



## HIDDEN YELLOWSTONE

Chronicle begins series on trails less traveled in Yellowstone National Park

PAGE C1



## RIDING HIGH

PBR professional bull riders kick off first night of Gallatin County Fair

SPORTS



BOZEMAN DAILY

# CHRONICLE

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## Bozeman kids ace reading, struggle in math

By GAIL SCHONTZLER  
Chronicle Staff Writer

Only 71 percent of eighth-graders and 67 percent of 10<sup>th</sup>-graders scored at grade level or above in math this spring.

Reading scores are high and rising, but math and writing scores are down in the latest state and district tests for Bozeman public school students.

In the spring 2008 statewide standardized tests, 91 percent of Bozeman fourth-graders scored at grade level or advanced in reading.

Eighth-graders held steady at a high level, with 93 percent doing well in reading. Tenth-

graders also improved a bit from the year before, with 88 percent scoring at grade level or advanced.

All three grades were doing much better than in 2004, when only 71 percent to 79 percent of students scored well in reading.

Math, however, had mixed results: 78 percent of fourth-graders scored at grade level or advanced on the statewide test. That was a dramatic

increase from four years ago, when only 57 percent of fourth-graders did well.

Yet among older students, only 71 percent of eighth-graders and 67 percent of 10<sup>th</sup>-graders scored at grade level or above in math this spring. And those scores were down from four years ago.

Superintendent Kirk Miller reviewed the latest scores from the statewide CRT test for the

School Board on Monday, as part of his review of how well the Bozeman schools did in meeting the district's 10 goals in his first year on the job.

Academic achievement for students — especially raising reading, math and writing scores — was goal No. 1.

Though the test scores from the state Office of Public Instruction are still preliminary, Miller said he doesn't expect major changes when official scores are released in September.

(More on Math, page A10)

### INFLATION WATCH

## Consumer prices post biggest jump since 1991

By MARTIN CRUTSINGER  
AP Economics Writer

WASHINGTON — The price of a quart of milk, a plane ticket and a host of other products rose in June at nearly the fastest pace in a generation, taking an even bigger-than-expected bite out of the buying power of Americans.

In the latest shock wave to hit the economy, consumer prices rose 1.1 percent in June from the month before, far faster than the expected rate of 0.7 percent and almost double the reading from May.

The Labor Department said Wednesday.

The only time in the past quarter-century that monthly inflation has been that high was in September 2005, when prices jumped 1.3 percent, mostly because Hurricane Katrina shut down oil refineries and energy prices spiked.

Consumer prices are up 5 percent over the last 12 months, the fastest one-year change since 1991.

As prices rose last month, take-home pay took a hit.

Adjusting for inflation, weekly wages fell 0.9 percent in June, the third straight monthly decline and the biggest drop in almost four years.

The news was the back half of a one-two punch on inflation. It's true that the Labor Department reported that prices at the wholesale level were rising by the highest annual rate in 17 years.

(More on Inflation, page A10)

## Hoofing it down Main Street



Marianne Amsden, co-founder of the Gallatin Equestrian Partnership, crosses Main Street with her horse Gallahad on Wednesday.

By Chronicle Staff

About 10 members of the Gallatin Equestrian Partnership, or GallEP, rode their horses through downtown Bozeman and into the county fair Wednesday to help raise awareness of their mission to preserve equestrian access in the Gallatin Valley.

"Everybody that saw us was like 'Oh cool, horses,'" Marianne Amsden, GallEP co-founder, said Wednesday. "They're not used to seeing us in the city anymore."

Within the past 15 years, as city and county populations have increased, it has become harder for equestrians to continue near or into town or state and more roads are paved and traffic volume and speeds increase. Amsden said.

(More on RALLER, page A10)

## Pentagon to shift troops from Iraq to Afghanistan

WASHINGTON (AP) — Pentagon leaders on Wednesday signaled a surge in U.S. forces in Afghanistan "sooner rather than later," a shift that could send some units there within weeks, as officials prepare to cut troop levels in Iraq.

Senior military officials are looking across the services to identify smaller units and other equipment that could be sent to Afghanistan, according to a defense official.

Although there are no brigade-sized units that can be deployed quickly into Afghanistan, military leaders believe they can find a number of smaller units such as aviation, engineering and surveillance troops that can be moved more swiftly, said the official, who requested anonymity because the discussions are private.

The moves are expected to happen within weeks rather than months, the official said.

The decisions are being made against the backdrop of shifting priorities for the U.S. military, and were discussed during a meeting Wednesday of the Joint Chiefs of Staff.

Military leaders are weighing requests from commanders in Afghanistan for more troops, aircraft and other assistance. And they are trying to determine the right balance between the needs of the forces in Iraq, versus troops in Afghanistan who are facing a Taliban resurgence.

(More on Troops, page A10)

WHEN: Gates open at 8 a.m. daily  
ADMISSION: \$5 at the gate and free for ages 10 and under

CARNIVAL HOURS: 4 p.m. to close today; 2 p.m. to close Friday; 1 p.m. to close Saturday and 1 to 5 p.m. Sunday. Ride-all-day wristbands are \$20.

SPECIAL FARES: Daycare providers, military and seniors pay \$3 between 8 a.m. and 3 p.m. today

### TODAY'S SPECIAL EVENTS:

6:30 p.m. - Mutton Bustin' in the Indoor Arena  
7 & 7:30 p.m. - Dog short-dock diving at Denecke Park  
7 p.m. - 4-H Horse Show & Cattle Sorting at Anderson Arena  
8:30 p.m. - Ringing 5 on the Rio Tinto-Luzernac Stage

### DAILY EVENTS:

8 a.m. to 10 p.m. - 4-H food concession open  
9 a.m. to 10 p.m. - Items open to public  
10:30 a.m. to 10 p.m. - Fair Market open  
11 a.m. to 8 p.m. - Livestock Parking Lot at Haines Pavilion  
11 a.m. to close - Best Horseman Jumps at the Haines Pavilion  
11 a.m. to 10 p.m. - Musical act at the Haines Pavilion  
11 a.m. to 9 p.m. - Horse Science Center in Building #4  
7:30 p.m. - Shelter Dog Walkoff in the Indoor Arena



▲: Time, A.Z. averages only 17 days before next rain.

## Sun and Moon

Sunrise today	5:52 a.m.
Sunset today	9:09 p.m.
Sunrise tomorrow	5:53 a.m.
Sunset tomorrow	9:08 p.m.
Moonrise today	9:09 p.m.
Moonset today	4:53 a.m.
Moonrise tomorrow	9:37 p.m.
Moonset tomorrow	6:00 a.m.



## Road Report

Road Conditions: 1-800-226-7623

Indianapolis	92/68h	93/68h
Kansas City	92/70h	90/71pc
Los Vegas	105/81h	108/84h
Los Angeles	84/66pc	82/64pc
Miami	88/79f	90/81h
Minneapolis	84/68f	84/68pc
New Orleans	94/74h	91/74pc
New York	92/76h	96/79h
Orlando	86/74f	92/75f
Philadelphia	94/72h	96/74h
Phoenix	108/88pc	110/87h
Pittsburgh	92/64h	92/66h
Portland, OR	78/56h	78/55pc
St. Louis	94/71pc	96/72h
Salt Lake City	93/67h	92/63pc
San Diego	74/68pc	75/66pc
San Francisco	70/54pc	70/53pc
Seattle	74/54h	72/53pc
Washington, DC	94/72h	92/73h



## World Cities

City	Today		Tomorrow		City	Today		Tomorrow	
	Hi/Lo/W	Hi/Lo/W	Hi/Lo/W	Hi/Lo/W		Hi/Lo/W	Hi/Lo/W	Hi/Lo/W	
Baghdad	109/82h	116/83h	Mexico City	73/55f	71/52f				
Calgary	71/47f	67/49f	Moscow	84/64pc	84/64pc				
Jerusalem	84/60h	84/62h	Paris	74/55c	70/57c				
London	68/52f	72/57pc	Rome	81/66pc	82/66c				
Madrid	88/61pc	97/63h	Tokyo	89/77pc	88/78f				

Weather (W): s-sunny, pc-partially cloudy, c-cloudy, sh-showers, t-thunderstorms, f-fog, sl-snow flurries, sn-snow, h-ice, Pp-Precipitation, T-trace.

that goal in math, Miller said.

In writing, scores dropped in most grades in the school district's own test, and fell by 10 points in second, sixth and seventh grades. King said a major reason was that the grading of the test was changed to make it more accurate. Scores ranged from 86 percent of first-graders writing at grade level or better, to 61 percent of sixth-graders.

Reviewing all 10 goals for last year, Miller said he was pleased with the district's progress. Major progress has been made toward building and renovating schools to cope with growth, for example.

Helping to meet its goal of expanding teacher training, the school district is getting private help, including a donation of more than \$240,000 in stock from an anonymous do-

nor to pay for three Bozeman teachers to become instructional coaches.

Miller said he presented a plan to the Bozeman Schools Foundation to help pay for professional training someday in the future. The district paid \$7,500 for the half-time foundation executive director's job, and the foundation raised nearly \$100,000 last year.

"It shouldn't have to be this way," Miller told the School Board, that public schools must seek private dollars for teacher training, something that should be the state's responsibility. But as leader of the Bozeman schools, Miller said, "I won't leave any stone unturned" to improve kids' education.

Gail Schontzler is at gails@dailychronicle.com or 582-2633.

"I think that we are clearly working very hard to see if there are opportunities to send additional forces sooner rather than later," Gates told Pentagon reporters. But, he added that no final decisions or recommendations have been made.

His comments suggested an acceleration in what had been plans to shift forces there early next year. And they came as the political discourse on Afghanistan as a key military priority escalated on both Capitol Hill and the presidential campaign trail.

similar calorie, fat and cholesterol restrictions, emphasizing poultry, fish, olive oil and nuts.

The low-carb diet set limits for carbohydrates, but none for calories or fat. It urged dieters to choose vegetarian sources of fat and protein.

"So not a lot of butter and eggs and cream," said Madelyn Fernstrom, a University of Pittsburgh Medical Center weight management expert

who reviewed the study but was not involved in it.

Most of the participants were men; all men and women in the study got roughly equal amounts of exercise, the study's authors said.

Average weight loss for those in the low-carb group was 10.3 pounds after two years. Those in the Mediterranean diet lost 10 pounds, and those on the low-fat regimen dropped 6.5.

## GalleP / from page A1

There are no roads with signage to indicate slowing for horse or agricultural-vehicle traffic and horses are illegal on city trails.

"We had to get special permission to ride today," Amsden said. "What we'd like to be able to do is just get on our horses and ride, and have an established trail that we're allowed to ride on."

GalleP has proposed to include equestrian access in the city of Bozeman's Parks

Recreation and Outdoor Space, or PROST, plan. The amendments include a revised map for access to some of the trails in the Bozeman donut area, along with access to a trail to the fairgrounds, Montana State University, Story Mill and Hyalite Canyon.

Anyone who wants to get involved with GalleP can e-mail gallepmt@yahoo.com or visit the group's new Web site at www.gallepmt.org.

## Inflation / from page A1

Before Congress, Federal Reserve Chairman Ben Bernanke wrapped up two days of testimony and repeated his concerns about inflation, also noting the housing slump, financial turmoil and credit troubles.

"We will work our way through these financial storms," he said.

The Consumer Price Index, which came out Wednesday, measures not just what Americans pay for goods but for other purchases, including services like health care and haircuts.

Higher energy costs led the way, with a more than 10 percent rise in gasoline prices. More expensive vegetables, dairy and beef pushed up food costs.

Core inflation, the figure that excludes energy and food to measure other costs, rose by 0.3 percent in June, the fastest rise since January. Airline tickets grew almost 5 percent more expensive, the biggest rise since the summer of 2001.

The report illustrates just how quickly prices are rising — not that the economic

squeeze is anything new to most Americans.

Marsha Marvel, 45, an elementary school reading specialist from Springfield, Ill., said she had created a weekly household budget to hold down expenses and the family was cutting back on trips and restaurant meals to save.

"This summer, I feel like I'm paying \$10 into my gas tank every day, so we've really had to change our budget," she said. "We're just watching our money so much more closely than before."

Carla Civitate, 50, a Des Moines, Iowa, hairstylist, said she and her husband were also struggling with the soaring gas prices.

"We've adjusted our driving styles a lot with gas prices," she said, even though one of their two cars is a hybrid. "I just basically drive to work and home and we try to do our errands en route."

On Wall Street, the inflation report was tempered by falling oil prices. The Dow Jones industrial average rose 276 points, the biggest one-day jump in three months.