



**By RACHEL HERGETT**  
Chronicle Staff Writer

**Green driving starts with the car**  
Helen and John Taylor have made a name for themselves by teaching the rest of us how to drive not only safer, but more economically.

Along the way they have picked up 38 fuel-economy driving world records, including the Guinness World Record for the lowest fuel consumption across the 48 contiguous United States this past September.

In a 9,419-mile trip, the Taylors averaged 58.82 miles per gallon, a whopping 65.3 miles per tank. But the Taylors didn't do it by stinky driving alone. They had the help of the 2009 Green Car of the Year, the clean diesel Volkswagen Jetta TDI.

"Green car" standards are based on overall environmental performance and take into account both fuel efficiency and carbon emissions. The Jetta TDI beat out a pair of hybrids, a BMW clean diesel sedan and an electric smart car to take the top honor, announced at the auto show in Los Angeles in November.

According to greencar.com, the Jetta TDI "breaks new ground in the field of clean diesels, achieving emissions certification in all 50 states without the use of special additives or extraordinary measures."

For the average driver, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency has estimated the car's fuel economy at 29 mpg in the city and 40 mpg on the highway.

But reviewers have found it may perform much better than that.

"In my week with the Jetta it became clear that the VW can indeed top 50 mpg if you stay under 60 mph and treat the gas pedal as if there's an egg under it," wrote Lawrence Ulrich of the New York Times. "When I flowed with traffic at 65 to 70 mph, and made no effort to goose the mileage, the VW posted 42 mpg. And in city driving, the Jetta hit 32 mpg, again topping its official rating."

The Taylors chronicled their journey across the states and share driving tips on their Web site, [www.fuelacademy.com](http://www.fuelacademy.com). The 2009 Volkswagen Jetta TDI is available locally from the Montana Import Group east of town on the frontage road.

**Bigger bakery**

While the date isn't set in stone, Sweet Pea Bakery owner Seth Ward is "pretty confident" the bakery's new store will be open by Wednesday.

Tired of operating without elbowroom in the tiny 500-square-foot basement below Over the Tapas on South Willison Avenue, Seth and his wife Carrie are moving the bakery into the space previously occupied by Bridger Ridge Homemade Ice Cream at 2622 W. Main St.

"It was awesome to have a roommate when we were first starting," Seth said, but over time the bakery's business has grown and the Wards decided a move would be in their best interest.

Plus, he said, there's more parking at the new place.

"People don't have to walk a block to pick up their dessert and then walk another block with it back to their car," Seth said.

The bakery will also expand its offerings and hours. Carrie will be busy whipping up muffins, scones and cinnamon rolls to offer for breakfast, along with granola selections and a quiche of the day. And, since the move means double the display space, Sweet Pea Bakery will now have takeout items for larger crowds — namely the signature and classic cakes for special occasions.

"Our demographic is people that understand why you don't go by the average grocery cake," Seth said. "We're really trying to push quality local ingredients and have gone to all local flour, oil, eggs and oats."

And even though they are no longer roommates, Over the Tapas will continue to offer a limited selection of the bakery's desserts with its menu.

The bakery is online at <http://sweetpeabakery.net/> and will be open from 7 a.m. to 6 p.m. starting later this week.

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## Children's Museum marks Year of the Ox



NICK WOLCOTT/CHRONICLE

**Chris Terloth was busy painting faces at the Chinese New Year celebration at the Children's Museum on Sunday. Terloth painted many oxen, this is the Year of the Ox, "Happy New Year" in Chinese characters, and here, Ursula Vlases gets a kitty**

**By NATASHA COLLINS**  
For the Chronicle

The Children's Museum of Bozeman was a sea of red, the color of luck in Chinese culture, on Sunday as children and their parents celebrated Chinese New Year.

Faces were painted, zodiac animals colored and wearable ox horns decorated as families carried on a tradition started four years ago by Southwest Montana parents who have adopted Chinese children and want to preserve that cultural heritage, said Susan Denson-Guy, executive director of the museum. Over 100 people participated in this Chinese New Year and Spring Festival.

The event has grown to include people such as Jin Lian Zhang and her family; Jin Lian Zhang, or Grace, and her husband left their small village of 200 people in northern China when her hus-

band was accepted to complete his Ph.D. in Michigan. In 2004, they moved with their three daughters to Bozeman to accept jobs at Montana State University.

The Children's Museum festivities and decorations were similar to those in China, where New Year's celebrations include many activities for children, she said.

"It's great that people from all around the world can learn about a new culture," she said.

In China, the New Year and Spring Festival last for more than two weeks and include an array of parades, lantern festivals, fireworks and feasts.

Always, the festivities celebrate the zodiac sign of the coming year. The coming year is the Year of the Ox. People born in the Year of the Ox are strong, confident, quiet and reliable. Coincidentally, President Obama is an ox.

(More on **Museum**, Page A7)

### 11-YEAR-OLD HAS THRIVING PET-CARE BUSINESS

## Going to the dogs ... and cats

**By JODI HAUSEN**  
Chronicle Staff Writer

Stephanie Thielemann could write a book about canine care. In fact the 11-year-old sort of has written a book. But so far, she's kept it pretty much to herself.

Stephanie not only runs her own pet-care business, she donates half her proceeds to the furry friends she loves at Heart of the Valley Animal Shelter.

"I've always loved animals and always wanted to run an animal shelter," she said, while petting

her own 17-month-old German short-haired pointer, Rosie.

And love turned into benefits for her, in the form of a little income. It has also generated about \$300 in donations for the animal shelter. And it has meant her neighbors in Elk Grove subdivision have a responsible dog walker and pet sitter right at hand.

Stephanie spends about two hours weekly taking care of pets. "People know they can leave them and not have to take them everywhere and that they'll be safe," she said.

Stephanie started researching dog training and care when she was 9 years old and living in Bloomington, Ind. Since then she has filled a three-ring binder, with an apt photo of two wide-eyed kittens on the cover, with pages and pages of tips and information printed in pink, purple, aqua and black — information she shares with her clients.



CHRONICLE PHOTO

**Stephanie Thielemann is seen walking one of her charges in the Elk Grove subdivision.**

"Potty Break" is printed across the top of one page in bold purple letters, with a matching purple smiley face in the center and a list of six suggestions on how to deal with dog poop.

The first tip: "Whenever your dog looks like it wants to go to the bathroom, take it outside right away!"

Another tip: "Make sure you clean up the dog's mess at least once a week."

Other pages deal with obedience training and games dogs love. Stephanie also created a "report card" to leave for her clients' owners after she's visited. On it she reports on the pet's happiness level — whether she was "greeted warmly" or if the animal "wanted attention" — as well as information about feeding, grooming and pooping.

"It's to let them know I was there," Stephanie said. "I just want clients to know how their animal was feeling that day."

Jo Beatty is a retired veterinarian who, until last week, worked at Heart of the Valley Animal Shelter. Beatty is also one of Stephanie's clients. Stephanie cares for Beatty's three cats — Jesse, Lisa and Harold — when Beatty goes out of town.

Beatty said she was so impressed with Stephanie when she met her and hopes she'll pursue a veterinary career.

"She's not just a doe-eyed kid who just loves animals, she's a businesswoman," she said.

"She has all the elements (to be a good veterinarian) — the intelligence, commitment and compassion.

(More on **Dogs**, Page A7)

### AREA NEWS DIGEST

**Seniors should apply for homeowner/renter credit**

Montanans who were 62 or older as of Dec. 31 should check to see whether they qualify for Montana's elderly homeowner/renter tax credit for 2008.

Those who answer "yes" to the following questions may be eligible for the credit:

- Were you age 62 or older as of Dec. 31, 2008?
- Did you reside in Montana for nine months or more during 2008?
- Did you occupy Montana residence(s) as an owner or renter a total of 6 months or more during 2008?
- Was your total gross household income less than \$45,000 in 2008?

The state of Montana allows those who qualify to take a credit for a portion of their property taxes or rent paid. The credit

can be used against their state income tax liability or as a direct refund, if they are not required to file a state income-tax return. Only one claim is allowed per household.

To determine eligibility, complete Form 2EC. The forms are available at libraries, post offices, tax preparers, state revenue department offices, or online at <http://mt.gov/revenue>.

Those eligible for the tax credit in prior years who didn't take advantage of it are still allowed to file for up to five years from the original due date of the Form 2EC.

For more information or to get help, call (406) 444-2830 or 1-866-859-2254.

**Big Sky Institute launches blog, seeks contributors**

Montana State University's Big Sky Institute has launched a blog, "A Closer Look: Climate,

Wildlands, People," containing information and resources on climate, wildlands and people in the greater Yellowstone ecosystem.

The blog, at <http://bsi.montana.edu/acloserlook>, focuses on science information pertinent to the region. It already contains information on topics such as mountain pine beetles and native coldwater fish. In the future, it will also include a photo gallery and multimedia pieces, according to Twila Moon, assistant director of institute.

BSI is seeking other experts to contribute to the blog through occasional or regular postings or by forwarding science information of interest. Contributors do not need to be affiliated with MSU.

For more information, call 994-7977 or 993-9355 or e-mail [twila.moon@montana.edu](mailto:twila.moon@montana.edu) or [tkipfer@montana.edu](mailto:tkipfer@montana.edu).  
From Chronicle news sources

## County set to take up \$32M sale of jail bonds

**By Chronicle Staff**

Gallatin County commissioners are scheduled to vote on the sale of \$32 million in general obligation bonds for the new Gallatin County jail when they meet Tuesday.

The commissioners will also discuss aspects of the jail project at several other meetings this week, including a construction project update Monday at 9:30 a.m.; an update on the "guaranteed maximum price" from Martel Construction, Inc., at 8:30 a.m. Wednesday; and a weekly update Friday at 9:30 a.m. All meetings are held in the Gallatin County Courthouse on West Main Street.

When the Gallatin County Commission meets Tuesday morning at 9 a.m., the agenda includes seven other public hearings and decisions regarding:

- a petition to annex the town of West Yellowstone into the Hebgren Basin Fire District;
- appointments to the Bridger Canyon Rural Fire District and the Historic Preservation Board;
- amending the Gallatin City-County Health Department's fiscal year 2009 budget to include a \$9,000 Montana State University Napa grant and \$20,000 from the Montana State Health Department-Montana Learning Collaborative for educational information and improvements;

(More on **County**, Page A7)

## Budget cuts on tonight's city agenda

**By Chronicle Staff**

The Bozeman City Commission will discuss spending reductions in the current general fund when it meets at 6 tonight.

The commission will also consider:

- Establishing a Bozeman Tourism Business Improvement District;
  - Land-use options for the Story Mountain property;
  - A staff report on the status of various city-owned lands;
  - The water fund and wastewater fund plans within the Capital Improvements Program for fiscal years 2010 to 2014.
  - Appointments to the Water Review Board.
- The commission meets at City Hall, 121 N. Rouse Ave.

