads on the hillside behind it. That's how ridiculous this proposed lease sale is," said Franklin Seal, a spokesman for the environmental group Wildland CPR.

In all, the BLM is moving to open 59,000 more acres in Utah to drilling.

Other Utah leases that are certain to draw objections from conservation groups include high cliffs along whitewater sections of Desolation Canyon, which is little changed since explorer John Wesley Powell remarked in 1896 on "a region of wildest desolation" while boating down the Green River to the Grand Canyon.

Archers extend to plateaus populated by big game atop Nine Mile Canyon, site of thousands of ancient rock art panels, Moab's famous Slick Rock Trail and a campground popular with thousands of mountain hikers.

N. Idaho group aims for technical campus

BOISE (AP) — A delegation from northern Idaho hoping to build a high school in the region to teach professional-technical skills such as welding and diesel mechanics recently toured those types of facilities in Boise in southwest Idaho.

The group wants the campus so that students from Coeur d'Alene, Post Falls and Lakeland school districts can learn skills that are in demand in the state.

"We've got jobs all over the state that they can't fill because they don't have skilled people to fill them," Gov. C.L. "Butch" Otter, told the group late last week.

Last month, a 100-acre parcel on the Rathdrum Prairie in northern Idaho

was secured for the professional-technical campus through a partnership involving the North Idaho Manufacturers Consortium, North Idaho College, the city of Rathdrum, and the Meyer family of Rathdrum who own the land.

The plan has the college buying 40 acres to develop its professional-technical programs. Another 20 acres will be bought by the Lakeland School District to use for the site of a future school.

Another 20 acres will be for a professional-technical high school.

Contributions from businesses will buy another 10 acres, and the final 10 acres are being donated by the Meyer family.

Southwestern Idaho officials struggle with jail crowding

NAMPA (AP) — Officials with Canyon County and local police agencies are proposing releasing some people arrested for minor crimes rather than putting them behind bars to reduce the number of inmates in the county jail.

The county's main jail was built for 250 inmates but currently holds about 425.

Officials said if they don't reduce overcrowding, they run the risk of a lawsuit from American Civil Liberties Union of Idaho, and reduced insurance coverage from the Idaho Counties Risk Management Program.

Our numbers don't to whatever requests (the ACLU of Idaho) are going to give us," Canyon County Sheriff Chris Smith told the Idaho Press-Tribune.

But he said it's unclear how much the program might reduce the jail's population.

Minor offenders would be released, according to the plan, while violent offenders would not.

"Anyone who's a threat to the community is still going to have to go to jail and post bond," Nampa Police Chief Bill Augsburgers said. "There's some people that just flat out need to go to jail, and we won't change that."

Fires

Continued from page A1

34 square miles since breaking out Thursday.

No deaths have been reported, but police brought in trained dogs Sunday morning to search the rubble of a mobile home park where nearly 500 homes were destroyed. No bodies had been found by midday.

"This has been a very tough few days for the people of Southern California," Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger said after touring damage.

The smell of smoke pervades the metropolitan Los Angeles. Downtown skyscrapers were silhouettes in an opaque sky, and concerns about air quality forced organizers to cancel a marathon in suburban Pasadena where 6,000 runners had planned to participate.

Fierce Santa Ana winds that fanned the fires on Saturday weakened Sunday morning, allowing firefighters to set backfires to prevent flames from advancing to hillside neighborhoods. Air tankers swooped low over suburbs, red fire retardant billowing from their bellies as they painted defensive lines between brushlands and homes. Big helicopters shuttled back and forth on water drops.

The most threatening blaze had scorched more than 16 square miles in Orange and Riverside counties after erupting Saturday and shooting through subdivisions entwined with wilderness parklands. By midday

Sunday, multimillion-dollar homes were being threatened in Diamond Bar in Los Angeles County as the out-of-control fire pushed northward.

Fire officials ordered 1,400 more residents to evacuate Sunday morning. Schwarzenegger said 26,500 people remained under evacuation orders for that fire alone.

Retired aerospace engineer Joe Gomez, who has lived in his palm-tree-lined Diamond Bar neighborhood for 45 years, stayed put despite evacuation orders for that fire alone.

"I'm trying to use some logic here," said Gomez, 72, trying to gauge the direction of the wind and flames. "I don't think I'm going to come down this way."

Gomez packed a bag with important documents in case he decided to leave. His wife, a stroke victim, left with their daughters earlier in the day. "My daughters were really thinking I was nuts. They said, 'These are mandatory evacuations.' I said, 'You guys just relax.'"

In the early morning, winds pushed flames dangerously close to a church and adjacent mobile home park in the Olinda Village area north of Yorba Linda, but firefighters were able to beat it back. Only one mobile home was lost.

Billy Bagsby, an inmate firefighter with the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection, said the flames suddenly shifted direction around 2 a.m.



Firefighters watch a wildfire as it smolders down a hillside in Diamond Bar, Calif., Sunday.

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MOTIVATED TIGERS

Jerome leads the way again in 4A's GBW

By Ryan Howe
Times-News writer

Jerome Tigers

Head coach: Brent Clark, sec-
ond season
2007-08 record: 24-3

The scene is still ingrained in the back of the Jerome Tigers' minds.

The 23 turnovers and ice-cold 32-percent shooting. Three crucial free throws missed in the final seconds of overtime.

And most of all, the painful memory of watching Bishop Kelly celebrating in front of the Jerome bench after the Knights knocked off the No. 2-ranked Tigers in the Class 4A state tournament's first round, 46-45.

BK went on to play in the state title game, while Jerome — after going 19-1 in the regular season — returned home from the state tournament without any hardware. That empty spot in the trophy case is what drives this year's squad to work even harder.

"We worked all season for the goal to be a state champ and not being able to accomplish that, it was tough," said junior guard Aubree Callen. "But it gets us motivated for this year. We see what we could have had, and it makes us want to get there even more."

Jerome coach Brent Clark reminded his team about last year's state tourney disappointment and set some goals during the Tigers' first practice. But since then the Tigers haven't talked about state. They're only focusing on the next opponent on the schedule.

"We want to win our conference and get back to the state tournament and get



Jerome head coach Brent Clark, right, watches his team go through a recent practice. The Tigers are the team to beat in the Class 4A Great Basin Conference West.

another shot at some of those teams that knocked us off (last season)," said Clark. "But if we look ahead and get ahead of ourselves, we're not going to make it to that tournament. It's going to be a tough road to get back to state."

Conference foes will be aiming to knock Jerome off in the Great Basin Conference West. Burley's Gordon Kerbs and Minico's Joe D. Shepard have coached state championship teams, and Wood River's Mendy Benson has college experience, making the GBW an intriguing league to watch this season. But the Jerome Tigers are the early favorites with a strong nucleus returning.

Jerome's motion offense is strong in the post, where Allison Bruckner, Jordann Hollifield and Baylie Smith return. The Tigers' up-tempo style fits well with returning guards Callen, Hailey Long and Carrie Thibault.

"The big thing is team," Callen said. "It's not one or a person that's going to take us to

Hoops previews

This is the second in a series of previews on girls high school basketball. Check out Tuesday's edition for a look at the area's Class 3A and 2A teams. See Wednesday's Times-News for a look at the area's Class 1A teams.

state championship, and it's not our coaches. It's our team and what we create together."

Burley Bobcats

Head coach: Gordon Kerbs, 17th season at Burley, 23rd overall
2007-08 record: 16-9

Whether he's cooking breakfast or coaching the Burley Bobcats, Gordon Kerbs knows what he's doing. "We're going to have to be

really good at ham-and-eggging it," Kerbs said, referring to the Bobcats' need to have different team members perform well at different times.

Senior point guard Kassi Kerbs (10.1 points per game last season) is a three-year starter, as is junior post player Teresa Wayment (5 ppg, 4.5 rpg). Paige Andersen also returns for her senior year. Burley will be steady on the perimeter, but is undersized in the post. Gordon Kerbs likes his team's intensity and attitude. As they gain experience, the Bobcats have enough fire in them to be successful.

Minico Spartans

Head coach: Joe D. Shepard, first season at Minico, 21st overall
2007-08 record: 9-13

The Joe D. Shepard era in Spartanville begins. The former Buhl and Twin Falls

Eagles, Bengals play to first NFL tie in six years

By Joe Kay
Associated Press writer

CINCINNATI — Donovan McNabb expected to keep playing until someone scored, no matter how long it took. Mercifully, the NFL's rules set a time limit on terrible play.

Eagles 13, Bengals 13. It couldn't have ended any other way. McNabb fumbled and threw three interceptions in regulation Sunday, and the Bengals botched the only scoring chance in overtime, leaving the equally inept teams with the NFL's first tied game in six years.

Cincinnati's Shayne Graham missed a 47-yard field goal with 7 seconds left in overtime, falling to the ground as the ball sailed a few inches wide to the right. It was a fitting finish to a game played like the very definition of a tie. Despite

all the shanked punts and trick plays, this one went nowhere. "Terrible," Bengals quarterback Ryan Fitzpatrick said.

No one was more surprised than McNabb that it ended so soon — 3 full hours, 46 minutes after halftime and an opening kickoff. The 10th-year quarterback thought it would keep going until someone scored, just like a playoff game.

Wrong. "I didn't know that," said McNabb, who played a leading role in keeping it tied. "I never been part of a tie. I never even knew it was in the rule book. I was looking forward to getting the opportunity to get out there and try to drive to win the game. But unfortunately with the rules, we settled with a tie."

INSIDE:

Full NFL roundup & scoreboard
Page A6



Cincinnati Bengals running back Cedric Benson (32) is tackled by Philadelphia Eagles defensive end Darren Howard (90) Sunday, in Cincinnati. The Eagles and Bengals played to a 13-13 tie.

No. 6 Michigan State routs Idaho

By Larry Lago
Associated Press writer

EAST LANSING, Mich. — Michigan State made its opener look like an exhibition. Chris Allen scored a career-high 21, leading the sixth-ranked Spartans to a 100-62 win over Idaho on Sunday night.

Michigan State's Raymar Morgan also scored 21 points. Kalin Lucas had 13 points and nine assists and Goran Sutton added 10 points.

Mac Hopson had 13 points and Brandon Wiley scored 10 for the Vandals (1-1). Michigan State ran away with the game and didn't let

up, just as it did in outscoring Northern Michigan and Lake Superior State 230-126.

Allen's second 3-pointer put the Spartans ahead 12-1 and they led 25-4 en route to a 54-29 lead at halftime.

After Idaho got within 19 points, Michigan State went on a 22-2 run to take an 83-44 lead.

Michigan State won its 32nd straight home opener and its 25th consecutive game against a non-conference opponent.

It will be tough for them to extend that streak over the next month.

After playing at Indiana

cash they needed to race, and the champion was the guy on top at the end of a long grueling season.

Johnson's titles have been won in the glitzy new Chase to the championship format, where the best 12 drivers compete over a 10-race sprint to the title.

Johnson and his Hendrick Motorsports team have mastered the system, proving themselves unbeatable in their pursuit of Yarborough's mark.

They've won their titles with consistency — he finished outside the top 10 just twice in this Chase.

BSU remains at No. 9 in BCS rankings

By Ralph Russo
Associated Press writer

NEW YORK — All the national title contenders took care of business and the BCS standings were unchanged at the top Sunday.

Alabama and Texas Tech holding the first two spots and Florida, Texas and Oklahoma poised to move up.

Boise State is ninth in the standings and unshaken. The Broncos can be eligible for an at-large BCS berth if they win out and are Western Athletic Conference champions, but they'll need Utah, who is ranked 8th, to lose to earn an automatic bid to one of the five marquee bowl games for the second time in three seasons.

The Crimson Tide ran away from Mississippi State in the second half of a 32-7 victory Saturday that kept Alabama on top of both the USA Today coaches' poll and the Harris poll. The Tide has a .5787 BCS average.

Texas Tech (.9698)

remained second in the polls and first according to the computer ratings during a week off. The Red Raiders head into their fourth straight game against a ranked opponent, this time at Oklahoma, in control of their national title and Big 12 championship hopes.

The Sooners also had the week off, while Florida and Texas both had blowout victories Saturday.

Florida and Alabama will play for the Southeastern Conference title on Dec. 6, and if they can avoid losing before they get there, the game will probably amount to a national semifinal with the winner advanced to play for the national championship.

Southern California, also a big winner Saturday, is still stuck behind the top five and in need of at least a couple upsets to reach the national championship game.

USC also needs help to win the Pac-10 championship and earn a trip to

Please see BCS, Page A6



Boise State defensive back Cedric Febie breaks a pass intended for Idaho receiver Marcel Posay in the fourth quarter Saturday, at the Kibbie Dome in Moscow. Boise State won 45-10.

Johnson wins 3rd Cup title

By Jenna Fryer
Associated Press writer

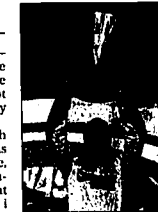
HOMESTEAD, Fla. — Nothing could stop Jimmie Johnson's drive into the NASCAR record books. Not even a final, furious push by Carl Edwards.

Edwards led a race-high 157 laps, ran out of gas as he crossed the finish line, but still won Sunday's season-ending race. Johnson won his third Cup title in 11 months. Johnson's series-high ninth win of the year wasn't enough to wrest away the Sprint Cup title.

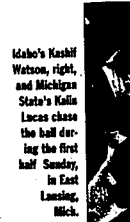
Johnson locked up his 11th consecutive championship with a solid 15th-place run, beating Edwards by 69 points to join Cale Yarborough as the only drivers in NASCAR history to win three straight titles.

It's the ultimate consistency — he worked so hard to put ourselves in this position," Johnson said. "It's just total teamwork and dedication. There were times this year when things were dark, but we buckled down and got to work and that's what it was really all about."

Yarborough won his three titles 30 years ago, under a different scoring system and in a very different NASCAR. He accomplished his feat when drivers scraped together the



NASCAR driver Jimmie Johnson lifts the Sprint Cup Series trophy after winning the NASCAR Sprint Cup Series championship for the third consecutive year on Sunday, in Homestead, Fla.



Idaho's Keshi Watson, right, and Michigan State's Kalin Lucas chase the ball during the first half Sunday, in East Lansing, Mich.

cash they needed to race, and the champion was the guy on top at the end of a long grueling season. Johnson's titles have been won in the glitzy new Chase to the championship format, where the best 12 drivers compete over a 10-race sprint to the title. Johnson and his Hendrick Motorsports team have mastered the system, proving themselves unbeatable in their pursuit of Yarborough's mark. They've won their titles with consistency — he finished outside the top 10 just twice in this Chase.

EDITORIAL

What, exactly, is 'ordinary and necessary'?

Idaho Press-Tribune, Nampa

Just what is it that distinguishes the "ordinary and necessary" from the extraordinary and unnecessary?

Seeing as how these are subjective words, it depends largely upon whom you ask. When it comes to government entities incurring debt to pay for projects it deems as "ordinary and necessary," there are sometimes citizens who have different opinions than those of government entities.

Lawsuits have resulted from those differences in opinion, and one of the latest is from the group of citizens challenging two Canyon County projects — a new jail holding facility and renovation on a building that will house the motor vehicle license and Development Services Department offices. District Judge Linda Copley ruled that the lawsuits can go forward to court hearings.

The good thing about that is that we may get a better idea of just how to define "ordinary and necessary." The legal system is often the butt of many unflattering jokes, but one of the benefits it provides society is to give us a firmer understanding of what we can do and what we can't.

We're not arguing either for or against the lawsuit. It could well be a compelling case that these projects are necessary and don't need voter approval. They argue they are moving forward on a pass-as-you-go basis with available funds.

The plaintiffs may also have a solid argument that the projects which have already been started obligate them to spend more money in the future, money they may not have on hand when that time comes.

Yes, allowing these lawsuits to go forward will end up costing the county and the taxpayers money. But citizens need to be able to challenge their governments when they think they've overstepped their bounds, and ultimately governments get their power from the people — not the reverse. Canyon County taxpayers deserve to have a ruling on this, both for these two cases and for future ones that may arise. When we have a better idea of what our officials can and can't do without voter approval, we'll all have a better idea of how to deal with future projects, some of which may or may not be deemed "ordinary and necessary."

With regards to the prison issue, it's important to point out that Idaho has very specific laws about how prisoners are to be treated. We need to make sure we're adhering to those laws as we address the issue in the future. If the powers that be don't like those laws, they need to address that in the state Legislature.

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 Bitzenburg and Ruth S. Pierce.

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What the free market really needs

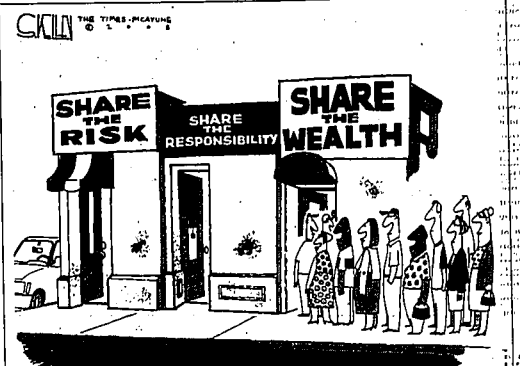
The free-market system, it is fashionable to say, is to blame for the current financial crisis. By way of rejoinder, a growing cohort of commentators has argued that the crisis should be understood not as a failure of free-market economic theory but as its vindication. They argue that the U.S. government perverted the wisdom of the market by forcing banks to make loans no rational actor would make — and that the players took the risks they did because they held a reasonable expectation of a government bailout should things get hairy. The problem, in this view, is not that the markets were free but that they weren't free enough.



CLAIRE BERLINSKI

This analysis is largely correct. Nonetheless, the people who advance it tend to get a particular kind of fish-eyed stare in response. Deep down, they know what that stare means. It's the look they give themselves used to get the earnest coffeehouse Marxists who argued that the problem with communism wasn't that the theory was wrong but that it hadn't been applied properly. The inherent intellectual honesty is required of free-market economists. Free markets work splendidly, in theory. But as no less a free marketer than the great Adam Smith himself observed in "The Theory of Moral Sentiments" — the book that preceded "The Wealth of Nations" — in application, free markets rely on specific social, moral and political institutions. These institutions must be exceedingly robust if the free market is to deliver all of the splendid promises made for it.

In most of the world, they are not, and the chances of



making them significantly more robust are slim.

Contract law, transparent regulatory structures, transparent bookkeeping and systems for exchanging accurate economic information — such as a free press — are essential if a free market is to work. Very few countries have any of these, much less all of them. Because it relies on such rare conditions, the smoothly functioning free-market economy that never suffers the financial equivalent of an epileptic seizure is in most of the world almost as much of a utopian ideal as the centralized command economy which there are no lines for bread.

Free-market boundary conditions are complex. They are still poorly understood. The causes of the Wall Street meltdown will no doubt be debated for a good time to come. But clearly a toxic mixture of a lack of transparency, inadequate regulation, inadequate systems for exchanging crucial economic information and outright fraud were involved.

In the end, the institutions that support free markets were more than weak enough in the United States and other developed nations to cause complete, if tempo-

rary, free-market failure.

One obstacle towers above all the others when it comes to the free market: flat-out corruption. In the developing world, and to some degree in the developed world, corruption is plain to see and receives too little attention. Corruption frequently leads to a disrespect for private-property rights, a judiciary that doesn't properly enforce contracts, dubious banking practices and a serious lack of regulatory oversight. All will result in economic failure.

The institutions on which free markets rely may be excellent things, but to most of the world they are alien, antithetical to local history and, when they are adopted, often are more cosmetic than authentic.

The obstacles to wiping out corruption vary enormously from country to country, from culture to culture. No single approach to removing them could even hope to work. This is a point U.S. policymakers fail chronically to appreciate in their efforts to promote the economic system they have been seeking to export since World War II. But appreciate it they must. Without adequate institutional support, free markets will fail — often

— and free-market economies will be blamed, wrongly.

This does not at all mean that deregulate everything should no longer command our allegiance; even free markets that fail regularly create more wealth and raise general living standards vastly more effectively than do command economies. It is essential, however, and only honest to acknowledge that free markets in and of themselves are not enough.

It is much easier to say "let deregulate everything" than it is to create a culture in which people believe deeply that contracts matter just what they say, business will go to those that offer the best services at the lowest price and the courts will enforce the rules fairly. Unfortunately, without such a culture, deregulation is not apt to have the desired effect, and any belief in the contrary is as unhelpful and delusional as the belief that the command economy would work to perfection if only it were given a fair try.

Claire Berlinski is the author of "There Is No Alternative: Why Margaret Thatcher Was Right." She wrote this commentary for the Los Angeles Times.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Ads did not honor veterans

Reading through the paper this morning (Nov. 11) was appalled to see how you printed the tribute pictures of our veterans intermingled with advertisements. If I had not known to look for the pictures, I might have mistaken those pages for a Lascham full-page advertisement. My brother does not deserve to be in the middle of an advertisement page just so you can make money. I did not mind the ads that acknowledged our veterans and thanked them for their service but the ones that were just selling merchandise, insurance, shoes and burgers and never mentioned the veterans in my opinion, were very disrespectful.

I hope you will be a little more thoughtful in the future and give these "special" people their own space. ERNA RUSSELL, Twin Falls

Veteran ads were disrespectful

I cannot believe the "trib-

Tell us what you think

ON PAPER: The Times-News welcomes letters from readers on subjects of public interest. Please limit letters to 300 words, include your signature, mailing address and phone number. Writers who sign letters with false names will be permanently barred from publication. Letters may be brought to our Twin Falls office; mailed to P.O. Box 548, Twin Falls, ID 83303; faxed to (208) 734-5533; or e-mailed to letters@magicvalley.com.

ute" you "sold" and put in the paper for our veterans. We paid \$30 each for our beloved relatives who served in the armed forces to have their pictures, names and information published in honor of their service to our country, which we are extremely proud of. Some are still alive and some deceased but not forgotten.

I was anxious to see it in your paper but was so disappointed to find their pictures spread out in the middle of advertisements! What a dishonorable way to make money. The advertisements acknowledged the veterans and said thank you (Golden Corral giving them a free meal) would have been all right but to just

advertise the sale of shoes, burgers, insurance, etc., and spread the veterans throughout that advertisement page was so disrespectful I cried.

Next year, why don't we just put them in the back of the paper in the classifieds? If you are going to do an honorable thing — give them a page of their own. Shame on you! SUE HARR Buhl

Appreciation for Army Band

Another wonderful program sponsored by the Times-News and the College of Southern Idaho. Thank you for bringing

the Jazz Ambassadors of The United States Army Field Band to all of us in Magic Valley.

RUTH AND REED DAY, Twin Falls

Veterans did more than participate

It was nice to see a Veterans Day salute to a few of our veterans in the Times-News. However, to use the word "participated" hardly seems an appropriate choice of words. Veterans served, they fought, they sacrificed, they were wounded and they gave their lives. To use such a poor choice of words, it seems to me, is — to say the least — appalling and demeaning.

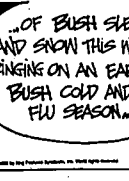
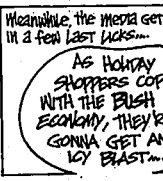
Many, many heartfelt thanks, veterans, for your service and sacrifice for me and for everyone and for the USA. I will never use the word "participate" in the same breath when speaking or writing of the awesome jobs you all have done. NANCY L. SMITH Burley

THE LIGHTER SIDE OF POLITICS

Doonesbury



Mallard Fillmore



By Bruce Tins

Time to rewrite the rules of global economy

This is a defining moment for the world economy.

We are living through the first financial crisis of this new global age. And the decisions we make will affect us over not just the next few weeks but for years to come.

The global problems we face require global solutions. At the end of World War II, American and European visionaries built a new international economic order and formed the International Monetary Fund, the World Bank and a world trade body. They acted because they knew that peace and prosperity were indivisible. They knew that for prosperity to be sustained, it had to be shared. Such was the impact of what they did for their day and age that Secretary of State Dean Acheson spoke of being "present at the creation."



GORDON BROWN

Today, the same sort of visionary internationalism is needed to resolve the crises and challenges of a different age. And the greatest of global challenges demands of us the boldest of global cooperation.

The old postwar international financial institutions are out of date. They have to be rebuilt for a wholly new era in which there is global, not national, competition and open, not closed, economies. International flows of capital and trade can overwhelm individual governments. And trust,

the most precious asset of all, has been eroded.

When President Bush met with the Group of Seven finance ministers last month, they agreed that we all had to deal with not only the issue of liquidity in the banking system but also the capitalization and funding of banks. It was clear that national action alone would not have been sufficient. We knew we had to send a clear and unambiguous message to the markets that governments across the world were prepared to act in a coordinated manner and do whatever was necessary to stabilize the system and address the fundamental problems.

Confidence about the future is vital to building confidence for today. We must deal with more than the symptoms of the current crisis. We have to tackle the root causes. So the next stage is to

rebuild our fractured international financial system.

Last month, European leaders came together to propose the guiding principles that we believe should underpin this new Bretton Woods: transparency, sound banking, responsibility, integrity and global governance. We agreed that urgent decisions implementing these principles should be made to root out the irresponsible and often undisclosed lending at the heart of our problems. To do this, we need cross-border supervision of financial institutions; the removal of standards for accounting and regulation; a more responsible approach to executive remuneration that rewards hard work, effort and enterprise but not irresponsible risk-taking; and the removal of our international institutions to make them effective early-warning systems for the

world economy.

Later, French President Nicolas Sarkozy and European Commission President Jose Manuel Barroso met with President Bush to discuss the urgent reforms of the international financial system that are crucial both to preventing another crisis and to restoring confidence, which is necessary to get banks back to their essential purpose — maintaining the flow of money to individuals and businesses. The reforms I have outlined are vital to ensuring that globalization works not just for some but for all hard-pressed families and businesses in all our communities.

It is important, too, that in the international leaders' meeting that has been proposed we seek a world trade agreement and reject the beggar-thy-neighbor protectionism that has been a feature of past crises.

There are no Britain-only or Europe-only or America-only solutions to today's problems. We are all in this together, and we can only resolve this crisis together.

Over the past weeks, we have shown that with political will it is possible to agree on a global multibillion-dollar package to recapitalize our banks across many continents. In the next few weeks, we need to show the same resolve and spirit of cooperation to create the rules for our new global economy. If we do this, 2008 will be remembered not just as a year of financial crisis but as the year we started to build the world anew.

Gordon Brown is the British prime minister. He wrote this commentary for The Washington Post.

Madam President: Will she ever get there?

It is commonplace to hear 2008 heralded as an excellent year for women. But has it been?

First Sen. Hillary Rodham Clinton ran the most serious presidential campaign of any woman in U.S. history. Then Gov. Sarah Palin, the first woman on a Republican ticket, sparked an initial rush of excitement. Never before have women played such a prominent role in national politics, the reasoning goes, and that has laid the groundwork for even greater advancement the next time a woman runs.

But both women's campaigns devolved into such strife, their candidacies provoking such frenzied passions and mocking caricatures along the way, that it's only fair to ask whether the first woman's path to the White House was eased, this year or whether Clinton and Palin simply unlearned the land mines without defusing any of them. Barack Obama broke a huge barrier. But another one still awaits.

Palin has emerged as the figure most transformed by her brief time in the public eye. After bursting onto the national scene as a moose-hunting mother of five who could rescue John McCain's campaign, the first woman to wound up sinking Clinton and Palin simply unlearned the land mines without defusing any of them.

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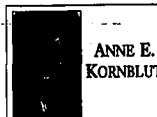
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ANNE E. KORNBLOT

But the New York senator's uncharacteristically tearful moment on the eve of the New Hampshire primary will forever be linked to her victory there, directly or not. And after her campaign ended, some of her supporters threatened to revolt if Obama picked a woman other than Clinton as his running mate.

More than just ground-breaking candidates, Clinton and Palin became cultural flashpoints. That Clinton would be ridiculed and mimicked and scrutinized came as no surprise to her team, but some of her advisers chalked the rough treatment up as much to her being a Clinton as to her being a woman. As the 2008 primary campaign went on, however, they increasingly spoke of a genuine divide in standard rooted in gender; by the end, they openly complained of sexist treatment in the media, which goes some way toward explaining why Clinton declined to criticize Palin once McCain chose the Alaska governor as his running mate.

Palin lost her luster soon after the Republican convention, stumbling on basic substance in interviews, hiding from most of the media and making claims about her record that were debunked. But rather than move to confront her weaknesses, her campaign swiftly seized on sexism as a reason Palin was being grilled in the first place. Most notably, the Republican campaign arranged a conference call

to denounce Obama for using the phrase "lipstick on a pig" because just days earlier, Palin herself had made a reference to lipstick. Professionals will argue about the political wisdom of that tactic — it did, after all, distract attention from more serious issues that were falling to boost McCain's standing — but few would cite it as a trail-blazing moment in the history of gender politics.

Prominent women in politics have been largely focused on the good news — that Clinton and Palin were there at all. A woman has a right claim to being head of the opposition party. Meanwhile, many Democrats, still scared of picking the scabs from the primary wounds, have embraced Obama's ascent as a positive harbinger of its own.

"Every time we break down one barrier, the other quickly comes down as well," said Donna Brazile, the onetime campaign manager for Al Gore. Throughout the year, most observers have tried to put race vs. gender — like, what is the greatest disadvantage? As if some of us don't represent both."

In the months and years before she announced her candidacy, Clinton was often asked whether the woman was ready to elect a woman president of the United States. "Well, we won't know until we try," she always said.

Having tried, heading into 2009, the question is still out there.

Anne E. Kornblut covers politics for The Washington Post. Write to her at kornbluta@washpost.com.

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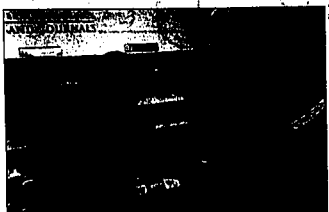
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The federal government has published the Plum Book, an inventory of positions that will soon be vacated by the Bush administration and open for hire. Joyce Tate and Stephen R. Morley, who work at the Government Printing Office bookstore, put copies of the new Plum Book on display.

Plum Book: The ultimate wish-book for govt. jobseekers

By Nanacy Benac
Associated Press writer

WASHINGTON — Hate your current job? Want to find a new one? Monster.com for something better?

Try cracking open the newest page-turner from the federal government, the 210-page "United States Government Policy and Supporting Positions."

Inside what's more commonly known as the Plum Book, you'll find a listing of more than 7,000 top government jobs that are likely to open up with the presidential transition.

Sens. Joseph Lieberman and Susan Collins, the leaders of the Senate committee that sponsored the book's publication, call it "essential reading for anyone interested in pursuing public service in the executive branch of government."

But one expert on the federal bureaucracy cautions that the \$38 paperback may not be a very smart investment for jobseekers. "It certainly isn't a classified jobs section," said Paul Light, a New York University professor. "It's a place to look for a possibility that might come to you in a dream world. It doesn't apply for these jobs in an open process. It's really just a wonderful listing for people to page through and say 'Gee, I wish I could get that.' The real plums in the plum book go to people who are well connected to the administration."

In other words, it still comes down to who you know — or how hard you worked on President-elect

Barack Obama's campaign. The book represents a compilation of appointed jobs from all federal agencies, as well as agency heads and their immediate subordinates, policy executives and advisers, and officials who report to those officials. It reveals salaries, who's currently got the jobs, and whether the job requires Senate confirmation.

For example, page 143 shows that the Broadcasting Board of Governors' station manager on Tinian Island in the Philippines gets paid \$150,229.

Scan down the same page, and there's a listing for the director of CIA, at executive pay grade II, which means \$168,000.

After the CIA, next come listings for the Chemical Safety and Hazard Investigation Board, whose chairman is at pay grade IV, which means \$145,400.

Further down the same page, there's a listing for the members of the Christopher Columbus Fellowship Foundation, pay plan "WC" — without compensation.

The idea for the Plum Book originated in 1952, when Dwight Eisenhower was elected, and Republicans took charge of the government after 22 years of Democratic control. The Republican Party requested a list of government positions that Eisenhower could fill. The next edition of "The Plum Book" appeared in 1960 and it has since been published just after every presidential election, according to the Government Printing Office.

Rufus Turner



MURTAUGH — Rufus (Tux) Turner, 84, passed away Nov. 14, 2008, surrounded by his family at St. Lukes Magic Valley Medical Center after a short illness. He was born May 2, 1924 in Murtaugh, the son of Dalphurd and Lillian Turner, the 10 of ten children. Rufus married Geneva Morris on Aug. 31, 1942. They had three children: Dan (Nels), Marjorie, Blake (Kathy) Turner and Julie (Ralph) Mitchell. Geneva passed away in 1963. Rufus then married Bonnie Whitlite Perkins on Sept. 5, 1964, who has three children: Nancy (Sherrill), Perkins, Cathy (Trotter) and Brad (Ethylen) Perkins. Bonnie passed away in 1999. Rufus married Neil Smith Hulse on May 11, 2000 who had four children: Terrie (Ron) Anderson, Pat (Nels) Anderson, Rick (Kim) Hulse and Grant (Jody) Hulse.

Rufus devoted his life to his family, church and community. Rufus served in the U.S. Marines during World War II and farmed in Burley for several years. He owned and operated Community Building Supply in Murtaugh for 54 years. He built several homes in the area and helped support the Murtaugh School District in numerous ways. He was appointed by the governor as one of the original three commissioners of the Rock Creek Rural Fire District, where he served as an active commissioner until his death.

Rufus is survived by his loving wife Nell; all his children,

28 grandchildren and numerous great-grandchildren; and three siblings: Dorothy Taylor, Grant Turner and Leo Turner. He is preceded in death by his parents; two wives; four brothers, Thurman, Cordell, Roy and Kenneth; two sisters, Marjorie Turner and Delphine Goho; one grandson, Jesse Perkins. Funeral services will be held Wednesday, Nov. 19, at the Kimberly LDS Stake Center at 1 p.m. with interment to follow at Sunset Memorial Park. A visitation for family and friends will be held Tuesday Nov. 18, from 5 to 8 p.m. at the Murtaugh LDS Church with family greeting people from 6 to 8 p.m. A visitation will also be held one hour prior to the service at the Kimberly LDS Stake Center.

Rufus was known for his honest business approach, treating each customer as a friend and giving back to his community.

Please join the family in remembering Rufus by signing the on-line guestbook at www.MEM.com. In lieu of flowers, donations may be sent to Rock Creek Firefighters Association Citable Fund at P.O. Box 365, Kimberly, Idaho, 83341.

DEATH NOTICES

Marjorie Poe

Marjorie Poe, 87, of Twin Falls, passed away Sunday Nov. 16, 2008 at Heritage Assisted Living in Twin Falls. Arrangements are under the direction of White Mortuary.

Ruben Walters

RUBEN — Ruben Walters, an 85-year-old Rupert resident, passed away Nov. 16, 2008 at Valley Vista Care in Rupert. Services are pending and will be announced by Hansen Mortuary in Rupert.

Emma Jean Reifer Adams

PAUL — Emma Jean Reifer Adams, a 77-year-old Paul resident, passed away at Minidoka Memorial Hospital. Services are pending and will be announced by Hansen Mortuary in Rupert.

Donald Ramseyer

Donald Ramseyer, 88, of Twin Falls, passed away Sunday, Nov. 16, 2008 at Bridgeview Care Center in Twin Falls. Arrangements are under the direction of White Mortuary "Chapel by the Park."

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

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The Betty Lemmons Family would like to thank their extended family, church family and friends for their expressions of love. Our sincere thanks and gratitude for all those comforting acts. ~ God bless you all!

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SERVICES

William "Bill" Frank Ling of Twin Falls, funeral at 11 a.m. today at White Mortuary in Twin Falls.

Helen Irene Tilton Hamilton of Filer, celebration of life at graveside service at 11 a.m. today at the Filer Cemetery (Reynolds Funeral Chapel in Twin Falls).

Sam Skinner of Twin Falls, celebration of life at Reynolds Funeral Chapel, 2466 Addison Ave. E. in Twin Falls; visitation will follow the service.

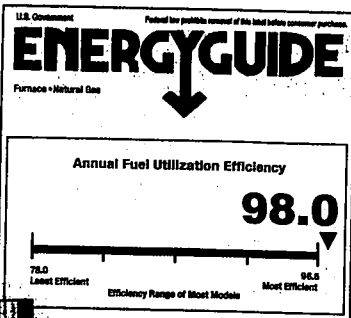
Ralph E. Garstide of Twin Falls, funeral at 11 a.m. Wednesday at Farnsworth Mortuary, 1343 S. Lincoln in Jerome; visitation from 6 to 8 p.m. Tuesday and one hour before the service Wednesday at the mortuary.

Betty Ann Jamison of

Rupert, funeral at 11 a.m. Wednesday at the Rupert LDS Stake Center, 324 E. 18th St.; visitation from 6 to 8 p.m. Tuesday at Rasmussen Funeral Home, 1350 E. 16th St. in Burley; and 10 to 10:45 a.m. Wednesday at the church.

Enid "Pauline" Burtrum of Kimberly, funeral at 11 a.m. Thursday at White Mortuary in Twin Falls; visitation one hour before the service Thursday at the mortuary.

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Obamas enjoy fine food, wine, but hold the beets

By Deanna Bellandi
Associated Press writer

CHICAGO — Former President George H.W. Bush famously disliked broccoli. His son, the outgoing president, is a Texas meat-eater. President-elect Barack Obama loves chili and shuns beets.

Obama's aversion to beets aside — "I always avoid eating them," he says — the new first family are foodies with a wide-ranging palate. They have hankerings for Mexican food, enjoy hand-crafted pastas and their kids dig fried chicken and macaroni and cheese. "They are totally adventurous people ... they 'enjoy food,'" said chef Rick Bayless of Topolobampo, an upscale contemporary Mexican restaurant in downtown Chicago that's a favorite of the Obamas. Soon, the White House staff will be catering to the family's food needs, and what the Obamas eat in their hometown of Chicago offers a hint at what might be served at 1600 Pennsylvania Ave. At the White House now, Tex-Mex and barbecue are among the favorites of President George W. Bush.

At Bayless' restaurant, Obama and his wife Michelle usually begin their meals with tortilla soup and gua-



The Democratic presidential hopeful, Sen. Barack Obama, D-Ill., left, and his wife Michelle as they eat breakfast at Pamela's diner in Pittsburgh on April 22. President-elect Barack Obama and the new first family are foodies with a wide-ranging palate.

canole as starters, followed by something from a changing seasonal menu to reflect the freshest fare. The Obamas aren't teetotalers, partaking of the restaurant's margaritas and wine.

"They never turn a nose up at anything we suggest to them," said Bayless, whose Frontera Grill was named outstanding restaurant by the James Beard Foundation last year.

Obama's familiarity with finer foods got him in a bit of trouble during the presidential campaign. He was talking to Iowa farmers to show he understood their plight when

he mentioned the high cost of a boutique salad green. "Anybody grow into Whole Foods lately and see what they charge for arugula?" Obama said, referring to a high-end food chain loaded with organic products. "I mean, they're charging a lot of money for this."

Critics latched on to the comment, painting him as elitist. But it's not just fancy dining the Obamas like. They enjoy takeout from a neighborhood pizza joint and an inspired restaurant not far from their home where Michelle Obama fancies the grilled tilapia.

Showdown looming in Congress on automaker rescue

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Hard-line opponents of an auto industry bailout branded the industry a "dinosaur" whose "day of reckoning" is near, while Democrats pledged Sunday to do their best to get Detroit a slice of the \$700 billion Wall Street rescue in this week's lame-duck session of Congress.

The companies are seeking \$25 billion from the financial industry bailout for emergency loans, though supporters of the aid for General Motors Corp., Ford Motor Co. and Chrysler LLC have offered to reduce the size of the bailout to win backing in Congress.

Senate Democrats intended to introduce legislation Monday attaching an auto bailout to a House-passed bill extending unemployment benefits, a vote was expected as early as Wednesday.

A White House alternative would let the car companies take \$25 billion in loans previously approved to develop fuel-efficient vehicles and use the money for more immediate needs. Congressional Democrats oppose the White House plan as shortsighted.

Majority Democrats will need at least a dozen GOP votes in the Senate to prevent opponents from blocking their measure — assuming all Senate Democrats support it. Senate Republican Leader Mitch McConnell of Kentucky questioned whether there was sufficient Democratic support for an auto bailout in a statement released Sunday.

States seek emergency aid from Washington

The Washington Post

NEW YORK — First came the banks looking for a federal rescue plan to stay afloat. Next it was the automakers seeking a bailout. And now state governments say they, too, need emergency federal assistance to remain solvent.

"I believe that all that we are seeing is happening in the states needs to be elevated in the national discussion about restoring our economy," said California State Assembly Speaker Karen Bass. D. California is the world's sixth-largest economy. And just as we cannot let the auto industry fail, we can't let the state of California fail.

"The National Governors Association has sent a letter to congressional leaders asking for immediate action to aid states. New York Gov. David Paterson, D, has urged federal assistance, telling Congress in recent remarks, 'We are cutting all we can, and we will eat all that we can, but inevitably, the deficit is too voluminous for us to address.' He added, 'Targeted, sensible action by the federal government could provide relief for us now.'"

California Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger, R, also demanded federal action, blaming the subprime mortgage crisis for the economic downturn. "Government is really at fault, and this is why government has to get out of this mess now and figure out very quickly how to get us out of it," he said. "And I'm talking about Washington."



Huntington, W.Va., shrugs at poorest health ranking in country

By Mike Stobbe
Associated Press writer

HUNTINGTON, W.Va. — As a portly woman plodded ahead of him on the sidewalk, the obese mayor of America's fattest and unhealthiest city explained why health is not a big local issue.

"It doesn't come up," said David Foltz, 5-foot-9 and 233 pounds, as he walked toward City Hall one recent morning. "We've got a lot of economic challenges here in Huntington. That's usually the focus."

Huntington's economy has withered, its poverty rate is worse than the national average, and vagrants haunt a downtown riverfront park. But this city's financial woes are not nearly as bad as its health.

Nearly half the adults in Huntington's five-county metropolitan area are obese — an astounding percentage far bigger than the national average in a country with a well-known weight problem.

Huntington leads in a half-dozen other illness measures, too, including heart disease and diabetes. It even tops in the percentage of elderly people who have lost all their teeth (half of them have).

It's a sad situation, and a potential harbinger of what will happen to other U.S. communities, said Ken Thorpe, an Emory University health policy professor who is working with West Virginia officials on health reform legislation.

"They may be at the very top, but obesity and diabetes trends are very similar" in many other communities, particularly in the South, Thorpe said.

The Huntington area's health problems, cited in a U.S. health report, are a terrible distinction for the city, but the locals barely talk about it. Many don't even know how poorly the city ranks.

Culture and history are at least part of the problem, health officials say.



Huntington, W. Va. Mayor David Foltz walks along Eighth Street on Oct. 1, on his morning stroll from home to work at City Hall. Following obesity surgery in October of 2007, Foltz began a walking campaign and has lost nearly 80 pounds.

Unhealthiest U.S. city in West Virginia

Nearly half the adults in Huntington, W.Va., are obese — much higher than the national average. The area also leads in six other illness measures, including heart disease and diabetes.

People who reported ...	National range	Median — Huntington, W.Va.
AGE 18 AND OLDER		
Fair or poor health	8.2%	24.3%
Limited activities due to physical, mental, or emotional problems	12.9	35.8
No leisure-time physical activities (past month)	12.9	31.4
Being told they have diabetes	3.8	12.7
AGE 20 AND OLDER		
Being obese	14.8	45.8
AGE 45 AND OLDER		
Being told they have coronary heart disease	6.1	21.6
AGE 65 AND OLDER		
Having all natural teeth extracted	7.1	48.1

NOTE: Data from 146 selected U.S. metropolitan and micropolitan areas surveyed in 2006. Huntington, W.Va., results are based on the Huntington, W.Va., suburb of Ky. area surveyed in the report.

SOURCE: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

This city on the Ohio River is surrounded by Appalachia's thinly populated hills. It has long been a blue-collar, white-skinned community — overwhelmingly people of English, Irish and German ancestry.

For decades, Huntington thrived with the coal mines to its south, as barges, trucks and trains loaded with the black fuel continually chugged into and past the city. There were plenty of manufacturing jobs in the chemical industry and in glassworks, steel and locomotive parts. Nearly 80,000 people lived in the city in 1950.

The traditional diet was heavy with fried foods, salt, gravy, sauces, and fatter meats — dense with calories burnt off through manual labor. Obesity was not a worry then. Workplace injuries were.

But as the coal industry modernized and the economy changed, manufacturing jobs left. The city's population is now fewer than 50,000, and chronic diseases — many of them connected to obesity — seem much more common.

Colleges are remarkably resilient institutions. Princeton University's Nassau Hall still bears the cannonball marks from the Revolutionary War battle that raged near campus. Dickinson and Bowdoin colleges saw their first buildings burn down, as did the University of Vermont, which also survived its first president going insane.

Still, every year, a handful of institutions go under. And while a wave of college closings is unlikely, the current economic turmoil could accelerate the pace.

In addition to Cascade, another Christian institution, Taylor University, announced

Three more years in Iraq

Iraq's government approves security pact with U.S.

BAGHDAD (AP) — Iraq's Cabinet overwhelmingly approved a security pact with the United States on Sunday, ending prolonged negotiations to allow American forces to remain for three more years in the country — they first occupied in 2003.

The deal detailing the conditions of the U.S. presence still needs parliamentary approval, and lawmakers could vote as soon as Nov. 24. For Iraqis, the breakthrough was bittersweet because they won concessions from the Americans but must accept the presence of U.S. troops until 2012.

"It's the best possible, available option," said government spokesman Ali al-Dabbagh. He was referring to the conflict between Iraq's desire for full sovereignty and control over security and its need for American support and cooperation to achieve that goal.

Al-Dabbagh described the pact — intended to supplant the U.N. mandate expiring Dec. 31 — as an "agreement on the withdrawal of U.S. troops," and Washington welcomed the Cabinet's approval.

While the process is not yet complete, we remain hopeful and confident we'll soon have an agreement that serves both the people of Iraq and the United States well and sends a signal to the region and the world that both our governments are committed to a stable, secure and democratic Iraq," said Gordon Johnroo, spokesman for the White House's National Security Council.

There is a good chance parliament will pass the agreement with a large majority, since the parties that make up Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki's coalition government dominate the legislature.

The pact was due to be completed by the end of July, but negotiations stumbled over parts pertaining to Iraqi sovereignty and judicial oversight.

Al-Dabbagh said Iraq's government has received U.S. assurances that the President-elect Barack Obama would honor the agreement, and pointed out that each side has the right to repeat it after giving one year's notice. Obama, who takes office in January, has said he would pull U.S. combat troops out of Iraq within 16 months of moving into the White House — or May 2010.

College closings rare, but could rise in economic downturn

By Justin Pope
Associated Press writer

For 15 years, Cascade College in Portland, Ore., struggled to find the funds that any college needs: students to pay tuition, and donors to help build an endowment.

Then came the global economic meltdown, and suddenly that struggle became an impossibility.

Less than a month, the small Christian college with just 280 students and \$4 million in debt announced it would have to shut down at the end of the current academic year.

"Our hearts would have said we would like to continue trying," said Cascade President Bill Goard, somberly adding he never imagined his duties would include shutting the school down. But on top of their long-term challenges, "small colleges like Cascade just don't have the slack to survive those kinds of impacts," he said.

Colleges are remarkably resilient institutions. Princeton University's Nassau Hall still bears the cannonball marks from the Revolutionary War battle that raged near campus. Dickinson and

"We've seen what's happened to family income, the financial assets of so many families."

— Matt Hamill, senior vice president of NACUBO, a college business officers group

Bowdoin colleges saw their first buildings burn down, as did the University of Vermont, which also survived its first president going insane.

Still, every year, a handful of institutions go under. And while a wave of college closings is unlikely, the current economic turmoil could accelerate the pace.

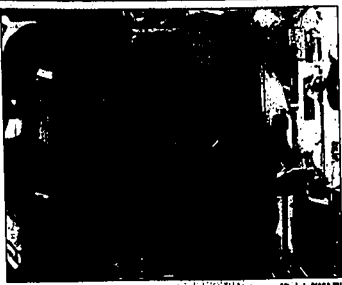
In addition to Cascade, another Christian institution, Taylor University, announced

last month it would close the undergraduate program at a branch campus in Fort Wayne, Ind., while Pillsbury Baptist Bible College in Owatonna, Minn., announced plans to close.

And on Wednesday, Vennard College, a Christian school in Iowa that was down to about 80 students, announced it would close at the end of the current semester — two years shy of its

100th birthday. If more college closing announcements come, it would likely be next semester, or next fall, when schools find out how many of their students don't return.

"We've seen what's happened to family income, the financial assets of so many families," said Matt Hamill, senior vice president of NACUBO, a college business officers group.



In this image from NASA TV, the crew from the Space Shuttle Endeavour is welcomed aboard the International Space Station after docking, Sunday.

Space Shuttle Endeavour links with space station

By Marcia Dunn
Associated Press writer

CAPE CANAVERAL, Fla. — Space Shuttle Endeavour linked with the international space station on Sunday, kicking off a huge home makeover that will allow twice as many astronauts to live up there beginning next year.

Commander Christopher Ferguson guided the shuttle to a smooth docking as the two spacecraft soared 212 miles above India. His ship's radar worked just fine, despite earlier trouble with the antenna.

"We understand that this house is in need of an extreme makeover and that you're the crew to do it," the space station's skipper, Mike Fincke, said as he welcomed the shuttle astronauts aboard.

His crewmate, Gregory Chamitoff, was especially excited to see Endeavour. He's been living on the space station for almost six months, and the shuttle is his ride home.

"Wow," Chamitoff exclaimed. "You look beautiful ... I am smiling from ear to ear."

Earlier in the afternoon, before Endeavour began its final approach from eight miles out, Fincke and his crew captured striking views of it and the moon, which was also prominent in many of the launch-night photos.

"It's a big day here today," Fincke said.

Once Endeavour closed to within several hundred feet, Ferguson guided it through a 360-degree backflip so Fincke and Chamitoff could take zoom-in photos of all its thermal shielding. The digital images — as many as 300 — will help NASA determine whether Endeavour sustained any damage during liftoff Friday night. Fincke

Their economy up, Chinese students head to U.S.

The Associated Press

COLUMBUS, Ohio — Chinese students are enrolling in U.S. universities in record numbers, encouraged by aggressive recruiting combined with China's booming economy and growing middle class.

Their enrollment grew by 8 percent in the fall of 2006 and by 20 percent last year, according to Institute of International Education figures being released Monday.

Individual universities surveyed by The Associated Press also are reporting high growth this year.

Chinese enrollment increased 300 percent this year at Lehigh University in Pennsylvania. George Fox University in Newburg, Ore., accepted 65 students from China, more than double its 2007 figure.

Purdue University in West Lafayette, Ind., already boasting a strong international student program, is enrolling 290 Chinese students, up from 127. The spike was more than 400 percent at Ohio State University, the nation's largest campus, with 115 undergraduates from China compared with 20 last year.

Xiaoli Liu, an Ohio State freshman from Beijing, said Chinese universities offer solid academics but can't compete with the overall experience of an American college, including more opportunities for out-of-class activities, an open learning environment and diversity.

"In China you can seldom find people from the U.S., but in the U.S. you find people from all over the world," Xiaoli said.

The influx is part of a

Studying abroad

Chinese students enrolled in U.S. universities grew by 8 percent in the fall of 2006 and jumped by 20 percent last year.

Top countries of origin of international students in the U.S., 2007-2008 (in thousands)



SOURCE: Institute of International Education

AP

solid and welcomed rebound in the number of international students coming to the United States,

with its giant pool of colleges and universities. Numbers of international students that dropped sharply due to competition from other countries and tighter visa procedures after the September 2001 terrorist attacks. But the latest IIE report finds 7 percent more students at U.S. universities than a year ago, an all-time high of 624,000.

India again sent the most students, followed by China and South Korea. Enrollment from Saudi Arabia jumped 25 percent, putting the country into the top 10 for the first time since 1982, thanks to a new Saudi government scholarship program.

A snapshot survey of life in the United States found that 55 percent reported increases in students from China, the most from any country.

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Somali Islamists publicly flog dancers

MOGADISHU, Somalia (AP) — A spokesman for a Somali Islamic group says they have publicly whipped 32 traditional dancers because it is "Un-Islamic" for men and women to dance together.

Abdirahim Isse Adow says officials of the Council of Islamic Courts on Saturday flogged the dancers in the southern town of Balad. The town is 19 miles north of the Somali capital, Mogadishu.

Witness Abdalla Hussein Yahya says 24 of the dancers were women.

For almost two years Islamic fighters have waged a vicious insurgency that has killed thousands of civilians in Mogadishu. They now control much of southern Somalia. But the Islamists are not united, unlike in 2006 when they operated as one.

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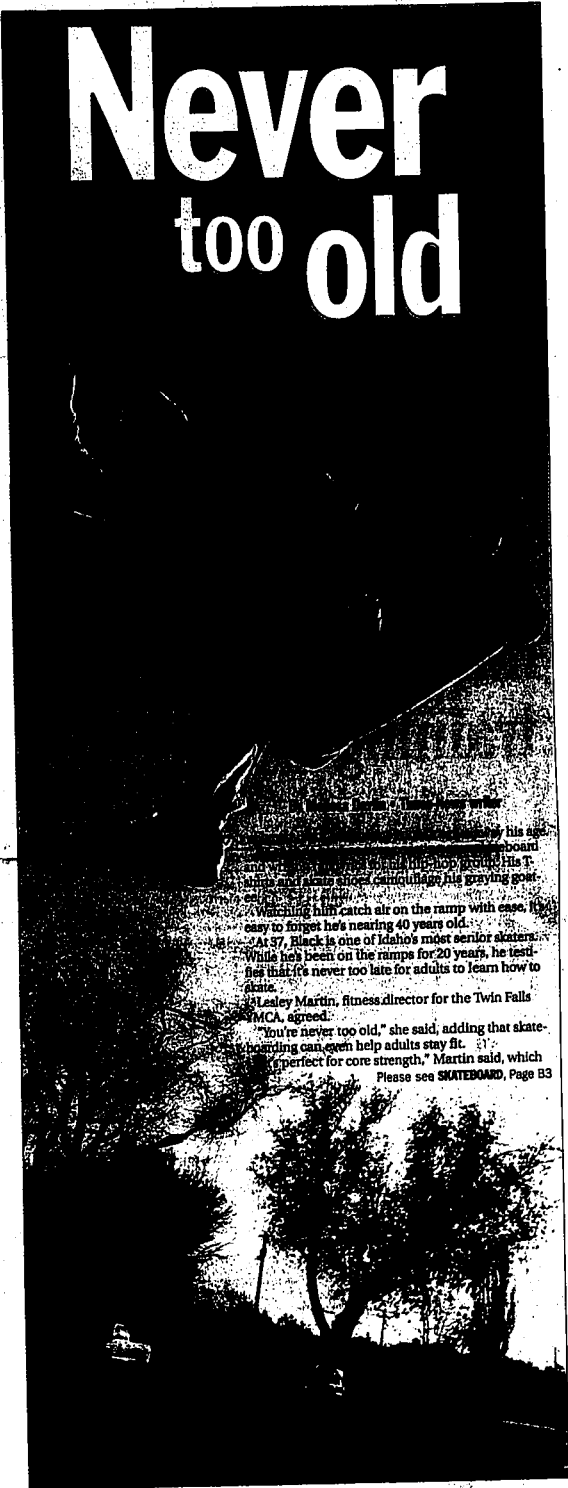
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Never too old



...way his age... skateboard... His... camouflage his graying... watching him catch air on the ramp with ease. It's easy to forget he's nearing 40 years old.

At 37, Black is one of Idaho's most senior skaters. While he's been on the ramps for 20 years, he testifies that it's never too late for adults to learn how to skate.

Lesley Martin, fitness director for the Twin Falls YMCA, agreed: "You're never too old," she said, adding that skateboarding can even help adults stay fit.

"Perfect for core strength," Martin said, which is why she encourages her clients to try it.

More stats: When participants were asked to rank major and minor reasons for not wanting to do more to attain a balanced diet, 79 percent said they're satisfied with the way they eat, and 73 percent said they don't want to give up the foods they like.

Only 41 percent said it was because they didn't understand diet and nutrition guidelines. In 2008, 40 percent percent said they were actively seeking more information on nutrition, up from 19 percent in 2000.

People also are making different choices. In the last five years, 56 percent of people surveyed increased their consumption of whole-grain foods; 50 percent, vegetables; 46 percent, fruits; and 42 percent, chicken. And 41 percent decreased their intake of beef; 23 percent, dairy; and 33 percent, pork.

When asked about maintaining a healthful diet and engaging in regular exercise, 43 percent said, "I'm already doing it." In 2002, that number was 38 percent. People in the "I know I should" category — who understand a healthy lifestyle is critical but haven't done much to achieve it — numbered 38 percent, up from 30 percent in 2002. And just 19 percent of men and

women put themselves in the "don't bother me" category — not believing that diet and exercise are important.

That's down from 32 percent in 2002.

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Shawn Black poses with his skateboard. The bottom of the board was designed by his tattoo artist. Black says he is trying to break into the world of professional skateboarding and is starting to pick up sponsors.

At 37, Shawn Black is one of Idaho's most senior skaters. He testifies that it's never too late for adults to learn how to skate.



Shawn Black heads off in the skate park with his new board in hand. "When you try crazy stuff you tend to break (the boards) a lot," Black says.

Left, Shawn Black, 37, of Twin Falls flies through the air Thursday afternoon as he demonstrates one of the many tricks he performs at skateboarding competitions across the West. Black has been skating for about 20 years and says that with age comes confidence and skill.



Shawn Black peels the sticker off his newly set up skateboard before taking it for a spin Thursday afternoon at Twin Falls Skate Park at Harmon Park. When he is not skating for fun or in competition, Black is a skateboarding instructor for Twin Falls Parks and Recreation. "We fill up every year, and we turn away just about as many as we let in," Black says.

Below, the windows of Shawn Black's SUV are filled with stickers that advertise skateboard company logos and brands. After 20 years as a skateboarder, Black is now trying to make money at the sport.



Photos by MEGAN THOMPSON/Times-News

Americans eating a bit better

By Jeannine Stain
Los Angeles Times

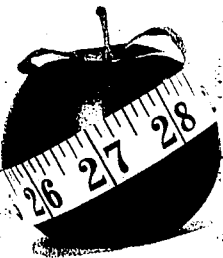
Americans are getting savvier about eating right and exercising, according to a nationwide survey of 783 men and women by the American Dietetic Association. "Nutrition and You: Trends 2008." When asked about maintaining a healthful

diet and engaging in regular exercise, 43 percent said, "I'm already doing it." In 2002, that number was 38 percent. People in the "I know I should" category — who understand a healthy lifestyle is critical but haven't done much to achieve it — numbered 38 percent, up from 30 percent in 2002. And just 19 percent of men and

women put themselves in the "don't bother me" category — not believing that diet and exercise are important. That's down from 32 percent in 2002. More stats: When participants were asked to rank major and minor reasons for not wanting to do more to attain a balanced diet, 79 percent said they're sat-

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To do for You

Diabetes support

Diabetes Support Group meets 7 p.m. Tuesday, at South Central Public Health District, 1020 Washington St. N. in Twin Falls. Use the north entrance.

Dick Roemer, a pharmacist from Kurt's Pharmacy, will discuss "You, the Flu, and What You Can Do About It." Topics: how the flu can affect a person with diabetes and how to stay healthy during the flu season this year.

Free. 324-6133. 5946.

'Baby and Me'

St. Benedict's Family Medical Center's "Baby and Me" classes, 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Tuesdays, at Jerome Public Library, 100 First Ave. E.

This week's topic: "Moms Club." The session is for parents of children from infancy through toddler years.

Free. 324-6133.

Memory screenings

Rosetta Assisted Living will hold five memory screenings, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Tuesday (National Memory Screening Day), at 1777 Eastridge Court in Twin Falls, in conjunction with Alzheimer's Association of America's National

Alzheimer's Awareness Month

The screenings take about five to 10 minutes to complete and consist of questions and tasks to assess memory and other cognitive functions.

Open to the public. Information: Lisa or Stacey, 734-9422.

Memory screenings

SunBridge Care and Rehabilitation Center will hold free memory screenings, 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. Tuesday, at 640 Filer Ave. W. in Twin Falls.

The screenings take 10-15 minutes to complete. Open to the public. Information: Derrick Lum, 734-8645.

About childbirth

The labor support class of St. Benedict's prepared childbirth series, 7-9:30 p.m. Tuesday, at Jerome Ambulance Building, 240 E. Main St.

Topic is labor, including the starting of labor, timing and comfort measures. Bring two pillows, a blanket and, if possible, a support person. Cost is \$5. Register: 324-6133.

Alzheimer's support

Alzheimer's Support Group meeting, 10:30 a.m. Wednesday, at SunBridge Care and Rehabilitation Center, 640 Filer Ave. W. in Twin Falls.

Open to Twin Falls-area residents who have family members with Alzheimer's. Free. Information: Steve Jones or Dawn Meyer, 734-8645.

Asthma education

Asthma education class for people with asthma, their families and caregivers, 6-7 p.m. Thursday in the Sage Room at St. Luke's Magic Valley Medical Center's Education Building, 588 Addison Ave. W. in Twin Falls.

The class follows guidelines set by the National Asthma Education and Prevention Program and the American Lung Association.

Free. Preregistration required: 737-2007.

Infant safety and CPR

Infant safety and cardiopulmonary resuscitation, 6:30-9 p.m. Thursday, in the lobby of St. Luke's downtown campus, 660 Shoshone St. E. in Twin Falls.

New parents, grandparents and caregivers learn CPR and what to do if a baby chokes. No registration required; free: 732-3148.

Breast-feeding

"Breast-feeding 101" class, 7-9 p.m. Thursday, at Jerome Ambulance Building, 240 E. Main St.

The class is for expectant mothers, fathers and support people; first-time parents;

and mothers who feel their last breast-feeding experience wasn't successful. The class can be taken as a refresher course. Cost is \$5. Register: 324-6133.

Diabetes screening

Gooding County Memorial Hospital will offer a Diabetes Screening Clinic for people with diabetes, 8:30 a.m. to noon Friday at the hospital's Diabetes Education Department, 1120 Montana St. in Gooding.

Free screenings include eye screenings by Dr. Ray Goodman, foot screenings by Dr. Timothy Tomlinson and HgA1C screenings. Schedule an appointment: Sue Ormond, 934-9886.

Learn CPR/first aid

Heartsaver first aid, cardiopulmonary resuscitation and automatic external defibrillators class, 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturday, in the Sage Room at St. Luke's Education Center, 588 Addison Ave. W. in Twin Falls.

Topics: classroom instruction and hands-on practice with emergency procedures for mouth-to-mouth resuscitation, chest compression and choking response for adults and infants.

Cost is \$50. Preregistration required: 737-2007.

"To do for you" is a listing of health-related activities, events and education. Submit information by Thursday for publication in the following Monday's Healthy & Fit section. E-mail notices to ramona@ngm-valley.com.



Quick Study

By Linda Searing
Special to The Washington Post

The topic: eczema

Eating fish or owning a bird may stave off eczema

THE QUESTION

Might environmental and dietary factors, along with heredity, affect whether an infant develops the dry, itchy skin of eczema?

THIS STUDY

It analyzed data on 4,921 infants. About 21 percent had eczema by their first birthday, with symptoms appearing at 5 months old, on average. Babies whose mothers or siblings had had the skin disorder were 1 1/2 to two times as likely to develop it as were babies without that family history. No link was found between the occurrence of eczema and breastfeeding practices, smoking in the home, the presence of furry pets, or when milk and eggs were introduced into an infant's diet. However, babies who ate fish before they were 9 months old were 23 percent less likely to develop eczema. The appearance of eczema was related to the timing, not the amount or type of fish. Having a bird in the home dropped the risk by 65 percent.

WHO MAY BE AFFECTED?

Infants. An estimated 10 to 20 percent of babies develop eczema, usually within a few months after birth, but the skin condition goes away in nearly half of them by the time they're teenagers. The skin of someone with eczema often becomes red and sometimes develops tiny bumps that ooze fluid.

CAVEATS

Data were based on parents' assessment of their infants' skin condition.

FIND THIS STUDY

Sept. 25 online issue of Archives of Disease in Childhood.

LEARN MORE

Learn about eczema at www.kidshealth.com (go to the site for parents) and at www.skincarespecialists.com.

The research described in Quick Study comes from credible, peer-reviewed journals. Nonetheless, conclusive evidence about a treatment's effectiveness is rarely found in a single study. Anyone considering changing or beginning treatment of any kind should consult with a physician.

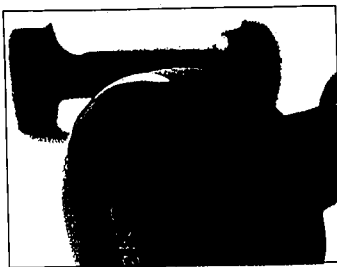
Women of all ages finding strength in weight training

By Jeannine Stein
Los Angeles Times

Strength training is not just for muscle-heads anymore.

A study published in the journal *Medicine & Science in Sports & Exercise* found that although older women gained muscle strength after an eight-week strength-training program, they showed little improvement in muscle power, or how much force is generated in a given amount of time.

The latter is indicative of having fewer fast-twitch muscle fibers which are engaged during sprinting, kicking a ball or getting up and down from a chair.



extension exercises that concentrated on quadriceps muscles. The women did the exercise at a normal speed to increase muscle strength, then faster to increase muscle power.

The younger and older women showed about a 12 percent increase in muscle strength, which Dain LaRoche, lead author and assistant professor of exercise science at the University

of New Hampshire, calls "a huge benefit."

But when it came to muscle power, the young women logged a 35 percent increase, while the older women had only a 9 percent increase.

Part of that, according to the study, could be that the strength-training program didn't provide enough stimulus. But LaRoche believes other factors are in

play as well. "With aging," he says, "you tend to lose the fast-twitch muscle fibers. And if you have less of them to begin with, you might get less adaptation." The lack of physical activity with aging plays a big role too. If you think of activities older people tend to do, it's walking, gardening — things that tend to be low-intensity that don't use the fast-twitch muscle fibers.

LaRoche says that what some people think is adequate strength training might not be intense enough. For example, lifting lightweight dumbbells that don't stress the muscles enough won't do the trick.

"People need to use resistance heavy enough to cause them to fatigue in eight to 12 repetitions," he says. Having more powerful upper- and lower-body muscles, he adds, could prevent falls that can have serious consequences in older people.

Medicare gives caregivers online answers

By Francesca Luzzar Kritz
The Washington Post

We can thank the people at Medicare's call centers for a new Web portal specifically designed for caregivers.

Medicare's main site (www.medicare.gov) is so packed with information for beneficiaries and doctors in addition to caregivers that finding the precise message you need can be difficult.

The new site (www.medicare.gov/caregivers), says Kerry Weems, acting administrator of the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, aims to answer basic questions that Medicare staffers have been fielding by phone.

The site points users to basic information with labels such as "Medicare Basics" and "Is It Covered?" And in mid-December, the site will launch a ratings feature for thousands of nursing homes in the U.S.

But you may need guidance to use the caregiver site for information on Medicare

Part D, the prescription drug program whose sign-up period runs until Dec. 31. It takes several clicks to access general information. For example, you need to go to "Help with Billing" and click on "Is It Covered?" From there, click "Prescription Drug Plan" on the left, followed by "Basic Information" in the middle of the page that pops up.

During the sign-up period, basic drug plan information also will be available at www.medicare.gov by clicking "Prescription Drug Plan," but remember: It's difficult to access other potentially relevant information on that site.

Other sources, public and private, offer drug plan guidance, including one-on-one counseling. Contact the

Medicare Rights Center at www.medicarerights.org or 800-333-4114, or a state health insurance assistance program at www.shiptalk.org.

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FALLS NEWS

Nov. 28th, 1938

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FALLS NEWS

Interval training offers recovery with gains

By Jeannine Stain
Los Angeles Times

The words "interval training" can strike fear in the hearts of even the most athletic men and women. Alternating periods of high-intensity work with recovery may sound simple enough, but those intense bouts can leave the exerciser gasping for air.

It's that intensity that ultimately reaps great benefits, including strengthening the heart and improving the cardiovascular system, which is why personal trainers tend to favor interval training. Higher exercise levels can be achieved by upping the speed or the resistance — think walking on a treadmill, increasing the incline, or both.

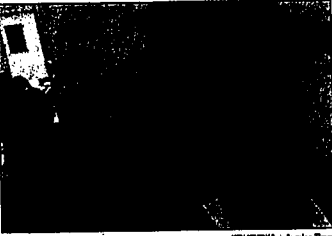
Intervals can be done on any equipment, from stationary bikes and elliptical trainers, and runners can toggle between slower speeds and sprints. Strength-training circuit workouts can even incorporate them by adding full-body exercises.

Here, three trainers explain how to integrate interval workouts into an exercise plan.

Tony Ambler-Wright, Scottsdale, Ariz. is head instructor for the National Academy of Sports Medicine.

We take our clients in and out of three zones: Zone 1 is 65 percent to 75 percent of your maximum heart rate, and Zone 2 is 80 percent to 85 percent of your maximum heart rate. Zone 3 is 85 percent to 90 percent of your maximum heart rate, and you usually don't want that to comprise more than 10 percent of your total training volume for the week because it's so intense. But ultimately the goal is to get everyone to that point where they could exercise at that level of intensity.

You should be able to sustain the upper level of Zone 1 for 20 minutes before trying to do some interval training. If you're able to do half an hour to 45 minutes in zones 1



Interval training can be worked into virtually any routine. At Canyon Athletics in Santa Monica, Calif., a ball lift is kicked into high gear in short bursts.

The ups and downs of interval training

The basics of interval training are tough to figure out without doing some math first to figure out one's maximum heart rate. A general formula for calculating that number is 220 minus age. To work in a lower aerobic zone, in which the body burns primarily fat for fuel, calculate 65 percent of the maximum heart rate. To work in a higher anaerobic zone, calculate 85 percent of the maximum heart rate. The anaerobic zone, in which the body burns primarily carbohydrates for fuel, is the high-intensity portion of the interval (some trainers may put it at about 80 percent). For those who like precise numbers, some gyms and training facilities offer more technically advanced testing, but that can be costly. Heart rates can be taken manually at the wrist, and some cardio machines have built-in monitors (although accuracy varies). HeartRate monitors provide the best readings.

and 2, you're a good candidate to incorporate some Zone 3 work in small intervals, within a workout that utilizes zones 1 and 2.

The work-to-rest ratio can change. You can go up into Zone 2 for three minutes, then down to Zone 1 for three minutes. Then you can work a 2-1 ratio of work and rest. A good rule of thumb is — and this is where the heart-rate monitor comes in handy — that when you drop down a zone, you should see a 20-beat-per-minute drop in your heart rate within one minute. That's a good indicator that you're in the recovery zone.

People have a tendency to push themselves too hard, too soon. A lot of people don't do the preparatory work in getting the body used to exercising and improving their base,

where the body is utilizing fat efficiently as a fuel source, before doing intervals.

If people have a structured workout, then they have to get in and out of their heart-rate zones at set times. Because they're so focused on adjusting the time and intensity, they lose track of how much time they're spending exercising. Most people say, "Wow, the time really flew by."

Brian Cincadr, personal trainer and co-owner of Canyon Athletics in Santa Monica, Calif.

Interval training is sort of an exaggerated level of fitness, and it allows you to train hard, without training hard the whole time. Doing interval training is in some ways less burdensome than the idea of going out and running for an

hour. That's a grind. This is up and down, which keeps it a bit fresh.

There are other ways of doing it, rather than just carping. You can walk, then stop and do a set of squats or push-ups. You're going to get some body shaping and strength and flexibility benefits, and you're going to raise your heart rate more than just by walking because you're pumping blood to your upper body.

There are no rules for interval training. For a beginner, even a minute or two at 65 percent of your maximum heart rate is pretty intense. You want to keep it fun too. The biggest mistake people make is they get motivated right away, then they completely destroy that motivation because they're so worn out. Just the fact that you're doing something is great.

I think you should always do intervals, but there are going to be days when you're working out four times a week, maybe you'll have one day when those intervals are really intense and you're going to push yourself. And then there are going to be days you're going to cruise at 70 percent. Don't drive the intensity every time. You want some recovery time and you want to mix it up.

When I train people I'm always asking how they feel. There are days when you feel great, but if you don't have it, cruise a little bit and take it easy on your body — your body is telling you something. When people are hyped, motivated to be in ridiculous shape, people do overtrain.

Kelly Stemp, general manager and personal trainer at Vert Fitness in Santa Monica, Calif.

If you're doing cardio, try a 2-1 ratio. So if you're on that

elliptical trainer, do a 30-second sprint with a minute at an easy pace. But you can also spread it out, especially if you're just starting. So if you're doing a 30-minute workout, you could sprint five times for 15 to 30 seconds. Then you can add in one more interval the next week, then the next week go back down to five, then back up to six. Don't keep upping it all the time because it will make you more prone to injury, and you'll get discouraged, because no one can keep that up.

When you pick up the pace, you engage your core more.

Also, you're doing something your body's not used to, and when you force it to adapt, it will get more efficient. ... Doing intervals shocks your system — if you don't do them, then you plateau.

If you're going at the same pace for months, eventually your heart rate is going to be lower doing the same amount of work (because it adapts). The heart is a muscle, and intervals make the heart stronger so it can pump more blood per heartbeat. You can't make that happen by doing the same thing you've always done.



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Skateboard

Continued from page B1

can help adults regain their balance in their senior years. The motions required for skateboarding also engage the quadriceps, hamstrings, arms and upper body, she said.

"It's a lot tougher than what it looks," Martin said. "It's just a good all-over body workout."

Black agreed. "Just by doing the active skateboarding, you'll lose weight," he said. He pointed out most serious skateboarders are skinny and fit.

Of course, the sport isn't without its dangers. Nine years ago, Black fell while doing a trick and went head-first into a wall. His helmet buckled and stabbed him in the temple, he said. He stopped breathing and had to be resuscitated.

That doesn't stop him from skating — or from encourag-

ing his 15-year-old son, Devan, to improve his skating skills.

And while Black is more proficient on the ramp than his son, Devan might find more of his peers at the skateboarding park.

"A lot of our hard-core skaters ... are young young," said Black. He is the assistant manager at the Zumiez skateboard and clothing shop in Twin Falls. They're, like, 12. Barely even teenagers.

Black couldn't care less about the skating demographic. He still competes around the Northwest and is good enough to have sponsors — Fat Ratt Tattoo, Verve Energy Drink and Flux Skateboards, which provide free boards for him to use. He competes against several other mature skateboarders, including one of the 62-year-old founders of the sport, and

knows local adults who got into the sport after their teenagers expressed interest in it.

On Thursday evening, he practiced at his friend's house in Jerome with eight other older skaters. The youngest of the group was 25 years old, he said.

He chatted easily with the teenagers at the skate park in Twin Falls' Harmon Park on Thursday afternoon — all of whom knew him by name. He revealed his age only when catching up with Boisean Nate O'Neill, 18, whose father was Black's tattoo artist.

"The last time I saw you, you were this big!" Black marveled, holding his hand out to O'Neill's shoulder height. "Say hi to your dad for me."

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

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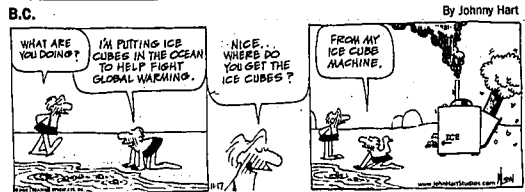
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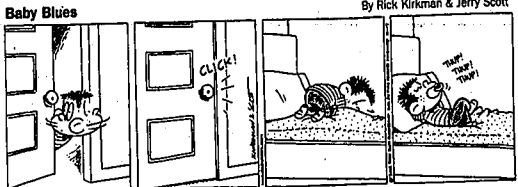
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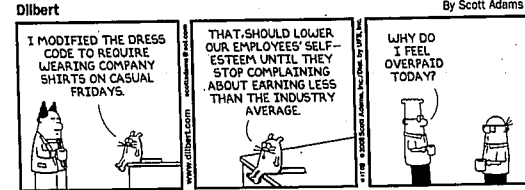


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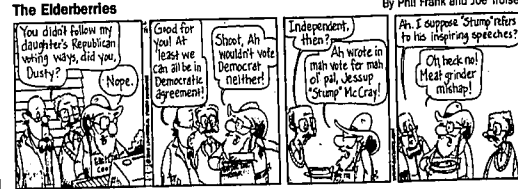


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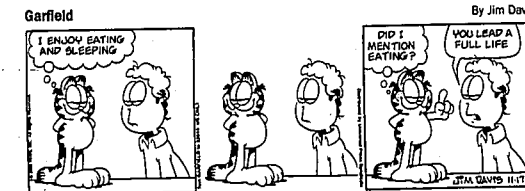


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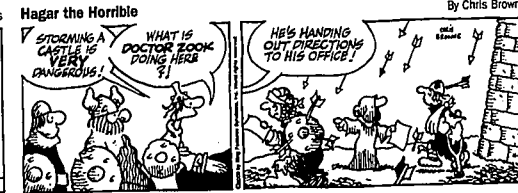


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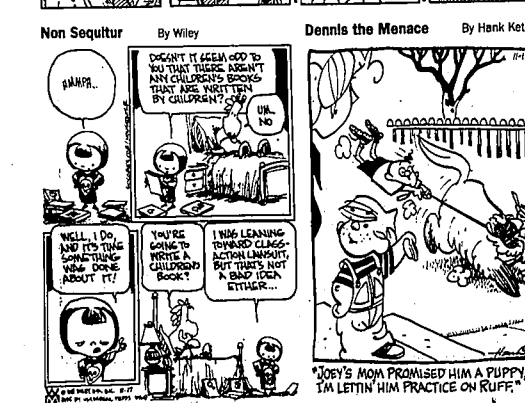


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Truck ban hampers supply line to U.S. in Afghanistan

PESHAWAR, Pakistan (AP) — Container trucks and oil tankers bound for U.S. and NATO troops in Afghanistan have suspended deliveries after militant attacks prompted Pakistan to block a major supply line, highlighting the vulnerability of the mountain passage.

The ban in northwest Pakistan, confirmed on Sunday, was intended to allow for a review of security in the supply line, highlighting the vulnerability of the mountain passage.

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to the U.S.-led coalition. Over the weekend, U.S.-led coalition troops reported killing 38 insurgents in fighting in southern Afghanistan and detaining two militant leaders near Pakistan's lawless border.

U.S. and NATO officials in Afghanistan have sought to downplay threats posed to the convoys coming through Pakistan, but NATO has said it is close to striking pacts with Central Asian countries that would let it transport "non-lethal" supplies from north of Afghanistan.

In April, NATO concluded a transit agreement with Russia, but will be of practical use only once the Central Asian nations between Russia and Afghanistan come on board.

"It's not the first time this has happened," NATO spokesman James Appathurai said of the hold up on Sunday. "When this has happened in the past it did not have any impact in the long term."

A Pakistani official who requested anonymity because he was not authorized to speak to the media said authorities planned to offer paramilitary Frontier Corps escorts to trucks carrying supplies for troops in Afghanistan. He did not say when this would happen.

Al-Qaida and Taliban fighters are behind much of the lifting of the ban along the lengthy, porous Afghanistan-Pakistan border. Both Afghanistan and Pakistan have accused each other of not doing enough to stop militant activity, while U.S. missile strikes along the territory have ratcheted up tensions further.

Last Monday, dozens of suspected Taliban militants hijacked several trucks near the Khyber Pass whose load included Humvees heading

Booming Gulf looks overseas for ag needs

By Adam Schrack
Associated Press writer

NAHEL, United Arab Emirates — In the dunes around this sun-scorched desert village, where camels still plod along dusty roads an hour south of Dubai's skyscrapers, they're making the wasteland bloom.

Row upon row of bell peppers grow plump in a temperature-controlled greenhouse. Lilies and roses bud nearby, and strawberries are on their way, all thanks to sophisticated water-saving irrigation.



A worker loads a bag of rice from Pakistan into a ship as part of a 10-ton re-export to Iran, in Dubai, United Arab Emirates on Oct. 25.

Yet even high-tech establishments like the Mirak Agricultural Services farms here and elsewhere in this riverless country will never feed the region's rapidly growing population. It's that realization that is persuading wealthy Gulf Arabs to look far beyond their shores for more fertile acreage — tens of thousands of acres, in some cases.

There are simply too many mouths to feed and not enough water. Lush urban landscaping and ambitious agricultural projects here and in Saudi Arabia — which some spent so much on farm subsidies that it exported surplus wheat — are quickly draining aquifers, including some that are millennia old and cannot be refilled.

"It's like oil," said Julia Bucknall, a World Bank researcher who has written about the region's water use. "It's essentially a nonrenewable resource."

That stark reality — and rising food prices — is sending the region's leaders scrambling to lock up even more long-term food supplies abroad. And where once the region was content to spend its petrodollars on food sold on the open market, Gulf nations now are quietly scouring the globe for rich farmland to rent or buy outright.

The prime ministers of Qatar and Kuwait traveled separately to Cambodia this year to discuss securing paddy land for rice-growing. UAE President Sheikh Khalifa bin Zayed Al Nahyan visited Kazakhstan in central Asia, where agricultural investments were likewise high on the agenda.

Dubai World, a sprawling conglomerate controlled by that emirate's government, last month said it was creating a new subsidiary targeting global investments in a wide range of commodities, including food.

Plans are also accelerating in the private sector. The Saudi Binladin Group, for example, is considering investing more than \$4 billion to grow food in Indonesia, said Salim Segaf al-Jufri, the Indonesian ambassador to Saudi Arabia. Under the proposed project, the company would produce basmati rice in Sulawesi, Papua and western Java.

Most such talks are continuing in private. Of those companies that could be reached for comment, none made officials available to discuss their investments in detail.

That may be because many of the deals are being hatched in volatile countries, such as Pakistan and Sudan, that have serious domestic food concerns of their own. The idea of shipping of homegrown crops to feed rich foreigners could stir dissent.

"These are countries that come with a lot of political baggage," said Eckart Woertz, program manager for economics at the Gulf Research Center, which estimates the Gulf's conventional water resources will be gone within three decades. "People riot when they don't get food."

Italian troops fight mob terror near Naples

By Frances D'Emilio
Associated Press writer

CASAL DI PRINCIPE, Italy — In the town of Casaldi di Principe, Italy, a small town of about 1,000 people, the town is a hotbed of mob activity. Armed vehicles had barely taken up position in this fiefdom of the Casalese crime clan when the mobsters decided to show who was boss.

bleak, provincial countryside that is under the sway of the Casalese, now named after its town of Casaldi di Principe.

The deployment is set to last until December and could be extended if violence persists. Using the military against criminals is not new in the town of Naples and Sicily — but the theory still stands that sending in troops can free up local police who know the territory to intensify the search for clues and suspects.

On a sleepy Sunday, a few hundred yards from where the crack Thunderbolt brigade was deployed with automatic rifles, two gunmen drove down the town's main street and pumped bullets into a 60-year-old man at the table just inside the entrance of a card parlor.

However, as shown by the brazen murder of the card player on Oct. 5, the Camorra is proving a fiercely tenacious enemy.

"They are not in decline. They are very strong economically," said magistrate Franco Roberti, who heads a team of anti-mob prosecutors in Naples.

The murder of an uncle of a crime syndicate turncoat left blood oozing across the stone sidewalk and a collective silence by potential witnesses among fellow card players, prompting a wry comment that the victim must have been playing solitaire.

The Camorra runs lucrative rackets ranging from numbers games to horse-race betting, drugs and smuggling. The Casalese are also involved in illegal transport and disposal of tons of toxic waste from the industrial north to the underdeveloped south, according to a report by a parliamentary anti-Mafia commission.

After dealing blows that left Sicily's Cosa Nostra reeling and making inroads against Calabria's potent 'ndrangheta syndicate, Italy's new war against organized crime is challenging the Camorra, the Naples regional mafia depicted in a film just released in the U.S., after the mob carried out a brutal, monthslong murder spree that included gunning down six Ghanaian immigrants in one swoop.

But the Camorra, and in particular the Casalese, thrive mainly on extorting "protection" money from a terrorized citizenry.

"You kill one to teach a lesson to 100," is how Rodolfo Ruperli, a police-official in the provincial capital of Caserta, describes the thinking behind a murder spree blamed on the Casalese, which has claimed at least 18 lives since spring.

In recent months, the government has sent 3,000 soldiers into other cities across Italy to help battle crime syndicates. Now it has poured 500 soldiers and 400 police investigators into the region northwest of Naples, with most patrolling the flat,

CINEMA SQUARES

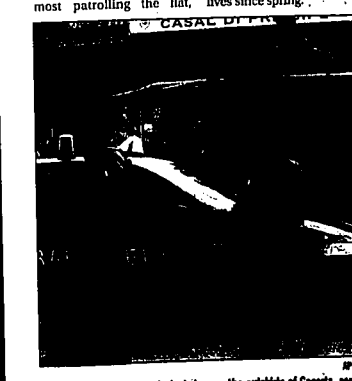
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A 'Welcome to Casal Di Principe' sign, on the outskirts of Caserta, southern Italy, is seen behind Italian Army 'Volgros' corps paratroopers and Carabinieri police officers at a checkpoint on Oct. 4.

THE FAMILY CIRCLE By Bill Keane

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 Jerome, 733-3346
 Kimberly, 733-3346
 Wendell, 733-3346

Carriage arguments and short of wife's hair

DEAR ABBY: How do I make my husband understand that how I cut my hair has nothing to do with him? I am 30 years old, and I have a full-time job and three kids who are involved in everything, because I am always on the go. I need a haircut that is easy to manage, so I need you to help me choose my hair cut. I love it. It makes me feel younger, curier and trendier. When my husband and I started dating, I used to have long, thick hair — but I was not aware that keeping my hair long was "part of the deal." He feels that by cutting it, I am going against what he wants? "I wouldn't call my husband selfish. I would call him controlling."

—SHORT AND TRENDY
IN WEST TEXAS
DEAR SHORT AND TRENDY: You are asking for advice on how to go against what he wants? "I wouldn't call my husband selfish. I would call him controlling." Long hair can be lovely, but it does require time and care — not unlike a pet or the garden. If you schedule no longer unless you think that time to devote to yourself, that's his problem. Do not make it yours.

You are no longer the carefree girl you were when you were dating. You are a woman with real



DEAR ABBY
Jeanne Phillips

responsibilities. And it's time for your husband to grow up, too.

IS. If long hair is some kind of "fetish" for him, offer to buy a long wig and wear it on special occasions.

DEAR ABBY: I am a sophomore in high school, and I need help with something. I am a die-hard Christian who strongly believes in the whole "no sex before marriage" deal. All my old boyfriends have been taking advantage of me. They say I am saving myself for true love, they always dump me.

So here's the question: Do I tell the guy straight out that he's not getting any, or do I just wait until the subject comes up and casually mention it? —**DEE**
IN SAN DIEGO
DEAR DEE: I see no reason to announce upon meeting someone that he "won't be getting any." Give the person a chance to know you, and while that is happening avoid

situations where you are alone and tempted. When the subject of sex comes up, explain that you are saving yourself for MARRIAGE. It sends a clear message and is less of a put-down than saying you're saving yourself for "true love," which is what it appears he somehow doesn't measure up.

DEAR ABBY: My 8-year-old daughter, "Iomy," writes in a little journal that I bought her. She writes things like, "I love Blake," "I like Max and his friends," and "Mom. Can an 8-year-old really love for his boy? I always thought that girls her age didn't really care too much for boys. Am I making too much of this?"

—**CONCERNED MOM**

DEAR CONCERNED MOM: Little girls don't fall in love like adult women do, but they certainly can develop crushes on boys. I remember one I had on a boy named Jimmy when I was in kindergarten. He fell in love with him because he could swing around a pole straight-armed, and I thought he was a brilliant athlete. It was the first of many crushes. So please stop obsessing. You have nothing to worry about.

overly critical of a mistake. **SCORPIO** (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Collaborate, don't elaborate. You aren't required to go overboard with spreading or to take on everything that comes your way. Take time to enlist help and share resources that others can offer you.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Wear your philosopher's hat. Keep the door propped open so that criticism can be connected, and the whole picture is seen. It is time to put them back in the box and put them away.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Small successes will boost your confidence. Make a few executive decisions, have all boxes connected, and the whole picture is seen. It is time to put them back in the box and put them away.

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PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): In football, one team member may run interference so that the one carrying the ball can make a play. In life, one might need to defend your viewpoints now.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23): Beauty is in the eye of the beholder. Like Monica Lisa's slightly skewed smile, sometimes a small flaw makes something more intriguing or beguiling. It isn't necessary to be

IF NOVEMBER 17 IS YOUR BIRTHDAY

You are a "beautiful dreamer" during the year ahead and may be more romantic-minded than usual. Because you are sensitive to emotional and physical surroundings, you should guard against being in close contact with depressing people or places and steer clear of drugs, alcohol and poisonous plants. Good luck and opportunity await you. If you are in a relationship, you should guard against being in close contact with depressing people or places and steer clear of drugs, alcohol and poisonous plants. Good luck and opportunity await you.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Value every chance to receive cooperation from others. Take the bull by the horns and tackle projects that have been shown to be worth your time. Right now, you need your management abilities.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Details don't do justice to the

HOROSCOPE

Jeraldine Saunders

truth. You have probably heard the expression, "Can't see the forest for the trees." Right now being picky about the little details will blind you to the complete picture.

CANCER (June 21-July 23): Where there is another person, don't throw the baby out with the bath water. Certain issues may need to be ironed out or mended before you are capable of making another promise or resolution.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 23): Start looking toward a new person or misunderstanding with loved ones or business partners. You can enter into agreements or make promises now and know that you will be able to fulfill them.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 23): One person is just another person's flower. Just because you're using something unattractive or useless does not mean that nobody will find value in it. Try to be a bit more open-minded and imaginative.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23): Beauty is in the eye of the beholder. Like Monica Lisa's slightly skewed smile, sometimes a small flaw makes something more intriguing or beguiling. It isn't necessary to be

TODAY IN HISTORY

In 1970, the Soviet Union landed an unmanned, remote-controlled vehicle on the moon, the Lunokhod 1.

In 1972, President Nixon told Associated Press managing editors meeting in Orlando, Fla.: "People have got to know whether or not their president is a crook. Well, I'm not a crook."

In 1987, a federal jury in Denver convicted two neo-Nazis and acquitted two others of federal hate violations in the 1984 slaying of radio talk show host Alan Berg.

Ten years ago: The public got to hear Monica Lewinsky's voice for the first time as the House Judiciary Committee released 22 hours of tape recordings secretly made by Linda Tripp. Israel's par-

Today is Monday, Nov. 17, the 32nd day of 2008. There are 44 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History: On Nov. 17, 1966, the NBC television network outraged football fans by cutting away from the closing minutes of a New York Jets-Cleveland Raiders game to begin a special pre-game halftime show on schedule. (Home viewers were prevented from seeing the Raiders come from behind to beat the Jets, 43-32.)

On this date, in 1529, Elizabeth I accepted to the English throne upon the death of Queen Mary.

In 1860, Congress held its first session in Washington in the partially completed Capitol building.

In 1869, the Suez Canal opened in Egypt.

In 1939, sculptor Auguste Rodin died in Meudon, France, at age 77.

In 1934, Lyndon Baines Johnson married Claudia Alta Taylor, better known as "Lady Bird," in San Antonio, Texas.

In 1962, Washington's Dulles International Airport was dedicated.

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TWIN FALLS 3 bdrm, 2 car garage, central AC, DW, very quiet street, fenced yard, pet friendly, no smoking/pets. \$208-420-0905. Call 208-420-0905.

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- ACROSS**
- 1 Herotic tale
 - 5 Artist Bonheur
 - 9 Egghead
 - 14 Boringly
 - 15 supporting one
 - 16 "Battle Cry" author
 - 17 Rocket type
 - 18 Like the Gobi
 - 18 Plaster
 - 19 supporting strip
 - 20 Fed the kitty
 - 20 Gas conduit
 - 22 Finished
 - 23 Tournament ranking
 - 24 Conscious
 - 27 Never outdated
 - 29 Also
 - 30 Schusser
 - 34 Wind dir.
 - 35 Speechless actor
 - 36 Body of water
 - 37 Turning point
 - 39 Adult male pig
 - 40 MA word
 - 41 Afire
 - 42 Rotating pointers
 - 43 Understand
 - 44 Concisely
 - 47 of
 - 49 Queensberry
 - 49 Least firm
 - 54 Knitting stitch
 - 55 Polite
 - 56 Holly spray
 - 58 Watchful oversight
 - 59 Faucet trickle
 - 60 Mountain ridge
 - 61 Actress Angeli
 - 62 Make over
 - 63 O'Toole or Ustinov
 - 64 Gambler's chances
 - 65 Lyric poems
- DOWN**
- 1 Loses it
 - 2 Lofly nest
 - 3 Complain
 - 4 Annexed
 - 5 Court judgment
 - 6 Citrus fruit

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
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54						55						
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63					64				65			

Saturday's Puzzle Solved

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|-------------------|---------------------|
| 42 Sacred song | 52 Playground chute |
| 43 Fries' partner | 53 Keyboard goofs |
| 44 Erupted | 55 Female domestic |
| 45 suddenly | 56 Gullible person |
| 46 Record jackets | 57 Play or school |
| 48 Rather | 58 Naval noncom |
| 50 Pitcher | |
| Martinez | |
| 51 Made a goof | |

INTERNATIONAL '87
DT466, 52
cabin chassis, \$4,500.
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CHEVY '04 2500
Crew, gas, 60K miles. 4x4, leather, CD, AC, PW, PL, PS, only \$18,900.

CHEVY '03 Colorado
4x4, AC, 16, PW, PD, 16K, \$7,995. Stock #3882
Country Auto 2400 S Lincoln Jerome 208-324-1487

CHEVY '04 2500
Crew, gas, 60K miles. 4x4, leather, CD, AC, PW, PL, PS, only \$18,900.

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Wendell 208-536-1900

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Country Auto 2400 S Lincoln Jerome 208-324-1487

CHEVY '04 2500
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Wendell 208-536-1900

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Pickup \$2500/offer. Call 208-308-3908 for details.

CHEVY '06 Avalanche
1500 LT, leather, loaded, 47K miles. AC, PW, PL, 4x4, very nice, only \$21,900.

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DODGE '03 Ram 3500
Cummins turbo diesel dually, crew cab, AT, \$11,700. 208-324-0069
Smalley Motors

CHEVY '07 Colorado
Crew Cab, 4x4, auto, PW, PL, custom wheels, \$19,999. Stock#73247470C
208-733-5250
Smalley Motors

CHEVY '06 C2500
4x4, long bed, great shape, \$3500 or best offer. 208-404-9113

CHEVY '98 S-10
4x4, auto trans, CD, ASC brakes, tune great, \$6118. Stock #5850956
MIDDELBAUFF 208-736-2480

DODGE '07 2500
Quad Cab, short bed, 4x4, diesel, automatic, top package, \$25,999. Stock#56318235
Chevrolet 208-733-5033

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Chevrolet 208-733-5033

DODGE '01 F-250 Supercrew
4x4, AC, 16, PW, PD, 16K, \$7,995. Stock #3882
Country Auto 2400 S Lincoln Jerome 208-324-1487

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FORD '06 F-150 4x4
V8, AT, AC, one owner, nice truck, \$10,900. 208-544-4434

FORD '06 F-250 Super Duty
black, lifted, whitewall wheels, 4x4, 30K miles, leather, \$25,000. 208-544-4434

FORD '06 Lariat Crew Cab
4x4, leather, CD, AC, heated seats, DVD, PW, PL, AC, 29K miles, only \$24,500.

Assist AUTO BROKERAGE
275 S. Idaho St.
Wendell 208-536-1900

FORD '06 F-250 diesel
runs good, \$1918. Stock#5702687

MIDDELBAUFF
208-736-2480

FORD '92 F150 XL
4x4, automatic, PW, PL, 350 VW, running boards, excellent condition. 208-312-5638

FORD '95 F-150 XLT
extended cab, AT, 4x4, PW, PL, \$3995. 208-324-0069
28118 Lincoln, Jerome
Smalley Motors

FORD '97 F-250 XLT
4x4, V8, AC, 90K actual miles, one owner, well maintained \$3000. 208-324-0069

FORD '97 F-250 Supercrew
4x4, V8, AC, 90K actual miles, one owner, well maintained \$3000. 208-324-0069

FORD '98 Ranger
ext. cab, AWD, 5 spd, V8, 124K miles, exc cond, \$4500. 208-324-0069

CADILLAC '98 SRX
leather, heated seats, CD, AC, PW, PL, vista roof, AWD, \$19,900.

Assist AUTO BROKERAGE
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Wendell 208-536-1900

CHEVROLET '97
Suburban Government Surplus. Sold by sealed bid. \$24,999. 101.101 PO 189
Almo, ID 83312

CHEVROLET '99
Suburban Government Surplus. Sold by sealed bid. \$24,999. 101.101 PO 189
Almo, ID 83312

CHEVROLET '99
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Almo, ID 833

TWIN FALLS

AREA CHAMBER
OF COMMERCE

Business Beat

A MONTHLY NEWSLETTER FOR THE BUSINESS COMMUNITY

Strength in Numbers

The Twin Falls Area Chamber of Commerce is committed to growing business and building community. The chamber provides numerous opportunities for businesses to build new contacts and customers throughout the area. Our success depends upon the strength of our membership.

766 Number of member businesses

93 Number of additional locations listed separately in chamber directory

13,674 Number of individual employees of member businesses

The Chamber strives for its mission of providing our members a strong business voice, vision and focused leadership to enhance the economic vitality and quality of life in our community. Annual chamber membership investment is a relatively inexpensive cost that delivers credibility, visibility, exposure, representation and advocacy, networking, and other opportunities for active involvement in the success of our community and your business. You're amongst friends in the chamber...and more importantly, you're connected to potential business partners and customers every day. You can't afford **NOT** to be a member of the region's premier business organization.

Check out the list of key benefits of membership in this month's Business Beat. And give us a call to learn more about how we will work for you and your business success every day as a member of the Twin Falls Area Chamber of Commerce.

Inside:

Call for Nominations for Chamber Board

- Welcome to New Chamber Members
- Beautification Sponsors for Hanging Baskets Needed

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At Pioneer, we realize that this can be a time of concern when it comes to you and your money's future. We have been in business to serve our members for over 50 years and in that time we have created a much higher than average profitability and have over \$21 million in reserves. We are a member owned financial institution that is 29,000 strong.

PFCU did not engage in the subprime mortgage borrowing trend, nor did we heavily weight our loan portfolio with mortgage loans. We have always and will continue to lend responsibly.

Many troubled institutions have become extremely conservative to the point it can be very difficult to obtain a home loan, a 2nd mortgage, or even an auto loan. Pioneer Federal is still eager to fulfill your lending needs, we analyze each loan request case by case in the same manner that we always have.

Visit www.pioneerfcu.org, any of our 12 convenient locations, or call (208) 587-3304 for more information.

Jerome - 1865 S. Lincoln • 324-8553
Twin Falls - 1439 N. College Rd. E. • 735-0814
Gooding - 1624 Main • 934-4414



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The Twin Falls Area Chamber of Commerce Mission Statement

The Twin Falls Area Chamber of Commerce is a non-profit business organization providing members a strong voice, vision and focused leadership to enhance the economic vitality and quality of life in our community.

Chamber Membership Offers Competitive Edge

Key Benefits of Chamber membership:

Credibility – people know you are part of a group of professionals working together to positively impact the economy and quality of life in the Twin Falls area.
Visibility – your business will be featured in Chamber publications, you will have members-only access to advertising opportunities, and when your new business joins we'll welcome you with special ribbon-cutting and open house events.

Exposure – The Chamber refers ONLY Chamber members in response to the thousands of vacation, relocation, and general information requests we receive annually. Your business will also be listed in the Chamber's business directory and online on the Chamber's website.
Networking – take advantage of the opportunities to meet other Chamber members and learn how you can work with them to enhance everyone's business. Events include monthly Twin Falls

today luncheons, monthly Business After Hours get-togethers, the Annual Meeting and Banquet, and other special events.
Representation and Advocacy – the Chamber is active every day representing the interests of the Twin Falls area business community to ensure achievement of the organization's mission. The Chamber also works closely with local, state, and federal government to promote issues of benefit to the business community.
Involvement – The Chamber offers many

volunteer committees, access to educational seminars and workshops, and networking events to help you and your business grow. For more information about how to become a member of the Twin Falls Area Chamber of Commerce, please contact Bobbi Pyle at 733-9974 or email to bobbip@twinfallschamber.com. You can also access an online application form at www.twinfallschamber.com

Magic Valley is a Great Place to Live

By Jeff Duggan, CEO, Greater Twin Falls Association of Realtors



Jeff Duggan

Each of us has our own reasons for living here in the Magic Valley. I've often told people that if you're not careful, the Magic Valley will grow on you. We all know of someone who said, "I'll live here for

a while then move", only to have that person become a lifelong resident. Our area provides wonderful educational opportunities, a moderate climate with four distinct seasons, great outdoors activities, a relatively low tax base and now we are recognized as a great place to live based on the cost of living.

According to a study released by the American Chamber of Commerce Real-estate Association (A.C.C.R.E.), Twin Falls

has an overall livability index of 94.7% that is below the national average for similar cities. We do have good news to report with our cost of living at 94.2%, Housing at 91.2%, Utilities at 91.5%, Transportation at 92.7%, Health Care at 95.7% and miscellaneous items at 97.9%.

This report is further proof that our local economy is not a volatile as we are witnessing on a national level. Our local banks have weathered the Credit Crisis

with great resolve. Our Builders have great products to offer homeowners. The real estate market is flush with great homes and our retailers are prepared for the Holiday Season.

Let's invest in our local towns and together, the Magic Valley will continue to be a great place to live.

Call for Nominations for Chamber Board Election

Terms for Chamber Board members coincide with the Annual Meeting and Banquet, planned for early February at Canyon Crest Dining and Event Center. Three seats will be up for election in 2009. Any employee of a Chamber-member business (in good standing) is eligible

to run for election to the Board, provided, however, that no nominee shall be employed by the same Chamber member as any other nominee or any existing Director. Directors serve for a 3-year term. Directors are responsible for the supervision of the Chamber, the direction of its

work and policy-making. The Board of Directors controls the Chamber's property and is responsible for the organization's finances. The Board meets monthly – and Directors also attend Chamber luncheons and committee meetings as needed. If you're interested in running for one

of the seats on the Board, please email clausure@twinfallschamber.org with your name, business name, and contact information. Self-nomination is allowed. Ballots will be sent to Chamber members in January with the final vote being tallied at the Annual Meeting in February.

Economic Issues Forum 3rd Tuesday of Each Month

Each month, the Twin Falls Area Chamber of Commerce hosts an Economic Issues Forum to discuss the varying factors that impact our local economy and quality of life. The forum is held on the 3rd Tuesday of each month at 9 Beans and a Burrito (76th Cheney Dr.) from 12noon to 1pm. The forum is

a roundtable discussion of the labor market, real estate, economic development, and other issues that impact the economy. We also have guest speakers who present on specific topics. Coming up at the forum:
 Tuesday, November 18 – David Anderson with the Idaho National Laborato-

ry's Technology Transfer and Commercialization group will discuss initiatives and the use of agricultural residue for energy generation.

Tuesday, December 16 – The Chamber's Public Policy Committee will host our local legislators to discuss the Chamber's Legislative Priorities for the

2009 session.

Again, the forum is open to chamber members and the general public. This is an open forum. If you do not have time to get to the forum to one hour – wrap-up by 1:00pm. For more information, contact the Chamber office at 733-9974.

Chamber Ag Committee Awards Nearly \$10,000 in Scholarships

The Annual Twin Falls Chamber Agribusiness Committee's Ag Appreciation and Scholarship Banquet was a fantastic event, celebrating the importance of agriculture in our community and rewarding the hard work of 6 local students by awarding

\$9600 in scholarships for their continued pursuit of degrees in Agribusiness. Special thanks to the members of the Twin Falls Chamber Agribusiness Committee for putting together a great event. And thanks, too, to the many sponsors who

contributed to fund the scholarships: a Lakes Magic Valley, P.J. Evans Bank, United Dairyfarm of Idaho, College of Southern Idaho, ConAgra Foods – Lamb Weston, Ag Weekly, Clear Springs Foods, J.C. Custom, Nelson Jameson, Obenchain

Insurance, Blakeslee Inc., Custom Hag, Gem Equipment, Magic Valley Coopmart, Northwest Farm Credit, Premier Insurance, and Robert Jones Realty!

November Business After Hours

Thursday, November 20, 2008

- 5:30 - 7:00 p.m. -

Hosted by Wells Fargo and Historic Downtown Twin Falls

(102 S. Main Ave. S.)

Food - Drinks - Networking - Prizes - FUN!

December Business After Hours

Thursday, December 11, 2008

- 5:30 - 7:00 p.m. -

Hosted by Soran Restaurants, Inc. and the Twin Falls Chamber Turf Club - 734 Falls Ave.

Food - Drinks - Networking - Prizes - FUN!

December Twin Falls Today

Tuesday, December 9, 2008

- 12 Noon -

Hosted by Red Lion Canyon Springs (1357 Blue Lakes Blvd. N.)

Reservations required
 Call 733-3974 to sign up!

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Renewing Members

Thank you to the following businesses for their ongoing commitment to the work of the Chamber!

1-5 Years

Bention Construction Co. Bowladrome Brookway Engineering PLLC Civil Science Dusty Tenney Insurance Agency Inc.- Allstate Edward Jones - Trevor S Tarter AAMS Gateway Real Estate of Magic Valley Hands On Jack In The Box Laundry Day Lyda Insurance Magic Valley Counseling Physician Center Primary Therapy Source Randal Wraalstad, DPM	Rasmussen Real Estate Co Twin Falls County Republicans Rock Creek Community Church Snake River Assoc for the Education of Young Children Superior Door, Inc. The Danny Marona Performing Arts Scholarship Trinity Ear Nose & Throat Wolverton Homes	Hutchison & Brown LLP Idaho Sand & Gravel Company Inter-West Equipment Sales, Inc. Jaker's of Twin Falls KART Broadcasting KSAW Television ABC Lee Family Broadcasting Magic Valley Printing LLC Moss Greenhouse NGB GREEN POLICE-BUFFER-CMHC Seastrom Manufacturing Co., Inc. Service Master of Magic Valley State Farm Insurance - Matt Stokes Tilley & Lincoln Accounting Offices Waddell & Reed Financial Advisors Western Real Estate Group
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6-15 Years

- Amazing Grace Fellowship
- Beams Quality Flooring Inc.
- Clearwater Mortgage Inc.
- Estate Planning Strategies
- Furniture & Appliance Outlet

New Members

Welcome to these new members of the Chamber who've joined the organization recently. Take a moment to stop in to see them and please do business with other Chamber businesses!

Bradshaw Homes.Net
Kevin Bradshaw
1193 East Ridge Cir
Twin Falls, ID 83301
212-0265

Forever Green Inc
Chad & Gina Helder
3777 N 3400 E
Kimberly, ID 83341
423-6454

Hot 2 It
Sheryl Wadden
2044 5th Ave E Ste 204
Twin Falls, ID 83301
733-0409

Jewelers for Children
Teresa Packard
799 Cheney Dr Ste F
Twin Falls, ID 83301
734-0864

KART Broadcasting - MIX 103 / KART 1400 AM
Kent Lee
47 N 100 W
Jerome, ID 83338
324-8181

Prudential Hispanic Division
Jessica Rios
1411 Falls Ave E Ste 215
Twin Falls, ID 83301
732-1240

Safe Harbor Inc
Phyllis Berg
269 Filer Ave
Twin Falls, ID 83301
735-8787

Twin Falls Senior Citizen Center
Meredith Humphreys
530 Shoshone St W
Twin Falls, ID 83301
734-5084

Twin Falls Grocery Outlet
Judy & Craig Hawkins
2318 Addison Ave. E.
Twin Falls, ID 83301



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Parties,
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Nov./Dec. '08

Information correct as of publication date, but watch your weekly "Friday Facts" for potential updates.

We hope you find this printed monthly calendar helpful in identifying important Chamber activities. We also provide a weekly calendar in your Friday Facts. Now, you can also log onto www.twinfallschamber.com to see the Chamber's website including "Area Events" in a calendar format.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
16	17	18 12:00 p.m. Economic Issues Forum (9 Beans and a Burrito - 704 Cheney Drive)	19 1:30 p.m. Kick Off for 60 Hours to Fight Hunger (Con Paulos - 1634 Blue Lakes Blvd. N.)	20 5:30 p.m. Business After Hours Wella Fargo / Historic Downtown (102 Main Ave. S.)	21 2:00 p.m. Ribbon Cutting Keyes to CPR (Chamber Office)	22
23	24	25	26 8:00 a.m. Chamber office closed	27 8:00 a.m. Chamber office closed	28 8:00 a.m. Chamber office closed	29
30	1 10:30 a.m. Ribbon Cutting Bausman Inc. (Chamber Office) 5:30 p.m. Ambassadors Meeting (Chamber Office)	2	3 3:00 p.m. Ribbon Cutting Farmers Insurance (District Office - 378 Falls Ave.)	4	5	6
7	8 Dec.	9 12:00 p.m. Twin Falls Turkey - Red Lion Canyon Springs (1957 Blue Lakes Blvd. N.)	10 10:00 a.m. Ribbon Cutting Absolutely Flowers (285 Blue Lakes Blvd N)	11 5:30 p.m. Business After Hours Holiday Open House (Turf Club - 794 Falls Ave.)	12	13
14	15	16 12:00 p.m. Economic Issues Forum (9 Beans and a Burrito (704 Cheney Drive))	17	18	19	20 1:00 p.m. Ribbon Cutting Right On Truck Child Care (1411 Falls Ave. E. Ste 501)

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Iron Falls 208-736-2400
Garding - 208-936-5555

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Unique Idaho Products Available at Chamber Office!

The Buzz Langdon Visitor Center is closed for the season but we have a selection of unique local and Idaho products available for sale at the Chamber office. They make great client appreciation gifts for the holidays or gifts for

family and friends outside the state! Stop in to see what we have to offer during our regular business hours 8am to 5pm Monday through Friday at the Chamber office (858 Blue Lakes Blvd. N.)

Support for Beautification in Our Community

The Twin Falls Area Chamber of Commerce Beautification Committee is kicking off another 5-year program for the Shoshone Street Hanging Basket Project. Over the past 10 years, the financial support of individuals and businesses has helped to grow this program to include 70 flower baskets that are hung each year on the historic lampposts along Shoshone Street from Twin Falls City Park to just south of the Old Towne Bridge. The baskets are maintained throughout the growing season to provide beautiful natural decoration in the heart of our community.

The Beautification Committee is looking forward to the continuation of this program with your help. We are seeking sponsorship commitments to fund the costs of the baskets and maintenance. Sponsorships are available at various levels.

5-year commitment (2009-2013)
SAVE 20% \$220 per year

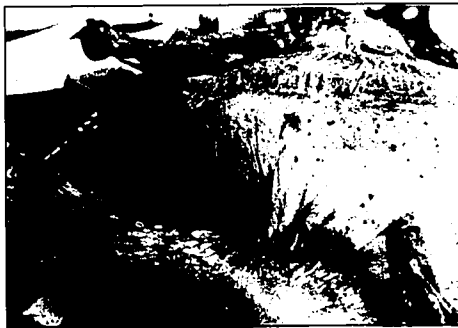
3-year commitment (2009-2011)
SAVE 10% \$247.50 per year

1-year commitment (2009)
\$275

billings will be sent to you in March of each year of your commitment.

Your sponsorship covers the cost of growing the baskets, installation, watering and fertilizing, sponsorship sign, maintenance, and removal of the baskets at the end of the growing season.

If you're interested in joining the Beautification Committee, the Chamber, and the current sponsors in supporting this fantastic program, please call Judie at the Chamber at 733-3974.



www.twinfallschamber.com

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 Membership Coordinator _____ bobbi@twinfallschamber.com *Bobbi Pyle*
 Information Coordinator _____ judie@twinfallschamber.com *Judie House*
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