

THE REGION

Camas Prairie

High 36 Low 11
Fog early today then mostly sunny. Mostly clear tonight. Fog early Friday, then sunny, high 36.

Treasure Valley

High 41 Low 23
Sunny today and clear tonight. Sunny Friday, high 41.

Sawtooth Mountains/Wood River Valley

High 39 Low 14
Mostly sunny today and mostly clear tonight. Mostly sunny Friday, high 39.

Eastern Idaho

High 33 Low 14
Fog early today then mostly sunny. Mostly clear tonight. Fog early Friday, then partly cloudy, high 33.

Northern Idaho

High 38 Low 28
Fog early today then mostly sunny. Mostly clear tonight. Fog early Friday, then partly cloudy, high 38.

Northern Utah

High 40 Low 23
Sunny today and clear tonight. Mostly sunny Friday, high 38.

Northern Nevada

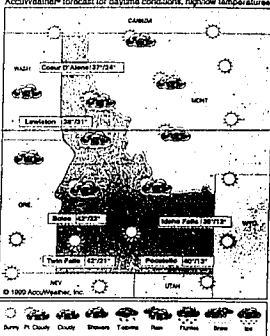
High 43 Low 20
Sunny today and clear tonight. Sunny Friday, high 43.

MAGIC VALLEY FIVE-DAY FORECAST

Today	Friday	Saturday	Sunday	Monday
High 42 Low 21 Sunny, light winds, clear tonight.	High 42 Low 21 Sunny, light winds, clear tonight.	High 30s Low teens Sunny and clear tonight.	High 30s Low teens Sunny and clear tonight.	High 30s Low teens Sunny and clear tonight.

Idaho weather

Thursday, Dec. 23
AccuWeather forecast for daytime conditions, high/low temperatures



UV INDEX

Index: 3 (minimal)
Burn time: 60 minutes
60 minutes

FIRE DANGER

The BLM has ended its fire report for the season. Officials ask public lands users to use caution.

SKYWATCH

Sunset today 5:09 p.m.
Sunrise tomorrow 8:06 a.m.
Lunar phase: Last quarter, Dec. 23; new, Jan. 6, 2000; first quarter, Jan. 14, 2000; full, Jan. 20, 2000.

National weather

The AccuWeather forecast for noon, Thursday, Dec. 23.



FOR MORE INFORMATION

Tune to the National Weather Service radio band at VHF-FM 162.4 or 162.55 MHz. The Internet address for Idaho Transportation Department reports is: <http://www.state.id.us/itd/index.html>

YESTERDAY'S WEATHER

Twin Falls	Precipitation
Yesterday 43-27	Yesterday in Twin Falls: 0.00
Last year 19-9	Amount to total: 0.00
Normal 40-22	Normal, no. to date: .05
	Water year to date: .84
	Normal year to date: 2.80

Idaho

Area	Min	Max	Pcp	Idaho: High, 46 degrees at Payette. Low, -3 degrees at Starbuck.
Boise	43	24	0.00	Nation: High, 84 at Marathon, Fla. Low, -26 at Or, Minn.
Burley	44	25	0.00	
Coeur d'Alene	36	32	0.00	
Grangeville	41	33	0.00	
Hagerman	43	32	0.00	
Idaho Falls	31	10	0.00	
Lewiston	36	34	0.00	
Malta	41	16	0.00	
Malla	36	16	0.00	
McCall	24	4	0.00	Comfort factors
Pocatello	39	23	0.00	Normal humidity: 51% Normal barometer: 30.50
Salmon	28	12	0.00	
Stanley	20	3	0.00	
Sun Valley	42	13	0.00	

The Nation

Area	Min	Max	Pcp
Albuquerque	40	21	0.00
Anchorage	30	31	0.00
Atlanta	50	36	0.00
Boston	30	33	0.00
Chicago	17	7	0.00
Dallas	53	28	0.00
Denver	37	28	0.00
Des Moines	11	6	0.00
Detroit	18	12	0.00
Honolulu	76	26	0.00
Houston	58	31	0.00
Los Angeles	61	33	0.00
Kansas City	22	18	0.00
Las Vegas	59	47	0.00
Las Vegas	59	47	0.00
Memphis	41	25	0.00
Miami Beach	81	68	0.00
Milwaukee	16	7	0.00
Minneapolis	7	-5	0.00
New Orleans	74	50	0.00
New York	40	35	0.00
Oak Ridge	13	9	0.00
Phoenix	66	53	0.00
Pittsburgh	35	31	0.00
Portland, Me.	50	35	0.00
Portland, Ore.	50	35	0.00
Reno	20	27	0.00
St. Louis	37	15	0.00
St. Paul	41	27	0.00
San Francisco	66	53	0.00
Seattle	40	37	0.00
Spokane	41	32	0.00
Washington	58	57	0.00
Wichita	68	57	0.00

Canadian Cities

Calgary	41	30	0.00
Montreal	30	20	0.00
Ottawa	44	35	0.00
Vancouver	44	35	0.00

Study links color view with shapes

The Associated Press

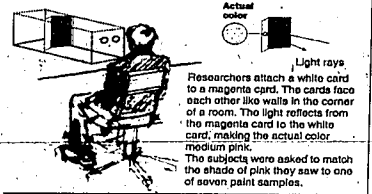
When you see holiday lights reflected on your living room wall, the colors you perceive may not be what's really there. A study shows that your brain automatically compensates for what direction the light is coming from. You end up seeing a color that is closer to the light bulb's than what actually comes bouncing off the wall.

"Our brains know more about physics and light reflection than we consciously realize," said Dan Kersten, a psychologist at the University of Minnesota in Minneapolis. "Our brain can take into effect the physics of the light that strikes the object to determine the color." Kersten said the brain assigns color to an object only after taking into account how light bounces off its results.

Experts said his results were not a surprise. "But it's nice to see a clear-cut confirmation," said psychologist Vilayanur Ramachandran, at the University of San Diego. Kersten said his research, in today's issue of the journal *Nature*, could help engineers create more realistic computer games and virtual reality devices by gaining a better understanding of how we perceive light bouncing off objects.

A rose is a rose

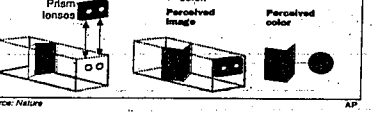
Researchers have found that the perception of color and of shape, previously thought to be separate functions, are actually linked. Scientists have found that the colors people see depend on the shape of the object being viewed. Here is a look at their experiment.



Subjects looking through a normal lens perceive the white card as a light pink. The brain compensates for the "corner" and lights the medium pink color.



The subjects then look through a prism, which makes the cards appear folded away from the viewer. Because the brain doesn't expect any reflected magenta light, the white card is perceived as a darker shade of pink, closer to actual color.



Source: *Nature*

Prepare

Continued from A1

one that can run a whole house, Reynolds said. D&B Supply hasn't sold any generators in the past few weeks, but earlier this year sales were about twice the average, Ream said. People are, however, building up a stock of propane heaters and gas cans - mostly stuff they would use anyway.

Some people plan to rely on the generator in their motor homes and are buying more than they need. The week between Christmas and New Year may see a rush of last-

minute preparations as the clock ticks down to 00. For those who haven't done anything yet, American Red Cross Twin Falls director Alice Young suggests people store enough food and water for a week, and have a way to cook. People should have at least one gallon per day per person in the household - three gallons per person per day would be better, he said.

Times-News writer N.S. Norketted can be reached at 733-0931, Ext. 237, or by e-mail at nsl@magicalvalley.com

Gas

Continued from A1

"There have been investigations on gas prices at the federal, state and local levels. They all concluded it was supply, demand and the marketplace at work."

Lance's advisory committee seeks the federal investigation after Idaho motorists paid the highest cost in the contiguous United States this fall. But former state Attorney General Jim Jones, who investigated gas costs extensively in his time in office and heads up Lance's advisory committee, left little room for argument about need for an investigation.

"We can't tell if there's collusion or gouging, but however you cut it, the big oil companies have been making great profits and it's been to the detriment of Idaho consumers," Jones said. "Certainly this state and Utah don't have the resources to do that kind of in-depth investigation, but the feds do."

Lance said the committee is reviewing state antitrust and consumer protection laws and will send its findings to legislative leaders for possible measures to

increase the state's clout. Idaho prices for regular unleaded gas jumped from less than a dollar a gallon in January to \$1.49 in September. An American Automobile Association study reports that price has dropped to a new state average of \$1.36. Southeastern Idaho residents are enjoying the best prices at \$1.26.

The committee created by Lance interviewed Chevron, Sinclair and TOSCO. Other oil companies gave up little information, he said.

Lance said one fact that while crude oil prices doubled in the course of the year, the refineries supplying gas to Idaho almost tripled their revenues.

"Does it cost three times as much to refine a gallon of gasoline in August as in January? I don't think so," Jones said. Lance said one oil executive indicated the companies do not know what it costs to refine their products.

"I wonder if shareholders of Chevron are comfortable with the management that claims it doesn't know what it costs to refine a gallon of gasoline," Lance said.

Korean cargo plane crashes near London

GREAT HALLINGBURY, England (AP) - A Korean Air 747 cargo plane crashed shortly after taking off from an airport near London Wednesday, narrowly missing several homes before bursting into a fireball and apparently killing all four people aboard.

The plane flew over the village of Great Hallingbury, three miles south of Stansted Airport, before slamming into open ground - the latest in a recent series of Korean accidents. One body and some body parts had been recovered, said Charles Clark, assistant chief constable of Essex County police.

Dary Deane, 33, said he was in his upstairs bedroom when he heard a growing sound. He ran to the window in time to see the jumbo jet, already on fire, flying over the top of his house. "It just missed us by feet. I tracked it as it went to the field in back of us and hit the ground."

The committee also brought up Idaho's geographic situation. The fact that there are few supply sources serves to sustain high prices. It recommended the state endorse efforts to increase petroleum pipeline capacity, including a joint venture with Williams and Equilon to build a pipeline for cheaper Gulf Coast oil to Utah and Idaho.

It also advised support for Chevron's plan to reverse the flow in the pipeline between Boise and Pasco, Wash. The pipe, which originated in Salt Lake City, now provides the product to southern Idaho.

"Reversing the flow so that gas can be shipped here from Pasco could increase the available supply by about 50 percent," the committee said in the report.

Proposed mergers between British Petroleum, Amoco and Mobil Oil and Exxon will only further stifle competition in Idaho where supply options are already limited, committee members agreed.

The Associated Press contributed to this report.

Y2K

Continued from A1

FBI counterterrorism chief Dale Watson said U.S. authorities were aware that bin Laden had issued Islamic calls to the streets called fatwas in Arabic - against the United States. Bin Laden is a Saudi exile alleged by U.S. officials to have masterminded the bombing of two U.S. embassies in

"Africa last year. And terrorism suspects arrested in Jordan have been linked to bin Laden's network, but U.S. authorities have not yet made such a connection to Ressaam, a senior administration official said Wednesday.

Clinight advised American to "go about their holidays and enjoy themselves and make the most of it," but at the same time "to just be aware of their circumstances, and if they see anything suspicious to report it immediately."

Deputy Attorney General Eric Holder said the government had no specific information of U.S. sites being targeted.

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Daniel Walock, circulation director

Circulation phone lines are open between 7 and 10 a.m. If you do not receive your paper by 7 a.m., call the number for your area:
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LOTTERY UPDATE
WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 22 NUMBER

POWERBALL
11 13 23 42 43
POWERBALL 18

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 22 NUMBER

WILD 2
6 12 16 19 24
WILD CARD: ACE OF CLUBS

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 22 NUMBER

FAST
2 5 17 27 32

Looking for those last minute gifts? Pick up some Idaho Lottery scratch tickets and while you're at it pick up a holiday envelope to put them in!

This Christmas, Score Big!!!

Ex-FBI agent faces charges

BOSTON (AP) — A former Boston FBI agent was arrested and indicted Wednesday along with the mobsters he once aided as informants and then befriended.

John Connolly, who was arrested in his Lynnfield home, pleaded innocent in federal court to a five-count indictment that included racketeering, conspiracy and obstruction of justice. He was set free on \$200,000 bail.

Also charged in the indictment were fugitive James "Whitey" Bulger and Stephen J. "The Rifleman" Flemmi, who in fall awaiting trial on related racketeering charges.

Connolly, who retired in 1990, has been under investigation as a result of a federal probe into his relationship with mobsters. Connolly has insisted he did nothing wrong. In pretrial hearings last year, he asserted his constitutional rights against self-incrimination.

The indictment alleges that Connolly helped Bulger and Flemmi in a racketeering enterprise that included gambling, loan-sharking, extortion and bribery.

Apartment fire kills children, three firefighters

KEOKUK, Iowa (AP) — Fire broke out in an apartment building Wednesday, killing three children and three firefighters.

Neighbors rescued one young boy. Robin Korsehagen, who lives across the street, called firefighters shortly before 8:30 a.m.

"I heard a woman screaming outside," said Korsehagen, who said there were two or three apartments in the two-story, wooden building.

Aside from a police fax announcing the six deaths, there was no immediate comment from the police or fire departments. Calls were met by busy signals.

Korsehagen said she and another woman pulled a young boy from the building before firefighters arrived.



Tom Forgie looks over what remains of his 1972 Lotus after it burned along with his house in a wildfire that scorched more than 2,000 acres Wednesday in Ojai, Calif.

Californians flee wildfires

OJAI, Calif. (AP) — Two homes were leveled and hundreds of residents evacuated as devil winds shoved wildfires toward three Southern California communities.

Fierce Santa Ana winds, with gusts up to 60 mph, steered blazes toward homes in Los Angeles and Ventura counties and forced hundreds to escape to safety as 50-foot flames moved in. More than 4,000 acres burned in

the three blazes.

Air sorties by leased Canadian SuperScooper tankers at dawn Wednesday helped douse an 800-acre blaze in the La Canada Flintridge area 10 miles north of downtown Los Angeles. A shed was the only casualty.

But 80 miles north in Ventura County, a 3,000-acre blaze destroyed two homes in Ojai and a separate 300-acre blaze 10

miles away raged untamed. Up to 200 people fled the wind-whipped flames. An evacuation center was opened at Nordhoff High School.

The La Canada Flintridge fire started about 9:45 p.m. Tuesday, casting an orange glow in the sky. Ash was carried on the winds for miles and the stench could be smelled in Hollywood, 10 miles away.

Toysrus.com stumbles on deliveries

NEW YORK (AP) — Toysrus.com is telling some customers that they won't receive their orders in time for Christmas, the latest stumble by the struggling online offshoot of one of the nation's premier toys-tors.

Though the company tried to placate shoppers with \$100 coupons that can be used in stores, some consumers that got the e-mail warning Tuesday remained unhappy.

"What am I going to say to my daughter?" said Latrice Lydie, who was furious that the four-year-old's \$400 Christmas gift will not come to her New

York home by Christmas. "This is the first year she really believes in Santa and this is going to be so disappointing for her."

"The company would not provide specific numbers of delays, saying only that late deliveries represent a small percentage of its sales."

"Toysrus.com has become the poster child for holiday snafus," said Mike May, an analyst at the Internet research firm Jupiter Communications. "They've had a mistle after missup this holiday season, and they are going to have a hard time making up for all the mistakes."

While other Internet mer-

chants have had problems this Christmas with customer service and filling orders, Toysrus.com has had an especially stormy season.

Toysrus.com had promised shoppers that anything ordered prior to Dec. 11 would come in time for the holidays. Starting Dec. 11, the company said, consumers would have to pay a premium for priority shipping.

Lydie made her purchase on Dec. 6 and was repeatedly assured the gifts would arrive in time. She said she went to the Toysrus.com site because she trusted the brand name of Toys R Us, its corporate parent.

Drug shows promise for asthma patients

The Associated Press

An experimental, genetically engineered asthma drug could offer sufferers an entirely new treatment without the dangerous side effects of steroids, the standard medication for many patients, researchers say.

In a study published in today's New England Journal of Medicine, about one quarter of the asthma patients on inhaled steroids were able to stop taking them after being given the new drug, rhuMab-E25. And one-third of those using oral steroids were able to quit, too.

"It's going to be a breakthrough," said the lead researcher, pediatric asthma specialist Dr. Henry Milgrom of the National Jewish Medical and Research Center in Denver. "The new drugs such as this one are intended to be the magic bullet against asthma."

Steroids have been widely used to treat moderate to severe asthma for the past decade. But long-term use stunts children's growth. In adults, steroids can cause osteoporosis, stomach bleeding, elevated blood pressure and blood sugar, cataracts and weight gain.

RhuMab-E25 is an intravenous drug, but splicing a key segment of a cloned mouse gene into a human antibody.

After further testing, the three companies developing it — Genentech, Novartis Pharma AG and Tanox — hope to seek Food and Drug Administration approval for sale in about six months. Genentech funded the study.

Despite the numerous drugs available, many patients don't control their asthma well. The condition kills 5,500 Americans annually as the ninth-leading cause of hospitalization and

Asthma attacks

Patients who took an experimental asthma drug reduced their symptoms, researchers said. Here is a look at an asthma attack.

When exposed to an allergen, the smooth muscle bands that encircle the bronchial walls contract and mucus builds up in the airway, partially plugging it. The sufferer wheezes and coughs.

Triggers

Some allergens:

Pollen

Fur

Dander

Dust

Normal allergy

Controlled allergy

Sources: National Center for Health Statistics; "The Human Body"

prompts 10 million doctor visits each year. About 17 million Americans have asthma, an astonishing increase of more than 75 percent since 1980.

In an asthma attack, hypersensitive airways narrow drastically when exposed to an allergen, such as cigarette smoke, pet dander, pollen, feathers and mites. A type of antibody called IgE prompts immune cells to release histamines in a misguided attempt to neutralize the allergen. Instead, the histamines inflame and further narrow the airways.

Exercise and breathing cold air also can trigger attacks. Symptoms include shortness of breath, wheezing and coughing.

MALL HOURS THIS WEEK						
Sunday Dec. 19	Monday Dec. 20	Tuesday Dec. 21	Wednesday Dec. 22	Thursday Dec. 23	Friday Dec. 24	Saturday Merry Christmas
10-9	10-10	10-10	10-10	10-10	8-6	Merry Christmas
733-3100 or toll free 1-888-WWW-MALL						
Magic Valley Mall						

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• Falls Brand Tavern Ham
• Falls Brand Smoked Turkey
• Meat Gift Baskets

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Astronaut John Grunsfeld gathers tools in the foreground as fellow astronaut Steven Smith works inside the Hubble Space Telescope in this view from television Wednesday.

Spacewalking astronauts fit telescope with parts

SPACE CENTER, Houston (AP) — Working more than 370 miles above Earth with ratchet-tightened wrenches, two astronauts on Wednesday fitted the Hubble Space Telescope with new instruments needed to restore its unparalleled view of the cosmos.

It was the first of three spacewalks to be conducted over three days on the \$3 billion observatory and, by far, the most important.

The Hubble has been out of service since mid-November.

Keenly aware of the magnitude of the job, Steven Smith and John Grunsfeld floated out of space shuttle Discovery's hatch almost

an hour early and quickly began organizing their tools in the cargo bay, where the Hubble was attached.

"You ready to go?" Smith asked Grunsfeld. "Hubble needs us."

Four hours later, the men had replaced all six of the Hubble's gyroscopes. The work was made more difficult by stubborn bolts and storage-bin lids that wouldn't close.

A quick electronic check of the gyroscopes showed they all worked. Additional testing was needed, though, before NASA could declare 100 percent success.

Former exec faces charges in fraud scheme

TAMPA, Fla. (AP) — A former regional chief of the nation's largest hospital chain was sentenced Wednesday to 33 months in prison in an overbilling fraud case that shook Columbia/HCA Healthcare Corp.

Jay Jarrell, 44, former chief executive officer of the southeast Florida division, was ordered to pay nearly \$1.7 million restitution and fined \$10,000. He and another executive were convicted in July of helping cheat federal health care programs out of \$3 million in a complex billing scheme.

Jarrell's attorneys said they would appeal. He was freed on bond and faces a Jan. 7 hearing.

Jarrell, who had been on paid leave from Columbia/HCA, will be terminated, his attorney said.

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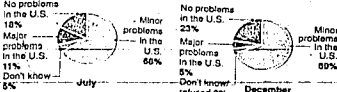
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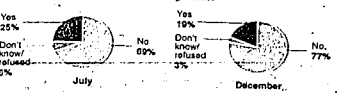
Y2K worries?

A 1999 majority of Americans still expect the year 2000 computer bug to cause either minor or no problems in the United States, according to a new Associated Press poll on the Y2K bug. Here are the results, compared to the same poll conducted in July.

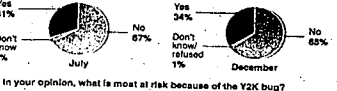
1. In general, do you expect the Y2K bug to cause...



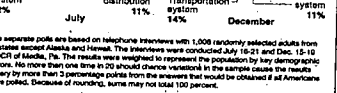
2. Some people plan to take extra money out of the bank at the end of the year in case computer problems affect banks and cash machines. Others say such precautions are not necessary. Do you plan to take extra money out of the bank because of the Y2K bug or not?



3. Some people also plan to stock up on such items as food, water, gasoline and batteries because of possible Y2K problems. Do you plan to stock up or not?



4. In your opinion, what is most at risk because of the Y2K bug?



The separate polls are based on telephone interviews with 1,000 randomly selected adults from all 50 states and Alaska and Hawaii. The interviews were conducted July 16-21 and Dec. 15-19 by ABC of Media, Inc. The results were weighted to represent the population by age, demographic factors. No more than one in 20 should choose a category in the sample cause the results to vary by more than 3 percentage points from the answers that would be obtained if all Americans were polled. Because of rounding, some may not total 100 percent.

Poll: Y2K anxieties ease; a third will stock up

WASHINGTON (AP) — Marian Sullivan expects minor problems because of the Y2K computer bug at the beginning of next year and a wintertime loss in the power supply is the possibility that worries her most. A majority of Americans, like Mrs. Sullivan, expect some inconveniences related to Y2K problems and a third plan to stock up, says an Associated Press poll that suggested fears have eased over the last six months. More people mentioned the power supply as a likely problem than other choices such as banking services, the transportation system and food distribution. "The thing I fear the most is if the electricity goes out, the pipes freeze over, and they burst. The water comes down like Niagara Falls. Last time it happened, we had to take the rugs up," said Mrs. Sullivan, a 77-year-old retiree from Westbury, N.Y., on Long Island. She says she plans to buy "some canned foods and tuna fish" but doesn't intend to buy a generator because "you have to know how to work it."

"We've been shifted the growing level of awareness of the public, and increasing level of confidence with the public that the transition will not lead to a major disruption in their lives," said John Koskinen, chair of the President's Council on Year 2000 Conversion. "We are very confident about the power supply." The administration has been repeatedly reassuring people

that the Y2K problems should be manageable. "We have been advising people for some time that they should be prepared for a long winter weekend," he said. "When they're reporting they are buying extra food and water for the weekend, we think that's appropriate behavior." The number of people who plan to stock up on supplies for the Y2K transition has remained stable over the last six months — about a third. Women were more likely than men to say they were going to stock up. But people have shifted their focus on what is likely to be the biggest problem. The number one concern in the AP poll in July was banking and financial services, mentioned by a third

of those polled. In the new telephone poll of 1,010 people, taken Dec. 15-19, the most frequently mentioned concern was the power supply, mentioned by a third, followed by banking and financial services, the transportation system, phone systems and food distribution. The poll's margin of error rate was plus or minus 3 percentage points. The so-called Y2K problem exists because many older computers and software programs recognize only the last two digits of the year and could mistakenly interpret "00" as "90." Some researchers caution people are missing the point if they think the Y2K bug will only be evident in the first few days of the year.

IRS promises to waive penalties for real Y2K problems

WASHINGTON (AP) — Taxpayers who cannot comply with tax laws due to Y2K computer glitches can get penalties and interest waived by the Internal Revenue Service — but they should actively try to avoid such difficulties. IRS Commissioner Charles Rossotti said Wednesday that taxpayers should make a "reasonable effort" to comply, such as checking out their own computers or asking if an employer or bank is Y2K ready. Once a problem is discovered, individuals and businesses should contact the agency immediately at 1-800-829-1040. "Taking a common-sense approach will help most taxpayers adequately prepare for Y2K," Rossotti said. "But the IRS stands

ready to help if some taxpayers and businesses encounter Y2K tax problems beyond their control." The computer Y2K problem is the result of past computer programming that expressed years with two digits, meaning that uncorrected computers could interpret "2000" as "1900" and crash, or garble data. After spending \$1.3 billion, the IRS itself is confident that its multitude of computers and systems is ready for the Y2K tax filing season. In most cases, the IRS expects that individuals will have enough time to deal with any century-change dilemmas and still get their tax returns filed by the April 15 deadline. April 15 is a Saturday in 2000. Businesses may encounter

more pressing problems because they have more frequent tax dealings with the federal government and might be prevented from sending proper forms to workers on time. The IRS recommends that individuals hold onto their final 1999 pay stub, which contains most year-end tax and income information, in case there are delays in getting a W-2 form from an employer. That at least allows taxpayers to get started on their returns. Taxpayers also should print out any financial documents or other backup data stored in computers, particularly information related to dividend or interest income

that is normally sent to them on a 1099 form. "These are smart things to do every year, Rossotti said. "Anyone can have problems with their computer crashing or trouble getting a W-2, regardless of what year it is," he said. If Y2K glitches directly impact a taxpayer's ability to comply with tax laws, the IRS is willing to waive interest and penalties for such things as failure to file returns and failure to pay, including estimated taxes some people pay each quarter. The IRS will ask five basic questions of any taxpayer claiming that Y2K caused a tax problem.

Injured man finds his WTO fame 'humiliating'

The Seattle Times SEATTLE — Jon Knapp still winces, even weeks later, when he sees himself getting kicked in the groin by a cop, then shot in the chest with what appeared to be a beanbag round. It's more a jolt than a wince. His eyes get misty. If Knapp, 37, were ever going to be famous, this wasn't the way he pictured it. The footage of Knapp, from the mayhem surrounding the World Trade Organization conference, has been broadcast countless times around the world since the Dec. 1 incident on Seattle's Capitol Hill. The few seconds of video has become the symbol of what critics claim were widespread police excesses during the riots.

"Everyone who sees the video stops me and says, 'Aren't you the guy?'" Knapp said recently in his first interview since the incident. "I say no." He is a shy, quiet man who works construction, lives alone in his Capitol Hill apartment and finds his newfound fame "humiliating."

gets me a couple feet down the street and he pushes me, and he says, 'OK, leave,'" Knapp said. The now infamous video footage shows Knapp backing away from the officer, hands raised. "I come back with, 'But I live here. This is my home.' And that's when he kicked me. And when he pointed the gun at me, I kind of freaked. I thought, 'Oh, he's not going to shoot me.' And then he shot me." Knapp says his coat protected

him from harm from what appeared to be a nonlethal beanbag round. But he suffered "serious bruising" from the kick to the groin. He says he hasn't seen a doctor because he doesn't have medical coverage, but he has been on light duty at his construction job. Why didn't Knapp simply go home to avoid the trouble? "It's my neighborhood, and I really wanted to know what the need for all this in the neighborhood was," Knapp says.

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EDITORIAL

Council makes admirable beginning on rim hotel

The Twin Falls City Council has found a sensible and politically astute solution to the canyon-rim hotel debate. Enlisting critics of the proposal in the plan-review process has the potential to bring the issue to an amicable conclusion.

Craig H. Neilsen's proposal for a 10-story hotel was drawn as a contentious, black-and-white controversy. Business boosters almost unanimously supported amending the Canyon Rim Overlay Zone ordinance to allow the hotel. Council members abhorred the idea. Compromise seemed unlikely.

By amending the ordinance to allow the proposed height, the council ultimately came down on the correct side, and for the right reasons. The land belongs to Neilsen, and absent some overriding public necessity, he has a right to build the hotel on it. Meanwhile, the community will gain a convention center and a public canyon-rim trail, both of which Neilsen has graciously offered.

Yet if the council had merely approved the zoning amendment and gone home, a lot of hurt feelings would have been left behind. Instead, the council created a special committee of citizens to help review the developer's plans - with several opponents among its members.

The practical effect of this committee isn't clear yet. It will lack decision-making authority, but it will give critics a voice in the process. Changing the ordinance was only the

first of many decisions to be made before construction begins. The new committee may influence the council and the city's planning and zoning commission as those entities work out the details with Neilsen. Just as important, the committee is a vehicle for transforming critics of the proposal into contributors to the eventual outcome.

Soon-to-retire Mayor Gale Kleinkopf says he may join the review committee. That would be a good move. Kleinkopf guided the council skillfully through this debate, and his continuing involvement would lend the committee more stature.

Still, the bottom line is that the hotel can now be built at the proposed height in the new gateway zone. That's the right decision, because Neilsen's hotel and convention center stand to be a huge community asset. They'll draw tourists as well as business gatherings, with no taxpayer subsidy of the long-coveted convention center.

While some local people would still prefer undeveloped open space, Neilsen's property was too prominent and too valuable to stand vacant forever. Not even the project's most devoted critics can deny that the hotel is one of the more attractive possible alternatives.

Much work remains to be done before Neilsen's hotel can open its doors. But the council has made an admirable beginning.

The committee is a vehicle for transforming critics of the proposal into contributors to the eventual outcome.

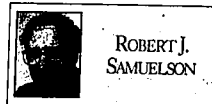


Freedom catches on as worldwide concept

What 20th-century development most altered the human condition? There is no shortage of candidates: the automobile, antibiotics, the airplane, computers, contraceptives, radio and television, to name a few. But surely the largest advance in human well-being involves the explosion of freedom. In a century scarred by gulags, concentration camps and secret-police terror, freedom is now spreading to an expanding swath of humanity. It is not only growing but also changing - becoming more ambitious and ambiguous - in ways that might, perversely, spawn disappointment and disorder in the new century.

In 1900, this was unimaginable. "Freedom in the modern sense (then) existed only for the upper crust," says political sociologist Seymour Martin Lipset of George Mason University. There were exceptions - America certainly, but even its freedom was curtailed. In 1900 women could vote in only four Western states (Wyoming, Colorado, Utah and Idaho). Not until the ratification of the 19th Amendment in 1920 could all women vote. In the South, a web of laws (poll taxes, literacy tests and intimidation) prevented black Americans from voting. It took the Voting Rights Act of 1965 to change that.

Elsewhere, the picture was bleaker. In 1900, empires dotted the world. The British Empire stretched from Australia through India to Egypt and Canada. It contained roughly 400 million people, about a quarter of the world's population. Lesser empires were still enormous: the Austro-Hungarian (encompassing much of Eastern Europe), the Ottoman (covering Turkey and much of the Middle East), the French (with possessions in Africa and Asia) and others. Human subjugation was the rule, not the exception.



ROBERT J. SAMUELSON

Consider the situation now. In 1999, Freedom House - a watchdog group based in Washington - classified as "free" 88 of the world's 191 countries, "partly free" 68 and "not free" 35. These nations enjoyed free elections and traditional civil rights of speech, religion and assembly. Of course, there are shades of gray. In 1999, the world's 53 countries with 1.6 billion people, because either elections or civil liberties were compromised, Russia was "partially free." China was "not free."

Still, the world's frame of reference has fundamentally altered. Even in societies where freedoms are abused, their absence usually becomes an issue. But freedom has not simply spread. It also evolved, especially in the United States. The freedom that Americans expect as they enter the 21st century is not the same as the freedom they expected as they entered the 20th.

Traditional freedom historically meant liberation from oppression. But now freedom increasingly involves "self-realization." People need, it's argued, to be freed from whatever prevents them from becoming whoever they want to be. There's a drift toward "positive liberty" that emphasizes "the things that government ought to do for us," says sociologist Alan Wolfe of Boston College. This newer freedom blends into individual "rights" (for women, minorities, the disabled) and "entitlements" (for health care, education and income support) deemed essential for self-realization. Freedom's fate in the next century is

fragile, in part because the very notion is now so ill-defined. Classic freedom - coupling the opportunity for success with the danger of failure - hardly ensures personal fulfillment or social order. "On the one hand, you're told you're free," says Lipset. "But on the other, you're a potential loser. And if you lose, you don't feel free." The traditional freedom of belief and lifestyle also requires, if they are not to foster anarchy, tolerance and self-restraint. Even in the United States, these qualities are sometimes wanting. In societies unaccustomed to freedom, they are often depressingly scarce.

But at least traditional freedom is universal. Everyone can, in theory, enjoy the freedoms of speech, religion, assembly and property. This sort of freedom promises the absence of coercion. By contrast, the new freedoms of individual "rights" and "entitlements" are increasingly exclusive, can involve social competition for benefits and may mean the subtle (or not so subtle) coercion of one group by another - all tending to weaken a sense of community. The "rights" of women, gays and the disabled cannot be directly enjoyed by men, straights or the nondisabled. Financing entitlements means taxes - a form of collective coercion - by which taxpayers subsidize beneficiaries.

Freedom, always a combustible concept, promises to become more so, because in a world of television and the Internet, ideas glide almost spontaneously across cultural and political boundaries. The eagerness of the West to export its ideals may increasingly cause others to abandon or modify their own. What we value, they may fear or misunderstand. Freedom is a great blessing. But it has never been easy - and never will be.

Robert J. Samuelson is a Newsweek columnist.

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LETTER

Idaho needs more birds

Can the study be duplicated by someone else? That is the go word in science. Even a blind dog roots up an occasional acorn. I think I have learned something about upland game and habitat management. Game management people would be wise to look to the private sector that has to produce results and not theory. The great plantations in the South would be a good start.

I have kept 25 years of letters to the editor on game issues and have hunted upland game in Idaho for 50 years with good dogs on all kinds of habitat. Habitat we have, but we don't have that many birds. There is no reason we shouldn't have them in abundance.

Upland game does not live by corn alone. Upland game gets most of its protein from the ground. Green feed provided most of the protein. We have focused our attention on cover and not nutrition of the bird. Where you find wet ground, Russian olive, wild rose and the most important, sage brush and buffalo berry, you find birds year after year. A good water source is essential. Nitrate poisoning can be a problem.

Thanks to the help of many people, we can now try some of the new birds that we can identify by color and genetics and

not the wasteful transmitter. The isolated tracts and some provided private property will tell us how well we are doing.

Hunters are fools if we don't continue the pheasant stamp. The money should go for birds and water sources. Bentonite will be a good start. Hen releases in the spring; cock releases in the fall.

I will provide a number of birds for youth day hunting on public land so you will know what a great opportunity we have.

The Formosan pheasant has been my best choice for crossing and transplanting, crossed with a mutant, you get a black bird with a white ring on its neck. They have livability, hatchability and cross well with the wild ringneck.

No one should be able to buy two deer tags in Idaho just because you have the money. Keep your pen handy this year.
NICK ROKICII
Burley

Write to us

The Times-News welcomes letters from readers on subjects of public interest. Letters may be mailed to our Twin Falls or Burley offices, brought to P.O. Box 548, Twin Falls, ID 83303; faxed to (208) 734-5536; or e-mailed to twnews@timesnews.net.

No more milking the Internet for tax revenue

GROVER GLENN NORQUIST

Should the Internet be taxed? That's the wrong question. The building blocks of the Internet - phone lines, cable, all telecommunications - are already one of the most heavily taxed parts of the American economy. The first excise tax on telecommunications was levied in 1896 to fund the Spanish-American War. The war is over. The federal tax remains and is joined by state and local excise taxes that average 14.1 percent and get as high as 28.6 percent in Texas and 24.5 percent in Florida. AT&T reports that it files 50,000 tax forms to government at all levels.

Now some governors and big-city mayors want to add additional taxes on the Internet. They would overturn Supreme Court decisions that protect interstate commerce. Several law firms (led by former Amazon.com) to collect Utah's sales tax when a citizen from Utah buys a book over the Internet. Utah Gov. Michael Levitt, a Republican, argues that the states need the extra taxes, that much tax revenue is being lost, and that these additional taxes can be imposed without hurting the Internet or the Constitution. He is

wrong on all counts. In 1998, the 50 states ended the year with \$11 billion in surpluses. State and local government revenue has grown from 6.9 percent to 9 percent of GDP from 1968 to 1998, a period when federal revenues fell from 20.5 percent to 18.7 percent. Taxpayers looking for declining productivity in government and waste have been wrong to focus solely on Washington over the past three decades.

Second, a June 1999 study by Ernst & Young points out that because most e-commerce is business-to-business or the sale of intangible services or other exempt products not subject to sales taxes, the actual "loss" to state and local sales tax collection was \$170 million in 1998, or one-tenth of 1 percent of sales tax collected. Moreover, the definitive study on how taxing e-commerce would affect Internet sales was done by Prof. Austen Goolsbee of the University of

Chicago Business School, who found that changing the Constitution to allow taxation of electronic commerce would reduce e-commerce by 24 percent or more. (That would do interesting things to the market cap of those companies presently driving up the Dow.)

The Constitution's commerce clause is not a loophole. It created a single American market and stopped states from attacking "foreign" (out-of-state) businesses. We don't want to create a situation in which Alabama politicians can levy taxes on New York businesses. The battle lines are being drawn for the 2000 election. Sen. John McCain, R-Ariz., and Rep. John Kasich, R-Ohio, have introduced federal legislation to make the ban on interstate taxes permanent and to ban all sales taxes on electronic commerce. Let the first Internet election begin.

Grover Glenn Norquist is president of Americans for Tax Reform and the consumer/taxpayer representative member of the House Committee on Electronic Commerce. He writes as a special to The Washington Post.

Doonesbury



Mallard Fillmore



By Garry Trudeau



By Bruce Tinsley



Did this century leave living behind?

Who are we? We invent. This is how America thinks of itself in the last weeks of the last year of the American century.

MARIE COCCO

exceptional gadgets.

When asked to describe the 1990s, the term "high tech" gets attached to the decade, and words like "continuous improvement/momentum" get thrown about. But those polled also free-associate these pace-whiz terms with words like "stress-fatigued/complicated/scary." And it is scary, this society that packs the laptop alongside the swimsuits before heading to the beach for a weekend. Back at the dawn of the century, scientific soothsayers foresaw inventions that would reduce the standard work week to a mere 20 hours, with trips from suburban homes to the office taking just a few minutes. The grand idea, expressed in popular magazines featuring cheerful drawings, was to use science to take the drudgery out of life, freeing more time - not less - for fun and family.

They did not anticipate that neat inventions would take the office into the home, obliterating the line between them. They couldn't foresee that chatting over the Internet would replace chatting over dinner. Better living through science. That was, and is, the slogan. It is something to celebrate, so long as we don't leave out the living part.

Marie Cocco is a columnist for *Newbury*.

We put a man on the moon and conquered disease and invented the computer. The triumph of technology, the public told pollsters for the Pew Research Center, is America's most notable achievement of the 20th century. Not the victory over evil in World War II. Not even close, according to the poll. Not the integration, through political struggle and emotional strain, of racial, ethnic and religious minorities into one society - an achievement unique in world history. Not free enterprise conquering communism and making the world safe for Microsoft.

American ingenuity. This is what made America great, America believes.

And it is what will define its greatness in the next century. This is remarkable. Not because it isn't true. Because it is so incomplete.

Except for the youngest children, no one is alive today who cannot name an invention that has made life better. Andrew Kohut, director of the Pew Center, remembers his mother washing clothes by hand in the

days before automatic washers were ubiquitous. I remember my own mother donning snow boots and woolen scarves to head out to the backyard clothesline, before automatic dryers were hooked up in every basement.

No one longs for the days before sonograms and central air-conditioning.

About two-thirds of Americans believe their own families are better off now than they were in the 1950s, with the economy and technology given as the main reasons. But fewer than half - 44 percent in the poll - say life in the United States, as a whole, is better.

The culprit is a declining moral climate, the disenchanted say. We lament crime and violence, kids who seem to have no moral compass and no respect for others. We are harsh on the parents who seem to have no time for them.

And yet what do we name as our greatest accomplishment? Not the achievements of great moral import, like World War II or the civil rights movement. We boast of the progress that made life healthier - and more convenient. America is exceptional, we seem to say, because we create



LETTERS

Editorial was 'mean-spirited'
I thought your comments appearing in the Dec. 14 editorial criticizing President Clinton's attendance at the memorial service of the six firefighters that perished in a Massachusetts warehouse fire recently were not only, as you described it, "mean-spirited," but also extremely insensitive and inappropriate, especially during a time of year when we are expected to display a bit more compassion toward our fellow man. For you to assert that Clinton only went to this memorial service to "perform" is a giant leap of conjecture. Do you think the slain firefighters loved ones shared your opinion? I think not. I imagine they felt a sense of pride knowing their president chose to make an appearance that day to share their grief and offer some condoling words.

You asked the question, "Would Clinton attend a memorial service for Idaho ranch kids who attend home school?" I think you answered the question correctly, probably not. I think Clinton would attend a memorial service for ranch kids who attend home school; however, I don't think he would step foot in Idaho, nor could I blame him, if he had to face people and a press with the cynicism and disrespect you displayed in your editorial. It just goes to show you that for some people, "no good deed shall go unpunished."
JEFF WILLIAMS
Twin Falls

People should be self-reliant
This year as my children count down the days 'til Christmas, I find myself hiding the concern that I have for the biggest event of the century -

YZK. I feel confident that everyone in the computer industry has done everything they can to ensure that chaos does not ensue, and I am sure that should any problems arise, they will be quickly remedied, but yet I cannot help but feel a small bit of longing for certainty in knowing that everything will remain as it is. So, my anticipation is not one of Christmas morning with toys, boxes and paper strewn about - but anticipation of what exactly the future holds.

In careful consideration of this situation, I have realized that in spite of all our advances - technological, medical, social and otherwise - we have lost the desire to be self-reliant. We rely on everything from micro-meals to cable programming. Many people rely on credit cards for simple everyday living items. We have been given a false sense of security. We

rely on the stores, banks and our computers for everything. We rely on roadside assistance. We even rely on our paychecks - many on a check-to-check basis. We have lost self-reliance.
This year, my annual reflection has brought about many questions. Am I self-reliant? Would I be able to provide for my family's needs for an extended period of time? If the need presented itself, could I grow an edible garden? Do I know

enough about nutrition to keep my family healthy if we could not purchase vitamin-fortified foods? Would I make it one extra month - or week - if that paycheck didn't come? What would we do without power? Would I be able to help my neighbors if they needed it? Would I feel comfortable going to neighbors for help if I needed it?
So, as we progress through time and our world becomes increasingly high tech, we need

to hang on to a fundamental idea called self-reliance. We need to remember, as accessible and convenient as society has become that the only thing we can truly rely on is mankind. We need to become reliant as individuals, families, neighbors, communities and society as a whole. Although we may never need to be completely self-reliant, just knowing we can be is very satisfying.
STACEY SLY
Twin Falls

Write to us

The Times-News welcomes letters from readers on subjects of public interest. Because of space constraints, please limit letters to 400 words. Include your signature, mailing address and telephone number. Writers who sign letters with pseudonyms will be permanently barred from publication. Letters may be brought to our Twin Falls or Burley offices; mailed to P.O. Box 548, Twin Falls, ID 83303; faxed to (208) 734-5330; or e-mailed to twnews@mlcny.net. We look forward to hearing from you!

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RIISING High School Sports STARS

Daniel Gil

Deco wrestling

Last year, Deco wrestler Daniel Gil learned the hard way...

Ranked No. 1 and leading 7-0 in the state semifinals, he suddenly found himself on his back.

Pinned — and staring a second third-place state finish straight in the face.

Plenty of wrestlers would have settled for such a finish, but Gil holds a higher standard than most.

That's why he's dedicated this season to returning to the state tournament and taking care of some unfinished business.

"My main goal is to be the state champion at 112 pounds this year," said Gil, who stands a perfect 5-0 this season after winning the 112-pound class at the Bear-Cat Invitational in Twin Falls last Saturday.

"Daniel's a good wrestler on his feet and he controls people on the ground," said Deco coach Jason Taylor. "And he's a super hard worker. He'll outwork 90 percent of the people in a wrestling room."

With three district titles and a 91-25 career record to his name, Gil is also closing in on the 100-win plateau, a mark he should reach by early next year.

Although he's pinned two of his four opponents (he also won with a bye) this season, Gil isn't an overpowering athlete.

Rather, he uses his technique and mat-savvy to fess his opponents into submission.

"He's not a big pinner," Taylor said. "He's a control guy and he seldom gets on down."

Moments find him running in the gym before school.

"He's the first guy to show up and the last guy to leave practice," Taylor said. "He's a lead-by-example kind of guy."

While college wrestling might be a future possibility, Gil, a senior, said he plans on going on a church mission immediately after graduation this spring.

Annie Shawver

Valley girls' basketball

The high-pitched voice and shy demeanor project an aura of quiet reserve.

But on the court, there's nothing smug about Annie Shawver's game.

Through 11 starts this season, the 5-foot-7-inch Valley post player has averaged 13.7 points, 8.4 rebounds and 2.7 steals.

"She's the shyest girl in the world until game time," said Valley head coach Brian Hardy. "But when it's basketball time, she's all business."

Better news for Viking fans? She's only a sophomore. And combined with the talented senior backcourt of Kyle Beem and Summer Callen, Shawver and the Vikings are off to a 9-2 start — the best of Hardy's four-year head coaching tenure.

"My goal is to help the team become state champions," said Shawver, a second-year varsity player.

As she's found this season, however, life in the low post can be tough when you're only 5-7.

"She's not really tall, but she knows how to use her body," Hardy said. "She's got great body control and her coaches have keyed our transition game this year. She just likes banging around down there."

Shawver started last season — her first at the high school level — as a swing player, one who would play half the time on varsity. But that all changed after the first game.

"She played a quarter with the JV, then scored 12 points in three quarters the next time she started a game," Hardy said. "We won by two and she never played JV again."

Also a die-hard Chicago Cubs fan and a long-time pianist, Shawver credits her success to good passes from her teammates and the amount of time she has spent practicing at home.

—Matt Peterson

Know a local student-athlete we ought to feature in a story? Tell us about it by calling the Times-News sports desk at 733-0931, Ext. 229.

WHAT A COMEBACK



Jerome's Brad Stokes drives the ball down court in Wednesday night's game against Bishop Kelly High School. Down 17 at halftime, the Tigers bounced back to beat the second-ranked Class A-2 Knights 63-57. For more high school sports coverage, see Page B2.

New blood will rule Pro Bowl

The Associated Press

Yes, John Elway retired. Sure, Vinny Testaverde was hurt in the first game of the season.

But what were the odds before the 1999 NFL season that Kurt Warner, Steve Buehlein and Rich Gannon would be voted to the Pro Bowl ahead of Brett Favre, Troy Aikman and Doug Flutie?

The Pro Bowl teams announced Wednesday for the Feb. 6 game in Houston will reflect how strange this season has been.

"I guess the second half of life is the greater half," said the 24-year-old Buehlein, who was selected for the first time in a 13-year career.

He has played for seven teams, much of the time as a backup. This is by far his best year. As a starter for Carolina, he's thrown for 3,857 yards and 29 touchdowns.

"It's neat. It's great," added Carolina coach George Seifert, who as coach of the 49ers routinely had Joe Montana and Steve Young in the NFL's all-star game.

"We're all very excited to see it take place. Steve's been with different clubs and had his moments, but I don't know that he's had any he's as proud of right now."

Warner, who will start for the NFC, came from total obscurity. A former Arena League and NFL Europe star, he had played in just one NFL game before this season and was left unprotected last spring on the expansion list from which the Cleveland Browns chose their players.

He became a starter only when Trent Green was lost for the season with a knee injury and shocked even Rams coach Dick Vermeil by leading the NFL in passing and guiding the team to a 12-2 record.

The Rams had just one player, Isaac Bruce in 1996, make the Pro Bowl in their first four seasons in St. Louis. This time they had six representatives for the most in the NFC. Jacksonville (12-1) has seven players on the Pro Bowl team, another indication that it pays to be on winners.

"I dreamed about this when I was in the third grade," he said.

"The biggest thing is to have six representatives and some alternates. It really shows what this team has done this year and it's a lot of respect."

Obviously, it's going to go to certain people that are more in the limelight but there's a lot of guys that are deserving on this team."

Gannon, who has been a starter for New England as a running back or wide receiver then traded to Minnesota when he said he wanted to play quarterback.

case first baseman Andrés Galarraga isn't at full strength again, an 18-month layoff during his treatment for cancer.

"We're all very hopeful Andrés will come back and assume full duty," says the shorter Inlary, manager John Schuerhan.

"That's still somewhat an unknown set of circumstances. We'll see, prior to 1999 before he suffered the shorter injury, he put up very good numbers offensively, and of course, is regarded as one of the finest first basemen defensively around."

Klesko and Boone combined for 41 homers last year while Joyner and the switch-hitting Veras combined for 11. Veras had four career-highs with 280 strikeouts and 95 runs scored, and his on-base percentage of .368 was 58 points higher than Boone's.

—Mingling percentage was Klesko's.

Please see TRADE, Page B2

NFL slaps Brown with suspension

The Associated Press

BEREA, Ohio — The NFL pushed back at Orlando Brown on Wednesday, suspending the Cleveland tackle for shoving a referee who accidentally hit him in the eye with a weighted penalty flag.

The indefinite suspension was announced hours after Brown learned he must stay in the hospital because of new bleeding in his right eye. He was to have been released Wednesday before this setback.

Brown also faces a possible fine and could be suspended for part of the 2000 season. He is the first player in league history to be suspended for more than one game for contact with an opponent.

Please see SUSPEND, Page B2

TCU christens bowl with upset

The Associated Press

MOBILE, Ala. — LaDainian Tomlinson ran for 124 yards and two touchdowns Wednesday night to lead Texas Christian to a 28-14 victory over No. 20 East Carolina in the inaugural Mobile Alabama Bowl.

It was the second consecutive bowl upset for TCU (8-4), which knocked off heavily favored Southern Cal in last year's Sun Bowl. East Carolina (9-3) was favored by six points at game time.

That didn't bother the Horned Frogs, who confused East Carolina with a two-quarterback option attack and completely shut down the Pirates' running game, holding them to minus-16 yards.

East Carolina went into the game focusing on stopping Tomlinson, whose 1,850 yards edged Heisman Trophy winner Ron Dwayne for the NCAA Division I rushing title.

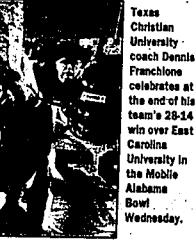
TCU, which alternated between quarterbacks Casey Printers and Patrick Batteaux,



TCU's LaDainian Tomlinson runs with the ball during the game.

made it impossible for the Pirates to adjust.

Early in the first quarter, Printers gained seven yards on an option run to move TCU to the 2. Batteaux, a senior who runs the option better than Printers, came in on the next play and pitched the ball to Tomlinson, who ran in for the



TCU players celebrate at the end of their 28-14 win over East Carolina Wednesday.

touchdown. That tied the game at 7-7 and TCU slowly pulled away from there.

"The trio set up another touchdown the same way in the second quarter. Printers threw a 9-yard pass to Tomlinson and Batteaux came in on the next play and gained 35 yards on an option keeper that put TCU at the 19.

Pitcher apologizes for tirade

Team, baseball may discipline Rocker

The Associated Press

ATLANTA — Even John Rocker admits he went "way too far" this time.

The right-hitting reliever for the Atlanta Braves ate up his words Wednesday, saying his comments that disparaged homosexuals, AIDS patients, foreigners, minorities and single mothers were a mistake.

Rocker triggered outrage in New York and even his native Georgia with his remarks in an current Sports Illustrated that could lead to discipline from baseball or the Braves.

He told the magazine that he would retire before playing for a New York team and then added: "Imagine having to take the (No. 7 train to Shea Stadium) looking like you're (in) Beirut next to some kid with purple hair, next to some queer with AIDS, right next to some dude

who got out of jail for the fourth time, right next to some 20-year-old mom with four kids. It's depressing."

"The biggest thing I don't like about New York are the foreigners," he went on. "You can walk an entire block in Times Square and not hear anybody speaking English. Asians and Koreans and Vietnamese and Indians and Russians and Spanish people and everything you get there. How the hell did they get in this country?"

In a statement released Wednesday, Rocker retracted those remarks.

"While I have evidenced strong competitive feelings about New York fans in the past, and take responsibility for things I have said publicly, including the Sports Illustrated article, I recognize that I have gone way too far in my competitive zeal," he said.



Atlanta Braves pitcher John Rocker bows his head as he leaves the field during the NL Championship Series against the New York Mets last season.

Braves retool, Yankees unload Hideki Irabu

The Associated Press

NEW YORK — With most teams about to close for the holiday break, the Atlanta Braves and San Diego pulled off a big deal Wednesday while the New York Yankees finally got rid of Hideki Irabu.

Remodeling their roster yet again, the Braves dealt second baseman Bret Boone, outfielder/first baseman Ryan Klesko and minor league right-hander Jason Shill to the Padres for first baseman Wally Joyner, second baseman Quilvy Veras and left fielder Reggie Sanders.

Atlanta, which has won eight straight division titles but only one World Series in the 1990s, gains both a leadoff hitter and an outfielder to make up for the loss of Gerald Williams, who signed with Tampa Bay.

Joyner becomes insurance in

case first baseman Andrés Galarraga isn't at full strength again, an 18-month layoff during his treatment for cancer.

"We're all very hopeful Andrés will come back and assume full duty," says the shorter Inlary, manager John Schuerhan.

"That's still somewhat an unknown set of circumstances. We'll see, prior to 1999 before he suffered the shorter injury, he put up very good numbers offensively, and of course, is regarded as one of the finest first basemen defensively around."

Klesko and Boone combined for 41 homers last year while Joyner and the switch-hitting Veras combined for 11. Veras had four career-highs with 280 strikeouts and 95 runs scored, and his on-base percentage of .368 was 58 points higher than Boone's.

—Mingling percentage was Klesko's.

Please see TRADE, Page B2

SPORTS

SPORTS IN BRIEF

Killebrew, Street win Idaho's athlete honors
BOISE - Harmon Killebrew and Picheo Street have named Idaho's top athletes of the century following public voting conducted by the World Sports Memorabilia Hall of Fame.

Griffey senior quits Puerto Rican job
SAN JUAN, Puerto Rico - Just 32 games into his first managerial stint in Puerto Rico's winter league, Ken Griffey Sr. has quit in a dispute over the firing of pitching coach Gregy Jackson.

Women's soccer to boycott Australia Cup
Angered by stalled contract negotiations with the U.S. Soccer Federation, players on the Women's World Cup champions said Wednesday they will boycott the Australia Cup next month.

Famous parquet will be missed in Boston
BOSTON - Celtics fans reacted with emotion as the parquet floor at the FleetCenter - one of the most storied playing surfaces in the history of sports - was retired on Wednesday to make way for a state-of-the-art replacement.

Victim's mother granted temporary custody
CHARLOTTE, N.C. - The infant boy whose mother, Cherica Adams, died in a shooting police say was arranged by Rae Carruth on Wednesday in the temporary custody of the child's maternal grandmother, Wednesday by a family court judge.

Rockies add Jim Fregosi to scouting team
DENVER - Jim Fregosi Jr. was hired by the Colorado Rockies on Wednesday as a major league scout.

Grapplers post impressive records in team tamaround

ABERDEEN - Filer High School's wrestling program continued its turnaround season in Aberdeen Wednesday night, beating Grace and host Aberdeen handily in the Wildcats' final action before Christmas break.

Wildcats, who are 3-1 in duals have lost only to Kimberley next wrestle Dec. 30 at Oakley along with among others, Kimberly Gooding, Oakley, Minico's junior-varsity, Raft River and Declo.

The Tigers (2-4 overall, 1-1 conference) travel to Twin Falls Dec. 30.

Minico 65, Bonnevile 60
The Spartans (2-5 overall, 0-3 conference) travel to Skyline Jan. 4.

Declo 97, Aberdeen 56
The Hornets' (5-12 overall) first-half lead over Aberdeen held Wednesday night, and No. 7-ranked Declo nearly doubled up on visiting Aberdeen.

Century 70, Burley 59
POCATELLO - Defense was a stumbling block for the Bobcats, who allowed Diamondback guard Aaron Tremayne to run wild for 21 points, including three of his four three-pointers in the first half.

Boys' Basketball

Jerome 61, Bishop Kelly 57
JEROME - Down by 17 to start the third quarter, Jerome switched to a man-to-man full-court press and fought back to defeat top-ranked Kansas A-2 school Bishop Kelly Wednesday night.

Suspend
Continued from B1
official. Commissioner Paul Tagliabue will meet with the 6-foot-7, 350-pound tackle in New York after the 1999 season in February.

With the loss Burley falls to 3-4, and next plays Twin Falls in Burley, Jan. 4.

from his injury," Tagliabue said. "However, as everyone has acknowledged, the injury to the player was completely unexpected and did not justify his action against the referee."



Hot Hands

Leading area high school boys basketball players - scoring, rebounds, assists, steals, free-throw percentage. (All scores are 20 games unless otherwise specified.)

Table with columns: Player, Team, Points, Rebounds, Assists, Steals, FT%. Lists players like Eric Swanson, Paul H. Swanson, etc.

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Continued from B1
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Trade
Continued from B1
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Local sports

Girls' basketball

Mackay 41, Richfield 36
RICHFIELD - More activity on defense and a revamped offense cut down on the Miners' transition buckets Wednesday, and the result for the Tigers was a narrow loss to the same team that slapped them 60-9 several weeks ago.

American Falls 36, Filer 30
FILER - Defense wasn't a problem for the Wildcats, but missed opportunities from the floor and lack of court free-throw shooting played Filer, which lost despite a game-high 12-point performance by Libbie Loughmiller.

Rimrock 59, Glenns Ferry 40
GLENN'S FERRY - Rimrock guards Mita Basahi and Michelle Hipwell combined for 34 points as the Lady Raiders beat Glenns Ferry.

Trabu, 11-7 with a 4.94 ERA in 27 starts and five relief appearances this year, waived his no-trade clause, allowing the Yankees to deal him to Montreal for minor league right-hander Jake Westbrook and two players to be named. The deal lowers New York's payroll to \$66 million for 14 signed players.

Cincinnati bounces back over Oklahoma

The Associated Press
Kenyon Martin, slowed by foul trouble in the first half, finished with 23 points Wednesday night in No. 4 Cincinnati's rebounded from its first loss of the season by beating No. 21 Oklahoma 72-57.

No. 12 Kansas 82, Princeton 67
At Lawrence, Kan., Nick Bradford scored a season-high 17 points and Ashante Johnson added a career-high 16 for the Jayhawks (2-5).

No. 11 Tennessee 87, S. Illinois 74
At Bayamon, Puerto Rico, Vincent Yarbrough and Tony Harris each had 21 points and No. 11 Tennessee beat pesky Southern Illinois in the semifinals of the Puerto Rico Holiday Classic.

No. 16 Ohio State 64, Toledo 61
At Columbus, Ohio, Scoonie Penn hit four free throws in the final nine minutes and then sealed No. 16 Ohio State's victory with a late steal.

No. 19 Temple 66, Penn State 51
At Philadelphia, Kevin Lyde had 14 points and 13 rebounds and Lynn Greer added 12 points as Temple defeated poor-shooting Penn State.

The Rockets, who beat Ohio State's Final Four team last year at home, led most of the way and had chances to tie or win the game in the final minutes.

No. 7 Auburn 87, Pepperdine 76
At San Juan, Puerto Rico, Chris Porter scored 17 of his 19 points in the second half as Marmaduke N'Diaye added 18 points and 10 rebounds as No. 7 Auburn won the San Juan Shootout.

The Rockets' two free throws with 1:57 left capped an 11-2 run that gave the Buckeyes (6-2) a 62-56 lead. But Justin Hill scored on a drive through the lane to cut it to 62-61 with 41 seconds remaining. After Toledo missed a free throw, Penn was fouled and made both shots to finish it.

No. 9 Syracuse 68, La Salle 52
At Syracuse, N.Y., Ryan Blackwell had 14 points and 13 rebounds and Jason Hart added 19 points for the Orangemen (8-0), who have yet to play a road game this season.

Syracuse scored the last three points of the first half, then built on its lead in the second half. The final score was La Salle 52, Syracuse 68.

No. 7 Auburn 87, Pepperdine 76
At San Juan, Puerto Rico, Chris Porter scored 17 of his 19 points in the second half as Marmaduke N'Diaye added 18 points and 10 rebounds as No. 7 Auburn won the San Juan Shootout.

Auburn (15-1) had a 9-point lead reduced to 43-40 at halftime with Porter limited to two points. The Tigers took control in the second half, pushing the margin to 14 points on N'Diaye's jump after Reggie Sharp's missed 3-pointer.

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Maxfli-Goltssten MD, Gold Balls, Vinos at the golf store.

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Heat scorches Jazz in battle of the big men

Red Wings win again

MIAMI (AP) — Alonzo Mourning had 17 points, 10 rebounds and five blocks — including one in the final seconds — to lead Miami to a low-scoring 74-72 win.

Mourning blocked Bryon Russell's drive to basket with 13 seconds remaining and John Stockton missed a three-pointer at the buzzer for Utah, which had won eight straight in Miami.

Knick 91, Raptors 90
NEW YORK — Patrick Ewing hit a turnaround 14-footer with 21.3 seconds left and the New York Knicks, despite blowing another big fourth-quarter lead,

overcame Vince Carter and the Toronto Raptors 91-90 Wednesday night.

It was the biggest shot of the season for Ewing, who was playing in just his seventh game since recovering from a partially torn Achilles tendon. He finished with eight points — just the fifth straight eight-pointing night of his 984-game career — and eight rebounds to support a 25-point effort from Latrell Sprewell.

Celtics 98, Hawks 81
BOSTON — The Boston Celtics

got 24 points from Antoine Walker to snap a six-game losing streak.

The Celtics led by 14 points after one quarter, 18 after two, 24 after three and 67-59 early in the fourth before the Hawks scored eight consecutive points. Janel Thomas completed a three-point play and Kenny Anderson added a layup to squelch the charge.

The 81 points was Atlanta's lowest output of the season and the loss was the Hawks' fourth in a row, tying their longest skid of the year.

the stretch as Orlando took advantage of an injury-depleted and turnover-plagued Cavaliers team to earn its fourth straight win.

Cleveland, with only nine healthy players, battled through out but committed 10 turnovers in the first 9:19 of the fourth quarter and lost its fifth in a row.

Timberwolves 106, Bulls 86
CHICAGO — Kevin Garnett provided the muscle inside and Malik Sealy and Terrell Brandon as Minnesota routed Chicago.

It was the third win in a row for the Timberwolves, who started the month 0-8. Garnett led five Timberwolves in double figures with 22 points. He also had 13 rebounds.

RALEIGH, N.C. (AP) — Brendan Shanahan scored a goal and assisted on another in the first period as the Detroit Red Wings defeated the Carolina Hurricanes 4-1 Wednesday night for their fifth win in six games.

Martin Lapointe also had a goal and an assist for Detroit, which has won nine of 11 games this month.

The Hurricanes dropped below .500 at 13-14-7 for the first time this season after losing three games in a four-game homestand.

Panthers 3, Thrashers 3
SUNRISE, Fla. — Andrew Brunette scored with 43 seconds left in regulation and Dean Sylvester tallied two goals as Atlanta rallied for a tie with Florida.

PAUL BURE, who had one assist, has a nine-game point-scoring streak.

Devils 3, Flyers 2
EAST RUTHERFORD, N.J. — Patrik Elias had two goals and an assist and New Jersey beat Philadelphia once again on home ice.

BASKETBALL

NBA Standings

Team	W	L	Pct.
Atlanta	11	10	.524
Boston	11	10	.524
Brooklyn	11	10	.524
Charlotte	11	10	.524
Chicago	11	10	.524
Cleveland	11	10	.524
Dallas	11	10	.524
Denver	11	10	.524
Detroit	11	10	.524
Golden State	11	10	.524
Indiana	11	10	.524
L.A. Clippers	11	10	.524
L.A. Lakers	11	10	.524
Los Angeles	11	10	.524
Memphis	11	10	.524
Minnesota	11	10	.524
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Milwaukee	11	10	.524
Minnesota	11	10	.524
New York	11	10	.524
Orlando	11	10	.524
Philadelphia	11	10	.524
Phoenix	11	10	.524
Portland	11	10	.524
Sacramento	11	10	.524
San Antonio	11	10	.524
Seattle	11	10	.524
Utah	11	10	.524
Washington	11	10	.524
Wash. Wizards	11	10	.524
Wichita	11	10	.524

MLB Standings

Team	W	L	Pct.
Atlanta	11	10	.524
Boston	11	10	.524
Brooklyn	11	10	.524
Charlotte	11	10	.524
Chicago	11	10	.524
Cleveland	11	10	.524
Dallas	11	10	.524
Denver	11	10	.524
Detroit	11	10	.524
Golden State	11	10	.524
Indiana	11	10	.524
L.A. Clippers	11	10	.524
L.A. Lakers	11	10	.524
Los Angeles	11	10	.524
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Philadelphia	11	10	.524
Phoenix	11	10	.524
Portland	11	10	.524
Sacramento	11	10	.524
San Antonio	11	10	.524
Seattle	11	10	.524
Utah	11	10	.524
Washington	11	10	.524
Wash. Wizards	11	10	.524
Wichita	11	10	.524

NHL Standings

Team	W	L	Pct.
Atlanta	11	10	.524
Boston	11	10	.524
Brooklyn	11	10	.524
Charlotte	11	10	.524
Chicago	11	10	.524
Cleveland	11	10	.524
Dallas	11	10	.524
Denver	11	10	.524
Detroit	11	10	.524
Golden State	11	10	.524
Indiana	11	10	.524
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L.A. Lakers	11	10	.524
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Memphis	11	10	.524
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Phoenix	11	10	.524
Portland	11	10	.524
Sacramento	11	10	.524
San Antonio	11	10	.524
Seattle	11	10	.524
Utah	11	10	.524
Washington	11	10	.524
Wash. Wizards	11	10	.524
Wichita	11	10	.524

College Basketball

Team	W	L	Pct.
Atlanta	11	10	.524
Boston	11	10	.524
Brooklyn	11	10	.524
Charlotte	11	10	.524
Chicago	11	10	.524
Cleveland	11	10	.524
Dallas	11	10	.524
Denver	11	10	.524
Detroit	11	10	.524
Golden State	11	10	.524
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Seattle	11	10	.524
Utah	11	10	.524
Washington	11	10	.524
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Baseball

Team	W	L	Pct.
Atlanta	11	10	.524
Boston	11	10	.524
Brooklyn	11	10	.524
Charlotte	11	10	.524
Chicago	11	10	.524
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Football

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Boston	11	10	.524
Brooklyn	11	10	.524
Charlotte	11	10	.524
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Ice Hockey

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Charlotte	11	10	.524
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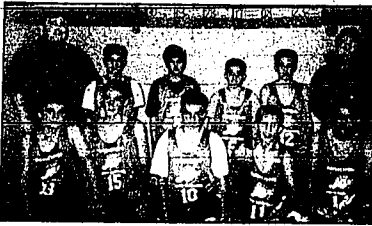
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YOUR SPORTS

Your Sports Editor: Jeff Rasen - 733-0931, Fax: 229

Teen bowler notches 300 game



David Warr, 18, of Rupert, has been bowling for approximately 10 years. His name appears weekly in the high scores rolled by teen boys.

He recently recorded a 741 series, where Game 2 was a 300. Game 3 was a 194 and Game 4 was a 300. Warr's high score came after rolling that 300 when he came back with a 247.

His highest game previously was 263, rolled some two years ago, and his highest series was 714, rolled just several weeks back.

David will soon be wearing a 300 ring, reward for his accomplishment from the Young American Bowling Alliance. Kendall and Diana Warr are his proud parents. Equally proud are brother Christopher and sister Kellie, who bowl as well.

David belongs to one league.



LET'S GO
BOWLING
Thelma Tucker

...The first-place award in the Holiday Classic Tournament held at Rupert Bowl went to Don Howell, Geno Smith and Bob Bywater. Capturing second were Larry Tomlinson, Erik Bywater and Rich Hill in the Double Event, Lyle Martindale and Kory Knopp were first with Dean Fassett and Jamie Stewart second. Kory Knopp and Bob Bywater tied for first in the Singles and third through fifth place was Don Howell, Jared Holland and Erik Bywater.

...Your entry in the preparation stage for the Twin Falls Men's and Women's City Tournament? It should be. Jan. 20 is closing entry date for the ladies. That tournament is at the Bowldrome starting two weeks later, Feb. 12, 12:30 p.m.

...Congratulations, David, and may your future dreams all come true!
In other bowling news...

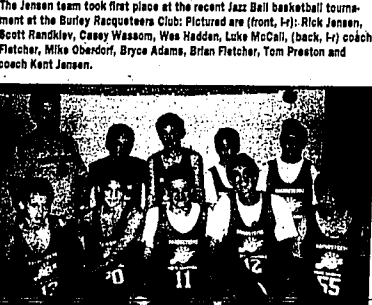
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for the men. Their tournament is at the Magic Bowl and runs two weekends starting Feb. 19. Entry forms are available at the Twin Falls centers for both tournaments.

...Before that, Cedar Lanes in Filer is hosting a millennium party on New Years Eve - unlimited bowling, shuffle, spectro-bowling, finger-food buffet, and free drinks, party favors and champagne at midnight are included in the admission price: \$15 for an adult, \$10 for those under 12.

...Happy Holidays, and Let's Go Bowling!

Thelma Tucker writes a weekly bowling column for The Times-News. Contact her at 733-4257, e-mail her at tucker@magiclink.com, or send her a fax at 208-733-3127.



The Jensen team took first place at the recent Jazz Ball basketball tournament at the Burley Racquetball Club. Pictured are (front, l-r): Rick Jensen, Scott Ranklind, Casey Wasson, Wes Hadden, Luke McCall, (back, l-r) coach Fletcher, Mike Oberdorf, Bryce Adams, Brian Fletcher, Tom Preston and coach Kent Jensen.



The same team took third place: (front, l-r) Brandt Hines, Shane Robbins, Wade Jones, Nick Bame, Eric Larson, (back, l-r) Scott Hicklenoper, Mike Wayment, Chad Smith, Andrew Edwards, Troy Merritt and Kody Taylor.



The Smith team players were consolation winners: (front, l-r) Eric Barlow, Jordan Nielsen, Kam Dayley, Brent Bean, Brad Barlow, (back, l-r) coach Dave Smith, Chad Smith, Andrew Edwards, Troy Merritt and Kody Taylor.

Jensen team takes Jazz tourney title

BURLEY - The Jensen team finished the season a perfect 6-0 and cruised to a first-place tournament finish in Burley Junior Jazz basketball recently at the Racquetball Health & Fitness Club.

Y2K READY



Students from Dr. Jay Hartwell's Intermountain Martial Arts recently participated in the Maglo Valley Mall's Y2K Youth to Community Fair. Pictured from left to right are: Drew Hurd, Kevin Hurd, O.J. Hatch, Benita Culum, James Gayer, Ashlee Rider, Melanie Hartwell, Cherry Hurd, Ryan Springer, Arnel Culum, Steven Burgess and Brandon Rider.

VOLLEYBALL

YMGCA League Standings

Table with 2 columns: Team Name and Points. Lists teams like Holy Cross, Holy Cross, Holy Cross, etc.

BASKETBALL

Twin Falls Parks and Rec Girls' Basketball Results

Table with 2 columns: Game Number and Score. Lists games like Game 1, Game 2, etc.

BOWLING

Results reported by the weekly bowling centers for the week ending December 21.

Large table listing bowling results for various leagues and tournaments, including names and scores.

TRACKING THE LOCALS

Evie Larsen
Linn Benton CC
ALBANY, Ore. - Center Evie Larsen, daughter of Nelly and Linda Larsen of Twin Falls and a 1997 Twin Falls High School graduate, was recently named to the all-tournament team at the Bates Basketball Tournament in Mount Shasta, Calif.

Y2K READY

Larsen scored 25 points for the Lady Racquetballers and pulled down 10 rebounds in the final game of the tourney Dec. 4.

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Time to liquidate? Use The Times-News Marketplace classifieds to turn possessions into cash.

THE REASON TO SAVE AS MUCH AS \$2000... NEW 1999 PONTIAC GRAND AM SE NOW \$13,487* WAS \$15,999... Looking for a New Job? Click Here!

Drop it: Attorneys for a Burley doctor say they want charges against him dropped.

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MAGIC VALLEY

INSIDE

Obituaries C2

City Editor: Kevin Richert - 733-0911, Ext. 231

The Times-News

Thursday, December 23, 1999

Section C

AROUND THE VALLEY

Judge will sentence ex-deputy today

TWIN FALLS - A former Twin Falls County sheriff's deputy will be sentenced today in the shaking death of a 2-year-old girl.

Jesse Thrush, 23, faces up to 15 years in prison for the killing of Hailey Williams, the daughter of Thrus's then-fiance, Angela Williams.

Thrush was baby-sitting Hailey and two other children Feb. 21 when he shook her and threw her on a bed in his Filer home. She died two days later at St. Luke's Regional Medical Center in Boise.

Thrush, who had been a top-notch deputy and volunteer firefighter, pleaded guilty in August to voluntary manslaughter. He was originally charged with first-degree murder.

Thrush's sentencing date was incorrectly reported in The Times-News Wednesday. The Times-News regrets the error.

Mother returns to court on new set of charges

JEROME - The mother of a smothered infant will be in court again on a new set of charges stemming from her baby's death.

Cynthia Barnett, the former wife of Michael Grissom, faces a preliminary hearing today at 1:30 p.m. on charges of felony child abuse and possession of methamphetamine with intent to deliver.

Barnett's 5-year-old son, Cannon Rejon Barnett, died in March 1998 began a year-and-a-half-long search for justice.

Earlier charges against Barnett and Grissom were dismissed because of lack of evidence.

Grissom died in October of a heroin overdose, just before the new charges were filed.

Barnett's hearing date was incorrectly reported in The Times-News Wednesday. The Times-News regrets the error.

Landfills closed Christmas Day and New Year's Day

TWIN FALLS - The Hub Butte Landfill located south of Twin Falls, the Milner Butte Landfill located west of Burley, and waste transfer stations in six southern Idaho counties will close at 2 p.m. Friday.

Waste transfer stations observing the early closure are located in Bull, Shoshone, Wendell, Jerome County, Almo, Malma and Oakley.

All landfills and waste transfer stations will be closed on Christmas Day and New Year's Day. The landfills and waste transfer stations will be open during normal hours Monday and on Jan. 3.

For more information, visit the Southern Idaho Solid Waste website at www.sisw.org or call 432-9082.

Online guide to recycling offers tips better living

TWIN FALLS - An online guide to resource recycling in southern Idaho can be seen on the Southern Idaho Solid Waste website at www.sisw.org/recycle.htm.

The guide offers a menu of recyclables from antifreeze to inkjet cartridges that link to instructions on how they can be recycled locally. For materials that cannot be recycled, such as half-empty buckets of paint or cans of bug spray, SISW offers a Southern Idaho Waste Exchange to help residents and companies find a place for unwanted materials.

Compiled from staff reports

TN Interactive

Ring in 2000

At The Times-News, we're planning to cover a new year like no other last seen for the past 1,000 years.

And we'd like your help. What do you want to know about Y2K? How are you preparing for Jan. 1, 2000? How do you think we should cover this milestone in Magic Valley history?

Call: Kevin Richert, 733-0931, Ext. 234. e-mail: richert@magicvalley.com Fax: 734-5538.

Remembering when the valley got sparks

86-year-old recalls the early days of electricity

By John T. Huddy
Times-News writer

TWIN FALLS - Getting electricity and plumbing hooked up to the house made life a whole lot easier for young Genevieve Tillotson and her family.

"We had a bathroom inside the house for once," Genevieve, now 86, recalls. "That was great. We didn't have to use the outhouse anymore."

She still remembers when she had to brave the weather as a little girl to use the bathroom, a daunting task in the middle of a cold winter's night.

But when electricity came to Rupert, her father had the family's old house torn down, and had a new one built, complete with electrical wiring and indoor plumbing.

Some things didn't change on her family's ranch and in town, despite the technological advancements.

Her family still used the old wood-burning stove to cook meals.

The family would take trips to the picture show at the old Wilson Theater in town, but at that time, the shows didn't have any sound.

"That didn't matter, though. I still think some of them



Genevieve Tillotson had this photo taken for her husband while she was in her late 20's and living in California.

were better than the ones they're showing today," she says.

Born in 1913, Genevieve is the same age as the U.S. Department of Labor, that year, Ebbs Field, the fabled home of the Brooklyn Dodgers, was built for a modest \$750,000. That same year, Idaho founded its Public Utilities Commission - the agency that now governs the electric utilities that expanded across rural Idaho during Genevieve's childhood.

Genevieve, who moved to Twin Falls 10 years ago from northern California after her husband Ray died, has fond memories of her family and early life in the Magic Valley.

Before leaving Rupert for California when she was 20 years old, Genevieve's younger sister Helen, just 12 at the time,



At 86 years old, Genevieve Tillotson sells plants that she has started in the porch of her home.

would drive the family into town in their Ford Model T.

"(She) was so small that she was hardly able to see over the steering wheel," Genevieve says with a laugh.

Genevieve didn't learn to drive until she was much older. Her father never learned.

Genevieve attended Hopewell elementary school in Rupert and had to walk about a mile each day, though sometimes she and

her siblings would get a ride. After school, the children played hopscotch.

"There were no televisions back then, of course - only books and games to keep her and her brothers and sisters busy."

With modern conveniences such as her 1980 Pontiac Arrow automobile to get her around town, Genevieve says she's much happier living in the present, but she sometimes misses

the past and has some apprehension about the year 2000.

"Right now I'm not too enthused because I don't know what's going to happen," she says. "I just hope I have lights and power."

Times-News staff writer John T. Huddy can be reached in Twin Falls at 733-0931, Ext. 259 or by e-mail at huddy@magicvalley.com

TO PROTECT AND SERVE



Jerome County Sheriff Jim Weaver, right, and deputy Kelly Cornett are served lunch at the Jerome Senior Citizens Center Wednesday. More than 1,000 people were assigned to the Jerome County Work Detail, which is run by the Jerome sheriff and deputies. They recycled \$827.50 worth of aluminum cans and donated the money to feed more than 200 people at the Jerome and Eden senior citizens centers.

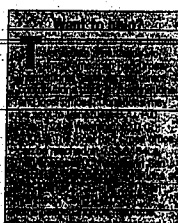
Locals reach out to flood victims in Venezuela

By Michael Journo
Times-News writer

TWIN FALLS - As international relief workers scratch through the mud and rock looking for survivors of last week's mudslides in Venezuela, a Twin Falls woman is doing everything she can to help from afar.

LeVee Soobee, a Venezuelan native who moved to Twin Falls 27 years ago as a student, is encouraging everyone to contribute basic needs such as water, medicine and food to the survivors of last week's mudslides that were unleashed by torrential rains on Dec. 15. News reports from the South American nation's coastal town of Macuto trumpet the entire country's mobilization to help, but the in-country efforts are not enough.

"These people are asking for water and medicine and food,"



Soobee said. "They're just trying to survive." And for those who didn't survive the slides, relief workers

Please see HELF, Page C3

Filer school stages touchy hostage crisis

By Jennifer Sandmann
Times-News writer

FILER - A mock hostage situation at Filer High School on Wednesday threw the school jaco-lock-down-for-about-an-hour.

At 10 a.m. the school through coordination with the Twin Falls County Sheriff's Office staged a drill involving a non-custodial, semi-intoxicated father taking Principal Leon Madsen hostage. The pretend gunman forced the principal to disable the phone system and lead him to his daughter's classroom. The drill lasted about an hour and involved law enforcement personnel, firefighters and ambulance services.

"We tried to be as realistic as we could without shocking the

senses out of our students," said Sgt. Todd Peterson, who is in charge of school resource programs for the sheriff's department.

Officers used plastic training guns for the drill, but the mock suspect did fire two rounds from a cap gun used as a starting pistol at track meets. The shots were fired to simulate disabling of the school intercom system, Peterson said. And they set the mood for a serious drill without creating fear or panic, he said.

The school staged a bomb-threat drill earlier this year. Madsen said, and will continue to run through other safety drills. A bus evacuation drill also was held Wednesday.

Schools continue to perform fire drills, Peterson said, but

Please see CRISIS, Page C3

A report in dispute

Some area hospitals question recent study of charity care

The Times-News and The Associated Press

BOISE - Officials at two Magic Valley hospitals are disputing the results of a study conducted by a coalition of citizen groups, who say most nonprofit hospitals in Idaho do a poor job

of extending potential patients know how they can obtain charity care if they are unable to pay.

The report, titled "Not Making The Grade: Idaho Nonprofit Hospitals Fail in Their Charity Care Mission," was released Tuesday by five groups including the Idaho Community Action Network.

"Large numbers of low-income people in Idaho have little or no health insurance and charity care is one of their few sources of affordable care," the report said. "When hospitals fail to adequately inform the public about their charity care programs, they effectively block access to this important source of care."

The report gave a C grade to Cassia Regional Medical Center in Burley and a D- to St. Benedict's Family Medical Center in Jerome. No other Magic Valley hospitals were graded.

"What about Minidoka Memorial or Magic Valley Regional?" outgoing Cassia Regional administrator Richard Packer said. "They are non-profit, but they are not mentioned. I don't put a lot of credence to this report."

Drennan questioned the methodology of the research, and said the hospital does not deny care based on ability to pay. Hospital officials look case-by-case at a patient's finances.

"If we determine they do have a problem we write the bill off," Packer said. "Anybody who walks in the door will be treated."

David Drennan, chief financial officer at Saint Benedict's, said his hospital has a similar policy.

"We do not deny care based on ability or inability to pay," Drennan said. "Most care is given before the patient's financial responsibility is even discussed."

Drennan, who said he was unaware of the coalition's

Please see DISPUTE, Page C3

TB hospital will be gone soon Bliss schools filter the Internet

By Almos Wilson
Times-News correspondent

GOODING—Despite the difficulties workers encountered when they went to remove a slab of portico from the old tuberculosis hospital, C & C Salvage should have the building completely torn down within 10 to 15 days, City Supervisor Todd Bunn told the City Council at Monday's meeting.

The tearing down of the old rehab-reinforced building will ac-

Poolluck planned

Gooding citizens will have a poolluck dinner at 7 p.m. Dec. 31 at the firehouse.

ally be completed ahead of schedule, Bunn said.

He said the company is re-energizing the foundation and will take it to a working state rather than the airport dump site.

Other City Council business:

City Clerk Linda Wildman held a second reading of Ordinance 014 which will prevent slaughter of any animal within city limits.

The council approved the purchase of a new computer. The council approved the city to spend \$945 to repair the city's annual control vehicle.

Times-News correspondent Almos Wilson can be reached in Gooding at 934-8174.

By Daro Jonson
Times-News correspondent

BLISS—Superintendent Kevin Lancaster reported on a computer system that filters unwanted material from the Internet at Monday's School Board meeting.

Lancaster said the school will need an additional 40 feet of cable to hold the computer equipment and estimated the project will cost about \$1,000. The board asked Lancaster to look into the cost of materials and labor and report back to the board.

Also Monday, the School Board reviewed the district's Mission and Beliefs Statement. The district's mission is to

"ensure a safe secure environment which provides quality educational opportunities for students challenging them to become life long achievers and contributing citizens." The district's beliefs include maintaining classroom discipline, practicing basic values, appreciating cultural diversity, communicating effectively, teaching basic skills and job skills and helping students become responsible, productive, informed citizens.

Other School Board business: The board approved a request from Idaho Power to be paid before starting work on service changes at the school.

Principal Robby Sauer told the board the attendance com-

mittee will meet in January. Students who haven't met the 90 percent attendance requirement will be required to meet with the committee to determine their credit eligibility.

The board awarded a \$37,700 bid to Gletzen Electric of Burley for electrical improvements at the school.

The board voted to participate in the Advanced Regional Technical Education Coalition program through 2001.

The board received a thank you letter from the Briendinge family for a \$10 season family ticket to sports events.

Times-News correspondent Daro Jonson can be reached in Bliss at 837-6211.

OBITUARIES

For obituary rates and information, call 733-0931, Ext. 278, between 2 p.m. and 5 p.m. Monday through Saturday. Deadline is 4:30 p.m. for next-day publication. Death notices are a free service and can be placed until 5 p.m. every day.

RUPERT



Dale F. Hobbs

Dale F. Hobbs, 83-year-old Rupert resident, died Tuesday, December 21, 1999, at the Idaho Memorial Hospital Extended Care Facility.

Dale F. Hobbs was born September 25, 1916, to John W. and Ruby T. Welch Hobbs, in Egbert, Wyoming. He attended schools in Wyoming. He married Lily Dalgaard on February 17, 1938, in Wyoming. They lived in Riverton and Pavillion, Wyoming, before moving to Rupert in 1955, after drawing a head lease. Dale also drove a gas truck for Bechtel Oil for several years, and then went to work for Ore-Ida, working until his retirement.

He was preceded in death by his wife Lily, three brothers, and three sisters.

He is survived by his children, Elaine Thomas, of Rupert; Nancy K. (Harvey) Newert, of Portland, Ore. T. Hobbs, of Portland, Oregon; Stephen B. Hobbs, of Washington, Washington, and Dennis R. (Joann) Hobbs, of Hailey; 10 grandchildren; five great-grandchildren; and six great-great-grandchildren.

Services will be held at 11 a.m. Monday, December 27, 1999, at Hansen Mortuary Rupert Chapel, with Pastor John Ziulkowski officiating. Burial will follow in the Rupert Cemetery. Family and friends may call at Hansen Mortuary on Sunday evening from 6 to 8 p.m.

Memorials may be made to the DeMay Memorial Library, 417 Seventh St., in Rupert. Arrangements are under the direction of Hansen Mortuary Rupert Chapel.

BURLEY

BURLEY—Funeral services will be held at 11 a.m. on Monday, December 27, 1999, at the Burley Public School, Third and Seventh Avenues, 2200 Oakley Avenue, with Bishop Steve Ormand officiating. Burial will be in the Gem Memorial Gardens in Burley. Friends may call at the Payne Mortuary, 221 West Main Street in Burley, on Sunday from 6 to 8 p.m. and on Monday from 10:45 a.m. prior to the funeral on Monday.

August 25, 1936, at the home of her parents in Union, Utah.

Donna and Lalovi lived in the Salt Lake City area until 1938, when they moved to Boise. They returned to Salt Lake City in the spring of 1943, and then moved to Burley in 1950, where Donna resided until her death. Donna was an active member of the LDS Church, where she served in various capacities, starting with her first assignment as a Primary teacher in the Butler Ward in 1932, and her last assignment as a Relief Society visiting teacher in the Burley Ward. She received her endowments at the Boise LDS Temple on October 12, 1956. Donna enjoyed many community service activities, as a Pink Lady at Cassia Memorial Hospital, a volunteer for Camp Fire Girls of America, a PTA officer at Southwest Elementary School, and as a fund-raiser for many charitable organizations. She was a dedicated and loving mother, wife, and homemaker for 63 years. She also had Business College skills as the bookkeeper for her husband and son's business for many years. Donna enjoyed traveling with her family and friends, sewing, needle crafts, singing in her church choir and reading. She dearly loved her sisters and brothers, and especially her attending family reunions with them and their families.

Survivors include her husband of 63 years, Lelov L. Butler of Burley; one son and his wife, Mike and Trenna Butler of Burley; two daughters and their husbands, Suzanne and Roy Miller Jr. of Pocatello, and Sandra and Roy Grindrod of Idaho Falls; six grandchildren; 14 great-grandchildren; a brother-in-law, (Rhonda) Maxfield; three sisters, Dorothy (Lewis) Ingalsbe, Barbara (Calvin) Glover, and Bonnie (Dave) Hamilton; two sisters-in-law, Irene Maxfield and Arlene Maxfield; two brothers-in-law, Owen (Eve) Wilkins and Jack (Connie) Butler.

She was preceded in death by her parents; three brothers, Gerald, Harold and Jay Maxfield; her sister, Echo Maxfield; her brother-in-law, Peter Romero; a sister-in-law, Mary Ann Maxfield; and two nieces, Terry Ann Ingalsbe and Vicki Maxfield.

Our heartfelt thanks to the wonderful staff at the Burley Care Center, who provided such loving care for our dear Donna, and helped ease the way for her family.

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TWIN FALLS
Michael G. McGinnis died Dec. 21, 1999, in Boise, Idaho, due to complications related to diabetes.

He was born on May 12, 1952, in Libertyville, Illinois, to Lincoln and Angelina McGinnis. He moved to Twin Falls with his parents in 1957. He received his education from St. Edward's Catholic School, Twin Falls High School, and the College of Southern Idaho. He joined the United States Air Force in 1971 and served as a C130 crew chief in Vietnam and Taiwan. Mike married Mary Horsely in 1974. They had two children, Robert and Theresa, and a granddaughter, whom Mike adopted. In 1988, Mike and his family moved to Wasilla, Alaska, where he owned and operated a com-

mercial auto-body business. He returned to Twin Falls in 1986. His greatest loved were fishing, hunting, golf, and flying. A few years after earning his pilot's license, Mike and his father flew the Canadian "Trench" route to Alaska. The Trench is a route that bush pilots fear more so than take. Mike flew this route in a Piper Super Cub.

He is survived by a daughter, three sons, four grandchildren, a sister, three brothers, his wife, and parents.

Services will be held at Our Lady of Guadalupe Church in Boise on Friday at 10 a.m., Monday, Dec. 27, 1999.

BUHL



Jim Belkman

Jim Belkman left this life peacefully to enter his heavenly home on Sunday, December 19, 1999.

He was born on January 30, 1938, in Clifton, Kansas. His parents were Ed and Agnes Belkman. He was baptized and confirmed into the Christian Faith. His elementary schooling was in Kansas and Eugene, Oregon, and he graduated from Concordia High School in Portland, Oregon, in 1956. He attended Concordia College in Portland, and Seward, Nebraska, receiving his Bachelor's Degree in 1960. He received his Master's Degree in School Administration and Curriculum in 1968, from Eastern Washington State College, in Cheney, Wash. Jim and Mary Ann (Kaster) were married in 1960, at Clover Lutheran Church in Buhl, Idaho. They lived and taught school at Spokane University School in Spokane, Wash., where Jim served as Principal and teacher. In 1968, they moved to Fremont, California, where he served as Principal and teacher at Peace Lutheran School. In 1975, they left the teaching field and moved to Buhl, Idaho, where he began his woodworking business, and framing flourished. The Homestead has been privileged to be a part of the Lynwood Shopping Center for the last 13

years. Jim is survived by his wife of 39 years, Mary Ann, and four children, Wally and Ann Kaster of Buhl; DJ, John and Myra Kaster of San Antonio, Texas; Jerry Kaster and Frank Programs, and two many aunts, uncles, nieces and nephews.

A Service of Joy for Jim's Heavenly Entry will be held Thursday, December 23, 1999, 11 a.m. at the Immanuel Lutheran Church, 2055 Filer Street, and Framing Programs, and to the American Lung Association. Larry Holzen and Bob Bliss will receive contributions at the church.

By Sam Felman
Times-News correspondent

JACKPOT, Nev.—Jackpot is getting a new doctor.

Jackpot Advisory Board Chairman Beth Winans told her fellow board members on Tuesday that a doctor has been hired to staff the Jackpot Medical Clinic and is now in the process of obtaining his Nevada license. Winans said a grant for the doctor will guarantee that he will stay in Jackpot for three years.

Elko General Hospital has donated a 2-year-old X-ray machine for the clinic, Winans said. She said the machine is in good working order and the clinic is being moved to accommodate the new machine.

Winans received the board's approval to ask Elko County for \$2,000 to help pay for the installation of the X-ray machine.

Also Tuesday, Jackpot resident Sundar Pillai asked the board to extend the hours at the Jackpot Recreation Center and Pool. He said he and his family like to swim in 9 a.m. before he goes to work and before the pool hours changed, used to swim three or four mornings a week.

Recreation Center Assistant Director Ann Standley said although the center would like to accommodate Pillai, swimming lessons for the school begin at 9 a.m. and the center does not have the staff to adequately supervise students and the public at that time.

"Safety is our top priority," Standley said. "When school children are using the pool for physical education the staff is needed to insure their safety."

In other action Tuesday, the board heard that Terri Dunn has been appointed to the tourism board by Elko County commissioners. Dunn said two of her

goals are to distribute more Jackpot brochures and improve the Jackpot display area at the visitor's center in Wendover. The board agreed to ask Elko County commissioners to provide Dunn with a \$50 allowance to help Dunn pay for phone calls and stamps.

Also Tuesday, Jackpot Fire Chief and Emergency Medical Services Director David Hutchinson told the board he needs more volunteers who would create a need for additional equipment. He said he would like to apply for a \$15,000 grant from the state's United States Department of Agriculture Rural Development so he can increase the number of volunteers from 16 to 24. He said the average cost to fully equip one firefighter is \$3,750. He said the department can also get a low interest loan through the USARD to purchase a needed pumper engine.

Jackpot gets new doctor for clinic

By Sam Felman
Times-News correspondent

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Jerome considers closing pool in park

By Diane Thomas Reale
Times-News correspondent

JEROME—The city should close the city pool at the park and upgrade and expand the Jerome Recreation District pool located at 2032 S. Lincoln, Brian Craig of the pool committee told the City Council on Tuesday.

The pool committee is made up of representatives of the city, the Jerome Recreation District and the School District.

The pool committee has had two public hearings on the subject and public has to choose from — the city pool and the recreation district pool. The city contracted the services of the recreation district to manage the city pool.

Recreation District Director Wendy Davis said that during the summer of 1999 the city pool had an operating loss of \$14,151 and a season attendance of 4,762. She said the recreation district pool had an operating loss of \$16,802 for the season and an attendance total of 4,591. The recreation district pool was closed during the entire month of June for repairs. At the begin-

ning of the swimming season, the city set aside \$30,000 for the recreation district to manage the city pool for the 1999 season. Davis said she returned \$13,101 of unspent funds to the city at the end of the season.

Several City Council members have said the city can't afford to fund two pools. The pool committee recommended that the city and the district combine their resources.

The pool committee hired the Boise-based architectural firm of Richard and Ruth to study the condition of the two pools. The study concluded that the city pool needs more work than the recreation district pool. The city pool was built in 1950, remodeled in 1976, and got a new filtration and circulation pump in 1990. The aging pool doesn't have any major structural deficiencies at this time, but that could quickly change, according to the committee.

The pool committee's report said the city pool no longer meets the needs of the community. The pool is not large enough for competition or fitness training. The pool's shallow end is three feet deep which limits use by younger children. The plumbing system is operated on a manual control basis, the deck area is limited and the dressing rooms are small, the committee's report said.

The recreation district pool was built in 1975 and is two and a half feet deep in its shallow end and 10 feet deep in its deepest end. It has 25-year racing lanes and its automatic filtration unit is state-of-the-art, according to the report.

"The recreation district pool does a somewhat better job of serving the needs of the community," the report said.

The committee recommended upgrading existing pool to recreation district pool. Renovations would include adding a shallow recreation pool for children, a fountain and slide, and a water playground and expanding the dressing rooms and parking lot. The committee estimated the project would cost \$872,450.

The City Council plans to meet with the Recreation District Board of Directors in early January to discuss the proposal.

memorial services at 6 p.m., today at White Mortuary Chapel in Twin Falls.

Steven F. McClure of Shoshone services at 11 a.m. today at the Baptist Church in Shoshone (Demary's Shoshone Chapel).

Elde R. Lintner of Murahung, services at 10:30 a.m. Friday at Crossroads United Methodist Church in Kimberly. Friends may call from 12 to 2 p.m. today at Reynolds Funeral Chapel in Twin Falls.

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SERVICES

Nelle Whiting of Burley, services at 11 a.m. today at the Star LDS Chapel, in Burley. Friends may call from 10:45 a.m. today at the chapel (Payne Mortuary in Burley).

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DEATH NOTICES

Floyd L. Swan
TWIN FALLS—Floyd L. Swan, 64, of Twin Falls, died Wednesday, December 22, 1999, at the Twin Falls Clinic and Hospital. Services are pending and will be announced by Reynolds Funeral Chapel, Twin Falls.

Jesse M. Strope
LOST RIVER VALLEY—Jesse M. Strope, 93, of the Lost River Valley, died Tuesday, Dec. 21,

1999, in Twin Falls. Funeral services will be held at 2 p.m. Monday, Dec. 27, 1999, at Howe Community Center in Howe, Idaho. Burial will follow in the Reynolds Cemetery. Friends may call from 12 to 2 p.m. Dec. 26 at the Community Center in Howe. Arrangements are under the direction of Park's Magic Valley Funeral Home of Twin Falls.

Neal E. Bowers
SAN DIEGO, Calif.—Neal Elias

Bowers, 80, of San Diego, Calif., formerly of Burley, died Tuesday, Dec. 21, 1999, at his home. Arrangements are pending in San Diego, Calif.

Funeral services at 11 a.m. today at the Star LDS Chapel, in Burley. Friends may call from 10:45 a.m. today at the chapel (Payne Mortuary in Burley).

Annalisa Woodruff of Buhl, memorial services at 6 p.m., today at White Mortuary Chapel in Twin Falls.

Steven F. McClure of Shoshone services at 11 a.m. today at the Baptist Church in Shoshone (Demary's Shoshone Chapel).

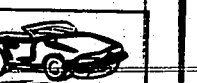
Elde R. Lintner of Murahung, services at 10:30 a.m. Friday at Crossroads United Methodist Church in Kimberly. Friends may call from 12 to 2 p.m. today at Reynolds Funeral Chapel in Twin Falls.

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Lawyers want drug charges dropped against Burley doc

By Ruth Streeter
Times-News writer

BURLEY — With suspicion cast over the integrity of a Cassia County Sheriff's Office investigation, and a question about whether or not a Burley man's constitutional and court rights have been violated, the defense team of Dr. Burley doctor facing a drug charge is asking that their client's charge be dismissed.

After hearing several motions on behalf of Dr. Charles Wesley Suits on Wednesday, Fifth District Judge Monte B. Carlson will decide early next week whether to dismiss Suits' drug possession charge or send it before a jury.

The defense alleges that law enforcement agents are willfully concealing the original tapes that were made of alleged interactions between Suits and a confidential informant. The defense alleges that the original tapes contain conversations Suits said occurred but which never appeared on the actual recordings.

Prosecuting attorney Stephen Bywater said the issue of inconsistencies between both experts' reports of tampering is a jury question to be answered when both experts are brought to testify.

"That's what these experts analyze for," Bywater said. "In addition, the defense's expert, Bruce Koenig of the FBI, could be as guilty of fraud as the prosecution's expert, Edward Wolfram, an audio expert out of Michigan, according to Bywater."

"This discrepancy could have easily been the fraud of Dr. Wolfram," as it could have been that of Cassia County's investigation, Bywater said.

But defense attorney James Amnest said he doesn't want the

jury to base its decision on perjury testimony, and he said such a trial would be unfair "to a man who, in my judgment, has been absolutely manipulated within the system."

The defense also maintains the charge should be dismissed because the state has taken an inordinate time providing certain information, and Suits has been denied light to a fair and speedy trial. The original Sept. 20 trial date was postponed because the defense said it needed not only the results of the FBI's analysis of tapes, but the raw data backing up those results.

But the prosecution says a continuance was necessary to examine new evidence the defense produced just 10 days before the trial date. The defense produced medical records said to pertain to Kathy Gann, the confidential informant who participated with Suits in the alleged drug deal.

Such records are key to the trial, the state claimed in a court document, because the state said Gann was not a patient of Suits and that the records were falsified to examine them, the prosecution said it would need to retain a handwriting expert which it did not have time to do before the trial.

The defense also said it agreed to vacate the Sept. 20 trial date with the understanding that it would be postponed until no later than Nov. 1. The trial could not be set for Nov. 1 because an expert for the prosecution would not be available, according to court documents.

The prosecution asserts that the claim is grounded since the defense waived its right to an expeditious trial when it agreed to a continuance. Moreover, Idaho case law does not permit a continuation with conditions

attached, said deputy prosecutor Howard Smyser.

"When they agreed to the continuance ... the speedy trial defense was gone," said deputy prosecutor Howard Smyser.

Smyser argued that both experts took the same amount of time to review the tapes, and that the FBI could not proceed in its analysis until the results from the defense's expert became available.

Suits' attorney Bill Manning said the state had other experts available other than the FBI.

The defense also contends that Suits' privacy rights were violated when he entered into a conversation with Kathy Gann while she was wired with surveillance equipment.

The recordings of an alleged drug deal "constituted a warrantless search of Dr. Suits' ... without obtaining a warrant as required by law," Amnest said. When the Idaho Communications Security Act, which was created for telephone companies, is read in conjunction with the search and seizure statute, a warrant for such communications becomes necessary, Amnest said.

Smyser argued that the Fourth Amendment "does not protect a wrongdoer's belief in who his talking to." In addition, the communications act cited by the defense is irrelevant to the case, as it applies to telephone companies, he said.

The state also maintains that the new allegation has come too late in the course of prosecution and that "it is simply a new theory of the case hopes to add weight to the court," according to court documents filed by the state.

Times-News writer Ruth Streeter can be reached in Burley at 677-4042, or by e-mail at rstreeter@magicvalley.com.

Razor-sharp giving at Minico High

By Connie Rensberg
Times-News correspondent

RUPERT — The reward of having a laugh at the expense of two teachers and another student was part of the incentive.

After winning a challenge, Minico High School students Wednesday watched a woman's hair fall to the floor and a male teacher and male student parade in dresses.

Students knew it was all because of their donations of time, gifts, and money to worthwhile causes.

Students and 25 clubs participated in the project and gave several needy Mini-Cassia families a better Christmas. They contributed gifts, food, and other needed items through a project known as "Gift of Green."

"The Gift of Green is a good program," said Nick Fulcher, the student body vice president. "It gets people into the Christmas spirit and helps out a lot of less fortunate families."

Close to 50 families received

donations, and the Student Council raised \$547 to purchase the families' Christmas dinners.

The families received donations of food, gifts for children and parents, a Christmas tree with decorations, and other items. Everything was organized and purchased by club members and teachers, and were delivered from Saturday through Monday. Everyone involved spent several hours after school organizing, buying and wrapping Christmas gifts, decorating the Christmas trees, and delivering presents to the families.

After the Student Council set a goal to raise \$700, two well-liked teachers stepped in and promised to do something memorable before Christmas break, if the students met the goal.

After the Christmas afternoon during an assembly, Terry Johnson, teacher and student council advisor, strutted around the gym floor with a wig, dress, and shaven legs. Student Blake Smith wore a gown. Both received applause and cheers.



Blake Smith, a member of the Student Council, shows off his shaven legs and dress before the student body Wednesday.

Teacher Karen Hatch shaved her head to express appreciation to the students for their generosity. Hatch looked stunned as she sat in a chair in the middle of the gym and watched as her hair fell to the floor. The students gave her a standing ovation.

Teachers learn to be highly effective

By Lorraine Cavanaugh
Times-News writer

RUPERT — The name Stephen Covey has become a household catchphrase for business people and other people around the world.

Recently the name has become a catchphrase in the Minidoka County School District as well. Covey's "7 Habits of Highly Effective People" program is being talked about and used in classrooms, in administrative offices, by teachers and at the district office.

Goal setting, time-management, win-win thinking, seeking understanding, keeping fit and other techniques presented in Covey's book are part of a new program. Four teachers have been trained in the program, which will be put in place throughout the district.

The enthusiasts are not new but the enthusiasm for the program is spreading.

Lorn Duff, Colleen Johnson, Cindy Fulcher and Cara Nielsen will teach the course to other teachers and already have a waiting list.

After receiving training in Salt Lake City, the four teachers have a lot of training every

Highly Effective course

- A course based on the book "7 Habits of Highly Effective People"
- A program used throughout the world by individuals, businesses and recently by educators
- Includes lesson plans, worksheets, and other materials
- One day training available

staff member throughout the district. The course could eventually be available to the public, Johnson said.

Forty teachers will take the course Mondays from 4 to 7 p.m. beginning Jan.-April at Minico High School's media center. Teachers who take the course can earn college credit or in-service credit.

Nielsen has started applying the Covey material in her sixth-grade classroom at Big Valley Elementary School and found it has made a difference.

"It's not just a more curriculum to add to teacher's plates," she said. "And the kids are excited about it."

Students "learn honesty, integrity and respect and compassion. Knowing these habits enhances learning."

"Behavior problems often get in the way of academics," she said.

Carrie Carson also uses the material to enhance learning in her seventh-grade science class at West Minico Junior High School. Carson took the course on her own.

The students quickly picked up on the concepts. When an argument broke out one day outside class, one boy intervened and told those who were arguing to be proactive, Duff said.

"The group cooled down and walked away," he said.

Did you see the concepts as a West Minico teacher?

On the first day of school he has students fill out a card which asks what grade they want to receive in his class.

"I give them what it takes for a road map to success," he said.

"Minico High School teacher Cindy Fulcher uses the material in her classroom and at home with her family. She has taught her sons the importance of having what the book calls an emotional bank account.

"They know they can make deposits or withdrawals," she said. "If you have a good balance there's a little leeway. My boys recognize that with each other."

Crisis

Continued from C1

because of today's climate have substituted some of them with other safety training exercises.

Dispute

Continued from C1

report, said the hospital has a charity plan in place.

"We did \$147,948 worth of charity care and we had \$1,305,301 in bad debt and \$5,699,588 of Medicare and Medicaid contracts for our fiscal year ending on June 30, 1999," Drennan said. "We collect approximately 60 cents on the dollar for our services rendered. I don't know what else we can do, we're accepting everybody."

Among the coalition's recommendations is that Idaho enact legislation aimed at ensuring nonprofit hospitals fulfill their legal obligation to provide care regardless of a patient's ability to pay, and that further investigation be conducted into whether hospitals are meeting federal guidelines to serve limited-English speakers.

Finally, the groups want hospital officials to discuss with them

ing exercises.

Students learned Wednesday how to stay out of site and what to do if they encountered the gunman, he said.

"how to make their charity care programs more public, transparent and accessible."

But Idaho Hospital Association President Steve Millard disputed the premise of the report and its conclusions. He said it assumes billing decisions are always made before someone receives treatment, but in reality most such cases involve physician referrals or emergency room visits where payment is not an immediate priority.

"It seems like this study is very narrowly focused on a process or whether a hospital has a procedure in place for telling people about it," Millard said. "It's not something they would be publicizing. It would be something they would handle on a case-by-case basis."

The report grades 10 Idaho hospitals on patients' access to information about charity care. It said the findings were gathered through conversations with

Times-News education reporter Jennifer Sandmann can be reached at 733-0931, Ext. 241, or by e-mail at jsandmann@magicvalley.com.

hospital personnel and site visits, researchers made one round of visits and two rounds of telephone calls — one in English and one in Spanish — to each hospital surveyed, according to the report.

However, the findings did not include St. Luke's Regional Medical Center in Boise — the state's largest. And Millard said it ignored the millions of dollars in charity care that the hospitals provide in Idaho each year.

The report also gave a C-grade to Pocatello Regional Medical Center, D to St. Joseph Regional Medical Center in Lewiston, Saint Alphonsus and Gritman Medical Center in Moscow, D grades also to Bonner General Hospital in Sandpoint and Mercy Medical Center in Nampa; and F to the Idaho Falls Recovery Center and St. Mary's Hospital in Cottonwood.

Help

Continued from C1

are also asking for donations of coffins. Venezuela's supply will likely not last as death tolls range anywhere from 5,000 to 30,000.

Soorhees received word that her family was safe, but her cousin in Caracas is now sharing her small apartment with 10 relatives who lost everything in the slides.

"They have nothing," Soorhees said. "They even lost all the Christmas presents."

Despite Soorhees' efforts, local American Red Cross officials said Magic Valley residents have shown little interest in helping Venezuela's mudslide victims. However, national efforts to gather essentials have done well, she said.

But Soorhees said her own experience with the Magic Valley's generosity during a crisis tells her that the drought of donations won't last. Her daughter was

involved in an automobile accident that left the teenager in a coma for 29 days.

"People knew I was just too tired to come home and cook," Soorhees said. "People anonymously brought food by the house or hospital. It was wonderful."

Soorhees' anguish for her countrymen seems to be a universal trait with Venezuelans as relief efforts here are crossing all class lines. Just days ago, a bitter campaign over a new construction pitted rich against poor. But the tragedy that killed thousands has pulled together people of all classes.

"There are no social divisions or any other kind of divisions. This is just about helping people," said Venancio Rincon, a 40-year-old physician volunteering in the relief effort.

Scores of survivors waited in long lines Wednesday for drinking water on the beach at Macuto, many covering their faces to keep

out the stench of rotting corpses. Townspeople also burned trash and branches to help block out the smell.

It may never be known how many people died when avalanches of mud and boulders were unleashed by torrential rains on Dec. 15, causing down the mountain that separates the capital of Caracas from the Caribbean Sea.

But officials say the number is in the thousands, ranging anywhere from 5,000 to 30,000.



Workers at the Southern General Cemetery in Caracas buried flood victims Wednesday. Venezuela asked down the United States for 10,000 body bags in addition to the plea for foreign coffin donations.

Authorities warned of possible epidemics of hepatitis and cholera and urged hundreds of residents who have stayed behind to evacuate.

The Associated Press contributed to this report.

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MAGIC VALLEY WEST

Castleford School District looks into parent-training program

By Mickey Brown
Times-News correspondent

CASTLEFORD — The School Board on Tuesday heard a presentation on a 16-week Parent Training course from school counselor Geanne Choate. Choate recently attended a workshop facilitated by Brent Reinke, a former Twin Falls County commissioner. "It was one of the most valuable training programs I have been to," Choate said. "It finally puts the ball back in the parent's court. It is designed to cover even the simplest discipline prob-

School board meeting

The Castleford School Board its next meeting at 7 p.m. Jan. 18 inside the school library.

lems like a strong-willed child not willing to pick up their room to something as serious as involvement with gangs and drugs. It encompasses every aspect that a teen can run into and helps parents deal with the situation."

Choate said early results from the Parent Project in Minidoka County showed student expul-

sions dropping 85 percent in 1998-99 from the previous year. Juvenile court filings decreased 15 percent, Choate said.

Choate said she would like to see the program in place in Castleford by Jan. 10. Board members will review the project and will approve the program's teaching booklet and offer their suggestions prior to the start of the program.

Also Tuesday, Superintendent Kelly Murphey reported on the state accreditation findings. Murphey said the report indicated high enrollment numbers in the lower grades, but that the

numbers were still within state guidelines due to an adequate number of aides available to assist elementary teachers.

Murphey also spoke to the board about a proposal from Jon Jund, Buhl's athletic director, about a soccer cooperative program. He said Buhl plans to offer girls and boys high school soccer teams next season. Several players from Castleford played on the previous team and Jund invited Castleford to participate in the program to help support transportation costs.

"They (Buhl) would provide the uniforms and coaches," Murphey said. "They are looking

for some type of support on transportation and the amount would be negotiated. We're putting a pretty good chunk of dollars into athletics already, but on the positive side, it gives some other kids something to do."

The board agreed to look into the proposal and bring it back for discussion at future meetings.

In other business, the board approved a one-year teaching contract to Lore Freeman. Freeman will replace vocational/agriculture instructor Steve Hines who resigned in November.

The board unanimously

agreed to adopt a calendar that would have all schools in the region starting and ending the school year on the same days. Schools would also have the same spring and Christmas vacations.

The board approved the district to spend \$1,648 on the Advanced Regional Technical Education Coalition program through 2001.

The board reviewed a discipline demerit system the district plans to incorporate into the school's discipline policy.

Times-News correspondent Mickey Brown can be reached in Buhl at 543-4652.

Officials turn down petition to reconsider utilities merger

BOISE (AP) — The Idaho Public Utilities Commission has turned down petitions from two organizations to reconsider approving the PacifiCorp-Scottish Power merger agreement.

The city of Shelley and the Republican committee for Legislative District 32 in eastern Idaho wanted the commission to take another look at the first foreign acquisition of a United States utility.

The strongest opposition among the six states PacifiCorp serves was in eastern Idaho, where irrigators feared Scottish Power would raise their electrical bills.

The commission noted Shelley's petition failed to identify why the PUC order was unreasonable or unlawful. And it found the Republican committee did not identify any new evidence with which the commission has not reviewed.

In the same order, another petition from the Idaho Irrigation Pumpers Association for an increase in interveners' costs from \$9,846 to \$19,693 was approved.

The commission agreed the irrigators supplied a more detailed presentation of their petition for reconsideration.

Social worker pleads guilty to sex abuse

FARMINGTON, Utah (AP) — A licensed social worker who was employed by the Mormon church has admitted to sexually abusing a 13-year-old girl.

David Novak, 48, of West Point, pleaded guilty to second-degree felony sexual abuse of a child in 2nd District Court Tuesday.

In exchange for his plea, Deputy Davis County Attorney Bill McGuire dropped one of first-degree felony charges of aggravated sexual abuse of a child. The plea agreement will keep Novak out of prison, even though the recommended sentence on the second-degree felony charge is one to 15 years in prison. Second District Judge James Memmott could sentence Novak to a year in the Davis County Jail. Novak's attorney, Ken Brown, said he will argue for three years probation at a Feb. 1 sentencing. McGuire said he will not recommend jail time.

"It's adequate because of the facts of the case," McGuire said. Novak was accused of exposing himself repeatedly to the 13-year-old girl and touching her breasts. Novak was admitted through his lawyer, Kenneth taken "indecent liberties" with the girl during 1994 and 1995. He was employed by The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints as a counselor for sexually abused children.

Novak's victim was not a patient of LDS Services, the agency that employed him. Novak quit the job in December 1998 when the allegations surfaced. He is still licensed by the Utah Department of Occupational and Professional Licensing as a clinical social worker, said agency spokeswoman Kim Morris.

Morris said she could not say whether Novak was under investigation. She did say that a felony plea would not automatically mean Novak is no longer employed. "This is an entirely different legal process," Morris said. Tuesday's court proceedings did not indicate whether Novak is employed or still working as a counselor.



Harry W. Shoup stands outside the entrance of the tunnel into Cheyenne Mountain, Colo., earlier this month as he is congratulating employees drives in. Shoup is the man responsible for the idea of using the military's NORAD radar to track Santa Claus on his trip around the globe on Christmas Eve.

NORAD's program to track Santa celebrates 44-year tradition in 1999

DENVER (AP) — Col. Harry W. Shoup was about to begin his work day at the nation's nuclear war battle station at Ent Air Force Base in Colorado Springs when the emergency-only "red phone" rang.

Picking up the receiver, Shoup heard a tiny voice greet him and begin to recite his Christmas wish list. "He went on a little bit, and he takes a breath, then says, 'Hey, you're not Santa,'" Shoup recalled.

Realizing an explanation of the boy's misguided call would be lost, Shoup summoned a deputy, who voiced and replied, "Ho, ho, ho! Yes, I am Santa Claus. Have you been a good boy?"

Satisfied, the youngster finished his list and added, "And Santa, could you bring my mommy something very nice because she's been very good."

It's been 44 years since the youngster called a "Santa Hotline" number listed in a newspaper ad and reached Shoup, giving birth to an annual military program to track Santa Claus' Christmas Eve trek across North America.

The program was launched by the Central Air Defense Command and, since 1957, has been operated by its successor, the North American Aerospace Defense Command, a joint U.S. and Canadian operation that

Santa alert
NORAD's Santa tracking hotline active only Dec. 24, 7:15-4:15, 3980. The Web site address: <http://www.norad.com>

monitors manmade objects in space from deep inside Cheyenne Mountain. A Web site was added to the program in 1997.

Astronaut Sally Ride and a Web site called space.com will help track Santa from tonight to 3 a.m. MST on Christmas Day.

In 1955, as the Cold War escalated, Shoup, now 82, managed the operations center, a staff of eight duty officers and dozens of support personnel.

"I told my staff to keep this in mind. They're (the Russians) are coming and we've got to watch out for them," Shoup said.

At least one of Shoup's duty officers thought the stress had taken its toll on their commander, when he arrived to hear Shoup say, "Ho, ho, ho" into the emergency phone.

"He just looked at me. I could tell by the expression he made, I was concerned for just a second," Shoup recalled.

Shoup said he got the boy's mother on the telephone, explained that the boy had reached the battle staff position of the commander in chief and

discovered the youngster obtained the number from a newspaper ad promoting a department store Santa hotline.

As soon as he hung up, the phone rang again. This time, it was a young girl with her Christmas list, so Shoup began his Santa routine again.

"Here I am saying, 'Ho, ho, ho, I am Santa. The crew was looking at me like I had lost it,'" Shoup said.

He quickly set up another phone and assigned an officer to take phone calls while working to fix the problem. Soon, the staff embraced the idea of playing Santa Claus.

On Christmas Eve, one of the dozen Women's Air Corps members in charge of updating a 60-by-80 foot glass map of North America drew Santa Claus and his sleigh over the North Pole.

Word of Santa tracking reached the media and in 1956, without publicizing it, the calls continued and COMAD employees continued to answer questions from inquisitive youngsters.

Through the years, thousands of children and children at heart call NORAD each year and talk to volunteers who give updates on Santa's whereabouts.

In 1955, Shoup estimates the hotline received about 50 calls per day.

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Bliss official gives talk about computer system

By Dare Jensen
Times-News correspondent

BLISS — Superintendent Kevin Lancaster reported on a computer system that filters unwanted material from the Internet at Monday's School Board meeting.

Lancaster said the school will need an additional 40 feet of counter space to hold the computer equipment and estimated the project will cost about \$1,000. The board asked Lancaster to look into the cost of materials and labor and report back to the board.

Also Monday, the School Board reviewed the district's Mission and Beliefs Statement. The district's mission is to "ensure a safe secure environment which provides quality educational opportunities for students, challenging them to become life long achievers and contributing citizens." The district's beliefs include maintaining classroom discipline, practicing basic values, appreciating cultural diversity, communicating effectively, teaching basic skills and job skills and

helping students to become "responsible, productive, informed citizens."

Other School Board business: The board approved a request from Idaho Power to be paid before starting work on service changes at the school.

Principal Robby Sauer told the board the attendance committee will meet in January. Students who haven't met the 90 percent attendance requirement will be required to meet with the committee to determine their credit eligibility.

The board awarded a \$37,760 bid to Glitzen Electric of Buhl for electrical improvements at the school.

The board voted to participate in the Advanced Regional Technical Education Coalition program through 2001. The board received a thank you letter from the Brizendine family for a \$10 season family ticket to sports events.

Times-News correspondent Dare Jensen can be reached in Bliss at 837-6211.

Prisoners make generous donations for Christmas

BOISE (AP) — The Salvation Army is accustomed to being in the holidays, when people tend to dig deeper and give more. But imprisoned men sending out the six weeks' wages is something else entirely.

This week the Salvation Army's Boise corps received two checks from Idaho Department of Corrections inmates. One was for \$96, the other for \$80.

"These donations were gathered in hopes that it will help in your endeavors of helping people in our community," said the letter accompanying the checks. "In the spirit of giving and sharing, it is our hope to encourage healing and support of all concerned. We all have much to be thankful for and are appreciative of the opportunity to be of service to others."

It was signed, "Inmates at Idaho Correctional Industries."

"For them to be able to contribute like this, basically anonymously, that's what really touched my heart," Salvation Army spokesman Rick Hempsher said.

The checks and another one for about \$110 that went to the Boise Rescue Mission — came from workers at Correctional Industries, a business operated without tax support by the Idaho Department of Correction that

employs about 450 inmates in Pocatello, Boise, Orofino and St. Anthony.

Inmates make furniture and metal equipment, upholster furniture, produce signs and banners, manufacture license plates and perform other work. Revenues go toward equipment and operating expenses, with a portion going into community projects.

The work teaches job and life skills and gives well-behaved inmates something to do. Wages range from about 25 cents an hour to little more than a dollar.

"When you think that the average wage is 65 cents an hour, it really puts it in perspective," Department of Correction spokesman Mark Carnopis said.

Sam Cantergiani, 38, is serving time for grand theft by possession. He makes 93 cents an hour as a clerical worker for Correctional Industries' upholstery shop, doing data entry, making calls and performing other tasks.

It was Cantergiani's idea to collect the donations. In all, nearly three dozen inmates contributed. Most gave about \$5, except Cantergiani gave \$10.

"A lot of us have spent time taking from the community," he said. "Now we want to give back."

Bill would require police to record racial stats

SALT LAKE CITY (AP) — State Rep. Duane Bourdeaux proposes requiring police to record the race of all motorists they stopped during reporting practices.

Bourdeaux, D-Salt Lake City, said he was spurred by numerous complaints from minorities who say they have been stopped because of their color — not their driving.

"I've had problems personally," said Bourdeaux, who is black. He met with more than a dozen law enforcement and minority representatives Tuesday in a two-hour session at the Capitol to discuss a first draft of the bill.

"My goal is not to strike out against law enforcement," Bourdeaux said. "But there is

truly a perception in the minority communities that this is happening, and the only way to get this information is to have a standardized reporting process."

Under the draft legislation, police agencies would be required to submit annual reports to the Attorney General's Office and the Governor's Commission on Criminal and Juvenile Justice detailing the racial makeup of every traffic stop.

Failure to provide information would result in the state withholding funds from the offending agency.

Utah minorities have long held that police unfairly target them.

But whether racial profiling is occurring is difficult to determine because little data is kept on what led to a traffic stop and no information is available if a ticket is not issued."

Twin Falls Canal Company NOTICE OF REGULAR ANNUAL STOCKHOLDER'S MEETING

YOU ARE HEREBY NOTIFIED that the regular annual meeting of the stockholders of the Twin Falls Canal Company will be held on Tuesday, the 11th day of January, 2000. The meeting will be called to order by the Directors at 9:00 a.m. in the Fire Area Auditorium at College of Southern Idaho in Twin Falls.

A Director from District 1 (Purgough/Hansen/Embrey) will be elected for a three-year term and a Director from District 5 (Castleford) will be elected for a three-year term.

Petitions of Candidacy for Director must be filed by December 1, 1999. Notice is given that a stock vote will be taken on a By-Law amendment that permits the Company to take the necessary action to insure that stockholder's discharges are in compliance with applicable water quality standards. An affirmative vote of 2/3 of the stock and proxies voted is required for passage.

Copies of the full text of the proposed amendments are available for stockholders to review during regular business hours at the Company Office, 357 Sixth Avenue, West, Twin Falls.

Other business will also be transacted. There will be reports from the Company's General Manager, auditors and lawyers. There will also be reports concerning operation and maintenance efforts, 2000 water supply and quality issues, Snake River Aquifer studies, the Endangered Species Act, the SREB, and other matters of interest. The corporate books will close for the transfer of stock on December 31, 1999. The polls shall be open at the office of the Company at 357 Sixth Avenue West, Twin Falls, Idaho between the hours of 12:00 noon and 6:00 pm on January 11, 2000. Proxies shall be filed with the Company's Assistant Secretary at the Company office on or before January 7, 2000. DATED this 18th day of November, 1999. TWIN FALLS CANAL COMPANY, DORIS V. FINN, Assistant Secretary

CHECK IT OUT! Petrie's Surplus

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WE WILL BE OPEN THURS., DEC. 23 & FRI., DEC. 24 FROM 11:00-5:00
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Environmental health fund sparks controversy

KELLOGG (AP) - For the Silver Valley People's Action Coalition, a \$25,000 grant from the National Catholic Campaign for Human Development offers a chance to continue helping people with environmental health problems.

For some northern Idaho Catholics and Shoshone Natural Resources Coalition members, the grant is inappropriate at best.

Coalition Director Barbara Miller said the grant, which the group received last month, will go toward creation of its community lead-health project as well as training and leadership development.

It also helps pay for work by Dr. John Rosen of the Montifiore Medical Center in Bronx, N.Y., who is assisting with the project's creation.

"Basically the project will help get the diagnosis and treatment for people and children who are continuing to have their health affected by the environment, by the lead and heavy metals in and outside the Superfund site," Miller said. "There have been millions spent and years of studies done but actual health intervention, the treatment end, has not really ever been fulfilled."

But Miller said the purpose of the Catholic Campaign for Human Development projects corresponds with the mission of the coalition - to help others help themselves and improve overall health and the environment.

"All of the work we do falls within the precepts of the church," she said, "which is to be out there and do good and be good stewards of the Earth."

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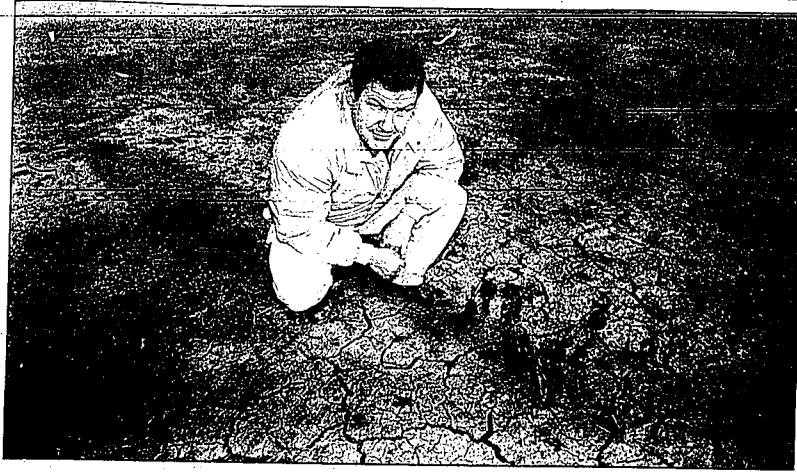
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Farmer Chuck Nichols is alarmed by the drying up of Kaweah Delta Water Conservation ponds and other signs of drought near Hanford, Calif. Farmers worry that a dry December might lead to water shortages next year.

Dry December doesn't warm hearts

Farmers wonder if this year will be the end of a near-record run of wet seasons

FRESNO, Calif. (AP) - California farmers are nervously watching the skies this winter as one dry day follows another, hoping this year isn't the end of the state's near-record run of wet weather.

For five years, the state has been wallowing in one wet winter after another. The snow pack has been high, rainfall has been abundant and the reservoirs have been brimming with the precious resource.

For since the early 19th century has the state experienced such a string of wet years. But the rainfall numbers so far this year indicate the state's water supply. And things in the south-east may soon more closely resemble a modest supper, if not a famine.

"Our numbers this morning are about 75 percent of normal for the Northern Sierra precipitation," the state's chief climatologist Bill Mork said Monday. "That's where we have our main gathering reservoirs - Oroville, Shasta Dam, Folsom Reservoir, and the reservoir on the Yuba River."

Those reserves, along with several others in Northern California, represent about 43 percent of the statewide water supply. And things in the southern part of the state look even worse.

"The average (rainfall) probably drops to less than 25 percent of normal in the southern Sierra," Mork said. "Up and down the Sierra, we're about 30 percent of average for this time of year."

The San Joaquin Valley also shares the dryness - the area around Stockton has recorded 2.17 inches of rain since July 1, which is 48 percent of normal; Fresno's dust was stirred by just 51 inches, or 18 percent of normal, and Bakersfield is at 36 percent of normal with 57 inches of rain.

"When you consider the snow pack in parts of the Sierra Nevada is just 29 percent of normal and things begin to take a decidedly dreary turn."

"That's a typical kind of reaction to the La Nina pattern," Mork said. Scientists say La Nina, El Niño's cool, dry sister, should mean another drier than usual winter for Southern and Central California and the Southwestern United States in general.

If the dry spell stretches through December, there is a 25 percent chance the state will experience a "critical dry year."

That means runoff flowing through the Sacramento drainage area this year - including the upper Sacramento, the Feather, the Yuba and the American rivers - is among the lowest 15 percent of years recorded by the state.

California's last critical dry year was 1994. The state suffered through six years of drought from 1987 to 1992, enjoyed a wet year in 1993, was parched again in 1994, and has been wet since.

"I have been hearing from growers that they are getting a little nervous about it," said Bonnie Fernandez of the California Wheat Commission. "If there is no rain you have to pay money for water," she said. "For every irrigation you put on it costs more money and that makes it more expensive to grow a crop."

If rain is short, farmers will be forced to rely more heavily on ground water tapped from wells rather than snow pack runoff. "A dry year puts more of a strain on our ability to irrigate next summer," said Chuck Nichols, owner of several thousand acres of cotton, wheat and pistachios near Hanford.

"We have to pump more ground water, ground water levels decline, so it costs more to pump so we get less water," he said. "And because everybody's pumping, we have to make due with a smaller water flow."

And with growing concerns that farming is short-changed when compared with environmental and urban uses, many growers are on edge this winter. "Specifically in the western

San Joaquin Valley, some farmers are having shortage problems. If you see a couple of dry years, you'll see more widespread problems," said Dave Kranz, of the California Farm Bureau Federation.

But Nichols and his fellow farmers aren't ready to abandon their fields just yet. Many growers are taking advantage of the dry patch to get their wheat in the ground, plow under last season's cotton crops and generally attend to field maintenance that is hampered by wet weather.

And both farmers and climatologists, knocking on wood, point out that two of California's wettest months are ahead. "It's been very dry and dusty," Nichols said. "Certainly it's a concern, but a good wet month in January and February can undo what's been done so far."

Another bright spot is the fact that the state's storage in the state's 155 major reservoirs is 15 percent above average for this time of year, with about 25 million acre-feet of water banked. An acre-foot can supply a family of four for a year.

"Now that can get used up pretty fast in a dry year, but it'll definitely help," said Maurice Roos, the state's chief hydrologist. "Also, we've got 70 percent of the precipitation season to go, so it's a little premature to start talking drought."

After tough times, town tries 'com' name change

PORTLAND, Ore. (AP) - Halfway needs a whole lot of help: Businesses are leaving. Logging is virtually dead. The gold mines closed long ago.

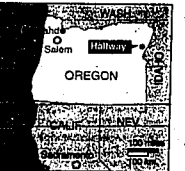
An entrepreneur from Philadelphia has a plan to save Halfway, a hard-luck community of 365 people. The idea is to rebrand the northeastern Oregon town to Half.com, which happens to be the name of the businessman's online commerce startup.

The Halfway City Council is hoping to get a lot of publicity and tourists by becoming the first city with ".com" attached to its name. The entrepreneur is hoping the publicity will flood his Web site with business.

"We have a slump," said city planner Parti Huff. "Half.com is our ticket to where we need to be."

Last week, the seven-member council voted unanimously to enter into final negotiations with Half.com for the name change.

Joshua Kopelman, the 28-year-old president of Half.com, has proffered several incentives to



entice the people of Halfway, including offering Halfway residents stock options in Half.com.

"There are a lot of possibilities for helping the town, for helping their economy," Kopelman said in a telephone interview from his office in a suburban Philadelphia, Pa.

Kopelman has also suggested holding a raffle at the local Baker County fair with his company paying off half the mortgage of the winner.

"Did we do this to get attention? Sure we did," he said. "But

there's also a benefit for the town economy."

Surrounded by snow-covered mountains and streams, Halfway might seem like paradise. But the boom-and-bust cycles of Western industry have ravaged Halfway's economy.

Halfway was founded in the early 1800s at a spot near the Idaho line midway between the towns of Pine and Cornucopia - hence Halfway's name.

"It has survived the decline of mining, logging and ranching - barely."

"Businesses on main street are closing down," said Huff. "We need some cottage industry."

Enter Kopelman. He wanted to create an Internet commerce site where he would connect sellers with buyers - each representing half the deal.

That's about as detailed as he's willing to get until the business is up and running next month.

Kopelman has startup experience. Eight years ago, he co-founded Infonautics Inc., an Internet research service based

in Wayne, Pa. The company's stock has languished on Wall Street, but its Company Sleuth Web research service, introduced last year, is popular with investors.

He is leaving Infonautics at the end of the year to devote himself - full time - to Half.com.

Kopelman decided a unique way to promote the new online business would be for some town with the word "half" in its name to adopt the name Half.com. While searching the Web for candidates, he spotted Halfway.

When Kopelman sent someone from his company to Halfway to broach the idea, residents were suspicious. The council eventually was persuaded that Halfway and Half.com were made for each other.

Before Halfway becomes Half.com, city council members will see what kind of services Kopelman's Web site will offer when it is launched next month.

"We're not going to sign until we see what the product is going to be," said Huff.

Mayor admits to writing letter to voters praising himself

IVINS, Utah (AP) - Mayor Chris Blake has admitted he wrote an anonymous letter telling registered voters they should pick the candidates who support the community vision which was developed under the mayor's leadership.

The letter, which purported to be from a resident of the St. George area, was sent to 1,200 voters just days before the November municipal election.

"The letter... was authored by myself and prepared and distributed by myself and my family under my direction," Blake said

Tuesday in an affidavit.

The four-page letter, nicknamed the "Lion King" letter, draws comparisons between the city and the Disney movie by declaring the city "Fridge Rock" and labeling some residents as "hyenas."

"Find out which council candidates truly support the community vision which was developed under the mayor's leadership," the letter said.

Blake said he sent the letter

anonymously to make people take more notice.

"This letter makes you think," Blake said. "If you know who wrote it then you throw it away."

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A Corral West Exclusive ----- **\$1499**

Wrangler-Brushpopper Shirts - **\$3995**

Western Flannel Shirts **\$1999 to \$2999**

Outback Trading Co. Oilskin
Jackets and Dusters **\$2000 off**

Kids Cowboy Boots - Start at **\$2499**

Montana Silversmiths Kowboy Kids **\$1200**

On the Future Family

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CLOSED CHRISTMAS DAY • SUN 10 AM - 9 PM

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COMMUNITY

Community Editor: Pat Marantonia - 733-0931, Ext. 288

Serving the Magic Valley

THANK YOU LETTERS

Interfaith volunteer group thanks people who give

The members of the board of directors of the Interfaith Volunteer Caregivers of the Magic Valley extends a hearty thank you to the many supporters of the IVC. Thank you to the many who have given financial support and thank you to the many who have so lovingly volunteered their time to help those in need. You have made life more bearable for many of the frail elderly, chronically ill and disabled in our community. We exist in the Magic Valley because of your efforts and the grace of God. May you be richly blessed throughout the new year.

Members of the IVC Board of Directors are: Tom Mahan, president; Helen Arnold, vice president; Rev. Jim Friess, treasurer; Joan Holloway, acting secretary; Marcie Donner, grant advisor; Carol Clark, grant writer; Nora Wells, director; and Dr. Keith Davis, David Farnes, Chuck L'Harrison, Emmett Harrison and Phil Grover, board members.

NORA WELLS
Director, Interfaith Volunteer Caregivers of the Magic Valley
Twin Falls

Grant provides broadcast students with equipment

Robert Stuart Junior High, on behalf of the broadcasting class and the seventh-grade team, would like to forward a heartwarming thank you to Mrs. Pam Hartley and the Florence M. Gardner Charitable Trust. Their generous grant provided the school with an avenue to purchase digital video equipment. Students, through the use of the new digital equipment, will learn to become clear communicators and quality producers in the broadcasting class, as well as providing a means for teachers and students to capture special class moments and document class projects.

In addition, Robert Stuart Junior High School would like to extend a thank you to Kevin Young and the rest of the staff at Mel Quail's Electronics Inc. for their assistance in choosing equipment that can be used for years to come.

ALEXANDER E. FAWCETT
Broadcasting Class
Team 7-1 Teachers
Robert Stuart Junior High School
Twin Falls

Family appreciates good care by funeral home

Recently, we had another death in our family which was handled by Parke's Funeral Home. Our stepfather's death was very unexpected, leaving my grieving mother unprepared not only for his death but also the financial burden of the funeral expenses.

Mr. Parke arrived at her home, and his first concern was for her physical and mental health. He is a caring and understanding person who was very helpful in rendering excellent services within his means. He didn't try to talk the family members into any extra added expenses we didn't need. We have dealt with funeral directors in the past that had no compassion and didn't care about our needs or financial situation.

Parke's Magic Valley Funeral Home went above and beyond what would have been expected from any funeral home. We

would like to take this opportunity to thank them for making this sorrowful time in our lives a little easier.

**WANDA THOMPSON
SHARON CLEZIE**
Twin Falls

Adopt-a-Pet coverage helps find homes for animals

On behalf of all the animals who find their way to the animal shelter looking for a home, we would like to thank you for sponsoring a pet in The Times-News Adopt-a-Pet. We have experienced tremendous success with this advertising. Our adoptions have increased due to this program that you make possible. The animals are the real winners in this case. We hope that you will spread the word to any other businesses who might participate.

Thank you for making the shelter a better place. Happy holidays.

Washing tails and purring cats,
LAURIE SIMONDS
Animal Shelter Staff
Twin Falls

Support of event brings community together

The Kimberly High School Ski/Snowboard Club would like to thank the following businesses for their support of the Third Annual Down Home Christmas Celebration: Fred Meyer, Little Red Hen, Smith's, Albertson's, Eddie's Bread, The Homestead, Everybody's Business, Coca-Cola, First Security Bank, Mountain Man Nur & Excite Co., Christian Book Store, Kurt's Pharmacy, The Oneeek Springs Plant Co., The Cookie Basket and Magic Mountain Ski Resort.

With your support, this event not only brought the community together but also helped support this year's ski trips. Thank again for all your help.

JEAN SHAWVER
Advisor, Ski/Snowboard Club
Kimberly High School
Kimberly

Support, contributions make 'Hoedown' a success

We would like to respond with a very special thank you to all the wonderful people in our community who helped make the St. Nicholas Harvest Hoedown such a success.

We appreciate all those who brought traffic and door tickets, made generous donations for the auction and raffie, joined us for the evening or donated in any other way.

We are grateful for those who kept us in their prayers and prayed that we would have a successful evening. May the Lord bless you and those you love and may you have a wonderful Christmas holiday.

JANNIE MCMANUS
Harvest Hoedown Committee
Staff, Students and Parents
Rupert

Employer serves Christmas dinner to employees

We would like to thank Lamb Weston for the prime rib Christmas dinner that was served to us during our shift. The service was exceptional and the atmosphere provided a meal filled with holiday cheer.

Lamb Weston provides good jobs and a team spirit any business would be proud of. They not only support their employees but also the community.

Your proud employees,

ALLEN CATIERS
For Line 1, Swing Shift
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Twin Falls

Business is good supporter of Boy Scouts

The Boy Scouts and leaders of Troop 99 in Hollister would like to publicly express our thanks to Pat Florence and all the great employees of Independent Meat. Their generous support of the scouting program is greatly appreciated.

Scouting plays an important role in helping our young men become good husbands, fathers, and citizens. This program would be impossible without the support of family-owned businesses like Independent Meat.

Thank you,
HEBER LOUGHMILLER
Twin Falls

Store demonstrates meaning of Christmas

With all the commercialism, this time of the year, it is a blessing to know there is a business in this town that still knows the true meaning of Christmas.

Recently, it was brought to my attention that a woman was soon to have surgery and she did not have a bed to recover in. After calling several of the businesses, I reached Leroy at Furniture and Appliance Outlet. He not only donated a bed and frame to this family in need, he also delivered it.

So when you are out shopping this year, remember the generosity of this store. I cannot thank you enough. May God Bless you and your business.

VIKIE EACKER
Twin Falls

Twin Falls man has raised more than \$9,000 for MDA

On Dec. 4, KTFI and Magic Bowl, teamed up with the Muscular Dystrophy Association at the annual MDA Santa Bowl. A grand total of \$11,000 was raised this year.

Roy Home has been a very special contributor to the Santa Bowl and has raised more than \$70,000 these last eight years.

This year, Roy's raised \$9,000 for those we serve in this area.

Because of the support given by Roy and the Twin Falls community, MDA can continue to maintain clinics and support groups, send local children to MDA summer camp, provide needed medical equipment to area patients and give dollars to help find cures. More than 76 percent of funds assists MDA patients, 6.1 percent goes to administrative costs.

Our heartfelt thanks and appreciation goes out to our donors that contributed to the grand total, our sponsors Vern Latin of KTFI-AM and Joe McClure of Magic Bowl and to Roy Home.

HEBER AUFREY
District Director, MDA
Boise

The Letters of Thanks column will publish letters of up to 150 words from:

* Organizations thanking contributors or supporters.

* Individuals thanking public agencies and businesses for extraordinary services.

If you would like to purchase a classified ad to express gratitude of a personal rather than public nature, call The Times-News Customer Service department at 733-0931, Ext. 270.

Each of both prizes will not need to be present to win.

Auction and raffle prizes will include items from several area businesses. Funds raised from the party will go into Magic Valley Rehabilitation Services' general fund to support employment, training and personal development programs available to people with disabilities in South Central Idaho, Magic Valley Rehabilitation says.

Eastern Star hosts official visit

RUPERT - The Rupert Chapter 39 Order of the Eastern Star hosted an official visit by the Worthy Grand Matron of Idaho, Fernie Clark Studebaker of Thyee, and the Worthy Grand Patron of Idaho, Robert Gisham of Boise on Oct. 28.

The event began with a luncheon hosted by the Rupert Past Matrons Club at the First Christian Church. Following lunch, chapter officers attended a school of instruction at the Masonic Temple. The evening meeting began with Worthy Matron Melba Merkey and Worthy Patron Joe Merkey introducing Studebaker and Gisham.

Introductions followed for past grand matrons: Erna McFarland of Paul, Darlene Shiers of Pocatello, Joyce Roland of Filer and Maxine Machamer of Twin Falls. Past grand patrons, Walt Culbertson of Pocatello and Virgil Fenton of Paul.

Studebaker appointed Melba Merkey, warden; third row: Virgil Fenton, associate patron; Electa Esther Ketterling and appointed Joe Merkey as Assistant Grand Sentinel to Grand Sentinel Harlow Kibbey for Grand Chapter in Couer d'Alene in June.

The grand matron's honor station was chaplain and Pamela Day, chaplain of Rupert, was presented a gift and invited to attend an honor luncheon at Grand Chapter in Couer d'Alene. The grand patron's honor station was Ruth and Ruth Freeman receiving the gift and invitation to the honor luncheon, the chapter reports.

A skit was presented by Peggy Hess, Pamela Day and Linda Osborn. Accompanied by Lezin Miller, tribute was paid the worthy grand matron. Erna McFarland was surprised with a dozen red roses and group singing for her birthday. Grand officers attending the meeting were Grand Marshal Carolyn Patrick of Emmett, Grand Electa Jeanne Huth of Pocatello, Grand Electa Esther Ketterling of Twin Falls, Grand Electa Maxine McCracken of Twin Falls and Grand Sentinel Harlow Kibbey of Boise.

Virgil Fenton of Paul and Martha Klink of Burley are grand representatives of the organization. Fenton represents Burley, Klink represents Idaho and Klink represents Kansas in Idaho.

Worthy matrons and patrons from other chapters, including Izzetta Hardin of Filer, Ann Ridgely of Twin Falls, Carolyn Patrick of Emmett, Milt Brooks of Burley, Lucille Whittier of Paul, Walt Culbertson of Pocatello and Don Jones of Boise. Grand escorts were Richard Studebaker, Bob McCracken, Wanda Kibbey and Lucille Culbertson. Grand chapter committee members were Marthana Sabin of Paul, general chairman of fraternal relations; Nancy Rose of Pocatello, general chairman of the worthy grand matrons special abused children project; Linda Meuleman of Rupert, general chairman of publicity; Margie Norlyuk of Paul, chairman of District 6; and Elaine Gordon, gift room.

"Golden Stars," 50-year members were introduced: Erna McFarland of Paul, Olga Fisher of Rupert and Martha Klink of Burley.

Youth and Masonic leaders were Robert Meuleman, worshipful master of Rupert Masonic Lodge; Joe Merkey, high priest of Rupert Chapter 22 Royal Arch Masons; Peggy Hess, guardian of Burley-Rupert Bethel 18 Jobs Daughters; and Olga Fisher, past grand guardian of the International Order of Jobs Daughters.



Officers of the Rupert Chapter 39 Order of the Eastern Star are, from left to right, front row: Fernie Studebaker, worthy grand matron; Melba Merkey, worthy matron; Joe Merkey, worthy patron; and Robert Gisham, worthy grand patron; second row: Peggy Hess, associate conductor; Vada Shufeldt, Esther Janet Annis, treasurer; Olga Fisher, Martha; Linda Meuleman, conductress; and James Downs, warden; third row: Virgil Fenton, associate patron; Pamela Day, Lucille Miller, organist protest; Ruth Freeman, Ruth; Martha Klenzie, secretary; Lucilla Downs, marshal; Robert Meuleman, sentinel; and fourth row: Jeanne Huth, Adah protest; Elaine Gordon, Electa protest; Pamela Day, chaplain; and Linda Osborn, associate matron.



With the past grand officers of Idaho, Rupert Order leaders are, from left to right, front row: Fernie Studebaker, worthy grand matron; Melba Merkey, worthy matron; Joe Merkey, worthy patron; and Robert Gisham, worthy grand patron; second row: Joyce Roland, Darlene Shiers, Maxine Machamer, and Erna McFarland, all past grand matrons; and Walt Culbertson, past grand patron; and back row: Bonnie Fenton, grand representative; Virgil Fenton, past grand patron; and Martha Klink, grand representative.



Worthy Grand Matron Fernie Studebaker makes an official visit to the Rupert Chapter 39 on Oct. 28. Grand officers are, from left to right, front row: Studebaker; Melba Merkey, worthy matron; Joe Merkey, worthy patron; and Robert Gisham, worthy grand patron; second row: Maxine McCracken, grand warden; Esther Ketterling, grand Electa; Carolyn Patrick, grand marshal; and Jeanne Huth, grand Electa; and in back Harlow Kibbey, grand Electa sentinel.

MVRS hosts Millennium Party

TWIN FALLS - Magic Valley Rehabilitation Services will host a Millennium Party, with the theme "Expanding Horizons... For People With Abilities..." from 8 p.m. to 1 a.m. Dec. 31 at the Weston Plaza on Blue Lakes Blvd. N., in Twin Falls.

How to get tickets
For more information or to purchase tickets to the Millennium Party, call 733-4152 or 733-4114 or 733-4154.
request by fax to 735-1141 or 734-1514.

chance at two grand raffle prizes. A grand prize will be awarded earlier in the evening. At midnight, a second grand prize of \$250 will be awarded, but winners

FOCUS ON PEOPLE

Jess graduates from Tech Institute in Boise
Stacy Jess, daughter of Tim and Trudy Jess, of King Hill, graduated from ITT Technical Institute in Boise Nov. 24. She received an associate's

degree in applied science for attending its business technology and administration program. She has accepted a job at Hewlett Packard in Boise, her family says. Jess is a 1998 graduate from Glenns Ferry High School.

Concordia selects Halley resident as cheerleader
Jessica Schwartzenberger of Halley, was selected for the Concordia University Bulldog cheerleaders squad in Seward, Neb., for the 1999-2000 basketball season.

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The Circulation Department will observe regular weekend hours. The News Department will remain open by calling 733-0931, extension 234.

Because of the holiday season, The Times-News Classified will have early deadlines as follows:

- Ads running Saturday, December 25 will deadline at 10:30 a.m. Dec. 24.**
- Ads running Sunday, December 26 will deadline at 11:00 a.m. Dec. 24.**
- Ads running Monday, December 27 will deadline at Noon Dec. 24.**

The Times-News office will close at 2:00 Friday, December 24.

We apologize for any inconvenience this may cause our valued customers. The Times-News wishes everyone a safe holiday.

The Times-News

WORLD

Children in Kosovo trade in their war toys

PRISTINA, Yugoslavia (AP) — Hundreds of ethnic Albanian children traded war toys for teddy bears, crabs and dolls on Wednesday in a pre-Christmas giveaway intended to promote peace in Kosovo.

About 300 children handed in the plastic rifles, guns and knives — long popular in Kosovo. In exchange, the Save the Children charity handed out toys intended to promote peace — or at least more innocent play.

"Our children have to learn that the war is over," said Nerimane Kamberi, 32, accompanied by his 4-year-old son, Bind. "As the adults have given up their weapons, they have to give them, too."

Bind Kamberi turned over four plastic pistols, one play rifle and a huge toy knife before happily trotting away with a bag laden with little cars, a small basketball, a toy piano and books.

Not all the children brought toy weapons. One boy brought a rifle and pistol bullets while another brought a real pistol that works with dummy cartridges.

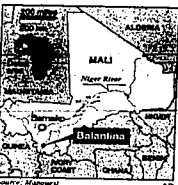
NATO peacekeepers, who entered Kosovo in June after a 78-day air war, supervising the delivery. They said they were not shocked that children showed up with deadly weapons.

"Two months ago, during a similar festivity, a child and his par-



An ethnic Albanian boy hands over his toy gun in trade for a more peaceful toy such as a teddy bear, car, truck or doll Wednesday in Pristina, Kosovo. About 300 children handed in plastic rifles, guns and knives to the Save the Children charity in an event intended to promote peace — or at least more innocent play.

ents brought an anti-tank rocket launcher," said Lance Cpl. Vince King, a British peacekeeper. Some members of the former



a broken metal chair. It's not that the 1,350 villagers don't care about the future. Mallan Sidibe, the village chief, ticks off their needs: a dispensary, a mud-brick school, a water

Kosovo Liberation Army also delivered toys to the children. Later, some with tears in their eyes, they watched a concert held

for the children. "It's time for us, and our children, to start a real life," said Naser Ramadani, 32.

Russian, Chechen troops bombard rebels in Grozny

DUBA-YURT, Russia — Russian forces trying to wipe out rebels entrenched in the ruins of the Chechen capital Grozny intensely bombarded the smoke-enshrouded city on Wednesday.

The rebels, firing from trenches and the hulks of buildings, fought back against heavily armored troops encircling the city.

Meanwhile, a pro-Moscow Chechen militia of about 1,500 fighters has entered Grozny, said a spokeswoman for militia commander Bisdan Gantamirov.

"Within seven days, Grozny will come under our control," the spokeswoman, Alizan Sultanova, was quoted as saying by the Interfax news agency.

Russia has taken control of most of Chechnya since sending in ground troops in September to wipe out Islamic militants blamed for bomb blasts across Russia that killed 300 people. But the rebels are strong in Grozny, and the mountains — both areas where they severely bloodied Russian forces in the 1994-96 separatist war.

Sri Lankan president aims to intensify war against rebels

COLOMBO, Sri Lanka — President Chandrika Kumaratunga returned to office for a second term Wednesday, determined to press on with her strategy of stepping up the war against the Tamil rebels while pushing through a peace plan for greater Tamil self-rule.

The Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam have been fighting for an independent homeland in the island's northeast since 1983. The war has cost 61,000 lives.

With one eye bandaged from a bomb attack four days earlier, the president urged Tamils to join the struggle against terrorism, at one point breaking into tears.

Workers finish roof repairs at Chernobyl's sarcophagus

KIEV, Ukraine — The unstable concrete and steel sarcophagus covering the ruined reactor at the Chernobyl nuclear power plant

World in brief

has been strengthened, officials said Wednesday.

The structure, called the Shelter, was hastily built after the April 1986 explosion and fire at the reactor, the world's worst nuclear accident. The shaky beams supporting the sarcophagus' roof and the cracks in its walls raised fears that the structure might collapse, releasing a cloud of radioactive dust.

Indonesian earthquake hurts hundreds, kills at least four

KARYASARI, Indonesia — Prightened residents of Indonesia's main island moved their beds out onto the street Tuesday night, planning to spend the night outdoors after an earthquake killed four people.

The magnitude-6.4 quake, which hit the island of Java on Tuesday night, also injured about 200 people and severely damaged hundreds of homes. Many villagers spent Wednesday searching for anything that could be salvaged.

Indonesia is prone to earthquakes because of its location on the Pacific "Ring of Fire," a line of volcanically active areas stretching from the western coast of the Americas across to Japan, Southeast Asia and the South Pacific.

China plans to minimize Y2K problems with 3-day holiday

BEIJING — China has ordered a three-day New Year's holiday and prohibited foreign ships from entering Chinese ports for two days to minimize disruptions from possible Y2K computer failures, the state-run China Daily reported Wednesday.

Under the order from the cabinet, or State Council, China is expanding the usual one-day holiday. China's last day of business for 1999 will be Dec. 30 and government agencies and businesses won't reopen until Jan. 3, the newspaper said.

—Compiled from wire reports

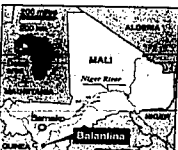
Y2K-proof 'magic machine' propels Mali into 2000

BALANFINA, Mali (AP) — When the sun set on the last day of 1999, the inhabitants of this remote West African village will eat their customary evening meal of ground maize porridge d-okra sauce.

The soft sounds of the African night will mingle with the lowing of cattle shuffling home, and the glow of kerosene lamps will dot the darkness.

There will be no millennium madness in Balanфина — its people don't measure time in centuries.

And there are no "Y2K worries." On the first day of 2000, "masinanga poroze" — the magic machine — will sputter to life once again and churn out power to grind maize, husk rice, charge batteries, pump water and solder



a broken metal chair. It's not that the 1,350 villagers don't care about the future. Mallan Sidibe, the village chief, ticks off their needs: a dispensary, a mud-brick school, a water

storage tank and a better road to the outside world.

Thanks to the magic machine — a 10-horsepower motor mounted on a metal platform to which mills, grinders, presses and an alternator can be attached — the subsistence farmers of Balanфина have begun turning their desires into reality in one of the poorest countries in the world.

"Before, the women did everything by hand, and this took a long time. Now, there is more time for other things, and the women can raise crops to sell in the market," said Kani Sidibe, president of the women's association that manages the machine.

Designed in the early 1990s for the U.N. Industrial and Development Organization, it

was deemed not industrial enough. But for Balanфина and 45 other villages in Mali, it is just fine.

The machine runs on diesel fuel or oil pressed from the black seeds of the purghere plants that grow in the region. The simple construction of the Indian-made motor and the attachments make maintenance easy.

"This isn't really a development project in the classic sense," said Laurent Coche of the U.N. Development Program, which runs the program. "It's more of a social change project. The people have to decide whether they want it, they have to decide what to do with it — and they have to come up with part of the money to pay for it."

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Gold rush: Hikers
in the Nevada
wilderness keep the
Spirit of '49 alive.
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OUTDOORS

INSIDE
Comics D3
Outdoors Editors: William Brock - 733-0931, Est. 264
Section D

The Times-News
Thursday, December 23, 1999

Opening up hunting to wheelchair hunters

CHICAGO - Pheasant hunting can be only a dream for folks who are not able to get around.

Open, bumpy fields cannot be groomed for wheelchairs or long walks by guys with canes. In fact, just getting into a field to sniff the sweetness of cut corn, to watch insects cavort in prairie grass, is well beyond the capacities of most aged and physically disabled.

But Charlie Fangle thinks he has a solution. As the Illinois Department of Natural Resources' coordinator of outdoor activities for the physically disabled, Fangle was thrilled to find a device that may open pheasant hunting to men and women who cannot walk and lug a shotgun at the same time.

It's a special cart fixed to the front of an all-terrain vehicle by a unique coupler. The ATV driver is able to push the cart through a field at a pace with dogs and hunting companions.

OUTDOORS

John Husar

The hunter is strapped snugly to a comfortable seat, providing leeway to swing the gun toward a flushing bird. By hunting with pointers, the ATV can ease the shooter into optimal position before Chicago Tribune re the flush is made.

"This thing can open huge doors of opportunity to any number of people who normally cannot hunt fields," Fangle said.

He saw a prototype of the vehicle at a conference in Iowa, then watched as improved versions were crafted. Fangle hopes that Pheasant Forever chapters will sponsor at least one cart and ATV for public use at each of the state's controlled pheasant hunting areas.

"And I don't doubt that many private clubs and individuals will be interested in having this," he said. "It will give many people a new life in the outdoors. Of course, we'll have to adjust the law that prohibits hunting from vehicles to accommodate people with needs."

Fangle will demonstrate the vehicle in what could become a typical hunt with disabled hunters in January at Kankakee River State Park. He hopes these vehicles will become common sights in the fields of Illinois - not only for hunters but for anyone who needs a satisfying trip through fields and farms, where they cannot go right now.

Animals vs. humans: Although Iowa sportsmen expected stiff opposition from animal-rights groups to their proposal for a dove hunting season, none expected the extremity of death threats. That illusion was shattered last week when each member of the Wildlife Legislative Fund of America's Iowa Committee received a three-page letter.

"We know where you live," the letter said. "Stop your actions now... If you do not stop, your house will be firebombed... your children's and grandchildren's throats will be slit..."

Committee members were agitated.

"You'd like to think this sort of thing is just a hoax, but the letter was very explicit about my kids, both of whom are very young," said Rick Tebbis of St. Madison spokesman for the Iowa Committee. "Quite frankly my wife and I were unnerved."

Dore Adams of Indianapolis, a former Iowa DNR staff member, added: "It really concerns me that a few mourning doves would be deemed worthy of bombing my house and threatening my children and grandchildren. These people are obviously very sick."

Local, state and federal authorities are aware of the alleged threats, which committee members insist will motivate them to push harder for the dove bill. It should come before the Iowa House in January.

John Husar writes for The Chicago Tribune

By Mark Weber
Times-News correspondent

A gusty breeze whistles up the steep slope, rattling a tangle of parachute lines and a brightly colored canopy. Declo resident Frank Gillette examines his harness and makes a few last-minute equipment checks, then tugs on the control handles.

Like magic, the pile of loose cords and folded fabric fills with air, arcs overhead and a huge wing takes shape. For a few seconds, Gillette, 71, eases the brake and flies the canopy like a gigantic kite. Then with a nod of his head and several strides, he rises from the ridge and becomes airborne.

This is what paragliding is all about.

It's a mountain sport that just about everybody can enjoy. It's flying with a capital "F" - as in fun.

Gillette describes the experience as "total enjoyment," and if anyone knows flying, he does. For almost three decades, Gillette has been riding the wind. During that time, he's become a regional director for the United States Hang Gliding Association and a certified paraglider and hang-glider instructor who has taught hundreds of people to fly.

When he's not sharing his wealth of knowledge with others, he can be found competing in national meets in places such as Jackson, Wyo., or Snodgrass, Utah.

For most folks, paragliding conjures up images of "extreme" sports and 25-year-olds with an appetite for adrenaline. But Gillette says nothing could be further from the truth. At his age, he doesn't take unnecessary risks and adrenaline isn't part of his lifestyle.

Paragliding is a fast-growing sport of modern aviation. It's easy to learn and relatively inexpensive. In the United States, there are more than 3,000 certified pilots. In Europe, tens of thousands fly the friendly skies.

Although a paraglider looks similar to a parachute, it has little in common with its jumping cousins. Skydiving and BASE jumping emphasize the rush of free-fall, but paragliding is all about controlled flight.

Paragliders are startlingly simple, consisting of only a harness connected to a fabric wing. The wing is a sandwich of hollow chambers known as "ram air cells." When air blows into these chambers, the wing inflates and forms an airfoil. Air flowing over the wing's top cre-

Decloman uses 40 pounds of fabric to Ride the wind



Left, Declo resident Frank Gillette kites his paraglider before taking flight earlier this year. Above, he enjoys a leisurely flight over Min-Cassia farm fields.

ates lift, causing it to rise.

Paragliders are so compact that the canopy and all required gear folds into a small backpack. Some daring mountaineers carry them to the summit of alpine peaks then, rather than walk back down, they fly to the valley floor.

Though they are simply constructed, paragliders are considered aircraft and are regulated by the Federal Aviation Administration. They don't require a

license to operate, but they do give pilots many of the same thrills as powered aircraft. Paragliders can ride thermals, spiraling upward to 18,000 feet, or can glide at eye-watering speeds, or soar along ridge lines for miles on end.

For many people, soaring free as a bird is a lifelong dream - so it's hard to believe their dreams can become real with only 40 pounds of gear and a couple days of training. Although the learning curve is short

and the equipment simple, most experienced pilots still encourage beginners to take a course from a certified instructor. They jokingly refer to it as the difference between "learning to fly" and "learning to die."

A southern Idaho native, Gillette has made his living by farming potatoes and beets. But there's nothing he loves more than teaching others to fly. It comes easily for him because his home is literally a ground school for pilots. Set in the slopes of the Albion Mountains, the hills in his backyard are dotted with windsocks. The area is perfect for flying paragliders.

Inside his house, the walls are covered with maps and flying photos. A paraglider harness dangles from an eyebolt in the ceiling, creating an ideal spot to give students their first encounter in the pilot's seat. Across the driveway, a large shop is filled with gliders; it also doubles as a classroom.

As a certified instructor, Gillette's No. 1 priority is safety - so all his classes offer plenty of one-on-one instruction and hands-on training.

The most basic pilot's certification is the "beginners" rating. This course involves two to three days of instruction, which teaches students the basics of flying. For pilots interested in more advanced training, the "novice" rating covers everything from equipment to understanding the weather. This course runs six to seven days and ensures pilots are well-versed and capable of flying on their own.

Regardless of which course students choose, they can expect to be in the air on their second day. For those who simply want to experience the freedom of paragliding without enrolling in a formal course, Gillette offers tandem flights. Tandem flying incorporates a two-seat harness in which the pilot controls the craft, leaving the guest free to enjoy the view.

If you've always dreamed of riding the wind, paragliding could be your ticket to taking it.

Women mountaineers don tiaras as part of climbing club

By Mike Stahlberg
The Register-Guard

EUGENE, Ore. - No wonder these women have the world at their feet. They are, after all, princesses.

Obsidian Princesses. And they form a long, thin line of female mountaineering blue bloods in the region.

It's a line that traces its way back through two world wars and a Great Depression, to 1929.

That's when Florence Ogden Sims climbed the North Sister with members of the Obsidians outdoor club, completing the trifecta of summiting each of the Three Sisters.

The previous year, the Obsidians club had created a separate organization to honor men who successfully climbed the North, South and Middle Sisters, each of which reaches more than 10,000 feet above sea level.

These accomplished mountaineers, for whatever reason, called themselves "Chiefs." It was only fair, club members agreed. After years mapped their feet, that any woman who climbed all three peaks also deserved special status.

In a ceremony held immediately after the climb in a meadow on Hinton Creek near the South Sister, Sims was initiated and given the name Princess Blue Waters. Legend has it she wore a gown made of grass for the occasion.

Seventy summers later, Susan Sullivan summed for the Middle Sister on an Obsidian climb and thus qualified to become the 136th Obsidian Princess. She was dubbed "Princess Crevasse."

The newest princess, ironically,



Susan Sullivan, 136th in a long line of princesses honored by the Obsidians for climbing each of the Three Sisters west of Bend, Ore., celebrates her qualifying climb of the Middle Sister by donning a tiara and gown for this photo taken last summer.

may be the club's most accomplished climber. Sullivan has extensive mountaineering experience and has climbed internationally - including peaks in South America that

make the Three Sisters look tame in comparison.

She had summited the Middle Sister several times previously - but never on an Obsidian-sanctioned climb.

And only Obsidian hikes count toward the club's three-peak and 10,000-peak awards.

Sullivan marked the occasion of her qualifying climb, with tongue firmly in cheek, by pulling a tiara and ballroom gown from her backpack and donning them while posing for a summit photo.

"I decided to have a little fun with it," she said. "It was kind of a spoof."

"At the end of the millennium, it would be easy to poke fun at this business about chiefs and princesses with names like 'Cherokee Rose' and 'Alpine Anemone.'"

"It's just a mutual admiration society, I think," said Judy Smith, who in May was initiated as Princess Blue Iris.

"What makes it so genuine to me is that the older ladies climbed when there weren't modern techniques like the nice crampons, the insulated boots, the Gore-Tex coats..."

And the admiration the Princesses feel for each other must be true and enduring. Why else would women who climbed 30, 40, 50, even 60 years ago continue to show up for Princess meetings?

"Some of these older women really care about each other because they climbed together -

it was a real bonding experience for them," said Janet Jacobsen, who was initiated into the group in 1982.

"I'm still proud of what we did," said 91-year-old Vera Heidreich of Eugene, the oldest Princess to attend the recent meeting at which Sullivan was initiated.

"You feel so exhilarated... you have a real feeling of accomplishment because you've put in a lot of effort."

Wild Rose in 1936, the 25th woman initiated. She vividly remembers details from her climbs.

"They climbed in larger numbers in those days," she said. "It was quite a bunch of us that climbed the North Sister together - something like 40 of us."

Today, federal regulations ban any group larger than 12 in wilderness areas.

Many hikers and climbers have summited on the South and Middle Sisters. But the North Sister, along with Mount Jefferson, is considered one of Oregon's most difficult peaks to climb.

In fact, several women have qualified for the Obsidians' "10 peak pin" on the same North Sister ascent that qualified them for membership in the Princesses.

The award goes to climbers who have made it to the top of 10 Oregon peaks - Hood, Jefferson, Washington, Thielsen, McLoughlin, Diamond Peak, Three Fingers Jack and the Three Sisters.

Mount Jefferson and the North Sister each involve "some relatively easy, but technical, rock-climbing and some snow- or ice-traversing," Nelson said.

COPY

OUTDOORS

NATURE CALLS

History of camouflage extends beyond use for hunting animals

By Jerry Gandy
 Contra Costa Times
 (Walnut Creek, Calif.)

Native Americans, who were credited with developing the duck decoy, also deserve the recognition for pioneering camouflage for hunting.

Indians draped their bodies in animal skins to sneak up on bison herds.

Camouflage apparel worn by modern hunters can be traced back to World War I, when armies first designed uniforms with more subdued colors.

Dressing military in camouflage as we know it today dates back to World War I. After the war, outdoorsmen went to surplus stores to purchase clothing for hunting.

The manufacture of camouflage for outdoor use has developed into an annual \$1 billion industry since its introduction in the 1970s.

The idea of making clothing which would break up the human silhouette to make it less recognizable was conceived in the late 1800s by American artist Abbott Thayer. He observed that animals' coloring is a graduation from dark to light - darker on the back and lighter on the belly.

The color graduation makes up an animal's definition, making it more difficult to see. An object colored in a similar way loses its three-dimensional quality, becoming almost flat to the eye.

Artists in the American and

French armies were the among the first to attempt to help develop camouflage patterns. Most notable in the group was Grant Wood, the "American Gothic" artist.

The French developed scientific camouflage for military use in World War I. They created elaborate devices to conceal military objectives and industrial plants by using false landscapes, wire screens as camouflage for foliage and dazle paint for ships to conceal their courses by distortion of perspective.

Camouflage comes from the French word camouflage, which means to blind or veil.

World War II camouflage, primarily composed of large blotches of black and brown, was developed by a Belgian researcher.

Radar and aerial photography diminished the usefulness of camouflage during World War II. It became important again in guerrilla warfare during the Vietnam campaign.

Aerial survey and evolution of infrared photography, which distinguished between natural and artificial vegetation, led to the development of sophisticated devices for camouflage.

Stripes featured more green and less black and brown in the development of military camouflage.

Jerzees Outdoors, the premier brand for hunting camouflage in the United States, credits Jim Crumley with introducing the first commercial patterns in the 1970s.

Crumley, a turkey and deer hunter, thought surplus tiger stripes didn't have much resemblance to the backwoods greenery in which he pursued game. He created Teabark, his first camouflage suit, in 1972.

Toxsey Haas, who founded Haas Outdoor in 1988, created Mossy Oak, a more natural pattern which would improve a hunter's ability to blend in with his surroundings.

In 1996, Haas launched Mossy Oak Break-Up, a camouflage pattern which would improve a hunter's ability to blend in with his surroundings. Using the depth, dimension and concealing effects of shadows, Break-Up layered a series of dark shadows to enhance the image of branches, leaves and limbs.

Since camouflage patterns were developed for military purposes overseas, Jordan developed Realtree in 1988 to resemble North American terrain.

Jordan's original Realtree evolved from a series of dark shadows to resemble the patterns of trees in North American hunting landscapes.

Jordan's Realtree X-Tree Brown is composed of natural colors. He created X-Tree Green in 1994, blurring the human outline through the use of eight colors.

Born out of necessity, camouflage has become a fashion statement. Men are purchasing T-shirts, socks and rainwear in camouflage for everyday wear.



Warm weather brought Dub Rush, of East Wenatchee, Wash., out to try some fishing in the Columbia River earlier this month. Rush was hoping to hook a trout in the Walla Walla Point Park in Wenatchee. He said the river was running so high and fast that catching a fish was pretty remote, but that didn't matter to him; he just wanted to get out.

Bangs for bucks: Horn rattling can be quite a racket for savvy hunters

By Ray Sasser
 The Dallas Morning News

ALBANY, Texas - The steep Shackelford County hill loomed above a vast area of mostly open grazing land. A brushy bottom near the base of the hill was maybe 300 yards wide. If there was a buck in this area, it would probably be lidd up in the bottom.

A light breeze blew across the brushy bottom, toward the open country. If I were diagraming a horn-rattling spot for whitetails, it would resemble this spot. My wife, Emilie, and I slipped halfway down the slope and sat beside a bush where our outlines would be broken.

After making certain she could see over the considerably tall weeds, I slammed my rattling horns together and began an audio broadcast designed to imitate the sounds of two whitetail bucks in mortal combat.

Within 30 seconds, the first buck emerged from the brushy cover. It was a 3-year-old eight-pointer, and it was drawn to the sounds like steel filings to a magnet. "Too small," I whispered to Emilie.

A flurry of movement in the brush drew my attention from the eight-pointer, which continued to approach our rattling stand. Another buck was coming, and another after that, and a third, and then a fourth. I looked at them quickly with my binoculars. "You want the fourth one," I whispered.

The fourth buck in the parade was a fully mature eight-pointer with sweeping beams and long, heavy tines. Unfortunately, he hung up at the bottom of the hill, about 100 yards away, and refused to come closer. Unaccustomed to shooting with out a solid rest, Emilie didn't take the shot.

The 3-year-old buck, in the meantime, came within 10 yards of our spot and flat refused to believe he couldn't locate the buck fight that he so clearly had heard. The confused deer eventually wandered away. Buoyed by the early success, I continued rattling.

I'd been rattling off and on for 20 minutes when I noticed a way out in the open country. My binoculars confirmed it was a buck, but surely the deer was too far away to hear the rattling sounds. The buck was just standing there, not far from an isolated motte of brush ringing a tank drain.

I clashed my antlers and the

deer started trotting in our direction. He would occasionally stop, as if trying to relocate the distant fight. When the buck stopped, I rattled again and he immediately started in our direction. We never really got a good look at the buck because he ran into some of the deer we'd already rattled and never came all the way in.

When we left the stand, I punched the trip odometer on the truck and drove to the spot where I first saw the long-range buck. The odometer marked half a mile. I don't know how far the deer had come before I saw him.

Rattling for whitetail bucks is the most exciting deer-hunting tactic. Some bucks come on an all-out charge. Others sneak to the sounds of a fight. Experts say bucks respond to rattling because of territorial aggression or in hopes of running off a breeding doe that may have triggered the battle.

A unique study done in South Texas by Dr. Mickey Hellickson indicated the two best times to rattle up bucks are the pre-rut (occurring now in South Texas) and the post-rut (occurring now in most of the state).

Hellickson used 30-foot observation towers to videotape deer coming to a horn rattler on the ground. He also rattled up bucks that were equipped with telemetry transmitters and electronically monitored their response.

He found that mature trophy bucks were as likely to be attracted by a fight as young bucks. Also, that a hunter on the ground only sees about one-third of the bucks he rattles up. The majority of bucks come to the sounds, figure out they've been duped and leave without being seen.

That's why stand selection is critical. When possible, I like to get above the deer, both for added visibility and also to get my scent where it's less readily detected. In Shackelford County the weekend before Thanksgiving, my wife, my son and I

rattled up five bucks in one spot, six in another and four in a third.

At least two of the bucks (probably four) were shooters, and we never had a good shot at any of them.

Much has been written about how to make the sounds of a deer fight, but Hellickson's study proved what I already believed: Make as much noise as possible. Hellickson says bucks come more aggressively to aggressive fight sounds. Furthermore, as the half-mile buck proved, they come to loud sounds from farther away.

In recent years, I've mixed grunt calls to my rattling sequences just to add another realistic sound. When bucks are hurt or stressed, they bleat like sheep. I use a drawn-out, distressed grunt while I'm rattling and also use the distressed bleat.

Legendary Texas game caller Murray Burnham recently wrote that he wheezes and gasps loudly when rattling, and these realistic sounds of tired combatants put the icing on the cake, often fooling deer that charge into point-blank range.

Where you rattle is more important than the rattling sounds you make. In most Texas whitetail range, does greatly outnumber bucks and most of the bucks are immature. Rattling does not work as well in those situations.

Rattling works best where the deer herd is balanced between bucks and does. A balanced population creates a lot of competition for breeding rights and a lot more actual fights among real bucks.

A fight between two well-matched, mature bucks is a brutal, non-holds-barred engagement that frequently results in serious injury. I've been lucky enough to witness several such fights, one from very close range.

Other tactics are frequently more productive, but rattling bucks into close range by imitating the sounds of a fight is the most exciting whitetail hunting method.

Coloradans have own style for ice fishing

The Gazette

COLORADO SPRINGS, Colo. - In the season of endless snows on ice, the best show of all may be before the surface.

In one form or another, it's a fixture in ice-fishing country.

Across the frozen Upper Midwest, ice shanties are ritually taken out to the home lake just as soon as the ice will support them. Often as not, they remain in the same general location all season, offering every amenity known to grumpy old men. Skol. Bob appetit. Put on the tunes, whether polka, classical (whatsoever passes for music to the hip young "Yuppies" these days. (An oxymoron? ... Who knows. A topic to contemplate between bites, perhaps.)

In Colorado, ice-fishing huts usually are highly portable, a requirement on most frozen lakes. Though Minnesotans may contest that Coloradans just don't know how to have a proper outdoor tailgate party in winter, they're designed for practical fishing.

One line out to your spot on its self-contained sled. Set it up, drill

your holes, move the hut into position, let your eyes adjust for just a moment, and get ready for the strike.

The hut blocks out the light, but sunlight penetrates the surrounding ice cover. The net effect is to bring the lake below to light. The hut serves as a darkened auditorium. The lake becomes an aquarium. The holes drilled into the ice are periscopes, revealing a fascinating procession below.

Water depth and the amount of snow on the ice affect the amount of light penetrating the surface and the extent of visibility. But when conditions are right, the view may be 10, 15, maybe 20 feet below.

The entire lake bottom may be visible. Dark patches of algae, lighter gravel, rocks, a weed bed - and is that a crawfish moving along the bottom?

Fish are baited. Dropped down the holes. Suspended at what appears to be a foot or two above the bottom. They glow. They appear huge in the non-natural light. They mutate. They're alive - they must be irresistible to fish.

The crawfish moves on, eventually disappearing beyond the

edge-of-visibility. The fish still breathe, but where are the fish? On cue, a spotted, silver-sided white porpoise just below the surface. A trend. A dorsal fin. Seemingly minutes later, a nail ... the view from the porthole is distorted; the fish can't be as large as it appears, but it's impressive, nevertheless. And the show is just beginning.

Other fish move in, then out. Finally, one darts in toward the jig. It stops just short, stares at its eyeball to eyeball, as if deciding whether or not to take the jig.

To move the jig? Maybe some motion will cause the fish into striking. But sudden movement might scare it away, instead.

Too late! The fish turns and darts away. Minutes later, it's back. It darts toward the jig, swirls ... nabs it in full view. The hook is set, the battle is on. In due time the fish, on the ice. The show goes on. Other fish come and go. Some take the jig, some don't.

The crawfish re-appears. It's snagged on a jig, brought up, placed in a water pot on the propane heater/stove. Colorado ice fishermen know how to live, too.

Hunting accident claims Idaho Falls airman's life

MOUNTAIN HOME (AP) - Senior Airman Joseph F. Jones of Idaho Falls was killed in a hunting accident along the Snake River near Brunau.

Owyhee County Chief Deputy Richard Freund said Jones, 21, was duck hunting with two friends from Mountain Home Air Force Base about 8 a.m. Monday when the accident occurred.

Freund said Jones and the others had just placed duck decoys in the river and were returning to shore when one of their dogs

jarred a 12-gauge shotgun laying on the bank. It discharged and Jones was killed in the head.

He died at the scene.

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 page

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Peanuts By Charles M. Schulz

CHARLIE BROWN: I'M GOING OVER TO YOUR DAD'S BARBER SHOP. CHARLIE BROWN.

LINUS: DOES HE GIVE AWAY A BICYCLE WITH EVERY HAIRCUT?

CHARLIE BROWN: NO, I DON'T THINK SO.

LINUS: HE'D HAVE KIDS LINED UP AROUND THE BLOCK FOR HAIRCUTS IF HE GAVE AWAY BICYCLES.

CHARLIE BROWN: SHOULD I TELL HIM THAT?

LINUS: NO, JUST TELL HIM TO TRIM THE SIDES AND TAKE A LITTLE OFF THE TOP.

For Better or For Worse By Lynn Johnston

WELL, THAT'S GOT THE KITCHEN CLEANED UP... ANYTHING ELSE WE'RE GOING TO DO?

YEAH.

I'VE GOTTA ASK, MIKE... WHAT'S HAPPENING WITH YOU AND DEANNA? IS SHE GOING TO BE MY SISTER-IN-LAW?

...BECAUSE I REALLY WANT THAT TO HAPPEN!

WE'LL WORRY KIND OF THINGS ONE AFTER ANOTHER. GET MARRIED SOME TIME, BUT WE'RE NOT READY TO GO ANYTHING YET. KEEP IT UNDER YOUR HAT!

I DON'T WEAR HATS.

Dilbert By Scott Adams

I'M CREATING A WEB SITE OF FREE MEDICAL ADVICE...

GET SOME EXERCISE, YOU LAZY HOG!!

THAT'S IT?

NOTHING TO DO NOW BUT WAIT FOR THE IPO.

Blonde By Dean Young & Stan Drake

WHO'S THAT MEAN, LOOKING FOR A WOMAN?

EBENEZER BLUMSTEAD THE BANKER.

HIS SPECIALTY WAS HOW COULD FORECLOSING ON ELDERLY WIDOWS' HOMES?

WELL, AFTER HE FORECLOSED ON HIS OWN MOTHER, THE REST WERE EASY.

B.C. By Johnny Hart

VERY GOOD GOOD, YOU'VE DRAWN THE CHRISTMAS STAR.

NOT DRAW STATE... DRAW CROSS.

OF COURSE... HOW SILLY OF ME AND JUST WHAT DOES A CROSS REPRESENT?

JESUS!

OH, WELL... SHE'S AT LEAST THE EGGS IN THE HALLWAY!

Pickles By Brian Crane

CAN I HELP YOU, SHER?

YEAH, I'D LIKE TO BUY THE REMOTE CONTROL CAR.

GOOD CHOICE, I'LL GET YOUR GRANDSON WILL LOVE IT.

OH, YEAH, YOU'RE RIGHT, I'D BETTER GET TWO.

Garfield By Jim Davis

OH, THE LIGHTS ARE UP THE TREE IS UP THE CARDS HAVE BEEN MAILED AND THE PRESENTS ARE WRAPPED.

LET'S SEE... WHAT ELSE NEEDS TO BE DONE?

SNACK.

OH, YEAH... BAKE THE COOKIES.

WHERE ARE YOUR PRIORITIES, MAN?!

Deeds the Mercue By Hank Ketcham

I WANT TO A LOT OF TROUBLE FOR YOUR GIFT!

HEY! THOSE THINGS ARE HARD TO CATCH!

The Family Circus By Bill Keane

"Shouldn't the swaddling clothes be blue for a boy?"

Hi and Lois By Chance Brown

CHRISTMAS VACATION - YA-HOO!

TEN DAYS OF FREEDOM!

THERE'S NOTHING TO DO!

Home In Rose By Pat Brady

TODAY IS MY LUCKY DAY, I'M WEARING MY LUCKY SHIRT, MY LUCKY PANTS, AND MY LUCKY SOCKS!

OH, DEAR... I'M OUT OF EGGS AND CEREAL...

YOU'LL HAVE TO EAT BRONNIES FOR BREAKFAST.

VOILA! THE MAGIC HAS ALREADY BEGUN!

The Wizard of Id By Brant Parker & Johnny Hart

THE STAFF AWAITS THE ANNOUNCEMENT OF THE AMOUNT OF THEIR CHRISTMAS BONUS.

OH, OH... HE'S USING A SCREWDRIVER FOR A POINTER.

220 By Jim Borgman and Jerry Scott

WHAT IN THE WORLD ARE YOU DOING?

MASSAGING YOUR MOTHER'S FEET.

PRETTY IMPRESSIVE.

MY TECHNIQUE?

YOUR GAG REFLEX CONTROL.

IGNORE HIM... HE'S NOT WORTH YOUR WHILE.

Hagar the Horrible By Chris Browne

HAGAR, I'VE ALWAYS LIKED YOUR HELMET.

WELL, IT'S BEEN LIKE A GOOD FRIEND TO ME.

ON THE FIELD OF BATTLE?

YEAH... AND IN OTHER PLACES.

Luxon By Greg Evans

The Twelve Joys of Christmas

#9 That last scrap of wrapping paper is exactly the right size

#10 And your actor curls come out perfect!

Beetle Bailey By Mort Walker

A TABLE FOR FOUR.

SOMEONE WILL BE JOINING YOU, THEN?

NO.

JOCK CUPPER.

JOCK CUPPER.

Strange Brew By John Deering

DEAR 12-25

Frank and Ernest By Bob Thaves

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WELL, THE CONTRACTIONS ARE CERTAINLY COMING CLOSER TOGETHER.

Non Sequitur By Wiley

YEAH, BUT YOU'VE GOTTA HAND IT TO THEM... THEY REALLY KNOW HOW TO PRESENT A BUDGET CUT.

GOOD LUCK, MILITARY!

THANKS FOR THE BUDGET CUT!

The Boina Looze By Art Sanson & Chip

INSTANT COFFEE - JUST ADD WATER.

INSTANT CEREAL - JUST ADD COFFEE!

220 By Jim Borgman and Jerry Scott

WHAT IN THE WORLD ARE YOU DOING?

MASSAGING YOUR MOTHER'S FEET.

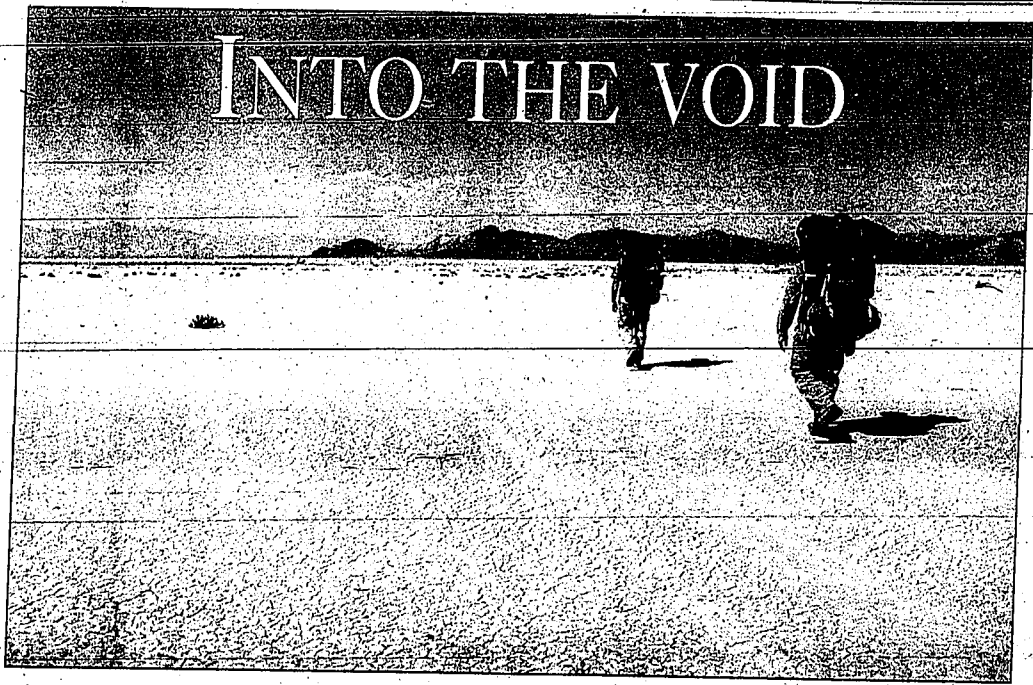
PRETTY IMPRESSIVE.

MY TECHNIQUE?

YOUR GAG REFLEX CONTROL.

IGNORE HIM... HE'S NOT WORTH YOUR WHILE.

OUTDOORS



Two hikers make their way across the Black Rock Desert on the Lassen Trail near Black Rock, Nev. In this September photo, it was on this desert's whitish alkali flats — one of the biggest flat areas on earth — that countless pioneers had to abandon their covered wagons and prized possessions when their oxen broke down. Below, hikers set up camp along the trail.

Hikers chase Spirit of '49 across corner of West

By Martin Griffith
The Associated Press

BLACK ROCK DESERT, Nev. — Fludding in the footsteps of the forty-niners across the sun-baked Nevada desert, I feel the ghost of Israel Lord tap me on the shoulder.

There, standing above me in High Rock Canyon, is a large, volcanic rock that looks like the profile of a prospector's face — just as Lord described it during the Gold Rush of 1849.

"Above is a very exact caricature of a Californian done in red basalt," Lord wrote in his diary. "(He has) a pretty large nose, and a decently long chin, but neither are unnatural."

The rock was one of countless connections to Lord I made on my September hike of the infamous Applegate-Lassen Trail across the barren high deserts of northwest Nevada and northeast California.

With the help of Lord's detailed diary and a decade of research, Jeff Stewart of San Diego and I walked the same dusty stretches of trail and slept under the stars at the same camps exactly 150 years after Lord did.

The 18-day, 175-mile trek over the wildest remaining section of trail traversed by the pioneers gave us a taste of the hardship they endured while chasing dreams of instant wealth in California.

The wagon ruts etch the struggles of the largest, most famous gold rush ever, an event that led to California's statehood in 1850 and forever linked the West with the United States.

We took our first steps near Inlay, where up to a third of all 30,000 emigrants rolled the dice



and left the main California Trail for the untested Applegate-Lassen Trail.

The trail took us north through one of the most remote, unspoiled regions in the lower 48. We tramped up the Black Rock Desert and High Rock Canyon before crossing the Warner Mountains near Cedarville, Calif., and descending to Goose Lake near Lakeview, Ore.

The cutoff was supposed to be easier for the gold seekers, but it turned out to be a nightmare because of its waterless stretches and longer-than-expected route to the Chico, Calif., area.

Fortunately, we had a lot better luck than they did. Even though the journey tested us

every day, it wasn't the hell it was for them since we didn't have to start at the Missouri River.

Our hike began with a splendid 50-mile stretch of trail to the heart of the Black Rock Desert, one of the greatest scenes of suffering on the entire overland route because of its intense heat and lack of water.

After climbing the same volcanic hill in the Kamms Range where Lord gained his first view of the shimmering expanse, we could imagine the dread he felt.

"Ascending this I have a view so entirely abandoned, so utterly desolate that the rugged barren deserts we have passed, rise up in the mind like the green memories of departed joys," wrote the

then 45-year-old homeopathic physician.

It was on the Black Rock Desert's whitish alkali flats — one of the biggest flat areas on earth — that countless pioneers had to abandon their covered wagons and prized possessions when their oxen broke down.

We found only an occasional square nail, wagon part or barrel hoop. But dead oxen lined the trail when Lord passed through, and small bone fragments, ribs and leg joints still litter the flats in places.

"The teamsters' hoarse voices as they urged their fainting teams to renewed exertion; the wail of women and children who had left all but what they were carrying on their backs," wrote forty-niner Joseph Stuart.

"One never can realize the horrors of such a situation till called upon to pass through it himself."

The scattered animal bones and temperatures in the low 90s helped us visualize the suffering that took place on the starkly beautiful desert.

The unlucky emigrants had it as bad as it gets. They had only two pitiful water sources over the first 50 miles of the cutoff and temperatures up to 13 degrees higher.

The trail next led across

expanses of sage to High Rock Canyon, which remains a welcome oasis because of its more plentiful water, peaceful meadows and sheer, red-hued walls.

Hundreds of emigrants etched their names in the lower canyon — near an Indian cave that almost every pioneer visited — and some are still legible.

One of our favorite camps was on a meadow below a gushing spring in the upper canyon. As coyotes serenaded us on a near- full-moon night, we felt closer to Lord's time than our own.

It was hard to believe how busy the place was 150 years ago. We could imagine the weary Lord sitting around a flickering campfire and wondering if the journey would ever

end.

It then took several days to reach California's Surprise Valley, where we encountered the first "civilization" of the hike: scattered ranch houses and a paved road.

After a couple of weeks on the desert, we could understand how the valley's name originated. The scattered ranch houses and grass along the base of the Warner Mountains were a pleasant surprise.

We saved one of the most dramatic stretches of trail for last: the 2.5-mile, 1,500-foot climb to Fandango Pass, Lord's toughest ascent of the journey.

"The deep wagon ruts still lead 'almost perpendicular' to the pass, just as Lord described. The climb left us out of breath and wondering how Lord ever got his wagons up.

"They must have really wanted to get to California badly," said David Phillips of Surprise Valley, who joined us on the climb.

"It was just another bump on the road for them," Jeff added. "A little before the pass, we reached the point where Lord saw a comrade drop dead on the trail. Death was a constant companion of the pioneers and Lord

took it in stride. "We laid him, like a dog, in a hole, without a coffin, a board, or even a blanket," he wrote.

A day later, we bade farewell to Lord after taking our final steps at Goose Lake on the California-Oregon border.

We couldn't help but grow close to him and admire his guts. No matter what obstacles came his way, he seemed to overcome them.

But he still had a long way to go. He didn't reach trail's end until Oct. 31, a month later, and more than six months after leaving home.

"Who says 'hurray for California'? Not many here, for most are heartily tired of the journey," Lord wrote.

Like most forty-niners, Lord had no luck in the gold fields of California. After struggling as a miner, he returned by ship in early 1851 to Illinois, where he resumed his homeopathic practice. In the 1870s he moved with his family to Los Angeles, where he died.

Applegate-Lassen Trail highlights

Origins: The Applegate Trail was blazed in 1848 as a southern approach to Oregon's Willamette Valley. The Lassen Trail opened two years later as a northern approach to California's gold fields. Both California- and Oregon-bound pioneers followed the same trail for 472 miles across eastern northwest Nevada and northeast California until splitting at Goose Lake near Lakeview, Ore.

Chain to fame: The Applegate-Lassen Trail was used by as many as 10,000 forty-niners, making it one of the most popular gateways to California in 1849. The trail's Black Rock Desert stretch was one of the deadliest along the entire overland route because of its heat and lack of water. The trail also earned a bad name from the suffering endured by 1849 stragglers.

Trail: Most historians hail the Applegate-Lassen Trail as the West's best-preserved 19th century trail. Nearly all of the 145-mile stretch of trail between Inlay and California's

Willamette Valley is still usable. Trail quality varies depending on the amount of use by modern vehicles. Most sections seldom or never traveled by vehicles. Miles of vintage wagon ruts haven't been traveled since emigrant days.

Trail markers: The trail can be retraced with the help of markers placed about every five miles by volunteers of Reno-based Trails West, which has published a trail guidebook. Further information may be obtained by writing Trails West, P.O. Box 12048, Reno, Nev. 89510.

Word of warning: The trail crosses one of the most remote, uninhabited regions in the lower 48. Cell phones are unavailable in it, and help can be 50 miles away in the event of a vehicle breakdown. The Black Rock Desert's mud flats pose a special hazard when wet.

Best kept secret: Every single mile of the Applegate-Lassen Trail has a story to tell. One of the keys to unlocking the tales is a detailed emigrant diary. Israel Lord's journal is one of the best. The description is so little changed that diaries' descriptions of the landscape still ring true today, giving visitors a chance to see the land through their eyes.

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Log on to stay toasty

Intermountain Gas will launch transaction site

The Times-News

1999 issue of Travel Weekly, the September and October 1999 issues of Ski Magazine and an issue of Elevations, according to the lawsuit.

The lawsuit also alleges Sun Valley Co. officials put unauthorized quotations from Street on their Web site. But a Tuesday search of the site did not find any quotations from Street.

Kevin Evans, Street's attorney, said the lawsuit came about earlier this year after representatives for Street discovered her name being used on the Internet and in magazines without her permission. He said attorneys for Street had tried to resolve the matter with Sun Valley Co. before filing suit.

TWIN FALLS - Natural gas customers in the Magic Valley soon will be able to log on instead of throwing on a log to keep their houses warm.

Intermountain Gas Co. plans to launch a transaction-based Internet site in spring 2000, billserv.com Inc. said. In addition to viewing and paying bills online, Intermountain Gas customers will be able to place service orders, access their account information and receive customer service.

billserv.com, an "electronic bill presentment and payment" service bureau, this week announced it has signed an agreement with Intermountain Gas to provide EBP services.

Boise-based Intermountain Gas sells natural gas to more than 200,000 customers in southern Idaho and now sends more than 200,000 paper bills per month.

"billserv.com's electronic bill presentment and payment" service bureau, this week announced it has signed an agreement with Intermountain Gas to provide EBP services.

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Please see GAS, Page E3

Burger barons look to cook on less power

The Washington Post

They're dimming the lights at McDonald's.

Not to mention fiddling with the lights in the meat grinders, metering the water to the potties, and installing new high-efficiency air-conditioning units, all powered by the "pint-sized power plant of the future."

Ten years after the McDonald's restaurant chain and the Environmental Defense Fund teamed up with an agreement that led to elimination of the polystyrene sandwich container, the two are working together again.

Last time, the goal was to get rid of tons of waste. This time, the nation's largest fast-food chain hopes to cut energy use by 10 percent at its 12,500 U.S. restaurants. Just when that will be accomplished is still a matter of conjecture, but the Environmental Defense Fund hopes to announce a timetable by April, when Earth Day 2000 is celebrated.

Going to be a several years process. It's not something you can do in months, McDonald's Chairman Jack Greenberg told a news conference. In many cases, the company will have to wait until the

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going to be a several years process. It's not something you can do in months, McDonald's Chairman Jack Greenberg told a news conference. In many cases, the company will have to wait until the

Please see LESS, Page E3

Street takes Sun Valley to court

Idaho Olympian sues ski area for not asking to use her name

The Associated Press

BOISE - Olympic gold medalist and famous Idaho skier Elizabeth Street is suing Sun Valley Co. for using her name in advertisements and other promotions without her permission.

The lawsuit, filed in U.S. District Court in Boise Dec. 16, seeks unspecified damages, all profits from the resort since July 1999, attorney fees and that Sun Valley Co. stop using her name in its promotions.

Street was raised in Sun Valley and learned to ski there.

She won eight World Cups and two women's Downhill Skiing championships, including the gold medal in the women's Super Giant Slalom at the 1998 Winter Olympics.

She now is training for the 2002 Winter Olympic Games and can be seen on national commercials for brokerage firms and medicated lip gloss.

In the lawsuit, Street's attorneys claim the skier gave Sun Valley officials permission to use her picture in the resort's 1995-96 brochure but did not have permission for advertisements and promotional materials from the resort that have appeared online

and in magazines this year.

The lawsuit contends Sun Valley Co. has used her name for its commercial advantage, never compensated Street and put her in violation of an agreement with one of her sponsors.

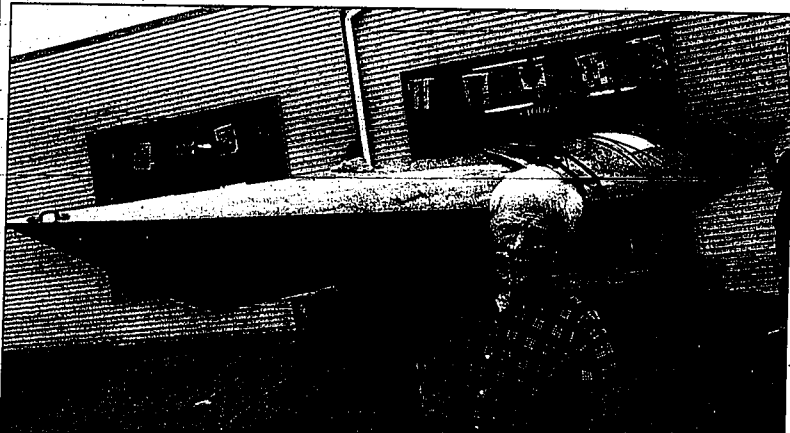
Street is the director of skiing at the Park City Mountain Resort in Utah.

Sun Valley Co. spokesman Jack Sibbach said the resort had no comment on the lawsuit, and no one knew anything about it Tuesday.

"We don't officially know anything's even been done," Sibbach said.

Street's name appeared in advertisements for the resort in the September 1999 issue of Skiing Magazine, the August

Western Business



Marty Loken, owner of the Wooden Boat Shop in Seattle, works outside his shop recently. Loken is planning to close the legendary store by the end of the year.

Setting a course off into the sunset

After years of appealing to seafarers' simpler side, the Wooden Boat Shop shuts down

The Associated Press

SEATTLE - When the school district in Cordova, Alaska, needed marine plywood and hardware to teach students how to make sea kayaks and other craft, instructors there turned to the Wooden Boat Shop on Seattle's Portage Bay.

When Phil Thiel, a retired University of Washington architecture professor and a naval architect, needed wood, hardware and advice for designing the pedal-powered boats that are his passion, he turned to the Wooden Boat Shop.

Now, the legendary commercial enterprise specializing in boat kits, treated wood, marine hardware, varnishes and other items needed to make and main-

tain wooden boats will be as much a part of the region's marine history as the old-mahogany boats they worked to preserve.

"No one has ever gotten richer on the Wooden Boat Shop," said owner Marty Loken, who is closing the store by the end of this year.

"I bought it three years ago when the previous owner thought about closing it. I couldn't bear that thought and I was interested in giving it a go myself - and I found I wasn't any smarter than anybody else. I maintained the marginality of the operation."

Land Washburn and Joe Bueckl, two pals devoted to a wooden boat revival that erupted in Seattle in the 1960s and

1970s, started the Wooden Boat Shop in 1978 on Northeast Boat Street, below the university's main campus.

"At about the same time, the Center for Wooden Boats opened at the south end of Lake Union to preserve the tradition of wooden vessels as part of the region's history."

"We both came about at the same time," said Dick Wagner, founding director of the Center for Wooden Boats, a living museum displaying wooden boats and offering classes in building and repairing them.

"Land and Joe were charter members of the center in the spring of 1977 and their shop and our center grew up together. We've both developed into a community asset. Students in

our classes sooner or later found their store. They have stuff you can't get anywhere else. I'm very sorry to see them go."

Washburn's and Bueckl's retail operation became a gathering place for wooden boat enthusiasts who met there to talk, share ideas and buy needed items, said Loken, who has made and restored wooden boats since he was 10 years old.

"There just wasn't enough business to support the two of them and they sold it to another friend, Keith Marks, who operated the store for seven years," Loken said.

Marks, who has moved to California, launched the store's catalog, allowing the shop's unusual inventory to be offered

to investors around the world."

Please see BOATS, Page E2

BRIEFLY IN MONEY

Aqua Vie paves way for 'Smoothies Bars'

KETCHUM - Aqua Vie Beverage Corp. (OTC Bulletin Board: AVBC) on Wednesday said its Saudi Arabian distributor, Batterjee Medical Services, has formed a partnership to establish a chain of free-standing beverage bars featuring Aqua Vie Smoothies and the Aqua Vie Hydrator line.

"With the proliferation of shopping malls throughout the region, we have had a number of requests from retailers interested in a kiosk beverage bar concept, and we are confident that an excellent opportunity exists given a growing economy, many people on the go, and consumer trends toward lighter and 'exotic' food and beverage products," said Almajed Batterjee, principal of-BMS; in a release from Ketchum-based Aqua Vie.

U.S. Census Bureau picks Lewiston to base workers

LEWISTON - U.S. Census Bureau officials are planning to have about 800 people based here as part of their preparations for the next count.

Workers will be based in Lewiston, and about 100 people will be stationed in the local office alone, said Michael Coe, office manager.

"We will continue to increase the staff to the point that if month from now we will be running two shifts here," Coe said.

The city has one of three offices in Idaho and will be headquarters for the census of the 12 northern Idaho counties, from Valley and Adams north to the Canadian border, Coe said. Because of Idaho's remote areas and Indian reservations, the census is handled in person.

Small-business legions undaunted by Y2K

Small business, the experts say, is still not ready for Y2K.

The research arm of the National Federation of Independent Business earlier this month estimated 1.25 million to 1.5 million small employers will have made no effort to detect and correct Y2K-related glitches in their operating equipment before the end of the year.

That's two-thirds more firms than NFIB experts had earlier estimated would ignore Y2K, the name given to the concern that computers will misread the two-digit date "00" as 1900 instead of 2000.

Qwest plans listing on New York exchange

DENVER - To increase its visibility to investors around the world, Qwest Communications International Inc. plans to list its shares on the New York Stock Exchange beginning Jan. 3.

The move from the Nasdaq market system, where Qwest had been listed since it went public in 1997, is one of the biggest defections of a technology company to the NYSE.

"We wanted to do a strategic initiative establishing the Qwest brand name to investors on a global basis," said Tyler Gronbach, spokesman for Qwest, which is merging with Magic Valley's local phone service provider U S West. "The NYSE gives us greater visibility to investors around the world."

Compiled from staff and wire reports

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Twin Falls Area CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

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MONEY

Gift certificates: A good quick fix

Los Angeles Times

Allison Gomez knows precisely the kind of silver bracelet, flannel PJ's and flared khaki pants she wants for Christmas...

Allison, 14, can just imagine. The colors would be a mile off, the sizes wrong, the style, well, "Sooo not cute."

Instead, she hopes to find under her Christmas tree the same thing as last year: gift certificates.

Yes, those slips of paper that instantly reveal the world even by how much you spent are surging to new heights of popularity. Driven by the demands of a society that seems to leave less and less time for choosing thoughtful individual presents, gift certificates are losing their stigma as cold or even crass forms of giving.

The change is also prompted by outspoken teenagers like Allison who are connecting with ever-faster fluctuations in teen styles and are unafraid to tell parents that their taste is awful.

Judy Gomez, Allison's mother, knows her three daughters believe she is using the word "pace" with their aesthetics. "They don't trust me," said Gomez, 46, a nutritionist in Monrovia, Calif. Allison thinks she's an old fuddy-duddy mom. But I really have pretty darn good judgment; I see what girls are wearing."

The trend is having an impact on retail business. While it's a fraction of retail sales, the share is growing fast. This year, according to surveys, about 30 percent of shoppers expect to give gift certificates. Macy's West has already seen a 15 percent increase in gift certificate sales. At Target, the latest survey said, spokeswoman Patty Morris, even though the chain doesn't advertise gift certificates.

A number of national chains, including Sears, Roebuck & Co. and Amazon.com, report increases in gift certificate sales this season, but declined to release exact numbers.

Natalie gift certificates are at an all-time high, said John Konarski, senior vice president of the International Council of Shopping Centers, an industry trade group with more than 40,000 members. Many malls such as the Magic Valley Mall now offer mallwide certificates, the equivalent of "small money," so a present can be purchased there.

Experts say the convenience of purchasing gift certificates is unparalleled. At many stores, certificates are available at the cash register, by phone or through the Internet, by which the store can e-mail the recipient that day.

Certificates come in standard paper form or plastic debit cards. The popularity of gift certificates may also relate to shoppers' preference for "small money" presents, they - as well as their loved ones - are often clueless. According to a recent survey by American Express, more than a third of consumers said they agonized over what to get. Nearly half said no matter how early they began holiday shopping, they usually made last-minute runs to stores. More depressing still: 46 percent say they typically return at least one and as many as 10 holiday gifts.

The phenomenon of gift certificates reflects a period of unparalleled affluence, experts say. The result: Spending is up and store-bogging variety of wares.

The rise in gift certificates and debit cards follows the increase in people using debit and credit cards. The Cooper, director of consumer e-commerce research at Forrester, a Boston-based market research

firm. "People are giving more gifts this year; retail spending is going up online and offline."

Others say gift certificates reflect a society in which people already have much of what they want and need. In fact, the very nature of the holidays has changed. Instead of waiting until the holidays to buy items needed by family members, such purchases are now made throughout the year, said Irwin Cohen, chief managing director of consumer business practice at Deloitte & Touche, which with the National Retail Federation conducted a survey of shoppers.

Dan Horne, chairman of Providence College's marketing department, believes a decline of formality in society has helped pave the way for gift certificates. "Blame it on the baby boomers," said Horne, who is also a director of research for a \$-800-Gift Certificate. "It used to be that gift certificates were an act of desperation, now you see people thinking of this as a preferred alternative."

For most retailers, December is the biggest month of gift certificate purchases, with the numbers growing as the holidays grow closer. At Sears, for instance, more than half of all gift certificate purchases occur in December, said spokeswoman Peggy Walker.

For the retailer, gift certificates and debit cards are beneficial, experts say. The store receives money up front for merchandise that may not be selected until weeks or even months later. (Most gift certificates are redeemed one to three months after they are purchased.)

Certificates usually force recipients to visit either a store or a Web site, where retailers hope people will spend more than the face value of the certificate. Certificates also reduce the amount of returned merchandise.

Stocks continue to edge higher

NEW YORK (AP) - Stocks moved modestly higher Wednesday, sending the Nasdaq composite index to its 12th consecutive closing high this month, as investors' spirits were boosted by the combination of low inflation, steady economic growth and strong corporate profits.

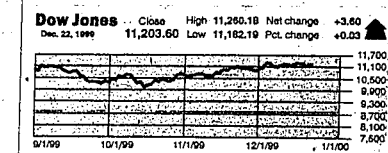
The Dow Jones industrial average rose 3.06 to 11,203.60. The Nasdaq, which rose 127.28 Tuesday for its biggest one-day point gain ever, added 26.15 to 3,937.30. It was the index's 57th record-high close of 1999.

The Standard & Poor's 500 index was up 2.56 at 1,435.99, also a new closing high.

"The Santa Claus rally has begun and playing Santa is Fed Chairman Alan Greenspan," said Alfred Goldman, chief market strategist for A.G. Edwards & Sons in St. Louis. The Federal Reserve on Tuesday left interest rates unchanged, which sent technology stocks soaring to a new high.

The Commerce Department, which Wednesday issued its final estimate of third-quarter economic activity, said inflation remained under control during the fall months. The government said the gross domestic product rose at a robust 5.7 percent annual pace, better than its earlier estimate of 5.5 percent.

An inflation gauge tied to the



third-quarter GDP rose 1.7 percent, the same as previously estimated. It was a better showing on inflation than the 1.5 percent increase the measure posted in the second quarter.

"We have the best of all worlds, a strong economy and positive inflation readings," Goldman said.

Eastman Kodak, which named a new chief financial officer Wednesday, up 4 1/16 to \$2.16 as of 5 p.m. EST, and Merck, up 1.125 to 67.3/16, led the Dow high.

Big gainers on the Nasdaq included biotech firm Amgen, up 2.13/16 to 52.15/16 and software maker Oracle, up 2/16 to 105.1/16.

"We saw a little further strength in technology, though it was a more ragged day," said Richard McCabe, chief market analyst at Merrill Lynch & Co.

investors showed signs of pausing to take some profits from the recent rally, although he predicted stocks would rise more before the year ends.

Technology stocks were mixed with Amazon.com down 2 3/16 to 97.1/16 and Yahoo! up 13 3/16 to 418.75.

Declining issues outnumbered advances by a 7-to-6 margin on the New York Stock Exchange with a 1,704 down and 1,437 unchanged.

NVSE volume totaled 1.07 billion shares, up from 957.50 million in Tuesday's session.

The Russell 2000 index of smaller companies rose 2.15 to 477.94. Overseas, Japan's Nikkei stock average rose 2.1 percent. Germany's DAX index was up 1.5 percent. Britain's FTSE 100 was up 0.3 percent, and France's CAC-40 was up 1.7.

Boats

Continued from E1

for sale throughout North America. "The store has always served people who are crazy about wood boats," Laker said. "They use kits to build kayaks, small sailing boats and other craft. The store supplies tools,

special varnishes and paint, lumber and hardware. A lot of items did well in the early years. But the store lost its unique position when some of the big warehouse hardware stores opened."

"For Thiel, who worked at Massachusetts shipyards before his 30-year stint at the university, the shop has been a source of

starred marline, a treated cord used for whipping the ends of lines.

"I'd buy it just for the wonderful fragrance of it that brought back memories of fishing ships," Thiel said. "I don't know where I'll go for that fragrance and those memories now."

NEW YORK STOCK EXCHANGE

Table of NYSE stock market data including columns for Name, Div, Last, Chg, and YTD. Lists various stocks like AIG, AIGP, AIGS, etc.

MARKET SUMMARY

Summary table for NYSE, AMEX, and NASDAQ. Includes columns for Name, Last, Chg, and YTD. Lists major indices and active stocks.

INDEXES

Table of market indices including Dow Jones Industrial, Dow Jones Transportation, and NYSE Composite.

STOCKS OF LOCAL INTEREST

Table of stocks of local interest with columns for Name, Div, PE, Last, Chg, and YTD. Lists regional companies like Albertson, Aon, etc.

HOW TO READ THE MARKET REPORT

Table explaining market report symbols and abbreviations. Includes columns for Name, Div, Last, Chg, and YTD.

NASDAQ NATIONAL MARKET

Large table of NASDAQ national market data. Includes columns for Name, Div, Last, Chg, and YTD. Lists numerous technology and other stocks.

AMERICAN STOCK EXCHANGE

Table of American Stock Exchange data. Includes columns for Name, Div, Last, Chg, and YTD. Lists various stocks.

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON IN AND FOR THE COUNTY OF OKANOGAN No. 99-6-00109-9 SUMMONS/NOTICE OF PETITION FOR REINCUSSION RIGHTS, AND NOTICE OF ADOPTION PROCEEDINGS...

GERBER-ALLRED, an unmarried person, as Grantor, to the benefit and security of BANK OF NEW YORK AS TRUSTEE FOR THE BENEFIT OF THE HOLDERS OF...

For an appointment to visit the site, contact Mr. Thomas A. Kurnick, S.P.E. at 208-745-3310. OWNER'S BILL is required to reflect all bids or offers...

Magistrate Division Case No. SP-99-01147-MAG NOTICE OF ADOPTION PROCEEDINGS...

THE HOMEPLACE, INC., an administrative liquidation, DENIS PERRON; GOREAU PERRON; and KATHY WENDALL...

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Sealed bids for construction of the Twin Falls WWTP Phase I Expanding Capacity Project. Bids will be received at the office of the Bidder...

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NOTICE OF ADOPTION PROCEEDINGS. MAGISTRATE DIVISION Case No. SP-99-01029-9...

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Bidding Documents may be examined in OWNER'S OFFICE. Bids will be received at the office of the Bidder...

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NOTICE OF ADOPTION PROCEEDINGS. MAGISTRATE DIVISION Case No. SP-99-01147-MAG...

Transfer No. 5588 requests to consolidate irrigation into a modified 1943.5 acre permeable place of use...

IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF THE FIFTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT OF IDAHO, IN AND FOR THE COUNTY OF IDAHO...

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NOTICE OF ADOPTION PROCEEDINGS. MAGISTRATE DIVISION Case No. SP-99-01147-MAG...

AMENDED NOTICE OF TRUSTEES SALE. On THURSDAY, the 17th day of April, 2000, at the hour of 11:00 o'clock a.m. of said day...

IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF THE FIFTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT OF IDAHO, IN AND FOR THE COUNTY OF IDAHO...

IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF THE FIFTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT OF IDAHO, IN AND FOR THE COUNTY OF IDAHO...

NOTICE OF APPLICATIONS. Notice is hereby given that two applications have been filed with the Department of Water Resources...

NOTICE OF ADOPTION PROCEEDINGS. MAGISTRATE DIVISION Case No. SP-99-01147-MAG...

LEGAL NOTICE LEGAL NOTICE LEGAL NOTICE

IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF THE FIFTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT OF THE STATE OF IDAHO, IN AND FOR THE COUNTY OF TWIN FALLS, MAGISTRATE DIVISION... NOTICE TO CREDITORS... Case No. SP 99-1107... NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the undersigned has been appointed Personal Representative of the above-named estate...

THE COUNTY OF TWIN FALLS, MAGISTRATE DIVISION... NOTICE TO CREDITORS... Case No. SP 99-01177M... NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that Dorothy H. Barnes has been appointed Personal Representative of the above-named estate...

Robert S. Fort, Clerk... PUBLISH: December 16, 23, 30, 1999 and January, 6, 2000... IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF THE FIFTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT OF THE STATE OF IDAHO, IN AND FOR THE COUNTY OF TWIN FALLS, MAGISTRATE DIVISION... NOTICE TO CREDITORS... Case No. SP 99-1198... NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the undersigned has been appointed Co-Personal Representative of the above-named estate...

PUBLISH: December 16, 23 and 30, 1999... IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF THE FIFTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT OF THE STATE OF IDAHO, IN AND FOR THE COUNTY OF TWIN FALLS, MAGISTRATE DIVISION... NOTICE TO CREDITORS... Case No. SP 99-1204 M... NOTICE TO CREDITORS... DORIS L. BAKER... NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the undersigned has been appointed Personal Representative of the above-named estate...

PUBLISH: December 23, 30, 1999, January 6, 2000... IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF THE FIFTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT OF THE STATE OF IDAHO, IN AND FOR THE COUNTY OF TWIN FALLS, MAGISTRATE DIVISION... NOTICE OF HEARING FOR NAME CHANGE... Case No. SP 99-1222... NOTICE OF HEARING FOR NAME CHANGE... MICHAEL RAY ALWOOD... PUBLISH: December 23, 30, 1999, January 6, 2000

PUBLISH: December 23, 30, 1999, January 6, 2000... ADVERTISEMENT OF SALE TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN... On Friday the 31st day of December, 1999, Snake River Storage will sell the personal property belonging to: STEFANIE CALHOUN, WILLIE SARRATT and ROLANDO TREVIÑO by a local auction company... PUBLISH: December 23 and 30, 1999

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FOUND Retriever, male, Also another large dog, Both wearing collars... FOUND-Male German Short hair, Found near Checker Auto Parts in Burley, Call Animal Medical Clinic 678-4550... LOST - Red Heeler dog, bar in an E on and W Wendell, Answers to Puanua, 536-5200... LOST Black case containing "Cymbala", S. of Twin Falls, Call 733-2683... LOST on 12/18, 2 Gopher men, by Kimberly Goff Course, Black, speckle female & red male, \$200 REWARD each7423-6892

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ATTENTION! The Circulation Department will observe regular weekend hours. The News Department will remain open by calling 733-0931, extension 234. Because of the holiday season, The Times-News Classified will have early deadlines as follows: Ads running Saturday, December 25 will deadline at 10:30 a.m. Dec. 24. Ads running Sunday, December 26 will deadline at 11:00 a.m. Dec. 24. Ads running Monday, December 27 will deadline at Noon Dec. 24. The Times-News office will close at 2:00 Friday, December 24. We apologize for any inconvenience this may cause our valued customers. The Times-News wishes everyone a safe holiday.

The Times-News

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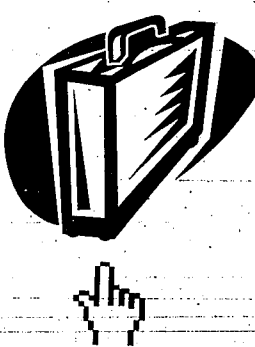
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FORD 'Ranger GT, 1989, 5 spd, V6, good tires, runs great, \$3500/offer, Call 423-4023 or leave msg.

FORD 1988 1/2 ton, good good, 3300/offer, Call 543-5278.

FPRO, Ranger, 1997, 16K miles, perfect cond. 4 cyl. 5 spd. 2 wheel dr. AM/FM tape deck, red, \$9500. Please call 208-734-3278.

GMC 1987 1/2 ton, 1st yr. original color, runs great, \$1000/offer, 324-2622. Government Auctions www.musick-auction.com 208-939-1777, Engle, ID

1009 4X4'S

CHEVY-1986 Silverado full size 4x4, V6, AT, \$3800. Call 543-2622.

CHEVY '95, extended cab, loaded, AT, very nice! \$1K, must sell, \$15,500, 733-7912 or 733-9433.

CHEVY '97 1500, ext. cab, AT, AC, cruise, low miles, \$19,400. Call 1-800-743-9502.

CHEVY '99 3500 crew cab, AC, ill. cruise, PW, PDL, Call 1-800-743-9502.

CHEVY '99 Blazer LT, AC, ABS, PW, PDL, \$19,400. Call 1-800-743-9502.

CHEVY '98 1978, 1000cc, & runs good, \$1250 or best offer, Call 208-734-6707, after 8:00 PM.

DODGE '90 Cummins, 3 ton, well loaded, \$7000, 543-6931 Evenings.

FORD '97, F150 XLT Ext. cab, 4x4, 34K miles, 5.4L, loaded, CD, \$22,000, Call 735-1038 NOW!

FORD '98 X Cab, Lariat all options, Black with trim, 69,000 miles, must see, Asking 23,500/offer, 208-431-6116.

FORD F250 '95, XLT, 4x4, 9100 cab, AC, 4x4, \$5500, w/ 11W, fully set, combined camper, 37000, must see, call 728-0945.

FORD F250 '94, Ext. cab, 5 spd., power stroke, PW, PL, cruise, XLT pkg., 90K mi., \$17,650, 738-7404 day or 543-9004 Eve.

FORD RANGER 1989, 31,000 original miles. All ways garaged. XLT super, V-6, 5 spd., high back leather seats, 4 wheel drive, \$8700, Call 326-8859.

FORD RANGER 1989, 31,000 original miles. All ways garaged. XLT super, V-6, 5 spd., high back leather seats, 4 wheel drive, \$8700, Call 326-8859.

FORD '80, Ranger wheel box, \$3995, Call 736-9659, evenings.

FORD, F-150, 1994, matching shell, ext. cab, 116,000 miles, \$10K, 543-4020.

FORD, Ranger, 1983, new engine & tires, see cond. \$3750, Call 735-9482.

FORD '93 F250, 330K miles, non trans, 3XK cond, must see, \$6000, Call 886-7681 or 988-7022.

GMC '91 Suburban SE, 4x4, 4x4, 8 passenger, loaded, trailer transmission, 148K miles, 1st year, \$8,950/offer, 324-5665.

GMC-1992 ext. cab, loaded, 4x4, 57800/offer, Call 736-7244.

GMC 1990-2500 3/4, ext. cab, SLE series, Maroon, 59V V8, AT, AC, cruise, PW, bed liner, grill guard, 120K mi \$7500, 734-9332.

GMC 1995 ext cab, 4x4, 271,100/offer, V8, AT, 736-7244.

\$17,000/offer, 324-2622.

GMC 1999 Jimmy SLT 4x4, AWD, 4dr. Bazar, Loaded \$17,500 Call 537-5278 Government Auctions www.musick-auction.com 208-939-1777, Engle, ID.

REVZ, '97 Dodge LS, AT, AC, cruise, PW, PDL, Call 1-800-743-9502.

TOYOTA, 1990 PU, new paint, tool box, CD, large tires, good shape Books 81 \$7K, Asking \$9.5K, Please call 208-734-4068.

TOYOTA, Tacoma, '95, loaded SR5, dark green, tinted windows, CD play, or 51K/offer, 324-2450.

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CHEVY '99 Venture Van, AC, ill. cruise, PW, PDL \$16,498, 1-800-743-9502.

CHRYSLER, 1997, 2 wheel drive, Country, 96, \$2500, low, take over, pvt/mile, 0 to 115,540 cash, 543-5900.

DODGE '96 Grand Caravan SE, 3.3, AT, PW, PL, new tires & brakes, 40K, \$16,000, Call 543-5900.

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GLD, Silhouette, 1990, APV, seats, 7, good cond, \$3500, Call 208-326-6688.

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CHEVY Malibu, 1998 Must Sell \$10,000/offer. Great cond, Call 734-8644

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HONDA '97 Accord LX, V6, AT, power everything, 32K mi, \$15,000, 734-9522

HONDA, Accord, EX, 1990, loaded! Great-dependable car, \$4500, Call 536-2236.

HONDA, Accord, LX, 1985, PW, PL, AT, AC, 9500 cond, \$2500/offer, Call 735-4494 or 731-2999

MERCURY 1988 Grand Marquis LS, exterior well, w/charcoal trim, interior done very well, upholstery, aryl, Top Condition Skoffer, Call 324-8114

MITSUBISHI, Mirage, 1999, 4 dr, 5 spd, tires, AC, AM/FM, Cass. Tilt wheel, tinted windows, mileage 28,114.

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PONTIAC '87 Grand Am, AT, 11K, 1999, 1999, Clean, 113K \$2200/offer, 733-1987

MAZDA 1998 626 LX, all power, sunroof, low miles, exc. \$15,500, 735-1046.

PONTIAC '99 Bonneville SE, AT, AC, cruise, PW, \$14,998, 1-800-743-9502

PONTIAC, '90 Grand Am, T, AC, cruise, PW, \$13,998, 1-800-743-9502

PONTIAC, Grand Am, 1997, 4 dr, SE, V6, AT, PL, AM/FM Cass, AC, tilt wheel, cruise, color red, miles 40,037.

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SUZUKI, '99 Swift, AT, AC low miles, AM/FM, Cass, 50,888, 1-800-743-9502

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1996 FORD PROBE Stock #722K, 1 Door, Red, Full Power, 54,102 Miles	WAS \$9895	\$6988
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1999 PLYMOUTH NEON Stock #974K, White, Automatic, AC, AM/FM, 20,330 Miles	WAS \$12895	\$8988
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1999 PLYMOUTH BREEZE Stock #948L, White, Pontiac, Auto, Cassette, 23,507 Miles	WAS \$18995	SOLD
1999 PONTIAC GR. PRIX Stock #712L, White, Cassette, Cruise, 27,367 Miles	WAS \$18995	SOLD
1999 FORD TAURUS SE Stock #936K, Silver, 3.0L, Eng, Wheel, 7,655 Miles	WAS \$18995	SOLD
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1999 FORD TAURUS SE Stock #836K, 4 Door, Red, 3.0L, Engine, 9,177 Miles	WAS \$18995	\$13988
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1999 ISUZU TROOPER Stock #937	WAS \$24995	SOLD
1995 BUW 3251 COUPE Stock #117L, 1994, Sunroof, Loaded, Leather, 81,745 Miles	WAS \$24995	\$17988
1998 GMC 3500 CREW 4x4 Stock #7178	WAS \$24995	SOLD
1999 NISSAN FRONTIER Stock #935L, 1997, AC, 1102 Miles	WAS \$24988	\$18988
1999 DODGE 1500 Q.C. 4x4 Stock #904K, White, Auto, SUT, Wheels, 14,645 Miles	WAS \$26895	\$22788
1999 DODGE 1500 Q.C. 4x4 Stock #905K, White, Auto, SUT, Wheels, 8,473 Miles	WAS \$26895	\$22788
2000 CHEVY 1500 C/C 4x4 Stock #911L, White, Cloth, All Power	WAS \$26895	\$26988
2000 CHEVY 1500 C/C 4x4 Stock #922K, Red, All Power	WAS \$26895	\$26988
2000 CHEVY 1500 C/C 4x4 Stock #931L, All Power, Bench Seat, Red, 130 Miles	WAS \$26895	\$26988
2000 CHEVY 1500 C/C 4x4 Stock #906K, Black, Cloth, Full Power, CD, 120 Miles	WAS \$34895	\$27655
2000 GMC 2500 C/C 4x4 Stock #941L, Green, All Power, Bench Seat, 151 Miles	WAS \$34895	\$27655
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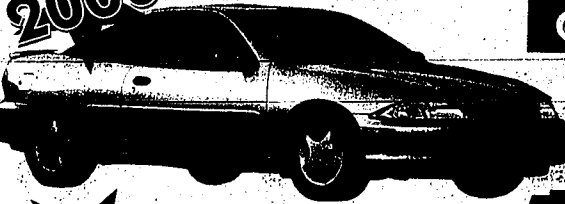


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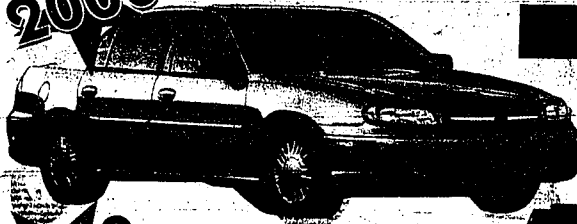


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