



GOOD MORNING

WEATHER

Today: Mostly cloudy, with rain or snow showers possible. High 38. Partly cloudy tonight. Low 22. Page A2

MAGIC VALLEY

Aspen addition: CSI facility has started moving into a newly finished addition to the Aspen Building. Page B1

Incinerator incident: Lack of clear emergency procedure leaves INEEL incinerator running during evacuation. Page B1

SPORTS

What Stampede? Times-News sportswriter Kevin Hall reflects upon the CSI-Idaho Stampede game. Page D1

In like Flynn: The Rams-Buccaneers winner Monday night earned a ticket to the NFL postseason. Page D1

OPINION

Third crossing: Who will pay for yet another bridge over the Snake River Canyon, today's editorial asks. Page A10

COMPUTERS & TECHNOLOGY

Small things: Good Christmas presents don't have to be big. Page C3

NATION

Scrutiny continues: The media has begun poring over those controversial Florida ballots. Page C3

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County hospital no more? Magic Valley Regional looks at nonprofit status

By Brandon Flate Times-News writer

TWIN FALLS - The county's hospital is exploring the possibility of severing ties with the county and becoming a private nonprofit organization. It's a move that could make it easier for Magic Valley Regional Medical Center to negotiate with other hospitals, but could limit

public discussion of some hospital operations.

Magic Valley Regional officials met with county commissioners Monday to discuss changing the county-owned hospital to a 501C3, a nonprofit organization recognized by the Internal Revenue Service.

"There are some things better done as a 501C3 than as a governmental entity," said Jerry Hart,

the hospital's CEO.

The move would create a private operation ruled by a hospital board. The county would retain ownership of the hospital building, which the hospital would lease, Hart said.

"There is a need to become more businesslike," said Terry Schultz, chairman of Magic Valley Regional's hospital board. "One of the only ways to do that

and still maintain local control is a community not-for-profit corporation."

A citizens' committee has been formed to study the effects of the move and make recommendations to the hospital board. Commissioners will have the final say, county Commissioner Marvin Hempleman said.

"I think this would be beneficial," Hempleman said. Please see HOSPITAL, Page A2

Electoral votes go to Bush



Orriette Sinclair, from Twin Falls, and former Idaho U.S. Sen. James McClure, middle, cast their electoral votes for President-elect George W. Bush while Idaho Secretary of State Pete Cenarrusa observes.

Attention given to balloting was only surprise

By Michael Joumes Times-News writer

BOISE - When Orriette Sinclair was a member of the Electoral College 20 years ago, no one paid attention.

It was hardly the same scene Monday as she joined Idaho's three other electors in Gov. Dirk Kempthorne's office to cast their electoral votes in front of a phalanx of journalists, floodlights and cameras.

"I was an elector once before, but it was nothing like this," said Sinclair, of Twin Falls, a longtime Republican worker and activist.

She was joined by former Gov. Phil Batt, former U.S. Sen. Jim McClure, and Connie Hansen of

Pocatello, the wife of former GOP U.S. Rep. George Hansen. All four voted for President-elect George W. Bush and running mate Dick Cheney, both of whom will be inaugurated Jan. 20, 2001. Bush will be the 43rd president of the United States.

The 79-year-old Sinclair scoffed at the idea she might vote for someone other than Bush, who won more than 67 percent of the vote in Idaho on Nov. 7, and took 43 of the state's 44 counties.

Sinclair said she received two letters and one phone call trying to convince her to vote for Vice President Al Gore. But she never considered changing her vote.

"I believe in George Bush,"

she said after the 45-minute ceremony.

Sinclair told reporters some of Bush's priorities might not get as much consideration as he would like, given the disputed election outcome and the GOP's slim majority in Congress.

"He probably won't get everything he wants," she said. "But who does?"

Batt too said he received letters on behalf of Gore.

"I was told by somebody I could get a lot of money if I changed my vote," Batt said. "But I didn't consider it for a number of reasons. One of them was the Lord would strike me dead, and I wouldn't get a

Please see VOTE, Page A2

Protest vote

The only apparent vote from the Electoral College's expected results was a blank ballot cast in Washington, D.C. as a protest to the district's lack of representation in Congress. Story, Page A3

Who voted Monday?

Electors in each state, who collect votes to make up the Electoral College, are typically Democrat or Republican party faithful selected by their parties to cast electoral votes, depending on which presidential candidate garners the most popular votes in the state. Each state's number of electoral votes is equal to the number of its representatives in Congress.



House Minority Leader Dick Gephardt, D-Mo., listens as President-elect Bush speaks during a Monday meeting with Congressional leaders.

'We can come together'

President elect promises cooperation with Democrats

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON - President-elect Bush interviewed Cabinet candidates, conferred with Fed Chairman Alan Greenspan and assured leaders of both parties on Monday that "we can come together" despite his whisker-close victory.

The Republican's overture drew promises of cooperation from congressional Democrats on the day the Electoral College was voting to hand him the barest of victories, an expected one-vote electoral majority.

"We will be there, coming 50 percent of the way, sometimes even a little further," said House Minority Leader Richard Gephardt, D-S.D., cited "an opportunity to wipe the slate clean, to begin anew."

But it was not clear how long this heady spirit of bipartisanship, sounded on Bush's first visit since the election, would last.

Even as he vowed to "heal whatever wounds may exist," Bush exhibited a stubborn commit-

First lady meets first lady-elect - A3 Greenspan on tax cut - C6

ment to his \$1.3 trillion, 10-year tax-cut proposal that was a central theme of his campaign.

Democrats have broadly criticized it as too expensive and benefiting mostly the wealthy. And even some top members of Bush's own party have pronounced it unwieldy.

But, Bush asserted, "I still believe it's the right thing."

"I campaigned on a clear view of tax relief, and that's what I'm going to do the floor of the House and the Senate," Bush said.

"There's going to be a lot of discussions, a lot of head-knocking, a lot of gentle arm-twisting," he said, adding, "I might try to twist a few myself."

Bush was to meet with President Clinton and

Please see BUSH, Page A2

Lost in the desert

Searchers find sisters after two days

By Mark Heinz Times-News writer

BRUNEAU - For two sisters from Las Vegas, a promised shortcut to Burley ended up being the route to two cold nights and the better part of two days stranded in the Owyhee desert.

Angie Chavez, 29, and Autumn Montoya, 19, used a cellular phone to keep in regular contact with sheriff's deputies and family members. But searchers' efforts were hampered because the women had no idea where they were.

"All they could tell us is that they were on a canyon rim overlooking a river," Owyhee County sheriff's Deputy Bill Detweiler said Monday.

The women - who got lost late Saturday night - were found at about noon Monday near the Bruneau River about 10 to 12 miles south of Bruneau, Detweiler said, in an area commonly known as "The Indian Bathubs."

Both women were taken to the Mountain Home hospital, he said. Both were hungry and suffering from minor dehydration. Chavez also apparently suffered frostbite on her feet. Nighttime temperatures in the area were in the low 20s, he said.

Montoya and Chavez kept telling searchers they thought they were near the Snake River somewhere north of Bruneau, he said.

"They didn't know the area, so they didn't recognize any landmarks," Detweiler said. "They were down in a hole, back there in the canyon that would have been very easy to miss from the air."

The women had their cell phone, and made the wise choice to stay near their vehicle, which was stuck in the mud, Detweiler said.

By Monday morning, their vehicle's battery had gone dead, and the cell phone was quickly losing

Please see LOST, Page A2

Group votes for funding for renovation

The Associated Press

BOISE - The State Capitol Commission voted unanimously on Monday for full state financing of the proposed \$64 million renovation of the century-old building.

The plan being submitted to the governor and Legislature calls for private contributions to offset the cost only to the limited extent the commission's consultant said was likely.

The panel hoped to raise at least \$10 million from private donors, but consultant James Glass said significantly more work must be done to generate support for the project before that would be possible.

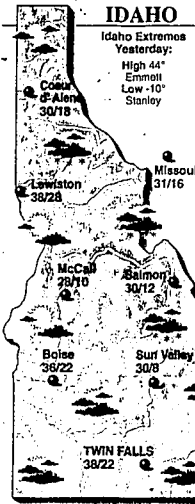
"There is, of course, some question about the needs," Glass told the commissioners. "To say that you could raise \$10 million would be an unsubstantiated assumption on anyone's part."

Glass, who represents First Counsel Inc., said there was some feeling among the 43 influential Idaho citizens interviewed on funding-feasibility that the Legislature has the primary responsibility.

Commission Chairman Roy Eiguren said 46 states have already renovated or are renovating their capitols and, even such private contributions to finance at least part of the cost. But he said the largest - rivaling Idaho's early expectations - was Oklahoma, which raised \$13 million. Texas was next at just \$5 million, he said, and the other five were less.

FORECAST FOR MAGIC VALLEY

AccuWeather.com



ALMANAC

Idaho Extremes
Yesterday:
 High 44°
 Low 10°
Stanley

Record high: 87°
Record low: -17° in 1985

Precipitation:
 24 hours ending 6 p.m. yesterday: 0.00"
 Month to date: trace
 Normal month to date: 0.70"
 Normal year to date: 10.07"

Humidity:
 Yesterday at noon: 71%

Barometric Pressure:
 Yesterday at 6 p.m.: 30.62 in.

Wheat yesterday in Twin Falls:
 Grass Absent Weeds Absent
 Frosts Absent Mold Absent
 Source: Asthma and Allergy of Idaho

Shown is today's weather. Temperatures are today's highs and tonight's lows.

All maps, forecasts and data provided by AccuWeather, Inc. ©2000

FIVE-DAY FORECAST FOR TWIN FALLS

TODAY	TONIGHT	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
▲ 38°	▼ 22°	▲ 36° ▼ 16°	▲ 38° ▼ 20°	▲ 34° ▼ 24°	▲ 36° ▼ 24°

REGIONAL WEATHER

Southern Idaho: Clouds and limited sunshine today with a couple of showers of rain and snow. Decreasing clouds tonight, but patchy fog will form. Patchy fog and low clouds tomorrow morning, then partly sunny.

Boise: Clouds and no more than occasional sunshine today, a couple of showers of rain and snow will move across the area. Decreasing clouds tonight with patchy fog possible late.

Northern Nevada: Cloudy to partly sunny today with the chance for a couple of rain and snow showers across the far north. Partly cloudy tonight. A mixture of sunshine and clouds tomorrow.

Northern Utah: Clouds and limited sunshine today; there will be a couple of snow showers, mainly across the mountains. Mostly cloudy tonight with a few snow showers possible.

Northern Idaho: A couple of snow showers this morning, especially across the mountains, then decreasing clouds this afternoon. Clear to partly cloudy and cold tonight. A mixture of clouds and sunshine tomorrow.

NATIONAL EXTREMES

Yesterday (for the 48 contiguous states)
 High 82° in Oceanside, CA Low 13° in Cambridge, MN

NATIONAL WEATHER



REGIONAL CITIES

City	Today	Hi	Lo	W	Wed.	Lo	W
Boise	36	22	c	34	20	pc	
Bonnors Ferry	39	23	c	35	19	pc	
Burley	39	23	c	35	19	pc	
Coeur d'Alene	30	18	pc	28	18	pc	
Elko	32	9	c	36	3	c	
Englewood	46	26	pc	42	26	c	
Hailey	38	23	c	36	16	pc	
Idaho Falls	30	15	c	29	9	c	
Kalispell, MT	34	18	c	29	11	pc	
Lewiston	38	23	c	30	10	pc	
Malta	29	7	c	19	3	c	

REGIONAL CITIES

City	Today	Hi	Lo	W	Wed.	Lo	W
McCall	28	10	sf	24	6	c	
Missoula, MT	31	16	sf	29	13	c	
Pocatello	37	22	sf	32	16	pc	
Portland, OR	46	34	pc	46	38	c	
Richland, WA	38	22	pc	34	22	pc	
Salmon	30	12	sf	26	10	pc	
Salt Lake City, UT	38	24	pc	38	14	pc	
Seattle, WA	44	34	pc	46	36	c	
Spokane, WA	31	18	pc	29	18	pc	
Stanley	41	27	pc	41	27	pc	
Sun Valley	30	8	sf	30	4	c	
Yellowstone, MT	23	8	c	16	4	pc	

Randy Hansen AUTO PLEX
 Poleline At Blue Lakes North

Hospital

Continued from A1
 cial to health care," Hempleman said. "The hospital would be more flexible and be able to mingle with other providers. When we write the lease, we can state what services we want; there's certainly wouldn't be anything less." The hospital would still have to provide indigent care, but the move could limit public participation in certain hospital business, such as hospital board retreats and staff salaries, Schultz said. But this also could improve health care, Schultz said. "There is now an inability to pay staff," he said. "We have to provide salaries, and as a result there's a substantial message to keep salaries down. If we could raise salaries we could get better quality people to improve care." Hart said he will meet with the citizens' committee before talking with commissioners in about

a month. County commissioners could decide whether to let the hospital seek 501C3 status by early next year, Hempleman said. The hospital has considered the move for some time, but recent failed attempts to partner or affiliate with other hospitals renewed the discussion, Schultz said. The primary advantage of a 501C3 is an increased ability to partner with other hospitals, which are often reluctant to partner with a county-owned hospital, Schultz said. For example, when Magic Valley Regional wanted to become involved in the administration of St. Benedict's Family Medical Center in Jerome, officials with the Jerome hospital halted negotiations; saying they had reservations about marrying their faith-based organization to

a county-owned health care operation. The same problem arose when Magic Valley Regional tried to form partnerships with the Sawtooth Surgery Center and Twin Falls Clinic & Hospital, which it now wants to buy or lease, Schultz said. County hospitals face other disadvantages, Schultz said. **Inflexibility** - Acquiring new equipment can be a hassle, since the hospital must get competitive bids and publish them. Also, the hospital's budget year must fall into line with the county's, when the hospital might prefer a calendar year, Schultz said. **Lack of privacy** - The hospital is unable to hold policy retreats that are closed to the press and public, Schultz said. **"It's like working in a fish-bowl,"** he said. If commissioners decide to let

the hospital seek 501C3 status, the county would likely seek some money in return, to help pay the county's indigent care bills, Hempleman said. "We certainly want the hospital to take over indigent care totally because the state funds some through catastrophic insurance," he said. If the hospital becomes a 501C3, Hempleman said, the county would still be responsible for paying the first \$10,000 on an indigent bill. The state pays the rest, he said. The county indigent budget was nearly \$2 million in 1999, Hempleman said. Magic Valley Regional hasn't used taxpayer money since 1980, Hempleman said. *Times-News writer Brandon Flata can be reached in Twin Falls at 735-3246.*

IMF plans to bail out Argentina

Los Angeles Times
BUENOS AIRES, Argentina - The International Monetary Fund announced Monday a \$20.7 billion bailout package for Argentina aimed at heading off a massive default here and the shock waves that could result throughout Latin America and beyond. The financial rescue, echoing bailouts of Mexico and Brazil in the 1990s, was seen as a concrete confirmation of the fears among Argentines that a living standard that was once the envy of the continent is deteriorating fast. President Fernando De La Rúa

declared that the announcement marks the start of an economic turnaround in a nation that until recently was a model of free market reform for the region. But other Argentines worry that the IMF loan package - despite its hefty price - was only one step toward untangling the knots of their national malaise: stubborn unemployment, a yawning budget deficit and disillusion with the government. "The situation of the country is bad," said Susana Boite, 34, an unemployed mother of three. "I've never gone so much time without finding even a little part-time gig. Everyone's down in the dumps."

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Bush

Continued from A1
 with his former rival, Vice President Al Gore today before returning to Austin, Texas. A main purpose of Bush's two-day visit was to talk to prospective cabinet members. Among those lining up: former Sen. Dan Coats, R-Ind., the current front-runner for defense secretary; Paul O'Neill, chairman of aluminum maker Alcoa, a prospect for treasury secretary; and Ann Veneman, former California agriculture director, a candidate for secretary of agriculture. New Jersey Gov. Christie Whitman was also in town for a meeting with Vice President-elect Dick Cheney and, perhaps, Bush as well. She has been mentioned for U.S. trade representative or director of the Environmental Protection Agency. Late in the afternoon, Bush paid a courtesy call on French President Jacques Chirac at the

French ambassador's residence. Chirac was in town for a European Union meeting. Bush met with the entire Republican House leadership, then held a meeting with the four top congressional leaders - House Speaker Dennis Hastert, R-Ill.; Senate Majority Leader Trent Lott, R-Miss.; Daschle and Gephardt. "This is a time for a new beginning, a new atmosphere, a new tone," Lott said. After the meeting with all GOP leaders, Rep. Barbara Cubin, R-Wyo., secretary of the GOP conference, said of Bush: "His congeniality is remarkable. If anyone will be able to breach the chasm between the two parties, he will be the one." Cubin also said that Hastert repeated in the meeting what he said publicly - that he believed Congress should do smaller-scale tax cuts first.

Vote

Continued from A1
 chance to spend the money." State Sen. John Sandy, R-Hagerman, who was among the crowd to witness the vote, understood the reason for the attention Monday. "For the first time people are beginning to understand this system," said Sandy, who served as an elector for Bob Dole four years ago. The voting took only a few minutes, with each elector voting for president on blue ballots and vice president on green ballots, then signing six "certificates of votes" for each office. "The record reflect that all four in Idaho's electors have cast their votes for Gov. George W. Bush to be president of the United States," Kempthorne announced ceremoniously. "Nothing about this election and its aftermath has been ordinary," he said earlier, explaining the process carried live on local television. "We're fortunate to be able to watch history as it's being made." The dramatic battle between Bush and Vice President Al Gore for the presidency generated interest in the normally behind-the-scenes electoral college. Bush is expected to have 271

electoral votes, just one more than the 270 needed to clinch a majority of the 538 votes nationwide. "If anyone changed their vote, it could change the whole thing," Sandy said. "If anything, this should bring to light the importance of the Electoral College." The importance of the electoral system was a strong theme for Kempthorne and Idaho Secretary of State Pat Cooney, who said it showed the wisdom of the founding fathers in establishing the Electoral College to protect sparsely populated states like Idaho. Critics of the electoral college, however, say it makes minority votes meaningless and discourages some people from voting. Bush's victory, despite losing the popular vote, has brought the Electoral College system under some criticism. It was the 28th time Idaho electors had met and the ninth time Conarussa has overseen the process. *Times-News political reporter Michael Journe can be reached at (208) 735-3231, or by e-mail at mjourn@magicvalley.com. The Associated Press contributed to this report.*

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Lost

Continued from A1
 power, he said. The women had no food or water with them, but had a few blankets and some extra clothing, Detweiler said. At one point during the search, the women told searchers and family members they could see an airplane overhead, but did not think the people in the plane could see them, said the women's aunt, Beverly Neiwert of Burley. Montoya and Chavez were on their way from Las Vegas to Burley to attend a family funeral,

Neiwert said. They strayed from their planned route Saturday, when they were told of a possible short cut between Mountain City, Nev., and Burley, she said. "They were naive little city girls, and they just started going out on dirt roads," she said. "But there are so many dirt roads out there across the desert, and nobody has any idea where all of them go."

Times-News reporter Mark Heinz can be reached at 735-3238 or by e-mail at mheinz@magicvalley.com.

LOTTERY UPDATE

Saturday, December 16, numbers
POWERBALL 2 28 33 34 39
 POWERBALL NUMBER 23

Saturday, December 16, numbers
WILD CARD 12 15 20 27 30
 WILD CARD# Jack of spades

Saturday, December 16, numbers
Roll'd Own 7 18 21 26 37

Saturday, December 16, numbers
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NATION

Bush electors stay faithful

Vote outcome slams door on speculation

The Associated Press

With unwavering support Monday from the electors who had pledged to vote for him, George W. Bush secured the Electoral College majority needed to become the 43rd president.

Nevada's four electors put the Texas governor over the top with a total of 271 votes, one more than the Constitution requires.

That closed the door on the remote possibility that a few "faithless electors" who had pledged to vote for Bush might upset his victory by casting their ballots instead for Vice President Al Gore.

All that remains is for Congress to confirm the votes on Jan. 6. The electors gathered in their state capitals across the country to cast their votes.

Though Democrats and political reformers tried to persuade Republicans to defect, the only rogue elector was a Democrat from the District of Columbia who had been pledged to Gore but left her ballot blank as a protest against Washington's lack of representation in Congress.

Elsewhere, Gore's home state of Tennessee cast its 11 electoral



Washington state Democratic Electoral College member Debbie Regala hands her ballot to Dave Elliott, assistant director of elections, after voting for president in Olympia, Wash., Monday, Al Gore won the state.

votes, as expected, for Bush. And Florida — after five turbulent weeks of recounts and legal challenges — kept its promise and cast its all-important 25 votes for the Republican.

"It was like finally, we did it," said Mel Martinez, an elector in Florida, where members bugged and high-fived after the vote. "It's like a close ballgame and the clock ticks and your team wins."

As the day began, a small chance for a Democratic victory remained, with Bush holding a 271-267 lead over Gore among the 538 pledged electors.

A switch by three Bush electors, along with the uncast Gore vote, would throw the election to the House. A switch by four Bush electors, the election was Gore's.

But most expected the Bush-pledged electors to keep their

promise.

In many states, electors are bound by law to keep their pledge. But other states — like Florida — have no such law. Some scholars say the laws probably are unenforceable.

Several electors in the past have broken their pledge, most recently in 1988, but never in a close election where it could change the result.

Gore's running mate, Joseph Lieberman, discouraged any vote-switching as he thanked Connecticut voters for re-electing him to the Senate.

"Al Gore and I don't expect any surprises," Lieberman said. Asked if they would accept such a victory, he laughed and said: "It's too unlikely to think about."

Both parties mounted campaigns to reach the electors, with Bush aides seeking out all 271 votes pledged to the GOP. Democrats used e-mails and telephone calls to argue that Gore deserved to be president because he won the popular vote. Republicans dismissed the effort.

"There was never any doubt," said New Hampshire elector Wayne McDonald, who was besieged with calls from reporters and voters after news reports hinted that he was thinking of backing Gore.

Poll finds low expectations for Bush

WASHINGTON (AP) — Public expectations for George W. Bush's presidency are lower than they were for past presidents-elect, according to a CBS News poll released Monday.

Nearly half those surveyed said they expect someone other than Bush himself to actually be running the government, but 61 percent thinks he has the necessary

support to accomplish his goals. The Republican president-elect also faces hurdles in seizing the mantle of legitimacy, according to the poll. Some 60 percent of Americans believe the Florida vote count was unfair and inaccurate, and 32 percent said it was valid. Among Bush voters, 26 percent also believe the Florida vote count was inaccurate.

MALL HOURS THIS WEEK						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Dec. 17	Dec. 18	Dec. 19	Dec. 20	Dec. 21	Dec. 22	Dec. 23
10-7	10-10	10-10	10-10	10-10	MIDNIGHT SALE 10PM-12AM	MIDNIGHT SALE 8-11PM

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Next first lady gets reacquainted with White House

WASHINGTON (AP) — She's new at this gig, but Laura Bush showed she could handle herself at the White House when she stopped by for tea with Hillary Rodham Clinton on Monday.

As Mrs. Clinton sought to shoo the media away — "We're going to go in and have a visit," she said — Mrs. Bush paused and turned ever so slightly toward the cameras. In no words, just body language that said, no, I'd like to take a few questions.

She wasn't exactly in need of a tour, she said; she'd been to the White House on many occasions, not just as the daughter-in-law of former President Bush, but also for dinners attended by her husband, the governor of Texas.

"I feel like I sorta know it," Mrs. Bush said. "I have slept in the Lincoln Bedroom, and the Queen's Bedroom."

She got a tour anyway, of the second- and third-floor residences, said first lady spokeswoman Erika Batcheller. The tour came after tea in the Yellow Oval Room. The total visit, which Batcheller described as "very friendly," lasted for about an hour.

The Bush camp offered few details. "Mrs. Clinton invited her to have tea and look around the White House," said spokeswoman Karen Hughes.

Even Mrs. Bush's fashion state-

ment for the day emphasized her quiet, low-key style. She opted for a lavender wool suit, her skirt and blue pumps a contrast to the black pantsuit and electric-pink blouse worn by Mrs. Clinton.



First lady-elect Laura Bush

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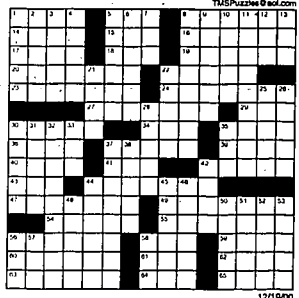
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 - Daily
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 - Fate
 - Mach course
 - Choir voice
 - Butt straps
 - Comfort
 - Adesprate
 - Consumo
 - Lawyer's files
 - Gardnar of films
 - Shril cry
 - Compound from
 - perpparmint oil
 - Mollers
 - Comic
 - Shandling
 - West Side Story song
 - Sly location
 - Wien or riggen
 - Pennsylvania port
 - Tanquil
 - Sheshone
 - M. Descartes
 - Quarantack, at times
 - Ladder part
 - Sawback
 - Down
 - Wahy amphibians
 - Musical drama
 - City of Light



12/19/00

Monday's Puzzle Solved

1 Across: SLOVENLY
2 Across: GARDNAR
3 Across: DATES
4 Across: PLATOON
5 Across: AWAY FROM THE
6 Across: UNHAPPY
7 Across: CALLS ON
8 Across: HEMODIUM
9 Across: DEFICIENCY
10 Across: PALER'S SURFACE
11 Across: FATE
12 Across: RIGAN
13 Across: BUNTING OR
14 Across: BEANY
15 Across: SLANT
16 Across: DIRT INTO
17 Across: LOUD, NOISY
18 Across: SOUND
19 Across: QUARANTACK
20 Across: CREAM OF THE
21 Across: T.M. ADAM
22 Across: BREATHING
23 Across: NEWCOMERS
24 Across: LOWER DIGIT
25 Across: ALTERNOS
26 Across: GAINING
27 Across: END-BLOWN FLUTE
28 Across: AHEAD OF TIME
29 Across: SAUND CHARLO
30 Across: HOLLOWAY
31 Across: VIRTUALLY VERTICAL
32 Across: LANDED
33 Across: PROPERTY
34 Across: SOLORIC
35 Across: TAIL SIGNOS
36 Across: WHIVERS
37 Across: WHITE HERON
38 Across: NORTH SEA
39 Across: TOGETHER
40 Across: VIRTUALLY VERTICAL
41 Across: CLAIRVOYANCE
42 Across: LETTER
43 Across: ALTERNATIVE VOTE
44 Across: PAUNCH

Diamond may be too high a price to pay

DEAR ABBY: I'm 28, my girlfriend is 32. We've been dating for three months and care about each other, but there are a few issues I'm afraid of... "trouble ahead."

When I discussed our future, she told me she had requirements. She wants a one-carat emerald-cut diamond, and it will cost me between \$5,000 and \$7,000.

What happened to the days when a woman who loved a man would take whatever he gave her and appreciate it? When I asked her that question, she said a marriage is an investment, and the



man should show his love by giving her something she really wants to prove his love for her. She is also very attractive and has a nice figure. She wears miniskirts and is always talking to the guys who talk to her first. She flirts with them while I'm with her. She receives calls on her

answering machine on a regular basis, and I'm feeling jealous, hurt and anxious about it. She says she needs attention from men. I feel that since we're dating exclusively, she should advise the guys who are calling that she's seeing someone. She does seem to be notifying them - but the calls continue to come in. Lots of them. I just started a new job, and it will be a long time before I can afford a ring that costs as much as the one she wants.

What are your thoughts on this, Abby?

-ON THE SPOT IN FLORIDA
DEAR ON THE SPOT: A

woman who defines marriage as an investment, and insists that the man prove his love by the size of the diamond he gives her, is more focused on what she can get than she is on the man.

The number of men who have been phoned is also of concern to me. If she were in love with you, she would not constantly crave attention from other men.

I'm pleased that you just started a new job and it will take a long time for you to save up for that ring. It's imperative you learn much more about her before you invest in a lifetime commitment.

The waiting game makes sense, Aries

IF DECEMBER 19TH IS YOUR BIRTHDAY: You are an independent thinker, inventive, creative and romantic. At times you give love to those who don't deserve it. You counter with, "I cannot live without love!" Leo, Aquarius persons play major roles in your life, could have these letters, initials in names: A, S, J. Recent domestic adjustment was necessary. January and October of next year will be memorable, productive.

HOROSCOPE
Sydney Omarr

Leo. Get promises in writing. Wear bright colors and make personal appearances.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Question of marriage looms large. Clarify directions, motivations. Sealed dinner tonight hits the spot. What had been hidden is revealed to your advantage.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Diversify, look beyond the immediate, emphasize entertainment, humor. People say, "This is a new you!" Regard it as compliment. Gemini plays role.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): People are talking about you and some issue challenges. Be aware of details, have facts at hand. People want to hear your voice, to be with you.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Read and write, learn by teaching. Flirtation serious, could get too hot not to cool down. Virgo, Sagittarius in picture, don't break too many hearts!

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 21-Dec. 21): What was "left over" from yesterday can be successfully utilized tonight. Focus on home appliances, ways of beautifying surroundings. Libra involved.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): You are not ready for full assault. Pertinent facts are yet to be uncovered. At last minute authority figure comes to your aid. Virgo featured.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Focus on distance, language, making dreams come true. You'll be celebrating because of latest invention. Love relationship intense, it is very hot!

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Finish what you start. You could be called upon to participate in international project. Aries, Libra persons will play outstanding roles. Fame beckons.

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Don't rush, play waiting game. Legal aspect of project requires verification. Make intelligent conclusion but don't give up principles. Pisces involved.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Attend to minor health problem so that it does not become major. Scenario features added responsibility, promotion and intense relationship.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Look beyond the immediate, toss aside preconceived notions. What others say is impossible will be possible for you! Libra will finish race!

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Imprint style, let others follow you. You will be attracted to dynamic

Camouflage doesn't fool everyone

Military camouflage was designed to deceive soldiers with perfect eyesight. But it reportedly doesn't deceive color-blind soldiers. Or at least, not as well. And that is said to have surprised the designers considerably.



WHAT'S WHAT L.M. Boyd

Q. How can we "shell" corn when corn doesn't have shells?
A. Goes back to when Indians stripped off corn kernels with mussel shells. Or so the word mechanics think.

Most popular surname in Japan is Suzuki.

Kite flying is illegal in Afghanistan because "it might interrupt prayer."

"Home is where you can say anything you want," writes a client, "because nobody will listen to you anyway."

Q. How cold does the water have to get before the icfish in it

freeze solid?
A. That's unknown. They live in Antarctic waters with a mean temperature of about 28 degrees F. Their livers make a sugar-and-protein antifreeze said to be 300 times more effective than the antifreeze in our cars.

Four miles up is not too much altitude for some butterflies.

Largest animals in the world that survive mainly on fruit are the orangutans. Make that "try to survive." They're dreadfully endangered.

like Christmas

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Truman Madsen Steve Young

The Philosopher and the Quarterback

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sofa, loveseat, chair

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sofa, loveseat, chair

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5pc Dining Group \$463⁹⁹ Reg. \$579⁹⁹

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NATION

Media start reviewing ballots

FORT LAUDERDALE, Fla. (AP) — Nearly a week after the presidential election was settled, news organizations, a conservative legal group and a local couple started reviewing 6,500 disputed Broward County ballots Monday, trying to determine if officials properly counted them last month.

About a dozen reporters, lawyers, a statistician and county residents Randy and Judy Cernale crowded around tables in a warehouse as two county employees held up each disputed punch-card ballot for their inspection.

The observers were trying to determine if each presidential ballot had a dimpled or hanging chad or no marks at all. The count moved slowly, taking almost four hours to tally slightly more than 200 ballots.

Reporters from The Associated Press, The New York Times and The Washington Post were conducting a two-day preliminary inspection of the disputed ballots to determine whether a full statewide review would be feasible.

"Our concern is whether a statewide review could be done in the way that it would need to be done," said Kevin Walsh, AP bureau chief for Florida. "While we haven't reached a decision either way, we're continuing to discuss the issues with our members in Florida and across the country."

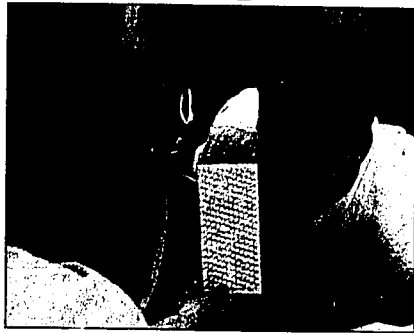
Others reviewing the ballots were The Miami Herald, The Wall Street Journal and The Chicago Tribune. The various news organizations and Judicial Watch, a conservative legal group based in Washington, were paying the \$300-an-hour fee being charged by the county for the recount.

Mark Seibel, the Herald's assistant managing editor, said his newspaper plans to recount ballots in all 67 counties and has hired an accounting firm to tally the ballots.

Under Florida law, outside observers cannot actually touch the ballots, only county elections officials can.

As the Broward recount began, Larry Klayman, an attorney for Judicial Watch, demanded that county attorneys produce written standards detailing how the canvassing board counted the disputed ballots. The county attorney has refused, telling Judicial Watch that would require a court order.

"What we want to know is what standards were used," said



Associated Press reporter Mike Schneider, left, and reporter Andy Craine with the Sarasota Herald view an undervoted ballot Monday during a manual count requested by the media at the Broward County elections warehouse in Fort Lauderdale, Fla.

Thomas J. Fitton, Judicial Watch's president. Broward, Palm Beach and Miami-Dade counties conducted manual recounts last month after they were requested by Vice President Al Gore, but Broward was the only one to finish by the

Nov. 26 deadline. Gore gained 567 votes over George W. Bush as a result of that hand recount; Republicans had complained the board was counting votes for Gore on ballots that had no clear selection for president.

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Nation's longest crime decline comes to a virtual halt

WASHINGTON (AP) - The nation's longest-running decline in crime ground to a virtual halt in the first half of 2000, falling only slightly overall with rape and assault on the rise, the FBI reported Monday.

Serious crimes reported to police went down 0.3 percent in the first six months of this year, extending the crime decline to eight and a half years. The decline, however, was minuscule compared to the 7 percent drop in 1999 and the 9.5 percent fall for the same six-month period last year.

"The 1990s crime drop had ended with the 1996s," said professor James Alan Fox of Northeastern University in Boston. "This is the criminal justice limbo stick, we just can't go any lower. We've had eight straight, wonderful years of declining crime rates, and at a certain point you just can't push those numbers further down and we've hit that point."

The nation may soon experience a rise in crime because many cities are already seeing increases, and during the next decade the teen-age population will increase, Fox said.

"Regardless of what we do, we will still have rape, murder, robbery," he said.

The FBI figures, which come from more than 17,000 police agencies around the country, are preliminary and have not been adjusted for increases in population.

While both violent and property-related crimes declined overall by 0.3 percent, the picture was mixed for specific offenses.

The FBI report showed that murder declined 1.8 percent and robbery fell 7.6 percent, but both rape and aggravated assault went up 0.7 percent.

Among property crimes, burglary fell 2.4 percent, but auto theft rose 1.2 percent and larceny-theft increased 0.1 percent.

The South was the only region to see an overall rise in crime, up 1.2 percent, led by increases in property crime. The Northeast was the only region to show an increase in murders, a rise of 5.5 percent.

HAVANA (AP) - The father of a boy taken from Florida to Cuba by his mother has flown to the island in an effort to bring the 5-year-old back to the United States.

Jon Colombari, 31, was in Havana on Monday hoping to persuade his ex-wife, Arletis Blanco, to let him return to the United States with their son.

Blanco has been living in the western province of Pinar del Rio with the boy and says she wants them to begin a new life. She was being investigated by Florida authorities on embezzlement charges when she left the country.

Colombari and his wife share custody of the boy, reports show, and Colombari has said he wants to raise the boy in the United States.

Father arrives in Cuba, hoping to retrieve son

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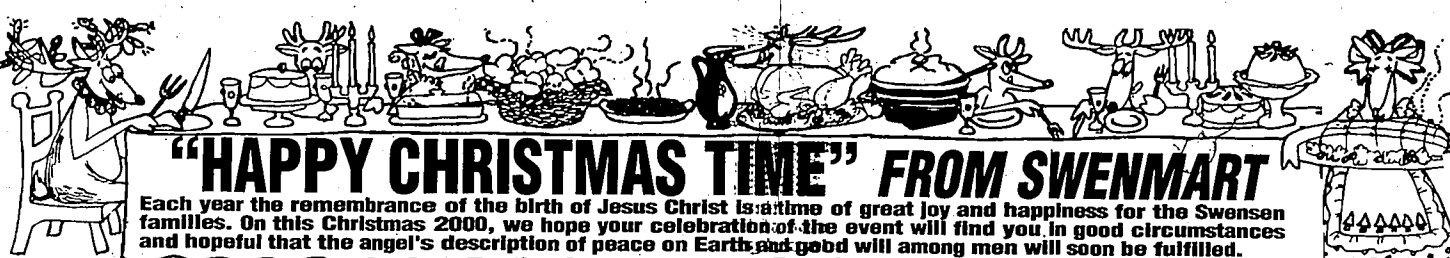
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NATION

Midwest sees more cold, snow

The Associated Press

Blowing snow and cold caused more disruptions Monday, closing schools and delaying Minnesota's presidential electors, following a weekend of storms that included a killer tornado.

Schools, businesses and services all but came to a halt Monday in Nebraska as the state was swept by its fourth storm in a week.

Snowplows were pulled off the roads in northeastern Nebraska's Cuming County during the morning because of hazardous driving conditions and snowdrifts.

And there wasn't much relief in sight for the Plains.

"Another system should arrive Wednesday," said National Weather Service meteorologist Rick Chermok.

Newspaper heir dies at 85

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) - Randolph Apperson Hearst, the newspaper heir whose daughter Patricia was kidnapped by the revolutionary Symbionese Liberation Army in 1974, died Monday at a New York hospital after suffering a stroke. He was 85.

Hearst was the last surviving son of the legendary newspaper magnate William Randolph Hearst.

Randolph Hearst was chairman of the family's media empire from 1973 to 1996. At the time his daughter was kidnapped, he was also editor and president of the San Francisco Examiner.

Throughout the kidnapping ordeal, Hearst left his mansion regularly to face the media and discuss the latest SLA demands.

When the group demanded that the Hearsts give millions of dollars in food to California's poor, he headed up the People In Need giveaway program, pledging \$2 million. Eventually more than 90,000 bags and cartons of food were distributed.

Study: Terrorists pose main threat to U.S.

WASHINGTON (AP) - The main threats to U.S. territory over the coming 15 years will likely come from terrorists and other adversaries using low-tech tools of war, according to a sweeping new study by intelligence analysts and non-government experts.

This threat is made more worrisome by a trend toward increasing collusion among terrorists, drug traffickers, weapons prolifer-

ators and organized crime, according to the assessment "Global Trends 2015," published Monday.

"Most adversaries will recognize the information advantage and military superiority of the United States in 2015," the report said. "Rather than acquiesce to any potential U.S. military domination, they will try to circumvent or minimize U.S. strengths and exploit perceived weaknesses."

The most recent example of

this approach was the terrorist bombing of the USS Cole on Oct. 12 as it refueled in Aden, Yemen. A small boat maneuvered alongside the huge destroyer and, without drawing attention from the ship's security forces, detonated explosives that tore a hole in the ship and killed 17 sailors.

Monday's report said this kind of approach - known as "asymmetric warfare" - will threaten U.S. interests not only abroad but

also at home.

"Such asymmetric approaches - whether undertaken by states or nonstate actors - will become the dominant characteristic of most threats to the U.S. homeland," the report said. This will become the "defining challenge" of U.S. national security strategy and military force development in coming years.

High-tech threats also will loom large, the report said.

"Advances in science and technology will pose national security challenges of uncertain character and scale," it said. "Increasing reliance on computer networks is making critical U.S. infrastructures more attractive as targets. Computer network operations today offer new options for attacking the United States within its traditional continental sanctuary, potentially anonymously and with selective effects."

Master planners unveil 102 possible sites for 21st century monuments

WASHINGTON (AP) - Government planners unveiled 102 possible sites Monday for new memorials and museums in Washington in the 21st century.

"The demand for new museums and memorials in the national capital continues to grow, and there

are concerns that (it) will overwhelm the historic space on and around the National Mall," said Margaret G. Vanderhye, chair of a government force on memorials.

The city now has 154 monuments and 74 museums. Sites have been approved for six new

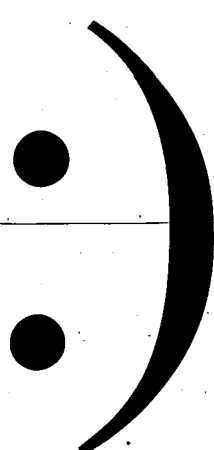
memorials, including a controversial World War II Memorial on the National Mall. Two of the six are under construction - a memorial to George Mason just south of the Jefferson Memorial and a Japanese-American Patriotism Memorial between the Capitol

and Union Station.

Vanderhye, a member of the National Capital Planning Commission, noted that the capital has on average acquired a new memorial or museum every year since the mid-1800s.


The vicinity of the National

Mall, which sweeps three miles from the Capitol past the Washington Monument to the Lincoln Memorial, is the most eagerly sought-after area. Critics of the World War II monument oppose its location there, arguing it will clutter the Mall.



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Secretary says new administration will not abandon Balkans mission

PRISTINA, Yugoslavia - Defense Secretary William Cohen said Monday that he believes the United States will not abandon its mission in the Balkans under the incoming Bush administration.

In the election campaign, President-elect Bush and his advisers suggested they wanted European countries to assume more of the peacekeeping in Kosovo and Bosnia - leading to criticism that some of the 9,000 U.S. peacekeepers might be pulled out.

On a pre-Christmas visit to U.S. troops in Kosovo, Cohen addressed those concerns. "We intend to remain active ... consistent with security needs in Kosovo and in the Balkans" as part of NATO, he told the U.S. contingent at Camp Bondsteel, 25 miles south of Pristina.

Worker finds time bomb at 13th-century cathedral
MILAN, Italy (AP) - A worker at Milan's landmark Duomo cathedral found a time bomb Monday near a gargoyne on a popular rooftop terrace - spotting it 15 hours before it was set to go off.

Authorities evacuated 130 tourists from the roof and closed the plaza surrounding the cathedral. A worker found a pipe on a popular rooftop terrace - spotting it 15 hours before it was set to go off.

Authorities evacuated 130 tourists from the roof and closed the plaza surrounding the cathedral. A worker found a pipe on a popular rooftop terrace - spotting it 15 hours before it was set to go off.

Madonna prepares for wedding to British director
INVERNESS, Scotland - Serenaded by a lone bagpiper, Madonna and British film director Guy Ritchie arrived by private jet in the north Scotland city of Inverness on Monday to begin preparations for their wedding.



Madonna
The couple, who are expected

World in brief

to marry Friday in Dornoch, a coastal town in the Scottish Highlands, made no comment as they climbed into a waiting Range Rover, accompanied by their 4-month-old son Rocco and Lourdes, Madonna's 3-year-old daughter from a previous relationship. Their arrival was shown live on Britain's Sky TV.

But for the handful of fans who joined some 100 journalists at the Inverness airport to watch the celebrities arrive, the thrill of seeing a star of Madonna's stature in the quiet Scottish city of old stone buildings was worth the wait.

Rebels kill 19 Russian soldiers in Chechnya

GROZNY, Russia - Chechen rebels killed 19 soldiers in hit-and-run attacks despite tighter Russian security in the break-away republic, a Chechen government official said Monday.

Sixteen soldiers were killed in attacks Saturday on checkpoints and installations, and three more died Sunday when rebels blew up an armored personnel carrier, the official said on condition of anonymity. Four soldiers were wounded in the attack on the armored vehicle.

Russian troops on Monday sealed off the eastern part of the capital Grozny, including the city's university, teachers' college and a high school, and conducted house-to-house searches for people accused of collaborating with the rebels.

Russian officials claimed Monday their forces had killed an important Chechen rebel commander, though the guerrilla leader's body has not been recovered.

Plant manager apologizes for E. coli deaths

WALKERTON, Ontario - The plant manager at the center of an E. coli outbreak that killed seven people in this Ontario town apologized publicly for the first time Monday, telling an inquiry he didn't know how to deal with the catastrophe.

Words cannot begin to express how sorry I am," Stan Koebel told a government-ordered inquiry board. "I am one of the pieces of the puzzle that came together in May."

Koebel was in charge of the water plant in this town 90 miles west of Toronto when the wells were contaminated with E. coli bacteria last spring. The outbreak killed seven people and

sickened 2,300.

Nurse in Nicaragua vows to fight expulsion effort

MANAGUA, Nicaragua - An American nurse accused by Nicaragua's government of treating leftist rebels and providing illegal abortions says she is innocent and plans to fight efforts to deport her.

In an interview published Monday in La Prensa newspaper, 70-year-old Dorothy Granada said she was being "unjustly and arbitrarily persecuted." She is currently in hiding to avoid being thrown out of Nicaragua.

Government officials revoked Granada's residency earlier this month and ordered her to leave the country or face criminal charges for having accused her of caring for members of the Andres Castro United Front, a leftist paramilitary group of ex-Sandinista soldiers, and of performing abortions, which are illegal here.

Parliament gives OK for Netanyahu to run

JERUSALEM - Israel's parliament passed a law early Tuesday that allows former Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu to run for his old job. But the legislature refused to dissolve itself, which Netanyahu had termed a prerequisite before he would enter the race.

The vote against dissolving the legislature was 68 to 48. Before the votes, Netanyahu said he would not run if the parliament did not stand for election along with the prime minister.

After the parliament rejected Netanyahu's demand that it face the voters, Barak told reporters that he was pleased that the house had saved the people from what he called "unnecessary elections."

Barak turned in his resignation Dec. 10, calling a quick election for prime minister, just 19 months after the tumbled Netanyahu. After the defeat, Netanyahu resigned from the parliament.

- compiled from wire reports

Canada calls for stability nuclear arms

OTTAWA (AP) - Prime Minister Jean Chretien agreed Monday with visiting Russian President Vladimir Putin that existing nuclear arms should be supported and strengthened - but stopped short of joining Putin's opposition to a U.S. missile defense plan.

Speaking at a news conference on the second day of Putin's visit, Chretien said questions remain about the proposal to build a land-based defense program. Russia says the plan would breach the

1972 Anti-Ballistic Missile Treaty. Chretien and Putin agreed in a joint statement that the treaty was "a cornerstone" of global stability and should be preserved and strengthened. Asked if Canada joined Russia in opposing the missile defense plan, Chretien said it was too soon to tell.

Canada is in a "complicated position," Chretien said, with the United States to the south and Russia across the North Pole. Questions about whether the mis-

sile defense system will work and how the incoming administration of President-elect Bush will proceed on the matter must be answered before final decisions can be made, Chretien said.

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Bob Lawrason Prudential - Idaho Homes
Jack Stafley Coldwell Banker Nannini Realty
Gayle Bengoechea Magic Valley Realty
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MOVIES

THE GRIND
CINEMA CASH
THE OBPHILEM
Billy Elliot on 7:00 - 9:20

JEROME 4 CINEMA

Walk Disney's 102 Dalmatians Daily 7:00
Disney's Emperor's New Groove 7:15 - 9:30

This Week's PG Rated Movies
How The Grinch Stole Christmas 7:15 - 9:30

This Week's PG13 Rated Movies
Meet The Parents 7:25 - 9:45
Vertical Limit 7:00 - 9:30
Unbreakable 7:25 - 9:55
What Women Want 7:00 - 7:25 - 9:30 - 9:55
Dances 9:45

TWIN 12 CINEMA

This Week's G Rated Movies
The Rugrats In Paris 7:30
Walk Disney's 102 Dalmatians
Men A Thru 7:00 - 7:30 - 9:00 - 9:45
Last Week 7:00 - 9:45
Disney's Emperor's New Groove 7:00 - 9:20

This Week's PG Rated Movies
How The Grinch Stole Christmas
7:00 - 7:45 - 9:20 - 9:55

This Week's PG13 Rated Movies
Meet The Parents 7:25 - 9:45
Vertical Limit 7:00 - 9:30
Unbreakable 7:25 - 9:55
What Women Want
7:00 - 7:25 - 9:30 - 9:55
Dances 9:45

This Week's R Rated Movies
Men of Honor 7:25 - 9:35

Robert DeNiro Ben Stiller
Meet the Parents

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on Tuesday and Wednesday 7:00 - 9:15

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Remember the Titans 7:00 - 9:45

This Week's PG13 Rated Movies
Charlie's Angels 7:15 - 9:30
Diagnosis and Prognosis 7:30 - 9:45
Dude Perfect's Mr. Cool 7:15 - 9:30
Little Nicky Daily 7:15 - 9:30

This Week's R Rated Movies
Frost of Love 7:00 - 9:45

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EDITORIAL

"Third Crossing" means spending real money

Everyone likes to talk about a new bridge across the Snake River Canyon west of Twin Falls, but no one wants to pay for it.

A rim-to-rim bridge would cost anywhere from \$60 million to \$115 million, depending on location. Until a source for that money is identified, all talk of a new bridge is - well, talk. A realistic revenue stream must be found before words can be transformed into deeds.

An obvious idea would be to collect a toll from every vehicle crossing the bridge. Few Magic Valley drivers have

Twin Falls should pay more to register her car while non-resident truckers get a free ride?

A new bridge would be nice because it could route the just-passing-through traffic on U.S. Highway 93 around Twin Falls. Sending fewer trucks down Blue Lakes Boulevard would benefit truckers and townies alike.

But diminishing economies of scale make another bridge harder to justify from a cost-benefit standpoint. Seven bridges already link Twin Falls County with the other side of the Snake River. (The list: Murtaugh, Hansen, Twin Falls, Buhl, two near Hagerman, and the Shoestring Bridge near Bliss.) Is an eighth really such a priority?

Probably not. So this project appears to be an issue without a substantial constituency.

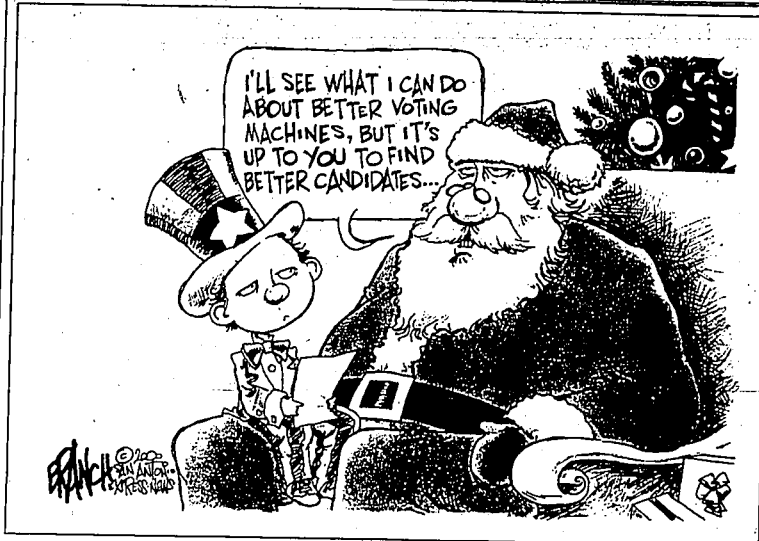
It's worth fleshing out, which is why Twin Falls County Commissioner Gary Grindstaff says voters should declare where they stand on the issue. A non-binding advisory vote, aimed at determining local levels of support, could be a useful tool for shaping subsequent discussion. The ballot for any such vote should mention cost: Not "Do you want a new bridge?" but, "Do you want a new bridge with toll booths."

Building another bridge across the Snake is an idea that's still ahead of its time. It doesn't hurt to talk, but everyone will need to pay attention when the talk turns to spending real money.

Seven bridges already link Twin Falls County with the other side of the Snake River. Diminishing economies of scale make another bridge hard to justify.

are common in the Eastern United States, and toll bridges are nothing new in the West - as anyone who has entered San Francisco on the Golden Gate Bridge can attest. Collecting a toll would be the most egalitarian method of funding a new bridge, because it would amount to a user fee on drivers who actually use the bridge.

Another idea under consideration is a vehicle registration surcharge on local residents - since locals presumably would use a new bridge the most. This idea is far more problematic, since local motorists who might never use the bridge would have to subsidize non-local motorists who do. Who can argue that a fixed-income granny in



George W.'s big adventure

Though as the governing challenge facing President-elect George W. Bush may be, it is no harder than what confronted Gerald R. Ford when he was sworn in as Richard Nixon's successor in the summer of 1974. Nixon had been forced to resign in the wake of the Watergate scandals, the first such resignation in American history. Nine months earlier, the same thing had happened to Vice President Spiro Agnew. So Ford came to the White House without any American having voted to put him even in the line of succession to the presidency.

Given this history, I thought some of the veterans of the Ford administration might have useful thoughts for Bush, as he seeks to solidify his position with the narrowest of Electoral College margins and a loss to Vice President Al Gore in the popular vote.

I found some of them frankly gloomy about Bush's prospects. Jim Cannon, a longtime Newsweek correspondent who was a domestic policy adviser to Ford, and Ron Nessen, Ford's press secretary, both said that, in significant ways, Bush's challenge may be tougher. Cannon said, "No one (in the public) knew much who Ford was, but they were so ready to get rid of Richard Nixon that when they found out Ford was an honest man, they welcomed him." Nessen added that "Ford had never been elected president or vice president. But nobody ever questioned his legitimacy. Ford had been confirmed (as vice president) by both houses of Congress, with many Democratic votes. That gave him legitimacy. And people liked him. They thought he was the right person for the time."

By contrast, Cannon said, "There will



DAVID S. BRODER

always be questions about the legitimacy of Bush's victory," because of the Supreme Court intervention which cut short the Florida vote recounts. "I wonder," Nessen added, "whether, with the Senate evenly divided and the House so narrowly Republican and half the voters thinking the president does not belong there, anything can be done."

But not even the gloomiest of the five Ford White House alumni I interviewed thought that Bush was without tools to build stronger public and political support.

Cannon recalled that "the very first thing Ford did after being sworn in was to go to a meeting with the Democratic and Republican leaders of Congress. Bush needs to reach out to Congress the same way" - as he did on his very first visit to Washington as president-elect this week.

Nessen added that it would help if Bush found a useful role for his predecessor, President Clinton, to play. "He could ask Clinton to continue as a Middle East peace negotiator, for example," Nessen said.

John O. Marsh, another of the senior Ford staffers, also focused on the critical role Clinton could play, even during this transition period. Marsh said the liaison to the incoming Jimmy Carter administration in 1976. "Ford had been defeated by Carter," Marsh said, "so there was an opportunity for some rough feelings. But

he set the tone of cooperation, and Clinton can do the same thing. I predict that Clinton will be very helpful and that will make a big, big difference."

Robert Teeter, who was a polling consultant for both Ford and the first President Bush, said the public focus on the long-disputed election outcome has been so intense "it could make it easier" for the younger Bush.

Teeter's suggestion: Start with agenda items like education, "which the public thinks are important and where you think you can get sound. Focus public attention on the four leaders of House and Senate - Republicans and Democrats alike - and be 'tough from the beginning' in challenging them not to grandstand or add ideological baggage to the bills. The public will back him, Teeter said, because the prevailing opinion is "we've got a president now, so let's get on with it."

Finally, Donald Rumsfeld, Ford's White House chief of staff until he moved over to run the Pentagon, leaving his old job to Dick Cheney, was the most upbeat of all I found. "Presidents who face difficult situations also have a wonderful opportunity to excel," he said. "The people who believe Bush is weakened, crippled or dead on arrival, because of the closeness of the vote, are not going to end up being correct." Rumsfeld said the Democrats will certainly have their eyes on the 2002 election and the chance to regain control of Congress. "That's politics, but in the last analysis, people can see through that. If either party tries to frustrate what the president does, it will pay a penalty. It is not a bleak situation."

David S. Broder is a national political writer for The Washington Post.

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

LETTERS

Bush will dance money dance

In your editorial of Dec. 14, you state that George Bush should not compromise his fundamental Republican values but should instead "dance with who brings him."

Rest assured, he will - he was "brung" by large oil companies and the like, so you can rest assured that he will indeed change the way things are run in the Forest Service, the Bureau of Land Management, etc.

Fortunately, the majority of Americans did not vote for him and, in four years, he should be out and we can return to a more rational, responsible approach to managing our natural resources.

MIKE FRAZIER
Twin Falls

Haffler dairy deserves chance

I am writing this letter regarding Hank Haffler's dairy. I realize that many people have been affected by his new dairy. I think most of the letters and testimony concern the bad effects. I sell own slugs to Hank, so I guess I, too, am responsible for all the stink.

Hank has been involved in community activities for years. I do not think that it is fair to assume he just came with a lot of money and has no concern for our area. He lives downwind from his dairy and knows the problems.

Please just give him a chance to make things work. I know he is doing everything humanly possible to make his operation an asset to the community.

I hope the officials within the county government do not bow down to pressure from a group of disgruntled people before a reasonable solution can be found. If operations such as Hank's are

closed down, every person in this county will be affected. If his dairy alone was forced into bankruptcy, five to 10 farmers would be forced out of business also. If you multiply that times all the large dairies within the valley, there could be a tremendous economic effect. The amount of money added by his type of operation is substantial. The problems are solvable! Just give him a chance!

JIM PATRICK
Twin Falls

Don't steal family pets

Have you ever thought that if you find a dog or cat with a collar on that maybe that animal might belong to someone?

You people who are out there stealing other people's animals, I pray come judgment day, you have a great story to tell the man upstairs.

For the person who has picked up a female husky with a blue collar and choke chain on her in Jerome left her seven puppies behind. I hope you give her a great home for I raised her off the bottle. She was like one of my own children. God forbid if you mistreat her.

You guys are out there stealing these animals and selling them for whatever reason. I can't see how you can sleep at night. May the Lord bless your soul, 'cause you sure need it.

Those of you who find dogs and cats, report this to your veterinarian, the dog-control person of your town or a policeman, unless you live in Jerome. Then you need to report to the pound and leave a message.

How would you feel if someone stole one of your children?

DEB CASTER
Jerome

Attack on speaker was all wet

This letter is in response to the recent letter column by Deemer and the Boy Scouts. If the writer has a problem with the speakers for the Boy Scouts, step up, get involved and help line up the same quality of speakers at the same cost. Also ones that the scouts and community will know and appreciate.

There was no attempt by anyone to push any religion issues.

I had the opportunity to observe Mr. Deemer with a smaller group of young men the night before the event. He answered numerous questions about his career and life and never once was I, a non-LDS, offended in any manner; nor was religion ever mentioned.

The speakers being lined up are known to the youth by their actions, not

LETTER

their religion. Additionally, they have been easy to line up because of local connections. Future speakers are being sought to continue this event. So instead of attacking without something positive, step up and be involved; if you're not involved or willing to help, don't complain.

The scout office can direct you to the committee in charge of this event. It is looking for ways to improve and welcomes all comments.

The values emphasized by these speakers - family, honesty, avoidance of drugs and alcohol - are values expressed by all religions and religious people, not just the LDS.

So while everyone has the absolute right to voice their opinions, take a step further and had help your youth and

LETTER

community. Mr. Deemer and the future listed speakers are at least examples of individuals who have chosen attitudes for a career who are not accused of killing their pregnant girlfriends, using cocaine and drinking for the 6th time while suspended from baseball, trying to strangle their coach or a coach using four-letter words on the court to downgrade his players in front of other players or fans spitting on umpires, attacking little league coaches and there are numerous more examples, a lot of them locally. The criticism of the LDS Church and the implied attack on the Boy Scouts was way base.

LAIRD AND VICKIE STONE
Twin Falls
Jerome

Write to us

The Times-News welcomes letters from readers on subjects of public interest. Letters may be brought to our Twin Falls or Burley office, mailed to P.O. Box 548, Twin Falls, ID 83303; faxed to (208) 734-5538; or e-mailed to twinnews@tricon.net.

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Spending bill has projects for every corner of U.S. — including Idaho

WASHINGTON (AP) — From helping the University of Idaho put its jazz history archive on the Internet to creating a regional agency to spur the Mississippi Delta's economy, members of Congress have a lot to brag about to their constituents this holiday season.

The massive spending bill Congress sent President Clinton last week before adjourning,

which allowed final approval of more than \$450 billion in spending, was best known for its money for hiring teachers, biomedical research and other high-profile programs.

But sprinkled liberally throughout are funds for hundreds of projects for the folks back home, plus entire bills that failed to make it through Congress on their own for lack of support or time.

There are so many projects, in fact, that it is hard to imagine that many members of Congress didn't get something for somebody back in the district.

Some critics more than enough "pork" in the measure, including Sen. John McCain, R-Ariz., who said he counted at least \$1.9 billion unnecessary spending.

The projects' sponsors don't see

it as pork, however.

The University of Idaho, for example, won \$700,000 to help it make available on the Internet its collection of musical scores, recordings, instruments, clothing and papers of many of the country's top jazz musicians. These include Lionel Hampton — for whom the university's music school and annual jazz festival are named — and

other jazz legends Ella Fitzgerald, Dizzy Gillespie and Stan Kenton.

To get the money, school officials worked closely with Idaho's congressional delegation, especially Republican Sen. Larry Craig, a member of the Senate Appropriations Committee and one of Congress' most conservative members. They are adamant that "pork" does not apply to the

expenditure.

"We think even though it's located in Idaho, it is a national treasure," said Marry Peterson, assistant to Bob Hoover, the university's president.

"One man's pork is another man's awesome educational tool," and that's what Sen. Craig believes this program will provide," said Craig spokesman Will Hart.

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P185/80R-13	24.87	P225/75R-15	34.25
P175/80R-13	25.22	P235/75R-15	34.08
P185/80R-13	28.05	175/70R-13B	28.02
P185/75R-14	27.55	145/70R-13B	29.74
P185/75R-14	28.35	185/70R-14B	31.48
P205/75R-14	29.48	185/70R-14B	33.87
P215/75R-14	32.00	205/70R-14B	35.19
P205/75R-15	31.20		

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P185/80R-13	34.92	P235/75R-15	49.10
P175/80R-13	35.37	P185/70R-14	48.38
P185/80R-13	39.11	P185/70R-14	49.18
P175/75R-14	39.88	P215/70R-14	51.12
P185/75R-14	39.80	P215/70R-14	53.88
P205/75R-14	41.36	P205/70R-15	52.31
P215/75R-14	42.00	P215/70R-15	55.19
P215/75R-15	43.77	P225/70R-16	58.36
P175/75R-15	45.34		

Tread Rating May Vary

70,000 MILE RADIAL

SIZE	SUPERMARKET PRICE	SIZE	SUPERMARKET PRICE	SIZE	SUPERMARKET PRICE
P155/80R-13	42.00	P185/70R-14	55.70	P185/65R-14	79.33
P175/80R-13	48.83	P185/70R-14	58.89	P185/65R-14	82.52
P185/75R-14	51.34	P185/70R-14	61.82	P185/65R-14	86.59
P185/75R-14	51.45	P185/70R-14	61.81	P185/65R-14	89.89
P205/75R-14	63.63	P185/70R-14	61.81	P185/65R-14	94.04
P215/75R-14	67.08	P205/70R-14	66.00	P185/65R-14	97.57
P215/75R-14	70.40	P215/70R-14	74.70	P185/65R-14	100.18
P225/75R-15	72.32	P205/70R-15	78.21	P185/65R-14	103.37
P225/75R-15	76.35	P215/70R-15	76.48	P185/65R-14	106.50
P175/75R-15	61.95	P175/65R-14B	78.27	P225/65R-14	105.81

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P205/75R-15	63.31	U215/75R-15	82.81	U235/75R-15	105.94
P215/75R-15	65.32	U225/75R-15	88.13	U235/75R-15	105.94
U215/75R-15	72.80	U225/75R-15	104.79	U235/75R-15	105.94
U225/75R-15	72.85	U235/75R-15	104.79	U235/75R-15	105.94
U235/75R-15	82.22	U235/65R-15	118.72		
U235/75R-15	84.88				

Tread Design May Vary

WILD COUNTRY APT

SIZE & LOAD RANGE	SUPERMARKET PRICE	SIZE & LOAD RANGE	SUPERMARKET PRICE	SIZE & LOAD RANGE	SUPERMARKET PRICE
U215/75R-15	62.82	U215/65R-15	82.81	U235/65R-15	105.94
P205/75R-15	63.31	U215/75R-15	82.81	U235/75R-15	105.94
P215/75R-15	65.32	U225/75R-15	88.13	U235/75R-15	105.94
U215/75R-15	72.80	U225/75R-15	104.79	U235/75R-15	105.94
U225/75R-15	72.85	U235/75R-15	104.79	U235/75R-15	105.94
U235/75R-15	82.22	U235/65R-15	118.72		
U235/75R-15	84.88				

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MAGIC VALLEY

Back to school:
Commence sees
school's needs up close.
Page B3

The Times-News

Tuesday, December 19, 2000

AROUND THE VALLEY

Men arraigned on cattle rustling charges

GOODING - Two men were arraigned Monday in connection with the theft of cows from a Jerome ranch.

Ramon Quintero and Jose Quintero, no age or address available, were both charged with conspiracy to commit grand theft by possession of stolen property, said Becky Tanner, a deputy clerk in the Gooding County Magistrate Court office.

The Quinteros' relationship is not known, Tanner said.

On or about Sunday, about 10 Holstein heifers were picked up from a Jerome ranch and taken to Gooding County, according to court records.

The Quinteros have further arraignment hearings at 9 a.m. Thursday, with preliminary hearings scheduled for 10 a.m. Jan. 2, 2001, Tanner said.

The Quinteros were appointed public defenders Monday and were held in Gooding County jail on \$10,000 cash-only bonds.

The felony charges carry possible prison sentences of one to 14 years, Tanner said.

Health department offers flu vaccines to public

TWIN FALLS - The South Central District Health Department has scheduled flu shot clinics for the public.

The Centers for Disease Control recommends adults 50 years of age and older get the influenza vaccine, as well as all other high-risk individuals. High-risk individuals include people with chronic long-term health problems such as chronic lung disease and congestive heart failure.

About two weeks after getting a flu shot, most people will have developed immunity. The CDC says a flu vaccination is helpful even if it is received late in the flu season.

The influenza vaccine costs \$10 or less, based on income.

Clinic locations include:

- Burley: 4:30 to 6:30 p.m., Thursday, 2311 Parke Ave., Suite 4-2
- To 4 p.m., Dec. 27, 2311 Parke Ave., Suite 4.

- Gooding: 2 to 4 p.m., Dec. 26, 145 Seventh Ave. E.

- Hailey: 1 to 4 p.m., Dec. 26, 513 N. Main.

- Jerome: 1 to 3:30 p.m., Thursday, 951 E. Ave. H; 1 to 3:30 p.m., Dec. 28, 951 E. Ave. H.

- Rupert: 9 to 11 a.m., Wednesday, 1218 Ninth St., Suite 15; 9 to 11 a.m., Dec. 27, 1218 Ninth St., Suite 15; 2 to 4 p.m., Dec. 28, 1218 Ninth St., Suite 15.

- Twin Falls: 9:30 to 11:30 a.m., Dec. 27, 1020 Washington St. N.; 1 to 6:30 p.m., Dec. 27, 1020 Washington St. N.; 9:30 to 11:30 a.m., Dec. 28, 1020 Washington St. N.

Superintendent to release, review fall test scores

BOISE - Scores from the fall Idaho Reading Indicator will be released and reviewed by Marilyn Howard, Superintendent of Public Instruction, at a news conference at 2 p.m. today in the east conference room of the J.R. Williams Building, 700 W. State St., Boise.

BLM hiring firefighters for 2001 fire season

SHOSHONE - The South Central Idaho division of the U.S. Bureau of Land Management are accepting applications from men and women interested in fighting fires next summer.

The application deadline is Jan. 5, 2001. Applicants must be 18 years of age or older and be physically able to pass a test in the spring.

Additional money Congress earmarked for fire protection will mean more firefighters for next year. For the Magic Valley, that means an additional 50 firefighters for the BLM's South Central Idaho Interagency Dispatch Center, bringing the total number to 200.

For information, call BLM offices in Burley, Shoshone or Twin Falls. Interested individuals may also call John Sábala in Shoshone at 886-7239 or Mark Wiseman in Burley at 677-6649.

Library district update at Rupert council tonight

RUPERT - The Rupert City Council will hear an update on the proposed library district tonight from Kathleen Hedberg, the Burley Public Library Districting Committee's chairwoman.

The meeting is at 7 p.m. at City Hall, 624 F St.

Compiled from staff reports

Council puts approval on hold

By John T. Huddy
Times-News writer

Proposed cell tower ordinance goes to second hearing

Another chance to be heard

The Twin Falls City Council will have a second public hearing on a proposed cell tower ordinance at 6 p.m. Jan. 2 at the City Hall meeting chambers.

Nobody spoke at Monday's public hearing. Only one resident attended the meeting.

Wunderlich was absent Monday, recuperating from recent surgery.

"I'm afraid if we try to move forward tonight without Fritz around we might have a flawed ordinance," Clow said Monday.

As written, the ordinance prohibits towers in residential zones unless they are attached to utility poles or sit on rooftops. The ordinance also suggests cellular companies co-

locate on existing towers and place towers on public property when possible.

Councilman Chris Talkington said the ordinance was good enough for approval. He said requiring cellular service carriers to provide a \$20,000 performance bond to "guarantee that the facility will be removed when no longer in use," was a good idea.

"One thing I do like about this ordinance is that there is a mechanism in place for a bond

requirement if a tower is removed," Talkington said Monday.

Cell-phone towers have been a contentious issue recently, as more and more cellular providers and personal carrier system companies have been trying to expand their operations in the Twin Falls area.

City planners approved the proposed ordinance in November.

City officials and leaders helped draft the ordinance, with help from other cities that have ordinances already in

Please see TOWERS, Page B3

Getting settled in Aspen

CSI adds scrub room, operating room and dental lab to building

By Jennifer Sandmann
Times-News writer

TWIN FALLS - A scrub room, operating room and dental lab are among new state-of-the-art training opportunities available to College of Southern Idaho students in health and human services classes.

CSI board members toured the more than 13,000-square-foot addition to the Aspen Building before Monday's board meeting. The \$1.8 million expansion is nearing completion. Staff members are beginning to move into the addition and will continue to move over Christmas break.

Clayden Buettner, director of the college's Health and Human Services Department, said the addition gives the college room to expand programs.

One new classroom looks like a professional dental office. With the help of two dentists and a dental hygienist, who have volunteered, the college can offer dental services for student training. A scrub room and sterile operating room environment also simulate real-world settings.

The expansion benefits students and the college, Buettner said. Graduates will be even better prepared, and prospective students will see an incentive to attend CSI.

"Students come through and say, wow, this is state of the art," she said.

The addition allows the college to make room in the original part of the building for four new classrooms for health professions classes; a dental lab; a multi-media, 77-seat teleconferencing auditorium; a high-tech classroom for teacher education programs; more space for its instructional technology center; a new education classroom; two general education classrooms; and more faculty office space.

The college and other funding sources paid for the expansion. Former nursing student Mary Iretson and her husband, Frank Iretson, donated \$125,000. Another \$680,000 came from an economic development grant through Region IV Development. The J.A. & Kathryn Albertson Foundation supplied \$84,000 for a technology training classroom for teacher education.

News from the board's regular meeting Monday included:

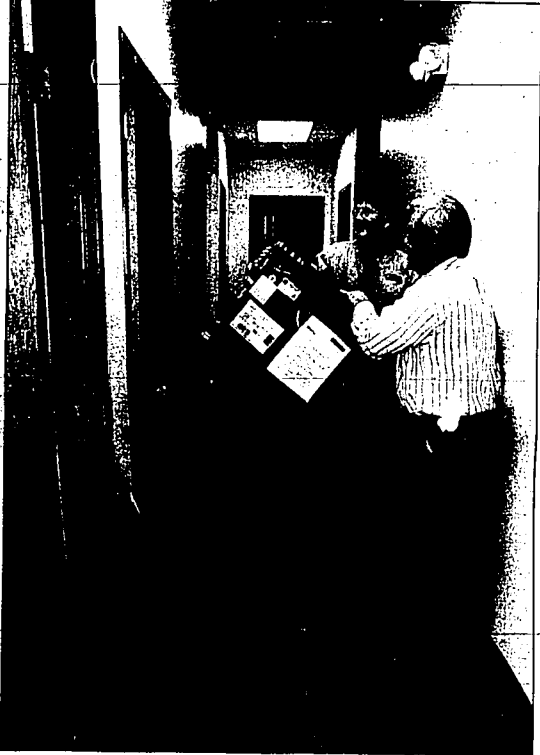
- The college expects to offer online registration in January. In the meantime, it's testing the new online system with a small number of students.

- CSI faculty member Edit Szanto, the instructional technology center director at CSI, told the board about ongoing efforts to develop a college copyright and intellectual property policy.

- CSI attorney Robert Alexander said the policy is leaning toward ownership by the creator of the original work, unless that person has been hired by the college for a project.

- Copyright and intellectual property issues are more typically found at universities where students are actively engaged in research. But the issue has arisen in computer technology courses at CSI where students are creating original work that has the potential to be marketed.

- The board certified election results.



College of Southern Idaho Assistant Professor of EMS, Gordon Kokx, left, and Program Manager of the emergency medical training, Dennis Patterson, move into their new offices in the Aspen building on the CSI campus Monday.

creator of the original work, unless that person has been hired by the college for a project.

Copyright and intellectual property issues are more typically found at universities where students are actively engaged in research. But the issue has arisen in computer technology courses at CSI where students are creating original work that has the potential to be marketed.

• The board certified election results.

Incumbent Donna Brizee won with 17,064 votes, earning 71 percent of the votes. Challenger Burke Richman got 6,849 votes. Incumbent William Babcock won with 17,035 votes or 72 percent of the vote. Challenger J. Pat Branch got 6,748 votes.

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

A place for policy

Incinerator incident raises safety concerns at INEEL

By M.S. Nokkervent
Times-News writer

IDAHO FALLS - When a rapidly approaching wildfire forced workers to evacuate a radioactive waste incinerator, they thought they had shut down the facility completely before they left.

They were wrong.

A secondary burner at the Idaho National Engineering and Environmental Laboratory incinerator continued to burn unattended through the night.

Though it resulted in no emissions, the incident raised concerns among regulators and INEEL critics about inadequate and vague emergency procedures.

"No specific procedure guidance for an emergency evacuation exists," says a Department of Energy review of the Sept. 17 incident, obtained Monday by The Times-News.

Chuck Bruschious of the Environmental Defense Institute, an INEEL watchdog group based in Troy, wondered whether other INEEL operations have similar operational problems.

"We want to make sure people are trained in implementing evacuation procedures," said Kathleen Trever, head of the state's INEEL Oversight Program.

The incident resulted in no emissions in excess of permitted levels, INEEL spokeswoman Stacy Francis said. The facility was shut down permanently in October.

A review of the incident showed that the delayed wildfire about the approaching wildfire

Please see INEEL, Page B3

On the lam

Murder witness fled Chicago to hide in Rupert

The Times-News

RUPERT - A witness to a murder in Chicago hid out in Rupert for parts of the last two years, fearing retribution from the people he was to testify against.

The male witness, who was not identified by the Mindoka County Sheriff's Department, spent close to two years hiding from authorities and from people accused of the murder, and spent at least some of that time in Rupert.

After a lengthy investigation, Chicago police, with the aid of Rupert police and the Mindoka

County Sheriff's Department, tracked down the witness in Rupert on Nov. 24. He has since testified in Chicago against the people charged in connection with the slaying of his friend.

The witness had been wounded in the attack, said Randy White, a lieutenant with the Mindoka sheriff's office.

"He did not want to have any contact at all with the people he had to testify against," White said. "He feared for his life."

Police could not track down any family in the area, so they are speculating that the witness had friends in Rupert, White said.

Chicago police were talking with Rupert officials as early as eight months ago, White said. The witness had changed his name, but he was eventually located as a result of a vehicle license plate match, White said.

Berming issue: Blaine subdivision debate centers on landscaping

By Karen Bossick
Times-News correspondent

HAILEY - The issue of berms at the 132-acre Golden Eagle Ranch II subdivision south of Ketchum remained unresolved Monday, after Blaine County commissioners decided to continue a sometimes-tense hearing to Jan. 4, 2001.

Commission Chairwoman Mary Ann Mix asked developers to provide some sort of artistic rendering of the work they intend to do on the berms, in time for the next meeting.

Such drawings might help clarify what the public can expect, Commissioner Dennis Wright told developer Harry Rinker and his representatives.

"It seems to me you got here

by a breakdown in communication," Wright said, referring to public outcry after developers built berms that were higher than originally agreed to.

The 3 1/2-hour hearing started out amicably, with Rinker and spokesman Jed Gray of Sun Valley Associates promising to modify flatter berms built along Idaho Highway 75, in what used to be a flat alfalfa field. But it grew tense as developers began to realize commissioners might not approve the final plan.

Delaying approval could jeopardize sales of lots, which will sell for up to \$1.5 million each, since some purchasers are time-sensitive, said Rinker's lawyer Ed Lawson. Some would-be purchasers could lose a considerable amount of tax money over

delays, he added.

Many of the 40-plus people who packed the hearing room urged commissioners to stick to their guns.

Gianna Lagergren praised Rinker for limiting the number of homes he builds on his property. But she added, if Rinker is allowed to sell lots before complying with agreements with the county, she would lose faith in county ordinances.

"I don't think any of us should have to revisit issues that were settled long ago," said Barbara Grabowski, president of the Greenhorn Homeowners Association.

There was some question over just what the developers agreed to. Gray pointed out, given a

Please see BERMS, Page B3

MAGIC VALLEY/WEST

Spokesman: Final plans for dams and salmon won't include breaching

GRANTS-PASS, Ore. (AP) - Final government plans for restoring salmon in the Columbia Basin will not include immediate plans to breach four dams on the lower Snake River, a government spokesman said Monday.

"Certainly, our position on breaching remains the same: 'A' is on the table. But, 'B,' it is not the first thing we need to look at," Brian Gorman, spokesman for the National Marine Fisheries Service, said from Seattle of the plans scheduled for release Thursday.

Gorman's comments came in response to a letter from more than 200 scientists urging President Clinton to consider breaching the four lower Snake River dams in eastern Washington as a cornerstone for plans to restore threatened and endangered runs of Columbia Basin salmon.

"We need to look at what we can do immediately, cheaply and what is immediately feasible," Gorman said. "Dam breaching doesn't fit any of those categories." "That does not mean we are ignoring dam breaching. It means we are doing things with immedi-

ate salutary effect on salmon and will find out those things real work before we leap into the breach and try to wrestle with dam breaching."

The scientists - predominantly from Oregon, Washington and Idaho - said that removing the Snake River dams is essential to any plan to recover a dozen salmon and steelhead stocks in the Columbia basin listed for protection under the Endangered Species Act.

"For Snake River stocks, the weight of scientific evidence clearly dictates that the final biological opinion must commit the federal government to plan for breaching the lower Snake River dams in the near term," the scientists wrote. The government has been considering a proposal supported by environmentalists, Indian tribes and commercial fishermen to remove the earthen portions of four dams on the lower Snake River in eastern Washington to improve fish passage and restore spawning habitat.

Opponents have warned that breaching could seriously harm the region's economy. Removing the dams would cut off barge

transport of grain and other bulk cargo, lower reservoirs below irrigation intake pipes, and reduce Northwest electricity supplies by about 4 percent.

The plans being released Thursday include a final biological opinion by NMFS on hydroelectric dam operations on the Columbia and Snake rivers, the so-called Four-Hs plan for dealing with hydroelectric dams, habitat, harvest and hatchery operations by a coalition of nine federal agencies and a biological opinion by U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service on dam impacts on bulltrout and sturgeon.

The draft plans released last July called for limiting harvests, improving salmon habitat on tributaries, and reforming practices at hatcheries.

The draft strategy did include engineering studies needed to breach the dams so they are ready if warranted, and called for considering breaching more seriously if salmon were not rebounding. Success was to be evaluated after five, eight and 10 years.

Critics have called the draft vague, saying it lacks specifics on costs, goals and timelines.

Jerome to decide on annexation

By Dixie Thomas Reale Times-News correspondent

JEROME - City leaders tonight will take testimony concerning annexing of about 200 acres into city limits.

The City Council will hold third and final reading of the annexation ordinance tonight, and is expected to decide which properties, if any, should be added to city jurisdiction.

At issue are 120 acres in the northeastern section of town, roughly 76 acres northwest of the city and 47 acres in the southeastern section of the city. Here's a breakdown:

* The most controversial parcel is 82 acres bordered on the north by 16th Avenue East, on the south by Mountain View Drive, on the west by North Lincoln Street and on the east by North Davis Street.

At the Dec. 5 council meeting, the council received a petition from about 15 16th Avenue East residents opposing the annexa-

When they meet
The Jerome City Council meets today at 7 p.m. in council chambers, 100 E. Ave. A. The public is welcome.

tion. The group objected primarily because the land is undeveloped.

* Another 17 acres is located along East Avenue H, just east of 100 East. It includes the two lots of the Southern Idaho Regional Communications Center dispatch site, the South Central District Health Department, and the Magic Valley Evangelical Free Church site.

* A 34-acre site includes all of Forsythe Park and one row of lots just south of Forsythe Park. * A 2 1/2-acre parcel, bordered on the east by 100 East, on the west by North Jackson Street, on the north by 19th Avenue East and on the south by 17th Avenue East.

* A 76-acre parcel owned by

Tom Richmond, who has requested annexation. Richmond's land, adjacent to the northwest corner of the city is bordered on the east by North First Street and extends westward to a jagged boundary line just east of 100 West. Richmond's land is bordered on the south by 10th Street West and on the north by 100 North.

In other business, the city will consider leasing three new police patrol cars for three years each. The leases of the 2000 Ford Crown Victorias would run a total of \$26,175 per year; at the end of the three years the city would be able to buy the cars for \$1 each.

The council also will discuss a study submitted by Sunrise Engineering Corp. of Boise for the Jerome High School Intersection, 100 East and Tiger Drive, at a cost of \$3,000.

Times-News correspondent Dixie Thomas Reale can be reached in Jerome at 324-3670.

Stallings helps families find homes

POCATELLO (AP) - Former Democratic Congressman Richard Stallings has found a place as director of the city's Neighborhood Housing Services. The agency offered its first loan in 1995 and has helped more than 500 low-income families become homeowners.



by grants and donations. It is a partnership among local government, businesses and residents. "As a result, we are constantly scrounging for money," Stallings said. "We get a lot of bang for the buck." Banks often refer potential

clients to Pocatello Neighborhood Housing Services. Many make between \$20,000 and \$30,000 a year.

"I think it is helping people fulfill their dreams. Some of these folks never thought they would ever own a home," Stallings said. "You get to give people some hope. It is very fulfilling."

The home buyers must take six weeks' worth of classes before they become eligible for a loan.

BYU returns historical documents to Poland

PROVO, Utah (AP) - Brigham Young University has decided to return a stack of aging documents to the Polish government, which says the collection is historically significant.

The papers, which tell the history of one of Poland's most powerful families, have been sitting in the vault of BYU's special collections library for 15 years.

They were mostly unused until 1994, when the Polish national archivist, whose job includes scouring the world for papers that were scattered during World War II, first saw them while visiting the university with a genealogy group.

"He was ecstatic to see them," said Scott Duvall, assistant library director in charge of the special collections. "He let us know that he deeply desired that they be in Poland."

Poland's collection of papers belonging to the Potocki family, which was one of the most prominent in the Hapsburg empire, is incomplete.

So at the country's request, officials from BYU and The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints decided to return the papers to their homeland. The documents, bundled in 93 packages, will be given back at a ceremony Tuesday in Poland.

"For this material, first of all, to still be in existence and then to be returned, has a great significance to the people of Poland," said Brent Griffiths, Europe-area manager for the Genealogical Society of Utah.

"These historical documents will help them have a sense of who they are, of their roots, of where they come from, of the challenges that their forefathers faced and the successes that they had as well."

The papers, some of which were signed by Polish kings, are in good condition, Duvall said. They are written in Polish, German, French, Russian and Yiddish and include legal documents, land leases, lists of peasants and personal correspondence.

Idaho court overturns ruling in dog sniff case

BOISE (AP) - A vehicle search need not be related to the purpose for the traffic stop to be constitutional, the Idaho Court of Appeals ruled in overturning a Panhandle judge's decision to suppress evidence in a drug case.

The three-judge court, in an opinion issued Monday, said a state trooper's unrelated questioning and use of a drug detection dog outside her pickup truck did not increase the length of Doris Ann Parkinson's Jan. 25, 1999, traffic stop. First District Judge James Michael had ordered the suppression of evidence against Parkinson, including several items of drug paraphernalia.

Michael said Idaho State Police Cpl. Terry Ford's questioning about drugs or alcohol and his use of the drug-sniffing dog exceeded the scope of the stop initiated by Ponderay City Police Officer

David McClelland after seeing Parkinson speeding and with an "extremely cracked windshield." The Court of Appeals, however, ruled that brief inquiries not otherwise related to the initial purpose of a stop do not necessarily violate someone's constitutional protection against unreasonable search and seizure.

"A dog sniff along the outside of a motor vehicle does not constitute a search under the Fourth Amendment," Judge Alan Schwartzman wrote. "The Idaho Supreme Court has previously acknowledged that an officer's investigation at the scene of a stopped automobile can ripen into probable cause as soon as a drug detection dog alerts on the exterior of the vehicle, justifying a search of the interior of the vehicle without the necessity, of obtaining a warrant."

Panel to look into firing of officers

IDAHO FALLS (AP) - The city's three-member Civil Service Commission is meeting Tuesday to determine if two police officers accused of leaving the scene of an accident were fired on religious or political grounds.

Police Chief J. Kent Livsey fired Michael Medema and Paul Jagosh after they were accused of leaving the scene of an Oct. 23 accident.

The hearing will also help the panel decide if Livsey was justified and his actions were in good faith.

Under city code, officers and firefighters have a right to have the commission review their terminations. The firings came the same day police officials at an internal investigation found the two men violated department

policy. Department officials have never publicly specified what policy the decision was based on.

The accident happened about 10 minutes before midnight. Medema and passenger Jagosh were turning onto a street when Medema's car struck a man's truck.



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SERVICES

Janice Seagraves Robinson of Hailey, service at 2 p.m. today at the Community Baptist Church in Hailey (Wood River Chapel).

Theodore 'Ted' Roosevelt Counts of Twin Falls, service at p.m. today at Reynolds Funeral Chapel in Twin Falls.

Emma Melvina Thompson of Buhl, memorial service at 2 p.m. today at the Farmer Funeral Chapel in Buhl.

Nelma 'Sunnie' Rappleye of Burley, service at 2 p.m. today at the Rasmussen Funeral Home, 1350 E. 16th St. in Burley. Friends and family may call 1:45 p.m. today at the funeral home.

Rowena Beitz of Paul, service at 2 p.m. today at the Trinity Lutheran Church in Rupert.

Friends and family may call one hour before services at the church (Hansen Mortuary Rupert Chapel).

DEATH NOTICES

Mabel Austin WENDELL - Mabel Austin, 91, of Wendell died Sunday, Dec. 17, 2000, in Boise. Funeral services are pending under the direction of Demaray's Wendell Chapel.

Colleen Hruza RUPERT - Colleen Hruza, 66, of Rupert died Monday, Dec. 18, 2000, at her home in Rupert. Services will be held at 11 a.m. Friday, Dec. 22, 2000, at Hansen Mortuary in Rupert. Burial will follow in the Rupert Cemetery. Family and friends may call from 6-8 p.m. Thursday and one hour before services on Friday at the funeral home. Arrangements are under the direction of Hansen Mortuary Rupert Chapel. A full obituary will run on Wednesday.

Walter P. Roller TWIN FALLS - Walter P. Roller, 75, of Twin Falls passed away Monday, Dec. 18, 2000, at the Gooding County Memorial Hospital. Services are pending and will be announced by Parke's Magic Valley Funeral Home in Twin Falls.

Mieklia Delgado, infant daughter of Julie and David Delgado of Burley, graveside services at 1 p.m. Friday in Boise.

HOSPITALS

MAGIC VALLEY REGIONAL MEDICAL CENTER Some names are omitted at the patient's request. Dismissed. Carol Pestotnik of Jerome

Admitted. Cruz Hernandez, Wilma Wilkie, Andrea Melendez, Marly Clemens, Tammy Roberts all of Rupert. Eva Croft of Heyburn

Dismissed. Eva Croft of Heyburn, Tammy Roberts, Marly Clemens, Cruz Hernandez, Mike Stapleman all of Rupert.

MINIDOKA MEMORIAL HOSPITAL Some names are omitted at the patient's request.

OBITUARIES

For obituary rates and information, call 733-4934. Ext. 278, between 2 p.m. and 5 p.m. Monday through Saturday. Deadline is 4:30 p.m. for next-day publication. Death notices are a free service and can be placed until 5 p.m. every day.



BUHL Jim Thompson, 80, of Buhl died Dec. 18, 2000, at his home. He was born in Castleford in 1920 to John and Nancy Lewis Thompson. He attended grade school in Three Creek and graduated from Castleford High School in 1938. He married Emma Neumann July 14, 1938, and worked shearing sheep until he was hired to work in

the mines at Rio Tinto, Nev. He worked construction at Farragut Naval Station, Mt. Home Air Force Base, and Hickman Air Force Base in Hawaii until he volunteered for service in WW II. As a member of the 101st Airborne Division he fought in the Battle of the Bulge and the Allied advancement into Germany, where he was wounded. He spent six weeks in hospitals in France and England before being returned to combat division. After the war Jim worked driving truck, where he, Emma, and their two sons lived in California, Utah, and Idaho. A third son was born in 1952. Jim worked for United Oil of Twin Falls for 30 years. In 1993 he retired to Buhl where he spent his time gardening and enjoying his grandchildren and many friends. He was preceded in death by his wife Emma; parents, two brothers, Stan and Norman Thompson and two sisters, Genevieve Funion and Beverly.

He is survived by three sons, Jimmy (Joan) of Blackfoot, John (Wilma) and Ron (Maria), both of Buhl; one sister, Kathy, Libby of Reno, Nev.; one brother, Ted Thompson of Spokane, Wash.; six grandchildren and 11 great-grandchildren.

Memorial services will be held Tuesday, Dec. 19 at 2 p.m. at the Farmer Funeral Chapel in Buhl.

MOUNTAIN HOME

Arvel 'Clint' Johnston Arvel 'Clint' Johnston, 76, of Mountain Home, died Saturday, Dec. 16, 2000, at Gooding Care Center. For Clint's request no services will be held. Cremation under the direction of Summers Funeral Homes, McMurry Chapel.

Clint was born Oct. 10, 1924, in Castleford, Idaho, the son of Arvel T. and Ebulah (Robertson) Johnston. Clint attended school for the Deaf and Blind in Gooding, and worked in the Bruneau and Castleford area. Clint is survived by his niece Helen Wicoxon of Glens Ferry; brothers Pete Johnston of Boise, Ted Johnston of Buhl, and Dolmar Johnston; half sisters, Emily Buckendorf, of Arizona and Maybelle and numerous cousins, nieces and nephews. He was preceded in death by his parents, one daughter, one sister and one brother.



Can you see the future? Or are the tears in your way? Will sadness continue to dominate your life? Or will you look for hope again? You know you didn't ask for this pain. But you can choose to make things better. You can start now with one phone call. We'll show you that you do have the capacity to be happy. And we'll help put you in control. If you're tired of feeling the way you do, call us. We'll answer your questions and talk with you about your options. Let us help you find out where your tears are coming from. Because that's the first step to making them stop. For information, for help, for options 734-6760 or 1-800-657-8000

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Committee sees Minidoka school needs

By Aaron Brock
Times-News writer

RUPERT — It is no secret that Minico High School has needs, but several members of a plant facility levy advisory committee were still surprised by the school's condition.

"A new library at the high school is among the items on the preliminary proposal, and it is essential because of the current library's limited space and resources, committee member Scott Roth said.

"This is what an elementary library should be. ... This is 'deplorable,'" Roth said during a tour of Minidoka County schools Monday.

"I think about where I want my children to be, and this isn't part of the picture," said Roth, whose three children, who are not yet high school age.

Committee members, accompanied by several principals and school administrators, toured Minico High School, West Minico Junior High School, Acequia and Heyburn elementary schools, the Mini-Cassia Opportunity Center and the special services building.

"I think (the tour) opened some eyes," said Heyburn Mayor Cleo Cheney, a member of the advisory committee.

All the buildings toured are slated for improvements if the district can pass a plant facility levy in May. The district has



AARON BROCK/The Times-News

Minico High School Principal Dan Rogers, center, outlines some of his school's needs Monday to members of a plant facility levy advisory committee. Committee members toured several buildings slated for improvements if the levy passes in May.

examined a proposal of about \$16.4 million, but the committee could bring a board a smaller proposal.

"That's going to be the real challenge of this group," said committee co-chairman Dan Lloyd. "To go through and decide what's needed and what's not."

Even if some items on the proposal could be omitted, some items demand attention, said committee co-chairman Max

Twiss.

"There is need out there," Twiss said. "There is some have-to-do stuff we have to do."

Committee members will meet again with the board on Jan. 9, 2001, to go over any changes to the proposal.

Times-News writer Aaron Brock can be reached at the Mini-Cassia Bureau at 677-4042, ext. 110, or by e-mail at abrock@magicvalley.com

School inspection finds shortcomings

By Aaron Brock
Times-News writer

RUPERT — A state inspector has found several unsafe areas in the Minidoka School District, the school board was told Monday evening.

The district is required to act on these findings.

Among the items not up to code are bleacher railings at Minico High School, and several ladders — used by maintenance personnel — to building roofs, said Lewis Roberts, the business operations administrator for the district, who presented the report.

The sidewalks around the school district central office also are out of code, but the board will appeal the requirement to

replace them, board members agreed.

"When I see the need in the district, (replacing) these sidewalks seems absurd," district Superintendent Nick Hallett said.

Roberts reported that, based on this inspection, the state has mandated close to \$150,000 in repairs. Because the current budget can't accommodate such repairs, the district will formulate a plan to make the changes over the next two years.

State inspections are done every year.

In other action Monday the board:

- Agreed to a proposal from the Mini-Cassia Branch of the American Red Cross to allow the

Red Cross to use school buildings in case of emergencies in the area.

- Decided to switch phone companies. After experiencing problems with long-distance faxing, the board decided to switch long distance carriers. Currently the district uses Next Link Affinity of Salt Lake City, but will switch to Project Mutual Telephone next month.

"For the same money, or less, we can get better service," Hallett said.

- Took bids for five new buses.

Times-News writer Aaron Brock can be reached at the Mini-Cassia Bureau at 677-4042, ext. 110, or by e-mail at abrock@magicvalley.com.

Will Cassia County see any of budget surplus?

Some would like it to offset CSI costs

By Dan Fields
Times-News writer

BURLEY — Getting a college degree pays dividends. But will some counties take a hit in the pocketbook as a result?

That was one concern expressed during a Monday luncheon involving area legislators and Cassia County commissioners.

House Speaker Bruce Newcomb, state representatives John Bert-Stevenson and Jim Kempton and state Sen. Dean Cameron talked with commissioners and a dozen others during the meeting.

Cassia County Clerk Darrell Roskelley asked if some of a \$300 million budget surplus could be used to offset the county's rising tuition costs for each student attending the College of Southern Idaho.

"When you look at Cassia County, we're really hurting," Roskelley said. "I'm sure you have people hollering everywhere for money. But a lot of people are going back to school."

Terome and Twin Falls county residents pay property taxes to CSI. But Cassia County pays per student. Mike Mason, dean of finance at CSI, said for each stu-



DAN FIELDS/The Times-News

dent, the county pays \$50 per credit hour, up to \$500.

"But you know, that's really money well spent," said Newcomb, R-Burley. "Every rural area in the state of Idaho is depressed. What we need to look at is to see if this is a wise expenditure of taxpayers' funds."

Cameron, R-Rupert, believes the county will eventually see some relief.

"I think we'll find some money to help with that," Cameron said. "But how much, I don't know."

Commissioner Shirley Povlsen asked legislators if there would be any money for a regional tourism committee, and if they believed such a committee would succeed.

Kempton, R-Albion, said a regional organization would definitely benefit the area. But it would take a commitment by a group of people to get it off the ground.

"Anything in the tourism or economic aspect is a good idea," Kempton said. "It follows the intent of the Gem Community program. It depends how far you want to go with it. But there's a lot of talk and very few get into the organization's planning stage."

Dan Fields is The Times-News' Mini-Cassia editor. He can be reached at 677-4042 or by e-mail at dfields@magicvalley.com

Burley council approves cell phone tower

By Dan Fields
Times-News writer

BURLEY — The City Council Monday approved the construction of a 160-foot cellular phone tower on the city's north side.

Approval for the tower, which will be owned by Pocatello-based Clear Talk Wireless, came only after council members made sure the tower would be no closer than 200 feet from any residential area.

Council members approved the tower on a 4-1 vote, with Jon Anderson voting against it. The tower will be at 335 Bedke Blvd., an land owned by Manuel Santos.

Dan Mackinney, a spokesman for a Pocatello engineering firm representing Clear Talk Wireless, said Clear Talk wants to build the tower to remain competitive. Mackinney stressed the Magic Valley isn't being singled out for towers, even though several com-

panies have looked to build towers in the area.

"There has been an influx of cell phone towers in this part of the state within the last six to nine months," Mackinney said. "A lot of people are asking me, 'Why now?' It's just a coincidence."

Council members were originally going to put off voting on the issue until its next meeting on Jan. 2. But City Administrator Mark Mitton suggested moving the tower to make sure it didn't bother residents of a nearby subdivision and apartment complex.

"My only concern was the closeness of the tower," Mitton said. "I know if I was in those apartments, I wouldn't like waking up and looking out the door and seeing that."

Council member Gordon Hansen asked Mackinney if Clear Talk Wireless could attach a feed to a tower owned by

Nextel Communications. Mackinney said it wasn't worth doing for "administrative and economical" reasons.

In other council business:

- Payment for boat dock construction at Community and Kunau parks was unanimously approved. The city is paying \$6,778, while Cassia County is matching. The state is funding the remaining \$40,659 for the project.

- The Magic Sage Library District will receive city money if voters approve the district. The funds would go from the Burley Library District to the Magic Sage District. The district's six-month trial program is slated to start March 1.

Dan Fields is The Times-News' Mini-Cassia editor. He can be reached at 677-4042 or by e-mail at dfields@magicvalley.com

Berns

Continued from B1

general statement that berns would look like the ones on the south of Greenhorn Road in the Golden Eagle subdivision.

Lawson said the berns on the north side of Greenhorn Road can't look like the ones on the south without doing something

radical, because of the lot heights and ponds already approved in the subdivision.

"We have a problem that arose out of misunderstanding, miscommunication," he said.

"I can understand that they might not look like the berns on the south-side. But what will

they look like?" Wright asked, referring to the need to have some sort of artistic rendering.

Rinker offered to post a bond that would allow him to go ahead with his development while giving commissioners a guarantee that their requirements would be met.

Towers

Continued from B1

place, including Pocatello and

Representatives from cellular service and personal carrier system companies contributed their ideas through-out the weeks the ordinance was drafted. Those representatives also support ordinance.

While the ordinance was being reviewed, city officials approved tower requests for

two large cellular service and personal carrier system companies.

Earlier this month, the council approved NewCom Wireless LLC's two 90-foot communication towers in the city. And in November, the council approved U S West Wireless LLC's request for two 120-foot towers and one 93-foot tower.

Those requests were submitted before the moratorium was

imposed in September.

Approving the ordinance would end the moratorium.

Other Magic Valley cities, including Burley and Kimberly are working on their own tower ordinances.

Times-News staff writer John T. Huddy can be reached in Twin Falls at 735-3259 or by e-mail at jhuddy@magicvalley.com

INEEL

Continued from B1

Continued in workers taking "undue haste" in shutting down the incinerator.

And the equipment operator also was unsure of the proper position of an emergency stop switch.

On that Sunday afternoon, range fires were spreading across the INEEL in eastern Idaho. But word of the rapidly approaching range fire was slow to reach Waste Experiment Reduction Facility workers.

The facility burns low-level radioactive and hazardous chemical waste.

The shift supervisor ordered the five workers to conduct an emergency shutdown and evacuate. The incinerator was shut down and the facility evacuated about 5:15 p.m., Sept. 17.

When workers returned the next morning, at about 7:45 a.m., the secondary combustion chamber was burning unattended at about 1,800 degrees, the normal operating temperature.

The secondary chamber boosts the temperature of the exhaust of the primary chamber, ensuring the proper destruction of any hazardous chemicals in waste being

burned.

The emergency stop indicator showed that the fast shutdown had been initiated. But a recording device showed the secondary chamber had been burning since the evacuation the day before.

The review notes that the emergency stop button on the incinerator control console is similar to another button used during normal operations. That button is pushed in and then pulled out again.

During the emergency shutdown, the operator referred to the emergency procedures but found no guidance for the proper position of the emergency stop switch.

The review concludes that the operator pushed the emergency stop button, and finding no instructions to the contrary, pulled it back out. It's unclear what happened then, but the chamber was burning the next morning.

The event was a violation of operating procedures and a safety issue, Francis said. As a result, all INEEL facility managers were told to review emergency procedures. She did not know whether those reviews have been completed.

A Sept. 18 memo from Jeff Williams, a facility representative,

noted that burners aren't supposed to be running unless an operator is present to monitor the operation.

Running a burner unattended runs the minor risk of equipment damage, and the risk of radiation release if it overheats and causes a fire in the exhaust emission control and air filter system, Williams wrote.

The incident was one reason why Brosious' group threatened to sue to force the Energy Department to shut down the incinerator.

"This is why we filed the notice of intent to sue to shut down WERF," he said Monday.

The facility was shut down anyway at the end of October.

The Energy Department earlier this year had decided not to upgrade the facility to meet new federal air quality regulations. The state had denied a permit for the continued operation, but would have allowed the facility to continue operation for another year without the changes.

Times-News writer N.S. Nookentzel can be reached at 733-0931, Ext. 237, or by e-mail nls@magicvalley.com

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Ex-judge will not take up FMC retirees' cause

POCATELLO (AP) - Former Idaho Supreme Court Justice and gubernatorial candidate Robert Huntley will not take up the legal cause for retirees of FMC Corp., even though he believes the company wronged the workers.

"The problem is that most of their cases should have been brought under workers compensation years ago," Huntley said. "My analysis was it's too late to do anything although I feel they have been wronged very grievously by FMC over the years."

The former workers at the Pocatello phosphorous plant, recently renamed Astaris Corp., created a group and elected officers last spring. They complain that exposure to chemicals at the plant resulted in lung and heart problems and cancers, among other ailments.

At the time, Huntley made no promises, except that he would look into the retirees' claims. "I was a little bit perturbed," said Ray Robinson, a 36-year former employee who says he has suffered three heart surgeries and respiratory disease. "He said he would let us know in three months and then he put us off. I said, 'Gee whiz, we just had a couple of cancers.'"

Huntley said the group should get the opinion of another attorney.

"I feel that FMC did not let the workers know what the dangers were from all the chemicals in the environment and it's tragic that the time has run," he said.

A 1996 legal decree dictates that Astaris must make an estimated \$190 million in improvements to the company's air emissions systems. State and federal officials have predicted that one improvement - stopping the use of carbon monoxide flares - will improve regional air quality, especially during inversion conditions.

Air quality managers have said Pocatello-area phosphate refineries create the largest amounts of pollution in the region.

Reopened A-10 investigation confirms findings

BOISE (AP) - Air Force officials who reopened the investigation into the Jan. 20 crash of an A-10 Thunderbolt II west of Gowen Field have confirmed the findings of the original accident report.

The crash killed the pilot, Maj. Mark Moynihan. Investigators concluded in May that severe spatial disorientation while flying in bad weather at night was a substantially contributing factor.

Moynihan, 33, was an instructor pilot with the 190th Fighter Squadron of the Idaho Air National Guard's 124th Wing. The crash occurred as he was returning to Boise after a training sortie at the Saylor Creek Air Force Range. He and another A-10A were recalled to Gowen Field due to deteriorating weather.

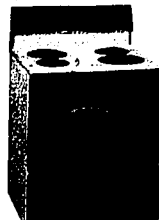
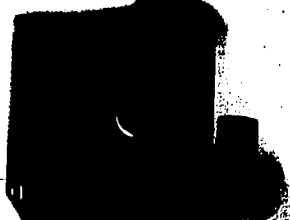
Despite investigators' original conclusions, Air Combat Command officials reopened the investigation in early October as a result of new information related to the auxiliary power unit hot air check valve.

However, after interviewing an additional witness, analyzing the original investigation report and examining a key piece of the plane's wreckage, the lead investigator found no evidence that would warrant changing the original findings.

Specifically, investigators found no evidence from the debris analysis pointing to a pre-impact fire or explosion, which would have been consistent with overheating of the auxiliary power unit. Guard officials also said no damage was found to indicate a faulty hot air check valve.

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The Times-News

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Holiday tradition Devotion goes into making of Nativity scene

By Coren Hart
Times-News correspondent

RUPERT - In the city of San Luis Potosi, Mexico, Adela Graf grew up with an ages-old Christmas tradition that brought richness to her family - a tradition she continues in her own home in Rupert.

Her mother used to set out an elaborate Nativity scene each year. Adela and her brothers and sisters would help, tucking Spanish moss over boxes for the foundation. They fashioned tiny houses of every style from materials around home. Bits of paper, corrugated cardboard, broken jewelry and even twigs and stones became a part of the scene.

"This scene takes half my living room," Graf said of her display. "The Christmas tree and stockings are downstairs in the family room so we can have space for the Nativity."

This year's scene, called a *nacimiento*, represents a special triumph for Graf. Not only is it the largest she has ever fashioned, but signals a comeback after a long illness.

She was diagnosed with dermatomyositis about six years ago. The disease has nearly claimed her life twice, but husband, Steven, and their children have

helped her greatly in this battle that has left her weakened, she said.

Her mother gave her her first pieces - a small stable with the holy family, animals, shepherds and wise men.

"It was when I first left home. She knew I would keep it up, that I had that interest. And every year, we have added new pieces," Graf said.

This year, a sister gave her a delicate shepherds and a little lamb. Her mother, Concepcion Escobedo of Nevada, has given her several small buildings.

Aspirin and cough syrup boxes became a mosque when covered with "tiles" of heavy cream-colored paper. Bits of gold-colored chain are draped across the doorway and cosmetic bottle lids topped with glass jewels become the exotic roofs.

Some of the pieces have been bought in Mexico, like a pottery bus overflowing with people, animals and baggage.

With the help of her children, Graf stacked cardboard cartons for a multi-level terrain covered by a brown bedspread for the earth.

A large silver star hanging from the drapery rod shines over the tiny figures of people, animals, trees, farm animals, a mirror for a lake and Easter grass in between.

"I miss the Spanish moss that we used

in Mexico," she said. "It had a special odor."

Fine boughs, potted plants and evergreen cones are tucked into every corner. Small, multicolored Christmas lights have their wiring tucked away inconspicuously and light the scene, transforming everyday objects into a thing of wonder.

"Two of our daughters have their own scenes now and our married son's wife has a small Nativity," she said. "I guess they will continue this tradition with their own families."

The Nativity scene will stay up Jan. 6, *El Dia De Los Tres Reyes*, the day of the Magi.

"That's what's beautiful about the Christmases in other countries, all of it centering around Christ the Savior," she said. "A religion in the home helps you keep that all through the year."

Times-News correspondent Coren Hart can be reached through the Mini-Cassia bureau at 677-4042.

COREN HART/The Times-News

A Nativity scene that covers an area about 8 by 12 feet is Adela Graf's Christmas tradition.

It is a humble masterpiece of folk art and devotion that has tied her family's holidays together through generations.



Poinsettia grows into Christmas memory

By Heather Abel
Times-News correspondent

TWIN FALLS - Mineva Joslin remembers the day five years ago, when her late husband walked in the door with a holiday plant he had purchased.

"He said, 'Here's your poinsettia,'" Joslin says.

She has kept the poinsettia plant alive and thriving for five years and says it is bushier and bigger and more beautiful than ever.

"It's so much prettier now than it was then," Joslin says.

She calls her special poinsettia "Pretty Lady."

"One day, I was standing there with my niece and I said, 'Isn't she a pretty lady?'" she said.

Joslin's friends say she really has a way with flowers.

"I enjoy flowers and God



HEATHER ABEL/The Times-News

Mineva Joslin admires her poinsettia, which she has named, 'Pretty Lady.' On her lap is her dog, Muffin.

seems to have given me a talent with it," she says.

Still, she is amazed by her success with Pretty Lady.

"I've never seen one (poinsettia) like it," she says.

"It's just unbelievable. It just keeps getting leaves."

HOLIDAY LIGHTS



MARY LOU POTTS/The Times-News

Even snow men want to be toasty warm. This float from Clear Springs Food was an entry in the Buhl Light parade Dec. 9.

Jackpot welcomes first foreign-exchange student

By Sam Feltman
Times-News correspondent

JACKPOT, Nev. - Jackpot School hit a landmark this year with its first foreign-exchange student.

Christopher Marx is from Meschede, Germany, a town about the size of Twin Falls. His host family is Joel and Joyce Stieben.

"Jackpot is small, but everyone is friendly," Marx said.

Marx, 17, is enjoying the small resort town. He has tried golf and fishing for the first time and plans on playing junior varsity basketball. The only team sport played at his German school is soccer.

Marx's father is a lawyer and Marx also plans on studying law after high school. His mother is a teacher.

Marx is in the senior class at Jackpot, but in Germany there are 13 years of school so he has another year ahead of him, he said.

The new student has proved popular with his new classmates who are mostly Hispanic. They voted him homecoming king.

"He has been a real pleasure in class," said Bonnie Yoman, government and history teacher. The other students are getting a different perspective of the different cultures in the world because of him.

She also said he is a good student and a good addition.

Marx said Jackpot is stricter than his school in Meschede. The Jackpot dress code is tighter and in Meschede there is no such thing as in-school suspension.

His favorite subject here is American government, but his teachers and classmates agree he is a computer whiz. In fact, business teacher Eric Unglaub says he will go to Marx for help with computer problems that he can't solve.

"His English is right at the top," the teacher said.

What surprises Unglaub most is Marx's dead-on football savvy. As part



SAM FELTMAN/The Times-News

Christopher Marx is Jackpot School's first foreign-exchange student.

of a class assignment, Unglaub's students do a weekly football pick. He said Marx is No. 1 in the school.

The exchange student has learned to like American hamburgers and pizza - a contrast to his favorite German dish of bratwurst.

His favorite pastimes in his country are mountain biking and snowboarding.

"It has been a really neat experience," said Marx's host father, Joel Stieben. That includes showing the German student around the United States.

Stieben said they have taken him to Yellowstone Park and he got to see the Teton Mountains. They have also taken Marx boating and fishing in Hagerman and the nearby Salmon Reservoir.

His host father has two goals left before Marx leaves for home in January. One is to get him his driver's license because in Germany the cost of a license is about \$1,000.

The other is to take him snowboarding at Tahoe.

LOADING UP

Adjutant Richard Stone, Senior Vice Art Hoover, Commander Cliff Jones and Porter Master R.D. McKimley load boxes of food for the Amvet Post 27 second annual food drive. Along with Burley Amvet Post 1, they took several vehicles of food to the Veteran's Nursing Home in Pocatello. The Amvets had collected the food from Twin Falls and Hansen merchants and residents. The group meets at 7:30 p.m. every second Thursday at the Disabled Veterans Hall at Harrison Street and Shoup Avenue in Twin Falls. For more information, call Cliff Jones at 734-3705.



BETTY SATERLOW/The Times-News

TINY YULETIDE VILLAGE

Dianna Dickinson sets up her miniature village, which will be on display from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. weekdays and 1-5 p.m. on weekends through Dec. 22 at 132 Main Ave. S. behind Professional Frame in Old Towne in Twin Falls. Donations are suggested and proceeds go to the Southern Idaho Learning Center. Dickinson has collected the pieces for 10 years and takes two days to set up the display which covers 32 feet. Santa will arrive from 1-4 p.m. Saturdays. For more information, call 734-3914.



Photo courtesy of Southern Idaho Learning Center

TWIN FALLS AREA COMMUNITY HOLIDAY PREPARATIONS

Scepticist International of Twin Falls members Midge Albrecht and Marcia Lewis, along with other members, spent many hours preparing for Christmas in City Park. The strings of lights that decorate the large trees had to be checked and repaired. Each year, dozens of light bulbs are replaced because of vandalism, burnout and breakage. In preparation for this annual event, the organization says. The trees were officially lit on Nov. 26 at the first of four Sunday presentations that included music, an inspirational message and lighting of the Advent candles. A children's choir with 125 participants began the celebration.



Photo courtesy of Scepticist International

Harrison School announces honor roll

TWIN FALLS - The honor roll students for Harrison Elementary School for the first quarter:

Second-grade all A's: Chris Hewitt, Kara Boomer, Caitlin Harvey, Trevor Ratliff, TJ Richardson, Alyssa Beck, Ryan Dickson, Katelyn Jensen, Kayla Stover, Erikas Bly, Harrison Cantu, Ryan Condon, Schyler Williams, Hannah Smith, Matthew Lewis, Matthew, Katie Strong and Alicia Wesley.

All A's and B's: Whitney Bell, Brandon Collins, Kaitia Jacobson, Adam Stevens, Laverne DeWitt, Miriam Mose, Shelby Newberry, Zachery Sharp, Krysta Campbell, Taylor Sturmer, Kaitia Pierce, Crystal Budden, Cheyenne Uker, Brianna Ashcraft, Renee Jones, Anna Kolen, Madison Warden, Zachary Lattin, Mitchell Rice, Gabi Noesen, Pamela Hall, Taylor Rambur, Morgan Ruggles and Marrie Lippich, academic improvement, Garrett Albor, Babs Ravella Olsen, Braydon Cook, Andrew Javier, Romina, Umahana Collie.

Third-grade all A's: Caye Faught, Kari Graybeal, Mari Newirth, Ashley Brown, Braden Casperon, Colton Condon, Hannah Buehler, Jessica Wilkinson, Leah Murphy, Michelle Nikolov, Nick McKee, Rachel King, Sage Garrison, Shakira Vaughn, Danielle Wicklund, Ashley Ann Clark Miodock, all A's and B's: Patricia Aviles, James Butler, Britnie Clinton, Ashley Giergich, Kermil Goodie, Jose Ramos, Mariel Merley, Michael Otero, Kelsey Price, Alberto Reyes, Madison Strong, Marja Maricic, Zach Hansen, Paige Hinson, Josh Mullin, Zach Hansen, Jacob Cnatz, Zaim Cabrer, Kilee Burton, Dakota Barton, Jessica Newberry, Brandon LaBrenz, Brian Wreath, Chase Aufderheide, Chelsea Brown, Cheyenne Davis, Jacob Lippich, Kim Eiranda, Kyle Rees and Maria Santos, academic improvement, Anthony Bopp, Amanda Harvey, Kaitia Saliba and Adriana Solesin.

Fourth-grade all A's: Caye Faught, Kari Graybeal, Mari Newirth, Ashley Brown, Braden Casperon, Colton Condon, Hannah Buehler, Jessica Wilkinson, Leah Murphy, Michelle Nikolov, Nick McKee, Rachel King, Sage Garrison, Shakira Vaughn, Danielle Wicklund, Ashley Ann Clark Miodock, all A's and B's: Patricia Aviles, James Butler, Britnie Clinton, Ashley Giergich, Kermil Goodie, Jose Ramos, Mariel Merley, Michael Otero, Kelsey Price, Alberto Reyes, Madison Strong, Marja Maricic, Zach Hansen, Paige Hinson, Josh Mullin, Zach Hansen, Jacob Cnatz, Zaim Cabrer, Kilee Burton, Dakota Barton, Jessica Newberry, Brandon LaBrenz, Brian Wreath, Chase Aufderheide, Chelsea Brown, Cheyenne Davis, Jacob Lippich, Kim Eiranda, Kyle Rees and Maria Santos, academic improvement, Anthony Bopp, Amanda Harvey, Kaitia Saliba and Adriana Solesin.

Fifth-grade all A's: Levi Anderson, Cynthia Avales, Patricia Bly, Ashley Budden, Erin Collins, Janelle Wu, Ashlee George, Jill Haney, Casey Jensen, Alaina Quinn, Ashley Sabla, Michael Bielebenber, Jessica Dee, Angelina Mabeber, Jason Sipe and Keren Williams, all A and B's, Ashley Assel, Jesse Brown, Crystal Camarena, Nikolina Macpovic, Jessica Souman, Kanysha Maize, Zac Quigley, Tommy Rodriguez, Trinity Ross, Jennifer Schilling, Shalyn Davis, Amanda Jaramila, Jessica Grindstaff, AJ Curetta, Bobby Pott, Chance Reza, Grayson Stone, Cierra VanLeeuwen, Brooke Baker, Clara Cartet, Courtney Frazer, Kaylee Gorman, Joshua Hannold, Nicholas Pollock, Nick Sharp, Amanda Vaughn and Michelle Sells.

Sixth-grade all A's: Kaylee Fauvel, Ashley Brown, Brittany Trone, Mirsad Kovacic, Grace Orla, Risa Casperon, Abby McNeely, Colleen Gordon and Kristie Payne, all A's and B's: Heather Tobin, Alena Boop, Kat Ingalls, Jared Allett, Janet Ceballos, Whitney Richardson, Eric Estrada, Meg McCarthy, Megan Warden, Dan Perry, Cynthia Hannold, Paulina Ravella, Kyla Heller, Jessica Bond and Tom Liu, academic improvement, Georgann Bock, Bianca Garcia, Mirsad Kovacic, Grace Orla, Cynthia Hannold, Paulina Ravella, Ramiro Ayala, Pedro Camarena, Arza Bafaktracerje, Kaylee Fauvel, Ashley Jones, Brittany Trone, Janet Ceballos, Whitney Richardson, Meg McCarthy, Megan Warden, Dan Perry, Bianca Garcia, Colleen Gordon, Heather Bond, Hafs-Rite, Kat Ingalls, Shanel Kimbrough, Lindsey Maughan, Abby McNeely, Jessica Norris, Kristie Payne, Alena Boop, Jared Tobin, Chris Hall, Adam Hannold, Kole Campbell, Anthony Melander and Ashlee Jenkins.

Seventh-grade all A's: Caye Faught, Kari Graybeal, Mari Newirth, Ashley Brown, Braden Casperon, Colton Condon, Hannah Buehler, Jessica Wilkinson, Leah Murphy, Michelle Nikolov, Nick McKee, Rachel King, Sage Garrison, Shakira Vaughn, Danielle Wicklund, Ashley Ann Clark Miodock, all A's and B's: Patricia Aviles, James Butler, Britnie Clinton, Ashley Giergich, Kermil Goodie, Jose Ramos, Mariel Merley, Michael Otero, Kelsey Price, Alberto Reyes, Madison Strong, Marja Maricic, Zach Hansen, Paige Hinson, Josh Mullin, Zach Hansen, Jacob Cnatz, Zaim Cabrer, Kilee Burton, Dakota Barton, Jessica Newberry, Brandon LaBrenz, Brian Wreath, Chase Aufderheide, Chelsea Brown, Cheyenne Davis, Jacob Lippich, Kim Eiranda, Kyle Rees and Maria Santos, academic improvement, Anthony Bopp, Amanda Harvey, Kaitia Saliba and Adriana Solesin.

Buttons 'N Bows steps lively at holiday dance

EDEN - The Buttons 'N Bows is having its Christmas dance on Friday at Anderson camp in Eden.

The event is a potluck and the club is furnishing the meat and bread.

Food will be served at 7 p.m. and the dance will follow.

For more information, call 324-3080.

Optimists announce shotgun winners

TWIN FALLS - The winners of the shotgun raffle at the Twin Falls Optimist annual Wayne Kinney Turkey Shoot held Dec. 5 were Ken Miller and Ken Siemon.

Miller won the 12 gauge and Siemon won the 20 gauge.

Twin Falls class of 1981 starts internet site

TWIN FALLS - The Twin Falls class of 1981 has an internet site available.

The web site is www.geocities.com/twinfalls81.

For more information, call Lars Hovey at 788-1204.

Ark 4-H group wraps gifts at bookstore

TWIN FALLS - Ark 4-H group will wrap gifts from 12-3 p.m. Saturday at Barnes & Noble in Twin Falls.

Gooding Duplicate Bridge Club announces winners

GOODING - The Gooding Duplicate Bridge Club winners for Dec. 8 were first place, Sue Borden and Bev Clark; second place, Max Thompson and Riley Burton; third place, Howard Tucker and Mary York and fourth place, Cecil and Carma Davidson.

Refreshments were served. The Gooding Duplicate Bridge Club meets at 1 p.m. every Friday at Gooding City Hall.

Bliss School holds Christmas program

BLISS - The Bliss School will hold its Christmas program at 7 p.m. Wednesday at the school gym.

The program will feature a variety of Christmas standards.

Mary Time Club celebrates Christmas

TWIN FALLS - The Mary Time Club met Dec. 5 at the home of Irene Mai.

Twelve members were present and the roll call was "All I want for Christmas."

Community Events

Members thanked secret pal for cards and exchanged three dozen cookies.

The white elephant was won by Betty Shifer and Genevieve Crawford.

They also drew a new secret pal for 2001.

The next Mary Time Club meeting will be Jan. 2 at the home of Dorothy Maxson and roll call will be "anytime you want to talk about."

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Refreshments were served. The Gooding Duplicate Bridge Club meets at 1 p.m. every Friday at Gooding City Hall.

SENIOR CALENDAR

Twin Falls Senior Citizens Center
616 Eastland Drive
Dinner served from noon to 1:30 p.m. Suggested donation is \$3 for seniors. The cost is \$4 for non-seniors under 60 and \$2.50 for children under 12.

Tuesday: Rib-b-ques w/ bun, vegetables, potato salad, cookie, fruit
Wednesday: Taco salad

Thursday: Christmas dinner: Ham or turkey, potatoes, gravy, dressing, salad, baked beans, sweet potato, dessert

Friday: Beef stew, fruit salad, vegetable, corn bread, baker's choice

Monday: Center closed

Activities:
Library, Pool Room, and Bargain Center with cards, games, color television, puzzles and movies. Open weekdays from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Tuesday: Blood pressure from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m.
Craft class at 12:30 p.m.
Exercise class

Wednesday: Quilting 9 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.
Board meeting at 1 p.m.
Elks card club at 7 p.m.

Thursday: Pinochle at 1 p.m.
Christmas dinner
BJ Band and Santa
Friday: Blood pressure from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m.
Lunch bingo
Quilting
Monday Center closed

West End Senior Citizens
1010 Main St., Buhl
Noon meals served Monday through Friday. Buffet meal at 1 p.m. on Sunday.

Evening meals served at 5:30 p.m. Monday and Thursday. Suggested donations for meals is weekdays \$2.50, Sundays \$3.50, non-seniors \$4.25 and children under 12-years-old \$2.50. Meals can be delivered Monday through Friday. Call 543-4577 for more information. Free bus service to and from meals is available Monday evening, Tuesday at noon and Thursday noon and evening. Please call 543-4577 by 10 a.m. to arrange a ride. Coffee and cinnamon rolls each morning at the Center, everyone is welcome.

Tuesday: Cube steak, au gratin potato, buttered beans, Jell-O salad, rolls, dessert

Wednesday: Hamburger, tomato, onions, cheese, pickles, potato salad, baked beans, fruit

Thursday: Christmas dinner
Friday: Baked potato bar
Sundays Center closed
Monday: Center closed

Activities
Thrift shop open every day. Quilting, 8 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Tuesday: Exercises from 7-8 a.m.
Treasure Tuesday
Board meeting from 1-3 p.m.
Wednesday: Exercises from 7-8 a.m. and 10 a.m.
Thursday: Exercises from 7-8 p.m.
Dr. Clevery at 11:50 a.m.
Bingo from 1-3 p.m.

Evening meal at 5:30 p.m. Smorgasbord
Friday: Exercises from 7-8 a.m. and 10 a.m.
Saturday Center closed
Monday Center closed

Filter Senior Haven
222 Main St., Elmer
Dinners served at noon on Tuesday and Thursday and at 6 p.m. on Friday. Suggested donation is \$2.50 for seniors. Home delivered meals available each meal time.

Tuesday: Turkey almondine over rice
Thursday: Christmas dinner: Roast beef

Ageless Senior Citizens Inc.
310 Main N., Kimberly
Wednesday: Beef stroganoff over noodles, broccoli and cheese, pineapple salad, bread and butter, banana bread, coffee, milk
Friday: Turkey, dressing, potatoes, gravy, peas and carrots, w/dor salad, cranberry sauce, rolls, cake, ice cream, coffee, milk
Monday: Center closed
Activities
Thursday: Crafts at 1 p.m.
Friday: Birthday and Christmas dinner at noon
B.J. and friends will entertain with Santa
Monday Center closed

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Deadlines

COMPUTERS AND TECHNOLOGY

Scholarly research forgotten side of Net

By James Costes
Chicago Tribune

Q. What search engine would you recommend for my sister in New Jersey? She is a middle school social studies teacher who is deep into research in the areas of biblical and historical scholarship.

-Lil Fleming, Chicago

A. The great news about the Internet is that with its many assets, including search engines, it doesn't make a hill of beans as to whether you're in New Jersey or New Delhi, Boston or Bangkok, when you log on in search of information. I've remained a fan of the AltaVista.com search engine for years, and I suspect that it is the best one to recommend for your religious-minded sister.

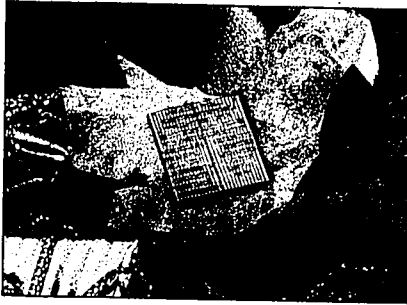
It's kinda sad in a way, but even as the World Wide Web reaches ever deeper into American society, the Internet is becoming ever more devoted to buying and selling merchandise - hardware and software - or promoting a particular item of wetwork (programmer slang for a human being, based on the circuitry of the nervous system). There has been relatively little growth in the scholarly side of the Internet as the commercial side has grown explosively.

The idea behind a search engine is to use software called "bots" (short for robots) to automatically roam the Internet and document the content of all the sites it stumbles upon. But with the commercialization of the Internet, AltaVista's owners make a tidy profit charging Web site owners about \$200 for the mere privilege of being considered. There is an listing at www.altavista.com. Although the sites' owners promise that they also will consider non-paying sites on their merits alone, it's hard to believe that even this superb search engine offers the sort of scholarly content that once had been its goal.

There are two other Web search engines that often pop out when you are attempting academic-type research rather than looking for an electronic toy or some other consumer gadget. First of all, tell your sister to check out About.com, a search engine whose owners attempt to cover esoteric topics along with commercial drivel. Another surprisingly effective academic resource is AskJeeves.com. It's designed to allow users to type in questions and get pointed to relevant Web sites. You can also AskJeeves to return results for the same query on other search engines.

Academic resources remain plentiful on the Web, and if it weren't for the investment in Internet commerce, we wouldn't have much more for lay people on the academic side than we did years ago when the Internet was largely a research tool for insiders in academia and government.

How SMALL CAN YOU GO?



A custom microprocessor built with new CMOS technology rests on miniature Christmas package from a doll house. IBM announced recently that it has launched production of powerful new microchips for servers, communications gear and pervasive computing products, using the most advanced chip-making technology ever developed. The new technology, named CMOS 9S, unites for the first time innovations in technology to build chip circuits as small as 0.33 microns, or nearly 800 times thinner than a human hair.

Presents can be small enough for stocking

The Dallas Morning News

Coming up with cool, innovative surprises for a holiday stocking can be tough. The only rule to follow, though, is that the gift be small. With that in mind, we searched press releases, catalogs and Web sites for some of the latest, neatest or practical high-tech stocking stuffers around.

Motorola's newest cell phone looks like something from a spy movie. The Timeport P8767 has a compact and refined body. And its standout feature really does have to be seen to be appreciated: a crisp, bright color display.

The Timeport P8767 is a worthy heir to Motorola's StarTAC. Built on the same frame, it incorporates some needed improvements, including easier-to-press keys.

\$299 from Motorola, www.motorola.com, 1-800-331-6457

More than likely, one of the reasons you bought a Visor per-

sonal digital assistant was the promise of adding function with pop-in modules. Modems are the most useful modules so far. And the Springport Modem 56 GlobalAccess is a speedy addition, offering a 56K connection anyplace with a phone jack.

Checking and sending e-mail or wandering some parts of the Web

is as easy as entering any data in the Visor and as fast as a laptop. The included Net-related software is a bit challenging, though, and some Web sites aren't accessible. Even so, it's amazing how much more useful this tiny addition makes a PDA.

\$149 from Xircom, www.xircom.com, 1-800-438-4526

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Computer Q&A

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COMICS

Classic Peanuts

By Charles M. Schulz



Dilbert

By Scott Adams



B.C.

By Johnny Hart



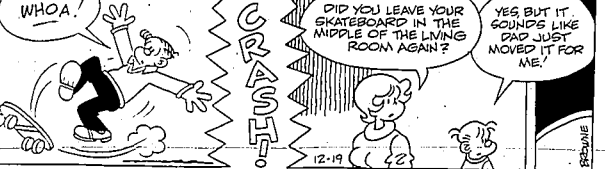
Garfield

By Jim Davis



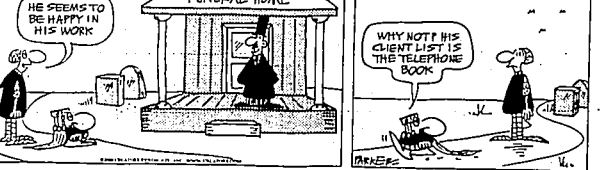
Hi and Lois

By Chance Browne



The Wizard of Id

By Brant Parker & Johnny Hart



Hagar the Horrible

By Chris Browne



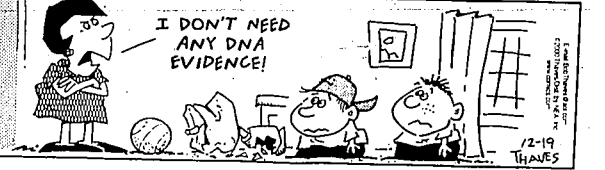
Beetle Bailey

By Mort Walker



Frank and Ernest

By Bob Thaves



The Born Loser

By Art Sansom & Chip



For Better or For Worse

By Lynn Johnston



Blondie

By Dean Young & Stan Drake



Pickles

By Brian Crane



Dennis the Menace

By Hank Ketcham

The Family Circus

By Bill Keane



"CHECK THIS OUT, JOEY. IF YOU MIX IN THE CRANBERRY SAUCE, YOU GET PINK MASHED POTATOES."

"Your village is nice, Mommy, but those lots are zoned for Christmas presents."

Rose Is Rose

By Pat Brady



Zits

By Jim Borgman and Jerry Scott



Luann

By Greg Evans



Strange Brew

By John Deering

Non Sequitur

By Wiley



The Times-News

BRIEFLY IN MONEY

Company offers Sun Valley flight package

SUN VALLEY - Families wanting to hit the ski slopes this season can opt for Southwest Airlines Vacations' Kids Fly Free offer, the company said Monday.

Children ages 2-11 can fly free to Sun Valley with the purchase of an adult, two-night or longer Southwest Airlines Vacations' ski package - round-trip air, hotel, rental accommodations and ski lift tickets. Ground transportation options also are available for purchase.

With flight service into Boise, the company's basic prices for two-night packages at Sun Valley's Elkhorn Resort are, for example, \$244 from Spokane, Wash.; \$339, Los Angeles; and \$484, Chicago.

VITA volunteer program helps with tax returns

TWIN FALLS - VITA - Volunteer Income Tax Assistance - is a program that involves volunteers who help taxpayers who cannot afford personal tax assistance.

VITA helps taxpayers who are disabled, non-English speaking or older. VITA volunteers explain the many special credits and deductions and how people may claim them on their tax returns. Volunteers even help individuals complete and file their returns.

Volunteers include college students, law students, retirees, members of volunteer or community organizations and business people. An accounting background can be helpful although not necessary. The IRS provides VITA volunteers with instruction and training materials necessary to prepare basic income tax returns. Training is generally conducted in December and early January at locations that are convenient for the instructors and volunteers.

Volunteers also are needed for activities other than preparing returns. Some volunteers organize sites, while others do publicity.

For more information about VITA, the IRS said, call the taxpayer education specialist at 334-9153.

Wells Fargo & Co. delivers insurance via the Internet

SAN FRANCISCO - Wells Fargo & Co., through its insurance subsidiary, announced Monday it is delivering small-business insurance on the Internet via Wells Fargo's small-business portal, wellsfargo.com/biz.

"Providing small business insurance through the Internet is a natural extension of Wells Fargo's current offerings. Our goal is to provide our small business customers with quick and understandable quotes and coverage," said Tim King, president of Wells Fargo Insurance. "Initially, Wells Fargo customers will be able to get multiple quotes and policy binding in one business day. Soon thereafter, customers will be able to get quotes and bind a policy online within 15 minutes."

Coverage includes business liability, business property, worker's compensation, umbrella liability and commercial auto, and is targeted at companies with 50 employees or less.

Qwest executives sell shares in effort to diversify

DENVER - Eight high-ranking executives of Qwest Communications International sold more than 1 million shares in November in what the company described as an effort to diversify their holdings.

Qwest chief executive officer Joe Nacchio sold the largest chunk of shares, parting with 425,000 in the first two weeks of November at prices ranging from \$42 to \$46.72, the Washington Post reported.

The sale left Nacchio with 648,130 shares in addition to millions of options. Nacchio received roughly 6.5 million options when he joined Qwest and another 9 million when Qwest June 30 bought U.S. West, which provided local phone service in the Magic Valley. Qwest's board has required Nacchio to exercise the options and sell the shares over the next 30 months.

Qwest spokesman Matt Barkett said the company has traditionally relied on options as a favored method of executive compensation.

"When those options vest or mature, a lot of these guys will sell them simply to diversify their portfolios," Barkett said. "The thing that makes this routine is there is a regular trading window during which any company can sell their stocks, and that's the only time."

Compiled from staff and wire reports

COMPANY TOWN



Terry Taylor stands on his front porch of his home in Colstrip, Mont., from which he can see nearby power plants, in this Nov. 27 file photo. For Taylor and many other residents, this community, set on the eastern plains of Montana, seemed to have an identity problem. From the day the first miners moved in, it has been a company town. Two years ago, residents felt compelled to seek a change, and through incorporation, hoped to refine the town's image as something other than a place born to and raised by a company.

Montana town strives for a new identity success

The Associated Press

COLSTRIP, Mont. - From general store owner Terry Taylor's standpoint, life in this small town had almost all a person could require, just like the cramped store from which he dispenses everything from hunting supplies to embroidery floss.

But Taylor felt something was missing. Call it a sense of place. An identity. Taylor calls it "a sense of belonging somewhere."

For Taylor and many other residents, this community, set on the eastern plains of Montana far off the well-traveled interstate, seemed to have an identity problem. From the day the first miners moved in, it has been a company town.

It is known for coal, scarring strip mines, looming, dark smokestacks and The Montana Power Co. The company and its predecessors for years provided almost everything, from jobs to

recreation.

Two years ago, residents felt compelled to seek a change and, through incorporation, hoped to refine the town's image as something other than a place born to and raised by a company.

Incorporation, overwhelmingly approved by voters, was seen not only as an effort to separate community and company, but also as residents' response to a stifled southeast Montana economy and an uncertainty about the future of the mine and power plants.

"All the consultants, everybody, told us, 'Look beyond the power plants and look to yourselves,'" said Mayor John Williams, Colstrip's first mayor. "And I think that's the direction we're headed on this journey."

But practical matters - duties as simple as parking regulations and as complex as levying city taxes - have made the journey for identity a difficult one.

"It's a much larger task than

any of us probably expected," Williams said. "It's taken a lot of effort."

Colstrip was founded in 1924 by Northern Pacific Railway for workers mining coal to fuel steam locomotives. Montana Power purchased the coal leases in 1959, and with them acquired the small town site. A subsidiary, Western Energy Co., started mining coal in the late 1960s.

On the outside, the community of 2,000 looked and felt like any other in Montana: Tree-lined streets wind through mobile home parks and neighborhoods of rustic houses and newer homes. Schools and lush parks are fronted by paved streets with crosswalks and stop signs.

While the company had for years been in charge of maintaining the community's infrastructure, it was not its first priority. Production was, and it meant repairs and updates sometimes suffered.

"I don't mean this in a bad way, but their focus wasn't on operating the town. It was on production. And they needed to pay attention to that. That's their business," said Williams, 59, a former Montana Power employee.

To make changes, residents knew they needed a voice. In 1998, they sought an emancipation and the right to incorporate as a legitimate city with its own government, an ability to write its own rules, and form its own identity.

The work has been tedious and challenging, focusing on large renovation projects one day and relatively minute but still important details the next.

Streets and water and sewer lines in the original townsite, probably neglected since construction, still need extensive

Please see TOWN, Page C7

Idaho 'green' power Regulators look at proposed rate schedule

The Times-News

TWIN FALLS - Would you pay more for power on purpose? What if it's so-called "green" electricity?

Idaho Power Co. is proposing a new rate schedule that would allow customers to voluntarily pay a premium to purchase electricity generated specifically from environmentally friendly wind, solar and geothermal power sources.

The Idaho Public Utilities Commission, which must approve the rate schedule, will take public comment on the proposal through Dec. 29 at P.O. Box 83720, Boise, ID 83720-0074, by fax at 334-3762 or by e-mail at ljewel@puc.state.id.us.

Under the alternative energy-source program, Idaho Power customers' additional payments would go into a dedicated fund to be used to purchase electricity through the Bonneville Environmental Foundation, organized in 1996 to promote use of alternative energy resources, the PUC said.

Under Idaho Power's proposal, participating customers apparently could choose how much extra to pay.

"It's a customer-designated amount, basically," said Randy Lobb, administrator of the PUC's utilities division, adding that a rate schedule might set one price on support for solar power, another on encouraging wind-generated electricity, and so on.

PUC staff is seeking more details from the company.

Their filing, we felt, was a little incomplete," Lobb said.

If approved, the voluntary rate option would go into effect Jan. 15, the PUC said.

Debt counseling company hands out awards for cheap gift ideas

Knight Ridder News Service

Never mind a lump of coal at Christmas. How about giving your loved ones a rock?

The rock is actually a inexpensive holiday gift, suggests that thrifty people nationwide came up with in a recent contest.

"Clearly, you don't have to go into debt to have a wonderful holiday," said Steve Rhode, president of Myvesta.org, formerly Debt Counselors of America. The Maryland organization, which helps people with money troubles, sponsored the third annual "Savviest Scrooge" contest.

The rock is actually a boulder, painted with the recipient's home number. The California woman who gives them says her friends like to put them out front.

Myvesta.org started the contest because so many people get into

serious debt during holidays. In fact, debt counselors report a spike in calls in January, when December's credit card bills arrive.

"The holidays are not about who can spend the most," said Rhode. "If you ask people what their favorite gift from last year was, most would say, 'I don't remember.' The things that you get are just things."

One idea Rhode likes: the "memory jar" created by adult siblings for their elderly parents. The children wrote family memories on slips of paper, the parents pulled one out of the jar each day and talked and laughed about it.

Other winning suggestions in this year's Scrooge contest: A Colorado family won the \$100 top prize with the idea of creating their own books on tape. They check out children's books

from the library and read them onto a tape together, with each family member playing a part.

A Virginia mom creates silhouettes of her three children for the grandparents. She takes a profile photo of each child, clips black paper to the back of the photo, and cuts along the profile with a utility knife. She mounts the silhouette on white paper and frames it, for about \$10 each.

Another Virginia woman frames photos of friends' houses she has taken in different seasons.

Then there's the California man who would win the "Bah Humba" award, if one existed. He doesn't plan to respond to holiday cards this year. He'll save the ones he receives, write holiday greetings on them, and send them back next year.

a week - and \$10,484 over the long run.

- Settling for regular java instead of a daily dose of "specialty" coffee at work will save you \$8.25 a week, \$429 a year and \$27,028 in two decades. (It will also spare you 82,680 calories a year, the Schwab dietitians note.)

- Giving up smoking two packs of cigarettes a week will save you \$468 a year - and \$29,485 overall. It's something to chew on.

Land holdings prove it's serious, says Potlatch

The Associated Press

LEWISTON - Potlatch officials point to the 670,000 acres the company owns in Idaho as proof it will be in business 10, 20 and even 80 years from now.

The land is central to its operation. Potlatch Corp. timber land includes about 9,000 stands scattered across north central Idaho and the state's panhandle. The bulk of the high-quality timber land is in Clearwater County near headquarters.

"We have very productive timber lands," said Stephen Smith, manager of the company's land in Idaho. "Probably some of the most productive timber lands in the region."

Yet uncertainty and rumors persist about Potlatch Corp. and its continued operation in the Northwest. Company officials said those trying to predict Potlatch's future should look at its actions and long-term planning.

Potlatch manages its land to produce trees not only this year and five years from now, but 80 years down the road.

The company is also seeking to have its lands certified by an independent entity as being managed in an environmentally and economically sustainable manner. And the company is pursuing an agreement with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service that would insulate it from future timber harvest restric-

tions should cutthroat trout be listed as threatened under the Endangered Species Act.

"We are looking at economic sustainability so we can cut forever," Smith said.

Large timber companies in the West always have depended on a land base for their mills. That is not the case in the rest of the country, said Charley McKetta, a University of Idaho forest policy and economics professor.

"In most parts of the world, (a timber base) isn't important at all," he said.

A land base is not an advantage in the Southeast because mills there are not dependent on federal timber and the supply of raw logs is much less volatile. Despite that, Potlatch owns about 500,000 acres of forested land in Arkansas and another 350,000 acres in Minnesota for a total of about 1.5 million acres when added to its Idaho holdings.

In the Northwest, the U.S. Forest Service is the dominant timber owner, and policy changes over the past 10 to 15 years have reduced the flow of federal timber to a trickle.

Potlatch has been insulated from that because of its timber base.

"We are essentially federal-free," Smith said. "Being able to manage 670,000 acres gives us a lot of flexibility."

ACTIVIST

Activist to fight BK on behalf of franchise

Knigh Riddler News Service

Burger-King may have won its legal battle with Detroit franchisee La-Van Hawkins over racial discrimination charges, but the Rev. Al Sharpton isn't ready to quit fighting.

The New York civil rights activist Monday announced plans to file a class-action suit against the Miami fast-food chain with some Magic Valley stores.

The announcement by Sharpton came after a federal court in Michigan last week threw out Hawkins' suit accusing Burger King of racial discrimination for not fulfilling an agreement not to expand.

"We're not going to let them walk away from this on a technicality," Sharpton said. "There are clearly indications that our community was violated. Only slaves are not allowed to question being abused."

Burger King declined Monday to address press comments. The company issued a brief statement saying the company "stands by its record in the area of diversity," and highlighting some of its accomplishments in that area.

Sharpton said the suit, which he expects to file in January, would charge Burger King with racial discrimination. He gave no details of the potential claim, but said it would focus on Burger King's failure to let Hawkins open the restaurants it promised an Al Sharpton views as a lack of commitment to the African-American community.

Former Burger King Chief Executive Robert Lewis acknowledged in court documents that he signed the agreement in 1999 to release Burger King from any previous claims.

"I don't think anybody has a cause of action, unless Burger King is specifically denying franchises to people because they're black or if they refuse to open franchises in black neighborhoods," Rosman said.

Hawkins, who had been out of town at the time of the ruling, said Monday that he was working toward a recession.

But legal experts were skeptical of Sharpton's standing to file a class-action lawsuit against Burger King and the justification for a potential claim.

"I don't understand how those kind of claims would become the basis of a successful lawsuit," said Michael Rosman, a law professor at Nova Southeastern University who specializes in civil rights and employment discrimination.

"The legal system is just not the most effective tool to deal with these kinds of allegations, even if they happen to be true," Michael Rosman, general counsel for the Center for Individual Rights in Washington, D.C., said.

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Visiting Washington for the first time as president-elect, Bush made a point of praising Greenspan, widely viewed as the second most powerful government policy-maker, for his handling of the economy.

"We had a very strong discussion about my confidence in his abilities," Bush told reporters after an hour-long breakfast meeting.

Bush made no mention of his father's belief that he lost the White House in 1992 because of ward off a recession.

Greenspan's slowness in cutting interest rates.

Greenspan made no comments to reporters after the meeting. But two weeks ago, he telegraphed a shift in Fed thinking.

He said in a New York speech that he believed the economy had slowed "appreciably" based on recent economic data, his most direct statement that the central bank had succeeded in its campaign to slow growth with a series of six interest rate increases.

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on an appeal to the Michigan Supreme Court, seeking repayment of almost \$8 million the company claims Hawkins owes in royalties, loans and other items.

Burger King is hoping Hawkins will voluntarily agree to turn over control of his restaurants either to Burger King or another franchisee.

If the two sides cannot reach an agreement, then Burger King would seek a court order that Hawkins cease using any Burger King trademarks.

"We want to try to negotiate an orderly transition, so the restaurants are not closed and the employees aren't losing their jobs," said Kim Miller, a Burger King spokeswoman. "If we can't get there, then we will force it through the legal process."

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Blue chips soar, tech stocks fall over rate speculation

NEW YORK (AP) — Optimism that interest rates might soon be lowered sent blue chip stocks soaring Monday, while earnings worries again dogged the tech sector.

Financial stocks surged on speculation that the Federal Reserve will cut rates more quickly than expected. But tech stocks fell, unable to overcome Wall Street's doubts about their profitability in the slowing economy.

"You still have significant earnings disappointments coming in technology," said Jim Weiss, chief investment officer at State Street Research and Management. "And even though technology issues have come down, there are still valuation issues. Tech was hugely overvalued and blue chips never got to those levels."

The Dow Jones industrial average closed up 210.46 at 10,945.42, as did the Standard & Poor's 500 index, rising 10.59 to 1,327.70.

But the rally didn't extend to the Nasdaq composite index, which fell 28.75 to 2,624.52 despite advancing in early trading.

Blue chips' strength Monday appeared predicated on hopes

the Fed would act more aggressively than expected at its regular meeting Tuesday, urged on by recent economic data, ranging from weak holiday signs industrial production is slowing.

"There's growing optimism that the Fed will act sooner rather than later to cut rates," said Alan Skramich, chief market strategist at Edward Jones of St. Louis. "If they don't cut rates Tuesday, they'll send a very strong message that rates cuts are coming."

Although few actually expect a rate cut this week, Skramich said many people expect the Fed "is going to be pretty unambiguous in saying the risk has shifted from inflation to recession."

Financial institutions, which would benefit from an interest rate cut, moved higher. Shares of banker J.P. Morgan rose \$6.63 to \$166.63, as did American Express, up \$2.13 to \$56.75.

Technology stocks fell, however, as investors fear the sector's performance would not justify high stock prices. Chip maker Intel rose 81 cents to \$33.25, but Microsoft slipped \$1.38 to \$47.81 and Cisco Systems fell \$5.23 to \$42.94.

extra step and caution our consumers who may have already purchased the scooter."

The scooters, which also are sold as the Viper scooter, are all model No. 386. Ride Aid was the only U.S. retailer which supplied that model, Cook said.

Ride Aid said it is offering a full refund with or without receipt. Excite contacted Ride Aid about the potential safety problem late last week, the drug store company said. Excite is working with the Consumer Product Safety Commission.

Despite Greenspan's coolness, Bush plugs tax plan

WASHINGTON (AP) — President-elect Bush, after meeting Monday with Federal Reserve Chairman Alan Greenspan, said Congress should pass his massive tax cut "as an emergency policy" against a potential economic downturn.

But the \$1.3 trillion reduction in taxes over 10 years, which Bush has made the centerpiece of his economic program, could face a major hurdle in Greenspan.

The Fed chief has said repeatedly that he would like to see the

government's budget surpluses used to pay down the national debt, not provide tax relief or boost spending on government programs.

While Bush could have his work cut out in neutralizing Greenspan's opposition to tax cuts, he should be luckier on another economic front.

Greenspan and his colleagues are expected to give the president-elect an early Christmas present today in the form of a clear signal that the Fed is ready to cut interest rates next year to

ward off a recession.

Visiting Washington for the first time as president-elect, Bush made a point of praising Greenspan, widely viewed as the second most powerful government policy-maker, for his handling of the economy.

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Drug chain pulls scooters

CAMP HILL, Pa. (AP) — Ride Aid Corp., the nation's No. 3 drug store chain, has pulled all Super Scooter II Scooters from its shelves because of safety warnings from the manufacturer.

Hong Kong-based Excite Ltd. told Ride Aid that it had received complaints from consumers who pinched their fingers in the front folding mechanism.

"This is not an official recall," Ride Aid spokeswoman Jody Cook said Monday. "The reason we're doing this is because we decided voluntarily to take an

extra step and caution our consumers who may have already purchased the scooter."

The scooters, which also are sold as the Viper scooter, are all model No. 386. Ride Aid was the only U.S. retailer which supplied that model, Cook said.

Ride Aid said it is offering a full refund with or without receipt. Excite contacted Ride Aid about the potential safety problem late last week, the drug store company said. Excite is working with the Consumer Product Safety Commission.

NEW YORK STOCK EXCHANGE

Table with columns: Name, Div, Last, Chg, %Chg, Volume, Bid, Ask, etc. Includes sub-sections for NYSE, AMEX, NASDAQ, and various market indices.

MARKET SUMMARY

Summary table for NYSE, AMEX, and NASDAQ. Columns include Most Active, Gainers, Losers, and Diaries for each exchange.

INDEXES

Table showing various market indices: S&P 500, Dow Jones Industrial, NYSE Composite, etc.

STOCKS OF LOCAL INTEREST

Table listing local stocks with columns: Name, Div, PE, Last, Chg, YTD, etc.

HOW TO READ THE MARKET REPORT

Here are the 525 most active stocks on the New York Stock Exchange. Most active on the NASDAQ National Market are the 100 most active on American Stock Exchange. All stock prices are bid prices unless otherwise indicated. Stocks in bold type are bid on the day. Stock on gray for the day. No change indicated by -.

NASDAQ NATIONAL MARKET

Large table listing NASDAQ National Market stocks with columns: Name, Div, Last, Chg, %Chg, Volume, Bid, Ask, etc.

AMERICAN STOCK EXCHANGE

Table listing American Stock Exchange stocks with columns: Name, Div, Last, Chg, %Chg, Volume, Bid, Ask, etc.

MARKETS

Layoffs dampen holiday cheer for some

NEW YORK (AP) - Happy holidays. Just not for everyone. Aetna Inc. and The Gillette Co. on Monday joined a growing list of companies that have announced large-scale layoffs in recent weeks, unsettling workers just before the holidays. There is more good news than the usual trims and tucks companies often save for the fourth quarter. The pink slips are a tangible sign of a slowing economy and more layoffs are likely, analysts say.

"I wouldn't say that the market has gone soft," said Mallika Ishwaran, an economist at the Levy Institute Forecasting Center. "But it's definitely a turning point."

The evidence, experts say, are job openings in a range of industries. General Motors, Motorola Inc., Unisys Corp. and Whirlpool all have outlined plans for layoffs, citing a tougher market-place.

Aetna and Gillette said they will purge a total of 7,700 jobs from their payrolls.

Cuts have been deepest in the automobile, retail, industrial goods and financial services industries, said John Challenger, chief executive of the employee placement firm Challenger, Gray & Christmas.

"A layoff in one company doesn't mean new jobs relatively quickly," said Joel Naroff of Naroff Economic Advisors. "The economy is still adding workers."

Economists differ on what the layoffs will mean for the economy. Naroff said layoff announcements have often overstated the number of people who will actually lose their jobs, instead signaling positions that will go unfilled or hiring plans cut on hold.

Some industries, particularly those routed in earlier months, still strapped for workers and are looking to expand, said Sophia Koropecky, senior economist at Economy.com in West Chester, Pa.

Town

Continued from C5
repairs, Williams said. City leaders hope to begin work next year. The water and sewer rate structure favored commercial and industrial users and Williams said it needs to be more fair to residents. The city must establish built-up zoning ordinances and even parking regulations.

Law enforcement is still provided by Rosebud County, though the city is looking at what it would be less expensive to hire its own police. A water and sewer department Colstrip. The department was already established under its own district before Colstrip incorporated. Oversight since has been under the city.

The city has a handful of employees, Williams' job a full-time one. There is also a four-member elected City Council.

"Being able to have a say in what happens here is nice," said Taylor. "I'm a resident for about 20 years, whose home has a view of the smokestacks. "I think it helps with stability."

Stability is something Colstrip often has lacked, and with which it still struggles. The population fell by almost 100,000 several years ago when Montana Power cut operations, Williams said. It reminded the community of its vulnerability.

City establishment also coincided with Montana Power's sale of most of its interest in the

CLOSING FUTURES

Table with columns: Commodity, High, Low, Last, Change. Includes items like Mer Commodity, Dec Soybean, Dec Euro, etc.

SUGAR

Table with columns: Item, High, Low, Last, Change. Includes items like NY VICE (A) - Sugar, NY VICE (B) - Sugar, etc.

LIVESTOCK

Table with columns: Item, High, Low, Last, Change. Includes items like CATTLE, HOGS, PORK, etc.

SOYBEANS

Table with columns: Item, High, Low, Last, Change. Includes items like VIKING BEANS, VIKING BEANS, etc.

FOSSIL FUELS

Table with columns: Item, High, Low, Last, Change. Includes items like NY VICE (A) - Fuel, NY VICE (B) - Fuel, etc.

BEANS

Table with columns: Item, High, Low, Last, Change. Includes items like Valley Beans, Valley Beans, etc.

GRAINS

Table with columns: Item, High, Low, Last, Change. Includes items like Soft white wheat, Soft white wheat, etc.

POTATOES/ONIONS

Table with columns: Item, High, Low, Last, Change. Includes items like IDAHO FALLS (AP) - Potatoes, IDAHO FALLS (AP) - Potatoes, etc.

METALS/CURRENCY

Table with columns: Item, High, Low, Last, Change. Includes items like Selected world gold prices, Selected world gold prices, etc.

MUTUAL FUNDS

Table with columns: Name, Sell, Chg. Includes items like AAM Mutual, AAM Mutual, etc.

MUTUAL FUNDS

Table with columns: Name, Sell, Chg. Includes items like Vanguard, Vanguard, etc.

MUTUAL FUNDS

Table with columns: Name, Sell, Chg. Includes items like Fidelity, Fidelity, etc.

WHEAT

Table with columns: Item, High, Low, Last, Change. Includes items like WHEAT, WHEAT, etc.

CATTLE

Table with columns: Item, High, Low, Last, Change. Includes items like CATTLE, CATTLE, etc.

HOGS

Table with columns: Item, High, Low, Last, Change. Includes items like HOGS, HOGS, etc.

SOYBEANS

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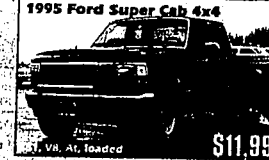
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Who's afraid of the Idaho Stampede?

The Idaho Stampede can thank the College of Southern Idaho for their 2-0 start to the Continental Basketball Association season. It doubt the Stampede would be undefeated if not for the disrespect the nation's second-ranked "Jucos" men's program showed over a week ago. CSI outworked, out hustled and ultimately outclassed the Gem State's so-called professional basketball team.

You can bet Stampede coach Tony White delivered a butt chewing in the wake of the CSI defeat.

It paid off with a sweep of the CBA's defending champion Yakima Sun Kings Friday and Saturday.

The Stampede tried for win No. 3 tonight against wireless Quad City.

Jobs were on the line in the Dec. 12 game in Twin Falls.

Brian Green definitely won his, with an eight-point explosion that lifted the Stampede to an 81-74 lead with seven minutes left to play. He finished with 19 points overall. But Mark Jones, Lucas Barnes and Doug Cottlieb weren't as lucky, and they were all roster victims the next day.

You would think that because of the seriousness of the situation, the Stampede would have tried a little harder. Granted, they had only been together for a few weeks, and facing an elite program such as CSI is never easy. But the visitors didn't seem to take the game to heart.

There was one area of the game that the Stampede dominated — smack talk. If the pro had played half as well as they talked trash, the game would have been no contest. CSI has been known to hold its own in that category.

At the CBAers put on a shameless seminar in generating "Badness and Bulling 101." Racial slurs and sexual innuendoes were spit in all directions. On-court authority was mocked. The theater-of-basketball at times became an exercise in street ball, powered by crudeness and machismo.

Fortunately, the focus returned to the sport in time to see the hosts deliver an exciting 96-92 win. Sneaky CSI coach Derek Zeck hadn't promised the win, but he got his troops motivated to believe they could produce it.

"I'm so competitive," a smiling Zeck said after the game. "I'm just so competitive, you'd better be ready. Clearly, the Stampede didn't bring their best. Maybe next time, they'll remember to come prepared."

Greek tragedy

Sophomore center Kostas Avergerios has decided to take a medical redshirt this season, after absorbing a Benjamin Eze blow to his head more than a month ago, and then suffering post-concussion maladies as late as last week.

The 7-1 big guy hasn't played or really been able to practice, though he still attends practices and remains a constant thorn on the team. Zeck said Avergerios would re-evaluate his options after the season.

Blimey, It's the Limey

Jamie Smith, everybody's favorite exchange student from Andover, England, is back helping the Golden Eagles as a team manager for a second season. Smith, who went home for the summer, is easy to spot on the CSI sideline. He's the one wearing a sport coat and sneakers. Welcome back, chap.

Times-News sportswriter Kevin Rosen can be reached at 735-3239 or by e-mail at keun@magicvalley.com



SIDELINE VIEW
Kevin Hall

Rams Dunn-in

Tampa Bay clinches playoff berth with win

The Associated Press

TAMPA, Fla. — The St. Louis Rams could not defend Warrick Dunn, Shaun King and the Tampa Bay Buccaneers, and now might not get a chance to defend their Super Bowl title.

Dunn scored his third touchdown with 48 seconds remaining and the Buccaneers clinched a playoff spot, outscoring the Rams 38-35 Monday night and leaving St. Louis needing help to make the postseason.

Marshall Faulk scored four touchdowns for the Rams, but it was not enough in a rematch of last season's NFC championship game won by St. Louis.

To reach the playoffs, the Rams (9-6) need to beat New Orleans next Sunday and hope Chicago pulls an upset at Detroit.

The win by Tampa Bay (10-5) also clinched the NFC West for New Orleans.

The Buccaneers can still win the NFC Central with a victory at Green Bay on Sunday and a Minnesota loss at Indianapolis.

After Torry Holt's 72-yard touchdown catch from Kurt Warner gave the Rams a 35-31 lead with just over five minutes to play, the Buccaneers rallied behind one of the craziest plays of the NFL season.

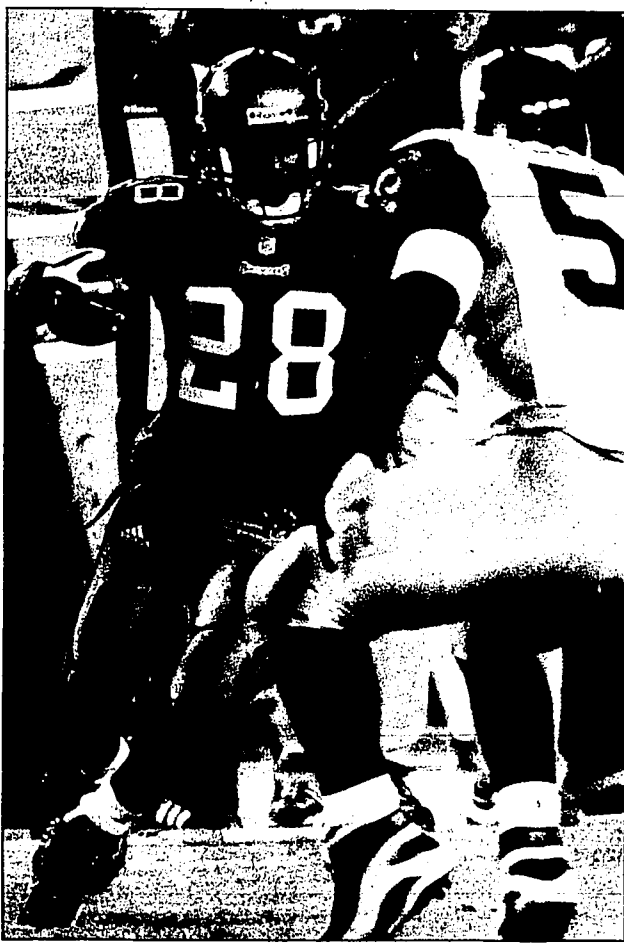
From their own 35, King threw a swing lateral to Dunn around the right side. But Dunn was trapped far behind the line and, with nowhere to go, suddenly pitched the ball back to King.

King escaped and streaked down the right sideline for a 15-yard gain, and 15 more yards were tacked on for a late hit called on linebacker Mike Jones.

"Shaun was just calling for the ball. We were desperate at the time," Dunn said. "It turned out to be a great play."

Later, on a fourth-and-4 in Rams' territory, King scrambled for a first down. King then threw a 22-yard pass to Reidel Anthony, which set up Dunn's 1-yard TD run.

Warner tried to bring back the Rams, but threw his third interception of the game. John Lynch's pickoff gave the Buccaneers sweet revenge from last season's 11-6 loss in the NFC title game.



Tampa Bay running back Warrick Dunn tries to put a move on Rams linebacker London Fletcher during the second quarter of their game Monday night. The Bucs won 38-35.

Salary cap means parity will continue

By Dave Goldberg
Associated Press writer

Is the 2000 NFL season as crazy as it's been described? Not really.

Yes, it's possible there will be new champions in each of the league's six divisions. But that's not crazy. It also happened in 1998, and even more telling, no division will have had fewer than three different winners since 1997.

"It's the norm now," says Ernie Accorsi, general manager of the New York Giants, who clinched the NFC East title Sunday night and are in position to be the conference's No. 1 seed after going 7-9 a year ago. "It's the way it is. Everything about the old system is gone. Parity will be with us as long as there's a cap."

The NFL enters its final week in a jumble. And the defending champion Rams are on the verge of elimination — they have to beat New Orleans next week and hope that Detroit loses or ties at home to 4-11 Chicago.

Accorsi's Giants, who can clinch home field advantage in the NFC by beating Jacksonville at home on Saturday, were the only team to have clinched a division after Sunday's games, then New Orleans clinched the NFC West when Tampa Bay beat St. Louis 38-35 Monday night.

Not since 1980 had no division been clinched until the next-to-last week.

Moreover, unlike past seasons, there's no clear favorite to win the Super Bowl. The closest to that status, perhaps, would be Tennessee (12-3), which leads the AFC Central but can still finish second if it loses at home next week to Dallas and Baltimore (11-4) beats the Jets.

The Ravens have the tiebreaker — they've played the more conference game than the Titans and would finish 10-3 in the AFC to 9-3 for Tennessee.

But nothing is really certain.

Please see NFL, Page D3

Free agent catcher Charles Johnson speaks during a news conference after signing to a \$35-million, five-year contract with the Florida Marlins Monday.

Homecoming: Marlins re-sign catcher Johnson

The Associated Press

MIAMI — A day after signing a deal that could bring the Florida Marlins a new name and a new ballpark, the team added a new catcher — signing Monday to a \$35-million, five-year contract with free agent Charles Johnson. Johnson, 29, broke into the major leagues with the Marlins in 1994 and was a starter on their 1997 World Series championship team.

"My heart has always been in Florida," he said Monday. "In my heart I really wanted to come home."

Johnson gets \$5 million in each of the first two seasons, \$7 million in 2003 and \$9 million in each of the final two years.

MLB

Johnson, from nearby Fort Pierce, Fla., was traded by the Marlins to the Los Angeles Dodgers in May 1998 in a deal involving Gary Sheffield and Mike Piazza.

A career .249 hitter, Johnson hit .304 with 31 home runs and 91 RBIs this year with the Baltimore Orioles and the Chicago White Sox.

The signing came a day after the Marlins announced an agreement with Miami-Dade County and city officials on a \$385-million, retractable roof stadium in downtown Miami.

Please see BASEBALL, Page D2

Top six stay atop AP poll

The Associated Press

Duke and Michigan State were 1-2 in The Associated Press college basketball poll for the third consecutive week Monday. There wasn't much other movement in the Top 25, as the first six teams remained the same and no teams moved in or out of the rankings.

The Blue Devils (9-0), who were off last week, received 63 first-place votes and 1,767 points from the national media panel to hold onto the No. 1 ranking for the fourth straight week.

Michigan State (8-0), which squeaked by Kentucky 46-45 Saturday to extend its winning streak to 19 games, was No. 1 on eight ballots and got 1,699 points, 74 more than Stanford (6-0), which was also off last week.

Tennessee was fourth, while Illinois, which beat then-No. 7 Arizona on Saturday in a rematch of the Illini's loss to the Wildcats in the championship game of the Maui Invitational, remained fifth and Wake Forest stayed No. 6.

Florida, Seton Hall and Kansas each moved up one place to seventh through ninth, while Arizona dropped three places to round out the Top 10.

The Wildcats, who were the preseason No. 1, continued the nation's longest run of consecutive weeks in the Top 10, with six polls this season and all 19 last season. Stanford is one week behind — the Cardinal were in the Top 10 every week last season after being No. 13 in the preseason poll.

Connecticut led the second 10 for the second straight week, followed by Syracuse, Southern California, Virginia, North Carolina, Wisconsin, Alabama, Oklahoma, Iowa and Maryland.

The last five ranked teams were Notre Dame, Cincinnati, Georgetown, Mississippi and Arkansas.

The Top 5

Rank	Record	Pts	Pvs
1. Duke (63)	9-0	1,767	1
2. Michigan St. (8)	8-0	1,699	2
3. Stanford	6-0	1,625	3
4. Tennessee	9-0	1,492	4
5. Illinois	8-2	1,474	5



Josh Howard of Wake Forest and the rest of the No. 6 ranked Demon Deacons squared off against Radford on Monday.

Bandison named Boise State defensive line coach

The Associated Press

BOISE — Boise State University head coach Dan Hawkins has named Romeo Bandison the team's new defensive line coach.

Hawkins, who officially takes over the head coaching position from Dirk Koetter immediately following Thursday's Crucial.com/Humanitarian Bowl, made the announcement on Monday.

Bandison has worked as gradu-

ate assistant defensive line coach for the past two years at the University of Oregon. In those two seasons, he has helped the Ducks to consecutive post-season bowl appearances in the Sun Bowl and the Holiday Bowl.

A 1994 Oregon graduate, Bandison played defensive end and nose guard for the Ducks from 1990-1993. Oregon went to two bowl games during his playing career — the Freedom Bowl in 1990 and the Independence Bowl in 1992.

Following his senior season, Bandison was in the third round of the 1994 NFL draft by the Cleveland Browns. He continued his NFL career over the next three years as a defensive tackle with the Washington Redskins. He completed his professional career in 1998 with the Amsterdam Admirals of the World Football League.

Bandison is the fourth assistant coach Hawkins has chosen since being named the Broncos new head coach on Dec. 2.

SPORTS

Shoshone handles Lady Vikings 45-27

The Times-News

SHOSHONE — Shoshone's defense led the way as the Lady Indians in their 45-27 win Monday over visiting Valley. Jazz Harris led Shoshone with 20 points as the hosts outscored Valley in all but the fourth quarter. The Indians defense held the Vikings to just 20 percent shooting in the game. Annie Shawver and Katie McCaslin each scored six points to lead the Vikings. "The team played great defense," said Shoshone coach Tim Chapman. "And on offense, Harris got us going with a couple of threes in the second quarter."

Local sports

Northside shutdown. Shoshone vs. Valley 47-27. Shoshone 18-11, 18-10, 18-11, 18-11. Valley 11-18, 11-18, 11-18, 11-18. Final score: Shoshone 47, Valley 27.

Dietrich 84, Castelford 53. DIETRICH — Rashell Astle exploded for 42 points as Dietrich pounded Castelford 84-53. Dietrich opened the game by outscoring the Wolves 26-6 in the first quarter, recording 8 steals. Castelford rallied to get within seven at 30-23 by halftime. Shameen Norman had 12 points, six assists and five steals for the Blue Devils. The third quarter was all Astle however, as the senior scored 15 of Dietrich's 28 points in the third to drop the Wolves' comeback. Megan Harr led the way for Castelford with 15 points in the losing effort. Dietrich (10-2) hosts Shoshone Thursday.

Hansen JV 60, TFCa 25. TWIN FALLS — Bonnie Freestone scored a game-high 26 points as the Hansen girls' junior varsity bombed winless Twin Falls Christian Academy, 60-25 Monday. Jessica Wilson scored 12 to lead the Lady Warriors, who finished the year 0-13. "We played some tough teams," said TFCa coach Amanda Weaver. "We're young and building up for next year."

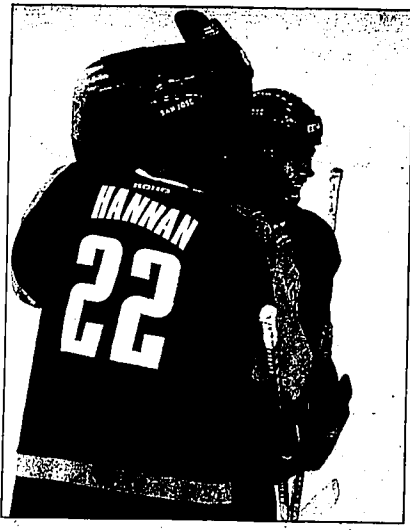
Boys' Games. Oakley 60, Carey 52. No report.

SPORTS IN BRIEF

Castelford High hosts alumni games. CASTLEFORD — Alumni are needed to fill two rosters for a pair of boys' basketball games on Dec. 26. The first game will feature graduates from 1989 and beyond with graduates from 1990 and up needed for a second game. Action begins at 6:30 p.m. For more information, call Andy Wiseman at 537-6511. SuperSonics waive Ellison, activate Oyedeji. SEATTLE — The Seattle SuperSonics waived backup center Fervis Ellison and activated center-forward Okumbe Oyedeji from the injured list Monday. Oyedeji, drafted in the second round by the Sonics with the 42nd overall pick this year, has been on the injured list since Oct. 30 with a right ankle sprain. Ellison appeared in nine games with Seattle, averaging 0.7 points and 1.3 rebounds in 4.4 minutes. He was picked No. 1 over all by Sacramento in 1989 and played for Washington and Boston before joining the Sonics this season.

Harvey hat trick helps Sharks snap Caps' streak

WASHINGTON (AP) — Todd Harvey had his first hat trick in more than five years as the San Jose Sharks beat Washington 5-3 on Monday night and ended the Capitals' nine-game home unbeaten streak.



San Jose's Todd Harvey, right, celebrates his game-winning goal with teammate Scott Hannan (22), during the second period of the Sharks' 5-3 win against the Washington Capitals Monday.

Harvey scored the game-winner with 14:54 left in the game and added an empty-net goal to complete his first hat trick since April 22, 1995, while playing for Dallas. Scott Thornton and Gary Suter also scored for the Sharks, who won their fourth straight.

Sergei Gonchar had two goals and an assist for the Capitals, who had won four straight and seven of their last eight. Washington entered the game 7-0-2 in its last nine home games. The Capitals' last home loss came against the New York Rangers on Nov. 9. Adam Oates also scored for Washington.

Rangers 6, Panthers 3. NEW YORK — Jan Hlavac had a goal and two assists and Petr Nedved returned from a suspension and had three assists as the Rangers ended a four-game winless streak. Brian Leetch, Mark Messier, Adam Graves, Radek Dvorak and Sandy McCarthy also scored for the Rangers, who have scored a league-high 119 goals but allowed an NHL-worst 123. Theo Fleury added two assists to extend his point-scoring streak to nine games for the Rangers.

Baseball

Continued from D1. Commissioner Selig has surgery on broken kneecap. MILWAUKEE — Baseball Commissioner Bud Selig had surgery on his broken left kneecap Monday after slipping on his icy driveway.

The 66-year-old Selig was operated on for two hours at Sinai Samaritan Medical Center and was to remain in the hospital overnight, spokesman Rich Levin said. He will not have to wear a cast. Selig slipped in the driveway Sunday while carrying holiday gifts for his grandchildren.

Four-time Japanese All-Star Shinjo joins Mets

NEW YORK — Tsuyoshi Shinjo knew he wanted to play for a major league team. So why did he decide on the New York Mets? "The coolness of the uniforms," he said Monday when his new team showed him off at Shea Stadium.

Back in Japan, where he was a four-time All-Star, the 28-year-old outfielder was tired of being trailed by photographers and reporters. "I couldn't stop without being followed," he said.

When he arrived Saturday at Kennedy International Airport, Shinjo was greeted by dozens of photographers. He is considered one of the more personable players in Japanese baseball, a contrast to players such as Hideo Nomo and Hideki Irabu, who have come to the major leagues and showed little personality. Shinjo spent nine seasons with the Hanshin Tigers on the Central League and won seven Gold Glove awards. He had a .249 career average with 145 homers and 518 RBIs in 1,061 games.

He signed a \$700,000, one-year contract with the Mets, turning down a higher guaranteed to remain in Japan. His deal with New York has two options—years and performance bonuses that could make it worth \$5 million over three seasons.

Ch Sox catch Alomar Jr. with two-year deal

CHICAGO — Watch out for that season opener, Cleveland Indians. Sandy Alomar Jr. already has it circled on his calendar.

After 11 seasons in Cleveland, the veteran catcher agreed to a \$5.4 million, two-year deal Monday with the Chicago White Sox, the Indians' biggest rival in the AL Central.

"I thought that I was going to be an Indian forever," Alomar said. "It was very hard for me to see I would finish my career in Cleveland. But if I'm going to do it, I may as well do it for a competitive team and show the Indians they made a mistake."

Alomar replaces Charles Johnson, who earlier Monday agreed to a \$35 million, five-year contract with the Florida Marlins. Alomar's deal was announced about an hour after the Marlins held a news conference to introduce Johnson.

Bere inks two-year agreement with Cubs

CHICAGO — Jason Bere is coming back to Chicago. Only this time, he'll be on the other side of town.

The right-hander, who began his career with the Chicago White Sox, finalized a \$4.5 million, two-year deal with the Cubs

on Monday. With incentives, Bere could make as much as \$5 million a year.

The Cubs' pitching staff had a 5-25 ERA last season, third-worst in the NL, and president and general manager Andy MacPhail made it a priority this offseason.

He went after Mike Hampton, but lost out to the Colorado Rockies. Desperate for another starter, MacPhail turned to Bere, who went 12-10 with a 5.47 ERA last season for Milwaukee and Cleveland, his first year with double-digit wins since 1994.

In five starts at Wrigley Field, Bere has a 2.43 ERA.

Phillies' Mesa seeks supervision program

CLEVELAND — Philadelphia Phillies reliever Jose Mesa hopes to have a concealed weapon charge against him dropped by completing a supervision program.

Prosecutors reduced the charge against Mesa — who pitched for Cleveland from 1992-98 — from a felony to a misdemeanor and agreed to delay the start of his trial, which was set to begin Monday.

Judge Patrick Curran then arraigned Mesa on the misdemeanor charge, and the player pleaded innocent. Four years ago, Cleveland police stopped Mesa in his car and found a 9 mm handgun in an unlocked compartment. Mesa was pulled over because he was wanted on sex abuse charges. A jury later acquitted Mesa on charges of rape, gross sexual imposition and theft.

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O's acquire minor league third-baseman Sisco

BALTIMORE — The Baltimore Orioles acquired minor league third baseman Steve Sisco from the Atlanta Braves on Monday for right-hander Jesse Garcia.

Sisco, 31, played 25 games for Atlanta last season, batting .185. He spent most of the season at Triple-A Richmond, where he hit .295 with 12 homers and 35 RBIs in 75 games.

Padres land pitcher Witasick for next season

SAN DIEGO — Right-hander Jay Witasick and the San Diego Padres avoided arbitration when they agreed to an \$50,000, one-year contract on Monday.

Witasick was 3-2 with a 5.64 ERA in 11 starts with San Diego last year after being acquired on July 31 from the Kansas City Royals for right-hander Brian Meadows. He was 3-8 with a 5.54 ERA in 22 games, including 14 starts, with the Royals before being traded.

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Pats' comeback fined for having Ecstasy

FOXBORO, Mass. — New England Patriots cornerback Ty Law was stopped and fined by U.S. Customs officials in Niagara Falls, N.Y., on Monday for possession of the drug Ecstasy.

Law, who played in the 1998 Pro Bowl, was stopped at 5:30 a.m. as he crossed over the Rainbow Bridge from Canada, said Mark MacVitie, chief inspector with the Customs Service in Buffalo. The Patriots played the Bills on Sunday in Buffalo. Inspectors found three pills of Ecstasy and four partially crushed pills in Law's bag. The pills were later tested and came up positive for MDMA, commonly known as Ecstasy, MacVitie said.

Law was issued an administrative penalty of \$700, which he paid on the spot before being released. The only other person in the car, Tania Edwards, was fined \$500 for possession of a marijuana cigarette, MacVitie said.

Four sports stars sue Planet Hollywood

ORLANDO, Fla. — Tiger Woods and three other sports stars are suing Planet Hollywood, accusing the embattled theme restaurant chain of breaching endorsement contracts during its recent bankruptcy proceedings.

Representatives of Woods, NFL Hall of Famer Joe Montana and pro tennis players Andre Agassi and Monica Seles filed the lawsuit Friday in U.S. District Court in Wilmington, Del., where the company filed for Chapter 11 bankruptcy.

The athletes want Orlando, Fla.-based Planet Hollywood to remove their names, images and memorabilia from its sports-themed All Star Cafe restaurants, and pay unspecified damages and legal costs.

Planet Hollywood currently owns only three All Star Cafes, having sold, franchised or closed nine others to concentrate on its Planet Hollywood chain, said Planet Hollywood spokeswoman Patty Caruso.

Dallas sues Boston fourth straight loss

BOSTON — Dirk Nowitzki scored 31 points and Steve Nash had 20 with 14 assists on Monday night as the Dallas Mavericks beat Boston 106-98 and sent the Celtics to their fourth consecutive loss. It was the Mavericks' third straight win since coach Don Nelson missed three games — two of them losses — when he was diagnosed with prostate cancer.

Nowitzki almost didn't play against Detroit on Sunday night because of the flu. But he scored 25 in that one and continued his hot hand on Monday with 19 by the half, going 5-for-7 from 3-point range overall.

Paul Pierce scored 30 for Boston, and Antoine Walker had 20 with 17 rebounds.

Culpepper ends up in cast after loss

EDEN PRAIRIE, Minn. — The mood at the Minnesota Vikings was low Monday. And then Daunte Culpepper walked in with a cast on his right foot.

The newly appointed Pro Bowl quarterback is attempting to make a quick recovery from a sprained ankle. Culpepper underwent an MRI following the Vikings' second loss in a row, 33-28 Sunday to the Green Bay Packers.

Featherlite Southwest Series announces stops

DAYTONA BEACH, Fla. — The 2001 Featherlite Southwest Series NASCAR tour will have 17 championship point events at 12 Southwest region race tracks, NASCAR officials announced Monday.

The series will also feature a mix of events including super-speedway, road course and short track races in the season. The series begins Sunday, Feb. 4 at Phoenix International Raceway and ends Nov. 3 at Tucson Raceway Park, in Tucson, Ariz.

Mariners claim Grabowski off walvers

SEATTLE — The Seattle Mariners have claimed infielder Jason Grabowski off walvers from the Texas Rangers, the team said Monday.

To make room on their 40-man roster, the Mariners released right-handed pitcher Frankie Rodriguez.

Grabowski, 24, spent the 2000 season with Double-A Tulsa and batted .274 with 19 home runs and 90 RBIs in 135 games. He played 130 of those games at third base.

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SPORTS

No. 3 Cardinal sail past Sacred Heart

STANFORD, Calif. (AP) - Casey Jacobsen hit five 3-pointers and scored 19 points as No. 3 Stanford beat Sacred Heart 89-52 in the first game of the Stanford Invitational on Monday night.

Idaho State faced Georgia Tech in the late game. Stanford stayed unbeat and Sacred Heart remained without as the Cardinal (7-0) shook off the rust from a 16-day break by winning another major mismatch.

Jason Collins had 10 points and 13 rebounds as the Cardinal who have also pounded schools such as San Francisco State and UC Riverside at Maples Pavilion this season - jumped to a 30-point lead early in the second half and won by more than 20 for the sixth time this season.

Julius Barnes added 10 points off the bench, while four Stanford players finished with eight points apiece.

Sacred Heart (0-8), which moved to Division I last season, and has lost 10 straight games, took its seventh double-digit loss of the year despite a solid early effort.

College basketball

No. 6 Wake Forest 92, Radford 52

WINSTON-SALEM, N.C. - Josh Howard had a career-high 22 points and No. 6 Wake Forest kept its defensive streak alive in a 92-52 victory over Radford on Monday night.

The Demon Deacons (9-0) held its fifth straight opponent under 40 percent shooting to win their 14th straight game to last season's NIT championship run - the second-longest winning streak in the country. Michigan State has won 19 in a row.

No. 24 Mississippi 92, Troy State 65

OXFORD, Miss. - Seldom-used Josh Hayes scored 20 points and Mississippi set a team-record with 14 3-pointers. Ole Miss has won nine straight to start the season, its best start since 1936.

Women's Games

No. 3 Notre Dame 84, Western Michigan 54

SOUTH BEND, Ind. - Alicia Ratay scored 21 points and Kelly Stemon added 16 as No. 3 Notre Dame beat Western Michigan 84-54 Monday night.

No. 4 Georgia 110, Dartmouth 73

ATHENS, Ga. - Coco Miller scored a season-high 27 points and twin sister Kelly Miller added 13 points to lead Georgia.

No. 9 Auburn 74, Nebraska 55

SAN JUAN, Puerto Rico - Tasha Hamilton scored 20 points and Lori Neo had 17 of her 19 points in the second half to lead Auburn at the San Juan Shootout.

Auburn at the San Juan Shootout

Auburn (11-0) is off to its best start since winning the first 11 games of the 1992-93 season.

No. 12 LSU 79, Prairie View 32

BATON ROUGE, La. - Doneeka Hodges scored 14 points as LSU got 42 points from its reserves.

Subs Ke-Ke Tardy and April Brown added 11 points apiece for the Lady Tigers (7-3), who led 41-5 at halftime. Starting guard Marie Ferdinand scored 13 points.

Pressy Elagodo's nine points led Prairie View (3-5).

No. 20 Oklahoma 75, North Texas 61

NORMAN, Okla. - Jadrea Seely scored 17 points, including 15 in the first half, to lead Oklahoma.

Caton Hill added 12 points and 13 rebounds for the Sooners (6-3). Jolei Mitchell scored 22 points for the Lady Eagles (8-1).

Continued from D1

Even if the Giants, who have added some offense to a strong defense, do get home field advantage in the NFC, that might not mean much - they are 7-1 on the road, 4-3 at home.

The Rams and Vikings are impressive on offense, particularly in domes (although St. Louis has three home losses). But their defenses are suspect as St. Louis proved in surrendering 33 points Monday night to the Browns.

Tampa Bay and Baltimore have great defenses but shaky offenses. In any case, things will change next season.

Fumble follies

Al Davis and Jon Gruden need not fear. The NFL's competition committee will definitely consider changing the rule that cost the Raiders a safety Saturday when Marquez Pope recovered a Ricky Van Meter fumble on the 1-yard line, slid into the end zone and was touched down.

That's already precedent for change. On Oct. 6, 1985, Cincinnati's Lewis Bredren intercepted a pass against the Jets on his own

yard line and kept going to the end zone, where he was tackled by Wesley Walker. It was ruled a safety because the rules then specified that if a player's momentum carried him in the end zone, he had to make the catch at the end zone or closer to have it called a touchback.

The next March, the league amended the rules to leave the momentum question to the judgment of the officials. In typical rubber-forging, it protects "a defender from having a safety scored on his team by deleting the provision for a specific 5-yard area in determining when the player's interception momentum carries him into the end zone."

But nothing was ever done about fumble momentum. Earlier this season, Carolina's Doug Evans picked up a Jamal Anderson fumble at his own 3 and kept running into the end zone. As was the case with Pope, it was ruled a safety.

"I talked to our staff about it when the Carolina play happened," Seattle coach Mike Holmgren said. "I said, 'This is very unusual.' I asked, 'Who knew this rule?' and of course none of my guys knew the rule. But we knew it this time."

BASKETBALL

NBA Standings table with columns for Eastern Conference and Western Conference, listing teams like Philadelphia, New York, and Los Angeles with their records.

CBA Standings

CBA Standings table with columns for Eastern and Western Conferences, listing teams like Cleveland, Detroit, and Toronto.

CEU Standings

CEU Standings table with columns for Division I and II, listing teams like TCWC and UC.

IN THE BLEACHERS



Timmy's dream comes true when he's selected as scooper boy for a professional basketball team.

By Steve Moore

Timmy's dream comes true when he's selected as scooper boy for a professional basketball team.

ON THE AIR

TELEVISION Schedule table listing programs like NBA, NHL, and NFL on various channels.

Schedule

Schedule table listing events like College men's basketball and ISU vs. Sacred Heart.

SKING

SKI Report table listing ski resorts and their conditions.

Monday's College Basketball Scores

Monday's College Basketball Scores table listing scores for various college games.

AP Top 25 Men's College Football

AP Top 25 Men's College Football table listing top teams like Michigan and Florida State.

USA Today/ESPN College Football

USA Today/ESPN College Football table listing college football games.

2000-01 Women's Basketball Standings

2000-01 Women's Basketball Standings table listing women's basketball teams.

2000-01 Women's Basketball Standings

2000-01 Women's Basketball Standings table listing women's basketball teams.

2000-01 Women's Basketball Standings

2000-01 Women's Basketball Standings table listing women's basketball teams.

2000-01 Women's Basketball Standings

2000-01 Women's Basketball Standings table listing women's basketball teams.

2000-01 Women's Basketball Standings

2000-01 Women's Basketball Standings table listing women's basketball teams.

Monday's NBA Scores

Monday's NBA Scores table listing NBA game results.

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Surprise: Steelers still in playoff hunt

PITTSBURGH (AP) — When they were 0-3, and the question in Pittsburgh was if they could match last season's six wins, the Steelers couldn't possibly have expected this.

Namely, going into their final game of the season with a realistic chance of making the playoffs.

"It will take a myriad of events for the Steelers (8-7) to sneak into the playoffs as the AFC's sixth seed, even if they win their Christmas Eve game at San Diego (1-14). The New York Jets (9-6), who play at Baltimore (11-4), must lose their third in a row and the Indianapolis Colts (9-6) must lose at home to the Minnesota Vikings (11-4).

Still, the Steelers' situation is much better than it was last weekend, when they had to beat the Redskins — which they did 24-3 — and the Jets had to lose to the Lions to prevent Pittsburgh from being eliminated. The Steelers also needed Jacksonville to lose at least one of its final two games, which occurred when the Jaguars lost Sunday at Cincinnati.

Only a week ago, Pittsburgh's chances seemed so bleak that they weren't mentioned on the NFL-issued list of playoff possibilities.

"We are aware that two of the four things that need to happen occurred, and now we have to take care of business," coach Bill Cowher said Monday.



Bill Cowher

That's everything — or, possibly, nothing. If the Jets lose at Baltimore, the Steelers will be routing for the Vikings to beat the Colts at the same time Sunday they are playing in San Diego. Cowher has even considered asking the Chargers not to post the Vikings-Colts running score on the Qualcomm Stadium scoreboard so as not to distract his players.

Of course, since it might benefit the 1-14 Chargers if it turns out the Steelers have nothing to play for, he probably shouldn't expect that to happen.

"What we've got to control is what we control," Cowher said, meaning the game in San Diego — not the games in Baltimore or Indianapolis.

After all, they've already learned the dangers of letting others decide their fate. Three times this season, the NFL has apologized for officiating mistakes that might have cost the Steelers victories.

However, history tells the Steelers they should be hopeful this weekend.

Running backs coach Dick Hoak and tight ends coach Mike

Mularkey have already related to Cowher the similar scenario that unexpectedly got the Steelers into the 1989 playoffs.

Then, as now, they needed considerable help from a variety of teams over the final two weeks of the season. Then, as now, they needed the Vikings to win, Minnesota to beat the Bengals in the final game of the regular season to eliminate Cincinnati and put the Steelers into the playoffs.

The Steelers went on to upset Houston on the road in overtime, then nearly upset the Broncos in Denver before losing 24-23 on a late John Elway touchdown drive. Had the Steelers won, they would have played at Cleveland in the AFC title game.

Five years before that, the 1984 Steelers also unexpectedly made the playoffs during the final weekend of the season, and went on to upset top-seeded Denver on the road before losing to Miami in the AFC title game.

Cowher isn't predicting these Steelers would have similar success if they somehow make their way into the playoffs, but he likes how they have played in winning eight of 12 since that 0-3 start.

"I really hope I'm here next Monday, working on Christmas Day," Cowher said. "I don't think anybody here would have any problems with that."

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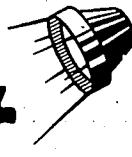
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