

Bruins fade in semifinal loss to Madison. **SPORTS 1**

Skyview's Dranginis wrecks Minico's title dreams.

CSI men rout N. Idaho, coast to Region 18 title game.



**TWIN FALLS**



**MINICO**



**CSI**

**SATURDAY**  
March 5, 2011

# TIMES-NEWS

75 CENTS

Magicvalley.com

## How 23 Medicaid cuts would save \$39 million

State legislators have eyed Medicaid as a pressure valve to balance Idaho's budget. But specifics on what would be cut were rare until legislation was introduced earlier this week. The *Times-News* went through the text of the bill to outline the 23 proposed cuts, and how much would be saved from each.

1. Continue temporary cuts for Medicaid that began under last year's budget. *Estimated savings: \$6.94 million.*
2. No automatic increases in rates for providers. Any rate increases would now need to be approved by the Legislature. *Estimated savings: \$4.7 million.*
3. Increase assessments for nursing homes. Through assessments, providers pay money to leverage federal matching Medicaid dollars. *Estimated savings: \$3.5 million.*
4. Begin assessments for government-run county and district hospitals. These hospitals are currently exempt. *Estimated savings: \$3.5 million.*
5. Start a "retirement age" from development therapy at 45 years old. *Estimated savings: \$2.6 million.*
6. Reduce mental health coverage for adults, limiting it to four hours a week of psychosocial rehabilitation for those older than 21, and five hours a week for 18-to-21-year-olds. Children's services would remain the same. *Estimated savings: \$2.27 million.*
7. Give a closer eye to the needs of adults with disabilities who qualify for Medicaid, and place them into categories that define their services. This is intended to end the practice of access to unneeded services. *Estimated savings: \$2 million.*
8. Pharmacy savings will shift to a system of pricing based on wholesale and dispensing rates, which cannot exceed the price of private payment programs. *Estimated savings: \$2 million.*
9. Changes in adult developmental therapy services which will result in fewer benefits for 750 to 1,000 individuals; not intended to entirely end their services. *Estimated savings: \$1.8 million.*
10. Adult dental coverage will be reduced to preventive and emergency services.

See **CUTS**, Main 3



**MORE INSIDE: Idaho lawmakers will consider changes to Medicaid among biggest in years. Main 3**

## Dry spell dulls water outlook

Parts of south-central Idaho get less than half average February precipitation

By **Laura Lundquist**  
*Times-News writer*

People may be tired of winter, but Idaho could use more snow. That's the assessment the snow survey staff of the U.S. Natural Resources Conservation Service gave in its March 1 water supply outlook. If no significant precipitation passes through Idaho between now and early April, the 2011 snowpack in most areas will end up at only three-quarters of average going into the irrigation season.

So far, NRCS says Idaho's snowpack will provide an "adequate" water supply this season. Snowmelt is a big factor in the state's water picture, feeding rivers, reservoirs and irrigation canals through the growing season.

Ron Abramovich, NRCS water supply specialist, said it appears the dry spell has snapped, with March moisture predicted.

"I've just finished looking at some La Nina years similar to this one, and if the trend holds, we should have cool weather through

See **SNOW**, Main 3

**INSIDE**

See the most current snowpack levels on **MAIN 2**

AT **MAGICVALLEY.COM**

### State preps and CSI tournament coverage online

**Live coverage:** Be on the lookout for live chats with *Times-News* writers and interactive polls during the games.

**After the game:** Come back to the site after the buzzer to see photo galleries and video.



**ONE YEAR LATER**  
T.F. pastor says Haiti taught him to be a better man.

**RELIGION 1**



DREW NASH/Times-News

College of Southern Idaho student Jonah Rono, 24, right, receives help preparing his toga from Edgar Aguilera, 19, and Melissa Nikolov, 20, as they prepare to promote a toga party at the CSI Student Union building Friday afternoon in Twin Falls.

## CSI expects less state funding

Cost cutting, tuition change likely on horizon

By **Amy Huddleston**  
*Times-News writer*

The College of Southern Idaho expects to face the coming fiscal year with an estimated \$515,000 less in state funding.

State lawmakers set a \$396.7 million fiscal 2012 budget for the state's colleges and universities Friday in Boise. That mark is \$19 million more than this year, but represents a \$7.6 million reduction in money from the state's general fund.

The shift means colleges and universities will have to rely more on dedicated funds — primarily stu-

dent tuition and fees.

CSI President Jerry Beck said officials at the Twin Falls college continue to examine ways to save money, including the possibility of changing CSI's tuition structure.

"We are looking at ways to save with utilities and what we buy. We haven't lost any jobs and we are looking at the costs with tuition and fees," Beck said. "The state has done the best they can for us and we appreciate their support during the good years. We will figure out how to make this work now."

See **CSI**, Main 3

**TUITION OPTIONS**

The College of Southern Idaho is examining three potential changes to its tuition structure:

- Increase it to \$110 per credit.
- Decrease it to \$100 per credit, but charge all students per credit they take. For example, a student taking 15 credits would pay \$1,500 instead of the current full-time rate.
- Keep it at \$105 per credit, but start charging full-time students per credit once they surpass 15 credits instead of the current 16.



Comics .....Main 8  
Commodities.....Religion 6  
Community .....Religion 3  
Crossword .....Classifieds 7  
Dear Abby .....Classifieds 6  
Movies .....Main 5  
Obituaries .....Religion 4  
Opinion .....Main 6-7  
Sudoku .....Classifieds 4

50 / 35



Mostly cloudy  
Sports 6