

## GOOD MORNING!

### WEATHER

Today: Mostly cloudy early, chance of rain, high 54, then some clearing.  
Low tonight 28.

Page A2

### MAGIC VALLEY



**Speaker:** Idaho first lady Patricia Kempthorne talked about families at GOP event on Monday.

Page B1

**Drug policy:** The College of Southern Idaho's board unanimously approved a new drug and alcohol policy Monday.

Page B1

### MONEY

**Supply goes up, price goes down:** OPEC countries appear ready to boost oil production—good news for the consumer.

Page D5

### IDAHO

**Plug pulled:** The Department of Energy Monday pulled plans for a nuclear waste incinerator at the INEEL.

Page B4

### SPORTS



**Bad News Bruins:** After winning five in a row, the Twin Falls High School baseball team dropped its second contest of the season on Monday.

Page D1

### OPINION

**Downward bound:** What's gained when morally decadent films set the standards for American society, today's editorial asks.

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## Lack of volunteers threatens to end breast cancer program

By Jay Howser  
Times-News writer

**TWIN FALLS**—Southern Idaho health officials are having trouble finding takers for free cancer screenings, and if they don't find them quickly funds for the program might soon disappear. The Women's Health Check program must meet its client quota at the state level or face a decrease in funding, said Program Manager Minnie Inzuniza, and that could have a significant impact on Magic Valley women.

### Some details

**About the program**  
Women's Health Check offers no or low-cost annual mammograms and Pap tests to Idaho women who:  
• Are over age 50  
• Have no health insurance that covers mammograms or Pap tests  
• Have limited monthly income  
For more information, call the Idaho

CareLine toll-free at 1-800-926-2588.

**About the tests**  
A mammogram is an X-ray picture of the inside of the breast. Mammograms help detect breast cancer in its early stages. In a Pap test, a doctor or nurse takes a few cells from the cervix which are sent to a laboratory to check for abnormal

cells. The Pap test also detects cancer in its early stages. Cancer is much easier to treat and cure when discovered early. The risk for breast and cervical cancer increases with age, and physicians urge women over 40 to have a mammogram and Pap test every year.

source: Idaho Department of Health and Welfare

The program offers free mammograms and Pap tests to women

over 50 who have limited income and no insurance covering the

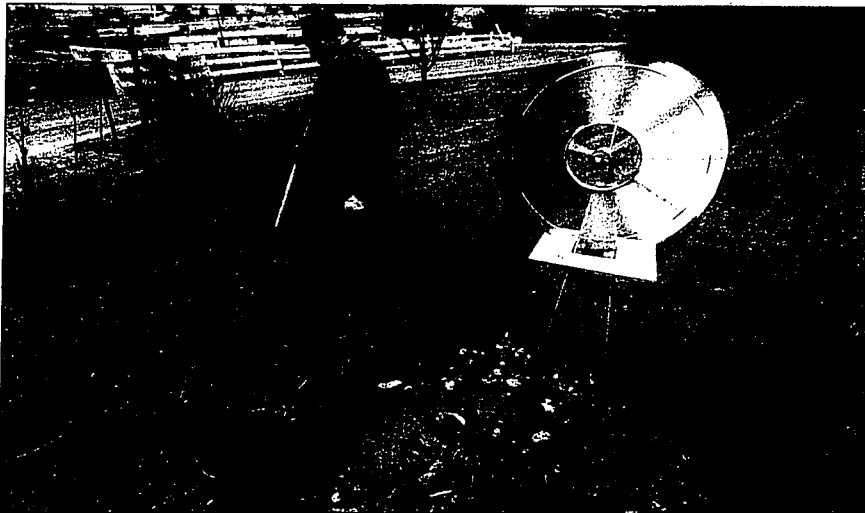
tests. Funded at the federal level by the Center for Disease Control, the program operates on a contract basis, and Idaho is not meeting its quota, Inzuniza said.

Funding is available to provide testing for about 2,500 people, but only half that many clients utilized the program last year, she said.

"We all risk losing our level of funding if we if we don't increase

Please see PROGRAM, Page A2

## VA plans TF clinic



Retired from farming, William Coates enjoys spending time in his garden. The Filor resident said he would welcome a clinic for veterans in Twin Falls. He currently rides a bus to the veterans' clinic in Boise several times a year.

## Outpatient center would serve veterans

By Virginia S. Hutchins  
Times-News writer

**TWIN FALLS**—Diabetes and other health problems send U.S. Army veteran William Coates to a Boise veterans' hospital about three times a year. And he's weary of waiting around when doctors' visits don't match the schedule for the veterans' bus. "You've got to wait for rides up there, you know," said the Filor 77-year-old, who had malaria during World War II. "Otherwise you'd be going up in the car, you know, burning gas."

For the last few years, driving himself to Boise hasn't been a great option for Coates anyway. "I'm getting over the hill as far as a good driver," he said. "People stay home when they know I'm coming to town."

So Coates has asked about getting a Veterans Administration clinic in Twin Falls. His brother,

### Related story — B2

too, might take advantage of veterans' health care if it were offered in Twin Falls, he said.

Coates has only two months to wait.

A Veterans Administration official Monday said Boise's VA Medical Center hopes to open a "community-based outpatient clinic" for veterans-only primary care at 676 Shoup Ave. W., No. 12, between mid-May and the first of June.

For the new outpatient clinic, the Veterans Administration will lease about 2,000 square feet at the Shoup address, adjacent to Magic Valley Regional Medical Center but owned by a private party, said Wayne Tippets, administrator and chief executive officer.

Plans and timeline aren't solid,

he cautioned, but the Twin Falls clinic is likely to happen. He couldn't say how much it would cost to get the clinic going.

The area's veterans have urged such a development, Tippets said, "and there's a lot of congressional interest in it, too." Congress approved the plan about a year and a half ago in little-publicized legislation, he added.

The VA has no other facility in Magic Valley, Mini-Cassia or the Wood River Valley. So close to 1,000 veterans from the Twin Falls area drive to the veterans' hospital in Boise for health care, Tippets said.

The Twin Falls clinic would shorten the drive for many of them, though those needing specialty care such as cardiac, orthopedic or surgery would have to go to Boise, he said. Also, he expects to attract veterans who don't now come to the VA for care.

The VA still must order equipment and install computers in Twin Falls. But it already is seeking nurses, nurse practitioners or physician assistants, and some medical clerks or health technicians — an initial total of six or seven local hires for the new facility.

"We'll probably start off with a limited staff until we see what the demand is," Tippets said.

For the top talent, the VA is looking at arrangements with physicians, perhaps with some already in the area, he said. He declined to elaborate.

"We have not solidified anything yet," he said.

When it opens, Tippets expects the facility to grow quickly to a couple of thousand patients per year, drawn mostly from Twin Falls County but also from four or five nearby counties. But

Please see VETS, Page A2

## Senate trims tax cut

Unanimous vote sets stage for compromise

By Bob Fick  
The Associated Press

**BOISE** — Acknowledging the long list of still-unresolved issues carrying combined price tags in the tens of millions of dollars, the Senate on Monday reaffirmed its opposition to a House-passed income tax credit that could claim all the remaining general tax revenue for the coming budget year.

After rejecting a second round of attempts to salvage the credit, the Senate overwhelmingly

proved its scaled back version of the tax cut.

Republican Hal Buder, son of Meridian voted

against the plan initially and then joined his colleagues to make the vote unanimous.

The action set the stage for House and Senate negotiators to finally begin talks toward a compromise on the issue that has been at the heart of the lengthy ending election-year session.

House tax cutters stood adamantly behind their original proposal that Senate leaders again said cannot become law as long as it contains the credit that carries a substantial price tag for the state while providing only limited relief for most Idaho taxpayers. Kempthorne has taken the same stand as the Senate.

"We're giving tax relief," GOP Floor Leader James Risch of Boise said. "We're giving tax relief in a responsible fashion. We're giving tax relief in a balanced fashion. We've done the best that we can."

Critics warned the state's economic future is too uncertain to risk the \$27 million 3 percent individual tax credit the House has passed for tax returns filed next winter on this year's income.

## Public TV funding heads to Senate

The Associated Press

**BOISE** — The House decided Monday that financing the start of Idaho Public Television's digital conversion was more important than rejecting a legislative mandate attached to it that critics said amounted to censorship.

Legislation appropriating \$3.6 million in state tax receipts to the Idaho Educational Public Broadcasting System for the budget year that starts July 1, including a minimal \$2 million toward the federally required conversion to digital transmission, was forwarded to the Senate on a 50-16 vote.

But there first was a 50-19 vote against putting the bill up for amendment. Democrats and moderate Republicans wanted to excise a section ordering the state Board of Education to enforce a policy against broadcasting any program that "promotes, supports or encourages" violation of state criminal laws.

## Feds consider buying sugar to help growers

By Dan Fields  
Times-News writer

**MINIDOKA** — Gary Thompson knows all too well about sugar's sagging price. Thompson, who farms 155 acres of sugarbeets northwest of Minidoka, has farmed the crop for the past 40 years and said the price for sugar is directly related to his beet production. For the past few years, sugar prices have steadily declined. And it's getting to a point that Thompson says something has to be done, or sugarbeet farmers may have to find something else to grow.

Please see SUGAR, Page A2

## JEROME SHOOTING

Lt. Larry Schwager and Sgt. Earl Knutsen investigate a shooting Monday night at the Prestwick and Battray Apartments, 1285 S. Lincoln St., in Jerome.

The victim was a 17-year-old boy who was shot in the upper left leg and taken to St. Benedict's Family Medical Center in Jerome, said Stephanie Hillius, supervisor with the Magic Valley Regional Medical Center paramedics. Authorities were still searching for the shooter late Monday.



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NATION

# Explosion shakes Texas plant

PASADENA, Texas - An explosion Monday rocked a Phillips Petroleum chemical plant near the Houston Ship Channel, injuring at least 52 people and sparking a fire that sent thick smoke over the area. One man was missing.

"I was in the main shop area when I heard a loud explosion," said Tim Williams, a plant worker who estimated he was more than 200 yards from the 1:25 p.m. explosion. "My ears hurt, and I took off running. I looked back and saw flames, and kept going. Fifty-two people were taken to hospitals with injuries that included burns, smoke inhalation and anxiety-related disorders, hospital spokesmen said.

Workers in neighboring plants and residents in the area were urged to remain indoors while schoolchildren were kept inside after the bell rang. Smoke continued to rise two days after the blast, and was clearly visible across Houston.

## Babbitt's Yosemite plan includes trimming cars

SAN FRANCISCO - Interior Secretary Bruce Babbitt on Monday previewed a long-awaited development plan for Yosemite Valley that seeks to restore and protect the park's splendor by significantly scaling back parking and protecting the Merced River.

The ambitious proposal, outlined in a 500-page draft summary called the Yosemite Valley Plan, would include moving the park superintendent's home, staff headquarters, housekeeping, concessioners and entire campgrounds out of seven-mile long, one-mile wide Yosemite Valley, the main destination for park visitors.

The plan also calls for converting a portion of a popular road through the village into a bike and foot trail and studying for five years how the valley's natural habitats are effected by current crowds, and imposing an 150-foot wide development protection zone along most of the Merced River.

The plan, if approved by the National Park Service, would end a 20-year effort to reduce the human footprint in the valley - an exhaustive campaign that has been marked by political, legal and emotional battles. But the

## Nation in brief

process is far from over, and Babbitt encouraged people to make their voices heard during the 90-day comment period that begins April 7.

## Justices refuse to restore food stamps for immigrants

WASHINGTON - The Supreme Court Monday refused to force the government to restore food stamps and other benefits for legal immigrants cut off in a massive 1996 welfare overhaul.

The court, without comment, rejected an appeal by Chicago officials and a group of noncitizen residents who said the 1996 law violated their equal-protection rights. "The federal government is forbidden to balance its budget by denying welfare benefits to lawful permanent residents," the appeal had contended.

In another case, the court let the National Park Service discourage rock-climbing on the Devils Tower National Monument in Wyoming when American Indians hold sacred ceremonies at the 600-foot butte. The court rejected an unusual church-state case in which rock climbers argued they should have legal standing to challenge the Park Service policy.

## Federal Judge gives Reform Party helm to Choate

WASHINGTON - A federal judge ruled Monday that Pat Choate, Ross Perot's 1996 running mate, is the Reform Party's legitimate chairman, deciding a fierce squabble that has weakened the party's standing in this year's presidential race.

U.S. District Judge Norman K. Moon ordered Jack Gargan and Treasurer Eamon Young to stop all activities relating to their previous positions, including soliciting donations on behalf of the Reform Party, spending the party's money, operating an official Web site and planning the party's convention.

A rowdy meeting of party leaders in Nashville, Tenn., last month elected Choate to replace Gargan, an ally of Minnesota Gov. Jesse Ventura. But Gargan had contended the meeting was convened illegally and the vote to suit him and install Choate was invalid.

Choate argued that Gargan's refusal to step down and his continuing claim to the chairmanship was hurting the party's ability to make a meaningful White House bid.

## Jury awards ex-smoker \$20 million in punitive damages

SAN FRANCISCO - A jury ordered the nation's two largest tobacco companies Monday to pay \$20 million in punitive damages to a dying ex-smoker who took up the habit after the surgeon general's warning began appearing on cigarette packs in the 1960s.

The Superior Court jury voted 9-3 to order Philip Morris and R.J. Reynolds to pay \$10 million each to Leslie Whiteley and her husband.

The same jury awarded the couple \$1.7 million in compensatory damages last week after finding that the companies deceived the public about the dangers of smoking. That verdict was the first for a smoker who took up the habit after 1969, when tobacco companies, on the government's orders, began putting warnings about smoking's health risks on cigarette packs.

## Ex-49ers owner says he paid ex-governor extortion money

BATON ROUGE, La. - Former San Francisco 49ers owner Eddie DeBartolo Jr. testified Monday that ex-Gov. Edwin Edwards demanded and received \$400,000 from him to ensure that his application for a riverboat casino license would be approved.

A day after DeBartolo allegedly gave the former four-term governor the money - in stacks of \$100 bills in a briefcase at the San Francisco airport - the Louisiana gambling board unanimously awarded a license to DeBartolo.

DeBartolo's testimony has been the most anticipated in Edwards' federal racketeering trial, not only because he is one of the richest men in the country and a former NFL owner, but also because he is the only witness who claims Edwards himself extorted money and collected it. Other witnesses have testified that Edwards had his friends and son demand money from them.

- compiled from wire reports

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MORNING BREAK

**ACROSS**

- 1 "Share" czar
- 5 Mausoloums
- 10 Hay!
- 14 Inter (among others)
- 15 Fur covered
- 16 Singer Perry
- 17 Nanny, often
- 18 To's bed
- 20 Nuns
- 21 Mobius and Steinberg
- 23 "Not unusual"
- 24 Make compulsory
- 25 Layer of impurities
- 28 Black goo
- 30 Intavine
- 33 Decline
- 34 God of love
- 36 University of Maine location
- 37 Unwell
- 38 Capital on the Delaware
- 40 Soapy
- 41 Blood's partner?
- 42 Grace ending
- 44 Mother of France
- 45 Body art
- 47 Chy
- 48 Liberal
- 49 Product from sumac bark
- 51 Panama
- 53 British weapon
- 55 Have faith
- 56 Language unit
- 60 Lizardlike amphibian
- 62 "The African Queen"
- 63 "Matisse" (1932 hit song)
- 64 Writer Forster
- 65 Croned
- 66 Dogram time
- 67 Sallow

**DOWN**

- 1 Science rms.
- 2 Jai follower
- 3 Claim to a share
- 4 Sunbath to sunset
- 5 One with
- 6 Food-bag morsels
- 7 Gamboge sch.
- 8 Silvery European fish
- 9 Sweet, sticky liquids
- 10 Finger pointer
- 11 Energy measure
- 12 Eudae
- 13 Rowdy bunches
- 16 Put in position
- 22 Boarded
- 24 Triathlon winner
- 25 Speedy
- 26 Kind of fly
- 27 Not educated
- 29 Region
- 31 Unmoving
- 32 Music units
- 35 Staunch
- 36 Sandal strip
- 39 In the public eye
- 42 Siraphnager
- 44 Afternoon
- 45 Icelandic saga
- 46 Burdens
- 48 Evening
- 50 Everything included
- 52 Pie mode
- 53 Did the butterfly
- 54 Owl's outfit
- 55 Cause of ruin
- 56 Icelandic saga
- 57 Rowboat, 6-9
- 46 Burdens
- 58 Historic times
- 61 Gravit's opponent

Monday's Puzzle Solved

LET'S EGG LOWEST  
 AURA RAP EVIDER  
 TRANSIDE VIRTUE  
 COLLETTAILED TIEA  
 IRELAND BULL GEN  
 EXOD NONE SODAS  
 WIPEDOUT TOM  
 EVIDER BUBBLE  
 NNE LOCKERON  
 SPRIG BABY MIND  
 HUES COBB DOG  
 AIN TO RHYMA RIT  
 DIADEM LOANABLE  
 ESTEEM ERR TALL  
 SHASITA DRY ETAL

Sagittarius: It's spring cleaning time

**IF MARCH 28 IS YOUR BIRTHDAY:** You are an original thinker, sensitive and creative. Some people say you are a mind reader. During April, you could encounter individual destined to play outstanding role in your life.

**ARIES (March 21-April 19):** Don't rush, push or force issues. Cycle relates to mystery, the abstract, necessity for being patient.

**Taurus (April 20-May 20):** Deal with money, accounting procedures. Let others know you mean business. On a personal level, you could be helplessly, muddy in love.

**GEMINI (May 21-June 20):** Delve deep for information. Arcane or occult literature could be involved. You might find what you're looking for at bargain price in used bookstore.

**CANCER (June 21-July 22):** You've been waiting for a chance to display original material - this is it. You will be rewarded handsomely for dynamic contributions.

**LEO (July 23-Aug. 22):** Focus on choice, selection and meditation. Questions concerning partnership, marriage loom large. You get your way once you

HOROSCOPE  
Sydney Omarr

decide what your way is.

**VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22):** Diversify; give full rein to intellectual curiosity. Maintain high critical standards. Those who complain are cabbages.

**LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22):** Some bureaucrats attempt to trip you - proceed with that knowledge. You are going places despite minor obstructions.

**SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21):** Keep plans flexible, deal gingerly with Gemini, Virgo, Sagittarius natives. Read, write, discover and teach. Sexual attraction will become obvious.

**SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21):** Attention revolves around home, needed repairs, necessity for beautifying surroundings. Music plays role. Some people compliment you on your voice.

**CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19):** Blend mystery with practicality. People plead "Let us know how it's done." Don't do it. Let them play guessing games.

**AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18):**

Those who urge you to slow down are envious of your progress. Be aware of it, proceed accordingly.

**FISCES (Feb. 19-March 20):** Reach beyond the immediate - refuse to be thwarted by "little people." Maintain aura of mystery, intrigue. You could be in love. Protect yourself in clinches.

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**Movies**

**Motor-Van Drive In**  
 Hurry Ends Tonight!  
 Ends Tonight at 7:30  
**TOY STORY 2**  
 Disney-Pixar  
 TOM HANKS  
 TIM ALLEN

**Hurry Ends Tonight!**  
 Ends Tonight at 10:00  
**BICENTENNIAL MAN**  
 ROBIN WILLIAMS

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**ROMEO MUST DIE**  
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THE Disney's  
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 "WALL STREET" FOR THE NEXT GENERATION - IT'S RIGHT ON THE MONEY!  
 ANIRABELLA  
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GI Joe has absurd biceps

Doesn't rain much in Ecuador's Quito. Its mean temperature each month varies little from 55 degrees F. Imagine it has the most constant climate of any big town anywhere.

Air pollution weakens hurricanes. But not enough, not enough.

The biceps of the GI Joe doll have become bigger in the last 30 years. If scaled up to the size of a grown man, they'd now tape measure an absurd 26 inches.

Q. Who first came up with the no-neck frying pan?

A. DePont engineer Roy J. Plunkett accidentally discovered the Teflon formula in 1938. In 1956, French engineer Marc Gregoire devised a way to coat aluminum with it.

Q. Has any politician ever been jailed for criticizing a U.S. president?

A. Only one. Matthew Lyon. In 1798, he was convicted of sedition after he committed to print his



**WHAT'S WHAT**  
 L.M. Boyd

honest opinion of John Adams. Kentucky reelected Lyon to the U.S. Congress even while he served his short jail time.

Antarctica's glacier cover, more than a mile up in some places, makes it the continent with the highest average elevation. Australia has the lowest.

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 Exclusively at the Twin Cinema 12

Last Weeks #1 Movie  
**Erin Brockovich**  
 Twin Cinema 12 & Jerome Cinema 4

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**Mission to Mars** (PG)  
 Daily 7:00-9:30 Sat-Thurs 1:00-4:00 7:00-9:30  
 Daily 1:00-9:30 Sat-Thurs 1:00-4:00 7:00-9:30

**Reindeer Games** (R)  
 Daily 7:10-9:20 Sat-Thurs 5:00-7:10-9:20

**Wall Disney's Tigger Movie** (G)  
 Daily 1:10-2:10 Sat-Thurs 12:15-2:05-2:10

All Seats \$1 for Stuart Little  
 (PG) Sat-Thurs 12:40-2:50  
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**Cider House Rules** (PG-13)  
 1:00 - 4:00 / 7:00 - 9:45

**American Beauty** (R)  
 1:00 - 4:00 - 7:00 - 9:45

**Romeo Must Die** (R)  
 12:45-3:00-5:15-7:30-9:45

**Boiler Room** (R) Daily Dept  
 1:00 - 4:00 - 7:00 - 9:45

**What Ever It Takes** (PG-13) Daily Dept  
 12:45-3:00-5:15-7:30-9:45

**Erin Brockovich** (PG) Daily Dept  
 1:00 - 4:00 - 7:00 - 9:45

**Snow Day** (PG)  
 12:45-3:00-5:15-7:30

**Mission to Mars** (PG) Daily Dept (G)  
 12:15-2:35-4:55-7:15-9:30

**Here on Earth** (PG) Daily Dept  
 12:15-2:35-4:55-7:15-9:30

**My Dog Skip** (PG)  
 12:15-2:35-4:55-7:15

**Wall Disney's Tigger Movie** (G)  
 12:15-2:35-4:55-7:15

**Tom Hanks - Green Mile** (R)  
 Daily Dept 3:45 - 7:15

**Twin Cinema 12**  
 Adults \$6.50 Kids \$3.50  
 All Adults only \$3.50 Before 5:30 p.m.

All Seats \$1 for Stuart Little (PG) Daily 12:15 - 2:00

**Drowning Mona** (PG) 9:30

**The Ninth Gate** (R) 9:30

**Pitch Black** (R) 9:45

# COMPUTERS AND TECHNOLOGY

## Google expands with Open Directory

Knight-Ridder News Service

The Internet search engine Google (www.google.com) recently licensed Netscape's Open Directory - 1.5 million sites organized into 200,000 categories by 22,000 volunteer contributors

from all over the Net. Instead of just submitting queries to Google, users can now browse the directory. If you search within the directory, you can choose to view results ranked in alphabetical order or ranked for relevance by Google's proprietary technology.

## Get peppier net access with DSL connection

By Wendy Tanaka  
The Philadelphia Inquirer

Digital subscriber line technology, one of the much vaunted solutions to the World Wide Web, can be a dream come true for consumers craving faster ways to surf the Internet.

Intricate Web pages pop up on home computer screens in seconds rather than minutes. And DSL offers a sturdier Internet connection that is on 24-7. No dial up is required.

Essentially, DSL technology expands the capacity of ordinary phone lines, so that voice and data can be transmitted on a single copper wire.

DSL splits the phone line into two virtual segments - one for regular telephone traffic, primarily voice and fax; the other for

Internet data transmission - so that many services can run at once without interfering with each other.

To be eligible for DSL service, customers must live within three miles of one of the phone company's central switching offices, which contain the infrastructure for DSL.

Analysis say that because DSL is still quite new and the technology is still evolving, phone companies are having difficulties hiring and training qualified service reps and technicians.

"It's a fairly new technology," said Matt Davis, an analyst with the Yankee Group Inc., a technology market research firm in Boston. "You have a group of technicians you trained yesterday ... they don't have an independent understanding."



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**DSL Service**  
DSL stands for Digital Subscriber Line. It uses the same pair of telephone lines that you use to make voice calls, but it carries digital data instead of voice.

**Need for speed**  
DSL service is much faster than a standard modem. It can download data at speeds up to 8 Mbps.

**Network Interface device**  
Contains copper wires that are split before they enter the home.

**STARTING UP DSL SERVICE**  
DSL modem: About \$100  
DSL service: Starts around \$50 per month  
U.S. households with DSL modems: About 300,000; an estimated 900,000 households will have them by the end of this year.

**COMPUTER REQUIREMENTS**  
Minimum standards for Bell Atlantic's DSL service:

- PC:
  - Windows 95/98 or NT 4.0. (Windows 2000 is not currently supported. Bell Atlantic expects to support the operating system by the end of March)
  - Intel Pentium/Pentium Pro/Pentium MMX/Pentium III, AMD K5/K6 or Cyrix 586/686 processor
  - 32MB RAM (4MB recommended)
  - 2GB free hard-drive space
  - Resources to accommodate an Ethernet card if one is not already present
- Macintosh:
  - PowerPC processor
  - MacOS 7.5.5 through MacOS 8.6 and Open Transport 1.1.1 through 1.2.2
  - 32MB RAM (4MB recommended)
  - 2GB free hard-drive space
  - Ethernet connection (The Mac, G3 Power Mac and G3 PowerBook computers come with an Ethernet interface built-in)

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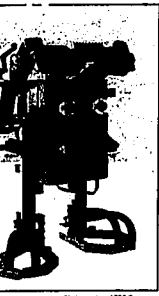
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The LEGO Mindstorms kit lets kids of all ages build complex creations such as this programmable robot.

Old toys gain new life with computerization

MOUNTAIN VIEW, Calif. (AP) - Once languishing in poor sales, Lego building blocks are gaining popularity with a new audience - technology lovers.

The Silicon Valley's fascination with the famed Danish interlocking plastic blocks took off in the fall of 1998, when Lego launched Lego Mindstorms - a new generation of Legos that could be manipulated using microcomputers, light and touch sensors, and an infrared transmitter.

Lego Mindstorms vice President Linda Dalton said adult buyers boosted sales 300 percent last year.

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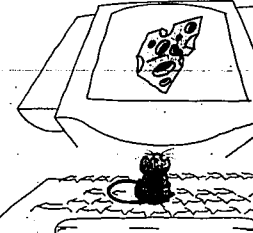
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OPINION

LETTERS

**Jerome school facts**

This is in response to those who have written about the Jerome School District, especially Terri L. Weir.

I wish that people who write in and complain would go through things.

1. Get the facts before you complain.

Fact: Jerome High School was built to accommodate 600 students.

Fact: Current enrollment at JHS is approximately 920.

Fact: This creates unsafe conditions for children and adults.

Fact: Many classes at JHS have 30 students, when studies have shown the ideal number is much lower.

Fact: The free movie ticket idea was Larry Roper's idea, it did not come from Jerome School District.

Fact: Movie tickets were offered to all voters, not just those voting "yes."

2. Offer specific information, especially about personal experiences. What types of problems did you have? Were they problems specific to JHS or would you have had these problems elsewhere? Why would Mr. Cobble not return your phone calls? Were you available? Were you being unreasonable? Or were you rehashing the same complaints to get the answer you wanted instead of the answer you were previously given?

3. Please don't generalize. I know the staff associated with Jerome School District is worth much more than a "plug nickel." If you don't believe me, then check out the accomplishments of the many students enrolled.

The Academic Decathlon Team, the Technology Program, INTEL and others have earned many awards and honors - too many to list here.

I don't think this happens in a place where the teachers and staff are "not worth a plug nickel." I have had my share of experiences with parents who do not make the same decisions that I, personally, would make.

However, I would think long and hard before I lumped all parents together.

I would like to leave you with one thought. It is commonly accepted that if you tell a child (or anyone) over and over that they are "no good," they will start to believe it. Once they believe it, they will make decisions based on that belief. Hence, they often become "no good." I wonder what things could be accomplished in the Jerome School District with a little encouragement and support? Sadly, from what I have seen so far, we may never know.

MIKE SAVAGE  
Jerome

**Why a skate park? Why not?**

I think it would be great if Twin Falls got a skate park. I'm a snowboarder who has thought about getting a skateboard but can't find a place to skate.

Almost every parking lot or sidewalk is littered with "No Skateboarding" signs. And there's a good reason for it - they don't want pedestrians or skateboarders to get hurt.

If we do get a park, we'll have a place to legally skate on sturdy ramps, quarter pipes and half pipes, which will be a lot safer than a lot of stuff skateboarders are using as ramps now. I'm asking all the citizens to please support us in this. I know many people are misinformed about skateboarding, but these are the facts.

1. Skateboarding is not extremely dangerous, especially if you wear a helmet and pads.

2. Skateboarders are not violent, dumb, drugged-out kids from the wrong side of town. Straight-A, drug-free, clean-cut skateboarders do exist.

3. There are Christian skateboarders. Jesus didn't preach against boarding or any other extreme sport.

It would be safer for pedestrians and skateboarders. It would give kids a good place to hang out and become better at their sport. (yes, I did say sport). The Magic Valley Skateboarders Association is raising the money. Now I ask you, is there any reason we shouldn't build this skate park?

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NATION/WORLD

# Putin's election promises clarity after years of confusion

By Barry Reinrow  
The Associated Press

MOSCOW — Russia should be more stable and predictable under Vladimir Putin after years of turmoil that left Russians and the rest of the world wondering who was in charge of the world's largest country.

Putin has already begun clearing up the uncertainty and chaos that characterized ex-president Boris Yeltsin's final years in power. After winning presidential elections Sunday, Putin's top goal will likely be cementing his control of the government.

The United States and other nations will know soon speaks for Russia and can expect clear dialogue and straight answers. While clarity in Moscow will be a welcome change after Yeltsin, Putin's ambition of restoring Russia's status as a great power will be less appealing to the West.

Although Russians hope that Putin can rescue the floundering economy and improve their lives, many are happy for now that a strong, capable leader has taken over.

Russia already seems calmer, far less prone to crisis, since Putin became acting president.

## Analysis

when Yeltsin unexpectedly resigned on Dec. 31. The one exception has been Russia's military offensive against breakaway Chechnya.

Yeltsin, who was frequently ill and out of sight, showed little interest in running the government or tackling Russia's enormous problems. Although he retained a firm grip on power, Yeltsin often was indifferent or confused. He did little to stop government insiders from fighting for wealth and power or to clean up rampant corruption.

Yeltsin's unpredictability alarmed the rest of the world. Russia is still the world's No. 2 nuclear power and the confusion in the Kremlin often meant sleepless nights for governments worldwide. As ties deteriorated, Yeltsin repeatedly waved



Vladimir Putin

and persistent rumors of alcoholism. Russians were even less pleased.

Putin has been deliberately vague about his plans. He insists he will continue democratic and market reforms, but also speaks of increasing the control of the state over every aspect of life.

The new president is likely to proceed cautiously, with no dramatic policy initiatives. Putin comes across as methodical and deliberate. His first words after

winning the presidency were to tell Russians not to expect quick fixes.

"The level of expectations is very high. People are tired and struggling and they're hoping for things to get better, but miracles don't happen," he said Monday.

The former KGB officer appears to be a nationalist with a strong pragmatic streak. He stresses his desire for good ties with the West and stability as long as Moscow is treated as an equal.

Putin is popular because he has restored many Russians' sense of national pride after years of decline and humiliation. His talk of putting Russia back on the map is welcome in a nation that misses its days as a superpower.

By not raising expectations and moving cautiously, Putin may boost his chances of economic and social improvements. But

while Russians are likely to be patient, they will want to see that the new president is not tied to the corruption and incompetence of the Yeltsin administration.

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## Cuban boy relives boat experience

MIAMI (AP) — As his relatives filed a court appeal Monday to meet a government deadline, Elian Gonzalez described in his first TV interview how the boat bringing him and his mother from Cuba sank. He said he doesn't believe his mother is dead.

Also, about 100 people gathered outside the Little Havana home where the 6-year-old boy has been staying. The Democracy Movement, a Cuban exile group, has called for people to form a human chain around the home of Elian's great-uncle in case the government tries to remove him and send him back to his father in Cuba. Elian was kept home and won't return to school out of fears that Cuba might try to force him back to the island, family spokesman Armando Gutierrez said.

In the interview broadcast on ABC's "Good Morning America," Elian drew crayon pictures of the voyage in which his mother and 10 other people drowned.

The first drew a wavy line representing waves, then a leaping dolphin — he has told people that dolphins protected him from sharks and boosted him up when he slipped down into the water from an inner tube.

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# DOE halts waste plant plans

**Chicago Tribune**  
DENVER - Responding to intense public pressure, the U.S. Department of Energy on Monday announced that it would halt plans to build a nuclear waste incinerator in Idaho, about 100 miles west of Yellowstone National Park.

Instead, the department said it would appoint a panel to study alternatives to burning nuclear waste, in Idaho and across the nation.

"We're ecstatic. This is a great victory for the people of Wyoming and the U.S.," said Tom Patricelli,

of Keep Yellowstone Nuclear Free, a citizens group. The group had claimed that incineration would release radioactive materials into the environment, potentially causing irreparable harm to people and wildlife.

Opposition to the government's plans flared up last summer when residents of Jackson Hole, Wyo., learned that nuclear waste laced with plutonium would be burned at the Idaho Engineering and Environmental Laboratory, a vast complex in the southeastern part of that state, just across the Grand Tetons from Western Wyoming.

After long-time Jackson Hole

residents Gerry Spence, actor Harrison Ford, and World Bank President James Wolfensohn took up the cause, the effort to stop the incinerator became a cause celebre, gaining national attention. Spence, a lawyer who represented the family of Karen Silkwood, spearheaded a lawsuit brought against the DOE last September in U.S. District Court in Wyoming.

The lawsuits argued that the government had failed to conduct an adequate environmental analysis of the proposed incinerator, neglecting to examine the potential impact on Wyoming or solicit input from its residents.

# Valley lawmakers push benefits for judges

**BOISE (AP)** - An appeal from Speaker Bruce Newcomb helped overcome financial and policy questions as the House approved better retirement benefits for judges as a way of attracting more experienced lawyers to the bench.

There was far less opposition later Monday to boosting judicial pay 3.5 percent. The retirement and spousal-death benefit enhancements were approved 43-25 and the salary increase 61-6. Both bills now go the Senate for final legislative action. "I want a judge that knows he can make a life out of being a judge, and that his

## More from Boise - A1, B1-2

wife and kids will be taken care of," Newcomb, R-Burley, told lawmakers.

"When they're dealing with the decisions that effect you every day, don't you want the very best?" Judiciary Chairman Celia Gould of Buhl agreed.

She acknowledged her husband's help in quelling what appeared to be a rising tide of opposition to the retirement bill, and later said she had expected the final vote to be closer. Newcomb recounted the story

of 5th District Judge George Granata Jr. of Burley, a friend of the speaker's whose death at the age of 52 left behind a wife and four children. The proposal would increase the amount of money his widow, Wendy, receives from the retirement fund by boosting the death benefit from 30 percent to 50 percent of the judge's retirement pay.

The plan was developed by the judiciary after a study of how to make the bench a more attractive career alternative for lawyers while reducing cost to taxpayers of providing part-time "pro tem" judges to help meet the state's burgeoning caseload.

# Small Business Feature

## Spotlight



Debi Johnson joined the Inside Sales Department the first of February. She started in *The Times-News* circulation department and decided to join advertising to put her creative talents and people skills to work for you. You may reach Debi at (208) 733-0931, ext. 291. She looks forward to helping your business grow.

## The Book Store

The Book Store and Office Supply has been doing business in the Mini-Cassia area for over 30 years. Since August, 1994, it has been locally owned and operated by Vic Claridge and Steve Seamons.

The Book Store is unique because we have many services and options available for you in one store. Come see all that we have for you:

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Christina Fagundes is the new Inside Sales Consultant for the Mini-Cassia area. Christina is quite fluent in Spanish. She has over five years of sales and customer service experience and looks forward to putting her skills to work for your business. Call her at (208) 733-0931, ext. 294. She wants to put ideas to work for your business.

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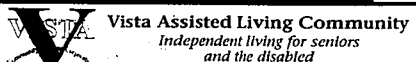
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**Pickles** By Brian Crane

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**The Family Circus** By Bill Keane

**Hi and Lois** By Chance Browne

**The Wizard of Id** By Brant Parker & Johnny Hart

**Rose is Rose** By Pat Brady

**Hagar the Horrible** By Chris Browne

**Zits** By Jim Borgman and Jerry Scott

**Beetle Bailey** By Mort Walker

**Luann** By Greg Evans

**Frank and Ernest** By Bob Thaves

**Strange Brew** By John Deering

**Non Sequitur** By Wiley

**The Born Loser** By Art Sansom & Chip

**Strange Brew** By John Deering

### Landowner finds ancient footprints

ST. GEORGE, Utah (AP) — The discovery of more than 150 dinosaur footprints has prompted discussion of creating a special park near the Virgin River. Sheldon Johnson has taken hundreds of visitors and overturned rocks daily since finding the first set of footprints a month ago on his property. Johnson and his wife, LaVerna, also have field-

ed calls from the Utah paleontologist, the Smithsonian, National Geographic and museums in Chicago and Denver. Paleontologists and geologists have been to the site in an effort to identify the prints, which range from six inches to more than 18 inches long. Two of the prints appear to be from the herbivore Eubrontes and the carnivorous

Grallator. Brigham Young University paleontologist Wade Miller said. The dinosaurs lived 200 million years ago, when southern Utah bordered an ocean, he said. Instead of being washed away by water, the footprint hardened like a piece of adobe. Johnson has turned over at least 70 slabs of rock, finding more than 150 dinosaur footprints.

### Fall from moving van kills toddler

THE DALLES, Ore. (AP) — A 3-year-old Idaho boy was fatally injured Sunday after falling from the family van onto Interstate-84 in north-central Oregon and being hit by a truck. Police said Jordan Garcia was in the back of the westbound van with two other children when he

apparently opened the rear door and fell out. The truck, driven by Vasyi Babuk, 28, of Mesa, Ariz., could not avoid hitting him, police said. The van, driven by the child's mother, Wendy L.A. Garcia, 30, of Nampa was going to the Portland area for spring vacation.

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With 2,000 cow, 3,000 cow, 5,000 cow, + 20,000 cow (?) calves sprouting up all over Southern Idaho the inevitable result would be the low cheese prices you'll find at Swenmart this week. Made from milk produced by thousands of anonymous, soon to be replaced Magic Valley cows at the local Ansonia (now GARDIA) cheese factory, this fine cheese is the food of a hundred delicious uses. And so economical. Stock up now.

Store Cut ~ Random Weight

### CHEESE \$1.59 Lb.

- Mild Cheddar
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- Monterey Jack

## DITCH BANK ALTERNATIVE

Picking asparagus at Swenmart lets you avoid the ditch bank perils of water-soaked, untidily weeded & weeded, cow pies, jumping back and forth across the ditch, and all this only to find out the disgusting development, that somebody just cut all the asparagus before you got there. Besides being tender, nutritious and disease free, Swenmart asparagus is free of herbicide sprays, but full of vitamins and minerals. Best of all, Swenmart asparagus is so inexpensive, picking at the ditch bank is hardly worth the risk.

### Fresh ASPARAGUS SPRING SALE 99¢ Lb.

### Western Family HALF PIT HAMS \$1.29 Lb.

4-8 Lb. Average  
Frozen, Manufactured Locally by Independent Co.

### Boneless Beef ROUND STEAK \$1.79 Lb.

### Seedless GRAPES 99¢ Lb.

Red Flame or Thompson

### Super Sweet & Juicy NAVAL ORANGES 15/\$1

BOX OF 138: \$7.99

### Pink or White GRAPEFRUIT 6/\$1

### Boneless Beef RUMP ROAST \$1.79 Lb.

### Lean & Tender Beef CUBE STEAK \$2.39 Lb.

### CHICKEN THIGHS & DRUMSTICKS 55¢ Lb.

### Green CABBAGE 3 Lbs. \$1

Crisp CELERY 2 Large Stalks For \$1

### Snow White CAULIFLOWER 99¢ Ea.

Crisp CUCUMBERS 4/\$1

### Crisp CARROTS \$1.29

5 Lb. Bag

### Falls Brand WIENERS, FRANKS, BEEF WIENERS \$2.99

2 Lb. Pkg.

### Falls Brand Fresh Pork PICNIC ROAST 89¢ Lb.

### Fresh BROCCOLI 79¢ Ea.

Large Bunch

### Iceberg LETTUCE \$1

2 Large Heads For

### Best Foods Assorted Pourable SALAD DRESSINGS 2/\$3

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### Western Family PASTA 4/\$1

12 Oz. Pkg.

### PURE SWEETNESS

Western Family Brown or Powdered SUGAR 89¢ 2 Lb. Pkg.

C & H Granulated SUGAR \$3.99 10 Lb. Bag

### PEPSI PRODUCTS \$5.99

- Reg., Diet, Caffeine-Free Diet
- Mug Root Beer
- Squirt • Mt. Dew

24 CAN CUBE CASE \$1.09 2 LITER

### Western Family CHEX CEREAL \$2.49

17.5 Oz. Corn & Rice

### Golden Griddle SYRUP \$1.99

24 Oz. Bottle

### TONY'S PIZZA 3/\$7

15-17 Oz. Pies

### Swanson Assorted TV DINNERS 2/\$3

8/13 Oz.

### Pictasweet Frozen STIR FRY \$1.99

Assorted 28 Oz.

### SOME LIKE IT HOT!

Hills Bros. COFFEE \$5.99 38 Oz.

For All Coffeemakers

### Carnation HOT COCOA MIX \$2.99

Rich Chocolate Giant 60 Oz.

### Fritos CORN CHIPS \$1.49

10.5 Oz.

### Western Family GRAHAM CRACKERS 4/\$5

1 Lb. Pkg.

### Flav-R-Pack FROZEN VEGGIES 69¢

18 Oz. Bag

- Peas • Corn
- Broccoli
- Beans
- Mixed Veg.

### Ore-Ida Assorted FROZEN POTATOES \$1.79

28/32 Oz.

### Cap'n Crunch CEREAL \$4.99

15/18 Oz. Box

2 Box Pkg.

### Malt-O-Meal CEREALS 3/\$5

14/18 Oz. Bags

- Coco Roos
- Marsh. Melays
- Golden Puffs
- Corn Busters
- Tutti Fruitti

### Western Family GELATIN 3/\$1

Asst. Flavors 3 Oz.

### Nestle Brand CANDY BARS 4/\$1

- Crunch
- Baby Ruth
- Butterfinger
- 100 Grand

### FRESH from the SWENMART BAKERY

English Yeasting BREAD 99¢ 1 Lb. Loaf

Cinnamon SWEET ROLLS \$1.59 Pkg. of 8

### Cream O' Weber COTTAGE CHEESE \$1.99

BIG 24 Oz. Carton

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8 Oz. Assorted

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### Maple or CHOCOLATE BARS 35¢ Ea.

### Tidy Cat LITTER \$7.99

28 Lb. Box

### Nice n' Fluffy FABRIC SOFTENER 2/\$5

Gallon

### Kira LAUNDRY DETERGENT 2/\$5

7 Lb. Powder / Gallon Liquid

### Purina Hi-Pro DOG FOOD \$11.99

37.5 Lb. Bag

### Sunlight DISH DETERGENT \$2.49

86/66 Oz. Liquid or Powder

### Western Family NAPKINS \$1.29

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  - Security Code for Audio System

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2000 **Lanos™**  
— 4 door Sedan

Starting at **\$179/mo**



- Standard Features**
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  - Power Assisted Rack and Pinion Steering
  - Air Conditioning
  - 50-Watt Stereo w/Cassette and four (4) Speakers
  - Security Code for Audio System

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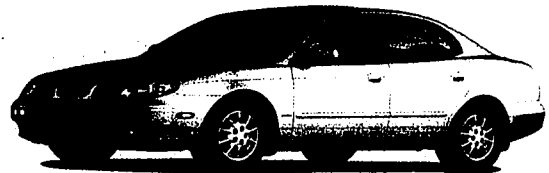
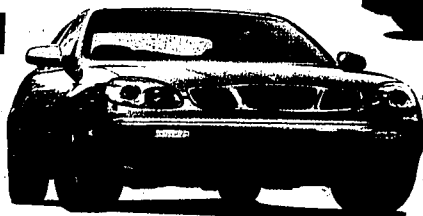
#D117. 10% down plus tax, title and dealer doc. fee of \$94.50 O.A.C. 66 months - 9.95% A.P.R., dealer retains all incentives. All vehicles subject to prior sale.

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2000 **Leganza™**  
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Starting at **\$300/mo**

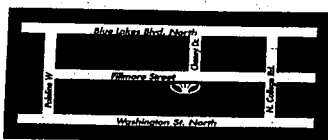


- Standard Features**
- 4 Speed Automatic Transmission
  - Air Conditioning • Leather Seating Surfaces
  - Power Windows and Door Locks
  - Remote Keyless Entry
  - Alloy Wheels • Power Tilt & Slide Moonroof
  - Cruise Control • Manual Tilt Steering
  - 100-watt 6 Speaker ETR Stereo with CD Player and Cassette

#D132. 10% down plus tax, title and dealer doc. fee of \$94.50 O.A.C. 66 months - 9.95% A.P.R., dealer retains all incentives. All vehicles subject to prior sale.

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Capriati's comeback flattens Williams

KEY BISCAVNE, Fla. (AP) - Jennifer Capriati took another strong step in her comeback Monday, outlasting Serena Williams 7-6 (2), 1-6, 6-3 in the fourth round of the Ericsson Open.

It was a sloppy but dramatic win for the 13th-seeded Capriati, who turns 24 on Wednesday. She advanced to the quarterfinals at Key Biscayne for the first time since 1992.

Williams, the U.S. Open winner, is ranked sixth in the world. The last time Capriati beat an opponent ranked so highly was in 1996, when she won in Chicago against Monica Seles, who then shared No. 1 with Steffi Graf.

Capriati, who reached the semifinals of the Australian Open in January, has climbed to 14th in the world, her best ranking in six years. Her next opponent will be No. 12 Sandrine Testud, who beat Elena Dementieva 5-7, 6-4, 6-4.

Top-seeded Martina Hingis beat Kim Clijsters 6-0, 6-4. Amanda Coetzer eliminated No. 6 Conchita Martinez 6-1, 6-2.

In men's play, Mark Philippoussis beat No. 11 Cedric Pioline 6-4, 7-6 (3). No. 9 Nicolas Pietrangeli rallied to beat Felix Mantilla 5-7, 6-1, 6-1.

With a noisy stadium-crowd firmly behind Capriati, she survived some shifty moments against Williams, hitting a serve into the first row late in the match.

"I was just so excited and the crowd was so excited that I lost my concentration a little bit," Capriati said. "I had to regroup a little bit. I had to really bear down in that last game."

She double-faulted twice in the



Jennifer Capriati, of Wesley Chapel, Fla., returns a ball to her opponent Serena Williams Monday during the Ericsson Open at Key Biscayne, Fla. Capriati defeated Williams 7-6, 1-6, 6-3.

final game, giving her 14 for the match, but belted a 102-mph serve winner on match point. She punched the air with her fist and skipped happily to the net to shake Williams' hand.

Capriati was a teen-age prodigy before drug and personal problems forced her off the WTA Tour in the mid-1990s. She returned in 1996, but her ranking slipped to 101st at the end of 1998 before her latest comeback began.

Mavs end drought in Salt Lake

SALT LAKE CITY (AP) - Michael Finley and the Dallas Mavericks finally found a way to beat the Utah Jazz.

Finley scored 24 of his 31 points in the first half, Hubert Davis had 13 of his 15 points in the fourth quarter and Steve



Portland's Resheed Wallace, right, goes over the top of New York's Kurt Thomas and gets his fingertips on the ball during their NBA game Sunday night in Portland, Ore. New York defeated Portland, 93-89.

Nash hit six free throws in the final 49.2 seconds as the Dallas Mavericks beat the Jazz 113-105 on Monday night.

The Mavericks snapped a 12-game losing streak to Utah. They hadn't won in Salt Lake City since Feb. 9, 1989, a span of 25 games. It also was Dallas' first victory in 21 games at the Delta Center, which opened in 1991.

Dallas shot well all night, building a 55-48 halftime lead on the strength of 55.8 percent shooting.

The loss ended Utah's four-game winning streak, a stretch where the Jazz had seized control in the fourth quarter. But this time it was Davis who took over at the end, hitting baskets to

Portland's Resheed Wallace, right, goes over the top of New York's Kurt Thomas and gets his fingertips on the ball during their NBA game Sunday night in Portland, Ore. New York defeated Portland, 93-89.

thwart every Utah challenge. When it was finally over, the

Red Wings push Rangers to brink

NEW YORK (AP) - Chris Osgood made 40 saves and Steve Yzerman scored twice to lead the Detroit Red Wings to a 6-0 victory Monday night over the listless New York Rangers, who lost their fifth straight game.

In a two-day, home-and-home series, Detroit outscored New York 14-2 and pushed the Rangers to the brink of missing the playoffs for the third season in a row. New York, 1-8-1 in 10 games, has been outscored 27-10 during its losing streak.

Malty and Tomas Holmstrom also scored for the Red Wings, who won their third in a row and for the 10th time in 15 games (10-2-3).

Sabres 5, Hurricanes 1

RALEIGH, N.C. - Miroslav Satan and Doug Gilmour each had a goal and three assists as surging Buffalo won its fourth straight.

The Sabres moved past Montreal and into the eighth and final playoff spot in the Eastern Conference with six games left, winning only their 12th road game in 38 tries.

Carolina fell three points behind the Hurricanes and moved into 10th position. The two teams meet again Friday night in Buffalo.

Gilmour became the 20th NHL player to record 1,300 career points with his third-period assist and he added Buffalo's final goal with 8:29 left.

Stay on top of your Investments with the Money pages.

Table with sports scores and standings for various leagues including NBA, NFL, MLB, and international sports.

SCORES AND STATS

Table with sports scores and statistics for various leagues including NFL, MLB, and international sports.

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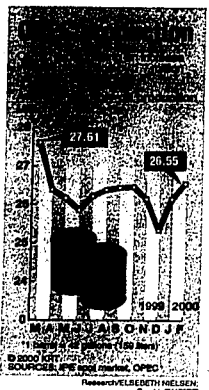


MONEY

OPEC ministers adjourn sans agreement

Judge might delay handing down verdict on beleaguered Microsoft

VIENNA, Austria (AP) — OPEC oil ministers failed to reach agreement Monday on how much crude oil to add to global supplies, with Iran seen as the chief obstacle to a consensus that could provide some price relief to consumers.



would amount to about 7 percent more than what OPEC members agreed to pump after curtailing output last March.

in other areas of the economy and inflating the general price structure," he said in testimony before a Senate committee in Washington.

WASHINGTON (AP) — Some government lawyers have expressed sufficient interest in a settlement Microsoft Corp. has offered in its antitrust case that they expect a trial judge at last to delay plans to deliver his verdict today.

Some of the difficulties in evaluating Microsoft's offer stemmed from the large number of plaintiffs. The Justice Department was wise to raise 10 cases in the proposal with states, and some states were exchanging thoughts in a series of telephone conference calls Monday.

The ministers were to resume discussions Tuesday. Iran accepts the need for OPEC to boost output, the Iranian Oil Minister Bijan Namdar Zangeneh said, but the amount of an increase favored by his country might not be enough to reduce petroleum prices from nine-year highs.

Two other key producers in the group, Saudi Arabia and Kuwait, have proposed a production increase of 1.5 million to 1.7 million barrels a day. The upper limit of their proposed increase

Industry analysts warn of possible shortages and \$2-a-gallon gas during the peak driving season this summer if OPEC fails to increase production significantly.

Crude oil for delivery in May fell 23 cents to \$27.79 a barrel Monday on the New York Mercantile Exchange in London. May Brent also fell 23 cents to \$25.68 on the International Petroleum Exchange.

The 11-hour proposal from Microsoft, faxed on Friday, was considered generally inadequate in important areas by some of the 19 states in the lawsuit. But it was provoking enough discussion among others on Monday that a delay was widely expected, according to sources close to the case who spoke on condition of anonymity.

In the upcoming phase, Jackson must identify which federal laws, if any, Microsoft violated. If settlement efforts are fruitless, the judge was expected to decide on sanctions after hearings later in the spring or summer.

I won't talk on numbers, but we don't want a market shortage, he said.

Props

Continued from D4 Air Force Voodoo 101 plane, and enough uniforms to outfit a small army.

the request for the good stuff. He buys vehicles from all over the United States and hits up thrift shops, garage sales and Army surplus stores for miscellaneous props.

Richard Held loves his Hummers, the U.S. military's main multipurpose vehicle since 1982. It's wider and meaner than the Jeep, and it rents for \$500 per day. Tanks go for \$3,500 a day.

Sult Lake City, and master prop maker Rick Ramsdell of Ventura, Calif., were working on some old cars.

Michael Held says books, magazines and consultants to make his vehicles look authentic.

ed by the souvenirs his brother's friends brought home from Vietnam.

He also has amassed a huge collection of odds and ends including clocks, watches, magazines, cameras, lamps, antique phones and furniture, flugs, rusty farm tools and silverware — way too much junk to keep an inventory. The demand for stuf props, he said, is just as great as

Held often works with his brother, Richard, 37, of Santa Paula, Richard Held manages and runs a side business similar to his brother's called Richard Held Studio Vehicle Rentals.

Of all the vehicles, the Hummers rent out like hot cakes," he said on a recent day at the warehouse where, he, his brother, vehicle dealer Jim Holmes from

Neither brother has been in the armed services, but both have a keen interest and admiration for all people and things military. Their father fought in World War II. And as a young boy in the late 1960s, Michael Held said, he was fascinat-

putting stuf in movies," he said. "It's the best of the best jobs I have. I'm a perpetual shopper and I like preserving history."

Table with columns: Name, Div, Last, Chg, DOW JONES, S&P 500, NYSE, AMEX, NASDAQ. Lists various stock market indices and their performance.

Table with columns: NYSE, AMEX, NASDAQ. Lists 'Most Active' and 'Most Losers' stocks for each exchange.

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MARKETS

CLOSING FUTURES

Table with columns: Mon, Commodity, High, Low, Close, Change. Includes Wheat, Corn, Soybeans, and other agricultural products.

Table with columns: May, '00 Bu. minimum, cents per bushel. Includes Wheat, Corn, Soybeans, and other agricultural products.

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LIVESTOCK

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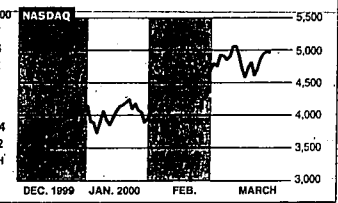
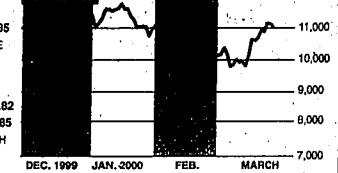
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BEANS

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Microsoft plummets, takes Dow, Nasdaq down with it

Microsoft's stock price fell sharply on Monday, dragging down the Dow Jones and Nasdaq indices. Analysts attribute the drop to concerns over the company's future earnings and its market valuation.

GRAINS

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FOSSIL FUELS

Table with columns: May, '00 Bu. minimum, cents per bushel. Includes Oil, Natural Gas, and other fossil fuel products.

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Table with columns: May, '00 Bu. minimum, cents per bushel. Includes Oil, Natural Gas, and other fossil fuel products.

GRAINS

Table with columns: May, '00 Bu. minimum, cents per bushel. Includes Wheat, Corn, Soybeans, and other grain products.

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FOSSIL FUELS

Table with columns: May, '00 Bu. minimum, cents per bushel. Includes Oil, Natural Gas, and other fossil fuel products.