

The Times-News

Twin Falls, Idaho/95th year, No. 359

Sunday, December 24, 2000

\$1.50

GOOD MORNING

WEATHER

Today: Windy with morning snow showers possible. High 36. Partly cloudy tonight, low 24. Page A2

MAGIC VALLEY



Christmas rush: Stores were full Saturday as people rushed to pick up those last-minute Christmas gifts. Page B1

Save a watt: There are ways to conserve energy and save on that power bill. Page B1

MONEY

When gifts go back: Torn packaging, updated inventory or apparent use could send post-Christmas returns to a liquidator, a charity or even the trash. Page D1

FAMILY LIFE



Picture this: Kids and critters dominated this year's Times-News holiday photo contest. Page E1

SPORTS

Friday night heroes: The Times-News presents its 2000 all-star high school football team. Page C1

OPINION

No "L": Today's editorial is a list of Christmas gifts that Uncle Sam deserves to find under his tree. Page A12

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CLASSIFIED

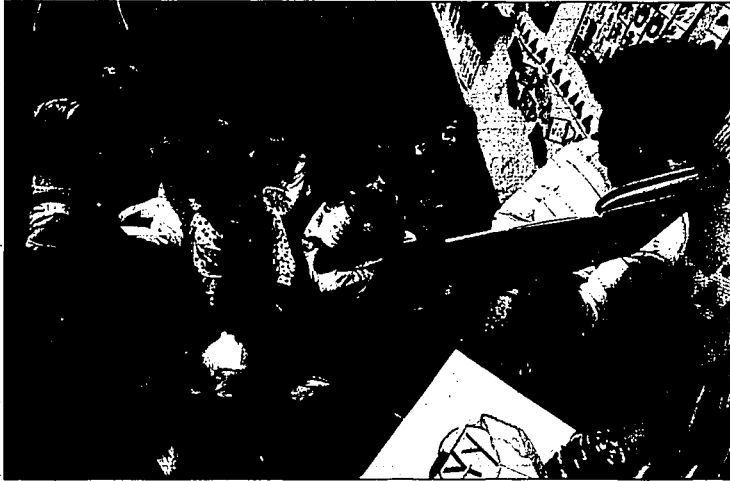
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The Times-News
www.magicvalley.com

... for online classified ads

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or in Burley
677-4042

See Jane read



Carmen McReynolds reads to her morning kindergarten class at Oregon Trail Elementary. Idaho has begun testing kindergartners as part of a literacy program that aims to have all children reading at grade level by the end of third grade.

Push for achievement hits earliest grades

By Jennifer Sandmann
Times-News writer

TWIN FALLS — Higher demands on student achievement have trickled down to the earliest grades, and with that trend come concerns.

Some child advocates are worried about a new state literacy test that begins with kindergartners. They fear that some districts will use the test results as a sole tool to direct children into remedial reading programs. Supporters of the test, the Idaho Reading Indicator, say it is just a piece of the state's new reading laws, aimed at having all children reading at grade level by the end of third grade.

Either way, preparing a child for kindergarten includes more than preparing a child to be away from home, and preparing a child to get along with classmates. Kindergartners now are asked to demonstrate knowledge of the alphabet, word syllables, rhyme, and how to print their names during the first weeks of school.

What it tests, and what's at stake
Early reading skills are critical

Ways to prepare your child for school

The National Association for the Education of Young Children offers these suggestions to help prepare your child for the classroom:
Provide good health and physical well-being. Active play that includes throwing balls, running, jumping, climbing or dancing to music is as important to a child's development as are the basics of nutritious food, enough sleep, safety and regular medical care.
Support your child's social and emotional development. Give children chances to learn about sharing and caring. Let them feed hungry birds or help make cookies to welcome a

new neighbor.
Build your child's language and general knowledge. Parents can find many ways to do this. Don't underestimate the value of play; it allows children to explore, be creative and develop social skills — all while paving the way for learning.
Talk to your children. Eating lunch, cleaning up toys and bath time provide opportunities to talk.
Read together.
Source: "Early Years are Learning Years," published by the National Association for the Education of Young Children.

tion, said the intent isn't to put too much of a focus on academic performance at too early an age.

"We're talking about literature and language and nursery rhymes and games," she said in an interview with The Times-News.

Parents can apply the same principle at home, Howard said. Children like to make up words, which is one way to make a game of practicing generating rhyme. Children can learn the alphabet by playing with a set of toy magnetic letters in the tub.

It's a matter of adults noticing and interacting with children, talking with them in a rich language to broaden their vocabularies, she said. It's peekaboo and nursery rhymes. The things that people do naturally with their children are key to laying the foundation for literacy and learning.

"We encourage parents really to spend time with their child," Howard said.

A screening tool?

The Idaho Association for the Education of Young Children and the J.A. & Kathryn Albertson

Please see READING, Page A2

to future success in the classroom.

In third grade, students make the transition from learning to read to reading to learn. Research shows that children who aren't reading at grade-level by then risk falling behind. The IRI identifies children who might need remediation, and it gives schools and policy makers data for resource decisions. And the public uses it as a barometer of school performance.

The IRI, a 10-minute assessment, tests a series of early skills

considered literacy building blocks. The test is given during the first month of school again in the winter. Children identified as reading below grade level will take the test again in the spring.

Last year, in the IRI's pilot year, all students were tested in the spring.

Skills tested are progressively more difficult as the school year advances.

Marilyn Howard, the state's superintendent of public instruction,

More candidates line up for District 25 seat

The Times-News

BURLEY — Two more Cassia County Republicans declared Saturday their candidacy for the legislative District 25 seat, bringing the list to seven.

The district's GOP executive committee will nominate three candidates Friday for the seat being vacated by Rep. Jim Kempton R-Albion. Kempton was appointed Thursday to the Northwest Power Planning Council.



Rep. Jim Kempton

Mark Peterson, chairman of the District 25 GOP executive committee said the two newest candidates are:

- Lloyd Cox, 89, a retired Burley farmer and former owner of a building construction company. Cox wants to protect property rights, individual freedoms and domestic production.
- Gary Turner, 58, a Burley farmer, former educator, and the president of the Idaho Farmers Union. Turner calls himself a rural advocate who wants to preserve county-based agriculture and who is concerned about the state of farming both nationally and internationally.

The other candidates include:

- Scott Bedke, 42, an Oakley area rancher and president of the Idaho Cattle Association.
- Earl Christensen, 63, a semi-retired farmer and rancher from Burley and former Farm Bureau board member.
- Paul Christensen, 47, a Burley farmer and a Cassia County commissioner.
- Tom Geary, 72, a former Farm Bureau president.
- Earl Warthen, 51, an Albion farmer.

Please see CANDIDATES, Page A2

Celebrating Christmas — in many ways

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — In a hurried prayer for deliverance from the temptations of the mall or in the quieter contemplation of a baby Jesus in a bright red Santa suit, churches across the nation will this weekend give an ancient tradition — the Christmas pageant — a modern American spin.

Two Washington churches are staging pageants that meld the

Please see CHRISTMAS, Page A7

Idaho's anti-smoking programs are still in early stage

Special committee mulls how money should be spent

The Associated Press

BOISE — If state Sen. Cecil Ingram had his way, cigarettes would be a thing of the past.

"Smoking is like any other malady," the Boise Republican said. "Wrong is wrong, even if everybody's doing it."
Ingram is one of 18 legislators serving on a special committee charged with helping shape how Idaho spends millions of tobacco settlement dollars. Their task appears daunting amid new statistics indicating tobacco use in Idaho has been rising.

Last February, the state's tobacco trust fund — now called the Idaho Millennium Fund — was created. The trust now has \$29.7 million and is expected to total nearly \$300 million by 2010.

The annual payments from the tobacco industry go into the trust and remain untouched. Only the interest earned on the trust's investment is being spent.

And in March, legislative budget writers allocated the first \$2.3 million. Six tobacco-related programs were authorized, ranging from free smoking cessation classes to collecting information to better understand smoking habits in the state. One piece of the plan has stirred controversy — using \$735,000 for the goal of reducing county property tax money

Please see SMOKING, Page A7

Bush makes waves

President-elect looks to governors to fill administration posts

The Associated Press

As President-elect Bush chooses governors to fill out his administration, he creates a ripple effect of political opportunity and jeopardy in the states.

New Jersey will likely spend 2001 under an acting governor, with Christie Whitman nominated Friday to head the Environmental Protection Agency. The nation's longest-serving governor ... Wisconsin's Tommy Thompson also may be in line for a Cabinet spot. Oklahoma and Alaska could see their governors tapped, too.



Christie Whitman

"When one person shifts chairs, then everyone shifts chairs," said Delby Snodgrass. An Oklahoma political consultant, she sees political candidates already maneuvering for state-seats that would come open, domino-like, if Gov. Frank Keating joined Bush — though nothing has yet been announced.

In New Jersey, Senate President Donald DiFrancesco — a Republican already planning a gubernatorial run next year — winds up in the unusual situation of serving as acting governor while remaining the Senate leader.

States with lieutenant governors — New Jersey has none — promote them when the top spot becomes open, such as:

• Wisconsin: Republican Thompson appears in line to run the Department of Health and Human Services (though he has said he would prefer Transportation). That would make GOP Lt. Gov. Scott McCallum the governor.

• Oklahoma: Republican Keating is mentioned for possible administration spots. That would move Lt. Gov. Mary Fallin, a Republican, to the top spot.

• Alaska: Democratic Gov. Tony Knowles is considered a possibility for the Department of Energy. Lt. Governor Fran Ulmer, a Democrat, would be appointed.

Montana Gov. Mark Racicot and Pennsylvania Gov. Tom Ridge have said they don't want administration jobs. Bush also supports Virginia Gov. Jim Gilmore to head the Republican National Committee, a job that would let him complete his term as governor.

Bush is less likely to turn to Congress, at least for members of his own party. Not with the Senate to be split 50-50 and the House narrowly in GOP control, 221-211, with two independents and one vacancy.



Shaun Conrad smokes a cigarette outside a coffee shop in Boise. Legislators in Idaho serving on a special committee have been charged with helping shape how the state spends millions of tobacco settlement dollars.

FORECAST FOR MAGIC VALLEY

IDAHO ALMANAC

Idaho Extremes Yesterday: High 44° Low 10° Boise 44° 10° Salmon 44° 10°

Normal month to date 35°/18° High low last year 60°/19° 60°/19° 23°/19°

FIVE-DAY FORECAST FOR TWIN FALLS

Table with 5 columns: TODAY, TONIGHT, MONDAY, TUESDAY, WEDNESDAY, THURSDAY. Includes weather icons and temperature ranges.

NATIONAL WEATHER

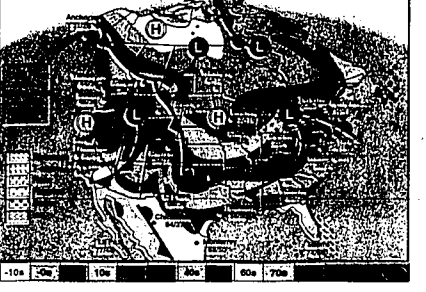
Southern Idaho: Snow ending from west to east across southern Idaho today; snow will be mixed with rain in parts of the area.

NATIONAL EXTREMES

High 79° in Organ Pipe Cactus, AZ Low -29° in Fosston, MN

NATIONAL WEATHER

Show us normal positions of weather systems and precipitation. Temperature bands are highs for the day.



CANADIAN CITIES

Table listing Canadian cities and their current weather conditions.

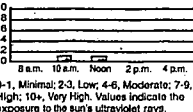
WORLD CITIES

Table listing world cities and their current weather conditions.

SUN AND MOON

Sunrise today: 8:06 a.m. Sunset tonight: 5:09 a.m. Moonrise today: 7:06 a.m. Moonset tonight: 4:37 p.m.

UV INDEX TODAY



NATIONAL CITIES

Table listing major US cities and their current weather conditions.

REGIONAL CITIES

Table listing regional cities like Boise, Burley, and Pocatello with their current weather.

Perkins THINK OF US FOR DINNER! 1564 BLUE LAKES BLVD. N. TWIN FALLS

Reading

Continued from A1. Foundation in Boise, a nonprofit backed by education providers, support efforts to educate parents and child-care providers about early literacy.

Kindergarten literacy skills

Here's a summary of what the Idaho Department of Education has defined as grade-level skills for Idaho kindergartners.

Academics versus play. Some children simply don't learn particular concepts until they are developmentally ready,

Implications for child care

With so much focus on kindergarten readiness, the IRI also has triggered an effort to educate parents and child-care providers about the latest research on early-childhood development.

Reading

Foundation in Boise, a nonprofit backed by education providers, support efforts to educate parents and child-care providers about early literacy.

Reading

Continued from A1. The Department of Education never wants decisions made from a single test, Howard said. The IRI is used to gather information.

Reading

Continued from A1. By state law, the Republican committee in Kempton's legislative District 25 has 10 days after his resignation to submit three nominees to Gov. Dirk Kempthorne.

Circulation Daniel Waluck, circulation director. Times-News telephone directory.

Information Call 734-6326. FOR LOCAL SKI INFO LOTTERY NUMBERS WEATHER FORECAST FOR LOCAL SPORT SCORES.

Bill Gates gives billions to global health

BOSTON (AP) — Bill Gates gave \$1.44 billion last year to fight global health threats, including AIDS, malaria and tuberculosis.

LOTTERY UPDATE Saturday, December 23, numbers. POWERBALL, WILD CARD, Rollover, PICK 3.

Correction

A story in Saturday's Times-News on the Filer High School speech team incorrectly named the location of a recent speech tournament.

General Assembly OKs major overhaul

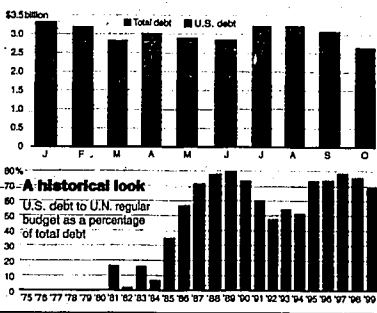
UNITED NATIONS (AP) — After a yearlong battle and round-the-clock final negotiations, the General Assembly on Saturday adopted its first major overhaul of U.N. financing in more than two decades, cutting U.S. payments to the world body and shifting most of the shortfall to developing countries with improving economies. Heavy-eyed delegates from 189 countries — many now hoping to make it home for the holidays — wrapped up agreement on the budget reform package after South Korea dropped last-minute demands and the world body resolved issues raised by the Czech Republic, Britain, China and the United States.

The General Assembly promptly approved the new system, passing resolutions for separate budgets for the United Nations' day-to-day operations and its far-flung peacekeeping operations. When assembly president Harri Holkeri of Finland gavelled the session to a close, there was loud applause — and a race to the doors.

"Buried in this complex financial package is the first financial reform of the U.N. regular budget in 28 years and the first time ever for peacekeeping," said Richard Holbrook, the exhausted but jubilant U.S. ambassador. Many credited his lobbying of delegates and often hostile relations for the groundbreaking accord.

Outstanding United Nations debt

The General Assembly of the United Nations approved a major financial overhaul Saturday, possibly allowing for a reduction of the U.S. share of the U.N. budget. Here are the amounts the United States owes compared to the total debt owed to United Nations for 2000.



Source: United Nations

With a debt to the United Nations now totaling \$1.3 billion, the United States has been repeatedly criticized by other countries, including its allies, for not paying its dues. Congress, demanding reform of what some see as a bloated U.N. bureaucracy, has passed legislation requiring that the U.S. share of the budget be substantially reduced before a large chunk of the arrears can be paid.

On Friday, the United States won the battle to reduce its share of the U.N. budget — the centerpiece of the U.N. financing overhaul — after media tycoon Ted Turner offered a \$34 million one-time gift. That donation would cover the shortfall the U.S. cut creates in the main U.N. budget in 2001, and was considered crucial to an agreement because almost all countries already have approved what they will spend for next year.

Under the deal, the U.S. share of the administrative budget would drop from 25 percent to 22 percent as Congress required. Its share of the peacekeeping budget would be reduced from 31 percent to around 27 percent — still more than the 25 percent the U.S. demanded, but enough to elate U.S. diplomats.

Jerusalem remains key block to peace in Mideast

WASHINGTON (AP) — Israeli and Palestinian negotiators failed Saturday to overcome their differences on Jerusalem and other tough issues, setting back President Clinton's drive for a peace accord before leaving office.

But Clinton did not give up. At a half-hour meeting in the White House Cabinet room, the president offered ideas on how to bridge the differences between the two sides. Clinton said he expected replies by midweek.

"How far we go, how fast we go, is up to the parties," White House spokesman P.J. Crowley said as five days of inconclusive talks ended. There was no agreement on a summit, another round of negotiations, or sending a U.S. envoy to the region.

However, Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres said in an interview that Prime Minister Ehud Barak and Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat may decide by

Wednesday to go to Washington for separate talks with Clinton.

"It's premature to talk of a summit until we have a sense that there is real progress," Crowley said after the two delegations departed the White House where they met for 45 minutes with U.S. mediator Dennis Ross, Secretary of State Madeleine Albright, National Security Advisor Sandy Berger and White House Chief of Staff John Podesta.

"There is an opportunity to make progress; whether progress happens or not is up to the parties," Crowley said.

Sach - Erekat, the senior Palestinian negotiator, and Ben-Ami sketched the details of their differences, and the White House did not disclose the specifics of the suggestions Clinton had made to them.

Crowley described them as "not an American plan" but rather "some suggestions to the parties based on what we heard from them" at the Camp David summit last July and since then.

Terrorists appeared to have planned attack

The Washington Post

WASHINGTON — Islamic militants headed by Osama bin Laden appear to have planned a spectacular three-country attack last January that would have included multiple bombings in Jordan and the United States and the sinking of a U.S. destroyer in Yemen, the Clinton administration's counterterrorism chief said last week.

"I think (bin Laden's) Al Qaeda network was going for a three-country attack at multiple locations," Richard Clarke, national coordinator for infrastructure protection and counterterrorism, said in an interview. "What if January last year had started with 1,000 Americans dead at six or seven locations around the world? We came very close to having that happen."

The attacks planned for last January either failed or were thwarted by arrests.

U.S. officials won't comment on current potential threats. But they noted a sharp increase in threat reports over the past three months. One counterterrorist official said that officials in Kuwait recently arrested the members of

a terrorist cell with apparent links to bin Laden and that authorities in Qatar recently apprehended a key terrorist operative.

This year, U.S. facilities and military forces are operating at a heightened state of alert throughout the Arabian Peninsula after the Oct. 12 bombing of the USS Cole in the Yemeni port of Aden and the increase in threat reports. But U.S. officials declined to comment on the precautions being taken over the holiday period.

As a result of the Cole investigation in Yemen, Clarke and other U.S. officials say they now more fully understand and appreciate the extent of last year's planned terrorist attacks, which were aimed at disrupting millennial celebrations.

Details of those plans have been previously reported. But Clarke, for the first time, offered what he called his own "theory" of the planned attacks, based on all available intelligence — bombings in Yemen, Jordan and the United States, all to take place on Jan. 3, 2000, which was a day of special religious significance during the Muslim-holy period of Ramadan.

Tracking the moon's shadow

When the moon passes between the Earth and the sun, a shadow of the moon is cast on Earth. When the angle is just right, the sun is partially or totally blocked from view, creating an eclipse. On Dec. 25, Americans will see a partial solar eclipse.



What the eclipse will look like

Here are the local times of the eclipse maximums. **WARNING:** Looking at the eclipse directly can injure your eyes.



Source: Sky & Telescope magazine

Emily Holmes/AP

Americans can get glimpse of solar eclipse on Christmas

WASHINGTON (AP) — The moon's shadow will appear to take a Christmas Day bite out of the sun on Monday, giving Americans a rare look at a partial solar eclipse.

The partial eclipse will be visible over most of the continental U.S., with the best view in the Northeast where about half of the solar disk will be obscured by the moon. People in Hawaii or Alaska won't be able to see it. The National Weather Service

forecasts partly cloudy skies for the Magic Valley around 9 a.m.

The American Optometric Association warns skywatchers to not look directly at the spectacle. "Looking at a solar eclipse without proper protection can result in serious eye damage," the association warns in a statement. To view the eclipse, the experts recommend special equipment, such as a welder's lens, a pinhole projector, or other indirect viewing equipment.

Judge tosses LAPD convictions

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Three police officers found guilty of corruption in the worst scandal in department history had their convictions tossed out by a judge who said the courts shouldn't remedy the scandal with an unfair verdict.

In a ruling obtained by The Associated Press late Friday, Superior Court Judge Jacqueline Connor said jurors disclosed in post-trial statements that they had focused on an issue which was never raised in the trial. Connor threw out the convictions of Los Angeles Police Department Sgts. Edward Ortiz and Brian Liddy, and Officer Michael Buchanan, who were convicted last month of conspiracy and other charges involving

framing gang members. "While recognizing the enormous pressure on the community, on the police force, on the district attorney's office, and on the courts to 'fix' the Rampart scandal, this court is only interested in evaluating the fairness of the proceedings and determining whether justice was done in this case," Connor said in her 18-page ruling.

The officers were the first members of the now-defunct Rampart station anti-gang unit to be tried on charges based on the allegations of ex-officer Rafael Perez, who said police beat, robbed, framed and sometimes shot innocent people in the city's tough Rampart neighborhood near downtown.

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 | 10-10 | 8-10 |

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NATION

Cheney plans unusually active Capitol Hill role as vice president

WASHINGTON (AP) — As the congressional point man for the Bush administration, Dick Cheney figures to be a greater presence on Capitol Hill than any vice president in recent memory. In fact, Cheney is getting an extra room in the House of Representatives to accommodate his frequent visits.

"No vice president in history has been used in quite this way," said Rep. Rob Portman, R-Ohio, an adviser to President-elect Bush who helped Cheney prepare for a campaign debate this year. "He is somebody who can tell it like it is and not grandstand. He's the right kind of intermediary."



Vice President-elect Dick Cheney prepares to meet with senators earlier this month on Capitol Hill.

Cheney's experience straddles both the legislative and executive branches of government. As a Wyoming congressman, Cheney rose to the position of House Republican whip — the person who counts votes and swears in and gets legislation through. He was President Ford's chief of staff and oversaw the Persian Gulf War as former President Bush's defense secretary.

"He's got so much to give to George W. Bush in terms of good sound advice," said former House GOP leader Robert Michel, who served with Cheney. "He's got a nice way of dealing with his adversaries and getting the most from the other side of the aisle."

Even Democrats admire Cheney's credentials.

"He knows, as well as anybody in this new administration, how the system works," said Senate Democratic leader Tom Daschle of South Dakota. "As tight as the membership will be," with

Republicans holding only a slim majority, "he knows how critical it will be that we work from the center."

The Constitution gives the vice president only one duty: breaking tie votes in the Senate, which could become a frequent occurrence over the next two years with the chamber divided 50-50 between Republicans and Democrats. There is a room just off the Senate floor for the vice president, and even a small staff.

President-elect Bush, however, has limited experience in Washington and none in Congress. Bush is making Cheney his chief advocate for the administration's legislative agenda, a fact that Speaker Dennis Hastert,

R-Ill., acknowledged by offering Cheney a hideaway room on the House side of the Capitol.

"President-elect Bush is an outsider," said Bush spokesman Ari Fleischer. "He's very savvy about Washington, but his ZIP code is Texas. Dick Cheney is one of Washington's wise men, and that's one of the reasons he'll be able to play such a helpful and varied role."

During a recent visit to Capitol Hill, Cheney said Bush has asked him to "take on special responsibilities ... in terms of working on legislation and legislative proposals."

"So I would expect to spend a fair amount of time up here," he said.

Some Gore supporters still fight

The Washington Post

WASHINGTON — Donna Brazile is frying fish.

"It's one thing to accept defeat," she says from her Capitol Hill home. "But people look at you and won't acknowledge your pain."

Al Gore's campaign manager discovered that she can no longer appear on black radio call-in shows. "It's just too painful." Too many stories from listeners about voter disenfranchisement. She was on the phone with her pal, Labor Secretary Alexis Herman, who relayed how people approached her in tears at a recent Christmas party.

"That's the problem," says Brazile. "People are 'ill crying.'"

Al Gore gave up the fight and acknowledged George W. Bush would be the next president on Dec. 13. Since then, the victors have been busy shopping resumes, setting up their new government and preparing for a grand celebration.

The beaten are not of one mind. Some are writing opinion pieces, some are protesting, some are continuing to investigate the election results in Florida. The loudest voices have been those of African Americans, who voted against Bush by a 9-1 margin.

But there have been others — like Paul Osher, a University of Maryland political science major. "I'm interested in old-school democracy." For that reason, Osher has joined a motley collection of activists who are plotting inauguration demonstrations. Among those demonstrations is Al Sharpton's "shadow inauguration" at the steps of the U.S. Supreme Court.

Vigils, rallies and a national voter registration drive are being planned around Martin Luther King Jr.'s birthday next month. And a Florida-based group calling itself the Oral Majority says it has printed 13,000 buttons and bumper stickers protesting Bush's victory.

"What we're trying to do is get protests organized all over the country against this hostile takeover," says spokesman Bob Kunst, a Democrat who led previous campaigns against Jerry Falwell and Anita Bryant. "We are not just going to sit by and let it happen without opposition. He's never going to be our president. We're going to shadow Bush wherever he goes."

Others among the defeated masses are doing nothing — unless you call grieving alone something. Defeat is hard, especially the kind of defeat that winds its way through the highest court and isn't crystal clear until 36 days after the election. The election polarized the country. The national government is closely divided. Bitterness is in the air. There are people who study such things.

Early signs suggest Bush demands Cabinet loyalty to his agenda

The Washington Post

AUSTIN, Tex. — President-elect Bush has chosen seven Cabinet members with eclectic views and backgrounds, but has demanded a loyalty to his agenda that should result in a united front as he takes on Washington, Bush advisers said last week.

Although all seven are Republicans, Bush's early selections have been demographically diverse: five men and two women; five white people, a Hispanic person and an African American. They span the center-right spectrum of mainstream Republicanism from Sen. John Ashcroft, R-Mo., a champion of Christian conservative causes who was nominated Friday for attorney general, to New Jersey Gov. Christine Todd Whitman, a supporter of abortion rights who was named five hours later as administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency.

The pastiche Bush has assembled so far has left some politicians and analysts wondering if he is creating a Cabinet that has something for almost everyone but will squabble internally. People who know Bush, however, pointed to his campaign and his Texas government as evidence that he runs organizations where any preexisting disagreements are subsumed to the greater cause of George W. Bush. And they noted that, by turning largely to governors, corporate leaders and others with strong managerial backgrounds, he is forming a Cabinet whose members know the difference between the hub of an organization and its spokes.

"The key to understanding this Cabinet," said Rep. Roy Blunt, R-Mo., a Bush liaison to the House, "is that whatever the different points of view, the people who were chosen agree with him on the issue they're being given responsibility for."

Bush has made it clear that no loose cannons will be on his invite list. At a news conference Friday announcing Ashcroft, Bush told reporters he was confident that "when he gives me his legal advice, you won't know about it unless I tell you."

As if he had not made the point, Bush later said that he welcomes Ashcroft's advice but added, "I hope I don't read about it." Then, after answering a question about appointing a punishment, Bush turned to Ashcroft and said, "You're welcome to say something, if you'd like to. Just don't tell them what your advice is."

Bush's early roster has outsider accents but deep government seasoning, suggesting he is more interested in running Washington than in fighting it. One is a fellow governor, one is a soon-to-be-unemployed senator, two held high-level positions in the administration of his father, one was co-chairman of his Florida campaign, one is a lifelong friend and the seventh is close to Vice President-

two agriculture official in the earlier Bush administration, is his choice to head the Agriculture Department. And Mel Martinez, a Florida county official, who is tapped to be secretary for Housing and Urban Development, sprinkles speeches with his tale of immigrating to the United States as part of a boat lift "to help children leave Communist Cuba during the height of the cold war."

Mary Matalin, co-host of CNN's "Crossfire" and a former Republican aide who has maintained close ties to Bush, said, "What is under appreciated about George W. Bush is that he is secure enough to assemble people around him who are superstars. That will make his cabinet greater than the sum of its parts."

Cheney has said that Bush plans to include at least one Democrat in his Cabinet. Among the positions still to be filled are secretaries of Education, Labor and Energy. But, so far, the nominations have been conventional to a degree that has surprised both supporters and opponents of Bush. Marshall Wittman, a senior fellow at the Hudson Institute who worked in the Health and Human Services Department under Bush's father, called the lineup "decisively corporate," "risk-averse, conservative and non-flamboyant."

"The key to understanding this Cabinet is that whatever the different points of view, the people who were chosen agree with him on the issue they're being given responsibility for."

— Rep. Roy Blunt, R-Mo., Bush liaison to the House



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Singing senator's record reflects conservative values, background

Knight Ridder News Service

AUSTIN, Texas — He doesn't smoke, drink or dance, but Sen. John Ashcroft of Missouri sure loves to sing.

As a member of one of the most exclusive clubs around, the Singing Senators quartet, Ashcroft sings patriotic, gospel and country tunes with Senate Majority Leader Trent Lott, of Mississippi, and Sen. James Jeffords of Vermont and Sen. Larry Craig of Idaho.

Now, with liberal, civil rights and women's groups preparing to fight his nomination for attorney general, Ashcroft will need all the help he can get from his fellow barbershop singers.

Born in Chicago, Ashcroft was reared in Springfield, Mo., the world headquarters of the Assemblies of God church, a fundamentalist Protestant denomination. His father and grandfather were ministers in the church, and Ashcroft still begins every day with a prayer.

His supporters point to his legal and political experience to praise his qualifications for the highest post. Ashcroft, 58, is a graduate of Yale University and the University of Chicago Law School, where he met his wife,



Source: Compiled from AP wire reports. AP

Janet, now a professor at Howard University Law School in Washington. He has worked as a lawyer and served as Missouri attorney general for two terms, as governor of the state for two terms, and as a senator for the last six years.

"An early Christmas present arrived on the doorstep of social conservatives," said Marshall Wittman, a former lobbyist for the Christian Coalition. "This is the attorney general of their

dreams."

Conservative enthusiasm for the Missouri Republican was matched by equally fervent liberal opposition.

"With the possible exception of Senator Jesse Helms, I do not believe anyone in the United States Senate has a more abysmal record on civil rights and civil liberties," declared Ralph G. Neas, president of the civil rights group People for the American Way.

Ashcroft's political good fortune at the polls ran out this fall. Seeking re-election to the Senate, he was fighting angry black voters and a popular governor, Democrat Mel Carnahan.

Black voters in Missouri were furious with Ashcroft for waging a two-year battle to kill the nomination of state Supreme Court Judge Ronnie White to the federal bench. Ashcroft called White, a black, "pro-criminal," "a dangerous liberal," and "the most anti-capital-punishment judge on the court" even though White had voted 41 times to affirm the death penalty out of 58 instances.

Then, as Ashcroft struggled to stay even with Carnahan in public opinion polls, the governor died in a plane crash Oct. 16. Ashcroft suspended his campaign while the state mourned.

Election law required that Carnahan's name stay on the ballot, and Lt. Gov. Roger Wilson, a Democrat, promised to appoint Carnahan's widow, Jean, to the Senate seat should the governor still win.

Carnahan garnered 49,000 more votes than Ashcroft out of 2.3 million cast. Despite entreaties by Republicans to protest the legitimacy of a dead

'An early Christmas present arrived on the doorstep of social conservatives'

— Marshall Wittman, former lobbyist for the Christian Coalition

man winning the election, Ashcroft declined to fight the voters' verdict.

"Political defeat, as my old colleague and college classmate Joe Lieberman has written, brings more emotion and pain, it brings perspective," Ashcroft said Friday as he stood between President-elect George W. Bush and Vice President-elect Dick Cheney. "And today, for Janet and me, it brings a renewed and noble call to public service."

In the Senate, Ashcroft pursued a conservative agenda to cut taxes and shrink the government. He was the leader of a movement to use religious groups to take over social service functions of government, an idea Bush and Vice President Al Gore espoused during the campaign.

He pushed other causes, such as cutting funding for the

National Endowment for the Arts and barring Medicaid from paying for abortions for poor women.

Sometimes, Ashcroft's conservatism didn't mesh with the leaders of his own party. When Democrats and Republicans in Congress were striking a deal to raise cigarette taxes to pay for programs to curb smoking by young people, Ashcroft led a revolt against raising taxes.

"In Washington, taxes and spending are the only things more addictive than nicotine," he said at the time, according to Congressional Quarterly's Political America.

In 1998, Ashcroft began raising money to run for president and traveled to Iowa and New Hampshire. He was considered the favorite candidate of the Christian right, including Pat Robertson and Jerry Falwell. At the same time, Ashcroft had become one of the most outspoken senators criticizing President Clinton for his affair with Monica Lewinsky. He was among the first to say the presidency should be impeached.

Ashcroft gave up his pursuit of the presidency when he realized he might lose his Senate seat.

Slumping economy could greet new president

The Washington Post

WASHINGTON — 'It's the economy, stupid!' The four-word mantra that haunted George Bush the Elder during the 1992 presidential campaign has now come back to haunt Bush the Younger. Instead of liberating the best economy in a generation, the new president must deal with a sharp economic downturn that could turn downright nasty if consumers stop consuming, investors stop investing and companies pull in their horns.

Getting the right mix of economic policies to cope with such a downturn is tricky business, even in the best of circumstances. Boosting government spending, cutting taxes, the lowering short-term interest rates — the usual monetary and fiscal prescriptions in Washington's formula — are techniques so slow to take effect that it is difficult to get the fiscal right.

"Once a slowdown starts building momentum, it's very difficult to stop," said Lawrence Chimeneria, a private economic forecaster.

Compounding the challenge this time is the fact that this is the most serious downturn for the new economy. Just as history proved an unreliable guide to predicting the course of the expansion, past experience is proving equally unhelpful on the way down. The speed and steepness of the descent has caught many economists by surprise.

Many economists had assumed the increased efficiency brought on by two decades of deregulation, corporate restructuring and technological breakthroughs had equipped the economy with new stabilizers to smooth out ups and downs of the business cycle. With "just-in-time" production and sophisticated "supply chain management" software, excess inventories were not supposed to pile up in warehouses and on display floors. And pay-for-performance compensation schemes were sup-

posed to allow firms the freedom to cut pay without curbing back on so many jobs. There was also the hope that, in a newly globalized economy, continued growth in other regions could offset declining demand here at home.

In fact, all those things have helped, creating the longest expansion in modern history, with record low unemployment rates now hovering around 4 percent, little inflation and annual growth rates above 3 percent for most of the past two years.

But the momentum of the downturn has picked up in the past two months, and there is increasing doubt that the new shock absorbers of themselves, will prove strong enough to ensure a soft landing for the economy.

At the same time, economists acknowledge that there are other dynamics in the new economy that are working to accelerate the downturn.

Although the economy is less dependent on inventory swings, for example, it is now more responsive to the much more volatile swings in investor psychology on both the stock and the bond markets. Wall Street is not only where increasing numbers of households are parking an increased share of their savings, but also where new economy companies have raised much of the capital they need to grow. The tumble in financial markets — 16 percent for the S&P 500-stock index, 42 percent for the highly volatile Nasdaq composite index — has already prompted a sharp decline in consumer confidence and cut off the flow of capital to much of the new economy, including many firms with good prospects and balance sheets.

"The stock market is not simply an innocent bystander in the new economy," writes economist Michael Mandel in a new book with a scary title, "The Coming Intense Recession." "Rather, with the rise of risk capital, the market has become the critical

nexus of economic growth and innovation."

Certainly a hallmark of the new economy is that companies of all types, from steel smelters to software developers, have invested heavily in computers and other

efficiency-enhancing equipment, permitting them to increase their sales without adding a lot of new workers. As a result, the increases in sales over the past decade have translated into even bigger increases in profits.

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NATION



Visitors view a wooden cross standing on a snow-covered mound that some believe is the tomb of Christ in Shingo, a Hamlet in northern Japan.

Vet recalls his worst Christmas

KNIGHT RIDDER NEWS SERVICE

ABBEVILLE, Ga. - Some Christmases are more memorable than others. For many folks, there is usually one year or maybe two that come to define the season for the rest of their lives.

Wesley Bowen will never forget the Christmas of 1951. That's the one he spent on a frozen and nameless hilltop along the 38th parallel during the Korean War.

"The enemy put the word out that this was going to be the worst Christmas of our lives," says Bowen, 70. "None of us slept that night. When it got daylight the next morning, there must have been hundreds of these little bags hanging out on the barbed wire in front of us."

For the past 49 years, Bowen has preserved the "gift" he and other GIs received from their Chinese enemies - a small chesscloth bag containing a Christmas card, a post card and a "safe conduct pass," urging American GIs to surrender.

The Christmas card reads: "Whatever the colour, race or creed! All plain folks are brothers indeed! Both you and we want life and peace! If you go home, this war will cease. - Greetings from the Chinese People's Volunteers."

The postcard shows a smiling "Mr. Moneybags" vacationing in Florida with two tanned beauties and another man. The two couples are having a picnic. The man smokes fat cigars and drink beer. A photograph below the scene shows a column of American GIs trudging through windblown snowdrifts. It reads: "You risk your life. Big Business rakes in the dough. Where are you? Korea."

Each item has been carefully preserved, laminated in plastic. Every year when other folks are pulling out Christmas decorations or photo albums, Bowen looks at his relics. He scrutinizes them, as if searching for an answer.

"We didn't hear a thing. We didn't see a thing," he says. "They could've killed every one of us probably. But all we saw were these bags tied to the fence row by the hundreds."

SYMPATHETIC EARS



Pope John Paul II is seated in front of a huge Christ sculpture by Italian artist Pericle Fazzini inside the Paul VI hall at the Vatican, Saturday, during a special audience the pontiff granted to the relatives of sectarian violence.

Japanese town claims the tomb of Jesus Christ

SHINGO, Japan (AP) - Nearly 2,000 years ago, a man fled for his life from the Middle East, crossing Siberia and Alaska before living out his days in this snow-bound hamlet in northern Japan.

The tale is fanciful enough, but even more so when townspeople tell you the name of the visitor they say is buried here: Jesus Christ.

This strange historical theory is founded on a radical rewriting of the Christian belief that Jesus was crucified, resurrected three days later and then rose to heaven - all in Jerusalem. It has its roots in shaky archeology and shadowy local customs some say came from the Holy Land.

Many officials here disavow the theory, but nevertheless, some 10,000 people visit the Shingo burial site each year. Perhaps it's because the legend fits in with

the fascination in Japan - where fewer than 1 percent of the people are Christians - with such trappings of Christianity as Christmas and church weddings.

The Jesus-in-Japan theory first emerged in the 1930s when researchers claimed to have found a "will of Christ" - the original of which was lost during World War II - indicating that Jesus was buried in Shingo. Later, a burial mound believed to fit the theory was found in the village about 370 miles north of Tokyo.

According to the story, Jesus came to Japan in his early 20s, studied Japanese culture and religion and then returned to Judea when he was 33 to begin his ministry. He was never crucified - having switched places with his younger brother Isukiri - and managed to flee across Siberia to Alaska and on to Japan by boat.

Firefighters give proper burial to friend

Los Angeles Times

NEW YORK - It was a final Christmas gift for the man they called "The Chief."

"Snowflakes fell on the two fire engines - a truck and a hook and ladder - parked across the street from the funeral home in Harlem Friday.

Inside, filling a cramped room, firefighters wearing rubber boots and sturdy shoes that had climbed thousands of tenement stairs sat on folding chairs.

And in a plain, blue casket - wearing a dark suit with a white carnation in the lapel - lay Alex Davis.

No one really knew how old he was. The death certificate said 56, but everyone guessed he was in his late 70s. One thing was certain: It was the best Davis had been dressed in decades.

The homeless man with a vague past had shown up sometime during the 1960s - no one

quite remembers where - near Engine Company 82 and Ladder 31 in the South Bronx.

Davis said he was from the Carolinas, had served in the merchant marine. He didn't say much more.

He started sweeping the sidewalk outside the firehouse. When the engines roared out to answer alarms, Davis would keep the neighborhood kids from messing with the firefighters' cars.

He became a fixture there. Every day, he sat in front of the firehouse in his own special chair, which the firefighters took in at night.

"He had a kind of mayoral status on the corner," said Neil Walsh, an 18-year veteran of the department. "Young kids did listen to him when he talked."

At night, Davis retired to vacant buildings or, more recently, to an abandoned big-rig trailer.

For three decades, the more

than 50 firefighters of Engine Company 82 cared for him. Davis even appeared in the firehouse's official millennium group portrait.

"We kept him alive by feeding him. He ate numerous Thanksgiving and Christmas dinners."

"We clothed him," Walsh said. "He was here every day, sunup to sundown."

"His nickname for everyone was 'Chief,'" Walsh continued. "That's how he got his nickname."

"He was a happy, simple guy," added firefighter Michael Lynch. "He hung out in front of the house all the time. Guys would come in for change of tours, he would greet everybody."

About two weeks ago, the firefighters responded to a report of a man lying face down in a vacant lot. It was their friend. He had frozen to death during the night.

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Smoking

Continued from A1

spent on health care for poor people with tobacco-related ailments. They have been up and running for six months.

"It's too soon to look at the effectiveness or measure the outcome," said Democrat Rep. Margaret Henbest, who serves on the Joint Millennium Fund Legislative Committee.

But the nurse practitioners said, "one thing I tell constituents is that we're only spending the interest, that there's a lot of carefulness and accountability."

Still, Julie Hall, the project director for the Coalition for a Healthy Idaho, contends that the state's tobacco prevention program is inadequate and fails to meet standards set by the federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

"Idaho is not spending enough time and energy on this long-term disease," said Hall, a registered nurse who deals with cancer patients. "We have a high smoking rate among the youth. As a state, we're paying a tremendous price."

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention has published "Best Practices for Comprehensive Tobacco Control Programs," a guide for states to plan and implement anti-tobacco programs.

The book says that small states, with populations under 3 million like Idaho, should allocate from \$7 to \$20 per capita to fighting tobacco. For Idaho, that would total between \$9.8 million and \$28 million annually.

But the state is spending no more than \$7 million, a combination of Millennium Fund earnings and tobacco tax revenue, Hall said. She also objects to the cash subsidy for county spending on health care for poor people with cancer and respiratory diseases stemming from smoking.

Counties typically pay the first \$10,000 on indigent health care bills, the money coming from property taxes. The state picks up the rest.

But in smoking-related illnesses, the counties now will pay only the first \$5,000.

The Millennium Fund will pick up the next \$5,000, and the state the rest.

Blake Hall, the Idaho Falls attorney who manages the state's responsibility for indigent health care, said only one case so far has been proposed for Millennium Fund subsidy. Still, he defends the program because of its taxing potential.

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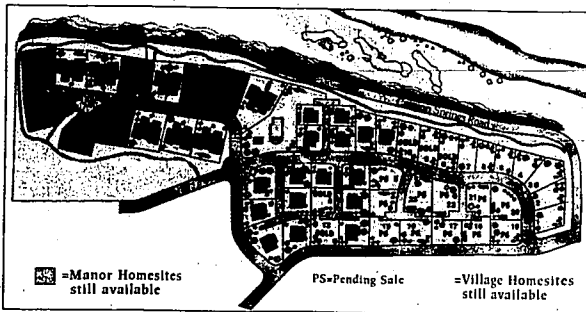


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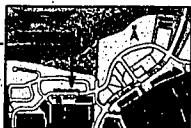
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Christmas

Continued from A1

ancient message of salvation delivered through Jesus' birth with a robust, if paradoxical, modern commercialism - a phenomenon recent scholarship says is profoundly American.

At Foundry United Methodist Church near well-appointed Dupont Circle, parents of three diminutive wise men held their breath as their charges handed pricey gifts to the baby Jesus, a doll wrapped up in a candy cane-embellished Santa suit.

Across town at Bethesda Baptist Church, a modern white building soaring above the battered clapboards of Ivy City, kids rehearsed a show extolling the virtues of laptop computers and the Internet as a way of tracking down Christian meaning - all the while decrying Christmas commercialism.

Mixing the twin American pieties - sacraments and sales - is deeply rooted American tradition, and not one that is necessarily hypocritical, says Leif Schmidt, a Princeton University scholar who leads research into modern American holiday-making.

In his study, "Consumer Rites: The Buying and Selling of American Holidays," Schmidt describes the seeming mix of the sacred and profane as "a compelling linkage of religious, civic, and folk celebration to modern forms of display and retailing."

Not every culture tolerates the mix so well. The original "mystery plays" - recountings of biblical tales dating back more than 1,000 years - died out in northern Europe in the Middle Ages partly because their popularity attracted merchants, and church leaders were aghast at seeing trinkets peddled alongside scripture.

By contrast, what Schmidt describes as "convergences of fair and festival" has happily thrived in American at least since the early 19th century.

The Santa Claus myth is an example: His modern form is the creation of Coca-Cola commercial artists. His apotheosis is the 1947 film "Miracle on 34th Street," in which, after all his overbearing triumph is persuading Macy's to encourage customers to comparison-shop at Gimbel's.

It's no surprise, then, that the American "mystery play" has become something of a business, with thousands of versions available through catalogues.

NATION

Teen holds 'miracle baby' she saved

LOUISVILLE, Ky. (AP) — In a quiet hospital room, a young woman cradled her namesake after helping him survive his violent entry to the world.

Trisha Welch had tended to the infant three days earlier when he was ripped from his mother's womb in a tractor-trailer wreck on a southern Kentucky highway. The trucker named his son Patrick after learning the young woman's name — derived from Patricia.

In a tearful, 10-minute reunion at Koinonia Children's Hospital on Friday, Welch, 18, held baby Patrick and spoke with his father, Furtado P. Boaventura, said hospital spokeswoman Lisa Brosky.

always share a bond, and pledged to keep in touch, Brosky said. Boaventura, of Miami, promised her pictures.

Rescue workers have credited Welch and her family with saving the baby, who was found on a snowy embankment still attached by the umbilical cord to his lifeless mother, 31-year-old Olga Maria Nunes Bera-Cruz. The woman — eight months pregnant — was flung through the windshield of a tractor-trailer and had been cut in half.

Welch and her relatives heard the wreck from their home and rushed to the scene, warming the infant with a blanket until ambulances arrived. Boaventura, 42, who drove the truck,

has not spoken to the media about his son or the crash. Welch has declined comment about the reunion or her rescue efforts.

Well-wishers nationwide have called to express concern. Strangers also showered Patrick's family with gifts of toys, clothes and a ham, Brosky said. A trust fund is being planned.

While hospital administrators won't disclose his weight or height, they said the baby remained in good condition. His only injury in the wreck was a small scratch to his left knee, Brosky said. She did not know how long the baby would remain hospitalized.



Charles Shepard of London, Ky., is one of the emergency workers who found a baby after he was ripped from his mother's womb during a highway crash in southern Kentucky.

It's official: Madonna marries Guy

DORNOC, Scotland (AP) — The secret took hours to leak out: Madonna and Guy Ritchie are husband and wife.

"It did happen," the Rev. Susan Brown confirmed Saturday, at last answering the question that kept the media camped outside Skibo Castle in a freezing fog Friday night.

By Saturday afternoon, Madonna and her husband were gone, having flown off for a honeymoon in an undisclosed destination.

After a frenzied week of seeing reporters, photographers and camera crews but very little of Madonna and her man, the people of Dornoch looked forward to reclaiming the quiet.

The cavalcade of stars they had hoped for turned out, in public anyway, to be just a few famous names.

"Now it is time to look at where we are — it's only two days 'til Christmas — and we need to get things into perspective," says Paul Hart, owner of the Eagle Hotel. "The short-term effect of all of this has given a welcome boost to local businesses but it is the long-term effect which is important."

It may be a long, long time before Dornoch sees — or rather, doesn't see — a wedding like this one.

The 42-year-old singer and film director Ritchie, 32, entered a nearly impenetrable cloud of secrecy around the proceedings. They emerged in public briefly when they went to Dornoch Cathedral on Thursday for the baptism of their 4-month-old son, Rocco.

The couple had publicly registered for a wedding in Dornoch, but released no details of their plans.

The outside world knew that Sting, Cwyneth Fairweather, Rupert Everett, Donatella Versace and Stella McCartney were there because they had been seen in public.

Speculation that Elton John would serenade the newlyweds was quenched when he hosted a TV program Friday night in London and sang a rude song about Ritchie.

Newspapers speculated for days about the whereabouts of Brad Pitt and Jennifer Aniston, but they were never seen.

Clown prince of classical music dies at 91

GREENWICH, Conn. (AP) — Victor Borge, the daffy pianist whose whimsical approach to the classics earned him the moniker the "clown prince" of Denmark, died Saturday. He was 91.

Borge died at home in sleep, his longtime manager, Bernard Gurtman, said.

Borge had just returned from Copenhagen and was excited about spending Christmas in his family, Gurtman said. Borge would have turned 92 on Jan. 3.

For decades, Borge delighted audiences by deflating the pomposity of classical music. He fell off his bench, played music upside down and in weird ways, and repeatedly milked laughs from such classic routines as "phonetic punctuation" in which he used goofy sounds to indicate commas, periods and question marks in his monologue.

He kept up a busy career into his 80s, including his most popular, "The Best of Victor Borge," which sold some 3 million copies.

"Some people reach the point where they must try desperately to hold on to something that isn't there anymore, no matter how great they are," he said in an interview in 1986. "This is where I am very, very lucky. We all do what we can, we all have limitations. Apparently, within my limitations, there is enough to go on and on and on and on."

Large advertisement for REX electronics featuring a 'FREE 2-YR. PARTS & LABOR WARRANTY' and 'FREE! TOSHIBA VCR or DVD PLAYER' offer. The ad lists various products like Philips Magnavox, Sharp, Hitachi, and RCA electronics with prices and specifications. It also includes a 'FREE! SINGLES SYSTEM' offer and contact information for 1414 POLELINE ROAD.

NATION

Packing heat? This Nevada community suggests you do

Los Angeles Times

PAHRUME, Nev. — Californians looking for a place to stash their assault weapons to avoid a Dec. 31 registration deadline can send them to Second Amendment Drive, out here in the Nevada desert.

It's the main drag through Front Sight, a planned resort community where residents would have, not only the right, but practically a responsibility, to bear arms.

This is, after all, a place where even gun novices can come out for a day of submachine-gunning. One recent day, more than 50 people — including a school teacher, a grandmother, a Baptist minister, a software engineer and a Hollywood actor — showed up for training and, by day's end, were blasting away with 9-millimeter Uzis at targets depicting human torsos.

Front Sight founder Ignatius Piazza hopes to build a private \$25-million residential community anchored, not by a golf course or a lake, but by a dozen shooting ranges. The project also is to include a firearms pro shop with a gunsmith, a community armory and a five-story tower and a web of tunnels to sharpen self-defense skills in stairwells, hallways and dark quarters.

The site is 50 miles west of Las Vegas, near Pahrump, a fast-growing desert community of sprawling subdivisions and legal brothels.

A Dodge City with Uzis? Piazza prefers to describe this as a Disneyland for gun lovers; the safest town in all the land. The place will be protected, of course, by armed guards at the entry gates.

Piazza says 40 families have purchased \$300,000 "platinum" memberships in his gun club, entitling them to one-acre home sites.

Among those buyers is Holly Gallo, 32, a grade school teacher from the San Jose, Calif., area who said she and her gun hobbyist husband can hardly wait to move here.

"I don't like worrying about my safety," she said, "and somebody would have to be a complete idiot to break into a home here."



Cris Carter, left, shows Dorothy Bowen how to use an Uzil at the Front Sight shooting range in Nevada.

Construction has yet to begin, however, on what Piazza envisions as an 800-home development. In the meantime there is a new law in neighboring California requiring all assault weapons to be registered by Jan. 1 — and Piazza hopes to drum up short-term business for his Front Sight Firearms Training Institute by offering free gun storage to Californians leery of the government.

"Gun confiscation always follows gun registration in countries outside the United States," said Piazza, a former chiropractor and a gun collector who says he got into firearms after a drive-by shooting near his Bakersfield-area home in 1988 left him rattled.

Gun owners must spend at least \$500 on firearms courses to store as many as three assault weapons for a year. "This is a viable solution" for Californians who want to comply with the new law by simply removing their weapons from the state, he said.

Piazza started promoting his offer Dec. 1 and said he already has received shipments of 25 weapons from California. About 200 other owners have paid for the training-and-storage deal, and "our phones have been ringing off the hook," he said.

For some, the appeal of Front Sight goes far beyond its ability to store weapons. Here, gun lovers come to practice and unabashedly have fun, handling weapons that are off-limits in many other states. California, for instance, not only requires the registration of assault weapons

but bans automatic-fire weapons such as Uzis and other machine guns except for use in law enforcement and the entertainment industry, under special permits.

Nevada, on the other hand, does not require registration of assault weapons and allows the firing of machine guns at facilities with federal permits.

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NATION

Assassination stuns Georgia county; state mourns

Sheriff-elect had vowed to clean up law enforcement

The Philadelphia Inquirer

DECATUR, Ga. - For more than two decades, Derwin Brown was the kind of police officer who seemed to do as much of his civic duty behind the door of his own precinct house as beyond it. Not shy about criticizing what he saw as wrongs within his own DeKalb County Police Department, Brown forged a reputation as a maverick. He was part of a lawsuit to increase minority representation in the ranks, lobbied for better police pay, and helped unionize the force.

So it was no surprise that when he ran for the post of sheriff of DeKalb County and won, he vowed to start cleaning up the second-plugged department as soon as he took office.

He never got the chance. On Dec. 15, three days before he was to be sworn in, Brown, 46, died in a barrage of automatic-weapons fire in his driveway. Now, the 60,000 people of DeKalb, a fast-growing suburban county straddling Atlanta's eastern side - wait on edge as investigators hunt for a killer or killers they concede may have come from within Brown's own ranks.

Although reluctant to discuss their probe in detail, a coalition of local officials, state investigators and FBI agents are focusing on 38 people Brown said he intended to fire once he took office, and on several companies that hold contracts with the sheriff's department.

Even as the investigators caution against speculating about suspects and motives, they have made it clear that Brown was not the victim of a random act of violence.

"Sheriff-elect Brown was gunned down in his driveway," said DeKalb County Public Safety Director Thomas Brown, who is not related to his late colleague. "He was gunned down with multiple large-caliber weapons. Sheriff-elect Brown was assassinated."

Thomas Morgan, the county's district attorney, went a step further, characterizing the killing as a "professional hit." By whatever label, Brown's death has jolted Georgia's second-largest county and further eroded public confidence in a sheriff's department steeped in more 30 years of intermittent scandal. Many here had hoped Brown's promised reforms would restore its legitimacy and provide a much-needed boost to lagging public trust.

"He was incorruptible," said Linda Beasley-Nash, a DeKalb resident who has known Brown's family for 25 years. "He believed in doing the right thing. He looked at that department and wanted to make some changes, and you know that scared some people there."

Department reform was the cornerstone of Brown's campaign and the focus of caustic give-and-take with incumbent Sheriff Sidney Dorsey before Brown's 2-to-1 victory in an August runoff.

Brown promised sweeping changes, including a state investigation into operations at the county's jail - one of the nation's largest with more than 3,000 inmates - and a complete audit



A DeKalb County police officer salutes as the hearse carrying the coffin of slain DeKalb County Sheriff-elect Derwin Brown makes its way toward the funeral home in Decatur, Ga., Thursday.



Stacie King, left, consoles Phyllis Brown, widow of slain DeKalb County Sheriff-elect Derwin Brown, after a funeral service for her husband Thursday in Decatur, Ga. Brown was gunned down in his driveway last Friday night.

of department finances.

The DeKalb sheriff's department is not responsible for everyday police duties; the county police department is the primary

law enforcement agency, while the sheriff's office maintains the jail, issues summonses, and handles courthouse security. Controversy has dogged the

he had been arrested for domestic abuse and once was charged with manslaughter. Brown, a 22-year veteran of the police force, seemed the antithesis of all that.

Beasley-Nash, who first met Brown's wife, Phyllis, when they were students at Clark Atlanta University, said he was a gentle man with a fierce sense of justice and a commitment to helping others.

"When I first met him," she said, "he was going to be a minister. But he joined the police instead, and he really found his niche."

Brown did everything from working a beat to starting an anti-drug program for teenagers to initiating assistance programs for victims of domestic violence. Sometimes he was at odds with his own department - in 1979, when he joined a lawsuit that led to a federal order requiring DeKalb police to increase minority representation, and again nearly 20 years later, when he led

the successful drive to unionize the force.

Brown was returning home from a party celebrating completion of that orientation program when he was shot 11 times at about 11:30 p.m. Dec. 15. His wife and five children, who had returned from the party separately, ran out to find him dying in the driveway.



Derwin Brown Had promised reforms

"The state of Georgia is in mourning," Lt. Gov. Mark Taylor told the crowd. "The state of Georgia has received a brutal blow. Derwin Brown devoted his entire adult life to the public safety of our great state. He served this community in a phenomenal way. We thank him for that service."



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Youths' violent attacks sparks concern in Japan

TOKYO - A 14-year-old boy has admitted to killing his next-door neighbor after the man quarreled with the boy's father, police said Saturday - the latest in a string of violent teen-age crimes that have stunned Japan.

The boy, a junior high school student in the city of Shimizu, 85 miles southwest of Tokyo, was arrested in the stabbing death of Kazuhiro Sugiyama, 57, a police spokesman said on condition of anonymity.

Citizens in Japan, where crime is relatively low, are struggling to cope with a series of stabbings, bludgeonings and other attacks by youths, many of which appear to have been carried out with little premeditation.

In the first six months of this year, juveniles committed a record 53 killings here, almost double the 27 cases reported during the same period of the previous year, according to the National Police Agency. In response, parliament last month passed a bill lowering the age at which children can be prosecuted for crimes from 16 to 14. The law takes effect in the spring.

Iran puts 17 on trial for killing four dissidents

TEHRAN, Iran - Seventeen people went on trial Saturday for the 1998 deaths of four dissident intellectuals - slayings that became a national scandal after Iran's Intelligence Ministry admitted that its "rogue agents" were involved.

The trial began behind closed doors in a Tehran military court as family members of the victims criticized the proceedings, saying they fear justice won't be done. The head of the military justice department, Mohammad Niazi, warned the media not to make any unauthorized revelations about the trial, the Islamic Republic News Agency reported.

"The victims in the case were killed in November and December 1998. Months later, the Intelligence Ministry declared that rogue ministry agents had a hand in the killings. The Intelligence minister resigned, and the case was seen as an illustration of the struggle between political moderates and hard-liners in Iran."

Chechen rebels attack killing 11 Russian soldiers

NAZRAN, Russia - Eleven Russian servicemen were killed in the rebel province of Chechnya as guerrillas shot up their checkpoints and vehicles in a flurry of hit-and-run attacks, an official said Saturday.

Rebels attacked Russian positions 25 times in the previous 24 hours, said an official in the pro-Moscow Chechen civilian administration. Moscow's forces have

West in brief

taken over most of Chechnya but haven't been able to stamp out sniping, ambushes and bombings by guerrillas as the war drags into its 16th month.

Russian troops are trying to reassert control over the rebel province in a military operation begun last year. Russian troops were driven out of the region in a 1994-96 war with independence fighters. They returned after Russia blamed Chechens for terrorist apartment bombings in Russian cities, and after militants launched attacks into the neighboring Russian region of Dagestan.

President takes office oath again in Poland

WARSAW, Poland - President Aleksander Kwasniewski urged Poles to reach beyond political divisions to help Poland join the



President Aleksander Kwasniewski

European Union as he took the presidential oath Saturday for his second five-year term.

Poland's future entry into the EU is a "historical target," the highly popular Kwasniewski said in a brief inaugural address to the National Assembly, a gathering of the country's two parliamentary chambers.

Poland, which led eastern Europe in toppling communism in 1989 and has become a leader in market reforms in the region, has been pressing for EU entry as early as 2003.

Famed accordionist dies at 92 in Scotland

PERTH, Scotland - Sir Jimmy Shand, an accordionist credited with spreading the popularity of Scottish music, died Saturday at the age of 92.

"He had been in hospital for nearly five weeks with pneumonia. He just passed away peacefully," said his son, Jimmy Shand Jr.

Shand was working as a miner when he made his first recording in 1933. He formed the Jimmy Shand Band in 1945, and made frequent TV appearances in the 1950s and '60s. His recording of "The Bluebell Polka" made the Top 20 chart in 1955.

He was made a knight in 1999. Shand is survived by his wife Anne, and sons David and Jimmy. Funeral arrangements were not immediately announced.

- compiled from wire reports

Milosevic foes expect landslide victory

BELGRADE, Yugoslavia (AP) - Voters in Yugoslavia's main republic chose a new parliament Saturday in the freest election in decades, and President Vojislav Kostunica promised a decisive turn to democracy if his allies win control from Slobodan Milosevic's hard-liners.

The elections for the 250-seat legislature in Serbia, which with much smaller Montenegro forms Yugoslavia, were crucial because a victory for the reformers would pave the way for the removal of the last vestiges of Milosevic's hard-line regime.

"Democratic reconstruction of Serbia and Yugoslavia will be completed after these elections," Kostunica said as he cast his ballot. "I'm sure that people will recognize the groups which know what democracy is."

All recent surveys predicted that Kostunica's 18-party Democratic Opposition of Serbia coalition would win an overwhelming majority. That would relegate Milosevic's once-dominant Socialists to the fringes.

Without a strong party to back him, Milosevic, who has been indicted by the U.N. war crimes tribunal, would be vulnerable to prosecution in Serbia for 13 years of rule that impoverished Yugoslavia and turned it into a parish state.

Official results were not expected until today.

Initial reports indicated that about half of the eligible voters had turned out by 6 p.m., accord-



A voter casts his ballot Saturday in Belgrade, Yugoslavia, during Serbia's parliamentary election.

ing to poll watchers.

Marko Blagojevic, an official of the Center for Free Elections and Democracy, a nongovernment monitoring group, said observers from the organization

noticed no major irregularities. Monitors of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe also said the vote went smoothly.

Irregularities were common in

elections during Milosevic's era. "We wanted boring elections and we are about to get them," Blagojevic said.

In a rare controversy at the polls, invisible spray was applied to the fingers of voters to prevent multiple voting. Many elderly voters refused to cast their ballots after rumors spread that the spray was radioactive and caused impotence, the center said.

Barely more than an hour after polls opened, Milosevic cast his ballot with his wife in the upscale Dedinje district in Belgrade, where he still lives in a villa under heavy security.

Escorted by several bodyguards, the gloomy-looking Milosevic declined to comment to reporters, saying only, "I wish all a Happy New Year."

The election affords Kostunica the opportunity to complete the revolution set in motion when he defeated Milosevic for the federal presidency Sept. 24. Milosevic refused to accept the result and called for a runoff, triggering riots Oct. 5 that forced him to concede defeat.

However, Milosevic's allies still control the government of Serbia, which accounts for more than 90 percent of Yugoslavia's population of 10 million. It also controls the Serbian judiciary and the 60,000-strong Serbian police - key levers of power. If Kostunica's followers control parliament, they will have a free hand in removing Milosevic appointees from key posts.

Government grants contract to medical marijuana supplier

OTTAWA (AP) - The Canadian government has chosen a company to provide the country with its first legal supply of marijuana for medical and research purposes.

Prairie Plant Systems of Saskatoon won a \$3.78-million, five-year contract to supply marijuana, the Health Department announced Thursday. The contract requires that stan-

dardized, quality marijuana be available within a year.

"A Canadian source of research-grade marijuana is essential to move forward on our research plan," Health Minister Allan Rock said in a statement.

The marijuana will be grown, processed and packaged underground in an unused portion

of a copper mine in Manitoba, Prairie Plant Systems president Brent Zettl said.

The use of marijuana is outlawed in Canada, but in June 1999 the Health Department set up a process letting people who want to use it for medical reasons apply for an exemption. To date, about 140 people have received exemptions.

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| Fever | Sometimes | NO | Sometimes |
| Headache | Sometimes | Sometimes | Sometimes |
| Pain in Upper Teeth | Sometimes | NO | NO |
| Bad Breath | Sometimes | NO | NO |
| Coughing | Sometimes | Sometimes | YES |
| Nasal Congestion | YES | Sometimes | YES |
| Sneezing | NO | Sometimes | YES |

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EDITORIAL

A Christmas list for all Americans

It's Christmas Eve, and Santa is fueling up his sport-utility sleigh for the long holiday haul. (The reindeer prefer high-octane hay, \$1.79.9 at the elf-serve pump.) So, in the yuletide spirit, here's a list of gifts we'd like to see under America's tree this year:

- **Thankfulness for what we've got.** The United States has the world's biggest economy, its finest universities and an enviable standard of living. Food is abundant, medical care is outstanding and people are living longer. Life is good here, so let's be grateful.

- **A tax cut for all.** George W. Bush campaigned for one and now he's going to be the president. In keeping with the Republican values, Bush recognizes that money is most wisely spent by those who earned it, not by the government. Adam Smith said the same thing back in 1776, the same year this nation was created.

- **People judged on merit.** It's time to stop using race, religion and gender to decide whether people should be hired, or get into college, or qualify for a loan. Personal advancement should be a function of ability and character - not Affirmative Action, which encourages people to think of themselves as victims.

- **Better farm prices.** The people who feed America, and many foreign countries, have been hit hard by a steady decline in commodity prices. After years of watching others go under, the farmers who have remained in business have little reason for optimism. Higher prices for crops such as beans and sugar, beets would be a welcome ray of hope.

- **More respect for the American heartland.** Listen closely and you can hear the disdain with which many urban dwellers regard the rest of

America. Whether in Boston or San Diego, a lot of coastal urbanites seem to believe they are superior to Americans who choose to live in the inland West, Midwest or South.

- **Less tawdriness in pop culture.** Many Americans say they're sick and tired of the sleazy excesses that's become a staple in today's music, movies and television shows. If so, stop rewarding their producers with your time and money. Give your business to people who produce more wholesome entertainment.

- **A return to civility.** There's too much whining in America these days, and there's too much rancor. With all its

We've made a list, and we've checked it twice, of presents we'd like to see under Uncle Sam's tree.

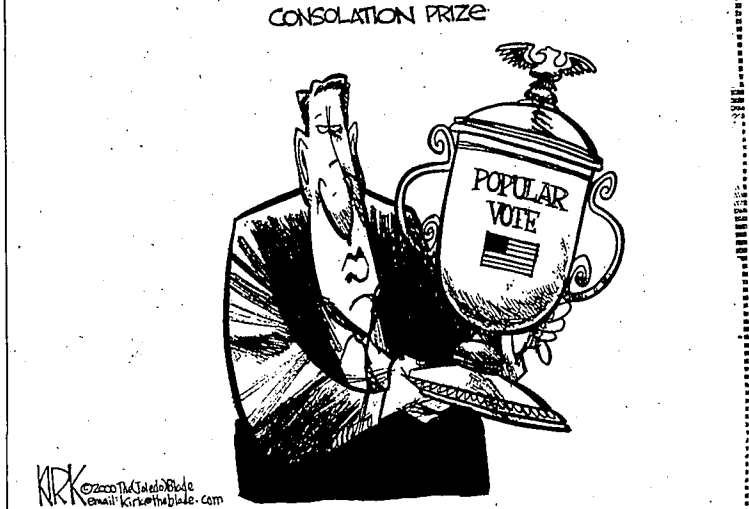
diversity America will never be a perfectly harmonious place - but it can be a place where disagreement needn't be accompanied by discord. Washington, D.C., would be an excellent place for this process to start.

- **Continued economic prosperity.** There are unmistakable signs that the hot economy of recent years is finally beginning to cool. If a slowdown is inevitable, let it be a "soft landing" - not a recession.

- **A snowy, but not-too-cold winter.** With power supplies dwindling and energy costs on the rise, Americans need a break on their utility bills this winter. More snow means more fun now - and more cheap hydroelectricity when it finally melts.

- **All drivers using their turn signals.** OK, we realize that some goals probably aren't attainable, but that doesn't mean we shouldn't try. Someday, in a more perfect world, drivers will signal their intentions to change lanes.

There, those are our wishes for this Christmas. May every one of them come to pass.



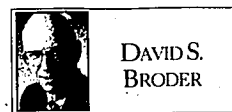
50 things the feds did well

Just in time for Christmas come glad tidings from Washington - a list of goodies that, as its compiler, Paul Light of the Brookings Institution, put it, "sure does take away the recout blues." Light and his colleagues asked a cross-section of historians and political scientists to evaluate 50 major ventures of the federal government in the years since World War II, rating each of them for importance, degree of success and - Olympic style - degree of difficulty.

The ones that came out on top are fairly obvious. Three of the top five are in the area of civil rights - expanding voting rights, reducing employment discrimination and promoting equal access to public accommodations. Another is reducing disease, a reflection of everything from infant immunization programs to the creation and expansion of the National Institutes of Health.

No. 1 in the ratings was the Marshall Plan, which helped rebuild a ruined Europe in the years after World War II. That prodigious project - launched by the Truman administration with the support of a Republican Congress - embodies the combination of idealism and strong national self-interest that almost everyone wishes would characterize American foreign policy all the time.

As Light is quick to acknowledge, the ratings of other big government ventures reflect the biases of the current academic world, which is overwhelmingly white, male, liberal and Democratic. A more conservative cross-section, for example, might have rated containment of communism as being a more important goal than promotion of scientific and technological research or improving air and water quality.



DAVID S. BRODER

Then, winning the Cold War would have finished higher than 14th on the list of government's greatest achievements. But any quibbles about the ranking of these notable government efforts of the last 50 years fade in comparison to the cumulative impact of reading through the list. It is a powerful reminder that as much as we fault politics and public officials, it is government that tackles some of the most important and difficult challenges facing this society - and scores some notable successes.

From the interstate highway system to space program and from Medicare to welfare reform, only Washington has had the resources and the vision to deal with challenges of this scale. That does not, of course, mean that government is the answer to every problem. But it is a resource that we have used to deal with both crises and persistent problems, and we need to keep it functioning well enough to meet the tests that inevitably lie ahead.

The success scores are notably uneven. As several people noted during the Brookings conference where Light presented his results last week, the academic raters gave the government much higher marks for road-building than for improving mass transit, and said it had done a better job on health care for the aged than on improving access to such care for low-income families.

There is no simple key that predicts success or failure. Most programs involved significant spending; some relied mainly on the regulatory powers of government; others were a mixture. Light said the common characteristics included having a clear goal, usually one that allows relatively easy progress measurements, a coherent strategy and the persistence to keep at it.

Success also takes nerve and leadership. "It is impossible to imagine the private sector taking the lead in rebuilding Europe or the nonprofit sector massing the capital to build the interstate highway system," Light wrote. "In this era of promises to create smaller, more limited government, it is useful to remember that the federal government appears to do more when it exercises its sovereignty to take big risks that no other actor could ever imagine taking."

The good news for President-elect Bush, Light added, is that the notable achievements of government are rarely the work of one party. Most have been efforts to which members of both parties in Congress and officials of the administration in power have made significant contributions. So the close partisan division that Bush faces in Washington need not be a deterrent in itself.

Bush has set his own agenda, involving reforms in education, Medicare, Social Security and defense, and reductions in taxes. Years from now, we'll be able to measure what his achievements may be. Meantime, we can celebrate some of the governmental successes we are far too prone to take for granted.

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

Tax cut will jump-start Bush presidency

Is the party over? It's too early to say for sure, but the latest economic indicators don't look promising. While the stock market continues to slump, personal income declined this October for the first time in nearly two years.

Both were strong and inspiring leaders heroes to their generations. Both had vision, and came into office with clear agendas for pursuing these visions. For both, a key element of their agendas was across-the-board tax-rate cuts.

As President Kennedy declared while introducing a series of rate reductions in 1963, "An economy hampered with restrictive tax rates will never produce enough jobs." While Kennedy did not live to see the fruits of his policy achievement, both he and Ronald Reagan deserve credit for the substantial economic growth that resulted from their across-the-board cuts.

The wealth created by the extraordinary technological advances of the last decade has so far protected the economy from the damage that could have resulted from the ill-advised tax-rate hikes approved by the elder President Bush and President Clinton.

The signs are clear, however, that this bounty will not last forever. The best way for President-elect Bush to ensure economic growth throughout his admin-

KENNETH L. CONNOR
istration is to cut marginal rates across the board.

Why? Because the high marginal rates of our graduated tax code dampen economic expansion. High taxes discourage the behavior that creates wealth: hard work, saving, investment and entrepreneurship. High marginal rates mean that, as people earn more, they take home proportionately less.

When this happens, entrepreneurs and corporate executives lose incentive to expand their businesses. Why branch out into new areas of business, take on more clients, build another factory or open a second dry-cleaning shop just to enjoy a diminishing return? Even Laura Ingalls Wilder, author of the much-loved Little House books, observed, "The more I wrote the bigger my income tax got, so I stopped."

Declining productivity results in fewer jobs and lower wages. It becomes more difficult for families to save for the future.

This undercuts capital formation, which is vital to families who want to open their own small businesses. All this illustrates the fundamental folly of envy-based tax policy: High tax rates aimed at the rich backfire against the lower and middle classes by costing jobs, lowering wages, and decreasing savings and investment incentives.

It's no wonder, then, that a majority of voters support across-the-board tax-rate cuts.

Fifty-one percent of voters in the recent election said that they favored a tax-cut plan similar to that offered by the Bush campaign. Moreover, a plurality of voters (18 percent) in this election cited the economy/jobs as the most important issue as they cast their ballots, and an additional 14 percent cited

taxes. Mr. Bush can give a strong start to his administration by presenting Congress early on with an across-the-board tax-cut plan that also includes vastly popular marriage-penalty relief for all couples.

Eliminating the death tax and moving ahead with ideas like education savings accounts are equally important priorities.

Families incur extraordinary costs to provide care for aging parents tax-cut help as well.

By acting on this agenda now, Congress and the White House will be providing the leadership needed to get America back on track.

Do we want to become a nation that loses the virtues that create wealth in everyone's benefit, or do we want to remain a nation that punishes creative and responsible economic behavior and ends up hurting those who most need it?

Only when we commit to the former idea will we be able to look beyond the short-term politics surrounding tax-cut proposals and see the long-range growth that they will bring to the benefit of all our families.

When that happens, families will have the tax relief they need.

If President-elect Bush takes leadership now on this popular issue, he will gain broad-based support, avert an economic downturn, and restore the spirit of enterprise and solidarity within families that have made the United States an unmatched engine of growth and opportunity.

Kenneth L. Connor is the president of Family Research Council, Leslie Carbone, director of family tax policy at FRC, assisted with the preparation of this article. Readers may write to the authors at the Family Research Council, 801 G Street NW, Washington D.C., 20001.

The Times-News

Stephen Hartgen, Editor; Mike Smith, Advertising Director

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

LETTERS

Website offers support

I read the article in the Family Life section of the Dec. 17 Times-News titled "Getting through the holidays." Since I am a mother who has lost a child, I want to recommend a valuable source of support for your readers who are grieving the loss of a loved one, especially the loss of a child. It is a website: www.compassionatefriends.org. Most of the local libraries have computers available for the use of ones who don't have one or may not be online.

Compassionate Friends is an international, nonprofit support organization that offers friendship and understanding to families after the death of a child of any age. It is non-denominational and there are no membership dues or fees. The website features, among other things, brochures on many topics that can be downloaded. Click on "Grief In the News" and you will find helpful stories such as "Handling Grief at Holidays," two families weave memories of lost loved ones into their traditions. Friends of the bereaved might want to read, "Talking With Friends Who Have Lost a Child." Grief counselors, clergy and funeral directors can also find useful information. The website features a Weekly Chat at scheduled times for fathers, mothers, siblings (adults and teens), single parents, newly bereaved, etc.

Although it is too late to participate this year, the Compassionate Friends have had the second Sunday in December declared National Children's Memorial Day. On this day candles are lit around the world starting in New Zealand. At 7 p.m. in each time zone, participants light candles for the children who have died that "their light may always shine."

Since we can no longer buy gifts for our son, we pick a name of one of the Christmas trees displayed around town and buy gifts for a child in his memory. On National Children's Memorial Day, I put a Christmas memorial on his grave, pray for him and light a candle. Then I am able to enjoy the rest of the holidays without that feeling of guilt that perhaps only a parent who has lost a child can really understand.

This holiday season, let's all remember those who are grieving, in our prayers and

in our sections.

JANICE URIE Hageman

Treaties take our freedom away

American freedom, independence and the U.S. Constitution are all under massive attack from several sources. Treaties like the International Criminal Court under United Nations authority would set up an international court with power to try individuals. This would be extremely dangerous to Americans because protections of the Constitution and Bill of Rights would be lost.

The Kyoto Climate Change Treaty forces a reduction in our standard of living as we limit energy consumption while developing countries like China have no limitations!

The Biological Diversity Treaty is a plan to set 50 percent of the land area in North America as "wilderness." Much private U.S. land is being placed under federal control, managed according to United Nations' use policies.

Various United Nations conferences offer grand opportunities for tax-paid bureaucrats to formulate ways to implement through consensus their left-wing, socialistic, wealth redistribution agendas.

President Clinton has issued nearly 300 unconstitutional executive orders. They expand federal power over states, promote Clinton's global agenda and grab private property. Described by Paul Begala this way: "Stroke of the pen. Law of the land. Kinda cool."

Hopefully, Congress and President Bush will stop this treason by getting out of the United Nations and deleting unconstitutional executive orders!

ADRIAN L. ARP
Twin Falls

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; or faxed to (208) 734-5538; or e-mailed to twnews@mlconet.net.

Keep your inner child full of delight

D.J. Tice

A friend reports that his 9-year-old daughter is struggling to hold on to her belief in Santa Claus. It seems this smart and imaginative girl has concluded from sundry clues — and from rumors rampant at school (that hothouse of nasty, rationalist slanders) — that, well, certain evidence casts doubt on the precise facts about the jolly old elf.

Yet, my friend says, his daughter seems to want to go on believing, if only for one more year.

This child's problem is common, even universal. Who among us is not laboring to maintain belief in something hopeful and lovely, if only for one more year, one more day, one more hour? My friend sees a parallel in Americans' determination to believe, notwithstanding recent chills and rumors, that their nation's political system and leaders are not a lost cause. Let's hope our new president and Congress reward that faith.

My advice to my friend, meanwhile, is that he seize his opportunity to provide his daughter with a compelling answer to her doubts, and with a new species of marvel. Let her find under her Christmas tree, I proposed, one of the perennial illustrated holiday editions of "Yes, Virginia, there is a Santa Claus" — an 1897 newspaper editorial that replicated unforgettably to a worried child.

Editorialist Francis P. Church of the New York Sun reminded Virginia that the most genuine things in the world are "things" we cannot see, things like joy, love and goodness that make life worth the trouble. Santa, he added, will outlive every cynic who ever doubted him or ever will, and "a thousand years from now, nay, 10 times 10,000 years, he will continue to make glad the heart of childhood."

The hymn writer puts it beautifully: "How silently, how silently, the wondrous gift is giv'n! So God imparts to human hearts The blessings of His heav'n." No ear may hear His coming, But in this world of sin, Where meek souls will receive Him still

The dear Christ enters in. Charles Dickens picked up on this thought when he wrote: "It is good to be children sometimes, and never better than at Christmas, when its Mighty Founder was a child himself."

This universal message is true, not only in New York and Washington but in every other large city and small town in every nation and in every generation. Like our perty Christmas gifts, one needs to do more than hear about it. One must receive it.

political power. His is about capturing the heart and soul. In fact, Isaiah tells us that the government shall be upon His shoulders, which is a lot better place for it than the weak shoulders of the political parties and the politicians.

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Happy Holy-day!
Cal Thomas is a Los Angeles Times columnist.

life is an uncanny marvel. Children can believe in Santa's literal existence because, when you come right down to it, flying reindeer are no more fantastic than flying sparrows. The image of a North Pole worker is really no more enchanted than the image of one's own back yard filling up with snow that coats the trees like cookie frosting. Santa's tireless labors of love and generosity are in the end no harder to explain than the devotion of one's own parents.

Perhaps, sadly, all this applies in full only to fortunate children. But even lucky kids get into world-weary adults, blind in one degree or another to the sheer implausibility of life.

These are the news consumers who most need Santa, and children's belief in Santa, to remind them that this very world is altogether magical enough to support a miracle or two.

Let me give another example of what I'm fumbling to get at. I read in my newspaper last weekend that scientists now believe Ganymede, the largest of Jupiter's moons, may "harbor a frozen liquid ocean under its frozen surface 100 miles down. Such a thing would be a new class of ocean, if they exist," one scientist told the Los Angeles Times.

Now this is an incredible image, even if one stops short of science fiction embellishments — like, say, lush seaside resorts. Ganymede's might reach through 100-mile elevator shafts.

Yet are the earth's oceans less strange? There is no question about the existence of those vast, rust-colored, sulfuric acid oceans, rolling and sloshing over most of the planet, swelling with the movements of our moon, yet held securely against the outer surface of the earth by a force we pretend to understand because we have named it "gravity."

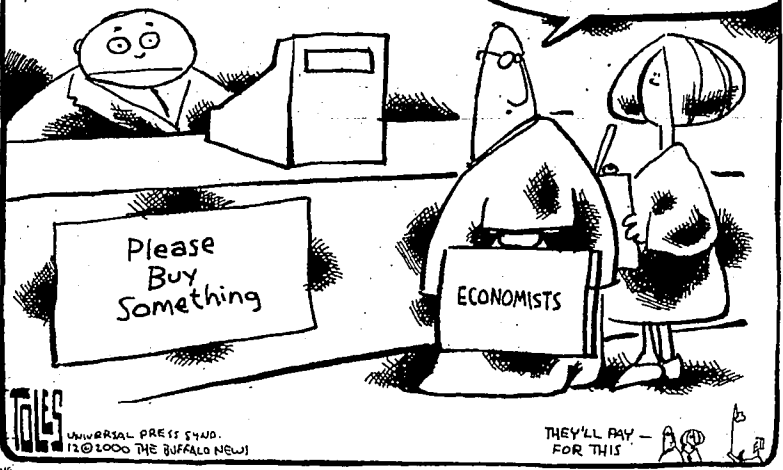
Christians, whatever else it is, is a season for discarding not common sense, but a common delusion born of fatigue and familiarity with life. It's the delusion that we can ever fully explain this world, this universe, ourselves and our longings — or ever be sure of all that exists and all that does not.

D.J. Tice is a columnist for the St. Paul (Minn.) Pioneer Press. Readers may write to him at Pioneer Press, 345 Cedar Street, St. Paul, Minn. 55101, or via e-mail at dtice@pioneerpress.com.

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IT'S OUR BIGGEST FEAR. PEOPLE MAY BE RETURNING TO THE REAL MEANING OF CHRISTMAS.



Have a happy holy-day in the old tradition

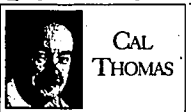
NEW YORK — I love a Christmas. There are shows to see, shopping to do and window-shopping at stores with things that are mostly unaffordable except to that "wealthiest one percent" we heard so much about during the presidential campaign. There are animated window displays to admire and a general spirit of wonder. But something is missing, even here.

A Bloomingdale's newspaper ad features two gift certificates. One says "Happy Chanukah," the other "Happy Holidays."

What happened to Christmas? Was it thought some might be offended at the mention of His name, even as part of a holiday, the true meaning of which has been lost in the shopping shuffle? Surely not, as I hear that name on the streets, though it is associated with reverence, not admiration or gratitude.

Who came up with this idea of celebrating someone else's birthday without inviting the honored guest or invoking His name, or giving Him a gift? What kind of party is that? Not much if one is the honored but can't swing an invitation to one's own birthday celebration.

Our preoccupation with not giving offense in some cate-



CAL THOMAS

gories (but having no reservations about offending in so many others) has replaced the idea of Christmas — or X-mas for some — with the all-inclusive holiday in which one may attend, or not, the church, or un-church, of one's choice. Something for everybody amounts to nothing for anyone.

But wait. I look up "holiday" in the dictionary and what to my wondering eyes should appear? The first definition of the word, before we get to the part about taking off from work, is "holy day." So this holiday, especially a holy-day, holy being defined as "exalted or worthy of complete devotion as one perfect in goodness and righteousness."

That's pretty good for a dictionary. It's probably better than some Christmas sermons. If those who have tried to turn Christmas into a generic observance knew this definition of "holiday," they might feel required to come up with an even better euphemism to fur-

ther obscure the meaning of Christmas.

One of the very nice things about Christmas, this holy-day, is that virtually everyone knows the story. Even pagans know it, though they claim not to believe it. It's such a beautiful story. If it is objectively true, it is the most beautiful story ever told: Emmanuel — God with us.

The problem for many is the noise level of Christmas, which overwhelms the quiet message. This year, especially, the political noise has all but drowned out the day's significance.

Oh, there's been a lot of talk and caroling about God (even Jesus, so long as we can keep Him as a baby in the manger, because when He grows up He makes demands of us we do not wish to hear), but not much listening to the message of Christmas.

Our politics and our business are the antithesis of this holy-day.

Jesus projects weakness as a baby and later meekness as a servant. There are no college courses on becoming weak or meek, only about becoming strong. And what schools offer majors in servanthood?

Our studies are about leading, not following. Our focus is on capturing the government and

Sell your treasures in *The Times-News* Marketplace classified advertising. 733-0931

LETTER

Start saving now
On Dec. 18's front page of *The Times-News*, the Associated Press had an article decrying the fact that the nation has an acute labor shortage. "We need more workers," was the lament of interviewed employers.

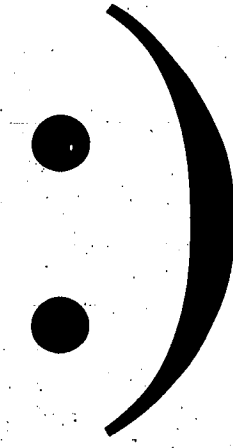
Hello. I find it painfully ironic that the very generation that has aborted 40 million future workers now has to pay the piper. Regretfully, this same labor shortage will also drain future Social Security funds into an abysmal state of affairs. Only then, the gun will be aimed back at our generation with this agonizingly familiar argument, "We can't afford them. All senior citizens with zero private retirement funds should be euthanized."

To make this situation even more painful, editorial boards like *The Times-News* constantly harp about the "dangers of giving in to the extreme right." That's politically correct code for killing unborn babies, and *The Times-News* is doing its dead level best to make it morally correct to beat.

They find it fashionable to talk about the "more pertinent matters of the day" like their wisdom far exceeds anyone who would dare save an innocent human life. How long will it take before their naivety is shattered with the realization that abortion is also an incredibly potent economic issue?

Do yourself a favor and invest in your individual retirement account. You'll need it.
F.S. Our firm is accepting applications.

KELLY WALTON
Burley



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Ten really dumb things about carols

Although I love Christmas, I have lingering doubts about Christmas carols.

Many are - not to put too fine a point on it - goofy beyond reason.

That being the case, I'm submitting for your approval several candidates for early retirement - with the clear understanding that they're not to be replaced by anything written by John Tesh or Michael McLean.

1. "Oh, bring us a figgy pudding, oh, bring us a figgy pudding, oh, bring it right here." (From "We Wish You a Merry Christmas.") You can, it seems to me, date the decline of the British Empire from the publication of this 19th century carol.

A nation that would eat figs in its pudding and then demand home delivery is badly, badly in need of Margaret Thatcher.

2. "Seven lords a-leaping." (From "The Twelve Days of Christmas.") We'll have none of that in Idaho, thank you very much. Idaho men don't leap. They lurch, lunge, and on the odd occasion, leer.

3. "The ships sailed into Bethlehem on Christmas Day, on Christmas Day; the ships sailed into Bethlehem on Christmas Day, in the morning." (From "I Saw Three Ships.") Bethlehem, according to "The Hammond World Atlas," is 47 miles from the Mediterranean Sea. If you believe you saw anything sailing into Bethlehem, then we need to adjust your medication. And soon.

4. "Pa-rum-pum-pum-pum." (From "The Little Drummer Boy") This is the Latin term for the particular brand of dementia that will afflict you if you hear this irrepressibly inane ballad one more time this holiday season.

5. "Giddy-up jingle horse, pick up your feet. Jingle around the clock. Mix and a-mingle in the jingling feet. That's the jingle bell, that's the jingle bell, that's the jingle bell rock." (From "Jingle Bell Rock") If it comes to my attention that you are - quoting here - "mixing and a-mingling in the jingling feet," I will go out of my way to step all four of them.

6. "Rockin' around the Christmas tree at the Christmas party. Mistletoe hung where you can see, every couple tries to stop." (From "Rockin' Around the Christmas Tree.") Brenda Lee had a monster pop hit with this rockabilly carol in 1960 when she was 16. It was an even bigger sensation in France, where promoters believed she was an adult. To appease them, Lee's manager spread the rumor that she was actually a 32-year-old midger. I believe we're through here.

7. "Just last year when I was only 9. Now I'm 18 and 8 you can see. You came home a quarter past 11. Fell down underneath our Christmas tree." (From "Please, Daddy, Don't Get Drunk This Christmas.") See, this is just the sort of thing that makes people admire Scrooge so much.

8. "Ding Dong ding dong, dong Bong" (From "Carol of the Bells"). This lyric wouldn't be so bad if it were attached to a Little Richard song: ("Wop-bop-a-loom-a-boom-bam-boom, ding-ding-dong-ding-dong-bong.")

9. "Outside the snow is falling and friends are calling, 'Yoo Hoo.' (From "Sleigh Ride") If your friends are really outside in the snow calling "Yoo Hoo," you need to meet new people.

10. "Johnny wants a pair of skates. Susy wants a doll; Nellie wants a story book; She thinks dolls are folly. As for me, my little brain isn't very bright; Choose for me, old Santa Claus, what you think is right." (From "Jolly Old St. Nicholas") This Christmas, choose the gift that proclaims to the world: "I'm dumber than a stump"

For those of you who believe in progress, Times-News features editor Steve Crump reminds you that Christmas legends had a gold record last year with a lyric that included the following: "Well I, I haven't had a drink this morning, but I'm, I'm lit up like a Christmas tree, Christmas tree, ohh ooh oh, ohhh yeah."

Rehab service has to refuse treatment to some

By Brandon Flala
Times-News writer

TWIN FALLS - Each month, four to six people suffering from retardation, epilepsy and autism are turned away.

Magic Valley Rehabilitation Services doesn't have enough room to serve all the people needing its services, so it's seeking donations to help build a new 6,000 square foot building.

Magic Valley Rehabilitation Services needs donations for a new 6,000 square foot building to house programs helping people suffering from retardation, epilepsy, cerebral palsy and autism.

MVRS is a nonprofit organization.

The building is needed to house the Community Access Program (CAP), which teaches people suffering from disabilities the skills they need for everyday life, such as how to count money and interact with others, said Doug Guymon,

Want to help?

that provides evaluation, training, employment and personal development for persons with disabilities in south central Idaho.

To make a tax deductible donation, call 734-4152, or mail to 484 Eastland Dr. S., Twin Falls, ID 83301.

MVRS public relations and special events coordinator.

"We're giving options to people," he said.

The building is expected to cost \$655,500. And most of it is already raised thanks to an Idaho Community Development

Block grant that will provide \$425,550, the City of Twin Falls' contribution of \$1,950 and the service's own \$29,000 in land.

Construction on the building, which will be built at 484 Eastland Dr. S., should start June, 2001, even if the \$200,000 isn't raised. MVRS could get a loan if the donations don't come through, Guymon said.

"The needs of the people in the eight county area we're serving are growing," Guymon said. "People come to us because we've been doing this for so long and they know we're the best place for them."

To help compensate for the

lack of space, the service has leased a building for administration and other uses.

"People with disabilities ... have learned the vocational and personal skills to achieve maximum participation in employment and community life," Keith Quigley, a member of the capital campaign steering committee, wrote in a letter.

A committee of community leaders throughout the region are spearheading the fund-raising campaign.

MVRS has served nearly 6,000 people with disabilities and found jobs for nearly 1,300 people.

Not enough room

2 DAYS AND COUNTING



Shop clerk Amy Slogowski, left, helps Heidi Rivera with her last minute shopping.

Shoppers wind down before Christmas

By Ruth Stroeter
Times-News writer

TWIN FALLS - They get a bad rap - especially the men - but many of the last-minute shoppers out there have an excuse.

For Penne McKay's husband Tom, it was the relative from hell. "His brother, who's very picky and wouldn't give him any ideas. He's very, very torturous to him," said Penne McKay of Kimberly, two children in tow and her husband on a cell phone in the background at Price Hardware and Gifts.

Shoppers were scattered throughout downtown Twin Falls and at the Magic Valley Mall Saturday afternoon, and were generally enjoying themselves. Many had already obtained their obligatory gifts and were now indulging themselves and others with generous afterthoughts.

More information

Here are the Christmas Eve shopping hours for some of the Magic Valley's larger retailers:

- Magic Valley Mall: 8 a.m. to 6 p.m.
- King's: 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.
- Kmart: Open until 8 p.m.
- ShopKo: open until 6 p.m.
- Target: 8 a.m. to 6 p.m.

"I went out to get grocery shopping but I came here instead," said Twin Falls resident Heidi Rivera as she made her purchase at Mystic Pathways.

For Rivera, the holidays aren't stressful, and she says they shouldn't be. It's Christmas, after all.

"I don't understand why people have to get stressed out at Christmas. There's no need," she

- Wal-Mart (Jerome): Open until 6 p.m.
- Barnes & Noble Booksellers: 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.
- Home Depot: 8 a.m. to 6 p.m.
- Ride-Aid: Open 24 hours
- Most downtown Twin Falls merchants will be open on Christmas Eve

said. "It should be happy. If you're going to be crabby, go home."

At a congested Magic Valley Mall, shoppers bore the varied degrees of joy, exhaustion and despair. A patient Todd McKay of Jerome waited in the Bon Marche for his shopping partner to complete his purchase. McKay spends a mere day doing his shopping, and by Christmas Eve has every-

thing under control.

"For seven years I've shopped on the 23rd. It seems to work, so I'm not going to fix it," McKay said.

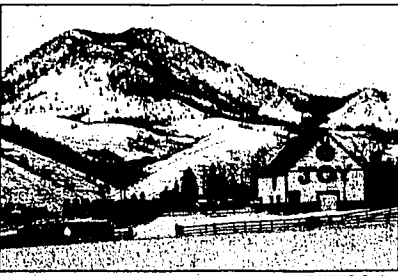
Resting at the Magic Valley Mall with three bags at her feet, Jamie Schuler of Boise said that good prices abounded, especially with children's clothes. But she wouldn't have waited so late if the birth of her baby hadn't kept her busy.

The only thing that makes Christmas stressful is its ever-growing commercialization, Schuler said. It seems Christmas starts earlier every year. For her, spending time with family helps her remember the day's true meaning.

Shopkeepers kept tirelessly busy and employees buzzed down the aisles. Patty Dean of Mystic Pathways reported a busy last

Please see SHOPPERS, Page B3

COUNTRY CHRISTMAS



The 142-year-old Reinheimer barn, which serves as the gateway to Ketchum, got in the holiday spirit for the first time in many years courtesy of Mike Turzian. Turzian also started the tradition of decorating the red barn that serves as the entryway to Sun Valley back in the 1980s.

Power shortage will raise costs

By Aaron Brock
Times-News writer

RUPERT - Electricity costs in much of the Mini-Cassia area will increase next year, as power companies deal with high demand and short supply.

All electric customers served by the city of Rupert, the city of Heyburn, the city of Burley, United Electric and some of those served by Raft River Electric will see power rates increase between 15 and 25 percent, said Larry King, an account executive with the Bonneville Power Administration.

The BPA markets electricity to Albion, Burley, Deelo, Heyburn, Minidoka and Rupert, and to six other area electric companies.

"We serve a considerable portion of the Mini-Cassia area," King said.

Save a watt

Some tips for saving energy:

- Common sense**
 - If it's not being used, turn it off.
- Home heating**
 - Set your thermostat as low as is comfortable in the winter.
 - Clean or replace filters on furnaces once a month or as needed. Clean warm-air registers, baseboard heaters and radiators as needed.
 - Close an unoccupied room that is isolated from the rest of the house, and turn down the thermostat or turn off the heating for that room or zone.
- Fireplaces**
 - Keep the fireplace damper closed unless a fire is going.
 - If you never use your fireplace, plug

and seal the chimney flue to reduce heat loss.

Windows

- Install storm windows to reduce heat loss.
- Close your curtains and shades at night; open them during the day.

Lighting

- Use compact fluorescent light bulbs instead of regular light bulbs.
- Fluorescent bulbs use 70 percent less electricity and last up to 10 times longer than incandescent bulbs.

On-line ideas

Additional energy-savings tips can be found at: <http://www.aee.org/powers-marv/index.html>

Source: Bonneville Power Administration

These rate increases will most likely go into effect on Oct. 1.

Please see POWER, Page B3

MAGIC VALLEY/WEST

Agency considers wind farm site

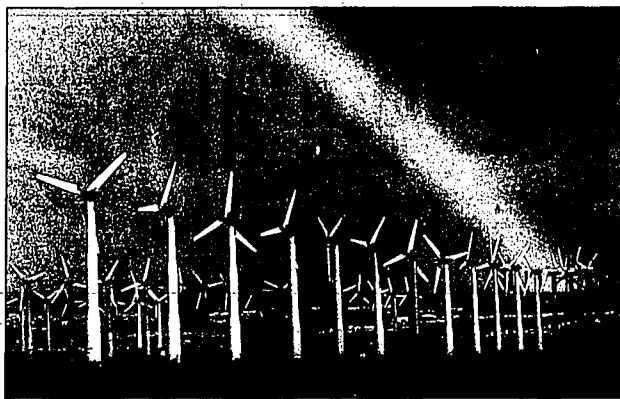
LAS VEGAS (AP) — The Energy Department is turning to the nation's former atomic proving ground for potential sources of alternative power.

Instead of unleashing nuclear weapons across the desert sands of the Nevada Test Site, DOE officials want to harness natural energy from the wind and the sun into much-needed power for some of the nation's fastest-growing communities, including Las Vegas.

"We don't have to look too far back in time to remember long lines at the gas pumps," said Kevin Thornton, DOE's project manager. "Pollution, global warming, dependence on foreign fuel — all are issues that have led to the search for economically feasible sources of alternative energy."

Of late, the effects of deregulation have provided more motivation. In California, residents have experienced price spikes and power shortages after electricity deregulation. Ratepayers in San Diego, for example, reported a doubling and tripling of their bills.

Wholesale power costs also have been soaring, due in large part to skyrocketing prices for natural gas. The Northwest, heavily dependent on hydroelectric power, has been forced to import electricity from other states because of low reservoirs. Sierra Pacific Power Co., a subsidiary of Sierra Pacific



A rainbow forms over power-generating wind turbines on a wind farm near North Palm Springs, Calif., last year. The Energy Department is considering turning the nation's former atomic proving ground into Nevada's first wind farm.

Resources in northern Nevada, announced Dec. 15 it plans to ask state regulators for another electricity rate hike, the fourth in the past few months.

The increases are an attempt to recoup at least some of the company's costs for energy needed to serve its 302,000 electricity customers as the state moves toward

deregulation. Nevada Power Co., also a subsidiary of Sierra Pacific Resources, serves 581,415 customers in southern Nevada.

Nevada Gov. Kenny Guinn has not deregulation on hold because of the rising electrical prices that followed deregulation in California. In February, the Legislature must decide whether

to implement deregulation in the Silver State.

The need for alternative energy sources has never been more apparent, said Nancy Harkess, spokeswoman for the DOE's Las Vegas office, explaining the impetus behind plans at the Nevada Test Site for the state's first wind farm.

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DEATH NOTICE SERVICE

Virginia J. Kossman
— RUPERT — Virginia Jo Kossman, 53, of Rupert, died Saturday, Dec. 23, 2000, at her home. Arrangements are pending and will be announced by Hansen Mortuary-Rupert Chapel.

Lee E. Walton of Rupert, service at 11 a.m. Wednesday at Calvary Baptist Church, 515 W. 27th St. in Burley. Friends may call from 6-8 p.m. Tuesday at Rasmussen Funeral Home, 1350 E. 16th St. in Burley, and 10-10:45 a.m. Wednesday at the church.

HOSPITAL

MAGIC VALLEY REGIONAL MEDICAL CENTER

Some names are omitted at patients' request.

Admitted

Lindy Moyle of Burley.

Released
Kay Gabica, Diane Johnson, Robert Lancaster and Valeria Whitehead, all of Twin Falls; Kelly Franson of Buhl; and Clarence Tew of Jerome.

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OBITUARIES

For obituary rates and information, call 733-9531, Ext. 278, between 2 p.m. and 5 p.m. Monday through Saturday. Deadline is 4:30 p.m. for next-day publication. Death notices are a free service and can be placed until 5 p.m. every day.

RUPERT

Perry A. Jones
Perry A. Jones, 87-year-old Rupert resident, died Friday, Dec. 22, 2000, at Minidoka Memorial Hospital Extended Care Facility.

He was born June 6, 1913, in Molton, Idaho, to Joseph William and Alameda Carter Jones. He graduated from the Paul High School in 1933. He married his high school sweetheart, Mary Irene Holohan on July 25, 1935, at President Green's home in Paul, Idaho. They were sealed in the Idaho Falls Temple in 1957. He worked for J. R. Simplot for a few years and then bought a ranch in Richfield where he raised hay, grain and milked around 90 cows day and night. He loved farming but his health made it impossible to continue. He sold his ranch and later moved to Rupert.

Perry loved to fish, hunt and especially like fishing from a boat. He loved his children and grandchildren. They would come to the ranch to visit, they said "it was just like going to the rodeo." The grandchildren would watch grandpa rope the calves and treat them for pink eye or brand them. Perry loved horses and being around cattle. He loved going to the temple and doing genealogy. Perry and Irene worked in the genealogy library in Burley for a few years and would also over the canning kitchen in Burley for two years. They served in the Sunday school at Minidoka Memorial Hospital for two years. Perry and Irene like to stay busy doing things for others. He was a member of the LDS Church, having been a counselor in the Bishopric in Richfield, Idaho, a ward clerk, and president of the Sunday school. He was also a home teacher for many years until his

health failed him. He was a member of the Minidoka Senior Citizen Organization and enjoyed visiting with other seniors.

He is survived by his wife, Irene of Rupert, one son, Earl Richard Jones of Missouri, two daughters, Mary Mae Gregg of Twin Falls and Delores Erickson of Rupert, 11 grandchildren; 22 great-grandchildren and one great-great-grandson. He is also survived by a sister, Jocene Burnham of Moscow, Idaho, and two brothers, Joseph Calvin Jones of Blackfoot and Oscar Richard Jones of California. He was preceded in death by his parents, a son, Perry Dean Jones, one grandson, Gavlin Dean Erickson, and three brothers, Irvin, Ralph and Clarence Jones.

Services will be conducted at 11 a.m. Wednesday, Dec. 27, 2000, at the Rupert 3rd Ward LDS Church with Bishop Gayle Chandler officiating. Burial will follow in the Rupert Cemetery. Family and friends may call at Hansen Mortuary on Tuesday evening from 6-8 p.m. and one hour prior to the service at the church. Arrangements are under the direction of Hansen Mortuary-Rupert Chapel.

and then J.R. Simplot until the time of her retirement. She enjoyed traveling, crocheting, playing the organ and piano, and sitting on the porch visiting with her neighbor, Marge Whiting. She was a member of the First Assembly of God Church in Rupert.

She is survived by a few nieces and nephews. She was preceded in death by her parents, husband, two brothers, Sterling Allen and Lloyd Allen; and a sister, Ortha Cook.

Graveside services will be held Tuesday, December 27, 2000, at the Rupert Cemetery. Friends may call at Hansen Mortuary-Rupert Chapel from 6 to 8 p.m. Tuesday and one hour prior to the funeral on Wednesday. In lieu of flowers, the family suggests that memorials be made to the Gideon's.

TWIN FALLS

Evelyn Stanger
Evelyn Stanger, 78, of Twin Falls, died Friday, Dec. 22, 2000, at Magic Valley Regional Medical Center.

She was born Oct. 21, 1922, in Murlaugh, Idaho, the daughter of Louie and Iva Williams Bell. She attended schools in Twin Falls, and on Aug. 18, 1939 she married John Glen (Shorty) Stanger in Twin Falls. Evelyn was a manager at The Princess Vogue for about 20 years, was a member of the Elks Lodge and served several positions in the Ladies of the Elks. She received Jesus Christ as her personal savior within the last few years.

Mrs. Stanger is survived by one son, Kenneth (Margaret) Stanger of Twin Falls; two daughters, Lois (Eugene) Farnsworth of Bellevue and Lana (Ron) Davis of Twin Falls; eight grandchildren; eight great-grandchildren; and by one sister, Grace Bennett of Twin Falls. Evelyn was preceded in death by her husband in 1986, one daughter, one grandson and by two brothers.

Funeral services for Evelyn Stanger will be conducted at 11 a.m. Wednesday, Dec. 27, 2000, at White Mortuary with her grandson, Pastor Rick Brown, officiating. Private interment will be held in Sunset Memorial Park. Friends may call at White Mortuary on Tuesday, Dec. 26, 2000, from 4-8 p.m. The family suggests memorials be given to Elks Rehabilitation Center, P.O. Box 1100, Boise, Idaho 83705.

Lavina Patterson
Lavina Patterson, 90-year-old Rupert resident, passed away peacefully, with her niece Jeannet Maier by her side, Saturday, December 23, 2000, at the Minidoka Memorial Hospital Extended Care Facility in Rupert.

She was born April 23, 1910, at Anson, Nebraska, the daughter of Ben and Mary Elizabeth Cronk-Allen. She married Harry J. Patterson of Anson, Nebraska. They moved to Idaho in the late 1930s, and she has resided here since. She worked for J.C. Penney

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FATHER CHRISTMAS



Santa, who masquerades as a Sun Valley photographer when 'tis not the season, receives some last-minute shopping orders from two of his charges at this week's Gingerbread Decorating Party at Sun Valley.

Library gets books, cash from elementary school

NOTUS (AP) — The struggling Notus Community Library has received \$1,600 and 350 books. The gifts came from Whitney Elementary School in Boise and people who had heard about the students' desire to help the small library in Canyon County.

Whitney students started a drive in November to help the library that lost nearly half of its \$6,500 in funding last summer.

By Friday, the kids had brought in 1,100 pounds of pennies worth \$713.

A former Whitney Elementary student, moved by the students' dedication, gave \$713 as an anonymous gift to match the gift.

Other checks and donations brought the total to \$1,600. That represents an eight-fold increase in the library's annual book-buying budget of \$200. Along with the money, Boise residents John and Norine Hinman gave the library 350 books that had been taking up space in their garage.

"I can't thank you enough," Renee Taylor, the library board chairwoman, told the students as she wiped tears from her eyes.

The \$1,600 will be used by children's books for the library and each will be identified as a gift from Whitney Elementary, said Tina Pennington, Notus' librarian.

Man dies from ski accident

SANDPOINT (AP) — A California man died Thursday from a skiing accident at Schweitzer Mountain Resort.

Todd S. Wilson, 29, of Glendale, Calif., was pronounced dead after being airlifted by a Medstar helicopter to Sacred Heart Medical Center in Spokane, Wash.

Bonner County Coroner Dale Coffelt said Wilson died from massive trauma.

Schweitzer Mountain general manager Tom Fortune said the accident occurred about 11:50

a.m. on the backside of the mountain.

"Wilson was on the Kanikus run, apparently lost control and hit his head on a tree," he said.

Police said the accident will be investigated.

Wilson was visiting his parents, Serve and Barbara Wilson, of Sandpoint.

He graduated from high school in Homer, Ala., and attended college in Missouri and England. He also attended Arizona State University in Tempe.

School

Continued from B1

done in Kennewick, Wash., schools.

When the program was implemented in Kennewick in the mid-1990s, about 50 percent of third-graders read at grade level. Hallett said that number has since risen to 72 percent, and it is still rising.

A possible visit to the Kennewick schools is among the ideas Hallett will discuss with the board, he said.

Raising expectations of parents and of the community is a

crucial part of this process, Hallett said.

There has been some complacency in the county in the past, and, in his opinion, most people do not see a problem when close to half of third-graders are at grade level.

"It's not acceptable to have 50 percent," Hallett said.

This strategy will also be proposed in the Buhl School District. Thirty-four percent of third-graders in Buhl were reading at grade-level as of the fall IRI test.

Shoppers

Continued from B1

few days, but said that "overall, it's down from last year."

In November, her shop finished 20 percent ahead, and sales were good through the first week in December. But come the second week, sales "went down the tubes," only to rebound again within the last week.

That's an unusual phenomenon for her six-year-old shop, and she

credits it to the "economic uncertainty" that came with not knowing who the president would be.

Sales were good Saturday at the Hickory Farms stand in the Magic Valley Mall, said co-manager Mayleen Harding. And while the massive paperwork at Christmas gets her down, she loves the busyness of the season.

"I love it. I thrive on it," Harding said.

Forest Service adds snow station

McCALL (AP) — The U.S. Forest Service has installed a remote monitor station to improve the Payette Avalanche Center's snow reports for back-country skiers and other recreationists in west-central Idaho.

The center is beginning its second year of operation as the research and reporting office for Valley County. It has a new weather station and a digital

recorder that can handle six telephone lines, as well as a place on the Payette National Forest's Internet site.

"We are trying to catch up," said Jim Fitzgerald, the center's newest member. He joins Jeff Halligan, who created the facility after losing a friend in a back-country accident.

Two weeks ago, the employees skied up to Granite Mountain

lookout in the West Mountain chain to install the remote station; the center was able to buy through a grant from the National Avalanche Center in the Sun Valley area.

"West Mountain can be radically different from conditions up north," said Halligan.

For that reason, the center will gather snow reports not only themselves, but also from the

guides of the Brundage cat skiing program and the Valley County Search and Rescue.

Snow condition advisories will be issued twice a week, as well as a separate one for West Mountain.

The center's backcountry advisory number is 634-0400, and it encourages people to call and add their observations at 634-0465.

Water weed shows up in Payette Lake

CASCADE (AP) — Those recreating on Payette Lake next summer may see scuba divers pulling weeds in — the form of the Eurasian milfoil.

The invasive water plant has been found in the Valley County lake after appearing in a number of Panhandle waters. Earlier this month, weed control experts and lake overseers met to consider ways to control the newcomer.

"It's confirmed and well-established in Payette Lake," said Peter Johnson, chairman of the Big Payette Lake Water Quality Council.

Eurasian milfoil was first identified in the United States in the late 1800s and by the mid-1970s, it was found in Washington state. Researchers believe it came to the country in the ballast water of ships. Americans also may have dumped out the weed which was sold for use in aquariums.

It can grow up to eight inches a day, 20 feet deep and forms mats on the surface, consuming oxygen and degrading fish habitat. In Washington, a number of drownings have been attributed to swimmers becom-

ing entangled in the mats.

Johnson said he wants to start attacking the problem next year. The waterways in the county will be checked for the weed's presence. Divers would pull the weed from the lake bottom and use something like a miner's suction dredge to vacuum it out of the water.

Doug Freeland, Kootenai County milfoil coordinator, and Mark Sysma of Portland State are experimenting with eradication methods, such as exposing it to the cold winter air. In some areas where the weed is to thick

for pulling by hand, a chemical herbicide may be used.

Valley County Commissioner Tom Kerr estimates a survey of other waters such as Lake Cascade, Warm Lake, Horsethief Reservoir and the North Fork of the Payette River would cost \$8,000.

Johnson said the situation is becoming serious enough to ask the Legislature to determine the feasibility of a statewide milfoil program. There are discussions, especially in the Panhandle, of a \$1 per boat license fee to combat the weed.

Conservancy Shaken baby cases rise alarmingly

hopes to save ranch

SALT LAKE CITY (AP) — The Nature Conservancy of Utah is taking the first steps toward protecting a 5,700-acre family ranch near Salina, in what ranch owner Dan Jorgensen calls "a Christmas wish come true."

Some symptoms

According to the National Center on Shaken Baby Syndrome, the following are warning signs of shaken baby syndrome:

- lethargy or decreased muscle tone;
- difficulty breathing;
- extreme irritability;
- seizures;
- decreased appetite or vomiting for no apparent reason;
- poor sucking or swallowing;
- inability to lift head;
- inability to focus eyes or track movement;
- unequal size of pupils.

The Bar J Ranch in Sevier County is surrounded by Fish Lake National Forest and has diverse habitat for numerous birds, fish and game, including the Bonneville cutthroat trout, which is on Utah's list of sensitive species.

It has been operated by the Jorgensen family for four generations.

"I would hate to see this property, which has meant so much to me and my family, have to be sold and developed," Jorgensen told the Deseret News. "Today our Christmas wish has come true. The Bar J Ranch will remain intact forever."

Cases of parents or caretakers shaking infants to death have been rising at an alarming rate.

Last year there were 13 reported cases of shaken baby syndrome statewide. This year there have been 27, with six fatalities.

In the past month alone, prosecutors across the state have filed charges in three fatal cases.

David and Yvette Ayotte of Brigham City were ordered Thursday to stand trial for the death of their 2.5-month-old son, Spencer. Prosecutors allege that David Ayotte repeatedly shook Spencer to stop him from crying. Yvette Ayotte was charged with child abuse for not stopping the shaking.

Edd Keith Morgan, 42, was charged earlier this week with two felony counts for the Dec. 18 death of his 4-month-old adopted daughter, Camryn.

On Dec. 15, South Weber day-

Power

Continued from B1

2001, King said.

The increase might exceed 25 percent, said Ralph Williams, the general manager at United Electric.

"That doesn't mean that I look forward to it or support it, but you have to look at reality," he said.

The reality is that a regionwide power shortage will force the BPA to purchase power from other sources. Much of this additional electricity will be purchased at market cost, which is significantly above what the BPA usually pays.

While this figure could change, King said the BPA expects to be about 2,000 megawatt-hours short of power for the month of January. Two thousand megawatt-hours is slightly more power than what the BPA uses in six months.

In a worst-case scenario, the BPA might end up spending as much as \$3,300 for each of these additional 2,000 megawatt-hours, which would mean increased spending of \$6.6 million for January alone.

The BPA will probably be able to get most of that power for less than \$3,300 per megawatt hour, King said, but it will still have to pay inflated prices.

"This price increase will eventually trickle down to the consumer," King said.

Increased usage, coupled with stagnant generation and limited importing possibilities, has caused the shortage this year.

"The West has pushed its generation right to the brink," Williams said.

Because of heating costs, the Northwest generally uses the majority of its power in the winter. In contrast, California uses most of its electricity in the summer when more air conditioners are running.

So an exchange has been used in the past, with California importing power from Idaho, Montana, Washington and Oregon during the summer, and then exporting power to these states in the winter.

But several unplanned outages in California have power companies scrambling there, and the Northwest has been unable to import the amount of power that it normally would, King said.

Faced with shortages, area hydroelectric companies sometimes can increase flow and produce more power, King said, but this is only a short-term solution.

care provider

Jeri Daines, 55, was charged in connection with the April death of 3-month-old Clancy Peterson.

Court documents say doctors at Primary Children's noted retinal hemorrhaging in the baby's eyes, which is indicative of severe shaking.

Amy Wicks of the National Center on Shaken Baby Syndrome in Ogden monitors local cases to determine how the abuse is treated in the state.

The problem, Wicks said, is that the people who deal most frequently with these cases are not taught to recognize the signs of abuse.

Spencer Ayotte was taken to the pediatrician five times — once for an inability to gain weight and again for severe diarrhea. But Dr. Carey Lloyd testified at a preliminary hearing that he never suspected abuse.

At an office visit the day before Spencer Ayotte died, Lloyd diagnosed the baby with gastroenteritis and instructed Yvette Ayotte on how to treat the viral ailment.

Man dies from ski accident

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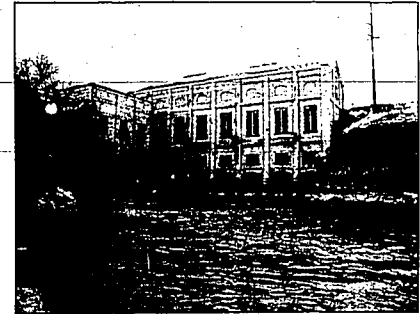
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Faced with shortages, area hydroelectric companies sometimes can increase flow and produce more power, King said, but this is only a short-term solution.



The Minidoka Dam helps provide some of the hydroelectric power this area relies on. The Northwest is in the midst of a slight power shortage, which could become more serious over the next few months.

Flows into the Snake River are limited this time of year, and if a company releases a large amount of water from a reservoir, it can take a while to build that reserve back up.

In addition, there are operational limits on how much water can be released, based on impact on fish population and recreation, both above and below the reservoir.

The Idaho Power Co., which serves Twin Falls, calculates its

power rates each year in May, so until then the company can't say if there will be a rate increase, said Dennis Lopez, a public information specialist with Idaho Power.

Rates could increase, based on water flows to hydroelectric generation units, he said.

"It would stand to reason that if we don't get a good water year, then we will be passing some additional costs through," he said.

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Group launches wolf fund

WASHINGTON (AP) — A conservation group has established a fund to help ranchers reduce potential conflicts between large predators and livestock.

Defenders of Wildlife said the fund will operate in five Western states: Montana, Wyoming, Idaho, New Mexico and Arizona.

"Our success at expanding the range of the wolf in the West will be directly proportional to how successful we are at reducing conflict between wolves and livestock," said Roger Schlickeisen, Defenders president. "When wild predators begin killing livestock, everyone loses. The rancher loses animals and the public loses its predators when they become targets of lethal removal."

The new fund is in addition to the group's wolf and grizzly compensation trusts, which pay ranchers for verified livestock losses to wolves or grizzly bears.

Establishment of the Proactive Carnivore Conservation Fund will allow Defenders of Wildlife to work with ranchers, sheep producers and others who have conflicts with endangered wolves and bears in the northern Rockies, officials said.

"Preventing conflict before it occurs is one of the smartest, most effective actions conservationists can take to maintain wild wolves in wild habitats," said Hank Fischer, Defenders northern Rockies director.

Manager must take anger management

FARMINGTON, Utah (AP) — The manager of a Davis County garbage incinerator must take anger management classes stemming from a run-in with an incinerator critic.

John K. Schmidt was charged Sept. 19 with misdemeanor counts of making a threat and disorderly conduct after shouting at incinerator critic Mark Graham.

Schmidt entered a plea-in-abeyance to the disorderly conduct charge and prosecutors dropped the threat charge.

Schmidt has to pay \$100 in court fees and attend an eight-week anger management class through Davis Behavioral Health. If Schmidt he is crime-free until next December, the disorderly conduct charge will be dropped.

SURPRISE



Louise Karall, right, sees the swastika she received as a Christmas gift Thursday at the Livingston Health and Rehab Center's annual Christmas party in Livingston, Mont., as Lois Richardson looks on.

Utah sheriff provides inmates' children with gifts

FARMINGTON, Utah (AP) — An Angel Tree in the Davis County Sheriff's office will mean Christmas toys for 163 children of jail inmates.

The project started three years ago with The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints' local Relief Society. But it got to big for the church group to handle, but it was too important said Davis County Sheriff's Lt. Dan Horton.

So a large Christmas tree was erected in the jail complex with angel tags hanging on it, telling which toys the inmates' children wanted.

An unexpected \$500 donation

"We may be in jail, but our kids still deserve presents."

— Penny Clark, Utah inmate

from a Bountiful business allowed Horton to buy gifts for the 11 whose names were chosen but gifts were never turned in.

Penny Clark, a 24-year-old mother of two, becomes emotional when she sees the toys. She knows her children, 7-

year-old Shelyse and 3-year-old Destin, will soon be unwrapping some of the gifts.

And Clark, who has been in jail for five months, will be out in time to watch her children unwrap the gifts on what she has dubbed "her first Christmas clean for a long, long time."

"A lot of people don't want to help us. They think 'They're in jail. They don't deserve it,'" she said. "We may be in jail, but our kids still deserve a good Christmas."

Division of Family and Child Services social service worker

Idaho men face charges of seeking sex via Internet

BOISE (AP) — Four Boise men have been arrested for attempting to solicit sex from teenage girls over the Internet.

All of the men allegedly made contact with an undercover Ada County Sheriff's detective posing as a teenage girl in an Idaho chat room, according to reports.

Eddie M. Pedersen, 48; Spencer H. Tolman, 35; and Jimmy Thomas Glass, 35, were charged with attempted lewd conduct with a minor, a felony.

John K. Hennessey, 30, was arrested and charged with attempted sex abuse of a child under the age of 16.

The four men allegedly solicited sexual acts with an operative posing as an underage girl and made arrangements to meet to have sex, according to police reports.

Ada County Sheriff Vaughn Killeen said Friday that detectives began the operation at the beginning of this month.

"It is a significant problem. It surprised us," Killeen said. "It seems much more serious than we thought."

Killeen said once the detective had entered the chat rooms under the guise of a 14-year-old girl, offers for sexual solicitation came in almost immediately.

Deputies seized computer hard drives and copies of all the messages between the men and the detectives during the arrests.

Conviction on the charge of lewd conduct with a minor is punishable by up to life in prison, and attempted sex abuse of a child under 16 is punishable by 15 years in prison.

Because the charges against the men are "attempts," the maximum penalty the men could face is half of the maximum sentences.

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IDAHO/WEST

The Lewis and Clark story presents a difficult task

200th anniversary plans try to embrace both sides of the tale

VANCOUVER, Wash. (AP) — The upcoming 200th anniversary of the Lewis and Clark Expedition, a survey ordered by President Thomas Jefferson to stake a U.S. claim to the West, is not exactly cause for celebration in Indian Country. Mainstream America has long viewed the 1804-06 trek led by Meriwether Lewis and William Clark as a heroic effort that opened up the nation's western frontier. A beginning. But for the people who were already here, who helped the sometimes hapless surveyors get through, it was the beginning of the end. The goal of those planning commemoration of Lewis and Clark's Voyage of Discovery — at the tribal, federal and local level — is to make sure the whole story is told. "We are not going to condone or create another Columbus Bay

debacle," said Michelle Bussard in Portland, Ore., executive director of the National Council of the Lewis and Clark Bicentennial, referring to heated protest spurred by the 500th anniversary of the best known European visit to this side of the Atlantic. "Columbus didn't discover America — Native Americans had lived here for eons," she said. Lewis and Clark reached the mouth of the Columbia River in the fall of 1805, confirming overland access to the Pacific. They traveled by river and, for a time, on horses provided by the Shoshone, Sacagawea's people. The Nez Perce Tribe revived the near-starving party after a rough passage through the Bitterroot Mountains. The Chinook — now battling for federal recognition — helped them through the dreary winter of 1805-06.

"The expedition needs to be thought of as a joint venture with Indian people, which it was for vast stretches of the trail and certainly in our neck of woods out here on the Snake and Columbia rivers," said David Nicandri of the Washington State Historical Society in Tacoma. The Pacific Coast tribes that greeted Jefferson's survey party were already trading with French, Spanish, English and American ships that expanded the market for furs — and brought death in the form of smallpox, dysentery, tuberculosis and other unfamiliar diseases. By the 1840s, as the white influx increased, disease-related losses in high-traffic areas were around 70 percent and some tribes had been wiped out. "Lewis and Clark within that context don't come across as



Vancouver, Wash., Mayor Royce Pollard holds a blanket in his office earlier this month. The blanket was given to him by descendants of Nez Perce Chief Red Heart during a reconciliation ceremony.

quite so grand and glorious a story," Nicandri said. The tribes that survived found their world overwhelmed by white settlers, new priorities and change that continues to this day. The impact of dams, cities, freeways and an ever-faster dominant culture are all evident

Plans so far include a project at four riverside sites by Maya Lin, creator of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial. Nicandri is overseeing a historic exhibit that will spend three years traveling the 7,000-mile round-trip trail. Vancouver Mayor Royce Pollard hopes the exhibit will start and finish here — the first spot west of the Rockies that Lewis and Clark considered a suitable site for a city. He also hopes to make his community, a center for American Indian congresses. Other commemoration plans are in the works. The word "admission" is used commonly. Tribal leaders made clear early on they want no part of any "celebration," Pollard said. Some of the tribes' stories are not easy to tell — or to hear. "It's the only war we've ever had where we treated the other side as badly," Pollard said. But he recalls telling area tribal leaders: "If you all don't get involved, we're going to tell the story again, and it ain't the story you want to hear."

Tribe that greeted explorers at trail's end won't be recognized

Chinook battle for federal recognition

VANCOUVER, Wash. (AP) — When the Lewis and Clark Expedition reached the Pacific in the winter of 1805 — wet, cold and heartily sick of venison and dried salmon — the locals took pity on them. "They were huddled for over 10 days in total misery on the north side of the river in storms at a place they called Station Camp," said Cary Johnson, chairman of the Chinook Tribe, now based just west of the site. "Some Chinook people came along in a canoe and helped them out and continued to trade food with them and help them make it through the winter."

These days, as the nation gears up for the 200th anniversary of the overland survey by Meriwether Lewis and William Clark that opened the west to white settlement, the Chinook are battling for recognition by the U.S. government. At the same time, they are being asked — almost on a daily basis, Johnson said — to participate in commemoration activities. "They want their input but they don't want to recognize them," said Dennis Whitlesey of Washington. He is exasperated attorney who has worked on Chinook recognition for 22 years. Bureau of Indian Affairs Director Kevin Gover himself has written to ask that the tribe take part, Johnson said. "Has Gover noted the irony of his request?" "I don't know if he notes it but we certainly do," the chairman said in a recent telephone interview from tribal offices in the tiny, remote town of Chinook near the state's southwest tip. The Chinook do intend to participate, Johnson said. "We see it as a real opportunity to tell our story," he said. "It would be terribly ironic if a tribe identified in the journals as having had direct and extensive interaction with the Voyage of Discovery were not recognized" during the bicentennial, said U.S.



Chief Cliff Sneider stands with a statue of Ilchee, a daughter and wife of American Indian chiefs in the 1800's and considered a remarkable woman in her own right, on the banks of the Columbia River earlier this month in Vancouver, Wash.

Rep. Brian Baird, D-Wash., who has written the BIA in support of recognition for the tribe. By the time Lewis and Clark arrived, the Chinook had been trading for several years with ocean-borne visitors who wanted furs. But the surveyors were after "something not very intelligible information," said tribal historian Stephen Dew Beckham, a professor at Lewis and Clark College in Portland, Ore. "While other late 18th and early 19th century visitors had arrived by sea and then sailed away, the surveyors rafted in on the river, built Fort Clatsop on the Oregon and stayed for months, "so the tenor of the relationship was a bit

different," Beckham said. "It must have caused them great wonderment. Why had these people come with their beads and fishhooks and copper kettles?" The Chinook gave the visitors food, woven hats and a wealth of information about local flora and fauna, rivers and villages — and their own people. It's not clear why the Chinook were knocked off the list of federally recognized tribes. "There is no act, no document terminating the relationship," Beckham said. Whitlesey said the tribe was recognized until about 30 years ago, but somewhere along the line, they became nonexistent.

The tribe filed a petition for recognition with the Interior Department in 1981. The BIA issued a preliminary decision against them in 1997, and the tribe appealed. Johnson said the agency overlooked "a vast amount" of material submitted by the tribe and later found in a BIA desk drawer. The agency promised to use the additional documents in their review, he said. "BIA officials did not return repeated calls for comment. Word is a decision has already been made and is awaiting Governor's signature — expected before the Bush administration takes over."

"It would be terribly ironic if a tribe identified in the journals as having had direct and extensive interaction with the Voyage of Discovery were not recognized"
— U.S. Rep. Brian Baird, D-Wash.

In the meantime, "we just say that we are recognized — we have just been left off one list of acknowledged tribes," Johnson said. "We deal with all the state and federal agencies and our tribal office is basically funded by a government grant," he said. "Our families went to Indian schools and the Indian Health Service." And tribal members hold land allotments — on the Quinalt Reservation — a privilege extended under an 1887 law only to federally recognized tribal members. The Chinook allotments were ordered under a 1931 U.S. Supreme Court ruling that found the Quinalt reservation had been expanded in 1872 — from 10,000 acre to 220,000 acres — to accommodate a total of eight tribes, including the Chinook. Chinook people own 52 percent of the allotted land at Quinalt, Whitlesey said. Allotment earnings — usually from the logging of timber on the land holdings — are passed on to the Chinook, as are earnings from trust accounts managed by the BIA, now being sued for billions in tribal funds lost to mismanagement. The Chinook may have lost fed-

eral recognition in part because they have no reservation. That put them at a disadvantage during the Nixon administration, when policies of "self-determination" favored tribes with a land base, Whitlesey said. The tribe has 2,110 registered members, but there are more, Johnson said. "They'd like a land base in 'Chinook Country,' along the Columbia and Willapa Bay, he said. That's a long way from the Quinalt reservation, about 75 miles north on the Pacific Coast.

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Albion school grad finds young love at 94, then loses it all

WOODBURN, Ore. (AP) — Every morning, Lula's brother lifts her into the living room chair, and she sits there for hours, a blanket draped over her withered legs. She watches TV, or reads, or stares out at the golf course, where dry leaves skitter in the wind.

The days are short and dim now, so different from last summer, when Lula Johnston, at age 94, walked through a world lit up by love.

Her college sweetheart had found her, 76 years after their first kiss, and romance bloomed once more. They married in June. Five weeks later, a car crash ended their honeymoon.

Now she is alone again. "I know why you're here," she says, straightening in her chair, speaking so the tape recorder catches every word.

She's a curiosity, Lula understands, marrying at an age that most people don't even live to see. "But she also knows her story reaches deeper, touching anyone who ever loved and then parted, only to wonder if someday there might be a second chance."

In September 1923, Lula Packham was barely 18, a farm girl just starting classes at southern Idaho's Albion State Normal School.

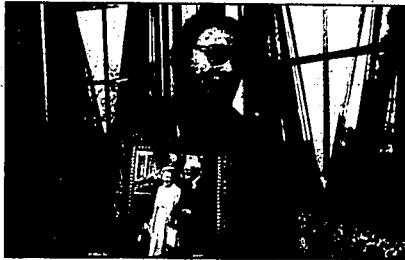
She met Paul Johnston the first day. A second-year student at the two-year teaching school, he stood just 5-feet-4 but carried himself with confidence. He looked tall to Lula, who was 5-feet-2.

They gravitated toward each other at school functions: hay rides, picnics, dances. After one dance, Paul escorted Lula home. She stepped inside, kissed her and then quickly left.

The romance was on. "I'd gone with boys in high school, but that was nothing," Lula says. "They were just boys. Paul was really my first love."

Paul graduated the next spring and left to teach at a school in eastern Idaho. Lula took summer courses, then quit school to teach first grade in Malad City, 80 miles from Paul.

For Christmas 1924, he gave Lula a book called "101 Famous Poems." It was bound in leather, with a thin, red-ribbon bookmark tucked to page 107, a poem by Robert Browning called



Lula Johnston, 95, looks out the window of her brother's Woodburn, Ore., home Tuesday, as she holds a wedding day photo of herself and her husband, Paul.

"Summum Bonum."

Lula loved that poem, especially the end: Truth, that's brighter than gem, Trust, that's purer than pearl— Brightest truth, purest trust in the universe—

all were for me In the kiss of one girl.

For two years, Paul and Lula kept up a long-distance relationship, writing letters and seeing each other infrequently. Neither had a car, and telephones were not for idle chat in those days.

Lula loved Paul, but she was puzzled. Since he never spoke of marriage, she started dating others. She assumed Paul was doing the same.

Lula socialized with a group of teachers in Malad City. A math teacher named Laurence Marschat seemed especially fond of her. They spent more and more time together, and she realized she was falling in love with him.

But what about Paul? Near the end of 1926, Lula wrote to him. Larry had asked her to marry him, she wrote, and she was thinking she'd probably say yes.

Paul never wrote back.

Lula didn't know — how could she? — that Paul was too heartbroken to reply. She didn't know — for he had never told her — that he had planned to marry Lula all along.

Lula Packham became Mrs. Laurence Marschat in June 1927.

The newlyweds moved to Oregon, where Larry pursued a career in public education and

Lula looked after their growing family. She had three children in all: Laurence Jr., Gerald and Marilyn.

Paul married, too, and he and his wife, Sara, eventually had four children.

In 1937, Larry died of a heart attack. Lula, age 82, was on her own after six decades of marriage.

Her health was excellent, her mind was sharp, and she didn't feel old. But she found the world made certain assumptions about her. People started speaking loudly to her, even though she could hear "Lula" instead of "Mrs. Marschat."

Last April 21, a letter arrived in the mail. It was from Paul Johnston.

"Dear Lula," it began. "I think of you often."

She called him that night. He told her his wife had died in 1997. He said he lived in Boise but had family in Oregon, and he wondered if Lula would mind a visitor.

She wouldn't mind at all, she told him.

Lula had wondered how they should greet. With a handshake? With a hug? What was proper? What did she want?

Three days later, the wondering ceased when she saw him at her doorstep. Paul had white hair and was slightly stooped, but he still looked tall to Lula.

"He held out his arms," she says, "and I just walked into them."

Paul proposed two weeks later, and they married June 10.

"At age 94, time is of the essence," Lula says.

The newlyweds were inseparable. They shopped for groceries together. They read poetry to each other. They knew their time could be short — maybe no more than a year or two — and they meant to make the most of it.

"When we die," Lula recalls Paul saying, "I just hope we can die at the same time."

Yes, Lula replied, that would be best.

hand, broken ribs and a fractured vertebra in his neck.

Nurses wheeled Paul into Lula's hospital room for visits, and the two commiserated over the indignity of it all.

"We would have died that day, if they'd just left us alone," Lula says.

Their fragile bones mended slowly. Paul was transferred to a nursing home Aug. 8, two days before Lula's 95th birthday. On Sept. 5, Lula moved into Paul's room at the nursing home.

They were in beds 10 feet apart. Lula's legs were paralyzed from a surgical complication. Paul couldn't hear well, and Lula had a bandage around her neck, making it hard to talk.

Two days after Lula arrived, Paul took ill in the night with an infection and high fever. Aides rushed him out of the room, and Lula knew he wasn't coming back.

"I didn't have time to say I love

you," Lula says. "As they took him out, I just said 'Goodbye, Paul.' There wasn't anything else I could do."

Paul died Sept. 9. Six weeks later, Lula moved out of the nursing home and in with Willis and Genia, her brother and sister-in-law.

Doctors predict she will walk again, though it may take a year of therapy. Friends tell her things will get better, but Lula has her doubts.

How is life for her now? "Torture," she whispers. "It's just hard work. I'm trying to survive each day, and hoping I'll do better the next."

On a nearby table lies an old, leather-bound book. The thin red ribbon is still tucked to page 107, and Lula's visitor reads aloud: "... All were for me in the kiss of one girl."

Lula smiles.

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WEST

Navajo court interpreters attempt to bridge language, culture

SALT LAKE CITY (AP) - For Navajo defendants charged with felonies, Salt Lake City's imposing federal courthouse can seem like a strange land - where everyone speaks in a strange tongue.

That's because it is. And it's up to Navajo court interpreters to translate both the language and culture.

"It is a foreign process to the Navajo people," said Salt Lake interpreter Bertie Kee-Lopez. "A lot of times they are very, very nervous. They're taken from the reservation and into federal court. ... I think that it has an emotional effect on the defendant."

Although misdemeanors committed on Indian reservations are handled by tribal courts, most serious felonies are prosecuted in federal courts. In Utah, that means at least a six hour drive north from the Navajo reservation to the capital.

Nationwide, nearly 95 percent of interpreters used in the country's federal courts speak Spanish, said Dick Carilli, spokesman for the Administrative Office of the U.S. Courts. Navajo ranks far down on the list of needed interpreters.

But in Arizona, New Mexico and Utah - which share the Navajo reservation - the need is great.

Assistant U.S. Attorney Chris Chaney, who prosecuted cases from Utah's tiny section of the Navajo reservation for three years, said he usually had about 10 cases pending.

He said defendants, victims or witnesses needed interpreters 30 percent to 40 percent of the time.

Chaney found that most tribe members younger than 25 are proficient in English but not in Navajo. Those between 25 and 50 are mainly bilingual, and those older than 50 usually claim Navajo as their first language, he said.

It's those people who keep interpreter Esther Yazzie-Lewis busy. In November alone, she translated for 22 cases in Albuquerque's federal court.

Yazzie-Lewis, who started out working as a radio dispatcher with the Navajo Nation police in Arizona, became a deputy court clerk for the tribal courts and with the tribal probation office.



Navajo court interpreters Bertie Kee-Lopez, left, and Rodger Williams stand outside the federal courthouse in Salt Lake City earlier this month.

When she began interpreting in the federal courts, she carried a notepad where she jotted down the translations of legal terms from Black's Law Dictionary.

From there she developed the English-Navajo Glossary of Legal Terms, which contains 2,000 definitions. Her glossary formed the

basis of a certification test for interpreters used by the University of Arizona, where she now helps instruct.

Jonathan Levy, program coordinator for the university's National Center for Interpretation Testing, Research and Policy, said they have certified 79 Navajo inter-

preters since 1994. More than 150 people applied for 30 spots in the

upcoming session. The qualifications are stiff.

Candidates must not only speak Navajo - which virtually guarantees they are members of the tribe - they must also be able to interpret testimony from expert witnesses, stomach graphic evidence and be able to explain ballistics, Yazzie-Lewis said.

"I think a lot of people go to training think they can speak English and Navajo, but they come out of training dumbfounded," she said.

Utah interpreter Rodger Williams agreed, saying it can be hard to relate the law in a Navajo way.

"To us laws are something like natural laws. They are constant. They never change. You try to explain it in white man's ways, there's all sorts of loopholes," he said. "That's why traditional people will say I don't understand the white man, they speak with forked tongues."

Kee-Lopez said translating Navajo is probably no more difficult than other languages, but presents some cultural obstacles.

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FRIDAY NIGHT HEROES

The Times-News honors the region's outstanding high school football players

Like the famed Four Horsemen of Notre Dame or Fordham's Seven Blocks of Granite, this season's All-Times-News High School Football Team embodies the spirit and desire of football in days long past.

touchdowns wasn't always enough to be chosen. Not every athlete played on a championship team, but each had an impact on every snap and each had the potential to change the complexion of a game with a single play.

Some led their team into the playoffs, such as A-4, 11-man Player of the Year Jason Durfee of Hagerman, or Shoshone's J.D. Soloaga, the A-4, 8-man selection.

Others, such as A-1, Div. II Player of the Year Ryan Dishi from Jerome, or Twin Falls tight end Colt Jones, the A-1, Div. I pick, played every down as if the state title were hanging in the balance.

Wood River's Max Paisley earned the Times-News' A-2 Player of the Year award in part by leading the Sawtooth Central Idaho Conference in receptions and accounting for nearly half of the Wolverines' total points.

Derek Malone of Valley earned A-3 Player of the Year at quarterback not because he put up amazing numbers, but because he led the Vikings to a conference championship with intelligence and determination.

Please see FOOTBALL, Page C2

Story by Kevin Hall and Joe Sunnen
Photos by Bruce Shields and Logan Castor
The Times-News

Aloha means good-bye

Coaches to bid farewell in Oahu Bowl showdown

The Associated Press

HONOLULU - Virginia's George Welsh and Georgia's Jim Donnan will coach their teams for the last time in the Oahu Bowl today.

Welsh, 67, is retiring after a 19-year career at Virginia because of health concerns.

"This isn't a game where they should win one for the Gipper," Welsh said. "They should be just thinking about their assignments and trying to beat the guy across from them."

Donnan, who was fired after the Bulldogs finished the season poorly against its biggest rivals, is voicing the same sentiment to his players.

"I'm not one of those coaches who will stand up and give a speech about winning the game

Oahu Bowl



Virginia (6-5)
vs.
Georgia (7-4)
Today, 6:30
p.m. (ESPN)

for me," said Donnan, who is 39-19 in five seasons at Georgia. "We're a team together. We want to win it for the Georgia Bulldogs. That's how it should be."

Players haven't paid much attention their coaches' wishes and are promising an emotional and physical battle on the field in hopes of a win.

No. 24 Georgia (7-4) is trying to win its fourth consecutive bowl, something the program has never accomplished.

The Bulldogs started the season winning six of their first seven games. They stumbled when quarterback Quincy Carter tore a ligament in his throwing hand and missed the last month of the season. The team lost three of its last four games.

Cory Phillips will start the bowl game in place of Carter. Phillips appeared in nine games this year, throwing for 1,093 yards, eight touchdowns and six interceptions. Virginia is led by running back Antwoine Womack, who has rushed for 1,028 yards and nine touchdowns this season.

The Oahu Bowl will be the Georgia's third bowl matchup with Virginia (6-5) in six seasons. The Cavaliers won 34-27 in the 1995 Peach Bowl, but the Bulldogs prevailed 35-33 in the same bowl in 1998.

While the Bulldogs ride a three-bowl winning streak, the Cavaliers have lost three straight bowl games since the victory in 1995.

When Welsh took over the team in 1982, the Cavaliers had only two winning seasons in 30 years.

Welsh downplayed his final football practice on Saturday.

"It's just another practice," he said. "The only thing I'm going to do is save the last practice schedule. I may put that in a frame."

"I figured out I made over 2,000 (of them) in my coaching career."

IT'S DENVER'S DAY

Broncos do their best to nail down the AFC West

The Associated Press

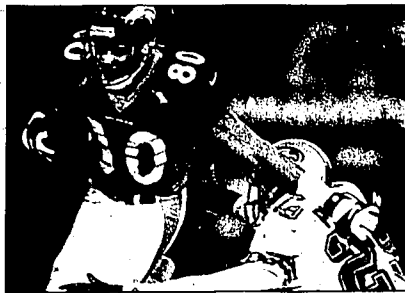
DENVER - The Denver Broncos said goodbye in record-setting fashion.

In the final regular-season game at Mile High Stadium, the Broncos scored on six straight possessions to rout the San Francisco 49ers 38-9 on

Saturday.

As flash bulbs popped throughout the 52-year-old stadium on the historic occasion, Gus Frerotte, replacing the injured Brian Griese, passed for one touchdown and ran for another score, and Mike Anderson ran for two more TDs.

The playoff-bound Broncos



Broncos wide receiver Rod Smith fights off Ahmed Plummer of the San Francisco 49ers during the third quarter of their game Saturday. Smith caught eight passes in Denver's 38-9 victory.

(11-5) stayed in contention for the AFC West title. If Oakland loses to Carolina on Sunday, Denver would win the division title and be assured of a home playoff game. If Oakland wins,

Denver is a wild-card and plays on the road.

San Francisco (6-10), which had won four of its previous five games, averted a shutout

Please see DENVER, Page C5

Shelly shovels Filer aside

The Times-News

FILER - The Filer Wildcats committed a dozen turnovers in the opening half of their boys' basketball game against Shelley, capturing easy baskets and a 58-44 win for the visiting Russetts Saturday night.

No Filer player reached double figures, though the Wildcats scrapped their way back into the game with a spirited second half.

"We just didn't play with a lot of confidence in the first half,"

Local sports

said Filer coach Bruce Lemmington. "We kind of dug ourselves a hole there."

Filer (2-7, 0-1 in conference) hosts Declo Jan. 5.

Salmon 67, Jerome 57

JEROME - In a game that was close throughout, the Tigers fell to the Salmon Savages at home Saturday night.

Brent Stokes had 16 points, 12 on 3-pointers, Ben Lammers added 14 and Brad Stokes chipped in 13. Lammers also had 10 rebounds and Ryan Diehl grabbed eight.

"Ben Lammers has stepped up

for us, and our shooting percentage is up a bit," said Jerome coach Larry Walter. "The thing that's hurting us is we're getting broke down on defense."

Jerome (0-7) hosts Twin Falls Dec. 30.

SPORTS IN BRIEF

Filer alumni games are set for Tuesday

FILER - Filer High's alumni basketball games will take place Tuesday night, Dec. 26, at the Filer High School gym.

The girls will play at 6 p.m. with the boys' game following. Admission is \$3 for everyone, players included, in a benefit for the FHS basketball program. For more details, call 736-8285 or 326-5944.

Pistons' Stack has the wedding plans set

DETROIT - Jerry Stackhouse is nervous. He's not too familiar with this kind of move.

The Detroit Pistons' star is getting married. He will marry Ramirra Marks tonight, and about 80 people are coming to town for the ceremony. The couple plans a big reception next summer.

Stackhouse said the Christmas Eve wedding would ensure that he doesn't forget his anniversary.

Iverson could return sooner than expected

PHILADELPHIA - Allen Iverson might not miss up to a month after all.

Iverson partially dislocated his right shoulder in a collision with Chris Childs in the fourth quarter of the Philadelphia 76ers' 91-71 loss to the New York Knicks Friday night.

Dr. Jack McPhilemy, the team physician, said Saturday that Iverson will be out 1-to-3 weeks, not 2-to-4 as originally expected. Iverson, who has played through numerous injuries in his career, was not placed on the injured list, which would have required him to sit out at least five games.

"He told me he didn't want to go on the injured list," 76ers coach Larry Brown said. "You have to admire kids like that."

All-time leading rusher trying to make leap

MONTGOMERY, Ala. - While Chris Weinke was winning the Heisman Trophy and receiving accolades, R.J. Bowers was commuting from his parents' home to campus and quietly playing in obscurity.

Both have had prolific college football careers after striking out in minor league baseball. The similarities end there.

Bowers, who will play in the Blue-Gray Classic Monday, became the NCAA's all-time leading rusher and scorer in an division performing in front of small crowds, while Weinke quarterbacked Florida State into the national championship game this season.

The 6-foot, 241-pound Bowers, from Grove City College in Pennsylvania, is trying to prove he's not just a product of Division III competition.

"I think I've answered every question there has been out there coming from Division III," said Bowers, who hopes to be a fullback in the NFL.

"If you watched the practices, if you didn't look at the roster to see that I was from Grove City College, you wouldn't be able to tell."

Bowers set eight all-division NCAA records at Grove City, compiling 7,353 yards and 562 points. His 9,253 all-purpose yards was 48 yards shy of Brian Shaw's all-time record at Emporia State.

Compiled from staff and wire reports

Heels' Forte too much for Bruins

LOS ANGELES (AP) - Joseph Forte scored 29 points and No. 15 North Carolina survived a furious UCLA rally in the second half to beat the Bruins 80-70 Saturday.

The Tar Heels (7-2) won their fourth straight despite blowing an 18-point lead when the Bruins (4-4) roared back to lead by two points three times. But Carolina closed the game with an 18-8 run.

UCLA's Earl Watson scored a career-high 30 points and Matt Barnes added 18 points and 10 rebounds.



North Carolina's Joseph Forte, left, drives around UCLA's Ray Young during the first half in Los Angeles Saturday. The Tar Heels beat the Bruins 80-70.

Texas 72, No. 5 Illinois 64

AUSTIN, Texas - Darren Kelly, in his second game back from academic suspension, scored 21 points and provided some critical late-game free throws Saturday as the Longhorns (8-2) knocked off No. 5 Illinois 72-64.

In two games since his return, both wins, Kelly has averaged 22 points for Texas.

Florida 76, American 33

GAINESVILLE, Fla. - Udonis Haslem had 14 points as Florida beat American to tie a school record for consecutive nonconference home wins at 21.

Florida (8-1) also won 21 straight non-conference home games from 1983-88. Brett Nelson and LaDarius Halton added 10 each for Florida.

Kansas 69, Ohio St. 68

COLUMBUS, Ohio - Kenny Gregory had 17 points in a return to his hometown and Kansas survived Brian Brown's two shots in the last 11 seconds to beat Ohio State.

Kansas (10-1) misfired on the front end of three consecutive bonus situations while Ohio State (8-3) ran off the final nine points.

Wis. 52, Marquette 47

MILWAUKEE - Roy Boone scored a season-high 18 points as Wisconsin (8-1) beat Marquette (5-4) to win its eighth straight game.

The game was the first of the season for Wisconsin senior forward Maurice Linton and junior point guard Travon Davis. They were suspended for eight games by the NCAA for receiving extra benefits in purchases of discount shoes.

S. California 70, BYU 67

LAIE, Hawaii - Sam Clancy and Brian Scalabrino each scored 26 points to help No. 13 Southern California's rally from a 20-point deficit to defeat BYU 70-67 Saturday in the third-place game of the Yahoo! Sports Invitational.

The Trojans (9-1) rebounded from a heartbreaking 84-83 overtime loss to No. 24 Mississippi on Friday.

Virginia 85, UMBC 69

CHARLOTTESVILLE, Va. - Roger Mason scored 23 points and Travis Watson had 19 points and 16 rebounds as Virginia defeated the University of Maryland Baltimore County.

Oklahoma 88, Ark. 79, 0T

NORMAN, Okla. - Hollis Price scored all 21 of his points after halftime, including nine in overtime.

Darvan Selvy had 13 points and 11 rebounds for the Sooners (9-1), including a follow shot with 10.9 seconds remaining to tie the score at the end of regulation and cap a rally from a 12-point deficit.

Kansas St. 86, Iowa 78

MANHATTAN, Kan. - Larry Reid scored 31 points and Kansas State beat No. 19 Iowa.

Phineas Free throws sank four straight free throws in the final 20 seconds as the Wildcats withstood a late rally by the Hawkeyes (9-1), who were playing their second road game and first outside the state of Iowa.

Mary. 123, Norfolk St. 79

COLLEGE PARK, Md. - Lenny Baxter scored a career-high 32 points on 12-for-14 shooting as Maryland extended its nonconference home winning streak to 74 games.

Boise St. 63, BYU-Hawaii 62

LAIE, Hawaii - Delvin Armstrong hit a 15-foot jumper at the buzzer to give Boise State a 63-62 victory over BYU-Hawaii on Saturday in the seventh-place game of the Yahoo! Sports Invitational.

Armstrong got his shot off after Bryan DeFares missed his shot with six seconds left. Kenney Gaintous tipped the rebound to Clint Hordemann, who passed it to Armstrong for the game-winner.

As comebacks go, Lemieux's is epic

PITTSBURGH (AP) - Mario Lemieux might be the comeback player of the century.

He simply doesn't spend much time in bed following a back operation and a bone infection, practice for a week, then go out and lead his team to a Stanley Cup championship.

Major Lemieux didn't in 1991. A player simply doesn't undergo radiation treatment for cancer, hop on a plane, then lead his team to an important victory that night after barely practicing for a month.

Mario Lemieux did it in 1993.

A player simply doesn't take a full-season off at the peak of his career, climb back into his skates as if he had merely taken a week off, go out and win two more scoring titles, then retire at age 31.

Mario Lemieux did it.

Now, Lemieux's latest comeback - one that he expects to begin Wednesday against Toronto - might be his greatest yet. Eighteen months after buying the team for which he started, he will return from a 3.5-year retirement to become the Pittsburgh Penguins' owner-turned-player.

The king of comebacks is, improbably, coming back again. It's almost as if the rules of the



Pittsburgh's Mario Lemieux skates onto the ice for his first practice with the team at their practice facilities in Canonsburg, Pa., Tuesday.

After Lemieux retired, golf became his passion, and he played well enough to win a celebrity tournament. Then, after his \$26 million-plus in deferred salary was threatened by the Penguins' 1998 bankruptcy, Lemieux dedicated his time to buying the team. He spent long hours in planning sessions, investor meetings and court hearings until his group was awarded the team in federal bankruptcy court in September 1999.

By the first week of December, the word was out: Mario was coming back. Never a fitness zealot, he insists he is in the best shape of his career, and needs only to regain his ability to move in traffic and make quick decisions to be the player he was before.

"I feel I'm very close to it, that all the hard work I've put in is starting to pay off, and I'm very excited about the future," he said.

young an age and at the top of their game as Lemieux did after winning his sixth NHL scoring title in 1997.

The Dodgers' Sandy Koufax quit at the same age Lemieux did after winning 53 games in his final two seasons, but he no longer wanted to pitch with severe arthritis pain in his elbow.

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"I feel I'm very close to it, that all the hard work I've put in is starting to pay off, and I'm very excited about the future," he said.

Denver

Continued from C1

when Wade Richey kicked a 44-yard field goal with 9:04 left. Jeff Garcia, who eclipsed the '49ers' season passing record of 4,170 yards set by Steve Young in 1998, later threw an 8-yard touchdown pass to J.J. Stokes.

Denver receivers Ed McClellan and Rod Smith finished with 101 and 100 yards, respectively, becoming only the second NFL tandem to reach that level. Detroit's Herman Moore and Brett

Perriman accomplished the feat in 1995.

Anderson's two rushing touchdowns gave him 15 for the season, tying Cincinnati's Tockey Woods (1988) for the second-most by a rookie in NFL history.

Saturday's game also likely was the last game in a San Francisco uniform for record-setting receiver Jerry Rice, who wants to play another season but probably will do it for another team because of the salary cap.

After the game, Broncos fans

cheered Rice as he headed for the locker room and shouted "Jerry! Jerry!"

After a scoreless first quarter, the Broncos, who will move into a \$364 million stadium next fall, scored on three straight possessions to take a 17-0 halftime lead.

Griese, returning to the lineup after missing the previous five games with a separated throwing shoulder, lasted just five plays. On a short pass, Griese was slammed to the turf by defensive tackle Brenton

Buckner, landing on his shoulder and leaving the game.

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SPORTS

Giants come up big against Jaguars

EAST RUTHERFORD, N.J. (AP) - Still have doubts about the New York Giants? They don't, not after earning the top seed in the NFC for the playoffs.

The Giants (12-4) got the home-field advantage for the entire postseason and a first-round bye by coming from behind in the fourth quarter for the second straight week in a 28-25 win over the Jacksonville Jaguars (7-9) on Saturday.

The wild win capped a remarkable late season run that saw New York win its last five games after coach Jim Fassel put his job on the line a little more than a month ago by guaranteeing that his team would

make the playoffs. "Nobody ever thought we would be here," defensive tackle Keith Hamilton said. "Now we beat a couple of teams and we still don't deserve to be here. We're just going to keep playing hard and they can doubt us all the way to Tampa."

The Giants ended the Jaguars' first non-winning season since 1995 by making big play after big play in the fourth quarter, disappointing Minnesota and New Orleans, who were hoping a loss would give them the top seed.

But Kerry Collins (22-for-39, 321 yards) threw fourth-quarter touchdown passes of 5 yards to Ike Hilliard and 54 yards to Amani Toomer. Jason Sehorn

recovered two inside kicks, returning the first 38 yards for what proved to be the game-winning touchdown with 1:51 to play.

"I was telling someone this is like when you write to Santa around Christmas time and then you get everything you asked for," linebacker Mike Barrow said. "For the past month, coach said everything we wanted and we got it, the playoffs, the NFC East title, a first-round bye and the top seed."

The Giants even got lucky in the closing minutes when halfback Tiki Barber came away with only a sprained right toe that looked far worse after he was tackled on a run.

Barber, who tallied the first

touchdown on a 3-yard run in the first quarter, finished with 78 yards rushing, giving him his first 1,000-yard (1,006) season.

Mark Sehorn (23-for-41, 262 yards) threw touchdown passes of 5 yards to Kyle Brady and 12 to Alvis Whitted. The Brady TD and a two-point conversion to him cut the Giants' lead to 21-18 with 1:56 to play, but Sehorn stunned the Jaguars by returning the inside kick for a touchdown.

Jaguars halfback Fred Taylor had his nine-game streak of rushing for at least 100 yards snapped. He gained 52 yards on 13 carries before leaving the game with a hip pointer early in the second half.



New York corner back Jason Sehorn returns a Jaguars inside kick for the game-winning touchdown during the fourth quarter Saturday. The Giants defeated the Jaguars 28-25.

Seattle can't stop Flutie's Bills

SEATTLE (AP) - Doug Flutie showed he still has a lot to offer to the Buffalo Bills.

Flutie completed 20 of 25 passes for 366 yards and three touchdowns as the Bills snapped their longest losing streak since 1985 with a 42-23 victory over Seattle on Saturday night.

The Bills (8-8) had lost four straight. Seattle finished 6-10, the first losing season in Mike Holmgren's career as an NFL head coach.

In the rain-drenched finale, Flutie played superbly in place of Rob Johnson, who suffered a concussion last week.

Matched against the NFL's worst defense, the Bills punted only once and rolled up 579 yards. The Seahawks committed four turnovers, losing three fumbles and throwing an interception.

John Butler's successor as general manager of the Bills will make the decision whether to bring Flutie back. If Flutie is released, it would count \$4.5 million against the salary cap.

Owner Ralph Wilson fired Butler on Tuesday because he didn't think Butler wanted to commit to the Bills. Butler, whose contract ran out Feb. 28, could wind up as general manager of San Diego.

Flutie, 33, guided Buffalo to a 28-14 halftime lead, going 14-for-17 for 249 yards and three touchdowns.

Aided by 15-yard unnecessary roughness penalties on Willie Williams and Chad Brown, the Bills scored the first time they had the ball. Flutie passed 11 yards to Shawn Bryson for the touchdown.

They made it 14-0 on an 18-yard touchdown pass from Flutie to Peerless Price before Seattle's

Charlie Rogers ran back the ensuing kickoff 81 yards for a touchdown.

Buffalo quickly scored again after Flutie completed a 48-yard pass to Eric Mouldts to the Seattle 15. With Bryson out with a back injury that he suffered when he scored his touchdown, Antowain Smith made it 21-7 on a 9-yard run, his first of three TD runs.

Kimba spiked the ball after scoring on a 1-yard run early in the second quarter, but it was a short-lived celebration.

After recovering Darrell Jackson's fumble at the 50, the Bills got their final touchdown of the opening half on a 6-yard pass from Flutie to tight end Jay Riemers with 4:09 left.

In the second half, Smith scored on runs of 2 and 4 yards, while Ricky Waters had a 6-yard touchdown run for the Seahawks.

Rams root for Chicago? Oh my

The Associated Press

The St. Louis Rams might still be the best team in the jumbled NFC, but there's a good chance their players and coaches will be heading home after today's game at New Orleans, even if they win.

After last Monday night's loss at Tampa, the only way the Rams can make the playoffs is by beating the Saints and hoping the Chicago Bears (4-11) beat the Detroit Lions at Pontiac, Mich.

Otherwise, the Lions are in and the Rams are out. St. Louis tight end Ernie Conwell said: "The

Bears have a new fan base now."

In the NFC, five teams were in, and Detroit, St. Louis and Green Bay were competing for the final spot. There were two division winners, the Giants in the East and Saints in the West. The Giants (12-4) also earned home field advantage throughout the NFC playoffs and a first-round bye, beating Jacksonville (7-9) 28-25 Saturday for their fifth straight victory. The other seedings were uncertain.

In the AFC, four teams had clinched playoff berths: Tennessee, Baltimore, Oakland and Denver. Because the Broncos beat San

Francisco 38-9 Saturday, the Raiders will have to beat Carolina at home today to clinch the AFC West.

If Oakland loses to Carolina, Denver wins the division title and is assured of a home playoff game. If Oakland wins, Denver is a wildcard and plays on the road.

The last two AFC spots are open. Miami and the New York Jets get in if they win today. Indianapolis and Pittsburgh also are in contention. The Colts could win the East if they beat Minnesota and the Jets and Dolphins lose at Baltimore and New England, respectively.

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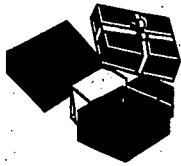
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Go-back Gifts

Presents that are
returned to the
store get new life



Charles Packham, owner of The Bargain Side in Twin Falls, looks over some of his liquidation merchandise at his store. Some of the items shoppers return to the store after Christmas end up at liquidation stores around the country.

Stores find ways of dealing with returned holiday merchandise

By Virginia S. Hutchins
Times-News writer

TWIN FALLS - A sweater that's simply the wrong size is likely to go back on the shelf if someone on your Christmas list takes the gift back to a store before spilling eggnog on the sleeve.

But torn packaging, updated inventory, apparent use or a host of other reasons could send other post-Christmas returns - if stores accept them - to a liquidator, a charity or even the trash.

If today's last-minute shopping spree Tuesday's returns, the rejects might eventually end up in the hands of Twin Falls businessman Charles Packham.

He stocks his liquidation oper-

ation by buying lots from corporate or regional warehouses - mostly in California - where large retail chains route returned items that aren't put back on the shelves.

Though Packham closed his Burley liquidation store a couple of weeks ago, he is creating a new liquidation section - carrying the Datz name of the former Burley store - inside The Bargain Side, his used furniture store on Twin Falls' Main Avenue.

Datz bought clothing, domestics and general merchandise from a distributor warehouse in Sacramento, Calif., that sells to West Coast liquidators various returned items from J.C. Penney, Macy's and Sears stores

in the East, Packham said. He doesn't buy directly from local stores, however.

Packham added that two-thirds of what he bought had never left the original stores. Discontinued merchandise was mixed with store returns in the lots he bought.

Still, there's plenty of returning going on.

Shoppers take back one out of every five store purchases this time of year and return nearly one out of every three catalogue purchases, Knight Ridder News Service reported earlier. The most frequently asked questions around the Better Business Bureau during the few days following Christmas are from people confused about

store refund or exchange policies, the bureau's Boise office has said.

For Koppel's Browzeville in Twin Falls, however, post-Christmas returns are just a trickle, not a flood.

"We don't get too much on returns, and if we do, most people are just generous enough to just trade it out on something else," said Laurie Hall, manager of the camping, backpacking and hunting supply store.

Last year, the store outright refunded just \$300 or \$400 between Christmas and the middle of January, said Hall, who declined to name monthly sales figures.

The most common unwanted gifts are wrong-sized clothing or

boots, and most folks opt for the same items in different sizes, Hall said.

Koppel's encourages exchanging, but it will give cash refunds within 30 days of the purchase.

The reason? The store could have sold the item in the meantime, or it might be something Koppel's doesn't carry anymore, she said. Inventory changes frequently, especially in the shoe department, which specializes in hunting boots and hiking shoes.

Hall doesn't accept returns or exchanges unless the merchandise is the same quality as when it went out the door. So those products go right back on the shelf.

Please see RETURNS, Page D3

Many customers still find problems with online returns

Knight Ridder News Service

For the past three holiday seasons, online shopping has been heralded as the convenient, no-traffic, no-lines, no-parking, no-headaches method of buying gifts.

Cyber spending this holiday season will double last year's total, reaching \$10 billion, according to a study by Forrester Research Inc.

But on Dec. 26 in this new era of holiday buying, gift givers and gift recipients have found that online shopping has its own headaches. Trying to return gifts purchased online, for instance, can be a process that, at best, is bogged down by unnecessary steps and, at worst, can leave people on your Christmas list with nothing but a lump of coal.

For example, a large share of Web-based retailers, or e-tailers, that launched before the 1999 holiday season didn't make provi-

sions for gift recipients who wanted to return their gifts. Traditional bricks-and-mortar stores usually issue a merchandise voucher in such a case. But many online retailers had not instituted vouchers, so recipients had to return the item to the gift giver, who would then send it back for a refund. The intended recipient was out of a gift and out of luck.

That happened last year to people who'd received gifts from eBay, a Web-based seller of purses and luggage. Denver-based eBay's co-founder and vice president of marketing, Peter Cobb, said this month the company was in the process of instituting gift certificates that would be given to gift recipients returning their merchandise.

"Last holiday was our first holiday. It's one of those things that came up, but wasn't a big issue,"

Please see ONLINE, Page D3

Internet swap site helps gifts find a home

Knight Ridder News Service

Soon the holidays will be over and all the gifts opened, and many people will be left wondering how to get rid of the presents they don't want.

So perhaps it is no surprise that Arva Yerganian, chief executive of online swap site Switchouse, expects the period after Christmas to be "a big time for us."

Online swap sites like Switchouse, MrSwap.com and WebSwap are emerging as the Internet's answer to flea markets, garage sales and swap meets - all rolled into one. They provide virtual marketplaces where people can trade everything from the books they've already read to the video games they've already mastered to the unwanted CDs they got for Christmas.

The goal of the online swap sites, which make money by charging users small commissions and fees, is to use the Internet to match up people

who can exchange products. These sites are built on the same principle that's behind the huge success of online auction sites like eBay - that the Net can bring together people who would not find each other offline.

Switchouse works by asking members to list the items they want and the items they have to swap, and then feeding this information into the SwitchCraft matching engine to produce suggested matches. The site, which was launched in March, has just under 500,000 registered users. Although Switchouse's product categories include books, electronics, hardware and software, Yerganian said the top-selling categories are video games, CDs and movies.

MrSwap.com, which was launched officially in June and has about 100,000 members, plans to expand into collectibles and books but currently concentrates only on music, movies and games. As

MrSwap.com President Patrick Ford sees it, these items make the most sense for swapping because of their ubiquity and durability and because they have a "limited life cycle for most people."

The average person, according to Ford, has 109 CDs, 25 videos and 13 computer and video games. But, he added, half of the music and movies and three-fourths of the games are no longer being used. "This is the type of stuff that just hangs around your living room," Yerganian agreed. "People don't like just throwing their stuff away. They want to find a good home for it."

For its part, WebSwap lists its members trade everything from Beanie Babies and trading cards to antiques, books and clothing. The site, which was officially launched in February, now has several hundred thousand registered users. The company is also providing its barter technology to corporate cus-

Please see SWAP, Page D3

Consumer tips on unwanted gifts

Ask about the store's refund or exchange policies. Stores aren't obligated to accept returns unless the items are defective or misprinted, the Better Business Bureau's Boise office said. Each store is free to establish its own policies, as long as they are posted and enforced consistently.

Return policies differ from refund policies. The store should let you know whether purchases can be exchanged only for credit within the store or for a full refund.

Refuse to pay special fees without an explanation. If you learn about a "restocking fee" while trying to return an item, calmly ask the manager how the fee was disclosed at the time of the sale. Don't pay the amount without an explanation.

Most importantly, get the receipt. It will speed up refunds and exchanges and can make the difference between cash and store credit.

Some stores issue a special gift receipt, coded so the recipient doesn't see how much Aunt Martha spent on your ankle-length sock set. And if you have no receipt, at some stores you'll get the marked-down price offered on that day - which could be lower than the original purchase price.

Don't cut off tags or discard packaging until you are sure the item will be kept.

If it's a gift from a line of collectibles, return the box and paperwork with the item. The eventual purchaser, probably a collector, will want that stuff.

Be careful with the piles left scattered around the Christmas tree Monday morning, because retailers look for damage to potential returns, such as torn cloth. And don't wait months to bring the unwanted stuff back.

Keep in mind that health regulations often forbid returns of such items as hats, bathing suits and other intimate apparel.

Be sure you're at the right store. It might seem rude to ask a giver where she bought that body fitting boot, but if you're going to take it back, that information is important. Retailers do pay attention to whether they sold the products originally.

Be persistent, even without a receipt. Stay calm and polite. If the clerk can't help, go to a manager. If that manager doesn't help you, try another manager on another day.

But don't be unpleasant or too hurried, either. Returns can take more time than the initial purchase, especially if there's no receipt and the store has to look up the price.

If you're buying at last-minute sales today, consider these questions:

- What is the store's returns policy?
- May you exchange the item for another like it?
- May you return it and buy something else?
- Will the store charge a restocking fee?
- Will the store give your money back?
- Is this a final sale item?
- If the purchase is made under a written contract, how are normal return privileges affected?
- If the product has a separate written warranty, does the warranty affect the return process?

Compiled from staff and wire reports.

Dairy industry could be in for long winter

MAGIC VALLEY - With all due respect to the holiday spirit, Magic Valley dairymen aren't feeling much in the way of good cheer these days. They're too busy trying to keep solvent.

A year's worth of sour prices - with no end in sight - is taking its toll on dairy producers, tapping their equity and threatening their operations.

"The cash is not there to pay the bills; it's ugly," said Reagan Hatch, partner in Kowz R Us Dairy in Castleford. "We're living off feed equities and feed lines."

With milk prices below the cost of production since last fall, many producers have depleted their short-term assets and are draining their equities.

"Some have borrowed everything they can borrow," Hatch said. "We're in a scenario where we've been making it work the last eight months, but every one's running out of equity. Once you use that up, you have nowhere to go."

Ron Brown, president of Farmers National Bank in Buhl and a 42-year veteran in the farm loan business, whose company carries a substantial number of dairy loans in the Magic Valley, said: "I can attest to the fact that there is some trouble. We've had requests to restructure short-term debt to help get them through this period of low milk prices. We have seen a number of parties that have elected to eliminate the operation and sold out."



Pregnant cows about to freshen eat balanced feed at the Jack Voorbes dairy west of Wendell. Feed costs are an unavoidable expense regardless of the hard times hitting Magic Valley dairies.

groups to discuss his agenda is an important indicator, analysts say, that he considers farm policy a top priority.

Rising costs for seed, fertilizer and energy coupled with historically low commodity prices have pushed farm income down dramatically in many areas.

"Clearly agriculture has been in a slump," said Mark Drabentzoff, economist with the Federal Reserve Bank of Kansas City. "An abundant harvest not only in the U.S. but throughout the world in the past three or four years, coupled with the downturn in Asia, has led us with surplus supplies. And that's weighed down crop prices."

Farm groups hope to use the meeting to push for price supports, a more aggressive trade policy and protections and tax breaks.

Marketer tells grain growers: Get a plan

BURLEY - Too many barley growers are selling their grain without having a marketing plan in place. Exposed, says one grain marketer, is not a good place to be in today's market.

Returns

Continued from D1

"Most people are really good about keeping them as is," she said.

That's not always the case. The Target store in Twin Falls resells stuff that's still in the box and still in good shape. But if it's used, or if it looks beat up to store employees despite the customer's insistence it's untouched, Target gives it to a salvage company or sells it for "pennies on the dollar" - from 10 to 15 percent of retail value, said Dennis McArthur, executive team lead of soft lines for the Twin Falls location.

The chain's headquarters negotiates those deals, and McArthur

Online

Continued from D1

Cobb said. "This year we're tripling the sales of last year. Where it was an issue last year, it's going to be an even bigger issue this year because of the increase in customers."

The lack of a remedy for gift recipients is just one of the problems consumers could face when returning merchandise online this year. Some Internet-based stores don't even give telephone numbers for customer service on their Web sites. Others list the number, but just try to get someone to pick up.

But an expert in e-tailing said that in most cases, the businesses aren't intentionally trying to leave their customers holding the bag. Lisa Price, author of "The Best of Online Shopping" and spokesperson for a new company that rates online businesses, called CorporationTrust.com eCommerce Registry, said the problem lies in poor planning.

"They don't go out of their way to make it hard. It's just for-



Farmbeat
Highlights of this week's Magic Valley Ag Weekly, The Times-News' weekly report on agriculture.

"Have a plan in place," said Mark Black. "Don't go out there naked. Cover yourself with corn futures or options."

Black, who's been running elevators since 1981 and currently manages the General Mills facility in Great Falls, Mont., says forward contracts also offer a form of protection, he added.

He's watched barley growers, in both Montana and Idaho, use the government LDP (loan deficiency payment) as a substitute for marketing. Two years ago growers were more guilty than last year, but still "a lot of producers took the LDP too early." He recommends not taking an LDP on barley until the producer has worked out a marketing plan. And that means taking a look at the corn futures market.

Barley doesn't have a contract in the futures market, but growers can use the corn futures.

You can use the corn futures for barley, there's a relationship there. But the relationship is one-to-one ratio and don't expect it to be."

New Gem Russet potato looks promising

ABERDEEN - A new potato with the good looks of Russet Norkotah, the high yields and long storability of Russet Burbank, and better processing quality than either has been released by the Tri-State Potato Variety Development Program.

Steve Love, University of Idaho potato breeder and Tri-State coordinator, calls Gem Russet "the best variety we've produced out of this program." High in starch, it resists developing darkening sugars during cold storage. Because it can easily be stored at -42 degrees Fahrenheit - 5 degrees colder than Russet Burbank - Gem Russet is less

likely to sprout, rot, dehydrate or otherwise "shrink" in the cellar.

With immunity to potato virus X, average resistance to insect pests and good resistance to net necrosis, Gem Russet has only one clear weakness: It's a carrier of potato virus Y.

"It doesn't show strong symptoms of PVY, but it allows PVY to spread rapidly from plant to plant," Love said.

Farm prices might rise, but for how long?

New Year's Day will usher in higher milk prices for California farmers and possibly for consumers, too, but the increase is likely to evaporate quickly later this spring, officials said Tuesday.

The California Department of Food and Agriculture announced that the minimum farm price for whole milk will rise about 15 cents a gallon on Jan. 1, with smaller increases for low-fat and nonfat milk, based on high U.S. butter prices in late November and early December. However, butter prices have already eased, and agency economists said the price rise might well be reversed in February.

McYoung, chief executive of Stockton-based Cento-Mart Inc., said he wasn't sure whether prices paid to farmers would affect his customers.

"I think it depends on whether the price (increases) are reflected in our wholesale prices; then we'd have to adjust (retail) prices accordingly," he said.

Such a small and short-term price increase will be little help to dairy farmers stricken by some of the lowest farm prices since the 1980s, said Frank Faria, an Escalon dairy operator who helped lead a series of protests this past year over the dire situation.

"We're so far under the cost of production now - (and) we have so many energy-cost increases - 15 cents is not even a band-aid for the situation," he said. "The entire agricultural community is suffering because of the situation of bad trade agreements and regulation, and now we have the situation of the energy prices adding to our costs."

and the like to The Salvation Army and collect the tax benefit, the organization's Maj. Ann Patterson said.

"It was wonderful," she said, declining to name the retailers. But, she added, those abiding national policies halted the practice - each since Christmas 1999.

The organization's flow of "gifts in kind" is unpredictable, but it certainly hasn't dried up. And those gifts - any items The Salvation Army doesn't pay for - help needy people in the Magic Valley, Maj. Eddie Patterson said.

For the first time, the Twin Falls Fred Meyer store this sea-

Workers try to deal with rude behavior

The Dallas Morning News

Kris Nash has moved on to another job, but she'll never forget her previous life.

That was the name that one of her co-workers legally adopted, and I guess we should have known right there that something was odd," Nash said.

At a managed health-care office - a corporate setting where company representatives would meet clients - Life passed the time by humming, chanting and meditating. She didn't shave her legs, Nash said, but she did cut her toenails - right in front of everyone.

By about 2 p.m., Nash said, "Life wasn't a bad worker, nor was she a bad person, said Nash, who now works as a management consultant for PacificCare of Texas in Dallas.

"She was just really annoying," Nash said. "There are some people who are in a zone where they do what they want to do, without regard for anyone else."

To varying degrees, a lot of us have life experiences of our own: colleagues who make our days at work unpleasant, unpleasant or plain unbearable.

"There does seem to be an increase of poor or rude behavior among people at work," said Peter Post, co-author of a book on workplace etiquette. "I'm not sure if it is actually happening more or people are just recognizing it more. But it's on people's minds and they want to do something about it, because they want a pleasant place to work."

Eddie Raether, a North Carolina psychologist who conducts seminars on workplace behavior, believes the problem is growing due to physical and psychological reasons.

A lot of us used to have four walls around us at work," she said. "Ever since the cubicles came in, everything is shared airways. Now we're in a dormitory situation, a kind of fishbowl."

That proximity, Raether said, has collided with a "me society," full of people focused on their own needs and oblivious to their

effect on others - but overly sensitive when people around them do the same.

"Before, we minimized our differences," she said. "This is helping us maximize them."

"So what's an annoyed co-worker to do?"

First, analyze the problem. If a co-worker presents a threat, or an annoyance is really harassment, don't worry about the fine points of etiquette.

"You don't ponder, you go to the appropriate person," Post said. "You take the proper steps to deal with it."

But if the situation isn't that drastic, there are options to weigh.

"If you have the ability to talk to somebody in a nonthreatening way and convince them there's a better way, that's a wonderful thing," said Post, whose great-grandmother was etiquette pioneer Emily Post. "If you've got a good friendship with someone that can withstand a confrontation, go ahead."

Approach the co-worker, not the boss, Raether said.

"A lot of people go to the supervisor immediately," she said. "It's sort of like a tattletale, in second grade. I think it's only fair to confront the person first."

Take a stab at humor," she advises.

"It may not get the job done, but it's a good place to start," she said. "That gives the other person a way out. You don't want to make them defensive right away."

Try "caring confrontation," said Raether, if nobody's smiling. That means being supportive, nonaccusatory and using "we" instead of "you."

Don't break down the polarity so it's not oppositional," she said. "It's like, 'Hey, we're in this boat together. You have a right to chew gum and I have a right to peace and quiet. What can we do to solve this?'"

"That can't work out at all. In that case, another decision looms."

"If you can't do your work, then you shift gears and say, 'This really isn't fair to me,'" Raether said. "Then you involve the supervisor."

Swap

Continued from D1

tomers.

One problem facing all of the online swap sites is that true swaps, which involve two-way trades, are actually rather rare. That's because the conditions needed for an actual swap - that each person has what the other wants and that each agrees that the swap is a fair trade - don't happen very often.

Different sites are dealing with this dilemma in different ways.

MrSwap.com, for one, has set up a "barter-based point system." Sellers list items for a set number of points - with each point equal to about \$1 - and then use the points from their sales to purchase what they want on the site. The idea, as Ford put it, is "you put one in and take one out."

MrSwap.com also recently introduced cash sales and purchases on its site to attract small retailers and give buyers who are out of swap points more flexibility.

Switchhouse, too, allows its members to buy and sell goods for cash. Yet again, an estimate that about 40 percent of the site's transactions are cash purchases.

What is the first thing we have to do before we are forgiven?"

Papik: "Commit some sins."

If you put artificial sweetener on pre-sugared cereal, do they cancel each other out?

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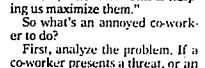
(FRONT) Ronda, Renee, Jame

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THE LIGHT TOUCH

by Craig Smith



A lot of good behavior is due to good health.

The only sure way to find a parking space is to buy a parked car.

What only works when it's fired? A rocket.

Sunday school teacher: "What is the first thing we have to do before we are forgiven?"

Papik: "Commit some sins."

If you put artificial sweetener on pre-sugared cereal, do they cancel each other out?

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THE HUMAN SIDE OF GLOBALIZATION

International trade begins to raise concerns over human rights and environmental effects in developing countries

Knight Ridder News Service

Gradually over the past three decades, companies that sell things in the United States stopped making them at home. Instead, they farmed out labor-intensive production to foreign-owned factories in low-wage areas of the world — China, Mexico, Thailand, Central America, the Philippines, Indonesia, India. New communications and transportation technology — speeding the flow of people, money and ideas — made this possible.

Now the clothes and shoes you're wearing, the chair you're sitting on, the plate that holds your breakfast — one or more probably were made abroad.

This is reflected in a trade imbalance that has more than tripled since 1990. Government statistics show the United States imported \$1.02 trillion worth of goods last year, while exports were \$684 billion. In 1990, imports were \$498 billion with \$389 billion in exports. The last year the United States sent out more than it brought in was 1975.

Big companies now line up hundreds of factories in foreign countries, some of which will be the least expensive. Bosses at each factory amass dormitories full of workers at the ready.

In addition to the advantage of lower labor costs, companies are motivated to produce goods closer to emerging markets where people can afford U.S. products.

The globalization of production has helped create jobs for millions of people in developing countries.

But concerns about human rights and environmental side effects of globalization are growing. More than 7 billion people live on less than \$1 a day, and the wealth gap between the richest and poorest countries is widening. While incomes in Asia and Latin America increased over 20 years, they shrank in Africa and ex-Soviet countries.

The evolving globalized production has few rules that would correspond to labor laws governing production in the United States.

Some leaders in poor countries accuse out-of-touch activists of trying to impose rights standards that could cripple economic growth. And some Western business leaders say standards could cut profits.

As the global system evolves, China is emerging as a powerhouse, with 1.3 billion people and high unemployment. A "surplus population" estimated at 120 million is desperate to work for 15 cents an hour. Last year, Chinese workers supplied \$81 billion of goods to U.S. consumers — about \$810 worth per U.S. household if everyone consumed equally.

Next year, that amount is expected to explode as China joins the World Trade Organization and export limits are lifted. U.S. officials in China say hundreds of U.S. companies are scrambling for factories to make their products.



A Chinese worker wipes a big banner featuring Santa Claus Dec. 6 at a foreign-invested department store in Shanghai.

Monitoring could lead to 'fair labor' label

Knight Ridder News Service

A new national effort to give consumers information about conditions under which products are made is moving ahead with certification of monitoring groups to inspect 4,000 factories worldwide.

Eventually, companies and universities that agree to meet human rights standards will be able to put "Fair Labor" labels on their products, said Sam Brown, executive director of the Washington, D.C.-based Fair Labor Association.

"Now, a person has no way to know the conditions under which their goods are produced. And a lot of people, for reasons of conscience, want to know," said Brown, a former Colorado state treasurer.

"Working people in this country ought to have some concern about working people in other countries. The American people are pretty decent. Bottom lines of conscience, want to think of most Americans don't want to think of themselves as, don't want to be,

exploiters of people in less powerful positions. We're going to give Americans a chance to act on their conscience.

The label won't go as far as guaranteeing no hardship in production of goods abroad. "Fair labor" will mean that a company has agreed to meet standards and is trying to comply, Brown said. "We hope consumers will discriminate in a way that rewards better labor practices." Companies would agree to:

- Ban forced labor and child labor.
- Ensure a safe and healthy working environment.
- Curb abuses of overtime such as not paying for it or compelling it.
- Avoid abusive quota systems that saddle workers with much more work than they can handle.
- Foster basic civil liberties, including freedom of association and collective bargaining, so that workers' rights to self-determination aren't impeded.

The effort began a few years ago when President Clinton invited human rights and business leaders to explore common

ground at the White House.

Today, a dozen companies and 147 universities are participating in negotiations that would have them commit to internal monitoring plans aimed at meeting standards. Universities are involved because they put their logos on sweatshirts and other products that usually are made abroad.

Companies also would allow external monitoring by groups accredited by the Fair Labor Association to inspect factories and verify that standards are met.

Supply chain auditing groups such as Amherst, Mass.-based Verite already have begun inspecting factories for companies, including many in China. Verite is a nonprofit group that relies on foundation and donor support, with companies paying one-third of the audit costs up front.

Meeting labor standards may cost companies money. Human rights advocates estimate consumers could face prices up to 5 percent higher for goods made in accordance with "fair labor" principles.

Consumers feel helpless, a little guilty, keep buying

Knight Ridder News Service

Walking through the ski wear displays at Flatiron Crossing mall, Chris Fernandez knows she's looking at products made in China, Laos and Thailand under conditions Americans won't tolerate at home.

Whether or not she buys, however, isn't determined by politics or global concerns.

She buys what she likes.

A 27-year-old high-tech worker, she said she studied so-called sweatshop issues in college and resolved the matter in her mind.

"We look at it as a sweatshop," Fernandez said. "Over there, that's good-paying money for them."

Many make the same decision as Fernandez to buy foreign-made products, with varying degrees of concern or guilt. U.S. consumer spending on imported goods increased from \$176 billion in 1990 to \$361 billion last year, according to the U.S. Department of Commerce.

There's no obvious sign that the protesters who shut down the world trade talks in Seattle last year are causing U.S. shoppers to think twice.

Yes, some shoppers admit to twinges of guilt and social concern as they buy.

Many walking through aisles of imported products say they are thinking twice but aren't really certain what to do.

In the Broomfield Wal-Mart recently, Darlene Porter eyed a \$10.95 black handbag.

She set it in an empty cart without looking at the label and rolled on.

But when she discovered it was made in China, she said, she hesitated. "I should support Americans," she said at first.

She'd heard about jobs moving to Asia where people work for less money and companies incur lower costs. And she suspected that working conditions compare poorly to what union bargaining over the years has won in their countries.

Hardship labor abroad "is probably not right," said Porter, who works in a bank north of Denver.

She paused. "But I don't have a say in a different country," she reasoned. "I'd like to see these things have to happen in other countries. Some of the people don't know it any differently."

She bought the handbag anyway and headed back-to-her-home-in-Johnstown. She appreciated the relatively low price. Her inclination is that "if like it" is reason enough to buy a product.

But she would like more information on how products are made. Tim Porter said, if it was a question of paying 50 cents or so more for a similar product certified to have been made under humane conditions, she might factor that in.

A labeling system "would probably be a good thing," Porter said. "I know that a lot of people are concerned about these things. I would probably look at it, notice that this is probably a better thing to do. To know people aren't being put down to make these things."

Chinese villagers find work producing goods for export

Most are grateful for jobs, but have little hope for a better life

Knight Ridder News Service

LOTUS MOUNTAIN, China — The shiny blue and maroon fabric that worker No. 0391 guides into a Chinese factory sewing machine could be on your back this winter.

The worker, Lu Huikun, makes ski jackets, including this U.S. Ski Team model, for Colorado-based Spyder Active Sports. The jackets cost up to \$529 in Denver-area stores.

Lu is paid 31 cents an hour if she keeps a brisk pace at the rattling machine.

A 36-year-old mother of two, she considers herself lucky. Bulldozers making room for factories scraped away her family's rice field 12 years ago. Lu's job sewing sportswear for Spyder, Adidas, Champion and other companies helps sustain her family.

"May you all be champions," she says to those who would buy her jackets this fall.

But Lu's eyes are tired from overtime shifts. Her thin legs tremble as she pedals her bicycle down People's Road. More overtime lies ahead.

Lu's daughter is gradually going blind. She needs special glasses that cost \$250 — five months' wages. When Lu reaches home, croses bring courtyard and bends to pump water, the 9-year-old clings to her leg, frightened by a world

to work overtime, I'll fire you." Or they find another reason to fire you."

Inside the Circle Skater Corp. factory — about two hours north of Hong Kong near Dongguan — 1,500 workers run by Taiwanese managers produce many things sold in America.

It's a typical factory, a gated cluster of three-story buildings. The workers are migrants who live at the compound where, as at many factories, room and board is provided. Normally they're allowed out three times a week, factory manager Circle Yan said. A team of 30 ex-soldiers in blue-and-white uniforms patrols 24 hours a day, registering, who comes and goes.

The factory supplies sporting goods including skateboards, beginner snowboards bearing Bugs Bunny and the Time Warner logo, plastic snowshoes and inline skates, elastic and knee pads. One of the hottest products made here for U.S. consumers, Yan said, is a silvery collapsible scooter. The Chinese call these "gliding boards." Factory sales of all products top \$23.6 million a year. You can find stuff made here in Wal-Mart, J.C. Penney, and Toys R Us among others, Yan said.

Soon after receiving an order, he mobilizes assembly lines that roar, hum and shake as workers rivet, glue, hoist and haul. Workers seldom speak in the process.

Boxed products roll out of workshops on conveyor belts leading into shipping containers riddled with air tracks. The trucks travel new concrete highways to Hong Kong for shipping to the United States. The journey from Chinese factory

to Colorado store can take as few as 14 days.

Few U.S. corporations that sell things made in China allow scrutiny. Many won't even identify who makes their products.

Wal-Mart spokesman Tom Williams declined repeated Denver Post requests to visit any Wal-Mart supplier factory, saying locations of factories are a closely held secret because "everybody watches everybody else and where they buy."

Target spokeswoman Susan Eich said "we don't have any such list" of supplier factories in China.

Kmart, too, counts on China. Chinese suppliers of electronics, bicycles and other products are required "to notify us of who their subcontractors are," said Dale Apley, Kmart's public policy director. But he wouldn't give details or allow a visit.

Colorado-based corporations such as bicycle maker Schwinn, ski clothing company Obermeyer, and Crazy Scrubs — colorful medical wear — take a similar approach.

Meantime, public concern is growing about globalization hurting human rights. Street riots that shut down Seattle during World Trade Organization meetings last year were motivated in part by a sense of injustice in factories abroad.

"We get dozens of letters every month. A lot are form letters: 'We want you to stop exploiting children,'" said Tim Lyons, spokesman for J.C. Penney, which sells products made in China. 1,100 stores across 30 states. The ideological anti-corporate tenor of some critics is such, Lyons lamented, that "you can't win."

Many corporations have responded. Target, Kmart, Wal-Mart and J.C. Penney officials say their suppliers must agree to obey local labor laws, pay prevailing wages, and ban child or forced labor.

Some companies such as Nike and Levi Strauss established elaborate codes of conduct that are posted on factory walls. Some firms hire auditors to review supply-chain conditions, sometimes visiting factories unannounced and conducting off-site interviews with workers.

In Colorado, Spyder this fall began negotiating to end its contract with 24 suppliers in Asia. Chris Okazaki, formerly with Nike, is helping lead Spyder's effort.

Still, shoppers eyeing foreign-made products generally can't tell from packaging the conditions in which those products were made.

And tracing products to specific factories "is probably one of the toughest things you could ever try to do," said John Colledge, the U.S. Customs chief of forced-labor investigations. "We need substantial information to tie the product back to the factory. That's what the consumer is going to need too."

A 1930 U.S. law prohibits import of products made with forced labor. U.S. investigators say access in China in particular is restricted and they've resorted to offering money over the Internet for tips.

And even inside factories in China, the source of a product isn't always obvious.

Just as U.S. companies farm out production to factories in China, many big factories in China also farm out to smaller and smaller factories down to informal village-level "cottage" labor.

MONEY



Elias Ross tries on ski gear earlier this month at Colorado Ski and Golf in Aurora, Colo.

Founder seeks to dish up turnaround

WILBRAHAM, Mass. (AP) — Hoping to dish up a turnaround, one of the founders of Friendly Ice Cream Corp. is getting back into the business at age 86.

Over the past several weeks, S. Prestly Blake has scooped up 892,000 shares of stock for nearly \$1.8 million, becoming the biggest stockholder in the 16-state restaurant chain he started with his brother 65 years ago.

Blake said he isn't looking for a head office job or any sort of takeover. He declined to disclose any of his ideas, but said accumulated debt of more than \$250 million is the company's biggest problem. "They are closing underperforming stores and being efficient and would be doing well if the debt wasn't so heavy," he said. "It started when they paid too much to buy the company from Hershey and they've never been able to shake it."

"I believe in the company, and things are not rosy," Blake said Thursday from his Somers, Conn., home. "I won't say I'm going to work any miracles, but I'm going to try."

Blake and his brother, Curtis, opened their first ice cream shop in Springfield in 1935 with \$547 borrowed from their parents. It evolved into a family restaurant chain featuring ice cream desserts. "We were the first company to sell ice cream in half-gallons," Blake recalled. (He and his brother are still pictured on the containers.)

Richard Papiernik, financial editor of Nation's Restaurant News, a trade publication, said he could not recall anyone of Blake's age coming back into the company that he founded. "It's an old brand and a well-recognized brand and they can do something with it if they get their act together. But that's been the story of Friendly's for some time."

In March, the company closed 80 restaurants and announced it planned to shut 70 more over the next two years to boost returns. The closings amounted to nearly a quarter of all the restaurants it held at the time.

In now has 480 company-owned restaurants and 105 franchised restaurants. Total revenue last year was \$709 million.

Until his recent buying spree, Blake said he had about 33,000 shares of stock in the chain. He has amassed nearly 12 percent of the company's stock over the past month, paying around \$2 or \$3 a share — down sharply from \$18 when Friendly went public in 1997. "I'm surprised myself that I'm doing this at age 86," he said. "But I can't get it out of my system. When it's your own baby, you can't walk away."



S. Prestly Blake

Children get their gear

Flat snow-sports retailers welcome sharp boost in sales

The Associated Press

DENVER — The flat snow-sports retail business is getting a boost from parents spending record amounts of money on gear and clothing for their children.

A survey of more than 800 snow sports product manufacturers, suppliers and distributors showed a nearly 10 percent increase over last year in spending on products for children.

The baby-boom generation, defined as the 76 million Americans born between 1946 and 1964, is now raising families, spending large amounts of money in the process. In addition to the sheer size of this baby-boom effect, retailers said parents are buying ski clothes for their children because those products are warmer and more durable.

"Stuff has gone from high fashion to high function, and function is where the action is," said Ken

Gart of Specialty Sports, a Denver-area retailer.

The \$929 million in overall spending on snow sports products from April 1, 1999, to March 31 remained flat over the previous year, according to the SnowSports Industries America annual survey released in November.

The survey's results mirrors what those in the industry have been noticing the last decade.

"Our juniors business has increased steadily over the last 10 years, and last year we showed a 15 percent increase," said Paula Hambleton, buyer for Christy Sports/Sportstalker. She added that at most of the company's stores, the junior department is larger than the men's department.

Barbara Owen, director of sales and marketing for Aspen-based Obermeyer Sport, said she's noticed the trend for the last 25 years.

In nearly every category, kids products manufacturers showed healthy sales increases. For instance, children's parkas were up 36.5 percent to \$20.2 million; children's ski suits were up 39.3 percent to \$3.8 million; junior snowboard jackets were up 59.4 percent to \$2.1 million; junior snowboard pants were up 18.6 percent to \$1.1 million, junior alpine skis were up 11 percent to \$8.6 million; junior alpine boots were up 1.8 percent to \$5 million; junior alpine bindings were up 51.7 percent to \$4 million.

Total sales of all snow sports-related products by manufacturers to retailers from April 1, 1999, to March 31 were \$929 million, off 0.2 percent from 1998-99's sales of \$931 million.

The industry's sales high-water mark occurred in 1989 with \$1 billion in sales. "Everything came together in 1989 — it was a great snow year, the economy was

good," said Bill Clapper, associate director for communications and public relations for SnowSports Industries America. "The entire industry has been pretty flat since then, but last year the kids' stuff was off the charts."

Overall, ski apparel showed a 4.6 percent increase to \$241.3 million, while snowboard apparel jumped 28.9 percent to \$67.2 million. Accessories, however, were down 4.3 percent to \$155.7 million; alpine ski equipment was off 2.1 percent to \$264.8 million; cross-country gear lost a little ground, down 1.9 percent to \$31.2 million; and snowboard equipment slid 8 percent to \$168.3 million.

Specialty Sports has finished converting the former Best discount store in Aurora into a Colorado Ski & Golf store. The 64,000-square-foot site includes a special area for children, complete with videos and bean bags.

Pregnant women receive worse deal

By Kenneth Brodemeier
The Washington Post

Q—Last year my firm changed health insurance companies. I was informed of the impending change when I was three months pregnant, and the change occurred when I was five months pregnant. While the pregnancy was not considered a "preexisting" condition negating coverage, the new policy did not offer us much of a benefit as the previous policy. The pregnancy and child were more than my husband and I had anticipated based on the original coverage. What are an employee's rights concerning changes in health insurance?

A. The short answer: Not much. The woman who wrote this note said the change in insurance coverage cost her and her husband about \$1,000. "It just didn't seem right," she said.

But Lynne Bernabei, a Washington, D.C., lawyer who specializes in handling employee disputes with their companies, said, "Unless she negotiated for specific coverage with a specific insurance carrier or for a specific benefit, she's probably stuck with any changes."

Q. Late last year, while on a business trip, I had a car accident while driving a rental vehicle going to a client for the day. The person who hit me was ticketed and listed as the only cause of the accident.

Fast-forward 10 months. That guy never returned the rental car company's phone calls, and since I declined the loss damage waiver, the rental-car people now want the money from me. You take responsibility regardless of fault when you decline the waiver.

My understanding is that this is my employer's bill to pay, even

though, as it turned out, the employer didn't have insurance for this. As I understand it, an employer is liable for the actions of employees in the course of doing their jobs, so even if it was my fault, my employer would be the one paying.

What do you think?
A. Says Barry Roberts, a Chevy Chase, Md., lawyer who handles various travel industry cases, "That expense should be the responsibility of the company, even if they don't have insurance."

He said that companies often tell their employees to decline

the loss damage waiver, which can cost \$10 a day or more on a rental-car contract. The reason is that it's expensive insurance, and companies might have other coverage for accidents or simply choose to run the risk that their employees won't be in accidents.

But Roberts said that when employees have accidents while on business, companies should support them if the need arises.

In this instance, Roberts said, "if it were me, I'd call my insurance company," since in most cases "the driver's own auto insurance will cover the driver for any car they drive."

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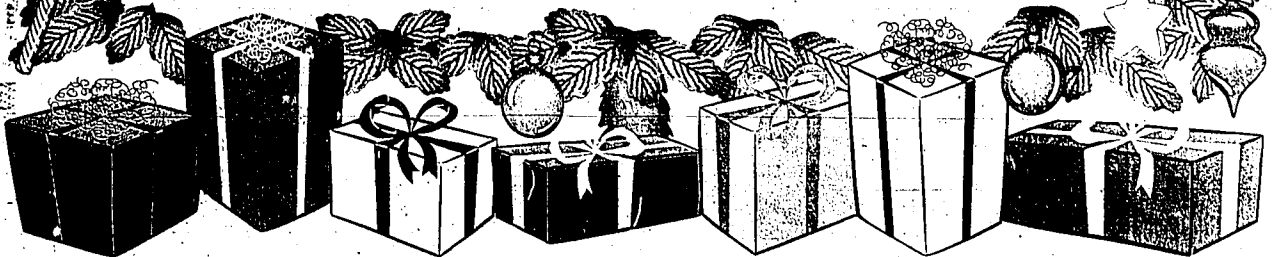
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ELECTRONICS High School juniors and seniors, get a head start on an electronics career

GENERAL Position available Factory-All Shifts Construction

MECHANIC John Deere dealership looking for exp. mechanic & lube service man.

MEDICAL CNA's Twin Falls Care Center now has immediate openings for CNA's & N/A's

NEWSPAPER CIRCULATION The Times-News is accepting applications for a full-time District Manager.

Application materials may be obtained at Boise City Human Resources, 801 W. Idaho St., P.O. Box 500, Boise, ID 83701.

St. Benedict's Family Medical Center One of the 100 TOP HOSPITALS in the USA for 1999 and 2000

CUSTOMER SERVICE Representative TV News Cast Director. Letter to resume to Walk N. KBCI TV, 140 N. 16th St., Boise, ID 83702, EOE.

ENGLISH INSTRUCTOR Part time English instructor to teach on section English 101 evenings at CSI Main-Cassa Center.

INSPECTOR/TECHNICIAN Soils, concrete, masonry, inspection and testing experience.

MECHANIC Mechanical work heavy duty truck shop experience & transportation.

MEDICAL Full time CNA needed in 2nd shift. Urgent, Mon-Thurs, 8pm-6am.

MEDICAL House Manager, PRN at Gooding, Call Tom or Cathy at 208-348-8461.

MEDICAL LPNs needed for Private Duty Nursing for children and adolescents.

St. Benedict's Family Medical Center - Several positions now available in hospital, PRN to full-time depending on shift selected.

DISPATCHER AT&T Broadband is looking for an energetic, full time dispatcher in Twin Falls.

FOREMAN EIFS work. Multi-state to teach on section EIFS jobs.

MANAGEMENT Apartment Manager. Part time. Entry level. 15-20 hours/week.

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St. Benedict's Family Medical Center - Performance Improvement Coordinator - Principal responsibilities of the position include: coordinating all medical center performance improvement activities.

DAIRY Outside dairy work, AI breeding. Call 536-6112.

GOVT-POSTAL JOBS Staffing 114, 120, 321, 808. Hiring for 2001. Paid training benefits.

MECHANICAL Service clerk for job, dealership, exp. preferred. Call 325-8590 or send resume to 26 E. 300 S.

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Have some presents of mind this Christmas

It's Christmas Eve, and I still don't know what I'm getting for Christmas.

Not that I always do, but sometimes, there are more hints.

For years, my mom mailed us Christmas presents and found it impossible to keep the gifts a secret. So she would call and tell us what was in every package she had mailed. Then, as she got older, she began to forget what she had bought. Now, we get surprise presents from her - and she waits to hear what she got us for Christmas.

She says it's actually more fun that way.

A variation of this practice: My friend Millie, in Ohio, once bought and wrapped Christmas presents so far in advance that the tape on the packages got old and fell off before she got the presents delivered.

My friend Marilyn, in Illinois, used to buy everything on her shopping list early, too, but she's decided to change her ways...

"By the time Christmas rolls around, I don't like some of the people on my list well enough to spend so much money on them," she told me last year.

That's worse than not liking your presents.

I remember humorist Andy Rooney once saying, "I'm always surprised how many people in my family give me Christmas presents I like when I consider how few things I see that I'd buy for myself."

It's better than say, I think.

The other day, I got a press release in the mail for something called KrunchyBowl. Now that's something I would never think about buying for myself, but the more I read about the thing, the better I liked it.

It's a uniquely designed bowl with a sloped divider that's supposed to keep your cereal crunchy by sort of separating the cereal from the milk.

"This thing sounds pretty good," I remarked the day I was reading about it, to no one in particular. "I'm tired of eating soggy granenuts."

The co-worker sitting across from me was not impressed.

"I sit there and wish my granenuts would get soggy," she said. "Those things are too hard to eat."

The moral: The "perfect" gift is not always perfect for everyone on your list.

(But if you want to order the KrunchyBowl for me, or for someone like me, you can call 1-800-803-4370.)

I think I'll probably like most of the stuff I get this Christmas, because I generally do. Even those gifts that seem a little strange at first can grow on you if you give them time ... like the grade-school child who told McCall's magazine, "We're getting a baby (for Christmas). My mom told me. A real baby. I don't know exactly if I'll like it or not. I think I'd rather have a Junglegym."

The key, of course, is to consider the giver along with the gift.

One of those dear saints who spent her life helping others in the church where I grew up once said that one of the Ten Commandments for Christmas should be "Thou shalt give thyself with thy gifts." Your love, your personality and your service increase the value of a gift a hundredfold, she said.

It's true.

Years ago, when I lived in the Midwest, I clipped an editorial out of a Missouri newspaper that's a real keeper. Here's a paragraph from that editorial:

"The grownups say, 'Christmas is for the kids.' But they themselves enjoy it most, although often they are oddly ashamed to acknowledge it. In December their crust of foolish sophistication - the crust they grow to protect themselves from disappointment - wears thin. They light a silent candle to an old belief, that most men really do wish each other well but don't know quite what to do about it.

Christmas giving is transcendent.

Denise Turner is assistant features editor at The Times-News.

And the winners are ...



Ron and Inga Elkin of Buhl won first prize for their strategically framed photo of their 18-month-old son, Jim Patrick.



Second place went to Lynda McCurdy of Twin Falls for her seasonal photo of her friend, Gruffy.



Third place went to Valerie Vail of Paul for this Christmas candid of her 6-month-old son, Kody Mikel Vail.

Kids, pets dominate contest

By Steve Crump
Times-News writer

TWIN FALLS - There's a song from the movie, "The Full Monty," called "You Can Keep the Hat On."

Some day, 18-month-old Jim Patrick Elkin of Buhl may have cause to take issue with his mom's choice of photograph for the family Christmas card. It shows Jim wearing nothing but a Stetson and a smile.

For now, it won Inga Elkin first place in the fifth annual Times-News Holiday Photo Contest and the \$50 gift certificate that is its first prize.

"We'll see how he feels about it in 10 years or so," said Jim's father, Ron. "But it's a pretty good picture."

- The winners**
1. Ron and Inga Elkin: Buhl
 2. Lynda McCurdy, Twin Falls
 3. Valerie Vail, Paul

Runner-up was Lynda McCurdy of Twin Falls, for her holiday-themed photo of her buddy, Gruffy. McCurdy won \$25.

Valerie Vail of Paul was the third-place winner - worth \$15 - for her snapshot of son Kody Mikel's rueful view of the holidays.

In all, 52 readers entered the T-N holiday photo contest, which was judged by the paper's features staff.

Times-News features editor Steve Crump can be reached at 735-3223, or write to him at crump@magicvalley.com

Here's another kind of Christmas-morning surprise

Whether we realize it or not, celestial bodies rule our lives. Not by the anachronistic superstition of horoscopes, but by the fact that it's easier to obey natural cycles than to ignore them.

The earth's rotation defines our day, and its orbital period dictates holidays and tax day alike. The month approximates lunar rhythms. Natural cycles regulated our ancestors' lives, but we've abstracted them with clocks and calendars, and rarely bother to observe them directly.

Weather-permitting Monday morning, we'll get an opportunity to do just that. Starting at 8:17



SKYWATCH
Chris Anderson

a.m. local time, the moon will cross the sun's face - a partial solar eclipse. By mid-eclipse, at 9:33 a.m., about 25 percent of the sun will be blocked. Then the moon will slowly retreat, completing its transit at 10:49 a.m. Southern Idaho's next solar eclipse won't be until December 2001, and it won't

rival this one.

A word of caution: Observing this eclipse unprotected can cause irreparable eye damage. An eclipsed sun shining through folage projects dozens of crescent shadows on the ground. You can also project the image through a pinhole onto a white card. A specially designed filter is better still. But don't use sunglasses, exposed film or welder's glass. None of them are safe.

Another option, for those willing to take some time out from their Christmas morning activities (Dare you drag Katelina away from the new Barbie Beach House?) is

to drop by the College of Southern Idaho's Herrett Center. Planetary staff will provide solar telescopes for safe, close-up views of the millennium's last eclipse.

That's right: The millennium doesn't technically end until Dec. 31, 2000. That's another one of those cycles astronomers know about. More on that next week.

Chris Anderson is the planetary production specialist at the Faulkner Planetarium at the Herrett Center for Arts and Science at the College of Southern Idaho in Twin Falls. Write to him at canderson@csi.edu.

Sky calendar
(Today through Dec. 30)

Planets:

- One hour before sunrise: Mars, SSE
- One hour after sunset: Venus, SW, low; Jupiter, E; Saturn, ESE
- Moon phase: New, Monday, 10:22 a.m. Partial solar eclipse, 8:17-10:49 a.m.
- Very near Venus, Friday evening.

FAMILY LIFE

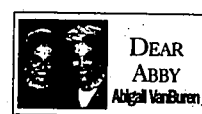
www.4Kids.org
Your Link to the Latest TECHNOLOGY on the Web
A WEB OF ART AT THE MET
Take a virtual tour of one of the largest museums in the world...

Speak Out!
HOME SCIENCE LAB
Put on your protective goggles and head to Exploration: Science Explorers
White House Virtual Tour
Take a tour of the White House from the comfort of your own computer...

AskAmy@4Kids.org
Dear Amy: Where can I learn about making...
Dear Amy: I have a very close relationship and I take good care of him...

Man doesn't want to raise someone else's son

DEAR ABBY: I'm 27 years old. When I was 18, I got married because my girlfriend was pregnant. We're now divorced, and my son lives with me because my ex refused to be responsible for him...



DEAR ABBY: I have just learned that my son isn't really my son after all. My ex finally admitted to me that she had always known he wasn't mine...

I'm extremely frustrated because I don't feel I should have to take care of a child who isn't even mine. I love the boy, but I don't feel he's responsible for him anymore...

DEAR ABBY: When my beloved transferred pictures and cards to a new wallet, he found a clipping from an old Dear Abby column. He'd carried it for ages...

DEAR BILL: In "flavin sex" the name of the game is sexual gratification. It's a selfish, physical exercise in which the partner can be a faceless object...

DEAR ABBY: Please explain the difference between "making love" and "having sex." A lot of people confuse these two very different acts. Who will please define each one?

CONFIDENTIAL TO MY READERS: Have a Merry Christmas, but keep in mind: if you're drinking, don't drive; if you're driving, don't drink.

Recollection of a gravel-clutcher

"Death - the last sleep? No, it is the final awakening." - Sir Walter Scott

By Austin Goodrich

Chicken Soup for the Soul

At his troop's golden anniversary gathering, a war veteran learns the meaning behind a dying soldier's exclamation.

I don't think much about World War II now, even though this year marks the passage of more than 50 years since it ended. I'm just comforted to know I had some we small part in its outcome.

Sometimes events of the past are either reduced to insignificance by people born before or enlarged beyond recognition by nostalgic reminiscences. Still, every once in a while, I can hear again that cry in the woods high on a ridge overlooking the town of Hitchcock in the Ruhr Valley.

It was then that I heard, through the scattered calls for help, the one cry that has remained with me all these years. The voice was that of PFC Marks, a rifleman in the 3rd Platoon. Like many of us in the 86th, Walter Marks had been slated to go to college when the war interrupted. I remember him as a smiling person with the impulse look of a boy always on the verge of pulling off a great practical joke.

merged into an earsplitting roll of deadly thunder. And I prayed, Oh, God, please, please make 'em stop. Please God!

Then, very suddenly, there was a terrible silence. It was over, but no one spoke, and bodies rose up like ghosts from a graveyard. Finally, calls were heard from different parts of the hillside: Medic, over here! Hurler! Help, Medic!

His voice traveled through the woods with a special resonance that overrode the cries for help and sounds of battle. "One word, spoken once. 'Marty'." Curious, I thought. The voice lacked the unmistakable sound of pain, nor did it hold any hint of desperation or even sorrow. It was more like a greeting.

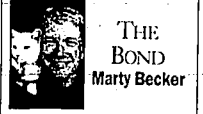
medic. "Did you see Marks back there?" "Yeah." "No, killed?" "But I heard him call out." "So did I, but I don't know how."

And on we went to do our duty. If I had known Marks better, I thought, I would try to find his mother when this was over and tell her she... as the last thing in her son's heart when he died. But I hadn't even known his first name, and as often happened, I was unable to continue to deal with death consciously.

Some of our old Company K buddies recently got together to celebrate the golden anniversary of our survival. One of them had been a close friend of Marks'. I asked him about our fallen hero's last moments and if he'd heard that call. He had. "He must have seen his mother in his mind's eye and c'ld out to her," I suggested.

A pet may make the best holiday gift ever

When choosing the perfect holiday gift, today's parents search for something that will make their child's eyes dance with excitement. The right gift should be nonviolent, inspire a child to move and exercise more, teach them something of value and be played with long after the Christmas tree is down or the menorah is put away, and the New Year begins.



Dogs vs. cats
Advantages of dogs as pets:
• In general, dogs will guard your house and you
• Dogs are more easily obedient trained than cats.

unknown health or behavior problem and it may be harder for an older pet to overcome insufficient early socialization.

What if you could give your child the gift of unconditional love, limitless affection, laughter and joy, and to-die-for loyalty? The perfect present just might come wrapped in fur and provide unforgettable years of loving companionship. And, unlike its stuffed counterpart, really does understand and communicate with your child!

Because there are many presents under the tree - and many of them are toys, a child may regard the pet as just another toy. And everyone knows the longevity of fascination with most toys received at Christmas!

Advantages of cats as pets:
• Cats are low maintenance. They can be left for a weekend with water, a food bowl and a litterbox.
• Cats are more easily house trained than dogs.

Young pets are usually the most fun to play with and watch. Adopting young gives the opportunity to socialize correctly, and establish a primary bond. As a veterinarian of 20 years and a lifetime pet lover, I know firsthand that one of life's greatest experiences is loving a pet.

Although it's common knowledge that a pet should never be an impulse buy, it's certainly possible that the well-considered decision to welcome a pet into the family could take place during the holidays.

Also, receiving a pet at this time can dilute the excitement and importance of this special gift. With so many other presents to open, the pet may not receive the love and attention it deserves at a critical time. Or the pet might receive all the attention, and the rest of the gifts and family don't get the attention they deserve. And finally, remember that there is a lot of activity at the holidays, which a new pet can find frightening.

An adult vs. a young pet:
• Adult animals (a shelter pet, for example) may exhibit fewer problems with house-soiling, play biting and crying. In addition, they may already be socialized and trained.
• Adult animals may have an

Former Twin Falls veterinarian Marty Becker is a veterinary contributor to ABC-TV's "Good Morning America" and is a contributing editor for Dog Fancy. He is the co-author of the best selling "Chicken Soup for the Pet Lover's Soul" and "Chicken Soup for the Cat & Dog Lover's Soul." Write to him in care of Knight Ridder/Tribune News Service, 790 National Press Building, Washington, DC 20045

'What Women Want' aims more at adult audiences

The Orange County Register

"What Women Want" (PG-13) - Twin Cinema, Century Cinema of Berkeley, Jerome Cinema, SkiTime Cinema. Best for Adults who can appreciate sexual themes and humor. What it's about: Nick (Mel Gibson) is a sexist, Chicago ad executive who's quite sure he's going to get a promotion from his admiring boss (Alan Alda) until Darcy (Helen Hunt) shows up. Darcy assigns Nick a box of feminist promotional products (for a new campaign) to take home and study, but instead of just looking them over, Nick decides to use the prod-



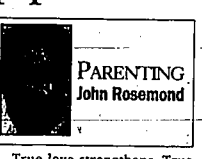
ucts. He accidentally trips into the bathroom (pantyhose and all) and receives a shock from a blow dryer in the water. The real shock in Nick's life is that now he can actually hear what women are thinking and discovers that his brash behavior, tasteless jokes and chauvinist traits are not appreciated. Marisa Tomei, Bette Midler, Lauren Holly co-star. The good: Director Nancy Meyers

has a gift for comedy ("Father of the Bride," "Parent Trap") that combines modern-day issues and dialogue with the old-style romantic-comedy formula. Funny scenes of Mel getting in touch with his female side (and bonding with women in a way most men never will) is the big payoff in this movie, but no graphic sex takes place and nothing is rated R. The not-so-good: Despite the PG-13 rating, this is still an adult story aimed at mature audiences who will understand the premise. Sexual dialogue, innuendoes, jokes and banter are traded between characters, with the spoken and unspoken thoughts heard on

screen. Mel gets Tomei in bed before he sees the error of his ways with Hunt, so this is not for kids or preteens, even though it has a PG-13 rating. Offensive language: Adult language and dialogue. Sexual situations: A couple are in bed together and things heat up, but no graphic sex takes place and nothing is rated R. Violence: None, apart from Gibson's bathtub shock. Parental advisory: Take your kids to "The Emperor's New Groove" and leave the sexual overtones, adult dialogue and mature relationship humor for adults. Entertainment value: A

Raising children is a leadership position

Effective discipline - the essence of effective child rearing - is not a set of techniques properly used. It is not spanking or time out or taking privileges away. It is not natural or logical consequences.



Rather, effective discipline consists of a point of view, an attitude. From this attitude naturally emanates a certain body language, a certain tone of voice, a certain calm, clarity of speech, and, most of all, love that strengthens.

True love strengthens. True love must sometimes say, "No, I won't help you. You can do that on your own" and stand firm in the face of the child's demand that his delusions of helplessness be acknowledged and indulged. The truly loving parent is willing, in other words, to cause his child frustration, resentment, even anger. He knows his child does not know what is in his own best interest. He knows his child often hates a good decision and rejoices in a bad one. He knows that "foolishness is bound in the heart of the child" (Proverbs 22:15) and that only a strong love can exercise this important truth.

He will obey because he has discovered - but cannot explain - that his parents' love and their discipline are one and the same. He will question because he can, but he will not likely rebel in self-destructive ways, even though he can. His parents do not try to control him, because they know they cannot. They control only that which they can control - their relationship with him. They - not he - decide whether he needs and what he does not need, and they provide all of what he needs, whether he wants any part of it or not, and a small amount of what he wants, whether he thinks he needs any part of it or not.

When the child is an adult, the child needs a parent who is a friend. To everything in parenting there is a season. To confuse the season is to confuse the child. Keep always in mind: You are not raising a child. You are raising an adult. What sort of adult do you want?

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LITTLE ANGELS

By Alan P. Olschwang, Huntington Beach, California

THE Sunday Crossword

Edited by Wayne Robert Williams

ACROSS

1 Grand island

7 Pais

10 Nom de guerre of Ernesto Guevara

13 Canine

19 Greek marketplace

20 Red-faced

22 Lake hear

23 Synonym of "stint of the"

24 Title of the Football Hall of Fame

25 start Evan Esar quote

26 Better arranged

28 Photographer

30 Selling point

31 Lat. or Lith. once

32 One to Theresa

33 R.V. connection

34 Movie pooch

36 Part 2 of quote

37 A fine place

47 Takes care of

48 Main course

50 Carriage hub

55 Carp and minnows

56 Family

58 Arthur of "The Golden Girls"

60 Piece of quota

61 Makes all better

62 Stationery tablets

64 Made a lip

64 The line (byed)

68 Brogan binders

68 Barrow leather

69 Part 4 of quote

73 Plant pest

76 Ancient region of Asia Minor

77 "we forgot..."

79 Inconspicuous suffix

81 Of a lens

82 The "Incessant File"

83 Explorer who claimed New Mexico for Spain

85 Part 5 of quote

86 "The Incessant File"

87 Arthur Deighton

89 All over again

91 Tush bread?

93 Vascular

94 Eugene O'Neill

95 "The..."

97 Headlands

100 Judds

102 Part of quota

105 Artifice

106 City

107 Of Santa's little helpers

108 McArthur's rod

111 Out of sugar or sandwich?

114 Unit of magnetic field

116 Personality

117 Entrails

120 Order of business

121 End of quote

124 Church organization

125 Like Brinker's skates

126 What's left over

127 Newspaper employee

128 Indian instruments

129 TV hours

130 CIA forerunner

131 Repairs stitches

DOWN

1 Forehead fringe

2 Ten followers?

3 Air-cushion vehicle

4 Length x width

5 Trading center

6 Battery mate?

7 Composer Richard Cory?

8 Fence the lot

9 Natalie's father

10 Mathematics of a...

11 Multiple layers?

12 Rim

13 Battle

14 Left on the plate

15 Ocean extract

16 Two places

17 ...fixe (obsession)

18 Sub projectile

19 Eric in Picoadilly

21 Circus

22 Order of business

27 Unit of sound

29 Long...

32 Church organization

33 Villain's look

35 Thin layer

37 Deli sub

38 Castro's way

39 Portuguese currency

41 Co-skiater Aldori

44 Term of tenancy

45 Weezy gasps

46 Train of spring?

47 Litter dropper?

48 Ottoman dynasty founder

49 Hilarious extremist

60 Gradually

61 3rd president

62 Carnival city

62 Addams family cousin

73 Improvise

74 Part

75 Sharpened

76 Fertilize

79 Kitchen addition?

80 Acuff and Rogers

82 Talker widely quoted

84 Walrus

86 Blood; pref.

87 Bahrain leader

88 Director Craven

89 White poplar

90 Satellite of Uranus

91 Rhythmic

98 Into places

99 Meat paste

99 Mogadishu resident

101 Obliterator

103 ...up (excited)

104 Ball attendees

109 Having the look of love

110 Russian rulers

111 Hacka

112 Jamaican fruit

113 Rhythmic

115 To be in (Inflor)

116 Female

117 Added benefit

118 Miami's county

119 Bird of Egypt

121 Promoa

123 Japanese vegetable

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After 35 perky years, there's an end to Up With People

The Washington Post

What was Up With People, exactly? It was hard to know. It began in 1965 as something called Sing Out, a folksy, feel-good hootenanny traveling to campuses and state fairs — the idea of one Dr. J. Blanton Beck to promote positive thinking among young adults. It provided a relentless supply of pasted-on smiles, jazz hands and shimmering tights. In the beginning, people who were up with people were worried that there was a crisis of the human spirit, which, of course, in 1965, there was.



After almost 35 years, Up With People is calling it quits.

The frowny faces won in the end, it seems. Up With People announced this month that it's "suspending operations," probably for good, selling its suburban Denver headquarters after coming up several million dollars in debt. The international, hyperdiverse Up With People touring cast of 17- to 27-year-olds has been summoned home, all 655 of them. There's one last gig: a halftime show at the Holiday Bowl next week in San Diego.

Up With People believed in the global, clean-cut, essential goodness of humanity. Performers would take the stage at school assemblies, nursing homes, carnivals, the pope's World Youth Day anywhere, really — and sing their tautologous hearts out ...

Selected from a couple thousand applicants, Up With People "cast members" each had to pay a tuition fee (\$14,300 last year) to the organization and, after a training period at headquarters, would join the casts on tour.

Nothing quite matched that uneasy terror of watching an Up With People show and worrying that a cast member would come down from the stage to seek out audience members to come up and clap and sing along. The crucial thing was not to make eye contact. (The world is made up of people who don't sing along and people who don't.) With Up People never understood just how many, on principle, don't.)

They'd travel the world and do charity work between shows, living with host families at each stop. Up With People amassed nearly 20,000 alumni — "uppies," as they call themselves in their alumni organization — including actress Glenn Close, who was in one of the first casts.

Remember those earnest faces singing "I'd like to teach the world to sing" in "Coke commercials"? Those people weren't actually in Up With People, but they should

be. Imagine a church basement production of "Godspell" that lasts 35 years, growing to an annual operating budget of \$31.5 million. You get the idea.

It's important to say there wasn't anything wrong with Up With People, nothing you could quite put your finger on. There was nothing to disagree with (people are good — aren't they?), and maybe that was the problem: The inexplicably perky always have a way of creeping out the rest of the world when all they mean to do is bring cheer. On college campuses in the 1980s, two recruiters always drew scorn: the Central Intelligence Agency, and Up With People. (It was easy to believe the two were somehow linked. Finding out someone was in Up With People is a little like finding out he once sold Army.)

Up With People wasn't religious, it wasn't right-wing, it wasn't left-wing, it wasn't dogmatic, it wasn't a fraternity or a sorority. It was only vaguely theatrical. It was spirited. It was a nonprofit charity to promote cross-cultural friendship, but for whom, for what, and why?

Kids can benefit from healthy dose of teasing, researcher says

Los Angeles Times

Are you concerned that other kids are calling your child "cactus head"? Worried that your son is telling his playmate he "throws like a girl"? Or do you flinch at parents who hit out a caddy, then pull it back so their child can't reach it?

Relax, says researcher Dacher Keltner, professor of psychology at the University of California, Berkeley. Most teasing is not only benign, but can also help children negotiate conflicts, socialize with one another and express affection.

Most studies on teasing acknowledge some forms have positive benefits, but they tend to focus on the mean side — when teasing crosses the line into bullying or harassment. That type of childhood teasing, particularly when it targets appearance, has been linked with serious problems later in life, such as depression, low self-esteem and eating disorders.

Keltner's research, to be published in the March issue of the journal Psychological Bulletin, offers a comprehensive look at what he calls the subtle art of "playful provocation."

In general, Keltner says many Americans tend to be too thin-skinned about teasing and lump all types together, missing the point. "Teasing is a form of play," he says, "and children learn over time how to provoke one another with an aggressive yet lighthearted edge."

"Our culture gets it wrong when we say teasing is why kids at Columbine shot other kids and we should try to eliminate teasing on the playground," he says. If we do, he says, we risk "losing important social behavior that has a lot of constructive uses."

Children as young as 5 understand that people communicate in ways that aren't always literal, he says. They can distinguish playful sarcasm ("Nice haircut, did the dog chew it up") from real criticism, for instance. Their own teasing develops from rudimentary insults ("You poo-poo head") to more subtle, often humorous, comments by age 10 ("Your mother's so skinny, she can take a shower and not get wet"), says Keltner. By sixth grade, 60 percent to 70 percent of students' teasing is aimed at promoting friendship, he says.

In fact, the most skilled teasers among 9- to 14-year-olds are usually those with the most friends, he says. In a study this year of boys at a

Minnesota basketball camp, Keltner asked one group of boys to cheer a free-thrower, and another to taunt him. Three days later, when asked whether they had made any new friends at camp, the boys who teased each other were more likely to name each other as friends, he says.

Skilled teasers — young and old — send a message that they feel close to the person they are teasing, Keltner says. A sharply personal gibe can promote greater affection when the teased person recognizes certain signals of playful intent and reconciles with the teaser, he says.

Keltner says he was first intrigued by teasing as a graduate

student at the University of California, San Francisco, studying facial expression and emotion. "One of the things that makes people embarrassed is to be teased," he says. "We hate this emotion, yet we inflict it on each other all the time. I thought there must be something good about it." Over the past five years, he has become a respected figure in the small but growing field, publishing dozens of papers. Teachers and child-care workers heard Keltner's research recently at a workshop held by the university's Institute of Human Development, which aims to apply the latest research to real classrooms.



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PERFECT ATTENDANCE



Most teachers would be amazed at Filer Middle School student Chantal Fritta's perfect school attendance for more than three years. Chantal moved from Wendover, Nev., to Filer in 1997, where she has been a strong student. She says she enjoys her school work, but her first love is band class where she is mastering the flute. She had a close call the week before school started this fall when she came down with a strap throat. However, she was up and going for the first day of class.

Castleford lists honor roll

CASTLEFORD - Castleford High School announced students on the honor roll.

Students with a grade-point average of 3.0 to 3.49 were: seventh-grade, Lisa Eastman, Nancy Monroe, Drew Gary Tverdy, Jared Welch, Lance Blick, Jessica Bobango, Angela Gonterman, Lauren Kline, Cindy Lopez, Melissa McCoy, Kalen Snelson and Layne E. Woodruff; eighth-grade, Kobi Ray Bower, Andrea Frey, Alycia Parks, Gary Welch, Tyler Miels, Larissa Blick, Luis Hernandez, Erica Reinhold and Laura Zavala; ninth-grade, Robert Comer, Keegan Colthorn, Stephanie Guerry, Jessica Hill,

Janet Hurley, Carl Steven Kennison, Evan Nolevanko, Wesley - Rodgers, Jorie Schorzman and Kelly Tabet; 10th-grade, Kathryn Atkinson, Tessa Danielle Burkhalter, Brent Hatch and Valentin Hernandez; 11th-grade, Melissa Brown, Jacob Dahl, Sylvia Hernandez, Danielle Ruiter, Brandon Tverdy and Jeannndry Wheeler and 12th-grade, Juliana Barrientos, Jacob Bokma, Eric Graybeal, Jasmine Lopez, Clayton Ruiter, Angela Sanderson, Lee Taylor, Crystal Watson, Jill Wiseman and Ricardo Zavala.

Students with a 3.5 to 4.0 GPA were: ninth-grade, Tim Hill and

Matthew Reinhold; 10th-grade, Rebecca Dahl, Benjamin Graybeal, Malorie Graybeal, Danielle Hoogland, Adrian Lopez, Drew Maves, Mark Reinhold, Benjamin Rodgers, Jennifer Svancara, Jennifer VanderWalker and Zane Wyatt; 11th-grade, Jamie Bergama, Ryan Blick, Jonathan Bobango, Nathan Bulkeley, Susana Cardoso, Angelece Guerry, Megan Harr, Mark Hatch, Kirsten Kneier and LoriAnn Wiersma; 12th-grade, Darcus Booth, Nicholas Clark, Stephanie Clark, BreAnn Farnsworth, Noelle Graybeal, Carly Haley, Lori Puschel Amy Schofield, Macey Sheldon and Janelle Wiersma.

Filer Library announces new books

FILER - The Filer Library at 219 Main, has announced the following new books:

Children's books: "Bacteria and Viruses" by Leslie Jean LeMaster, "Marshes and Swamps" by Lynn M. Stone, "Make Room for Elisa" by Johanna Hurwitz, "Hats Off to John Stetson" by Mary Blount Christian, "One Potato, Tu" by Gayle Pearson, "Locks, Crocs and Skeeeters (The Story of the Panama Canal)" by Nancy Winslow Parker, "Just Around the Corner: Poems About the Seasons" by Leland B. Jacobs, "County Fair" adapted by Laura Ingalls Wilder, "You Hold Me and I'll Hold You" by Jo Carson, "I spy a Freight Train: Transportation in Art" by Lucy Micklethwait, "The Village of Round and Square Houses" by Ann Grifalconi, "Detecting the Past" by Mike Corbishley, "Vitamins: What They Are, What they Do" by Judith S. Seixas, "Flatfoot Fox and the Case of the Nosy Otter" by Eth Clifford, "The Tale of Thomas Mead" by

Pat Hutchins, "River Rats" by Caroline Stevermer, "Puppies, Dogs, & Blue Northers" by Gary Paulsen, "An Instant Guide to Reptiles and Amphibians" by P. Forey and C. Fitzsimons, "Jazz, Pizzazz and the Silver Threads" by Mary Quattlebaum, "Getting Lincoln's Goat" by EM Goldman, "Foodworks" by Ontario Science Centre, "Greta's Revenge" by Steven J. Simmons, "A Tree Is Nice" by Janice May Udry, "Franklin's Halloweens" by Paulette Bourgeois, "Millions of Cats" by Wanda Gag, "What Am I? Fierce, Strong and Snappy" by Moira Butterfield, "I Want To Be an Environmentalist" by Stephanie Maze, "Who Took the Farmer's Hat?" by Joan L. Nodset, "The Little House" by Virginia Lee Burton, "Locked in the Library" by Marc Brown, "Dinosaurs Before Dark (Magic Tree House 1)" by Mary Pope Osborne, "Midnight On the Moon (Magic Tree House 8)" by Mary Pope Osborne, "The Case of the Kidnapped Collie (Hank the Cowdog 26)" by John R.

Erickson, "The Case of the Night Stalking Bone Monster (Cowdog 27)" by John R. Erickson, "The Pine Tree Parable" by Liz Curtis Higgs, "Squanto and the Miracle of Thanksgiving" by Eric Metaxas and "The Pumpkin Patch Parable" by Liz Curtis Higgs.

Adult non-fiction: "Who Cares? Millions do" by Milton Metzger, "Darcus in America" by Gerald Lwinwand, "The Day John Died" by Christopher Anderson, "If Wishes Were Horses" by Loretta and Nancy Gage, "People Profiles: George Clooney" by Merrell Noden, "Final Gifts" by M. Callanan and P. Kelley, "Nothing Like It in the World" by Stephen E. Ambrose, "Joe DiMaggio: The Hero's Life" by Richard Ben Cramer, "Best-Loved Cookies" by Publications Int. Ltd., "Guinness World Records 2001" by Guinness, "The Case of the Kidnapped Collie" by Hank the Cowdog, "The Case of the Kidnapped Collie (Hank the Cowdog 26)" by John R.

NEW GENERATION



The Erdmann family added another generation with the birth of Cameron Robert Erdmann on Oct. 2. The family now includes, from left to right, great-grandfather Richard Erdmann of Buhl, grandfather Robert Erdmann of Twin Falls and Cameron's father, Geurin Erdmann of Twin Falls. Seated is great-grandmother Romance Christensen of Buhl.

Photo courtesy of ROBERT ERDMANN

FOCUS ON PEOPLE

Jund becomes member of national honor society.

Sarah Jund, daughter of Becky Jensen from Twin Falls was among 15 William Penn University students inducted Nov. 4 into the Iowa Beta chapter of Alpha Chi, a national honor scholarship society.

To be eligible for Alpha Chi, a student must be in the top 10 percent of the junior or senior class and have 24 credit hours.

The objectives of Alpha Chi are to promote and to recognize superior scholarships and those elements of character which make scholarships effective for service.

Wagner studies at Rome campus of U of Dallas

Ryan Wagner of Twin Falls studied at the University of Dallas Rome campus during the spring semester.

Sophomores spend a semester at the university's campus outside Rome. Students there, regardless of major, participate in courses that are closely concerned with the development of Western civilization and most appropriate to the Rome experience.

The campus is located in the Italian countryside outside Rome

near the Pope's summer villa.

Twin Falls woman delivers Christmas gifts to abroad

Rhonda Patterson, a new nursing assistant at BridgeView Estates, has been selected by Life Care Centers of America to be one of five Life Care associates to help bring Christmas cheer to children in Honduras.

As a part of Operation Christmas Child, Life Care facilities nationwide worked with their communities to collect more than 117,000 shoe boxes full of toys and personal hygiene items for children in war-stricken and impoverished areas, exceeding the company goal of 100,000 boxes, Life Care representative said.

Patterson, a young mother and wife, began working at BridgeView Estates in late October. In addition to duties at work and home, she is also becoming a certified nursing assistant.

Patterson will travel to Honduras Jan. 21-25 with representatives from Samaritan's Purse, the Christian relief organization that began the Operation Christmas Child project in 1991. BridgeView Estates, located at 1828 BridgeView Blvd. in Twin

Falls, is one of nine nursing facilities in Idaho operated by Life Care Centers of America, with headquarters in Cleveland, Tenn.

Twin Falls District names employees of month

Ram Olsen has been chosen as the Twin Falls School District classified employee of the month for November.

Olsen is a resource teacher assistant and was born and raised in Illinois.

Olsen moved to Idaho in 1972. Olsen says her three children are her greatest achievement and her favorite part of the day is when a child wants a hug. She said she is in this field of work to help a child reach his or her potential.

Anna Nail has been chosen as the district certified employee of the month for November. Nail is an English as a second language teacher and grew up in San Salvador. Her parents inspired her to do her very best, she said. Nail says her greatest achievement is her family and her favorite part of the day is when her students understand difficult concepts.

She is in this field of work to help students become successful, she added.

We want your news

If it's news to you, we want to hear about it.

- Community meetings.
- Celebrations
- Social events
- Reunions
- Individual achievements.
- Your kids and their activities.



Pat Marcontonio

Please send your news and photos to:

Community Editor
Pat Marcontonio
The Times-Hews
P.O. Box 548
Twin Falls, Idaho
83303
733-0931 Ext. 288

Fax: 677-4543 or 734-5538
E-mail: patm@magvalley.com

Deadlines

For the Sunday page: noon Wednesday
For the Thursday page: noon Monday
For the Tuesday page: noon Friday
For the Saturday page: noon Tuesday
For the Wednesday page: noon Friday

Read Comunidad on Thursdays. News for and about Latinos

COMMUNITY EVENTS

Burley High School 1995 graduates plan reunion

BURLEY - Burley High School 1995 graduates are planning a five-year class reunion for 7 p.m. Thursday at the new Burley High School, 2100 Parke Ave., Burley.

Signs will be posted and the back entry will be used. There will be awards, a program and resources to check on long-lost friends. A committee, contact list and plans for the 10-year reunion will be started.

Anyone who cannot attend but wishes to be included on the contact list or anyone with questions can call Becky Ringle at 678-3145.

CSI offers computer-aided drafting night classes

TWIN FALLS - Computer-aided drafting night classes will be offered during the College of Southern Idaho's spring semes-

ter, especially for people who need to upgrade their skills. Drafting instructor Pat Ferrell says the one credit course (DRAT S0085) is especially for high school educators who are learning the drafting industry's new standard, Auto Cad. Ferrell says the class would also be good for anyone in a construction or consulting firm who is upgrading from the older Version 14 to the new 2000 or 2001 programs.

The classes will be held from 7-10 p.m. Monday and Thursday evenings from Feb. 5 through March 8. The registration fee is \$65 plus the textbook, which costs approximately \$47. The class will be held in Canyon building room 115.

For more information, call Pat Ferrell at 733-9554, Ext. 2326.

Ul offers free applications for Federal Student Aid

MOSCOW - The 2001-02 Free

Applications for Federal Student Aid are now available at the University of Idaho Office of Student Financial Aid or may be completed via printed forms or online at www.fafsa.ed.gov.

Students already receiving financial aid will receive a renewal form by mail, others may pick one up at the UI Student Financial Aid office at the Student Union Building on campus.

To meet the priority deadline, completed forms must be at the federal processor's office by Feb. 15 (not just postmarked by that date).

However, it cannot be filed until Jan. 1. If it is, the application will be rejected.

Students who meet the Feb. 15 deadline will be considered for aid, including programs with limited funding such as the Perkins loan, Work Study, grants and

need-based scholarships. Students who do not meet this deadline most likely will be considered only for the Pell Grant and Direct Stafford loans.

For complete instructions about income estimation, completing the form or the printed signature page, and required signatures, contact UI Student

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BRACKETT-REVIER

THREE CREEK - Bert and Paula Brackett of Three Creek announce the engagement of their daughter, Jani Lynn Brackett, to John Paul Revier, son of Gary and Nancy Revier of Red Wood Falls, Minn., and Mary and Gerald Blue of Mankato, Minn.

Brackett is a graduate of Filer High School and Oklahoma State University in Stillwater, Okla. She is employed by Sen. Larry Craig in Washington, D.C.
Revier is a graduate of Red Wood Falls High School and Mankato State University in Mankato, Minn.



John Revier and Jani Brackett
He is employed by Rep. Mike Simpson in Washington, D.C.
The wedding is planned for Jan. 6, 2001, in Buhl.

McSWAIN-HARRISON

TWIN FALLS - Mark and Yvonne McSwain of Farmington, Utah, announce the engagement of their daughter, Mandi Lin McSwain, to Marc Jared Harrison, son of Marc and Sherri Harrison of Twin Falls.

McSwain is a native of Farmington, Utah, and is a senior at Brigham Young University in Provo, Utah. She will graduate in April 2001 with a degree in economics.
Harrison is a 1997 graduate of Twin Falls High School. He served a mission in the Missouri Independence Mission and is currently a sophomore at BYU in Provo, majoring in pre-med.

The wedding is planned for



Marc Harrison and Mandi McSwain
Thursday in the Bountiful LDS Temple in Bountiful, Utah. An open house will be held from 7-9 p.m. Jan. 5, 2001, at the Shilo Inn in Twin Falls.

INFANGER-DALTON

GOODING - John and Deby Infanger of Gooding announce the engagement of their daughter, Julia Ann Infanger, to James Robert Dalton, son of Gary Dalton of Jerome and Karen Dalton of Twin Falls.

Infanger is a graduate of Gooding High School. She attended Ricks College and graduated from Bon Lossee Beauty Academy in Provo, Utah. She will be employed at J.C. Penney's Hair Salon in Boise.

Dalton is a graduate of Jerome High School and the University of Idaho. He will be employed by the office of the governor, state of Idaho.

The wedding is planned for



James Dalton and Julia Infanger
Thursday in the Boise LDS Temple. A reception will be held from 7-9 p.m. Friday at the Gooding LDS Church.

SPACKMAN-HILL

TURLEY - Terry and Debbie Spackman of Richmond, Utah, announce the engagement of their daughter, Marcie Ann Spackman, to Porter Jack Hill, son of Jack and Laura Hill of Burley.

Spackman is attending Utah State University in Logan, Utah.
Hill is also attending Utah State University in Logan. He served an LDS mission to Colorado.

The wedding is planned for Friday in the Boise LDS Temple. A reception and dance to honor the couple will be held from 7-9 p.m. Friday at the Burley-West Stake Center, 2400 Parke Ave.



Marcie Spackman and Porter Hill

CLEMENTS-TICE

TWIN FALLS - Orin V. and Andrea K. Clements of Twin Falls announce the engagement of their daughter, Andrea Cathleen Clements, to Nathaniel Merle LeRoy Tice, son of Chris and LaDawn Tice of Middleton, Del.

Clements is a 1996 graduate of Twin Falls High School. She is attending Idaho State University in Pocatello and will graduate in May 2001 with a master's degree in chemistry.
Tice is attending ISU, majoring in geotechnical engineering. He is employed by the Idaho National Guard in Pocatello.

The wedding is planned for Jan. 4, 2001, in the Bountiful LDS Tem-



Nathaniel Tice and Andrea Clements
ple in Bountiful, Utah. A reception will be held from 7-9 p.m. Jan. 5, 2001, at the Twin Falls Stake Center, 421 Maurice St.

DASELER-SCANLON

HAILEY - Jerry and Peggy Daseler of St. Louis, Mo., announce the engagement of their daughter, Carolyn Daseler, to Kyle Scanlon, son of Owen and Carla Scanlon of Hailey.

Daseler graduated from high school in Fortna, Colo., and attended Ricks College. She is attending Utah State University.
Scanlon graduated from Wood River High School and attended Ricks College. He served a mission to the Chili Santiago North Mission. He is attending Utah State University, pursuing a degree in theater arts.

The wedding is planned for



Kyle Scanlon and Carolyn Daseler
Thursday in the Bountiful LDS Temple in Bountiful, Utah. A reception will be held from 7 to 9 p.m. Friday at the Sun Valley LDS Church, 300 Spruce Ave., Ketchum.

WEDDING

MARTINEZ-ANDERSON

TWIN FALLS - Tamara Martinez and Clint Anderson were married on Sept. 5 in Coeur d'Alene.

The bride is the daughter of Nick and Diane Martinez of Belleville, Mich.
The groom is the son of Ann Anderson of Kimberly and the late Charles Anderson.

Family and friends are invited to attend a celebration in their honor at 6:30 p.m. Wednesday at The Ballroom, 205 Shoshone St. N. in Twin Falls.
The bride is a graduate of Davis High School in Farmington, Utah, and received a bachelor's degree from Utah State University in 1994. She is currently the assistant dean for admissions at Gonzaga School of Law. The groom is a 1989 graduate of Twin Falls High School and received



Clint and Tamara Anderson
a bachelor's degree in forest services management from the University of Idaho in 1998. He is currently an employee of the Western Timberlands Information Services Division of Weyerhaeuser Corporation.
The couple resides in Spokane, Wash.

Classified 733-0931

ANNIVERSARIES

THE LANCASTERS

TWIN FALLS - Mr. and Mrs. David H. Lancaster of Twin Falls celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary on Dec. 23.

Lancaster and Nancy E. Shelton were married Dec. 23, 1950, in the Filer Methodist Church.

The couple lived the first half of their married life in the Seattle, Wash. area, where he worked for the Boeing Aircraft Co. They returned to Idaho in 1973. He worked for Acme Manufacturing in Filer from 1973 to 1986. He then attended the College of Southern Idaho and became a certified substance abuse counselor for the Port of Hope. He retired in November 1998. She worked 17 years for the city of Twin Falls with 15 years as a records secretary for the Twin Falls Police Department. She retired in September 1997.

A barbecue picnic was held Aug. 27 at Rock Creek Park for family and friends to honor the occasion.



David and Nancy Lancaster

The event was hosted by their four children, Kathleen McKnight of Twin Falls, Nancy Jane (Date) Jackson of Ellensburg, Wash., Steven (Luis) Lancaster of Marysville, Wash., and Alan (Janette) Lancaster of Twin Falls. A special guest was David's mother, Phoebe Lancaster, making five generations in attendance.
The couple has 11 grandchildren and 11 great-grandchildren.

THE WHITESIDES

HEYBURN - Mr. and Mrs. Rulon Whitesides celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary Dec. 23 with their family.

Whitesides and Mildred Lewis were married Dec. 23, 1950, in Ogden, Utah.

They are graduates of Utah State University and members of the LDS Church. They lived in Sacramento, Calif., the Salt Lake City, Utah, before moving to the Kasota area in April 1957. They drew a farm under the Homestead Act and have farmed in the area until their retirement in 1995. She was a homemaker and also worked for 10 years in the South Central District Health Department WIC Program.

The couple has three children, Wendy Seamons, Janice Allen and W. Lewis Whitesides, and 10 grandchildren.



Mildred and Rulon Whitesides

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SENIORS

Worker must report earnings from church

Q. I am self-employed working for a nonprofit organization (my church). Do I need to report my earnings to Social Security?

A. Yes. You must report earnings of \$100 or more if you are self-employed working for your church or church-controlled organization. Should you need more information, you can call us toll-free at 1-800-772-1213 and ask for the factsheet, "If You Work For A Nonprofit Organization," or check our Web site for more information.

Q. I read something about Medicare coverage being extended for disabled beneficiaries who are working or thinking about working. How do I find more information? Is there any information on the Internet?

A. It's true that Social Security beneficiaries with disabilities who

Social Security Q & A

are working, or thinking about working, may be eligible for expanded Medicare coverage. The coverage increases from 39 to 93 months after the end of the trial work period. This is the first provision to become effective under the Ticket to Work and Work Incentive Improvement Act that was signed into law by President Clinton in December 1999. For more information, visit our Website at <http://www.sssa.gov/govwork/> or call our toll-free number at 1-800-772-1213.

This column was prepared by the Social Security Administration. For just answers to specific Social Security questions, contact Social Security toll-free at 800-772-1213.

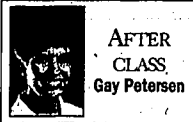
Make Christmas a time of sheer joy

Christmas is here already — can another year have gone by so soon?

It is hard to believe how quickly time passes. We have decorated the tree and put up the wreath and the lights and the Santas. And just as soon, it seems, it will be time to take everything down to be put away until next year which, of course, will be here before we know it. And so it goes.

I love Christmas. I love the sights and sounds and smells of that wonderful day. I love the joy it brings — the happy faces of children, the family get-togethers, the warmth of love.

I think of my mother especially at this time of year. I don't know anyone who loved Christmas more than my mother. She bought presents for everyone though she could ill afford it. Until she was unable to do it anymore she always had Christmas dinners with often 30 or more



AFTER CLASS
Gay Petersen

family members in her home. How her face would light with joy as children and grandchildren, aunts, uncles, cousins, nephews and nieces would come together and joyfully celebrate the day. The size or number of presents didn't matter — it truly was the thought that went into each one that counted.

She was very sentimental too. Most of the decorations on the tree were ancient, and I believe the angel which topped the tree will be sixty-five years old this year. My sister still has her, though she has had her dress

replaced a couple of times.

We were brought up to believe that Santa not only brought presents on Christmas, but also decorated the tree, so when we were children we always woke up to a tree newly decorated and beautiful — done, of course, during the night as Santa made his rounds. Did we ever question how Santa could visit every house in the world, bring presents and do the decorating as well? No, we never did. We had complete faith when we were children. I remember not really wanting to believe the truth when I caught Mom and Dad decorating the tree in the middle of the night. I miss those naive, innocent days. I feel so fortunate to have grown up in a time when there was less commercialism, fewer demands by children, more acceptance of the fact that one present was all one could expect, but was enough.

Today commercialism has

assured that demands by children are greater, and more pressure is put on parents to get the children everything their hearts desire. Christmas, unfortunately, has become a time when many feel in debt to provide what they believe is necessary in order that the day be a success.

Christmas should be, not a time of stress for families, not a time to worry about more debt, but a time of joy, of kindness, of caring and showing love — feelings that should apply any time. Perhaps we should all take a step back and examine what should be the priorities in our lives, and if we can truly say that these feelings are most important, then we can indeed have a merry Christmas that will last throughout the year.

Gay Petersen is a retired teacher who lives in Wendell. Write to her at petersen@magicklink.com



Great gift idea for kids and grandkids.

Purchase Series EE and Series I Bonds for your kids or grandkids, in small or large denominations, for birthdays or other special events. When you buy bonds as gifts, request gift certificates (to let bond recipients know you purchased bonds for them). Purchased in a child's name, bonds can help finance a child's education expenses or down payment on a first home. Investors who meet eligibility requirements can get special tax benefits when bonds are redeemed to pay for college tuition and fees.

Ways to Buy Bonds

1. Through an employer. The easiest way to save with bonds is through an employer who offers Series EE or Series I Savings Bond purchase by automatic payroll deduction (the Payroll Savings Plan). Payroll deduction encourages regular savings: "Save It Before You See It!" Half the \$4.7 billion in bonds bought in 1998 were through payroll savings. See if your employer offers bond purchase through

payroll deduction. If not, encourage your employer to do so.
2. Through participating financial institutions. You can buy U.S. Savings Bonds directly from most (but not all) banks and other financial institutions. (Currently 40,000 institutions offer bonds for purchase.) You'll pay no fees or commissions. Just fill out a form and receive your bond within three weeks.
3. Online. The Bureau of the Public Debt (the Treasury Department agency responsible for all bond-related matters) has made Savings Bonds available for purchase on the Internet.

What You Should Know

Advantages of Bonds

Savings Bonds come in small or large denominations, don't require high minimum balances, and are backed by the full faith and credit of the United States. They can be part of a balanced retirement

portfolio, along with CDs, money markets, mutual funds, 401 (k)s, and IRAs. Bonds are perfect for new or lapsed savers who want to start small, get into the savings habit, sit back and watch their savings grow. New on the market since September 1998 are the Series I Savings Bonds, which provide inflation-indexed savings together with a fixed yield.

Impressive Facts

- 55 million Americans currently own 800 million Savings Bonds worth \$186 billion;
- Each year, 15 million people buy more Savings Bonds;
- U.S. Savings Bonds are the most widely held type of security in the world;
- 83% of bond investors buy bonds as retirement investments, among other reasons.

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What Do You Know About Christmas Trees?

See how many questions you can answer about Christmas trees. Some of the answers may be in the above article. All the answers are at the bottom, but don't look until you've tried!

1. Where was the first Christmas tree lot in the United States?
2. How many states grow Christmas trees?
3. How many Christmas tree growers are there in the United States?
4. Can you name three types of Christmas trees?
5. How were the first Christmas trees decorated?

True or False?

6. When a tree is cut, one seedling is planted in its place.
7. It takes three years for a new Christmas tree to grow.
8. The United States was the first country to have Christmas trees.
9. Alaska and Texas are the top Christmas tree-growing states.
10. President Harry S. Truman put up the first White House tree.

10. False. Franklin Pierce brought the tradition to the White House.
9. False. Oregon, Michigan, Wisconsin, Pennsylvania, California and North Carolina are the top Christmas tree producers.
8. True. The first recorded Christmas tree was brought to the United States in 1846.
7. True. The average growing time is seven years, and some take as long as 15.
6. False. Two in three decorated trees are painted or replace a cut Christmas tree.
5. True. Wreaths and colored paper.
4. True. Fir, Scotch pine, Virginia pine and white pine.
3. True. The most popular Christmas trees are balsam fir, Douglas fir, Fraser fir, Noble fir, and Spruce.
2. True. 15,000.
1. True. New York.

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HEALTHY CHEF

Sugarless Oatmeal Cookies

INGREDIENTS:

1/2 C. margarine
4 tsp. sweet 10 or sucaryl liquid
1 tsp. vanilla
1 egg
1 C. flour, sifted
1 tsp. cinnamon
1/2 tsp. salt
1/2 tsp. soda
3/4 C. cold water
1 C. rolled oats, quick cooking
1/2 C. raisins

DIRECTIONS:

In a large mixing bowl, combine softened margarine, sweetener, vanilla, and egg. Beat 2 minutes at high speed, scraping bowl occasionally, until well blended. Sift dry ingredients, except oats. Add to margarine mixture with water. Beat at low speed until well combined, about 2 minutes. Stir in rolled oats and raisins. (Dough will be soft.) Drop by teaspoon two inches apart onto ungreased cookie sheet. Bake at 375° F for 12 to 15 minutes. Store cookies in a plastic bag in refrigerator.

YIELD: 4 dozen cookies

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