

# Times-News

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Twin Falls, Idaho/93rd year, No. 365

Thursday, December 31, 1999

50 cents

## GOOD MORNING

### WEATHER

Today: Mostly cloudy, chance of rain, breezy, high 50.  
Clearing tonight, low 29.  
Page A2

### MAGIC VALLEY

**Cellular safety:** Cellular phone-use is beginning to get the attention of local police.  
Page C1

**Convention center:** A group is going to take a look at Twin Falls' need for a convention center.  
Page C1

### SPORTS



**Vandalized Southern Miss,** which entered Wednesday's Humanitarian Bowl favored by 16 1/2 points, leaves Idaho a loser.  
Page B1

**Canned Dawg:** University of Washington football coach Jim Lambright, a 30-year Husky, receives his walking papers.  
Page B1

### OUTDOORS

**Watch the birdie:** Bird enthusiasts had their eyes to the skies over the holiday weekend.  
Page D1

### OPINION

**You said it:** *The Times-News* thanks those who sent letters to the editor this year.  
Page A6

### WEST

**Horses shot:** The probe of 33 wild horses shot to death includes a \$30,000 reward.  
Page C8

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# CATCH A RIDE, STAY ALIVE

## Twin Falls cab owner offers a free lift tonight

By Brian Haynes  
Times-News writer

**TWIN FALLS** — It's going to be a busy night for Gary Atkinson.  
New Year's Eve always is for the owner of Checkered Taxi Cab in Twin Falls: When the ball drops into 1999, the phone will ring off the hook, and his fleet of cabs will run constantly until early morning.  
Even though his cars will cart hundreds of people around Twin Falls, he won't make a dime.  
"That's because any ride during the night from a Twin Falls bar to a Twin Falls home is free."

"We do it to keep folks who have had too much to drink off the road for their safety and the safety of all other people in Twin Falls," Atkinson said.  
Programs such as Atkinson's and greater awareness about the dangers and penalties for drunken driving have led to a dramatic drop in drunken-driving arrests at recent years.  
Twin Falls police Sgt. Tom Fain said.  
But police will still be looking for drivers who have had a few too many. Law enforcement agencies throughout the Magic Valley are increasing patrol during the night to target drunken drivers.  
Some Twin Falls police officers will be on the



Gary Atkinson, owner of Checkered Taxi Cab, offers a free lift to anyone who has had too much to drink on New Year's Eve.

**Call a cabbie**  
Checkered Taxi Cab is offering free rides home from bars on New Year's Eve. Call 733-0000 before 2 a.m. to arrange a pickup.

**The legal limit**  
Blood-alcohol content is a complex measurement of alcohol concentration in the blood. The amount of alcohol consumed and the time spent drinking. Listed here are estimates of how many drinks it takes to reach .08 percent, the legal limit for driving in Idaho.  
A drink is defined as a shot of liquor, a glass of wine or a can of beer.

	One beer	Two hours	Three hours
male	23	34	34
female	23	23	34
male	34	150 lbs.	45
female	34	34	45
male	45	180 lbs.	45
female	45	34	56
male	45	210 lbs.	67
female	45	45	56
male	56	67	78
female	45	56	67

Source: National Highway Traffic Safety Administration

## GUN CONTROL



Rick Lang, a mechanic at the Twin Falls city shop, saws a gun into pieces. The city destroyed 174 weapons Saturday police.

# Shot down: City slices seized guns

By Mark Heitz  
Times-News writer

**TWIN FALLS** — A metallic shriek tore through the Twin Falls city shop Wednesday afternoon as shop employee Bill Riddleberger lowered a circular saw blade into a nickel-plated, pocket-sized 25-caliber automatic.  
Among the other guns on his workbench was a no-noise 12-gauge pump shotgun. Potentially a duck hunter's best friend, the pump gun was words apart from the 25-caliber. But both guns met the same fate as Riddleberger quickly destroyed one firearm after another with his saw, stopping only to change blades.  
"I'd rather not do this one," he said as he held up a small, possi-

## TF orders weapons destroyed, but some question the decision

bly antique Smith and Wesson revolver. "But that's (City Hall's) decision."  
He tossed the Smith back into the pile of weapons on his bench and went back to work.  
But one Twin Falls businessman says he's disappointed with the city's decision to destroy some 174 firearms and air rifles held by the police department.  
"It sends the message that guns are evil or they cause crime," said Magic Valley Pawn and Loan owner Randy Ostrom.  
Ostrom pitched the winning bid

— \$4,100 — to buy all the illegal guns from the city and resell them in his shop.  
The guns were seized or unclaimed property that built up over the last two years or so, said Police Lt. Dennis Chambers, who oversaw the weapons' destruction.  
Some were from crime scenes, accidents or domestic disputes. Others were tossed from suspects' cars during police pursuits or situations.  
The city has for years said it started on abandoned weapons back to local shops or dealers, in-

## Fox lauds Idaho test results

Scores back her program, she says

The Associated Press

**BOISE** — Outgoing state Schools Superintendent Anne Fox said steady improvement in Idaho students' scores on standardized tests during her tenure shows her emphasis on fundamental academic skills is working.

Fox unveiled scores Wednesday for the current school year on the Iowa Test of Basic Skills administered to all third through eighth-grade students and the equivalent tests given to ninth through 11th-graders statewide.

She showed all grades scored above the national average, and five of the nine grades involved scored better than all 50 percent of their counterparts across the country. Those were this year's sixth, seventh, eighth, 10th and 11th graders.

Only Idaho ninth graders saw a drop from the same group's results in the previous year in the core total, representing the average of scores in reading, language and math. A similar falloff from year-earlier scores has been recorded for each class moving from eighth to ninth grade for the last three years.

Magic Valley district scores will not be available until next week, Fox said.  
Fox said the overall results are evidence that Idaho schools are on track to her goal of a top national ranking in academics, Please see SCORES, Page A2



Anne Fox

## Nevada, Utah, Idaho set pace for population rise

The Associated Press

**WASHINGTON** — For the 13th straight year Nevada is the nation's fastest-growing state, boosting its population by 4.1 percent. The year saw population declines in Pennsylvania, North Dakota, West Virginia and the District of Columbia.  
West Virginia was the first state in recent years to have more deaths, 19,736, than births, 19,281.  
California, the most populous state, also recorded a strong 1.5 percent gain between July 1, 1997, and July 1, 1998, the Census Bureau reported. That was the biggest increase for the Golden State since 1992 and reflects a slowdown in the number of Californians moving to nearby states, the bureau said.  
"Much of the population growth in the rest of the West was due to a truly phenomenal amount of domestic out-migration to other Western states from California

during the early and middle part of the decade," said Marc Perry, a Census Bureau demographer.  
"But, with far fewer people leaving California now, this source of population growth for other states just isn't there anymore. As a result, population growth rates in other Western states have dropped in recent years," he said.  
Nonetheless, California still lost people to other states, with a net 89,711 people departing. But it was more than made up by the 288,885 who moved in from other countries.  
Overall, the West remained the fastest-growing region in the nation, with its population increasing 1.6 percent, followed by the South at 1.3 percent, the Midwest, 0.4 percent, and the Northeast, 0.3 percent.  
The Northeast continued to be the nation's slowest growing region, with a population growth rate of 0.3 percent.

## Westward ho!

Headline leader the victory for the 13th year in a row as the fastest growing state. A new, 10th year 10 and their percentage change from the year before.

1998 population	Population change	Percent change
1. Nevada	1,248,888	+4.1%
2. Idaho	1,468,031	+11.3%
3. Colorado	3,970,977	+7.8%
4. Georgia	7,282,207	+12.2%
5. Texas	16,759,814	+37.9%
6. Utah	2,280,736	+3.7%
7. Florida	14,913,302	+2.7%
8. Arizona	1,228,084	+9.8%
9. South Carolina	7,546,460	+11.8%
10. California	32,880,500	+1.5%

Source: Census Bureau

## U.S. hits Iraqi sites after 'no-fly' violation

Low Angles Times

**WASHINGTON** — U.S. warplanes pounded three Iraqi military targets with missiles and laser-guided bombs Wednesday as President Saddam Hussein expanded his latest show of defiance to a "no-fly" zone encompassing much of southern Iraq.  
The Pentagon said Iraq provoked the confrontation by firing six to eight surface-to-air missiles at a British aircraft.  
Officials reported no casualties among the 20 U.S. warplanes and five British bombers patrolling the region and said the targets were apparently hit.  
Hussein's second provocation in three days reflects a new gamble by the Iraqi leader to use force in an effort to get the United States to respond in kind, according to Western analysts. It is a pattern that over time could be contained easily for the Clinton administration diplomatically.

"Ultimately, what Hussein is trying to do is make it harder and harder to sustain the no-fly zones."

— Kenneth Pollack, U.S. defense expert

militarily and financially.  
Baghdad appears to be calculating that a prolonged series of U.S. strikes will fail to achieve the American goals of either overturning the regime or pressuring Iraq into cooperating with the outside world.  
A statement in the United States' new "containment-plus" strategy, which calls for greater use of U.S. military muscle to deter Iraqi aggression, could be contained easily for the Clinton administration diplomatically.  
Please see IRAQ, Page A2

# THE REGION

### Camas Prairie

High: 45 Low: 21  
Cloudy today with chance of rain or snow. Some clearing tonight. Mostly sunny Friday, high 43.

### Treasure Valley

High: 48 Low: 30  
Cloudy today with a chance of rain or snow. Some clearing tonight. Mostly sunny Friday, high 43.

### Sawtooth Mountains/Wood River Valley

High: 45 Low: 21  
Cloudy today with a chance of rain or snow. Some clearing tonight. Mostly sunny Friday, high 43.

### Eastern Idaho

High: 42 Low: 25  
Cloudy today with a chance of rain or snow and breezy. Mostly cloudy tonight. Partly cloudy Friday, high 33.

### Northern Idaho

High: 40 Low: 26  
Cloudy today with a chance of rain or snow and breezy. Some clearing tonight. Partly cloudy Friday, high 34.

### Northern Utah

High: 48 Low: 32  
Cloudy today with a chance of rain or snow and breezy. Mostly cloudy tonight. Partly cloudy Friday, high 45.

### Northern Nevada

High: 50 Low: 29  
Cloudy today with a chance of rain or snow and breezy. Partly cloudy tonight. Partly cloudy Friday, high 41.

# MAGIC VALLEY FIVE-DAY FORECAST

Today	Friday	Saturday	Sunday	Monday
High: 50 Low: 29 Mostly cloudy with chance of rain, heavy. Chance of rain tonight.	High: 41 Low: 25 Mostly sunny.	High: 30s Low: 10s Fog possible then partly cloudy.	High: 30s Low: 10s Fog possible then partly cloudy.	High: 30s Low: 10s Fog possible then partly cloudy.

# YESTERDAY'S WEATHER

Twin Falls	Precipitation
Yesterday: 52-35	0.00
Last week: 47-30	0.23
Normal: 51-31	1.10
Year-to-date: 1.94	1.94
Normal year-to-date: 3.03	

# Idaho High/Lows

Area	High	Low
Boise	50	24
Blackfoot	49	23
Idaho Falls	42	16
Jerome	40	14
Madras	42	16
Martinsburg	41	15
McCall	38	10
Shoshone	47	21
Stater	51	25
Sun Valley	44	20

# Idaho weather

Thursday, Dec. 31  
AccuWeather forecast for daytime conditions, high/low temperatures

Call the following number for more conditions in Idaho: 1-800-ID-ROAD (1-800-432-7623).

# National weather

The AccuWeather forecast for noon, Thursday, Dec. 31.

FOR MORE INFORMATION  
Tune to the National Weather Service radio band at 151.7 FM 162.4 or 162.55 MHz. The internet address for Idaho Transportation Department road reports is <http://www.state.idaho.gov/roads/roads.html>

# The Nation

Area	High	Low
Albuquerque	52	2
Albany	31	1
Albuquerque	52	2
Albany	31	1
Albuquerque	52	2
Albany	31	1

### ACROSS THE NATION

Idaho: High pressure over the region has given Idaho a short break from the cloudy skies and precipitation of the past few days. The next system to affect Idaho was located along the Washington-Oregon coast that system was expected to bring a return to cloudy skies and the chance of valley rain and mountain snow to the state on today.

Elsewhere: Showers and snow moved across the East on Wednesday, dropping 8 inches of snow in New England, and snow also fell across a wide area in the middle of the nation.

An arctic cold front sliding across the East spread showers along the mid Atlantic states and south into Georgia, and produced snow showers across the Great Lakes and the Northeast.

Up to a foot of snow was likely by today near the Lake Erie shore of eastern northeastern Ohio.

Scattered snow showers were expected across the Ohio Valley and Appalachians during the night.

Farther west, isolated light rain showers developed over sections of Oregon, southern Idaho and western Montana.

— The Associated Press

# Safe

street looking only for drunk drivers, and Idaho State Police will increase patrols in the early morning hours to crack down on drunk drivers returning from places such as Jackpot, Nev.

Many people call New Year's Eve "amateur night," because people who never drink of alcohol will try it.

"People try too hard to have fun. There's always a problem," Rupert Police Chief James Jackson said.

Law officers encourage minimum party guests to designate a driver or call a cab.

Atkinson agreed.

"Go out, have a good time and do the responsible thing," he said. "It's safer for all involved."

But despite the free rides, and the increased public awareness, drunken driving is still a problem. Numbers from a citizens' group offer a sobering reminder.

In 1997, more than 67 percent of traffic-related fatalities on New Year's Eve involved alcohol consumption, a Mothers Against Drunk Driving traffic report says.

That adds up to 129 people who died in alcohol-related accidents.

Memorial Day, the Fourth of July, Labor Day and Thanksgiving have more traffic deaths — around 500 deaths per holiday — but only about half of these accidents are alcohol-related, the report says.

"You think you can make it home OK, and you might," said Katie Caldwell, a Kimberly woman involved with MADD. "But the guy next to you could be the one to hurt you."

Times-News staff writer Brian Hays can be reached at 733-0931, Ext. 238.

# Scores

and she urged a continuation of her focus on basic skills. "I think we're on a great roll, and we can get there," she said. "We can do it."

But the state's voters turned Fox out of office in last month's election. Democrat Marilyn Howard will become schools superintendent next week, and the former Moscow elementary school principal has expressed less enthusiasm for testing at so many grade levels.

Before Fox took office, standardized testing was administered only to students in fourth, eighth and 11th grades. She pushed for more assessment in response to what she said were protests from parents, businesses and higher education leaders that students were not prepared to succeed in the work force or college.

"We felt there needed to be some real accountability. There had to be something done in order to correct the direction we were going."

Tom Farley, chief of the Education Department's Bureau of Instruction, said the added testing has highlighted areas of academic weakness for Idaho students and helped the state develop data to guide curriculum development and teaching.

But Fox said the key continues to be parental involvement. She said all parents should try to spend at least 30 minutes a day talking to their children about school work.

# Guns

"It's a big-city mentality," he said.

Police Capt. Bob Hodge, who is in charge of the department's records division, said that statement is true, to the best of his knowledge. But backing it up with official figures would be next to impossible, because an exhaustive records search could take days.

Even if it is unlikely that a weapon sold from impound would be used in a crime later, Courtney said the city would simply rather be safe than sorry.

"(It's) a significant amount of money," Courtney said of the \$4,100 offered for the guns. "But in a \$21 million city budget, it's not a make-or-buy item."

Times-News staff writer Mark Heinz can be reached at 324-6962.

# Iraq

increase pressure on Washington to look for alternative strategies, Bush's regime apparently hopes.

"Ultimately, what Hussein is trying to do is make it harder and harder to sustain the no-fly zones," said Kenneth Pollack, an Iraq expert at the National Defense University in Washington.

The military costs and diplomatic pressures could intensify the position of U.N. Security Council members Russia, France and China, who favor negotiation with Iraq rather than punitive actions, said that statement is true, to the best of his knowledge.

Already, Iraq's strategy has effectively achieved one goal: diverting world attention from Hussein's refusal to allow U.N. inspectors to

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Daniel Walock, circulation manager

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For a complete list of rates, change of address form to P.O. Box 548, Twin Falls, Idaho 83401.

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### LOTTERY UPDATE

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 30 NUMBERS

**POWERBALL**  
10 20 34 38 46  
POWERBALL NUMBER 3

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 30 NUMBERS

**WILD CARD**  
3 5 19 24 26 33

**WILD CARD JACK OF SPADES**  
WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 30 NUMBERS  
2 13 19 24 29

Congratulations to a lucky Boise player who won the last \$2,500 top prize on our holiday scratch game, HOLIDAY MAGIC. He purchased his winning ticket at Gowen Chevron in Boise.

Did you know... the Idaho Lottery ends a scratch game when the last top prize has been claimed. So, if you buy a ticket, you still have a chance to win the top prize. It's all part of making the games fun and fair.

### IDAHO ROAD REPORT

BOISE (AP) — Here are Wednesday evening's road conditions from the Idaho Department of Transportation.

Interstate 84 — Oregon line to Boise, wet. Boise-Idaho line, dry.

Interstate 15 — Utah line to Idaho Falls, dry. Idaho Falls-Tubew, wet. Morena Pass, dry.

Interstate 90 — Washington line to Coeur d'Alene, icy spots. 4th of July Pass, dry. Caldwell-Boise Pass, dry.

Idaho 55 — Boise-Herndon, dry, wet. Herndon-Bend-Torrey, wet, dry spots. Donnelly-McCall, dry spots.

U.S. 95 — Oregon line-Cambria, dry. Bend-Herndon-Bandow, dry spots. Rigdon-Latah County line, wet. Latah County line-Cambria, wet, dry spots.

Idaho 21 — Boise-Idaho City, dry, wet, icy spots. Idaho City-Twin Falls, dry.

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# Plan eases way for censure



Special prosecutor Kenneth Starr leaves the cemetery Wednesday where his mother, Yvonne Mae Starr, 51, was laid to rest near Elkhart, Texas. Mr. Starr died Saturday at her home in San Antonio, apparently from heart disease.

WASHINGTON (AP) — Senate Majority Leader Trent Lott proposed Wednesday holding an early vote that would require a two-thirds majority to permit a full airing of evidence in President Clinton's impeachment trial and open the door to censure if it failed. The lead House prosecutor immediately objected.

House Judiciary Committee Chairman Henry Hyde urged Lott "not to sacrifice substance and duty for speed," and said the majority leader's plan "would untidily short-circuit the process."

"We are especially concerned by your proposal to forego a trial if one-third of the Senate fails to vote for the House position on a preliminary motion before the president and the House have fully presented their cases," Hyde said.

The sudden split between Hyde, the leader of 13 lawmakers appointed by the House to be prosecutors, and Lott came as Senate leaders discussed more detailed plans for the first presidential impeachment trial in 130 years.

A Senate leadership source, speaking only on condition of

anonymity, said — Lott and Democratic Senate Leader Tom Daschle discussed allowing a censure vote if a two-thirds vote for conviction appeared impossible. Both leaders appeared amenable to presenting the idea to their colleagues when the new Congress returns to work next week, the source said.

Another Senate source, also speaking on condition of anonymity, said Lott and Daschle discussed opening the trial in early January with as few as three days of presentation — one day each for the House prosecu-

tors and Clinton's defense team and a third day for questions.

That would be followed by a vote on whether to proceed. If that failed to gain the support of 67 senators, a censure alternative could be brought to the floor, the two sources said. No final agreement was reached, they added.

Meanwhile, two friends of Independent Counsel Kenneth Starr said the prosecutor had not ruled out entering into a three-way censure deal with Clinton and the Senate that might preclude future prosecution of the president.

working on it," the president said as Air Force One carried the Clintons south to this resort island. He opened the 48-hour respite with a walk on the beach with his dog, Buddy.

There's much to choose from in this island retreat's marsh or two away from the Carolina coast.

The president could, if he so chooses, try a discussion of "Character — What is it? How do you control it? Has its meaning changed?"

Or he could go for the practical: "What's next for the Dems and the GOP?"

It's up to the Clintons to say which sessions they'll attend.

# Clinton begins New Year's retreat

HILTON HEAD ISLAND, S.C. (AP) — Leaving impeachment woes behind him, President Clinton settled down Wednesday for one more New Year's celebration of palaver under the palm trees — the 16th annual session of Renaissance Weekend.

His New Year's resolution? "I'm

# Anthrax threats become bomb threats of the decade

LOS ANGELES (AP) — On Christmas Eve, 200 shoppers and employees at a department store in Palm Desert were herded into the parking lot, ordered to take their clothes off and rinsed with a bleach solution after somebody called in an anthrax threat.

The call turned out to be a hoax, but more than a dozen empty threats made by telephone or mail and aimed at schools, courthouses, even a nightclub in Southern California this holiday season by pranksters claiming to have

released the deadly bacteria. Anthrax threats are fast becoming the 1990s equivalent of bomb scares, and they are forcing disaster response experts to re-evaluate how to react to a biological threat. "Anthrax has really taken off nationwide," said John Hoo, spokesman for the FBI in Los Angeles.

Nationwide, the FBI has investigated more than two dozen anthrax threats in recent months. The threats received in Southern California have been made by telephone and mail,

# Report: China dealings harm security

WASHINGTON (AP) — Technology deals with China, including use of Chinese missiles to launch U.S. satellites, have harmed national security, a House committee concluded Wednesday in a report critical of dealings over two decades.

"These transfers are not limited to missile (and) satellite technology, but cover military significant technology," said Rep. Christopher Cox, chairman of a special House committee investigating military and commercial deals with China.

"Based on unclassified information, we have found that national security harm did occur," said Cox, R-Calif.

The select committee of five

Republicans and four Democrats began with an inquiry into the Clinton administration's handling of export dealings with China and whether the administration's actions compromised national security, the report said.

When it was formed in June, the committee was given mem-

oranda, powers and special authorization to look into tax records of individuals and businesses, it considers pertinent to its investigation.

The law indicated the report would include some back two decades, a span when both Republican and Democratic administrations were in power.

# Gingrich pays off rest of ethics penalty

WASHINGTON (AP) — Speaker Newt Gingrich has completed payment of a \$300,000 penalty imposed for violations of House rules, the ethics committee said Wednesday.

The outgoing speaker originally arranged a loan from ex-Sen. Bob Dole to help with the payments but decided instead to handle the penalty from personal funds.

Gingrich, who also was reprimanded by the House two years ago, admitted he misled the Committee on Standards of Official Conduct and should have sought better legal advice before using tax-exempt organizations to advance his political goals.

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**NATION**

**Grand jury rejects conspiracy theories in Oklahoma bombing**

OKLAHOMA CITY (AP) — A grand jury investigating what prosecutors described as "conspiratorial theories" about the Oklahoma bombing returned a verdict Wednesday, but said it found no evidence of additional conspirators or a government cover-up.

The Oklahoma County grand jury was convened by won't it a case against them, near the objections of the district attorney, because of suspicions that Timothy McVeigh and Perry Nichols did not act alone. The April 19, 1995, attack took 168 people.

After an 18-month, \$25,000 investigation that began in September 1997, the grand jury said it found no evidence of additional conspirators or a government cover-up.



Oklahoma Rep. Charles Key, left, listens Wednesday as supporter Tom Harde whippers to him during an Oklahoma District Judge William Burkett lashed out at Key for failing to provide the facts needed to support his charges of further conspiracies and prior government knowledge in the Oklahoma City bombing.

The grand jury also said it found no credible evidence that the bombing was linked to white supremacists or fringe militias, concluding it was an act "perpetrated by Americans on Americans."

It also reported "We can state with assurance that we do not believe that the federal government has any knowledge that the horrific terrorist attack was going to happen."

Prosecutors would give no information about what was in the sealed indictment. Earlier this year, the grand jury complained of attempts to contact members

District Judge William R. Burkett, who oversaw the grand jury, said that its 21-page report will satisfy many of those who had serious questions. But he worried that "others will simply now include these jurors as the newest members of the conspiracy."

Oklahoma Attorney General Drew Edmondson, who has complained about "the worst kind of paranoid conspiracy pandering" about the bombing, said of the grand jury Wednesday: "I'm proud of them for the diligence and thoroughness and not surprised with the outcome."

**States expect huge sales tax losses from Net commerce**

WASHINGTON (AP) — States could lose as much as \$20 billion a year in sales taxes as Americans make advantage of tax-free shopping over the Internet, the nation's governors fear.

"As more and more transactions occur online and are exempt from sales taxes, the sales tax collections on which states rely will erode," the National Governors' Association said Wednesday in its twice-yearly report on state finances.

Combined with fears that the current economic prosperity won't last, that has many state governments sucking away money in many-day accounts, the report said.

Online product purchases are

not subject to sales tax, mainly because governments have yet to figure out how to overcome the legal complexities of collecting them. Congress imposed a three-year moratorium on this year on any new Internet taxes while a commission studies the problem.

Based on projections that online sales could reach \$300 billion by 2002, states could lose \$15 to \$20 billion a year in sales taxes they would have otherwise collected, the governors' association estimates.

Sales taxes provide close to half the money for state and local budgets.

For now, however, states aren't experiencing cash shortages.

**Justice accepts AT&T, TCI \$40B merger**

WASHINGTON (AP) — Justice Department approved the \$44 billion merger of AT&T and cable giant Time Warner Communications Inc. at Wednesday, authorized the sale of TCI's assets in a rival phone company.

AT&T is the nation's largest provider of wireless, or mobile, telephone services, with about 2 million separate mobile telephone numbers. Cable television operator in the United States that also owns approximately 25 percent of the stock in phone company Sprint, a mobile telephone company, called Sprint PCS.

TCI must sell all of its Sprint PCS holdings to raise interest money, said Joe J. Klein, assistant attorney general in charge of the Justice Department's antitrust division.

**Regulators OK oil-giants merger**

WASHINGTON (AP) — Energy Petroleum Co. and Amoco Corp. said they will complete their \$55 billion merger Thursday after winning regulatory approval from the Federal Reserve Commission.

The F.R.C. and Wednesday it voted 4-1 to approve the deal after the companies agreed to address antitrust concerns by selling 25 gas stations and one petroleum terminal.

They also agreed to give owners of many tank L&M gasoline stations in 31 state petroleum to end their contracts.

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VISA

# Former hostages say Yemeni forces initiated fatal shootout

ADEN, Yemen — Forces freed after a shootout that killed four colleagues said Wednesday the battle started when Yemeni security forces attacked the Islamic militants who were holding the former hostages.

Their accounts appeared to contradict a Yemeni government statement, which said security forces only opened fire Tuesday after the kidnappers began killing some of the hostages at a camp in southern Yemen.

Meanwhile, four German hostages who had been held captive by Yemeni tribesmen Dec. 7 were set free Wednesday, Yemeni security officials said. The three women and the man were reported to be in good condition and were en route to the Yemeni capital of Sana'a.

The hostages who had been abducted Monday said The Associated Press that once the attack began, the kidnappers tried to use their prisoners as shields. "I eventually shot two of the captives in 'vengeance killings' as they fled."

"The work time for me was that I had been punched in the chest," he said. "No one, no," he recalled Eric Fickin, who said a fellow captive, a woman, was shot dead in front of him.

The hostages and an Australian were killed in the siege Tuesday, and two women, an American and a Brit, were wounded. Yemen's Interior Ministry said its forces killed three of the kidnappers and captured three others during the shootout in Masadiyah, 175 miles south of Sana'a.

Fickin, 33, from Cleveland, England, said he was with a group of 11 hostages. The kidnappers had split their 35 captives into two groups, and Fickin and Brian Smith, another hostage, said they did not know how the other group had come under attack.

Both men said their group wound up in the middle of a gun battle. The Yemeni government troops opened fire on the kidnappers as they fled with their hostages. "We were being led into the mountains to a hiding. Then we heard the gunfire," said Fickin, a chemistry professor.

The officials said the kidnappers belonged to Islamic Jihad, a group of 250 based in a camp in south Yemen.

The hostages — 12 Britons, two Americans and two Australians — were sent to demand the release of two Islamic Jihad leaders and to protest the recent U.S. and British airstrikes against Iraq, officials said.

## Libya orders the arrest of 9 American officials

CAIRO, Egypt — In a symbolic move, a Libyan prosecution on Wednesday ordered the arrest of nine American officials allegedly behind the 1986 bombing of two Libyan cities, a news agency reported.

Among those on the list is the late William Casey, the former director of the CIA, Egypt's Middle East News Agency reported. Former President Reagan, who ordered the bombing, was not on the list, it said.

The announcement came as Libya is maneuvering over American and British demands that two Libyan suspects be turned over for trial in the Netherlands for the 1988 bombing of a Pan Am jet, which killed 270 people.

## King nixes amnesty for Khmer Rouge leaders

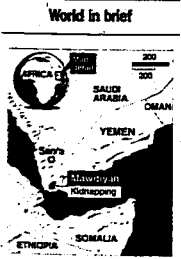
PENOM PENH, Cambodia — Cambodia's king refused Wednesday to approve an amnesty for two Khmer Rouge



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World in brief

## Cuba honors guerrillas who fell with Che Guevara

SANTA CLARA, Cuba — The remains of 10 guerrilla fighters who fell alongside Ernesto "Che" Guevara in Bolivia, including the German woman known as Tania, were interred with military honors Wednesday in this central Cuban city.

They died 31 years ago in a failed attempt to spread an armed Marxist revolution across the Americas — an effort that even Cuba today has renounced.

The ceremony coincided with the 40th anniversary of Guevara's greatest military triumph, the capture of Santa Clara, which sealed the downfall of dictator Fulgencio Batista and the triumph of Fidel Castro's guerrilla forces on Jan. 1, 1959.

## Chinese economy grows by 7.8 percent in 1998

BEIJING — Boosted by massive state spending on public works, China's economy grew by 7.8 percent this year but missed its official target, according to figures released Wednesday.

Growth was down from 1997, when the economy expanded by 8.8 percent. Chinese leaders had hoped for at least 8 percent growth to create jobs for the millions of workers who were laid off in a sweeping overhaul of state industry.

leaders, even though the nation's autocratic prime minister has promised to shield them from trial.

The refusal casts doubt on the legitimacy of the deal Prime Minister Hun Sen made with Khieu Samphan and Nuon Chea to defect to the government in exchange for assurances they will not be tried for crimes against humanity.

Whether Hun Sen would go ahead with the amnesty was unclear. Although the 76-year-old Sihanouk is popular in Cambodia, he is largely a figurehead. Hun Sen, however, is Cambodia's most powerful man and his will amounts to law.

China has escaped the full impact of the 18-month-old Asian financial crisis, but faces serious problems of its own in trying to turn around money-losing state industries and clean up its state-owned banking system.

Each province was likely to raise tensions in a region where the Indonesian military recently ended a decade-long campaign against separatist rebels.

Officials suspect guerrilla followers were behind the slayings of the soldiers on Tuesday. —Compiled from wire reports

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OPINIONS

R
Donald Baker, Daniel Ramirez, Diana...
John Rasmussen, Aris Rasmussen, Bryan...

S
John L. Sackett, Karen Sackett, Mary...
Lyntha Satterton, Ernesto G. Sanchez...

7
Dev Taber, Angela Talbot, Steve...
Lou Tamm, John Tamm, Mickey Tamm...

Havilah Bishop, Bliss, on flag burning

Thompson, Raymond Thompson, Joseph...
Thompson, Lewis Thompson, James D...

All Dicks, Lawrence Zimmerman, Rita...
Underwood, Joan Lutz, James Lutz, Scott...

Peggy Wade, Jim Waggoner, Jim Wagner...
Gordon Wall, Bernad Wain, Susan W...

Gayle Yakovlev, Jack Yarrington, Don...
Yoneman, Tim Yoneman, Barbara Y...

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-Vivian Fitz, Heyburn

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## Study: Food warnings need help

WASHINGTON (AP) — It was the nation's largest salmonella outbreak. The culprit, contaminated ice cream, was recalled amid headlines about food poisoning. Many consumers dismissed the threat, ate the tainted ice cream — and got sick. The lesson? Health workers must do a much better job warning the public when they discover tainted foods, doctors reported Wednesday in the first study of how effective recalls of unsafe food truly are.

"What ... customers didn't know didn't hurt them," concluded Dr. Barbara Mahon, who investigated the salmonella outbreak for the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Because of changes in the country's food supply, "the risk of widespread outbreaks like this one seems to be increasing," she said. "It's probably never going to be possible to get 100 percent of the people to hear a (warning) message or to believe it. But I suspect we can do a lot better."

## House fire claims 5

GRAND RAPIDS, Mich. (AP) — A gas-heating fire killed five people, two of them children, in a two-family home early Wednesday. It was the third fatal fire in Grand Rapids in the past 10 days. The victims escaped the fire. The cause of the fire remained under investigation, but fire Chief Steven Connors said investigators learned that one of the children had been playing with a cigarette lighter the night before. "We're concentrating on the living room," said fire department investigator Pablo Martinez.

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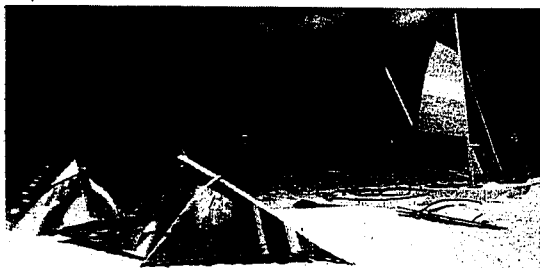
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# SPORTS

INSIDE

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 Football ..... B3  
 YourSports ..... B4

Sports Editor: Damon Clark; 733-931, Ext. 231

The Times-News

Thursday, December 31, 1998

Section B

## Year-end mojo begets 1999 predictions

Thank you very much, Idaho fans, I now welcome your credit, adulation and shameless fan mail.

On a dark Dec. 30, the day my beloved Washington Huskies finally found the keys to the football coach Jim Larmbrigh, my pick in a holiday college bowl pool allowed you Vandals to splatter Golden Eagle guys all over fake bluegrass.

It's a nice sense, really, since you despise Washington State University as much as we Husky fans. But that's another story.

The real tale unfolded several weeks ago, when I bucked a newspaper trend in selecting Chris Torney's Black and Gold to upset Southern Miss in the Humanitarian Bowl. Did they ever, 42-35.

Call me big-headed (7/8", actually), but I've got to hurry with a few more predictions while the mojo's warm. Gotta hitch a ride to Jackpot before the lotta runs dry.



DOWN IN FRONT  
Jeff Rosen

Intrastate Collegiate Football: Can't tell you how many calls I've fielded suggesting schedules collide next season. Okay, one. But he made a valid point: they're great games, both economically speaking and in terms of rivalry. Boise State continues to play Idaho, while out of fairness ISU plays Carey. (Early pick: Bungles continue to chase new AD in 1999, and Panthers win on 08 weeks.)

The Rock Creek Swim Team Open to all comers, this aquatic tour of traveling waterbogs swamps and mutates all manner of followers - hence competition - in the coming year. By summer, barroom banter is fueled by debate of upcoming show-downs at the region's chunkiest swimmer's hole. Bonus: added meaning to the crawl stroke event.

CSI Volleyball Deethroned: Heading the advice of naysayers, Golden Eagle coach Ben Stroud dumps all players unable to recite the Pledge of Allegiance backwards while asleep. Really? CSI's team of homegirls is splattered by Rick's to the tune of Kool Moe Dee's "You go like me now," chanted over, and over, and over, and over some more, by the Viking faithful.

Another Golf Course: The Magic Valley - Twin Falls in particular - harbors more golf courses per capita than anywhere else in the lower 48. A few links between, and these ballclub courses could together comprise an attraction of Six Flags proportions.

Imagine the challenge of a panoramic steed shot from Candleridge down to Canyon Springs, or chipping into Lake Ugo to Gooding. In 1999, you'll be able to. Money raised by greens fees will fund construction of a mega-course that spreads until all of sagebrushed southern Idaho lies dipped in the water's green. It's called the Snake and freeway billboards ... "Grab your four-wheel-drive cars, kids, it's time to golf the Magic!" Isn't that the Snake River, Dad? "Water hazard, son, water hazard!"

Water Hazard: The Snake River Eyes (and) Fov: To draw things comically far following Mike Christensen's wonderfully impossible basketball buzzer-beater - the one that kicked the Bulldogs to a second-place finish in the 1997 A-3 high school championship game last March - Dedo's last-second prayer in this year's final will fall shy.

This time, in fact, the ball rolls off the fingertips of one Seth Christensen, Mike's kid brother. Kimberly can only hope that once Seth graduates in June, the Hornets are out of Christensen. Not again. Word is the Unlert Christensen is tearing up 8th grade.

Spud and Friends: Enticed to the Boise Stamped by ill' buddy Spud Webb as the NBA looks at stragglers into January, Michael Jordan, Sir Charles, Penny, Gary Payton and Shaq like Idaho so much all they decide to stay. Boise can't house all that glue, however, and the Fab Five soon get scattered to all corners of the state to launch new CBA teams.

The pro basketball-starved Magic Valley lands Jordan and The Glove, who together build a state-of-the-art mini dome and inaugurate the Twin Falls Turbines, propeared to recruit Karl Malone and Steve Garnett and Shaaref Abdur-Rahim to our fair city, where a bullish tide run is made and the gift of basketball is returned to the people of Idaho.

Hey, a guy can dream.

Times-News sportswriter Jeff Rosen can be reached at 733-9311, ext. 229, or by email at jro@magicvalley.com

# Southern Miss gets Vandalized

### Idaho storms from behind to win Humanitarian Bowl

By Francis Davis and The Associated Press

BOISE - He was a freshman, but he didn't play like one in the biggest game of his young college career.

Idaho's freshman quarterback Jake Welsh threw four touchdowns and the Vandals forced six turnovers to beat heavily-favored Southern Mississippi 42-35 in the Humanitarian Bowl on Wednesday.

The Vandals (9-3) capped only their third Division I-A season by surpassing a team that was favored by 18 1/2 points. Welsh was 12-of-41 for 289 yards, including a 25-yard game-winning toss to Ryan Prestonman with 4:36 left in the game.

The outcome wasn't secure until Derrick Nix lost Southern Mississippi's sixth fumble of the game at midfield with 2:30 to play.

Nix rushed for 125 yards and three touchdowns, but he also fumbled twice in critical moments.

After Southern Miss (7-5) rallied from a 14-point deficit to tie it 35-35, Welsh drove Idaho 65 yards for the winning touchdown. His 21-yard scramble helped set up his game-winning toss.

"These guys were rated high on the nation about 90 days ago, but it's not where you start, it's where you finish," Idaho coach Chris Torney said.

Idaho's inventive offense outmaneuvered the Golden Eagles all day, using multiple schemes and five wideouts in short-yardage situations.

"Idaho was ready to play," said Southern Miss coach Jeff Bowen. "They were a whole lot better prepared to play than we were."

Idaho led 35-21 with 10 minutes to play, but Lee Roberts, who threw for 542 yards, combined for the second time on a scoring pass with Sherrod Gideon to cut the deficit to seven points. The touchdown pass was set up by a Joel Thomas fumble at midfield.

"I didn't do a great job handling the ball," Thomas said. "That stuff happens, but there's no excuses."

The Vandals went three and out on their next possession before punter Mike O'Neal stumbled a kick and the Golden Eagles drove 45 yards for the tying touchdown, which came on a 15-yard up-the-gut burst by Nix with 5:37 left.

"We didn't have good field position in the fourth and had to play conservatively," explained Torney.

Southern Miss led 21-7 after Kev's second touchdown run of the game early in the second quarter, but Welsh threw three TD passes in the final 5 1/2 minutes of the half as Idaho went ahead. Welsh's 25-yarder to Prestonman ended it 28-33 as time expired.

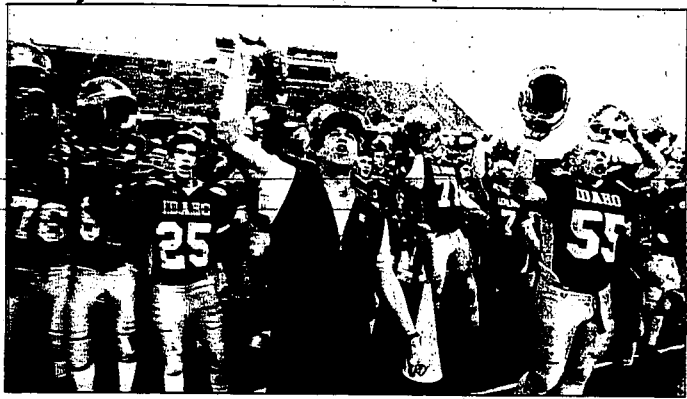
"We started off kind of slow," Torney said. "We couldn't run the ball, but the side stepped in the second quarter."

As he did against Boise State a week over a month ago when he went for the two-point conversion in an overtime win, Torney elected to forego the safe option of a field goal on the fourth and one play at the end of the first half.

"When you're a 16-point underdog and have a chance to go up by seven at halftime, you go for it," Torney said.

The second edition of the Humanitarian Bowl attracted 15,554 spectators, over 3,500 more than attended last year's inaugural game.

Organizers were worried a storm would hit Boise on game day, but the second year the nation's oldest



Idaho head coach Chris Torney, center, leads his team in song after a victorious 42-35 triumph over favored Southern Mississippi Wednesday in the Humanitarian Bowl in Boise.



Southern Mississippi's Royal Ball (149) punts the pass as Idaho's Mike Roberg applies pressure during the first quarter of the Humanitarian Bowl Wednesday in Boise. The underlying Vandals won the game 42-35 in their first Division I postseason appearance.

Idaho was played in rising temperatures, under-moist sunny skies.

Southern Miss pun the ball in the air 42 times, while the Vandals attempted 51 passes. Six of one of the completed 93 passes was uncompleted, but the teams did combine for nine fumbles and eight turnovers.

Idaho improved to 9-0 against Southern Miss. In 1998, the Vandals beat the Golden Eagles 30-21 in the season's only other meeting.

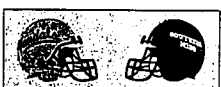
Joel Thomas ran for 98 yards on 27 carries to break the 4,000-yard mark for his career. The husky 5-foot-6 punter finished his Vandals career with

4,017 rushing yards.

Torney said the key to the game was Jerome Thomas' 58-yard kickoff return for a touchdown in the first quarter. Without that score, the Vandals would have eventually trailed 21-0. Instead they managed to hang in the game at 21-7.

Golden Eagle Sherrod Gideon had Jerry Rice-like moves, hauling in 12 balls for 117 yards and a pair of touchdowns.

Times-News sports writer Francis Davis can be reached at 733-9311, ext. 239.



Idaho 42 USM 35

Idaho 23 8 0 14-35

USM 7 21 7 7-42

First Quarter

USM - Gideon 2 pass from Roberts (Hardaway kick) 6:01.

Idaho - Thomas 58 kickoff return (Davis kick) 5:04.

USM - Nix 8 run (kick blocked) 0:48.

USM - Nix 2 run (Gideon pass from Roberts) 1:09.

Idaho - Townsend 12 pass from Welsh (Davis kick) 5:52.

Idaho - Roberts 22 pass from Welsh (Davis kick) 5:07.

Idaho - Thomas 22 pass from Welsh (Davis kick) 0:00.

Idaho - Thomas 18 run (Davis kick) 2:59.

USM - Gideon 8 pass from Roberts (Hardaway kick) 8:25.

USM - Nix 15 run (Hardaway kick) 6:37.

Idaho - Prestonman 28 pass from Welsh (Davis kick) 4:26.

Idaho 42 USM 35

First down 25 Idaho

Rushes-yards 40-127 34-130

Passes 11-202 291

Comp-Att 31-50-0 24-41-0

Return yards 282 382

Punt-Avg 4-43.5 5-39.0

Fumbles 8-6 3-3

Penalties-Yards 5-44 9-59

Time of Possession 31:22 28:37

INDIVIDUAL STATISTICS

RUSHING-USM: No. 28-122, Woods 3-15.

Roberts 9 (Rushes 20), Idaho, Jo Thomas 22-99, Welsh 11-48, Alderson 1 (Punt) 4-1.

PASSING-USM: Roberts 5-15 (3-12), Punter 1-0-20, Idaho, Welsh 24-41-0-291.

RECEIVING-USM: Welsh 12-117, Prestonman 17-201, Steve 5-83, Nix 5-29, Jo Thomas 1-20, David 2-7, Gideon 5-10, Townsend 4-2, Prestonman 1-1, Jones 4-49, Jo Thomas 4-42, Roberts 2-35, Lay 2-22, Alderson 1-19, Moody 1-2, Jo Thomas 1-1.

Idaho: Welsh 12-117, Prestonman 17-201, Steve 5-83, Nix 5-29, Jo Thomas 1-20, David 2-7, Gideon 5-10, Townsend 4-2, Prestonman 1-1, Jones 4-49, Jo Thomas 4-42, Roberts 2-35, Lay 2-22, Alderson 1-19, Moody 1-2, Jo Thomas 1-1.

## Humanitarian Hall of Fame inducts 3

BOISE - Helping children gives Jackie Joyner-Kersey more of a thrill than winning Olympic track-and-field medals, and that community-minded spirit has landed her in the World Sports Humanitarian Hall of Fame.

With San Antonio Spurs basketball star David Robinson and Brazilian soccer great Pele, Joyner-Kersey was formally inducted into the hall late Tuesday, joining a dozen other athletes previously honored in Boise for their philanthropic work.

Pele could not attend the ceremony because his daughter was just married, but Robinson and Joyner-Kersey stirred a crowd of 1,500 with their words. The three in a ceremony preceded Wednesday's Humanitarian Bowl, won handily by Idaho.

A former NBA Most Valuable Player, Robinson said athletes eventually realize there is more to life than big-money contracts.

"You'll find once you get there that it's not going to fulfill you at all," Robinson said. "That's not what success is all about."

## From the beginning, Idaho believed

All year people have underestimated the Idaho Vandals.

The Vandals (9-3) started the year ranked No. 112 out of 112 Division I-A teams, only to finish 83 and qualify for their first bowl game in the school's history.

Wednesday, it was Southern Mississippi's turn to overlook the spunky Vandals in front of 15,554-plus fans at a ESPN2 television audience.

"We were a huge underdog, but just being here was enough," said leader coach Chris Torney. "We wanted to finish it."

Finish it they did, scoring three straight touchdowns on game day, but a 22-point deficit and claim a 45-38 win that kept Bronco stadium rocking and will have Bruno fans talking for years to come.

I'm happy for the team. I'm happy for our conference. I'm happy for my family. I'm just happy," Torney said.



ABOUT THE GAME  
Francis Davis

The Vandals led by over touchdowns with 10 minutes to play only to squander the lead in less than six minutes.

The Golden Eagles used the game at 38 on a 25-second fumble by Derrick Nix and the 200-yard rush by the Vandals to surge from the final time.

"So one expected us to win all season," said sophomore punter Mark DeMulling. "So one expected us to win all season."

The final one of our amazing year ended in victory when Southern quarterback Jake Welsh miraculously and punter Ryan Prestonman with a 28-yard

touchdown pass.

Prestonman read the play perfectly, breaking free from a Golden Eagle defender at the front of the end zone.

"He was supposed to go to the corner of the end zone, but just from being with him all year I knew what he was going to do," Welsh said.

Welsh threw four touchdown passes and was named Idaho's MVP of the game.

According to the coach, the best is yet to come for Welsh and all the Vandals.

"John just gets better and better," Torney said. "He has the intangibles of toughness and confidence. Now we get to take a week off and get ready for next season. We want to try to take the program to the next level. We lose nine seniors and only four are starters."

Times-News sportswriter Francis Davis can be reached at 733-9311, ext. 239.

SPORTS

Hornets, Bulldogs take holiday finales

The Times-Herald

DECLIO - Both defending boys' A3 basketball state finalists finished their annual holiday tour...

The third quarter was the key to both matches, as Kimberly rallied from a six-point halftime deficit...

In the first game, the Bulldogs trailed 13-11 after one quarter and 32-26 at half before outscoring the Vikings 18-7 after the break...

Declio and New Plymouth played to ties of 18 and 31 after the first two periods, then blew the game open in the third.

(In) the third quarter we came out and changed our defense a little bit," said Declio coach Loyd Ganes.

"That kind of confused them and forced them to shoot more from 3-point range."

"They did a pretty fair job with their seven 3-pointers, but there were a lot of misses in between."

Seth Christensen had all three of Decio's 3-pointers and led the team with 21 points.

Lance Zecher added 12 points and Shay Hayward had 10.

"The Hornets (2-1) are now 2-0 against New Plymouth after losing to the Pilgrims in the first round of the 1997 A-3 state tournament."

Next year's holiday tournament will be played in Boise.

Declo 74, New Plymouth 59

Local sports

Kimberly 60, Middleton 53

WENDELL - The hometown Trojans rallied from a 20-point deficit in the fourth quarter but could get no closer than 10 in a 82-72 loss to visiting Shelby.

It was a pretty good all-around game," said Wendell coach Allen Kelsey. "They just shot the lights out in the first quarter."

Josh Prince had a game-high 27 points for Wendell (3-5), including five of the team's seven 3-pointers.

Patrick Crawford had 12 points and Shep Owen added 10.

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game playing catch-up. Duke Cheney had all three of Gooding's 3-pointers and led his team with 16 points, and Chris Watson came off the bench and scored 12.

Gooding (3-5) hosts Shoshone next Thursday.

Shelby 82, Wendell 72

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One night after helping his team squeak past Shelby in double overtime, Bryan Lawley paced the Wildcats against Payette with a game-high 21 points - 15 of which came on five 3-pointers.

They didn't really play with the type of intensity you need to play with in order to beat a Payette," Lenington said.

They really took us out of synch."

They really took us out of synch."

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BYU QB Drew Miller to move to Montana

MISSOULA, Mont. (AP) - The University of Montana appears to be the school of choice for quarterback Drew Miller, who plans to leave the Brigham Young football team after it plays in the Liberty Bowl today.

"You could say Drew's heavily leaning toward Montana," Miller's father, David, said Tuesday from his home in Lakewood, Wash.

No official announcement is planned before Friday.

Miller, a junior next season, announced two weeks ago that he would transfer.

He liked what he saw during a visit to UM, according to his father.

"Drew's looking for a place he can make a difference," Miller's father said. "He's not here to make a difference. He's here to make a difference."

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Eastern Washington were inaccurate, Drew Miller said.

Drew Miller went to football camps at Eastern while in high school, and his father, a high school coach in Lakewood, is friends with many of the EWU coaches.

David Miller set the Washington high school passing record, with 9,003 yards.

Montana coach Mick Denney said Tuesday that he was aware of Miller's choice and would let the player make it known.

Miller will back up Kevin Ferick when BYU plays the Liberty Bowl today.

The Grizzlies lose three-year starting quarterback Brian Ah Yatt next year. Returning are senior quarterback Mike Anderson, as well as freshmen Nick Walker and John Edwards.

Walker and Edwards both required in 1998.

Football fiesta could overshadow real Fiesta

The Associated Press

Like two many appetizers before the main course, the college bowl schedule is leaving football fans feeling full - with the national championship game still several days away.

The Fiesta Bowl between Florida State and Tennessee will be a relief when it arrives Monday night, the last of 22 postseason games, many of them greeted by empty stands and TV ratings that are so-so.

Sort of like the teams involved.

Starting with the Las Vegas Bowl between North Carolina and San Diego State - two unranked teams - the bowl schedule offered postseason payoffs to a number of teams with questionable credentials.

This year is the first for the Bowl Championship Series, which created the guaranteed No. 1 vs. No. 2 matchup in the Fiesta Bowl, but that hasn't reduced the number of peripheral bowls that jam the holiday season.

Six wins is the NCAA minimum

for a bowl bid. But that number often is accompanied by five losses and translates into a mostly mediocre season.

Big 12 commissioner Jim Delany said. "The marketplace sets the right number. Who tells a community that wants a game that it can't have a game?"

"We're in a world of outlets willing to put the games on television, sponsors willing to sponsor them and teams willing to go to them. They are celebrations for communities, players and sponsors. They are part of the American sports mosaic."

So, there's been the Motor City Bowl and the Music City Bowl. And there's been the Insight.com Bowl, which used to be the Copper Bowl, and the MICRON PC Bowl, which used to be the Sunshine Bowl Classic and before that was called the Carquest Bowl and the Blockbuster Bowl.

Georgia, UVA just peachy about rematch

ATLANTA (AP) - It doesn't take much of an imagination to see Virginia and Georgia playing in a New Year's Day bowl game.

Instead, the schools are matched for the second time in four seasons at the Peach Bowl, which is grateful to have a pair of ranked teams for the first time in the game's 31-year history.

No. 14 Virginia and the 19th-ranked Bulldogs play today at the Georgia Dome before a sellout crowd of more than 71,000.

"There's a sense of being very excited to be where we are," Georgia safety Kirby Smart said. "But we also had hopes this would be bigger season."

It would have been except for a 21-19 loss to Georgia Tech in the final regular-season game, when the Bulldogs squandered a 12-point, fourth-quarter lead on their home field.

So much for that second straight New Year's Day game.

Of course, Georgia won't get much sympathy from Virginia, which lost to Tech in October. The Cavaliers blew a 21-point lead in the second half and were beaten 41-38, costing them a share of the Atlantic Coast Conference title

and dropping them in the postseason pecking order.

"I try not to reflect on the past. I try to move on," Cavs quarterback Aaron Brooks said. "I'm trying to keep focus on Georgia."

The Peach Bowl landed a rematch of its thrilling 1995 game, when Demetrius Allen returned a kickoff for a touchdown with less than a minute to go to give Virginia a 34-27 victory over its Southern Conference opponent.

While both teams can ponder what might have been this season, they can't be too disappointed with what they got.

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SCORES AND STATS

FOOTBALL

College Bowl Games

Table listing college bowl games including Liberty Bowl, Sun Bowl, Peach Bowl, Independence Bowl, etc.

NFL Individual Leaders

Table listing NFL individual leaders for passing yards, rushing yards, receiving yards, etc.

IN THE BLEACHERS

By Steve Moore

Table listing college football scores and statistics for various games.

NFL Injury Report

Table listing NFL injury reports for various teams and players.

ON THE AIR

TELEVISION

Table listing television broadcasts for college football games.

High School

Table listing high school basketball scores and statistics.

ON THE AIR

TELEVISION

Table listing television broadcasts for college football games.

High School

Table listing high school basketball scores and statistics.

West Coast Hockey League

Table listing West Coast Hockey League scores and statistics.

North American All-Stars

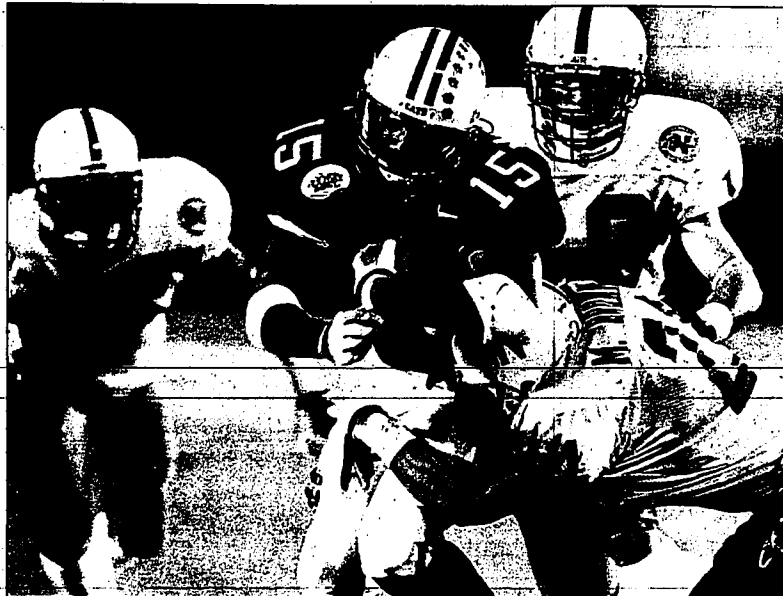
Table listing North American All-Stars scores and statistics.

HARRAH'S ODDS

Table listing Harrah's odds for various events.

TRANSACTIONS

Table listing sports transactions and news items.



Arizona receiver Jeremy McDaniel (15) is tackled by Nebraska's Mike Brown (21) after a 9-yard gain during Wednesday's Holiday Bowl in San Diego. Arizona held on to defeat the Cornhuskers 23-20.

## No. 5 Arizona beats Big Red 23-20

SAN DIEGO (AP) — Just when Nebraska and Arizona were settling into a defensive struggle, the Holiday Bowl reverted to its wild past.

Keith Smith, half of Arizona's two-quarterback system, threw for one fourth-quarter touchdown and his scrambling set up the game-winning, 1-yard plunge by

Kevin Eafon with 6 minutes, 8 seconds to go as the No. 5 Wildcats beat the No. 14 Nebraska Cornhuskers 23-20 Wednesday night.

Arizona added to its school-record victory total by finishing 12-1. The Wildcats were knocked out of a Rose Bowl berth when UCLA was upset by Miami on Dec. 5, but Arizona made the most of its first Holiday Bowl visit by winning for the 16th time in 17 games.

The bowl-record crowd of 65,354 saw a rarity — Nebraska's first four-loss season in 30 years.

The Cornhuskers finished 9-4 under first-year coach Frank Solich, who replaced Hall of Famer Tom Osborne.

Chris McAlister, Arizona's All-America cornerback, capped a big game with a key interception of Eric Crouch's pass with 3:03 left. McAlister jumped in front of Shavin Wiggins at about the 8-yard line and returned it 22 yards.

Nebraska had one final desperation shot, but McAlister deflected Crouch's pass as time expired.

After a scoreless third quarter, there were three lead changes in the fourth. Arizona went ahead 16-13 on Smith's 15-yard pass to Brad Brennan, who made a fingertip catch before running into the end zone on the first play of the fourth quarter. The Wildcats converted one fourth down and one third down on the 66-yard drive.

McAlister had a chance to really swing the momentum when he intercepted Crouch's pass deep in Nebraska territory, but split end Kenny Cheatham forced and recovered a fumble.

Nebraska went on to complete the eight-play, 88-yard drive thanks to two big catches by tight end Tracy Wistrum, including a 4-yard TD pass from Crouch with 10:55 left for a 20-16 lead. Wistrum, who had just two catches in the regular season, had a 33-yard catch three plays before the score.

Smith then led the Wildcats 68 yards to the winning score. He had scrambles of 30 yards, 8 yards on a third-and-6 and then 7 yards on Eafon's TD.

The Cornhuskers' option game continued to struggle, and their 87 rushing yards was their second-lowest total of the season.

The Cornhuskers did get hot right before halftime, scoring 13 points in the final 4:58 of the second quarter to take a 13-9 lead. It was the first time all year that Arizona trailed at halftime.

The defense was already well on the way to holding Arizona to just nine yards in the second quarter when Chad Kelsay forced Orter Jenkins to fumble, which Loren Kaiser recovered at the Arizona 34. That set up Kris

Brown's 25-yard field goal.

Crouch threw a 45-yard touchdown pass to Shavin Wiggins for a 10-9 lead. Nebraska got the ball right back when Billy Legate hit kick returner Dennis Northcutt head-on, forcing a fumble and recovering it at the Arizona 9. Brown kicked a 23-yard field goal as time expired.

Wiggins atoned for fumbling a punt in the game's opening minutes, which McAlister recovered to set up the first of Mark McDonald's three field goals.

Arizona had two touchdowns called back due to penalties and another scoring chance negated all in the game's first 18 minutes. The biggest one came on special teams, when Dennis Northcutt caught Bill LaFleur's punt and handed off to McAlister, who was sprung by Derek Hall's block and raced 75 yards for an apparent touchdown. But Hall's hit on Brian Shaw was deemed an illegal block in the back and the play came back. TV replays seemed to indicate a legal block.

Arizona's Trung Candidate gained 101 yards on 22 carries.

## Washington says goodbye to 35 years

School fires football coach Jim Lambright

SEATTLE (AP) — Jim Lambright, who spent 35 years as a player, assistant and coach at Washington, was fired Wednesday after the Huskies failed to post a winning record for the first time in 32 years.



Jim Lambright

Athletic director Nick Van Eestel and Barbara Hedges said during a news conference Wednesday that the decision to fire Lambright, 57, and his staff was not a punishment for the team's 11-5 record.

Lambright said he believed Hedges was pressured into firing him by Washington alumni and boosters.

"I was named two times the 50 guy that there would be a meeting," he said. "I'm not going to give you any put, Pullman answers, but I was warned and it came to pass and it happened very quickly."

Lambright said he got the warning from "two friends that are within the power structure of money who are trying to help him leave the facility."

Hedges denied that, saying: "I was not pressured. I will tell you that I have not been pressured by any group."

Lambright compiled a 44-31 record as coach of the Huskies to four bowl games as Don James' successor.

Hedges' decision came after Air Force beat Washington 45-25 in the Oahu Bowl, leaving the Huskies with a 6-6 record, the first since 1976 without a winning mark.

"I completely believe that we as a staff have led the program in better shape than what I got it in," Lambright said.

Lambright, who spent 24 seasons as an assistant on James' staff, was hired two weeks before the 1993 season when James retired after a two-year bowl ban for NCAA rules violations.

Despite the loss of 20 scholarships, Lambright's teams were 7-4, 7-4, 7-1, 9-3 and 8-4 before this season. After being ineligible to go to a bowl in 1993 and 1994, they went to the Sun Bowl in 1995, the Holiday Bowl in 1996 and the Aloha Bowl in 1997.

Lambright's bowl record was 3-3. Lambright's Huskies had the most players taken — 10 — in April's NFL draft, but this season's Huskies didn't have the talent to compete very quickly.

Lambright and his coaching staff had been criticized for failing to keep some of the best high school players in Washington from leaving the state.

Lambright said he was pressured to fire some of his assistants over the years but kept them out of loyalty.

## SPORTS IN BRIEF

### Judge rejects NBA players' European bid

BOSTON — A federal judge Wednesday refused to grant a temporary restraining order to allow three NBA players to play the rest of the season in Europe.

The players are Dennis Rodman, Marcus Camby of the New York Knicks and Reggie Miller of the Toronto Raptors had sued the NBA and USA Basketball, accusing both of failing to provide them with unconditional letters of clearance that would allow them to finish the season in Europe even if the lockout ended.

### Emmitt Smith keeps ball out of Hall

DALLAS — A representative of the Hall of Fame called Emmitt Smith this week to ask the Cowboy's running back for the ball he wanted to break Marcus Allen's record for career rushing touchdowns.

Smith said no way. He has followed his father's advice and kept every football — more than 150 — from every touchdown he's scored in the NFL. The footballs from some of his other significant accomplishments — 10,000 yards, breaking Tony Dorset's Cowboy's rushing record, etc. — also are retained.

### Olympic debut proposed for mermaid mimics

ATHENS, Greece — The obscure sport of fin swimming is being proposed to debut at the 2004 Athens Olympics, organizers announced Wednesday. The final decision will be made by the International Olympic Committee.

Fin swimmers stick both feet in a single rubber-and-fiberglass "mono fin" up to 32 inches wide. They clasp their hands together in front and propel through the water with undulating thrusts of the fin. The sport is growing in nations such as Russia, China and Australia, organizers said.

### Planes nearly collide above Giants Stadium

EAST RUTHERFORD, N.J. — A small private plane and a General Aviation plane nearly collided 20 seconds of collision near Giants Stadium during Sunday's game between the New York Jets and the New England Patriots.

The Federal Aviation Administration confirmed that the pilot of the single-engine plane was lost and flying in restricted airspace near the stadium when it came within 300 feet of the jet, which had 145 people aboard.

Compiled from wire reports

## Teton Valley officials try to lure Olympians to Idaho

The Associated Press

VICTOR — A small piece of the Olympics has come to the Teton Valley.

The U.S. Ski Archery team held one of three training camps in the valley recently.

The team's coaches will use the camps to get athletes ready for international competition, all

with an eye to the 2002 Winter Olympics and Salt Lake City.

Teton Valley is trying to cash in on the Olympics by convincing athletes the Teton Valley is the place to train.

Unlike West Yellowstone, Mont., where cross-country skiers with the U.S. Ski Team train every winter, the Teton Valley has not played host to

national team training camps.

The ski archery team is the first, said Rob Millon, owner of the Teton Valley Fitness Center.

Million is working with the Teton Chamber of Commerce to bring athletes to the valley to train.

Besides the ski archery team, he is trying to work out a deal with the country's biathlon

team.

Part of the push to attract athletes to the valley is tied to the Olympics, but the effort will stretch beyond 2002.

The valley is a great place to train, said Millon, a former coach of Florida International. It already attracts world-class triathletes and mountain bikers in training, he said.

## TCU hopes its option shines in Sun Bowl

EL PASO, Texas (AP) — There are reasons why Texas Christian is one of the bowl season's biggest underdogs, and the most imposing is Southern Cal All-American inbacker Chris Claiborne.

The 6-foot-3, 250-pound junior is this year's Burkus Award winner and the defensive player of the year in the Pac-10. And he's the most intimidating obstacle

to TCU's bid to win its first bowl game in 41 years when the Horned Frogs take on the Trojans today in the Nowest Sun Bowl.

"I don't think there's much you can do with him," TCU coach Dennis Franchione said Wednesday. "The guy plays in the middle and goes sideline to sideline. He's a great athlete, he has great speed, great range and a bad attitude when he gets to the football. He makes plays and he turns games around."

He did that this season in the Trojans' wins against Oregon

State, Washington State, Washington and Notre Dame. Four of his team-leading six interceptions came in his four wins and he returned two of them for touchdowns.

"We may need to avoid throwing the ball in his direction," said Franchione, quickly adding, "but he always seems to end up where the ball is."

Southern Cal (8-4) is a 16-point favorite to extend the Horned Frogs' (6-5) bowl drought. TCU hasn't won a bowl game since it beat Syracuse 28-27 in the 1957 Cotton Bowl and has lost four straight.

Snapping the streak won't be easy against a school with as much bowl tradition as the Trojans.

USC has won 25 bowl games — three less than national leader Alabama — with 20 of those victories coming in the Rose Bowl. The fact the Trojans are in El Paso this week instead of Pasadena doesn't diminish their ambition to get another postseason.

"I don't think there's any issue about motivation," first-year coach Paul Hackett said.

## Top-ranked Huskies open Big East with big win

College basketball

start in school history by beating North Carolina-Wilmington.

No. 6 Arizona 91, Fla. International 75

TUCSON, Ariz. — Jason Terry had 21 points and seven assists as No. 6 Arizona staved unbeaten by defeating Florida International 91-75 in the championship game of the Fiesta Bowl Classic on Wednesday night.

J. Brunett had 18 points and 13 rebounds, the sixth time this season and 16th time in his career he's attained double figures in points and rebounds. Freshmen Richard Jefferson and Michael Wright scored 17 points each for the Wildcats, whose 8-0 start matched their best since 1987-88.

No. 13 Michigan St. 64, N.C.-Asheville 39

EAST LANSING, Mich. — Jason Brunett stepped out of a mid-scoring slump to lead a balanced Michigan State scoring attack with 12 points in 13th-ranked Spartans beat North Carolina-Asheville 64-39 Wednesday.

Andre Huston scored 11 points and Morris Peterson and Thomas

Kelley came off the bench to add 10 points for the Spartans (10-3), who have won their last five games.

Michigan 59, No. 19 Wisconsin 55

ANN ARBOR, Mich. — Robbie Reid and Louis Bullock combined to score 49 points as Michigan rallied for a 59-55 win over No. 19 Wisconsin, snapping the Badgers' 10-game winning streak.

Reid scored a career-high 25 points and Bullock had 24 for the Wolverines (7-7), who trailed 32-24 at halftime, then came back to win the Big Ten opener for both teams.

Sean Mcken scored 29 points for Wisconsin, 23 before fouling out with 36 seconds remaining. But just 12 of his points came in the second half, with Reid guarding him.

No. 20 Arkansas 100, North Texas 77

FAYETTEVILLE, Ark. — Arkansas coach Nolan Richardson found fault in his team's 100-77 victory over North Texas on Wednesday night, saying the No. 20 Razorbacks seemed out of sync after a week off.

Pat Bradley made 10 3-pointers and scored 22 points as Arkansas

(10-2) attempted a school-record 54 3-pointers.

Providence 83, No. 23 Pittsburg 68

PITTSBURGH — Providence upset a ranked team for the second time in five days, riding momentum-turning runs in each half and Jamal Thomas' 25 points.

Thomas, the Big East Conference's leading scorer with a 23.7 average, had 22 points as the Friars defeated then-No. 9 Purdue 87-82 on Sunday.

Providence (8-4) is 2-1 against ranked teams but was 0-2 in the Big East — losing to Notre Dame and Rutgers — before defeating the nationally-rated Panthers (8-5, 0-3), who have lost four of five and five of seven.

No. 25 Oklahoma St. 75, SE Missouri 64

STILLWATER, Okla. — Adrian Peterson scored 10 of his 20 points in the final eight minutes to help Oklahoma State pull away.

Desmond Mason added 15 points and seven rebounds, while Joe Adkins and Brett Montgomery scored 13 each for the Cowboys (8-3), who begin Big 12 play Saturday against Kansas State.

SPORTS

**Day 184**  
A look at the NBA lockout through Wednesday.

**Total days of season missed: 58.**  
Games lost: Wednesday: 13.  
Total games missed: 401.  
Earliest season start: Feb. 1.  
Negotiations: Nothing scheduled, but the union is planning to make its own "final" offer to the owners.  
Projected player salary losses (through Feb. 1): More than \$500 million.  
Today's best cancelled game: New Jersey at Washington. Easy pickings: Only one game scheduled as the rest of the league's 29 teams were given the NBA's final offer to a vote of the Quota of the day: "While it is your prerogative to reject our proposal, we are so optimistic that this offer is so attractive to players that they will be given a chance to be heard. Accordingly, we request and strongly urge that you put the NBA's final offer to a vote of the entire union membership."

—David Stern, in a letter to Billy Hunter that also was sent by overnight mail to every player

# NBA commissioner mails 'final proposal' to players

**Knight Ridder News Service**

NBA commissioner David Stern Wednesday mailed to each of the league's 400-plus players a copy of the owners' "final proposal" in what he said was an effort to save this season.

Wednesday night, the players' union was believed to be considering allowing the full membership to vote on it. For union leadership to vote on it, the labor impasse that would be a change of tactics.

Billy Hunter, head of the National Basketball Players Association, said Monday that the 19-member negotiating committee had voted unanimously not to submit the proposal to the entire membership. A day later, union president Patrick Ewing told Fox News Sports that he and players wanted to vote. "I'll tell it to call me."

Stern, who has said he will recommend that the season be canceled Jan. 7 if the labor impasse isn't settled by then, Wednesday reiterated his call for a vote.

"The consequences of (canceling the season) will be so cata-

strophic to your members that simple fairness suggests that they be given a chance to be heard," Stern said in a letter to Hunter.

"Accordingly, we request and strongly urge that you put the NBA's final offer to a vote of the entire union membership."

Whether the players association would oblige wasn't clear Wednesday.

Stern, saying he has addressed the needs of the "vast majority" of players, detailed the league's willingness to accept 10 percent of a player's salary being put into escrow to curtail owners' spending. The league originally had insisted on 15 percent.

He also said that the league has now agreed to include the \$1 million exception, which enables teams to use that amount on at least one player when they are over the salary cap, as opposed to having to pay the minimum salary only.

Weeks ago, Stern didn't have that exception on the table.

And he highlighted maximum salaries for players signed under

Larry Bird contracts, showing how the average salary would range from approximately \$12 million to \$16.8 million depending on the amount of years a player has in the league. The Bird Exception allows a team to retain its own player without regard to the salary cap.

But the sides are still apart on the percentage of basketball related income (BRI) the union is willing to accept.

From the 2001-05 seasons, the NBA wants the percentage at 53, 53.5, 54 and 54.5. The union, which collected 57 percent (or \$1.750 billion) of basketball-generated revenue last season still wants no less than 57 percent. (Each percentage point represents \$20 million.)

"All I know is that I'm tired of this mess," 76ers guard Allen Iverson said Wednesday. "I'm sick of it. All talk and nothing is getting done. If David Stern is going to cancel the season, then just cancel the season. I want to play. But ... I don't understand what's going on."

## SPORTS IN BRIEF

**Wildcats host alumni basketball game**  
FILER — Filer High School will host an alumni basketball game at 7 p.m. Saturday at the high school gymnasium.  
All former Wildcat players are invited. For more information, call Gary Moon at 736-8285.

**Burley boosters plan Monday meeting**  
BURLEY — The Burley High School Boosters Club will meet at 7 p.m. Monday in Mr. Harr's room at the high school, 1600B 27th Ave.

**Seattle's 1999 opponents announced**  
KIRKLAND, Wash. — The Seattle Seahawks will face Buffalo, Tampa Bay, Denver and Cincinnati in the Kinnear-Patterson room at the Seahawks Center in Denver, Kansas City, Oakland and San Diego.  
On the road, the Seahawks will play the New York Jets, Green Bay, Pittsburgh and Chicago as well as traveling to the cities of their foes: AFC West opponents.  
Game dates will be announced this spring. The Seahawks (6-6) finished third in their division this season, before triumphing in the Dennis Erickson this week.

**It's official: Zolak to face Jaguars**  
FOXBORO, Mass. — Scott Zolak will fill in at quarterback when the New England Patriots meet the Jacksonville Jaguars in the first round of the NFL playoffs on Sunday.  
Draw Bledsoe, the AFC's sixth-rated quarterback and a three-time Pro Bowl player, hadn't been expected to play this weekend. The former Washington State University star fractured his right index finger Nov. 23 against Miami when he had hit a defensive lineman on a follow-through late in the fourth quarter.  
Zolak will be making his first playoff start, on Sept. 14, when he replaced the injured Matt Cassel. Zolak will be making his first playoff start, on Sept. 14, when he replaced the injured Matt Cassel. Zolak will be making his first playoff start, on Sept. 14, when he replaced the injured Matt Cassel.

**103-0? Is the scoreboard malfunctioning? Girls' basketball blowout amazes**  
ARLINGTON, Texas (AP) — The score was enough to cause double-takes, eye-rubbing and incredulous, dropped-jaw responses: "No, it just can't be."  
The Arlington Oakridge 103, Duncanville 0 in one of the biggest blowouts ever in girls

high school basketball, the Christy Lady Chapparals turned the ball over 46 times, shot 49-23 and missed both of their foul shots in the game Monday night.  
They trailed 63-0 at halftime.  
"We played everybody," said Oakridge coach Chris Spurlock. "I don't know what else

we could have done."  
He said he never considered just letting Christy score. After all, a furor erupted earlier this year in college basketball when an injured Nyckles Sales of Connecticut was allowed to score in an uncontested layup to break the school scoring record.

# YOUR SPORTS

Your Sports Editor: Jeff Rosen - 733-4421, Ext. 129

## Ritz wins age group at holiday marathon

OLYMPIA, Wash. — Magic Valley endurance runner Ritz won her age group at the Christmas Marathon held here Dec. 20.  
The race was Ritz's 34th marathon since October 1995. Three weeks earlier, she completed the Suddachak ultra-marathon near Lake Elsinore, California. This trail run was located in a mountainous area of the Cleveland National Forest.  
Ritz is in training for a return to the 1999 Antartica Marathon in February.  
In August, she completed an advanced trail run through the ruins in the Andes Mountains of Peru. The multi-day event covered about 90 miles, crossing two 13,000 foot mountain passes and following thousands of steep rocky steps along the ancient Inca Trail to Machu Picchu.  
Another part of the event circled Mt. Ausangate, reaching altitudes of nearly 17,000 feet while passing through native villages and grazing alpaca.

## TRACKING THE LOCALS

### Gillette's long ball leads Aztecs

SAN DIEGO, Calif. — Kaly Gillette scored 23 points for the San Diego State University women's basketball team Dec. 28, but the Aztecs lost to Toledo, 89-72.  
Gillette, a junior at SDSU, hit five three-point shots during the game. Gillette graduated from Minico High School and Ricks

College in Rexburg, where she received many honors for her athletic prowess.

### Ex-CSI runner places high in Boise

BOISE — Former College of Southern Idaho distance runner Mike Nielsen, now running for Athletics in Action and Team Elite Powerbar, placed fourth overall in the annual Christmas Run here Dec. 19.  
Nielsen ran the 2.5-mile race in a time of 13:58. More than 1,100 runners and walkers participated in the event this year.

**Let us know**  
Do you have a story that you think ought to be in the paper? Let us know. Call Jeff Rosen at The Times-News, 733-4421, ext. 129, or drop it off our office at 122 3rd St. S.  
Copy also can be mailed to P.O. Box 548, Twin Falls, Idaho 83421. Please include a self-addressed envelope if you want your picture returned.  
We reserve the right to publish the same week.

Include:  
 \* First and last names.  
 \* Home phone number, if mentioned.  
 \* Date and place of the event.  
 \* Location of places you to be photographed.  
 \* A name and phone number for your information.  
 \* Photographs are encouraged. Please send a self-addressed envelope if you want your picture returned.

## One at a time, Jerry comes through

We all know that when we bowled league, we're bowling against another team, and that the more we win the higher our team climbs in the standings — and as such, the better the payback at the end of the season.

But having a good time and enjoying camaraderie is the true name of the game.  
Jerry Miller enjoys himself on the lanes. He can step to the line and remember the 9,000 items needed from the time you pick up your ball 'til the time it crashes through those elusive 10 pins into the pit.  
He's also one of those bowlers who is willing to help others — even if it means his team may get trampled. His ability to read the lanes is phenomenal (an attribute many of us wish we had).  
Jerry showed his ability to come through in the clutch on Dec. 23. Playing on the Magic Bowl's Valley League, a league that uses Petersen Point scoring, his team lost Game 1, 12-2.  
Game 2 went to Jerry's team, 12-2. However, and the two squads were all tied up going into Game 3.  
When it came time for the final frame of that deciding game, scores on the opposing team stood Ron Dawson 202, Jerry Marcan-

**BOWLING**  
Thomas Tucker



tonio 221, J.V. Mitchell 168, Fred Swainfield 21 and Dean Doranick 206, for a scratch total of 1,011. Adding their handicap they were 1,100 on the nose.  
Jerry's team members, meanwhile, had racked up the following scores: Felix McLenore 168, Courtney Kneiff 178, Jim Boehm 161 and Dirk McCallister 171. Their team handicap was 152. Their total without Jerry was 801.  
It doesn't take a rocket scientist to know that a 300 by Jerry would win the final game by one pin.  
Jerry's ability had been displayed with nine strikes already in Game 3, when his teammates informed him they must have three more in frame 10 to win. Pressure, yes, just to get the 300 game, but more important: to Jerry was winning the game for his team.  
He called upon all his training

## YOUR SCORES AND STATS

**BOWLING**  
Magic Valley Bowling

**LEAGUE**  
 10-11-12-13-14-15-16-17-18-19-20-21-22-23-24-25-26-27-28-29-30-31-32-33-34-35-36-37-38-39-40-41-42-43-44-45-46-47-48-49-50-51-52-53-54-55-56-57-58-59-60-61-62-63-64-65-66-67-68-69-70-71-72-73-74-75-76-77-78-79-80-81-82-83-84-85-86-87-88-89-90-91-92-93-94-95-96-97-98-99-100-101-102-103-104-105-106-107-108-109-110-111-112-113-114-115-116-117-118-119-120-121-122-123-124-125-126-127-128-129-130-131-132-133-134-135-136-137-138-139-140-141-142-143-144-145-146-147-148-149-150-151-152-153-154-155-156-157-158-159-160-161-162-163-164-165-166-167-168-169-170-171-172-173-174-175-176-177-178-179-180-181-182-183-184-185-186-187-188-189-190-191-192-193-194-195-196-197-198-199-200-201-202-203-204-205-206-207-208-209-210-211-212-213-214-215-216-217-218-219-220-221-222-223-224-225-226-227-228-229-230-231-232-233-234-235-236-237-238-239-240-241-242-243-244-245-246-247-248-249-250-251-252-253-254-255-256-257-258-259-260-261-262-263-264-265-266-267-268-269-270-271-272-273-274-275-276-277-278-279-280-281-282-283-284-285-286-287-288-289-290-291-292-293-294-295-296-297-298-299-300-301-302-303-304-305-306-307-308-309-310-311-312-313-314-315-316-317-318-319-320-321-322-323-324-325-326-327-328-329-330-331-332-333-334-335-336-337-338-339-340-341-342-343-344-345-346-347-348-349-350-351-352-353-354-355-356-357-358-359-360-361-362-363-364-365-366-367-368-369-370-371-372-373-374-375-376-377-378-379-380-381-382-383-384-385-386-387-388-389-390-391-392-393-394-395-396-397-398-399-400-401-402-403-404-405-406-407-408-409-410-411-412-413-414-415-416-417-418-419-420-421-422-423-424-425-426-427-428-429-430-431-432-433-434-435-436-437-438-439-440-441-442-443-444-445-446-447-448-449-450-451-452-453-454-455-456-457-458-459-460-461-462-463-464-465-466-467-468-469-470-471-472-473-474-475-476-477-478-479-480-481-482-483-484-485-486-487-488-489-490-491-492-493-494-495-496-497-498-499-500-501-502-503-504-505-506-507-508-509-510-511-512-513-514-515-516-517-518-519-520-521-522-523-524-525-526-527-528-529-530-531-532-533-534-535-536-537-538-539-540-541-542-543-544-545-546-547-548-549-550-551-552-553-554-555-556-557-558-559-560-561-562-563-564-565-566-567-568-569-570-571-572-573-574-575-576-577-578-579-580-581-582-583-584-585-586-587-588-589-590-591-592-593-594-595-596-597-598-599-600-601-602-603-604-605-606-607-608-609-610-611-612-613-614-615-616-617-618-619-620-621-622-623-624-625-626-627-628-629-630-631-632-633-634-635-636-637-638-639-640-641-642-643-644-645-646-647-648-649-650-651-652-653-654-655-656-657-658-659-660-661-662-663-664-665-666-667-668-669-670-671-672-673-674-675-676-677-678-679-680-681-682-683-684-685-686-687-688-689-690-691-692-693-694-695-696-697-698-699-700-701-702-703-704-705-706-707-708-709-710-711-712-713-714-715-716-717-718-719-720-721-722-723-724-725-726-727-728-729-730-731-732-733-734-735-736-737-738-739-740-741-742-743-744-745-746-747-748-749-750-751-752-753-754-755-756-757-758-759-760-761-762-763-764-765-766-767-768-769-770-771-772-773-774-775-776-777-778-779-780-781-782-783-784-785-786-787-788-789-790-791-792-793-794-795-796-797-798-799-800-801-802-803-804-805-806-807-808-809-810-811-812-813-814-815-816-817-818-819-820-821-822-823-824-825-826-827-828-829-830-831-832-833-834-835-836-837-838-839-840-841-842-843-844-845-846-847-848-849-850-851-852-853-854-855-856-857-858-859-860-861-862-863-864-865-866-867-868-869-870-871-872-873-874-875-876-877-878-879-880-881-882-883-884-885-886-887-888-889-890-891-892-893-894-895-896-897-898-899-900-901-902-903-904-905-906-907-908-909-910-911-912-913-914-915-916-917-918-919-920-921-922-923-924-925-926-927-928-929-930-931-932-933-934-935-936-937-938-939-940-941-942-943-944-945-946-947-948-949-950-951-952-953-954-955-956-957-958-959-960-961-962-963-964-965-966-967-968-969-970-971-972-973-974-975-976-977-978-979-980-981-982-983-984-985-986-987-988-989-990-991-992-993-994-995-996-997-998-999-1000-1001-1002-1003-1004-1005-1006-1007-1008-1009-1010-1011-1012-1013-1014-1015-1016-1017-1018-1019-1020-1021-1022-1023-1024-1025-1026-1027-1028-1029-1030-1031-1032-1033-1034-1035-1036-1037-1038-1039-1040-1041-1042-1043-1044-1045-1046-1047-1048-1049-1050-1051-1052-1053-1054-1055-1056-1057-1058-1059-1060-1061-1062-1063-1064-1065-1066-1067-1068-1069-1070-1071-1072-1073-1074-1075-1076-1077-1078-1079-1080-1081-1082-1083-1084-1085-1086-1087-1088-1089-1090-1091-1092-1093-1094-1095-1096-1097-1098-1099-1100-1101-1102-1103-1104-1105-1106-1107-1108-1109-1110-1111-1112-1113-1114-1115-1116-1117-1118-1119-1120-1121-1122-1123-1124-1125-1126-1127-1128-1129-1130-1131-1132-1133-1134-1135-1136-1137-1138-1139-1140-1141-1142-1143-1144-1145-1146-1147-1148-1149-1150-1151-1152-1153-1154-1155-1156-1157-1158-1159-1160-1161-1162-1163-1164-1165-1166-1167-1168-1169-1170-1171-1172-1173-1174-1175-1176-1177-1178-1179-1180-1181-1182-1183-1184-1185-1186-1187-1188-1189-1190-1191-1192-1193-1194-1195-1196-1197-1198-1199-1200-1201-1202-1203-1204-1205-1206-1207-1208-1209-1210-1211-1212-1213-1214-1215-1216-1217-1218-1219-1220-1221-1222-1223-1224-1225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# MAGIC VALLEY

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City Editor: Bruce Roberts - 733-1931, Ext. 234

The Times-News

Thursday, December 31, 1998

Section C

## AROUND THE VALLEY

### Developers request rezoning of 24 acres

**TWIN FALLS** - A development company wants the city of Twin Falls to rezone nearly 24 acres near the Jules Harrison Ford auto dealership for commercial use, but the city planner said it's not clear what - if anything - is planned for the property.

Mall Associates LLC will bring its case before the city planning and zoning commission Jan. 12. The commission meets at 7 p.m. in City Hall. A public hearing is set for the commission's Jan. 29 meeting, said City Planner LeMar Orum.

The land in question is along Blue Lakes Boulevard North, the 1100 and 1200 blocks of Fillmore Street and the 700 block of North College Road.

Orum said Wednesday the city hasn't yet seen any specific plans for the property from Mall Associates.

Some planning commission members Wednesday said they could not comment on the matter until after the public hearing.

### 2 car-accident victims remain hospitalized

**TWIN FALLS** - Two men who were hurt in separate car accidents Tuesday remained in the hospital Wednesday.

Guillermo Montiel-Carmona, 40, of Terence, was in critical condition at Saint Alphonsus Regional Medical Center in Boise.

He was airlifted there Tuesday morning after his car slid on a patch of ice on the Rex Leland Highway south of Wendell and hit a power pole.

Two passengers, Javier Mendez-Hernandez, 22, and Maria Soledad Garcia, 23, were taken to Gooding County Memorial Hospital, where they were treated and released.

A Buick man who was hurt Tuesday in an accident on U.S. Highway 30 was in guarded condition Wednesday evening.

Leonard Murray, 83, was at the Magic Valley Regional Medical Center after his car was rear-ended near Curry Crossing. Murray had stopped for a dog in the road when he was hit by a pickup truck.

### Rupert man threatens police, then kills himself

**RUPERT** - Early Wednesday morning, a 38-year-old Rupert man shot and killed himself at his home in Rupert.

William Willie Koon was on probation in a felony alluding-an-officer case out of Cassia County. He had a felony warrant and a misdemeanor warrant for his arrest. While his deputies arrived at Koon's house and asked him to step outside, Koon threatened deputies with a gun, Koon said.

A special response team was called to the residence. While it was assembling outside, Koon apparently killed himself inside, Koon said.

### Camas County to update 23-year-old zoning rules

**FAIRFIELD** - The Camas County zoning ordinance, which has been in place for about 23 years, is about to be updated.

Commissioners hope to have their permit of the ordinance drafted and ready to go by the end of January, county Commissioner Steve Miller said.

"There's been a little bit of stuff done over the years," Miller said. "This will address some things that haven't been done before."

So far, commissioners have not specified what changes may be made to the ordinance. They are in the discussion stage, Miller said.

### Blaine commissioners plan Monday meeting

**HAYLEY** - Blaine County commissioners will meet at 9:45 a.m. Monday.

Public comments are first on the agenda. A resolution adjusting the sheriff's budget, cancellation of cases for Valley Christian, and a Board of Equalization meeting follow.

The afternoon session starts at 1:30 p.m. with a planning and needs discussion. An executive session for pending litigation follows.

Compiled from staff reports

## DON'T TALK AND DRIVE



The cell phone installed in Fire Chief Ron Clark's vehicle can be used like a regular phone or in hands-free mode, which enables him to keep his hands on the wheel.

# Cell phones raise concerns

But despite action by neighbors, Idaho still passes on subject of ban

By Pat Marcantonio  
Times-News writer

**TWIN FALLS** - Realtor Neil Harpster is a cell phone user but knows when to stay off the phone while in a car.

"I will not answer if I'm in a high-traffic area," said Harpster, who works for Magic Valley Realty in Twin Falls. Depending on the situation, he also asks people to call back, because cell phones can be dangerous as well as useful.

"People should recognize them as driving hazards," Harpster said.

Washington state has banned the use of cell phones while driving, and a Utah lawmaker will propose legislation for a similar ban for that state.

Rep. Ralph Becker, D-Salt Lake City, said cell phone use while driving is a public safety issue. He proposes penalties for drivers holding cell phones to their ears while on the road but allows exceptions, such as for emergencies. No restrictions would be placed on hands-free cellular phones.

The Utah State Police didn't support a previous ban, saying it would be hard to enforce.

The subject of a ban hasn't come up in Idaho.

Idaho State Police Lt. Lamont

For more information:  
**Newslink**  
www.newslink.com

### Cell phone use

No numbers were available on use in Idaho, but a Boston consulting group found this use nationwide in an annual survey.

- Percentage of households with wireless phones: 28 percent in 1997, 35 percent in 1998.
- Percentage of those surveyed said the phones were purchased for business: 28 percent for security and 16 percent for personal reasons.

Source: Yankee Group.

### Safety & cell phones

Idaho State Police urges drivers to pull over - safely - if they have to dial, stay on a long conversation or do anything that requires two hands for the telephone.

Johnston said he couldn't recall any recent accident in the Magic Valley district when use of a cell phone was cited as the cause.

"From the reports I have reviewed I have not seen anything like that that leads me to believe it's a big problem out there," he said. The officers investigate about 500 crashes per year.

But that's not saying cell phones and driving can't be a problem.

"Logically, you have to believe anything that distracts you from driving is a danger," Johnston said. "If you're driving at 60 to 70 mph it doesn't take much time for a problem to occur."

Twin Falls police don't have any information on cell-phone-caused accidents, but they are starting to ask those involved in crashes to determine how much phones contribute, along with other causes, Sgt. Bill Hanchey said. Inattentive driving is a major cause of accidents in town.

Cell phone use "will take your attention away from your driving," he said.

Jared McDaniel, CommNet Cellular marketing manager in Twin Falls, also urges drivers to use caution.

"There is no call that is so important you can't pull over or tell them you are going to call back," he said.

But he doesn't agree with a ban on phones on roads.

"It is a mode of convenience," he said. That's especially true for people who spend a lot of time on their cars.

Use is increasing, McDaniel added. CommNet found 40 percent of the southern Idaho market - that is, of people making more than \$25,000 a year - have cell phones. Costs can start at less than \$20 a month.

The company is promoting a hands-free system which can cost about \$100, he said. Some devices even will dial a number on verbal commands.

The Twin Falls Fire Department has two cell phones of the type that allow users to keep their hands on the wheel and minds on the road. Chief Ron Clark said.

"You can still pay attention to what's going on," he said.

Cell phones have proven to be excellent devices to summon help, Johnston said. People have called about traffic hazards, accidents and drunken drivers.

"They are a tool that should be used for emergencies," he said.

Times-News staff writer Pat Marcantonio can be reached at 733-0931, Ext. 242. The Associated Press contributed to this story.

# Rupert detective will offer free rides tonight



Detective Eric Snarr sits in his vehicle. Snarr will give rides to local residents who need a lift home tonight, part of the Rupert Police Department's free ride program for New Year's.

By John T. Huddy  
Times-News writer

**RUPERT** - Detective Eric Snarr wants to give people a ride in his police car tonight - but not to jail.

Snarr will spend his night off to help participate in the Rupert Police Department's free ride home program for New Year's Eve.

"I'd rather pick people up and see them get home safely without getting hurt or killed," Snarr said. "The only question that will be asked is how to get to their home."

The goal is to curb the amount of drunken-driving arrests for New Year's Eve.

People who need a ride will be taken home to Rupert, Burley, Heyburn or surrounding areas.

For more information:  
Anyone needing a ride tonight can call Rupert police at 434-2320. The ride is free.

"We encourage people not to drink," Rupert Police Chief James Jackson said. "But if they do, we encourage them to be responsible."

This is the first year the city will offer free rides to local residents.

Other cities have offered similar programs.

Pocatello's tow truck drivers offer free rides every New Year's Eve, and other Idaho cities offer free taxi services.

Rupert doesn't have a taxi service.

Please see ENDS, Page C2

# Survey says ...

## TF chamber takes look at convention center idea

**TWIN FALLS** - Sparked in part by a recent membership survey, the Twin Falls Area Chamber of Commerce has created a task force to study how a convention center can be built.

The new task force will look at where to build a possible convention center, and how to pay for it.

Convention centers can be built or through a host of funding sources. The Nampa Civic Center, built in 1990, was paid for through community donations and city money. The Boise Center on the Grove, opened in 1998, was financed through a 4 percent hotel room tax.

Costs also can vary widely; the Nampa center cost \$3.5 million, and the Boise center cost \$10 million. Cost of a Twin Falls convention center would hinge on its size.

Regardless, chamber members indicated an interest in a convention center, according to a recent survey.

In the chamber's annual survey of members, 59 percent of the 48 respondents said they wanted the chamber to move ahead on a convention center.

The task force could be ready to make its report to the chamber by March, said Kent List, the chamber's executive vice president.

This will be the third time the chamber has looked at a convention center.

The chamber studied the idea in 1989 and again in 1992, both times, however, the idea went nowhere.

In the chamber's 1992 study (found in the chamber's annual financial, business and organizational reports), a larger, higher-quality metropolitan

## Safety needs in valley top \$5.5 million

**TWIN FALLS** - Magic Valley school districts responding to a statewide survey on building repairs, safety standards for outdated repair costs of at least \$5.5 million.

The statewide figure reaches \$100 million, according to the survey, which was conducted by the State Board of Education.

Aggravated by federal and district superintendent, with 64 districts reporting safety problems.

Nor all needs were related to buildings. Some districts include safety standards for parking areas, bleachers and playgrounds.

Magic Valley school districts reported a variety of problems, from a treatment plant at Memorial Elementary School in Rupert to replacing pea gravel with sand on a walkway in Hansen playground.

The Magic Valley County School District notes in its report that windows at Memorial and the Peasop alternative school have glass panels at above the clear glass. The weight of the blocks is causing the sills to rot, crushing the windows.

Terral Danner, superintendent of Twin Falls public schools, said the State Board that has distributed a "major safety problem."

But, complying with hundreds of state safety requirements - unmet - and sudden changes in the district's size, after merger, a new year will

The Times-News  
Associated Press

Please see ENDS, Page C2





# Jerome ambulance service may leave county building

By Mark Holzer  
Times-News writer

**JEROME** — After Jerome County commissioners ordered his mortgage office a county building, a Jerome businessman says his ambulance company may pull out on its own.

"I don't want to leave the county in a bind," Larry Wood said.

Wood is a partner in the Unistar ambulance service as well as the Aspen Mortgage Co. Until Unistar leased a two-year contract with the county, both businesses shared space in a privately owned building on North Main Street.

But as part of the contract,

Unistar moved to the county's emergency services building on East Main Street. About a month ago, Wood moved the mortgage company's two employees and their desks into the county building as well.

The commissioners learned of the move through the grapevine. But there's no suspicion that Wood was trying to pull a fast one at the county's expense, Commissioner Roy Prescott said.

"It was very logical from a business point of view," he said.

But the stipulations of a state grant used to outfit the emergency services building rule out private-business-there-had Prescott said. So the county had

no choice but to order the mortgage company out.

Wood said he has an offer to rent space for both his businesses for less than the \$700 a month plus utilities the county charges him.

But he hadn't made any decision this week.

"I'm still way up in the air," he said.

Prescott said the county was checking business rent rates around the city. If Unistar's rent really is comparatively high, the county might be willing to lower it, he said.

*Times-News staff writer Mark Holzer can be reached in Jerome at 324-6962.*



Dennis Cole holds the head of a swimming llama above floodwaters of the Pudding River with one hand and battles the llama with another Wednesday in Aurora, Ore. The llama was one of three swept away in the muddy, swirling waters.

# Buhl School Board questions criteria for choosing valedictorians

By Mary Lou Potts  
Times-News correspondent

**BUHL** — The Buhl School Board has some questions about setting criteria for choosing high school valedictorians and salutatorians.

Should students' grade-point averages be considered? What other criteria should be used? Should classes taken at the College of Southern Idaho count when figuring GPAs? Should the students chosen for those honors give up their spots in the top-10 honor roll listings to allow others to be honored on the list? Buhl High School doesn't currently name a valedictorian or salutatorian and probably won't in 1999.

**In other school business**

High school Principal Terry Adelson reported Safety Klien has been designated to remove and recycle old chemicals left by science and lab projects. The cost will be \$4,000, and the project will be completed in January.

The district approved a grant secured from Idaho County Assurances for the 2002 Club — students who graduate in 2002 who are participating in each other's educations. The money will be used for field trips.

Superintendent Rick Hill reported on the school improvement plans set forth by the Building Buhl's Future Committee. The committee lists a new school among its recommendations.

Hill will report next month on the status of a parent survey sent out by the committee.

Discussions will be held on a policy review concerning closing schools when funerals involve a student or teacher.

Approval was given to accept an exchange student from Japan for next term, and to check into the hiring of personnel for Special Services for special-needs students.

The next meeting will be Jan. 19.

*Times-News correspondent Mary Lou Potts can be reached in Buhl at 543-8854.*

# Oregon flood sweeps away llamas

**AURORA, Ore. (AP)** — President Clinton voiced concern Wednesday as Oregon's flooding problems moved from the coast to inland waterways, one of which burst its banks and swept away a pack of petted llamas.

Firefighters scrambled to help men on rowboats hoist two, saucer-eyed, soggy animals from tangled brush after they were carried 500 yards downstream by the swollen Pudding River east of Salem.

"They were out there swimming for hours, treading water," said rancher David Cantwell after his friends saved two of his three llamas that were swept away.

The llamas bolted from an island of dry land into the rushing water early Wednesday while Cantwell and his ranch hands were trying to stack hay bales to keep them above the rising floodwaters.

"When one goes, they all go," said Cantwell, who breeds llamas for sale as pets.

As blue sky broke through gray clouds over Mount Hood, making the snow-capped peak visible for the first time in weeks from Portland, a churning, chocolate-colored Willamette River coursed through downtown.

Broken logs, tires and bits of broken furniture, the river

hovered around flood level as tributaries such as the Pudding pumped it to its banks.

Elsewhere in the Willamette Valley, the Yamhill and Tualatin rivers crested above flood level, setting the stage for floods similar to those that had plagued the coast earlier in the week.

The flooding across the Pacific Northwest caught the attention of President Clinton, who expressed his concern in a prepared radio statement Wednesday.

"As the rivers continue to rise, our thoughts and prayers are with the families who have been forced to evacuate their homes," Clinton said.

# Kimberly council gets tips on protecting wells

The Times-News

**KIMBERLY** — Members of the Kimberly City Council heard recommendations from Idaho Rural Water Association representative John Bolcar for wellhead protection for the city's wells.

The well is a large investment for small town Kimberly, and Bolcar was taken to ensure no contamination reaches the well, he said.

Bolcar recommended the city

concess the area for hazards due to stored agricultural and other chemicals. The city took no action Tuesday.

In another matter, the council agreed to let the old police car and the 1988 Dodge K car. The vehicles will be advertised and put up for bid. More information is available from the city clerk.

Also, the group voted to approve the drug program "Enough is Enough."

# Idaho Supreme Court orders trial on funding School

**BOISE, Idaho (AP)** — The Idaho Supreme Court Wednesday ordered a trial to determine whether the Legislature has provided a means to finance public school buildings that furnish a safe environment condition.

The ruling came in a unanimous opinion written by retiring Justice Byron Johnson.

The high court rejected arguments that a coalition of school districts on some peripheral issues. But it backed the schools on the central claim that 4th District Judge Daniel Eismann wants to dismiss complaints that school buildings fail to meet the state's constitutional requirement to provide a thorough system of public education.

State Sen. Phil Barr, whose administration inherited the long legal battle against the schools coalition, said he was not surprised by the decision.

"It has wide implications to the state," Barr said. "It will probably provide impetus for a permanent solution to this."

State Gov.-elect Dirk Kempthorne said he wanted to review the opinion before commenting. But his Democratic opponent in the Nov. 3 election, who represents the schools coalition, said he hoped the ruling would prompt lawmakers to do something about hundreds of millions of dollars in school building deficiencies.

"I think the Legislature will now realize they have a constitutional duty to address the issue they have ignored for six years," he said.

Robert Huntley said, "I'm hopeful that the governor will encourage the Legislature to

carry out its constitutional duty."

In writing for the court, Johnson cited the Legislature's own definition of thoroughness as a system of public schools in which "adequate resources conducive to learning is provided" and state Board of Education rules calling school facilities "a critical factor in carrying out educational programs."

Those rules also stipulate that the "focus of concern in each school facility is the provision of a variety of instructional activities and programs, with the health and safety of all persons essential."

"Even without these expressions from the Legislature and the State Board, however," Johnson wrote, "we conclude that a safe environment con-

District comparisons	
Blaine County	\$13,500
Boss	at least \$11,000
Caseia County	\$77,000
Castleton	\$239,133
Filer	\$87,965
Hansen	\$49,500
Jerome	\$1.6 million
Kimberly	\$2 million
Middlefork County	\$1.3 million
Mountain Home	\$174,831
Northwood	\$10,000
Twin Falls	\$50,000 to \$70,000

Source: State Board of Education

Timlan said.

Among safety problems cited in the report were inadequate fire alarms, faulty fire escapes, lead contamination in the water system, faulty or nonexistent smoke detection systems, dead-end corridors and lack of panic bars on doors.

Some schools are built without the oversight of building and fire inspectors, said Jack Rayne, building programs manager for the Division of Building Safety.

He said many schools continue to report the same problems year after year without doing anything.

"They forge ahead," Rayne said.

# Prosecutor seeks removal of judge in sex-ring hearing

The Times-News

**WENACHEE, Wash. (AP)** — The Wenatchee County prosecutor is trying to remove a judge appointed to conduct a hearing for a man who seeks to overturn his conviction in the so-called Wenatchee child molester case.

Prosecutor Gary Riesen on Tuesday filed an affidavit of prejudice that seeks to bar Whitman County Superior Court Judge Wallis Friel from presiding over the fact-finding hearing for Manuel Hidalgo Rodriguez.

After Riesen's filing, Hidalgo's lawyer, Robert Van Sichen, filed a motion asking the state Court of Appeals' Spokane division to block Riesen's request.

The Appeals Court is scheduled to take up the issue Tuesday, Van Sichen said.

Hidalgo, a former farm laborer, was convicted in August 1995 of first-degree child molestation for fondling a girl. He was sentenced to five years and eight months in prison.

Last week, the Court of Appeals asked Friel to hold the hearing and report back within 60 days.

The appellate court said Friel should preside because of "judicial economy" — apparently a

reference to the judge's handling of another case tied to the sex-abuse investigations.

Riesen didn't cite any reasons in the affidavit for seeking to have Friel removed. Riesen was in court Wednesday, and deputy prosecutor Roy Fore declined to comment.

Van Sichen said he will argue before the Appeals Court that Riesen's request to remove Friel is invalid because the panel specified that Friel oversee the hearing.

In addition, Friel's role will be limited to finding facts, with the Appeals Court being the decision-making body, Van Sichen said. That protects Friel from being removed from the case, the lawyer said.

Friel presided over a similar hearing in March that grew out of appeals filed by Harold and Idella Everett, who also were prosecuted in the sex-ring cases.

Friel later concluded the Everetts would probably not be convicted if tried.

The appellate court allowed the state to withdraw their guilty pleas in September, and Riesen chose not to pursue the case further.

carry out its constitutional duty."

In writing for the court, Johnson cited the Legislature's own definition of thoroughness as a system of public schools in which "adequate resources conducive to learning is provided" and state Board of Education rules calling school facilities "a critical factor in carrying out educational programs."

Those rules also stipulate that the "focus of concern in each school facility is the provision of a variety of instructional activities and programs, with the health and safety of all persons essential."

"Even without these expressions from the Legislature and the State Board, however," Johnson wrote, "we conclude that a safe environment con-

ductive to learning is inherently a part of a thorough system of public, free common schools that Article IX, Section 1 of our state Constitution requires the Legislature to establish and maintain.

"Certainly, the constitutional obligation of the Legislature cannot be read to allow a system of schools that do not provide a safe environment conducive to learning."

A trial now will be conducted in Eismann's court, and the judge will have to decide whether the Legislature has done enough to ensure a safe learning environment for Idaho students. Huntley said he would seek a trial date in the spring or early summer.

The Supreme Court heard arguments on the case last month

from Deputy Attorney General Michael Gilmore and Huntley, who filed a week earlier was soundly defeated by Kempthorne for governor.

Huntley, representing Idaho Schools for Equal Educational Opportunity, argued Idaho's educational future was at stake.

But Gilmore said Eismann was right in ruling that the coalition had failed to preserve its claim that school facilities are an integral part of the Legislature's constitutional responsibility.

A special study documented \$700 million in school maintenance and construction needs statewide in 1993. But nothing has been done to correct the problem by lawmakers, who already spend half of the \$1.6 billion general tax budget on public schools.

# Rides

The Times-News

**Continued from C1**

vicin, so the police department developed its own plan.

"We're also offering free rides to jail," Jackson said, smiling as he made his morning rounds.

"There's nothing worse than waking up on New Year's Day in jail."

Last New Year's Eve, three people were arrested in respect of driving under the influence charges. In all, 62 people have been charged with DUI in Rupert this year.

**Statewide, 10,214 people were arrested on DUI charges in 1997, and 104 people died in alcohol-related accidents.**

The Idaho State Police Department will boost its force for New Year's from three to five on-duty officers, Jackson said. Tonight grows to be one of the rowdiest and more dangerous times of the year on the road.

*Times-News staff writer John T. Huddy can be reached at 677-4042.*

# Programmer connects Arizona tribes to Internet

**FLAGSTAFF, Ariz. (AP)** — Using muscles to haul computers into the Grand Canyon, a programmer is using his own money to help make friends out of wary neighbors.

Paul Deshler, a 32-year-old Flagstaff-based computer specialist, spent the last two years helping the Havasupai and Hualapai tribes install computer networks complete with Internet connections and web pages.

To get the computers to Sausal, the Havasupai Tribe's headquarters, Deshler and others had to strap them on the back of mules and hike into the depths of Havasupai Canyon, a side canyon to the Grand Canyon. There's a road to Peach Springs, the Hualapai Tribe's headquarters, so it wasn't nearly so challenging there.

For his efforts while working for the Colorado Plateau Field Station, Deshler received this year's U.S. Geological Survey's John Wesley Powell Citizenship Award. The award, given to him in ceremony recently in Reston, Va., is the highest citizenship honor handed out by USGS.

Three months ago Deshler left the field station, a USGS partnership with Northern Arizona University that does biological research, to take a computer programming job with the city of Flagstaff.

Helping the two tribes log onto the information highway was a clear goal of the project, says Deshler, but forging communication partnerships with the tribes was the larger goal.

Necessity was the driving force

behind Deshler's five-year effort to improve communications with the 23 tribes on the Colorado Plateau.

"Thirty-three percent of the land on the Colorado Plateau is owned by tribes," Deshler said of plateau that covers large chunks of all Four Corners states.

"In order to do this kind of research we needed to establish relationships with tribal environmental offices."

Five years ago Deshler was commissioned to help "unite" all the tribes on the Colorado Plateau to find out how capable they were to interact using e-mail and the Internet. The idea was to find ways to open networking channels, allowing trust to be built up between tribes and federal researchers.

Five years and \$30,000 later, the result is that three prototype computer networks have been set up on the land of the Jicarilla Apache Reservation, a small northern New Mexico tribe.

Each tribe has a web page, e-mail capabilities and has had training sessions on how to use the Internet.

"We were doing this on a shoe string budget," said Deshler, the project's director, laborer, grant writer and general all-around make-it-happen guy.

"He's a really unique individual because he's got vision," said Mark Soligo, the USGS ecologist who told the Arizona Daily Sun of Deshler's accomplishments. "If there's something he sees that needs to be done, he'll find a way to make it happen."





# Tough tobacco law headlines Idaho changes in the new year

BOISE (AP) — Thousands of Idaho retailers are preparing for the possibility of law enforcement sting operations as soon as the new year dawns testing their compliance with a new law restricting youth access to tobacco.

Jennifer Lindsey, president of the Idaho Retailers Association, said she expects authorities to make no time enforcing the most controversial of a handful of new state laws taking effect Friday.

She said some law enforcement officials, believing the law took effect July 1 along with most other new statutes, were questioning store clerks back then why tobacco products had not yet been locked away or placed behind counters as required.

"They were misinformed," Lindsey said. "But we've been telling our members be ready to go on Jan. 1, have everything behind the counter, have all your sales force trained, make sure you're gone over the ID procedure. Because as of January first, anything's possible."

Every store, restaurant or other business that sells cigarettes or any other tobacco products, or even has cigarette vending machines, faces two random unannounced compliance inspections per year. They also must apply for a free sales permit from the Department of Health and Welfare.

Agency spokesman Bill Walker said more than 1,800 permits had been issued by Tuesday, and the state estimates as many as 2,200 will be required to have permits under the law.

That is less than half as many as the 5,000 retailers that experts estimated last winter would be affected as the Legislature debated the proposal aimed at keeping everyone under 18 away from tobacco. And Walker acknowledged it was nearly impossible to get an accurate figure.

Besides requiring retailers to put tobacco products behind counters or in locked displays to prevent minors from stealing, the law bans cigarette vending machines by 2000 and increases penalties for selling tobacco to youth.

Violations by retailers with permits will bring civil penalties including fines and temporary loss of their sales permit. A \$100 fine will be imposed on any sales clerk who sells tobacco to a minor, and those selling tobacco products without a permit could face criminal charges.

Minors also face up to six months in jail and a \$300 fine if they use a fake identification or lie about their age in an attempt to buy tobacco.

Retailers fought to dilute the legislation as much as possible last winter, with limited success. The spot inspections originally were to be financed by a \$55 million retail licensing fee, but the industry managed to have that stripped from the bill championed by the Idaho Parent-Teacher Association.

That left the cost of administering the program to be covered by federal grants. So far, however, the state has only managed to secure a commitment from the U.S. Food and Drug Administration to pay enforcement expenses up to \$377,000. Walker said some additional money has been drawn from the state's youth tobacco prevention program to prepare for the law's implementation.

Retiring Gov. Phil Batt, citing concerns about the fairness of sting operations, allowed the bill to become law without his signature. And Lindsey said retailers still are worried that clerks will face a potentially perilous inconvenience making legitimate sales to adults.

"Especially for our smaller retailers who may only have one clerk on duty, they would have to leave their register unattended," she said. "That's something that can be very dangerous for a retailer and something most small

retailers just aren't going to want to do."

Even if they do, Lindsey and others critics remain skeptical that the law will accomplish its goal. As with alcohol, she said, any product available to adults but not to them is inherently attractive to youth.

"As long as they continue to feel that way about the products, they're going to find ways to get them," Lindsey said. "Certainly

it's not because retailers are interested in promoting tobacco products."

A new law less controversial with the public, but almost as painful for legislators to pass grants a series of pay raises to Idaho's top seven statewide elected officials.

Retiring Gov. Phil Batt has been getting \$85,000 a year, but Gov.-elect Dirk Kempthorne will get \$92,500 in 1999, \$95,500 in

2000, \$98,500 in 2001 and \$101,500 in 2002.

Breaking the six-figure pay barrier was a point of contention for conservative lawmakers, but even at the top of the scale Kempthorne will be making substantially less than the \$137,000 a year he received as a U.S. senator.

The lieutenant governor's salary will rise from \$22,500 during the past year to \$26,750 in 2002, the secretary of state, state

controller, state treasurer and state schools superintendent each will see their pay increase from \$67,500 to \$82,500, and the attorney general's salary will jump from \$75,000 to \$91,500.

Two other laws are aimed at making some money rather than spending it. New additions to Idaho's specialty vehicle license plate assortment available Jan. 1 recognize the impact on tourism of snow skiing and snowmobiling.

Both plates will cost \$35 for the initial issue and \$25 for each annual renewal.

The ski plate will raise money for the Division of Tourism to promote its 2002 Winter Olympics Strategy Program.

Money raised from sales of the snowmobile plates will go to the state Department of Parks and Recreation's snowmobile account for building and maintaining snowmobile trails.

## ...PUBLIC NEWS BULLETIN!...

Attention Magic Valley ~ this is a public news bulletin from Banner Furniture.

Banner Furniture will be closed today, December 31<sup>st</sup>, to slash the prices on their entire Million Dollar Inventory.

Banner Furniture will reopen on January 1<sup>st</sup> from 10am to 5pm with special 12 month same as cash financing, o.a.c.

**NOTICE:** FREE hourly drawings for One Hundred Dollar Gift Certificates each hour 1am till 4pm.

This is Banner Furniture's biggest sale of the year and you don't want to miss it!



Ask AdHound to search our classifieds for you.



Tell AdHound what you're looking for and he'll search to find a match. Then he emails the ad to you. He can roam right here at home, or through the pages of more than 500 newspapers nationwide.

For more information, call 734-9831. **The Times-News**

<http://www.magicvalley.com>

OPEN JANUARY 1<sup>ST</sup> 10 am-5 pm

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MARKETS

CLOSING FUTURES

Table with columns for various futures contracts including Soybeans, Corn, and Wheat, listing prices and changes.

BEANS

Table listing prices for various types of beans such as Soybean Meal and Soybean Oil.

GRAINS

Table listing prices for various grains including Corn, Soybeans, and Wheat.

CHEESE

Table listing prices for various types of cheese.

POTATOES/ONIONS

Table listing prices for potatoes and onions.

METALS/CURRENCY

Table listing prices for various metals and currencies.

SUGAR

Table listing prices for various types of sugar.

LIVESTOCK

Table listing prices for various types of livestock.

Middle-class parents can take advantage of 1998 tax breaks

WASHINGTON (AP) — As the holiday season draws to a close, Americans turn to the decidedly less festive task of closing their income tax forms.

A new \$400 credit for each child under age 17 highlights several changes for the 1998 tax year intended by Congress to benefit people with moderate incomes.

There may not be more changes than in a normal year, but a lot of tax breaks were geared toward the lower-income taxpayers so it will affect a lot more people.

For years, the tax code has included an exemption for dependent children, and that won't change. But for the first time, many middle-income taxpayers can also claim a \$400 credit for each of them.

New tax laws kick in New Year's Day

WASHINGTON (AP) — In addition to tax law revisions that affected the just-ended 1998 tax year, the following changes for 1999 will take effect New Year's Day.

- The credit for children under age 17 for middle-class parents rises to \$500 from the \$400 credit allowed in 1998.
• Self-employed people will be able to deduct 60 percent of their health insurance premiums in 1999, up from 45 percent in 1998.
• An expanded definition of the home office means an estimated 2 million business people will be able to claim a deduction for the first time on 1999 returns.

This year, Congress took steps to ensure the child and dependent credits don't force some middle-class people to pay alternative minimum tax, which is intended to ensure higher-income taxpayers don't completely escape income taxes through credits or deductions.

But that exemption is only temporary, says the Treasury, which will have to revisit it because of the problem in the 1998 tax year.

Taxpayers will have several new ways to transmit their returns to the IRS. Last year, 21 million returns — one-third of all individual returns — were filed electronically, usually through personal computer software programs or the telephone or through a professional tax preparer.

It's our goal to make e-file the preferred way to file with the IRS, said Bob Barr, chief of electronic filing at the agency.

New features will entice more taxpayers to the electronically. Taxpayers who provide bank account information can direct where they want payments transferred in the 1998 and get refunds deposited directly.

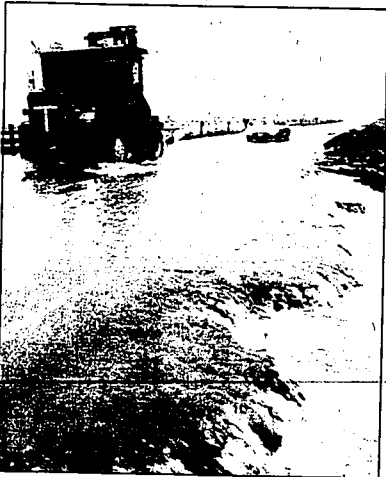
People who use Intuit's TurboTax or MacTax software can pay with Discover or other Novus cards. Any taxpayer can use MasterCard, American Express or Novus cards to pay by calling a toll-free telephone number. Some taxpayers with simple returns can use TeleFile, which involves filling out an uncomplicated booklet and paying for filing the returns with a 10-minute telephone call.

About 5 million people filed this way last year.

Large table containing detailed market data, including various futures contracts, stock prices, and other financial indicators.

IDAHO/WEST

—WATER, WATER EVERYWHERE—



Traffic slowly moves through flood waters Tuesday in Tillamook, Ore. Heavy rain was letting up and waters were receding Tuesday, but much of the area still is covered with water as residents begin mopping up.

Utilities commission opens in-state long-distance market

BOISE (AP) — The Idaho Public Utilities Commission has ordered U S West to implement "a toll dialing parity" that allows customers to pre-select a carrier for in-state long-distance calls.

The move could save U S West customers money on the calls.

When customers currently make an in-state, intra-Local Access Transport Area call with a carrier other than U S West, they must first dial a series of numbers such as 10-10-321 before dialing the telephone number.

The Local Access Transport Area is a geographic area where U S West provides long-distance, toll services within the state. There is one in northern Idaho and one in southern Idaho.

"As a result of this order, U S West customers will soon be able to shop around for the cheapest rates when making long-distance calls in Idaho," Public Utilities Commission information officer David Scott said. "Prior to this, any long-distance call made with-

in southern or northern Idaho was automatically carried by U S West."

U S West officials Monday said the company plans to petition the order.

"U S West is going to carefully evaluate the entire PUC order and we do plan to file a petition for reconsideration on that order, probably in January," spokesman Mike Reynoldson said.

Doug McConaughy of Nampa is optimistic about the commission's order.

He now uses dial-arounds, or 10-10 numbers, offered by AT&T and other long-distance phone companies to avoid paying U S West's rates.

"It's been waiting for regulators like the PUC to open up the market to other phone companies, so it's a victory for consumers in Idaho," he said.

"But I am disappointed they let U S West set the timetable for implementation," McConaughy said.

Crews clear U.S. 95 mudslides

BONNERS FERRY (AP) — Like a wound that won't heal, the North Hill has started bleeding mud again, blocking traffic on U.S. Highway 95.

The Tuesday mudslide was minor, however, and workers quickly cleared the debris off the roadway. The slide occurred at the site of the rebuilt section of highway.

The major north-south route near town was closed when a slide tore out the hillside in October. It was triggered by a construction project to realign

the highway and closed it for three weeks.

Commercial trucks were forced to detour through western Montana and local traffic was possible only on poor side roads.

Tuesday's slide, however, shut down both lanes for only about 45 minutes. Then workers monitored the hillside for more sloughing.

"It's nothing unusual and is not beyond what was expected to happen," Idaho Department of Transportation spokeswoman Barbara Babic said.

Stepson's pain sends mother to jail

CALDWELL (AP) — A Nampa woman will serve at least two years in prison for failing to help her stepson after his father dumped him in a bathtub of scalding hot water.

Catherine Duncan, 29, was sentenced Wednesday to 10 years in prison, with two years fixed.

Duncan was found guilty fol-

lowing a trial in October for not seeking medical attention for the blind and developmentally disabled 8-year-old after his father, Steven Young, placed him in the bathtub water.

The boy's aunt took him to the hospital four days after the injury. He has since been placed in a foster home.

Wild horse killings prompt large reward

RENO, Nev. (AP) — Officers investigating the slaughter of 33 wild horses in Nevada widened their search for dead mustangs Wednesday after the latest victims were found to have limped miles away from the shooting scene before they died.

The reward for the horse killers

surpassed \$20,000 as some than a dozen state and county law officers continued combing the hillsides of the Reno-Sparks area for clues in the shootings that outraged local residents.

"All of the horses appeared to have been shot multiple times before dying," Maxine County

Sheriff's Sgt. Bob Towery said Wednesday.

Law officers believe they are looking for more than one gunman. They didn't know if they'll find more dead horses, Towery said.

"I don't think we'll ever be able to comfortably say if we have

found them all," he said.

Investigators initially discovered just eight horse carcasses when called to the area on Sunday. A helicopter search on Monday turned up 17 more — all within about a square mile of each other about five miles east Sparks and south of U.S. Interstate 80.

Idaho association wants new law to lessen court's decision

BOISE (AP) — The Idaho Association of Commerce and Industry is working on legislation that would reduce the impacts of an Idaho Supreme Court decision holding employers responsible for the future criminal acts of former employees.

The court ruled in March that employers could be held liable for the future conduct of former employees unless extensive, background checks were conducted before hiring.

"The ruling has sent a shock wave through the business community," Idaho Association of Commerce and Industry vice

president for human resources Dawn Justice said. "Being held responsible for the criminal acts of an ex-employee was something I don't think most employers ever fashioned would occur."

The association plans to introduce legislation during the approaching legislative session that would temper the court's ruling with some balance, Justice said.

Prior to the Supreme Court's decision, employers usually were limited to giving the "Name, rank and serial number" of former employees, Justice said. That protected employers from lawsuits.

Lance to seek telemarketer blockade

BOISE (AP) — Declaring the right of privacy fundamental, Attorney General Al Lance will ask state lawmakers next month to enact consumer protection against telemarketers invading their homes.

He also will press for legislation making it easier for people to correct credit problems caused by stolen credit cards and prohibiting directors of nonprofit hospitals from profiting on acquisitions by for-profit corporations.

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Page D4

# OUTDOORS

INSIDE

Fishing ..... D2  
Comics ..... D3  
Travel ..... D4

Outdoors Editor: William Brock - 733-3031, Ext. 264

The Times-News

Thursday, December 31, 1998

Section D

## Idaho's good enough for the gypsy

I looked at my watch the other day and discovered I've lived in the Magic Valley for five years.

As regular readers of this column know, I've moved around quite a bit. I've lived, worked or attended school in California, Australia, Italy, Montana, South Africa and Switzerland.

Now southern Idaho is on the list, written in big capital letters.

About 12 years ago, after a trip to Yellowstone National Park, my heart sank when I returned to the arid, flat and largely treeless Eastern Snake River Plain.

"Why," I asked myself, "am I still living here?"

After pondering the question at length, I finally know the answer. For a jack-of-all-trades, master-of-none outdoorsman such as myself, Idaho is the best place I've ever found.

The biggest problem is deciding what to do on any given day.



**FORCE OF NATURE**  
William Brock

Whitewater rivers, you say? Take your pick.

The Jarbidge-Bruneau river, west of Rogerson, is a little-known gem. At the other end of the spectrum, the Middle Fork of the Salmon, northwest of Stanley, is one of the most famous wilderness rivers in America.

For the best big-water in Idaho, there's the Snake River just a stone's throw from Murtaugh.

Myrtle and I are the "locals" when we're on these rivers. The Murtaugh stretch of the Snake is a no-brainer city trip, while the Jarbidge-Bruneau is little more than a three-day weekend.

All we need are a few gallons of gas, some grub and our gear. For people who give elsewhere, navigating the Murtaugh or Jarbidge-Bruneau is the highlight of their year.

How about climbing?

Funny thing, but I run into rock climbers from all over the world at the City of Rocks National Reserve. Many are on extended climbing trips of the United States, and quite a few admit that the City is their favorite spot on the tour.

My house is 50 miles from the City of Rocks. Once again, all I need for a day of world-class fun are a few gallons of gas and a sandwich.

Most at home, there's plenty of good climbing at Dierke Park. A little further from home, the Sawtooth Mountains offer some of the most spectacular alpine routes in the United States. For my money, only the Tetons surpass the Saw.

Skiing? I head to Sun Valley when I'm in the chips and Pomerelle when I'm not. The terrain is a better at one and the snow is better at the other, but either seats an icy monarch in the Midwest or the East. As for backcountry skiing, Cabela Pass is pretty good, and the area around Lake Cleveland, in the Albion Range, is even better.

Mountain biking? The hills between Ketchum and Stanley have more good trails than I'll ever have time to ride, but I don't even need to go that far. The South Hills are laced with moderate trails that receive little traffic.

Bird hunting? I've shot more Huns, phukar and pheasant in southern Idaho than anywhere I've ever lived.

Fishing? I don't spend much time angling anymore, but friends who do tell me Silver Creek, the Big Wood and Little Wood rivers can be as good as any streams on earth.

Finally, with respect to general scenic grandeur, I'll admit the Magic Valley doesn't fire the imagination like Bozeman, Mont., or Pebble Beach, Calif. But for people who know how to look, which means getting your boots dirty and your canoe wet, there's a wealth of hidden reasons to explore.

There are vast canyons, with endless side canyons and subtle wrinkles in the landscape where cool springs and lush pastures appear unexpectedly. There are muskrats, beaver, mink and beaver to observe surreptitiously. Eagles and hawks wheel overhead, while snakes and fox blither and skitter underfoot.

There's a lot more wild country and wild critters in southern Idaho than most folks ever know. Best part, we "locals" have it mostly to ourselves.

Next time you hear unknowing people scoff about southern Idaho, ask yourself who's been fooling who. Then give them directions to Jackson, Wyo.

William Brock is Outdoors editor of The Times-News.

## ... 3 French hens, 2 turtledoves, and a partridge in a pear tree Bird-watchers spend Christmas counting feathered friends

From Bonners Ferry to Bear Lake, Idaho birders helped conduct the world's largest Christmas bird count over the holidays. Audubon members in Twin Falls were no exception, with 27 hardy souls braving slippery roads and slushy conditions to spot 16,275 birds representing 70 species.

The Christmas bird count is a time-honored tradition that began on Christmas Day in 1900 on the East Coast. That year, with 27 conservationists, has grown to more than 50,000 volunteers. The count is conducted in all 50 states, every Canadian province, parts of Central and South America, Bermuda, the West Indies and the Pacific Islands.

In Idaho, the count is conducted in 23 areas. Each volunteer group covers a circle 15 miles in diameter.

Information from each Christmas bird count helps to document distribution, numbers and trends of bird populations. Birds are indicators of the overall health of our environment.

Among other things, these counts have shown a decline in many U.S. songbirds that winter in the rain forests of Central and South America. These rain forests are being decimated at a rate of 1.5 million acres per year, so there's a clear cause-and-effect relationship.

In addition to being a valuable conservation tool, the Christmas bird count is a lively social event as well. Birders vie with one another to see who can identify the most species. The Twin Falls (Prairie Falcon) Chapter of the Audubon Society is no exception.

Bird-watching is an activity that anyone can enjoy. Birds are fascinating and



Twin Falls resident Paul Rupeucht keeps a sharp eye peeled during the 99th annual Christmas bird count. Rupeucht was surveying a site near the Thousand Springs passover, where relatively warm water provides a haven for beleaguered birds.

can be observed at a backyard feeder or exotic places around the globe. All a person needs is a good bird identification guide and a pair of binoculars.

Some avid birders compile lifetime lists and often plan their vacations just to add a rare bird or two. There are 650 bird species just in North America, so spotting them all can be a real challenge.

Weather patterns can change the Christmas count totals from year to year. The availability of food also shifts distribution.

This was the second year in which a scarcity of rough-legged hawks was noted in the Twin Falls



Great horned owl count. This is attributed to the decline in rodent populations. Three years ago,

Story and photos by Stu Murrell

when mice and meadow voles were abundant, rough-legged numbers were relatively high. On the other hand, the number of kestrels (sparrow hawks) jumped from 37 last year to 69 on this count. An abundance of grasshoppers — one of the kestrel's favorite foods — helped boost their nesting success in the Magic Valley.

Springs across the Magic Valley also attracted some birds that would not normally winter this far north. Local chapter members observed water pipits, common snipe, and Virginia rails, and American dippers that were drawn to the relatively warm water of the springs.

## Boise woman rescues bear cubs slated for euthanasia

The Associated Press

BOISE — For Sally Maughan, giving orphaned baby bears a chance at life and the prospect of living again in the wild is worth the effort — even when the effort means bottle-feeding every two hours day and night.

"You've got states with orphan cubs that don't know what to do with them," Maughan said. "They end up being euthanized. Once I knew that, I understood the importance of making this work and of sharing the knowledge I was gaining."

It has been a labor of love since Maughan branched out from bobcats, coyotes, foxes and smaller animals nine and a half years ago when the Idaho Department of Fish and Game came knocking with an orphaned cub in 1989.

"The minute that bear cub hit my door step, that was it. I was hooked."

And wildlife managers throughout the region have been blessed ever since.

"She was a godsend to us because there are very few people you can give bears to — a large carnivore like that takes a lot of special care," said Tara Wertz, a wildlife habitat biologist for the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife. "She's the only one I'm aware of that would do that."

Less than a week ago, Maughan released her 28th and 29th orphaned cubs in Oregon's Blue Mountains. She has another nine at her Idaho Black Bear Rehab, finishing



Sally Maughan checks on one of nine black bear cubs she is raising at her home in Boise. Maughan has been rehabilitating wild animals for 10 years and has taken care of 42 bear cubs in that time. Most of the cubs she takes in have been abandoned by their mothers or injured. She raises them until they are able to be released back into the wild.

their preparation for release. The majority were orphaned during the hunting season. Other cubs were hit by vehicles or shot while digging through garbage cans.

That preparation can be a monumental task for a 52-year-old woman who holds down a full-time job at a travel agency. The cubs have to be fat-

tened up before they turn lethargic in anticipation of the approaching winter. That count means the day at 4 a.m. to care for them and then working small midnight once she gets off work and back to her home in what is still a relatively open part of western Ada County. Until she had a water line run to the bears' pen, it meant hauling 30 gal-

lons of water twice a day during the winter.

Chris Morgan, a bear expert with the World Society for the Protection of Animals, says Maughan's dedication means the difference between life and death for the animals.

"I don't think I've ever come across another individual who is more committed to the care of these cubs," Morgan said.

"She was a godsend to us because there are very few people you can give bears to — a large carnivore like that takes a lot of special care. She's the only one I'm aware of that will do that."

— Tara Wertz, wildlife habitat biologist

"Without Sally, there would be nowhere for the cubs to go. She feeds them until they are twice the weight of their counterparts in the wild to give them as much of a chance as possible of making it through the winter and into the spring."

And that is a lot of food. The nine she is caring for now can go through 70 pounds of dog food a day and finish off two 5-gallon buckets of apples along with a healthy portion of scours, fish and other foods. "We've gotten bear cubs in that barely have their eyes open. In those situations, she's up feeding them every two hours around the clock," Idaho Department of Fish and Game bear expert John Beecham said.

Please see CUBS, Page D2



OUTDOORS

# Parasite decimates rainbow trout population

DECKERS, Colo. (AP) — Bill Coy flicked his fly rod across the icy waters of the South Platte River — one of the finest trout streams in the West — and scowled.

"Nothing, not a thing," he said, standing in about a foot of water about 30 miles southwest of Denver in the Rocky Mountains.

A parasite is wiping out rainbow trout in Colorado, Montana, Wyoming and Idaho.

The parasite is carried by a worm and causes whirling disease, which makes fingerling trout spin in circles until they die.

Over the past few years, the disease has infected a number of prize rainbow trout streams in the West, including the Madison, the Yellowstone, the South Platte and even the Blackfoot, which was celebrated in the book and the movie "A River Runs Through It."

German brown, cutthroat, brook and lake trout are less susceptible to the disease and are replacing the rainbow trout in many rivers.

As a result, some sportsmen say the disease hasn't really hurt trout fishing so much as forced them to adapt their flies and their fishing times to catch different species.

However, many fishermen prefer rainbow trout because they're more spectacular to catch.

The rainbow is more active than other trout, and thus more fun to fight. It is also more colorful, with its speckled hues shimmering in the sun as it leaps. Many fishermen also say it tastes better than other trout.

Dick Greene, co-owner and guide at Little's, a fly fishing and West Yellowstone, Mont., said sport fishing on the Madison dropped off more than 10 percent five years ago when the disease hit the stream, but bounced back when the rainbow trout inexplicably began to return.

Coy, who has fished his stretch of the South Platte for 36 years, said he usually catches a prize rainbow or two even in winter, and more than a dozen during good years. But the past decade hasn't been very lucky.

"I'm lucky if I get a third as many fish as he used to," he said, gazing sadly at his empty creel and his soggy flies.



Amanda Stankin, 5, of Littleton, Colo., gets help from her mother, Carol, dropping a line in the South Platte River while fishing for rainbow trout Tuesday near the south-central Colorado mountain community of Deckers. Rainbow trout in Colorado as well as Montana, Wyoming and Idaho are being wiped out by whirling disease.

Biologists warn they have no cure and very little to offer in the way of hope.

Only one drug, fumagillin, has shown any promise, and it's impossible to get enough of it into an infected river to do any good.

The biologists say the best solution is to cleanse and modernize hatcheries.

They say fishermen can prevent the spread of the parasite by cleaning all equipment with rubine after fishing in diseased waters, washing debris from boats and not throwing fish remains into the water.

"I don't know if we'll ever be able to eradicate it. The best we can do is learn to control it," said Ken Peters, a biologist for the U.S.

Fish and Wildlife Service in Bozeman, Mont.

Some say the disease runs in cycles, and rivers can recover on their own. They point to the Madison as a river that has bounced back.

The disease is harmless to humans; it is one of many parasites that are routinely consumed.

The parasite was brought into the United States around 1950 on fish from Europe. It worked its way from the East to the West as fishermen stocked streams with their favorite sport fish. Eventually, the parasite got into hatcheries that are used to stock trout streams.

Colorado officials said 12 of 15

of its hatcheries have the parasite, which kills 90 to 100 percent of the hatchlings it infects.

Across the West, it has put a crimp in the fishing industry, which brings in more than \$1 billion a year to Colorado alone.

The disease didn't take hold in the East, where it was first introduced, because that region has many free-flowing streams. But out West, it festered in slow-flowing waters, a prime habitat for the worm that carries the parasite. The worms are eaten by the fish.

Wildlife officials blame the proliferation of dams that have been built to satisfy the thirst of growing Western communities.

"If you do something for some-

one, you do something to someone else," said Terry Scocum, a spokesman for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service in the West. "Now look what it's done to the wildlife."

## Mountain lion season ends in units 56 & 57

The Statesman

The harvest quota of three female mountain lions for units 56 and 57 was officially met on Monday. The hunting season for lions in those two units is therefore closed.

A lion dog training (pursuit) season is now open and will run through March 31, 1999. During the dog training season, lions may be pursued and tamed, but not captured, killed or possessed.

In any lion pursuit effort, all participants in the hunt who are 12 years and older must have a valid fish and game license and a hunt/lion permit. There are certain exceptions to this rule, so check the 1998 "Big Game Season" rules booklet for details. Hunters may check the status of other lion units around the state by calling (800) 323-4334.

## Investigators seek source of fish kill

The Statesman Star

BALTIMORE — Investigators from the Maryland Department of the Environment are searching for what killed 20,000 fish along a four-mile stretch of the Potomac River last week. Maryland's largest fish kill since the outbreak of Hysteria on the Potomac River last year.

The fish — at least five species — were floating in the river and lying on the banks Dec. 22, said department spokesman Quentin W. Banks Jr.

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## Cubs

Continued from D1

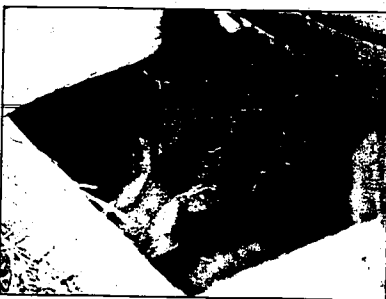
"She's built on the information that we learned in the last few years about taking care of cubs," he said. "She's got it down to a science now."

That science goes beyond tending to the bear's physical needs. Maughan also uses her safe environment to help them develop the social skills they need to get along in the wild. Orphans initially get along only with siblings, but they have to learn to deal with other bears.

"Usually, when you start mixing bears, you have two or three days of every body grumbling and growling and avoiding each other," she said. "Then everyone settles in."

Eventually, they turn playful. During the summer, the bears turn a 160 gallon tub into a swimming pool. This winter they will use it as a sleeping den. As many as seven, 80 to 90 pound cubs will keep it warm.

Until this year, Maughan paid for the cubs keep out of her own pocket — about \$600 apiece. But Morgan's World Society for the Protection of Animals has



A 1-year-old black bear cub peers out of his makeshift den in Sully Maughan's rehabilitation pen at her home in Boise. This bear cub is one of nine Maughan is currently raising in preparation for their return to the wilderness.

stepped in with a stipend of \$6,000.

"The bears have such a strong sense of freedom that releasing them into the wild makes it worth the effort," Maughan said.

## Polar bear has twins

DENVER (AP) — Ulu, a polar bear at the Denver Zoo who gave birth to two cubs and promptly abandoned them four years ago, might have changed her attitude toward motherhood.

She has again given birth to two cubs, but this time she seems to be mothering them, zoo officials said Tuesday.

Her cubs Kinotike and Snow, born in November 1994, survived after zookeepers took up parenting tasks. The cubs, who weighed less than 1 1/2 pounds at birth, were bottle-fed every four hours on a mixture of distilled water, half and half, safflower oil and vitamins.

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COMICS

**Parents**  
By Charles M. Schulz

THIS? THIS IS A CALENDAR...

IT TELLS YOU WHAT DAY IT IS, WHAT MONTH IT IS, AND WHAT YEAR IT IS...

NO, IT DOESN'T TELL YOU WHERE YOUR MOM IS...

**For Father or For Me**  
By Lynn Johnston

I DON'T LIKE HOW PEOPLE PAPER SO MUCH THESE DAYS. IT'S JUST ANOTHER WAY TO GET RICH!

WELL, THAT'S THE POINT OF IT. TO GET RICH!

WELL, THAT'S THE POINT OF IT. TO GET RICH!

WELL, THAT'S THE POINT OF IT. TO GET RICH!

WELL, THAT'S THE POINT OF IT. TO GET RICH!

**Work**  
By Scott Adams

CATBERT: H.R. DIRECTOR

WELL, I'M SENDING YOU HOME. SHORTS ARE NOT ACCEPTABLE DRESS.

THESE ARE NOT SHORTS!!

TOMORROW I'LL ACCUSE HIM OF BEING A SKINHEAD.

**Booze**  
By Dean Young & Stan Drake

WE DON'T GET ANY MORE MOOSEMEASERS!

WELL, THAT'S THE POINT OF IT. TO GET RICH!

WELL, THAT'S THE POINT OF IT. TO GET RICH!

WELL, THAT'S THE POINT OF IT. TO GET RICH!

WELL, THAT'S THE POINT OF IT. TO GET RICH!

**P.C.**  
By Johnny Hart

NEVER BET ON A HORSE OWNED BY THE KONG DOG FOOD COMPANY.

ADVICE

**Picks**  
By Brian Crane

EARL, TRY THIS NEXT.

WOULD YOU TRY IT FIRST?

WELL, THAT'S THE POINT OF IT. TO GET RICH!

WELL, THAT'S THE POINT OF IT. TO GET RICH!

WELL, THAT'S THE POINT OF IT. TO GET RICH!

**Garfield**  
By Jim Davis

3-4-3-2-1...

Happy New Year!

IT'S NOT OFFICIAL UNTIL THE SPIDER DROPS

**Denise the Woman**  
By Hank Ketchum

THIS KINDA REMINDS ME OF THE LAST DAY OF SCHOOL.

If tomorrow's New Year's Day, is tonight OLD Year's Day?

**M and Lo**  
By Dan Brone

IT'S BEEN A LONG TIME SINCE WE'VE GONE OUT ON NEW YEAR'S EVE!

IT SURE HAS!

Happy New Year!

HOW LONG UNTIL MIDNIGHT?

4:40

5 HOURS!

5:51

**fringe**  
Liberty Windows  
By Frank Cho

NEW YEAR'S RESOLUTIONS: YOU WANT TO LOSE WEIGHT, GET RICH, FIND A GIRL, GET A JOB, GET A HOUSE, GET A CAR, GET A BOAT, GET A YACHT, GET A MANSION, GET A PRIVATE ISLAND, GET A PRIVATE JET, GET A PRIVATE AIRCRAFT CARRIER, GET A PRIVATE SPACE SHUTTLE, GET A PRIVATE SPACE STATION, GET A PRIVATE SPACE COLONY, GET A PRIVATE SPACE COUNTRY, GET A PRIVATE SPACE EMPIRE, GET A PRIVATE SPACE GALAXY, GET A PRIVATE SPACE UNIVERSE, GET A PRIVATE SPACE MULTIVERSE, GET A PRIVATE SPACE INFINITE UNIVERSE.

**The Wizard of Id**  
By Brent Parker & Johnny Hart

WHAT KIND OF INSURANCE DO YOU HAVE?

I'D LIKE TO SEE THE DENTIST

DENTIST

FIRE AND THEFT

THEFT SHOULD DO

**Zits**  
By Jim Borgman & Jerry Scott

OH HOW! A BIG FAT WINDOW COMB!

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WELL, THAT'S THE POINT OF IT. TO GET RICH!

**Major the Horrible**  
By Chris Browne

DID YOU MAKE A NEW YEAR'S RESOLUTION?

YES I RESOLVED TO DRINK AS MUCH AS I WANT

WHAT KIND OF RESOLUTION IS THAT?

ONE I CAN KEEP

**Laura**  
By Greg Evans

HAPPY NEW YEAR!

WELL, THAT'S THE POINT OF IT. TO GET RICH!

WELL, THAT'S THE POINT OF IT. TO GET RICH!

WELL, THAT'S THE POINT OF IT. TO GET RICH!

**Beetle Bailey**  
By Mort Walker

BOY, YOU REALLY GOT SARGE MAD THIS TIME!!

OH, HE'LL GET OVER IT THIS TIME!!

DON'T BET ON IT!

WELL, THAT'S THE POINT OF IT. TO GET RICH!

**Strange Brew**  
By Jim Borgman & Jerry Scott

UNEMPLOYED WIFE

THE LUXURATE OXYMORON

THE BEGINNING OF THE NEW YEAR'S RESOLUTIONS

RESOLUTIONS: YOU WANT TO LOSE WEIGHT, GET RICH, FIND A GIRL, GET A JOB, GET A HOUSE, GET A CAR, GET A BOAT, GET A YACHT, GET A MANSION, GET A PRIVATE ISLAND, GET A PRIVATE JET, GET A PRIVATE AIRCRAFT CARRIER, GET A PRIVATE SPACE SHUTTLE, GET A PRIVATE SPACE STATION, GET A PRIVATE SPACE COLONY, GET A PRIVATE SPACE COUNTRY, GET A PRIVATE SPACE EMPIRE, GET A PRIVATE SPACE GALAXY, GET A PRIVATE SPACE UNIVERSE, GET A PRIVATE SPACE MULTIVERSE, GET A PRIVATE SPACE INFINITE UNIVERSE.

**Frank and Ernest**  
By Bob Thaves

BETTER PACE YOURSELF, KID, THEY'RE GOING TO BE COUNTING ON A BIG FINISH.

THE BOM LOW

OUT WITH THE OLD, IN WITH THE NEW, EH, CHEEF? LET'S TOAST THE NEW YEAR!

PAST THE LIPS, PAST THE GUMS, LOOK OUT STOMACH, HERE IT COMES!

MUST YOU SAY THAT WHILE DRINKING A SHURLEY TEMPLE?

**OUTDOORS**

# Worth the price?

Viewing Karchner's caverns could cost families a hefty sum

TUCSON, Ariz. (AP) — Karchner Caverns have been named as among the most pristine and beautiful spelaeologic caves in the world, which is why many have been eagerly awaiting the opening of the new state park.

But under a fee proposal, in some circumstances, especially winter families, will have to pay a hefty sum to get into the caverns.

Entrance rates would vary depending on the makeup of the family, but it would cost at least \$22 for a family with two adults and two children ages 7 to 13 to enter and view the site.

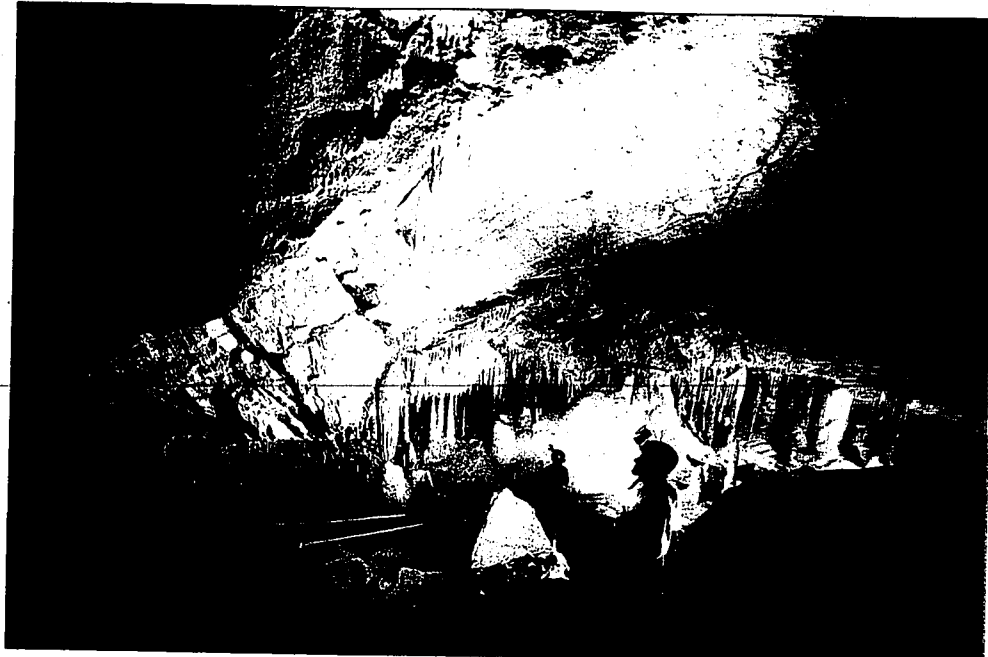
The proposed fees would top those at the Grand Canyon, Catalina Caverns in New Mexico and most other tourist destinations in Arizona.

On Jan. 21, the State Parks Board in Phoenix will consider a proposal to charge \$10 per car, plus entrance fees to the 300-acre site. If more than four people sit in a vehicle, each additional person would pay \$1.

"We are not asking for admission to the caverns," said Karchner Caverns State Park and neighborhood Forest Service areas.

Children save four fees would be an additional \$12 per person over 17 out-of-state and \$4 per person for ages 7 through 13. Children under 7 would get free entry.

The reason for the fees, state officials say, is the cost of operating and protecting the delicate site of caves in the southeastern Arizona White Mountain.



Karchner Caverns, near Benson, Ariz., has been billed as one of the most pristine and well-developed stalactite caves in the world.

"It's not like we're trying to keep anybody out," she said. "We believe the value — a family of four will spend \$42 — will be within their expectations," said Leslie Schwalbe, Arizona State Parks' assistant director for administrative services. "You go to Disneyland and drop a few hundred dollars. And this is a natural area."

The Karchner park will cost about \$1.5 million a year to operate. Officials hope to raise \$2.1 million from 200,000 visitors in the first year.

*'It's not like we're trying to keep anybody out. We believe the value — a family of four will spend \$42 — will be within their expectations. You go to Disneyland and drop a few hundred dollars. And this is a natural area.'*

— Leslie Schwalbe, Arizona State Parks' assistant director

Schwalbe said the extra money will be used to help upgrade other state parks. The department has spent \$26.4 million getting the caverns ready for visitors, and only half

will be open in November next year. The rest will open 12 to 18 months later, Schwalbe said. Karchner's proposed fee would be 65 percent higher than the average of 31 other western

cave attractions and 20 other Arizona tourist attractions, according to information supplied by Arizona State Parks. But John Fletner, manager of Colossal Cave Mountain Park

near Tucson, points out that Karchner ranked 11th among all cave mineral formations in the world, according to a 1985 book by the National Speleological Society. The 2.4-mile-long caverns are still actively forming with water dripping from most stalactites. "The 42 bucks that admission is going to cost you may seem more than that because it doesn't include food and souvenirs," Fletner said. "It's expensive, but it's supposed to be absolutely spectacular."

## Idaho-Utah agency works to create tourism attractions in 7-county region

BOZEMAN, Mont. (AP) — A grass-roots effort has been started to develop a cultural-heritage tourism area in a seven-county region encompassing southern Idaho and northern Utah.

The effort has received \$50,000 from Utah to develop a program called A River Runs Through It and Beyond. Fletner, project coordinator for the Blue River Resource Conserva-

tion Service. It serves Franklin, Oneida, and Bear Lake counties in Idaho and Cache, Rich, and Box Elder counties in Utah.

"Tourism research" has revealed there is a significant segment of the U.S. and worldwide population interested in history and American heritage," Hoffman said. "These individuals are older than traditional tourists, stay in places longer and

spend more money." Hoffman said research has indicated the seven-county region is tied together through the Bear River waterway, Mormon culture and lays claim to historical events that can draw tourists.

"What we are trying to do is create a niche tourism market as a way to bolster the area economy," she said.

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28th Avenue West 733-3077  
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THANK YOU LETTERS

Friends help pay medical bills
On the night of Nov. 20, Craig Ewinghill held a fund-raiser for medical expenses relating to my cancer.

We are proud of our community's thoughts, gifts and time toward this project and look forward with anticipation to giving next year.

STUDENTS PREPARE DONATED TREES



Students on Kimberly Middle School's yearbook staff, under the direction of RaKeena Meade, are busy setting up 22 Christmas trees...

Many assist at nursing home
I would like to express a very sincere thank you to the following individuals and businesses for making this holiday season special for so many nursing home residents and day-care children.

Businesses deserve credit
The College of Southern Idaho Chapter of Delta Epsilon Chi recently sponsored a needy family consisting of a single mother (who recently lost her job) with three children for which we provided food and presents for the holidays.

COMMUNITY EVENTS

FOCUS ON PEOPLE

Gifts of Love' bless 200 lives
Magic Valley has shown what good it can do for the second year. All the donations given by the community and Magic Valley hospitals' employees enabled us to supply gifts to more than 200 people at two health-care facilities and four homes in the Valley House.

The 'Gifts of Thanks' column will publish letters of up to 150 words from: Civic organizations thanking contributors or supporters.

Job service representatives will assist military veterans
TWIN FALLS - Job Service representative Roy Applewhite will assist veterans at several Magic Valley area locations this month.

p.m. features "The Forest Has Eyes" by Bev Doolittle.
Jan. 8: Bob Willhite, will present a discussion on Hermeticism.

Who's Who among Students

Chad Schorer of Twin Falls has been nominated for the 1998 edition of Who's Who Among Students in American Universities and Colleges.

Artists win poster contest

The American Legion Auxiliary Twin Falls Unit 735 is proud to announce the National Poster Contest winners from our local school.

SANTA VISITS JEROME DAY CARE



Children from Children's World Day Care in Jerome had the chance to convince Santa Claus that they really had been nice during 1998.

Mini-Cassia's Red Cross plans monthly board meeting

RUPERT - The Mini-Cassia Chapter of the American Red Cross will hold the monthly board meeting at 7 p.m. on Thursday, Jan. 7, at the chapter office, 707 F St.

HALL OF FAME READERS

Kimberly Middle School's Charlette Myers has reached 176 percent of her reading goal with the school's accelerated reading program.



Science majors earn awards

Jeff Leitch of Gooding and Julie Bennett of Twin Falls received 2041 commendations toward the spring 1999 semester at the College of Southern Idaho from the Idaho Academy of Science.

BURLEY CENTER HOSTS OPEN HOUSE



Barbara Platten, right, welcomes visitors to the D.L. Evans Operations Center open house on December 27. Platten is the manager of the Rupert D.L. Evans Bank. The center located in downtown Burley will centralize paper processing, statements and account information.

We want your news

Advertisement for community news submissions, including contact info for Karina Brumback and Joey Bryant.

Student from Filer makes list

Scott E. Blanning of Filer is currently second trimester student at the University of Chicago program at Summer College of Chicago State University, Iowa, has been named to the College's 'Junior List' for the first trimester.

Quiz Bowl entrants fare well

On Dec. 7, 1998, the student's Idaho-Brown's Challenge Quiz Bowl competed in the annual Think Cap Quiz Bowl, the first and fourth grade students competed in computer in the quiz bowl. All subject areas included in the timed contest.

NATION

Another new year ushers in a new era for fabled Times Square

Historic 42nd Street district undergoes corporate face lift

Los Angeles Times

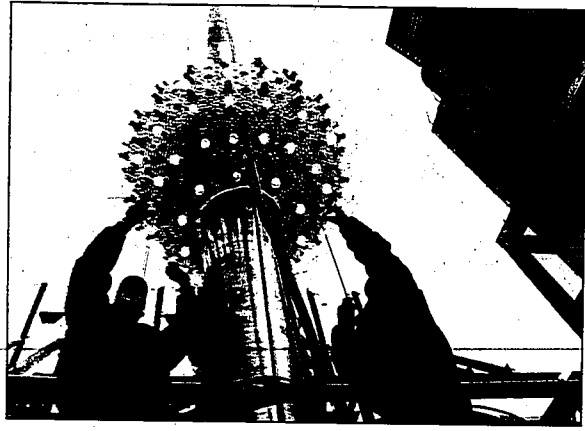
NEW YORK — Once, it was raucous, bawdy and canny, the Crossroads of the World where you were bound to meet someone you knew if you waited long enough.

For years, Times Square's 42nd Street was a symbol of New York's rakish heart, a boulevard of stately theaters, vaudeville palaces and nickel movies. Later, it became a kingdom of pornography, a mean, street-wise place that drew many people away.

But the legendary street has recently undergone a dramatic change, along with the rest of the city. A huge, bold effort for film theater "flourishing" next to the theater where Disney's "The Lion King" plays to packed houses, sums up the transformation. The old weather drink, it boasts, is "The only hot, steamy thing still allowed on this block."

More than 500,000 people are expected to jam Times Square this week for the 90th annual dropping of the New Year's Eve ball, capping a year when 20 million visitors flooded the district. Yet as the clock ticks down to midnight, a spirited quarrel has erupted over the neighborhood's metamorphosis. While boosters celebrate the area's rebirth as the mirror of a more inviting Big Apple, critics charge that New York planners cut a devil's bargain with corporate America.

"How could I have survived on the same street as Disney?" asked Fred Hakim, whose family hot dog stand was forced to shut down after four decades, the last



Electricians Brian Speranza, left, and Carlos Feire replace burned out bulbs Wednesday on the Times Square New Year's Eve ball in New York City. The repair work was done during a dress rehearsal for tonight's New Year's Eve annual festivities. The tradition of lowering the lighted ball started in 1907 by the New York Times.

mom and pop store on the fabled block between Broadway and Eighth Avenue. The area was celebrated in the 1920s in social "42nd Street" as an American "where the underworld can meet the elite." But now, said Hakim, "it's all about money here. A way of life is over."

Fueled by New York's continuing boom and a scathing drug crime, city officials hope there isn't one vacant block in Times Square this holiday season. They point to the neighborhood as a success story that other

cities are trying to duplicate. Indeed, Mayor Rudy Giuliani has made Times Square a part of his political roadshow, telling audiences from coast-to-coast that his tough policies on crime and blight have helped restore America's most famous public square. Meanwhile, officials who have implemented the changes under the area's traditional role as a democratic entertainment hub remains intact.

"This has always been a place where high and low culture mix, and that continues," said Brendan Sexton, head of the Times Square Business Improvement District, a powerful nonprofit organization that has spearheaded the district's renewal, working with private business and political leaders. "The comeback of Times Square is an important story, because cities are supposed to be quirky, exciting and edgy. They aren't suburbs, and we can't turn our back on them."

Judging by the pace of development, big investors can't get enough of the new Times Square. More than \$4 billion in development is under way. Meanwhile, huge numbers of pedestrians — peaking at 5,000 per block per hour — are locking to newly opened sites. The district is already home to 40 theaters, 268 restaurants, plus offices for many in the entertainment and media elite. When Times Square has long been famous for neon billboards, the size, quantity and commercial impact of today's 100 signs dwarf that of earlier eras. And that, critics say, shows that New York has paid a heavy cultural price for revitalizing its core.

In a sense, the new Times Square is a metaphor for what New York City has become — a cleaner, safer place that is increasingly dominated by an aggressive corporate face. No one is nostalgic for crime, but critics object to the overwhelming scale of the new construction and its brutally commercial spirit.

"This place used to represent a wonderful mixture of people and different kinds of entertainment," said Geoffrey O'Brien, a New York historian who noted that that nickel movies and Shakespeare once played side by side. "But Times Square has lost much of that past. It's been steamrollered; it's too expensive. The charm is gone."

Skeptics such as O'Brien note the shrinking number of Murney-esque characters who once gave the area its pizzazz: the noisy street preachers, wisecracking shopkeepers, eccentric sidewalk barbers and colorful drivers who rubbed shoulders with middle-class tourists and high-society swells.

Some, these developments are a monument to heartless city planning. For others, they are the inevitable price of progress. On a blustery day, people working and partying in Times Square

offered radically different views. "I've been coming to plays here for 17 years, and the area has never looked better," said Kathy Havens, a mother in her 50s.

But the area's consumer culture, epitomized by its neon signs, "feels like an assault," she added. "There are just too many people here. They might not be too successful."

Meanwhile, a surging economy guarantees that every buildable inch of Times Square will go to the highest bidder. A recent survey pegged its \$340-per-square-foot rental rate as the sixth highest in the world.

The district currently has 12,500 hotel rooms, approximately 60% of New York's supply. A room for two during the week at one of the new hotels can go for \$350, including tax, and with some tickets on Broadway now hitting \$80 apiece, a night on the town in Times Square, including a dinner for two, can cost \$600.

Some corporations, including CBS and Random House, are hungrily eyeing the few vacant spots left. Soon a futuristic Verizon hotel split by a mock lightning bolt will tower over the street where Hakim's hot dog stand once stood.

"They'll do well," Hakim conceded. "But people won't be able to spend \$3 for two hot dogs and a Coke here anymore. And they won't come for a cheap date on Saturday night either. That Times Square is dead."

and her mother. She sat in a wheelchair, a bouquet of pink roses in her lap. The flowers were a gift from her nurses, who also were wearing new moon eight silver spoons and eight baby bibs.

Asked how she felt, Ms. Chukwu said and said, "Great"

she said, "I touched them, and I prayed for them, and I told them that I'll be coming to see them." Ms. Chukwu said the plans to visit them every day because "I'm not complete now without them."

Wearing street clothes and makeup, Ms. Chukwu spoke with reporters accompanied by her husband, Iyke Louis Udobi,

Weary octuplets' mother heads home from the hospital

HOUSTON (AP) — Weak but radiant with pride, the mother of the Houston octuplets went home from the hospital Wednesday, leaving the pain and fear of her pregnancy gone, to worry and gratitude the moment she gazed upon her eight babies.

"When I saw them for the first time, I was so amazed at what God blessed me with," Nkem Chukwu, speaking publicly for the first time since the births, said before leaving St. Luke's Episcopal Hospital. "They are amazing."

She was wheeled out after visiting her seven surviving children, who remained hospitalized in critical but stable condition, all goes well, they could join their mother at home in two to three months.

"I told them they're all looking great," she said. "I touched them, and I prayed for them, and I told them that I'll be coming to see them." Ms. Chukwu said the plans to visit them every day because "I'm not complete now without them."

Wearing street clothes and makeup, Ms. Chukwu spoke with reporters accompanied by her husband, Iyke Louis Udobi,

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Classification index for various categories including Legal, Real Estate, Agriculture, Manufacturing, Transportation, and Recreation.

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Legal notices section containing various court notices, proposed changes, and public hearings.





LEGAL NOTICE LEGAL NOTICE LEGAL NOTICE LEGAL NOTICE

Table with columns: Assets, Liabilities and Fund Equity, Total. Includes categories like Cash, Investments, Receivables, and various fund equity items.

NOTICE YOU HAVE BEEN SAVED BY... YOU MUST RETURN YOUR ANSWERS TO THE... TO SHARON C. JONES...

Table with columns: Assets, Liabilities and Fund Equity, Total. Includes categories like Cash, Investments, Receivables, and various fund equity items.

An address within the... acquired real estate... and other items...

Table with columns: Name, Address, Election Date, Declaration of Candidacy. Lists candidates for Twin Falls County ICWC.

THE PROFESSIONAL SERVICES... BANKRUPTCY... HOUSE CHURCH... LICENSED ENGINEER...

Flowing District No. 19 provisions allow them to conduct an election if any one owner has filed for any reason...

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ATTENTION! Because of the holiday season, the Times-News Classified will have early deadlines as follows: Ads running Jan. 1 will deadline at 10:00 a.m. Dec. 31. Ads running Jan. 2 will deadline at 11:00 a.m. Dec. 31. Ads running Jan. 3 & 4 will deadline at 12:00 Noon on Dec. 31.

THE TIMES-NEWS... THE PROFESSIONAL SERVICES... BANKRUPTCY... HOUSE CHURCH... LICENSED ENGINEER...

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# THE ACES ON BRIDGE

Bobby Wolff

"Not a man alive / Has so much luck that he can play with it!"  
— William Butler Yeats

In a team contest, today's South saw a chance for a small pickup in overtricks (between one and three IMPs). Since the opponents had not lost the weak trump, good luck in trumps might give him a small gain. He made a poor bet. To gain a few IMPs, he put his game at risk and lost a bundle instead.

Dummy's club ace won, and South's greed got the best of him. If he could drop the trump queen doubtless, he would score at least 12 tricks. Quickly, he cashed his two top trumps and found trouble. Instead of no trump losers, he now had two, and he could no longer avoid a one-trick set. He had to lose two trumps, and two hearts for one down a net loss of 7½ points or 12 IMPs.

Whatever the game, any attempt to gain two or three units at the risk of losing 12 is a bad move. Better to guard against the large loss and accept a possible small one.

To cinch his game, South should cash only one high trump at trick two. At trick three, he should lead a low one toward dummy's jack. This may lose longer possible overtricks but guards against a trump promotion if either opponent. If West has Q-10-x, dummy's jack will score, limiting the loss to only one trump. East has the ace, and South captures dummy's jack. South should later finesse against East's 10.

NORTH ♠ J 8 5 3  
♥ K Q  
♦ K Q J 10 8 8  
♣ 3

EAST ♠ Q 10 6 2  
♥ A 10 8 5  
♦ A 2  
♣ K 8 6

SOUTH ♠ A K 9 4  
♥ J 4 2  
♦ A 7 6  
♣ Q 7 4

Vulnerable: Both  
Dealer: North

The bidding:

North	East	South	West
1♠	1♥	3♠	Pass
2♠	Pass	3♦	Pass
3♦	Pass	4♠	Pass

Opening lead: Club jack

BID WITH THE ACES

South holds:

♠ Q 10 6 2  
♥ A 10 8 5  
♦ A 2  
♣ K 8 6

North ♠ J 4 2  
♥ J 4 2  
♦ A 7 6  
♣ Q 7 4

ANSWER: Two spades. About the right strength for a single raise. With more (11 or 12 HCP) and four trumps, the invitational raise to three spades would be correct.

Southbridge originates in The Aces, P.O. Box 1244, Twin Falls, ID 83401. Copyright © 1998 by Southbridge, Inc.

## Shopping For Christmas?

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TWIN FALLS - Clean 3 bdrm, 2 bath, 1.5 carport, on quiet cul-de-sac. Lease no. No pet. \$625/mo. + \$450 dep. 733-0303.

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3.9% FOR 60 MONTHS OAC

Absolutely \$0 Down

Only \$176/mo OR \$12,728

### 1999 PROTEGE LX

Air • AM/FM CD Stereo • Cruise Power Windows • 8 Doors

Power Windows & Power Locks • 3yr./50,000 Mile Bumper-to-Bumper Warranty

Absolutely \$0 Down

Only \$225/mo OR \$16,799

### 1999 Mazda 626 LX

Auto • Air • AM/FM CD Stereo

Power Windows & Power Locks • 3yr./50,000 Mile Bumper-to-Bumper Warranty

Absolutely \$0 Down

Only \$179/mo OR \$13,385

### New Mazda Pickup

Alloy Wheels • Bedliner • Air

Air • AM/FM CD • Cassette

3yr./50,000 Mile Bumper-to-Bumper Warranty

Absolutely \$0 Down

Only \$179/mo OR \$13,385

### Chris Jordan

1534 BLUE LAKES BLVD. N. TWIN FALLS, ID 83401

OUT-OF-STATE CALLS 1-800-233-2884

### Drivers Wanted

Absolutely \$0 Down

Only \$234/mo OR \$18,955

### 1999 VW Beetle

Loaded with Standard Features!

Absolutely \$0 Down

Only \$246/mo OR \$18,175

### 1999 VW Jetta

Completely redesigned with Over 40 Standard Features • 3yr./24,000 Mile Bumper-to-Bumper Warranty • 10yr./100,000 Mile Powertrain Warranty

Absolutely \$0 Down

Only \$307/mo OR \$23,900

### 1999 VW Passat

V-6 • Titanium Steering • Air • Cruise Power Windows & Locks • 8 Doors

3yr./24,000 Mile Bumper-to-Bumper Warranty • 10yr./100,000 Mile Powertrain Warranty

Absolutely \$0 Down

Only \$307/mo OR \$23,900

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600 UNFURNISHED HOUSES

FLER newly new, 3 bdrm, 2 bath in 2 acres, off-gate, new private but is a canyon/country view. New fenced, 2nd floor, 2 car garage. \$199,900. No pet. 328-4728.

602 UNFURNISHED HOUSES

BHUL3, 2 bdrm, 2 bath mo. buh. \$450. Estates No. pets. 451-5434-8342

BURLEY, Accepting applications on 3 bdrm, 2 bath home, not unit until Feb. Call 1-800-927-3299. E-MAIL your classified ads to ads@timesnews.com

FLER, 4 bdrm, 2 bath, 1.5 carport, detached garage, 2.9 ac. Livestock permitted. \$900/mo. Call 328-4448.

GOODING • mls. n. 1 bdrm. W/D hook-up, cap. & elec. inc. \$300 dep. 325-0920.

HANSEN, Nice 2 bdrm mobile home, appls, storage. No pets. Call 423-5104.

JEROME - 2 bdrm w/ stove & ref, \$450 + \$450 dep. 325-0189.

JEROME - 3 bdrm, 1 bath, w/elect, neat, appls, fenced yard, garage, \$550. To-City/Highway. 324-2734.

JEROME 3 bdrm, Garage, fenced, \$490/mo. Call 324-3232.

JEROME Mobile home in country, \$400, ref, dep. No pets. 324-2668.

TWIN FALLS - 2 bdrm, 1 bath, w/water, ref, \$400/mo. + dep. 488 S. 15th St. Av. N. No. pets. 734-8009 or 733-7675 ext.

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