


87°
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Stock market shoots skyward

News of possible fix for crisis gives Dow biggest gain in nearly six years

By PATRICK RIZZO, JEANNINE AVERSA and MARTIN CRUTSINGER OF THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

WASHINGTON — The stock market finally found reason to rally Thursday, and Congress promised quick action as the Bush administration prepared a plan to rescue banks from the bad debt at the heart of the worst crisis on Wall Street since the Great Depression. Details of the plan were still being worked out, but Treasury Secretary Henry Paulson emerged from a nighttime

meeting on Capitol Hill to say he hoped to have a solution "aimed right at the heart of this problem." As word of a government plan began to reach Wall Street earlier in the day, the Dow Jones industrial average jumped 410 points, its biggest percentage gain in nearly six years. The rebound also came after an infusion of billions of dollars by the Federal Reserve and world governments aimed at getting nervous banks to stop hoarding money and lend again. Stocks had fluctuated throughout the day, without se-

vere swings in either direction, until CNBC reported the administration might back a new agency to take bad assets off the books of struggling financial institutions, much like it did in the aftermath of the savings and loan crisis of the 1980s. After the discussions Thursday night, Paulson said the goal was to come up with a "comprehensive approach that will require legislation" to deal with the bad debts, or illiquid assets, on banks' balance sheets. He did not provide any details, but the plan taking shape called for Congress to give the admin-

istration the power to buy distressed bank assets. Rep. Barney Frank, D-Mass., chairman of the House Financial Services Committee, said that probably would not mean creating a new government agency. "It will be the power — it may not be a new entity. It will be the power to buy up illiquid assets," Frank said. "There is this concern that if you had to wait to set up an entity, it could take too long." Frank said his committee could begin drafting legislation as early as Wednesday. Paulson, Fed Chairman Ben

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Kellis takes the stand in abuse case

Defendant says Scouts are making false accusations because they dislike him

By JOEL MILLS OF THE TRIBUNE

MOSCOW — Timothy A. Kellis testified in his own defense Thursday and denied molesting four Boy Scouts at Camp Grizzly last summer.

Dressed in a steel-gray shirt and dark blue tie, Kellis repeatedly answered "no" as his attorney, Sunil Ramalingam, asked if he committed any of the 12 felony counts against him.

Kellis testified he had poor relations with two of the Scouts, and that may have led them to make false allegations against him.



Tim Kellis

He said the other two Scouts were their close friends, and were maybe backing their buddies up when they made similar allegations.

The Scouts worked at the camp near Harvard as junior staff members, and they were all supervised at one time or another by Kellis, who was the camp's shooting sports director.

He said one Scout in particular may have resented him for not securing a transfer to the shotgun range from James (England) Trendall, the camp's program director.

"I said I'd try," Kellis said. "I did ask England, James Trendall, if he could be transferred into the shooting areas." Kellis said the Scout begged him for the transfer, and was disappointed when it didn't happen.

The 39-year-old former high school band teacher at A.G. West Black Hills High School in Tumwater, Wash., faces life in prison on nine counts of lewd

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Tribune/Kyle Mills

Visitors to the Nez Perce County Fair get an in-depth tour of a human colon thanks to the Super Colon. The 8-foot-tall and 20-foot-long inflatable replica of the colon is one of seven traveling the country to promote colorectal screening.

Kids pass through enormous colon

Health workers hope display will spark discussions about preventative care

By BRAD W. GARY OF THE TRIBUNE

Giggles don't often fill up the echo chamber that is the human colon.

But the Nez Perce County Fair doesn't typically play host to such giant inflatable replicas, complete with cancerous polyps and a free "poop stamp" for the hands of all who pass through.

And pass through they did Thursday. The opening day of the Nez Perce County Fair brought scores of elementary school students, some laughing and others running away at the sight of different stages of disease within the colon.

"Humor can be really powerful when it comes to educating people about serious health topics," said Susanne Hartman of the Washington, D.C.-based Prevent Cancer Foundation, the organization that brings several of the exhibits to fairs and other events around the country.

Parts of the 8-foot-tall exhibit resemble a healthy colon, but the 20-foot-long replica takes visitors on a journey from a healthy colon to one filled with polyps and advanced cancer



Tribune/Kyle Mills

Everybody gets a poop stamp after taking a tour of the Super Colon at the Nez Perce County Fairgrounds.

cells. Labels tell passersby what stage they're at in the process.

"This is just the most basic level of awareness," Hartman said.

And Hartman said it may also spark a few uncomfortable but necessary conversations between the students and their parents over the next few days.

"A lot of kids will say, 'Mommy have you got a colonoscopy yet?'" she said. Early detection is key for the disease, she said.

The "poop stamp," a brown rubber stamp resembling the material that's typically stored in the colon, was a favorite for elementary school students who raced through the inflatable tunnel.

"This is cancer," said one student, pushing on the red and black inflatable colorectal cells inside the tunnel. He then rushed out of the exhibit, and on to others that filled the Nez Perce County Fairgrounds.

Heidi Henson with the North Central District Health Department said the recently formed North Central Idaho Colorectal Cancer Coalition sought to bring the Prevent Cancer Foundation model to the fair.

"We want people to talk about this, not just be afraid of this," Henson said. The second leading form of cancer, she said, is 90 percent curable if caught early. Henson passed out literature and wristbands to raise awareness of the disease.

"It's a lot of fun for them and it's a great opportunity to involve parents as well," said Lapwai Elementary School teacher Cindy Latella, whose class was one of several to run through the exhibit.

First-graders are learning life cycles, and Latella said exhibits like those at the fair give students an opportunity for such learning.

"One little kid said, 'Is it a nostril?'" laughed Tammy Smith of Lewis-Clark Endoscopy, one of several people staffing the exhibit Thursday.

Nursing students from Lewis-Clark State College and Walla Walla Community College were on hand to answer questions for those wanting to discuss the disease.

While many of those who walked through the tunnel were kids, organizers encouraged those students to tell their parents to get screened for the disease at age 50.

The exhibit has also prompted some visitors to thank organizers for bringing up the subject, Hartman said, or tell them of their own story about the effects of the disease.

"It we can generate this much fun and buzz about a colon, then we can save a few lives today," Hartman said. "And that's what it's all about, is educating people."

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Rule change rankles state employees

Workers considering legal action to overturn decision

By WILLIAM L. SPENCE OF THE TRIBUNE

A recent move by Gov. C.L. (Butch) Otter to unilaterally change administrative rules regarding disability and medical leave hasn't set well with state employees.

Besides being potentially illegal, employees say the abrupt manner in which the changes were adopted perpetuates an "us versus them" workplace mentality, rather than fostering the type of cooperative environment that produces true cost savings and efficiency improvements.

The Idaho Association of Government Employees, whose membership includes about 450 of Idaho's roughly 13,000 hourly state employees, is considering legal action to overturn the rule changes. It's also circulating petitions asking state legislators to overturn the changes during the next session in January.

"We have two concerns," said IAGE Field Representative Alex Neiwirth. "We think these changes were pushed through illegally, and we think the changes are bad. We aren't saying any change is bad,

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NO 'EVERYONE' TODAY

David Johnson is enjoying vacation

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