

## GOOD MORNING

### WEATHER

Today: Cloudy with chance of rain, high 52. Good chance of rain tonight, low 36. **Page A2**

### MAGIC VALLEY

**Rim developments:** The Twin Falls City Council will consider canyon rim projects of Las Vegas developer today. **Page B1**

**City reborn:** Finding out it really was a city after all, has had its ups and downs for Carey. **Page B1**

### SPORTS

**Do or die:** Five local boys' basketball teams faced elimination in tournament action Monday night. **Page D1**

**Play ball:** Not exactly, but spring training is getting under way, and the Reds are thrilled about their new addition. **Page D3**

### COMPUTERS

**Lost and found:** Looking for a long-lost loved one? Check out this web site. **Page A7**

### OPINION

**Do the deed:** It's time for decisive leadership to fend off Idaho's school funding suit, today's editorial says. **Page A8**

### NATION

**Mixed bag:** President Clinton rates near the top — and at the bottom — of U.S. presidents, according to a survey of historians. **Page A3**

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# Bills tackle crumbling schools

By Michael Journee  
Times-News writer

**BOISE** — He won't give up. Sen. Gary Schroeder, R-Moscow, won't rest until something is done about Idaho's decrepit, and in some cases dangerous, school buildings. And as chairman of the Senate's Education Committee he's in as good a position as anyone to make something happen. He and several others at the



**More from Boise — A6, B2-3**

Statehouse, mostly Democrats, say the state is legally obligated

to assume some of the burden of helping school districts with serious safety problems in their buildings. While Wendell Middle School students and teachers, whose school building was condemned by city inspectors last week, struggle to get situated at the high school, Schroeder will introduce two bills which he admits are long shots of becoming law. He knows, because last year he sponsored very similar bills that

didn't get far. One of the measures would lower the two-thirds majority required for school districts incur debt through bonds to 60 percent. Another measure would give voters a chance to endorse an additional sales tax to fund school construction throughout the state. Both measures are scheduled to be heard by the Senate Local Government and Taxation Committee Wednesday.

Republican legislators, including the House Education Committee chairman, Rep. Fred Tilman, R-Boise, are generally reluctant to start using state funds to fix what they see as local problems. It's not a new debate. The issue comes up each session. But there is a new variable to the old debate — a lawsuit filed by dozens of school districts claiming the

Please see **SCHOOLS**, Page A2

## CAMPAIGN HEATS UP



Texas Gov. and GOP presidential candidate George W. Bush gives a "thumbs up" to a vehicle outside his campaign bus Monday in Lansing, Mich.

# McCain lashes out in primary eve

## Candidate accuses Bush of 'character assassination'; Bush focuses on Gore

The Associated Press

**SAGINAW, Mich.** — Pointing toward today's second key primary clash in four days, John McCain accused George W. Bush of waging a campaign of "character assassination." The front-runner aimed his public barbs at Bill Clinton and Al Gore. In the heart of auto country, Bush cited comments Gore made years ago in a book critical of the internal combustion engine. "I look forward to him campaigning up here and saying, 'My vision for America is one where you won't be working,'" Bush said Monday.

Despite the Texas governor's public focus on the general election, his campaign continued to run television commercials critical of McCain in advance of Tuesday's Michigan primary. The two campaigns also traded charges of phoning voters to criticize their rivals. Surrogates for the candidates contacted voters as well, including in a recording by religious broadcaster Pat Robertson, who attacked a McCain campaign official as a "vicious bigot who wrote that



Arizona Sen. and GOP presidential candidate John McCain attends a rally Monday at Heritage High School in Saginaw, Mich.

conservative Christians in politics are anti-abortion zealots, homophobes and would-be censors." Legitimate pollsters were out in force, and all said the race was very close, within the margin of the polls' own potential sampling error. The stakes were high for both men, but higher for McCain, whose campaign can ill afford

loses, he'll stay in the race at least until March 7. That's when California, New York, Ohio and many other states vote in the biggest night of the primary season.

At a morning appearance Monday before an overflow crowd in Traverse City, McCain used some of his harshest words to date in describing the Bush operation. "Reject this negative campaigning. Reject this character assassination," he said. "Reject the low road to the presidency and support the high road." Bush slapped McCain only when asked by reporters during the day. Questioned about the Arizona senator's promise to break the "iron triangle" of lobbyists, money and legislation, Bush said, "He talks about the iron triangle in Washington D.C. He's been ringing that iron triangle like a dinner bell" — a reference to McCain's fund raising. For the most part, though, Bush sought to give the impression of a man looking ahead to the fall campaign, not someone struggling with the nitty-gritty of a determined primary challenger.

## Panel views key tax plan

Most tax credits would go to wealthy

The Associated Press

**BOISE** — Weeks of tax-cutting talk finally turned to action as a House committee introduced its chairman's plan for more than \$50 billion in income tax breaks, including \$44.5 million in credits going mostly to the well-heeled. And future budgets could be constrained to about the same degree — every year — by a provision to scale back individual income tax rates to 1987 levels, starting in 2001. Revenue and Taxation Chairman Dolores Cox of Kansas said on Monday that her bill had more than 30 cosponsors. But House Speaker Bruce Newcomb and Senate leaders were not ready to commit to so ambitious an attempt at fulfilling the overwhelming Republican Legislature's fondest wish — reducing the means of government-by-giving taxpayers some of their money back. "This is a bill that I never thought would ever happen," Cox said. The biggest immediate impact of her measure would be a one-time 5-percent credit on individ-

Please see **TAXES**, Page A2

## Speaker visits Idaho, touts defense funds

The Associated Press

**BOISE** — House Speaker Dennis Hastert reiterated the Republican commitment to a strong national defense on Monday, estimating that it will take an investment of \$100 billion over the next four years to return the United States' military to a sufficient level of readiness. "We need to make those commitments," Hastert said during a stop in Boise for a midday campaign fund-raiser for freshman Republican Congressman



Dennis Hastert

Please see **HASTERT**, Page A2

## Letterman keeps it light — mostly — in return following bypass surgery

New York Daily News

**NEW YORK** — David Letterman returned to his television show Monday night, five weeks after heart surgery, and barely missed a beat. Beginning his monologue by telling the audience, "Wait until you hear what happened to me!" Letterman filled his hour-long CBS "Late Show" with wall-to-wall commentary on the quintuple bypass operation he underwent Jan. 14. "After what I've been through, I'm just happy to be wearing

clothes that open in the front," Letterman joked. In fact, he had so much medical material it squeezed out his popular top-10 list, which will return tonight. Most of Monday night's talk was personal and light-hearted. "I have a new respect for President Clinton," he said. "I spent half an hour with Hillary, and look what happened to me." In the show's most striking segment, Letterman introduced eight surgeons and nurses from his medical team. For some 15 minutes he walked the audience through his cardiac history, refer-

ring to his guests as "the medical all-stars" and saying, "They saved my life." Guest Robin Williams came onstage in blue hospital scrubs, carrying a plastic case that said, "Human Organs." Jerry Seinfeld, in a short bit at the end of Letterman's monologue, exclaimed, "What are you doing here? I thought you were dead." Letterman replied, "I'm on CBS. I ain't dead." The show was taped Friday. Letterman returns today and possibly Friday, as he eases back to a full work week.



Robin Williams, left, shares a laugh with David Letterman Friday in New York. He was Letterman's first guest since returning from quintuple bypass surgery.

THE REGION

Camas Prairie High: 40 Low: 28 Cloudy today and tonight with good chance of rain or snow. Same Wednesday, high 41.

Treasure Valley High: 56 Low: 42 Cloudy today and tonight with good chance of rain. Same Wednesday, high 57.

Sawtooth Mountains/Wood River Valley High: 43 Low: 26 Rain today and tonight with good chance of rain or snow. Same Wednesday, high 45.

Eastern Idaho High: 45 Low: 30 Cloudy today and tonight with chance of rain or snow. Same Wednesday, high 47.

Northern Idaho High: 44 Low: 30 Rain or snow likely today and tonight. Chance of rain Wednesday, high 42.

Northern Utah High: 55 Low: 35 Rain or snow likely early today. Chance of showers, high 55.

Northern Nevada High: 56 Low: 42 Cloudy today and tonight with good chance of rain. Same Wednesday, high 57.

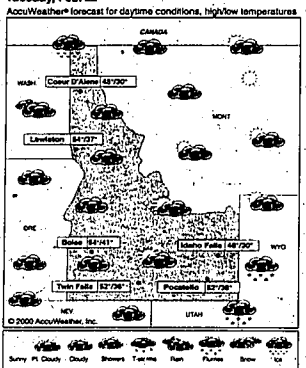
MAGIC VALLEY FIVE-DAY FORECAST

Today: High 52 Low 36 Cloudy with chance of rain tonight. Wednesday: High 54 Low 34 Cloudy with good chance of rain. Thursday: High 40s Low 20s Partly cloudy with chance of rain. Friday: High 40s Low 20s Partly cloudy with chance of rain. Saturday: High 40s Low 20s Partly cloudy with chance of rain.

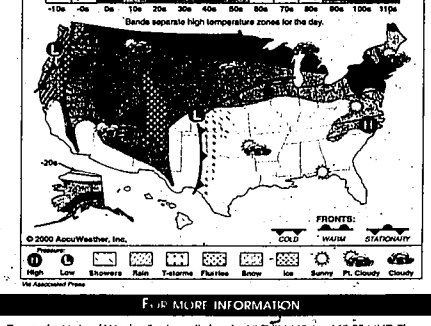
YESTERDAY'S WEATHER

Table with columns: Location, Precipitation, High/Lows. Twin Falls: Precipitation 44, High 52, Low 25. Idaho: Max 61, Min 33, Pcp 0.

Idaho weather



National weather



UV INDEX: 2 (minimal) Burn time: 60 minutes. ROAD INFORMATION: Call 1-888-IDA-ROAD. SKYWATCH: Sunset tomorrow 6:19 p.m.

ACROSS THE NATION: Nation: Rain moved across parts of the West on Monday... Sierra Nevada, 6 to 10 inches of snow piled up at higher elevations.

Move to efficiency hits snag

WASHINGTON (AP) - A system designed to rid the Pentagon of outrageously priced hammers and multiple cookie specifications has sped up purchases but produced new excesses such as a \$251 compressor seal and a \$714 electrical ball.

Pentagon shopping

Table listing items and prices: Compressor seal \$59, Ball bearing \$48, Screw \$0.57, Cost for engine items \$32.7, Cost for desktop computers \$128.

Studies: Algae may hold energy key

Berkeley and at the Oak Ridge National Laboratory in Tennessee, which announced the breakthrough Monday at the annual meeting in Washington of the American Association for the Advancement of Science.

Hastert

Continued from A1. Michael Simpson. Citing what he called rogue nations and the nearly four dozen international military deployments...

Schools

Continued from A1. state is ignoring its constitutional obligation to provide safe school environments. Opening arguments are scheduled for March 7 and legislators are concerned about what the courts might do.

Circulation

Daniel Walock, circulation director. Circulation phone lines are open between 7 and 10 a.m. only.

Subscription rates

Home edition: daily and Sunday, \$4 per week. Sunday only, \$2.00 per week. Mail subscriptions must be paid in advance.

Times-News telephone directory

Table listing phone numbers for various departments: Stephen Hartgen, Publisher 733-0931; Clark Walworth, Managing Editor 255; Kevin Riches, City Editor 234.

Taxes

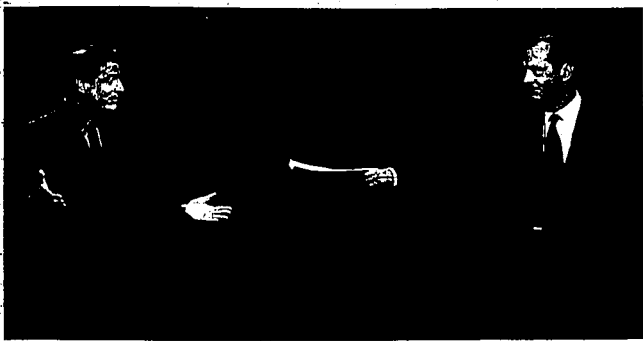
Continued from A1. While people with taxable income of \$10,000 or less - accounting for almost half the total number of returns filed - would get credits of only about \$1.2 million.

Lottery Update

LOTTERY UPDATE: SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 19 NUMBERS: POWERBALL 14 23 24 45 48. SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 15 NUMBERS: WILD CARD 1 19 24 27 30.

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Democratic presidential candidate Bill Bradley, right, hands candidate Al Gore his voting record during a debate Monday in the Harlem district of New York City. Bradley said the vice president is trying to conceal what Bradley described as conservative votes by Gore while he was a senator.

## Bradley turns up heat on Gore, claims he's a closet conservative

Knight Ridder News Service

NEW YORK — Bill Bradley, adopting the most aggressive tone of the Democratic presidential campaign, on Monday attacked Vice President Gore as a conservative who has looked away on racial issues, been weak on gun control and whose health care proposals fall short of helping needy minorities.

The historic encounter, held on the stage of Harlem's venerable Apollo Theatre, is believed to be the first time presidential candidates have debated in the heart of the city's black community.

The debate was remarkable, not only because of its audience, but because Bradley from the very beginning attempted to put Gore on the defensive. In previous encounters, Gore had emerged as the aggressor.

At one point, Bradley accused Gore of supporting legislation when he was in Congress that protected the tax-exempt status of schools like Bob Jones University, which practices racial discrimination.

Handing a sheet of paper to the

vice president, Bradley said, "Here's a copy of all five of those votes, my statement in opposition and the Congressional Black Caucus," saying this would go to Bob Jones University." Gore refused to accept it.

Later, Gore protested: "You're trying to build yourself up by tearing everyone else down."

Responding to Bradley's acknowledgement Sunday that a special prosecutor should investigate the Democratic Party's role in the 1996 campaign finance scandal, Gore said, "Sen. Bradley, you must be the only Democrat in America who misses Ken Starr."

Starr was the former independent counsel who investigated President Clinton on a variety of fronts, including the White House sex scandal that led to his impeachment.

Sponsored by CNN and Time magazine, the debate between the two Democrats was their first opportunity for the spotlight since the New Hampshire primary, which Gore won, because all the political activity since then has been focused on the Republican race. For Bradley, it

was a much-needed chance to regain some attention and attempt to throw the vice president off-stride.

Held in the historic heart of the city's black community, the two Democratic contenders sought support both among black and Hispanic voters, who embody a pivotal voting block in the March 7 New York primary, but also among the wider, national television audience.

They debated health care, assistance to AIDS patients and bringing education and redevelopment to urban areas.

But down in the polls and needing the political equivalent of a medical crash cart to rescue his insurgent candidacy, Bradley was hoping to revive his campaign largely by becoming the aggressor and questioning Gore's fitness as the party's best standard-bearer in the fall election.

He said that Gore, for all his support of affirmative action, backed a White House effort that considered abolishing the program, based on an account in a memoir by former Clinton aide George Stephanopoulos.

## Clinton rates last among academics when measured on 'moral authority'

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Clinton rates near the top for managing the economy and pursuing equal justice, but dead last when measured for "moral authority," according to a ranking of presidents by 58 historians.

Overall among presidents, Clinton comes across in the middle, 21st out of 41 men who have occupied the Oval Office.

Two other presidents marked by scandal — Richard Nixon and Warren Harding — came in just above Clinton in the historians' view of moral leadership.

The academics rated Abraham Lincoln, Franklin D. Roosevelt, George Washington, Theodore Roosevelt and Harry Truman as the best leaders overall in a survey conducted by the cable public

affairs television network C-SPAN.

Historians from across the political spectrum rated the 41 men who have served in the White House on a 10-point scale. The academics were asked to rank presidents using a scale of one to 10, with 10 being "very effective."

Clinton rates 20th in crisis leadership; 21st in international relations; 21st in administrative skills; 22nd in vision; and 21st in performance.

His high scores are in 'pursuing equal justice' (5th), economic management (5th) and public persuasion (11th); his low scores were in congressional relations (36th) and moral authority (41st). "President Clinton came into office with a three-part strategy

for the economy: fiscal discipline, investing in people and opening markets abroad to benefit American workers," White House spokesman Joel Johnson said Monday. "By any measure, this has proved resoundingly successful."

Asked specifically about the president's moral ranking, Johnson said time will tell.

"When today's headline writers credit influence to tomorrow's historians, the achievements of the president will prove quite remarkable in significance," Johnson said.

Rated worst overall as leaders were William Henry Harrison (37), Warren G. Harding (38), Franklin Pierce (39), Andrew Johnson (40) and James Buchanan (41).

## Astronauts head for home after securing mast

CAPE CANAVERAL, Fla. (AP) — Their mapping of Earth completed, space shuttle Endeavour's astronauts pulled in their 137-foot radio antenna mast Monday and latched it down for the trip home after struggling with it for two tense hours.

Applause erupted in Mission Control when, on the fourth try, the lid finally slammed shut on the canister holding the folded-up mast and all three latches were secured.

If the latches had not closed, the crew may have had to dump the canister and the \$35 million mast overboard.

"Thanks for the exciting finish to an exciting mapping portion of the mission," said a relieved Mission Control.

All that remains is today's landing. The question is where.

NASA informed the astronauts that the backup landing site at Edwards Air Force Base in California appears to be "our only viable option" because of clouds and high wind forecast at Cape Canaveral. The last time NASA had to divert a space shuttle to Edwards was in 1996.

## Maybe only 1.2 billion years left of Earth's life

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Earth is destined to dry up, burn up or freeze, scientists studying the planet's ultimate fate say.

"Don't worry about making final plans just yet. These catastrophic scenarios are at least 500 million years into the future."

In the very, very long term, the Earth's future is grim, experts who spoke at the national meeting of the American Association for the Advancement of Science believe.

Earth's fate depends on the sun, which, like any other star, will not last forever, said James F. Kasting, professor of geosciences at Pennsylvania State University.

Kasting said the sun gradually is getting brighter and hotter. Eventually it will raise the Earth's temperature, and that's when the troubles begin.

"Bad things start to happen when the average temperature reaches 140 degrees Fahrenheit," said Kasting. "That's when the Earth will start losing its water."

At that temperature, the Earth's atmosphere becomes 10 percent to 20 percent water, he said, and water vapor rises into the stratosphere and breaks down chemically into oxygen and hydrogen. The hydrogen escapes to space, and the water is lost.

Kasting said astronomers long have known this would happen, perhaps in about 5 billion years. But the researcher said new computer studies suggest it could

occur much earlier.

"The most pessimistic calculation is that the oceans will disappear in about 1.2 billion years," he said, and Earth will become a waterless desert.

But Kasting said a new model suggests Earth could get into trouble even sooner.

Warm temperatures, he said, will cause the oceans to absorb carbon dioxide, thus removing from the atmosphere a gas essential for plant life. In about 500 million years, Kasting said, the atmosphere will be so short of carbon dioxide that all plants will die, followed eventually by all life that depends on plants.

"If we calculated correctly, Earth has been habitable for 4.5 billion years and only has a half billion years left," he said.

A second researcher, University of Michigan physics professor Fred Adams, predicts the Earth eventually will either freeze or fry.

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NATION

# Cancer patient loses out on last wish

Doctors can't revive teen-ager in time to save organs for donor

CAMP HILL, Pa. (AP) — The plans for Nick Breach's death were set for months.

When the 14-year-old brain cancer patient seemed near the end, his parents would call 911. Local medics — they knew the route, the house and Nick's story — would rush him to the hospital. Get him there quickly, and Nick might be able to make good on his promise to donate his heart, lungs, kidneys and liver.

But once the end finally came, just before midnight on Feb. 11, it came so suddenly that even the best-laid plans were not enough. Nick's mother, Kim, then the medics, did CPR for 20 minutes in the living room. They tried again in the ambulance as it raced to the hospital at 70 mph.

They never restarted his heart, and with the blood flow cut off to his vital organs, surgeons could take only his corneas.

But days later, most everyone reached the same conclusion: It was enough that he had tried.

"He got people talking about organ donation and got kids signing up to be organ donors," said his father, Rick. "OK, it didn't work out completely for Nick. But, God forbid, if it happens to somebody else's child who



Rick Breach, left, and his wife, Kim, hold their son Nicholas' hands Friday in their Camp Hill, Pa. When Nicholas learned in November that a brain-stem tumor would soon take his life, he made extensive plans to donate his vital organs, even taking the step of meeting with the representatives of a donor organization about his request.

became an organ donor, it would potentially work out for them."

Nick's offer of his organs didn't surprise anybody who knew him. "That's the kind of kid he is,"

teacher Peggy Kunz said last month. "Even now, he's thinking about the other people."

Long before the brain tumor took away his movement, then

his speech, then his life, Nick's ordinary generosity was made remarkable by his years of struggle, family, friends and teachers say.

## Study: Nicotine fights against brain disease

WASHINGTON (AP) — Despite its evil image, new research suggests that nicotine is a surprisingly potent drug for a variety of diseases that afflict the brain, including Alzheimer's, Parkinson's and Tourette's syndrome.

Many small studies over the past decade have explored the possible benefits of this ubiquitous drug.

But the field appears to be taking on fresh life as doctors test nicotine patches for neurological diseases in both children and the elderly, and drug companies race to concoct nicotine substitutes that carry fewer side effects.

At a conference Monday, doctors said the field's first gold-standard study — one in which dummy treatments are rigorously compared with the real thing — suggests the patch shows real promise "in children" with Tourette's syndrome, a strange affliction in which victims are beset by spasms of tics, shouted obscenities and violent urges.

Still, nicotine has many draw-

backs, including its unsavory reputation as the addictive grabber in cigarettes.

Some experts believe nicotine's real future is in fake forms of the drug.

"The problem with nicotine is that it is nicotine.

You're asking parents to put their kids on nicotine," said Dr. Paul R. Sanberg of the University of South Florida, who has tested the drug on more than 100 young Tourette's patients.

Typically, doctors' treat

Tourette's with Haldol, a powerful tranquilizer that is also used against schizophrenia. In the latest study, Sanberg and colleagues combined nicotine patches and Haldol in 70 children, half of whom got dummy patches.

The study found those on nicotine did better and were able to control their symptoms with lower than usual doses of Haldol.

"The data suggest that a low-dose nicotine patch may be useful in Tourette's syndrome," said Sanberg.

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## Ground beef gets zapped, will be in some stores soon

WASHINGTON (AP) — Ground beef that's been zapped to kill deadly bacteria could start showing up in supermarkets next month.

New rules that allow the irradiation of raw beef, pork and lamb take effect today. To its advocates, irradiation could be one of the biggest advancements in food safety since the pasteurization of milk. The question is whether consumers want it.

"Most people are ready. They are sick and tired of hearing of cases of food-borne outbreaks," said Christine Bruhn, director of

the Center for Consumer Research at the University of California-Davis. Most meatpackers intend to start small, testing irradiated ground beef in select markets to see how it sells. A Florida processor, Colorado Beef Co., is expected to be the first to test the market, through grocery chains in the Southeast.

The company had to recall 359,000 pounds of beef products in November 1998 because of possible contamination with the deadly E. coli bacteria, and Florida officials have been promoting irradiation heavily.

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## Microsoft ruling goes to last round

WASHINGTON (AP) — Lawyers for Microsoft and the government return to the courtroom today for a last round of arguments before a final ruling in the antitrust trial that could fundamentally change the way consumers buy and use the software needed for computers to operate.

Even as the oratory wanes in Washington, secret settlement talks continue in Chicago, though sources indicate little progress. Negotiations are aimed at averting an agonizingly slow appeals battle that could wind through the federal courts for years longer.

U.S. District Judge Thomas Penfield Jackson, who limited witnesses and otherwise engineered the trial to progress relatively quickly, has strongly urged the sides to settle. The Microsoft Corp., whose software runs most of the world's personal computers, is accused of using its influence in the technology industry to illegally undermine rivals.

That Jackson didn't delay the schedule for this week's final arguments speaks volumes about the lack of progress made in Chicago under U.S. Circuit Judge Richard Posner, who has agreed to serve as mediator. Jackson previously told lawyers — that if Posner "seems to think that more time is needed, that certainly is something I would be willing to consider, too." No such request for more time ever came, and there aren't ongoing face-to-face talks.

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# Budget writers question approach to checking Medicaid costs

**BOISE (AP)** - Legislative budget writers raised questions on Monday about the administration's cost control options for the skyrocketing Medicaid program, suggesting the package fails to address fundamental issues.

But Health and Welfare Director Kurtz said the administration's cost control options for the skyrocketing Medicaid program, suggesting the package fails to address fundamental issues. But Kurtz said the administration's cost control options for the skyrocketing Medicaid program, suggesting the package fails to address fundamental issues.

"We seem to be dancing around the surface and not getting to the problem," Senate Finance Vice Chairman Dean Cameron of Rupert said.

The real question, Cameron said, is why the bill for Medicaid has soared from \$152 million in 1990 to \$587 million

this year - an increasing number of participants, escalating use of Medicaid services or spiraling medical costs. Suggesting that participation and usage has not jumped enough to cause the cost explosion, Cameron focused on medical costs and concluded that trying to limit payments to doctors, pharmacists, dentists and other providers either dries up services for the poor or prompts providers to recover the difference from others.

"We provide a cost shift, a hidden tax to the consumer who is paying his own way," Cameron said. "It seems we are only rearranging the chairs here."

Although the federal government pays 70 percent of the bill, the state's share has risen faster than its cost for any other program, including prisons - from \$39 million in 1990 to \$164 million today.

It prompted Gov. Dirk Kempthorne to slash a combined \$27 million from the projected cost of Medicaid in his 2001 budget proposal. But he left it up to lawmakers to decide just how to



meet that lower spending target. "They're going to have to make some tough votes," House Appropriations Chairman Bob Geddes of Preston said.

After Kurtz ran through the list

of cost control options, various members of the budget panel questioned the validity of the proposed actions, most aimed at scaling back services providers are reimbursed for.

The administration options package was already \$6.5 million short of meeting Kempthorne's target. A special budget committee working group scaled it down even more last week to leave it possibly \$10 million short. Obvious targets included several



Dean Cameron

hoped to empty by opening up cheaper community-based services.

areas of excess - exorbitant transportation reimbursements and people coming in from other states to fill intermediate care beds the state

And conservative Sen. Stan Hawkins, R-Ucon, questioned whether any significant savings could be achieved from a program built over the years with the intention of limiting future costs as much as possible by creating alternatives to the most expensive care.

"If every one of these arguments are valid and these programs should stay in place, how

are we every going to get cost containment?" Hawkins asked. Kurtz said a review of the validity of each Medicaid service was justified, but he pointed out that former Gov. Phil Batt's Medicaid reform task force three years ago recommended additional programs after assessing the overall system.

"I'm not aware of any services we've deleted as a result of the governor's Medicaid task force," he acknowledged.



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## Feces fall from Utah skies again

**SALT LAKE CITY (AP)** - Once again, feces fell from the Utah skies.

This time it hit two houses and two cars in Sevier County. Police suspect the feces originated from a jetliner headed north. The incident in the central Utah town of Salina follows at least three similar occurrences in the Salt Lake Valley in spring 1999, when homeowners blamed aircraft for dumping human waste on residences in Taylorsville and Riverton.

Officials from the Federal Aviation Administration never confirmed that the feces originated from commercial airliners, but witnesses said the mess was too large to have originated from small private planes.

The latest incident occurred Sunday afternoon. "My wife looked out the window and thought a bird had hit us," said George Stewart.

"I went outside and there was no way it was even a flock of birds. The sight was atrocious... I have no doubt it was an airliner."

Because the incident occurred out of their jurisdiction, crews from the Hazardous Materials Division of the Department of Public Safety were unavailable to respond, said Bill Pierce, chief of Salina police. Instead, firefighters from the Salina Fire Department simply sprayed the houses down with their hoses.

"It was not pleasant. I wouldn't have wanted that all over my house," said Salina police Officer Spencer Snow.

Airborne feces pose a serious threat to public health. Not only does it leave homes and other property defaced, if the material is human waste, it can carry bacteria that can cause serious illness.

Salina police collected a sample of the feces and plan to have it analyzed by the Health Department.

"I'd have to say it was a commercial jet," Snow said. "The mess covered a lot of ground."

Know the score  
Times-News  
sports

# COMPUTERS AND TECHNOLOGY

## Locate lost loved ones

Web site offers service to find missing people

Knight Ridder News Service

AKRON, Ohio — Chris Skeeles has a million-dollar Web site whizzing and spinning in a little corner of his basement in Louisville.

A dozen top-flight computers sitting on homemade shelves form the core of LocateMe.com and a free site called Anybirthday.com. Inside those machines is the kind of information people are willing to pay dearly for.

Looking for a lost relative? For \$29, LocateMe.com will take a name, date of birth, gender and the last state the relative lived in and search the data bases. A short time later, the customer gets a listing of everyone who matches those criteria.

Fees increase as to as much as \$50 if you want to search to cover all 50 states. The data do not cover foreign countries.

Skeeles has been running LocateMe.com for more than two years.

People use the service for a variety of purposes. A few people come looking for people who owe them money, including parents who owe child support. But Skeeles said it is more common to attract people looking for lost family members, such as adopted siblings.

"It turns out that the general public has a steady interest in this," he said.

The site had more than \$250,000 in revenue in 1998, according to his tax return, and he expects to top \$1 million in sales in 1999.

The key has been an aggressive, but carefully limited advertising plan that amounts to more than \$30,000 a month.

Instead of a broad campaign aimed at reaching a lot of different people, he targets his ads almost exclusively to online telephone books — the kind of places Web surfers go to look for names.

Frustrated because they cannot find the names they are looking for in the phone books, they see an ad for LocateMe.com and try it.

"The industry average click-through rate is about 0.5 on advertising," said Skeeles. "At LocateMe we brag that we support a 3.5 percent click-through average, which is incredibly outstanding. That means 3.5 percent (of those) who see the ad, click on it."

Prime data sources for LocateMe.com are the more than 4,000 county boards of elections in the United States, the government agencies handling drivers' licenses and some private sources. It all adds up to more than 400 million records on Skeeles' computers.

He is quick to point out that his data contain no secrets. "I am only an aggregator of already existing public information," he said.

But gathering that information has become more difficult. Some states, like California, allow people to shield their data from companies like Skeeles' (formally known as American Automated Systems). But because he has a variety of sources, he is able to fill most gaps.

### You get what you pay for

Prices for personal computers continue to drop, and some computers are advertising machines as low as \$299. But FamilyPC magazine, which looked at some of the low-end computers, found they lack some basic features — including a monitor, CD-ROM and floppy drives and speakers — that users will want and need. Adding those pieces of hardware brings the cost of the PC up to over \$500, the magazine reports. Moreover, the rock-bottom price may not include free technical support, which means every User buyers have to call the manufacturer for help, it will cost them even more. Some of the lowest-cost makers sell warranty packages that will include technical support; others may charge \$20 per phone call. A neophyte with a lot of questions could run up a big bill.

The Associated Press

### Mattel aims digicam at kids

The Dallas Morning News

Nick Click is strictly a kiddie camera, but for \$69.99, it's an inexpensive way to introduce your child to digital photography.

Kids can dress up their pictures for projects with an image-editing feature and clip art included in the software.

Unleashed, the camera holds six shots, which then need to be uploaded into a computer before shooting again. As many as 20 images in low resolution can be taken, however, if the camera is plugged into a PC's serial port. Image resolution, by the way, is not one of the camera's strong points: 160 X 120 or software-enhanced to 320 X 240.

For more about this camera from Mattel Media and Nickelodeon, visit <http://www.mattelmedia.com> or call 1-888-628-8359.

### Hardware Review

Unleashed, the camera holds six shots, which then need to be uploaded into a computer before shooting again. As many as 20 images in low resolution can be taken, however, if the camera is plugged into a PC's serial port. Image resolution, by the way, is not one of the camera's strong points: 160 X 120 or software-enhanced to 320 X 240.

## Internet comes to cell phones

Knight Ridder News Service

As Internet access moves beyond the PC, there's a new batteled shape up over a hot piece of real estate: your wireless phone screen.

This land grab has attracted everyone from established players like Yahoo, America Online and Microsoft's MSN.com to little-known newcomers like Los Gatos, Calif.-based MobileID.

Fools like who have traditionally acted as a gatekeeper to the Web for computer users. Now, along with being the first thing PC users see when they go online, they also want to be the first thing people see on their mobile phone screens.

"This is viewed as the next frontier for the Internet — getting on all these devices," said Mohan Vishwanath, vice president of Yahoo Everywhere. "On the PC side, that landscape has been mapped out reasonably well. The only place where new people are able to come in is on this other device."

The companies' strategies are remarkably similar, even in name — from Yahoo Everywhere to AOL Anywhere to Microsoft's Everyday Web vision. They're all focused on providing people with access to information, entertainment and services at any time of the day, and on an array of devices from mobile phones to personal digital assistants to televisions.

At the moment, the wireless phone is especially attractive.

In the United States, about 58 million households had PCs at the end of December, according to Jupiter Communications. There are even more wireless phone subscribers — 64 million, according to the Cellular Telecommunications Industry Association.

The wireless market is growing rapidly, although there are some caveats to getting data on mobile phones. For one thing, the phones have small screens and keypads, and it's not practical to display entire Web pages on the tiny screen. In many cases, what is available is a stripped-down version of a site. Additionally, only about 100,000 U.S. wireless phones have built-in "micro-browsers" that allow Web-surfing, although more and more new phones have them.

For portals, jumping into the Wild West of the wireless world has several attractions: it drives visitors to their sites, where they configure the kind of data they want to receive on the phones. It's yet another feature to add to their stable of free services. And more visitors, whether they're using PCs, phones or other devices to get to the site, mean companies can charge higher advertising rates.

"Our view is very simple: We already have a pretty large user base. We want to make sure our existing users have a good way to get stuff so that Yahoo's services and brand (extend) beyond the desktop," said Vishwanath of Yahoo. "When the more general masses start buying these devices with Internet capability in them, we want to make sure we are there."

Yahoo and MSN offer similar services that allow users who can receive text messages on their phones to get stocks, weather, horoscope and other alerts sent to their phones.

With these services, consumers mostly get information pushed to them, rather than being able to access it themselves, as they do when browsing the Web with a PC. But MSN Mobile 2.0, to be introduced in the next few months, will let users get e-mail from their

Hotmail accounts as well as see weather or other information when they want to, instead of waiting for an alert.

AOL is also building its mobile strategy through acquisitions such as last month's purchase of Tegic Communications, which provides software that makes it easier for people to send messages from their phones. It also acquired MapQuest in order to leverage its ability to deliver maps, directions and traffic information to mobile devices such as wireless phones and PalmPilot.

## Give your computer a new look

By Craig Crossman  
Knight Ridder News Service

### Shed your skin

Stardock  
(734) 762-0687  
<http://www.stardock.net>

A growing trend within computer programs is the ability to apply a variety of "skins" that give the same program a whole new look and feel. When a skin is applied, the colors and shapes of various features — such as window borders, buttons, scroll bars, backgrounds and more — can vary.

For some applications, the developer itself adds the skinning ability along with a few sample skins from which to choose. If the program is popular, users and even other developers may design additional skins for sale or to just give away. Skins seem to be very popular for MP3 programs like WinAmp that play and

record near-CD-quality music. Casady & Greene's Sound Jam for example, comes with a selection of skins as well as a hundred more on their site.

Applying skins to the operating system itself is the ultimate way to decorate your computer's desktop. "WindowBlinds" from Stardock (\$19.95) is a utility that changes the look and feel of Windows 95, 98, NT and 2000. WindowBlinds lets you layer on a skin that will change the title bars, borders and all the area within an open window.

Reminds you... Don't miss "Downtown Health Check 2000" Sat., Feb. 26 • 8-12 Home Health Professionals (across from Crowley)

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## Space running out? Use free web storage

By Phillip Robinson  
Knight Ridder News Service

I've been using Idrive for a while as a backup disk drive. From any computer with a Web browser and Internet service, I connect to the site, enter my login and password, and soon see my 25 megabytes of disk space. I can upload files to store in those megabytes, and download files for use on my Windows PC or Mac.

Or for use on any computer a world away, meaning I don't have to take my computer or even a diskette with me.

Twenty-five megabytes isn't enough space for all my files, but it does hold the most valuable. And because the idrive disk drives aren't in the same building as my home office, they make a great backup. Too many people who do bother to back up their information keep the backup tapes or discs close at hand, where a single robbery or fire could destroy both originals and backups.

Idrive is easy to operate, though a little easier on my PC than on my Mac. It offers a "sync" utility that will move a batch of files at once. But only on Windows.



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**The Times-News**

EDITORIAL

Time for decisive leadership to fend off school funding suit

Unless something changes in the next two weeks, a Boise lawyer will resume hammering Idaho taxpayers over school funding. Robert Huntley will argue that taxpayers - doing business as the state - owe money to small, poor school districts that are trying to renovate unsafe schools.

If Huntley wins in court, your taxes will undoubtedly go up. At the heart of Huntley's argument is an allegation that the state has done little to meet the needs of these poor little districts. Unless something changes in the next two weeks, he'll be right.

To steal a line from Bob Dylan, the hour is getting late. There is still enough time - barely - for the Idaho Legislature and Gov. Dirk Kempthorne to disarm Huntley by ending this long-running dispute.

That means state lawmakers must approve meaningful changes. Kempthorne should encourage the process and signal his intent to approve corrective legislation that lands on his desk.

Any effective measure must include some or all of the following: Empower state building inspectors to condemn unsafe school buildings, thus forcing local school districts to confront their problems.

Allow school districts to stretch out their bond repayment schedules, thus creating more manageable payments over a longer period of time.

Enable school districts with demonstrable need to adopt a multi-step process that would, ultimately, generate enough money to fix unsafe schools.

That multi-step process might work this way: First, districts should be required to commit all available money, including lottery payments, and to boost their non-voted school levy to the maximum amount allowed by law. (A non-voted levy is the amount your school district can collect each

year without holding an election.) Second, a school plant facilities reserve fund levy election could be held. If that levy failed, a health and safety levy - requiring a simple majority for approval - could be held. Finally, if all of those steps failed to generate enough money, a judge could approve a health and safety levy without voter approval.

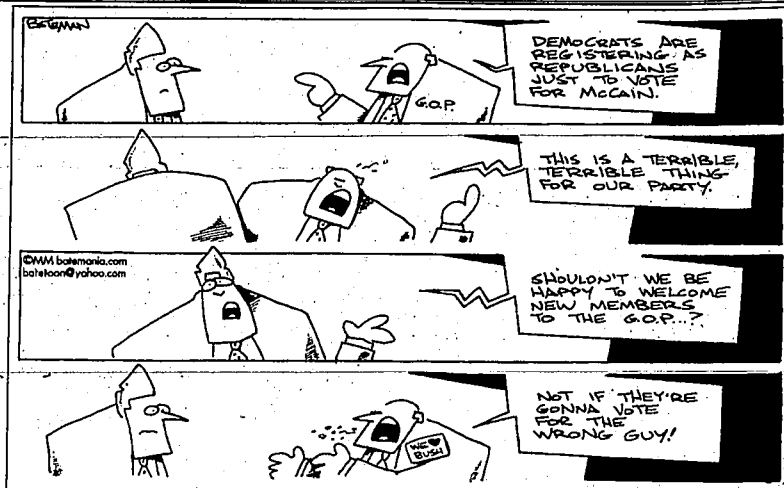
These steps represent meaningful change. They also are fair, because money to solve local problems would come from local taxpayers. The recommendations would not burden taxpayers in school districts where building and maintenance problems are under control.

We say this with authority because the publisher of this newspaper served on Kempthorne's interim committee on school financing. The committee recommended some of these ideas months ago. State lawmakers knew what was recommended, but they muddled around without taking any decisive action.

The time for decisive action is at hand. If something doesn't happen, soon, Huntley will have all he needs to argue that the state has done nothing. As long as Huntley's suit hangs over the state, taxpayers have little incentive to approve a school bond issue to fix old and unsafe buildings. Why should they, when the suit holds the promise of easy money from afar?

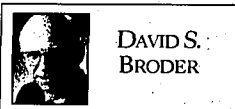
It's a siren song that encourages school districts to sit on their problems because a better deal could be coming. Here's a final, sobering thought: If Huntley wins his suit, it will be a judge - not state lawmakers - who carves the state's budget pie for education. Unless Kempthorne and the Legislature get moving, there's no telling how big a slice of your tax money distant school districts may gobble down.

As long as the school funding suit lingers, taxpayers have little incentive to approve school bond issues to fix old and unsafe buildings.



After taking a tumble, Bush is ready again

PHOENIX - Barbara Bush has never met Diane Mirrow of Alkon, S.C. But she owes the young mother - and others like her - for a gift of peace of mind. When the former first lady came here late last week to show the flag in Arizona, Sen. John McCain's home state, she confessed she was so nervous about the prospects of her son, Texas Gov. George W. Bush, that she had given up watching or reading coverage of the presidential race. "This is much harder than when (her husband) George was running," she told me. "It's different when it's your child."



his litany of conservative positions - tax cuts, a rebuilt military, local control of schools, jail for youthful delinquents - he could have been talking directly to her own concern. Diane Mirrow was sold, and so were thousands of others who heard the Bush ads and speeches. Exit polls showed that McCain led Bush by 3 points among the large number of voters who made their decision some time between Jan. 1 and early February - the period when political news was dominated by the soaring campaign that produced a huge McCain victory in the Feb. 1 New Hampshire primary. But the slightly smaller number of South Carolina voters who decided in the final week favored Bush over McCain by 14 points.

recited the same lines that had seemed so fresh to New Hampshire audiences, they sounded more scripted than spontaneous. And audiences like the one in the Newberry, S.C., Opera House, having watched McCain in the previous night's debate deny responsibility for an anti-Bush flyer which his campaign in fact had distributed, were more skeptical about his signature promise that "I will always tell you the truth - no matter what."

Meanwhile, Bush came back energized and aggressive, connecting better with voters than he had done in January. Dave Keene, the head of the American Conservative Union, had predicted that conservative South Carolina would be "the last stop" for the McCain bandwagon. But even Keene said Saturday he was impressed by the skill with which the Bush team had challenged McCain's claim to be the only reformer in the race and redefined the Arizona senator as someone outside the party's mainstream.

Bush convinced Republicans that McCain's open appeal to Democrats and independents threatened a hostile takeover of their party. The result was astonishing: Bush won Republicans by 43 points, self-identified adherents of the "religious right" by 44 points and self-described conservatives by 36, while besting McCain by 7 points for the title of "the real reformer," according to exit polls.

The race goes on, but this was a huge turning point. A year ago, Connecticut Gov. John Rowland, another early Bush man, remarked to me, "He will crumble. Every first-time candidate does. The critical question is whether he can pick himself up and go on." Bush has done that, and reassured his supporters - to say nothing of his mother - that they did not misjudge him.

David S. Broder is a Washington Post columnist.

The Times-News

Clark Walworth, Managing editor; Mike Smit, Advertising director

The members of the editorial board and writers of editorials are Stephen Hartgen, William Brock, Clark Walworth, Steve Crump, Kevin Richert and Dan Fields.

LETTERS

Getting the cold shoulder

The first of the year, there was an editorial about Social Security and government employees should have to live on that when they retire. I agree, because then they might see what it is like to live in the real world. I found out when you worked all your life and paid into this system and become disabled, if you need medical care, you do not receive it if you make more than \$545 a month. In order to get Medicare, you have to be on RSDI for two years, from the date you start receiving it, which means that if you are above the income limit you do not receive Medicaid.

I was found eligible last June and received Medicaid until Sept. 1, when it was discontinued, which means I will not receive any medical care until October 2000. I was upset because of my physical illness and also because of my mental illness, which requires medication, some of which have to pay for because it will not be paid for by the indigent program. I was told to talk to Rep. Randy Hansen of Twin Falls. He said he would look into it for me. When I went back later, he said there was nothing he could do as these were the rules. Some months before I questioned him about the tobacco settlement and what the attorneys were getting for the settle-

ment and he became quite angry and told me that no attorney in Idaho was getting a dime. I have found one newspaper article telling what the attorneys would receive and, in Idaho, they were to receive \$7 million. I also wanted to know why my food stamps were only \$13 a month when I was paying \$605 for shelter, utilities and medical expenses, but he did not seem to have any answers, and I was told to get my kazoo out of his office.

I have always thought these people were there to help the people who pay their wages, but I guess I don't have enough money for him to worry about helping, and he does not seem to care about the senior citizens, the disabled or the poor people of this state. After talking to him and seeing his nice big office in his nice big car lot, I don't believe he has ever had to do without or worry about his medical bills or where his next meal was coming from. I know I will not vote for this man the next time he runs for office.

CAROL MCCDADE  
Twin Falls  
Twenty bucks says a year  
How long do you think it will take Craig Neilsen to turn his hotel into a casino?  
GAYLE EGBERT  
Twin Falls

Public lands are for the public

The Feb. 15 editorial, "Forest Service critics have a right to be public," misleads by masquerading naked intimidation as poor communication skills or a lack of sophisticated polish and finesse among simple village folk. It isn't just that the locals "... are sounding off" because "they don't feel they're being heard" thus "using blunter means of communication." These acts are not just rude, they are an inescapable part of a larger web of hostility and threats, and condoning and excusing such blindly uncivil behavior as your editorial does aids and abets those who proceed past threats to real violence.

We have seen and heard this - the self-righteousness, the prejudice, the block-headed defiance, the cynical demagoguery - all before in the American South of the 1950s and '60s, where some of the same self-serving arguments were used: how the feds don't have the right to tell us what to do, that this sort of thing should be left up to the locals and the states to decide, that we lived just fine this way for a long time so the outsiders' should just leave us alone. The argu-

LETTERS

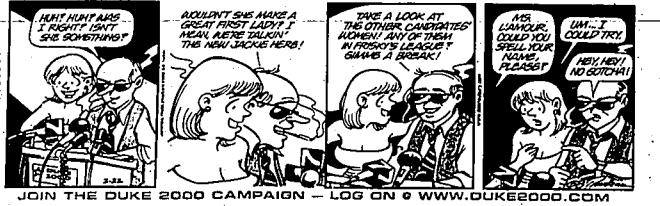
ments are as shallow and wrongheaded now as they were then: the Forest Service employees are here as stewards of public lands that belong to all Americans, not just to the "locals." While some may see these lands as belonging only to them, the simple truth is that they do not and never did; they belong to us all, from "sea to shining sea." Because of that there is no reason a resident of Elko should have more of a say than one from Atlanta or an Idahoan more than a Virginian. Instead of complaining about not being able to use (or abuse) public land as their own private property, they should instead be grateful that they are so close to the fishing, camping, hiking and hunting in these national preserves that are so far from so many other Americans who own them equally and that have far fewer opportunities to enjoy them.

DUANE REYNOLDS  
Twin Falls  
Take responsibility, hit-and-runner  
I would like to thank personally the person who drove down my alley on the evening of Feb. 11. When you went

down the alley, you saw a dog (whose name was Kay) who was a big Galois who tripped over his own feet all the time, but we loved him just the same. For this 75-pound dog to have died by hitting the bumper of your automobile, he must have left quite a mark - I hope it costs you a pretty penny. I have only one question for you. Why didn't you come to my house and tell my children you had just hit and killed their dog? Say, here's a better question, what if that 75 pounds would have been my daughter?

Now for all you self-centered people who mouth off with "there's a leash law," here's your precious answer. My husband just put stakes all around the bottom of our fenced-in back yard because Kai kept digging and pushing his way out. Before we staked it, we chained him. But on the very day the big mutt digs another hole, you killed him. I'm curious if you got your thrills. My daughter wanted to move because her dog died in her house. Her birthday was Saturday - thanks for the memory. MICHAEL AND SUSAN GUEST  
Jerome

Doonesbury



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Mallard Fillmore



By Bruce Tinsley



# LETTERS

## Share the load

The upcoming bond election for Jerome County prompts me to write this letter, hoping to clarify, in the minds of some, the reasons for failure of passage in the past.

The homeowner should not have to continuously bear the burden for supporting all bond issues. We have many years to go before the Horizon school is paid for and last year's taxes (for us), increased by \$70 for the addition to the high school.

The only recourse the homeowner has to keep their taxes in a payable bracket is to vote against the bond issues to make the point that everyone should be sharing the load. If I could talk personally to every person who has voted against school bonds in the past, I feel sure everyone would say the same thing - we are not voting against education for our children, instead we are crying out to be heard that a different approach must be made to have everyone share the expense. Some examples would be a 1-cent sales tax increase, which would mean all people would pay.

Another possibility would be to add \$1 to automobile licensing. Everyone owns a car and everyone has to make purchases, be it food, clothing, medications or even frivolities.

Homeowners of all ages have made sacrifices through the years to be just that - homeowners! It is

unfair that those sacrifices should be rewarded in such a way as to make it almost impossible to continue to be a homeowner. Homeowners have many monetary obligations (taxes, insurance, upkeep, to name a few) that must be met for even the simplest existence. Most of us cannot afford to add to these expenses.

**SUE M. SCOTT**  
Jerome

## Jerome needs animal control

The city of Jerome and other cities within Jerome County have been working on their animal control ordinances and procedures in order to better deal with the problem of stray animals. Unwanted dogs and cats are frequently dumped either in the cities or the rural areas so they become someone else's problem. This also helps spread diseases such as parvo, feline leukemia and kennel cough. While the city of Jerome has an animal shelter for dogs, no facility or funding exists for the Jerome County residents to assist them with unwanted stray dogs.

A request has been made to the Jerome County commissioners to help fund the Jerome city animal shelter, with the provision that county residents may drop off animals. While the commissioners agreed that this was a good idea, nothing has been resolved. It seems that the county commissioners would prefer to

let the residents of the city of Jerome pay for the shelter and ignore the needs of the county residents.

If it is time that Jerome County has a county animal control policy other than let someone else take care of it. Please let your county commissioner know how you feel.

**FREDDIE TATE**  
Jerome

## Paintings on display

My paintings are on display at the Jerome gallery-meeting room at the library building. And as I hung the results of 20-odd years of brushwork, I again realized how fortunate we in Jerome are to have a place to display our talents, hold our meetings (with a cup of coffee) or just stroll in to (hopefully) take a look. There is always something to admire - gorgeous quilts, remarkable photography, interesting school art, to name a few.

I won't try to enumerate the groups that were instrumental in creating this addition to the library building or those who take advantage of its quiet welcome because I would be sure to commit a significant omission, but I do need to give full credit to library director Susan Jacobsen, who sees that the walls are never bare.

Come on in, Jerome-ans! Try it - you'll like it!  
**EVELYN M. HINTZE**  
Jerome

## Where's the example?

I am writing in response to the many letters that were written lately regarding Jesse Thrusa. I have found my heart heavy as I read the many condemning letters. As a mother of a 1-year-old child, I find myself doing the same.

I am in awe with the fact that an upstanding citizen, an officer of the law and a man respected by so many could do such a terrible thing. The part of this story that gets me more than any of it is that I drive by the Twin Falls city police department every day on my way to work. I see the words "Safe Place" on a sign on the sidewalk. Suddenly I start to feel sick to my stomach, and I realize no one has any clue how much the situation with this man has affected to his chest.

We preach as a country and as a community that our goals are to stop the violence, that we need to stop our children from killing each other. How can we expect our children to control their anger and to stop acting out in violence when our law enforcement is setting this wonderful example?


I used to think of a sheriff's deputy as someone to go to in need. Someone to protect us from the violence. Now I picture a sheriff's deputy as someone who receives special sentencing

for killing children. I'm sorry, but a badge on the chest doesn't make the man. This should be a lesson that all people, regardless of their rank in society, are capable of the same terrible behavior. I feel that Jesse Thrusa, more than anyone else because of that badge on his chest, should have known when to call for help!

As a child-care provider and

daycare owner, it is understandable that a handicapped child can bring certain frustrations, but it is unforgivable that anyone in his position of authority, a respected citizen and a role model could not show enough self-control to call for help! Makes you feel really safe, doesn't it?  
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# 'Small government' is a big illusion

You recall Clinton's 1996 State of the Union address, when he declared that "the era of big government is over." The president knew this wasn't true and - practically speaking - couldn't become true.

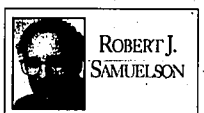
For decades, federal spending had amounted to about a fifth of national income, while government social regulation - for the environment, worker health and safety - had steadily, though sporadically, risen. No one (not congressional Republicans and certainly not Clinton) was proposing massive cutbacks. But the slogan was clever and fit Clinton's larger purpose: to prepare for his reelection campaign by healing potent issues from the Republicans. Clinton made his memorable pronouncement.

Even if untrue, it displayed a shrewd political genius, because it instinctively spoke to Americans' deep ambivalence about government. We generally like the things government does for us, but we don't like the idea of big government, which seems intrusive and wasteful. The ambivalence levels politicians - usually of both parties - to expand government while claiming they're shrinking it.

Politicians have huge "incentives" to cultivate what political scientist Paul Light of the Brookings Institution calls "the illusion of smallness" in government. Writes Light: "Republicans can advertise their success in protecting private business from government encroachment. Democrats (can demonstrate) their creation of a leaner, meaner, and, therefore, more capably activist government." Light's insight helps clarify Washington's present confusion.

Budget surpluses, the president tells us, result from conscious and courageous policies of "fiscal discipline" and hard choices. Government seems to be shrinking. In 2000, federal spending will total about 19 percent of national income (gross domestic product), down from 22 percent in 1992. Since 1993, Clinton brags, the number of federal workers has dropped by nearly 400,000 to 1.8 million.

On the other hand, Clinton's budget celebrates - on page after page - the growth of spending. Between 1993 and 2000, spending on an assortment of education programs, from Head Start to college grants, grew 59 percent to \$40.6 billion (page 43). Over the same period, child support jumped 129 percent to \$4 billion (page 59); environmental spending was up 23 percent to \$38.4 billion (page 89); civilian research and development - for health, space, energy - increased 34 percent to \$40.8 billion (page 95). (For comparison, the consumer price index rose about 15 percent between 1993 and 1999.) - Here is Light's "illusion of smallness" in action. In the ways



that count - more money being spent to help more constituencies - government has expanded, even though various indicators suggest that it's shrinking. How can this be? How can lax spending policies yield big budget surpluses? First, some history. It isn't true that Clinton consistently pursued budget surpluses. This was a "hard choice" not made until mid-1995, before that he favored only "deficit reduction." In June 1995, he committed to a balanced budget - in the year 2005. Congressional Republicans showed only slightly more fervor for a balanced budget. Their proposed budget that year envisioned a surplus in 2002.

Next, some arithmetic. Surpluses arrived earlier because the economic boom caused an unexpected surge in taxes. This has equaled about 2 percent of GDP. That's worth about \$180 billion. It has come mainly from the

well-to-do and wealthy. In 1998, people with more than \$200,000 of income paid 40 percent of federal income taxes, up from 30 percent in 1993. In 1999, the surplus was \$124 billion; without the surge tax surge there would be no surplus.

As for spending discipline, there wasn't much. The well-publicized spending "caps" imposed by the 1990 and 1993 budget agreements (under President Bush and Clinton) served mainly to reduce the military after the Cold War. Since 1990 the size of the armed forces has dropped from 2.1 million people to 1.4 million. Defense spending has declined from about 5 percent of GDP to 3 percent - another \$180 billion saving.

Less defense mainly explains lower federal spending as a share of GDP. It also explains most of the drop in federal employees; many worked on hundreds of now closed bases. So Clinton and Congress were rescued from deficits by two bits of good luck: the tax surge and the end of the Cold War. The president and Congress are exploiting events more than directing them.

No one is really in charge. Government is haphazardly accu-

mutating more commitments and constituencies: "We know there's not a (federal) program for every problem," Clinton said in 1996. But he acts as if there is. He's championed dozens of small new programs and expanded old ones. Republicans are seared or shamed into offering imitations and, of course, have their own favored constituencies. As long as luck holds (the economy soars, defense spending stays low), this can continue until the retirement of the baby boom sharply raises government spending. But when luck does change, we will belatedly discover the truth: that the illusion of small government-made government bigger.

Robert J. Samuelson is a Newsweek columnist.

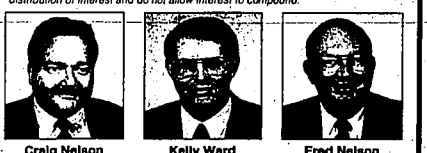
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# Train jumps track in downtown Salt Lake

SALT LAKE CITY (AP) — A light rail train derailed Monday afternoon in downtown Salt Lake City, injuring a number of holiday riders on board.

The train was headed south on 700 South at about 3:15 p.m. when it jumped the track near West Temple and crashed into a utility pole. No other trains or cars were involved.

An estimated 22 people were treated for injuries, mostly bumps and bruises. At least seven were transported to hospitals, but no serious injuries were reported.

Utah Transit Authority officials had not yet announced the cause of the derailment.

"Once we find out what happened with all this they'll do everything they can to make sure it doesn't happen again," said UTA spokesman Corralie Alder.

Yet UTA workers had marked off the spot where the train's wheels apparently caught on a switch after coming around a curve, jarring the third car off the tracks.

The train then slid across the pavement, slammed sideways into a utility pole and bounced into the street.

"You just heard a crash, then you're down on the floor and people are piling on top of you," said passenger Susan Brown.

"It was chaos," said passenger Raddell Donel.



Workers remove a broken window from a light rail train Monday after it jumped the track and struck a utility pole in downtown Salt Lake City. Twenty people, including some at right, were treated for minor injuries.

## Idaho snow levels worry hydro utility

BOISE (AP) — Above normal temperatures and below normal precipitation in the mountains of the Snake River Basin are creating what could be less than ideal hydroelectric generating conditions for Idaho Power.

Temperatures in early February were nearly 10 degrees above normal while precipitation was only 2.6 percent of normal. January's precipitation was about 94 percent of normal while temperatures were almost six degrees above normal.

Combined with the effects of a dry early winter, February snowpack conditions are just 75 percent of the 30-year average.

The U.S. Weather Service's River Forecast Center predicts April-July inflow into Brownlee Reservoir will reach 3.67 million acre-feet. The 30-year average for inflows during that time is 4.9 million acre-feet.

Idaho Power officials pay close attention to water conditions at Brownlee — the key storage facility for its three-dam Hells Canyon Complex. This is especially true during the April-July period as storage conditions largely dictate the company's hydroelectric generating conditions.

If those conditions are poor, the company must purchase power from other resources or use more expensive electricity generated by its thermal plants in Oregon, Nevada and Wyoming.

## Library hopes Net filter will restore funds

NAMPA (AP) — City library representatives will go to the City Council today with an Internet filtering system proposal in hopes of regaining \$50,000 stripped from the library's budget.

On Aug. 16, the City Council voted 3-1 to withhold the money, nearly half of the library's budget, to purchase new books, until it installed Internet filters.

Councilman Tom Dale, who introduced the motion, said the library is obligated to block pornographic material from its computers.

Karen Ganske, library director, said it has signed an agreement with a Seattle-based company that has partnered with Microsoft to provide filters free to Idaho school districts.

Because the Internet filters are designed for children, the library will give adults the option of purchasing them from the city.

The council's decision to withhold funding came on the heels of a controversy in May 1999 about the placement of two books about homosexuality.

Library officials compromised and moved the books from a preschool picture-book section to the juvenile nonfiction section, but many wanted the books moved to an adult section.

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P185/80R-13	26.59	175/70R-13 AS	26.38
P185/75R-14	27.49	185/70R-13 AS	30.16
P185/75R-14	28.29	185/70R-14 AS	31.21
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### Paying respect:

Lawmakers remember Jerry Twigg's Page B3

The Times-News

Tuesday, February 22, 2000

Section B

## AROUND THE VALLEY

### Crash victim dies; moose improves

**BOISE** - A 14-year-old Buhl girl died Sunday from injuries suffered in a Thursday crash south of Buhl.

The Leths were killed in a pickup truck was struck by an oncoming pickup on 1400 East. The oncoming truck was towing a horse trailer south when the trailer fished and swung the truck out of control and Nancy Howell of the Twin Falls County Sheriff's Office.

The Leths were not wearing seat belts, she said. The driver of the other truck, 56-year-old Santiago Calupe of Jerome, was hospitalized for several days before being released over the weekend.

An investigation into the crash was continuing, Howell said.

### Water court to consider conflict-of-interest issue

**TWIN FALLS** - A hearing date has been set to discuss concerns over 5th District Judge Barry Wood's possible conflict of interest. The Snake River Basin Adjudication court will hold a hearing at 1:30 p.m. to hear concerns raised by the Nez Perce Tribe and the U.S. Department of Justice over water rights apparently held by Wood.

Wood presides over the adjudication that covers 180,000 water rights in 38 of the state's 44 counties. The tribe has asked the judge to set aside his recent decision denying tribal water rights claims. Wood's water rights claims would be affected by his rulings on Nez Perce claims, the tribe says. The U.S. Department of Justice asked the court to set a "status conference" to discuss the issue.

### Twin Falls fair announces 2000 entertainment

**FILER** - Cajun vocalist Sammy Kershaw and Christian singer Michael English will be the headline artists at the Twin Falls County Fair next summer. Kershaw, best known for his 1993 No. 1 country hit, "She Don't Know She's Beautiful," will perform along with comedian Cledus T. Judd on the opening night of the fair, Aug. 30. English will sing on Sept. 3. Showtime is 8 p.m. both nights. A Destruction Derby is planned for Labor Day, the final night of the fair, and the Professional Rodeo Eowboy Association rodeo will run Aug. 31-Sept. 2. For the first time this year, a fair admission will also allow general admission access to any of the arena events, according to fair manager John Pitz.

### Jerome School Board to discuss bond issue

**JEROME** - Superintendent Jim Cobble is scheduled to discuss the district's March 2 bond issue election and give his report on the 2000 legislative session at tonight's Jerome School Board meeting. He will also discuss options for offering 40-hour remediation programs to students scoring in the lowest 25 percent in the Idaho Reading Indicator, a test to measure reading skills for students from kindergarten through third grade. Cobble said the district is leaning toward offering the program during the summer in two 16-day sessions, each meeting 2 1/2 hours long, to meet the 40-hour requirement. The board meets tonight at 7 in the Jerome High School Telecommunications Room. The meeting is open to the public.

### Federal grazing leases will stay at \$1.35

**TWIN FALLS** - Ranchers will continue to pay \$1.35 per cow per month to lease federal lands for livestock grazing. The fee, set each year, is tied to private grazing land leases, beef cattle prices and the cost of livestock production and other factors. The minimum fee is \$1.35 per animal unit month - a unit of grazing management that equals the amount of forage eaten by a cow and her calf, a horse or five sheep in one month. The fee this year will stay at the floor to reflect a small drop in cattle prices and small increases in private land leases and livestock production costs. Compiled from staff reports

# Council discusses Canyon Park idea

By John T. Huddy Times-News writer

**TWIN FALLS** - The City Council will discuss a Las Vegas developers' plans for his property along the Snake River Canyon tonight. Craig H. Neilsen, formerly of Twin Falls now living in Las Vegas, has asked the council to approve lot plans for 12 acres of Canyon Park East and 13 acres of Canyon Park North.

Canyon Park East is north of Bridgeview Boulevard, east of Blue Lakes Boulevard and south

### Canyon Park plans

**Working out Neilsen and Co.'s Canyon Park projects:** Canyon Park East: 12 acres east of Blue Lakes Boulevard; retail and commercial (but not) rezoned; earlier this month; City Council will discuss the property's plat tonight. Canyon Park North: About 13 acres west of Blue Lakes Boulevard; hotel and convention center, several restaurants, retail stores and a smaller hotel. The six acres for retail stores, restaurants and smaller hotel were rezoned earlier this month. City Planning and Zoning Commission plans to review the hotel and convention center proposal on the rest of the Canyon Park North property before a zoning change request is heard by the City Council. Canyon Park West: South of Canyon Park North; approved Jan. 14; retail and commercial development.

of the canyon rim. Canyon Park North is north of Fillmore Street, west of Blue Lakes Boulevard and also south

of the canyon rim. Development plans that Neilsen has submitted to city staff, include commercial and retail lots on both parcels, and a 175-room hotel and 1,000-square-foot convention center.

The council approved Neilsen's request for a zoning change on both parcels earlier this month. If the council approves the lot plans tonight, then Neilsen's representatives will then submit a planned unit development agreement to city staff.

This agreement works like a

contract between Neilsen and the city, laying out exactly what Neilsen intends for his property, with certain guidelines for the development.

If the planned unit development agreement is approved by city officials, then the next step is construction.

City officials already approved a planned unit development agreement for Neilsen's Canyon Park West development - west of Blue Lakes Boulevard, south of Fillmore Street.

This development will also Please see COUNCIL, Page B3

## TALL ORDER



A worker for Christiansen Griffith General Contractor bolts together a section of a tower on Canyon Street in Twin Falls on Monday. The tower is for the Nextel company and will be used for digital cellular phone communications. When complete, the tower will be about 300 feet tall.

## Father of Columbine victim visits Twin Falls

By Brian Haynes Times-News writer

**TWIN FALLS** - His daughter paid the ultimate price for her beliefs during the Columbine, Colo., massacre, and Darrell Scott doesn't want people to forget the story of her life and the lessons of her death.

Scott travels the country retelling the story of Rachel Joy Scott, one of 13 victims of two teen-aged gunmen who shot their way through Columbine High School last year.

Scott, whose son survived the attack, will speak in Twin Falls this week.

"It's an amazing story. It will blow your mind," said Brian Nickens, an associate pastor at the Lighthouse Christian Fellowship, which is sponsoring Scott's appearance.

Scott will speak to a group of community leaders Friday at noon, and at 7 p.m. he will speak to the general public in the

### Father speaks out

**D**arrell Scott, whose daughter was slain in the Columbine High School massacre in Colorado, will speak at 7 p.m. Friday at the College of Southern Idaho's Fine Arts Auditorium. Admission is free. For more information call the Lighthouse Christian Fellowship at 737-4667.

College of Southern Idaho Fine Arts Auditorium. Admission is free.

Scott has testified before a U.S. congressional subcommittee, and he has spoken around the country.

"He paid a great price to tell this story, and we feel it was important to be heard," Nickens said.

Times-News writer Brian Haynes can be reached at 733-0931, Ext. 238, or by e-mail at bhaynes@magicvalley.com.

## Governor picks TFPD boss for advisory board

The Times-News and the Associated Press

**TWIN FALLS** - Police Chief Lee DeVore said he is looking forward to being on the cutting edge of training after being appointed to the advisory council that oversees Idaho's police academy.

Gov. Dirk Kempthorne last week appointed DeVore, who has been the Twin Falls chief since 1995.

Fourteen people from varied regions and backgrounds sit on the Peace Officer Standards and Training advisory council, which establishes minimum requirements for officer training and education.

"I'm looking forward to it," DeVore said. "It will not only be good for myself ... but it will be good for the department too."

Kempthorne made a series of appointments last week, including three other appointments involving Magic Valley residents. Here's a rundown: • Fifth District Magistrates

Commission: Mayor Elaine Steele, Twin Falls.

• Social Workers Examining Board: Robert Payne of Hailey.

• Architectural Examiners Board: Nicholas Lathan of Sun Valley.

• Lewis & Clark Trail Committee: Anthony Johnson of Lapwai and Ann Schorzman of Boise.

• Western Interstate Commission on Higher Education: Dr. Greg Fitch (reappointment) of Boise.

• Counselor Licensing Board: Dr. Enid Davis (reappointment) of Idaho Falls.

• State Aeronautics Board: Robert Hoff (reappointment) of Idaho Falls.

• Health Facilities Authority: Dr. John Katovich of St. Maries.

• Idaho Humanities Council: Cindy Haagenson of Coeur d'Alene.

• Veterans Affairs Commission: Don Riegel (reappointment) of Coeur d'Alene and Lt. Col. Dave Brasuell of Pocatello.

## Health services opens new rehabilitation facility

By Joan Bean Times-News correspondent

**TWIN FALLS** - The Magic Valley Regional Medical Center's new health services wing could offer more rehab room for patients with lung disease. The new health services wing,

### Opening

**M**agic Valley Regional Medical Center health services will hold its grand opening from 3 to 6 p.m. Wednesday. There will be free refreshments and drawings, with a ribbon-cutting ceremony at 5 p.m.

to be unveiled Wednesday, will house Magic Valley Regional's occupational health program, cardiopulmonary rehab program

and the women's imaging and outpatient x-ray services.

The space could help the hospital's little-known pul-

monary rehab program.

Begun in the fall of 1995, with about four sessions a year, 70 patients from throughout the Magic Valley and Wood River area were treated in a small room. The program includes an eight-week outpatient program for patients with lung disease. Space was limited, so nurses

could work comfortably only with four patients at a time.

"We've been running successfully for over four years and have seen incredible results," said registered respiratory therapist Tracy Hills, the program's coordinator. "And just the activities of daily living - we've been

Please see OPENING, Page B3

## Carey residents debate the pros and cons of city life

The Associated Press

**CAREY** - Four years after learning that their home town is indeed a city, Carey residents aren't sure what to make of it. "It stinks," lifelong resident Jim Phillips said. "Taxes have gone up, and there aren't any benefits at all."

Until 1996, the town of 513 residents were thought to be unincorporated. But when a team researching the benefits of incorporation unearthed the news that Carey actually had been a city since 1919, people who lived there were stunned.

"I've lived here for 25 years, and I didn't know," City Clerk Mary Ann Hennefer said. "We found the town minutes from 1919, but after that, they disappeared. We're not sure when or why, but the city government just seemed to dissolve. I guess people got busy and forgot they were a town."

Now the town that forgot it was a town is in the throes of setting up shop as a city. Not everyone is pleased. Independence is not just a virtue here, it is practically a religion. "When we found out we were a city,

the first thing we did was have an election to disincorporate," City Councilman Bob Simpson said. "It failed by four votes. The reason it didn't pass was people figured a local government would be easier to deal with than Blaine County, Calif."

That disincorporation vote, in May 1996, fell narrowly short of the two-thirds majority needed to pass. Since then, Carey has adopted a comprehensive plan and a zoning and subdivision ordinance. Elected a mayor and council, hired a clerk and building inspector and been certified as an

Idaho Gem Community. From 1990 to 1998, Carey's third year of self government and the latest for which figures are available, its population grew from 427 to 513 - a 21 percent increase.

In Carey, where people are passionate about thinking and doing for themselves, there are probably 513 opinions of the new government. But the majority, Mayor Rick Baird said, "are generally in favor of being a city. There's just one thing that is that there has not been another move to disincorporate."

MAGIC VALLEY/IDAHO

# House panel rejects bill apparently aimed at Idaho Fish and Game

BOISE (AP) — A bill apparently targeting the authority of the Department of Fish and Game and its governing commission was shot down by a House panel willing to give a new director and commissioners a fresh start.

The Resources and Conservation Committee voted 10-7 on Monday against endorsing Boise Republican Rep. David Callister's proposal to require state Land Board approval for Fish and Game land acquisitions over five acres.

The five-member Land Board includes the governor, attorney general, secretary of state, controller and state school superintendent, who Callister said as elected officials would help ensure the appointed Fish and Game Commission is held more closely accountable for decisions with "multiple and diverse consequences."

Debate pitted lawmakers skeptical of the agency's pursuit of sportsmen's access and wildlife habitat acreage against those for whom Gov. Dirk Kempthorne's appointment of four new commissioners last year and their recent appointment of a new director promises positive changes.

"We come to a point where we have to look at what they can do in the future rather than what they've done in the past," GOP Rep. Jack Barraclough of Idaho Falls said.



Callister said his intention was not to denigrate Fish and Game's trustworthiness. But as the Legislature considers a number of bills involving state agency land ownership, he said, it seemed an appropriate time for a move that could bolster public confidence in a financially beleaguered department.

"Legislators' job is to try to bring accountability to departments of state government," he said. "The public doesn't have a chip in the game now."

Rep. Lenore Hardy Barrett, R-Challis, echoed the views of the bill's other supporters in saying she hoped the reconstituted commission would act responsibly, "but there's some risk they'll continue in the future as they have in the past."

And Republican Rep. JoAn Wood of Rigby said that concern was particularly pertinent in light of Fish and Game's request for a \$4.4 million increase in sportsmen's fees amid complaints that the agency has not yet done all it can to reduce operating costs.

"It is a concern that if you

expand your ownership you've got to expand your department to take care of it," Wood told Commissioner Don Clower of Meridian.

Resources and Conservation is scheduled to consider the fee increase request on March 1.

Clower, one of the new appointees to the seven-member commission, said he and his colleagues had adopted strict need- and value-based criteria for determining whether to acquire land. Among the questions considered on every transaction is the potential impact on other property owners and the counties involved, he said.

"If there are concerns, I doubt very seriously whether this commission would proceed any further," Clower said. "This commission, I think, has a different philosophy than some other commissions have had."

GOP Rep. Wayne Kendall of Aberdeen said he took offense at legislation essentially questioning commissioners' competence. "It would certainly be in favor of giving you a vote of confidence on your new commissioners and new director," he told Clower.

"You need to give us a chance," the commissioner replied. "We want a closer working relationship with the Legislature, especially on land acquisition."

## SERVICES

### — DEATH NOTICES —

Clarence R. "Pat" Heath, 85, of Kimberly, services at 2 p.m. Wednesday at the Kimberly LDS Stake Center, 3850 N. 3500 E. in Kimberly. Friends may call from 4-8 p.m. today at White Mortuary in Twin Falls, with family greeting friends from 6-8 p.m., and from 12:45-1:45 p.m. Wednesday at the church.

Nolana Hazel Thorpe, 90, of Filer, and formerly of Jerome, services at 2 p.m. Wednesday at Farnsworth Mortuary Chapel, 1343 S. Lincoln in Jerome. Friends and family may call from 12 p.m. Wednesday at the chapel.

Allan C. Hansen of Wendell, service at 11 a.m. Wednesday at the United Methodist Church in Wendell; viewing will be held from 10-11 a.m. Wednesday at the church (Demary's Wendell Chapel).

**Esther Frahm**  
TWIN FALLS — Esther Frahm, 85, of Twin Falls, died Monday, Feb. 21, 2000, at the Twin Falls Care Center. Arrangements are pending and will be announced by White Mortuary in Twin Falls.

**Kara Ashlea Lath**  
BUHL — Kara Ashlea Lath, 14, of Buhl, died Sunday, Feb. 20, 2000, at St. Alphonsus Regional Medical Center in Boise, of injuries suffered in an auto accident. A memorial service will be at 4 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 24, 2000, at the Buhl Middle School Gymnasium. A full obituary will appear at a later date.

Arrangements are under the direction of Farmer Funeral Chapel in Buhl.

**James E. Coakley**  
TWIN FALLS — James Elton Coakley, 67, of Twin Falls, died Friday, Feb. 18, 2000, at his home. Services are pending and will be announced by Reynolds Funeral Chapel in Twin Falls.

**William H. Somerville**  
GOODING — William Henry Somerville, 86, of Bliss, died Monday, Feb. 21, 2000, at the Gooding County Memorial Hospital. Cremation services are pending under the direction of Demary's Gooding Chapel.

## HOSPITALS

**MINDOKA MEMORIAL HOSPITAL**  
Admitted  
Melvin Loose, Shannon Lawrence, Wyatt Homer and Joshua Weber, all of Rupert; Sarah Goin and baby boy, both of Filer; Johnnie M. Lucero and baby girl, Teagan Quinn and Kaylee Andrew, all of Heyburn; and Michelle Bott Graham and baby girl, both of Pocatello.

Dismissed  
Johnnie M. Lucero and baby girl, both of

Heyburn; Michelle Bott Graham and baby girl, both of Pocatello; Sarah Goin and baby boy, and Wylie Gaskill, all of Burley; Andrea Gardea of Rupert; and Shannon Precey of Paul.

**MAGIC VALLEY REGIONAL MEDICAL CENTER**  
Admitted  
Aubrey Farran and Jon Wilson, both of Burley.  
Discharged  
Fresten Lagervall of Twin Falls.

## OBITUARIES

For obituary rates and information, call 733-0933, 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.

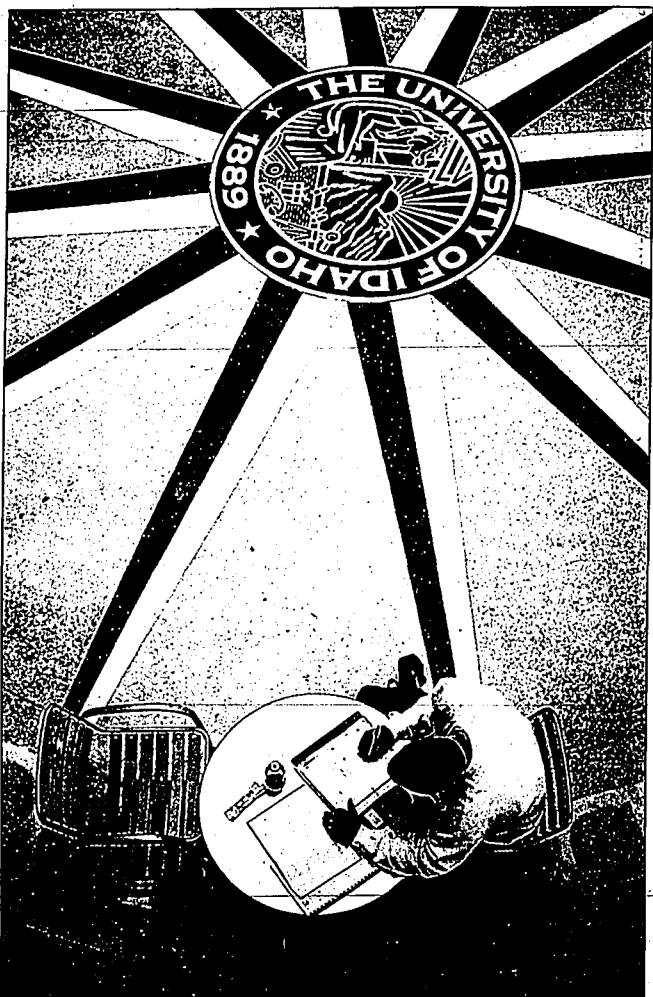


**Shelly Ann Heck Neibaur**  
Shelly Ann Heck Neibaur, 39-year-old Paul resident, died Saturday, February 19, 2000, at a Boise hospital.  
She was born March 19, 1961, in Twin Falls, Idaho, the daughter of Ralph William and Dottie Margaret Kayes Heck. Shelly grew up in Twin Falls and Filer, and worked throughout her life at Keagans,

Idaho Frozen Foods, Twin Falls Credit Bureau, Relfer's Country Store and on the family farm. She married Burke Neibaur on September 21, 1979, in Twin Falls. They moved north of Paul in 1981, where they farmed and had two beautiful children, Skyler Burke, age 15, and Katie Tyree, age 9. She loved her family with all that she was, and worked tirelessly for them, taking great pride in all that they accomplished. She was a devoted wife, mother, daughter, sister and friend. Shelly enjoyed reading, painting ceramics, making scrapbooks and working in Shelly Rasmussen's classroom. But special joy for her was attending the many games and dance performances of her children, nephews and nieces. She also enjoyed the family sports of tractor pulling and snowmobiling. Whether running one of her kids, or someone else's, to a game or practice, running for parts or doing the laundry, Shelly took great pleasure in the daily tasks of life. Shelly touched the lives of everyone around her, always ready with comfort and cheer or a listening ear; she was a rock to many. Always thinking of others, Shelly sacrificed so much, yet asked for nothing in return. Shelly was unconditionally generous and loving to everyone around

her, and gave of herself without having to be asked. Shelly was always nurturing and helpful right up until God called her home. She was and always will be our angel and our inspiration. We will love and miss her forever.  
She is survived by her husband, Burke of Paul; her two children, Skyler Burke and Katie Tyree of Paul; her parents, Ralph (June) Heck of Twin Falls, and Dottie Margaret Kayes of Buhl; brothers, David (Serina) Heck of Buhl, and Tim Heck of Boise; sisters, Kerry (Terry) Pratt of Filer, Debbie (Jake) Kinnison-Heck of Canyon Lake, California; Nancy Heck of Twin Falls; Sarah Heck of Twin Falls, and Rona Jimenez of Cedar City, Utah.  
She was preceded in death by her brother Rusty, and sister-in-law Irene.  
Funeral services will be conducted at 11 a.m. Wednesday, February 23, 2000, at the Paul Stake Center, with Bishop Daryl M. Neibaur officiating. Burial will follow at the Paul Cemetery. Friends may call today from 5-9 p.m. at Hansen Mortuary Rupert Chapel, and one hour before services Wednesday at the church. Arrangements are under the direction of Hansen Mortuary Rupert Chapel.

## BUCKLING DOWN



Dan Darlington studies for a thermodynamics class Thursday in the Idaho Commons at the University of Idaho in Moscow. Darlington is a junior in metallurgical engineering from Vernal, Utah.

## Railroad says proposed depot meets safeguards

COEUR D'ALENE (AP) — Burlington Northern and Santa Fe Railway officials say a fueling depot the railroad proposes to build over the Rathdrum Prairie Aquifer is safe and meets requirements designed to keep it from leaking into the aquifer.

The third and last day of public hearings with Kootenai County commissioners ended Friday. "If it meets the rules, it should be approved," said Janet Robnett, a local attorney representing the railroad.

Early next month, commissioners will decide whether to let the railroad build the 500,000-gallon refueling depot over the Spokane Valley-Rathdrum Prairie Aquifer.

Friday's meeting consisted of only the railroad's rebuttal of critics and questions from commissioners. Each side in the debate got a chance to give testimony during five-hour hearings Wednesday and Thursday.

Opponents, including members of the group Friends of the Aquifer, have said the depot would pose an unnecessary risk to the region's only source of drinking water.

But John Buchanan, a railroad ground water expert, said critics have not found any drinking water wells that diesel fuel or other hydrocarbons have leaked into. Buchanan ran 18 simulations of the path diesel would take if there is a spill, he said, and picked the scenario that best reflected reality.

That scenario showed no chance heavy fuel would flow even the closest well, Buchanan said. He was hired by the railroad last year when the depot proposal first appeared.

The county's comprehensive plan, which Robnett helped write, allows industrial uses over the aquifer, she said. Fuel storage is also allowed, but requires a conditional-use permit.

That gives the county room to

protect the aquifer without completely rejecting the depot, Robnett said.

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7:00 PM - 9:00 PM Thursdays  
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**Cost:** \$35  
**Registration:** 734-4545.

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**This class is highly endorsed by all last semester participants!**

# Students pitch in for history day

By Loraine Cavener  
Times-News writer

**RUPERT** - Sixteen students from Mini-Cassia Opportunity Center and Minico High School, some who work full time and have children - have put in more than 70 hours each to prepare for the regional National History Day 2000.

The students, who will compete at Big Valley Elementary School against 57 teams, gave sample presentations Monday to the Mindoka County School Board. The history day competition - Turning Points in History: People, Ideas and Events - could lead the group to state competition in Boise and national competition in Maryland.

"It is a day to mark on your calendars - March 11 - and we are ready," Opportunity Center teacher Claudia Garner said.

The 16 students, divided into four groups, introduced themselves to board members and told them a little about the presentation they plan to make - on the Dawes Act, juvenile justice, death row and the red scare.

Monica Wyatt, Opportunity Center student, talked about the Dawes Act, which she said was the first step in taking the land from Cheerokees.

"We treated Indians unfairly," said Derek Holland, also an Opportunity Center student.

Garner asked the School Board to support the group on the 11th. After demonstrating that they

had used a lot of creativity in their presentations, Cathy Jones said that it is important to teach creativity like these students had exhibited.

Jones, who helps with art classes at Heyburn Elementary School, pitched the advantages of a stronger art program in the district. Art develops critical thinking skills, she said.

Children who have had at least four art classes score higher on ACT tests, she said.

The arts are utilized in careers from engineers to hairdressers, said Penny Neibaur, an art instructor for the district. Art needs to be incorporated better in reading, math, social studies, history and other curriculum districts.

# Lawmakers memorialize late State Senate Pro Tem Twiggs

**BOISE (AP)** - Lawmakers and state officials paid tribute to the late State Senate Pro Tem Jerry Twiggs on Monday in a memorial to his good humor, easy-going manner and common sense.

"No superlative can overstate Jerry's effect on this building and this body," Gov. Dirk Kempthorne said during the two-hour ceremony in the Senate chambers.

Twiggs suffered a heart attack while jogging only hours before the 2000 session was to convene on Jan. 10, leaving his colleagues in a state of shock that seemed to persist for weeks.

The death of the 66-year-old eastern Idaho farmer who served longer as the Senate's top politi-

cal leader than anyone but fellow Republican Jim Ellsworth delayed all work for a week until after his funeral in Blackfoot.

But a funk hung over the Legislature afterward that slowed progress to a crawl for several more weeks.

"It still seems unreal he is not with us today," Twiggs' longtime administrative assistant, Darin Jensen, said. "It isn't the same. There is a void."

Twiggs' widow, Sandra, and

dozens of his children and grandchildren listened from the gallery as the former leaders colleagues recall incidents that underscored his integrity, honesty, service above self and belief in God.

"Everyone of us had a close personal relationship with Jerry," Republican Floor Leader James Rich of Boise said.

Kemphorne recounted the importance of Twiggs' counsel and incidents when the Senate leader personally went out of his way to accommodate other policy makers as well as legislative and state agency staff.

"He showed us and he showed the state Idaho that public service can be a noble calling," the governor said.

# Workshop highlights ergonomics

By Loraine Cavener  
Times-News writer

**BURLEY** - New federal ergonomic standards should affect all employers who have to deal with safety issues.

And employers can learn more about the Occupational Safety and Health Administration standards at a free workshop Wednesday.

**What, when, where**

**What:** OSHA New Ergonomic Standards Workshop.

**When:** 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. Wednesday.

**Where:** McCain Foods Herrick Center.

Pre-registration is required. For information, call Arlene Willenborg at 677-6428.

items in the plant, and the plant rotates employee breaks.

"We are constantly looking at things we need to do and improvements we can make," Schow said.

In the potato processing industry, ergonomic knives used to trim potatoes have made a difference in the number of repetitive injuries, Saldana said.

Training education - teaching people how to lift properly and other safety techniques - has become common in the industry.

The Kraft team asked employees to evaluate their work station and give suggestions for improvements.

"We received a long list," Schow said. "We are always looking at solutions."

The new standards will definitely impact employers that have to deal with safety issues, said Reuben Saldana, loss prevention manager for McCain Foods, one company sponsoring the workshop.

"The workshop is for employers and companies to look and see what is causing injuries," Saldana said. "They can gear up now so it won't hit them blind."

These disorders constitute the largest job-related injury and illness problem in the United States, the website said.

At Wednesday's event, a team from the Rupert Kraft Foods plant will present a demonstration on "Ergonomics in Action."

Kraft has established several safety teams including training, security, accident investigation, planned inspection and ergonomics, said Jennie Schow, a member of the ergonomics team.

While working toward improving ergonomic safety, the team has made many discoveries over the years. The team was established to provide information and support for a safe environment, she said.

A number of changes have been made in the production area, she said. For instance, rollers are used instead of pulleys to move

Some changes were quick fixes, while others will take longer. The workshop will help Kraft and other companies know if they are in compliance and in what direction they need to go to get there, Schow said.

Safety professionals work together, Saldana said.

"In safety there are no trade secrets," he said. "The ultimate goal is preventing injuries and accidents."

*Times-News staff writer Loraine Cavener can be reached at the Mini-Cassia Bureau in Burley at 677-4042 or by e-mail at lcavener@magicvalley.com*

# LEGISLATIVE LOG

## The Associated Press

**Confirmed by Senate**

Robert Barlow, Pocatello, to State Board of Health and Welfare.

Donald Chisholm, Burley, to State Board of Health and Welfare.

Quane Kenyon, Boise, to State Board of Health and Welfare.

Richard Roberge, Caldwell, to State Board of Health and Welfare.

**Introduced in Senate**

SCR150 (Education) - Declares November Idaho Literacy Month.

SCR151 (Local Government and Taxation) - Creates a special legislative committee to assess state laws on eminent domain.

SJM105 (Resources and Environment) - Seeks 120 day extension on comment period for Clinton administration roadless initiative.

SB1480 (Education) - Requires performance reviews every five years of teachers on renewable contracts.

SB1481 (Education) - Appropriates \$15 million annual to the school building fund for construction and denies districts lottery proceeds if they fail to develop a long-range building maintenance plan.

SB1482 (Education) - Appropriates no less than \$6 million a year.

SB1483 (Education) - Appropriates \$60 million over four years to a Disadvantaged School District Building Account for school construction.

SB1484 (Education) - Requires an independent building inspection of public schools.

SB1485 (Education) - Creates the \$1,000 Idaho Promise Scholarship for qualified high school graduates.

SB1486 (Education) - Revises reading instruction course requirements for certified teachers.

SB1487 (Transportation) - Expands experimental area for 120,000 pounds for gross of greater as well as similar value.

SB1513 (Resources and Environment) - Creates a commercial wildlife license in the Fish and Game Department.

SB1489 (Resources and Environment) - Restricts refilling of water right application after denial or withdrawal.

SB1490 (Resources and Environment) - Creates a delinquent fee assessment monitor and treat them appropriately so that they can exercise comfortably until they get a little more rehabilitated.

SB1491 (Resources and Environment) - Authorizes the Fish and Game Department to consult on wolf reintroduction.

SB1492 (Local Government and Taxation) - Prohibits transfer for electronic fund transfer of state income taxes.

SB1493 (Local Government and Taxation) - Sets reduced valuations for property that can be used for no intended purpose less than 10 months a year, such as ski resorts.

SB1494 (Local Government and Taxation) - Requires moving and relocation costs to be reimbursed in condemnation proceedings.

SB1495 (Local Government and Taxation) - Creates the state cemetery records preservation program.

SB1496 (Education) - Authorizes the State Building Authority to bond public school construction projects with interest paid by the state.

SB1497 (Agricultural Affairs) - Requires state approval of any plans to introduce or reintroduce any species into Idaho.

SB1498 (Transportation) - Requires seatbelt use and increases the fine for failure to use belts to \$20.

SB1499 (Transportation) - Revises penalty for weight reporting in certain instances.

SB1500 (Transportation) - Requires use of a statutory procedure for road abandonment.

SB1501 (Transportation) - Revises public transportation services program.

SB1502 (Transportation) - Requires seatbelt use and increases the fine for violations to \$25.

SB1503 (Transportation) - Clarifies deposits of special vehicle plate fees.

SB1504 (Transportation) - Revises the operation of the state aeronautics program.

SB1505 (Transportation) - Extends urban renewal laws to counties and restricts life of plans.

SB1506 (Transportation) - Requires motorists to assure that passengers under 18 years old are wearing seat belts.

SB1507 (Transportation) - Revises membership of the Traffic Safety Commission.

SB1508 (Transportation) - Allows publishing summaries of certain highway commission ordinances.

SB1509 (Health and Welfare) - Makes the Pharmacy Board's chief investigator a nonclassified state employee.

SB1510 (Health and Welfare) - Creates a Pharmacy Board tracking program for prescriptions.

SB1511 (Health and Welfare) - Allows legitimate out-of-state prescriptions to be filled in Idaho.

SB1612 (Resources and Environment) - Allows state land exchanges on a parimutuel basis as well as similar value.

SB1513 (Resources and Environment) - Creates a commercial wildlife license in the Fish and Game Department.

SB1514 (Resources and Environment) - Imposes a moratorium on large pig operations.

SB1515 (Local Government and Taxation) - Imposes responsibilities on governments or utilities beginning eminent domain proceedings.

SB1516 (Local Government and Taxation) - Changes the requirements for a quorum at a highway commission meeting.

**Introduced in House**

HCR45 (Agricultural Affairs) - Authorizes a interim study of including farm workers under Idaho's minimum wage law and registering farm labor contractors.

HB634 (Education) - Requires independent third party performance of any reports or evaluations beyond the annual reports

## required of charter schools.

HB635 (Education) - Sets a 3-percent cap on increases in student matriculation fees at the four-year colleges and universities.

HB636 (Education) - Deletes "noninstructional" from the reference to access time as it relates to school trustees' reducing annual instructional hour requirements.

HB637 (Education) - Sets 55 before Sept. 1 in the year of application as the age required for early retirement from jobs with public school districts.

HB638 (Education) - Authorizes school trustees to appoint a district student mentoring program coordinator.

HB639 (Local Government) - Provides for election of fire protection district commissioners every year for three years with no election in the fourth year.

HB640 (Local Government) - Increases the dollar value of property subject to existing requirements for sale, conveyance or disposal by a fire district from \$500 to \$5,000.

HB641 (Local Government) - Allows fire districts to increase their budget when an advisory exempt public utility consents to be included within the district.

HB642 (Local Government) - Requires audited information regarding charity care and net worth of exempt from property tax.

HB643 (Transportation and Defense) - Creates supervised driving instruction permits before regular driver training programs.

HB644 (Transportation and Defense) - Establishes an Idaho State Capitol Commission license plate program.

HB645 (Transportation and Defense) - Authorizes local officials to reduce speed limits on local highways without an engineering or traffic investigation.

HB646 (Transportation and Defense) - Allows the Department of Transportation to issue driving privileges to applicants whose privileges were revoked, suspended or canceled five or more years ago.

HB647 (Agricultural Affairs) - Extends the time periods for filing notices of claims of liens for farm labor and for providing seed to a producer.

HB648 (Agricultural Affairs) - Transfers commodity production lien filings from counties to the secretary of state's central filing system.

HB649 (State Affairs) - Gives counties the option of allowing the retail sale of table or dessert wines containing up to 24 percent alcohol by volume.

HB650 (State Affairs) - Broadens the scope and authority of the Bingo Advisory Board to include raffles.

HB651 (Revenue and Taxation) - Offers income tax credits for contributions to substance abuse treatment centers.

HB652 (Education) - Requires citizenship instruction in all elementary and secondary schools.

HB653 (Agricultural Affairs) - Clarifies county commissions' authority to approve siting of large confined animal feeding operations.

HB654 (Agricultural Affairs) - Requires independent third party performance of any reports or evaluations beyond the annual reports

# Snowmobiler presumed dead on Mount Baker, skier dies after hitting tree at Schweitzer resort

**BELLINGHAM, Wash. (AP)** - A Marysville man was presumed dead in a weekend snowmobile accident in the Mount Baker National Forest as a skier died after he lost control and hit a tree at Schweitzer Mountain Resort in Idaho.

Robert Maurer, 30, fell into a 60-foot crevasse while on a snowmobiling trip with his family.

He was last seen by his two brothers on Saturday, at the 8,000-foot level on the south flank of Mount Baker, when a hand machine plunged out of sight into a crevasse, said Whatcom County Sheriff's Deputy Scott

Huso, who heads the county's search and rescue operations.

"All I know is he rode over some huge crater or something that opened up," said Maurer's wife, Janice. The couple has three children ages 3, 5 and 7. "It just swallowed him up and covered him," she said.

Rescuers did find the snowmobile, and Maurer is presumed buried below it, Huso said.

The search for Maurer, an inventory supervisor for an Everett electronics company, was suspended late Saturday due to the condition and the dangers inherent in the

crevasse," Huso said.

The accident at Idaho's Schweitzer Mountain Resort occurred late Sunday morning.

A 43-year-old man from the Spokane area, whose name was not immediately released, was pronounced dead at the scene by the doctor on duty at the resort, a Schweitzer news release said.

"He was skiing down our 'white lightning run and lost control and collided with a tree,'" said Tom Fortune, the resort's general manager.

No other skiers or snowboarders were involved, the release said.

# Opening

Continued from B1

able to teach them to do things differently and increase their stamina."

Patients are referred to the program by their physicians. They are provided information about their disease, and monitored during rehabilitative exercise.

At the outset, Hills said, a patient might do only a few minutes on a treadmill for only a minute. By the end of the program that same patient can walk for 20 to 30 minutes.

"It's tremendous what the program has done for patients," she said. "The downfall has always been we've never had the space or the time, personnel or equipment to have them come back at certain scheduled times during the week to keep up their physical activity, as well as the social networking that goes on."

With the larger space the program has incorporated a new program, where patients are able to come back and continue their exercise in a supervised environment.

The room offers a large exercise facility that can handle eight to 10 patients at a time using treadmills, bicycles and weights. This exercise should make it easier for patients to complete their daily routines.

"These patients don't exercise because they're afraid to and they're already short of breath," she said. "And we teach them how to work around this and why they need to monitor their heart and treat them appropriately so that they can exercise comfortably until they get a little more rehabilitated."

# Council

Continued from B1

Include commercial and retail projects.

After tweaking the agreement to avoid wording, the council approved it at its last meeting.

Ken Edmunds, a consultant to Nielsen, said construction on Canyon Park West should begin by mid-summer. And construction should begin soon on the approved sections of Canyon Park North and East.

"There will be quite a bit this year," he said in an earlier interview.

Plans for the hotel and convention center on Canyon Park North, however, still must go back to planning and zoning for a second review.

In other business:

- The City Council will consider a streets tree replacement policy recommended by the Twin Falls City Tree Commission. If a property owner gets permission to remove a diseased or damaged tree, the city would split the cost to replace it - up to a 10-gallon tree - at no more than \$50 per tree. Without permission, the property owner must pay the full cost of replacement.
- The money for tree replacement would come from the city parks department budget.
- Mayor Elaine Steele is scheduled to proclaim April 28 this year Arbor Day to encourage all citizens to plant trees and support the effort to protect trees and woodlands.

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

# Ketchum council mulls land swaps, condos

**The Times-News**

**KETCHUM** - The City Council will discuss condominiums and land exchanges at its meeting tonight.

The City Council will have a public hearing to exchange comment on a proposed land exchange between the city and the Presbyterian Church of the Big Wood.

The council will also have a public hearing regarding the application of Patrick Cannon,

James Mahood and John Ochi, Saul Choate and Salzburg Bergman Condominiums to vacate that portion of City Street, known as Wick Strasse. The council will meet at 6 p.m. at City Hall.

Everything a fan needs to know. Find it in the SPORTS pages.



## Calendar boy

### Student art work promotes child safety

By Barb Neiwert  
Times-News correspondent

CAREY - Third-grader Evan Dilworth was just doing what his teacher asked, but his safety poster told a story that the Idaho School Board Association wanted to share with others.

Evan's crayon drawing depicting a boy safely walking his bicycle across a busy road caught the attention of the committee designing a safety calendar for state distribution.

The Carey student's message to "observe all school crossings" is the featured artwork for April in a calendar produced and sponsored by the association, Coregis and Fred A. Mortenson & Co.

Evan, son of Deloy and Jenny Dilworth, says he felt "good" about having his picture published, but was surprised at the attention school officials gave him. He accepted a certificate and a copy of the calendar during a school assembly.

His art teacher, Catherine Lowden, says she tries to orient

class lessons around various contests sponsored by Idaho organizations and was pleased that Evan's drawing was selected from assigned work he did this past fall.

Being 8-years old, Evan says he's usually busy playing outside but does find time to draw and color at home and enjoys art at school. Lowden says Evan comes from "an artistic family" with two uncles who have done well creatively.

Two other Magic Valley students also had drawings chosen for the calendar. Stormy Given, a sixth-grader at Bickel Elementary in Twin Falls, drew a picture reminding students to never ride with strangers and the picture will be featured for the month of May.

Featured for November, Judy Gowen, a fifth-grader at Oakley Elementary School, was chosen for her rendition of all the "no-no's" of school safety.

Times-News correspondent Barb Neiwert can be reached in Hailey at 788-9530.



The poster created by Carey third-grader Evan Dilworth was selected by the Idaho School Board Association to promote safety.



Danny Smoke, runner-up, left and Ian Kast took top spots in the Bliss Geography Bee. Kast took first place and may compete in a state contest.

## Bliss students shine

### at school geography bee

By Dara Jensen  
Times-News correspondent

BLISS - Chances are Ian Kast knows his way around the globe.

Kast won the recent Bliss Geography Bee and is awaiting the test results on the next step to the state competition and possibly, a chance to win the \$25,000 scholarship for the winner of the National Geography Bee.

Fifth-grader Ian Kast, by winning the school contest, submitted a written test to the state contest.

The top 100 contestants will compete as finalists at the state level. Only the state winner is eligible to compete in the national contest. Notification of the winners on the state level will be sent early in March.

"The contest was fun, but it was hard," Kast says. "I like geography."

"Just wait until next year," runner-up Danny Smokes says with a challenge.

The Geography Bee is an educational

outreach program of the National Geographic Society sponsored by Bank One. The purpose of the contest is to promote and encourage the teaching and study of geography. Students from all 50 states, District of Columbia, Guam, Puerto Rico, American Samoa, the Northern Mariana Islands, the U.S. Virgin Islands and the U.S. Department of Defense Schools participate in the contest.

The contest is open to students of grades 4 through 8. The name of the school is first submitted to the National Society, Thomas Simmons, a Bliss fifth-grade teacher explains. In the actual contest, each contestant answers questions in turn. When a student misses two questions he or she is eliminated. The last one standing is the winner.

"The contest gives the students an incentive to become more familiar with and have a better understanding of the world and nations," Simmons adds.

## Optimists collect coats for needy children

By Heather Abel  
Times-News Correspondent

TWIN FALLS - Some people may take warmth for granted.

But several children don't have the winter wear to weather the storms.

For several years, however, the Twin Falls Optimist Club has a solution for children with the Coats for Kids' program, offering coats, hats and gloves for children who need them.

"It's amazing the need for coats," Optimist Club member Chris Whitten says.

"When it turned cold in November, we probably turned four or five coats per day."

Here's how it works: Each school and the

South Central Community Action Agency have contacts with the Optimist Club. As they get referrals from the community for children in need of coats, an Optimist Club member is notified.

The club members try to fill the order by checking their storage to see if they have a coat that will meet that child's needs. If not, they will purchase a coat with money donated from the community.

"We try to give children coats that are clean and in good repair," Optimist Bobbi Deboard says. "We are going



Left to right, Robyn Stanhope and Chris Whitten show the selection of coats and other winter clothing collected by the Twin Falls Optimist Club for needy children.

through massive amounts of coats. We appreciate all the monetary and coat donations that we get. Any more are greatly appreciated."

Deboard added that the community has been helpful in this effort. For example, Babel's Cleaners, one of the drop-off locations, launders the coats donated there. Members of the Optimist Club also take home coats and launder them.

"We have so many wonderful people who give us donations," Deboard says. "And the Optimist Club members work really hard, cleaning coats, picking them up. It's just a great group effort. First Security Bank gives us a large amount of money each year."

"At this point we're pretty much out of money," Deboard says. "And we are looking for donations."

## ON DRAGONFLY WINGS



This photograph of a dragonfly perched on a barbed wire fence near Rupert has earned several awards for photographer Jon Campbell of Rupert. The latest award was from The International Library of Photography. The photo, "Summer Warmth," is featured in the historic photography anthology, "American at the Millennium."

Photo by Jon Campbell

## Kimberly Library stars best of quilting show

By Betty Taylor  
Times-News correspondent

KIMBERLY - Quilts, quilts and more quilts. Some old, some new, large and little, all unique in their own way.

The third annual quilt display at the Kimberly Library was organized by Marilyn Attebury. Quilts were displayed during the month of January.

The oldest quilt was handmade in 1930. Another one featured state birds and flowers that was more than 50 years old.

One of the most eye-catching was a quilt with embroidered flowers on a white background. The embroidery was completed by Roger Hartgrave and the quilting was done by the First Ward Relief Society.

A quilt made by Cami DePew's grand-



Cheryl Howe and Helen McCord discuss unique parts of a quilt on display at the Kimberly Library. The quilt was one of several displayed at the library during the month of January.

mother, Marylou Becker featured a theme echoing the "SPY" books, which challenge youngsters to look for hidden objects. The quilt was originally started by using characters from books that Cami and her grandmother read together last year when Cami started the first-grade. Then, when they discovered the "SPY" books by Marzollo/Wick at the Kimberly Library, they found the new theme for their quilt, they said.

## RIDE WITH HISTORY



Pam Young wanted her students at Decio High School to experience a little pioneer life. So, the social studies teacher invited Joe Adams, Lloyd Warr and Glen Beck to bring horse-drawn wagons to school and provide rides into the countryside during United States history classes.





## WESTERN BUSINESS

### Notes on the economy

#### Magic Valley report

In 1999, per-capita income in Cassia County was \$17,295 - slightly below the state average. In 1997, per-capita income in the county was \$18,035 - up 4.3 percent from 1993's figure, but lagging further behind the Idaho average. In 1999, per-capita income in Minidoka County was \$24,877 - almost \$3,000 below the state average. In 1997, per-capita income in the county was \$16,048 - up 7.9 percent from 1993's figure, but a significant \$4,344 below the state's level.

The rural nature of the two Minidoka counties has held back income growth, state analysts say. Source: Idaho Department of Labor

### BRIEFLY IN MONEY

#### Idaho hospice firm gets full accreditation

TWIN FALLS - Idaho Home Health and Hospice Inc. said it has been awarded a full, three-year accreditation by the Joint Commission on Accreditation of Health Care Organizations, following an unannounced survey Dec. 7-15.

Because the commission's standards meet or exceed Medicare standards, Idaho Home Health and Hospice also received recommendation from the commission for continued Medicare certification, the Twin Falls business said.

Idaho Home Health and Hospice began in 1977 and operates from nine offices in Twin Falls - at 200 Second Ave. N. - Buhl, Hailey, Rupert, Downey, Pocatello, Blackfoot, Idaho Falls and Rigby. The business is owned and operated by Gary and Judi Thietzen of Twin Falls and calls itself Idaho's largest home health provider.

#### Uncle Sam doles out home energy help

BOISE - The Clinton Administration is allocating more than half a million dollars to the state to help low-income families pay for increasing heating costs. The Low Income Home Energy Assistance program is giving Idaho \$532,659 to help eligible families pay for the cost of heating and insulating their homes in winter and cooling their homes in summer.

"The tremendous increases in fuel costs are putting vulnerable families, senior citizens and children in serious jeopardy," said Health and Human Services Secretary Donna E. Shalala. "These crucial funds will assure the health and safety of low-income families."

President Clinton recently asked Energy Secretary Bill Richardson to take new measures addressing the rising concern of home heating oil prices.

About 4 million households receive Low Income Home Energy Assistance each year. The federal government plans to allot money to 37 other states as well.

Compiled from staff and wire reports



Annamarie Firley, the owner of Revamp, poses in her San Francisco store, which specializes in making vintage reproductions of clothes that appeal to the swing dancing crowd.

## Hittin' the town in retro style

Niche merchants feed glamour hunger with vintage clothes

The Associated Press

SAN FRANCISCO

Annamarie Firley is making up for lost time.

At Revamp, her spacious new store in San Francisco's Lower Haight, Firley makes reproductions of vintage clothing dating from the 1910s to 1950s. With a presto-retro-change-o, Firley creates pieces that combine

classic glamour with a modern twist.

In 1999, its first year, RevVamp rang up \$60,000 in sales while sharing shelf space with a tiny corset store. This year, now housed in a turn-of-the-century-sausage-factory, the clothier aims to increase sales to

\$100,000 and has just begun offering Sunday afternoon classes on period etiquette, hair, makeup and style to drive in more traffic.

RevVamp and other retro niche merchants feed the hunger for classic glamour in

Please see RETRO, Page C4

## March 9 is deadline for comment on power conservation program

### Local business in brief

Housing manufacturer Champion Enterprises Inc. reported annual earnings were hurt by a bankruptcy of the company's former largest independent retailer.

Champion (NYSE: CHB) owns retailers Factory Homes Outlets in Twin Falls and Burley and Westwind Homes in Filer.

Revenues for 1999 increased 10 percent to \$2.5 billion from \$2.3 billion in 1998. During the year, a nonrecurring pretax charge of \$33.6 million (or 42 cents per diluted share) was recorded as a result of the independent retailer's bankruptcy, Champion said.

Operating income in 1999, before the charge, was \$141 million, compared with \$170 million a year ago. For the year, Champion reported net income of \$50 million, or \$1.02 per diluted share. Without the nonrecurring charge, income per diluted share was \$1.44, compared with

\$1.91 in 1998.

"Our first-half and second-half results in 1999 were like night and day," said Walter R. Young, Champion's chairman, president and chief executive officer. "Aggressive sales programs in previous years by the industry's manufacturers and finance companies seemed to culminate in mid-1999. Throughout the industry, too many retail locations, too much inventory, increasing repossession and tighter consumer-credit standards affected retail sales and wholesale production during the second half of the year."

### Longview Fibre Co. reports first-quarter turnaround

LONGVIEW, Wash. - Timber, paper and paper-product manufacturer Longview Fibre Co. turned its first-quarter results around from losses of a year ago. Net income for first quarter 2000 - which ended Jan. 31 - was \$5.6 million, compared with a net loss of \$1.2 million in first quarter 1999, said Longview Fibre,

which has a container plant in Twin Falls that manufactures cardboard boxes.

Operating results improved in the manufacturing segments of the business but declined in the timber segment.

In Longview Fibre's converted-products division - which includes the Twin Falls plant - operating income for the first quarter was \$3.1 million, compared with a net loss of \$7.1 million a year earlier. The primary cause for the improvement were a 9 percent increase in average price and a 7 percent increase in volume sold, the company said.

Demand for converted products was unseasonably strong during first quarter 2000, "and average price continued to trend upward from the fourth quarter, but remains below compensatory levels," Longview Fibre's quarterly report said. "The company continues to develop its specialty and niche products and to reduce costs in order to improve margins."

-Compiled from staff reports

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**MONEY**

**Retro**

Continued from C3

the age of minimalist chic, cultural observers said.

"The attention to detail on clothing has been lost," said Firley, a petite blonde who used to wear vintage dresses to class in high school. "If you look at the clothes pre-World War II, there's so much going on."

"A lot of things about that time period sucked—the racism, the sexism, poverty," said Firley, describing her favorite decade, the '30s. "But living in the '90s, I can pull away the things I like, take up the good and wash away the bad."

Dressing to the nines can be tough.

Much sought-after by retro fiends, vintage clothes are often smelly, stained, the wrong size or prone to "blowouts"—when delirious dance moves cause old seams and fabric to rip. By contrast, ReVamp adds action pleats and other modifications that give customers freedom of movement. Firley and her team of nine employees draw upon old illustrations, dressmaking patterns, movies and posters for inspiration.

"I want to keep it authentic yet accessible to women who don't want to feel bound up," said Firley, 29, a seeming anachronism who dresses in vintage clothes almost every day.

Though most ReVamp customers don't adhere to the gospel of vintage as closely as Firley, many said they appreciated the handmade clothes that range from \$65 rayon crop tops to \$350 silk charmeuse halter dresses.

"I can enjoy the vintage look, but the same thing that made it last," said Laura Gordon, a photographer in the Upper Haight who decorates her apartment in '30s style. That means no microwave and no television, though Gordon owns a CD-player and telephone.

"If I have free time, I'd rather go to an old movie or read a 1930s Vogue magazine than snap on the TV," Gordon said.

That same love of retro styling spurred Firley and her former business partner Autumn Carey Adame to open ReVamp in September 1998. The store soon gained a following with sales through catalog, Internet, and at swing dance clubs. Many Bay Area performers such as singer Lavay Smith and her Red Hot Skillet Lickers, and Steve Lacy and Rhumba Bums, also wear ReVamp attire.

Last summer, Adame decided to focus on her Hayes Valley corset store, Dark Garden. So, Firley forged ahead on her own to design more than 50 new styles in day, dance and evening wear for men and women, backed by a five-year, \$50,000 limited partnership.

By keeping the production run of each style to just 75 pieces, Firley hopes that the ReVamp reproductions will have the same collectible appeal as vintage.

"I know I won't see it on every person down the street, like a Gap ad," said L.A. Macdonald, 34, a Hayes Valley customer. "It's lucky that San Francisco has the business owners with something a little bit different."

**Muppets take Munich; Jim Henson Co. sold**

FRANKFURT, Germany (AP) — It's not easy being green. Kermit the Frog and Miss Piggy are becoming the latest American icons to go German, following in the footsteps of Chrysler Corp. and Random House.

Munich-based media company EM.TV and Merchandising is buying the Jim Henson Co. for \$680 million in cash and stock, giving it exclusive rights to such fuzzy critters as Kermit the Frog, Miss Piggy, Bert and Ernie, and the scraggly green furball, Oscar the Grouch.

"We are a strong believer in brands," deputy chairman of EM.TV Florian Hafsa said Monday. "With the Jim Henson Company, you don't get bigger internationally recognized brands than Kermit the Frog and

Miss Piggy."

The deal, in the works for several months, also seals ownership of some of the world's best-loved children's shows including "Sesame Street," "The Muppet Show," "Jim Henson's Muppet Babies" and "Fraggle Rock," not to mention a string of Muppet films.

"Sesame Street," first broadcast in 1969, is seen in 140 countries alone.

The buyout gives EM.TV rights to more than 5,000 licensed Muppet products that have hit toy stores over the last 10 years. That includes the talking-and-laughing Tickle Me Elmo doll — which triggered buying frenzies at toy stores across the United States — and more than 30 million Muppet books sold in 45 countries.

EM.TV also gets access to the Los Angeles-based company's

science-fiction shows, which include "Farscape," a top-rated show on Britain's BBC and the Sci Fi Channel in the United States.

EM.TV is well-established in Europe with television and marketing rights to the popular Japanese animation Pokemon as well as Bugs Bunny in Germany.

It said the deal would help it penetrate the American and Asian markets where Jim Henson's Muppets already have deep roots.

EM.TV hasn't been the only German company to expand its market share overseas through corporate takeovers.

Besides Daimler-Benz, which acquired Chrysler Corp. in 1998 to help penetrate the American market, German

media giant Bertelsmann bought the No. 1 U.S. publisher Random House that same year.

Jim Henson, creator and alter-ego of Kermit the Frog and scores of other Muppet characters, founded his self-named company in 1958, inventing the term "muppet" as a cross between the words marionette and puppet. Kermit was known for singing songs such as "Bein' Green."

Henson Co. has been run by Henson's son and daughter and chief operating officer Charles H. Rivkin since Henson's death in 1990. EM.TV plans no shakeups for the Jim Henson crew, which will continue to have creative independence with its headquarters in Los Angeles and studios in New York and London, Hafsa said.

**Rates**

Continued from C3

adjustable-rate mortgages averaged 6.77 percent, up from 6.73 percent the previous week.

Economists predict 30-year fixed rates could climb to 8.5 percent by the end of the year.

As rates climb, borrowers find it harder to pay for the home they want by using a traditional 30-year mortgage.

"The advantage of the adjustable rate is that you can qualify for more house," said Vince Carducci, director of marketing for Standard Federal Bank in Troy, Mich.

Lenders look at a variety of factors before making a mortgage, including how much the applicant owes other lenders, the down payment and monthly income. One standard says that a monthly mortgage payment on principal and interest cannot be more than 28 percent of the borrower's gross monthly income.

A lower rate means a lower monthly payment. Someone who couldn't qualify for an 8.5-per-

cent rate might qualify for a 6.5-percent rate.

An adjustable rate "is one of the ways to offset rising home prices," said Keith Gumbinger, vice president for HSH Associates, a mortgage research company in Butler, N.J.

Consider a \$100,000 mortgage. The monthly payment — without taxes and insurance — would be \$759.01 with a 30-year fixed rate at 8.36 percent.

But the monthly payment drops to \$647.24 with a one-year ARM at 6.73 percent.

A one-year ARM can carry the lowest rate and the biggest risk. Rates on ARMs are pegged to short-term Treasury rates. On a one-year ARM, the rate can go up or down after the first year. The adjusted rate would be 2.75 percentage points over the prevailing one-year Treasury rate.

Often an ARM will cap a rate hike to 2 percentage points more than your current rate. ARMs put a floor on falling rates, too. The maximum drop in one year is 2 percentage points as well.

The maximum cap would be 6 percentage points during the life of the mortgage.

Some home owners don't want to worry about facing higher mortgage payments each year. So they opt for hybrid ARMs that offer fixed rates for three or five years.

And while the Clintons were able to get an incredible deal on their mortgage — 7.5 percent fixed for three years — most people won't find deep discounts without making some trade-offs.

Like taking on a mortgage that could leave you owing more than you expected.

Rose Balhorn, mortgage broker and owner of Crossroads Lending in Waterford Township, said one of her popular mortgages is a product called "The Option ARM," which is offered through Washington Mutual.

The rate used for qualifying for the mortgage is 6.5 percent. But borrowers can make payments based on lower or higher rates.

One of the four options is to make a minimum monthly pay-

ment as though your rate is as low as 4.95 percent. But you're actually being charged interest at a 7.8-percent rate. With this option, you are borrowing more money and not covering all the interest due.

And this is a good idea?

Balhorn said it is for many people, including younger families that might have a lot of credit card debt. Home owners can opt for the smaller monthly mortgage payment and then use the rest of the money to pay down higher rate credit card debt each month.

With the Option ARM, the theory is that, once borrowers get a firmer financial footing, they can select other payment plans that would pay down the mortgage more quickly.

"It looks great on paper, but it doesn't happen in reality," Gumbinger said.

Gumbinger worries that consumers who aren't disciplined could end up deeper in debt.

"It's a terrible idea to make payments without making any dent in your mortgage," he said.

**Stock options might pack a very hefty tax**

Micron Technology is challenging the IRS in court over employee option withholdings

Knight Ridder News Service

The standard script for the working man's dream is simple: You get stock options; you get rich; you retire early.

Not so fast.

Come the day of reckoning — on April 17 this year, you could face one super-sized tax bill. In fact, the tax consequences of cashing in your incentive stock options can be so costly, confusing and demoralizing that envious neighbors and co-workers could appropriately title this story "Revenge on the Nerds."

But it's no laughing matter. Whether they don't understand the tax liability and investment risks, employees commonly mismanage what often is the single largest chunk of wealth they'll ever receive, experts say.

"The incentive-incentive

on your W-2. It's also taxed at marginal income rates that could be 39 percent. Be prepared to reach for your checkbook, though, because most employers contend they're not required to withhold income tax.

For years, the IRS seemed to agree. But in recent years, some IRS auditors have taken a stance that companies are on the hook for withholding on stock options and employee stock purchase plans. Micron Technology of Boise, Idaho, has challenged the IRS in tax court. In the meantime, most companies are taking a lay-low-and-see approach.

**IF YOU EXERCISED AND HELD THE SHARES:** Even though you're out the cash to exercise the options and your investment is only on paper, the bargain element is treated as alternative minimum tax income.

That doesn't necessarily mean you'll owe AMT, because your regular tax still might be higher.

But if you owe AMT, there's nothing you can do about it now. The time for paring

your tax bill was last year, when you could have taken steps to sidestep or at least minimize the AMT bill.

Even so, AMT isn't the end of the world. AMT is just a prepayment of tax — and you're simply making an interest-free loan to Uncle Sam. At some point, you theoretically will get your money back later in the form of an AMT credit that you can carry forward and apply whenever your regular tax exceeds your AMT. However, it might take years to recoup fully, especially if the stock price tanked after you exercised your options. So, manage your credit dutifully — and patiently.

**IF YOU SOLD OPTIONS EXERCISED BEFORE 1999:** If the stock price rose since you exercised and you held the shares long enough to qualify for long-term gains, congratulations. The appreciation and the bargain element are both taxed at 20 percent. Moreover, those profits will drive up your regular tax and could put you in jeopardy to reclaim much of your AMT credit.

If the price fell, however, it's actually possible to report a capital gain on Schedule D while also avoiding a loss for AMT purposes.

**Idaho trout sales are up 10 percent, state agency reports**

BOISE (AP) — The state's foodsize trout sales came to \$37.3 million from Jan. 1, 1999, through Dec. 31, the Idaho Agricultural Statistics Service said.

The agency also said those numbers are up

10 percent from the \$33.8 million in 1998.

The number of foodsize fish sold was 47.5 million, up 4 percent from the previous year's 45.6 million. Total pounds sold were 46 million, compared with 44.4 mil-

lion in 1998.

Nationally, sales for all foodsize trout reached \$65 million during 1999, an increase of 8 percent from the \$60.3 million in 1998.

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# Claiming home office deduction is not a sure thing

By Mark Schwabhauser  
San Jose Mercury News

"You work at home. You own a computer. You monitor your e-mail on it. You draft business reports in your den, bedroom or nook. Maybe you even telecommute. If anything is an inalienable write-off, by golly, it ought to be a home office."

"Historically, it has been an emotional thing with people," said Phil Storrer, an accounting professor and director of the Low-Income Tax Clinic at Cal State-Hayward.

"And maybe you can, because the tax rules were liberalized, opening the way for as many as 2 million artists, doctors, outside sales reps and others to claim a home office deduction on this year's 1040 form."

Before you start calculating your depreciation, though, evaluate carefully whether this is one deduction to turn your back on. First, you must be confident your records would satisfy an auditor. Second, claiming a home-office deduction could force you to pay capital gains tax if you sell your home.

"Is it really worth the benefit?" Daniel D.

## More deduction options

Even if you don't qualify to claim a home-office deduction, you might be eligible for a variety of other easily overlooked write-offs, says CCH Inc., a tax information and services company based in Riverwoods, Ill. Here's a sampler:

- Depreciation of office equipment such as a personal computer, off-the-shelf software, modem, fax and furniture.
- Depreciation of a business auto, or deductions of business mileage.

Morris, a partner with Morris+D'Angelo, a San Jose accounting firm, asked rhetorically, "It's not a slam dunk for all of his clients. 'About half the time I take it, half the time I don't.'"

For years, the defining case involved an anesthesiologist who used his home office to make appointments, bill clients, call doctors and study medicine. He worked in several hospitals, but none gave him an office. The U.S. Supreme Court ruled against him, saying the hospitals were the focal point of his business because that's where he earned his income.

□ Self-employed business people can deduct 60 percent of the health insurance premiums for themselves and their dependents.

□ If you pay tax for business meals and entertainment.

□ Travel expenses such as airfare, lodging and rental costs, plus either half of your meals or a \$30 per day.

□ General business expenses such as a second phone line, Internet access, trade journals and legal and professional services.

Now, your home office can qualify if:

• You use it for administrative or management activities, which might mean bookkeeping or scheduling appointments. Managing your investment portfolio probably won't cut it, however.

• There's no other fixed place where you conduct "substantial" amounts of your business activities. "This interpretation of the word 'substantial' has yet to be fleshed out," Storrer said. "There's some mischief possible in this."

• If you're an employee, the home office must be for your company's convenience. That will eliminate plenty of folks who are permitted to telecommute as a favor or perk.

## MARKETS

### METALS/CURRENCY

NEW YORK (AP) Selected world gold prices, Monday.  
Hong Kong late p.m.  
London morning fixing: \$305.75 up \$2.95.  
London afternoon fixing: \$305.75 up \$2.95.

London late: \$305.00 up \$2.20.  
Paris afternoon fixing: \$303.52 up \$5.85.  
New York afternoon: \$304.75 up \$1.00.  
NY Hammer: closed.  
NY Handy & Harmon fabricated: closed.  
NY Engraving: closed.  
NY Engraving fabricated: closed.  
NY Metal: closed.  
NY HSCB Bank USA 4 p.m. Mon: closed.

### To our readers

Early all markets were closed Monday because of the Presidents Day holiday. The markets will re-open today.

### Where you live can determine your salary

#### The Associated Press

**LOCATION, LOCATION, LOCATION:** Where you live can have a big impact on how much you make.

A new survey by human relations consulting firm William M. Mercer, Incorporated, found salaries in cities on the East and West coasts tend to be at or above the national average, while Midwest and Southern cities generally fall at or below average.

For instance, a salary that averages \$60,000 nationally would be worth 17.4 percent more in San Jose, Calif., (\$70,440), whereas Brownsville, Texas, workers would receive 16.1 percent less (\$50,340).

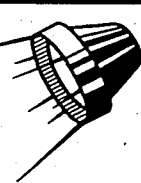
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# Spotlight



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WORLD



Anti-narcotics police officers signal to a Bell 212 helicopter the place to land Friday in Rionegro, Columbia, during an aerial eradication operation of poppies, the material of heroin. In nearly a decade of U.S.-sponsored aerial eradication, hundreds of thousands of gallons of herbicide have been sprayed on illicit drug crops in vast expanses of Columbia's highlands and rain forest.

# Columbia's coca still thrives

RIO NEGRO, Colombia (AP) - In nearly a decade of U.S.-sponsored fumigation, planes have sprayed hundreds of thousands of gallons of herbicide on illicit drug crops in vast expanses of Columbia's highlands and rainforests.

Yet drug cultivation in the world's No. 1 cocaine-producing nation is at a record high and climbing. Crop yields are also improving as traffickers plant more potent strains of coca and opium poppy, the sources of cocaine and heroin.

The stubbornness of the plants seems matched only by the determination of U.S. and Colombian officials to continue the chemical counterattack.

Congress on a \$1.6 billion aid package that would fund an accelerated spraying effort, new estimates show coca cultivation up by 20 to 30 percent last year. Since 1995, it has more than doubled, according to the Colombian and U.S. figures.

Pastrana, who expressed serious reservations about fumigation's effectiveness during his first months in office, has toned down the criticism and now welcomes the U.S. assistance.

"If anyone has been tough on drug trafficking it's me," he told The Associated Press earlier this month.

Colombian and U.S. officials including White House drug czar Barry McCaffrey, who arrives Tuesday for a three-day visit, argue that drug crops would be

expanding even more rapidly if there wasn't any attempt to halt their proliferation.

But even a recent effort to showcase the spraying effort ended up highlighting the many questions surrounding it, including its distressing impact on this Andean nation's diverse and fragile ecosystem.

Flying with anti-narcotics police to an opium poppy field in the southwestern state of Huila, the view out the Bell 212 helicopter window is one of huge scars in the forests, of valleys denuded by clear-cutting.

"That's the ecological crime of the narcotics," national police spokesman Carlos Perdomo says, gesturing at the deforested ridges around Rio Negro. It is a crime that critics say is

only aggravated by fumigation.

Coca and opium-growers rarely quit. Either they fell more trees elsewhere to plant or they wait until soil microbes have decomposed the herbicide - typically a year - and reseed the same plot.

"We've noted about a 40 to 50 percent replanting rate" of opium poppy fields, admits Col. Edgar Orlando Barrero, the police eradication program director.

Since the mid-1990s, coca growers have pushed ever deeper into the Amazon basin to evade the crop-dusters, clearing tens of thousands of acres of virgin rainforest. Every new acre planted requires that three be cleared.

# Nato troops break up ethnic Albanian march

KOSOVSKA MITROVICA, Yugoslavia (AP) - NATO-led peacekeepers fired tear gas Monday at thousands of ethnic Albanians who broke through a cordon and hurled stones as they tried to enter the Serb part of this ethnically divided town.

At least 10,000 Albanians reached the main bridge in the center of Kosovska Mitrovica, which divides the Serbs from the ethnic Albanians. Hundreds of red-and-black Albanian flags flew on the southern, Albanian side of the bridge over the Ibar river.

On the northern bank, about 4,000 Serbs were positioned near the bridge. Some who had gathered there earlier began to flee, while others fought to reinforce their positions. Some Serb women and children began evacuating the town.

The French brought in reinforcements and armored vehicles to strengthen their cordons on the bridge, firing tear gas to hold off the Albanians, who had broken through an earlier cordon set up to hold them back. Later, British peacekeepers put four armored personnel carriers across the bridge to keep the crowd from crossing, and some Albanians who tried to climb over the vehicles were pushed back.

Many Albanians fear the ethnic division between the Serb-con-

trolled north and majority ethnic Albanian south sides of the town could eventually lead to the northern side being given to Serbs altogether.

The northern industrial town, has been a flashpoint for ethnic tensions since the peacekeeping force entered Kosovo in June.

Most recently, nine people were killed and dozens injured in ethnic violence that followed a rocket attack on a U.N. bus that killed two Serb civilians on Feb. 2. French troops, who are permanently stationed in the town, have been criticized by U.N. police and ethnic Albanians for failing to provide security for Albanians living on the Serb side.

Earlier Monday, NATO suspended in some areas a massive house-to-house weapons search that was launched early Sunday in response to weeks of violence.

"KFOR had to take some of its soldiers away to provide security for these demonstrations," said Lt. Cmdr. Phillip Anido, a NATO spokesman in Pristina, adding that the suspension was only temporary and the search would "carry on."

U.N. police and NATO-led troops accompanied the demonstrators, who were heading from the provincial capital, Pristina, on a 25-mile march to Kosovska Mitrovica.

# Avalanches hit Swiss, Italian Alps; six skiers found dead

BOLZANO, Italy (AP) - Avalanches swept down Alpine slopes at the height of the ski season Monday, killing three skiers in Italy and three in Switzerland. In Italy, two back-to-back avalanches in the northern Venosta Valley trapped a group of seven Germans and one Italian skier on an unauthorized route, alpine rescue official Luigi Weger said.

Searchers recovered the bodies of two women and one man and accounted for the remaining five skiers, Weger said. At least one was hospitalized with severe hypothermia. The valley is about 90 miles from the northern Italian city of Bolzano.

In Switzerland, a 200-yard-wide snowslide buried two Swiss skiers and a German near the popular

eastern ski resort of Davos, police said.

Searchers rescued one slightly injured man immediately after the avalanche. After hours of searching involving about 100 people backed by dogs, police said they had determined that no one else was missing.

Recent heavy snowfall followed by blue skies and sunshine Monday had prompted official avalanche warnings for both areas.

Italian schools are out this week for what is known as "white week," freeing pupils for family ski trips.

Many Swiss youngsters also are given weeklong school vacations during the winter - most frequently in February - to go skiing.



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# SPORTS

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Sports editor: Jeff Rosen, 733-0931; Ext. 229

Section D

The Times-News

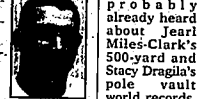
Tuesday, February 22, 2000

## Simplot, sites and statistics: It's all there

How incredible was it? I have to ask because I wasn't there? The Simplot Games last weekend. But when I explain why, I know my faithful readers will understand.

As the only healthy member of my sister's family last weekend, I willingly stayed home and took care of my wife Lisa (bronchitis, ear infection) and daughters Gabriella (cold) and Sara (fever from vaccinations). I stayed home because I wanted to, not because I had to.

Nonetheless, the beauty of the Internet enabled me to track the locals at the top-ranked indoor high school track meet in the nation. You've probably already heard about Jearl Miles-Clark's 500-yard and Stacy Dragila's pole vault world records, so I won't belabor those points.



ON THE RUN  
- Vin Cappiello

Instead, I'll focus on a couple of Magic Valley athletes. Twin Falls' Matt Anderson, representing Donnelley's, earned two silver medals Saturday. He went 22 feet, 3 1/2 inches in the long jump and 45-4 1/4 in the triple jump. Anderson is the defending state champion in the latter of the two, having cracked the 47-foot barrier last spring. A 45-11 in February means the Class A-1 record of 47-6 and overall mark of 47-10 1/4 are certainly in jeopardy.

A few other notable performances include: Chris Bellon, representing the Mini-Cassia track club, who placed sixth in the 60-meter dash in 7.04 seconds. It's nice to see a local sprinter break into the medals at Simplot.

Carrin Fatterson of Gooding, representing the Desert Dashers who ran a very respectable 5:37.55 in the 1,600 meters. The time was good enough for sixth in her heat. The winner of the event was Gillette Track Club's Alicia Craig, who ran a very impressive 4:51.65.

Chris Patterson, Carrin's older brother, who ran a personal-best 4:43.1 in Saturday's 1,600-meter final, coming off a 4:43.9 personal best Thursday night in the prelims. All this with a heavily taped foot suffered during basketball season.

### Collegiate Top 25

Basketball has it. So does football. And so do baseball and hockey. So why not publish an NCAA men's and women's Top 25 list? Well, track fans, there is such a thing, and to check the weekly vote, go to [www.trackwire.com](http://www.trackwire.com) to see who's ranked where.

As of last week, "Trackwire 25" listed the top women's team as Louisiana State, the top men none other than Arkansas. It's interesting to note that Wyoming's women are ranked 24th, the men 17th. Other regional teams in the poll include the BYU women (18th) and Washington State men (24th).

Also on this website are numerous statistics, photos and stories about collegiate track and field. It's simply a good read for the track and field junkie.

### Growing Tiger

Timothy Dunne of 19th-ranked Missouri, a Jerome High School alumnus, is ranked 10th in the nation at 800 meters. Dunne, whose accolades have been well documented in the poll include, burned a 1:49.66 Feb. 12 at the Iowa State Invitational. The day before, his 47.9 400 leg helped Mizou clock a 9:43 distance medley relay, good enough for a No. 8 national ranking.

Dunne has, therefore, qualified for the NCAA national meet, on a provisional basis in both events. To qualify, the NCAA takes the top 16 performers in each event, regardless of the qualifying standard.

Vin Cappiello, a full-time teacher and former track coach, is a part-time sportswriter for *The Times-News*. He can be reached at [vcappie@magicvalley.com](mailto:vcappie@magicvalley.com)

## Filer remains the team to beat; Wildcats, Bulldogs win in routs

By Jeff Rosen.  
Times-News writer

**TWIN FALLS** - Two things to know about Ben Allen: One, he's got asthma, the kind that seems to worsen with strenuous activity. Has since he was 3.

Two, he can play through it just fine. Thank you, play through it just fine.

The Filer High School senior proved that much Monday night at the College of Southern Idaho gymnasium, helping the Wildcats chunk free in 8-8 tie in the first quarter of a Class A-2 District IV quarterfinal game against Wendell with 18 points, six rebounds, four blocked shots, one

### SCIC Boys' Basketball Tournament

two-handed jam and more mobility than a big guy should command.

With the 64-37 win, Filer will sit out tonight's loser-out contest between the Trojans and the Kimberly Bulldogs, big 64-46 victors over Wood River in Monday night's early game. The Wildcats will meet the winner Wednesday for the district championship and a trip to state.

Filer may have lost to each school during the regular season,

but the top-seeded Wildcats are Bulldogs fans tonight.

"We're kind of hoping it's Kimberly," said Allen, who also holds the school record in the triple jump. "We lost to them pretty bad on Senior Night. We'd like to play them again."

### Kimberly 64, Wood River 46

Coming off a four-point loss to Wendell last week, Kimberly opened an 8-2 lead against the Wolverines aided by a trio of Wood River turnovers.

But the Wolverines hung around early with solid perimeter shooting from Jeff Cordes and Sky

Wolfe, who each drained three-pointers, to trail just 14-9 after one quarter.

"They've got so many kids who can hurt you from the three-point line," said Kimberly coach Roger Keller.

Sticky full-court pressure and a pair of Cordes free throws pulled Wood River within two points, 17-15, midway through the second period. But Matt Kopydowski finished a slashing drive to the bucket, big post Matt Lee converted down low off a J.J. Plew feed and Billy Humphries made good free throws to widen the gap for good.

Zack Hays sank a three-pointer and went 1-of-2 at the line a

moment later to pull Wood River within four at 21-21, but Humphries three-pointer and pair of foul shots keyed the 9-0 run that sent the Wolverines to their locker room down 34-23 at intermission.

"They found the open guy," said Wood River coach Jeff Larson. "We'd played man-to-man defense all year, and tried to switch that up tonight to stop them down low. Humphries hits the three-pointer instead. That hurts."

The teams traded baskets much of the third quarter before the Bulldogs took off again. Kacy Please see SCIG, Page D2

## Free throw decides game

By Holly Kayt  
Times-News writer

**SHOSHONE** - After the final buzzer sounded, Tony Krahn stepped up to the line, his No. 4-ranked Camas County Musers tied at 42 with the undefeated Richfield Tigers.

"It was like your worst fear times two," Krahn said.

His first shot went up and bounced off the rim. Richfield's fans erupted with applause.

The second shot went up, the gym went silent, and Richfield's bench helplessly watched as the Musers through the net, sealing Camas County's Northside Conference Tournament victory at 43-42. The win forces a rematch for the championship title to be played tonight at Shoshone.

"I'm really looking forward to playing them again," said Krahn.

Both Camas County and Richfield are guaranteed spots in the district tournament. The winner of tonight's matchup faces Oakley, while the loser will battle Castelford.

Despite the excitement in the final minutes of the game, Monday night's contest started slow. The Tigers and Musers combined for just 27 points in the first half.

"We started out really lethargic," said Richfield coach Garr Ward. "We played a little tentatively."

Camas opened the game with a three-pointers from Bert Krahn and held a three-point advantage until Quinton Kent knocked down a jumper to cut the Muser lead to two.

Then the Tigers went on a 13-0 run in the second quarter to bring the score to 13-5 halfway into the period.

Four points from Tony Krahn and a three-pointer hit by Travis Tate sliced the Richfield lead to three at the half.

Tony Krahn opened the second half with six points to start a 7-0 run that would give the Musers the lead. Richfield regained the edge with three minutes left in the third quarter, and maintained the advantage until Alan Wilson hit a jumper with seven tenths of a second left on the clock.

As tension mounted in the fourth quarter, plays on both sides of the court began to foul. Tate was called for a technical foul with five minutes left on the clock, and the Tigers began to pull away, led by Kent with 10 of his 15 points.

With a little over three minutes left in the game, Richfield led by eight, but Camas fought back to tie the score at 42 with 27 seconds left.

"We finally started hitting our shots," said Camas coach Jon Boz. "We didn't get down on ourselves."

The Tigers' shot on their last



Tony Krahn (40) is mobbed by his teammates, including Travis Tate (24), after sinking a free throw to beat the Richfield Tigers 43-42 in the Northside Conference Tournament Monday night at Shoshone High School.

possession did not, and the Musers capitalized. Tony Krahn ran down the court and was fouled by Lorán Fuchs. Krahn

then stepped to the line to determine Richfield's fate.

Camas County 43, Richfield 42
Game Time 17:54:13
Points 87:11:42
Rebounds 27:11:42

Camas (4): B. Krahn 5, Schrammer 10, Tate 6, Wilson 2, J. F. Krahn 15, Tate 17, 24:43
Richfield (10): Wagner 2, Kent 15, Elm 8, East 4, Alcorn 2, Fuchs 12, Tate 16, 16:42
2000 State Games (1): B. Krahn, Tate 2, J. F. Krahn 2, Fuchs 1, East 1, Wagner 2, Kent 11, Fuchs 11, Fuchs 11, Fuchs 11

## Last-second Gilliam basket lifts Jazz over Hawks

The Associated Press

More NBA, Page D2

**SALT LAKE CITY** - Armen Gilliam converted a layup off an assist from John Stockton with 2.2 seconds left Monday night to give the Utah Jazz a 96-94 come-from-behind victory over the Atlanta Hawks.

Utah got the ball with 18.2 seconds left and the score tied after an offensive foul call on Bambo Coles. Stockton dribbled the ball high, came off Karl Malone's screen on the right side and found a wide-open Gilliam under

the basket.

Atlanta lobbed the ball to Dikembe Mutombo on the ensuing play, but Utah had a foul to give and Olden Polynice committed it before Mutombo could shoot. With one second left, Jim Jackson missed a 3-point attempt.

Malone led all scorers with 25 points, including eight in the fourth quarter. Jeff Hornacek added 17, including 13 in the third quarter when the Jazz

trimmed Atlanta's four-point lead to one.

Isaiah Rider led the Hawks with 22 points, including five in the final five minutes to give Atlanta a lead of as much as 94-83 with 2 minutes left. Jackson added 15 points, and Mutombo put in 12 points and grabbed 16 rebounds.

Malone scored four of the Jazz's next six points before Gilliam's game-winner.

The Hawks held an 89-81 advantage after a hook shot by Mutombo with 6:41 to play. That

capped an 11-4 run for the Hawks, led by Jackson with five points and Alan Henderson with four.

Malone scored on a tip-in, and Hornacek hit a 3-pointer to pull the Jazz to 89-86 with 4:31 to play. Rider answered with one of two free throws and a 17-foot jumper to put the Hawks up 92-86 with 3:29 left, before Malone began his spurt to help the Jazz catch up.

Utah took its first lead, 73-72, since the opening moments on a layup by Malone with 26 seconds

left in the third period.

The Hawks led 45-35 after a pull-up jumper by Al-Phonso Ellis with 2:56 left in the first half. The Jazz outscored Atlanta, 10-4 through the end of the half, cutting the Hawks' lead to 49-45, ending the run on a 3-pointer by Bryon Russell as time ran out.

Rider led the Jazz with 18 points and 12 points. Coles added 10, and Mutombo grabbed 10 rebounds. Malone topped the Jazz with 10, though they shot just 40 percent (18-45) from the field.

## Hornets send Pilots packing

By Matt Peterson  
Times-News writer

**DECLO** - Monday's weather forecast called for rain. And like Mother Nature, the Declo boys' basketball team obliged.

Pouring in 26 first-quarter points, the Hornets stormed out to an early lead, then coasted to a 60-43 victory in a Canyon Conference Tournament loser-out game in Declo. With the win, the Hornets (17-6) advanced to play No. 1 seed Valley tonight at 7 in Hazelton. Declo, which lost to Valley 67-53

Please see DECLO, Page D2



SPORTS

Griffey gives true meaning to 'Junior Circuit'

The Associated Press Now the National League can really be called the Junior Circuit.

Ken Griffey Jr. put on a complete Cincinnati Reds home uniform for the first time Monday as his new team formally welcomed him to camp.

"I don't consider myself any different than anybody else on our team," he said.

"I just want to go out there and play and hope this ballclub will win its championship. I'm just one of 25 guys."

Well, not really. While Griffey could have done without the superstar treatment — the dugout news conference, the go-around photo shoot on the balcony — the Reds couldn't give him enough of it at spring training in Sarasota, Fla.

A day after he slipped unannounced into the clubhouse to untrack his belongings, Griffey got the Michael Jordan treatment.

Griffey sat atop the first base dugout — the very spot where Jordan was seated six years earlier for his introduction to the major league baseball — and pumped his right leg nervously during a half-hour news conference.

"Nervous? Not at all. My legs are shaking," he said tongue-in-cheek, prompting everyone to look at his twitching leg.

About 200 fans, a much larger crowd than the day before, watched pitchers and catchers work out. Griffey's first practice

will be Wednesday. "Obviously the fans of Cincinnati have fallen in love with the idea of bringing Junior back home," general manager Jim Bowden said.

"It's tremendous for baseball, and baseball is finally back in Cincinnati." And there was this bit of fashion news from Cincinnati's camp: Six years after former owner Marge Schott suggested that "only fruits wear earrings," the Reds have given permission for players to wear them during games.

Griffey wears a small stud earring in his left lobe and had it on Monday. Bowden said the stud is to be worn during the ban was made before the club acquired Griffey from Seattle in a trade Feb. 10.

"We felt it was an archaic rule," Bowden said.

Where are Pedro and Ricky? The Boston Red Sox, meanwhile, are still waiting for Pedro Martinez to show up in camp and the New York Mets are looking forward to Ricky Henderson's arrival.

For the second straight day, Martinez was a no-show in Fort Myers, Fla.

"He'll be ready when the season starts," general manager Dan Duquette said. Martinez lives in the Dominican Republic, and Sunday

was his father's birthday. Last season, the AL Cy Young winner also arrived in camp later than the other pitchers and catchers so he could be home for that occasion.

"He'll be here. Don't worry about Pedro," Red Sox manager Jimmy Williams said. "It's OK. Everything's all right. Don't get too excited here."

Henderson was the only no-show as the Mets began full-squad workouts in Fort St. Lucie, Fla.

General manager Steve Duquette, who heard rumors the outfielder was in Arizona, wasn't concerned, because the mandatory reporting date for the Mets isn't until Friday.

"It's part of his history. Ricky doesn't always report," Phillips said. "There are other guys like Nolan Ryan who didn't show up the first day. We talked to his agents and they're sure where he is either, he's tough to get a hold of for them as well."

Iron Man, El Gato open eyes Cal Ripken and Andres Galarraga opened some eyes in camp.

Ripken, who has never played a position other than shortstop or third base, briefly manned first base during drills for the Baltimore Orioles in Fort Lauderdale, Fla.

"I don't plan on playing Cal there regularly. I really haven't talked to him about it," new manager Mike Hargrave said. "But Cal's a good enough athlete to carry that off without a hitch. ... That's a kind of a bridge, we'll cross at some point in time as well."

Galarraga, who missed all of last season while he underwent treatment for cancer in his back, took part in batting practice on the main field for the first time in spring training.

Galarraga faced 33 pitches from two Atlanta Braves starters, hitting one over the left field wall against Greg Maddux and hitting several line drives against John Smoltz in Kissimmee, Fla.

"Man, you ain't sick," Maddux told Galarraga.

"The Big Cat couldn't stop smiling after he left the batting cage." "Believe me, I'm really happy," Galarraga said. "When I got inside the cage against these guys, I didn't expect to touch the ball. But I hit a couple of line drives."

The Montreal Expos were glad to learn Hideki Irabu will not need elbow surgery after being acquired from the New York Yankees during the offseason, though for about 10 minutes in the bullpen at Jupiter, Fla.

"It feels good," Irabu said through an interpreter. "There is no pain."

Montreal was concerned after an MRI Saturday indicated there might be a problem in his right elbow.

At Dunedin, Fla., Toronto pitcher Joey Hamilton threw at 100 percent for the first time since his shoulder surgery last year.

"I felt pretty good," he said. "I started to get a little tired after the first 20 of my 25 throws, feeling a little tightness but nothing major or unexpected."

Win pulls Senators within one point of first-place Toronto

SUNRISE, Fla. (AP) — Vaclav Prospal scored the go-ahead goal as Ottawa beat the Florida Panthers 4-2 on Monday, moving the Senators within a point of first-place Toronto in the Northeast Division.

Martin Hossa, Jason York and Kevin Hassa also scored for the Senators, who ended a three-game road losing streak with their third victory of the season over Florida.

Pavel Bure scored his league-leading fourth goal for Florida, 57 in its last 12 games. Jaroslav Spacak also scored for the Panthers.

Sabres 3, Devils 2 — Geoff Buffalo, N.Y. — Geoff Buffalo scored the winning goal with 3:59 left in the third period, lifting the Buffalo Sabres to a 3-2 victory Monday night over the New York Devils.

Kevin Ward and Miroslav Satan also scored and Dominik Hasek made 35 saves for the Sabres, who moved one point ahead of the New York Rangers for the eighth and final playoff spot in the Eastern Conference.

Predators 5, Stars 2 NASHVILLE, Tenn. — Ville Peltonen scored a goal and added an assist and Torgeir Vokoun scored the shots as the Nashville Predators topped a six-game losing skid by beating the Dallas Stars 5-2 on Monday night.

Nashville hadn't scored more than two goals in a game since Feb. 2. Also the last time it won a game, Cliff Ronning, not invited to the All-Star game earlier this

NHL

month, set the tone 26 seconds in when he scored his 21st goal of a rebound of David Legwand's missed backhand.

Lightning 2, Penguins 1

TAMPA, Fla. — Pavel Kubina scored the go-ahead goal in the second period as the Tampa Bay Lightning snapped an eight-game winless streak Monday night with a 2-1 victory over the Pittsburgh Penguins.

Pittsburgh forward Jaromir Jagr, the NHL's leading scorer with 85 points, missed the ice with 11:12 seconds left in the second period and did not return. The win was an immediate reprieve on his condition.

Red Wings 2, Islanders 0

UNIONDALE, N.Y. — Chris Osgood made 22 saves and Tomas Holmstrom scored a power-play goal as Detroit beat New York.

The shutout was Osgood's fourth this season and second in five starts. Rookie Yvan Buteaux also scored for the Red Wings, who snapped a two-game losing streak.

Capitals 1, Hurricanes 1, tie

RALEIGH, N.C. — Ken Klee deflected a shot past Arrrus Ibric with 8:25 left as Washington tied Carolina.

Ron Francis scored for Carolina, which extended its unbeaten streak in overtime to 16, dating to last season, and moved within a point of the New York Rangers for the final Eastern Conference playoff spot.

SCORES AND STATS

BASKETBALL

NBA standings

Table with columns for Eastern Conference (Atlantic, Central, Southeast, Midwest) and Western Conference (Pacific, Midwest, Southwest, Northwest) showing team names and records.

College men's scores

Table listing college basketball games between various teams with scores and game times.

AP Men's Top 25

Table listing the top 25 men's college basketball teams according to the Associated Press.

AP Women's Top 25

Table listing the top 25 women's college basketball teams according to the Associated Press.

College Women's Scores

Table listing college women's basketball games between various teams with scores.

AP Women's Top 25

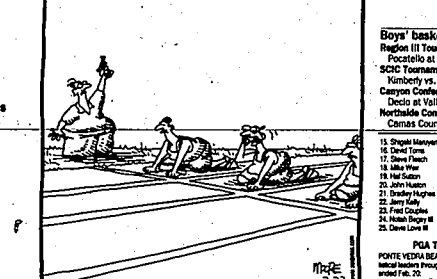
Table listing the top 25 women's college basketball teams according to the Associated Press.

AP Men's Top 25

Table listing the top 25 men's college basketball teams according to the Associated Press.

IN THE BLEACHERS

By Steve Moore



"Uh-huh... Uh-huh... Yes, I agree... Uh-huh... Honey, listen. I'm not trying to avoid the fact but could we finish this later? I've gotta run."

AMERICAN CONFERENCE

Table listing American Conference standings for various sports teams.

WRESTLING CONFERENCE

Table listing Wrestling Conference standings for various teams.

WRESTLING CONFERENCE

Table listing Wrestling Conference standings for various teams.

WRESTLING CONFERENCE

Table listing Wrestling Conference standings for various teams.

ON THE AIR

TELEVISION

Table listing television broadcasts for various sports events, including college basketball and NHL games.

LOCAL SPORTS

Region's basketball

Table listing regional basketball games and scores.

PGA Tour Statistics

Table listing PGA Tour statistics for various players.

NHL scoring leaders

Table listing NHL scoring leaders.

WCHL standings

Table listing WCHL standings for various teams.

HOCKEY

NHL standings

Table listing NHL standings for various teams.

SKIING

Table listing skiing statistics and results.

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PGA TOUR

WCHL STANDINGS

# COMICS

### Classic Peanuts

By Charles M. Schulz



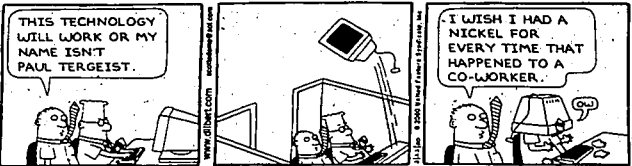
### For Better or For Worse

By Lynn Johnston



### Dilbert

By Scott Adams



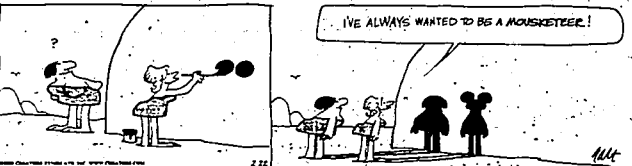
### Blondie

By Dean Young & Stan Drake



### B.C.

By Johnny Hart



### Pickles

By Brian Crane



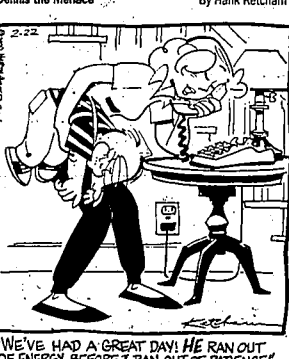
### Garfield

By Jim Davis



### Dennis the Menace

By Hank Ketcham



### The Family Circus

By Bil Keane



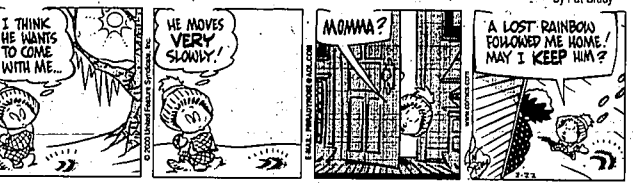
### Hi and Lois

By Chance Browne



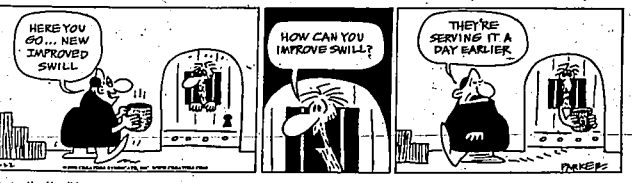
### Rose is Rose

By Pat Brady



### The Wizard of Id

By Brant Parker & Johnny Hart



### Hagar the Horrible

By Chris Browne



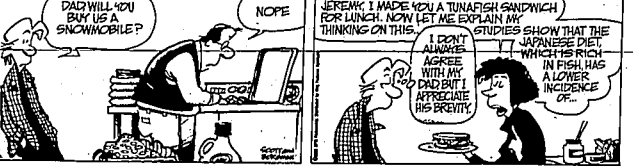
### Beetle Bailey

By Mort Walker



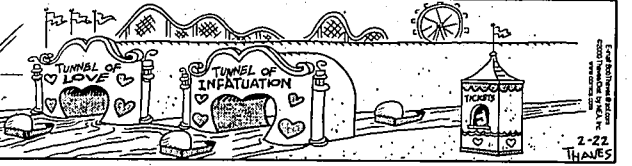
### Zits

By Jim Borgman & Jerry Scott



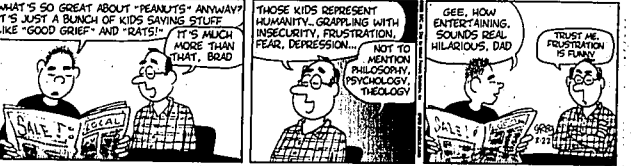
### Frank and Ernest

By Bob Thaves



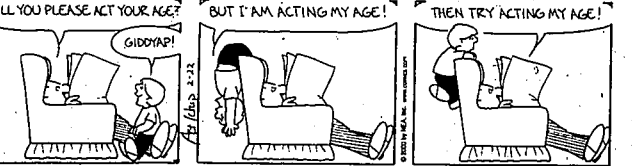
### Luann

By Greg Evans



### The Bom Lover

By Art Sansom & Chip



### Strange Brew

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