

The Times

Twin Falls, Idaho/96th year, No. 4

Thursday, January 4, 2001

50 cents

GOOD MORNING

WEATHER

Today:
Partly morning fog, then partly sunny. High, 36. Low, 24.
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MAGIC VALLEY



Online registration: CSI is looking to get students off registration lines, by helping them register online.
Page C1

Changing course: An Idaho sugar company is changing its beet hauler.
Page C1

MONEY

Ready to build: The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs is preparing to move its Twin Falls outpatient clinic to downtown.
Page C5

OUTDOORS

Makin' tracks: Animal tracks are stories in the snow, but it takes patience to read them.
Page D1

SPORTS

Sooner slam: Oklahoma State shut the door on Florida State's hopes of back-to-back national college football titles in the Orange Bowl Wednesday night.
Page B1

OPINION

Civics lesson: Times' editorial salutes the Twin Falls School District for working to solve its building problems in-house.
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CLASSIFIED

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Three die in Eden shooting

By Mark Heinz
Times-News writer

EDEN — Two Jerome County Sheriff's Department deputies and a suspect were killed Wednesday night in a shooting in Eden, after deputies had attempted to serve a narcotics warrant at a home. None of the victims' names were available Wednesday night. The shooting occurred at about 7 p.m. after an unknown number of sheriff's deputies arrived at a home on the 200

Officers attempt to serve warrant; two Jerome deputies, suspect are fatally shot

block of Atherton Street. Two of the deputies attempted to serve a warrant, and were fatally shot, said Capt. David Neal of the Idaho State Police, which is leading the investigation into the shooting. A suspect was also fatally shot, Neal said. No one else was wounded, Neal said. Neal declined to say how many deputies

had been sent to the home to serve the warrant. Neal also declined to release any additional information about the investigation, and declined to say whether there are any additional suspects in the case. However, Jerome County Prosecutor John Nicholson left the scene of the shooting Wednesday night, to seek a second

search warrant for the home, Neal said. A variety of law enforcement officers — including Jerome and Hazelton city police, Jerome and Twin Falls county deputies, and ISP officers — had roped off the home and a surrounding city block in the modest neighborhood Wednesday night. Officers were visibly upset by the shooting. Jerome County Sheriff Jim Weaver had left the scene of the shooting Wednesday night, to meet with the deputies' next of kin, Neal said.

CLEAN AS A WHISTLE



Dick Mitchell washes down a pipe from the pipe organ at Immanuel Lutheran Church in Twin Falls. Mitchell installed the organ in 1964 and returned to disassemble the organ and clean it of smoke damage after a December fire gutted a wing of the church. Mitchell said he hopes to have the organ up and running by next week.

Bedke heads to House

Governor adds Oakley rancher in time for session

By Michael Journee
Times-News writer

BOISE — Gov. Dirk Kempthorne Wednesday tapped Oakley rancher Scott Bedke as the newest member of the Idaho House — just in time for the start of the Legislature's 2001 session Monday.

Kempthorne selected Bedke, 42, from a list of three nominees presented by District 25's Republican executive committee, which Friday whittled a list of 10 candidates. Bedke was the committee's top nominee to replace former Rep. Jim Kempton, R-Albion, "I've known and worked with



Scott Bedke

See page HOUSE, Page A2

DEQ posts draft permit for hog farm

Public can comment on review of plan for Raft River project

By Ruth Streeter
Times-News writer

RURILEY — The state is one step closer to finishing its review of a proposal for a large hog farm in Cassia County.

Now it's the public's turn. And one critic of the project says residents need more time to digest the state's written review.

The Idaho Department of Environmental Quality Friday issued its draft permit for the Big Sky Farms LLC project.

Copies of the draft permit were posted Wednesday on the DEQ's Internet site. Copies can also be obtained at the Burley

and Twin Falls public libraries or the Twin Falls or Boise DEQ offices.

The DEQ will hold a public hearing on the project at 7 p.m. on Jan. 17 at the Burley High School Little Theater. Written comments will be accepted through Feb. 20.

After that hearing, the state could begin working on its final permit for the project.

But the final say belongs to county planners, who have scheduled their own hearings.

At 7 p.m. on Jan. 18 and 19, the Cassia County Planning and Zoning Commission will hold two public hearings, at the King Fine Arts Center at Burley High School.

Raft River resident Mike Garner, a staunch opponent of the farm and a neighbor of the

proposed site, is requesting additional time for the public to review the draft permit before the planning and zoning hearings. He is on the agenda for tonight's 7 p.m. planning and zoning meeting at Burley City Hall.

The operation would sit on 5,090 acres 24 miles east of Burley, in the Raft River area. It would include five sow-farrowing facilities each designed for a capacity of 11,000 sows, and 10 finishing units each designed to hold 54,000 swine.

According to the permit, the groundwater at the site is 100 feet deep and is used for agriculture and culinary purposes, while the nearest body of water is Raft River.

The permit prohibits using of waste water for land application.

The permit, which must be renewed every five years, also establishes a one-mile buffer zone

between animal housing or waste treatment and building for public occupation. There's also a 500-foot buffer between animal housing or waste treatment and any well.

Cassia County commissioners and other county officials are in southern Utah this week visiting two hog farms. County officials have visited hog farms in 1999 in states such as Colorado and Indiana, as part of their research on the controversial issue.

The final word on the project belongs to the county, because local officials last year decided not to operate under a state livestock siting law that gives the counties optional guidelines, and a way to tap into state expertise.

Times-News writer Ruth Streeter can be reached at the Mini-Cassia Bureau at 677-4042, Ext. 109, or by e-mail at rstreeter@magicvalley.com

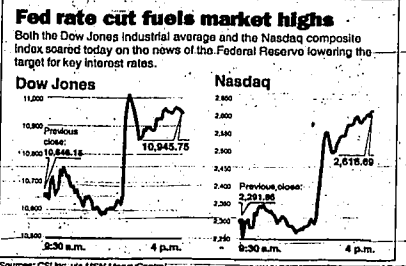
In surprise move, Fed cuts rates; markets rejoice

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The Federal Reserve, confronted with new evidence of a rapidly weakening economy, took the dramatic action Wednesday of lowering a key interest rate by half a percentage point, the biggest reduction in more than eight years.

Wall Street soared on the surprise announcement, and President-elect Bush voiced his approval: He said such "bold action" was needed to avert recession.

The reduction to 6 percent in the Fed's target for the federal funds rate, the interest that banks charge each other, was approved during an emergency telephone conference call



President-elect George W. Bush talks with business leaders Wednesday in Austin, Texas.

Bush, meeting with business leaders, applauds

The Associated Press

AUSTIN, Texas — President-elect Bush praised a reduction in interest rates Wednesday as one of the steps necessary to "make sure that our economy does not go into a tailspin." But he said it will not do the job alone, and his tax cut plan remains vital.

Bush received the surprise news of the Fed's interest rate

More on politics — A35

See page BUSH, Page A3

FORECAST FOR MAGIC VALLEY

AccuWeather.com

IDAHO ALMANAC
Idaho Extremes
Yesterday: High 45, Low 10
This Falls through 8 p.m. yesterday: High 36, Low 12

FIVE-DAY FORECAST FOR TWIN FALLS

TODAY: Patchy fog early, then partly sunny. TONIGHT: Partly cloudy with patchy fog. FRIDAY: Any fog followed by some sunshine. SATURDAY: Patchy morning fog, then partly sunny. SUNDAY: Clouds and intervals of sunshine. MONDAY: Cloudy with the chance of snow and rain.

CANADIAN CITIES

Table listing Canadian cities and their weather forecasts for today and Friday.

REGIONAL WEATHER

Southern Idaho: Patchy low clouds and fog in the valleys early; otherwise, a mixture of clouds and sunshine today. Partly cloudy tonight with patchy fog. Patchy fog, then partly sunny tomorrow. Boise: Patchy fog or low clouds for a time this morning, then partly sunny the rest of today. Partly cloudy tonight with patchy fog possible the rest of today. Friday.

SUN AND MOON

Sunrise today: 6:58 a.m. Sunset tonight: 5:33 p.m. Moonrise today: 11:33 a.m. Moonset tonight: 11:31 p.m.

WORLD CITIES

Table listing world cities and their weather forecasts for today and Friday.



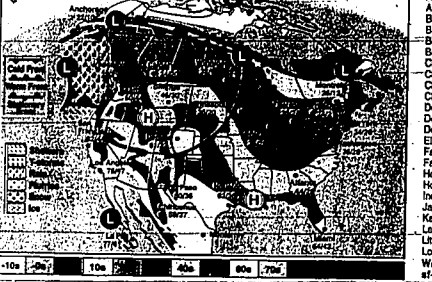
REGIONAL CITIES

Table listing regional cities like Boise, Bonners Ferry, Burley, and others with their weather forecasts.

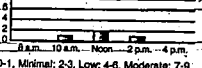
NATIONAL EXTREMES

High 83° in OceanSide, CA Low -15° in Gunnison, CO

NATIONAL WEATHER



UV INDEX TODAY



NATIONAL CITIES

Table listing national cities and their weather forecasts for today and Friday.

AAA Travel advertisement for Hawaii with 'Tired of the Winter Cold?' headline.

Smoke from kitchen fire kills 11 in rural Delaware

OAK ORCHARD, Del. - A kitchen fire spread thick smoke through a small rural home early Wednesday, killing 11 family members, seven of them children. Someone inside the burning house called 911 about 3 a.m. By the time firefighters arrived, heavy smoke was billowing from the one-story home, said Patrick Miller of the Indian River Fire Company. The fire itself was small and was put out quickly, he said. "This is about the worst I've ever seen in Delaware, or ever heard of," said the Rev. David Paul, chief chaplain of the Delaware Volunteer Firemen's Association and a firefighter for 47 years. "I think it's the worst in the state's history." The cause of the blaze was under investigation, but the state Fire Marshal's office and the U.S. Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms said they had found no evidence of foul play.

Governor Reform tough Rockefeller-era drug laws ALBANY, N.Y. - Gov. George Pataki on Wednesday called for the easing of New York's tough Rockefeller drug laws, which were enacted in the 1970s and have contributed to a surge in the number of people behind bars. The laws, enacted under Gov. Nelson Rockefeller, are among the harshest in the nation and can bring mandatory life sentences for possession of even relatively small amounts of narcotics. "However, well-intentioned, key aspects of those laws are out of step with both the times and the complexities of drug addiction," the Republican governor said in his seventh annual State of the State address. Pataki offered no details about how to ease the drug laws except that he wants to do so dramatically. - compiled from wire reports

Shortfall leaves haze over projections

State leaders mull tobacco payments, failed campaigns The Associated Press BOISE - The initial allocation of earnings on Idaho's tobacco settlement has been cut back by just over 5 percent because declining cigarette sales reduced the anticipated industry profits. Statisticians also confirm that the state's past efforts to curtail smoking among teen-agers and young adults have been a dismal failure, something health officials hope can be reversed with a new analysis being financed by the settlement cash. "There is a better way of doing this," Health Division Administrator Richard Schultz said. And because of the continuing fiscal uncertainty, legislative budget analyst Jennifer Carrington told a House-Senate panel on Wednesday that the proposed distribution for the 2001-2002 budget year has been conservatively projected at \$3 million in an attempt to avoid another shortfall. "We're doing it based on projections, and we're going to run into shortfalls all the time," Carrington told the committee that is charged with recommending how the money should be spent. That recommendation will have to at least have the more than \$6 million in requests for a share of earnings in the trust. In creating the so-called Millennium Fund and the mechanism for spending 5 percent of the trust fund's value from earnings on its investment, lawmakers last winter appropriated \$2.3 million for general smoking-related programs. That was based on the assumption that the trust would total \$58.8 million by this coming spring. But the industry payments to the state are adjusted not only upward to reflect inflation but also downward to reflect declining tobacco sales. And sales

dropped enough in the late 1990s to more than offset the inflationary adjustment and actually limit the projected trust balance to just over \$52 million. Payments should be made during new budget year that begins July 1. Carrington also said earnings on the trust during the past year totaled just 6.75 percent, falling short of the annual goal of at least 8 percent in another reflection of the bear-stock market. And policy makers are still at loose ends over what can actually result in reduced tobacco consumption. Although adult tobacco consumption overall is more than a half percentage point lower in Idaho than nationally, Schultz said, the millions of dollars the state has poured into anti-smoking and substance abuse programs since the mid-1990s has had absolutely no impact on people 18 to 24 years old. Only 17 percent of that age group smoked in 1999, down from 31 percent smoked in 1992. "We have focused on the youth in terms of the prevention effort for the last five years, and that is discouraging," Schultz said. "We are not doing something right." Schultz said. Deaton Darrington, R-Deer, said that will have to change. "The Legislature is going to expect results or the Legislature is going to have to change course," Darrington told Schultz. Schultz acknowledged that it has become apparent that simply trying to educate individuals that smoking is harmful fails to provide the motivation to change behavior. "There also needs to be a community approach involving youth coalitions along with a media approach," Schultz said. "An analysis being financed with part of this year's trust distribution and pilot projects testing various approaches to see which works best should flesh out the details of the anti-smoking program, he said."

House

Continued from A1 Scott for many years, and I'm impressed with his thoughtfulness and his dedication to working in the Idaho of Idaho," Kempthorne said. "As president of the Idaho Cattlemen Association, Scott is a strong supporter of private property rights and he's knowledgeable about many of the agricultural and natural resource issues facing both his district and the state." Bedke also sits on the board of directors of the National Cattlemen's Beef Association and is a member of the Oakley City Council. The state's Land Board, a panel of statewide elected officials, appointed Bedke to the Idaho Federal Lands Task Force in 1997. Bedke could not be reached for comment Wednesday. Kempthorne appointed Kempton to the Northwest Power Planning Council on Dec. 21, 2000. Kempton resigned his House seat last week. Kempton expects to start his new duties with the planning council in mid-January. Bedke is a lifelong resident of Oakley and a graduate of Brigham Young University with a degree in finance. He and his wife, Sarah, have four children, ages 11 to 19. -Kempthorne thanked the other two finalists for the job, O'Deen Redman and Gary Turner. "Each is to be congratulated for their willingness to step forward and engage in public service," Kempthorne said. "It is how the system is supposed to work. I would encourage both to continue working to make their communities and state better places to live." The executive committee for Idaho's legislative District 25 settled on Bedke Friday, after four ballots narrowed the field of prospects. Times-News political reporter Michael Journeaux can be reached at (208) 735-3231, or by e-mail at mjourn@magicvalley.com.

Continued from A1 in the issue is broader and deeper than it was one or two years ago," Sen. Laird-Noh-Kimberly said at a meeting Wednesday with local residents and members of Twin Falls County's Farm Bureau. "We've discussed some ideas and I've seen some proposals from other legislators that I probably shouldn't share at this point. I think we probably all have ideas on some strengthening, but until I sit down with some other legislators to discuss the issue, who-knows-what-we're going to see?" The dairy debate hinges on two topics, said Rep. Doug Jones, R-Filer. The issue of bad actors and enforcement involving existing operations. While the county has sitting authority, it is up to the state to regulate and enforce state's regulations. This cannot be compromised, Jones said. Wednesday's meeting was attended by Farm Bureau members, who said they remain neutral about the dairy debate, and neighbors of dairies. "The dairies are here, we depend on them, but I don't like the smell," said Hugo Meyer, who lives about a half mile from Hank Hagliger's large dairy near Filer. "But it's there and it's fixable."

Circulation and Mail information section with contact details for Daniel Walock and subscription rates.

LOTTERY UPDATE section featuring Wednesday, January 3, numbers for Powerball, Wildcard, Rolldown, and Pick 3.

Dairies

Continued from A1 residents tired of its odor problems, and local and state officials who have said they don't have enough enforcement authority. The Idaho Dairymen's Association has formed a task force aimed at studying dairy odor management plans. "We will have some proposals of things we think need to happen," said Lewis Ellers, the association's executive director. Ellers said the association supports the state Department of Environmental Quality and Department of Agriculture's efforts. The DEQ recently approved a set of guidelines aimed at creating odor management plans for dairies. Under the guidelines, if a dairy's small prompts complaints, the DEQ will send trained "odor sniffers" out to the site to rate the intensity level of the smell. Complaints that are deemed valid and turned over to the Department of Agriculture. The Department of Agriculture would then work with an operation on an odor management plan. After that, if the complaints keep coming, then the operation could be shut down. Times-News staff writer John T. Hudby can be reached in Twin Falls at 735-3259 or by e-mail at jthudby@magicvalley.com.

Times-News telephone directory listing circulation, advertising, and other services.

Middle East peace talks gain new life

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Clinton's drive for an Israeli-Palestinian accord gained new life Wednesday with word from Yasser Arafat that he was willing to negotiate with Israel on his interpretation of Clinton's formula for a settlement.

Israel responded by agreeing to send negotiator Gilead Sher to Washington to confer today with U.S. mediators Dennis Ross and Aaron Miller on whether a basis exists for new talks with the Palestinians.

In the meantime, Israel

intends to measure whether Arafat's promise to Clinton to curb attacks is being implemented.

"We're not going to resume negotiations, we're not going to have a summit, unless we are confident of success," F.J. Crowley, a White House spokesman, said after Clinton's second telephone conversation with Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Barak.

Another senior official, speaking on condition of anonymity, said the Palestinians also would send an official in the next few

days to talk to the American mediators.

With only 17 days left to pursue his goal, Clinton took to the telephone to try to bridge differences between Arafat and Barak.

The fresh impetus surfaced after two White House meetings Tuesday in which Arafat promised again to try to curb the violence that has plagued the region.

On a discordant note, Hussein al-Sheik, a militia leader in the Fatah faction of the PLO, said: "The Palestinian leadership will never accept the American

ideas."

Clinton's pre-Christmas formula, distilled from talks with the two leaders and their negotiators, would establish a Palestinian state on about 95 percent of the West Bank and the Palestinian some control in East Jerusalem and sharply reduce the 144 enclaves on the West Bank in which 170,000 Israeli Jews live.

The Palestinians are demanding certification of a right of Palestinian refugees to return to Israel, from which they say they were expelled in 1948.

Congress takes oath, pledges cooperation

WASHINGTON (AP) — The 107th Congress convened Wednesday with a noontime rap of gavels in the House and Senate, finding the two parties more evenly divided than in decades and, for the first time, the first lady among its members.

In a day filled with history, ceremony and pledges of bipartisan cooperation, the new Congress offered a Senate divided 50-50 between Republicans and Democrats for the first time. Among them were 13 women, the most ever.

The House was barely dominated by the GOP. But it was enough for Republicans to re-elect Speaker Dennis Hastert, R-Ill., to his second two-year stint in that chamber's top job.

Just 17 days from now, President Clinton will cede the White House to Republican George W. Bush, and Congress will begin focusing on Bush's agenda of cutting taxes, loosening federal strings on education and other issues.

But until that day, Democrats will be the Senate majority, because Gore will still be vice president. Under the Constitution, the vice president can preside over the Senate — and vote to break ties in the chamber.

Relishing the moment, Gore recognized the Senate Democratic leader, Sen. Tom Daschle of South Dakota, as "the majority leader" and Sen. Trent

Idaho lawmakers raise hands

Butch Otter, who served longer as Idaho's lieutenant governor than any other man, resigned on Wednesday to become the state's newest member of Congress.

Otter took the oath of office in Washington, D.C., a half hour after his resignation was effective. He succeeded fellow Republican Helen Chenoweth-Hage, who did not seek reelection to keep to her self-imposed three-term limit.

Otter, 58, joins former Idaho House Speaker Michael Simpson, who was sworn in to a second term in the U.S. House on Wednesday as well.

It will be up to Gov. Dirk Kempthorne to name a new lieutenant governor, subject to confirmation by the Senate. It is the only statewide elected office which requires Senate confirmation of an appointed successor.

New York's senator - A-5

And despite lingering bitterness over last year's tight presidential race and the likelihood of partisan fights over taxes and other issues, Hastert said it is time to move on.

"My friends, we need to get over it," Hastert said in an address to the House. "We need to work together to revitalize this democracy, we need to get to the people's business. I have a great

which he did on Wednesday — and vote to break ties in the chamber.

Renowned the Senate Democratic leader, Sen. Tom Daschle of South Dakota, as "the majority leader" and Sen. Trent Lott of Mississippi, the top Republican, as "the minority leader" — prompting loud applause from both sides.

Activists lay claim to fires

MOUNT SINAI, N.Y. (AP) — Warning "If you build it, we will burn it," a radical environmental group opposed to urban sprawl has claimed responsibility for the burning of three luxury houses under construction on what was one of Long Island's last remaining farms.



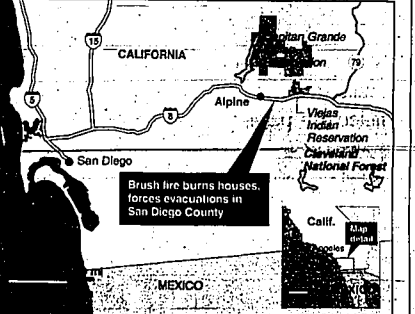
Homes near Alpine, Calif., are threatened by a wildfire Wednesday.

Fires scorch California homes

High winds spread blaze into multi-acre inferno

ALPINE, Calif. (AP) — A brush fire Friday by 65 mph gusts and extremely dry conditions burned luxury homes Wednesday and forced the evacuation of an Indian reservation and casino as well as parts of the town.

It was started after 4 a.m. by a car fire at a viewing area along Interstate 8 near Alpine and quickly spread, forcing authorities to close a 12-mile stretch of the highway and evacuate homes along both sides, the California Highway Patrol said.



Within hours, the blaze had raced across about 1,000 acres of dried brush and grass. Small trees exploded in flames. The huge cloud of smoke produced by the blaze could be seen from San Diego, 30 miles to the west.

"Nice way to start a new year, don't you think," said 72-year-old George Vanek, who lost his home to a 1970 fire that burned 30,000 acres in the area. He fled with his wife and two daughters, grabbing a family photo album and their pet German shepherd before they drove off. Their house was still safe by late morning.

to Jeff Fehlberg of Heartland Fire Communications. There was no immediate estimate how many of those structures were homes.

Firefighters across Southern California beehived up crews because of high fire danger. The winter, normally mild, has been extremely dry. Daytime temperatures have been over 80 degrees.

At least 240 people fought the fire, using three air tankers, three helicopters, 45 fire engines and four bulldozers, the San Diego County Sheriff's Department said.

An undetermined number of Alpine's 10,530 residents were evacuated. At least 300 residents of the Viejas Indian Reservation, which includes a 24-hour casino and large outlet mall, also were evacuated.

A small explosive device was set off over the weekend, causing up to \$30 million in damage to each home. No one was injured.

"This hopefully provided a firm message that we will not tolerate the destruction of our island," the Earth Liberation Front said a statement faxed to The Associated Press on Sunday.

Police also believe the ELF is responsible for millions of dollars in arson and vandalism to six other unoccupied homes on Long Island over the past month.

Police, the district attorney's office and the FBI have formed a task force to investigate the fires and identify the members of the loosely constructed environmental group, headquartered in Portland, Ore.

"This is not an environmental act. This is a criminal act," Suffolk County Police Commissioner John Gallagher said Wednesday. "I am concerned with their latest statement that everything we build that they deem environmentally unfriendly, they will destroy."

The Long Island Builders Institute has offered a \$10,000 reward for the arrest and conviction of those responsible for the weekend vandalism.

The ELF, acting at times with the Animal Liberation Front, has claimed responsibility for dozens of actions across the country since 1996, including a 1998 blaze at a Vail, Colo., ski resort that caused \$12 million in damage.

The environmental group said the expansion project threatened Lynx.

Bush

Continued from A1

But while meeting about three dozen business leaders to talk about the economy.

He said he interprets the Fed's surprise move as an indication bond action is needed "to make sure this economy stays vibrant."

To that end, he said, his 10-year, \$1.3 trillion tax cut plan, far larger than many Democrats in the divided Congress want, remains an "integral part of economic recovery."

Bush felt compelled to explain why he was speaking of a recovery when the economy is not in recession. Surrounded by executives of companies hit by the slowing stock market or slumping sales, he said he used the term because "a lot of folks in this room have brought some pretty bad news."

Bush named Larry Lindsey, his economic adviser in his presidential campaign, to lead the economic team in the White House.

The president-elect is using the slowdown to soften ground for his wider economic agenda, with tax cuts at the core. Liberalized trade and regulatory relief are also part of his platform.

"It's going to be important for the president to work with the Congress to do what's right to make sure that our economy grows," he said. "And tax relief, meaningful, fair tax relief, will be a stimulus."

As well, "We need to make sure our nation is a nation of free trade and less regulation."

Most of the executives who sat down with Bush were political or financial backers of his campaign, and they were supportive of his economic plans as well.

Buildings — ranging from farm sheds to custom-built, tile-roofed trophy homes — were engulfed by flames. As many as 260 structures were threatened, according

to Jeff Fehlberg of Heartland Fire Communications. There was no immediate estimate how many of those structures were homes.

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U.S. says Russia returns nuclear weapons to Baltics

WASHINGTON (AP) — U.S. intelligence agencies have concluded that Russia moved short-range nuclear weapons onto one of its military bases in the Baltics, senior Clinton administration officials said Wednesday.

The move would be in conflict with Moscow's stated policy of keeping the Baltics free of nuclear weapons, although it would not appear to violate any legally binding arms control agreement, U.S. officials said.

The Russian Navy, whose Baltic Fleet is headquartered at the base in Kaliningrad, denied the report, according to the Russian news agency Tass. It

quoted Anatoly Lobsky, assistant to the fleet commander, as saying Russia is unconditionally fulfilling its pledge to keep the Baltics a nuclear-free zone.

Two senior U.S. officials with access to intelligence reports on the subject said there have been recent indications of movement of Russian nuclear weapons to Kaliningrad. They said some weapons may have been there a year or longer. Both officials agreed to discuss the matter only on condition they not be identified.

The officials would not discuss numbers or specific types of Russian weapons in Kaliningrad.

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NATION

Expect skirmishes for some of Bush's cabinet nominees

WASHINGTON (AP) — President-elect Bush knows better than to expect smooth sailing for all his Cabinet nominees. Barring confirmation battles have become a rite of passage for many presidential appointees — and occasionally a road to ruin.

"At the end of the day, confirmations are a hazard of sorts," said Paul Light, senior adviser on the Brookings Institution's Presidential Appointee Initiative.

With Senate confirmation hearings getting underway this week, many of Bush's nominees have the advantage of having been through the appointment process before. Some have survived grueling political campaigns that should have exposed any vulnerabilities.

Marquee names like Colin Powell for secretary of state and Donald Rumsfeld for defense chief can expect to cruise through. But ideological skirmishes with labor, women's civil rights and environmental groups already are brewing over several other nominees. Some lesser-known appointees represent potential wild cards simply because there is greater potential for a surprise.

AGRICULTURE: Farm leaders have praised Bush's choice of Ann Veneman, who served as a deputy at the agriculture department during the last Bush administration.

ATTORNEY GENERAL: Bush's nomination of defeated Missouri Sen. John Ashcroft has been the most contentious. Jesse Jackson and civil rights groups are mobilizing against Ashcroft, citing his opposition to the nomination of a black Missouri Supreme Court judge to the federal bench, among other things. Some Democrats wonder how Ashcroft would enforce federal laws banning advertising against abortion clinics or laws that restrict gun ownership. Senate Democratic Leader Tom Daschle has promised to "ask all the tough questions that need to be asked" of Ashcroft, but senators have a tradition of supporting the nominations of former colleagues.

COMMERCE: Hearings get under way today on the nomination of Don Evans, Bush's former campaign chairman and a longtime friend. No problems expected.

DEFENSE: Rumsfeld would hold the distinction of having been defense secretary twice. As Gerald Ford's defense chief, he was the youngest person ever to hold the job.

EDUCATION: No problems foreseen for Rod Paige, who has seen test scores soar and violence against students being curbed as head of the Houston Independent School District.

ENERGY: Bush's choice this week of defeated Sen. Spencer Abraham of Michigan immediately drew criticism from environmental groups that cited his opposition to higher fuel efficiency standards, his support for oil drilling in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge and other efforts on behalf of the oil industry. He is sure to face questions about his past efforts to abolish the Energy Department, although he says he has changed his mind.

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY: New Jersey Gov. Christie Whitman's selection has drawn fire from Jackson and civil rights groups concerned about racial profiling by the New Jersey state police and a photo of the governor frisking a black youth during a police tour. Whitman says her administration took steps to eliminate racial profiling, and that it was a mistake to have participated in the frisking.

HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES: Wisconsin Gov. Tommy Thompson's opposition to abortion, except in cases of rape or incest or where the mother's life is at stake, drew immediate fire from women's groups. He could face questions about how his opposition to abortion will affect other top appointments at HHS.

HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT: Little-known outside of Florida, Mel Martinez has only been in office a couple of years as Orange County chairman, a position in which he was the mayor of the county that is home to Orlando. Housing advocates will want to learn more about his views during his confirmation hearing.

INTERIOR: Former Colorado attorney general Gale Norton is a protégé of James Watt, the Reagan administration interior secretary

whose name remains anathema to environmentalists because of his pro-development views. Conservation groups oppose her nomination because of her support for making federal lands more accessible to oil, mining and ranching interests, and her support for oil exploration in Alaska's Arctic National Wildlife Refuge.

LABOR: Bush's selection of Linda Chavez, who served as director of the civil rights commission under President Reagan, came



John Ashcroft under immediate criticism from labor and civil rights groups.



Linda Chavez where considerable focus could be devoted to the types of appointees



Gale Norton where considerable focus could be devoted to the types of appointees

AFL-CIO called her appointment "an insult to American working men and women," citing her opposition to affirmative action, among other things. This is another hearing where considerable focus could be devoted to the types of appointees

LABOR: Bush's selection of Linda Chavez, who served as director of the civil rights commission under President Reagan, came

LABOR: Bush's selection of Linda Chavez, who served as director of the civil rights commission under President Reagan, came

TREASURY: Paul O'Neill, who headed aluminum giant Alcoa Inc. and IBM after serving 16 years in the federal government, could face questions about his past support for a gasoline tax increase, a position he no longer holds. No major problems expected.

VETERANS AFFAIRS: No problems are expected for Anthony Principi, who would be making a return trip to the VA, where he served as deputy secretary in 1989.



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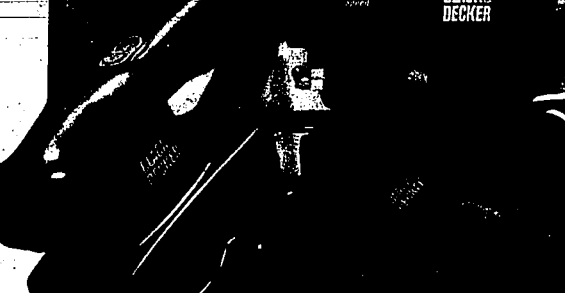
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Bush's pick for Department of Energy sought to kill agency

The Washington Post

In 1999, Republican Spencer Abraham of Michigan was one of a handful of senators sponsoring a short-lived proposal to eliminate the Department of Energy. Now Abraham, who lost his Senate reelection bid in November, is President-elect Bush's choice to run that department in the face of the nation's harshest energy challenges in 20 years.



Spencer Abraham

Bills for natural gas, electricity and heating oil have jumped 50 percent or more over those of a year ago as the coldest winter in years drains depleted fuel stocks. California faces an electricity crisis. And on Jan. 17,

three days before Bush's inauguration, the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries is scheduled to consider a cutback in crude-oil production that would reverse a recent easing in oil prices, energy analysts say. All this will land in the lap of Abraham, 48, a Harvard-educated lawyer, grandson of Lebanese immigrants and one-term senator who had been a top vice-presidential aide to Dan Quayle, assuming he is confirmed by his former Senate colleagues.

It will be a mostly new agenda for Abraham, as he acknowledged after his nomination by Bush. "Fortunately, this administration is comprised of many individuals with incredible expertise in these areas," Abraham said. "I look forward to helping the president-elect address these challenges."

Not since the energy shocks that battered the Carter adminis-

tration has a new president confronted the range of bad news that awaits Bush, said Howard Gruenspecht, a former Energy Department official and now resident scholar at Resources for the Future, a research organization. "And while Abraham is in line to be the administration's point man on these issues, as energy secretary he would have direct control of only a few key policies. The regulation of electricity, access to oil and gas sites on pub-

lic lands, and environmental rules governing power plants and refineries are in the hands of other departments and agencies, Gruenspecht said.

Nor does Abraham have a background in issues at the nuclear weapons laboratory run by the Energy Department — as was the case with Bill Richardson. The current energy secretary was sharply criticized for that alleged failing by Republican House and Senate members who attacked Clinton administration's management of the labs.

Although Abraham proposed abolishing the Energy Department as a means of reducing federal spending, the Bush transition team said he no longer holds that view because of the energy challenges ahead.

As a senator representing Michigan, home to the U.S. auto industry, Abraham's priorities began with transportation issues, including successful efforts to block higher fuel-economy standards for sport-utility vehicles and light trucks and a failed attempt this year to suspend the federal gasoline tax in response to the sharp rise in pump prices.

"He understands the energy issues more than people think," said Debbie Dingell, president of the General Motors Foundation, a Democrat and a friend of Abraham's since age 15. "When you come from Michigan, you pay attention to these things."

Abraham's advocacy for the auto industry made him a ready target for environmentalists. The League of Conservation Voters his Senate voting record as zero. Dan Becker, a Sierra Club official in Washington, said, "The only energy fight he's led was the one to guzzle more gas" — by opposing increases in auto fuel economy standards — "and his voting record has been singularly hostile to the environment."

Hillary Clinton takes oath

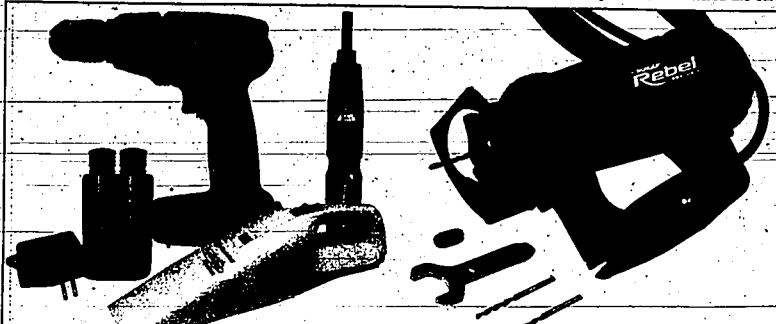
WASHINGTON (AP) — Hillary Rodham Clinton took her own oath of office Wednesday, completing an unprecedented transformation from first lady to U.S. senator and ending a quarter-century of playing political cheerleader for her husband.

This time, he was the one watching from the sideline. President Clinton and daughter Chelsea peered down from the packed Senate gallery as the first lady raised her right hand and took the oath on a Bible she had brought from the White House. Her mother, Dorothy Rodham, was there, too, along with 6-year-old nephew Tyler, the son of presidential brother Roger Clinton.

The president smiled proudly and clasped his daughter's hand. Afterward, when asked to describe his mood, he replied, "Ecstatic."

"It's a great day," he said, sporting a tiny campaign button on his lapel that read "Hillary for Vice." Clinton was administered by Vice President Al Gore, who serves as president of the Senate — following tradition — Mrs. Clinton was escorted by New York's senior senator, Charles Schumer, also a Democrat, from her seat in the chamber's back row.

After she signed her name in the Senate register — which puts her on the government payroll — Clinton was greeted on the floor by 98-year-old Sen. Strom Thurmond, R-S.C., the Senate's senior member.



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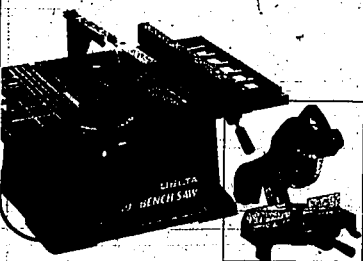
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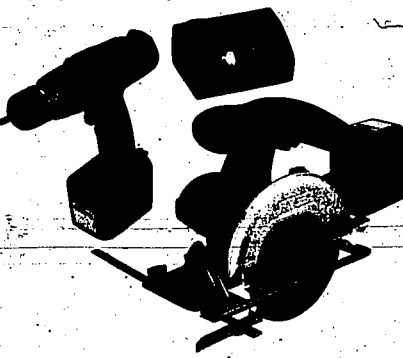
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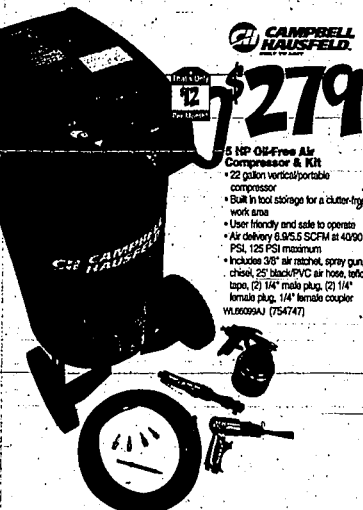
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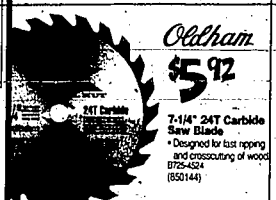
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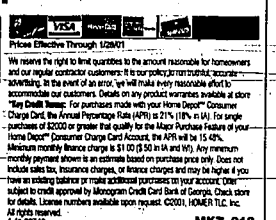
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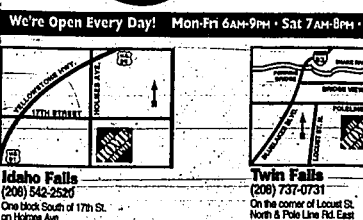
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EDITORIAL

Budget restraint needed for wise school decisions

The Twin Falls School Board did the right thing last month by appointing 11 prominent local residents to a facilities planning committee. Their mission: to produce a plan that meets the school district's long-term building needs, regardless of whether enrollment goes up or down.

This kind of work isn't very exciting, but it's essential for any responsible school district. Rather than ignore its building needs until it is too late, and then ask the state for help, the Twin Falls School District is working to solve its own problems in-house.

It's this kind of pro-active approach that's kept venerable old buildings such as Bickel Elementary and Lincoln Elementary in active service since 1938. That's an impressive record, but it didn't come easy. Over the years, it has required budgetary self-sacrifice and restraint to ensure that the district's basic building needs are met.

Again, it isn't very sexy - but it is essential. It's a lot like buying new shock absorbers for your car rather than a new stereo. It isn't as flashy, but it's in your best interests over the long haul.

The state Constitution spells out how school construction and maintenance is supported in our state. The state - which is a euphemism for all taxpayers together - pays most of the salaries, but individual school districts pay to construct and maintain their own buildings.

Unfortunately, not all Magic Valley

school districts have acted as responsibly as the Twin Falls School District. Some have chosen to neglect their buildings, allowing them to deteriorate until there's a crisis. Multimillion dollar school bond issues have been proposed to fix the problems, but voters in those school districts have defeated them.

Unable to convince their own taxpayers to foot the bill, these school districts have turned to the state for help. The state has granted some concessions, but so far it hasn't given any money. That's entirely appropriate.

If the state did foot the bill for these school districts, it would discourage fiscally responsible districts from solving their problems in-house. The message would be:

Rather than ignore its building needs until it is too late, and then ask the state for help, the Twin Falls School District is working to solve its own problems in-house.

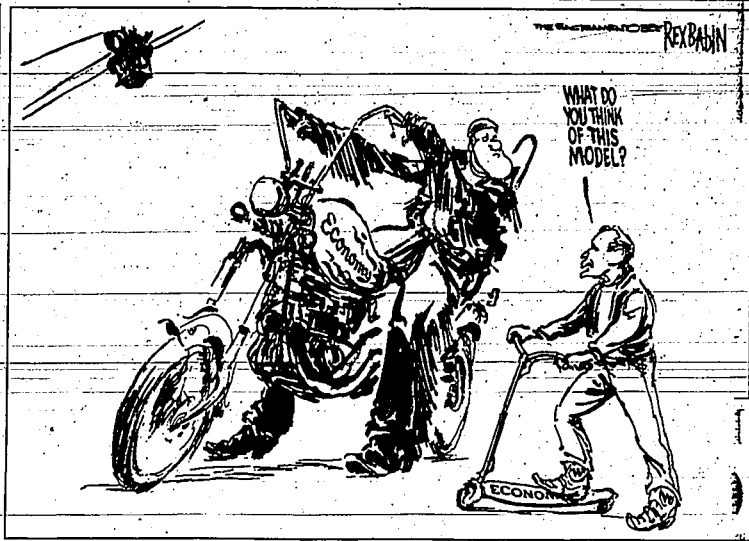
clear: Don't spend your own money because the state (a.k.a. taxpayers elsewhere) will bail you out.

That's not what responsible school leadership is all about. The Twin Falls School District has shown appropriate budgetary restraint in keeping its own house in order.

And another thing...

One idea the new committee should consider is the need for a second high school in Twin Falls. Too many students are lost in the crowd at the current high school, which is why some prefer to transfer to other high schools.

Creation of a second high school, perhaps one with a technical focus, is an idea that was considered years ago. It's time for that discussion to be revived.



Clinton was a do-nothing president

The Clinton paradox is this: Rarely has a president so dominated the public stage and so little affected the public agenda. His central failure lay not in what he did - which wasn't much - but in what he deliberately avoided. As the first baby-boomer president, he had a historic opportunity to prepare for his own generation's retirement. The task was to redraw the political compact between workers and retirees by modernizing Social Security and Medicare. Clinton didn't try, and worse, he obstructed them in both parties who tried.

A lot happens in eight years. Clinton can be fairly judged only on what he chanced - or might have. Does anyone honestly believe he caused the drop in crime? As for the economic boom, it was largely self-propelled. Clinton's main contribution was to stand clear. The story is the same for the surprising budget surpluses: Two events beyond Clinton's making (or Congress) proved decisive: the end of the Cold War, which justified deep-defense cuts; and the boom, which produced an unexpected tax windfall. In fiscal 2000, the federal budget surplus was \$237 billion. Defense cuts and the tax windfall represented a roughly \$400 billion swing from deficit.

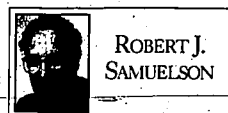
Elsewhere, Clinton mostly tinkered with government. He expanded tax relief for the working poor by increasing the Earned Income Tax Credit. This was good. But he also effectively destroyed the Tax Reform Act of 1986, and that was bad. (The 1986 law simplified taxes by lowering rates and reducing special breaks.) Some trumpeted Clinton achievements depended on Republican congressional support - the North American Free Trade Agreement with Mexico, welfare "reform," and the agreement to admit China to the World Trade Organization.

Presidential activism isn't an automatic virtue. Clinton's modest record might, in some circumstances, amount to wise self-restraint. But this resolute refusal to deal intelligently with Social Security and Medicare constitutes an unpardonable lapse. We already know most of what we need to know that the over-65 population will soon balloon; that Social Security and Medicare already represent 40 percent of non-interest federal spending; and that this spending must, with present benefits, rise dramatically.

We also know that Social Security and Medicare have evolved well beyond their original purpose as a safety net for the needy elderly. They have become a public subsidy for retirement, although many retirees are increasingly healthy and wealthy. Finally, we know that the retirement subsidies come mostly from the taxes of workers who create life beyond their children and grandchildren. Questions - economic, social and moral - arise. Might high retirement benefits harm the economy or crowd out other important government spending? If not all promised benefits are affordable, would it be fair - sometimes if the future - to cut them abruptly? If benefits are affordable, is it morally defensible for older and wealthier retirees to be so heavily subsidized by younger and often poorer workers?

The obvious need was to temper the inevitable pressure to raise eligibility ages slowly to reflect longer life expectancy and improved health; to trim (but not eliminate) benefits for higher-income retirees; to enact Medicare cost-sharing measures that encourage the prudent use of health care. The broader need was to make it safe politically to discuss these issues without being portrayed as an aggressor.

The circumstances for this conversion



ROBERT J. SAMUELSON

could not have been more favorable, especially in Clinton's second term. Enjoying the economic boom, the country was in good mood. Clinton's loyalty to Social Security and Medicare - created by Democratic presidents and Congresses - was unassailable.

But Clinton would have none of it. He appointed - and ignored - bipartisan commissions. In 1995, congressional Republicans bravely proposed overhauling Medicare. Instead of opening a debate, Clinton inaccurately denounced the Republicans for trying to destroy Medicare. His own rhetoric ("save Social Security first") and proposals (a new Medicare drug benefit) went in precisely the opposite direction: an uncritical expansion of retirement benefits. Some new benefits may be justified, but not without curbing the old.

Clinton's motive may be no more complicated than this: Good politics consists of making the middle-class elderly ever more dependent on government. But his unwavering attitude demolishes the argument that the Lewinsky scandal and impeachment prevented him from pursuing his genuine agenda. Clinton's failures - stereotypes, perhaps unfairly, the entire baby-boom generation (to which this writer belongs) as stupendously selfish, being willing to burden its children with any amount of taxes to embellish its retirement.

The reason impeachment and Lewinsky's name were so large in the Clinton era is that there was no little else. He was engaged, entertained and enraged. He was full of himself and full of talk. He had an amazing ability to outmaneuver his adversaries and gain short-term political advantage. But all the noise and action merely highlight the larger contradiction: He was always on the move but rarely going anywhere. He was mostly a do-nothing president.

Robert J. Samuelson is a Newsweek columnist.

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LETTERS

Get rid of Right to Work

I love the state of Idaho, have lived in Twin Falls for more than 25 years. I would like to live here another 25. I remember back in the 1980s during an election, on the ballot was the Right to Work bill. I also remember how the wording was so screwed up on the ballot so that if you voted "yes," you were actually saying "no."

When this bill made our state a Right to Work state, it sure screwed things up for the average person. Idaho used to have a few reasons to live here that outweighed this law, such as lower cost of living, lower energy, fuel bills. If I am not mistaken, the cost of living is about average for the United States, electricity is about to skyrocket as soon as we give in to California, gas (for autos) is above normal, natural gas has gone through the roof, medical care is a joke.

What all of this is happening, there is no protection for the work force. Wages are very low, employers can push you around any way that they want to, taxes are high, the rate of inflation well outgrows the rate of wage increases. If your bill goes up 10 percent each year and you only get a 2 percent wage increase during the same period of time, something has to give after awhile. Employers wield all the power in this Right to Work state. Is there something the people can do to help themselves other than move to another state? How long will it take before the economy crushes the working man in this state?

If anyone can give some good reasons for being a Right to Work state that benefit everyone or at least a majority of the people, I would be curious to know what they are, how they positively affect peo-

ple that do not work in the agricultural field. I know a lot of people that would love to get rid of the Right-to-Work state label we have.

TROY JONES
Twin Falls

We need to watch Bush carefully

Maybe the other guy is just as phony, but consider the following: For about two years, candidate Bush beat the drum with unbroken cadence about those terrible, perennial "Washington politicians." Inconsistently, however, President-elect Bush immediately forgot his antipathy to Washington and proceeded to appoint a considerable number of old Washington hands, including associates of the Ford, Reagan and Bush (the elder) regimes. A considerable portion of them have spent most of their careers (at our expense) with the federal government, including the second-in-command. (This exponent at Hillburton, I'm told, involved government contracts and was not exclusively devoted to the "private sector" as he inferred in the vice-presidential debate.)

In keeping with the promise of candidate Bush to return money to the taxpayers, can we expect these appointees to cut the budgets of the bureaucracies they hope to head? Were not these selectees involved in the ballooning of the national debt by a factor of three or four during the Reagan-Bush years? Will overall spending decrease or increase because of these appointments? Will they tax and spend or borrow and spend?

Let's watch them closely, neighbors!
JACK HARTLEY
Twin Falls

Sustain traditional agriculture

For more than a year, the Cassia County Farm Bureau has been asked by the county Farm Bureau members, business and concerned citizens about its stand toward the Big Sky Farms Hog proposal in Raft River. The county board of directors has refrained from taking a stand, but now it is time to speak on the issue.

We support the current Cassia County ordinance regarding general standards to all Conditional Use Permits. We support the county commissioners and county government in enforcing these guidelines to protect the well-being of its citizens. We believe that all agriculture should be renewable. Crops can be grown indefinitely on well-managed land. Livestock requires removal of wastes. Waste application to land at agronomic rates ensures good management. This does not exclude the use of com-

mercial fertilizer for crops. Farmers know that when you produce more nutrients (manure) than can be used on your crops, the balance is lost. With excessive manure production, choices are limited. Waste must be exported to another site for application, or it must be stored. Unless a confined animal feeding operation has a permanent manure easement to dispose of the waste, the operator has no guarantee of waste handling.

The option of storing waste creates its own problems as the theory is to change stored waste to gases, most of which are then exported via the breeze. Not only are there health concerns because of the gases, but the risks associated with the storage of such massive volumes of pollutants need consideration. These include leakage, spills, odor, ground and water contamination, structural failure, management and, perhaps most important, closure of the facility. It would be a fallacy to believe that all waste in a lagoon turns

into a gas, as a percentage of that waste will be reflected as highly concentrated sludge that will someday require removal.

Too many animals on the little land pose many risks. To sit within an established community that would impact public gathering areas and residents is a major concern. Because of the risks mentioned and the negative impact that mega-concentration has on rural agriculture, we voice our opposition to the Big Sky Hog proposal. We believe that mega CAFOs do not contribute positively to rural America and, indeed, have caused significant problems in areas where they have been allowed.

Therefore, we support states, counties, municipalities and citizens in sustaining rules that sustain traditional agriculture.
MICHAEL D. GARNER
Burley
(Editor's note: Michael Garner of Deco is the president of the Cassia County Farm Bureau Board of Directors.)

Doonesbury

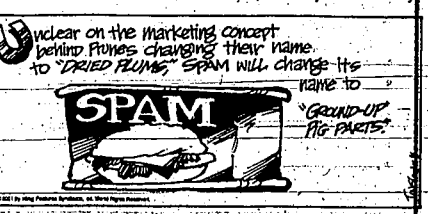


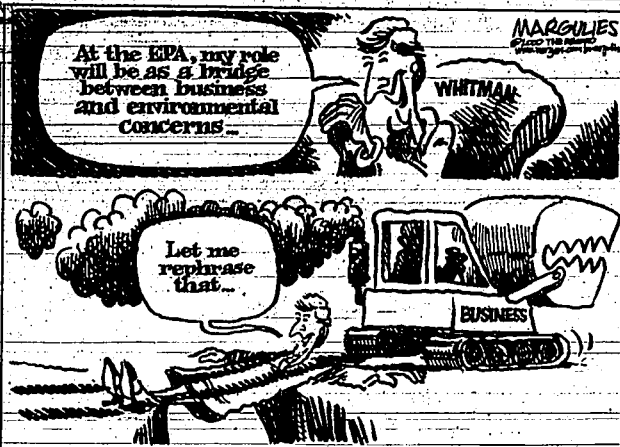
By Garry Trudeau

Mallard Fillmore



By Bruce Tinsley





Bill Clinton won't just fade away

One of the main Republican rallying cries during the campaign was "No More Clinton-Gore." It looks as though the GOP achieved only half of its goal.

Not only is Hillary Rodham Clinton remaining in the spotlight as the most famous new member of the Senate, but her husband seems destined for a continuing role as the nation's No. 1 Democrat.

Many presidents who leave office are ready for retirement, like Ronald Reagan and Dwight Eisenhower. Others have sustained so many political wounds that, like Jimmy Carter or Lyndon Johnson, their party doesn't want much to do with them.

But just as Bill Clinton's presidency was unique in many ways, so too is likely to be his expresidentcy. At 54, he not only is many years away from retirement but is leaving office with the highest job approval of any chief executive in modern times.

If there was any doubt about his interest in playing a continuing political role, it was eliminated when word spread that his long-time chief fund-raiser, Terry McAuliffe, probably would be the Democratic Party's next national chairman.

Mr. McAuliffe faces some opposition. But the support of Mr. Clinton, Al Gore, the party's top congressional leaders and organized labor should guarantee him the job.

Not only is he a formidable fund-raiser in his own right, but he certainly will want to enlist the services of the party's top draws in raising money for the 2002 and 2004 elections.

That means the former president and his freshman senator wife will be spending a lot of time on the money-raising circuit, since it is hard to imagine anyone being a bigger attraction, including such other big party names as Mr. Gore or Sens. Edward Kennedy and Joe Lieberman.

There probably is another political place for Mr. Clinton in the years to come. No other Democrat is a shrewder analyst and strategist of how the party's candidates can win offices up to and including the White House.

CARL P. LEUBSDORF

Stories are legendary of how, in the 1992 campaign, Mr. Clinton often dictated the scheduling of his appearances from his extensive knowledge of the reach of media markets.

He already has devoted substantial time to analyzing what went wrong for Mr. Gore in 2000, judging from comments in his recent interview with CBS anchor Dan Rather in which he noted that Mr. Gore lost five states because of anti-gun attitudes engendered in part by the National Rifle Association.

The next Democratic presidential candidates will want to enlist the backing of Mr. Clinton, not only for its impact and fund-raising benefit but also for his advice on how best to position their campaigns.

Meanwhile, the soon-to-be former president will be busy with the usual occupations of former presidents, building his presidential library and writing his memoirs. He also may have to fight off one additional legal threat if independent counsel Robert Ray proceeds with his effort to seek an indictment of the former president for his testimony during the Monica Lewinsky affair.

And he clearly isn't averse to undertaking a foreign policy role for the new administration, possibly to continue his efforts to bring

peace to the Middle East or, more likely, Northern Ireland.

While the new administration seems unlikely to want to give Mr. Clinton so high a profile and so politically lucrative a portfolio as the Middle East, it may be more willing to let him oversee the effort in Northern Ireland that he helped to initiate during his presidential tenure.

He also seems certain to have a continuing interest in helping his party regain the congressional control it lost during his presidency and regain the White House.

And he is even less likely to be concerned about upstaging Mr. Gore than he was during the campaign, when it took the vice president some effort to get Mr. Clinton to abandon the political stage.

Like many other Democrats, Mr. Clinton reportedly blames Mr. Gore for making a number of campaign mistakes, most notably not using his own services where they might have made the difference.

So the Republicans are likely to continue to have Bill Clinton to kick around in the years to come, probably thankful that the 22nd Amendment will mean that, at least, they no longer will have to run directly against him.

Carl P. Leubsdorf is Washington bureau chief of the Dallas Morning News. Readers may write to him at the Dallas Morning News, Washington bureau, 1325 G St., N.W., Suite 250, Washington, D.C., 20005.

Antitrust attacks bring recession

AMY RIDENOUR

Things change. Once upon a time, the government guarded against business monopolies. Nowadays, the problem is the government's policies harm competitiveness and are helping push the economy toward recession.

Back in 1984, the big business news was the breakup of AT&T—the old "Ma Bell"—into a long-distance company and seven regional "Baby Bells."

Nowadays, market pressures force change and competition in ways we never imagined in 1984. But rather than let the market tame big firms, government gets in the way. Recently, for example, AT&T announced plans to break up into four parts as part of its conversion from a voice long-distance company to one that offers cable TV, Internet access, and local and long-distance telephone. Now, the very agency that once broke up AT&T to break up, ironically, is obstructing its effort to improve competitiveness.

Government caps on cable ownership are preventing AT&T from developing a comprehensive communications network to compete with the regional Bell companies. Needed approvals for mergers with cable companies dragged on forever. Some local governments thought AT&T should not be allowed to own cable TV firms unless it agreed to let competitors use AT&T's cable system for their own purposes—which included competing with AT&T.

Investors immediately reconsidered technology stocks, realizing that successful risk-taking might be rewarded by a profit-killing visit from Uncle Sam.

According to Lawrence Kudlow of ING Barings LLC, the government assault on Microsoft cost the economy nearly \$1.3 trillion in

wealth loss.

A study by the non-profit Institute for Policy Innovation analyzed the effect of the Microsoft decision on the economy. Its conclusions are staggering.

It estimates that, because the decision raises the cost of capital, it will reduce 2000-2010 tax receipts of all levels of government by \$52.5 billion. Computing the losses in interest savings as well results in a lowering of government surpluses by \$66.8 billion. Aunt Minnie, hang on to your hat, because this is bound to affect adversely the needed bailouts of Social Security and Medicare.

With U.S. production down, investors, savers and entrepreneurs will earn less, reducing personal income by \$59.6 billion. Savings will fall by \$7.6 billion. The slow economy will result in the creation of 44,900 fewer jobs. Slower economic growth, say

the authors, means a lower standard of living for everyone. The loss from the Microsoft decision alone represents a loss of \$507 for every single American, or \$1,293 for every household.

Imagine what the losses to the economy are when the harm caused by faulty policies affecting AT&T and hundreds of other companies is factored in. Some Americans cheer when government attacks business. They don't consider that the end result might be an attack on their own pocketbook.

The 17th-century clergyman John Donne taught that all mankind is interconnected. His famous words apply also to the economy: "Never send to know for whom the bell tolls; It tolls for thee."

Amy Ridenour is president of The National Center for Public Policy Research, a Capitol Hill think tank. Readers may write to her at NCPFR, 777 Capitol Street NE, Suite 803, Washington, D.C. 20002.

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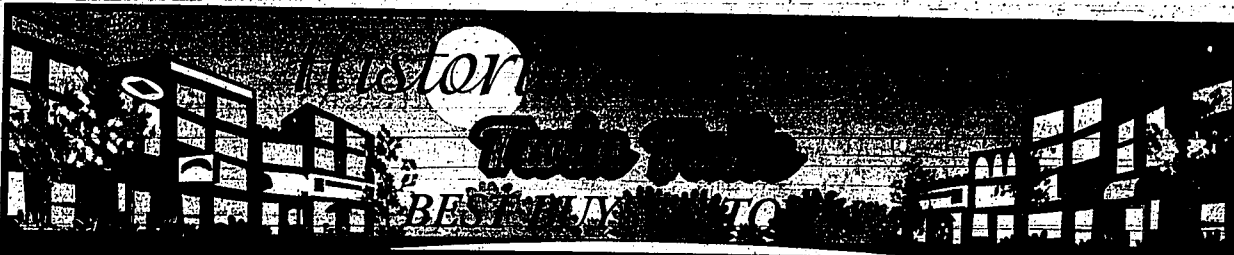
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The Times-News

Thursday, January 4, 2001

Sports editor: Jeff Rosen, 133-0931, Ext. 229 (Hours: 2-11 p.m.)

Section B

RIISING High School Sports STARS

Kim Strunk

Twin Falls basketball

It's not very often that one player is able to put score on an entire team. But that's exactly what happened this season when Strunk...



Burley High School. "I was just having fun," Strunk said. "I wasn't really thinking about scoring. Usually when I think about scoring I don't do very well. I had some steals, we ran the fast break and I hit my free throws."

Burley isn't the only school to be coached by Strunk this season. The 5-foot-10 guard leads the Bruins in scoring with 15.6 points per game, nearly double what he scored as a sophomore. She also ranks second on the team in assists and fourth in rebounds.

"If I'm not having a good shooting night I'll look to pass," Strunk said. "I usually drive the lane and try to find someone to dump the ball off to."

Even though she's third in the Magic Valley in scoring, it's defense that she finds the most rewarding. Strunk is tied in the valley in steals, with 4.11 a contest, and what she does without the ball in her hand is just as important to team success as her scoring.

"I like to steal the ball," Strunk said. "I think my favorite thing in basketball are stealing the ball and running the fast break. I'm not a real offensive player. Most of my points come on the defensive end of a steal."

Strunk's quick hands and hounding defensive skills helped the Bruins to an impressive 7-4 record this season entering Wednesday's showdown at Pocatello.

"I think one of my roles on the team is getting everyone focused," Strunk said. "I don't really see myself as a leader, but if I'm not having a good game and I'm not focused, then my team usually doesn't do as well."

Donovan Wisner
Filer wrestling

Filer coach Schroeder calls Wisner a star. "Donovan Wisner is a gentle giant. On the mat, he is everything but that."

Wisner has muscled his way to a 10-1 record this year, collecting eight wins and two decisions. He won a district championship last season in his third year of wrestling and is considered a favorite to challenge at state this year in the 215-pound weight class.

"You couldn't meet a nicer kid in the area," Schroeder said. "He does everything with an eagerness to do and he really thinks hard about what he's doing. He is one of the hardest working kids I've been around."

As two-time co-captain for the Wildcats, Wisner's leadership skills are rooted in the hard working example he sets for the team. He runs every day of the year and plans to join the Marines after graduation, Schroeder said.

He makes sure that he's in great physical condition. "Schroeder said, 'The Marines have definitely found themselves a good one.'"

But before Wisner heads out to boot camp, he has his sights set on a state title. And it won't take long for him to find out where he stands among the elite. He is expected to meet defending Class A-2 state champ Stacey Mallo of McCall-Donnelly, who has since moved to the A-3 ranks, and American Falls' Dan Smith this weekend at the Bull Invitational.

"Like everybody else that steps on the mat I want to win a state championship," Wisner said. "Those guys are going to be tough to beat. There are a lot of good wrestlers in this weight class."

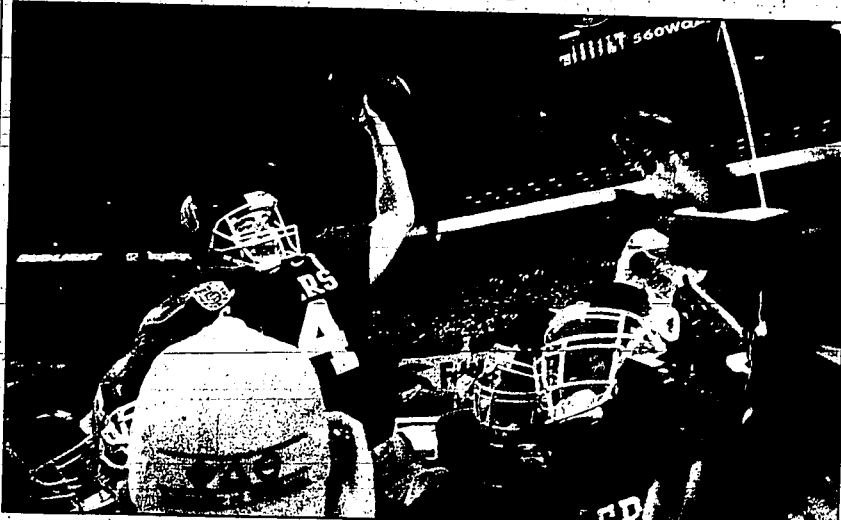
At slightly more than 200 pounds, Wisner gives up size in every match, but what he lacks in weight he makes up for in strength, endurance and mental ability.

"I can out-muscle almost everybody," Wisner said. "I have pretty good endurance for someone my size."

Joe Sumner

OKLAHOMA 13 FLORIDA STATE 2

No more arguments



Oklahoma's Josh Heupel is carried off the field by his teammates after the Sooners beat Florida State 13-2 in the Orange Bowl Wednesday.

Oklahoma squashes talk of split title

The Associated Press

MIAMI — The Oklahoma Sooners are more than OK, they're national champions. A smothering defense shut down Florida State and Snow College product Josh Heupel generated enough offense to give No. 1 Oklahoma a starting 13-2 victory in the Orange Bowl on Wednesday night and its first national title in 15 years.

"To be honest with you, we fully expected to play that way," said Sooners coach Bob Stoops, whose team was a 10.5-point underdog. "And as a team, we expected to win."

Oklahoma (13-0) completed a perfect season and made the issue of a split title a moot point. Finishing as the nation's only unbeaten team, the Sooners were automatically crowned national champs in the coaches' poll under the Bowl Championship Series format.

Oklahoma awaited The Associated Press



Florida State quarterback Chris Weinke unfastens his chin strap and heads for the sidelines after the Seminoles gave up the ball late in the fourth quarter.

Oklahoma is winning championships," Stoops said. "We already had six, now we have seven. We have a great history in the Orange Bowl."

No. 3 Florida State (11-2) was hoping to become the first team to repeat as national champions since Nebraska in 1994-95. Had the Seminoles won, No. 2 Miami (11-1) would have staked a claim to a share of the title.

"When I look at it now, I think it should have been Miami and Oklahoma," Seminoles coach Bobby Bowden said. "We didn't look like we belonged here."

Heupel more than made up for his runner-up finish to Florida State's Chris Weinke in the Heisman Trophy race by outperforming him in the biggest game of his life.

The left-hander from Aberdeen, S.D., completed 25 of 39 passes for 214 yards and kept the Seminoles' defense off balance all night. Tim Duncan kicked two field goals and

media poll's release early this morning, confirming the unchallengeable Sooners as undisputed "Our players recognize that the history of

Hurricanes left out in the cold

Sooner win dashes hopes for crown

The Associated Press

MIAMI — The second-ranked Miami Hurricanes had to wait a day to find out the fate of their national championship hopes. Now they will have to wait a year for another shot.

With No. 1 Oklahoma's 13-2 victory over third-ranked Florida State on Wednesday night in the Orange Bowl, the Hurricanes were eliminated from title contention. The Sooners (13-0) claimed the

top spot in the coaches' poll and were expected to do the same in The Associated Press writers' polls. Miami needed the Seminoles to beat Oklahoma to have a chance at a share of the national title.

The Bowl Championship Series title went to the winner of the Orange Bowl, but The Associated Press media panel voted to crown a champion.

Hurricanes coach Butch Davis attended the Orange Bowl, where his team's fate was decided. He said most of his players likely watched the game with teammates and friends.

Regardless of not getting an opportunity to play the Sooners for the title, Davis said the season was a success. "It was capped by Tuesday night's Sugar Bowl victory over Florida."

"Knowing where we came from six years ago to get to a game the magnitude of last night was a huge success in itself," Davis said. "Winning that game makes it that much more sweet."

Indeed, when Davis arrived in 1995, the Hurricanes were a far cry from the teams that won four titles between 1983 and 1991. Probation that led to scholarships reductions put them in a

hole, and a 47-0 loss to Florida State in 1997 might have been the true indicator of how far the

"Came had fallen. That sent a message to our fans and our alumni that we weren't crying wolf," Davis said. "It said that losing 31 scholarships, there was a price that was paid. There was a huge disparity between our program and Florida State."

This season, Miami struck back with a 27-24 victory over the Seminoles. That win stood as the keystone to the Hurricanes' claim to the national title. They also beat then-No. 2 Virginia Tech.

Skins hire Schottenheimer

Snyder turns to Marty for help

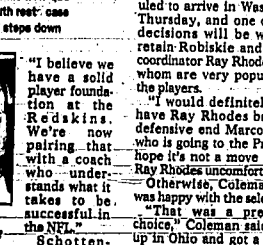
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Marty Schottenheimer was hired as coach of the Washington Redskins on Wednesday, returning to the NFL with a team that proved to be an expensive bust this season.

Schottenheimer, whose .630 regular-season winning percentage is seventh best in NFL history, received a four-year, \$10 million contract from the Redskins, who finished the season 8-8 and missed the playoffs despite the largest player payroll in NFL history.

Marty Schottenheimer knows how to win, and that's what Redskins fans demand in a coach, owner Dan Snyder said.

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• Meet the new QBs
• Caruth rest: once
• Shell steps down



Schottenheimer, 57, will also be the team's director of football operations, placing him just below Snyder in football matters. Schottenheimer replaces Inter-

im coach Terry Robiskie, who coached the final three games of this season after Turner was fired. Schottenheimer was scheduled to arrive in Washington on Thursday, and one of his first decisions will be whether to retain Robiskie and defensive coordinator Ray Rhodes — both of whom are very popular among the players.

"I would definitely want to have Ray Rhodes back," said defensive end Marco Coleman, who is going to the Pro Bowl. "I hope it's not a move that makes Ray Rhodes uncomfortable."

Otherwise, Coleman said he was happy with the selection. "That was a pretty good choice," Coleman said. "I grew up in Ohio and he got a chance to watch him when he was with the Browns. I definitely respect what he's done with his teams."

Schottenheimer coached

Jerome girls struggle late, fall to Century

More high school results B2

Staying close to home

TF's Coats signs with CSI-volleyball

By Joe Sumner Times-News writer

TWIN FALLS — The College of Southern-Idaho volleyball team will have a decidedly hometown flavor next season when Twin Falls High School's Keri Coats joins the national champion Golden Eagles at the net in their bid for an eighth title.

The 6-foot-4 senior signed with CSI on Dec. 19 and will join fellow Bruins alum Lisa Levings and Filer's Leah Hollingshead as local talent on the squad.

"I know CSI is a really good team," Coats said. "I have always been impressed with the way they are looked at as a good junior college volleyball program throughout the U.S."

Coats has been a varsity middle blocker at Twin Falls for three years but she may be asked to move outside to provide a bigger block at the net along the edge. Several teams in the Pacific West Athletic Conference have big hitters on the outside, and limiting those players is one key to the Eagles' success.

"She is a huge block and I love kids that can block," Stroud said. "The thing with her, though, is it's not just size — she's an athlete."

The role Coats plays on the team could be similar to the one Stephanie Martin this past season occupied at CSI.

"I want to be the person that Stroud sees to fill (Martin's) role," Coats said. "She was a huge part of the team and if I were asked to go in and play her position I would love it. I don't know if I'll be that person, but I would definitely want to."

Expecting Coats to make that type of splash right away is probably unrealistic. Martin was named the American Volleyball Coaches' Association player of the year, led the Eagles in blocks and was second in kills this year.

But Stroud sees Coats as someone that could develop into that caliber of athlete.

"I doubt it will happen right away," Stroud said. "But maybe by the end of next year, and definitely as a sophomore, she could be the surprise of the state. She has a lot of natural ability, plus size, and you can't teach 6-foot-4."

Though the Eagles graduate only four sophomores from last season's title team, three are starters. Finding players to replace athletes like Martin, Tametika Moore and Kara Hyman will be one of CSI's main tasks before attempting a title defense.

"From the way Stroud is talking, I'm expecting a really good team," Coats said. "I would love it if I was to play with a team that ended up going to Kansas."

Stroud has been in contact with

Please see COATS, Page B2

and focus in this game," said Jerome coach Michelle Skyles, who added that a new offense put in Tuesday may have caused some confusion.

"Century came in with a good plan and won. We have got some work to do."

Most of the statistical categories were either the same or many were typically low for the first game back after the holiday break. Both teams shot 30 percent from the field, had turnovers in the upper teens and shot poorly from the free-throw line.

One glaring advantage for the Diamondbacks came on the boards. Century won that battle 32-23, and got several key offensive rebounds late in the game.

In fact, Century's post combo of Lindsey Lewis and Brynn Rydman combined for 24 points, edging

Please see TIGERS, Page B2

DALLAS (AP) — Jerry Stackhouse scored three of his 23 points on free throws in the final 26 seconds and Joe Smith had season-highs of 28 points and 15 rebounds...



Detroit's Jerry Stackhouse dunks the ball against Dallas' Rick Nowitzki in the first quarter at Dunk Arena in Dallas Wednesday.

NBA Detroit beat Dallas 107-104 Wednesday night in the Mavericks' first game with Donnie Nelson replacing his ailing dad as coach.

Stackhouse missed one of two foul shots with 11.8 seconds left, but Steve Nash missed two 3-pointers on the final possession. Don Nelson decided to sit this one out about three hours before tipoff to rest up for prostate cancer surgery early Thursday.

PHILADELPHIA — Aaron McKie had better be careful or he might lose his job as sixth man. McKie had his second straight triple-double and Allen Iverson scored 21 points

sweep that included victories at Utah and Sacramento, won their fourth straight and improved to 22-8 — the NBA's best record. Theo Ratliff had 12 points, 11 rebounds and seven blocks, Tyrone Hill added eight points, and 11 rebounds and George Lynch had 12 points and eight rebounds for Philadelphia, which hadn't won at the First Union Center since beating Charlotte 97-74 on Dec. 1.

Knicks 100, Celtics 91 BOSTON — Jo had a little motivation, the New York Knicks only had to go back 13 days. Getting 25 points from Allan Houston, New York avenged its last defeat by beating the Boston Celtics.

Bucks 88, Cavaliers 83 MILWAUKEE — Ray Allen scored 25 points and had a career-high six rebounds as the Bucks beat the revamped Cleveland Cavaliers 88-83 despite awful shooting. The Bucks won for the 15th time in 19 games, their best stretch since starting out the 1990-91 season 25-8.

EAST LANSING, Mich. (AP) — Charlie Bell scored 26 points and Andre Hutson added 20 as No. 1 Michigan State beat Penn State 98-73 Wednesday night in the Big Ten opener for both teams. The Spartans used a 25-4 run midway through the second half to extend the national longest winning streak to 23 games and the best run at home to 37 games. Penn State saw its seven-game winning streak snapped with its seventh straight loss to Michigan State.

Georgetown 90, W. Virg. 66 MORGANTOWN, W. Va. — Anthony Perry scored 15 points to lead six Georgetown players in double figures as the Hoyas won their Big East opener. Georgetown (12-0), which is enjoying its highest ranking in five seasons, is off to its best start since going 14-0 in 1989-90.

Illinois 80, Minnesota 64 CHAMPAIGN, Ill. — Marcus Griffin scored 27 points as Illinois ended Minnesota's eight-game winning streak in the Big Ten opener for both teams. Frank Williams scored all 16 of

his points in the second half and Brian Cook added 11 rebounds and six blocks for Illinois (11-3).

Boston C. 85, UConn 68 BOSTON — Troy Bell scored 27 points and Xavier Sledge had 23 as Boston College beat UConn for the first time after 23 losses. UConn (11-2, 0-1 Big East) had not lost to BC (10-0, 1-0) since Feb. 23, 1988 — matching the longest winning streak for one Big East team against another in conference history.

Seton Hall 87, Provid. 80 EAST RUTHERFORD, N.J. — Ty Shine had a season-high 25 points and Darius Lane added 24 as Seton Hall won its fourth straight and snapped the Friars' seven-game winning streak in the Big East opener for both teams. Freshman Eddie Griffin had 16 points, 16 rebounds and six blocked shots for Seton Hall, which was 12-for-14 from the free throw line over the final 23 to hold off Providence.

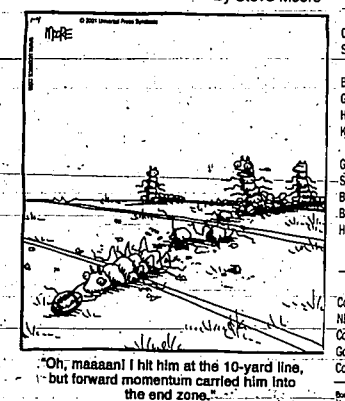
Women's results/ Va. Tech 84 — BLAUGSBURG, Va. — Ruth Riley scored a career-high 27 points and had eight rebounds in a Big East matchup. Niele Ivey added 18 points and seven assists as Notre Dame (13-0, 2-0 Big East) extended the best start in school history and dealt the Hokies their first home loss of the season.

Iowa St. 84, Kansas St. 58 MANHATTAN, Kan. — Angie Welle had 18 points and 11 rebounds for her sixth double-double of the season as Iowa State prevailed in the Big 12 Conference opener for both teams.

La. Tech 66, Denver 46 RUSTON, La. — Ayana Walker scored 22 points and blocked six shots as the Lady Techs earned their 37th straight regular-season Sun Belt Conference victory and 61st straight regular-season home victory against a conference opponent. La. Tech added 10 points and 11 rebounds.

SCORES AND STATS

IN THE BLEACHERS By Steve Moore



Oh, maaaaan I hit him at the 10-yard line, but forward momentum carried him into the end zone.

BASKETBALL

Association: NIT/CAP CONFERENCE. Table with columns for Team, W, L, Pct, and Games Played.

WESTERN CONFERENCE. Table with columns for Team, W, L, Pct, and Games Played.

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Women's Scores

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Continental Basketball Association

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LOCAL SCHEDULE

Table listing local sports events including basketball, wrestling, and football.

ON THE AIR TELEVISION

Table listing television and radio broadcasts for various sports.

WEST COAST HOCKEY LEAGUE

Table listing West Coast Hockey League games.

HURRICANES LIGHTNING

Table listing Hurricanes and Lightning games.

U.S. COUNTRY RESULTS

Table listing U.S. Country Championship results.

SKIING

Table listing skiing events and results.

TRANSACTIONS

Table listing basketball transactions.

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SPORTS

NEW QUARTERBACK BREED

Elways, Montanas and Favres are absent from playoffs

By Dave Goldberg AP football writer

Until Nov. 19, Aaron Brooks never had taken a snap in the NFL. Like Daunte Culpepper, he spent his rookie season on the bench - in Green Bay.

Now he's in New Orleans, and has led the Saints to the second round of the playoffs.

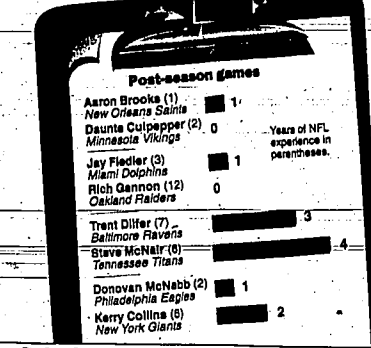
Jay Fiedler was with five teams in five years. Rich Gannon spent most of his 12 previous pro seasons as a backup. Donovan McNabb is in his second season. Trent Dilfer was a washout, and Kerry Collins almost washed himself out of the NFL with alcohol.

Whatever happened to the notion that a Super Bowl team needs John Elway, Joe Montana, Troy Aikman or Brett Favre to succeed? Or the notion that a quarterback needed years and years of experience to get to the Super Bowl?

Quarterbacks on the 12 playoff teams had a total of 15 games of postseason experience when the wild-card round began.

Experience not required

Of the eight remaining starting quarterbacks entering the second round of the NFL playoffs, all have little or no experience in post-season play.



Source: Elias Sports Bureau; compiled from AP wire reports. Tennessee's Steve McNair had the most - four, all last season - and St. Louis' Kurt Warner had three, also last season. Collins,



New York quarterback Kerry Collins looks to pass in this Oct. 8 photo. This year, the Giants earned the top seed in the NFC by passing Collins' 3,610 yards were the third most in team history.



New Orleans' quarterback Aaron Brooks reaches back to pass during their NFC wild-card playoff game against St. Louis at the Louisiana Superdome in New Orleans Saturday.

The New York Giants' quarterback, was 1-1 with Carolina in his second season before drinking problems almost cost him his

career. The 35-year-old Gannon was drafted by New England as a defensive back, and floated through Minnesota, Washington and Kansas City before finding a starting job in Oakland.

Five of the eight surviving quarterbacks were expected to reach this point some time during their careers. McNair, Collins, McNabb, Culpepper and Dilfer all were high first-round choices. Culpepper, the 11th overall pick in 1999, was the lowest selection.

But Gannon and Brooks were fourth-round picks - Brooks was drafted by the Packers last season, didn't play at all and was traded to New Orleans in the preseason.

And Fiedler wasn't even drafted when he came out of Dartmouth in 1994.

Like Warner, last year's MVP from northwest, he traveled the world - from the Eagles (two years) to the Bengals (quick cut) to the Amsterdam Admirals of NFL Europe to Hostrar as an assistant coach, then to Minnesota two years ago as a third stringer. He was the backup at Jacksonville last season, looked good in a couple of starts and a mop-up role, and ended up in Miami, where he beat out Damon Hubbard as Dan Marino's successor.

Another Saint claims stardom

The Associated Press

NEW ORLEANS - During seven years in the NFL, Willie Jackson seldom found himself in the role of gamebreaker, rarely made headlines, never set records or became a city's instant hero.

That changed in the NFC playoffs. "You get opportunities. You never know when one is going to break for you, but when it does you have to be ready for it," Jackson said this week. "It's circumstances. When you get a chance you just have to make the most of it. It's just getting the chance that's important."

Jackson had an opportunity Saturday and he made the most of it.

NFL notes

Horn, down with a sprained foot against the St. Louis Rams. Jackson stepped up, catching a record-tying three touchdown passes as the Saints won 31-28 for the team's first playoff victory. The Saints (11-6) play at Minnesota (11-5) on Saturday.

Shell quits as Falcons' offensive line coach

FLOWERY BRANCH, Ga. - Hall of Famer Art Shell resigned Wednesday as offensive line coach of the Atlanta Falcons after four seasons with the NFL club. Shell, who played on two Super Bowl winning teams with

Oakland, was an eight-time All-Pro offensive guard during his 15-year career as a player. He was inducted into the Pro Football Hall of Fame in 1989.

Carruth defense rests without his testimony

CHARLOTTE, N.C. - Rae Carruth's lawyers rested their case Wednesday without calling the former football player to the stand to deny he arranged the killing of his pregnant girlfriend. Defense attorney David Rudolf rested his case after calling a series of witnesses to testify on Carruth's behalf.

Judge Charles Lamm recessed court until today to allow prosecutors time to prepare their rebuttal witnesses.

Seles leads U.S. to opening sweep

PERTH, Australia (AP) - Monica Seles returned to the Hopman Cup after a 10-year absence

Tennis

Monica Seles



She beat Karina Haboudova 3-6, 6-4, and teammate Jan-Michael Gambill defeated Dominik Hrbaty 6-3, 3-6, 6-4. In mixed doubles, Seles-

Fan rallies star

Monica Seles, who was stabbed in the back by an obsessed fan in Germany in 1993, was started by an autograph seeker who approached her from behind at the Hopman Cup on Wednesday.

Seles was sitting outside after her mixed-doubles match between the United States and Russia when a middle-aged man tapped her on the shoulder for an autograph. Witnesses say the tennis star appeared unbothered by the approach and immediately grabbed playing partner Jan-Michael Gambill, who ushered her from the area. Security officials at the venue, Perth's Burwood Dome, escorted the man from the scene, but there was no action taken against him.

Herby 4-6, 6-2, 7-6 (4)

Seles had a more successful day than Marat Safin, the Russian ranked No. 2 in the world. The U.S. Open champion was upset by little-known Belgian Olivier Rochus 6-2, 1-6, 6-3.

U.S. qualifier scores upset in New Zealand

AUCKLAND, New Zealand - Allison Bradshaw, an American qualifier just six months into her tennis career, upset Barbara Schertz 7-6 (1), 3-6, 6-4 Wednesday at the ASB Bank Classic. The 20-year-old Bradshaw is ranked 134th in the world. In upsetting the second-seeded Austrian in the second round, Bradshaw sent another top player tumbling from this Australian Open tuneup.

YOUR SPORTS

YourSports Desk: 733-0931, Ext. 229 (Hours: 2-11 p.m.)

LIONS ROAR



The Lincoln Lions sixth-grade girls' basketball team recently received a sportsmanship award. Shown are (bottom row) assistant coach Melissa Sandoval, Ashley Barboza and Jessica Schmitt, Middle: Mary Sandoval, Christa West and Chelsea Abrahamwald. Top row: coach Mike Sandoval, team sponsors Mike and Oracie Sandoval, Nikke Tate, Natasha Brenner, Jennifer Rice, Alisha Shapard and team sponsors Charlie and Chris Davis of Papa Murphy's.

Jerome bowler's perfect game is extra special

Jerome's Gary Benedictus will have a hard time forgetting Dec. 21, the day he rolled an extra-special 300 game.

Benedictus bowls at Jerome Bowl on the Wildcat League on Thursday nights. The league consists of five-man teams.

He rolled the 300 in Game 2. He didn't want to talk about Game 1 but admitted, finally, that it was a 163. It then asked him to tell about the 300 game, starting with Frame 3.

"The ninth was a little tight, what I like to call 'Mr. Mixer,'" he said. "The 10th an 11th were buried. The 12th went brookie and it took forever. The 7 pin was the last to go-down." Benedictus said his highest previous game was a 298 at Bull's Sunset Bowl in 1985 or '86. Now he'll proudly be wearing a 300 ring, and, with a 400 average, will also receive the 100-pin-



LET'S GO BOWLING Thelma Tucker

over-average watch. Benedictus was born in Mt. Vernon, Wash. When he was 3 months old, the family moved to Chico, Calif. At the age of 12, in 1976, they moved to Bull, and he graduated from Castleford High School in 1982. Gary met his wife, Kayleen, in 1992 at Sunset Bowl. They have been blessed with three children, Josh, Shantell and Chelsea, and there is another due in March.

Gary started bowling when he was 20 years old - no previous YABA bowling, he just decided to try the sport. He bowled steadily at Sunset Bowl until about seven years ago, but Gary and Kayleen moved the family to Jerome when he became manager of the John Reimsma Dairy.

"He took a five-year layoff from bowling, starting up again at Jerome Bowl for the 1993-2000 season. Gary gives a great deal of credit for his bowling ability to Bob Wriginton, owner of Sunset Bowl, who helped with coaching him during the many years he bowled there.

Since he started bowling at Jerome Bowl, owner Fred Beguhl and what he in the bowling world like to refer to as "Jane man" - Butch-Weigt, have asked Gary his advice on lane conditions on the left side. Gary also told me he felt very hon-

ored they've come to him for input, and truly appreciated their desire to please the bowlers with a fair and equal shot.

Now it's time for the best part of Gary's story. Have you ever felt that someone was helping you? Gary said his Dad helped him win the 12th shot. Gary's father died in July 1998 and Dec. 21 would have been his birthday. What's more, Dec. 20 would have been his parents' wedding anniversary. Gary made a phone call to Everett, Wash., to talk to Mom very shortly after he arrived home from bowling that night.

Gary asked that I mention one more thing: He acquired a lot of friends at Sunset Bowl, and since his move to Jerome, he has not seen many and he does miss them. And, finally: Hello, Verna!

Contact Thelma at 733-4357 or by e-mail at trucker@magiclink.com.

YOUR SCORES AND STATS

Grid of sports scores and statistics including Bowling Scores, MARY VALLEY TENNIS LEAGUE, BRUCE RYER KOLB BURLAY, LIONS ROAR, and various football and basketball scores.

Randy Hansen AUTO PLEX advertisement featuring a 1995 Ford Windstar with features like 7 passenger, air conditioning, tilt, cruise, power windows and doors. Price \$7,897.

GUNS BUY • SELL • TRADE advertisement for Idaho Coin Galleries, 302 N. Main, Twin Falls, ID. 83301. 733-8593.

AROUND THE VALLEY

Marshal concludes fire was accidental

JEROME - A smoldering cigarette in a living room chair probably ignited the Sunday fire that killed two Jerome residents, a Jerome police detective said Wednesday. The state fire marshal concluded this week that Tamera Lee, 43, and Richard Travis Springsteen, 52, were killed by carbon monoxide in smoke. Det. Jim Baker said: "The fire marshal has closed the case and ruled the fire accidental, Baker said."

Autopsies revealed the victims' bodies were saturated with more than twice the carbon monoxide level a human body can tolerate, Baker said.

Springsteen and Lee were probably asleep in the bedroom of their trailer home at 423 West Ave. E when the fire broke out at about 5:15 a.m., Baker said.

Investigators concluded that Springsteen was conscious just long enough to try to rescue Lee, who apparently never gained consciousness, Baker said.

The fire probably smoldered and gave off smoke for an hour or so before breaking out, Baker said. "Not having working smoke detectors in the house literally cost them their lives," he said.

Police seek applicants for citizens academy

TWIN FALLS - The Twin Falls Police Department is seeking applicants for year's citizens' police academy, which starts Jan. 30.

Designed to improve relations between the police and residents, the academy gives a realistic overview of the department's function.

The academy will be limited to 15 participants and will consist of 10 two-hour classes. Classes will be held two nights each week. After completion of the academy, a graduation ceremony will be held. Participants will also get a chance to learn more about the reserve officer and Citizens on Patrol programs.

The following eligibility requirements are in place:

- Applicants must live or work in Twin Falls.
 - Applicants must be at least 21 years old.
 - Applicants must have no prior felony convictions.
 - Applicants must have no misdemeanor arrests within the past six months.
- The police chief can waive any of these requirements.

Applicants also must pass a criminal history background investigation. For more information or to get an application, call Sgt. Dennis Pullin at 736-5000, Ext. 379. The deadline for applications is Jan. 15.

Twin Falls swears in new magistrate judge Monday

TWIN FALLS - The Fifth Judicial District's newest magistrate judge will be called for duty Monday.

Former Cassia County deputy prosecutor Howard Snyder, 47, will be sworn in at 3 p.m. in a ceremony at the Theron Ward Judicial Building in Twin Falls.

Judicial commission recently picked Snyder to replace retiring Magistrate Judge Marvin Edwards. A reception will follow the ceremony.

Ketchum City Council increases parking fines

KETCHUM - Parking fines are going up, courtesy of the Ketchum City Council.

Violators will be given a warning the first time, a \$10 fine the second time, a \$20 fine the third time and a \$40 fine the fourth time.

Council members wanted to charge as much as \$80 for parking infractions but backed down at Mayor Guy Coles' request.

Blaine commissioners discuss subdivision plan

HAILEY - Blaine County commissioners will discuss a controversial subdivision and wireless towers in separate hearings today.

Commissioners will consider the Golden Eagle II project today, in a special meeting beginning at 1 p.m. They will discuss the wireless communication master plan at 6:30 p.m.

Both meetings will be held at the old county courthouse.

Compiled from staff reports

Numbers may trim bed needs

By Michael Journé
Times-News writer

Lawmaker believes huge prison cot increase may not be needed

TWIN FALLS - Idaho's prison populations are growing, but a report scheduled for release today leads at least one Magic Valley lawmaker to believe a huge increase in beds might not be needed after all.

Idaho Department of Correction Director James Spalding at one point had anticipated needing \$88 million in new prisons within two years to keep

up with the crush. But the numbers expected in today's report, from a panel appointed by Gov. Dirk Kempthorne, could bring lawmakers some welcome news.

There are definitely short-term needs, Rep. Leon Smith, R-Twin Falls, said Wednesday, but beyond four or five years out things could level out.

"You've got to have a women's prison and you got to have it right

now," said Smith, a member of Kempthorne's prison population committee and a member of the House Judiciary and Rules Committee, which helps oversee the operation of Idaho's prisons. (Idaho women's prison in Pocatello is designed to hold 253 inmates maximum, but now houses 263. Couple that with 164 Idaho women inmates held by counties or other states, and the need for

investing in the Pocatello facility is clear, Smith said.

"We're in violation - we're at 103 percent right now with 164 farmed out," Smith said. "So we need an expansion of that facility right now."

Spalding will likely request \$11.6 million to expand the women's facility.

Over the next three years the number of women in Idaho's pris-

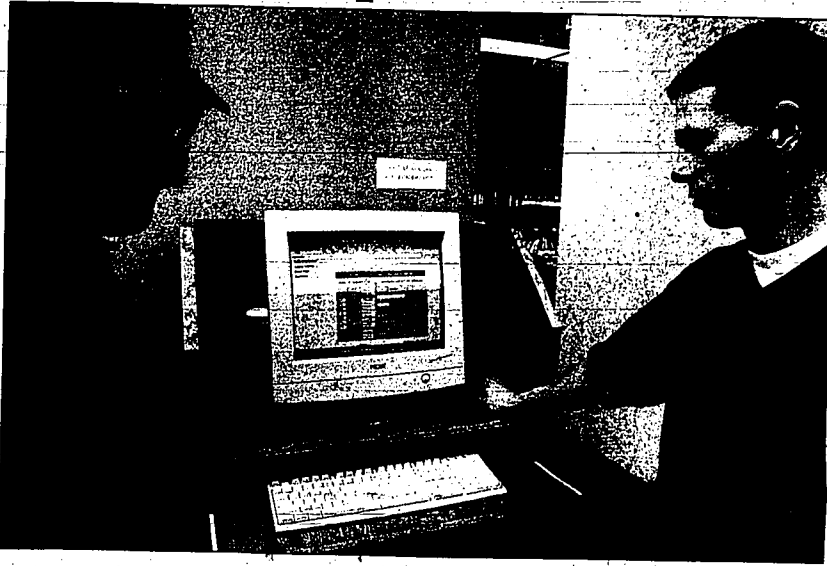


Rep. Leon Smith

ons will likely go up about 8.5 percent a year, while men's numbers will increase just a little over 6 percent. Using those percent ages, Idaho's prison population in 2004 will be 6,408.

Although - Please see PRISON, Page C3

Computerized



Scott Scholes, right, a counselor at the College of Southern Idaho, shows Cody Orchard how to use a new online registration site. Eventually, returning students will be able to select their classes and track their progress toward their degrees over the Internet.

E-registration comes to a college near you

By Jennifer Sandmann
Times-News writer

TWIN FALLS - The College of Southern Idaho soon will offer students a choice to get out of line, and go online, for class registration.

CSI wants to offer registration over the Internet. Traditionally a stressful and time-consuming ritual at colleges across the country, registration typically means students' roam from office to office and line to line, as they try to complete legwork required before they can sign up for classes.

CSI students, like a growing number of students across the country, soon will have the option to sign up for classes over the computer. The online sys-

tem will sort class listings to help students find the courses they need, track individual student progress toward graduation credits as they plan the classes they need to take, and allow students immediate access to unofficial transcripts.

Having completed a system test, Registrar John Martin said the last step in preparing the system for operation is to assign personal identification numbers to students. Each student will use a PIN number and his or her student identification number to access the system, a password procedure designed to keep individual academic records private.

"At this point, the online registration system will be available to returning CSI students only.

Students new to CSI must use the traditional registration system.

Functionality for students is the biggest reason to offer online registration, Martin said.

The college Counseling Center, which offers academic advising services to students who haven't decided on a major, is excited about the new student service.

"It's going to allow students to be better consumers," counselor Scott Scholes said.

Online registration won't take the place of academic advising, but it will help students keep track of the courses they need to take to meet graduation requirements, he said.

The online system also will allow students to search for

courses by time, day, subject or instructor. This will be a great help, as the most common registration question comes from students looking to fill their schedules with one more class that must fit a specific time slot.

Online, students are signing up for classes in "real time," he said.

If a class is full, the computer will say so. The computer won't let students mistakenly sign up for two-classes-offered-at-the-same-time. It also won't let students into classes without prerequisites.

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

Buhl medical office closes

By Brandon Flala
Times-News writer

BUHL - Buhl residents seeking medical care will have to drive a little further, after a medical satellite office closed.

The Twin Falls Clinic & Hospital closed its Buhl outpatient clinic Friday, after reviewing its performance, clinic spokesman Dennis Maughan said.

"It was strictly a business decision," he said. "The doctors had to make a tough call. They looked at how the business was performing and decided to close the doors. It was a tough hit for the community, after relying on it for over three years."

Maughan said financial figures weren't available. The Main Street clinic was the clinic's only satellite office.

"We're sorry to lose the office. It was very handy and convenient for our community," said Barbara Phillips, director of the Buhl Chamber of Commerce. "I'm sorry they felt like they needed to leave, and I wish we could have found a way to keep them here."

The biggest loss is a loss of convenience, Phillips said. "It's not traumatic, but it's a hardship for some people to go all the way to Twin Falls," she said.

The clinic was staffed by a nurse, receptionist and two physician assistants, who were transferred to the Twin Falls hospital. Staff had been rotating between Buhl and Twin Falls, Maughan said.

The decision to close the office was unrelated to its attempt to sell or lease the Twin Falls Clinic & Hospital, he said.

Twin Falls Clinic could choose this month on a buyer, Magic Valley Regional Medical Center and Saint Alphonsus Regional Medical Center in Boise are both interested.

Times-News writer Brandon Flala can be reached in Twin Falls at 735-3246.

Amalgamated Sugar Co. switches to Montana hauler

By Aaron Brock
Times-News writer

PAUL - The Amalgamated Sugar Co. will employ a new trucking company to haul sugar beets, ending a relationship with Circle A Construction that dates back to the late 1960s.

Transystems Inc., a Great Falls, Mont., company, won a bid Tuesday to serve Amalgamated Sugar across Idaho. It will take over the hauling operations on Sept. 1.

Circle A - which typically employs around 900 people annually - might not hire as much seasonal help as it has in the past.

But Transystems' hiring might offset these layoffs.

"We don't anticipate the loss of Idaho jobs," said Brian Whipple, transportation manager for Amalgamated Sugar. "We really think they're going to be drawing from the same local pool."

Dan Rice, vice president of marketing for Transystems, said his company is already taking

steps to set up Magic Valley headquarters.

"I would expect that we will have our plan pretty well set on hiring and benefits within 30 days," Rice said.

Working all over the Northwest, Transystems hauls 10 million to 12 million tons of beets annually, Rice said.

Acquiring the job with Amalgamated Sugar, the Northwest's largest sugar producer, should boost this number by more than 5 million tons a year.

Circle A had hauled beets for the Twin Falls and Paul branches since 1968, said Circle A vice president Steve Aslett.

"It's a surprise," Aslett said. "We've had a really good working relationship over the years. But that's competition."

Amalgamated officials said the change was based purely on economics.

Circle A employees "have been excellent people to work with," said John Schorr, the agriculture manager at the Paul plant. "They've done an excel-



AARON BROCK/The Times-News

lent job." Amalgamated Sugar would not say how much money is being saved, but the amount

was "significant," Whipple said. "There was no question about what had to be done," he said.

Transystems also will replace Idaho Sand and Gravel, a Nampa company that had hauled beets for Amalgamated in western Idaho.

BizFacts



BRIEFLY IN MONEY

Buhl business returns to former ownership

BUHL - Richard Gourley, previous owner of Wild West Video on Main Street in Buhl, is buying the business back from a bank after Douglas Roy and Utahna Jill Cooper filed for Chapter 7 bankruptcy recently.

Gourley said the store will continue to operate as Wild West Video, and hours are 10 a.m. to 9 p.m. Mondays through Thursdays and 10 a.m. to 10 p.m. Fridays and Saturdays. The store is closed Sundays.

Gourley, who declined to release terms of the sale, said he doesn't intend to make any changes in the business operation for now.

The Coopers two years ago bought the video-rental and pizza business from Gourley. Douglas Cooper said they just couldn't make it and had to get out.

Douglas Cooper said he will continue to operate D.C. Carpentry, his other Buhl business, following the bankruptcy.

Idaho Falls company lays off workers, opts for foreign labor

IDAHO FALLS - Robison's Inc., a snowmobile and motorcycle clothing manufacturer, laid off 27 seamstresses last week because owners want the company's goods made in countries where labor

"Much of our clothing has been imported for the last three years, as we have anticipated this type of a situation facing us," said secretary and treasurer Randy Robison. "We have been, in fact, one of the very few garment manufacturers operating in the USA for the last four to five years."

Robison said importing the company's brands, SnoRider and Joe Rocket, will make Robison's Inc. more competitive.

The company reported sales of more than \$13 million last year. Seamstress Judy Hamblet worked for Robison's 16 years. Now 57, she has held two jobs: waitress and seamstress.

"People like me, they feel good when they are paying their bills," Hamblet said. "I can go out to breakfast every Saturday. I only had five years to go before I was going to retire. My future doesn't look good."

Your e-mail-style may reveal your job status

Do you put a lot of these (:) in your e-mails at work? If so, you're slacking up electronically, according to a Vanderbilt University study.

"Emotions" such as smiley faces are used most often by lower-rung workers, said David Owens. Owens is an assistant professor of management at Vanderbilt's Department of Organizational Studies.

Other people also tend to respond quickly to e-mails, as they send long, thoughtful responses, Owens found.

Executives, on the other hand, take longer to respond, and send shorter e-mails. Big shots also use numeric signatures on messages to indicate their titles and rates.

Finally, middle managers write complicated e-mails to show off their expertise, and they tend to be more argumentative in an attempt to exert influence.

These are bosses who traditionally dominate group meetings by using visual clues or signals, such as seating position and posture, dress, possessions, even the tone of their voice or how often they interrupt others," Owens said.

These same people - especially those who feel they have lost the control they usually have in face-to-face meetings - are likely to use existing e-mail features and even develop new ones to maintain their status.

Compiled from staff and wire reports

VA prepares to move clinic

Rapid growth prompts veterans outpost facility to relocate downtown

By Virginia S. Hutchins
Times-News writer

TWIN FALLS - When it opened Memorial Day 2000 in Twin Falls, a new outpatient clinic for veterans started life with a patient base of zero.

Patient numbers since then - "almost doubling every day" - have amazed officials of Boise's VA Medical Center, said Patrick Flanagan, the Medical Center's director of facilities management.

Current enrollment at the Twin Falls clinic has reached about 1,300 veterans, said Grant Ragsdale, staff assistant to the Medical Center director, and that number is expected to keep rising.

Now that flurry of growth is headed to downtown Twin Falls, where the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs this week applied for a building permit for a new structure to replace its leased location on Shoup Avenue West.



A dirt lot on the corner of Second Avenue East and Third Street East in Twin Falls will soon be the site of a relocating outpatient clinic for veterans. Officials plan to have the clinic completed by October.

"I think it's going to be a really good addition to Twin Falls and the downtown," Flanagan said Wednesday, adding that patients - veterans only - often

bring family members to their clinic appointments, and those relatives will use the opportunity to shop downtown.

In recent months, leaders of the city's redeveloping core have been eager to see the new clinic become their neighbor.

Ragsdale and Dave McAlindin, the city's economic

development director, this week both said the VA and Twin Falls' Urban Renewal Agency are ready to sign a lease for agency-owned property at 260 Second Ave. E., the former site of Matt's Mini-Mart.

"There are no hitches whatsoever," McAlindin said. "We have a willing lessor and a willing lessee."

Urban Renewal members in August stipulated certain terms: The VA will pay \$1 a year during the 10-year, renewable lease, and Urban Renewal will retain ownership of the land and inherit any improvements when the lease terminates.

The VA will own the new outpatient clinic it builds and has designed it so it can be moved should the VA ever decide to do so, Flanagan said.

"I don't foresee this before I retire, or anything," he added.

The new downtown building will have a stucco exterior with some brick planters and a steel roof, said Flanagan, who estimates a \$300,000 to \$350,000 cost.

"I think it'll blend in really well down there," he said.

VA officials-Ragsdale said-wanted to ensure they didn't end up with something that looks temporary. They wanted to make a nice addition to

...Please see CLINIC, Page C6

THE FED RELENTS

Interest rate cut restores some economic hopes

By John Caniff
The Associated Press

NEW YORK - The Federal Reserve lit a match under the financial thermometer.

It did so at a time when negative news was piling atop negative news, sending vibrations through the economy and threatening to send an avalanche that conceivably could bury the economy in recession.

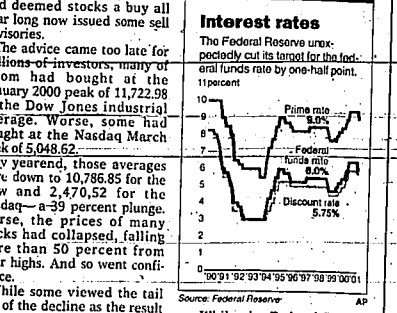
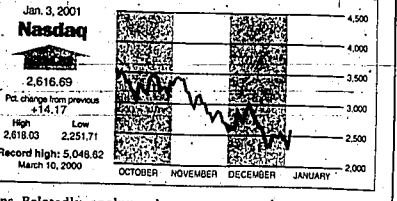
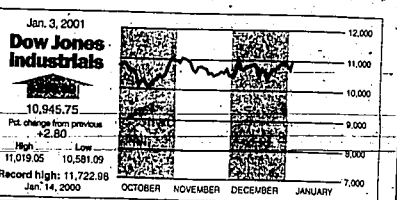
Clearly, the Fed had become nervous about losing its ability to control the slowdown it intentionally created by raising interest rates six times between June 1999 and May 2000.

At the time, it feared that demands by consumers and producers might tax the economy's ability to respond, an almost certain precursor of inflation and, eventually, recession. It got what it sought, and more.

Since midyear 2000, negative news has piled upon negative news. Energy supplies fell and prices rose. Factories slumped. High-tech stocks crashed. Retailers were disappointed with sales. Confidence eroded.

The general view of things, which had reached an extreme of optimism in which all news was viewed as good news, took a drastic turn. A mania of optimism showed indications of deteriorating into a panic attack.

For many investors, large and small, professional and amateur, the erosion was seen vividly in Wall Street expecta-



Source: Federal Reserve

While the Federal Reserve gave indications that it now had become more concerned with recession than inflation, Please see INTEREST, Page C6

Sonic Corp. posts record earnings

By Virginia S. Hutchins
Times-News writer

TWIN FALLS - An Oklahoma City-based drive-in restaurant chain redefining its first Magic Valley location reported record revenues and earnings for the fiscal year, which ended Nov. 30.

Sonic Corp. this week said net income rose 13 percent to \$8.5 million from the \$7.5 million in fiscal 2000's first quarter, and was up 49 percent to 31 cents per diluted share from the 26 cents per diluted share a year earlier. All per-share amounts are adjusted for a three-for-two stock split Nov. 30.

Sonic said revenues for the quarter increased 8 percent to \$71 million compared with \$65.9 million a year earlier.

Clifford Hudson, chairman and chief executive, credited Sonic's "multilayered growth strategies" - something that this year entails entry into Magic Valley and other Idaho markets.

"These strategies provide balanced opportunities to drive our profits through continued expansion of the chain and the positive impact that has on our franchising income, strong media support for our brand-building efforts, a steady flow of new product news and increased leverage of corporate-level expenses," he said.

"Although sales during the latter part of the quarter were, as previously announced, restrained by unusually cold and wet weather across many of our markets, we are pleased that our multilayered growth strategies have continued to produce solid gains in earnings and a strong return on equity," Hudson said.

Systemwide same-store sales declined 11 percent in the first quarter.

"Despite slower sales in November and December, we continue to believe that initiatives are

in place, weather permitting, to support same-store sales growth of between 2 percent and 4 percent during the remaining months of the fiscal year," he said. "We anticipate that media expenditures, which will increase 20 percent to over \$80 million this year, will help fuel sales growth in the months to come as we continue to improve Sonic's advertising awareness vs. competitors."

During the first quarter, Sonic opened a total of 46 new drive-ins, including 40 franchised restaurants and two company-owned. The company started to experiment in the new year. Sonic expects to open at least 200 new drive-ins during the fiscal year.

Franchisees, by far, serve most of the food. The company recently opened the Idaho market for its franchisees.

A trio of Enid, Okla., business people in November announced plans to bring a Sonic Drive-In restaurant, featuring carhops and made-to-order fast food, to Magic Valley.

The chain agreed to an area development agreement with the three franchise partners, who will open their first Sonic, at 2392 Addison Ave. in Twin Falls, by mid-April. The franchisees contracted with Sonic to build three restaurants by Dec. 1, 2003, then have an option to open three more in the valley.

Twin Falls' building department in December issued a building permit for the new drive-in, listing a 1,582-square-foot restaurant, 5,998-square-foot canopy and \$165,609 total estimated value.

For Sonic Corp., Hudson looks for continued earnings growth in the range of 18 to 20 percent for fiscal 2001.

Times-News Business Editor Virginia S. Hutchins can be reached at 733-0931, Ext. 242, or by email at virginia@magicalvalley.com

Indicators help piece together U.S. economic picture

The Baltimore Sun

A rise in the number of new houses under construction, as occurred in November, surely means the economy is about to boom. A fall in retail sales, which occurred at the same time, surely means the economy is cooling off.

Orders for goods that people keep for several years, such as cars and refrigerators, rose in September. They fell in October. To the first half of December, the number of people filing new claims for unemployment increased.

But what do the statistics mean? And which ones are important? And do any of them reliably pre-

dict the future of the economy? Is a recession ahead? Has it already begun?

Piece by piece, the thousands of economic statistics that the federal government and private industry publish every month help paint the picture of the national economy that drives financial decisions by individuals, businesses and government.

"I think of it as a huge jigsaw puzzle with tiny little pieces, and every day I get a couple of new ones," Stuart Hoffman, chief economist with PNC Financial Services Group in Pittsburgh, said

of the steady stream of economic reports. "In the real world, it's a

Piece by piece, the thousands of economic statistics that the federal government and private industry tabulate every month help paint the picture of the national economy that drives financial decisions by individuals, businesses and government. changing puzzle. It's not like you solve it and you're done."

Different statistics come in out and out of fashion with the economic cycle. A decade ago, economists lived and died by the Federal Reserve Board's measures of money supply, estimates of the total amount of money in the economy. Now, Hoffman said, few economists give that much weight. Individual investors can't easily know which statistics are important - unless their stock portfolios soar or plummet on the release of the data. And paying attention to every newly released statistic is almost a guarantee of confusion.

"Watching high-frequency data can be dangerous to your health," said David Wyss, chief economist for Standard & Poor's Corp. in New York.

Economists, though, do agree on the importance of a half-dozen statistical indicators, in times of growth as well as recession. These are the measures that seem to reliably describe the state of the economy and, over time, hint at its direction.

Employment Situation report. If economists had to choose a favorite measure, this likely would be it. "It has a lot of numbers in it. A lot of stuff to analyze," Wyss said. Please see INDICATORS, Page C6

MONEY Indicators

Continued from C5

Released by the Department of Labor on the first Friday of every month, it is the first major indicator of what happened the previous month. As such, it can move the stock markets. Important numbers: How many jobs were gained or lost, the jobless rate and average hourly earnings (this last item being an inflation gauge).

The report is compiled from two surveys: The Current Employment Statistics which surveys 380,000 nonfarm businesses, numbers of workers, wages and work hours and the Current Population Survey, which is conducted by 1,500 Census Bureau workers interviewing members of 50,000 households about their work status.

A Gross Domestic Product. "It really is the most comprehensive picture of the overall economy," said Sung Won Sohn, chief economist for Wells Fargo & Co. in Minneapolis.

Released quarterly by the Commerce Department, the GDP is the market value of all goods and services produced within the United States. Changes in GDP show whether the economy is growing and at what rate.

To calculate the GDP number, about 100 staffers in the Bureau of Economic Analysis collect and organize thousands of economic data compiled by private sources and government agencies. The data falls into two categories: consumer spending, net exports, business investment and government spending and investments.

Consumer Price Index. Calculated monthly by the Bureau of Labor Statistics, this cost-of-living index measures changes in the prices that urban consumers pay for a selection of goods and services. Critics say the CPI tends to overstate inflation and doesn't accurately reflect today's shopping habits. But it is the most widely watched inflation gauge.

About 275 field representatives

visit stores, apartments and businesses in 87 cities each month to record prices of 80,000 items including eyeglasses, gasoline, rent, cupcakes, beer, breakfast cereal, nutrition software and funeral services. The basket items have been tracked every 10 years, based on consumer diaries. Beginning in 2002, the basket will be updated every two years.

The index base is 1982 to 1984 — the prices of that period define the "100." As of November, the index reached 174.1, meaning prices have risen 74.1 percent since the base period. CPI is usually reported as a percentage increase or decrease over the previous month or past year.

Retail sales. "Two-thirds of the economy is the U.S. consumer," said Diane Swonk, chief economist of Bank One Corp. in Chicago. And consumer purchases are retail sales.

The government began reporting retail sales monthly in 1951 to provide timely data for the Gross National Product. Now, each month, sales questionnaires are sent to more than 12,000 grocers, jewelers, butchers, bookstores, drug stores, gas stations, auto dealers and other retailers. E-commerce sales were added in October. A new sample of retailers is drafted every five years based on the latest census data. The sample also is updated quarterly to replace businesses that have closed.

Index of leading Economic Indicators. Published by the Conference Board, a nonprofit business-research organization in New York, this index is intended to predict the economy's direction three to six months in advance.

The index is a composite of stock prices, housing permits, money supply, consumer expectations, interest-rate spread, vendor performance, weekly initial claims for unemployment insurance, average workweek in manufacturing, new orders for consumer goods and new orders for nondefense

capital goods.

Purchasing Managers Index. Critics say this index focuses only on manufacturers. "It doesn't show how much the sector has grown or shrunk, but the PMI still enjoys a revered status. It traditionally has been one of Mr. Greenspan's favorite surveys to monitor," said Carol Stone, deputy chief economist for American Securities in New York, referring to Fed Chairman Alan Greenspan.

Based on a survey of about 400 purchasing executives by the National Association of Purchasing Management, this index measures whether production, employment, inventories, new orders and supplier deliveries are better than, worse than or the same as the month before.

All the "betters" and half of the "sames" are added together to produce the index number, said Robert Orr, who oversees the survey. A figure above 50 percent means growth in manufacturing; anything below that signals contraction.

Economists cite other economic figures as especially reliable indicators of the economy's health: housing starts, the trade deficit and consumer confidence. And Sohn cited the stock market as an excellent leading indicator because market corrections precede recessions. "The problem is the stock market predicts recessions too often," he said.

And whatever Fed chairman Greenspan intimates he's watching at the moment becomes the hot statistic to dissect.

"One way he camouflages his inner feelings so as not to upset the markets is to suddenly dwell on-the-most-obscure economic indicator you can imagine," said David DeRosa, president of DeRosa Research and Trading in New Canaan, Conn. "We're always trying to outguess him, and he's trying to give away any secrets of what he's thinking until no one

Interest

Continued from C5
few forecasts that it would lower interest rates by one-half percent, 50 basis points, in one sudden move.

"Nor was the timing widely foreseen, at least by ordinary Americans. What seemed to be a consensus among economists was for a 25 basis point cut at the Fed's regular meeting just before the end of the month."

The suddenness of the move might even have provided fuel for worriers, rather than a boost to confidence. Was the economic situation even more dire than forecasting? Was the Fed wary of losing control?

All the time, however, the nation's financial engineer, chairman Alan Greenspan, the fellow who broke the overly-uberant economy, was still in the controls, and able to throw

the lever the opposite way. The worriers weren't routed entirely. "It doesn't mean the Fed has automatic power to make the economy dance to its wishes, but the quick response of the stock market showed that it had restored at least some small measure of confidence.

Despite the size of the Fed's cut, it hardly unloaded its ammunition, and some, especially those who expect the economy to continue downhill toward recession levels, anticipate rates to be lowered by another 75 basis points in the near future.

There are other possible correctives as well. President-elect George W. Bush has promised to seek a tax cut. While perhaps not as powerful as lower interest rates, a tax cut has enormous psychological value, a

remedial shock for the entire economy.

Social Security might enter the picture. Six years ago, the idea of allowing individuals to invest part of their Social Security withholdings in securities was the political third rail, touch it and die.

Political thinking in both parties has now come around to believing some privatization of Social Security funds is a possibility, conceivably even this year. For stocks, that could be like found money.

While recognizing the seriousness of the economic downturn, economist Jim Griffin of Aetna Investment Management, had already taken a bright view of the future.

"Don't confuse an ugly present with the prospect for an ugly future," he advises.

Clinic

Continued from C5
down town.

"It's going to be an attractive building," he said.

VA leaders will be in Twin Falls Jan. 18 to hold an 11 a.m. pre-bid conference at City Hall with contractors who have expressed interest in the 4,200-square-foot project. The VA has sent building plans to those contractors, Ragsdale said. Bidding will open Jan. 25.

The VA will require construction completion by Oct. 1, Flanagan said, but contractors "could very well finish it in June. We hope they will."

The outpatient clinic will move whenever its new home is available.

And that won't be a bit too soon.

"Right now we're in a growing phase," Ragsdale said. The Twin Falls operation has a part-time physician, two full-time physician assistants, two full-time registered nurses and two front-office workers.

"And so far the work load hasn't ceased," he said. The clinic is seeking a medical assistant to help with laboratory and phlebotomy tasks. And the VA is almost finished recruiting a social worker to do some mental health and some outpatient social work from the Twin Falls clinic, Ragsdale said.

"And I would anticipate there will be further (staff) expansion when we get into our new facility," he said, adding that the move will entail a two-fold space increase.

Ragsdale and other VA leaders don't know exactly how to project growth in patient numbers for the clinic's primary medical and mental health care.

"There's great speculation on that. Everyone has their own forecasting model," he said. But they do estimate 10,000 veterans in the Magic Valley are potential patients of the clinic.

"We're very pleased with the way that it's been accepted in Twin Falls," Ragsdale said, "and the demand has certainly supported us being there."

Times-News Business Editor Virginia S. Hutchins can be reached at 733-0931, Ext. 242, or by e-mail at virginia@magicalvalley.com

NEW YORK STOCK EXCHANGE

Table with columns: Name, Div, Last, Chg, P/E, etc. Lists various stocks and their market performance.

MARKET SUMMARY

Summary table for NYSE, AMEX, and NASDAQ. Includes columns for Most Active, Gainers, Losers, and Diaries.

NASDAQ NATIONAL MARKET

Table listing NASDAQ national market data, including various stock indices and individual stock prices.

INDEXES

Table showing various market indices like S&P 500, Dow Jones, and Russell 2000.

STOCKS OF LOCAL INTEREST

Table listing stocks of local interest with columns for Name, Div, PE, Last, Chg, YTD.

HOW TO READ THE MARKET REPORT

Table providing information on how to read the market report, including symbols and abbreviations.

AMERICAN STOCK EXCHANGE

Table listing American Stock Exchange data, including various stock prices and market activity.

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MARKETS

CLOSING FUTURES

Table of closing futures prices for various commodities including soybeans, corn, wheat, and oil. Columns include contract name, price, and change.

Table of closing futures prices for metals and currencies, including gold, silver, and various international currencies.

Table of closing futures prices for energy commodities, including natural gas, heating oil, and gasoline.

Table of closing futures prices for agricultural products, including soybean meal, soybean oil, and cotton.

Table of closing futures prices for livestock and poultry, including live cattle, hogs, and chickens.

Table of closing futures prices for various international currencies and gold/silver prices.

Table of closing futures prices for beans, including soybean meal and soybean oil.

Table of closing futures prices for grains, including wheat, corn, and soybeans.

Table of closing futures prices for cheese, including various types of cheese.

Table of closing futures prices for potatoes, including various grades of potatoes.

Table of closing futures prices for metals and currencies, including gold, silver, and various international currencies.

Table of closing futures prices for sugar, including various grades of sugar.

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Construction spending declines in November

WASHINGTON (AP) - Homeowners cut back on government-improved tax on big building projects in November, driving construction spending down for the first time in four months.

The Commerce Department reported Wednesday that total construction spending fell by 0.6 percent to a seasonally adjusted annual rate of \$815.6 billion.

Economists said that bad winter weather, stock market volatility, lower consumer confidence and higher energy prices all played roles in the decline.

Economists said that bad winter weather, stock market volatility, lower consumer confidence and higher energy prices all played roles in the decline.

"It's another sign the economy is slowing down - potentially too rapidly," said Carl Tannenbaum, chief economist for First Union.

Spending on new single-family homes rose by 0.3 percent to a rate of \$226.2 billion in November helped up by cheaper mortgage rates.

Spending on apartments and condos went up by 1.9 percent to a rate of \$28.7 billion.

Since hitting a five-year high in May, rates on 30-year fixed-rate mortgages have been falling. They hit a 19-month low of 7.13 percent last week.

Saudi oil official says cuts will not be drastic

DUBAI, United Arab Emirates (AP) - Oil production needs to slow down, but cuts will not be drastic, a Saudi oil official said.

The official, speaking Tuesday in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, said that in addition to the 1.5 million barrels.

He said production cuts would depend on the market at the time of an Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries meeting later this month.

He ruled out the possibility of reducing production by 2 million barrels, saying such a move could leave the market unstable and would not be acceptable to consumers.

The oil minister for the United Arab Emirates, meanwhile, said OPEC would consider reducing its total crude oil output by 1.5 million barrels a day if it determines that is necessary to stabilize the oil market.

"If it becomes clear to us that we have to cut output by 1.5 million barrels a day or more or less to maintain stability, the organization will take the necessary decision," the UAE's OPEC spokesman said.

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MUTUAL FUNDS

Large table of mutual fund performance data, including fund names, assets, and returns.

MORNING BREAK

ACROSS

- Decimated
- Luau guitars, briefly
- Abu UAE
- Close by, old-style
- Sit stightly
- French chalk
- Vodka cocktail
- Diabetes treatment
- Baldersdahl
- Part of AT&T
- Department store
- Quartermaster
- Propagate
- Ad division
- Move furively
- Sledgehammer
- Island termus
- Backpacker's shelter
- Pockmarks
- Early garden
- Heretic tale
- Back on
- From time long past
- Rags' wives
- Arms' narrow
- Transcriber
- Chitarrist
- Arms' narrow
- End of pay?
- Extinct bird
- Slood by
- Or nuttation
- Culturally pretentious
- Cruse ship
- Knif blade
- Old Norse character
- Bumpo buy
- Moose kin
- Calendar span

DOWN

- Opposed to
- Horse of a different color
- Misfortunes
- Non-fiction film
- Lai loose
- Potter's ovens
- Freudian topic
- Quicker ways
- Home of the
- That man
- Wool maker of
- Tours topper
- Pastoral poems
- Wooden pegs
- Pumping woe
- Positive recipient
- Grounded Air Force hero
- Earnest request
- One of a circus
- ... of two
- Jim's
- Collary
- Collary stimulant
- Hot chess sandwich
- Conclusions
- Cher's suit
- Gumbo vogue
- Targelers
- Woman's Tom
- Embros
- Kukla's friend
- Common
- Mrs. Gower
- Champion
- Fairful
- Volcano near
- Messina
- Hair colorist
- Eur. sea
- Circus
- retirement

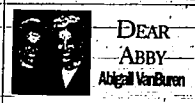
Planning comes highly recommended

DEAR ABBY: I must differ with something you stated in a recent column. For high-school teachers and some counselors, being asked to write a letter of recommendation is always a compliment. There are many students (and parents) who think that teachers OWB them a letter. Around college application time, teachers are flooded with requests. The result is that teachers write generic letters that often have little bearing on the true abilities of the students, simply because of the volume of letters requested.

Students are not always thoughtful in making their requests, so please allow me to offer a few suggestions that will guarantee worthwhile teacher recommendations:

- Teachers are very busy. Don't leave your request for the last minute and expect it to be accommodated.
- Provide the teacher with all of the relevant information about your high school career, such as student activities, work experience, future plans for study and career, and why you're applying to a particular school.
- Provide a stamped, addressed envelope if the recommendation is to be mailed.
- Write a thank-you note to the teacher for taking valuable personal time to help you. This is good practice for job applications later on.
- Parents, this is your child's job, not yours. However, if a teacher has played a significant role in your child's life, a handwritten note from you is more precious than any "thank-them!" trinket gift, and appropriate at any time of the year.

Most teachers want to see



DEAR ABBY: I must differ with something you stated in a recent column. For high-school teachers and some counselors, being asked to write a letter of recommendation is always a compliment. There are many students (and parents) who think that teachers OWB them a letter. Around college application time, teachers are flooded with requests. The result is that teachers write generic letters that often have little bearing on the true abilities of the students, simply because of the volume of letters requested.

DEAR POPULAR TEACHER: Your suggestions are excellent. I hope that students will take note of them and do some advance planning before asking their teachers for letters of recommendation. That way everyone will be a winner.

DEAR ABBY: My ex-wife and I divorced several years ago. After a three-year court fight, I was awarded custody of our two daughters. In spite of this, my ex and I are on friendly terms. I have remarried and have a stepchild.

My ex had a baby by a man who is now locked up for two years in a drug rehab facility. She has just informed me that she's planning on moving in with another man and wanted me to know he is a registered sex

offender. I looked it up on the Internet and learned he committed a aggravated assault on a 10-year-old child.

ABBY, I am concerned about sending my girls over to stay with their mother on weekends. I want to trust her judgment, but not at the risk of jeopardizing my children. I went to my mom for advice. All she could say was, "I know you will do the right thing."

I don't know what to do. I want my ex to be happy. Maybe this is the soul mate she's been looking for, but I can't help being concerned about my children's safety. What should I do?

A DAD IN A DILEMMA

DEAR DAD: Your ex-wife told you about her boyfriend's criminal record to give you the opportunity to call the shots — so do it. Since her taste in men is so poor, you must safeguard your daughters' welfare. Tell her for the children's safety, they will not be staying at her house.

Wednesday's Puzzle Solution

EWERS	DEBUI	PRO
PILOT	ERASE	LIP
ISSUE	PAGAN	AVE
CHIEFER	WERS	AFTER
SIAP	DEPENS	ASTIA
CLAMP	SEDATIVE	IVE
ICELAND	DECIDED	ED
MONASIEIC	AGNEID	
CHEKHOV	GALLA	
ONIC	DEACIO	
WORST	ROTSKY	
LIE	HEAVE	AMORE
EST	EGRET	TRAIN
THE	SPOTS	HURTS

Libra — March to your own tune

IF JANUARY 4TH IS YOUR BIRTHDAY: You were on your own while young. Your ideas did not fit family play. Taurus, Leo, Scorpio persons play major roles in your life.

ARIES (Mar. 21-Apr. 19): You will finish "favor" projects. Relationship that ends is not really the end. Healing process is under way. Love brings about reunion in dramatic manner.

TAURUS (Apr. 20-May 20): Cycle high, what was thought to be impossible will be accomplished. People are drawn to you; fame, fortune could await.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Question of partnership and marriage looms large. Family member wants to be with you for a greater length of time. Be accommodating and hold tight to principles.

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Laugh at your own foibles, try new wardrobe, realize you are attractive and sexy. Include family in upcoming adventure.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Lunar opposition coincides with promotion of business and career. Details require review, check plumbing facilities.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): New prospects leantured — you are close to obtaining objective. Focus on advertising, pushing and vigorous promotional campaign.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Diplomacy wins, if you force issues you lose. Possibility exists for change of residence, marital status.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Hold back, play winning game. Someone tempts you into premature action. Wait and win.

HOROSCOPE

Sydney Omarr

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Don't hit yourself with sledgehammer words. Let the past be built for the future. Protect valuable, lost money will be recovered. Capricorn involved.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Someone close to you offers wise counsel. Continue along the path, it is the right way.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Take new look at property, home. You need more room. If you insist,

desire will be fulfilled. Don't follow others; wear bright colors.

PISCES (Feb. 19-Mar. 20): Focus on home, restoration of domestic harmony. Emotional fulfillment if you so permit. Make intelligent concession.

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This year's Grammys might highlight battle of the bands

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Veteran musicians could face stiff competition from youthful artists such as "N-Sync" at the Grammy-Award nominations Wednesday.

Works by Paul Simon, Eric Clapton, B.B. King and U2 garnered critical acclaim, but the likes of "N-Sync and Britney Spears dominated the charts throughout the year.

Grammy voters may dismiss "N-Sync's hit song "Bye Bye Bye" as bubblegum music, but they won't be able to deny the band's immense popularity.

"I don't care if you don't like them," said Geoff Mayfield, director of charts at Billboard magazine. "I defy anyone to tell me that song is not catchy."

"Trash-talking rapper Eminem could be the Grammy wildcard for his multi-album release, "The Marshall Mathers LP."

Family-values activists derided his songs about beatings, rape and murder but critics praised his twisted rhymes and creative vulgarity for their artistry, if not for the message.

Despite winning two Grammys last year, Eminem's growing infamy — not to mention assault charges in Michigan — could make him unattractive to the mainstream-minded National Academy of Recording Arts and Sciences.

"Ordinarily one of the year's biggest-selling records that has been critically acclaimed is a lock for the show's nominations, like best record of album. But too many people have too many problems with him," said Alan Light, editor of Spin magazine.

Billboard's Mayfield predicted Eminem will make the hip-hop category but will be passed over for major nomination.

Front-runners for the top nods remained elusive.

Singles from veteran rockers "Sting and U2 are eligible but their albums came out too early or too late to qualify for some awards."

"I'm a (recording academy) member and even I don't think there are any obvious candidates this year," Mayfield said.

Madonna's album "Music" is a likely contender, he said, but as with Paul Simon's "You're the One," it could be hurt by similarities to the artists' past hits.

Movies

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TODAY 7:00 - 9:30

IMV 12 CINEMA
107 WASHINGTON ST. TWIN FALLS, ID
This Week's PG Rated Movies
What Women Want 7:30 - 9:30
Empire's New Game 7:00 - 9:30

PG12 Rated Movies
What Women Want 7:30 - 9:30
Catsy 7:30 - 9:30
Silva Conspiracy 7:00 - 9:30
Foolish Men 7:30 - 9:30

ODYSSEY THEATRE
1000 W. MAIN ST. TWIN FALLS, ID
This Week's PG Rated Movies
Remember the Titans 9:45

PG12 Rated Movies
Charlie's Angels 7:00
Dude! Where's My Car 7:15 - 9:30
Meet the Parents 7:25 - 9:45

R Rated Movies
Men of Honor 7:00 - 9:45
Dracula 2000 7:15 - 9:30
Proof of Life 7:00 - 9:45

JEROME A CINEMA
655 W. MAIN ST. TWIN FALLS, ID
This Week's G Rated Movies
Empire's New Game 7:15 - 9:30

PG12 Rated Movies
What Women Want 7:00 - 9:45
Miss Conception 7:00 - 9:45

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OUTDOORS

INSIDE

Comics D3

Outdoors Editor: William Brock = 733-0931; Ext. 264

Thursday, January 4, 2001

Section D



Let's go skiing:
Ski resort keeps its doors open despite local plant closure.

Page D4

The Times-News

A Class 4 start to a new life

My guts tightened like a noose as I paddled into Slide Rapid, the nastiest whitewater drop on the Snake River near Hagerman. icy water pounded through a narrow chute framed by jagged rocks and evil whirlpools.

It was time for serious navigation, so I needed to make it happen. If I was to remain in my canoe, I needed to stay. I had misgivings about my immediate future.

It was New Year's Day, 1994, and I had moved to Idaho just a few days before. It was my inaugural voyage down the Snake and I was beginning to wish I had chosen a less adventurous way to usher in the new year. A simple splash-around at Centennial Park or Shoshone Falls would have been OK with me.

The trip through Slide Rapid started innocently. Orvil Atkinson, my first friend in this valley, had asked if I wanted to join some friends for their annual New Year's Day whitewater float.

I wasn't so sure about paddling an open canoe through whitewater in early January, but it sounded like fun anyway. I could always sneak the vest rapids. I told myself.

Orvil and I drove to Hagerman together. We were two peas in a pod that day because we were the only ones paddling hard boats. Everyone else was riding in a lodgepole collection of rafts.

It was cold when we arrived at the mouth of the Malad River, where we had a rendezvous with the rafters. Most of them were wearing insulated coveralls and telined boots, and several were chugging 86-proof brews. I felt like a day-glow Frodo Loop as I wriggled into my wet suit and bright yellow paddling jacket.

"You won't have much time to warm up," Orvil warned. "The river comes at you right away."

Sure enough, the first rapid - with wild, leaping whitewater - was only a stone's throw from the launch site. Awash with anxiety, I topped off my air bags, cinched down my life jacket and shoved off.

I was staggered by the size of Slide. It was by swirling and no place for a swim. I began to wish I was in a kayak or a raft or, better still, ashore.

I charged through the first few drops, bailing occasionally and wondering whether the rapids ahead would be any easier. I must have looked pretty grim because some of the drunks on the rafts urged me to, ahem, "relax and have fun."

Less than an hour after we launched, the rapids settled down and we were striking downstream on flat water. The flat water was backed up behind a rapid known, rather ominously, as The Slide.

At this point, all the boatmen began talking about The Slide. The big question on everyone's lips: "Which way are you gonna run The Slide?"

The Slide, it turned out, had been created by a languid landslide about five months earlier. It has lost most of its teeth in recent years, but The Slide has full complement of fangs when I first saw it.

Our flotilla stopped above The Slide, and all of the boatmen hopped ashore to have a look. It didn't look good.

The river blasted through a longish and rocky, but fairly straight, channel, then smashed into what looked like an old bridge abutment on the left. The trick was to miss that mayhem while retaining enough control to avoid a rock, slightly downstream, that bore a disturbing resemblance to a rhinoceros horn. The sharp end of the horn was, of course, pointing upstream.

I was mesmerized, but Orvil dug an elbow into my ribs. "C'mon," he said, "let's get this over with."

All I remember of the actual run was violently eddying out on the right, about a third of the way through the rapid, then riding out a succession of enormous waves. I stayed upright and out of trouble, as did Orvil.

It was an auspicious beginning to my new life in southern Idaho.

FORCE OF NATURE
William Brock

William Brock is Outdoors editor of The Times-News.

William Brock is Outdoors editor of The Times-News.

Animal prints tell stories for trackers to interpret

By Karen Bosack
Times-News correspondent

A set of quarter-inch tracks lead away from a tall lodgepole pine when, suddenly, they disappear in a middle. The imprint of wings are brushed in the snow, but it's not clear what happened.

Reading animal tracks is mystery and adventure rolled into one.

"You can look at tracks like you're reading a story," says Sara Ketchum, who occasionally takes children out on animal tracking expeditions for the Sawtooth National Recreation Area.

"You see mouse tracks and then - boom - you see wings slamming into the snow and you've got a pretty good idea that an owl might have come out of a tree, grabbed lunch and took off," she says.

Animal tracking is fun for all ages. But it's particularly good for youngsters, brimming with curiosity about the world around them. The tracks are literally right under their noses. Trying to figure out the stories behind the track stimulates their fertile imaginations.

"We love to go out exploring and this is a fun way to do it," says Ketchum resident Cam Cooper, out on a tracking expedition with his son, Ross.

Ann Christensen leads scads of youngsters and adults on animal tracking expeditions every winter for the Ketchum-based Environmental Resource Center. She asks her charges to trade their human instincts for animal instincts, then zero in on patterns in the snow.

"Ask questions whenever you find animal tracks, she says. For starters, what direction was the animal traveling? If the tracks stop under a tree, can you find urine, scat or other signs that the animal was there?"

Often, Christensen says, you can follow the tracks of deer mice from one tree well to another as they search for food. Sometimes, you see their tail tracks alongside their prints. Voles have shorter tails so you don't see tails accompanying their prints.

Christensen spies a big set of snowshoe hare prints that make an abrupt 45-degree turn out in the open.

"I always wonder what causes them to turn out in the open like this," she says. "Do you suppose they come out, stop and look around? Then they see something that causes them to panic and they head for the trees?"

Encouraged by Christensen,

Cam and Ross Cooper follow a set of tracks to the shade of a tree - where they find a tunnel and debris from pine cones that a squirrel apparently ate in the limbs above.

Christensen turns her attention to another tree well. "The red squirrel eats pine cones like



Above: Ketchum-area naturalist Ann Christensen shows how much bigger a wolf print is than a coyote's. Left: The vole leaves dumbbell-shaped prints as it drags its belly through the snow.

Two mile deer graze in a field near the Hantz Ranch subdivision in Boise last week. The deer come down into the Treasure Valley during the winter months for food.



Join a tracking workshop
Naturalist Ann Christensen and Cathy Beer lead tracking workshops each month during the winter for the Environmental Resource Center in Ketchum. For more information, call 726-4333 or check ercnews.org.

Best times for tracking
• December and early January is typically the best time for tracking. Animals are more active because the snowpack is still thin.
• By March you don't see many mouse tracks because they're running around under the snow, eating old seeds and vegetation. Snow crystals also tend to melt and refreeze more as the days begin to warm, making it difficult to identify the prints.
• You will generally see more tracks on the second or third day after a snowfall.
For tips on tracking with kids, see D2.

corn on the cob," she says, holding one up for inspection. "This squirrel was in a hurry. He stripped branches and then harvested the pine cones on the ground, storing them elsewhere."

Life down under
Humans tend to burrow inside warm houses when it's snowing outside. Many animals, on the other hand, burrow-under-the-snow.

With a roof of snow over their heads, they're well-insulated from the weather. If there isn't enough snow, they sometimes succumb to the elements.

Freezing rain in the middle of winter can form an impenetrable ice barrier, trapping many smaller animals. Eventually, they starve to death. When that happens, larger animals sometimes starve because they have no smaller animals to eat.

Walk this way
Animals walk on different parts of their feet. Raccoons, for instance, walk on their entire feet because they don't have to run fast. Deer, by contrast, run on the tips of their hooves when they have escape predators.

Some walk, others bound, still others hop. If the hind prints are bigger, as in the case of a snowshoe hare, the animal is a hopper.

Foxes and coyotes leave zigzag prints when they're walking because they are usually following their noses. It's easy to spot the difference between a dog's track and a coyote's track - dogs are clumsy, plowing their way through the snow with far less efficiency.

Made to measure
To get an idea of how large an animal is, Christensen takes out a ruler and measures its prints from left paw to left paw.

"Twenty-four inches," she concludes after measuring a prominent set of prints. "Either a large male fox or a small moose."

Please see TRACK, Page D2

William Brock is Outdoors editor of The Times-News.

Experts offer tracking tips, tactics in seminar

The Associated Press
KENAL, Alaska - Trapping has been a part of the fabric of life for many Alaskans for generations. And whether drawn by a desire to make money or simply to pursue the challenges of tracking a wild animal, those seasoned in the craft can offer a wealth of information.

Such was the case on a recent Saturday when a group of trappers from various disciplines offered tips and tactics to an assembled group at a workshop sponsored by the Kenai National Wildlife Refuge.

Information came from a diverse group of presenters - Alaska Department of Fish and Game biologist Tim McKinley discussed snaring wolves and coyotes; longtime Kenai Peninsula trapper Laine Labndt offered tips on capturing lynx; and refuge ranger Gary Titus highlighted effective ways to trap beavers.

McKinley, who has lived on the peninsula for seven years, said he traps for the challenge more than any money he earns from it.

"You see some amazing things out there in the woods," he said. McKinley makes his own snares, although he said a ready-made Thompson snare probably would cost \$3. That can get expensive when 50-plus snares are used.

"I think the homemade snares are better," McKinley said. "It allows you to customize them more."

He starts with a rigid length of No. 9 wire - strong enough to hold an animal. Attached to the heavy

Please see SEMINAR, Page D2

OUTDOORS

Montana women claim 'soft-adventure' niche

BOZEMAN, Mont. (AP) — Dori Passmann says the party on the beach was in full-swing when a couple of young studs from a neighboring camp showed up unannounced. It was late October, on a women-only trip to the Sea of Cortez for snorkeling among the sea lions, kayaking and relaxing under the Mexican sun. The trip was organized by AdventureWomen, a Bozeman-based company that specializes in soft-adventure travel. "They said, 'As soon as the guys showed up, there was an immediate change in atmosphere,'" Passmann says. "When they left, things sort of resumed."

Which means, of course, by themselves. Perhaps it's because they're not as driven to extremes as men are, Eckert says. That mountain over there? It doesn't matter to a gal if she's the first one to the top. Eckert, who is careful to point out that men have their place, too, says many women turn to female-only adventure vacations simply because they want a change of pace, some culture, perhaps a great meal among friends and companionship, not competition. In decades past, Eckert says, "it was always the guy who sat at the back of the canoe." With AdventureWomen, she's hoping to change that. From just five trips that season, AdventureWomen's full color catalog for 2001 now includes 27, ranging from a gorilla trek through the Ugandan highlands to a leisurely barge tour of France's Burgundy wine country.

TROPHIES



Hageman resident Coletti Glanzer cracked off a 200-yard shot to drop this moose on Oct. 4 near Pocatello. The rack has a 42 1/2-inch spread.

Seminar

Continued from D1. ter wire is a smaller, eight-inch cable that forms the loop of the snare and is attached with a lock. McKinley said his snares are strong enough to hold a wolf — or a moose — which sometimes gets caught in the snare. "Where wolves run, moose are going to run," McKinley said. "And sooner or later you are going to hook a moose." To remedy those accidental encounters, McKinley said he uses a hacksaw to cut part of the snare's lock. The alteration allows the much more powerful moose to pull the cable through the lock, something a wolf or coyote would be unable to do. "Cutting the locks is not a regulation," he told the group. "But I'm a real advocate for that. I'd rather find moose tracks around my site than the animal itself."

to a string. One of his favorite attractors is a patch of white fur-like material with a simulated eyeball attached. The attractor, not much bigger than an envelope, can be found at any fabric store and is surrounded by a pile of feathers, fur, grass and leaves near the leg-hold traps designed to capture the lynx. "Anytime you can represent life to a cat, it will make them curious," Lahndt said. "It's just a piece of material with a fake eye on it, but it's peaking out of a pile that doesn't look quite right." Lahndt, 41, was born in Kaslof and has been trapping on the Kenai Peninsula more than 30 years. He usually puts out 80- to 100 traps per season and targets not only lynx but wolves, coyotes and weaver. "I never really have trapped for the money," Lahndt said. "We'll sell to people who want a cat or those who want a tanned hide. There's also a market for taxidermy-grade hides. Over the years I have built up a client list."

Tips for animal tracking with kids

- Venture out at dawn or dusk when animals are most active.
• Take along a guide for identifying tracks.
• Travel along streams and the edges of meadows and woods. Pay particular attention around fallen trees. They provide protection, warmth and needles for food. Prints also are apt to be more distinct under trees because they haven't been exposed to the sun.
• Pay attention to habitat. You're apt to find other tracks near water, squirrel tracks in forests and weasel tracks in meadows.
• Be aware of "tracks" on surfaces other than snow. Woodpecker holes in a tree trunk, for instance, or tooth marks from porcupines or beetles on bark or stumps.
• Try to explain what the animal might have been doing as you follow its tracks.

WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU

Club news The Times-News welcomes announcements and other news from outdoor clubs. Address your news to "Outdoors Editor." Then mail it to P.O. Box 548, Twin Falls, ID 83301; or e-mail it to twnews@mtm.com.net; or bring it to our Burley or Twin Falls office. Be sure to include a contact name and phone number. Address your story to "Outdoors Editor." Then mail it to P.O. Box 548, Twin Falls, ID 83301; or e-mail it to twnews@mtm.com.net; or bring it to our Burley or Twin Falls office. Be sure to include your name, address and phone number. Your best shot Did you bag a big buck this year? Did you reel in a whopper? If you have an snapshot, The Times-News would like to publish it as part of our new "Trophies" feature. We welcome readers' photos of hunting, fishing or other outdoor scenes. Address your photo to "Outdoors Editor." Then mail it to P.O. Box 548, Twin Falls, ID 83301; or e-mail it to twnews@mtm.com.net; or bring it to our Burley or Twin Falls office. Be sure to include your name, address and phone number.

Track

Continued from D1. You can't tell which unless you have a perfect paw print or you see the animal making the track. She whips out her trusty ruler again. This time-measuring six feet between snowshoe hare prints. "This guy was probably traveling pretty fast," she announces. A slide mark-down a snow bank into a creek suggests there's an otter in the area. Prints that look like dumbbells or dog bones indicate a weasel. The tiny trace of a tail being dragged in the snow indicates the weasel probably had a mouse in its mouth.

Go to the source "You think you know what you're seeing. Then you follow the track to make sure," says Christensen. "If you follow the weasel track to the end and find blood and fur in the hole you know your hunch was a pretty good one." Over-the-years, Christensen has seen it all near her home north of Ketchum. "But one set of tracks still eludes her: the endangered lynx. "There are enough snowshoe hare prints," she says. "I'm sure they're probably here. But I haven't seen them."

Advertisement for Grover Home Depot featuring various home improvement products like heaters, fans, faucets, toilets, and meters. Includes a map of the store location in Twin Falls, Idaho, and contact information.

COMICS

Classic Peanuts

By Charles M. Schulz



Dibert

By Scott Adams



B.C.

By Johnny Hart



Garfield

By Jim Davis



Hi and Lois

By Chance Browne



The Wizard of Id

By Brant Parker & Johnny Hart



Hagar the Horrible

By Chris Browne



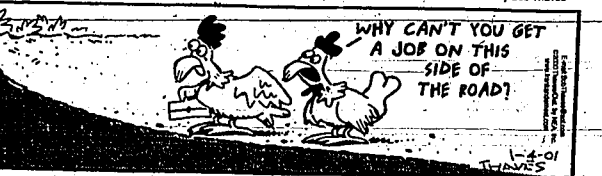
Beetle Bailey

By Mort Walker



Frank and Ernest

By Bob Thaves



The Bom Loser

By Art Sanson & Chip



For Better or For Worse

By Lynn Johnston



Blondie

By Dean Young & Stan Drake



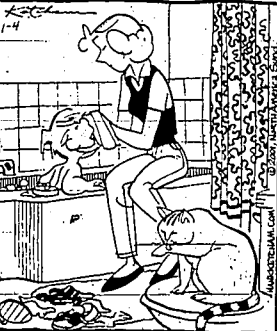
Pickles

By Brian Crane



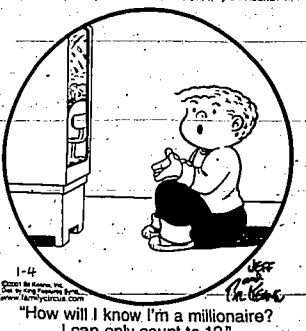
Dennis the Menace

By Hank Ketcham



The Family Circus

By Bil Keane



Rose Is Rose

By Pat Brady



Zits

By Jim Borgman and Jerry Scott



Loann

By Greg Evans



Strange Brew

By John Deering



Non Sequitur

By Wiley



OUTDOORS



A new snow groomer tows skiers at Bald Mountain ski area last year near Pierce. The recreation area will struggle to meet expenses now that many of those who use the facility lost jobs when the Jayve sawmill at Pierce shut down earlier last year.

Idaho ski resort stays open

Volunteers keep family-oriented hill running despite closing of plywood plant.

BALD MOUNTAIN (AP) - Hard times can pull people together or break them apart. At Bald Mountain near Pierce, a group of dedicated volunteers has closed ranks and is determined to see the family-oriented ski hill survive the closing of the Jayve plywood plant.

Despite the economic scare of the closure, which put 195 workers out of a job, and a decade-long slowdown in the timber-based economy, the hill opened this year as it has for the past 40 and is looking to attract new skiers to its friendly slopes.

"All we are trying to do is keep it open to provide a service, so the kids have a place to go skiing," says Mike Quigley of Lewiston, president of the ski area.

But he and others fear many of the Jayve employees and their families will forgo skiing this year or will move out of the area altogether.

"It's a big-time concern," says Quigley. "We can't replace Jayve. We can't do it, but we might get 20 families from Lewiston up here."

Marvin Cook of Pierce, a 14-year Jayve employee, works on the ski patrol at Bald Mountain. He's one of a number of laid-off workers who continue to volunteer at the hill.

He says many of his co-workers are able to ski this year because of their severance packages.

He says others have moved out of the area or taken jobs that require them to commute long distances. Because of that, they often spend their time off at home instead of hitting the slopes.

He fears many of them will move away if the local economy doesn't turn around.

"I'm staying," he says. "As far as the rest of them, I think this spring will tell a lot. If things don't open up by spring, folks are going to have to do what they have to do."

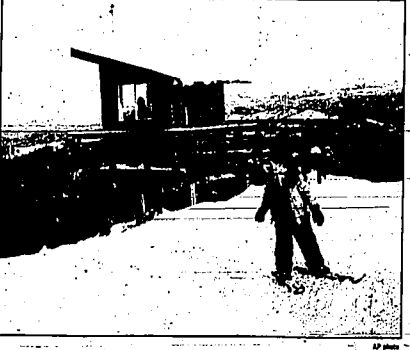
Quigley doesn't know yet how severely the mill closure will affect the hill, but some regulars are missing. But the place is by no means a ghost hill. The lodge and slopes are packed with kids on this holiday weekend.

Quigley seems to know most of them by name as he walks around the base, troubleshooting problems as they arise.

He is particularly proud of the ski racers that Bald Mountain produces and says they always do well against skiers from bigger hills.

The desire to attract new skiers predated the Jayve closure. In fact, Quigley says the hill recently received improvements such as a new groomer with a rototiller attachment that turns icy slopes into smooth, silky corduroy.

"For a little while, we were pretty ticked we could get something like that." The groomer was purchased last year, before



A young skier arrives at the top of Bald Mountain ski area last year near Pierce.

Quigley and others knew the area's largest employer was closing its doors.

He calls it a Catch-22. The hill needs the groomer to improve its quality, so it can attract skiers from the Lewiston-Clarkston Valley and the Palouse.

But the new expense, at a time when some people might not be skiing, will be tough to meet.

"We got all this stuff primed up," Quigley says, "and then we got hit in the face with Jayve shutting down. What the bottom lines is, we are just trying to maintain a winter sport around here, where things are bleak and tough, and have it so they don't lose something else."

Bald Mountain was founded in 1959 by Potlatch Corp. employees from Headquarters, Pierce and Weippe.

The workers volunteered to clear the slopes on land leased to them by Potlatch. Over the years they've added a lodge, ski rental shack, T-bar and ski patrol hut.

"The community built this hill," says Quigley, who grew up around Weippe. His four boys all work at the hill.

People like Amy Jared of Pierce, a third-generation Bald Mountain skier, continue to pitch in and make the hill run. Jared works as a ski patrol and treats skiers and boarders who wander into the shack with bumps and bruises. Her grandfather was one of the founding

operation. Most of the lumber was donated by local mills and the lodge was erected by local loggers and contractors. He says the mission of the hill remains the same as it was years ago.

"The main objective here is low-cost family skiing," he says. Bill Davis learned to ski at Bald Mountain while working for Potlatch Corp. and living at Orofino.

He lives in Lewiston now, but still returns to the mountain, where he teaches others to ski. He says the people keep him coming back.

"It's a family hill. That is one thing you miss when you go to Bluewood or McCall. It's just a different atmosphere. It's a volunteer hill run by people who don't make much money."

He thinks it's the best place to learn to ski because the lessons are longer and more personal than those at most hills. He often gives pointers to his former students when he sees them on the slopes. "We give the longest one-hour lesson you'll get anywhere."

Teaching people to ski and snowboard is one of the ways the hill hopes to attract new skiers. The lift tickets and lessons are cheaper than at larger resorts and the terrain more than challenging for beginners.

Quigley knows many people will leave Bald Mountain for bigger hills as they learn. But others like Jan Hoyer of Orofino will keep coming back.

"If you can ski here you can ski anywhere," she says.

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Long-eared owl goes largely unseen in Utah

SALT LAKE CITY (AP) - The long-eared owl is not a rare species in Utah. It is one of the state's most common and widespread birds of prey. While its occurrence is not infrequent, the concealment by darkness, shadow, and paucity of vocalizations is so complete its presence goes largely undetected.

Owls are largely nighttime birds, foraging in the same habitats as the more visible daytime hawks. The numerous species of owls throughout the world show a range of variability in extending their nightly hunting into the twilight daylight hours.

Some, such as Utah's short-eared and pygmy owls, often forage in early morning, late evening, and on cloudy days. The long-eared owl shuns bright light; it is among the most nocturnal of all owls. It flies like a dark, ghostly silhouette so softly illuminated by star shine or moon shine its silent passing is seldom perceived.

Daytime finds the long-eared owl resting, hidden deep in shadows usually screened from view by dense leaves or branches. Often it perches in trees close to the trunk and when disturbed, rather than taking flight, it stretches its 15-inch-long body, covered with feathers with a multitude of vertical streaks and horizontal bars. Its wings are an outflow of broken black, gray, brown and white, the owl blends well with the tree looking more like a stump than a bird.

The loud, far-reaching hooting of the Great Horned Owl permeates the wild lands of Utah. It is rare to find a person who spends a lot of time outdoors who is not familiar with its courting song. The male long-eared owl's courting song consists of a long series of hoo notes, softer and mellower than the Great Horned Owl's and which rarely carries much over a half mile. The female's most common nest call is barely audible away from the nest. Except during the breeding season, silence is this owl's characteristic norm.

Naming the owl for its long ears

is a misnomer. The long, closely spaced tufts that extend up from the head when perched and give the owl a somewhat catlike appearance are not ears but feathers.

Listing forests as the owl's habitat is somewhat misleading. Nesting occurs in trees or shrubs. New home construction is not a part of the owl's natural history. It lays its eggs and rears its young in existing nests. In Utah, old nests built by magpies, hawks, or ravens often in willow thickets, cottonwoods or junipers are favorite sites. Wings proportionately long for an owl lend themselves better to foraging in open areas. If an owl nests in the forest, it forages in adjacent open meadows. Two of the most utilized nesting habitats in Utah are desert-oasis and riparian thickets along streams and washes.

Long-eared owls gather in winter into common roosting sites. It is not uncommon to find 20 or more congregated in a small area. The tree grove behind the Fielding-Carr Ranch on Antelope Island for several years in the late 1980s and early 1990s often hosted a winter roost of more than 20 individuals. The tamarisk lining the Ogden River in the winter of 1997-1998 provided a concealed roosting site for more than 30 owls, about half were long-eared and half were short-eared.

Because of the owl's secretive nature and nighttime confinement, many cultures have considered it an omen. In the mid-1500s, a Franciscan priest named Bernardino de Sahagun recorded an Aztec view of what hearing an owl portended.

"They said that when it was heard, it signified death or sickness; it was an omen of death. He would die of sickness or in war, or one of his sons would die, or his slave would die. Perhaps now his house would be destroyed, his land would shrink; water would continually appear; weeds would cover at the gateway or the courtyard; the wall would lie crumbled, in ruins, lie devastated."

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COMMUNITY

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Serving the Magic Valley

Community Editor: Pat Marzantonio - 733-0931, Ext. 288

WE'RE OFF TO SEE THE WIZARD



The 5-6-7-8 Dance Company is performing its annual production of 'The Wizard of Oz' at 7 p.m. Saturday in the King Fine Arts Center, 2100 Parke Ave., Burley. Tickets are available at the door. Admission is \$6 for adults and \$4 for children age 12 and under. Amanda Wells is Dorothy, Ashlee Bates is the Tinman, Lindsay Hiedeman is the Lion and Emily Larson is the Scarecrow.

New vehicle gets green light

By Thera Tegen
Times-News writer

OAKLEY - The Oakley Quick Response Unit will drive a new vehicle, thanks to a \$40,800 state grant approved by the Idaho State Legislature.

Wayne Mullen, president of the unit, says they were able to purchase a 2001 Ford Excursion at \$40,000 and new radios for \$800.

To receive the grant, the unit had to go through a lengthy application process, he said. They were required to be registered with the state, incorporated, have the correct tax filing status and be a nonprofit corporation with status 501(c)(3). Most importantly, they had to show need, Mullen said. In their case, the unit's 1978 vehicle was too small, too slow and didn't have enough power to drive all the emergency equipment.

There are eight certified emergency medical technicians in the Oakley unit that covers 800 square miles. All members are volunteers and the operation exists on grants and donations. The new vehicle was purchased from Jules Harrison Ford in Twin Falls and they received a good deal from the dealership, Mullen said.

Grant money is accumulated by the state from driver's license fees. Problems are arising



Oakley Quick Response Unit volunteers show their new vehicle acquired through a state grant. From left, are Pam Whittle, unit secretary/treasurer; Wilma Burch and Sid Nelson, volunteers; Elda Mullen, director of operations; Cindy Nelson, unit instructor; Wayne Mullen, president; Richard Cooke, fleet manager of Jules Harrison Ford; Ruth Thomas, assistant to Cooke; and Sen. Denton Darrington. Not pictured are unit members Joe Stingham and David Roundy.

because license renewal has gone from four to eight years, said Sen. Denton Darrington. R-Deco. However, the amount of money going towards these type of grants has not changed, even though the renewal rate has.

Community volunteers and workers all over Idaho are essential - they save lives and reduce suffering, he added.

Mullen said there are many other quick response units that

are in need and could be eligible for this type of assistance.

Their base of operations building, located at 103 Center Ave. in Oakley, was built by the community three years ago and the land was donated by the T. R. Smith family. The large rock sign in front of the building was donated as an Eagle Scout project by Steven Burch, with stone for the project being donated by Oakley Valley Stone.

THANK YOU LETTERS

Gifts of Love helps bring night of joy to older people

Gifts of Love wants to thank those who participated in giving to others:

Magic Valley Regional Medical Center and Canyon View employees, etc.; The Times-News; Wal-Mart; Cookie Basket; Super Ads; Avon; Mary Kay; Randy Hansen; Music Store; Precision Fencing; Medicine Shop; Joanne's Fabrics; church groups; Troy Bulth and Kimberly Lee Davis, Brownie Troop 628; 9-year-old for beaded bracelets; Nora Klamforth and Louise. We gave 350 care center residents a night of joy.

We doubled last year - 1,500 gifts to others; also, we gave Magic Valley Crisis Center six boxes, Valley House 10, or more boxes and gifts to two families whose houses burned. Thank you for the thought that went into each gift.

Thank you for helping us to give all of them and to those they love. Special thanks to The Times-News for three articles that helped us double last year. You're wonderful!

Thanks again,
KIM SOMREK
Gifts of Love
Twin Falls

Homeowners open home and heart for fundraiser

To open one's home is to open one's heart. The generosity it takes to share one's home for the Junior Club's Holiday Home Tour does not go unnoticed. We appreciate all of the homeowners who opened their homes to help raise money for Camp Rainbow Gold and the Breast Cancer Endowment Fund:

Robyn Bammert, Kathryn Barta, Charlene and Max Casperson, Linda and Chris Frazier, Barbara and Jason Miciak, Deanna and Doug Vollmer.

Also, thank you to the musicians who played at the various homes. Your music helped usher in the spirit of the holidays: David Atkins, Becky Baird, Tiffany Baird, Rily Browning, Carey Butters, Jeff Crandall, Jenny Croll, Lorraine Gibson, Emily Harris, Chris Scholes, Jake Smith and David Wright.

Thank you for helping to make a difference.
LESLY HOLLISTER
Chairman, Holiday Home Tour
Junior Club
Twin Falls

I applaud those who adopted a star and made a child's Christmas wish come true

May all of you be blessed twice over.

DEE FOSTER
Community Resource Worker
Hagerman and Bliss School Districts
Hagerman

Lots of work, donations go into Scout X-mas tree lot

This letter of appreciation is to say thank you to the many communities in the Magic Valley for their support of the Christmas tree sales. The boys from Boy Scout Troop 139 in Jerome.

We would like to thank the boys and their parents for mowing the tree lot (even in cold weather). A big thank you goes out to the community of Jerome for its loyal support. A special thank you goes out to Schmidt Electric, for without his power hook-up we could not operate since most of the operating hours were at night.

Once again, a great big thank you to all concerned. We wish everyone a happy and prosperous new year.
Thank you!
CARROLL CONE
Scoutmaster, Troop 139
Jerome

School children help care for pets with donations

The Twin Falls Animal Shelter and the People for Pets Humane Society of the Magic Valley would like to sincerely thank the students of Bickie and Harrison schools for their generous donations this past holiday season. It is so heart-warming to see the youth of our community involved in supporting such a worthy cause as the animals at the shelter.

We would also like to thank the faculties and teachers for sharing the importance of caring for animals - for the needy animals with the children and for encouraging them to make a difference.
LAURIE SIMONDS
Director, People for Pets Humane Society of Magic Valley
Twin Falls

The Letters of Thanks column will publish letters of up to 150 words from:
• Organizations thanking contributors or supporters.
• Individuals thanking public agencies and businesses for extraordinary service.
If you would like to purchase a classified ad to express gratitude of a person rather than public nature, call The Times-News Customer Service department at 733-0931, Ext. 270.

Ryan needs an adult who believes in him

Personality: For a young man who has been through tough times, Ryan has a pretty easy-going personality. He could be described as shy and reserved - that is, until he gets to know you. This young man really needs an adult who will believe in his abilities. That's exactly what he found - at least for a day - when he spent the day with Idaho Steelheads hockey players Dan Shermanhorn and Shawn Wansborough. They showed Ryan how to keep an eye fixed firmly on the goal. Outfitted in full goalie gear and instructed by the players, Ryan successfully blocked several shots, giving him self-assurance he can use in other situations in his life.

Interests: Ryan is interested in basketball and riding his mountain bike. He also enjoys listening to music.

Needs: Ryan has made tremendous progress in therapy and within a group home placement. He needs a single adult or couple who can give him the home atmosphere and commitment he needs to succeed. He functions well in a structured environment with rules he can rely on. He will continue to progress with a mentor who will demonstrate the social and practical skills that are so critical to his developing identity.

"Thursday's Child" profiles child

Thursday's Child



Ryan with Idaho Steelhead players Dan Shermanhorn and Shawn Wansborough.

Ryan
Age 15

den awaiting adoption. For more information about this child or others, call the Idaho CareLine at 1-800-926-2588.

COMMUNITY EVENTS

DivorceCare seminar, group meets Monday in Twin Falls

TWIN FALLS - The DivorceCare recovery seminar and support group meets from 7-9 p.m. Mondays at the Twin Falls Reformed Church at 1631 Grandview Drive in Twin Falls.

DivorceCare is a seminar and support group for people who are separated, going through a divorce or divorced. Topics include "Facing Your Anger," "Facing Your Loneliness" and "KidCare." New participants are welcome. Child care is provided.

For more information, call Vickie DeBruin at 734-7751 or Ross and Flo McNurlin at 733-7313.

Weavers guild focuses on double weave at meeting

TWIN FALLS - The monthly meeting of the Snake River

Weavers Guild will be held from 1:30-3:30 p.m. Tuesday.

Peg Saxe will give a program on double weave. New weavers are encouraged to attend.

For more information, call 733-5883; 537-6573 or 734-5263.

College of Southern Idaho offers skiing for older people

TWIN FALLS - The Community Education Center at the College of Southern Idaho will offer the "Golden Years Ski Adventure" for students age 55 and over from 12-7 p.m. Thursdays, from Jan. 25 to March 15.

Students will travel to Pomerelle Ski Resort. The class will feature low intensity instruction with each student progressing at their own pace. Cost is \$115, which includes transportation, instructor fees

and lift tickets. Ski rentals are available at the resort for an additional cost.

For more information or to register, call 733-9554, Ext. 2200.

Spiritual Healing Assembly set at Eighth Street Center

BUHL - A Spiritual Healing Assembly will be held at 7:30 p.m. today at the Eighth Street Center at 200 Eighth St. in Buhl.

For more information or for an appointment, call Rev. Bob Willhite at 352-1129.

Kimberly seniors serve pork chop dinner Sunday

KIMBERLY - The Kimberly Senior Center will hold a pork chop dinner from 12-2 p.m. Sunday at the senior center at 310 N. Main in Kimberly. The cost is \$5 for adults and \$2.50 for children under 12.

Clinic staff members help pet owner say good-bye

A few days ago, I had to have a dear friend and companion put to sleep. Solo was an oversized Sheltie, nearly 14 years old, who thought he was more people than dog. He earned a Good Citizen Award in 1993 from the Snake River Canyon Kennel Club. He loved to go fishing, was a great cat chaser, always a gentleman.

I want to thank Dr. Saras and her staff at the Addison Animal Clinic for excellent care over the years and particularly during his final days and for handling his cremation in a dignified, professional manner. Their kind words and cards will always be remembered.

ROBERT F. EISENHAEUER
Twin Falls

Sponsors right on target for gun club turkey shoot

Thanks to the sponsors that made the Twin Falls Gun Club turkey shoot for Christmas for Kids a great success:

Cooper Construction, Gallispe Iron Works, Daylight Donuts, Chili's Grill, Rain for Rent, Western Farm Service, Service C-Store, T.E.R. Auto Argo, Magic Valley Men's Pool League, WCI (Dean Oviatt), Smith's Foods, Kelly Munsie, Brian-Kincaid, Bob Callen.

For and about
the Latino
community

Comunidad

INSIDE

Classified E3-6

Comunidad editor: Pat Marcantonio - 735-3288

Library, Hispanic fest group host 'Let's Talk About It'

TWIN FALLS - The Twin Falls Public Library and the Hispanic Heritage Festival organization will host the Let's Talk About It "Other Americas" program at 7 p.m. Feb. 7 in the library program room.

The program will continue every other Wednesday evening for five sessions. Discussions about the books and exploring various minority experiences in America will be led by guest speakers.

"My Grandma Smoked Cigars" by Ujjwari Singh

Ujjwari Singh writes about Hispanic culture in rural New Mexico, will be discussed at the first program.

Noticias

This book is divided in half with Spanish on one side and English on the other side. Another book to be discussed is "The Woman Warrior" by Maxine Hong Kingston. This book tells the story of generations of Chinese women and how an American Chinese girl feels as she tries to emerge from their sometimes stifling presence.

Other titles that will be talked about in the following weeks will be "Like Water for Chocolate" by Laura Esquivel, a story set against the backdrop of the vast Mexican revolution of 1910; and "Ceremony" by Leslie Silko, a story about an American Indian who returns to the reservation after being imprisoned by the Japanese during World War II. At the last program, the book "Bless Me, Ultima" by Rudolfo Anaya will be discussed. It is a depiction of the war between the evil Tenorio Trementina and the benevolent healer, Ultima.

The Let's Talk About It pro-

ject is made possible through a Partnership between the State Library and the Idaho Humanities Council, with the U.S. Bank as a sponsor this year.

The five books that will be discussed are available at the library. Those interested may sign up for the program at the reference desk.

For more information, call Susan Ash at 733-2964.

Business Association hears about applied tech

BOISE - The Hispanic Business Association meets at 6 p.m. Monday at Casa Mexico, the corner of Fairview Avenue and Five Mile.

On the agenda is Larry Barnhart, dean of the Boise State University Dean College of Applied Technology, and Rick O'Neal who will speak about a zero down equity purchase of a first home.

Nomination ballots and dues also will be discussed. For more information, call 322-7033.

College of Southern Idaho offers free ESL classes

TWIN FALLS - Free community English as a second language classes begin Tuesday. Courses are open to adults age 16 and older who want to learn English.

Day classes are:
10 a.m. to 12 p.m. Monday, Wednesday and Friday, Level 1 and Level 2.

9 a.m. to noon Tuesday and Thursday, Level 2.

1-3 p.m. Tuesday and Thursday, multi-level.

9-10 a.m. Monday, Wednesday and Friday, ESL computer literacy.

6:30-9:30 p.m. Monday and Wednesday, Levels 1 and 3 computer literacy.
6:30-9:30 p.m. Thursday, citizenship class.

LATINOS FACE HIGH RISK

Educate yourself about diabetes

By Amlaza Figueroa
Times-News correspondent

If you are Latino, you are twice as likely as the general population to have diabetes. This silent disease affects 1.2 million Latinos within the United States. Of these, an estimated 675,000 have not been diagnosed. Diabetes affects the body's ability to make or respond to insulin, a hormone which allows blood glucose to enter the cells of the body to be used for energy. The problem starts when the insulin has difficulty getting the sugars inside cells, then the levels of glucose raise dangerously, said Dr. Craig Nicholson, clinical director of the Indian Health Services Hospital in Pocatello.

"It is unknown why the incidence of diabetes is so high among Latinos, but it is known that it occurs in families, there is a hereditary component, though a family history of diabetes are at higher risk of developing the disease," he said.

The thrifty gene theory has been used to explain why certain population groups are more at risk than others. The theory states that a gene promotes calorie storage in the form of fat to help the body survive if there is lack of food. The evolution of the gene took place during the immigration of the Paleo Indians from north-east Asia through the Bering Strait. Today, a combination of lack of exercise and the typical high fat American diet has increased the obese population and caused abnormalities in the regulation of glucose in the body.

"Multiple genes are probably responsible for the high incidence of diabetes among minorities in the United States," Nicholson



Certified diabetes educator Ann Bybee, right, confers with Mary Molina, who translates diabetes information into Spanish as well as performs other translation work for the Twin Falls Clinic and Hospital. Statistics show that Latinos have a higher rate of diabetes than other groups.

Want more Information?

Diabetes Center Foundation
Call Ann Bybee at 733-3700
South Central District Health Department
Call Sue Ann Reese at 734-5900,
Diabetes risk
You are at risk if you are:

- Latino
- Overweight
- Over age 45
- Do not exercise regularly
- Have a family member with diabetes
- Prevention tips:
Eat a healthy diet
Exercise regularly
Regular medical checkups

However, the diet of the Latino family tends to be rich in carbohydrates and fat, Rosello says. Another problem is that diabetes sometimes has few or no symptoms, he says. Warning signs are frequent thirst and urination, blurred vision and sudden weight loss. But the disease has serious complications on vision, kidneys, heart and circulation if not treat-

ed. Adding to the problem is that Latinos are also less likely to have access to adequate preventive medical care or health education materials. "There are many obstacles for Latinos with diabetes in the U.S., the language barrier, cultural differences, lack of health insurance. Some are not eligible for Medicare or Medicaid, hence too many people fall between the cracks," said Ann Bybee, a certified diabetes educator at the Twin Falls Clinic and Hospital and with the Diabetes Center Foundation. "Treatment for diabetes is very expensive," she said. "Education is an important element of prevention since this disease is progressive."

Digame! (Tell me!)

Comunidad means "community" in Spanish and that's what this page is all about. Send your news items, quinceañeras, tips and notices to Pat Marcantonio, Comunidad editor at:

E-mail: patm@magicalvalley.com
Write: The Times-News, P.O. Box 548, Twin Falls, Idaho 83303
Or call: 735-3288 or our Burley office at 677-4042.



Pat Marcantonio

Study looks at health, culture

By Maria T. Padilla
The Orlando Sentinel

Puerto Ricans are in the poorest health among Hispanics, with Cubans the healthiest and Mexicans falling in between, a national study shows.

Higher numbers of Puerto Ricans visit their doctors, take more days off from school and work because of illness and spend time in the hospital, the study by the National

Center for Health Statistics concludes the nation's first look at the health of Hispanic subgroups. "Health indicators for Puerto Ricans are significantly worse," states the center, part of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Hispanics usually are lumped together for research purposes, but that can mask differences among subgroups. Researchers pooled data from previous national health surveys

conducted between 1992 and 1995, looking only at Hispanic responses. About 25 percent of Hispanics nationwide are without health care. They have serious health concerns - especially Puerto Ricans, the study found. Income and education may explain health disparities among these groups. The center, however, has very socioeconomic breakdown for survey participants. But census figures show Cubans are better educated and more affluent.

Attention: "La Cumbia Queen"

Vende carros en Burley. Vengan y Compran un carro y les damos gratis veinte cinco Libras de carne picada o nomas calalo y les damos gratis cinco libras de carne picada. Pregunten por Maria Larsen. Vengan a verme

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(Call 1-800-227-5626) or 733-1881

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HOURS: MON-FRI: 9-5 • SAT: 9-4

Watch for
The Times-News
Bridal Section
coming
January 28

LEGAL NOTICE LEGAL NOTICE LEGAL NOTICE LEGAL NOTICE LEGAL NOTICE

RECHUELED NOTICE OF TRUSTEES SALE
On the 31st day of January, 2001, at the hour of 10:00 A.M., of said day, (recognized local time) in the Office of First American Title Company of Idaho, Inc., in the County of Twin Falls, Idaho...

By reason of the automatic stay provisions of U.S. Bankruptcy Code, 11 U.S.C. 362, the original sale was discontinued, and pursuant to provisions of Idaho Code 45-1506(A) this sale is rescheduled and will be conducted in the manner provided by this notice.

The Trustee has no knowledge of a more particular description of the above referenced real property, but for the purposes of compliance with Section 60-113 Idaho Code, the Trustee has been informed that the address of 2069 11th Avenue East, Twin Falls, Idaho, is sometimes associated with this real property...

Said sale will be made without covenant or warranty regarding title, possession or encumbrances to satisfy the obligation secured by and pursuant to the power of sale contained in the deed of trust...

The ABOVE GRANTORS ARE NAMED TO COMPLY WITH SECTION 45-1506(A)(4), IDAHO CODE NO REPRESENTATION IS MADE THAT THEY ARE NOT PRESENTLY RESPONSIBLE FOR THIS OBLIGATION.

The default for which this sale is to be made is the failure to pay when due, under Deed of Trust No. 1995-0156, a monthly payment for Principal and Interest of \$586.75, due per month for the months of August through October, 1999, and all subsequent payments...

On the 10th day of April, 2001, at the hour of 10:00 A.M., of said day, (recognized local time) in the Office of First American Title Company, 260 3rd Avenue North, Twin Falls, Idaho...

On the 10th day of April, 2001, at the hour of 10:00 A.M., of said day, (recognized local time) in the Office of First American Title Company, 260 3rd Avenue North, Twin Falls, Idaho...

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300 CV Elevation curb, sidewalk, landscaping, decorative lighting, and other related work.
Vehicular Administration Parking Lot shall consist of curb, concrete, asphalt pavement, drainage, lighting, and other related work.

Associated General Contractor, 1415 Columbia Street, Suite 703A, Twin Falls, Idaho 83303-1207
Copies may be obtained at the office of the ENGINEER located at 2022 Falls Avenue, Twin Falls, Idaho 83301.

Payment is to be made to Riedel Engineering LLC, a full-time shipping check, non-refundable, will be assessed on all bids.
Any bidder, upon returning such set within 30(30) days in good condition, will be refunded his bid payment, and the bid will be returned to the bidder.

The Owner reserves the right to waive any information or to reject any or all bids. Each Bidder must deposit with the bid the sum of \$10,000, in cash, or by check, payable to the order of the Bidder.

On the 11th day of April, 2001, at the hour of 10:30 A.M., of said day, (recognized local time) in the Office of First American Title Company, 260 3rd Avenue North, Twin Falls, Idaho...

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principal at an annual rate of 10.5%.
The above Grantors are named to comply with Idaho Code 45-1506(A)(4), IDAHO CODE NO REPRESENTATION IS MADE THAT THEY ARE NOT PRESENTLY RESPONSIBLE FOR THIS OBLIGATION.

MEETING NOTICE
Pursuant to Idaho Code 9-8723-2343, notice is hereby given that a meeting of the Idaho Fish and Game Commission will be held on the 15th day of January, 2001, at 10:00 A.M. in the Idaho State Capitol Building, Boise, Idaho 83725.

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