

Selection winds down

GOP will pick potential Hansen replacement tonight

By Michael Journee
Times-News writer

BOISE - Legislative District 23 Republicans are preparing for an election, of sorts, tonight. Their charge is to select Twin Falls Rep. Randy Hansen's potential successor in the Legislature. They could choose from up to seven candidates; a

seventh possible candidate, Kimberly rancher Dave Roper, has surfaced in what could be a crowded race.

Hansen announced he would withdraw his name from the GOP primary ballot last Monday, the first business day after the primary filing deadline had passed. Because he was the only Republican in the race, state law gives the district's central com-

mittee, made up the district's precinct chairmen, the authority to select, in any way they see fit, a replacement candidate for the ballot.

The specifics of how to select the candidate is left up to the central committee, however. District 23 Central Committee Chairman Mark Stubbs said there are no local GOP bylaws covering this situation. He said

preliminary discussions with local GOP leaders indicate that any candidate must have a majority of votes among the 17 committee members who will vote tonight.

To clarify procedures and to keep the seven possible candidates happy about the decision they came up with, Stubbs said the committee will vote on the procedures just before selecting

a candidate. Randy Hansen
Stubbs said the situation shows the value of being involved in local politics. Typically, a news reporter, precinct chairmanships are often hard to fill. Despite the GOP supermajority grip on the state, Stubbs and County Chairman



Randy Hansen

Please see REPLACEMENT, Page A2

SILAK SPEAKS



LOUIE CANTON/The Times-News

Supreme Court Justice Cathy Silak speaks to the Jerome Rotary Club Tuesday afternoon during a luncheon campaign appearance.

Officials look into murder confession

By Brian Haynes
Times-News writer

TWIN FALLS - A drifter linked to killings in at least five states might have killed in the Magic Valley.

Local authorities are checking into Tommy Lynn Sells' confession, but have no records of a double slaying to correspond with his account of a crime that would date back at least a decade.

Sells, 35, said he killed a woman and her young son in the area in 1988 or 1989, a news release from the Twin Falls County Sheriff's Office said. Authorities in Gooding and Twin Falls counties were investigating the confession.

Sells, charged in the December killing of a 13-year-old Texas girl, was brought to Twin Falls County last week after saying he killed people here in the late 1980s, the release said.

He has also been linked to killings in Illinois, Missouri, Arizona and Kentucky. After the Texas Rangers brought Sells to Idaho, he led Twin Falls County investigators to two sites. One was in Gooding County, the release said.

Gooding County Sheriff Shaun Gough said deputies dug Friday at the site south of Bliss, because of a landslide, the site isn't the same as it was 10 years ago. Gough said he plans to bring in dogs to help with the search in the next few weeks.

Twin Falls County investigators have also come up empty so far and are trying to match whatever evidence they have to Sells' story, Sheriff's office spokeswoman Nancy Howell said.

Sells said he stole a van in Salt Lake City in 1988 and traveled to Twin Falls with a woman in her 20s and her 3-to 4-year-old son. The trio planned to stay the night near the Snake River, the release said.

Later Sells parked the van at the Hansen Bridge overlook and killed the woman and child before dumping their bodies into the river, the release said.

Anyone with information can call Sgt. Rob Nejezchleba at 736-4179.

The Associated Press contributed to this report.



Tommy Lynn Sells

Idaho Supreme Court justice touts programs

By Michael Journee
Times-News writer

TWIN FALLS - An Idaho Supreme Court justice touted programs she has been involved with on the court, and offered a brief civics lesson on what the high court does.

And during a campaign stop in the Magic Valley Tuesday, she did not mention her opponent in a May election.

"We do a lot of things other than hear cases," Justice Cathy

Silak told the Jerome Rotary Club during a luncheon speech.

During her 25-minute talk with fellow Rotarians - she's a member of a Boise chapter - Silak never mentioned her conservative challenger, 4th District Judge Dan Eismann. In fact she made reference to the decidedly non-political posture of her campaign for re-election to the court.

"We do a lot of things other than hear cases."

- Cathy Silak, Idaho Supreme Court

Supreme Court races. Candidates - and some political observers - say judicial issues limit what candidates can say about specific issues that could come before the court.

In the current race, some

Republicans have criticized a 3-2 Supreme Court ruling, authored by Silak, to uphold a federal reserved water right within three central Idaho wilderness areas. Eismann, however, declined to discuss the issue directly in a recent interview with The Times-News editorial board.

In her talk to Rotarians, Silak spent most of her time talking about two new programs the Supreme Court and other courts around the state have been work-

Please see SILAK, Page A2

Doctors resort to deception to help patients

Exaggerated claims allow for better care

The Associated Press

CHICAGO - More than a third of doctors surveyed nationwide admit deceiving insurance companies to help patients get the

care they need.

Their tactics include: exaggerating the severity of an illness to help patients avoid being sent home early from the hospital; listing an inaccurate diagnosis on bills; and reporting nonexistent symptoms to secure insurance coverage.

In a random mailed survey of

720 doctors nationwide in 1998, 39 percent said they had used at least one of those tactics "sometimes" or more often within the preceding year.

The results were published in today's Journal of the American Medical Association.

Thirty-seven percent said their patients "sometimes" or more

often asked them to deceive insurers.

More than a quarter - 28.5 percent - said it is necessary to "game" the system to provide high-quality care.

Of the doctors who reported using deceitful practices, 54 percent said they did so more often than in the past.

Veterans of Battle in Seattle coach others for protests this weekend

Knight Ridder News Service

PHILADELPHIA - For 18-year-old Brian Spina, his first protest was a small one in front of the Buzsuzi Republic in downtown Philadelphia. Now, the teenager is getting ready to face the police, if necessary, in front of the World Bank's headquarters in Washington, D.C.

And for that, he needs extra coaching. Over the weekend, Spina and about 40 other would-be demonstrators turned out for that spe-

cial training at the William Way Center. The Philadelphia contingent will join thousands of other demonstrators who are planning to protest this weekend against policies of the World Bank and International Monetary Fund.

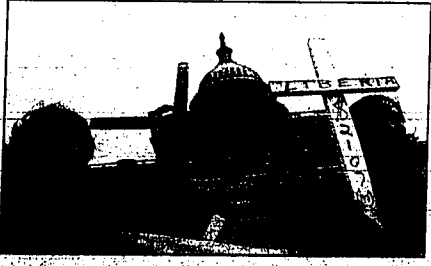
Leading the training session were Ilyse Hogue, a member of the Rainforest Action Network, and Mij Azemum of the Ruckus Society. Both demonstrated at the World Trade Organization's Seattle meeting in December and both spent five days in a Seattle jail.

"We don't think anyone should be protesting - putting themselves in a position of possibly being arrested - without training," Hogue said.

In an effort to get "as many trained protesters into the streets on April 16th as possible," Hogue said, she and Azemum have been barnstorming the East Coast visiting 22 towns and cities.

Sunday, it was time for Spina and his Philadelphia-area comrades to learn the drill.

Part of the training focused on Please see PROTEST, Page A2



The Rev. Helen Priest and Carol Benson protest Tuesday in front of the U.S. Capitol in favor of forgiving debt owed by developing nations.

GOOD MORNING

WEATHER

Today: Sunny early, high 76, then some clouds tonight, low 48. Page A2

MAGIC VALLEY

Branching out: Branching out: Twin Falls officials are looking at ways to handle 911 emergency dispatch themselves. Page B1

Incoming call: A Mini-Cassia call center could create dozens of new jobs. Page B1

MONEY

Downtown director: The job of the Historic Downtown Business Improvement District's executive director is a hot one - 14 people applied. Page C1

SPORTS

Late rally: The Wendell High School baseball team won Tuesday afternoon with a wild late rally at Filer. Page D2

OPINION

Reap what you sow: Stop the appeals of twice-convicted murderer Ron Lafferty and schedule his execution, today's editorial says. Page A10

SECTION BY SECTION

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Bill will reward states with tough gun laws

WASHINGTON (AP) — House Republicans, taking their cue from a Richmond, Va., initiative, on Tuesday pushed through legislation providing financial incentives to states that impose tough mandatory sentences on criminals who carry guns.

The "Project Exile Act" passed 238-60, although some Democrats discounted the act as a small-scale measure put up to deflect attention from the failure of Congress to pass more substantial gun control legislation. Idaho Reps. Mike Simpson and Helen Chenoweth

Hage voted for the bill. President Clinton traveled to Annapolis, Md., Tuesday to congratulate that state for being the first in the nation to require built-in locks on guns and enact other tough gun safety regulations. The message he carried was that, "Congress should follow Maryland's lead."

The Project Exile bill, sponsored by Rep. Bill McCollum, R-Fla., sets aside \$100 million over five years in grants for states that ensure a mandatory minimum sentence of five years without

parole for any person who uses or carries a firearm during a violent crime or serious drug trafficking offense.

It has been endorsed by the National Rifle Association and Republicans who say gun violence is best addressed by enforcing laws already on the books, not by passing new gun control laws.

Democrats said the bill provides political cover for the failure of Congress to pass gun control measures introduced after the shootings at Columbine High School in Colorado a year ago.

Marines will resume Osprey flights before probe finishes

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Marine Corps intends to resume flying its Osprey aircraft "in the very near future," before completing the investigation of last weekend's fatal crash in Arizona, the Marines' top aviation official said Tuesday.

Lt. Gen. Fred McCorkle told a Pentagon news conference that flying would resume unless the initial investigation reveals a major mechanical or design flaw, in which case the Osprey fleet would be grounded.

"We talked to a lot of people on this particular accident... and I've

had nothing so far to lead me to believe that we would have to (ground) them," McCorkle said. Flights of the four remaining production-model Ospreys were temporarily halted immediately after last Saturday's accident at Marana, Ariz., as a gesture of sympathy for the families of the 13 Marines killed in the unexplained accident.

Thus far, McCorkle said, "We have no indication what caused the accident."

McCorkle said that on Tuesday the remaining Ospreys resumed taxing and other ground operations.

Youth crimes decline; punishments rise

WASHINGTON (AP) — Youth violence is falling, but more children are paying the price of public fears driving by high-profile school shootings — harsher punishments for nonviolent or minor offenses — says a new report.

"We've got kids getting kicked out of school for saying 'hang-bang' to each other," said Vincent Schiraldi of the Justice Policy Institute, a youth advocacy think tank that co-authored the report. "It's no more fair to stereotype them all as school shooters than to stereotype all adults as Timothy McVeigh," who bombed the federal building in Oklahoma City.

The report — released a week before the first anniversary of the April 20 Columbine High School massacre — says the public isn't paying attention to overall youth-

violence trends. Instead, shootings in Colorado, Arkansas, Oregon and most recently Michigan — where one 11th-grader shot and killed another youngster in class — have driven schools to install more metal detectors, conduct more locker searches and impose more suspensions and expulsions for threats, Schiraldi said.

The report by the Justice Policy Institute, based in Washington and San Francisco, and the nonprofit legal aid Children's Law Center in Covington, Ky., recommends more school counseling, balanced media coverage of school shootings and tougher gun control laws. The groups — which gathered data from federal and state agencies and nonprofit research centers — are releasing the report publicly Wednesday.

"Kids have to know there are consequences to illegal activity," said Jim Pasco, executive director of the Fraternal Order of Police, the 285,000-member police union.

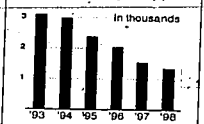
Most of the punishments were for what the report called "petty acts." For example:

- A 17-year-old junior was expelled from his suburban Chicago high school in 1998 after the paper clip he shot with a rubber band struck a cafeteria worker, drawing a small amount of blood. He was also charged with disorderly conduct.
- Two 10-year-old boys in Arlington, Va., were suspended for three days for putting soapy water in teacher's drink. Felony charges filed against them were later dismissed.

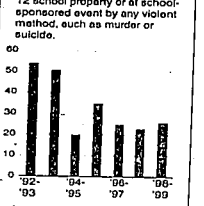
Safer schools

Violent crimes committed on school grounds and by youth in general are on the decline in the United States. Here is a look at the statistics.

Youth homicide arrests
Number of youth ages 10-17 arrested for murder and non-negligent manslaughter, by year.



Violent deaths at school
Number of children and adults who died on public or private K-12 school property or at school-sponsored event by any violent method, such as murder or suicide.



Sources: Justice Department Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention; National School Safety Center

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Miami relatives give offer to bring Elian to his father

MIAMI (AP) — Elian Gonzalez's Miami relatives offered Tuesday to meet with his father in Florida and bring the boy along, and a Justice Department official said Attorney General Janet Reno "very likely" would come to Miami to meet with community leaders and the boy's great-uncle.

The senior official, who spoke on condition of anonymity, said Reno probably would go to Miami today and meet with federal officials, community leaders and — most significantly — the family of Lázaro Gonzalez.

Arrangements are still being worked out, said the official, who added that any meetings involving Reno wouldn't alter the timetable being worked out for Elian's return.

In a letter distributed Tuesday morning outside the great-uncle's home and addressed to a psychiatrist assigned by the government to the case, the family said it

would be willing to meet Juan Miguel Gonzalez at any "neutral place in South Florida."

The letter said the conference could be "followed almost immediately by a meeting to include Elian." But Armando Guiderrez, a spokesman for the relatives, said they wanted written assurance that the government wouldn't try to take Elian at that time.

"This is extremely important, not only to me and Marielsyis, but also for Elian so that he can be assured honestly that his going to the meeting will not immediately place him on a plane to Cuba," Lázaro Gonzalez wrote, referring to his daughter, Justice Department spokeswoman Carole Florman characterized Lázaro's offer to meet Miguel at a family matter.

"This is not a request the Miami relatives can make of the government," she said. "They need to make it to Juan Miguel."



Elian Gonzalez talks with Lincoln-Mari classmates in the yard at the home of his Miami relatives Tuesday.

Virus drug shows disappointing results in tests

A drug that developers hoped would cure the common cold and viral meningitis has shown disappointing results in three new studies released Tuesday. The developer's stock-price fell sharply on the news.

The drug, called pleconaril, failed to significantly shorten bouts of illness when tested on adults with severe cold and on adults and children with viral meningitis. However, it did appear to reduce the severity of the symptoms.

The drug is being developed by ViroPharma in Exton, Pa., and is intended to block a broad family of viruses, known as the picornaviruses. This family includes such common viral enemies as the rhinoviruses and enteroviruses.

Early studies suggested the drug could reduce the duration of a bout of viral meningitis by about two days and a bad cold by about three. However, the latest studies did not produce clear-cut evidence of this.

Nation in brief

Senate overwhelmingly rejects gas tax rollback

WASHINGTON — A temporary federal gas tax cut was soundly defeated by the Senate, where opponents said its meager benefits for motorists fuming over high fuel prices wasn't worth jeopardizing money for critical transportation projects.

"Yes, there's anger at the pump. That's understandable," Sen. John Warner, R-Va., said Tuesday. "But there's also anger behind the wheel. We cannot have instability in our highway modernization program."

By 17 votes, the Senate failed to reach the 60-vote threshold necessary to cut off debate and proceed to the bill, effectively killing it. Twelve Republicans and 44 Democrats voted against the measure, sponsored by Majority Leader Trent Lott, who was backed by 43 Republicans.

Council committee Tuesday approved the naming of a street after Hugh Hefner, whose Playboy empire has its headquarters in Chicago. The vote came after Hefner's daughter pulled a rabbit out of her hat by taking centerfold, uh, center stage.

On Monday, the committee had voted down the proposed "Hugh Hefner Way" after listening to arguments that Hefner's work is degrading to women. But by midday Tuesday, Hugh Hefner Way got the OK.

"I understand that my father and Playboy provoke debate and discussion about deeply felt

issues of personal freedom, about sexuality and about morality," said Playboy chairman and CEO Christie Hefner, who requested the street naming.

— compiled from wire reports

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Hospital asks that visits for Hinckley be unsupervised

WASHINGTON — Officials at St. Elizabeths Hospital are recommending that presidential assistant John W. Hinckley Jr. be released for unsupervised day-long visits with his parents, The Washington Post reports.

Hospital officials say their examinations show Hinckley, 44, has "sufficiently recovered from his mental illness" to justify the brief releases, the newspaper said in Tuesday's edition.

The hospital visit prevails, Hinckley could venture off the grounds unescorted for the first time since he was confined to the hospital in 1982 for shooting President Reagan.

Hinckley was found not guilty of the assassination of the 1981 president in a 1982 federal court shooting. Three other presidential White House staffers, including White House press secretary Jim Brady, were

Hef's daughter's plea tips balance for road renaming

CHICAGO — Playboy may seem tame in today's world of online porn, lewd pro wrestling and shock-talk shows, but the old magazine can still cause a stir.

After heated debate, a City

The Times-News has walking routes available in the towns of Filer, Buhl, Twin Falls. Good compensation for time involved. With additional Bonuses available, this may be a great way to earn extra CASH while getting paid for your morning walk.

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Kathy Harman
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NATION

New Mars images may hold secrets to climate history

PASADENA, Calif. (AP) — New images from NASA's Mars Global Surveyor show intricate, frosting-like layers near the south pole that could help scientists unlock the secrets of the Red Planet's climate history.

The layers of dry ice, water ice and dust most likely formed as Mars' climate changed. Scientists hope to better understand the forces that shaped them by closely studying the images and comparing them to others taken in the future.

"We're not really sure what's going on there," said Michael Malin, president and chief scientist of Malin Space Science Systems. "What you can see in those pictures are flat layers that have been eroded in two very dif-



This image of the Martian surface near the South Pole shows layers of ice and dust that are evidence of erosion.

ferent ways." One image — a mosaic of several pictures — shows squiggly lines that resemble frosting but are actually layers exposed in the walls of a shallow trough.

"Something has eroded this... though, and we're seeing the layering expressed both as etches and as ridges in this depression," Malin said.

The second picture, covering an area a few miles away from the first, shows a flat surface with circular pits of the same depth eroded into the ice. Scientists believe the erosion may be an effect of the dry ice that makes up the polar cap.

"We have a concept that these things are recording changes in the Martian environment, but we don't know exactly what process is doing it," he said.

The images released Monday and posted on the Jet Propulsion Laboratory's Web site, www.jpl.nasa.gov.

Israeli leader pursues peace plan

WASHINGTON — Denounced by Yasser Arafat as an extremist, Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Barak is making an 18-hour visit here to plan for an orderly retreat from Lebanon and to talk about more territorial concessions to the Palestinians.

He also faces grim news about Syria. A Syrian response to President Clinton's overtures to reopen peace talks is being dismissed by the State Department as inadequate.

Nation in brief

'M.A.S.H.' actor Linville, 58, stricken with cancer, dies

NEW YORK — Larry Linville, best known for his portrayal of the power-hungry and neurotic Maj. Frank Burns on the CBS television show "M.A.S.H.," died Monday at Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center. He was 58.

Linville suffered from cancer and had a lung removed in 1998 after a malignant tumor was discovered. Longtime manager Barry M. Greenberg of Los Angeles said Linville was hospitalized Sunday and died of complications of pneumonia.

Linville was a native of Ojai, Calif., and had been living in New York. Greenberg said, "He took this cancer thing better than anybody I've ever seen."

Lawmakers want Egypt to help pay cost of probe

WASHINGTON — With the cost of investigating the crash of EgyptAir Flight 990 expected to reach \$17 million, an influential congressman, Rep. William Lipinski, D-Ill., said Tuesday he will seek reimbursement of some of the cost from Egypt.

At the same time, the chairman of the board probing the crash said that while the cause remains unclear, the crash "is consistent with a deliberate action on the part of one of the crewmembers," an explanation the Egyptians have resisted.

Two Koreas

Summit will pair a democracy campaigner, totalitarian ruler

SEOUL, South Korea (AP) — As an opposition leader, South Korean President Kim Dae-jung was jailed, sentenced to death and, he says, the target of four assassination attempts. He won election to the nation's top office on his fourth attempt.

North Korean leader Kim Jong Il was reared from childhood to succeed his father as head of a totalitarian state and heir to a personality cult that lends him mythical status. He rarely appears in public.

The divergence in the two Kim's careers reflects the political gulf that separates democratic South Korea and communist North Korea ahead of their planned summit in June.

Still, just agreeing to hold the summit shows what they share enough — confidence in their stature at home to stage a historic and risky venture.

In a television interview in February, Kim Dae-jung ever praised the man suspected of masterminding terrorist attacks on South Korean targets, including the 1987 in-flight bombing of a Korean Air plane that killed all 115 people on board.

"I think he is a man of great insight and he is a pragmatist," the South Korean president said of Kim Jong Il in a television interview.

For Kim Jong Il, the decision to meet his South Korean counterpart follows some of North Korea's darkest days, including deadly famine that forced it to beg for aid from its old enemies, Japan, South Korea and the United States.

Speculation that the reclusive regime would collapse began in 1994 after the death of Kim Il Sung, Kim Jong Il's father and North Korea's founder. Kim Jong Il largely stayed out of sight and was believed to be conducting his hold over the powerful military.

Recent North Korean diplomatic forays suggest Kim Jong Il is now convinced he can engage the world without jeopardizing his control. His role as host of the June summit, rather than visitor, could enhance his domes-

tic image.

The risk for Pyongyang is that outside influence, especially from its wealthy southern neighbor, will undercut its legitimacy, among a population accustomed to food shortages and crumbling infrastructure. But the regime needs foreign aid to survive.

For South Korea's Kim, the timing of the summit announcement — just three days before parliamentary elections — was a boon.

It could help his ruling Millennium Democratic Party by deflecting opposition complaints that his policy of promoting contacts with the North has failed to yield concessions.

The South Korean leader's aides said North Korea had pushed for an early announcement, but opposition leaders accused the government of publicizing the agreement as an election ploy.

Kim could lose popularity if the two sides are unable to agree on an agenda for the talks, which are likely to include complex issues such as the deployment of U.S. soldiers in South Korea, economic aid to the North and the North's missile programs.

If the summit goes ahead, it will be one of the more curious encounters in international diplomacy.

Kim Dae-jung, 76, is charismatic and his defiant role as a pro-democracy activist under military-led governments won him comparisons to South Africa's Nelson Mandela.

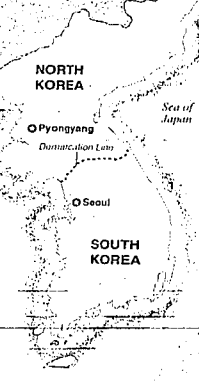
He reels off statistics in numerous speeches, including a March appearance in Berlin, when he offered to help North Korea rebuild its economy. Pyongyang is likely to demand a large aid package as part of any summit deal.

In the 1970s, Kim's advocacy of a gradual approach to unification that stressed coexistence, rather than a southern takeover, drew accusations from the Seoul political establishment that he was pro-communist.

Kim Jong Il, 58, has not traveled outside North Korea since a 1983 trip to China. Defectors from North Korea have described him as an eloquent and tireless orator,

Historic summit for North and South Korea

South Korea and North Korea announced on Monday that their leaders will hold a summit June 12-14 in the North Korean capital Pyongyang. It will be the first summit since the Korean peninsula was divided into the communist North and the U.S.-backed South in 1945. The two countries fought a war from 1950-53 and never signed a permanent peace treaty.



Kim Jong Il, 58 (Communist)
Leader of North Korea from 1994.
Born: Feb. 15, 1942, in Russia's Far East.
Education: Graduated Kim Il Sung University, 1964.
Children: two children, according to South Korean intelligence.
► Son of former North Korean ruler Kim Il Sung; reared to succeed him.
► Member of North Korean Communist Party Politburo in late 1960s.
► Member of Central Committee 1980.
► Named Supreme Commander of People's Armed Forces 1991.
► Suspected of masterminding attacks on South Korean targets, including the 1987 Korean Air bombing that killed 115.

Kim Dae-jung, 76 (Democratic)
President of South Korea since 1997.
Born: Dec. 3, 1925, in Shinan-gun, South Korea.
Education: Attended Korea University, Seoul; Master's degree in economics in 1970 from Kyunghee University.
Children: three.
► Coast guard 1947-1954.
► Entered politics in 1960s as spokesman for New Democratic Party.
► Opposition leader was jailed and sentenced to death; says he was the target of four assassination attempts.
► Won the presidency in 1997 on his fourth try.
► Adviser, Minnesota Center for treatment of Victims of Torture in 1983.
► Robert F. Kennedy Human Rights Award in 1997.

Possible summit topics:
► Deployment of 37,000 U.S. soldiers in South Korea.
► Economic aid to the North after its disastrous famine of the 1980s.
► North Korea's missile and nuclear programs.

► North Korea's human rights record.
► South Korea's effort to rebuild North Korea's decrepit infrastructure.
► Reunions of separated family members in both Koreas.

Source: Compiled from AP wire reports; Gale Group

but South Korean officials say his voice has been broadcast only once. In accepting a post as North Korea's military commander in 1991, Kim Jong Il said at a rally of army officers: "May glory be with our revolutionary armed forces."

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NATION

Mom hunts pedophiles on the Net

Neighborhood watch moves to cyberspace

The Washington Post

One man knew her as Noel, a 14-year-old born on Christmas Day who sang in her school choir and called herself a born troublemaker.

To another she was Angie, a cheerleader with a brand new driver's license and a little sister who twirls baton.

A third man thought she was Sabrina, a 15-year-old blonde who used the computer name Satin Witch.

But she's really a 45-year-old housewife.

And talking to her led to the arrest of all three men.

Casey, 45, wife, mother of two and master seamstress, hunts Internet predators from the sewing room of a small Pennsylvania apartment decorated with Playboy Martin posters and unicorn stickers. She started last year, fueled by deep outrage that a man her family didn't know sent her teenage daughter a nude photo via e-mail. Now her girls aren't allowed to go online alone, and she's on the Web so often she can barely keep up with her telephone bill.

"I may not be a real little girl, but I know these guys are doing it

Mom in action

Casey: "I was just trying to find out what you get into when you're on the Internet." Man: "I could take a trip this summer." Casey: "You certainly could."

Man: "Where are you my sweetie, tasey that?" Casey: "Right here." Man: "Aw sweetie, I mean what state?" Casey: "Pennsylvania." Man: "I could take a trip this summer." Casey: "You certainly could."

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to real little girls," said Casey, whose undercover work recently led to the arrest of Thomas Cook in Loudoun County, Va. "That's

what keeps me going." Although Casey's methods might be unusual, her mission isn't. The concept of neighborhood watch has moved into cyberspace.

Thousands of volunteers worldwide have been rising up to combat child pornography, stalkers and sexual predators on the Internet. As the Web increasingly becomes a part of everyday life—about 44 million households nationwide have Internet connections, compared with 12.7 million in 1995—online crime has begun to spark the same vigilance and concern for safety that drives neighbors to patrol their streets.

"Instead of your kid walking out of the house and you worrying what's in the big bad neighborhood, now people are worrying about the whole world," said Lawrence Sherman, a University of Pennsylvania professor and president of the International Society of Criminology.

The FBI's Innocent Images Task Force opened 1,500 criminal cases last year focusing on children on the Internet—many of them based on tips from parents or patrol groups such as Casey's Internet Watch.

Peter A. Gultrot Jr., a spokesman for the FBI task force in Baltimore, says the problem is too big to tackle without the help of civilian watchdogs. Although he cautions that people need to

know where to draw the line, he acknowledges authorities are eager for help.

"Law enforcement can't do this by themselves," Gultrot said. "It's a noteworthy cause: Of all the cases I've worked, (Internet predators) are the most reprehensible I've seen."

Most Internet patrol groups don't go undercover as Casey does. They simply search for offensive material or predatory users and alerting authorities. Some computer-savvy volunteers offer police technical help.

Kent Browne, 41, a high-tech worker from suburban New York, began trying to clean up the Web when he came across a pornographic photo of a toddler. The little girl looked about 3. He has two daughters, an infant and an 8-year-old. "I was just sick," Browne said. "It's going to take me years to get that picture out of my mind. To me this is the most important fight in the world."

Natasha Grigori, a Minneapolis computer technician who started an Internet patrol group that boasts about 800 members, spends countless hours online and doesn't want to see other users—especially children—hurt.

"There's a whole community of people that live on the Internet," she said. "We have little houses and little rooms, and we are like families. We are very protective of our homes and our space."

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Violence keeps women away from computers, researchers contend

Knight Ridder News Service

PHILADELPHIA — The 10 students enrolled in Wayne Snover's Advanced Placement computer science class at Central High School in Philadelphia have something in common: They are all male.

The composition of Snover's class in the coed school is hardly unusual. It's practically the norm.

A national report from the American Association of University Women (AAUW) scheduled for release Tuesday says female students account for only 17 percent of the of high school students who take the College Board's Advanced Placement exam in computer science to seek college credit.

In addition, it says, women earn only 28 percent of the bachelor's degrees in computer science, and make up only 20 percent of information technology professionals.

The report, "Tech-Savvy: Educating Girls in the New Computer Age," contends that the male-dominated computer culture must change in order to attract girls and women to technology.

Unless that happens, the nation's shortage of skilled high-tech workers will continue, and women will lose out on opportunities for high-paying, high-tech jobs. "We are used to hearing our math phobia for girls," said Pamela Haug, director of research for the AAUW Educational Foundation. "But the girls are not anxious or phobic about technology. They are disinterested in the computer culture. ... Girls are saying, 'We can do these things, but we don't want to.'"

Sherry Turkle, professor of sociology at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology who co-

chaired the commission that wrote the report, said girls' criticism of the computer culture should be taken seriously. Female students said they were turned off by violent software games and felt the computer world is dominated by adolescent males. Girls said they use computers to communicate to perform specific tasks, while boys have underdeveloped social skills and use computers to play games and "to fool around."

Turkle said: "Instead of trying to make girls fit into the existing computer culture, the computer culture must become more inviting for girls."

The report said that girls and women cannot settle for being consumers of technology. They must be prepared to become designers and creators if they are going to fully participate and shape the new computer age.

The foundation appointed the commission two years ago to examine the connections among technology, gender and teacher education. The association's leadership said statistics showing few girls and women were preparing for the top high-tech careers could widen the existing earnings gap between men and women. They also noted that increasing the numbers of women earning degrees in computer science and related fields would go a long way toward solving the nation's shortage of trained information technology workers.

The commission members included researchers as well as educators, journalists and entrepreneurs. They were directed to explore the differences between how boys and girls accept technology and were asked to develop recommendations to ensure greater equity in the classroom.

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San Juan County Sheriff Mike Lacy, right, looks at the skeletal remains of a suspected cop killer, Alan Lamont Pilon, found 40 miles east of Blanding Utah. A bullet hole in the skull suggests Pilon killed himself.

Even with discovery of suspect's body, mystery surrounds murder

SALT LAKE CITY (AP) - Last Halloween, deer hunters in San Juan County found what a four-state dragnet of police could not: Alan Lamont "Monte" Pilon, a heavy-set, down-on-his-luck mechanic who in the summer of 1998 was one of America's most wanted men.

Actually, the hunters found Pilon's bleached bones propped against the trunk of a juniper tree.

A bullet hole to the skull suggested Pilon had committed suicide, adding one detail to the puzzling 1998 murder of Cortez, Colo., police officer Dale Claxton.

But a recently completed report on Pilon's remains casts doubt on the suicide theory. And with an accomplice and an arsenal of guns still missing, the mystery runs as deep as the canyons in Four Corners country.

Next month will mark two years since Pilon and Durango, Colo., buddies Robert Matthew Mason and Jason Wayne McVean allegedly stole a water truck, killed Claxton during a routine traffic stop and then seriously wounded two Montezuma County, Colo., sheriff's deputies before disappearing into the rugged and remote Four Corners region.

Five days after the first shootout, Mason allegedly shot and wounded San Juan County sheriff's Deputy Kelly Bradford. As a U.S. Army Special Forces unit - backed by some 500 city, county and state police officers - closed in, Mason probably committed suicide with a 9 mm Glock handgun found at his side, investigators say.

In October, authorities found a single gunshot had pierced



Jason Wayne McVean

Pilon's right temple. Lying at his right side, his shooting side, was another 9 mm Glock. He had a broken ankle, fueling speculation that the Dove Creek, Colo., man chose suicide over capture.

But a report delivered last month to the Utah Medical Examiner says Pilon's fatal wound was fired into his temple at a downward angle, an improbable though not impossible wound to administer alone.

"Top down (trajectory) is fairly atypical" of suicide, says Utah Medical Examiner Todd Grey, who did not perform Pilon's autopsy. Grey agreed to speak generally about handgun suicides but not specifically about the Pilon case, which remains under investigation.

The examiner's report was prepared by University of Utah forensic anthropologist Shannon Novak, who painstakingly pieced together fragments of Pilon's skull. Novak would not comment on the report. Neither would Assistant Medical Examiner Maureen Frikke, who directed Pilon's autopsy.

San Juan County Sheriff Mike Lacy, though, says the angle of the bullet's entry casts doubt on the suicide theory.

"It could have been the other guy, but unless we find him and he's alive, we'll never know for sure," Lacy said. "It's just one of those nagging mysteries."

The bullet wound wasn't the only troubling piece of evidence.

Among Pilon's scattered belongings was a bulletproof Kevlar vest, a camouflage parka stuffed with pipe bombs, a military-style helmet, the Glock handgun and a semiautomatic rifle.

But there was no ammunition for the rifle or the handgun. The Glock's magazine and chamber were empty and only one bullet casing was recovered. It may have been the housing of the fatal round, but the bullet wasn't found.

"How can a man prepared for Armageddon die defenseless? I guess it's like everything else in this case - little adds up," Cortez Police Chief Roy Lane said.

Hunters found Pilon's body less than a morning's walk from Hovenweep National Monument and the Anasazi ruins where the manhunt centered for seven days in 1998.

McVean has not been seen since the first hours of the search, and his whereabouts are especially troubling in light of the missing firearms.

The FBI and the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms have traced 31 weapons by serial number and sales slip to Pilon, McVean and Mason. But they have not recovered 25 of the weapons, including a cannon-like .50-caliber rifle, several .45-caliber handguns, a few shotguns, SKS rifles and assorted high-power weaponry.

"That's a lot of guns and you'd figure something would turn up sooner or later," Lacy says. "But like a lot of things in this desert, they just disappeared."

Tort claims against clerk raise ire

BLACKFOOT (AP) - Some say tension surrounding the filing of four tort claims against Bingham County Clerk Judie Hampton is making the county courthouse a tense place to work.

"It's ugly," Treasurer Audrey Porter said. "I just wish it would go away."

Hampton, who was first elected in 1994, is a target of tort claims by former employees and is at the center of a possible recall election.

"We're trying to stay neutral, but we would like this to be over and done-with," Porter said.

The county's business is getting done, she said, but the tension is affecting morale.

Since last fall, four clerks in Hampton's office filed tort claims against Bingham County, claiming Hampton created a hostile work environment. She has been accused of being manipulative, suspicious and domineering.

Those planning to sue a government agency must file a tort claim first that details the nature of a complaint. Two of the clerks have settled their claims and left the clerk's office, one of them retiring early and the other transferring.

On March 30, 22 people signed a petition that set a recall election in motion. If 20 percent of the county residents who voted in the 1998 election sign a petition, a recall election for Hampton will be scheduled.

Tensions grew last week when county commissioners tried to hold a closed meeting with elected officials and department heads. When the press called for an open meeting, it was canceled.

The next day, Commissioner George Katsanes said at a press conference he thought Hampton should resign.

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Former aide says Cook has bad reputation

SALT LAKE CITY (AP) - Rep. Merrill Cook's former chief of staff said Monday the Utah congressman has a reputation in political circles for being dishonest and untrustworthy.

David Irvine's testimony came at the beginning of week two of a trial over \$193,952 former campaign consultant R.T. Nielson claims Cook owes him.

"Is it a fair characterization to say that Mr. Cook's reputation in (the political) community is that he's not honest and not trustworthy," asked Russell Fericks, Nielson's co-counsel.

"Yes, I agree with that statement," Irvine said.

Fericks then asked if Cook's testimony could be trusted if he took the stand. "He is the most..." Irvine began before Cook's co-counsel Ron Yengich leaped up to object.

Third District Judge Sandra Peuler upheld the objection, stating later that the jury should decide Cook's credibility.

Irvine resigned from Cook's staff after Cook refused to fire Marianne Funk, then his press secretary.

Irvine's testimony came as Nielson's attorneys turned their case from the minutia of dozens of invoices and documents toward Cook's credibility. The tactic continued Tuesday as Irvine's replacement, Janet Jensen, took the stand.

Shortly after winning re-election in 1998, Cook fired Jensen and accused Cook of erratic and even delusional behavior.

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Attorney wants court to reinstate his suit against the Judicial Council

LEWISTON (AP) — An attorney has asked the Idaho Supreme Court to reinstate his suit to force disclosure of Judicial Council records on why it refused to require Chief Justice Linda Copple Trout to disqualify herself from a case handled by a former law firm associate.

John Bradbury claims 4th District Judge Ronald Wilper erroneously concluded that keeping the records secret did not violate Bradbury's right to due process and equal protection under the law.

The high court ruling, written by Trout, upheld a lower court decision favoring people represented by an attorney Trout worked with prior to becoming a judge in 1983 and rejecting claims by people Bradbury represented.

Bradbury claimed Wilper's protection of Judicial Council records assures that judges "aren't accountable to the public. They are accountable to a secret society."

John Bradbury claims 4th District Judge Ronald Wilper erroneously concluded that keeping the records secret did not violate Bradbury's right to due process and equal protection under the law.

"Even the creators of the system — the Legislature — can't look at the records to find out how the system works," declared Bradbury, whose appeal of a campaign finance violation in the 1996 election was considered by the Supreme Court last week.

Earlier this year, Wilper ruled that confidentiality of the records and proceedings of the Judicial Council is constitutional and insures the council's ultimate effectiveness in handling judicial

vacancies, removal, disability, retirement or discipline.

"It encourages the filing of complaints and the willing participation of relevant witnesses by providing protection against possible retaliation and recrimination," Wilper wrote, and it protects judges from inquiry into unexamined or unwarranted complaints.

"Confidence in the judiciary is maintained by avoiding premature announcement of groundless claims of judicial misconduct since it can be assumed that some frivolous complaints will be made against judicial officers who cannot always satisfy all the litigants," he ruled.

The decision upheld the November 1998 Judicial Council rejection of Bradbury's request that the records be released. It found no conflict of interest or relationship with the attorney that would require Trout to disqualify herself from hearing cases involving him.

Students sue Salt Lake school district over gay club

SALT LAKE CITY (AP) — Two East High School students have sued the Salt Lake City School District to be allowed to form a club for gay and lesbian issues.

Jessica Cohen and Margaret Hinckley contend the district violated their First Amendment rights of expression when it denied their requests to form the Rainbow Club in 1999 and the

PRISM (People Respecting Important Social Movements) Club in January.

In 1996, the district banned all nonacademic clubs after students proposed a support group for gay, lesbian and bisexual students. Students sued the district, claiming the ban violated their rights of free speech. A federal judge upheld the district.

Gay, lesbian and bisexual students and their supporters have continued to meet after hours on public school campuses as community groups. But because those clubs are nonacademic, they are not sanctioned by the schools, which means they must rent space, pay for insurance and cannot advertise their clubs at school.

Montana tribal members wonder just what Lewis and Clark 'discovered'

BIG SKY, Mont. (AP) — Indians want tourism officials to remember their viewpoint during the 200th anniversary celebration of the Lewis and Clark expedition.

From an Indian perspective, the "Corps of Discovery" did not really discover much of anything in a land that had been settled for thousands of years by various tribes. Curly Bear Wagner, a Blackfeet educator from Browning, Mont., maintained.

The recent Montana governor's conference on tourism drew 500 people, many awaiting the surge of tourists during the Lewis and Clark bicentennial beginning in 2004.

But from the Indians viewpoint, Wagner said, "we never cherished them."

"In most non-Indian accounts, the arrival of Lewis and Clark marks the beginning of history,"

'In most non-Indian accounts, the arrival of Lewis and Clark marks the beginning of history. But in reality, they were entering a world older than they could imagine.'

—Curly Bear Wagner, Blackfeet Tribe.

said Lucy Vanderburg, a Salish from Pablo who is a specialist in the history of her nation. "But in reality, they were entering a world older than they could imagine."

She said her nation's first encounter with Lewis and Clark


remains a part of Salish oral history. They were afraid of each other at first but soon became friendly, and the Salish gave the explorers food and traded fresh horses for their tired mounts.

"They had never seen white people before," Vanderburg said. The explorers "had short hair. Their faces were pale. They thought they were sick. They wanted to help these people because they did look pitiful."

Similarly, Crow tribal history recalls the Lewis and Clark expedition as "just another bunch of white people going through Crow country," said Mardell Plain-feather, a Crow educator from Hardin, Mont.

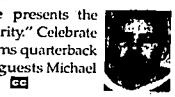
Vanderburg maintained that "Lewis and Clark were basically on a business trip," doing the groundwork for future fur traders.

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WORLD



A group of Bosnian children, friends of Monday's land mine victims, gather in front of Ema Alic's home Tuesday in Sarajevo. Alic, 11, along with her two friends Goran Biscovic, 12, and Haris Balicevac, 12, were killed Monday in the southern part of Sarajevo when they stepped on a land mine in one of the minefields encircling the capital.

Dying girl's cries reach helpless onlookers at the edge of a minefield

SARAJEVO, Bosnia-Herzegovina (AP) - Helpless to save her, NATO peacekeepers and townspeople watched from the edge of a minefield as a dying 11-year-old girl waved and pleaded for hours to be rescued.

Ema Alic and two other youngsters died Monday after venturing into the minefield on the outskirts of the capital, the latest casualties of the Bosnian war that ended five years ago.

"For two hours, the girl was showing signs of life, waved with her little hand and called for help. Then she went quiet," said eyewitness Nenad Krestalica, 67, who was still visibly upset Tuesday.

His wife, Stana, said she was gardening when she heard the explosion. "We all started running. We heard a child's voice screaming for help," she said.

"We called the police and they came, but nobody could approach the children."

Police identified the other dead children as Goran Biscovic, 12, and Haris Balicevac, 12.

As the rescue team carried the bodies of the children from the minefield, Ema's father broke into tears, turned around and told his wife: "It's our child," other witnesses recalled. The woman fainted.

The presence of the minefield was well-known, and signs warned of danger, residents said. Still, the field was not taped off, apparently because of lack of money.

Dozens of people are killed and injured every month in explosions of some of the millions of land mines strewn across Bosnia. Minefields render large areas along the former

front line unusable.

Experts worked quickly once on the scene, but more than 2.5 hours elapsed between the time a demining team was notified and the time it reached the victims. By then, all three children were dead.

Demining Bosnia could take decades. Money for the projects is in short supply, as the war fades in people's memories.

On Tuesday, friends and neighbors paid their respects at the houses of the victims, and death notices for Ema and Goran were posted by relatives at the school they attended.

Goran's showed him smiling above a poignant text: "Not believing ourselves, we are informing all good people that in his 12th year and in a child's game, Goran Biscovic died as a victim of a crazy war of adults."

Srebrenica survivor describes mass executions

THE HAGUE, Netherlands (AP) - A survivor of the Srebrenica massacre told a U.N. tribunal on Tuesday how he lay under a blood-soaked corpse for hours as Bosnian Serb soldiers machine-gunned thousands of Muslim prisoners.

"It went on late into the night," the Muslim, 48, identified as witness L, told the three judges. "A man covered part of my face and his blood was dripping onto me. ... Then another truck came and there were shots again."

He testified in the trial of Serb Gen. Radislav Krstic, accused of leading the weeklong rampage in July 1995 in the U.N.-declared "safe haven," which left 7,500 Muslim men and boys dead or missing. The tribunal was established seven years ago by the U.N. Security Council to prosecute those responsible for atrocities in the Balkans following the disintegration of Yugoslavia in 1991. It has handed down prison sentences of up to 45 years to 14 Serb,

Muslim and Croat defendants.

The witness told the tribunal for the former Yugoslavia that he was among a group of up to 2,000 refugees who were rounded up as the Muslim enclave of Srebrenica in Bosnia was overrun by Serb forces.

The man said he was blindfolded with a rag and given a sip of water by Serb troops before being sent off to be slaughtered with truckloads of other prisoners.

Holocaust historian loses lawsuit

LONDON (AP) - Historian David Irving, who has outraged survivors of Nazi Germany by challenging the scope of the Holocaust, Tuesday lost the libel suit that he launched to save his academic reputation.

Irving sued American scholar Deborah Lipstadt, publisher, Penguin Books, in Britain's High Court. He said their 1994 book branded him a "Holocaust denier" and accused him of distorting the truth of what happened in Adolf Hitler's Nazi Germany.

The verdict was greeted in near silence by a courtroom packed with Holocaust survivors and others.

"The decision proves that David Irving is a falsifier of history," said Eldred Tabachnik, president of the Board of Deputies of British Jews. "Although the Holocaust itself was not an issue at the trial, we welcome the fact that attempts to manipulate the truth about the tragic events of that time have been shown to be baseless."

Irving, whose books include "Hitler's War," said he was "denying Jews were killed by the Nazis, but challenges the number and manner of Jewish concentration camp deaths."

He claimed that after the publication of Lipstadt's book, "Denying the Holocaust: The Growing Assault on Truth and Memory," his academic work was increasingly shunned by publishers and agents.

Under British law, libel suits and libel suits are not able to rely solely on truth as a defense. But Judge Charles Gray said Irving failed to prove his reputation had been damaged, and called him "anti-Semitic and racist."

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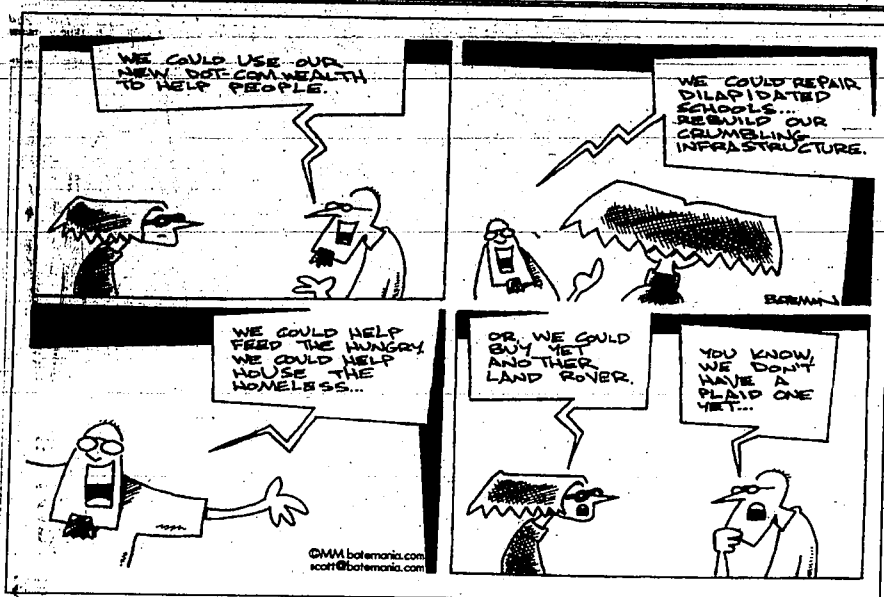
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OPINION

LETTER



Now you've done it!
 Skateboarder Mr. Shawn Black: Now you have gone and done it! I bet Gene has boarded the first stage out of town. With such a bedside after me, I would, too.
 It wasn't Gene that set the policy at the mall. How come you don't obey the rules? How would you feel if you ran into or over a 2- or 3-year-old child? I don't care if you weigh 320 pounds and stand 7-foot 2-inches tall, Gene would take you like Grant took Richmond. Gene was one of the top amateur boxers in the nation.
 I guess I will have to write to Gene now that you made him leave the country. "Stuck." VIRGIL "BUD" SKINNER
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'Vulture trusts' symbolize today's greed

In his book "Den of Thieves," James B. Stewart summed up the essence of the money culture of the 1980s by showing corporate raider Ivan Boesky at a business dinner, casually ordering a waiter to bring him every entree on the menu so he could taste them all before deciding which he wanted. We've been waiting patiently for our parallel symbol, the ultimate expression of our own gilded age; the ending to the sentence, "You know the money culture is out of hand when..."

The candidates are almost too numerous to name. Is it the ad campaign for the online jewelry firm, Zales.com, that pushes engagement rings with the tag line, "Isn't it nice to be passionate about something other than making money?"

Is it the cottage industry that has sprung up to ponder the problem of Sudden Wealth Syndrome and to minister to the poor newborn billionaires who suffer from it?

Is it the parents who buy \$400 costume coats and drivable, battery-powered Jaguar XK8s for their children? The Palo Alto, Calif., middle school that assigned sixth-graders to prepare model business plans as their back-to-school night projects? The advent of \$39 raw-tuna-and-wasabi pizza?

No: These nominees all are plenty decadent, but they lack the full-bore depravity required to reach rotisserie. We still are waiting for the crushing detail that will nail once and for all the way the very scale of getting and spending has changed in our new economy. Like Ivan Boesky, we have simply faced too many rich choices.

Until now.

Last week, the Treasury Department finally identified, in the dry language of a proposed regulatory change, the single most unembarrassed new manifestation of the avarice that coats the dark side of our wonderful economic boom. The winner of the Savonarola Award, at last, is an estate-planning loophole that tax advisers sometimes refer to as the "vulture trust."

A vulture trust is a variation on something called the charitable lead trust, which allows you to maximize what you pass on to heirs by designating a charity to receive income during the term of the trust; your heirs then get the balance. In its normal form, the trust allows the donor to take a charitable deduction at the time it is established, based on the anticipated amount the charity will receive over time, and also to shelter some of the assets' latest appreciation from estate tax.

The new twist is that this tax dodge is far, far more valuable if you can base the term of the trust on the lifetime of a young person who is dying, because the taxes are all calculated up-front, based on the probable life span of the youngest person. The longer the actuarial tables say that person is likely to live, the larger the tax deduction.

So the ideal person to name in a trust is one who you would afford you a big deduction on the front end, but who will then con-

MARJORIE WILLIAMS

veniently die, allowing your beneficiaries to get the principal before too many years have passed. You don't need to know the young person in question, in fact, it's a great deal nicer for you if you don't. All that has been required is that you find "an individual who is seriously ill but not terminally ill" within the meaning of the section 7520 regulations, as Treasury's proposal to close the loophole puts it. In other words, someone not so close to death's actual door that the IRS would call you on it - just someone who can be counted on to die with reasonable dispatch once her or his usefulness is at an end.

Heck, they're dying anyway, right? Attorneys and financial planners have begun recruiting dying people and marketing their grim fates to others, paying them nothing but a flat fee - perhaps \$5,000 - for access to their medical records and consent to use them as a "measuring life." The dying stranger gets no further benefit from the trust. If this doesn't already seem grotesque enough to qualify for the prize, consider this: Treasury writes that some middlemen have basically lied to their marks, suggesting to the dying that "a charitable organization interested in the individual's particular illness will receive some benefit from the transaction."

Little is known about how many taxpayers have taken advantage of vulture trusts, or how many advisers are peddling

them to their clients. But the dodge has been used at least often enough in the past two years to motivate Treasury officials to end it. The proposed new rule would force donors to tie these trusts to their own lives or the lives of direct relatives.

The breadth and depth of our economic boom, and its happy information-age gloss of spreading knowledge while raising prosperity, have lately given the pursuit of big money a moral neutrality it lacked in the age of Gordon Gecko. So treasure the vulture trust as a priceless reminder: If we can't be passionate about anything but making money, we can at least agree that some things make us a little queasy.

Marjorie Williams writes this commentary for The Washington Post.

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Breast cancer is the leading cancer diagnosed in women in America. This year, more than 175,000 women nationally will learn for the first time that they have this disease, and more than 43,000 women will lose their lives. In Idaho, it is estimated that 700 women will be diagnosed with breast cancer this year and 200 women will die from the disease. However, when breast cancer is detected early and treated promptly, suffering and, ultimately, the loss of life can be significantly reduced.

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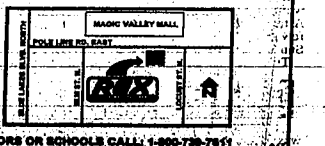
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AROUND THE VALLEY

Twin Falls Clinic to unveil new MRI

TWIN FALLS — The Twin Falls Clinic and Hospital will host an open house tonight to showcase a new high-tech diagnostic imaging machine.

The new "open-architecture" magnetic resonance imaging machine — a joint venture between the clinic and Magic Valley Regional Medical Center — will be presented to the public from 5 to 7 p.m. The machine is designed to reduce feelings of claustrophobia patients often experience when inside the confining quarters of a traditional MRI.

Officials will also demonstrate how the machine works by scanning volunteers chosen from those who attend.

"People are very interested in what the images look like and how it works, and so we'll give them an opportunity to see that," said Dennis Swter, clinical manager for Open MRI Associates.

A ribbon-cutting ceremony will begin at 6 p.m. and refreshments will be served. The clinic asks people to use entrances on Sixth Ave. East and pass through the radiology department to attend the event.

Smoke damages books in Hagerman library

HAGERMAN — Police and fire officials are investigating a small fire at the Hagerman library that left thousands of books ruined with smoke damage.

Police believe someone broke into the library late Monday or early Tuesday, stole a cash box and lit a fire to cover their tracks, Hagerman Police Chief Steve Lawason said.

The fire, started with a plastic bottle device, didn't spread far beyond the table where it was lit, but the oily smoke from the smoldering bottle spread through the air and the bookshelves, he said.

Police were continuing their investigation, he said.

Wendell will consider skateboard park

WENDELL — The City Council will look at using the city's aging tennis courts as a skateboard park at tonight's meeting.

City leaders will consider a request from Josh Morrow of Wendell to use the tennis courts at McGinnis Park for a skateboard park. Other agenda items include a proposed addition to Resolution 52 addressing irrigation fines for vgrat water and a discussion about a Uniform Building Code grant application.

The council will meet at 7 p.m. at City Hall, 157 W. Main Street. The meeting is open to the public.

Eden to limit number of dogs per household

EDEN — Beginning Thursday, Eden will have law limiting the number of dogs residents can keep.

"After the ordinance is published in the paper, it will become law," said Eden City Clerk Edith Utt.

The City Council on Monday approved an ordinance limiting residents to six dogs and requiring owners of three to six dogs to purchase a \$100 kennel permit annually.

The purpose of the law is to discourage residents from taking on more dogs than they can properly care for.

Also Monday, the council awarded a bid to Gordon Paving to fill cracks in the streets and do seal coating. The council also awarded a bid to Odom's Concrete to pour two new sidewalks between Main and Center streets.

Ketchum woman appears on 'Millionaire' program

KETCHUM — Meredith Ryan wanted to become a millionaire. After all, it never hurts to have a few extra pennies when you live in Sun Valley.

The Ketchum woman's bid to make it to the final stage of the popular TV game show "Who Wants To Be A Millionaire?" was foiled, however, when her finger failed her on the fastest finger question.

Actually, she thought her equipment jammed it and she lost to Vicki, news director for KIVW-TV, the ABC affiliate in Boise.

Compiled from staff reports

Time to cut back some funds?

School budget outlook includes some trimming

By Jennifer Sandmann
Times-News writer

TWIN FALLS — Enrollment downturns in the Twin Falls School District are projected to continue in the coming school year.

"We are no longer growing,"

Superintendent Terrell Donicht told the School Board on Tuesday.

The district projects that enrollment will drop by about another 100 students in the coming school year, putting total enrollment at about 6,350 students. Enrollment fell by nearly 200 students this school year. Districts across the state also are seeing enrollment fall.

State funding for schools is

meeting included:

- Diabetes at school

The district will consider a request by nurse Ann Bybee, chairwoman of the Diabetes Center Foundation, to change the way the district monitors students with diabetes. Bybee presented the board with guidelines developed by the foundation and the South Central District Health Department. Contracts would be created between the

Other business at the board's

school, parents and the student about protocol for keeping the student's diabetes under control at school. The intention is to make sure students are safe at school, Bybee said.

• Perrine traffic
Parents of I.B. Perrine Elementary School students can watch for traffic modifications

Please see SCH00LS, Page B3

ADDRESSING THE PROBLEM



Volunteer Scott Hauert speaks during Tuesday seminar about poverty in the Magic Valley, at the Christian Center Assembly of God Church in Burley.

Speakers: Poverty lingers amid boom times

By Thomas Mohrlang
Times-News correspondent

BURLEY — When the American economy is booming, as it is this year, some people assume poverty is a thing of the past.

But speakers at a Tuesday seminar said poverty is on the rise, especially in Mini-Cassia.

Teresa Pendleton, executive director of the South Central Community Action Agency in Twin Falls, and Scott Hauert, a Vista Volunteer with the agency, met with Mini-Cassia residents Tuesday to show them the latest figures on poverty, and to get their input

Learn more

Anyone wanting further information on "Dialogue on Poverty 2000," a national report to track poverty, or information about Magic Valley meetings, can call the South Central Community Action Agency in Twin Falls at 734-2307 or (800) 627-1733.

on the situation.

The meeting was the first in a series of five meetings in April and May in the Magic Valley.

Pendleton said the local meetings are part of "a national effort to get input from local people about poverty," to be

compiled in a booklet, called "Dialogue on Poverty 2000." Pendleton says a state meeting will be also held before a June national meeting in Washington, D.C.

Hauert showed that poverty has increased in Minidoka and Cassia counties, relative to a 1996 survey, and the counties are among the hardest hit in the state.

Poverty levels are determined by federal income guidelines. A family of four earning less than \$16,704 per year is below the poverty level.

"And many people have difficulty in making that much money," Hauert said.

People attending the meeting

were asked to share their views on poverty. Their views were as wide-ranging as the age range of the participants.

Participants were asked to fill out anonymous participation surveys, which will be used to come up with possible solutions to poverty. Those solutions will be included in the project's final report, which will be presented to government officials during the national meeting.

The survey covers jobs and income, basic needs and housing proposals. The survey also requested demographic and income information for inclusion in the final report.

Officials mull southside dispatch center

By John T. Huddy
Times-News writer

TWIN FALLS — Twin Falls city and county leaders said a plan to bring an emergency 911 dispatch center back to town might not be a bad idea — as long as the center works in conjunction with the Southern Idaho Regional Communications Center.

Twin Falls city and county leaders Tuesday discussed creating a southside dispatch center — handling emergency 911 calls from Twin Falls County, rather than sending the calls to the Jerome-based SIRCOMM.

Those in attendance Tuesday included City Manager Tom Courtney, all three Twin Falls County commissioners, Twin Falls City Mayor Elaine Steele, members of the Twin Falls City Council, Twin Falls Police Chief Lee DeVore and police Capt. Jim Munn.

The purpose of the meeting was to brainstorm ideas for SIRCOMM. Twin Falls County Commissioner Marvin Hempleman said Tuesday.

SIRCOMM is jointly owned by Twin Falls,

Gooding, Lincoln and Jerome counties.

"But talk turned to creating southside dispatch headquarters, after city and county leaders agreed there are problems with the number of calls SIRCOMM dispatchers take.

Creating a southside dispatch center could help cut back on the system's call load going into Jerome, and help reduce the number of dispatching errors made by SIRCOMM, city and county leaders said.

SIRCOMM officials said recently that they have hired four employees to answer incoming phone calls, allowing dispatchers to focus on dispatching. The hires are also designed to cut down on dispatching errors — a recurring criticism of the 4-year-old SIRCOMM center.

A southside dispatch center would still have to work under the SIRCOMM contract, however, Hempleman said.

"That's fine, as long as we keep SIRCOMM together," Hempleman said.

Courtney said a southside dispatch center is a good idea — though it could mean additional costs to the city.

"We recognize that there is a significantly incurred cost with doing the things we want to

do from a community policing standpoint and we're willing to incur those costs," Courtney said.

Twin Falls city officials last summer approved an in-house dispatch center to handle night and weekend calls, at an anticipated cost of more than \$100,000 in new equipment and personnel.

The plan for a southside emergency dispatch center is very premature, however, city and county leaders said Tuesday.

The idea must first be taken to other entities involved with SIRCOMM — including entities such as the city of Kimberly.

A southside center might also get those entities resisting future participation with SIRCOMM to get aboard, Twin Falls County Prosecutor Grant Loebs said.

Kimberly has refused to pay its service costs incurred by the county — an estimated \$75,000. Kimberly Mayor Jim Sorenson has complained about poor dispatching from SIRCOMM.

Times-News staff writer John T. Huddy can be reached in Twin Falls at 733-0931, Ext. 259.

Burley call center could ring up as many as 100 jobs

By Ruth Strueter
Times-News writer

BURLEY — A new call center will open in Burley within the next two weeks, and it could eventually hire as many as 100 customer service representatives.

Tele-Servicing Innovations, a 4-year-old company based in Idaho Falls, will initially hire 20 to 30 representatives, and anticipates expanding its staff to more than 100 in the next few months, according to a Mini-Cassia Development Commission news release.



That's good news in a two-county area with the highest unemployment rates in the Magic Valley. Minidoka County's March numbers were at 6.2 percent and Cassia County's were at 5.1 percent.

Local officials are happy about the firm's

Please see JOBS, Page B3

Action denied

Judge rejects dairyman's injunction request

By N.S. Hokkavnd
Times-News writer

BLISS — A local dairyman wants a judge to force his neighbors to continue taking waste water from his dairy while the

A closer look

A workshop to clarify roles of local, state and federal agencies in regulating livestock operations will begin 8 a.m. Thursday in the Round Building on 14th Ave. East in Gooding. The workshop will feature presentations by department heads from state departments of Agriculture, Water Resources and Environmental Quality.

two parties settle their legal differences.

But 5th District Judge Nathan Higer has rejected Jake Bosma's request for an injunction. Bosma operates Bliss Acres LLC, and he has sued his neighbors, the Butler family, over their refusal to continue to abide by a 1995 agreement between the two and other issues.

Courtney cannot say with surety that Bosma has established a clear right to injunctive relief," Higer wrote in his ruling. Bosma had not showed he would be harmed without the injunction, Higer said.

He also noted that there was little agreement between the parties about the facts of the case.

An issue is a 1995 agreement between Bosma and the Butler family that resolved the Butlers' protest to Bosma's water right application. As part of that agreement, the Butlers agreed to dispose of waste water from the dairy on their crop lands and pastures.

It is difficult to understand why the Butlers are now refusing to take the waste water, Bosma's attorney Tom Arkoski of Gooding said. The Butlers had agreed to take the waste water in an effort to protect the spring the family has relied on for drinking water for 80 years. The dairy sits on land above the spring.

"There are no specific indications that the dairy is the cause of the pollution in the spring," Arkoski said.

The Butlers had opposed Bosma's water right application out of concern that the dairy would further pollute the spring already plagued with elevated levels of nitrates. But they withdrew their opposition when Bosma signed the agreement, which required Bosma to abide by specified management practices.

In 1994, the Idaho Department of Water Resources granted Bosma a water right contingent on Bosma upholding the terms of the agreement.

Meanwhile, the pollution problem in the Butlers' spring got worse. They suspect the dairy may be the cause, but officials have no specific proof. State officials are investigating the problem.

Arkoski said Bosma has done everything he can to cooperate with efforts to locate and correct the source of the pollution.

The Butlers dispute that assertion, and in October, they withdrew from the agreement, saying Bosma had not upheld the terms of the agreement.

Please see DENY, Page B3

MAGIC VALLEY/IDAHO

SERVICES

Joe M. DePew of Kimberly, service at 2 p.m. today at White Mortuary Chapel.

Helen Sutliff of Rupert, service at 2 p.m. Thursday at Hansen Mortuary Rupert Chapel. Friends and family may call from 6-8 p.m. today at the chapel, and one hour before services Thursday.

DEATH NOTICES

Richard P. Howard - Richard P. Howard, 92, of Twin Falls, died Tuesday, April 11, 2000, at the Twin Falls Care Center in Twin Falls. Services are pending and will be announced by Reynolds Funeral Chapel in Twin Falls.

Pastor Vernon Osborn - TWIN FALLS - Pastor Vernon Osborn, 86, of Twin Falls, died Monday, April 10, 2000, at Bridgeview Estates in Twin Falls. Services are pending and will be announced by Reynolds Funeral Chapel in Twin Falls.

Jamie Lopez - TWIN FALLS - Jamie Lopez, 39, of Twin Falls, died Monday, April 10, 2000, at the Magic Valley Regional Medical Center in Twin Falls. Services are pending and will be announced by Reynolds Funeral Chapel in Twin Falls.

Norma Chaveller - TWIN FALLS - Norma Chaveller, 96, of Twin Falls, died Tuesday, April 11, 2000, at the Twin Falls Care Center in Twin Falls. Services are pending and will be announced by Reynolds Funeral Chapel in Twin Falls.

Hansen gets fire protection plan

By Margaret Jones Times-News correspondent

HANSEN - The city of Hansen has a tentative agreement for fire protection with the Rock Creek Fire District.

The citywide spring cleanup day, Johnny Horizon Day, is slated for May 6.

Residents can place unwanted items for pickup at their property edge. The city, truck and volunteers will pick up water heaters, kitchen appliances, furniture, mattresses and other unwanted items.

Items should be at curbside by 8 a.m. Materials that won't be picked up are toxic materials such as herbicides, insecticides, oil and paint - tree limbs and old tires.

organize this year's project.

Twin Falls County Historic Preservation Commission representative Ronald James spoke to the council about the group's project to place signs throughout the county at designated historic locations. The first sign had been placed at the desert station on the Rock Creek edition rim west of Magic Valley Regional Medical Center.

The signs cost \$300 and are constructed of vinyl-coated aluminum on a steel post. The council agreed to support the project.

HOSPITALS

MAGIC VALLEY REGIONAL MEDICAL CENTER Some names have been omitted at patient's request. Dismissed Celeste Arrington and James Rathbun, both of Twin Falls; Gary Brickey of Jerome; and Mindy

Ketterling of Rupert. MINIDOKA MEMORIAL HOSPITAL Some names have been omitted at patient's request. Admits Ivan Russell and Elmore Fiocher, both of Rupert.

Buhl eyes contamination prevention

By Mary Lou Potts Times-News correspondent

BUHL - City water is a hot topic for council members, as plans are in progress to draft a protection policy.

Construction was the lowest bid at \$2.2 million.

The council endorsed signing a loan contract for \$1.76 million to finish upgrading the water projects.

Foundation will help pay for the program. Buhl will receive \$3,320 of the money.

The library also will receive a \$16,263 Gates foundation grant to add three new computers. One will operate in Spanish.

OBITUARIES

For obituary rates and information, call 733-0931, Ext. 279, between 2 p.m. and 6 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 6 p.m. every day.

SHOSHONE

Jack P. Morris - Jack P. Morris, 65, a Shoshone resident, passed away April 9, 2000, at the Magic Valley Regional Medical Center in Twin Falls, after a month-long illness.

at his home, following an extended illness. He was born July 5, 1962, in Twin Falls, Idaho, the son of Jack and Sandra Sturm. Bobby was a proud father of two children, Charlie Ray Sturm, age 17; and Bobby Jo Sturm, age 11. He worked as a dairy hand

Twin Falls, military graveside honors will be offered by the National Guard at the Twin Falls Cemetery following the funeral services. Friends may call from 4-8 p.m. Thursday, April 13, 2000, at Parke's Magic Valley Funeral Home.

Jack "Winky" was born November 10, 1934, in Gooding, the third of four children born Robert and Vera Larson Morris. He was raised in Shoshone and graduated from Shoshone High School in 1952. As a young man, he worked on local farms and served in the Idaho National Guard. On October 30, 1955, he married his wife of 45 years, Marianna Whitehead, at St. Peter's Catholic Church in Gooding. Together they raised three children, Debbie, Cal and Scott. Jack worked at the Idaho Transportation Department, and was involved in the first Interstate Project in this area. He retired after 40 years, in 1993. After retirement, Jack and his wife spent the majority of their time in Arizona. Jack enjoyed hunting, fishing, golfing, camping, bowling and card games of any kind.

He is survived by his wife Marianna of Shoshone; two sons, Cal (Lynn) Morris and granddaughters Alexa and Cayln of Vancouver, Washington, and Scott (Ann Marie) Morris of Meridian, Idaho; a brother Frank (Marg) Morris of Boise; and a sister Barbara (Dor) Aslett of Cammam, Idaho.

MOORESVILLE, N.C.

Marshall J. LeBaron

Marshall John LeBaron, 79, formerly of Twin Falls, Idaho, and Redmond, Washington, died as a result of cancer on April 9, 2000, in Mooresville, North Carolina.

TWIN FALLS

He is survived by his wife Marianna of Shoshone; two sons, Cal (Lynn) Morris and granddaughters Alexa and Cayln of Vancouver, Washington, and Scott (Ann Marie) Morris of Meridian, Idaho; a brother Frank (Marg) Morris of Boise; and a sister Barbara (Dor) Aslett of Cammam, Idaho.

Funeral services are pending and will be announced at a later date.

SCOTTSDALE, ARIZ.

Kirby Lee Owens - Kirby Lee Owens passed away on April 2, 2000, in Scottsdale, Arizona, of a sudden illness.

Albert L. Hoover

Albert Leonard Hoover, 69, of Twin Falls, passed away April 9, 2000, at the Magic Valley Regional Medical Center in Twin Falls.

He was born November 14, 1930, in Hollister, Idaho, the son of Irl and Myrtle Coalnoy Hoover. On October 3, 1959, he married the love of his life, Dolores Teske, under a weeping willow in Jerome. Together they had two children.

Surviving his wife, Dolores Hoover of Twin Falls; sons, Jerry (Pamela) Hoover of Twin Falls, and Eddie (Janette) Hoover of Moose Lodge Administration in Twin Falls. He will be missed by all who knew and loved him.

SALT LAKE CITY, UTAH

Bobby Ray Sturm - Bobby Ray Sturm, 37, of Salt Lake City, Utah, and formerly of Filer, died Sunday, April 2, 2000,

Marshall's survivors include his children, Anne Block of Wadsworth, Ohio, Barney and Carolyn of Boulder, Colorado, Larry and Janet Carlson of Redmond, Washington, and Michael and Lisa Carlson of Mooresville, North Carolina. His grandchildren include Christopher Block of Wadsworth, Ohio, Jeff Carlson of Benton, Washington, Lisa Carlson of Redmond, Washington, Anthony and Nicholas LeBaron of Mooresville, North Carolina, Tracee Carlson of Monticello, Idaho, and Tabitha Carlson Ward of Thornton, Colorado, as well as two great-grandchildren, Samuel, Meinel, and Hannah Ward.

Funeral services will be held at the convenience of the family at Ascension Episcopal Church in Twin Falls, with interment at Twin Falls Cemetery.

He is survived by his wife, Connie Engel Owens of Buhl City, Arizona; his mother Glendora Owens of Shoshone; his sister, Lynda (Harold) Knight of Gooding; and numerous nieces and nephews.

Memorial services will be held at the convenience of the family at Ascension Episcopal Church in Twin Falls, with interment at Twin Falls Cemetery.

SCOTTSDALE, ARIZ.

Kirby Lee Owens - Kirby Lee Owens passed away on April 2, 2000, in Scottsdale, Arizona, of a sudden illness.

Divorce Hurts.

Find help at DivorceCare. DivorceCare is a weekly seminar and support group for couples who are divorcing.

He is survived by his wife, Connie Engel Owens of Buhl City, Arizona; his mother Glendora Owens of Shoshone; his sister, Lynda (Harold) Knight of Gooding; and numerous nieces and nephews.

DivorceCare will meet every Wednesday night beginning April 14th at 7:00 p.m. at the Magic Valley Regional Medical Center (west of CSI campus), 1231 Washington St. N., Chubbuck. For more information call 733-6610.

Other City Council business:

The council sent a new ordinance combining city and county regulations on mobile homes to the city attorney for review. The ordinance will be combined with an impact ordinance and will be forwarded to the county for its review.

Lincoln County Sheriff Steven Swintwick said four people have applied for the position and applications will be accepted until the end of the work day on Friday.

Other City Council business:

The council discussed a survey of First Street. Some curbs and piped ditches have already been installed.

Richfield will get new officer soon

By Sandra L. Calkins Times-News correspondent

RICHFIELD - Residents will soon see a new deputy patrolling the city streets.

He said the sheriff's department will do background checks on all applicants and the final candidates will interview with the sheriff and the mayor.

The City Council and the Sheriff's Office will use some of the funding to purchase a Ford Explorer for law enforcement and both entities will carry liability insurance.

The council discussed a survey of First Street. Some curbs and piped ditches have already been installed.

The council discussed a complaint from a resident regarding parking on city streets.

Idaho Power starts on dam relicensing

BOISE (AP) - Interests ranging from Indian tribes to recreation groups are working with Idaho Power Co. to help map out the research that will be the foundation of its efforts to relicense the three Hells Canyon dams.

More than 200 people are participating in the Boise forum.

"It speaks to the progress we've made to work cooperatively," said Craig Jones, who is directing the research efforts for Idaho Power. "The intent is through this forum to move beyond the polarization."

head species are listed as endangered.

But when the dams were built, salmon were cut off from spawning grounds. After efforts to pass the salmon around the dams failed, the company built hatcheries to make up for the lost habitat.

Now that the licenses to operate the dams are up for renewal in 2005, Idaho Power will have to address the salmon issue again. And this time all four of the Snake River's salmon and steel-

Times-News correspondent Sandra Calkins can be reached in Richfield at 487-3212.

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Divorce Hurts. Find help at DivorceCare. DivorceCare is a weekly seminar and support group for couples who are divorcing.

Commitment to the heritage and tradition of our community into the future.

BRIEFLY IN MONEY

Mini-Cassia chamber sets monthly luncheon

RUPERT - The Mini-Cassia Chamber of Commerce's monthly luncheon is set for noon Thursday at the Rupert Elks Lodge, 200 W. 85 S. Steve Ahrens, president of the Idaho Association of Commerce and Industry, will be the guest speaker. Ahrens and his staff attempt to influence Idaho legislators on issues that affect Idaho businesses.

Thursday, the chamber said, he will cover issues including "Is your business liable for the actions of your past employees?" "Do emergency health and safety problems in Idaho schools concern you?" and "What about the marriage tax penalty and self-employed deductibility of health insurance premiums?" Cost is \$7.

Company tests technology at research station

KIMBERLY - A Pocatello technology start-up is testing its technology at a Kimberly research station. Insightek said it was founded recently with an innovative service concept using the Internet to deliver forecasts of where and when a process or system is likely to fail.

In an experiment at the University of Idaho's Kimberly potato storage research facility, an Insightek system is monitoring the chemical byproducts of disease and decay among stored potatoes.

Information regarding the status of the potatoes in various zones throughout the storage area is graphically communicated to employees through an Internet site, relying on complex software algorithms to determine the likelihood of spoilage long before it can be detected by the human nose, the Pocatello company said.

Ultimately, co-founder Fred Templeton said, Insightek can revolutionize how companies think about preventive maintenance.

If you can allocate your resources based on an accurate prediction of when a problem might occur, you can reduce the current cost structure associated with maintenance and repair - not to mention the costs associated with the failure of a critical system," he said.

Aqua vie reaches Asian distribution agreement

KETCHUM - Aqua Vie Beverage Corp. said it has reached an agreement in principle with Tianjin Kenda Industry & Trade Group Co. of Tianjin, China, for distribution of Aqua Vie products throughout Tianjin Kenda's major markets for food products in China and Japan.

Initial shipments under the agreement are anticipated in July, the Ketchum-based company said.

"Tianjin Kenda is a multimillion-dollar enterprise with diversified interests in pharmaceutical manufacturing, food products, real estate and high technology.

"The Asian economy is strengthening, and discretionary income and health consciousness are on the rise," said Thomas Gillespie, Aqua Vie president. "Tianjin Kenda... is well equipped to help us increase our distribution and market reach in China and Japan, which collectively represent the largest and fastest-growing overseas market for bottled water."

Compiled from staff reports

BID applicants total 14 New views

Deadline to file for position expires

By Rachel Denny
Times-News correspondent

TWIN FALLS - The job of the Historic Downtown Business Improvement District's former Executive Director Randy Bombardier is a hot one - 14 people applied for the job.

Monday was the deadline to apply for the position, which will pay something more than \$35,000. And with the interest shown locally, there is no need to recruit outside the area, BID Chairman Ron Thompson said at

Downtown traffic - C2

Tuesday's meeting of the BID board.

The board will form a selection committee within the next few days then review the 14 applications, whittling the possibilities to five. Thompson did not say who the 14 applicants are but said a majority are from Magic Valley.

"There are several good applicants," Thompson said.

The Twin Falls City Council on Monday approved \$3,600 for consultant Tom Hudson to help the downtown board choose a new director from that short list of five.

Hudson will also work between the downtown and Old Towne BIDs to successfully complete unification of the two organizations. What role Old Towne will have in selecting a new director depends largely on whether it chooses to go forward with unification, Thompson said.

The Old Towne group will discuss whether to proceed with unification, or whether to sever all ties from the downtown organization, at its regular meeting Thursday, Old Towne Chairman Dave Woodhead said.

"I think the decision will be to go slow (with unification)," Woodhead said. "For one thing, they have no director. I know personally I think that job

description has got to be overhauled."

Many downtown BID members said Old Towne needs to participate in selection of a director and should represent 25 percent of the committee that chooses the top five candidates - because Old Towne has contributed 25 percent of the director's salary in the past.

If Old Towne decides not to continue with unification, the redeveloping warehouse district will not be included in the director's hiring process, Thompson said.

At that point Old Towne would need to decide how to operate without an executive

Please see BID, Page C3

Woman takes job with Dems after 12 years in newspapers

By Virginia S. Hutchins
Times-News writer

DIETRICH - A Dietrich woman has ended more than a decade in the newspaper business to take a post with Idaho's Democratic Party.

Patty Nance said Tuesday from her new Boise office that she's now a full-time communications director for the Democrats, after leaving the Burley-based South Idaho Press at the end of March.

Her new job will send her traveling statewide, meeting with the party's county committees "and doing some grass roots organizing," Nance said.

She'll commute to Boise weekly from her family's ranch in Dietrich, where the rest of the family will stay.

Her husband, Jerry Nance, is a Republican Lincoln County commissioner, but she said she always has been a Democrat.

"It makes for some really interesting discussion," Patty Nance said.

Jerry and Patty Nance announced in February they had sold their three Magic Valley weekly newspapers - The North Side News, Gooding County Leader and the Gooding County Journal - to Liberty Group Publishing of Northbrook, Ill., which already owned the South Idaho Press, the Wood River Journal and the Elko, Nev., Daily Free Press.

Patty Nance, then the managing editor at the South Idaho Press, was to oversee editorial operations at the Jerome, Gooding and Shoshone-based papers, their announcement said.

She spent four months as managing editor at South Idaho Press. Publisher Jay Lenkersdorfer said this week.

He gave a simple explanation for her departure: "Patty has left to pursue other opportunities."

"That's true, that's really true," Patty Nance said Tuesday, adding that she was in newspaper work for 12 years and thought the Boise job was an exciting opportunity.

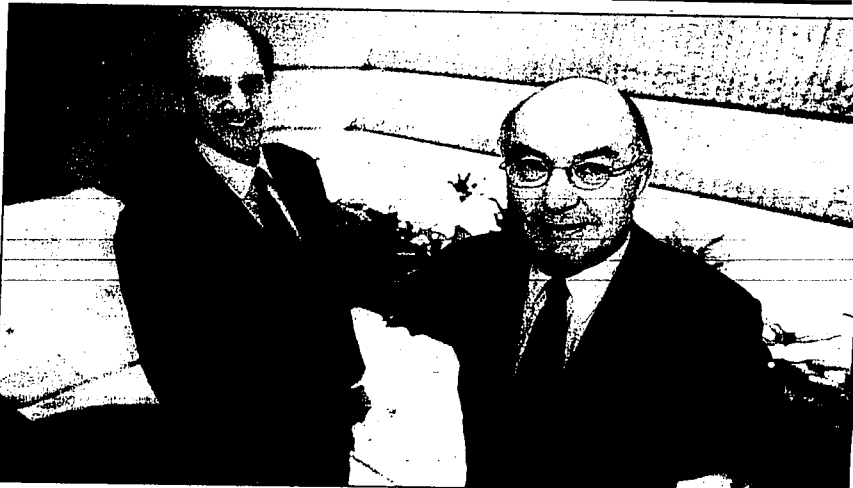
"I was just ready to move on," she said.

At the South Idaho Press, LaVar Hamblin, formerly the newspaper's city editor, started about a week ago as managing editor, Lenkersdorfer said. He said Hamblin has been with that newspaper for about six months.

Hamblin, born and raised in Burley, worked at a daily newspaper in Indiana for about a decade. His mother was ill recently, "and he decided this was a good time to move home," Lenkersdorfer said.

Times-News Business Editor Virginia S. Hutchins can be reached at 733-0931, Ext. 242.

PURCHASE IN PROGRESS



William B. Harrison Jr., left, chairman and CEO of Chase Manhattan Corp., and William Garrett, group chief executive of Robert Flemings Holdings Ltd., stand in the Flemings headquarters in London Tuesday. The boards of Chase and Flemings announced the terms of a recommended offer for Flemings to be made by Chase Manhattan Plc on behalf of Chase. The offer is 2.573 billion pounds in cash and \$3.622 billion in new Chase shares.

Rite Aid garners \$1 billion in new financing

Drug store chain looks to turn corner on debt burden

Bridge News

CAMP HILL, Pa. - Rite Aid Corp., a drug store chain with stores in Twin Falls and Burley, said Tuesday it has won \$1 billion in new financing from a Citibank-led group that will substantially ease its debt burden for two years.

Rite Aid, whose stock price has fallen by 82 percent over the past

as the company has struggled with accounting problems and management turmoil, said the new financing will serve as the cornerstone of its recovery plan.

Rite Aid will use the new credit facility, also underwritten by Fleet Retail Finance Inc. and Heller Financial Inc., will provide it with \$600 million in general working capital and \$300 million to pay off its existing asset-security facility and related expenses.

The Camp Hill-based company said that after completion of the planned transactions, it will have almost no debt maturing prior to August 2002.

"The new financing commitment and debt modifications that

we are announcing today are a cornerstone of our turnaround plan," said Robert G. Miller, who was named chairman and chief executive officer of Rite Aid in December.

Rite Aid shares rose sharply on the news in early trading on the New York Stock Exchange.

The new financing facility is conditioned upon lenders agreeing to modifications on \$3.3 billion in existing debt.

Among the modifications, Rite Aid said J.P. Morgan & Co. has agreed to convert the \$200 million of existing debt into common stock at a price of \$5.50 per share. About \$85 million of additional outstanding bank debt may also

be converted into Rite Aid common stock at \$5.50 per share, Rite Aid said.

Rite Aid operates about 3,800 stores in 30 states and the District of Columbia.

Rite Aid's accumulated debt load stems from an aggressive expansion program led by former CEO Martin Grass, who doubled the company's number of stores and spent \$1.5 billion to acquire PCS Health Systems, a pharmacy-benefit manager.

Rite Aid ousted Grass in October after the company was forced to restate profits for the past three years downward by \$500 million due questions by regulators about its accounting.

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LATHAM Chrysler • Plymouth • Dodge	Southern Idaho Waste Exchange	SUTTON & SONS Auto Center
JULES HARRISON FORD • MITSUBISHI	Bozzuto's Furniture & Appliance	BOURN AUCTION SERVICE
	All About Brides inside Candlestick Park	Tony's HEATING & AIR CONDITIONING

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MONEY

Turn left onto Main

By Rachel Denny Times-News correspondent
TWIN FALLS - People trying to navigate through downtown may soon have an easier time.

there should be no problem making similar turns onto Main, Evans said.
The BID voted to ask the City Council Monday to remove the restriction on Shoshone at downtown's central intersection.

Magical Night Arts Council. The night will feature music, drinks, entertainment and art beginning July 7 and running through the end of August.

Board tries to remove traffic restrictions

son information, site designer Les Chaffin said.
Talked about how downtown could benefit from the city's plan to create a local improvement district for public improvements.

Biotech stocks lead Nasdaq tumble

NEW YORK (AP) - The Nasdaq composite index fell 1.25 points to 1,826.30 after a sharp drop Tuesday, wiping out some of its gains for the year as volatile biotechnology stocks became the latest high-tech segment to falter.

tionally lower for the year and nearly 20 percent below its peak of 5,048.62 which it reached March 10, 1981, the index is up a stunning 56 percent from a year ago.

Home Depot rolls out Maytag

Retailer begins appliance expansion
Knight Ridder News Service
ATLANTA - Home Depot will begin selling Maytag brands at warehouse stores next month as the retailer rolls out a major appliance expansion.

Depot, which just opened a warehouse store in Twin Falls, to partner with Maytag as it continued the launch with only General Electric.

expansion attributed to selected markets several weeks later and expects all of its U.S. stores to carry Maytag appliances by the end of August.

U S West reaches pact with competitor

DENVER (AP) - Rhythms NetConnection has agreed to drop its opposition to the merger between Qwest Communications International and U S West Communications after U S West agreed to let Rhythms use its telephone lines for free.

with 10 to 12 other competitors this week.
"We will be offering them the same line-sharing terms and conditions that we've reached with Rhythms," Hammack said.

ment, U S West will not charge Rhythms for access to its lines from June 6 through the end of the year.

NEW YORK STOCK EXCHANGE

Table with columns: Name, Div, Last, Chg. Lists various stocks like AFAC, ASA, AT&T, etc.

MARKET SUMMARY

Table with columns: NYSE, AMEX, NASDAQ. Includes market indices like S&P 500, NYSE, AMEX, NASDAQ.

NASDAQ NATIONAL MARKET

Table with columns: Name, Div, Last, Chg. Lists various biotech and other stocks like ACTV, ADEL, ADEL, etc.

INDEXES

Table with columns: Index Name, Value, Change. Lists indices like S&P 500, NYSE, AMEX, NASDAQ.

STOCKS OF LOCAL INTEREST

Table with columns: Name, Div, Pct, Last, Chg, YTD. Lists local stocks like Albert, AmCas, AmCsp, etc.

How To Read The Market Report

Table with columns: Stock Name, Div, Pct, Last, Chg, YTD. Lists various stocks like ADEL, ADEL, ADEL, etc.

AMERICAN STOCK EXCHANGE

Table with columns: Name, Div, Last, Chg. Lists various stocks like ADEL, ADEL, ADEL, etc.

MARKETS

CLOSING FUTURES

Table with columns for commodity names (e.g., May Commodity, July Soybean), prices, and changes. Includes sub-sections for SOYBEANS and GRAINS.

SOYBEANS

Table listing soybean futures contracts with columns for month, price, and change.

GRAINS

Table listing grain futures contracts (wheat, corn, soybeans) with columns for month, price, and change.

LIQUID STOCKS

Table listing liquid stock futures contracts with columns for month, price, and change.

LIQUID STOCKS

Table listing liquid stock futures contracts with columns for month, price, and change.

HEINZ STAYS IN FAVOR WITH INVESTMENT CLUBS

Rankings were based on the number of clubs that own the stock, not on the number of shares the clubs hold. The survey, which included responses from roughly 5,000 clubs this year, doesn't consider how the stocks have performed, or attempt to determine if they're a good buy at the moment.

BEANS

Table listing bean futures contracts with columns for month, price, and change.

LIQUID STOCKS

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COMPUTER GLITCH HALTS WELLS FARGO CUSTOMERS

SAAN FRANCISCO (AP) - Customers at thousands of Wells Fargo automated teller machines in eight Western states Tuesday were unable to access account information or pay with their debit cards for three hours Monday. The bank blamed a computer glitch.

LIQUID STOCKS

Table listing liquid stock futures contracts with columns for month, price, and change.

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Table listing liquid stock futures contracts with columns for month, price, and change.

MUTUAL FUNDS

Table listing mutual fund performance data with columns for fund name, price, and change.

MORNING BREAK

ACROSS 1 Tibetan monk... DOWN 1 Madras's lotion... 41 Med. scan... Includes a crossword puzzle grid and a word search puzzle.

Smiling Houston attends record bash

No-shows, drug incident fuel reports of problems

LOS ANGELES (AP) - Whitney Houston took the stage to a standing ovation at Arista Records' 25th anniversary tribute to her mentor Clive Davis. The diva struggled at times in a heavily scrutinized six-song performance. Rumors about Houston have swirled in the wake of drug abuse allegations...



Singer Whitney Houston talks with her husband, Bobby Brown, during the celebration of Arista Records' 25th birthday. She later performed.

Houston didn't appear back-stage with reporters. She joined some of the biggest names in Arista's history to perform for label founder Davis, who signed Houston when she was 19.

"When you see her, you'll see an artist at the top of her form." The singer walked off before the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame dinner where she was scheduled to help induct Davis.

"I read it like you did. I don't know where that came from, Warwick said. 'There's no reason for intervention.'"

Gemini - get ready for some social activity

IF APRIL 12 IS YOUR BIRTHDAY: Father played dominant role, mother apparently acquiesced but had power in her own right. You have great sense of humor, intellectual curiosity, Gemini, Sagittarius persons play outstanding roles in your life...

HOROSCOPE Sydney Omarr

marital status, income potential. Surprisingly, you could have much to do with art objects. Music plays special role. LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Look beyond the immediate, gain hint from Virgo message...

Attention to cleanliness protects hospital workers, patients alike

DEAR ABBY: May I add a few thoughts regarding the letter from "Daughter of a Patient," who wrote to stress her concerns about health-care workers and hand-washing?

DEAR ABBY: In response to the letter about hand-washing by medical personnel - yes, it probably could be better in some cases. I have been an RN for 12 years.

At my hospital, the soap kept in the nurses' station is a stronger germ killer than what is kept in the patient rooms.

Here's your chance to be wealthy

By age 10, a child's shoe size may change 34 times. That's what some experts contend. Pity! Nobody is going to invent a pair of expandable shoes to fit several sizes. That would cut into shoes sales, wouldn't it?



WHAT'S L.M. Boyd

I have been an RN for more than 20 years. I wash my hands before and after patient contact - always without fail. Our institution does not allow us to use a patient's bathroom for our routine hygiene...

DEAR DR. LUMB: Unfortunately, you're right. Hand-washing is still the single most effective method of disease prevention. To quote an old saying, "The more things change, the more they remain the same."

While there have been tremendous advances in the medical field in the last 25 years, the age-old problem of contaminated hands, first described by Semmelweis in the 19th century, still persists.

Research reveals that most millionaires in the United States and Canada live in homes built in the 1940s or 1950s in upper middle-class neighborhoods. They're not a trendy bunch, those millionaires.

Thrills, chills test pilot's skills as he zeroes in on Arctic target

His engine had overheated and was bleeding oil. He'd flown through a blinding "whiteout," caused by a line of snow squalls. And he had lost radio contact with his base planes.

led his plane down the airstrip of the remote grain port of Churchill, Manitoba, he found the plane deserted. Most of the town's 1,000 souls were at a hockey game.

McLeod reported Monday from Churchill that he planned to leave Tuesday on the next leg of his flight, to Rankin Inlet, en route to his main staging base of Resolute, inside the Arctic Circle.

McLeod said by telephone that he has flown several harrowing legs in his 1939 Boeing Stearman, a former crop-duster, since leaving Montgomery Air Park last Wednesday.

But his chief foe has been solitude. "The most intimidating part of this trip is not so much the cold," he said. "It's the complete isolation."

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518 MOBILE HOMES BUHL 1988 Nashua 60, 2 1/2, 2 bdrm, 2 bath, open floor plan, 1500 sq. ft. Call 420-0320 or 425-4576.

HANSEN, 1976 Concord, 2 bdrm, 2 bath, 1100 sq. ft. Call 420-0320 or 425-4576.

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518 MOBILE HOMES BUHL 1988 Nashua 60, 2 1/2, 2 bdrm, 2 bath, open floor plan, 1500 sq. ft. Call 420-0320 or 425-4576.

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HANSEN, 1976 Concord, 2 bdrm, 2 bath, 1100 sq. ft. Call 420-0320 or 425-4576.

KIMBERLY - Almost new application for MBA Valley Vista Village, 1 bdrm, apt. for very low income, 620sq/yr of 1300 sq/yr mobility impairment.

OWN YOUR HOME Instead of paying C.I. credit, it's decent rental history, get you in very early lot.

JEROME - 1 bdrm, Appl. hood, WD hookup, \$450/month, Call 324-4375.

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1991 FORD EXPLORER
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1997 GMC 1500 2WD P.U.
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SPORTS

INSIDE

Local sports02
Scores and stats03
Comics04

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

Section D

The Times-News

Wednesday, April 12, 2000

MORNING LINE

SPORTSQUOTE

“Isn't it gorgeous? It's a fabulous place!”

—Kevin Elster, who was out of baseball last year and made the Dodgers as a non-roster player, after hitting three home runs in Tuesday's Pacific Bell Park opener

TODAY'S SCHEDULE

- High school baseball**
Timberline at Twin Falls, 3:30 p.m.
- High school softball**
Twin Falls at Minico, 4:30 p.m.
Century at Burley (2V, 2JV), 4 p.m.
- High school golf**
Twin Falls, Jerome at Minico, 11 a.m.
- High school tennis**
Minico at Declo, 3 p.m.

IN BRIEF

- Ladies League's opener is Saturday**
TWIN FALLS—The Twin Falls Ladies' Twilight League will hold its opening scramble this Saturday, with tee times starting at 9 a.m.
Lunch will be provided by the association. Cost is \$15 per player, and greens fees and carts are extra. RSVP by Thursday.
- Buhl Legion baseball meeting set for today**
BUHL—An organizational meeting for players and parents interested in Buhl American Legion Baseball will be held today at Grandstands at 7 p.m.
All players intending to play this summer should attend with a parent. For more information, call Lee Cline at 543-4351.
- Former CSI men's coach accepts job at Nebraska**
SCOTTSLUFF, Neb. — Former College of Southern Idaho men's basketball coach Dave Campbell has resigned his head coaching position of 14 years at Western Nebraska Community College to accept an assistant coaching position at the University of Nebraska.
Campbell compiled an 80-19 record in three years (1980-83) at CSI, leading the Golden Eagles to two regional championships. He joins the newly hired Barry Hinkle, formerly an assistant at the University of Idaho in the 1980s, at WNCC.
- Shooters take aim in Twin Falls this weekend**
TWIN FALLS—The 16th annual Snake River Trapshooters Association Twin Falls shoot takes place Friday through Sunday at the Twin Falls Trap Club.
There will be 800 targets at the shoot and \$2,800 in trophies available. Added money is \$1,250 with \$4,042 in perpetual and four-course options. A dozen sponsors are contributing to the event.
Eight events will make up the three-day shoot with a special target auction being conducted after Saturday's SRTA Presidents Handicap shoot. Fees are \$1.50 per shooter per day.
- Steelheads set WCHL regular season marks**
BOISE—The Idaho Steelheads are preparing for their playoff games against top-ranked Northern Division rival Tacoma, and several players have set team and season league marks.
Jeff Patrick scored 57 goals and led 23 power play goals in 70 games to break teammate Cal Cunningham's 1998-99 team records of 50 goals and 16 power play goals in 71 games. The two also broke the team mark of six game-winning goals.

Cost overrun hits CSI hoops program

College vows to exercise restraint in future spending

**By Kevin Hall
Times-News writer**

TWIN FALLS—A new coach and an added lack of spending oversight led to cost overruns and a \$50,000 bailout for the College of Southern Idaho's men's basketball program, college officials say.

The program's expenses have swollen dramatically in recent years, rising from less than \$150,000 in 1987 to more than \$180,000 last year, excluding salaries. But this year's expenses—\$217,950 so far, with two and a half months left in the fiscal year—have prompted college officials to trim athletic programs and to order intensified oversight.

Men's basketball is the flagship of CSI athletics, and this year saw a revival under the leadership of first-year head coach Derek Zeck, who led the Golden Eagles to the national tournament. But college officials said they failed to assign Zeck a specific budget when he started work last summer.

Explaining the overrun

College of Southern Idaho officials list several factors contributing to this year's basketball cost overrun.

Starting last summer, finance dean Mike Mason's time was devoured by the chore of smoothing out a new computer system for the college's business office. He said he'll take a more hands-on approach to spending for the new fiscal year, which begins July 1.

A nationwide spate of van accidents involving college athletes prompted CSI's board to use buses for all athletic trips, Meyerhoeffer said. He made a huge impact on us financially, he said. Increased attendance at summer school inflated the cost of team scholarships.

Team travel costs have increased because of three out-of-conference trips taken last year. Besides competing at a tournament in Reno, Nev., the men's team made trips to Colorado and Wyoming for preseason scrimmages.

Some credit-card bills arrived late, Mason said, making expenses harder to track. Also, bills for Meyerhoeffer stashed the program's money hemorrhage with \$50,000 from a registration fee contingency fund.

In addition, Meyerhoeffer said he cut two of the program's 16 scholarships next year and will limit the men's basketball program to just one out-of-conference trip. Zeck said he agreed with those decisions.

"I think Derek's in a situation where we talked about this, and he said, 'You give me a budget and I can make it work.' Well, I'm expecting him to do that," Meyerhoeffer said. Meanwhile, a general financial pinch in

the athletic department has delayed the start of CSI's new softball program, Mason said.

"We did an evaluation on what we could afford," Mason said. Various factors led to the softball delay—including the basketball overrun, Mason said.

Mason said Zeck and every other CSI coach will be held to more strict spending guidelines in the future, and they also will expand fund-raising duties to offset program costs.

Volleyball coach Ben Stroud runs a 3-on-3 Please see BUDGET, Page D3

part (blue stripe were confusing). Popped the cage (increased) more than \$9,000 this year from last. Mason said most of the team's allotted complimentary meals were eaten up by visiting teams; and the college had an extra week between breaks which added to the costs.

With a new coach team the philosophy of rebuilding the program's image, Meyerhoeffer said. Costs for new office furniture, cellular phones, several sets of new uniforms, shoes and other items inflated the spending.

TAG, YOU'RE OUT!



BRUCE SHIELDS/The Times-News

Wendell's Derrick Roseborough eludes the diving tag of Flor High School's Alex Reed in the seventh inning of an SCIC showdown on Tuesday. The missed tag set in motion a string of Wildcat errors that culminated in a five-run Trojan rally and a Wendell win. For details, and more local high school results, see Page D2.

Eric Lindros' career and dream both melt away

The Associated Press

PHILADELPHIA—Eric Lindros' career with the Philadelphia Flyers probably will end with him as a distraction rather than a champion.

And now, amid all the injuries and clashes with management, it appears these might be Lindros' final days with the Flyers.

He rejoined the Flyers on Tuesday for the first time since his feud with general manager Bob Clarke tore a hole in his relationship with the team.

Still unable to practice because of a concussion, Lindros rode the exercise bike while his teammates prepared for Thursday's first-round playoff game with Buffalo. He will not play in the opening series.

"I don't think there needs to be any more said," said Lindros, speaking softly and seeming more like an outsider than the franchise player, who was the team's focal point for eight years.

"I'm just focusing on getting back and getting in shape."

Lindros said he spoke by phone with almost all of the team last week and also talked briefly with team chairman Ed Snider. Asked if he had talked with Clarke, Lindros said simply, "No."

Lindros was a walking textbook of medical problems this season. He missed two games with a viral infection, two with a bruised hand, four with his first concussion, four with back spasms and the final 14 with his latest concussion.

Still, with Lindros ailing, the Flyers rallied from a 15-point deficit in the last two months to capture the top seed in the Eastern Conference.

For the second straight year, Lindros will not be on the ice when the Flyers open the playoffs. Last year, a collapsed lung kept him out.

"I think that it's a difficult situation because everyone has an opinion," goalie John Vanbiesbroeck said. "The one that's important is the attitude that you take—to come to play and want to win."

Clarke stripped Lindros of the captaincy and handed it to Eric Desjardins.

NHL playoff schedule - D3

Keyshawn will join Bucs, reports say

The Associated Press

NEW YORK—A trade sending Keyshawn Johnson from the New York Jets to Tampa Bay was worked out Tuesday, but remained on hold when the wide receiver and the Buccaneers couldn't agree on a new contract.

Jerome Stanley, the agent for the two-time Pro Bowl receiver, and Bucs general manager Rich McKay broke off talks about 7:30 p.m. EDT and will begin meeting again this morning.

The holdup apparently was over the amount of a signing bonus, with a range of between \$9 million and \$13 million being discussed.

Tampa Bay offered Johnson a deal that would average just over \$6.5 million a year for either four or five years. He would have made \$2.4 million under the contract he signed when the Jets made him the No. 1 overall selection in the 1996 draft. With the Bucs, he'd be among the highest-paid receivers in the NFL.

The Jets would get two first-round draft choices, Nos. 13 and 27. It would give them four selections in the opening round, the most ever for one team.

Previously, they got the 16th choice from New England for allowing Bill Belichick to become Patriots coach, and owned the 18th.

Johnson threatened to hold out



New York's Keyshawn Johnson, breaks loose from Green Bay's Antuan Edwards (24) and Craig Newsome during the first quarter in Green Bay, Wis., August 14. Johnson will join the Tampa Bay Buccaneers this week. If the star receiver can agree with the team on a new contract.

balanced, imaginative attack to one of the most staid offenses in football. He wouldn't have a veteran at quarterback, but the second-year pro Shaun King behind center. But he would have plenty of backs.

The Jets, who claim they are strapped by the salary cap and couldn't afford to renegotiate with Johnson, would have plenty of draft leverage. They could use a combination of the four picks to move way up. Or they could select four youngsters who could fill their holes on the defensive line, at tight end, in the secondary and, with Johnson gone, at wideout.

Following Buhl were the Bulldogs, with a combined score of 313. Kimberly was led by Scott Meade, who shot a 75.

"It was a bad day for Kimberly," said Rick Meade, who finished with an 82. "Well, step it up next week."

Meanwhile, Ogden's low score lifted the Pilots to third place at 320.

"I could've been a couple strokes off, but I did decent," Ogden said.

Oakley and Shoshone rounded out the boys' teams with combined scores of 341 and 352.

The Lady Indians led the girls with a combined score of 370. Two Buhl seniors dominated the competition to take first and second.

Please see GOLF, Page D3

INDIANAPOLIS (AP)—A videotape aired Tuesday night shows Indiana basketball coach Bob Knight grabbing a player by the neck during a practice and pushing him backward.

Neil Reed's allegation that Knight choked him during a 1997 practice. The videotape obtained by CNN/SI shows Knight grabbing a player by the neck, pushing him backward. The player's head appeared to snap backward.

not comment on its contents. Officials had known of the tape's existence and had tried to obtain it in the past, university spokesman Christopher Simpson said.

Wald, the president of the board of trustees, and Eric R. Elchhorn, a trustee and former president of the Indiana State Bar Association, to investigate whether Knight, physically abused team members.

complete or investigation." The findings of the investigation are due no later than the third week of June.

Knights and showed players rolled toilet paper, saying, "This is how you guys are playing." In a separate report, former player Ricky Calloway said Knight punched Steve Alford and slapped Darryl Thomas.

Golf

Continued from D1. Senior Kalinda Brown shot a 43 on the front nine a 39 on the back to finish with an 82 for first place.

shot a 90. The Lady Indians were undefeated at 4-0 while the boys improved their record to 2-3 overall.

Budget

Continued from D1. basketball tournament during Western Days, and the baseball program holds an annual day-long fund-raiser.

Mason said: "Every year we make attempts ... it is very difficult to point out a program from the kid's viewpoint. Everybody is aware of the need to make adjustments there. It's a difficult issue."

ations. Rodeo is self-sufficient." A new basketball coach who leads the team to the national championship in Hutchinson, Kan., is an obvious plus for the school.

Meyerhoeffer said CSI is the only school in the Scenic West Athletic Conference that has a waiting list for its sold-out reserved seating.

Baseball

Table with columns for Team, W, L, Pct, GB. Lists various baseball teams and their records.

Baseball

Table with columns for Team, W, L, Pct, GB. Lists various baseball teams and their records.

Scores and Stats

Table with columns for Team, W, L, Pct, GB. Lists various sports teams and their records.

Baseball

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Baseball

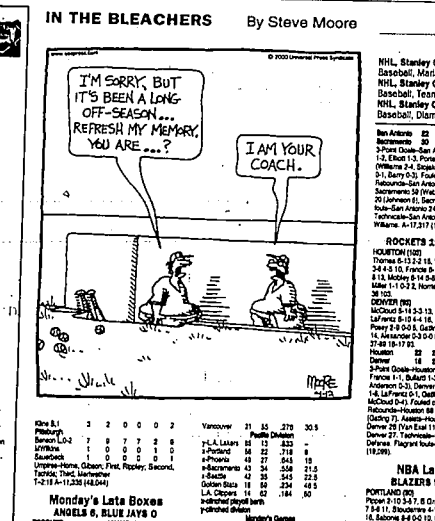
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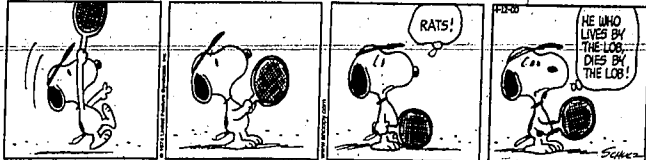
TELEVISION ON THE AIR. Lists various TV programs and their times. Includes sections for ESPN, ESPN2, ESPN3, ESPN4, ESPN5, ESPN6, ESPN7, ESPN8, ESPN9, ESPN10, ESPN11, ESPN12, ESPN13, ESPN14, ESPN15, ESPN16, ESPN17, ESPN18, ESPN19, ESPN20, ESPN21, ESPN22, ESPN23, ESPN24, ESPN25, ESPN26, ESPN27, ESPN28, ESPN29, ESPN30, ESPN31, ESPN32, ESPN33, ESPN34, ESPN35, ESPN36, ESPN37, ESPN38, ESPN39, ESPN40, ESPN41, ESPN42, ESPN43, ESPN44, ESPN45, ESPN46, ESPN47, ESPN48, ESPN49, ESPN50, ESPN51, ESPN52, ESPN53, ESPN54, ESPN55, ESPN56, ESPN57, ESPN58, ESPN59, ESPN60, ESPN61, ESPN62, ESPN63, ESPN64, ESPN65, ESPN66, ESPN67, ESPN68, ESPN69, ESPN70, ESPN71, ESPN72, ESPN73, ESPN74, ESPN75, ESPN76, ESPN77, ESPN78, ESPN79, ESPN80, ESPN81, ESPN82, ESPN83, ESPN84, ESPN85, ESPN86, ESPN87, ESPN88, ESPN89, ESPN90, ESPN91, ESPN92, ESPN93, ESPN94, ESPN95, ESPN96, ESPN97, ESPN98, ESPN99, ESPN100.

TRANSACCIONS. Real estate listings for various areas including Boise, Idaho Falls, and Twin Falls. Includes contact information for agents and office addresses.

COMICS

Classic Peanuts

By Charles M. Schulz



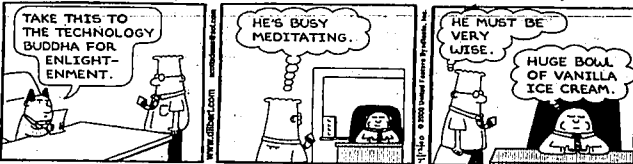
For Better or For Worse

By Lynn Johnston



Dilbert

By Scott Adams



Blonde

By Dean Young & Stan Drake



B.C.

By Johnny Hart



Pickles

By Brian Crane



Garfield

By Jim Davis

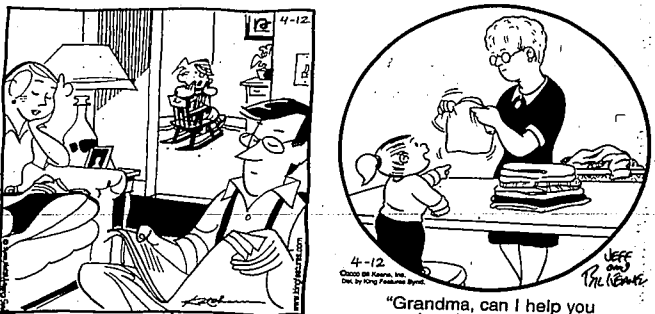


Dennis the Menace

By Hank Ketchum

The Family Circus

By Bill Keane



Hi and Lois

By Chance Browne



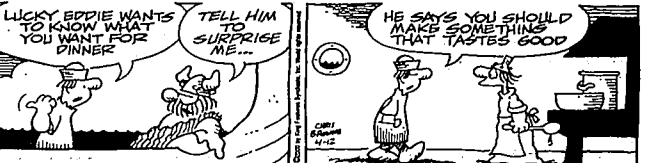
The Wizard of Id

By Brant Parker & Johnny Hart



Hagar the Horrible

By Chris Browne



Beetle Bailey

By Mort Walker



Frank and Ernest

By Bob Thaves



The Bom Loser

By Art Sansom & Chip



Rose is Rose

By Pat Brady



Zits

By Jim Borgman and Jerry Scott



Lizum

By Greg Evans



Strange Brew

By John Deering



Non Sequitur

By Wiley

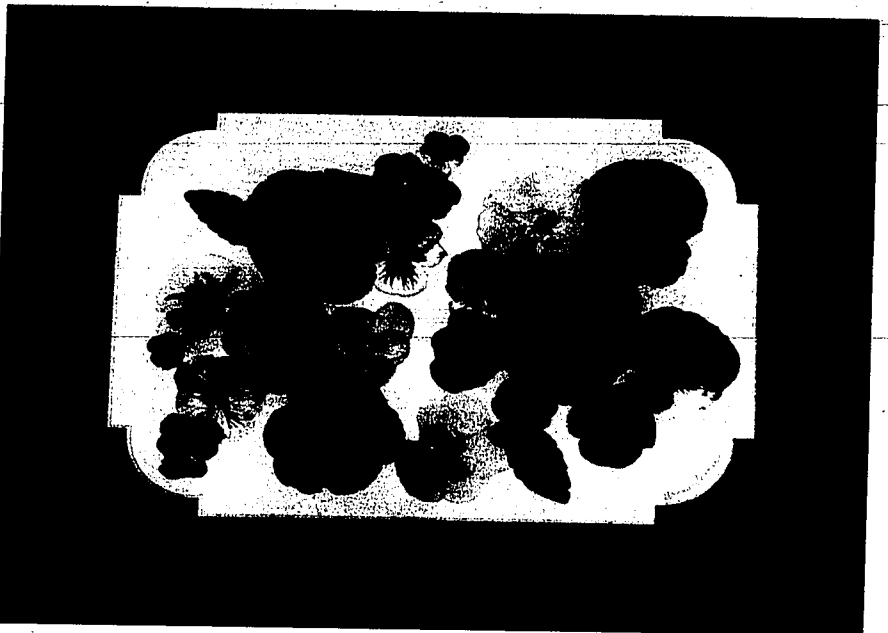


Painting with flowers

To create with pressed flowers, you must be a gardener, at least in spirit, because a gardener above all else is a dreamer.

—Sandy Puckett,
'Fragile Beauty,
The Victorian Art of Pressed Flowers'
(Warner Books, 1992)

Story by Cathy Walworth Photos by Bruce Shields



Pressed blossoms create simple, nostalgic art

Never throw away an old phone book. You never know when you might want to press some flowers.

Flower pressing is as old as flowers themselves. It is everything that is wonderful in the garden: planning, planting, gathering, preserving, sharing.

It is a simple art of gardening that doesn't even require a garden. Flowers, leaves and grasses are everywhere — in window boxes, hanging baskets, neighbors' gardens. Even the bouquet from the grocery store has the potential to become your next masterpiece.

The materials and equipment are simple. You can make a flower press with two pieces of wood, large screws and blotter paper. Or you can buy a pretty one already made up or employ an old telephone book as your press.

A store-bought flower press is made up of a series of layers: wood, newspaper, blotter paper, flower, blotter paper, newspaper, wood. Continue to layer the papers for the length of the screws.

A phone book is ideal because it is made of absorbent paper, it is portable, affordable and easily replaced. Arrange as many flowers on a page as you can without them touching one another, then allow 1/4 inch of pages to cushion between those and the next collection of flowers.

Gathering

Gathering pretty things to press begins long before summer. It begins when you plan this year's garden. Think about how well this one or that one will press. Look around your garden, even in early spring.

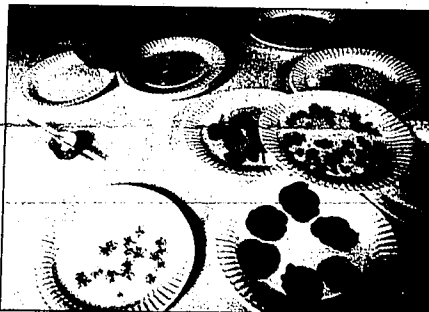
Which leaves have interesting shapes? Tendrils from vining plants add grace to a pressed flower arrangement.

What grows alongside your lawn? You will need as many leaves and stems as flowers to make your creations interesting and balanced.

The best time for gathering is early in the day, after the dew has dried. Never try to press flowers and leaves with drops of water on them; they will be spotted, and might even mildew in the press.

"Dampness is a flower presser's greatest enemy," said Donna Conner, a lecturer and author of "Painting with Flowers" who co-owns a nursery in the Seattle area with her husband. Pick each flower early in the season, in the cool part of the day.

Conner said that flowers will wilt if picked when it is too hot. And, if you wait too long after the flower has been in bloom, the sun might fade the colors.



The flowers can be stored in a stack of paper plates. Spreading them out gives you a palette of colors to choose from.

Always put the flowers in your press right away. And press more flowers, buds and leaves than you think you will ever need, Conner advised. You're bound to have failures as well as successes.

Naturally flat flowers, such as pansies, Johnny Jump-ups and single roses, press quickly and easily. Fatter flowers and those with more moisture will need to be taken apart or split in half to press well. Some need their petals separated, and pressed individually.

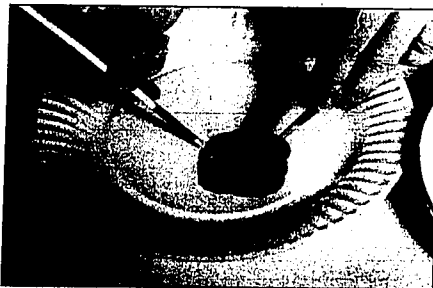
Lay each flower on the blotter paper as you want it to look when it is finished drying and pressing. You may put as many flowers, leaves or grasses on a page as will fit without them touching each other, as long as they are about the same thickness. Lay the blotter paper or 1/4 inch of phone book pages carefully over the layer of flowers so you don't move them around. Make another layer of flowers, and continue until your press or phone book is full.

Put the press somewhere out of the way — somewhere it can sit undisturbed for at least three weeks. (Fatter, moister flowers might take eight weeks.) Pile on books, bricks, bookends — whatever you have to weight down your phone books. Simply tighten the screws on a flower press, and don't peek for the entire pressing time. It helps if you mark today's date and the date three weeks from now on a piece of masking tape and put it on the outside of the press.

Removing

When do you take the flowers out of the press?

You can tell the flowers are dry when they are rigid and slightly brittle. Test one by lifting a flower attached to its stem: Hold



Using tweezers and a small brush, carefully spread glue onto the back of the flower.

the flower up at the base of the stem. If it stands upright, it is ready; if it flops, it should be pressed a while longer, Conner said.

Use tweezers to take plants from the press. Clean out all plant material and make sure the blotter pages are clean and ready to be used again, or thrown away. Throw the papers away if you see mildew, stains, ridges or anything that can transfer to the future flowers.

This is the exciting part because it's hard to remember exactly what you put in the press, so unpacking is a treasure hunt. And you can't help but wonder if all the flowers dried true to their original colors, or if they changed during the process.

Conner said reds can hold their color or turn completely black; oranges can dry a shade or two darker; whites often dry brown; purples and blues hold their col-

Preparing your specimens for pressing

It really begins when you shop for this year's plants. Then you nurture your plants, watch them produce flowers and decide to pick them.

"Be sure to pick clean, dry, perfect specimens," said author/lecturer/gardener Donna Conner. Pick the flowers first thing in the morning, after the dew has dried, and pick them early in their season. You don't want the sun to fade them.

Press materials right away so they don't get a chance to go limp or curl. Always include leaves and stems. When it comes time to complete a picture, you'll be glad you did. And don't overlook weeds as sources of your art.

Just remember to leave native or endangered species where they

are for everyone to enjoy. If everyone were to pick just one flower, these would soon be extinct.

Carry a travel press or small phone book in the car. Arrange the material on the paper the way you want it to look when finished. Create shapes with stems and grasses and tendrils. Some flowers need special attention.

Fuller roses and rosebuds need to be cut in half lengthwise. Remove the green sepals to press somewhere else on the page. You will glue them in place later. Smaller or miniature roses can often be pressed whole. Try some and see how they come out.

Dahlias, mums, daylilies and African daisies need to be taken apart, pressed and put back

together. Flowers with hard centers must have their centers removed before pressing. Don't use succulents because they are full of water.

Test a flower to see if it holds too much water to press successfully: Squeeze the flower between your finger and thumb. If moisture or color comes out, pass it up.

Always look for bugs. Remove them. You don't want aphids eating merrily away in your flower press for weeks on end.

Three weeks is a good length of time to press most flowers. If they are still moist and sticky, go for eight weeks.

A useful book: "Glorious Pressed Flower Projects," by Celestine Hannemann, Sterling Publishing, 1991.

Which flowers press best?

"Some flowers press better than others; shape and water content are important factors. This basic list of flowers, while not exhaustive, is fairly comprehensive. Once you begin pressing, you will discover your own favorites." ("Fragile Beauty, The Victorian Art of Pressed Flowers," by Sandy Puckett, Warner Books, 1992)

Alyssum — presses in dainty clusters.

Verbena — each flower or cluster should be pressed separately, head down.

Lobelia — use the whole stem, with foliage attached.

Violets — difficult to press to retain color, but worth it; press

the small foliage
Ornamental cherry — lovely soft color

Grapevines — harvest the tendrils

Rosemary — looks like little pine trees

Thyme — makes wonderful base for small pictures

Blue flax — harvest foliage after spring bloom; use foliage tips

Fairy rose — harvest leaves when tiny; flower size is perfect; use buds and full flower

Miniature roses — small leaves are beautiful; flowers are good size

Bleeding hearts — indispensable as accent flowers, especially in heart designs

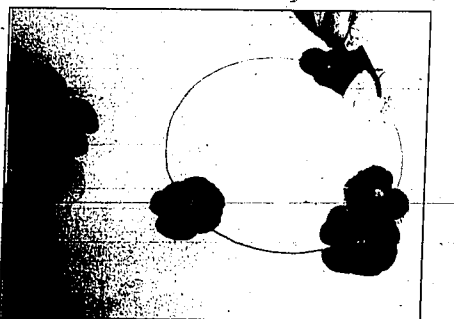
Storing, sorting, starting

How do you store pressed flowers? How do you sort them?

Conner uses stacks of ordinary paper plates to sort and store her materials. They're economical, plain, absorbent paper and they work beautifully to keep the flowers from harmful sun and fluorescent lights. Even then, once exposed to light, pressed flowers can fade to beige in two or three years. Every once in a while, they last longer.

"I have 2,000 paper plates, and each plate holds one kind of flower or leaf," Conner said.

She stacks them on floor-to-ceiling shelves, and labels the shelves by color. Don't allow the pressed flowers to touch one



Glue the flower around the shape you have traced onto the poster board.

Please see FLOWERS, Page E4

LANDSCAPING FOR DUMMIES

It's all planning, patience

By Dixie Thomas Reale
Times-News correspondent

Planning and patience - the secrets of successfully landscaping a garden or yard.

Darren Olsen, of Moss Greenhouses in Jerome, advises people to take it slow, and to look at magazines and catalogs to get an idea of the feel of the garden you want.

Make a list of the things the garden is to be used. Think kids, animals, entertaining, etc. Then resist the urge to get out into the yard and dig.

Instead, sit down with pencil and paper and sketch out an overview of what you want, keeping in mind your lifestyle and how much time you have to devote to plant upkeep.

Do you want a windbreak, trees on the west end? Do you want flower beds, shrubs, fruit trees?

Keep unusual features in mind, Olsen suggested. Maybe the neighbor has a large tree that shades part of your yard. Maybe you have an unusual rock formation that could be incorporated into the garden decor.

Once you have planned it all out on paper, then visit a nursery, garden center or other landscaping professional. Take along the sketches of your plans and some pictures, clippings from catalogs and magazines or snapshots of unusual features.

The time to put in the walkways and sprinkler systems is before anything is planted, Olsen said. This saves tearing up the garden later.

Marie Fisher, of Fisher's Greenhouse and Gift Shop in Filer, added, "With all this warm weather, people get spring fever



Colorful roses bring a touch of springtime to any landscape.

and get in a hurry to plant. Don't! The average last frost date in Magic Valley is May 15. This time of year, the air is warm but the soil is not. If you plant too soon, the plants will die if they aren't protected against the frost. Then you have to plant them over after the frost is all gone.

When renovating the ground, remove old, unwanted plants, rocks, and weeds.

"Renovate the entire planting bed," Olsen said. "Don't spot feed for individual plants. Otherwise, the plant will be happy for a while, then hit the

wall where the nutrients stop and not do as well."

Fisher explained that flowers which are annuals have to be seeded every year, and perennials return year after year without seeding. The idea is that many people prefer to plant perennials so they don't have to plant their flowers each spring.

In planning flower beds, remember to plant from short to medium to tall plants, as you would view them in the flower beds along a fence along the street or in the middle of the yard.

Olsen advised gardeners to

break the work up into comfortable 48-hour segments and make weekly trips to the nursery, if necessary.

"Most people do their yard work on weekends," he said. "If they buy too many plants to comfortably plant on a weekend, they have to baby-sit the plants during the week. If it should rain on the next weekend, the plants sit for an extra week and many often die before getting into the ground."

Once you have decided on what plants you want in your garden, follow the care guides or

Show host urges gardeners to have a landscape plan

By Chuck Crumbo
Knight Ridder News Service

COLUMBIA, S.C. - Know what you're going to plant even before you dig the first hole, landscape architect Bill Slack said during the recent Southern Living gardening lecture at Riverbanks Zoo & Botanical Garden.

"You don't want to buy a plant just because it's on sale," said Slack, host of Home and Garden Television's "Gardening Moments."

For example, Slack said most folks wouldn't go to the grocery store and buy spinach, mayonnaise and Wheaties just because they were on sale. The same applies to gardening.

Coming up with a plan requires measuring tape, pencil, and graph paper, Slack said. A gardener should measure the lot and then plot the location of the house and existing trees and plants on the graph paper. He suggested a scale of one 1-inch square on graph

paper to represent 10 feet. "Include any permanent structures you want to build in the future like a fish pond, tennis courts and a helicopter pad," Slack said, drawing a roar of laughter.

After the permanent structures are accounted for, the gardener draws in what he or she wants to plant.

"That way you may find that the red oak is in the wrong place. It's easier to use your eraser and move it on paper than dig it out of the yard," Slack said.

Slack said HGTV's magazine series for about \$500. A homeowner sends a layout of the lot of the magazine along with pictures of the house and plan. The magazine's staff comes up with a plan and suggested list of plants.

Also, many garden centers offer a similar service, usually for free with the understanding that the homeowner will buy plants from the business.

underground sprinklers, raised flower beds, cobblestone walkways, a fountain and a gazebo can cost thousands of dollars. "Landscaping is a learning process," Fisher said. "If you learn from one year's mistakes and remember from one year to the next, you won't make the same mistake again."

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Take steps to prevent soil-borne diseases

By Kathy Van Mellekom
Daily Press

Few gardeners go through season after season without facing a soil-borne disease among their plants.

Tomato growers know the drill. Fusarium wilt causes leaves on the bottom of the tomato plant to look scorched, wilt and then turn brown. Soon the plant becomes stunted or entirely bites the dust. Verticillium wilt makes older leaves yellow, dry and drop off.

Both are caused by soil-borne diseases.

Warm temperatures and soil favor fusarium wilt, which attacks annuals, perennials, vegetables, melons, marigold, spinach and squash.

Cooler weather promotes verticillium wilt, which also targets roses, strawberry and brambly, dahlias, trees such as catalpa, redbud and maple and many other ornamental landscape plants. Overfertilization and poor garden sanitation habits favor the problem.

No chemical will help.

To prevent diseases

There are a number of preventative such as correct light, water, fertility and soil pH for plants, says the American Horticultural Society (www.ahs.org):

- Pick the best location in the garden for each plant; try to meet its growing needs.
- Water wisely. Excess watering and waterlogged areas create environments for fungi to thrive.

in soil and on leaves.

- Provide good air circulation. Do not crowd plants; thin out seedlings. Space plants so they can dry out after rain or watering.
- Adjust your soil's pH to avoid certain diseases. For example, clubroot, a serious disease that affects the cabbage family, likes highly acidic soils.
- Balance your soil's fertility. Plants with nutrient deficiencies are vulnerable to disease. And too many nutrients also can cause disease. Instead of looking for fertility in each plant, try to have a balanced soil overall. How? Lots of compost and get your soil analyzed.
- Use disease-resistant plants.

Look for label information such as V, F, N that shows the plant is resistant to, respectively, verticillium wilt, fusarium wilt or certain nematodes, or all three.

How to stop disease

- To remove overwintering sites of disease to prevent the return in the spring, prune branches with lesions and cankers.
- Destroy all diseased leaves and branches from a plant that is sick; do not put diseased material into the compost heap.
- Crop rotation. Certain, some plants are resistant.

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Daily Press

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GAGA OVER GAZEBOS

Redwood 'gazing rooms' regain popularity as soothing garden retreats

Amid the stress of the modern world, nostalgic redwood gazebos are an increasingly popular addition to a deck, garden or backyard setting. A gazebo is a delightful place to retreat from the world, enjoy your garden, read a book or entertain friends. The sensation of being in an open but sheltering structure is soothing and relaxing.

By definition, a gazebo is meant to be a "gazing room," an isolated structure intended to offer a panoramic view of the surrounding area. Gazebos were at their most popular in the Victorian and Edwardian ages.

When creating a modern-day redwood gazebo, there are three ways to go. Talented do-it-yourselfers build their own structures. There are a variety of plans available in how-to books, magazines and from building-material suppliers. Another option is to assemble a pre-fabricated gazebo from a kit. Manufacturers offer these kits. The third choice is to find a designer/builder to come up with a custom structure tailored to your tastes and needs.

Redwood is popular for gazebos because of its natural, built-in beauty, durability, and decay and insect resistance. Do-it-yourselfers and building professionals both enjoy using it because it is lightweight and easy to saw, shape and nail.

When building redwood outdoor structures, always use stainless steel, aluminum or top-quality hot-dipped galvanized nails, fasteners and hardware. Redwood gazebos will look and perform best with the application of a transparent, semi-transparent or opaque finish. Choose a finish that contains a water-repellent, a mildewcide and an ultra-violet ray inhibitor.

You can show off the redwood gazebo, making it a focal point in the overall plan of your grounds. Perhaps you'll want to plan your



This gazebo was finished with bleaching oil, which creates a silvery driftwood gray effect.

garden around the gazebo, planting shrubs and flowers to enhance and highlight the beauty of the site. Or you can position

your gazebo as a secluded retreat.

Do you plan to eat and/or cook frequently in your redwood gaze-

bo? If so, you'll want to consider placing the structure near the kitchen. And you'll want to make the structure big enough



This gazebo features louvered doors, which can screen or frame backyard views.

to accommodate the tables, spot. Lattice and slat-style roofing are also effective ways of diffusing excess heat while still letting you enjoy the sun.

To get you started on your redwood gazebo project, the California Redwood Association offers detailed plans for a classic eight-sided gazebo featuring lattice inserts. Send \$1 to California Redwood Association, Department C29, 405 Enfrante Drive, Suite 200, Novato, CA 94949.



Ask your gardening store about these new products

Daily Press

www.preen.com

Veggie garden wheel: "Vegetable gardening puts the gardener in touch with the natural cycles of the seasons," writes author Renee Shepherd on the new Vegetable Garden Wheel, which tells you how and when to plant everything from beans to green beans to pumpkins. The 10-inch, waterproof wheel is easy to take outdoors while you work. Other wheels feature bulbs, perennials, herbs, annuals and shade plants. \$6. Available at garden centers; visit online at www.gardenwheel.com

Safe for groundcovers: Preen and Preen 'n Green products say they should not be used on ajuga, myrtle or pachysandra. The just-out Preen 'n Green for Groundcovers, however, is safe to use on these plants. Available at garden centers nationwide;

Fantastic fertilizer: You've seen in magazines where geraniums grow 13 feet tall! A chrysanthemum with 7,000 blooms or a philodendron 45 feet in circumference? Growers attribute it to a fertilizer called Algoflash. Originally created for French wine growers in the Loire Valley, Algoflash is now the top-selling plant food in France. A liquid that's 100 percent soluble in water, Algoflash is a 100 percent mineral base combined with a range of pure trace elements (micronutrients such as iron, manganese, boron, copper, zinc and molybdenum) and magnesium. It's odorless and made from natural ingredients. One liter of concentrate makes about 115 gallons. The all-purpose 6-6-6 formula for vegetables, flowers and fruits, and the geranium 4-6-8 formula (also

for other flowering plants) are \$11.95. Available through www.kinsmangarden.com

Handy hose: A multi-purpose workstation by Ames-True Temper is designed for wheeling around the yard. It features a convenient top that can be used as a work surface with more than two square feet. The fully assembled hose reel is made of rugged all-

poly construction that will not rust or corrode. It has a large storage area for accessories and includes a removable two-gallon bucket that attaches to the side of the cart and stores neatly inside. Smaller hose reel only, \$45. Multi-purpose workstation, \$70. Available where Ames tools are sold. For other retailers, call 1-800-725-9500 or enter your ZIP code in retailer locator site at www.ames.com

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OUTDOOR LIVING

Nothing quite like fresh vegetables from the garden

By Cathy Walworth
Times News correspondent

Think vegetables. Think spring.

DAIKON RADISHES

Here's a vegetable you may not have tried because you didn't know what to do with it after you grew it.

Daikon is the Japanese name for a popular radish used in Asian cuisine. Daikons are long, narrow and usually white, green or creamy yellow. They range from 2 to 3 inches around and anywhere from 6 to 15 inches long. You can also find round daikons.

Like all radishes, daikons are a root crop, and need good soil or they'll become strong flavored and develop a woody texture. Pick a spot in full sun.

Sow daikons in early spring or late summer. Sow the seeds 1/4- to 1/2-inch-deep and about a foot apart. Be sure to thin the young plants - root crops need their room. Keep daikons well watered to keep them tender. Fertilize four weeks after planting with a high phosphate, high potash fertilizer. They don't need nitrogen. If you've grown carrots in that spot, watch out for root maggots.

Daikons can be harvested about 55 days after sowing. You can keep them in the ground, but the longer they stay there, the more pithy they get. Dig them carefully with a spading fork so you don't scar the roots.

If you don't have a root cellar or cool basement, store them in damp sand. You can blanch and freeze them.

The flavor varies from mild to pungent, and all types are crisp,



Daikon radishes and snow peas are great vegetables to serve for tasty, nutritious spring dining.

like turnips. Peel daikons and slice them to eat raw with dips or in salads, boil or steam and serve them like cooked turnips or grate them into a stir-fry. Daikon greens are good when picked young and sauteed like turnip greens.

CRUNCHY RADISHES WITH CREAMY SESAME DRESSING

1 1/2 cups radishes, thinly sliced
3/4-inch length of daikon radish, thinly sliced to matchstick size

1/4 cup roasted sesame tahini (sesame paste available at health and specialty food stores)
5 scallions sliced thin, including part of the green leaves
3 tablespoons dry sherry
2 tablespoons lemon juice
1/4 teaspoon each salt and sugar

1/4 cup water
1/3 cup chopped or sliced almonds (optional)
1 cup cooked cubed chicken

Combine radishes in a bowl. For the dressing, stir the rest of the ingredients into the tahini; it will be a thick paste. Thin dressing to a creamy consistency with the water. Combine radishes with the dressing and toss. Taste for seasoning. Sprinkle with chopped nuts, if desired. Serve on lettuce.

For a main-dish salad, mix in 1 cup cooked, cubed chicken with the almonds.

-Recipes from a Kitchen Garden, Volume Two, " by Renee Shepherd

SNOW PEAS
We know snow peas, or sugar snap peas, from Asian cooking.

planting to give them a head start. If they are not already treated, it's a good idea to just them with a bacterial inoculant to help boost their nitrogen-fixing capacity. Plant when the soil is 45 degrees or more and the soil is dry enough to till. Plant seeds 1 to 2 inches deep, 3 inches apart.

Keep snow peas well-watered and keep weeds out. The roots are tender and near the surface, so be careful when you cultivate around them. Put down mulch when the soil warms to keep it cool.

Snow peas should be ready to eat in about 55 days. Pick them when tiny peas are just beginning to swell inside their pods, usually five to seven days after flowering. Harvest as long as the peas are very small inside, daily to keep plants producing. If you stop picking, they will stop producing. When the weather gets hot, pull the plants or dig them under.

Eat or blanch your snow peas as quickly as possible after picking.

Although they can be kept in the refrigerator up to two weeks, they lose their intense sweetness.

Pull the strings from the peas when you snap off the ends.

GARLICKY SNOW PEAS SAUTE

2 tablespoons oil
2 or 3 cloves garlic, finely chopped
4 scallions, chopped
1 large sweet red, yellow or green pepper, diced or chopped
1 pound fresh snow peas, trimmed
1/2 cup jicama or water chestnuts, cubed

2 teaspoons soy sauce
In a wok or deep skillet, heat oil. Add garlic, scallions and sweet pepper and saute until softened and fragrant, about one minute. Add the snow peas and jicama and saute until cooked but still very tender - crisp, two to three minutes. Add soy sauce and toss together. Taste for seasoning, adding more soy sauce if desired.
-Renee Shepherd

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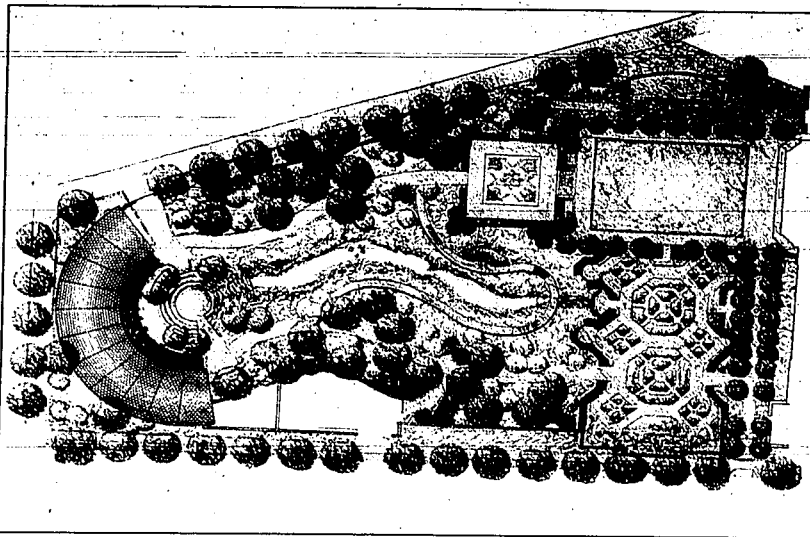
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OUTDOOR LIVING



The new National Garden in Washington, D.C., currently exists mainly in this plan from the U.S. Botanic Garden, but it should be a reality in 2001.

Capital garden gets new look

By Jane Berger
The Associated Press

Nation's gardeners go into this spring with education in mind

Prickly cactuses and lush palm trees will soon be growing at the foot of Capitol Hill again, but global warming is not the reason for this outbreak of exotic plant life.

As spring arrives in the nation's capital, so does the new U.S. Botanic Garden.

The country's oldest botanical garden, the USBG has occupied its present site on the mall since 1933. But the once state-of-the-art aluminum superstructure that held the conservatory's glass panels in place began to fail in the early 1990s, and it was closed in 1997 for renovation.

Now, a stronger yet airy-looking steel structure is rising atop the ruins of the former conservatory, and construction is expected to soon begin on the country's new National Garden next door.

The USBG's public programs director, Christine Flanagan, says the conservatory "will be under glass by September," although the taller palm house will not be finished until some time later because of delays in manufacture of its steel superstructure.

Within a few months, the gaping excavation surrounded by remnants of the original facades will take shape as a glass-enclosed conservatory and palm house containing a huge collection of tropical and sub-tropical plants. There will even be a few descendants of historic plants brought back by U.S. Navy Captain Charles Wilkes from his U.S. Exploring Expedition of 1839-1842.

However, the new U.S. Botanic Garden will be quite a bit different from the old one, which looked like a hodgepodge of thousands of plants. With educational goals in mind, the 80-foot-tall palm house is being recon-

structed as a composite snapshot of a tropical rainforest. According to Flanagan, visitors will see "an abandoned plantation that is being overtaken by the jungle again, and as you get further out from the central area, you'll see that the jungle becomes wilder and wilder."

The old dinosaur garden featuring primitive plants will look very similar, but the new desert house will emphasize a vast array of plants that adapt to a desert environment. Flanagan says the public will see "shrubs and trees and grasses and desert annuals and cacti and succulents and so they'll get a much fuller picture of what a desert is all about."

The former subtropical house will look much the same with two narrow, elongated pools, but the focus will be on plants used by man for economic purposes: citrus, cotton, coffee, bananas, avocados.

Adjacent to the U.S. Botanic Garden, construction is expected to soon begin on the new, three-acre National Garden, which Flanagan describes as an "Eden on the mall." "If work gets underway by early summer, she says, "we'll make the goal of opening one year later."

The National Garden will be the first major addition to the popular national oasis since it was relocated to its present site at the foot of Capitol Hill in 1933, but work has been delayed somewhat by complex drawings required to account for the interstate expressway that runs under the garden.

The National Garden includes a very formal, elaborate rose garden to honor the country's national flower, but Flanagan

says it will feature what are called "green" roses - varieties that are disease-resistant and require only limited chemicals or none at all.

In addition, there will be a water garden dedicated to the nation's first ladies, and a lawn terrace where visitors can picnic and enjoy the view.

The main attraction is the showcase garden, a wetland habitat supplied with rainwater that will be captured and recirculated on the site itself.

This garden will contain hundreds of plants native to the mid-Atlantic region, many of which are rare or endangered and unavailable in commercial nurseries. Flanagan says the major theme of the new National Garden is "native plants of the mid-Atlantic region and the conservation of them and their relationship to water." The entire garden will be united, she says, by "the use of water and how we anticipate rain and what we do with rainoff."

with rain and what we do with the runoff."

In addition, many of the plants slated to occupy this garden are so drought-tolerant that while they go dormant during extreme drought conditions, they spring back to life when rains return.

Before construction on the project began, USBG horticulturists saved thousands of plants by moving them to the garden's huge production facility, but some were simply too big to move.

According to Flanagan, workers took 12-foot tall cuttings of a historic, palm-like plant (a *Cycas circinalis*, or false sago), with a chain saw, transported them to the production facility and affixed them in pots.

"We were all crossing our fingers," she said, "but I can report to you that all but one have rooted."

She says a sausage tree (*Kigelia africana*) much beloved by the public will also be returning. Not only does it sport off-beat, enormous, sausage-like fruits, in its native setting it's pollinated by bats, and the fruits are used to make a fermented beverage.

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Whether you own an old home of a brand new one, there are a number of things that can fall short of requirements during a home inspection. If not identified and dealt with, any of these 11 items could cost you dearly in terms of profit. That's why it's critical that you read this report before you list your home. If you wait until the building inspector flags these issues for you, you will almost certainly experience costly delays in the close of your home sale or, worse, turn prospective buyers away altogether.

In most cases, you can make a reasonable pre-inspection yourself if you know what you're looking for. And knowing what you're looking for can help you prevent little problems from growing into costly and unmanageable ones.

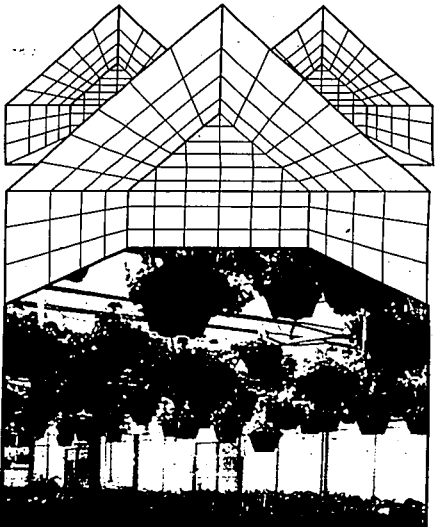
To help homebuyers deal with this issue before their home is listed, a free report entitled "11 Things You Need to Know to Pass Your Home Inspection" has been compiled which explains the issues involved.

To hear a brief recorded message about how to order your free copy of this report, call 1-888-521-9738 and enter ID1003.

You can call anytime, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. Call NOW to learn how to ensure a home inspection doesn't cost you the side of your face.

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A world of garden tours

Imagination blooms as expert takes you on trips around U.S.

By Adrian Higgins
The Washington Post

If gardening is a lifelong journey, Elaine Evans wants you to pick up the pace. Evans runs tours of garden-rich regions of the United States, combining visits to private and public gardens with stops at specialty plant nurseries.

The specialty world of garden tours usually takes tourists along some familiar and well-trodden garden paths in Europe, Japan or New Zealand. Evans says some of the most interesting contemporary gardens are to be found in America, especially now that hundreds of the best private gardens are opened annually under an "open days" scheme organized by the Garden Conservancy.

Several of Evans' tours this year visit these gardens (Web site: www.delightfulgarden.tours.com). Prices, as you might expect, are steep, ranging from \$395 to \$1,850.

The chance to shop is also a major component of these tours, an aspect not available to tourists overseas because of plant import restrictions.

Evans, a landscape designer, said, "People are very excited about buying plants that are unusual and hard to get, but the key is in going to where the plants are on display, and I think that alone stimulates so much interest in plant shopping."

Returning from one trip, "the entire bus was filled with plant material," she said. Her tours, now entering their fourth year, grow in scope and number each year. Evans has scheduled these tours for 2000:

- April 28-30: Chapel Hill and Raleigh, N.C. Visits to public and private gardens, including Montrose, North Carolina Botanical Gardens and plant nurseries Plant Delights and Niche Gardens.
- May 12-14: Brandywine Valley, Pa. Highlights are Chanticleer, the Scott Arboretum and Joanna Reed's garden.
- June 10-12: Stockbridge,



Montrose, the garden of plantwoman Nancy Goodwin in Hillsboro, N.C., is one of the tours in 2000 through garden-rich regions of the United States — combining visits to private and public gardens with stops at specialty plant nurseries.

Mass. Visits include the garden at Naumkeag, designed by Fletcher Steele; the Reeves-Reed Arboretum and the perennial garden and nursery of Fred and Mary Ann McGourty.

• July 14-16: Long Island, N.Y. Stops at Old Westbury Gardens and two meditative gardens inspired by East Asian gardening styles: the Humes Stroll Garden and the new Chinese Scholars Garden on Staten Island.

• July 21-23: Cold Spring, N.Y. Tours of Hudson River Valley gardens, including Innisfree, another Asian-inspired, contemplative garden, designed by Lester Collins.

• Aug. 16-22: Pacific Northwest. Highlights include gardens designed by Anne Lovejoy and Tom Hobbs as well as public gardens at Bellevue and the British Columbia Botanical Gardens.

• Sept. 9-11: Litchfield, Conn. The final tour takes in fall perennial gardens in rural Connecticut, as well as Wave Hill in New York.

The Web is full of useful sites for gardeners. Joining the ranks is the U.S. Department of Agriculture, which now provides advice via modem on everything from planting a tree to dealing with insects and pests. The address is www.gardening.usda.gov.

Department officials call the

site an electronic gateway because it allows access to databases compiled by various land grant university extension agencies as well as the USDA's research arm. The Web-site creators also hope it will encourage gardeners to join urban greening and community gardening projects.

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OUTDOOR LIVING



Expect to see flowers like the peony 'Coral Terrace' at the Chinese Garden and Peony Festival at the New York Botanical Garden in the Bronx.



More than 25 varieties of vegetables and flowers flourish in Denise Heredia's 90-square-foot garden in Saginaw, Mich. She's added accessories for contrast in shape, color and texture.

Add some color to your backyard

Check out these gardening events

The Associated Press

Here are a few attractions for gardening enthusiasts:

- **The Chinese Garden and Tree Peony Festival**, New York Botanical Garden, May 4-June 4. The Chinese tree peony, *Mudan*, has translucent blooms that look like delicate silk. Among the most cherished floral symbols of Chinese art and culture, it appears in shades of white, red, rose, pink, magenta, violet, yellow and green. Among nearly 100 specimens to be shown at the Enid A. Haupt Conservatory, the country's largest Victorian glasshouse, are "Topsy Imperial Concubine" and "Winged Butterfly." Call (718) 817-8700 for information; Web site's nysbg.org.
- **Historic Garden Week** in Virginia, April 22-30. Hundreds of tours, events and venues around the state are part of this celebration, including access to some James River plantations not normally open to the public: Belle Air, Brandon, Flowerdew Hundred and Westover. Thomas Jefferson's boyhood home at Tuckahoe Plantation is part of a April 27 tour from Richmond. While the more than 250 properties participating cover all periods, many of them have historic links: the American Revolution, Civil War and Victorian Era. A comprehensive guidebook to events is available for a \$5 donation via Historic Garden Week, 12 E. Franklin St., Richmond, Va. 23219. Proceeds from Garden Week activities benefit historic restoration projects.
- **The Luther Burbank Home & Gardens** in Santa Rosa, Calif. Over an acre of gardens in down-

town Santa Rosa showcase the famed horticulturist's contributions. Look for medicinal herbs, a cutting garden, a rose garden, a wildlife habitat and ornamental grasses. Gardens are open every day from 8 a.m. Call (707) for more information.

• **Virginia Hand Callaway Discovery Center**, Callaway Gardens, Pine Mountain, Ga. Just opened as part of the garden's long-term expansion plan, it is the new central hub for garden and outdoor attractions, with a theater, shop, restaurant, auditorium, exhibit hall and gallery. One of the center's first major attractions is an exhibit of about 40 paintings by Athos Menaboni, a noted bird artist and a friend of co-founder's Cason and Virginia Callaway. "Menaboni's Birds," in a setting of re-created bird habitats, will be on view through September. For information, call 1 (800) CALLAWAY; Web site is callawaygardens.com.

- **Annual Cherry Blossom Festival**, Brooklyn Botanic Garden, April 29-30. The "Sakura Matsuri" festival features taiko drumming, children's activities, arts and crafts. Web site is bbg.org.
- **Scale model landscapes**, envisioned in the railroad cars from Victorian times to the present, are part of the "Transported Through Time" exhibit at the Mitchell Park Horticultural Conservatory in Milwaukee. Running through April 2, the exhibit includes a model Victorian house with its greenhouse, a scene from World War II Italy, and a 1930s small town. For information, call (414) 649-9830; Web site is county-parks.com/horticulture.

**By Ed Hutchison
The Associated Press**

Big, beautiful splashes of garden color can be yours this summer — even if time and space are in short supply. In 2000, great gardening does not mean great spaces or hours of toil.

What has changed in recent years is the introduction of compact flower and vegetable plants and useful, yet whimsical accessories. Together, they deliver plenty of splash that can help you make your garden come alive this summer.

Here are some tips to help:

- **Mix flowers with vegetables.** Achieve pleasing contrasts in shape, color, and texture by planting flowers for bouquets and vegetables for eating in the same plot. You probably don't want to grow sweet corn alongside dahlias, given the difference in stature of both plants, but popular vegetables like tomatoes and peppers mix well in size, shape and overall color with flowers. Carrots and lettuce make great border plants because of their colorful, shapely foliage. Radishes can be tucked almost anywhere, even in a Lilliputian-sized plot.

In Saginaw, Mich., where the growing season is a short 18 weeks long, Denise Heredia didn't let a small space deter her dream of having a garden that was great to look at, easily maintained and bountiful in flowers and vegetables.

The diversity was grand: Jostar tomatoes, purple sweet potato, black sweet potato, bell peppers, miniature sunflower, Africa daisy, white cone flower, geraniums, impatiens and Oriental lilies, to name a few.

Both vegetables and flowers began filling in by early July with flowers for cutting and vegetables for eating by late July through frost in late September. Because the plot was small, about 15 minutes a day was all that was needed to water, groom plants and pull an occasional weed.

Add accessories. Bird baths are boring compared to what's available now in country and primi-

tive shops, garden centers and similar outlets for crafts made from wood, ceramic, grape vine, glass, fabric, steel and other materials that can be worked by hand. You're likely to find things like garden angels, stars, moons, giant flowers, banners, decorative pots, birdhouses, wreaths and similar items.

Heredia, in Michigan, added an old painted wooden chair, a woman's hat on a stand and several pots filled with small plants atop decorative stepping stones placed on the edge of her garden. The result was a colorful blend of forms and shapes that complemented the plants.

- **Choose wisely.** Pick plants that match your needs for flower and vegetable production, and overall size. Catalog descriptions, seed packets and tags provide a wealth of information.

If your goal is to keep things on the small size, then choose varieties that are more compact in growth but still productive. Marigolds and zinnias, for example, are available in mature

heights that range from 6 to 36 inches. On the other hand, alyssum — no matter the variety — grows under 6 inches in height. Compact varieties of tomatoes, peppers, beans, pumpkins, and watermelons are available in seed and transplant form.

If you like tomatoes and want lots of them for eating and canning, be aware that some produce fruit until frost cuts them down (indeterminate), while others produce up to a certain point in the season and then stop (determinate). You can't tell the

difference by looking at the plant, but the label or seed packet will tell you.

As long as you're reading about the plants, look into how disease may affect that particular variety.

Diseases are hard to control, and if your space and time are limited, the last thing you need is the hassle of fighting them. Disease tolerance or resistance is natural in many varieties, or has been bred into many. Again, the package or care tag will provide details.

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OUTDOOR LIVING

Plants for the New Millennium

New varieties of elm promise more resistance to Dutch elm disease

By Jane Berger
The Associated Press

Imagine grand new avenues of healthy American elms gracing the streets of new suburban landscapes. Or a flowering cherry tree with almost clear red blossoms. These are just a few of the century's brand new plants that will soon be available in local nurseries across the country.

The U.S. National Arboretum in Washington has released two new American elms that could help replace the millions of trees lost in the 20th century to Dutch elm disease. The new cultivars, called "New Harmony" and "Valley Forge," have been decades in the making. Both possess the classic, spreading vase shape of the American elm, along with its ability to withstand poor soil conditions and urban pollution.

Arboretum horticulturist Susan Bentz explains the new elms are tolerant of, but not totally resistant to Dutch elm disease.

"If they were infected by Dutch elm disease, they should recover," she says, although the trees are "not immune" to the fungus carried by the elm bark beetle.

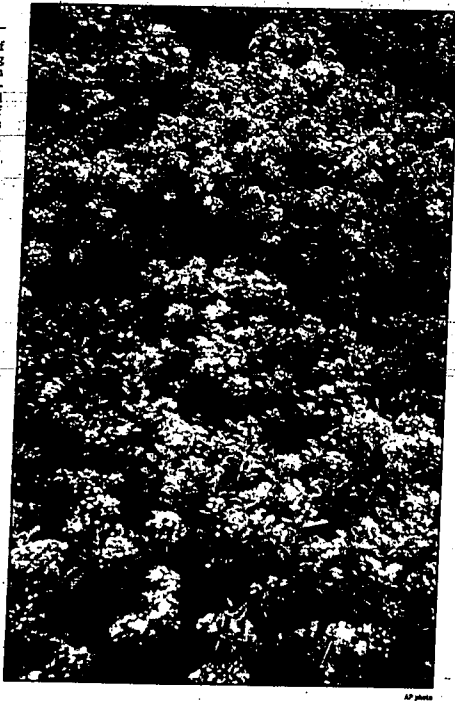
Research on the American elm is just one program among many underway at the National Arboretum to breed superior plants for use in the American landscape. Since the early 1960s, the arboretum has introduced more than two hundred new shrubs, trees, bulbs, grasses and houseplants, along with more than 450 specific rhododendrons and azaleas.

Among the brand new plants available this year are two miniature crape myrtles, around 20 inches tall and 30 inches wide.

"Pokomoko" has rosy-pink flowers, while the blooms of "Chickasaw" are lavender. They can be used as ground covers or grown in containers, or possibly used as perennials north of zone 6. Scientists first began breeding the small crape myrtles in 1986, and horticulturist Ruth Dix says "we're still trying to develop a full color range of miniatures. We're looking for a white, a dark purple and a red."

Within the next few years, nurseries will be distributing three new red maples with brilliant fall color, and one, "Brandywine," is a male selection devoid of pesky seedlings. A medium-sized flowering cherry very tolerant of diseases and insects will also be available. Called "Dragon Catcher," the tree is highly ornamental with large medium pink blossoms in early spring and striking orange fall color.

Horticulturist Dix says there's a lot more in the pipeline. "We are on the verge of releasing a lilac resistant to powdery mildew that also does very well in the South," Dix says two other lilacs,



This bright mass is the Pokomoko crape myrtle, one of the hardy new plants developed by the National Arboretum in Washington, D.C. It can be used either as ground cover or grown in containers.

with reddish purple and bluish-purple blooms, are now under evaluation.

Arboretum scientists are continuing work on cherry trees that will withstand the cold weather of zones 4 and 5, native redbuds that are disease resistant, and on a long-term project to develop a superior hemlock.

East coast hemlocks have been devastated in recent years by the woolly adelgid, and researchers are looking hard for solutions. Horticulturist Bentz says hemlock research is focusing on Chinese and Japanese species, which appear to be unaffected by the pest.

"We're trying to hybridize the north American species with the Asian species," she says, "but it's very difficult."

Bentz said scientists has been trying for years to cross the Asian and American hemlocks, but so far have had no luck. "We're examining the DNA to determine if we have hybrids,

but most of the time nothing happens." In the meantime, the tree pro-

gram is having much better luck with red maples. Bentz says the arboretum will soon be distributing two new red maples, "Red Rocket" and "New World," that were selected for outstanding fall color, and tall, narrow, columnar forms.

One of the highlights of the arboretum's plant research program is the long and rigorous plant evaluation program. According to arboretum scientists, commercial growers and plant societies often do not have the time or money to test plants for years or decades before they are released into the trade.

Horticulturist Dix says shrubs are usually studied for three to 10 years, small flowering trees for 12 to 15 years, and large street trees could take 20 to 25 years of research.

Once the arboretum decides to go ahead with a specific plant, they distribute seedlings to commercial growers who agree to breed stock for the retail nursery trade. However, shade trees often take a long time to grow, and availability can be slow.

The arboretum in the early 1990s released two Asian elms that do not attain the height or graceful shape of an American elm yet are quite disease resistant and very suitable for use in urban settings.

A series of rose of sharon were named after greek goddesses, and cold-hardy camellias were given names with winter themes: "Polar Ice," "Snow Flurry," "Winter's Charm," and "Winter's Dream." Many plants were named after native American Indian tribes: "Acoma," "Sioux" and "Kowa" crape myrtles; "Chippewa," "Erie," and "Mohawk" viburnums, just to mention a few.

Horticulturist Dix says the arboretum has "inaugurated the world with the names of native American tribes" and although the practice has given the institution "instant recognition and association," scientists are thinking about new themes for the year 2000 and beyond.

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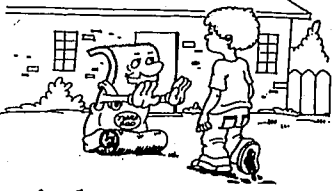
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OUTDOOR LIVING



A red maple and a white birch form a striking contrast against a deep green evergreen background in Columbus, Ohio.

The shady facts

Which shade tree should you choose? The answer depends on the size of your yard, the amount of shade you need, the color of your house, and the fall color of the tree.

Quite a few, actually. Divide the country into three climates (cold, warm, hot), and consider these on Caldwell's shortlist:

Cold, Warm and Hot

- **Black locust**, sweet gum (Nyssa sylvatica) averages 40 feet in height with a slightly smaller spread. Autumn color moves from yellow to orange to scarlet and finally purple. This tree is highly prized for its stake-like branch structure and very dependable fall color.
- **Red maple** (*Acer rubrum*) reaches about 50 feet tall and wide. Fall color can be pale yellow, yellow or brilliant red. Which color depends a lot on where in the country it is growing and if the tree is a hybrid or a species specimen.

Cold, Warm

- **Sugar maple** (*Acer saccharum*) reaches 60 to 75 feet tall and about two-thirds as wide. Fall colors are brilliant yellow, burnt orange and red; colors vary depending on climate and soil type.
- **Franklin tree** (*Franklinia alatamaha*) is small - 10 to 20 feet high and about half as wide - as shade trees go but is highly valued because it bears showy white flowers as the leaves change to orange, red or purple in the autumn. The contrast is striking.
- **Shagbark** (*Quercus bicolor*) can top out at 100 feet; 80 feet is more typical and the spread is about one-half its height. It has bright yellow autumn foliage. However, a hard freeze can cause leaves to drop virtually overnight.
- **Bradford Callery pear** (*Pyrus calleryana*) reaches up to 60 feet tall with a spread of about one-half its height. Smaller trees on the order of 20 to 30 feet are more common. Fall color comes on late and is usually glossy scarlet and purple. This tree bears plenty of white flowers in spring.
- **Thomson's honeylocust** (*Gleditsia thomsonii*) can grow up to 70 feet tall and about as wide, but seldom gets that high or wide. Leaves are small, arranged on a stem, giving the tree an airy look. Leaves fall early in the autumn and are yellow-green or brilliant yellow.

Hot

- **Chinese pistache** (*Platanus chinensis*) grows about 35 feet tall and almost as wide. Dark green foliage turns orange and orange-red.
- **American sweetgum** (*Liquidambar styraciflua*) will grow in most zones and is one of the few trees that has exceptional autumn color in hot climates. It also grows pretty quickly - up to 3 feet a year. Deep green foliage takes on yellow, purple and red tones in the fall.

You can't rush a good shade tree

By Ed Hutchison
The Associated Press

In a world smitten with speed, some things still take their sweet time to develop, and no amount of prodding will speed things along. Case in point: Shade trees.

A good shade tree grows only so fast each year, even with soil, weather, moisture, nutrients and other conditions to its liking, according to Douglas L. Caldwell, a horticulturist with The Davey Expert Tree Company in Kent, Ohio, which provides tree and related services to residential, utility and other markets throughout the United States and Canada.

"So fast" is pretty slow. That's 6 to 9 inches of twig growth each

year for many of the most popular species of shade trees. That means growth up and out, so the tree is increasing its overall size, not just height.

Admittedly, some species grow more than that each year, Caldwell said. But most need 25 years or longer to reach their mature height. Outward growth slows as the tree grows older, but there is still plenty of growth going on in the roots and elsewhere.

Patience as a tree grows is well rewarded.

Most good shade trees provide spectacular autumn color in yellows, reds and oranges.

But what makes a shade tree a good shade tree, in Caldwell's opinion, is its other virtues acquired by way of genetics that

will stay with it for its life. Examples are a sturdy branch structure that isn't prone to twist and rip in storms, wood that is strong so the ground is not littered with twigs and stems after high winds, and the gumption to withstand stress brought on by insects, disease, drought and lousy weather.

In other words, a good shade tree is, well, a good overall tree.

This contrasts sharply with trees that may provide relief from the summer sun and look nice in the fall but are less desirable for a number of reasons. One is short life.

The common birch, for example, begins to die out when it reaches 25 years of age. Cottonwood is messy because of its puffy seeds that float through

the air in early summer and the brittleness of its stems. Weeping willow, while a dramatic sight with its shimmering yellow leaves in spring, also has brittle, messy wood and the added disadvantage of not dropping its leaves until around Thanksgiving - just when you don't want to be outdoors raking.

While there is no minimum height that a tree must reach to qualify as a true shade tree, Caldwell said that 30 feet is about entry level. That is tall enough so that its canopy provides cover from summer sun when it is at its highest and most brutal.

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OUTDOOR LIVING

The path most taken

By Patricia Dane Rogers
The Washington Post

The shortest path from curb to front door is often a straight concrete walkway. And there's nothing wrong with the direct approach, experts say. But a reader, Betty Beaubien of Springfield, Va., asks how the path home can be made more appealing. The answer: a bit of variation.

"It's all about giving the eye something special to take in — a change in level, texture or material," says Alexandria, Va., landscape designer Susan Feller.

One common problem is not so much the straight as the narrow. A standard front walkway is about three feet wide, meaning adults pretty much have to walk single file.

"Adding simple brick edges will make even a plain old concrete walk more gracious," says Frederickburg, Va., plantsman Phillip Watson. "The trouble with walks is not that they're straight. They're just too skinny. A walk should be wide enough for two people to walk abreast, about five feet."

Stone pavers on either side of the path would also work.

The owner of Phillip Watson Designs, a landscaping firm and nursery, Watson appears on the shopping network QVC as a spokesman for Spring Hill Nurseries. He says you can make a brick- or stone-edged path look even wider by planting dwarf boxwoods in the curb, two feet out on either side. "Run them the full length, touching each other almost pot-to-pot, so you get a continuous ribbon of green and not a connect-the-dots effect."

Fill the gaps between shrubs and path with spring bulbs and low-growing evergreen perennials like white dianthus. If you insist on color, Watson urges, make sure the flowers harmonize. Planting the path with mixed azaleas, for example, is a bad idea.

"You want to avoid the over-turmed Easter basket look," he says. "You can't go wrong with white."

Feller, of Gardenworks Design, suggests widening just the street-side end of a straight path and softening the edges along the walkway with shrubs and underplantings.

She suggests under-planting the shrubs with an easy-care ground cover like liriope and creating an open feeling on either side of the walk with spreading, low-growing plants such as Japanese garden junipers (juniper-procumbens@Nana).

"Basically," she says, "Juniper becomes the lawn."

Spots of seasonal color can be sprinkled in between miniature daffodils of different heights for spring, pale yellow Moonbeam coreopsis for summer and perhaps a small Japanese maple as an accent on one side. The delicate foliage spans two seasons, says Feller. "It's chartreuse in summer, flaming orange in fall."

Landscape architect Jonathan Fitch of the Fitch Studio in Washington would add interest to a straight concrete path with wide plant borders that weave in and out on each side, with large, well-placed pots for flowers. The border can be filled in with an evergreen ground cover. Among the many possibilities: periwinkle.

In spring and summer, he would fill the pots with colorful annuals such as petunias or impatiens. For winter interest, try pansies. Or, he says, "leave the pots empty. If they're decorative, they can stand on their own."

But whatever plantings you choose, his advice for the pots themselves is to think big.

"Subtlety is not always a virtue in the world of landscape design," he says. "In outdoor spaces, you must make big gestures and repeat them or no one will notice."

Thinking greenhouse? Think big

Small ones soon leave gardeners wishing for more

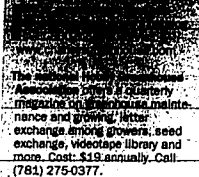
By Kathy Van Mellekom
Daily Press

NEWPORT NEWS, VA. — Barbara Leidiger first had windmill greenhouses and a long corridor with skylights and fluorescent lights to keep her foliage happy.

She wanted more. She wanted a working greenhouse where it didn't matter if soil spilled on the floor and water dribbled over the rims of pots.

As a retirement gift to herself, she put an 18-by-14-foot free-standing Turner greenhouse at the end of an old tennis court behind her home in southeastern Virginia. There, she potted cuttings brought back from travels and big-hearted gardening friends. Soon she was busting at the seams and growing weary of washing pots at a sink outside

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many hard-to-find ones such as autumn crocus and allspice along with orchids in winter bloom. Gardener-husband Allan tucks his many pots of palm seedlings under the grow benches and among her chocolate and citrus trees.

Their 12-by-20-foot-redwood greenhouse is conveniently attached to the back of their home. Two white wicker chairs take up part of the interlock paver floor. The tropical spices and herbs also are home to the tropical ladybugs and lizards Cindy keeps as predators for unwanted pests.

Cindy and Barbara are both members of the Virginia Greenhouse Society, a local organization of hobbyist greenhouse growers. Much of their daily lives revolve around their greenhouses, where they carefully monitor temperatures and humidity levels to keep their plant families happy and safe. Barbara has a battery-operated thermometer that sounds an alarm on a matching unit in her home if the greenhouse temperature goes below 50 degrees during winter. Cindy

has solar-powered vent openers to release extreme heat during summer.

Before purchasing her greenhouse, Cindy joined the local and national greenhouse societies, checked out greenhouse books from a local library and researched Charley's Greenhouse Supply, which offers a catalog of greenhouses. She and Allan put up the glass walls, hiring contractors to do the foundation, plumbing for a laundry-type sink and electrical work. The \$7,000 kit included the frame and glass, misting system, electric heaters, redwood benches, exhaust fan with thermostat control and vents.

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Palace garden provides wildlife sanctuary in London's midst

By Audrey Woods
The Associated Press

LONDON - Buckingham Palace, smack in the middle of one of the biggest and busiest cities in the world, has a hidden 40-acre garden that provides sanctuary not just for the royal family but for an amazing variety of wild plants and insects.

This green oasis is unseen by the buses and taxis that thunder along the perimeter, bound for Victoria train station or

the traffic hubs of Hyde Park Corner and Trafalgar Square.

It is beyond the view of the crowds of front gates that ebb and flow outside the changing guards and gawk hopefully at the curtained windows.

Late summer visitors who tour the palace staterooms get a glimpse of the garden on their way to the gift shop, and a series of garden parties in summer offers thousands of people the best opportunity to see the royal flower beds,

stroll about the green velvet lawns and sip tea beside the ornamental lake.

But for most, the gardens of Buckingham Palace are a mystery hidden behind a high brick wall and guarded by state-of-the-art electronic gadgetry.

Here, Queen Elizabeth II can take her pet dogs for a gambol on the green or stroll along the herbaceous border to mull over matters of state. And here, for over more than three years, a troupe of naturalists discreetly has been making an inventory of the garden's flora and fauna

for the first time in 35 years.

The survey, published in December by the London Natural History Society, reveals that the palace garden is a valuable urban nature habitat.

"The population of all the wildlife there is very healthy. It's actually quite exciting," said entomologist Colin Plant, the society's vice president.

To an ordinary household, 40 acres (16 hectares) may sound like a large garden. But a smaller one, Plant said, "wouldn't act, as this does, as a wonder-

ful reservoir of wildlife in central London."

Some of London's biggest and most-used public green spaces are near the palace and technically are royal parks. They are criss-crossed by paths and have ponds that are home to many species of fowl.

"I suspect quite strongly that if the Buckingham Palace garden weren't there, quite a lot of stuff people can see in the royal parks wouldn't be there," Plant said in an interview.

Easter season plants pose threat to pets

By Anne Irving
The Associated Press

The Easter season always heralds the rebirth of growing things, but the dark side is that the new flowers and plants can be perilous to your pet.

It's a particularly dangerous time of year for cats, says Dr. Michael Knight of the National Animal Poison Control Center (NAPCC) in Urbana, Ill. "Probably the worst season we would see would be cats around Easter, and as spring comes in, we see more problems. A cat that eats an Easter lily dies unless it gets prompt medical attention."

Easter lilies are just one of the plants that can pose a danger to animals, both large and small. According to Dr. Knight, most of the calls that come into the NAPCC concern "small companion animals - dogs and cats, parrots, caged birds. And most pet owners have plants in the home," perhaps because of a "nurturing instinct."

Most plants must be ingested to be toxic, and the reaction often depends on the amount of material consumed. To make it more confusing, different parts of a plant can be the culprit. Some plants, like the yew, have poisonous properties in all parts, while others may have only poisonous leaves, berries, fruits, or roots.

Many pets instinctively know when to stay away from poisonous plants, but behavior varies according to age and type of animal. Dogs and cats approach eating differently, and puppies can be particularly susceptible to poisoning.

"Dogs that are teething will chew on anything they can get their mouths on, and the first year is the most dangerous time," says Knight. He adds that breeds like retrievers are especially at risk because they instinctively put things in their mouths.

Plants pose a problem to both kittens and adult cats, since felines tend to be lifetime rubblers. But cats, unlike dogs, like to smell things first, and "are more discriminate about what they eat," Knight says.

Pet owners really need to be aware of potentially hazardous plants throughout the year. In spring, some popular outdoor plants to beware of include azaleas, rhododendrons, nandinas, hollies, and yews. Stargazers, Asian, and tiger lilies are just as dangerous to cats as Easter lilies.

Other spring blooms, including tulips, hyacinths, and alliums can also be harmful, and the bulb is

the most toxic part of the plant. According to Knight, "a lot of times people will bring home a bouquet, maybe from a wedding or a funeral, and a lot of those bouquets will contain some plants that cause problems."

In summer, clematis plants such as hydrangea, clematis, and English ivy can be problematic. The foxglove, used to make human heart medicines, is toxic when eaten by pets. Seeds of many plants are also poisonous, including those of morning glories and castor beans. Just two to four castor bean seeds are enough to cause an animal's death.

In autumn, owners should keep their pets away from autumn crocus, another member of the lily family. It contains the compound colchicine, which inhibits the ability of cells to divide. It's also the time of year when spring bulbs are planted.

"Dogs like to go behind their owner when they're planting bulbs and dig them up, or they'll find a bag of bulbs lying on a garden table and pull it off and chew it up," Knight says.

Dogs also can easily be poisoned from the berries of the abelia or suffer digestive problems from eating too many acorns.

As the holiday season approaches, owners should beware of decorative holiday plants such as mistletoe and amaryllis, as well as ordinary houseplants. Many people erroneously believe poinsettias can be harmful to pets, but Knight says there is "no evidence" of ill effects if animals munch on the popular Christmas season plant.

Common houseplants such as philodendron, dieffenbachia, cyclamen, croton plants, sago palms and bird of paradise all contain toxins and are dangerous if ingested by animals.

The NAPCC, allied with the University of Illinois College of Veterinary Medicine, is sponsored by the American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals and has been in operation since 1978. Twelve veterinarians staff a hotline open 24 hours a day: 1 (888) 426-4435 or 1 (888) 4ANI-HELP.

Additional information on poisonous plants and animals can be obtained at the center's Web site, napcc.aspcan.org.

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OUTDOOR LIVING

Spring lawn tuneup – timing is everything

By Ed Hutchison
The Associated Press

Lawn care is similar to many of life's pursuits in that timing is everything. Well, maybe not everything. Let's just say it counts for a lot. How and when you invest your time tending the lawn can make the difference between a pretty good lawn and a very good one.

With the spring lawn tuneup season at hand, tasks and timing that will pay big dividends will take you about one hour of time invested weekly. Some weeks will take a bit longer than one hour, some less, depending on the season. Lawn care slows down in the summer as grass slows its growth.

• **Edging.** Trimming away grass that is creeping onto the sidewalk or driveway won't help the grass grow better but it will improve the looks of the entire landscape. Early spring and late autumn are best times for this task because the edger's blade can more easily slice through dense turf when the soil is moist and grass roots are not as thick as other times of year. Tip: Rather than buy an edger or borrow the neighbor's, rent a gas-powered unit instead. Compared to electric- or hand-powered edgers, gas units cut better with less effort, saving time. Since you'll need to edge once or twice a year, why invest in a machine that takes up space in the garage? Rental fees vary, but expect to pay \$15 to \$25 for a four-hour rental of a machine that would cost about \$250 to buy.

• **Trimming.** Maybe it just seems that way, but grass grows especially well around a tree's trunk where it is beyond the lawnmower's reach. Electric- or gas-powered string trimmers make short work of removing the grass, but the spinning nylon string damages the bark of the tree as it comes in contact with it. You can use hand-powered trimmers, but that typically is an on-your-knees, time-consuming job.

You can protect the trunk and still use a time-saving power trimmer up close in two ways. The first is to circle the trunk with a band of mulch at least 24 inches in diameter. Any grass that grows in the mulch zone can easily be removed by hand. Even easier is to slip a 15-inch-long piece of black plastic drainage tile around the trunk at its base. Choose a



This pesky yellow nutsedge is easier to control if it doesn't get established in a lawn in the first place.

diameter that fits loosely on the trunk; sizes are available up to 8 inches in diameter and that will handle a tree 20 to 30 feet tall. The whipping nylon string will strike the plastic, sparing the tree trunk.

• **Mowing.** Most of your weekly hour will be spent mowing. Mowing at a brisk pace, a 10,000-square-foot lawn can be mowed in slightly less than one hour, providing time isn't spent emptying the bagger. The good news is twofold: Most lawns are less than this size, and grass clippings left in place on the turf are helpful in returning nitrogen to the soil. Nitrogen is the element grass needs for green color and robust growth. Turf experts agree that you can skip one feeding a year if you leave clippings to decompose on the lawn. Since clippings are made up mostly of water, they decompose in about two weeks.

The trick is to mow high — 3 inches or a bit higher — and often enough so only a bit of grass is taken off with each mowing. In the spring and autumn when grass is growing rapidly, this may mean every five days in the summer, and when things slow down,

every seven to 10 days.

• **Feeding.** Save time and do a good job with a spreader that throws fertilizer rather than dropping it. These are commonly known as broadcast spreaders, and they can be rented for a few dollars or purchased for \$30 to \$50. A lawn as big as 10,000 square feet can be fed with a broadcast spreader in about 10 minutes, compared to the 45 to 60 minutes it would take with a drop spreader. You won't have to worry about under- or over-lapping marks that appear days later as you do with a drop spreader that drops fertilizer in a relatively narrow band.

You'll need to decide what kind of lawn you want. If it is one that flourishes and grows so thick that weeds are choked out, feed four to five times between May and November in areas of the country where freezing temperatures occur. The schedule is a bit different in areas with warm-weather grasses, such as St. Augustine, Fla., and Bermuda. In most states, the first feeding comes after the first rush of growth and continues at six-week intervals until the final feeding — one composed of a

mixture of nutrients and release rates for fall use — sometime between Halloween and Thanksgiving. Cut down on feeding if you want a lawn that takes less mowing, but be prepared to deal with weeds that will sprout in bare or weak areas. If you opt to feed only once a year, do so late in the fall.

• **Weeding.** No matter how hard you try to avoid them, weeds will appear, although less so in a really thick lawn. Weed-and-feed products save time but neither product (herbicide and fertilizer) is applied at the best time for the lawn. Better to use separate products when they are needed. Dandelions are among the first of the weeds, and they need to be pulled by hand or sprayed with herbicide at least one week before the flowers appear.

A lot of time can be spent avoiding crabgrass by applying a herbicide that stops the weed from sprouting in the first place. This material should be applied about the time the lawn is mowed for the second or third time in the spring.

New trimmer optimizes power, performance

Daily Press

Trimmer time: Gardeners looking for power and performance need to check out the new curved-shaft TrimmerPlus by Ryobi. The 26cc, 4-cycle engine is 80 percent cleaner and quieter, running on

gasoline only, says Ryobi. The SpeedSpool line release system dispenses a pre-measured line of string with a single tap. Available through home centers, \$139. Add-on attachments include edger, cultivator, blower, etc. Call Ryobi Outdoor Products, 1-800-345-8746.

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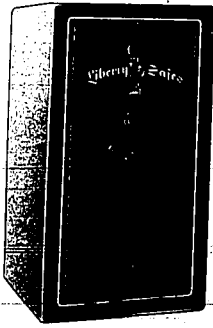
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New gardening books sprout at bookstores

The Associated Press

The new crop at the bookstores includes these titles:

- In print since 1939, Louise and James Bush-Brown's "America's Garden Book" (Macmillan, \$65 hardcover) continues in its well-illustrated fourth edition, revised by Howard S. Irwin and the Brooklyn Botanic Garden. It's hefty, over a thousand pages, but offers authoritative information on practically all your gardening concerns.
- They're showy and romantic - not to mention fixtures in Oriental mythology and design. "Peonies" (Abrams, \$35 hardcover), by Jane Fearnley-Whittingstall, reviews the past and present of these blossoms, which were found in China as long as

1,500 years ago.

- Some critters "can eat up and ruin your hard work in the garden. Others actually help you out. And sometimes your plants get sick. Read all about them in "Pests & Diseases" (American Horticultural Society/Dorling Kindersley Publishing, \$34.95 hardcover), by Pippa Greenwood, Andrew Halstead, A.R. Chase and Daniel Gilrein. This comprehensive guide looks at bugs and diseases of all kinds and what to do about them. Preventive measures are generally stressed, but if all else fails and you need to use pesticides, consult the book for the safest way to do it.
- Plant life naturally appears around rocks and stone, and thoughtful gardeners have long recreated the look in their cul-

ivated plots. Author Jan Kowalczyk Whittier looks at the traditions of using available rocks, pebbles and stones or man-

- made sculptures and materials for these in "Gardening With Stone" (Macmillan, \$39.95 hardcover), with photographs by Linda Quatman Younker.
- Why so serious? Gardening can be fun, or even funny. Tovah Martin and Richard W. Brown celebrate the light side with "Garden Whimsy" (Houghton Mifflin, \$30 hardcover). They've

located gardens accented with quixotic statuary and objects, such as used manhole covers, a permanently parked 1946 Dodge, and an eight-foot silver gazing ball. "Heaven knows we could use a little levity in the garden," write the authors. "Knee deep in

compost, preoccupied with axial symmetry, and engrossed by integrated pest management, gardeners suffer from a tendency to

- take themselves too seriously."
- "Choosing Plant Combinations" (Better Homes and Gardens/Meredith Books, \$29.95 hardcover) offers visual suggestions for mixing and matching plants, flowers and vegetables for color, texture, and effect.
- Because they'll be in your yard or garden a long time, trees and shrubs need to be thoughtfully chosen. "The Tree & Shrub Finder" (Taunton Books, \$27.95, hardcover, March), by Robert Kourik, offers essential information about locations, root growths, plantings that offer privacy, shade, foliage - and even support for treeshouses.



Photo courtesy Taste of Home

This scrumptious side dish will put a little spring into your step.

Asparagus - from the garden

When asparagus is bountiful in your garden, or at the store, it's a sure sign that spring is here.

Linda McKee of Big Prairie, Ohio, has always loved asparagus, but her family wasn't that eager to eat it - until she tried this recipe.

"Now even my toughest vegetable critic enjoys these savory spears," she said. This recipe was featured in Taste of Home magazine.

ASPARAGUS MORNAY

- 1 1/2 pounds fresh asparagus, trimmed
- 1 tablespoon butter or margarine
- 1 tablespoon all-purpose flour
- 1 cup half-and-half cream
- 1/2 teaspoon chicken bouillon granules
- 1/8 teaspoon ground nutmeg

- 1/8 teaspoon salt
- 1/2 cup shredded Swiss cheese
- 2 tablespoons crushed butter-flavored crackers

In a skillet, cook asparagus in a small amount of water until crisp-tender, about six to eight minutes. Arrange spears in the bottom of a greased 1 1/2-quart baking dish; set aside and keep warm. In a small saucepan, melt butter over low heat. Add flour; cook and stir for one minute. Whisk in the cream, bouillon, nutmeg and salt; bring to a boil over medium heat. Cook and stir for two minutes. Remove from the heat. Stir in cheese until melted. Pour over asparagus. Sprinkle with cracker crumbs. Broil six inches from the heat for three to five minutes, or until lightly browned. Makes four to six servings.

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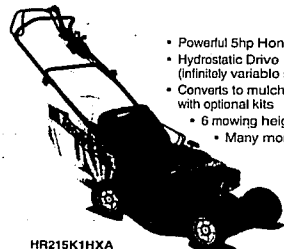
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OUTDOOR LIVING

Cuisine cries out for versatile onions from the garden

By Carol V. Metzke
The Baltimore Sun



The Baltimore Sun photo by Amy Dupuy

Red and yellow onions are ready for the table.

Onions might make you cry, but there's not a cuisine in the world that doesn't cry out for this unmistakable, pungent root vegetable.

"Onions are so incredibly versatile," says British cookbook author Rosemary Moon, whose recent book, "Onions, Onions, Onions" (Firefly, 2006; \$19.95), makes that abundantly clear. "If you make them the star of the dish, you can't go wrong."

Onions can be eaten raw or cooked, and they work in appetizers, salads, soups, side dishes, entrees, condiments and baked goods. Slow-roasted, they turn into a gloriously sweet surprise.

Moon, in a phone interview from her home in Sussex, England, waxes rhapsodic over such dishes as onions and apple chutney; onion, orange and tomato salad; spiced fried onions with rice; and Singapore-style onions with curry paste, all in the new book.

White onions and yellow onions are familiar; there are also pearl onions, scallions (spring onions), shallots and leeks.

Ann Wilder, owner of Baltimore-based Vann's Spices, likes to use a mix of onion types in the same dish, especially stews or roasts.

"I use leeks a lot to add a second onion dimension — or a third, if you count garlic." (Garlic is a relative, another member of the lily family).

She uses red onions in raw preparations, such as salads, and Bermuda or Spanish onions for cooking. She doesn't use the sweet onions, such as Vidalia, in cooking: "The flavor note I'm looking for is a lack of sweetness, especially when I already have a lot of sweet in a dish, like a stew or pot roast, where I already have wine. I don't want to add any sweetness."

But a lot of people do, at least in the United States. Besides tasting good, onions are good for you. Nutrition re-

searchers have found that onions contain chemicals that help lower blood pressure and levels of blood cholesterol (which ultimately clogs arteries). Onions are high in potassium, low in sodium, devoid of saturated fat and high in fiber.

The weeping associated with onions comes from an organic sulfur compound called alliin, Moon writes in "Onions, Onions, Onions." When the onion is cut, an enzyme called alliinase causes the alliin to react with moisture — such as that in your eyes as you

chop them — to produce sulfuric acid. It's the acid, Moon says, that causes your eyes to sting and tear.

SWEET ONION AND APPLE CHUTNEY

- 3 1/4 pounds sweet onions, chopped
- 3 1/4 pounds cooking apples, peeled, cored and diced
- 3 cups golden raisins
- Grated rind and juice of 2 lemons
- 3 3/4 cups brown sugar
- 2 1/2 cups distilled malt vinegar
- Place all ingredients in a large

cooking pot or preserving pot and heat gently until the sugar has dissolved, stirring all the time. Bring to a boil, and allow to simmer for 30 to 40 minutes or until thickened and all the liquid is absorbed. Preheat oven to 350 degrees. Meanwhile, scrub preserving jars in hot, soapy water, then rinse thoroughly. Heat the jars in oven for 15 minutes. Pour chutney mixture into jars immediately, seal and label. This chutney does not need to mature; and it will keep well for about a year.

Makes about 4 pounds

NOTE: Serve on cheese or turkey sandwiches or with meat casseroles.

(Adapted from "Onions, Onions, Onions" by Rosemary Moon.)

SPICED FRIED RICE WITH ONIONS

- 3 tablespoons peanut or sunflower oil
- 2 large onions, sliced
- 1 tablespoon onion seeds
- 1 large cinnamon stick, broken
- 2 pieces star anise
- 6 black peppercorns
- 2 bay leaves

- 1 cup quick-cooking, long-grain rice
- 2 cups vegetable or chicken broth
- Salt

Heat oil in a large pan, then add the onions, spices and bay leaves, and cook for 4 to 5 minutes. Stir in the rice and toss around in the pan juices, add the broth and salt, and bring to a boil. Stir, then cover and simmer for 12 to 15 minutes. Season to taste before serving. Serves 4.

TART LEEKS IN OLIVE OIL

- 1 pound leeks, white and light green parts only, quartered lengthwise and washed well
- 1/4 cup extra-virgin olive oil
- 1 small onion, thinly sliced
- 1/2 cup canned or fresh tomato juice
- 2 tablespoons finely chopped fresh parsley leaves
- 4 garlic cloves, finely chopped
- 1 teaspoon sugar
- Salt to taste
- 2 cup vegetable broth or water
- 2 tablespoons fresh lemon juice

Place the leeks in a medium-size skillet with the water clinging to

them from their last rinsing. Turn the heat to medium-high and once the water begins to sizzle, leave for 3 minutes, shaking the pan occasionally. Remove and arrange the leeks in a medium-size baking casserole. Preheat the oven to 350 degrees. In the same skillet you used to cook the leeks, heat the olive oil over medium-high heat; then cook the onion until translucent, about 5 minutes, stirring frequently. Add the tomato juice and stir. Stir in the parsley, garlic, sugar and salt. Remove from the heat and spread the mixture over the leeks in the casserole. Pour the broth and lemon juice over the leeks and bake until the broth is bubbling; about 45 minutes. Increase the oven temperature to broil or preheat the broiler. Remove the cover from the casserole and broil the leeks until speckled black, about 10 minutes. Remove the casserole from the oven and let the leeks cool in the casserole, then serve at room temperature. Serves 4.

(From "A Mediterranean Feast" by Clifford A. Wright; Morrow, 1999, \$35.)

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