

GOOD MORNING

WEATHER

Today: Sunny and warm. High 88, low 52.
Page A2

MAGIC VALLEY



Veteran: John P. "Pat" Branch received a number of awards for his service in Vietnam, but over the years he gave most of them to friends.
Page C1

HEALTH & FASHION

Handle with care: There's *E. coli* at the fair, make sure your kids wash their hands.
Page B1

SPORTS

Big school volleyball: The Times-News continues its high school sports previews with 4A and 5A volleyball.
Page D1

OPINION

Nail 'em: The carpenters' union want to reverse Idaho's cheap approach to children's health programs, a guest editorial says.
Page A6

COMING TUESDAY



The Times-News previews the Twin Falls County Fair and Magic Valley Stampede in a special section.

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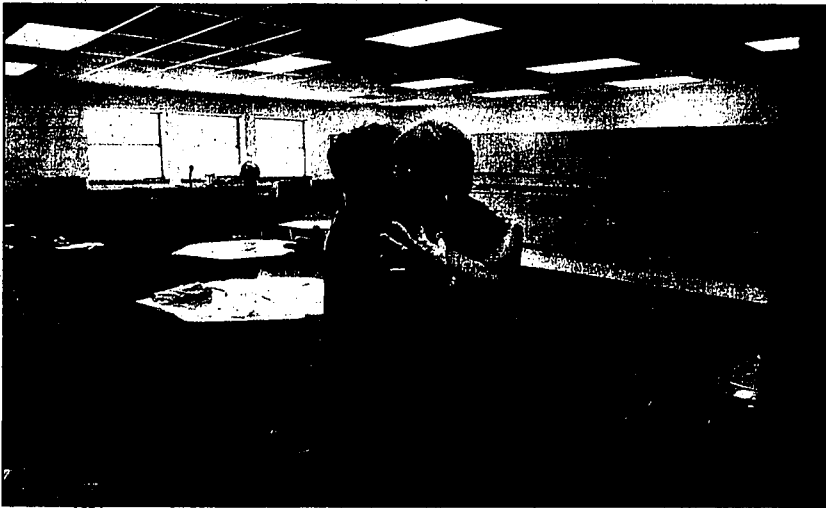
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Full circle



Judi Baxter, left, and Mary Kay Martin exchange an embrace at Oregon Trail Elementary School in Twin Falls. Both are new teachers at the school, and for both it has been more than 20 years since their last teaching job.

Two former teachers follow their dreams

By Julie Pence
Times-News writer

TWIN FALLS — First it was a love-of-books sisterhood. Now it's a love-of-teaching sisterhood. Two former teachers, Judi Baxter and Mary Kay Martin, who worked together in the book-selling trade, are returning to their first allegiance: teaching. Each has been out of the classroom for almost a quarter century.

Rounding out the bond, they find themselves in classrooms just a corner apart at Twin Falls' Oregon Trail Elementary School as local students return to the classroom today.

About their bond

Baxter is well known locally, perhaps most because of her shop, Judi's Bookstore, that was in downtown Twin Falls for 15 years from the late '70s until the early '90s. Martin worked part

time in Baxter's store while her children were young. But she and Baxter parted when Martin moved to Boise to work as a manager in a Barnes & Noble Booksellers store. Eventually she transferred to the Twin Falls store.

"This is my home. It's where my heart is," said the Texas native.

Baxter's and Martin's relationship had begun when Martin moved to town with her family in

1981. "Before I moved here, I had to make sure there was a good library and bookstore, and I had to see the schools," she said.

Baxter closed her store in 1992. "I was burned out on it," she said. She turned to writing for trade magazines, teaching at the College of Southern Idaho, selling children's books privately and spending time with her daughter.

Please see TEACHERS, Page A2

BACK TO CLASS

MV schools tighten up some policies

By Julie Pence
Times-News writer

TWIN FALLS — Spaghetti straps and exposed belly buttons are a definite "no" in school districts valleywide. Drug testing is a growing trend. And backpacks will not be seen in a couple of schools.

Graduation and dropout rates rise — A3

Of nine Magic Valley districts that The Times-News surveyed in the final days before today's opening of school, all have new or changed policies and programs. The first source parents should check, officials say, is their students' handbooks to learn the rules.

Current styles are forcing most districts to firm up dress codes.

Please see POLICIES, Page A2

Also in the works around the valley

Filer: An additional support system for students in grades nine through 12 is being started. Called *Path Tracks*, it sets aside time for teachers to mentor students. It is part of the High Schools That Work program.

Valley: A new twist on block scheduling will have students attending two 90-minute classes in the mornings, and the rest of the day students will attend shorter class periods.

Twin Falls: Security cameras are being installed at the high school and the two junior highs. Also, the DARE program is out.

Blaine: The district is shopping for software in order to track students more accurately throughout their educations.

Jerome: The district is repeating a routine that started last year. The first day of school is for freshmen and their parents only at the high school.



A camera monitors the main entryway into Columbine High School in Littleton, Colo., Aug. 20. Columbine has joined countless other schools in adding security measures.

Schools take precautions

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — At Columbine High School this fall, teachers can look forward to emergency response drills and crisis management guides. In a few weeks, a "threat assessment manual" prepared by the Secret Service arrives.

Teachers and staff at the Colorado school — where 15 people died in a shooting spree two years ago — are also being asked to sit down and chat with any stu-

dent who feels threatened, intimidated, even just plain blue.

"Adults have to connect with students," said Rick Kaufman, spokesman for the Jefferson County, Colo., school district. It includes the 2,000-student Columbine and 16 other high schools.

Across the nation, schools have reacted to campus shootings with a mix of tightened security and old-fashioned nurturing. Metal detectors, video cameras and 24-

Please see PRECAUTIONS, Page A2

Jobless man claims share of jackpot

The Associated Press

LOUISVILLE, Ky. — A divorced father who had just been laid off from his job says he is one of four winners of the \$294.8 million Powerball jackpot.

"I was just stunned. I just praised God and Jesus," David Edwards, 46, told The Daily Independent of Ashland, Ky., on Sunday.

Kentucky Lottery officials would not confirm the name of the winner but said it was a man who talked to the lottery president by phone on Sunday. The man was expected to be in Louisville by Monday, lottery spokesman Rick Redman said.

Winning tickets were sold in New Hampshire, Delaware and Minnesota but winners had not come forward in those

states Sunday. Each winner will receive \$73.7 million, or \$2.9 million per year for 25 years as an annuity. The cash option is good for \$41.4 million, before taxes.

Edwards said he bought the winning ticket Saturday night at Clark's Pump N Shop — where lottery officials confirmed the ticket was validated — near Ashland, in northeast Kentucky. A spokesman for the store could not immediately be reached for comment.

Edwards said he had recently been laid off from his fiber optics job and was in need of back surgery.

He said the apparent winning numbers were chosen at random. "Actually, I let the numbers pick me," Edwards said.

Edwards said he purchased \$8 worth of chances — seven for himself and one for his fiancée.

For his first four plays, he used birthdays and other significant numbers.

On his fifth one, he decided to try something different. "I said to myself, I'm going to look at the numbers and the first ones that come to mind; those are the ones I'm gonna pick," he said.

A call Edwards' home by The Associated Press on Sunday revealed that his phone had been disconnected.

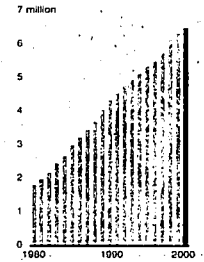
The jackpot for the game, played in 21 states and the District of Columbia, was the second-highest in Powerball history. A group of factory workers in Ohio split a \$295.7 million prize in 1998.



David Edwards, right, talks with well-wishers Sunday in front of the store in Westwood, Ky., where he bought his Powerball lottery tickets. Edwards will receive \$73.7 million, or \$2.9 million per year for 25 years if he chooses the annuity option.

U.S. population in prison on the rise

The U.S. correction population — the number of adults behind bars, on parole or on probation — reached a record 6.47 million in 2000, or one in 32 American adults.



SOURCE: Bureau of Justice Statistics AP

Adults in corrections system hit record high

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The number of adults behind bars, on parole or on probation reached a record 6.47 million in 2000 — or one in 32 American adults, the government reported Sunday.

On the positive side, the percentage increase from 1999 was half the average annual rate since 1990.

Jails and prisons held 30 percent of the adults in the corrections system, or 1,933,503 million. People on probation accounted for 59 percent of the total, or 3,839,532 million. An additional 725,527 adults were on parole, a period of supervision following release from prison.

Over the past two decades, the number of adults in the corrections system has tripled, so they now make up 3.1 of the country's adult population, compared with 1 percent in 1980, said Allen J. Beck, a chief researcher with the Justice Department's Bureau of Justice Statistics.

"It's just overwhelming," said Kara Gotsch, a spokeswoman for the American Civil Liberties Union's National Prison Project, which advocates alternatives to incarceration. "It just shows that we need to put much more into prevention."

During the 1990s, the corrections population increased 49 percent. By the end of last year, there were 2.1 million more adults in the system than there were in 1990.

The rate of growth was 2 percent between 1995 and 2000, compared with an average of 4 percent during the 1990s. Beck attributed the slowing growth to the cumulative effect of a general drop in crime rates that began in the 1990s.

"This could be the beginning of a peak," said James Alan Fox, a criminal justice professor at Northeastern University in Boston.

FORECAST FOR MAGIC VALLEY

AccuWeather.com

IDAHO ALMANAC. Idaho Extremes Yesterday: High 100°, Low 32°. Twin Falls through 6 p.m. yesterday: High 96°, Low 66°.

FIVE-DAY FORECAST FOR TWIN FALLS

TODAY: Sunny and very warm. TONIGHT: Mainly clear. TUESDAY: Very warm with sunshine. WEDNESDAY: Sunshine and a few clouds. THURSDAY: Sunny to partly cloudy. FRIDAY: Partly sunny and cooler.

REGIONAL WEATHER

Southern Idaho: Bright sunshine and a hot afternoon today. Highs will range from the 80s to the upper 90s. Northern Nevada: A good deal of sunshine today with a hot afternoon.

SUN AND MOON

SUNRISE today: 6:22 a.m. SUNSET tonight: 8:21 p.m. MOONRISE today: 4:42 p.m. MOONSET tonight: 1:10 a.m.

CANADIAN CITIES

Table with columns: City, Today, High, Low, Wind, Chance. Cities include Calgary, Edmonton, Regina, Vancouver, Victoria, Winnipeg.

WORLD CITIES

Table with columns: City, Today, High, Low, Wind, Chance. Cities include Adelaide, Athens, Auckland, Berlin, Buenos Aires, Cairo, Chicago, Hong Kong, Jerusalem, London, Mexico City, Moscow, New York, Rio de Janeiro, Rome, Seoul, Sydney, Tokyo, Warsaw, Zurich.

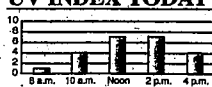
NATIONAL EXTREMES

High 120° in Death Valley, CA. Low 30° in Bridgeport, CA.

NATIONAL WEATHER

Map of the United States showing weather systems and precipitation. Includes a legend for cloud types and precipitation amounts.

UV INDEX TODAY



NATIONAL CITIES

Table with columns: City, Today, High, Low, Wind, Chance. Cities include Atlanta, Baltimore, Billings, Birmingham, Boston, Charlotte, Chicago, Cleveland, Denver, Detroit, El Paso, Fresno, Fargo, Honolulu, Houston, Indianapolis, Jacksonville, Kansas City, Las Vegas, Little Rock, Los Angeles, Memphis, Miami, Milwaukee, Nashville, New Orleans, New York, Oklahoma City, Omaha, Orlando, Philadelphia, Phoenix, Portland, Raleigh, Rapid City, Reno, Sacramento, St. Louis, Salt Lake City, San Diego, San Francisco, Seattle, Tucson, Washington, DC.

REGIONAL CITIES

Table with columns: City, Today, High, Low, Wind, Chance. Cities include Boise, Bonners Ferry, Burley, Coeur d'Alene, Eugene, OR, Hagerman, Idaho Falls, Kalispell, MT, Lewiston, Malheur, MT, Mullan.

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Teachers

Continued from A1. When her daughter reached the milestone of earning her first driver's license, Baxter could sense a change in seasons in the coming year.

School killings

While school shootings have been more publicized and officials are stepping up preventive measures, school-related violent deaths have fallen. Includes a map of the US showing death tolls by state.

Precautions

Continued from A1. The hour hot lines are going into operation. Schools are hiring counselors to spot signs that students are depressed.

Policies

Continued from A1. "Have you seen what's out there today?" Michelle Owen asked incredulously. Owen is the principal of the Gooding Accelerated Learning School.

Precautions

Continued from A1. One youth interviewed for the study was Luke Wadmon, who was convicted of killing two students and wounding seven at Pearl High School in Mississippi in 1987.

Circulation (Daniel Walock, circulation director) ... Ext. 1. Classified Advertising (Deby Johnson, Manager) ... Ext. 2. News (Clark Walworth, Managing Editor) ... Ext. 3. Retail Advertising (Mike Smith, Advertising Director) ... Ext. 4. Ag Weekly (Janet Goffin, General Manager) ... Ext. 5. Publisher Stephen Hartgen ... Ext. 249.

Statistics show education passes, fails

Graduation rate climbs, so do the dropout numbers

Los Angeles Times

From one point of view, the U.S. Census Bureau offers a glowing report on America's goal of becoming an educated nation. A record 81 percent of the population has completed high school or its equivalent, and the percentage appears to be headed still higher. But another number tells of trouble on the horizon. Among the most recent crop of young adults, those now 18 to 24, only 75 percent have finished high school,

suggesting a substantial dropout rate. Therein lies a mystery: Why is the national graduation rate climbing while so many school-age children are dropping out? The question evokes an array of answers from demographers, statisticians and educators. Some think immigration of less-educated young people is skewing the numbers. Others point to "red-shirt" students who spend an extra year in high school, then graduate at age 18 or 19. They also cite "second-chance" dropouts who earn degrees in their later years by passing an exam. That the Census Bureau seems to be pointing in both positive and negative directions is not just a matter of academic curiosity.

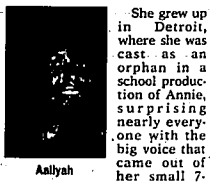
Critics contend that the government is inflating the nation's educational achievement by counting people who pass equivalency exams as essentially the same as those who graduate from high school. They say equivalency certificates are pseudo diplomas with little value. But the one factor that probably contributes most to the conundrum stirs hardly any mention—possibly because it is a little morbid. Demographically speaking, the graduation rate is almost guaranteed to climb year after year as long as people born before 1940 continue dying. The oldest generations have the lowest rate of high school completion in the nation. In 1940, only one-fourth of the adult population had at least 12 years of schooling. Since then, the rate has climbed steadily by an average of almost 10 percentage points a decade, according to the Census Bureau's Current Population Survey, which takes an annual look at educational attainment. For many years it was the young who drove that machine-like pace; they completed high school in ever-increasing numbers. But that changed in the mid-1970s, when the graduation rate for ages 25 to 29 hit 84 percent. After that, the gains slowed dramatically. The rate had inched up only to 88 percent in 2000. But just when youth faltered, America's oldest and least-educated generations began dying.

Plane crash kills young singer and eight others

Knight Ridder News Service

While her name may have been new to many, Aaliyah's voice was familiar to fans of pop radio since the soul prodigy was 15. On such hits as "Try Again" and "If Your Girl Only Knew," she helped pioneer the danceable, infectious blend of R&B and hip-hop that dominates today's airwaves. Those who knew Aaliyah, pronounced Ah-Lee-Yah, considered her a talent about to make it big. And with three major films in production, the 22-year-old singer and actress was on the verge of becoming a major star before she was killed Saturday when the small plane that was to carry her and eight others to Opa-locka Airport crashed after takeoff in the Bahamas, where Aaliyah was filming a music video.

A statement released Sunday by the singer's publicist, PMK, said: "Aaliyah's family is devastated at the loss of their loving daughter and sister. Their hearts go out to those families who also lost their loved ones in this tragic accident." Aaliyah Dani Haughton was born on Jan. 16, 1979, in Brooklyn. Her name is Swahili for "most exalted one" — a title she began living up to at an early age.



She grew up in Detroit, where she was cast as an orphan in a school production of Annie, surprising nearly everyone with the big voice that came out of her small 7-year-old body. Two years later, she auditioned for the television sitcom Family Matters in Los Angeles and though she failed to land a part, she continued to get roles in productions at her school, which had a focus on the performing arts. She juggled school plays with appearances on Star Search, the talent show that helped launch the careers of Destiny's Child, Britney Spears and Justin Timberlake. At 15, she launched her professional career performing on Las Vegas stages with Gladys Knight, who was married to Aaliyah's uncle. She released her first album at 15, while still a student at Detroit's Performing Arts High School. Its title, "Age Ain't Nothing But a Number," in 1994, sassily announced this youthful star long before the current wave of teen pop.

Bush vows to protect domestic steel industry

Los Angeles Times

WEST MIFFLIN, Pa. — President Bush joined more than 1,000 steelworkers for a family picnic Sunday and won their hearty approval as he vowed to protect the domestic steel industry against illegal foreign imports, calling it a matter of "national security." The president also expressed concern that the manufacturing sector is "a lot slower than I would hope," noting that the U.S. economy has grown "at a paltry 1 percent" over the past 12 months. "It worries me, first and foremost, for the effect that's going to have on the families all across America," Bush said, adding that his administration is "taking action."



President Bush throws out the ceremonial first pitch at the start of the Little League World Series Championship game at Lamade Stadium in South Williamsport, Pa., Sunday. See page D-1 for game results.

As examples, he cited debt reduction, the \$1.35 trillion tax cut and the pursuit of a fair trade policy that is "going to have a level playing field as its component." The president made his pledge to maintain a strong domestic steel industry during a 12-minute speech before flying to Williamsport, Pa., to attend the Little League World Series championship game. There, Bush threw out the ceremonial first ball and was inducted into the league's hall of fame in recognition of the fact that he is the first president to have played Little League ball.

The day trip comes as the president winds down his monthlong "working vacation" at his ranch near Crawford, Texas. Bush is scheduled to return to Washington on Thursday. Accompanied by first lady Laura Bush, Commerce Secretary Don Evans, Labor Secretary Elaine Chao and Pennsylvania Gov. Tom Ridge, Bush spoke after sharing a lunch table with nine workers and their families and wolfing down kielbasa, potato salad and baked beans. Politics lurked just beneath the surface of Sunday's picnic.

Allegheny County voted heavily for Democrat Al Gore in last year's presidential election, as many steelworkers swallowed their disappointment with the Clinton administration, which did not act on their plea to investigate suspected "dumping" of underpriced foreign steel in the United States. The former vice president narrowly carried this battleground state, but many analysts — and the White House — think the Keystone State will be up for grabs again in 2004. In his remarks at the picnic, held on the gigantic asphalt parking lot of the Irvin Works steel plant near Pittsburgh, Bush did not forget to remind the unionists that it was he who recently ordered an International Trade Commission investigation of alleged steel dumping. "Steel is an important job issue; it's also an important national security issue," the president said. "And that is why we took the actions we took in this administration."

New research could lead to insulin pills instead of shots

CHICAGO (AP) — Purdue University scientists believe they've found a way to make insulin for diabetics available in pills instead of daily shots. The breakthrough is a new acrylic-based, gel-like coating on the pills to improve the body's absorption of insulin. Injections under the skin allow insulin to be absorbed slowly enough to control blood sugar levels. But efforts to control diabetes with insulin pills have failed because the body digests them much too quickly. The new product, so far tested only in diabetic rats and dogs, "can potentially overcome these barriers," said researcher Nicholas Peppas, a professor of chemical and biomedical engineering at Purdue. The material he developed with graduate student Aaron Foss would allow pills to survive the harsh digestive acids in the stomach, and let insulin seep into the bloodstream through the small intestine, the researchers said. Their research was among reports on Sunday's agenda at the start of the American Chemical Society's five-day national meeting in Chicago. Insulin is a hormone produced by the pancreas that helps convert foods including sugar into energy. In diabetes, affecting about 16 million Americans, the body is unable to produce or properly use insulin, resulting in too much sugar in the blood.

Plane appears to deliberately crash into home

AMHERST, N.H. (AP) — A single-engine plane that appeared to have been deliberately crashed into an upscale home was licensed by the homeowner's company. The pilot, the plane's only occupant, was killed. The home, unoccupied at the time of the Saturday morning crash, was destroyed by impact and fire. No one on the ground was injured. Investigators said the pilot's body will not be identified until at least Tuesday. One investigator confirmed accounts by neighbors that the crash appeared deliberate. The plane was registered to a company founded by Louis W. Joy III, an author, lawyer and licensed pilot who had recently moved to the home with his wife Jo and their 8-year-old daughter. "No one was home about 7:40 a.m. Saturday when the small plane went silent before plowing into the house, set back from the road down a winding, tree-lined, quarter-mile driveway. The joys moved to Amherst from Newark, Del., where Louis Joy III's manufacturing Excellence Inc. is based. He had been president since 1987 and lectured on management. The company's Web site lists Fortune 500 companies as clients. Neighbor Anthony Wesley heard the plane crashing the area, then saw a flash from his garage. "I saw a big cloud of smoke and a sound like an explosion," he said. "When I got to the house, it was totally in flames. It was a total inferno." Donald Bliss, the state fire marshal, said the plane had struck the house with tremendous force. "The impact alone would have caused substantial damage along with the fuel that would have ignited the fire. A plane like that would have quite a bit of highly flammable fuel," Bliss said. About 20 minutes before the crash, the plane had taken off from Nashua Municipal Airport about 12 miles away, said Jim Peters, a spokesman for the Federal Aviation Administration. He said the pilot had filed an instrument flight plan with a destination of Atlantic City, N.J., but never activated it.

News report says salesman suspected diluted cancer drugs

KANSAS CITY, Mo. (AP) — An Eli Lilly and Co. drug salesman had become suspicious more than a year ago about cancer drugs handled by a Kansas City pharmacist but the company did not notify authorities, The Kansas City Star reported Sunday. Pharmacist Robert R. Courtney was indicted Thursday on federal charges alleging he diluted expensive-cancer drugs so he could pocket the difference in prices. Lilly salesman Darryl Ashley became suspicious in early 2000, more than a year before his talk with Kansas City oncologist Dr. Verda Hunter led Hunter to alert federal officials, the newspaper reported, citing court records and company officials. The newspaper said it wasn't clear when Ashley notified his superiors and the company would not provide details.

A spokesman for the Indianapolis-based drug maker acknowledged that the company did not tell authorities. Judy Moore said the company's own investigation determined that problems with the cancer drug Gemzar did not originate at Lilly's plant. Moore said Lilly "acted honorably" and is cooperating with the FBI's investigation. "Lilly takes patient safety very, very seriously," she said. Courtney, 48, is charged with eight counts of tampering with consumer products, six counts of adulteration of a drug and six counts of misbranding a drug. Authorities say he saved hundreds of dollars per dose, and was motivated by profit and \$600,000 in looming tax bills. This past May, Ashley told Hunter that he had noticed a discrepancy between the amount of Gemzar that Courtney ordered and the amount he was billing Hunter. Hunter then ordered tests on medications supplied by Courtney, found the drugs had been diluted and notified federal officials. The FBI's investigation started July 27. Court records say Hunter tried to get Lilly to test her samples, but the company didn't respond. Lilly spokesman Jeff Newton said the company had no record of a letter Hunter sent. Experts said Lilly had no legal obligation to pursue its concerns beyond its internal investigation, but ethicists said the company should have done more.

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OTHER VIEWS

Carpenters want to erase Idaho's cheapskate image

From the Idaho Press-Tribune (Nampa)

If we gave awards to those who champion for kids, we'd put Idaho's carpenters union at the top of the stack.

The Pacific Northwest Regional Council of Carpenters will take some of the group's dues and place more than 3,000 ads for the Children's Health Insurance Program on 50 Idaho radio stations.

The union wants to build CHIP to help the thousands of children who don't have access to medical care because their families can't afford health insurance.

Idaho has reluctantly participated in this national health care program for children for years. During the past legislative session, state leaders cut funding that promotes the program because too many people qualified, especially at the more costly Medicaid level.

Participation had increased dramatically because of improved promotions. So the Legislature decided to keep the program in check by not advertising it.

It didn't make sense, and despite objections from various groups, the advertising was discontinued in July.

Thankfully, not everyone agreed with that decision. The carpenters union teamed up with the radio stations and found a way to get the message out to the people who need medical help for children.

The Rev. Doug Yarbrough of Healthy Outcomes for Youth helped kick off the back-to-school enrollment drive to reach uninsured kids. He provided the following information to back his claims that CHIP is important:

• Most children in America's classrooms who are uninsured are eligible for low-cost or free children's insurance.

• Uninsured children are less likely to receive proper medical care for sore throats, earaches and asthma - common childhood illnesses that are often the cause of school absence.

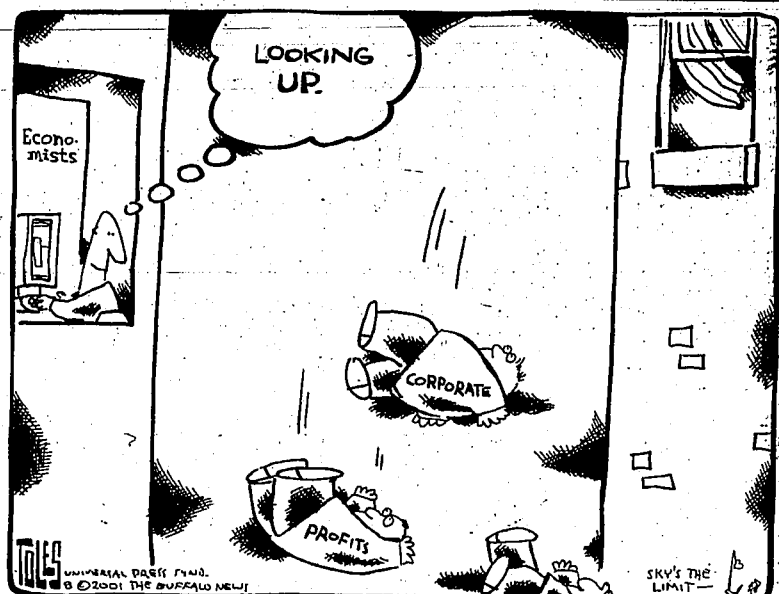
• One out of three uninsured children with recurring ear infections never see a doctor during the year.

• One in five uninsured children have untreated vision problems.

John Steffens, executive secretary-treasurer of the carpenters union, understands the reasons for this important insurance program.

Healthy children don't miss school and kids who stay in school are more likely to succeed and that's good news for Idaho's economy.

This editorial, reprinted from the Idaho Press-Tribune, says Idaho's carpenter's union is doing the right thing by advertising public health programs for children.



Saving a bit of Jesse Helms' legacy

SUZANNE NOSSEL

Too his many detractors, Sen. Jesse Helms has been "Senator No," enemy of all things good and progressive, and his decision not to seek reelection next year comes as a welcome development. But friends of the United Nations may take a slightly different view. They must hope that the North Carolina Republican will stay engaged long enough to ensure that at least one part of his legacy is not undone: the compromise settlement he helped broker in the long-running dispute over how much this country should pay in U.N. dues.

Last December, after a 14-month debate and a 24-hour final session, delegates from around the world met at the United Nations and agreed to lower U.S. dues by more than \$100 million a year. Supporters of the consensus - including France, China, Argentina, Cuba and Libya - agreed to the cut because they were convinced it was the only way the United Nations would remain financially afloat and retain the support of its largest contributor. In return, the United States pledged to pay \$582 million in back dues it acknowledged owing to the United Nations.

If an American proposal, this quid pro quo was enacted by Congress and the president in a 1999 law sponsored by Sens. Helms and Joe Biden of Delaware. But nearly eight months later, the United States still has not fulfilled its part of the pact. While the Senate acted quickly last winter to approve payment, the House has thrown up a series of obstacles to honoring the U.S. commitment. Members of Congress continue to attach new conditions.

If this tangle is not resolved in time for President Bush's planned visit to the United Nations next month, U.S. credibility and influence at the United Nations will face lasting damage.

The compromise at the heart of the deal was agonizingly difficult to reach. In the fall of 1999, the United States was a pariah at the United Nations. It owed nearly \$2 billion in dues, had been booted from the organization's budget committee and could hardly pipe up at a U.N. meeting without being told to pay its debts before it spoke its piece.

Recognizing that U.S. standing and sway were at risk, Helms and Biden introduced legislation offering to settle the dues, but at a price. The United States would pay what it owed only in exchange for a substantial cut in the annual U.S. bill - with mostly smaller and poorer countries picking up the tab. Helms-Biden met resistance from friends and foes. The Europeans pilloried the United States for attaching conditions to its international legal obligations. Developing countries blasted the world's richest country for asking them to pay more to enable it to pay less.

In the face of almost universal opposition, U.S. diplomats launched an aggressive campaign for Helms-Biden. Ambassador Richard Holbrooke and others recognized that U.N. rejection of the proffered dues payment would deepen the downward spiral in U.S.-U.N. relations. For more than a year, the United States' top priority at the United Nations was to push the package through. U.S. ambassadors around the globe were pressed into service, playing charts, graphs and historical tracts to argue for the rate cut. Cabinet secretaries were recruited to work the phones. Helms himself penned letters to foreign leaders.

The U.S. pitch centered on what the United Nations would get in return for accepting the American demands. The

U.N. membership had been burned in the past by America's broken promises of dues payments. Many nations, including U.S. allies, feared that once they met the initial round of U.S. conditions, the Americans would just shift the goalposts, imposing new and more onerous demands.

But the Americans promised that things had changed. The promised arrears payments, it was explained, were enshrined in U.S. law. The money had been set aside. The Americans' word was good.

U.N. members accepted that. At that final December meeting, rather than decrying the hike in their bills, ambassadors spoke of the agreement as turning a page in the United Nations' history. The U.S. position of moral and political leadership was on its way to being restored.

Some delay in the actual payment was accepted as inevitable, of course. A new administration took office, and a legislative amendment was needed to reflect the precise compromise. For many months, the world has been patient. But next month, President Bush will address the opening of the 55th General Assembly. With the issue of arrears uppermost on the minds of U.N. delegations for so long, Bush's handling of the promised payment will ring louder than any other signal of the administration's attitude toward the United Nations, and toward the world community. If he comes to the United Nations empty-handed, delegates will feel they were played for fools, and that the United States has broken a solemn pledge.

Jesse Helms' last gift may be a good one: to help ensure the United States keeps its word.

Suzanne Nossel was a senior adviser at the U.S. Mission to the United Nations.

The Times-News

Stephen Hartigan, Managing editor; Mike Smith, Advertising director; Clark Walworth, Publisher

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

LETTERS

United Nations is very dangerous

The United Nations is a dangerous Trojan horse that is rapidly becoming a world government! Passage of the American Sovereignty Restoration Act (H.R. 1146) would end our U.N. membership and end the U.N. threat to our sovereignty!

Reasons to withdraw from the United Nations include:

- The U.N. is a nest of spies with diplomatic immunity!
- The U.N. Charter unlawfully delegates congressional and presidential war power!
- The charter unconstitutionally usurps powers reserved to the states by the 10th Amendment!
- The U.N. plans to disarm our military and law-abiding citizens and create a U.N. army!
- The U.N. Secretary General Kofi

Annan has stated that independence of nations is an "obstacle" to U.N. goals!

• The U.N. is taking control of our land, water, and resources under the Biodiversity Treaty!

• The International Criminal Court will replace our justice system!

• The U.N. was created and is controlled by a group of internationalists, communists, socialists and liberal dreamers who intend to eliminate our God-given rights found in the U.S. Constitution and Bill of Rights!

The only viable solution is to get out of the United Nations by passing H.R. 1146, the American Sovereignty Restoration Act. Please ask our congressmen and senators to do so today! ADRIAN L. ARP Twin Falls

Red-light cameras lead to a police state with no interest in rights

MOIRA O'BRIEN

Many of us have done it before, when that yellow light turns red all too soon. Sirens chirp, blue lights flash, we pull over. We apologize meekly, say we thought the light had just turned yellow, officer, and we didn't want to slam on the brakes in the rain. The reasonable officer nods, and sends us off with a stern warning. Say goodbye to those days, fellow drivers. There's a new cop on the block - one with no capacity for reason, and no interest in your rights. The camera.

In recent years, law enforcement has begun using cameras for a multitude of purposes. One favorite is the red-light camera, which photographs the license plates of cars that run red lights, sending

a ticket to a car's registered owner. Thirty cities employ cameras, and the number is growing. The House of Representatives has taken notice of this proliferation of red-light camera use, and recently held a hearing on the matter. Notably, House Majority Leader Richard Armey, R-Texas, and Rep. Bob Barr, R-Ga., a constitutional law specialist, both testified against the cameras. With both sides represented, the testimony served as a paradigm of the debate about red-light cameras. A county police chief, Wayne Livesay,

testified also, discussing why his department feels cameras are the best option for decreasing red-light accidents. Describing the camera campaign as "highly publicized," he said the community responded positively to a pilot program. If the testimony had stopped there, maybe we'd all be happy. But the pro-camera groups merely lay illy-white righteousness over the government's hidden piles of greenbacks and stretched legality. Cameras present a myriad of problems to drivers, both in their capacity as drivers, and in their capacity as citizens. There are two major issues: first, red-light cameras represent a classic "cash cow"; second, they infringe upon our

constitutional rights. To seem San Diego contracted Lockheed Martin has Corp. to provide and run red-light cameras in exchange for 50 percent of the fine revenue, or \$70.00 per citation, whichever was less. Of the 19 cameras Lockheed set up, they did not place a single one at any of the 10 most accident-prone intersections in the city. However, Lockheed did manage to find an intersection where cameras generated \$800,000 to \$1.35 million per month in revenues. Surely this reduced accidents, right? No. Because there had not been a single red-light accident at that particular intersection in seven years. As Army pointed out in his testimony, the owner must then either admit guilt

or become an informant against the actual driver. But are cameras like California's any better, capturing the driver's image? Every day, someone cries "Big Brother" in protest of red-light and other camera systems. But if those who downplay Orwellian concerns don't listen, red-light cameras will be a Trojan horse that parades with fanfare onto our streets, only to surreptitiously rob us of our money and our rights. Moira J. O'Brien is a research associate in the Washington office of the Dallas-based National Center for Policy Analysis. Readers may write to her at NCPA/DC, 655 15th Street NW, Suite 375, Washington, D.C. 20002.

Doonesbury

By Garry Trudeau

Mallard Fillmore

By Bruce Tinsley



Is China spooked by U.S.?

One of the problems the FBI and other U.S. counterintelligence agencies have long had is attempting to neutralize Chinese intelligence-collection operations in the United States that the people who covertly gather intelligence for China normally don't look like spies, act like spies or pilfer large amounts of secret information. Curiously, it is this exact aspect of Chinese intelligence practice that is driving the recent spate of arrests and convictions of U.S. researchers in China.

PAUL D. MOORE

China's consumer-driven approach to intelligence collection because U.S. defenses were built with the idea of stopping the Soviets, whose operations typically are run by intelligence officers who look like intelligence officers and are ambitious collectors of a large volume of high-quality U.S. secrets. Chinese counterintelligence has encountered the same problem as the United States, but in a different form. While the United States anticipates that its espionage adversaries will act the way the Soviets did in their heyday, Chinese counterintelligence assumes that China's adversaries will collect inside China just the way China collects abroad.

There are too many visitors to China to investigate everyone, so it seems to me that China has been searching out individuals with a Taiwan connection of some sort and putting them under much closer scrutiny than others. This would be a natural thing to do, because people with close Taiwan ties are considered to have a built-in motive for spying against the People's Republic of China.

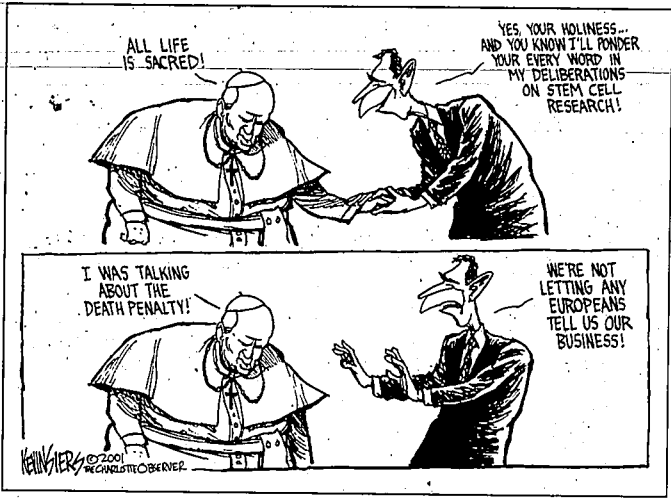
In Chinese counterintelligence eyes, the professors, graduate students, journalists and businessmen who arrive in China in ever-increasing numbers for activities other than tourism look like natural spies. When subjected to counterintelligence scrutiny, their normal professional relationships with colleagues and friends as they go about the process of collecting information for research projects or news stories can look

sinister. Most telling, when they attempt to collect information from academic or professional journals to obtain data for their research projects, they can easily cross the line into what China considers "state secrets" because China has a much lower threshold for deciding what is classified, especially when the data find their way into foreigners' hands.

As far as China is concerned such visitors look like spies, act like spies and are collecting state secrets, probably for Taiwan. It seems clear to me that Chinese officials see their country being overrun by this phenomenon and have made a strong enough case about it to require that action with political consequences be undertaken. In this string of espionage arrests, security is driving politics, not vice versa.

It appears to me that the standard of training for U.S. academics, which has come to involve collecting information to plug into ever more sophisticated analytical models, has clearly intersected the standard for reasonable suspicion by Chinese counterintelligence. One man's data are another's state secret, nowadays. American scholars are being arrested, tried and convicted of espionage for the simple reason that their work meets China's definition of what a spy is, what a spy does and what information a spy collects. It is not a problem for internal security for China, and it is an issue that will not go away anytime soon.

Paul D. Moore was the FBI's chief analyst for Chinese intelligence for more than 20 years. He is now director of analysis for the Centre for Counterintelligence and Security Studies.



LETTERS

Excellent article on arthritis

I want to thank Steve Crump and Joan Bean for the excellent article they did on "Dogs and arthritis."

When my precious Lady died, I called Steve Crump with my story and flooded him with e-mails and information about Rimadyl. To his credit, he saw a "real" story in my tragedy. Joan Bean had the difficult job of interviewing me and hearing my tale of woe. Although she did not have to, Joan called me before the article was printed to let me know that the story would not be a condemnation of this drug but instead would be an article that would inform and make people think.

I thank Joan for her kindness and sensitivity. Ultimately, all I can hope for is that others question what I did not and make an informed decision. Then maybe they can be spared the heartache I and my family had to endure and still endure daily.

Nothing can bring Lady back, but if one family, one dog, can be

saved as a result of this excellent article, then Lady and I have accomplished something with the help of *The Times-News*. For additional information, I recommend visiting these Web sites:

www.srdogs.com
www.labradornet.com
 I wish for everyone that his or her best friend live long and live well.
DEBBIE CURRIER SCOLLARD
 Twin Falls

Homosexuality is OK

Homosexuality isn't always bad news. You'd think so, however, based on the five articles in *The Times-News* on Aug. 18. I used to reside in the Magic Valley and I didn't know anything different other than the bigotry my community raised me with regarding gay men and lesbians. I thought homosexuals were evil or sick. I thought they caused AIDS and were trying to recruit boys and girls to become like them. I was ignorant and misled. Today, I am a minister and

counselor to youths and families in the Treasure Valley. I lead the largest Presbyterian youth ministry in Idaho and consult with several other churches to develop their youth ministries.

One of my greatest concerns is for teens and young adults who are attracted to persons of the same sex. The difference between teens and young adults who accept their homosexuality and live productive healthy lives and those who reject their homosexuality and live destructive lives or commit suicide is this: family and community acceptance vs. family and community rejection.

If you are a teen or young adult experiencing feelings of attraction for others of the same sex, there's nothing wrong with you. You are living, however, in a community of strong prejudice and bigotry. Know that there are many Idahoans whom you can turn to for support, including the people of First Presby. ian Church in Boise.

DELMAR STONE
 Boise

College students need to learn process

Too many college undergraduates are lost, angry and confused. Nearly 50 percent will not graduate after five years of their four-year program. Even if they do graduate, they are likely to have trouble finding a job and even more trouble in finding employment that they see as a path toward a happy future. Worst of all, they may end up at home, mooching off of and complaining about their parents.

WILLIAM COPLIN

choice of a major or program solves. Undergraduate professional school programs like management or communications require a lot of general education and sometimes require that students learn skills of which they can apply. Conversely, becoming a fine-arts major because the student enjoys it will prevent him or her from taking some applied statistics or technical writing courses.

Know the range of skills and consciously choose which to learn at what level of expertise. Here is my list of the skills that students need to develop: obtaining and assessing information, reading, writing, communicating, calculating, reasoning, using computers, problem-solving, making decisions, feeling, enjoying, learning and, as H.L. Mencken said, distinguishing appearance from reality.

Understand why the student personally has trouble focusing on skills. The high school education blinded them to the centrality of skills as the student turned into a test-taking and paper-writing machine. He or she will probably try to repeat this pattern in college unless they focus on skills.

Don't look to college faculty to guide the student to the skills. Look at college faculty as the cooks for your educational feast. Their secret desire is not for the students to enjoy the meal but for them to become cooks just like them. They want the students "to study the study of" so they can become their junior colleagues and proteges.

For example, the history professor teaching about the American Revolution may expose students

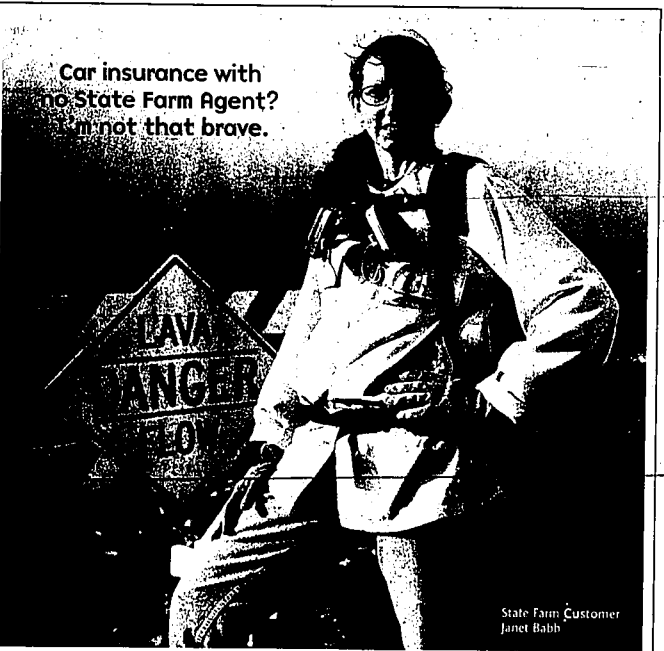
to different historical interpretations of the American Revolution. That is useful, but when the professor forces students to make interpretations of the interpretations of those interpretations, they are entering the realm of "the study of the study of." There is much too much of that throughout the college curriculum, leaving students with less time than they need to develop critical skills. Most professors really want students to develop skills, but they are not the skills one will need unless one wants to become a professional scholar.

Computer skills are a good thing. It is hoped students need no convincing. Take advantage even if professors ignore or disdain computer training.

Take as many credits as possible that require field work and programs away from campus. Students can earn academic credits in a setting where it is more difficult for the faculty to force them into "the study of the study of." Students can transform the concepts, theories and models they have studied into skills as they are brought face to face with reality.

Look for opportunities outside of class in work and extracurricular activities and especially in the summer to develop the skills that are important. These experiences help make better course selections the next semester and will demonstrate to the students what skills they need to develop. They will also alert students to what skills they like and what skills they find irritating.

William D. Coplin is a professor of public affairs at the Maxwell School of Syracuse University, where he directs the Policy Studies Program, a skills-based, community-based and client-based undergraduate major.



Volcanologist Janet Babb will get dangerously close to red-hot lava. But ask her about car insurance without a State Farm Agent, and she'll freely admit, "I wouldn't get within a mile of that."

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NATION/WORLD

Suspect's Ukrainian hometown remembers him



An unidentified girl carries a photograph of Tatiana Kukharaya behind a row of hearses following funeral services for Kukharaya and five others Sunday in Rancho Cordova, Calif.

Many residents fear Solty's might return

SHUMSK, Ukraine (AP) - Nikolai Solty, the main suspect in six killings and the target of a police hunt across the United States, was until recently a shoemaker with a modest home in this rundown town in western Ukraine.

year-old son's body at a rural trash heap near Sacramento.

Reports of the killings have rattled the residents of Shumsk, a town of one- and two-story wooden homes in western Ukraine's Ternopil region. They have also drawn accusations about his past from angry relatives of Solty's wife, Lyubov.

Nakonechny claimed that Solty's tried to attack his wife's brothers with an ax when they came to try to take her back home.

After that incident, Solty left to join his parents in California in 1998, and ended up jobless and on welfare. He frequently phoned his wife, urging her and their newborn son to join him. She moved to the United States last year.

more than 5,000 of those immigrants and other members of the city's Eastern European community packed a church for the funerals of the six victims.

Six hearses stood waiting outside Bethany Slavic Missionary Church as workers hauled flower arrangements inside. Five white caskets stood open at the front of the church, with a smaller white casket for Solty's son, Sergei.

Beijing mayor calls for a more polished image

Los Angeles Times

BEIJING - Barely a week after this city was chosen as the site of the 2008 Olympics, the civic navel-gazing began - and officials weren't too pleased with the lim they saw there.

In a candid assessment last month of his constituents' faults, Beijing Mayor Liu Qi listed a dozen bad habits that would make New Yorkers seem the very paragons of civility and culture.

Beijingers, Liu griped, spit in public way too much (No. 1 bad habit). Like defensive linemen, they block passengers desperate to get off the subway (No. 3). The cabbies are aggressively curly (No. 5), and people on the street can swear like sailors (No. 6). Nobody ever smiles or says "Excuse me" (Nos. 7 and 9). And can no one in this town shut up for even a New York minute (No. 1)?

Such a sloppy civic image doesn't befit this ancient capital, Liu declared - and so began another in a string of government efforts to foster civility.

China is a country obsessed with how it looks to the rest of the world, and the 2008 Summer Games, locals say, will give Beijing a chance to shine in the spotlight.

manners. Don't jostle. Just say no to jawwalking. Hold the spit - but keep the polish.

The effort targets everyone, young and old. From the 18 spiritual-civilization training centers set up across Beijing to primary-school classes where kids memorize the rules of good conduct, the emphasis is on how to be gracious.

It might seem a strange campaign in a land where intricate codes of politeness governed conduct for thousands of years, the legacy of Confucian ideals and complex social hierarchies. In imperial days, there were rules and rituals for everything, from the proper way of addressing a superior to the appropriate haicid for one's social status.

But a population explosion and the rapid development of the past two decades, including the advent of cars and cabs and cell phones, have left etiquette struggling to catch up. Your average Zhou, who may exhibit impeccable manners in private relationships, is unfamiliar with the rules of conduct for impersonal public situations.

Red Cross officials visit detained workers

MOTHER'S DAY

KABUL, Afghanistan - International Red Cross personnel visited eight foreign aid workers Sunday, ending three weeks of isolation for the workers, who are jailed on charges of preaching Christianity in the devoutly Muslim nation.

The Red Cross doctors and nurses met the aid workers - two Americans, four Germans and two Australians - in their Kabul lockup, gave them a cursory medical exam and handed them letters from home.

The eight World in brief foreign aid workers were detained along with 16 Afghan staff after the Taliban raided the offices of Helmsley Row International, a German-based Christian aid organization.

The two American women, single and in their mid-20s, have been identified as Dana Curry and Heather Mercer. Their hometowns have not been released.



Sister Nirmala, second right, superior general of Missionaries of Charity with other nuns and sisters of the order chant 'Happy birthday to you' at the tomb of Mother Teresa in Calcutta on Sunday commemorating the 51st anniversary of her birth. Recently 38,000 pages of testimony and documents for beatification and canonization towards the sainthood of Mother Teresa were submitted to the congregation for the 'Causes of the Saints' in Rome.

Taiwanese reach a rare agreement on China policy

TAIPEI, Taiwan - Taiwan's leader sided with an elite team of economic advisers who urged him Sunday to make a historic policy change and boost economic ties with China - the island's biggest security threat.

President Chen Shui-bian embraced the panel's advice as the island slips into its first recession in three decades and feels the strong pull of China's booming market, which offers cheap labor and land to Taiwanese firms struggling to stay competitive.

Taiwan's top China policy-maker, Tsai Ing-wen, said Sunday's developments were "a significant step forward" toward trying to improve relations with Beijing.

Israel blasts Palestinian police buildings Sunday

GAZA CITY, Gaza Strip - Israeli forces blasted Palestinian police structures in the Gaza Strip and West Bank on Sunday, responding to the killings of five Israelis a day earlier.

Altogether, six Israelis and four Palestinians were killed over the weekend, further dimming the already slim prospects that Arafat and Israel Foreign Minister Shimon Peres might renew talks. They had agreed in principle to meet, but no date was set.

An Israeli wounded in a West Bank roadside shooting Saturday died of his wounds Sunday, Israeli media reported.

The shooting left an Israeli couple dead and their two small children lightly wounded.

Also Sunday, another Israeli driver was shot and killed by a Palestinian gunman along the border between the West Bank and northern Israel, Israeli police spokesman Gil Kleiman said.

On Saturday, two Palestinian militants infiltrated an Israeli army outpost in Gaza and killed three soldiers before being killed themselves.

NATO to collect 3,300 rebel weapons in Macedonia

SKOPJE, Macedonia - NATO revealed Sunday that it plans to collect 3,300 weapons from ethnic Albanian militants in a delicate operation it described as being Macedonia's only alternative to war.

The weapons collection process might not start as

planned today.

By early Sunday evening, political leaders had failed to order their forces to pull back from areas surrounding drop-off sites - a key requirement for NATO to start weapons collection.

NATO's announcement came hours after a deadly explosion ripped through a motel, killing two people and further complicating the alliance's efforts to build confidence between the rebels and the government ahead of its mission.

French protesters destroy gene-modified cornfields

VALENCE, France - Armed with shears and machetes, supporters of militant farmer Jose Bove went on a rampage through test sites for genetically modified corn in southeastern France on Sunday.

After slashing their way through 2,400 square yards of corn, the protesters dumped the crops outside the offices of the region's administrative head-

quarters in Valence.

The farmers' group is demanding that tests for genetically modified crops be conducted in confined areas to avoid cross-pollination with natural crops nearby.

Belarus expels American for alleged conspiracy

MINSK, Belarus - Belarus has expelled a U.S. citizen for allegedly conspiring with the opposition to oust President Alexander Lukashenko in next month's presidential election.

Robert Fielding was accused by Belarus' security service, still known as the KGB, of interfering in the country's internal affairs by campaigning for opposition candidate Vladimir Goncharik, a trade union leader.

Fielding, an AFL-CIO official, is also accused of supporting a plot by the opposition to overthrow Lukashenko through mass protests. If he wins the Sept. 9 ballot, according to a television report citing the KGB.

Slavery reparations issue might steal center stage

Newsway

For years, the idea of reparations for America's 250 years of slavery has been relegated to the fringes of political debate. But in the past year, it has gone mainstream, attracting grass-roots groups and respected national civil rights organizations such as the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People.

At a global conference on racism to open Friday in Durban, South Africa, the issue is poised to take the public stage as never before.

For those who have long pushed for a public hearing on reparations, the U.N. World Conference Against Racism offers a prime opportunity to show that the issue can no longer be considered too racial to date.

At the conference, the voices of black Americans will be joined with those of Africans who seek compensation for the decimation of African societies by the slave trade of the 17th to 19th centuries.

is not an esoteric discussion anymore on a fringe idea that there is no way to stop this issue now... The genie is out of the bottle now."

Those in favor of reparations say now is the time for the United States to apologize and compensate people whose economic and social development was stunted by official racism while America, its white citizens in particular, enjoyed the fruits of an agrarian economy built on the backs of black slaves.

That argument, though, is vigorously opposed by all kinds of people, from ordinary citizens to heads of state.

As they make their case, supporters of reparations see an unbroken line of racial tyranny from slavery, through an era of legal segregation, to current-day discrimination evidenced by the persistence of a black American underclass. They say resistance to discussion of reparations stems from the country's fear and its reluctance to explore demons of its past that would challenge its self-image as a haven for human rights and a land of opportunity for all.

Missing student returns to U.S.

NEW YORK (AP) - A Yale University student missing for more than three weeks in South Africa, where she was studying on a Fulbright grant, returned to the United States on Sunday.

Natasha Smalls, 20, told her parents on July 26 that she had been released from a psychiatric hospital in Zimbabwe where she had been injected with medication.

She also told her parents that she had been assaulted in March. Smalls had been studying at the University of Natal in Durban, South Africa.

They criticized the State Department for not doing more to help.

"I felt that if I was white, they would have reached out more," Glory Smalls said at a news conference at Kennedy Airport. The Smalls are black. Natasha Smalls was kept in a separate room from reporters before being taken to an undisclosed hospital.

State Department spokeswoman Michelle King said that both the South African and Zimbabwean consulates were notified of the disappearance and cooperated in the search.

"Of course, we're very happy that she has returned safely," King said, not responding directly to Glory Smalls' claim that race was an issue.

Advertisement for Magic Valley Online Edition featuring various local businesses such as Jules Harrison Theisen Motors, D.L. Evans Bank, Jim Bieri State Farm Insurance, Terry's Heating & Air Conditioning, Magic Valley Regional Medical Center, and Dale Ewersen Life Insurance Savings.

Beware of women with ball-peen hammers

Editor's note: Dave Barry is on vacation this week. This column was first published on Jan. 24, 2000.

So my wife and I are preparing for childbirth.
When I say, "my wife and I," of course mean "my wife." She will be the most directly involved. On behalf of all men, I just want to take a moment here to get down on my knees and thank whoever invented our current biological system under which the woman's job is to have the baby somehow go from the inside of her body to the outside of her body, in clear violation of every known law of physics, and the man's job is to stand around looking supportive and periodically, no matter what is actually happening to the woman, say in an upbeat and perky voice, "You're doing great!"

My wife thinks the only fair system would be if, every time the woman had a contraction she got to hit her husband on the body part of her choice with a ball-peen hammer. Of course she is kidding. But only because her contractions haven't started.

We've been going to childbirth classes, which involve sitting in a classroom filled with expectant couples and a mounting sense of dread. The teacher usually starts with a scientific discussion of childbirth, in which she shows us various diagrams and then she gives us an idea of what will be happening when The Big Moment arrives. In my opinion, the most informative way to do this would be to hold up a bowling ball and a drinking straw, and say, "Basically, this has to go through this. Ha ha!"

But our teacher keeps it fairly technical. After a while, we're starting to feel confident about this childbirth thing. We're thinking, "OK, all that has happened is the cervix has to dilate to 10 centimeters! How hard can that be? I wonder what a cervix is? Also, a centimeter."

So we're pondering these abstract questions and maybe thinking about what we're going to have for dinner later, when suddenly, with no warning, the teacher turns out the lights and shows a horror movie.
Oh, it starts out innocently enough. There's a woman consisting of a woman who is pregnant and a man who is supportive looking and generally has a beard. They seem happy, but you just know she's going into labor. You live with her for a while, like those scary movies where the heroine goes down into the basement, and you want to shout, "Don't go down into the basement!" except in the childbirth class you want to shout, "Don't go into labor!"

But she always does go into labor. It seems to last a lot longer than necessary. Her husband keeps telling her she's doing great, but you can tell from her expression that he's very lucky she doesn't have a ball-peen hammer.
When the woman gets to approximately her 15th year of labor, she begins making noises that you rarely hear outside a nature documentary, and her husband backs up a little bit in case she gets her hands on a scalpel. When the woman in the movie makes a noise identical to what you'd hear if a live yak when they're eating garlic press, I unsungit just enough to see it happen, and Blessed Event, the timeless miracle that makes the whole thing worthwhile. An alien bursting out of the woman's chest cavity.

No, seriously what happens is that the woman has a baby, via a process that makes what happened in "Alien" look like an episode of "Teletubbies." Then our childbirth class teacher turns the lights on, and the pregnant women all turn to face their husbands, and they all have the same facial expression, which says "This is not fair." We husbands respond by smiling supportively and patting their arms in a reassuring manner. Because we're sure they're going to do great.

Dave Barry is the humor columnist for the Miami Herald.



HUMOR
Dave Barry

HANDLE WITH CARE

Dangerous bacteria



Please use caution

This electron micrograph depicts a group of E. coli bacteria.

There's E. coli at the fair; make sure kids wash

By Steve Crump
Times-News writer

FILTER - Take a box of Handi-Wipes with you to the fair this year.

"There is always E. coli at fairs because wherever you find cattle, you'll find E. coli," said Dr. Leslie Tengelsen, Idaho's deputy state epidemiologist. "Most of it is harmless to humans, but some of it can make you sick."

Escherichia coli is a common bacteria with which humans and other mammals have co-existed for millions of years. But it has some nasty first cousins.

The E. coli O157:H7 strain commonly causes bloody diarrhea, stomach cramps, fatigue and nausea, and it can also lead to deadly complications, including kidney failure. Young children and elderly people are most susceptible to the complications.

And there's disturbing evidence it's developing an even meaner streak. "Some strains of E. coli are just a lot more virulent than they used to be," Tengelsen said in a telephone interview from her Boise office. "That's our concern."

At fairs, the bacteria come from animal-fecal material, which can be spread from visitors' shoes, the unwashed hands of workers han-

Protect your kids

How to protect yourself and your children from E.coli at fairs and fairs:

- Wash hands with soap and rinse with running water after visiting animals, even if you don't touch them.
- If soap and water are not available, use a bottled instant hand-sanitizer.
- Do not eat, drink or smoke, or allow babies to use pacifiers during interaction with animals.

E. coli cases - C1

dling food or even by babies who pet animals and then suck on a pacifier or drop a sippy cup on the ground.

The risk of picking up E. coli from a counter top is remote, Tengelsen said, but the microbes have been found on corral posts, according to Cheryl Becker, nurse epidemiologist for the South Central District Health Department in Twin Falls.

E. coli has been especially troublesome at fairs this summer and last.

Fifty-six children were infected with E. coli last year following visits to fairs in Pennsylvania and

How fairs can protect visitors

Post information about the risk of contracting E.coli.

- Serve food only in restricted areas where animals are not allowed.
- Provide hand-washing stations with running water, soap and disposable towels in animal-contact and animal-free areas.
- Train staff on the need to wash their hands.

-Source: U.S. Centers for Disease Control

Washington state. Nineteen of the kids required hospitalization.

Already this summer, four children have been hospitalized in Wisconsin with suspected E.coli infections that appear to be linked to the Ozaukee County Fair, held during the first week of August, and more than 50 other cases are being investigated. At least one patient, a 2-year-old girl, is experiencing kidney failure.

"There's really only one rule to remember," Becker said. "If you or your kids have handled animals, make sure you wash your hands."

Ten cases of E. coli have been reported in the Magic Valley this

Please see BACTERIA, Page B2

New antibiotics still struggle with germs

Newsway

The germs have rallied - and they show no signs of retreating. Deadly strains of bacteria

have become resistant to even our most state-of-the-art drug defenses. Strains of tuberculosis, for instance, a disease once thought largely eradicated from the developed world, have become resistant to many drugs and, as a result, death rates are on the rise.

Even as new antibiotics are introduced, bacteria develop ways to thwart them - and even the best antibiotics are ineffective against some common bacterial infections, such as E. coli.

In at least one patient, the so-called superbug *Staphylococcus aureus*, evolved resistance to

one of the new antibiotics, a drug called linezolid that was released just one year ago. The patient, an 85-year-old man in a Boston hospital, died.

One of the most unusual new bacteria-killing compounds can be expected to eventually drive bacteria to resistance, scientists say. The latest, described in the July 26 issue of the journal Nature, takes aim at the bacterial cell membrane, as do many of the compounds discovered relatively recently in plants and animals.

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many of the compounds discovered relatively recently in plants and animals. Scientists speculate that it will be more difficult for bacteria to evolve resistance to agents that target the membrane because,

Please see ANTIBIOTICS, Page B2

A sewer's thoughts turn to suits

After a long, hot summer, the smart fall suits in Vogue's pattern catalog seem especially appealing. They have classic styling but with a modern twist.

In No. 2575, for example, Guy LaRoche features clever detailing - a princess seamed jacket with a flattering stand-up notched collar. Bill Bliss energizes the suit by mixing masculine pinstripe wool with feminine touches of chiffon (No. 2574). From Geoffrey Beene comes a structured jacket with double darts providing the curves, and a removable leather collar to give it a sewing edge (No. 2575).

A spunky expert Claire Shaeffer introduces her Custom Couture collection for Vogue. In these patterns, the guide sheets are tailoring lessons in themselves. "My intention," she says, "is to broaden the horizons of home sewers and raise the quality and standards of garment construction." She has included some 21st-Century shortcuts as well. Look for classic lines in her first two patterns, Jacket No. 7467 and pants No. 7468.

More pattern news: Simplicity offers a special Costume Catalog, separate from its regular book of patterns. It contains 141 designs with multiple views, including Disney exclusives. You'll find historically accurate costumes for adults, too, in plenty of time for



SEWING
Barbara Gash

Renaissance festivals, theater productions, and, of course, Halloween. All patterns are stocked by the stores that carry the catalog.

For girls in the sub-teen size range, you'll find back-to-school patterns. Butterick, for instance, offers new styles in Girls 7-16. An updated zip-front vest (No. 6789) with drawing waist has basic pants included. The pullover jumper in No. 3271 with coordinating vest, also comes in Plus sizes 8-16.

McCall Pattern Co. has announced a merger with the Butterick Co., producers of both Butterick and Vogue patterns. All lines are expected to maintain their separate identities, sizing standards and licensed designers.

Barbara Gash writes about sewing for the Detroit Free Press. Write to her at the Free Press, P.O. Box 828, Detroit, Mich. 48231, or send e-mail to compuser@00.com

Researchers say injections don't raise risk of Caesarean deliveries

Epidural injections do not raise the risk of Caesarean deliveries, researchers have reported. Past studies have suggested that this method of providing pain relief to women in labor may lead to a reduced rate of vaginal deliveries. This study examined records of more than 1,000 births to first-time mothers at a military medical center in Hawaii. About half of the births occurred in 1992 and 1993, when epidural analgesia was almost never provided; the remainder occurred in 1995 and 1996, after a Defense Department policy change made these injections widely available. While the frequency of epidural use jumped from 1 percent in the earlier period to 84 percent in the later period, the rate of Caesarean deliveries changed from 14.4 percent to 12.1 percent, a difference that was not considered statistically significant. Bottom line: Women should not assume that epidural analgesia during labor makes a Caesarean delivery more likely.

Parkinson's symptom

Constipation may be a marker for later onset of disease, researchers in Hawaii has

Health notes

reported. Past studies have shown that constipation is common in people who have Parkinson's, a neurodegenerative disease that affects about 1 percent of people aged 65 and older, but evidence is lacking about whether constipation is an early marker for the disease. The study assessed information on bowel movements that was collected in the 1970s from almost 7,000 men of Japanese ancestry who were living in Hawaii and aged 51 to 75 when the data were collected. The researchers found that 289, or 4.3 percent, of the men had less than one bowel movement per day and defined this group as constipated. Of the 96 men who developed Parkinson's over the next 24 years, 10 were in the constipation group. They determined that this group was 2.7 times more likely to develop Parkinson's than the men who had one bowel movement per day and more than four times as likely as those who had two or more daily bowel movements.

- compiled from wire service reports

HEALTH & FASHION

Join the crowd; biking booms

The Dallas Morning News

Like Arabian horsemen flying across the plains, mountain bikers feel a sense of freedom when they ride. Whether you want to race along a twisting path through the woods, skirt the edge of a precipitous mountain cliff or jump high enough to brush tree branches, a mountain bike is a willing steed that can take you places many people never see.

Outdoor recreation is booming, and mountain bikers have a significant piece of the action. According to a 2000 Roper Starch Worldwide survey, 78 percent of all Americans participate in outdoor activities at least once a month and 5 percent of the population is riding trails on mountain bikes.

"The bike market has flipped in the last 20 years," says International Mountain Bicycling Association executive director Tim Blumenthal. "Twenty years ago, nine out of 10 bikes sold were road bikes. Now nine out of 10 are fat-tire bikes."

Want to join the pack? Here's what you need to hit the single-track:

The bike. Different types of mountain bikes are designed for different niches of the sport. Here, we'll concentrate on the cross-country bike, because it's the best choice for beginners and the type most suited for area trails.

Plan to spend between \$850 and \$1,100 for a good, light-weight XC bike (known as a hardtail). That may seem like a lot of money, but bikes — and their components — in this price range jump up to hard riding and last for years.

To find your cycle, go to several bike shops and ride different bikes. The shop will let you borrow a helmet and put a bike through its paces. Each will fit and feel different, so ride the way you plan to ride it on the trail and find the one that best suits you. Quiz the employees on anything you're unsure of. They ride a lot, love to talk about bikes and will know everything from handlebars to derailleurs. They'll also help you find a bike that's the right size for you.

Do a lot of research — it'll pay off. Here are the major areas you should consider when buying a bike:

• The frame. This is the most important part of a bike. It has to be strong enough to absorb impact from the trail, yet light enough to enable the rider to carry speed and climb hills. Aluminum is a popular frame type with these characteristics, though you will also find steel.



Nine out of 10 bicycles sold worldwide have fat tires.

Along with the stem (the part that holds the handlebars to the frame), the frame determines fit. Ask somebody who works at the bike shop to help you find a bike that fits your measurements. Basically, you should be able to stand over the top tube with at least an inch of clearance between it and your crotch and be able to comfortably reach the handlebars while having a slightly arched back in the riding position.

• Shocks. Mountain bikes have shocks that take the place of the front fork. There are basically two types: those that use compressed air to absorb shock and those that use coil springs and oil. Don't get caught up in the eternal debate over which type is better; ride each type and decide for yourself. You can't go wrong with shocks from major manufacturers such as Rock Shox, Marzocchi or Manitou. Some bike manufacturers, such as Cannondale, make their own shocks.

• Pedals. Most XC bikers prefer clipless pedals. "Clipless" is a misnomer, because the pedals actually allow the rider to place a cleat attached to the sole of the shoe into a spring-loaded clip. This is known as "clipping in." These pedals hold the foot in the optimum position for speed and power. They can be scary at first and take a while to get used to, but with practice you'll see why so many people prefer them.

• Shoes and cleats. Clipless pedals require special shoes to which a cleat can be screwed. If

Stuff to take with you

- **Hydration pack:** You can carry more liquid in a pack than you can with water bottles, plus it has pockets to stash the things you'll take with you.
- **Multitool:** Like a Swiss Army knife, but loaded with the bike-specific instruments you need if you have a breakdown.
- **Spare tube and tube-patch kit:** Minor punctures can be taken care of with the kit, but if you've thrashed the tube, use the spare.
- **Energy bars or gels:** Bars give you long-lasting energy for the ride, gels give you a boost when you're about to "bonk."
- **Shirny pump:** A small pump you can fit to the frame, or carry in your hydro-pack.
- **A couple of buckets:** In case you're stranded.
- **First-aid kit, mosquito repellent, sunscreen and your car keys.** —Source: The Dallas Morning News

you buy shoes at the same time you buy your bike, the shop will usually install the cleats for you. But it's easy to do yourself. You'll need a razor to trim the sole of the shoe and an Allen wrench to attach the cleats, which come with your pedals.

• **Derailleurs and shifters.** Along with your front and rear gears, the front and rear derailleurs and your shifters make up the drivetrain. Make sure the derailleurs move the chain quickly from one gear to the next with no drag. Shifters should feel crisp and give a good indication that the bike is in gear. Mountain bikes usually have three gear rings in front and nine on the rear hub for a total of 27 possible combinations.

• **Tires.** Tire tread should match the trail condition you're riding. Tires with large square knobs work well in mud, but they're not as fast on hard-packed dirt, where tires with a

lower tread profile excel. You can easily replace your own tires, but if the trail conditions you'll be riding don't match the tires on the bike, you may be able to talk the bike shop into swapping them for you.

• **Handlebars.** You'll find two types of handlebars on a bike. Riser bars keep you in a more comfortable, upright position. Flat bars allow you to stretch over the bike, lowering your aerodynamic profile.

• **Brakes.** Make sure your bike has good brakes. They're one component you don't want to fail. The two parts of the brake system are the levers and the actual brake. When you test ride a bike, make sure the brakes feel firm when you pull the levers but have enough slack to allow you to modulate your speed. You may find disc brakes on some bikes. They're a hot product in the industry, but unnecessary for cross-country riding.

Antibiotics

Continued from B1

unlike conventional antibiotics, most don't attack a specific molecule.

All such compounds are steps in the right direction, scientists say, and show promise at least in the short term in the endeavor to expand our drug arsenal in the eternal pathogenic arms race. "The question is how long will any one antibiotic hold its function before these pesky little beasts come up with an answer," said Thomas Eisner, a chemical ecologist at Cornell University.

It's a war that must be waged on many fronts, Eisner said. Vaccinations and improving health care and sanitation in the Third World are expected to limit the spread of disease. And new antibiotics must be a part of any strategy to check infections.

The need is greatest for antibiotics that work differently from the current generation. New antibiotics that act similarly to existing ones aren't likely to be any more effective at countering resistance.

One promising source for novel weapons, called antimicrobials, against pathogens is plants and animals. Looking to nature for antimicrobial inspiration is not a new idea. Most current antibiotics are modeled after natural compounds made by fungi and bacteria. But looking for antibiotics among organisms nearer to the human branch on the evolutionary tree has gained momentum only in the past 15 years, scientists say.

One of the first animal antimicrobials discovered was found in frogs. In 1986, Dr. Michael Zasloff, then a researcher at the National Institutes of Health, was doing research with African clawed frogs when he noticed that, though the frog tanks were filthy, the frogs' incisions rarely became infected. The fruits of this rather grimy accidental discovery were simple chains of amino acids, the same molecules that make up proteins. Frogs owe the amino acid chains, which Zasloff named magainins, through their skin to protect against infection.

Bacteria and fungi must make chemicals that kill their very similar competitors while leaving themselves unscathed. To do this, they often make chemicals that slip inside the intended bacterial cells and strike very specific targets, slowing or stopping those bacteria from making essential compounds necessary for survival and reproduction. A number of the chemicals used by fungi, bacteria and our current antibiotics attack sites on the cell's protein factories called ribosomes.

Specific targets are relatively simple for bacteria to modify, and such modifications are one way bacteria resist antibiotics. Because animal and plant cells

have less in common with bacteria, they can afford to use a cruder approach, essentially blasting genes bacterial plasma membranes.

The plasma membrane serves as both fence and gatekeeper to bacterial cells. Small molecules such as water easily pass easily through, but larger molecules like glucose or charged molecules can enter or exit only with the help of proteins that float like icebergs in the membrane.

If something breaks up the membrane, important molecules flow out and unwanted ones pour in, killing the cell.

"It's a much less fine attack on the bacterium," said Thomas Ganz of the University of California, Los Angeles, Medical School. "So it is not quite as easy for the bacterium to resist." Ganz researches microbe-killing peptides — strings of amino acids. Zasloff founded Magainin Pharmaceuticals to try to turn magainins into a drug, but so far the Food and Drug Administration hasn't approved any magainin formulation for use even as a topical antibiotic.

Indeed, it is always difficult to turn a compound that works well in the lab into a drug, but so far the shelf. No matter how well it works in a test tube, once in the body, the compound may react in ways no one predicted.

Peptides, such as defensins, could be more likely to spark an immune response than the chemicals that make up conventional antibiotics, said Stuart Levy, the director of the Center for Adaptation Genetics and Drug Resistance at Tufts University Medical School in Boston.

Bacteria

Continued from B1

summer, none directly linked to livestock or livestock waste. Most E. coli infections in the United States come from handling or eating undercooked meat.

But the potential is always there, Becker points out. "Small children are always putting their hands in their mouths or on the faces, and adults touch their faces a lot too," she said. "That's how colds are spread, and you can get an E. coli infection the same way."

Neither Becker nor Tengelsen say kids should be discouraged from petting animals at the fair, but both agree that parents should watch them carefully after they do.

"Soap breaks down the membranes of E. coli," Becker said. "Soap and water are very effective."

To that end, the Twin Falls County Fair Board is installing a new hand-washing station near

the petting zoo at the fairgrounds this week. It'll be ready by the time the fair opens Wednesday, according to Fair Manager John Piz.

"We had a temporary hand-washing station the last couple of years, but this is a lot better," Piz said.

Pre-moistened, disposable hand wipes can also be effective, Becker said, but only until you get the child to a sink where his or her hands can be washed with soap and water.

Locally, the health department inspects the water sources of food booths at the fair to rule out the possibility of E. coli contamination.

But last September, 12-year-old Lauren Mansell of Montville, Conn., died from an E. coli infection that her mother is convinced she picked up from lemonade she drank from a stand less than 100 feet from a large cattle barn at a Brooklyn, Conn., fair, although the

source has not been confirmed and nobody else in the family got sick.

Often, Donna Mansel told the Hartford Courant, agricultural fairs are in rural areas where wells do not provide sufficient water to allow toilet and hand-washing facilities for thousands of people. The sinks in portable toilets rarely work, she says. Well-meaning volunteers who serve hot dogs and corn to raise money for local baseball teams or churches are rarely trained in proper food-handling.

Becker agrees that E. coli can be insidious.

"A food booth might be completely safe, but what happens if one of the workers asks somebody to stand in for them for a minute while they go to the rest room?" she asked. "Maybe that person is contaminated with E. coli."

"The best protection is awareness," Tengelsen said. "Watch your children. Wash your hands. It's just common sense."

—The Hartford Courant contributed to this report

Times-News writer Steve Crump can be reached at 735-3223, or write to him at crump@magical-ley.com

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Growing risk: Skin cancer rates rise

The Seattle Times

When Maureen Reagan, daughter of ex-president Ronald Reagan, died at 60 on Aug. 8, some people were surprised at the cause.
"Skin cancer? I didn't think people died of that," said one Seattle resident.

They do, of course, and more of them all the time. Skin cancer is the fastest growing form of cancer in the country - even though it's one of the most preventable and is the target of research on many fronts, including the search for a vaccine. Scientists also just announced identification of a gene for melanoma, the most deadly type of skin cancer.

The incidence rate for melanoma - the kind that killed Maureen Reagan - nearly quadrupled in the U.S. from 1973 to 1998. The American Cancer Society estimates 51,400 Americans will be diagnosed with it this year, and 7,800 will die from it. Though the percentage of patients who die is falling somewhat with earlier detection, total deaths are rising as more people get the disease.

Skin cancer's impact is notable also because its victims tend to be younger than those of most cancers. Average age of skin-cancer diagnosis is 49, and victims in the teens, 20s and 30s are not uncommon, says researcher Dr. John Thompson of the University of Washington and the Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center.

Experts aren't certain why overall skin cancer rates are rising, but they offer a couple of theories: People are spending more time in skimpier clothing, under the skin-damaging sun. And the atmosphere's thinning ozone layer allows more damaging ultraviolet rays to reach us.

Supporting the latter notion is the fact that the world's highest rates of skin cancer occur in Australia and among Caucasians



Maureen Reagan, daughter of former President Ronald Reagan, speaks at a Pacific Basin conference in this file photo in Honolulu. Maureen Reagan died of skin cancer last year at her home in the Sacramento area. She was 60.

in South Africa, where the ozone layer is more depleted, says Thompson.

Whatever the reasons for skin cancer's increase, authorities say far fewer people would die from it, or even get it, if everyone followed widely accepted prevention and early detection advice.

When detected early, melanoma is 95 percent curable; diagnosed late, it's tough to beat, in part because this cancer can quickly spread to distant parts of the body.

Less dangerous are the non-

melanoma skin cancers, basal-cell carcinoma and squamous-cell carcinoma, which almost never spread beyond the original site. However, they can invade nearby tissue and bone, and in rare instances can be fatal.

All three types originate in the skin's top layer, the epidermis, then grow deeper if not checked by treatment - primarily, surgery, in later-stage cases, chemotherapy or radiation may follow. Melanoma begins most often in an existing mole, usually one exposed to the sun. Much more

Risky business

Your skin-cancer risk is higher if you:

- Have many moles, irregular moles or large moles.
- Were previously treated for skin cancer.
- Had repeated, intense sun exposure, especially sunburns, as a child or teen.
- Have fair skin or blond, red or light-brown hair (though people of any color can get skin cancer).
- Have freckles and burn before tanning.
- Spend a lot of time outdoors.
- Have a family history of skin cancer.
- Live or vacation at high altitudes, where ultraviolet radiation is greater, or live near the equator.
- Have had an organ transplant (anti-rejection drugs may impair the immune system).
- Take certain medications, such as some antibiotics, nonsteroidal anti-inflammatory drugs or sulfa drugs.

—Source: American Cancer

rarely, it begins in an area that's not sun-exposed, possibly indicating that genetics plays a role.

Still, excessive sun exposure gets the blame for most skin cancer. Though scientists say a tan represents sun-damaged skin, it remains a beauty standard.

"We're up against the 'Baywatch' effect," says Thompson. "People watch that and want to have a beautiful, tanned body."

Increasingly, studies indicate that too much sun in childhood and the early teens - especially repeated, severe sunburn - greatly raises the risk of getting skin cancer later. As adults, we can't undo the sunburns we had as kids, but health experts warn parents to make sure their children avoid too much sun.

Digestive disorder comes out of closet

The Seattle Times

SEATTLE - Imagine having a disease no one wants you to talk about, and no one wants to hear about.

That's the plight of people with inflammatory bowel disease, says Lois Fink of Seattle.
"But Fink is talking now, and so are some others who battle a malady that makes life miserable for upwards of 1 million Americans - including 100,000 children - but is typically avoided in genteel conversation."
The disease causes a chronic-

Though IBD has no cure now, researchers recently announced a breakthrough: identification of a gene for Crohn's disease. Scientists say the mutated gene - probably when joined by a trigger, such as a digestive-tract microbe - apparently allows the body's immune system to attack the intestinal lining, creating destructive inflammation.
Scientists hope this discovery will lead to a cure or, possibly, a vaccine.
"This is an absolutely fantastic time" to be working in IBD research, says Dr. Robert Herschberg, a medical geneticist with the University of Washington and Corixa, a Seattle biotech company. He said identification of the gene opens up the possibility of finding the bacterial triggers and developing drugs to target them.

Even now, newer medicines can greatly alleviate symptoms, allowing most people to lead relatively normal lives, says gastroenterologist Dr. William Holderman of Tacoma, Wash., president of the Northwest chapter of the CCAA.
The new drug Remicade, for instance, works to suppress the immune system's attack on the intestines in Crohn's disease. It doesn't work for everybody and can have side effects, such as headaches and fever. They're less serious, however, than side effects caused by older treatments such as steroids, whose prolonged use can cause weight gain, anxiety and bone-weakening.
Doctors and patients are watching to see whether early and long-term use of Remicade will make intestinal surgery unnecessary.

That's where "coming out" about the disease comes in, helping alert people to symptoms and possible early help, says Fink.
Crohn's disease and ulcerative colitis are the two related disorders known collectively as inflammatory bowel disease.
Now new nonhormonal drugs with fewer side effects are available to treat serious diseases of aging like heart trouble and osteoporosis. (These don't, as Dr. Anthony DiConce, a spokesman for Wyeth-Ayerst, pointed out, have other benefits, such as relieving menopausal symptoms).
Women are told that taking hormones is a highly individual decision that must be made in consultation with their health care providers. In theory, this sounds like good advice. But health care providers are faced with the same conflicting evidence that their patients are.
"Doctors act in light of current knowledge," said Dr. Jacques Rivara, acting director of the Women's Health Initiative, a huge randomized study of HRT based in Bethesda, Md. "Currently, we don't know much. I don't think we're there yet - to encourage or discourage (HRT) use. Fifty years after its invention, we don't know the long-term effects."
Scientists say two things are certain about estrogen:
• It relieves the hot flashes, night sweats, vaginal dryness and mood swings associated with menopause.
• It helps stay off postmenopausal bone loss.

Decisions about taking estrogen get tougher

The Baltimore Sun

This summer, one of the most prescribed group of drugs in the United States has become one of the most controversial.
The American Heart Association recently issued new guidelines recommending that women not go on hormone replacement therapy solely to prevent heart attacks and stroke, a change from its former position.
Earlier this summer, an editorial in the Journal of the American Medical Association made national news by questioning whether estrogen helps prevent fractures caused by osteoporosis in older women.

Some recent clinical studies have suggested that the benefits of the powerful drug aren't as clear-cut as scientists once thought and the risks may be greater. (Other studies have been more positive.)

"We have magical thinking about estrogen," said Dr. Deborah Grady, one of the authors of the JAMA editorial. "We don't think about it as a drug, just something that older women are lacking that we ought to replace. But there's been a large change in the way (the scientific community) thinks about estrogen in the last few years."
Grady, a professor of medicine and epidemiology at the University of California, San Francisco, plans to take one of the new nonhormonal drugs if she has bone mass loss after menopause.
"The evidence is better that it works, and its main side effect is heartburn."
The decisions women must make about whether to go on HRT are getting more complicated. Should they take estrogen, a drug with potentially serious side effects every day for the next 30 or 40 years to prevent disease or aging? Or if they decide to use estrogen, should they stay on it for a short time simply to deal with the unpleasant symptoms of menopause?
"One of the problems we're seeing is that (HRT) is being marketed as a preventative to a broad number of women," said Amy Allina, program director for the

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National Woman's Health Network, a Washington-based nonprofit organization. "For many health care providers, one size fits all. Far too many prescriptions are being written for women who probably don't need it."
Unless you're a woman around 50 or older who wonders if menopause means the end of your sex life and the beginning of a dowager's hump, you may not even know what HRT is.

Hormone replacement therapy is most commonly prescribed to relieve the symptoms of menopause (such as hot flashes and sleep problems) as estrogen levels decline. But for many women and their doctors, it's also the key to a longer, healthier and more youthful old age.
Replacing female hormones after menopause may - or may not - prevent heart attacks, lessen your chances of fracturing your hip, help you remember where you left your keys, keep your skin looking youthful, make you less irritable and improve urinary tract symptoms.
"I had a real problem with aging," said Nicky Schleider, 64, of Baltimore, who has been on HRT for 15 years and says she has had no side effects. She's done her homework on the subject and thinks she's better off taking estrogen and progestin in spite of the recent negative press the hormones have received. "You're damned if you do, and you're

damned if you don't," she added.
Until last year, when a cholesterol-lowering drug edged it out, Premarin (a brand of estrogen tablets) was the most widely prescribed drug in the United States. That's surprising when you consider its market is limited to women who don't have their periods anymore. More than 17.5 million of them are taking female hormones, according to Wyeth-Ayerst Pharmaceuticals, the company that manufactures Premarin.

True, estrogen can increase the risk of uterine cancer and perhaps breast and ovarian cancer. Other side effects include the possibility of blood clots and irregular bleeding. But for almost 60 years,

women and health care providers have felt the benefits outweighed the risks because there were no alternatives.

Now new nonhormonal drugs with fewer side effects are available to treat serious diseases of aging like heart trouble and osteoporosis. (These don't, as Dr. Anthony DiConce, a spokesman for Wyeth-Ayerst, pointed out, have other benefits, such as relieving menopausal symptoms).

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• It helps stay off postmenopausal bone loss.

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David O'Neill, M.D.,
Sinus Specialist

SYMPTOM	SINUSITIS	ALLERGY	COLD
Facial pressure/pain	Yes	Sometimes	Sometimes
Duration of illness	Over 10-14 days	Variable	Under 10 days
Nasal discharge	Thick, yellow-green	Clear, thin, watery	Thick, whitish or thin
Fever	Sometimes	No	No
Headache	Sometimes	Sometimes	Sometimes
Pain in upper teeth	Sometimes	No	No
Bird breath	Sometimes	No	No
Coughing	Sometimes	Sometimes	Yes
Nasal congestion	Yes	Sometimes	Yes
Sneezing	No	Sometimes	Yes

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PART II. SWEEPSTAKES EPIGENOMIC - SOME SOLUTIONS

Dennis S. Voorhees

Last week this column reviewed the factors giving rise to sweepstakes solicitor fraud and exploitation of senior citizens. On the brighter side, many resources are readily at hand to stop this abuse.

Society. The senior living alone is less likely to fall prey to solicitor exploitation where family and friends are making frequent contact. Where these resources are in short supply the CSI Office on Aging can fill the void with its Senior Companion and Telephone Reassurance Programs. Call 736-2122 for more information.

Awareness and Protection. The Consumer Protection Unit of the Idaho Attorney General's Office (1-800-432-3545) has excellent brochures explaining techniques and pointers for avoiding these exploitive schemes. The CSI Office on Aging can also help.

Closing the Spigot. The goal of mail fueling this epidemic can be shut down by writing to Mail Preference Service, P.O. Box 9008, Farmingdale, NY 11735-9008. Telephone calls can be stopped by writing the Telephone Preference Service, P.O. Box 9014, Farmington, NY 11735-9014.

Compilments

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HEALTH & FASHION

Abuse might make drug harder to get

Los Angeles Times

Riddled with pain from rheumatoid arthritis and a degenerative bone disease for years, Diana Rose rarely left the house. Then in November, a doctor prescribed the painkiller OxyContin, dramatically changing her quality of life.

"I can actually go shopping at the mall, play with my grandchildren and even swim in our pool," said Rose, a 57-year-old Kentucky woman. "This drug has enabled me to do things without being in pain."

OxyContin, a powerful drug that is a chemical cousin to opiates such as morphine and heroin, has enabled thousands of people, such as Rose, to resume the normal activities of life. But now some doctors fear that a backlash triggered by rampant street use of the drug, dubbed "hillbilly heroin" will derail significant advances in the field of pain management. They worry that U.S. drug officials may respond to rising illicit use of OxyContin by imposing stricter limits on the use of all opiates, commonly used to treat cancer patients, severe back pain and other chronic pain conditions.

"This is not just about OxyContin," said John D. Giglio, executive director of the American Pain Foundation, a nonprofit consumer group in Baltimore. "This is about the potential for rolling back progress made in pain management. It's been an extremely hard uphill climb to get physicians to become more comfortable prescribing opiates and overcoming the stigma among patients about potential addiction and abuse."

OxyContin is a synthetic opiate that has fewer side effects than other potent pain medications,

including morphine or codeine, which can cause nausea, constipation or drowsiness. What's more, OxyContin is formulated to keep steady levels of the drug circulating in the blood for as long as 12 hours. Patients don't experience the intense peaks and valleys of taking other narcotics, like Vicodin or Lortab, which can take an hour to provide pain relief and whose effects wear off in four hours.

Soon after OxyContin was approved in 1995, recreational drug users discovered that, rather than letting the pill dissolve in the gastrointestinal tract, they could produce an intense high by chewing the drug or crushing it into a powder that can be snorted or intravenously injected. Within a few years, areas in rural Maine and Appalachian communities of Virginia, West Virginia and Kentucky reported a wave of users who had become addicted to the drug.

Since then, illicit use of the drug has spread throughout the country. It is estimated that more than 200,000 Americans have abused OxyContin, which also has been implicated in more than 100 deaths from suspected overdoses. Several doctors have been convicted of illegally dispensing the drug, while "Oxy" addicts increasingly turn to crime to feed their habits.

The growing alarm about illicit use is having a chilling effect on legitimate use of the drug. Six states - Florida, Maine, Ohio, South Carolina, Vermont and West Virginia - have set strict limits on the number of pills that can be prescribed for people on chronic pain medication. Doctors may not be able to increase dosages for patients who need stronger pain relief.



Purdue Pharma, the maker of OxyContin, a prescription pain killer celebrated for its potency but criticized for a rash of related overdoses and deaths, detailed the first blueprints earlier this month for a new 'smart pill' that would be tougher to abuse.

Annual exam could catch cervical cancer

Knight Ridder News Service

COLUMBIA, S.C. - For some teen-age girls, it's worse than being grounded and more scary than a pimple on the nose before a big date.

As unpleasant as girls think an annual gynecological visit is, it's a vital part of growing up and thinking maturely about their bodies.

The earlier girls realize the importance of the exam, the more likely they are to make it a habit through adulthood, doctors say. And while this habit could be life-saving, it's one of the most overlooked preventive measures a woman makes.

Thousands of women skip the annual gynecological exam for a variety of reasons, said Dr. Jennifer Risinger, an obstetrician/gynecologist at Women's Physicians Associates in Columbia.

Some women skip the procedure because of a bad experience during a previous exam, Risinger said. Other women who had hysterectomies think they don't need an annual exam. They're uncomfortable about the whole process.

But putting it off for two or three years could lead to major health problems, she said.

"Someone can go from an early problem that's easily treatable to something that's more severe and could have been treated, if they had come in earlier," Risinger said.

Cervical cancer deaths in the United States dropped 74 percent between 1955 and 1992 because of the increased use of the Pap test, according to the American Cancer Society.

Rochelle Brown, 33, of Columbia said she has made the exam part of her yearly routine since age 14. Brown said her mother took her as a teen to instill the importance of reproductive health.

"I'm not scared about going to the gynecologist. It's not the highlight of my year, but I rest easier going," she said.

Sara Schechter-Schoeman said she doesn't regret taking her daughter for her first gynecological visit at age 15, for menstrual problems.

"When my daughter was an older teen, I was relieved she had an annual connection with a doctor. In case she wanted to talk about contraception or STDs with someone other than her parents," she said.

The annual visit includes examination of the external genitalia, cervix and uterus. It is necessary for early detection of cervical cancer, pre-cancerous cell changes and other reproductive organ problems.

Some tips for your first exam

The first gynecological exam often is an uncomfortable experience. These tips might help you prepare.

- Don't schedule your appointment during your period. The results won't be as accurate.
- Before your visit, write down some questions for your doctor. If you have concerns about your body's changes and questions about birth control or sex, this is a good time to get accurate answers. You'll also need to know the starting date of your last menstrual cycle.
- Make sure you know basic information about your medical history, including relatives who've had cancer, high blood pressure or diabetes. You will have several forms to complete before the exam.
- It's OK to request a male or female doctor, depending on who will make you more comfortable.
- Remind the doctor it's your first pelvic exam.
- Try to relax during the pelvic exam. Muscle tension may cause discomfort. Take a few slow, deep breaths and relax the muscles in your abdomen and legs.

- Source: Bodyyou.cfmckelk.com

Find the source of balance problem to prevent falls

Knight Ridder News Service

TALLAHASSEE, Fla. - You feel dizzy. You lose your balance. You fall.

If you're elderly, you're also likely to seriously hurt yourself and rack up some hefty doctor bills.

Just take a look at these statistics from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention:

- If you're older than 65, your chances of falling are one in three.
- If you fall, you have a 20-30 percent chance of suffering moderate to severe injuries.
- For many older people, falls rake away their independence and can lead to premature death.

By 2020, the cost of fall injuries is expected to reach \$32.4 billion.

The good news is that most falls are preventable.

Therapy, proper medication and a safe environment can go a long way toward decreasing chances of injury.

The first step, however, is discovering what's causing the balance problem.

Finding the source of dizziness is an important part of the therapy, according to Dr. Gerry Maitland, a neuro-ophthalmologist who runs a local balance-disorder clinic and is a professor in the medical school at Florida State University. "Balance is literally a concert

of all of the senses working together," he said. "We have information that comes to us from our visual system, from our inner ear, from the hearing apparatus and from the sensors in our feet."

That's why Maitland gives new patients a series of tests on their first visit.

Checking their vision is at the top of the list.

"People lose the ability to look up and down," he said. "They come into the clinic, and you look at them, and they say I keep falling. They're falling because they can't look down to scan their environment."

Inner ear problems also have a direct influence on balance.

"In the older population, probably 70 percent of them have some form of inner-ear disease and conventional testing doesn't pick it up," Maitland said.

That's when his clinic is likely to get a referral.

"We usually find they have a minor inner-ear imbalance. The beauty of that is that a good balance therapist can make them better in a heartbeat."

Tina Davis, a physical therapist with the HealthSouth clinic at The Meadows, an assisted living facility, agrees that therapy can make a big difference.

"Our primary goal is to improve people's function," she said. "I have a success story every week."

Fat chance: Brain function might yield clue to obesity

Newsday

Scientists at Rockefeller University attempting to unravel the mystery of obesity have been tracking neurons as they respond to hunger signals.

Dr. Jeffrey Friedman, who in 1994 discovered an obesity gene in mice, is examining the role of leptin, a protein produced by the fat that plays a role in satiety and eating behavior. When leptin was fed to obese animals, it helped them lose weight.

Scientists now realize that administering leptin works in only some obese humans, and they are studying the entire network involved in eating behavior.

Leptin works on receptors, or docking stations, in the hypothalamus, a nugget of tissue that sits deep in the brain. The hypothalamus regulates many body functions, including eating behavior, sex and other basic drives.

Scientists have identified two key neuropeptides that respond to leptin: neuropeptide Y (NPY) and melanocyte-pigmenting hormone (MCH). When neurons that respond to NPY are activated, animals eat more. When MPH is activated, animals stop eating. Leptin inhibits NPY and stimulates MPH.

It became clear that key neurons receive signals on eating behavior from other areas of the brain, and it is this symphony that Friedman and his colleagues wanted to record.

Working with Rockefeller's Jeffrey DeFalo, the researchers used a herpes virus to infect only neurons that expressed leptin receptors. The herpes virus was labeled with a gene that makes a

fluorescent glow so researchers could trace the chemical wires from the neurons in the hypothalamus as they spread to other brain areas.

Scientists have been trying to figure out leptin's normal role in the regulation of fat in humans. Friedman's obese mice lacked the ability to produce leptin. When the same animals were injected with leptin they lost a significant amount of weight in two weeks.

The human story is more complex. Researchers found high amounts of leptin in obese people compared to those of normal

weight. When people dieted, the leptin levels went down.

The lowered levels of circulating leptin may be sending the wrong message to the dieter: eat more. "This reduction may contribute to increased hunger and slower metabolism," Friedman said.

If leptin injections prove safe, the treatment may help people maintain weight loss, he added. Researchers have already begun a study in humans to test whether injections of the substance will help regulate energy levels and eating behaviors while patients are dieting.

August 29, 2001

Screening Clinic

A free screening will be held August 29, 2001 for children ages 3 to 5 years. This screening will detect and provide early intervention for delays or problems in:

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SOUTH IDAHO FOOT & ANKLE CLINICS

David A. Blackmer, DPM and Randal L. Wralstad DPM welcome S. Jeffrey Bray, DPM

After graduating from Burley High School and completing a mission to the Kingdom of Tonga, Dr. Bray received his Bachelors of Science degree from Brigham Young University, Doctorate of Podiatric Medicine in San Francisco and completed a foot and ankle surgery residency in Detroit, Michigan. He has three years of private practice experience in Sheridan, Wyoming prior to returning to his hometown of Burley. Dr. Bray is now accepting new patients in Burley, Twin Falls, and Hailley.

S. Jeffrey Bray, DPM and Family

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HEARTBURN (part 2)

Information about Heartburn and GERD continued

WHY ARE HEARTBURN AND GERD NOT TRIVIAL CONDITIONS?

When symptoms of heartburn are not controlled with modifications in lifestyle, and over-the-counter medicines are needed two or more times a week, or symptoms remain unresolved on the medication you are taking, you should see your doctor. You may have GERD.

When GERD is not treated, serious complications can occur, such as severe chest pain that can mimic a heart attack, esophageal stricture (a narrowing or obstruction of the esophagus), bleeding, or a pre-malignant change in the lining of the esophagus, called Barrett's esophagus. A 1999 study reported in the *New England Journal of Medicine* showed that patients with chronic, untreated heartburn of many years duration were at substantially greater risk of developing esophageal cancer, which is one of the fastest growing, and among the more lethal forms of cancer in this country.

Symptoms suggesting that serious damage may have already occurred include:

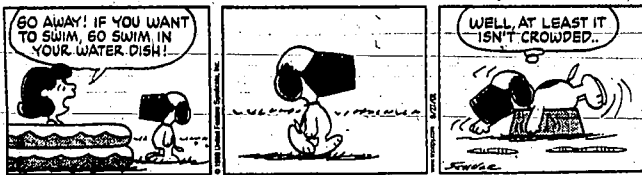
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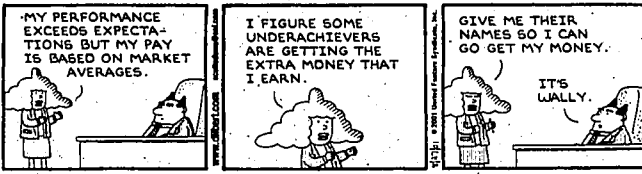
COMICS

Classic Peanuts

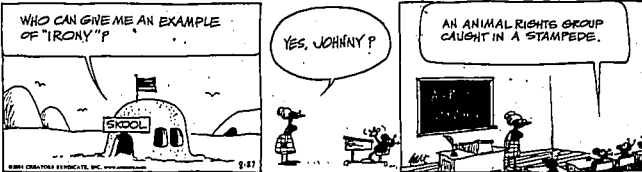
By Charles M. Schulz



Dilbert By Scott Adams



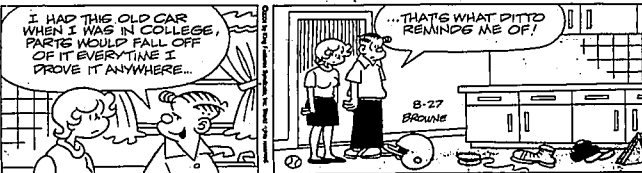
B.C. By Johnny Hart



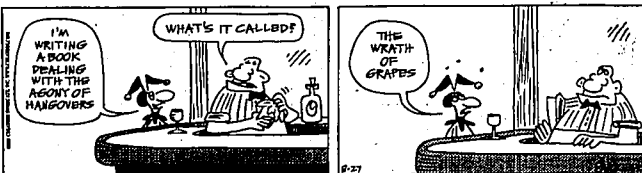
Garfield By Jim Davis



Hi and Lois By Chance Browne



The Wizard of Id By Brant Parker & Johnny Hart



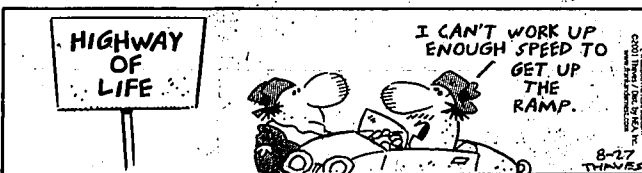
Hagar the Horrible By Chris Browne



Beetle Bailey By Mort Walker



Frank and Ernest By Bob Thaves



The Born Loser By Art Sansom & Chip



For Better or For Worse

By Lynn Johnston



Blondie By Dean Young & Stan Drake



Pickles By Brian Crane



Dennis the Menace By Hank Ketcham



The Family Circus By Bill Keane



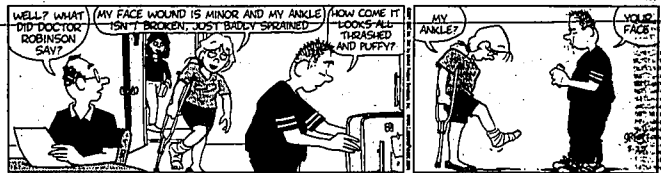
Rose Is Rose By Pat Brady



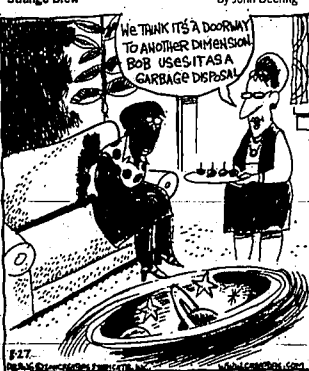
Zits By Jim Borgman and Jerry Scott



Luanplatter By Greg Evans



Strange Brew By John Deering



Non Sequitur By Wiley



AROUND THE VALLEY

Idaho Power plant keeps on schedule

MOUNTAIN HOME - Idaho Power crews and contractors are energizing the new Danskin substation this week, bringing the new combustion turbine plant in Mountain Home one step closer to operation.

The substation, which takes the total of Idaho Power substations to 227, will connect the new power plant to the 138-kilovolt (KV) transmission line that runs north of Mountain Home. Transformers there will step up voltage from the plant as power is sent out along that line.

"The role of a substation in general is to interconnect the grid and the power plant," said Daniel Arjona, project leader.

The fast-track project has moved along in parallel with the power plant but will be completed a full month ahead of the plant.

"Typically, it takes between six and nine months to build a substation, but this time we had to do it as a fast-track project," Arjona said.

Work on the 90-megawatt natural gas-fired power plant is on track for completion by Oct. 1.

The plant will help the company reduce its need to purchase electricity from the volatile wholesale energy market.

When completed, the new plant will be able to furnish 90 million watts of electricity - or 90 megawatts, which is enough to provide power to 58,000 homes.

Crapo to tour fields in Magic Valley today

TWIN FALLS - U.S. Sen. Mike Crapo is in the Magic Valley today to tour agriculture fields that have been affected by the chemical dust and make several presentations.

He begins the morning at 9:45 a.m. with a tour of sugar beet fields near Paul that have been damaged by dust.

At 11:15 a.m., he presents the Distinguished Flying Cross and other medals to Pat Branch of Kimberly, a Vietnam veteran. The ceremony takes place at the College of Southern Idaho's courtyard by the Fine Arts Center.

At 3 p.m., Crapo is scheduled to interview Roland Gardner to record a veteran's history for the Library of Congress. Gardner, a veteran of three wars, enlisted in the Navy in 1943 and served in World War II in the Pacific, then switched to the Army in 1945 and saw combat in Korea and Vietnam. Gardner retired after 28 years as a lieutenant colonel.

At 4:15 p.m., Crapo is scheduled to work on the Mary Housing self-help home construction project in the 600 block of Diamond Drive in Kimberly.

On Tuesday, Crapo presents Spirit of Idaho awards to Hailey senior citizens for their contributions to a local youth care program. The event takes place at noon at the Blaine County Senior Center, 721 Third Ave. S.

CSI community band rehearsals to begin

TWIN FALLS - The College of Southern Idaho Community Symphonic Band will begin rehearsals for its 2001-2002 season at 7:30 tonight in room 121 of the CSI Fine Arts Building.

The band welcomes anyone who plays or has played a band instrument, and there is no cost to participate. The band's first concert, which will include marches, show tunes, and more traditional concert music, will be at 3 p.m. Oct. 21 in the Fine Arts Auditorium. For more information, please call the director, George Halsell, at 733-9554, ext. 2767.

WestFarm Foods applies for permit to expand

JEROME - The Idaho Department of Environmental Quality has received an air quality Permit to Construct application from WestFarm Foods for its Jerome facility.

WestFarm Foods is seeking to expand its facility, including installation of a new boiler, a natural gas-fired dryer, and a dried-product transport, storage and bagging system.

A 30-day public comment period on the application and proposed permit will be provided if requested by the public. Requests must be received by 5 p.m. Mountain Daylight Time Sept. 21. The application is available for review at the DEQ's Twin Falls regional office.

Questions, comments and requests may be directed to Stephen VanZandt, DEQ Twin Falls Regional Office, 601 Pole Line Road, Suite 2, Twin Falls, ID, 83301; or call 733-2190.

Compiled from staff reports

Expert: Cases aren't connected

Epidemiologist says E. coli was caused by variety of things

By Mark Heinz
Times-News writer

TWIN FALLS - Ten recent cases of E. coli infection in the Magic Valley apparently aren't connected - outside of two cases that occurred in one family - and could have been caused by a

About E. coli

What is it? E. coli, or Escherichia coli O157:H7, is a common bacteria found in the intestines of cattle.

How is it spread? Meat and milk are the most likely sources of infection, but vegetables and fruit can be contaminated as well, either by runoff from feedlots or from fecal material. Why the fuss? Infection can cause severe bloody diarrhea and abdominal cramps that last five to 10 days. About 3 percent of E. coli cases are fatal, and 10 percent result in kidney damage.

Who's at risk? Everyone, but especially children under 5 and the elderly.

What to do? Cook ground beef thoroughly, drink only pasteurized milk or juice. Make sure that children wash their hands often. Wash hands after handling animals. Always wash or peel fruit that has dropped to the ground, especially if the fruit tree is near a pasture or other areas where there's livestock.

Sources: Health Canada, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and South Central District Health Department.

variety of things, an area epidemiologist said. Four of the cases had nobody hospitalized this week, said Cheryl Becker with the South

Central District Health Department.

The cases included one in Twin Falls County, one in Lincoln County, five in Cassia County and three in Minidoka County, she said.

"They have no apparent significance to each other, other than that the same people tend to do more things that put them at risk during the summer," she said.

The exact causes of all the E. coli cases hadn't been traced, she said. Please see E. COLI, Page C3

WAR AND PEACE



Pat Branch holds an equine studies degree, is a pastor of the First Southern Baptist Church in Kimberly and is also a war hero. Branch was a gunner on a helicopter in Vietnam and today will be honored for his bravery.

Kimberly resident requests replacement medals

By Loretta Burkhardt
Times-News correspondent

TWIN FALLS - John P. "Pat" Branch received a number of awards and medals for his service in Vietnam, but over the years he gave most of them to friends, including several people with whom he served.

It wasn't out of disrespect for the awards - in fact, Branch saw it as a symbolic way to honor friends who had not received recognition.

But as the years have passed, Branch, now 53, realized the value of having the medals himself. He recently approached Sen. Mike Crapo's office with a request for replacement medals, hoping to pass along a legacy of courage and service to his family and friends.

"The (awards) are more important to me now. They mean even more to me because of my wife, my 8-year-old daughter and my

About Pat Branch

For the past six years, he has served as pastor of the Southern Baptist Church in Kimberly. After earning a degree in ministry, Branch worked as an assistant to John Weber, captain for the Dallas Cowboys, as well as the Texas Rangers baseball team. He is also an affiliate of the Professional Athletes Outreach Ministries. Branch has a degree in agriculture and equine science and is part of the College of Southern Idaho rodeo and equine programs.

Heroic service

Pat Branch received the Distinguished Flying Cross for heroism while participating in a flight while serving as a crew chief on the trail aircraft of a light fire team. The fire team was escorting a flight of eight lift helicopters into an area of considerable enemy activity. As the third lift helicopter landed in the landing zone, it began to receive heavy automatic weapons fire. The lead gunship fired on the enemy position. As the lead aircraft broke away from the enemy stronghold, it began to receive heavy automatic weapons fire. Branch directed accurate suppressive fire until the hostile weapons were silenced. After the lift helicopters safely departed the landing zone, the fire team was

called on to investigate reported enemy movement in the immediate vicinity of the landing zone. On entering this area, both ships began receiving intense enemy small arms and automatic weapons fire. Branch returned fire accurately to allow the ships to break off and attack the enemy strong points. While returning fire, Branch was seriously wounded by small arms fire, preventing him from using his machine gun. He immediately took hold of his rifle and continued to return fire. He continued to supply suppressive fire until the gun ships broke contact and only then notified his aircraft commander of his wound.

Source: U.S. Army

friends," Branch said. As a result, Branch today will be awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross at 11:15 a.m. at the College of Southern Idaho's Fine

Arts Center courtyard. During the military awards ceremony hosted by Crapo, presentations will also include three Purple Hearts - for wounds received

during combat. Other awards he'll receive: The Republic of Vietnam Gallantry Cross and Campaign Medals, the Armed Forces Reserve Medal and the Medal of Merit. Please see HERO, Page C3

Burley chamber looks at customer service

By Ruth Streecher
Times-News writer

BURLEY - The coffee may be ground and the book selection wide, but it's Dave and Alice Long's customers that turn their shop into a social hub.

Chatting away the afternoon comes easy for the Longs, who run Lost But Found Books in Burley. The personal attention they give patrons is a key part of what Dave Long says keeps his business booming.

"For us, customer service, other than the product we serve, is the basis for our business," Long said from behind the counter as he whipped up a pair of frozen coffee drinks.

Across town where knowledge of power tools and plumbing fixtures is needed, there's a more methodical approach to customer service.

Employees at Ace Hardware attend regular training meetings at least four times a year, said Dale Kershner, general manager of the Burley store. The store also pays for a "mystery shopper" who anonymously pops up at the store periodically and then grades the service.

There's no corporate mandate for good customer service, he said. Rather, it's up to each individually owned cooperative to "implement the helpful hardware mentality we have." Please see SURVEY, Page C3



Dave Long, with Lost But Found Books, rings up a customer at his coffee shop and used bookstore in downtown Burley. Business leaders say that improving customer service may help Mini-Cassia businesses compete with larger cities with bigger selections and better prices.

Newspaper and hospital go to court

By Jennifer Sandmann
Times-News writer

TWIN FALLS - The Times-News will take Magic Valley Regional Medical Center to court today over public access to hospital employee salary information.

Fifth District Judge Nathan Higer ordered the county-owned hospital to appear at a "show cause" hearing. The hospital administration and the county Hospital Board must show that they acted within the scope of Idaho public records law by withholding employee names from a hospital salary list provided to the newspaper.

The case has been reassigned to 5th District Judge Roger Burdick, who will hear it at 2:30 p.m. today in the county judicial building.

The newspaper contends that the salaries, titles and names of public employees are matters of public record under Idaho's Public Records Law.

The hospital contends that the law is ambiguous and an employee's privacy must be protected. Hospital Administrator Jerry Hart said that some hospital employees have suggested they will take legal action against the hospital if their names are provided to the newspaper.

The hospital is owned by Twin Falls County, but patient fees, not tax money, pay hospital salaries. The hospital became independent of tax support in 1979.

The Times-News submitted a public records request to the hospital in May. Along with financial, real estate and contract information, accreditation reports, the newspaper sought the names, titles and salaries of hospital employees earning more than \$50,000 a year.

The newspaper received some of the requested documents, including the job titles and gross salaries of 95 employees earning more than \$50,000 in 2000. But except for the names of Hart and his top executives, the employees' names were blacked out.

The current salaries of the hospital's top executives are: Jerry Hart, \$185,000; and Chief Nursing Officer Mary J. Draney, Chief Financial Officer Art Toole and Chief Operating Officer John Kee, who earn \$125,000 each.

The hospital says each of the four has at least 25 years of experience, and most more than 30. A Management Science Associates survey shared by the hospital shows that with the exception of Hart's salary, the executives earn above average but below the maximum salaries for comparable positions at hospitals with 100 to 300 beds.

The average salary for Hart's position in 2000 was about \$195,000, with the top earners on the scale at \$388,190.

The newspaper has made an effort to avoid taking the public records issue to court, said Richard Bevan, the paper's attorney. It's as though the hospital's position has been that the newspaper will have to force the hospital to show the records, he said.

In a court document filed Friday, the hospital's attorneys said the hospital has tried to balance the "competing interests" of employee privacy and public disclosure. They argued that divulging individual employee salaries won't benefit the public and isn't required by state law.

Times-News staff writer Jennifer Sandmann can be reached at 733-0931, Ext. 237, or by e-mail at jsandmann@magicvalley.com.

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would like to take care of your child in my home...

LITTLE ONE'S DAYCARE
has child care openings. All ages welcome...

101 LOST & FOUND
Please check your ad for correctness on the first day that it runs...

EMPLOYMENT
Public Service
Don't pay to find work before you get the job...

102 PROFESSIONAL SERVICES
BANKRUPTCY
Affordable fees. Creditors, divorce & criminal matters...

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Call 423-8208

111 ENTERTAINMENT SERVICES
BOWLERS
League openings: Women: Tues, 7:30 pm...

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Apprentice & Journeyman
Please send resume to: Robert J. Bozinger...

AGRICULTURE
Dairy production, milking, breeding, weaning...

SKILLS QUESTIONS
Conduct public opinion polls over the telephone...

ASSISTANT MAILROOM SUPERVISOR
The Times-News is accepting applications for full time...

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Journeyman, Exc. pay, Sun Valley Area...

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Dairy construction workers, project in Rupert area...

CONSTRUCTION
Interested parties should fill out an application at The Times-News...

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Class A & B, also checker for a B & a 9 foot operators...

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Experienced
Steiger tractor/loader/packer operator...

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Harvester drivers needed
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Wanted dependable & exp. truck drivers for potato & beef harvest...

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Human Resources Officer
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Charmac Trailers offers: Forklift, Crane, BSW...

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RESTAURANT Little Caesar's is now hiring... RESTAURANT Oxbow Cafe in Bliss, ID... RESTAURANT Oxbow Cafe in Bliss, ID...

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WAREHOUSE COUNTER SALES Electrical Wholesale: 5 urley, 1 m m get into opening. Shipping and receiving duties. Limited computer skills. Will train to own system. Energetic individual who wants to grow within the company. Complete salary and excellent benefits. Send resume to: Columbia Electric Supply, P.O. Box 1246, Burley, ID 83318 or fax to 208-678-2797. Closing date 9/18/2001

WELDERS Seeking experienced MIG welders. Must have 6-mo. welding experience. Charismatic. Trainers ability a positive plus. 40 hr. work wk. & a great benefit package which incl. 401k. Cafeteria Plan, Paid Vacation & Health Insurance available. Apply at 452 South Park Ave. W., Twin Falls, No Phone Calls Please

Apply in Person, ask for Rick or Dave 1237 Blue Lakes Blvd N. Twin Falls, Idaho 736-2480 or 1-800-473-5797

SECRETARY Part-time secretary. Hours 1-5 pm, hourly wage DOE... BUREAU WORKER Are you seeking an opportunity to work for an independent self-manager? If you have a BA or BS in Social Science, Psychology, Nursing or related fields, come join our team of highly motivated & outgoing professionals making a difference in our community. PT or FT, uncompensated pay and benefits. Please fax resume to 734-9441 or call 737-0572 for more information.

SPORTSWRITER If you enjoy high school sports, we have the job for you. The Times-News is seeking part-time sportswriters to gather game results by phone and in person. We need people in Mini-Cassia and in the Twin Falls area. Work 1-2 hours per week, usually including Friday, in an exciting, fast-paced environment. (Schedules are somewhat flexible). You need good language skills, some sports writing skills, and basic computer skills, high school and CSI are a plus. Send your resume and a sample of your writing to: Ken Hall, Sports Editor, The Times-News, P.O. Box 548, Twin Falls, ID 83402. Fax to 733-3000 or call 733-3000.

TECHNICIAN Lube by Technicians wanted at Jules Harrison Ford in Twin Falls. Call 736-2480. Fax to 736-2480. Fax to 736-2480.

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218 TIMES-NEWS CARRIERS BURL (6) THE TIMES-NEWS CURRENTLY HAS THE FOLLOWING INDEPENDENT NEWSPAPER ROUTES IN BUHL

ROUTE 503 100-503 Main St. 100-500 Montana 200-700 Washington 200-700 Wyoming

ROUTE 504 400-800 7th Ave. N. 400-800 8th Ave. N. If you live in Buhl & are interested in being an independent newspaper carrier... Please contact District Manager 733-0931 ext. 347

ROUTE 622 If you live in the Buhl area & are interested in being a Newspaper Carrier... please contact the Twin Falls Times-News office at 733-0931, ext. 347, or stop by 132 3rd St. W. Twin Falls.

ROUTE 824 200-500 5th Ave. E. 200-500 6th Ave. E. If you live in the Eden/Hazelton area & are interested in being a Newspaper Carrier... please contact the Twin Falls Times-News office at 733-0931, ext. 346, or stop by 132 3rd St. W. Twin Falls.

ROUTE 852 700-800 Washington Dr. 700-800 Madison St. North If you live on the West side of Twin Falls & are interested in being an independent newspaper carrier... Please contact District Manager 733-0931, ext. 347

ROUTE 858 500-600 Catlin 1300-1400 Tara If you live in the Wood River Valley Motor-Route... Please contact District Manager 733-0931, ext. 347

FILER (6) THE TIMES-NEWS IS CURRENTLY LOOKING FOR INDEPENDENT NEWSPAPER CARRIERS FOR THE FILER AREA. Walking Routes Available

ROUTE 569 1000-1700 5th St. W 300-600 Golden Spur 800 Blk. Midway West If you live in this area & are interested in being a newspaper carrier... Please call District Manager 733-0931 ext. 347

ROUTE 577 200-500 East Ave. J 300-500 East Ave. J 300-400 East Ave. K 900-1200 Davis If you live in this area & are interested in being a newspaper carrier... Please call District Manager 733-0931 ext. 346

ROUTE 701 2500-2600 Blk. 9th Ave. East 600-1000 Blk. Cypress Way If you live in this area & are interested in being a newspaper carrier... Please call District Manager 733-0931 ext. 346

ROUTE 719 1100-1200 Blk. 10th Ave. East 1100-1200 Blk. 11th Ave. East 1300-1400 Blk. Poplar Ave. TWIN FALLS (6)

ROUTE 746 1800-2000 Blk. 4th Ave. East 400-500 Blk. Madrona Street 200-400 Blk. Morningside THE TIMES-NEWS CURRENTLY HAS THE FOLLOWING INDEPENDENT NEWSPAPER ROUTES ON THE WEST SIDE OF TWIN FALLS

ROUTE 761 1800-1900 Blk. 9th Ave. East 1900 Blk. Poplar Ave. ROUTE 782 1500-1600 Blk. Elizabeth Ave. 1700-1800 Blk. Glendale Ave. 700-800 Blk. Locust St.

ROUTE 789 600-800 Blk. Carriage Lane 2500-2600 Blk. Indian Trail If you live on the EAST side of Twin Falls & are interested in being an independent newspaper carrier... Please contact District Manager at 733-0931 ext. 346

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BUHL NEWLY RENOVATED: New roof, new vinyl and new windows! This 3 bdrm ranch style is fully remodeled with all carpet and inlucium plus fresh paint. \$74,900

BARKER Realtors Call 543-4771 DIETRICH farm house. 3 bdrm. 2 bath. 5 acres w corral, well & pasture. Views. 544-2924

FILER Zero down. If you have good credit & a good job, you may be able to buy this brand new 3 bdrm, 2 bath w/mo. pmtys. only. Call Tom 737-9166

HAGERMAN 3 bdrm. 2 bath, 24X32 garage, sprinklers, nicely landscaped, garden space, available in vast area. Home 515-400-6374 or 519-4545

JEROME Don't miss this very clean 2 bdrm ranch yd., under \$49,000. Get it before listing. 324-3160

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JEROME New home in town, 3 bedroom, 2 bath, 1175 sq. ft., \$79,900. Flexible scheduling. Available. Call 326-2828

THE TIMES NEWS Classified Department opens at 6:00 am Mon thru Fri. Take Care of your classified business before you head to work. 1-208-733-0931 ext. 2 or our Burley Office 1-208-677-4042

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Check online: Visit *The Times-News Online* at www.magicvalley.com for the latest sports news.

Sports editor: Kevin Hall, 735-3239 (Hours: 2-11 p.m.)

The Times-News

Monday, August 27, 2001

Section D

MORNING LINE
SPORTSQUOTE

“ You have to watch your wallet against these guys. They were trying to steal this one away from us.

”

—Cleveland Indians manager Charlie Manuel on playing the Seattle Mariners

TRIVIA

QUESTION:
Who wrote the baseball novel “The Natural” that was adapted as a movie starring Robert Redford in 1984?

...answer below

TODAY'S SCHEDULE

High school boys' soccer
Buhl at Bliss, 5 p.m.

IN BRIEF

Bruin Boosters meet tonight at 7 p.m.

TWIN FALLS — The Bruin Boosters will meet tonight at Wells Fargo Bank on Main Avenue East at 7 p.m. On the agenda will be the upcoming football and volleyball seasons and the golf tournament.

Jerome sweeps cross country meet

BLACKFOOT — The Jerome boys' and girls' cross-country teams swept both Pocatello and host Blackfoot on Friday. Tiger runners swept the top three spots for the boys' race with Craig Paulin winning in 17 minutes, 56 seconds. Teammate Tyler Layne (18:16) took second, 14 seconds ahead of Jerome's Tim Davis in third. The boys scored a low 17 points to easily outpace the Indians (53) and Broncos (64).

Amber Wade led the Jerome girls, taking second in a time of 21:45. Blackfoot runner Kim Reading won with a time of 21:18. Behind Wade, Jerome runners placed fifth through ninth and 11th and 12th. The girls had 15 points.

Minico, Burley fall at Highland meet

POCATELLO — The Burley and Minico boys' cross-country teams struggled to fourth- and fifth-place finishes, respectively, in their meet at Pocatello's Highland High on Friday.

The host Rams ran away with the easy win, totaling 25 points. Skyline of Idaho Falls placed second with 45 points with Century third at 84 points. Burley had 95 points at Minico's 131. Rigby took sixth with 159 points.

Preston Goodrich finished 10th to lead Burley, Ethan Evensen paced Minico with a 27th-place finish. For the girls, Minico's Jami Allen took second at 23 minutes, 3 seconds and Erica Hall took fifth at 26:33 for Burley.

Minico next runs at Century on Thursday.

Register for Paul Heuston Classic

GOODING — Registration is being accepted for this year's 11th annual Paul Heuston Classic Golf Tournament at Gooding Country Club on Sept. 15.

The tournament is a four-person scramble format and benefits go to the Gooding County Memorial Hospital Foundation. The cost is \$35 per person and a barbecue lunch will be served.

Entry deadline is Sept. 11. For more information, call Troy Vittek at 934-9577.

Compiled from staff and wire reports

TRIVIA ANSWER:

Bernard Malamud, who was the winner of the Pulitzer Prize for “The Fixer” in 1967.

Lutz rallies from five back to win AKI

The Times-News

TWIN FALLS — Bob Lutz is having himself quite a summer of golf.
Winner of the inaugural Idaho Golf Association Senior Championship in June and runner-up at the prestigious Latham Match Play, Burley Amateur and Senior Classic tournaments as well as a Carter Cup team member, Lutz added the fifth annual AKI championship to his trophy case on Sunday.
“I’ve had a good year,” he said.

“I’ve been working hard on my game, while trying to retire. I’m saying my new job is golf. It’s been a lot of fun.”
Shooting a final-round 58, Lutz rallied from five shots back of first-round leader Nate Stinson for the one-stroke win over Stinson at Candle Ridge Golf Course. Ted Black took third with a 121 total.
Birdies on 16 and 17, including a “40- to 45-footer” on 17, gave Lutz the lead with one hole to play. And after putting his approach to the 18th green on the

cart path, Lutz said he made the save of the tournament.
“It was one of those up-and-down finishes you dream of having,” he said. “After hitting it on the cart path, I went to the drop area, which left me a difficult shot. But I chipped it out OK and had about a 12-footer left.”
He made the putt and with it, won the tournament on only the second time he’d ever played at Candle Ridge.
“It was a good, fun tournament,” he said. “It’s an unusual kind of course — that you don’t get

to play a lot. I mean you only use a driver on one hole and the rest is precision irons. Luckily, my irons worked pretty well for today.”
Lutz said he didn’t really think about winning the tournament until gaining a stroke with a birdie on No. 16.
“I said, ‘Hey, there’s a chance here now,’ when I made my birdie on 16 and (Stinson) didn’t make his,” Lutz said.
For the win, Lutz earned \$367 in credit at the course’s Pro Shop.
In other flights: Matt Smith followed up a first-round 61 with a 62

on Sunday to claim a one-shot win over Tregg Scott and Kevin Packard in the first flight. In the second flight, Scott Van Engen shot a final round 66 to go along with his first-round 62 for a 128 total and a one-stroke victory over Jesse Hernandez. Roy McDowell shot a two-day 129 to win the third flight by one shot over Jim Dawson and Terry Morrill. Bill Jones rallied from four back to claim the fourth flight over Jeff Scott. Jon Hennessy won the gross division with Doug Florke taking the net division win.

DRILLS, SKILLS AND KILLS



Twin Falls High School volleyball coach Kelly Youree talks with the team during a recent practice. The Bruins reached the state playoffs last season for the first time in five seasons and hope to return.

Young and restless

Underclassmen lead big school volleyball charge



Fall Sports Previews

The Times-News continues its weeklong look at the area’s fall high school sports season
Today: 5A, 4A volleyball, D4
Tuesday: 4A, 3A football
Wednesday: 5A football

The Times-News

TWIN FALLS — Seven is the unlucky number for both the Twin Falls and Minico high school 2001 volleyball seasons.

Both squads lost a core seven seniors to graduation. For the Bruins, that means having to rebuild a middle that revolved around 6-foot-4 Region III Player of the Year Keri Coats, now a freshman for the seven-time national champion College of

Southern Idaho.

Second-year coach Kelly Youree said you can’t replace a Coats. You can only hope to find a new focus.

“We’re learning where we are at and where we need to go,” she said following the team’s five-set win at Pocatello on Saturday.

Along with Coats, the Bruins lost a cast of outside sparks in Shawna Lancaster, Morgan Levings and Marci Danielson and defensive specialist Spryte

Heitcker.

But the picture isn’t all bad. Four seniors, who all played at last year’s state tournament, are back including 5-10 middle Kim Strunk and 5-7 outside hitters Briana Allen and Christie Deagle. Throw in senior role player Lilly Spencer and athletic talents Temple Levings and Shay Tusow, and the nucleus for a state run is back in place.

Please see **YOUNG**, Page D4

Boston ace returns

Martinez goes four innings against Texas

The Associated Press

ARLINGTON, Texas — Mike Lamb hit a tie-breaking two-run single to give the Texas Rangers a 5-4 victory over Boston Red Sox as Pedro Martinez pitched for the first time in two months.

Lamb’s single in the sixth came off Tim Wakefield (8-10), who relieved Martinez after the three-time Cy Young winner was limited to 71 pitches in four innings.

Martinez, recovering from a sore right shoulder, was on a 60-75 pitch count in his first start for the Red Sox since June 26.

American League

The Rangers got three runs — two earned — and six hits off Martinez, but the game was tied at 3 when Wakefield relieved him to start the fifth.

Angels 7, Yankees 6, 10 Innings

ANAHEIM, Calif. — Garret Anderson hit a run-scoring double in the 10th inning, giving Anaheim a 7-6, come-from-behind victory.

Anderson’s game-winning drive down the right-field line off

Please see **BASEBALL**, Page D2



Boston’s Pedro Martinez delivers a pitch against Texas on Sunday. Martinez, making his first start since June 26, lasted four innings.

Japan wins Little League title

The Associated Press

SOUTH WILLIAMSPORT, Pa. — Tokyo Kitazuma rallied for two runs its last at-bat for the second straight game and beat Apopka, Fla., 2-1 Sunday night to win the Little League World Series.

Nobuhisa Baba hit a line drive off the shortstop’s glove in the bottom of the sixth and final inning, driving in two runs and

Little League World Series

giving Japan its fifth Little League World Series title.

On Saturday night, Tokyo won the international championship in the bottom of the sixth on a two-run homer by Atsushi Mochizuki that gave it a 2-1 victory over Curacao, Netherlands Antilles.

Please see **JAPAN**, Page D2



Tiger Woods wins the NEC Invitational over Jim Furyk with a birdie on their seventh playoff hole Sunday.

Tiger tops NEC Invitational with late playoff-hole birdie

The Associated Press

AKRON, Ohio — Tiger Woods ended his winless summer with a birdie Sunday on the seventh playoff hole to defeat Jim Furyk in the NEC Invitational.
After they exchanged pars for six holes, hardly any of them conventional, Woods, who started the day two behind, hit a wedge into 2 feet on No. 18 to finally end the longest playoff on the PGA Tour in 10 years.

He and Furyk finished at 12-

Golf

under 268.

It was Woods’ fifth victory of the year and 29th in his career, tying Jack Nicklaus for the most PGA Tour victories before turning 30.
Woods won the NEC Invitational for the third straight year, making him the first player to take three straight tournaments at fabled Firestone Country Club.

Please see **GOLF**, Page D2

SPORTS

Sacramento evens series with Sparks

LOS ANGELES (AP) - The Sacramento Monarchs finally used out to beat the Los Angeles Sparks at all places Staples Center, where no opponent had succeeded this season. Yolanda Griffith scored 24 points and the Monarchs won 60 Sunday, snuffing the Sparks' 17-game home winning streak and forcing a decisive third game tonight in the WNBA Western Conference finals.

Lisa Leslie led the Sparks with 13 points and 10 rebounds, but she had two points in the second half after receiving the WNBA's MVP award before tipoff. Ticha Penicheiro added 19 points and seven assists for Sacramento. While reserve Ruthie Bolton-Hoffield had 17 points, including consecutive 3-pointers that keyed a 14-0 run to end the first half with the Monarchs held 41-37. That run was part of a 33-18 spurt that helped the Monarchs put the game away. Sting 62, Liberty 53 NEW YORK - Andrea Stinson took over the game in the second half, scoring 16 of her team's final 22 points as the Charlotte Sting, facing playoff elimination,

defeated the New York Liberty. Even though the WNBA Eastern Conference finals series at one game apiece, the Sting forced a deciding Game 3 to be played tonight at Madison Square Garden. Stinson finished with 18 points, eight assists and eight rebounds for the Sting, who lost Game 1 by allowing the Liberty to score the final 13 points. This time, Charlotte closed the game with an 18-7 run behind the five-year veteran who has started every game in team history. Dawn Staley added 18 points, making four of Charlotte's nine 3-pointers. Allison Feaster added 11 points and eight rebounds.

WUSA hopes to build on success

FOXBORO, Mass. (AP) - Tony DiCiccio remembers a greeting party of three people when the U.S. team landed in New York in 1991 after winning the first women's soccer World Cup in China. Ten years later, the reception was much larger when the New York Power arrived at the same airport - John F. Kennedy International - after losing in the WUSA semifinals in San Jose, Calif., last Aug. 18. "We wanted a seed in 1991, and the potential of this seed is boundless," said DiCiccio, an assistant coach of the 1991 team, and now chief operating officer of the WUSA.

The league finished its first season Saturday as the Bay Area CyberRays beat the Atlanta Beat 4-2 in penalty kicks after the score was tied 3-3 after 15 minutes of overtime. League officials want to maintain the momentum from a season that exceeded attendance expectations. DiCiccio said a promotional campaign with players going into communities is scheduled to start Sept. 1. "We want to get into the community and maintain our fan base," CyberRays coach Ian Sawyers said. "We can say we want young girls to play soccer, but we have to go out and help

them." Ninety minutes after the game, plenty of young girls waited near the team buses for player autographs. In the last name of the Bay Area's Brandi Chastain on the back. Others held autographed soccer balls as they waited for more players to sign. DiCiccio was pleased with the league's average attendance of about 8,200, roughly 700 more than expectations. Atlanta averaged 11,179 fans for its home games, while Bay Area averaged 8,832. The attendance for the title game at Foxboro Stadium was 21,078.

BASEBALL

Wild Card Races table with columns for Team, W, L, Pct, GB

National League table with columns for Team, W, L, Pct, GB

AL Boxes table with columns for Team, W, L, Pct, GB

Blue Jays, Orioles 1 table with columns for Team, W, L, Pct, GB

Twins 7, Royals 2 table with columns for Team, W, L, Pct, GB

Rangers 5, Red Sox 4 table with columns for Team, W, L, Pct, GB

Astros 3, Pirates 1 table with columns for Team, W, L, Pct, GB

Angels 7, Yankees 6 table with columns for Team, W, L, Pct, GB

Indians 4, Mariners 3 table with columns for Team, W, L, Pct, GB

WNBA

AL standings table with columns for Team, W, L, Pct, GB

NL standings table with columns for Team, W, L, Pct, GB

Braves 5, Dodgers 2 table with columns for Team, W, L, Pct, GB

Astros 3, Pirates 1 table with columns for Team, W, L, Pct, GB

Angels 7, Yankees 6 table with columns for Team, W, L, Pct, GB

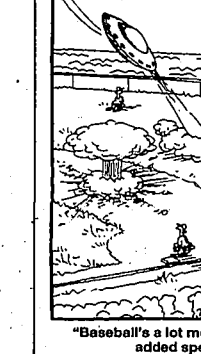
Indians 4, Mariners 3 table with columns for Team, W, L, Pct, GB

Blue Jays, Orioles 1 table with columns for Team, W, L, Pct, GB

Twins 7, Royals 2 table with columns for Team, W, L, Pct, GB

Rangers 5, Red Sox 4 table with columns for Team, W, L, Pct, GB

IN THE BLEACHERS



"Baseball's a lot more exciting since they added special effects!"

ON THE AIR TELEVISION

Television schedule table with columns for Program, Network, Time

CUBS 8, CARDINALS 1

Cubs vs Cardinals game stats table

Padres 10, Marlins 0

Padres vs Marlins game stats table

Saturday's Late Box

Saturday's late box scores table

Pacific Coast League

Pacific Coast League game stats table

76th American Legion Baseball World Series

76th American Legion Baseball World Series schedule table

National Football League

National Football League game stats table

Tennis, U.S. Open

Tennis, U.S. Open schedule table

BASEBALL

Baseball transactions table

HIGH SCHOOL 5A, 4A VOLLEYBALL PREVIEW

4A volleyball: A look at the teams

Burley Bobcats

Coach: Hal Strain, second season

2000 record: N/A
 Returning starters: Sr. Amber Aston (5-7, opposite hitter), sr. Kenna Hadden (5-4, setter), sr. Natasha Blauer (5-6, defensive specialist)

Key players: Sr. Tiffany Andersen (5-9, outside hitter), jr. Melanie Smith (5-9, middle blocker), soph. Jalynn Morris (5-7, outside hitter)

Outlook: The tallest player on the team is only 5-foot-9, but that won't keep the Bobcats from being competitive against the 5A schools. Hadden enters her third season as the varsity setter and Amber Aston provides a good offensive threat to dish to.

Coach says: "These girls work hard and are determined to compete."

Jerome Tigers

Coach: Mishie Child, third season

2000 record: 5-9

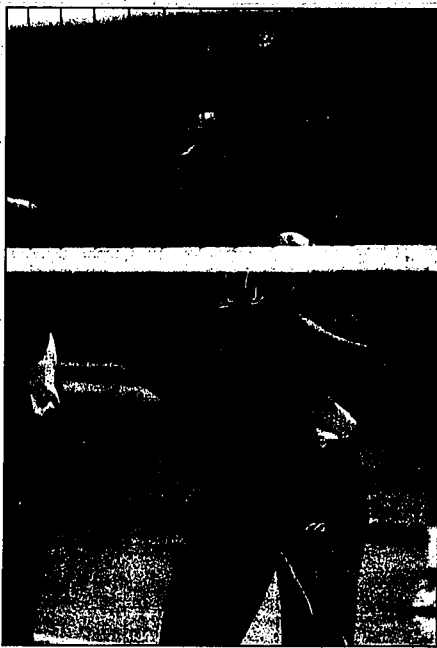
Returning starters: Sr. Lora Hadlock (5-8, outside hitter), sr. Melissa McLimore (5-10, middle blocker), sr. Marjorie Bingham (5-8, outside hitter), sr. Corni Ford (5-6, defensive specialist)

Key players: Jr. Sara Lott (6-0, middle blocker), jr. Kristina Bingham (5-11, middle blocker/outside hitter), jr. Katie Thibault (5-8, outside hitter), jr. Becky McKay (5-8, setter), jr. Ashley Child (5-8, setter)

Outlook: The Tigers need someone to run the offense, but once they find that person they should be fine. Outside hitter Lora Hadlock is a solid player and the Tigers have decent height at the middle blocker position. It's doubtful Jerome has enough power to challenge for a conference title, however.

Coach says: "Aggressive play, team unity and scrappiness will be our strengths. We'll serve tough."

MINDING THE NET



Jerome won't have the usual height at the net it's enjoyed in the past, but finding a player to step into the leadership role is the Tigers biggest concern.

5A volleyball: A look at the teams

PLAYOFF PAYOFF

Minico Spartans

Coach: Nikl Walker, first season

2000 record: unavailable

Returning starters: Sr. Natalie Thompson (6-2, middle blocker)

Key players: Sr. Kim Childs (outside hitter), sr. Jamie Smith (setter), sr. Kylee Dayton (outside hitter), sr. Jamie Hansen (middle blocker), jr. Monica Jensen (outside hitter), jr. Whitney Marth (opposite)

Outlook: With just one returning starter and an awfully shallow bench, it could take some time for this team to develop. Serving and defense will also be a concern.

Coach says: "Our conference is pretty balanced this year but if continue to improve on our weaknesses I think we can be in the top 3."

Twin Falls Bruins

Coach: Kelly Youree, second season

2000 record: 24-5, fifth in state

Returning starters: Sr. Briana Allen (5-7, outside hitter), sr. Christie Deagle (5-7, outside hitter), sr. Kim Strunk (5-10, middle blocker)

Key players: Jr. Temple Leving (5-6, setter), jr. Shay Tusow (5-10, middle blocker), jr. Catherine Thompson (5-6, setter), Danielle Maloney (5-9, outside hitter), sr. Lilly Spencer (5-6, defensive specialist)

Outlook: The experience of the state tournament will only make this team more hungry. The Bruins should be a different team this season without the presence of 6-foot-4 middle blocker Keri Coats, who is excelling at the College of Southern Idaho. Senior Kim Strunk will do her best to be a solid replacement in the middle, and is a good server. Twin Falls also has strong outside hitting in Briana Allen and Christie Deagle.

Coach says: "We have good senior leadership in Strunk, Allen and Deagle. And our athleticism lends itself to being an aggressively defensive team."



Twin Falls senior Kim Strunk goes up for a kill against Skyline last season in the state playoffs. Strunk will be a key attacker for the Bruins again this year.

Burley, Jerome renew old rivalry with many new faces

The Times-News

For Class 4A teams Burley and Jerome, the season is about earning respect.

Especially from eastern powers Bonneville and Century high schools. Both area coaches, Hal Strain of Burley, and Jerome's Mishie Child, listed the Bees and Diamondbacks as finishing 1-2 in the conference.

"They're very solid," Strain said of both clubs. "And if I remember right, Bonneville is returning the conference MVP last year."

For Strain, who is rebuilding from the loss of four, two-year starters to graduation, the inexperienced and relatively small Bobcats will go as senior setter Kenna Hadden directs it.

Where they'd like to end up is at the 4A state tournament. A year ago, the Bobcats fell a match short of making state, dropping a heart-breaking play-in match to Nampa.

"We do have the potential but what we do with that, is up to us," he said. "Our setting is going to be very important. We've got to make sure we're not making (Hadden) chase a lot of balls." The Bobcats bring six seniors to the mix starting with Hadden, 5-foot-7 Amber Aston and defensive specialist Natasha Blauer, who was an all-conference honor-

able mention last season. But from there, seniors Tiffany Anderson, Aryelle Peterson and Kali Osterhout bring zero varsity time to the team.

"We don't have a whole lot of varsity experience but we are a mature team," Strain said. "We've had some kids step up. Tiffany Anderson has been hitting well for us and Aston and Melanie Smith have all been coming through."

Besides a lack of varsity experience, the Bobcats also have to overcome a lack of size at the net. Smith, at 5-foot-9, is listed as the tallest player on the Burley roster.

"We're very, very short," Strain said. "But we've got girls with some athletic talent. We just need to work on getting them some experience."

That experience will come as soon as this week when the Bobcats open at 5A schools Twin Falls and Minico.

"A baptism by fire," he said. "But I think it's good for us. It'll make us a tougher team."

Jerome also faces the task of rebuilding after losing six starters to graduation, including 6-0 middle Kendra West and outside hitters Keeley Osborn and Andrea Olsen.

Child hopes the new class of seniors can step up, led by 5-10 middle Melissa McLimore and 5-8

4A players to watch

Burley

Sr. Kenna Hadden, setter
 Sr. Amber Aston, opposite
 Sr. Natasha Blauer, defensive specialist
 Sr. Tiffany Anderson, outside hitter

Jerome

Sr. Melissa McLimore, middle blocker
 Sr. Marjorie Bingham, outside hitter
 Sr. Lora Hadlock, outside hitter
 Sr. Corni Ford, defensive specialist

outside hitters Lora Hadlock and Marjorie Bingham.

Not a particularly tall team, Jerome does boast a pair of 6-footers in juniors Sara Lott and Kristina Bingham.

Child listed team unity, tough servers, aggressive attitudes and scrappy play as strengths for this year's Tigers squad. Setting, with a host of juniors and sophomores vying for the playmaking position, is an area that Jerome must find a new leader.

Young

Continued from D1

"We're real young," Youree said of her team that lists eight juniors. "But we're not real big."

Foremost on Youree's agenda is finding a setter and then stabilizing the Bruins' rotation. For now Allen and Levings are competing for the quarterback position at setter. With Strunk anchoring the middle, Youree said it's up to the team to decide who wants to play.

"Our lack of height will hinder the versatility of our offense," she said. "But we have experience as regional champions and state tournament participants. That goes a long way."

Besides a scrappy Pocatello and surprise Minico from last season, the team the Bruins most likely will challenge for the regional title is Highland.

Twin Falls gets its first look at the Rams on Thursday.

After last year's return to the state tourney following a five-year absence, Twin Falls has the beginnings of a tradition in volleyball, Youree said.

"(The seniors) left behind a championship legacy," she said last season. "Eventually, Twin Falls will be a state volleyball champion."

For Minico, the winds of change haven't been as kind.

For starters, first-year coach Nikl Walker takes over for longtime coach Kelly Fosocco.

Then there's the matter of replacing five of six Spartan starters of a year ago. Gone is the heart of the lineup in 5-10 middle Kay Story, 6-2 opposite Lindsay Phillips, setter Kirby Gillette and 5-9 outside hitter Lisa Patterson. Outside hitter Paige Marrigon suffered a late-season knee injury.

The rebuilding begins with 6-2 middle Natalie Thompson, the tallest member of a team that sports five players 5-10 or better. Senior classmates Kim Childs (5-10) and Kylee Dayton to roam the outsides with Jamie Smith at setter and 6-0 Jamie Hansen to man the middle. Also expect juniors Monica Jensen and Whitney Martin to see some playing time as well as 5-11 Jamie Necomb and 5-10 Camille Woodland.

Walker said keys to a successful season hinge on a deep rotation and overcoming weaknesses at serve and middle defense.

"If we continue to improve on our weaknesses I think we can compete by the end of the season," she said.

5A players to watch

Twin Falls

Sr. Kim Strunk (5-10, MB)
 Has the unenviable task of replacing Region II Player of Year Keri Coats in the middle. Brings state experience to a young Bruins squad.

Sr. Briana Allen (5-7, OH, setter)
 Athletic, versatile Allen is key for a successful Bruins season. An ace softball pitcher, Allen is strong and brings a big-time presence to the floor.

Sr. Christie Deagle (5-7, OH)
 Deagle was a defensive dynamo for the Bruins last season with her ability to dig spikes and errant loose balls.

Jr. Shay Tusow (5-10, MB)
 Deagle was a defensive dynamo for the Bruins last season with her ability to dig spikes and errant loose balls.

Sr. Natalie Thompson (6-2, MB)
 The lone returning starter on a team needing a leader. Tall and tough, Thompson must remain healthy and find a supporting cast thin on experience.

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Venus, Capriati lead women's contenders at U.S. Open

NEW YORK (AP) — By rights, the Grand Slam season in women's tennis should end 12 days from now with a prime-time U.S. Open final between this year's two best players, Venus Williams and Jennifer Capriati.

"It's not possible," Capriati notes matter-of-factly.

She betrays neither disappointment or relief, but tennis fans are sure to be bummed. They caught an unlucky break when poker-style chips pulled from the championship trophy last week to determine the draw paired Capriati and Williams in the same half of the 128-woman field.

That means they'll play, if at all, in the semifinals Sept. 7, rather than in the first nighttime final in Grand Slam history Saturday, Sept. 8. Regardless, the year's last major event should help settle whether Capriati or Williams is the best player of 2001.

Should both falter, three former champions are ready-for-prime-time players. Top-seeded Martina Hingis (1997), Lindsay Davenport (1998) and Serena Williams (1999) know they can win the tournament because they've done it before, a testament to the depth of championship talent at the top of the rankings.

"The women are bigger than ever, and it's great for the sport," four-time U.S. Open champion John McEnroe says.

Maybe Capriati can offer Sampras a few tips on how to revive a career. She capped her captivating comeback by winning her first Grand Slam championship at the Australian Open in January, then added the French Open title in June before losing to Belgian teen-ager Justine Henin in the Wimbledon semifinals.



Jennifer Capriati argues a call during the Pilot Pen Series last weekend. Capriati is considered a favorite in the U.S. Open, which begins today.

The upset defeat may have been partly a blessing, allowing Capriati to avoid the suffocating pressure that would go with trying to complete a Grand Slam sweep at the U.S. Open. Instead, the New York native enters the tournament relaxed and ready to do some damage on her favorite surface.

"I've put in the work, and I feel confident that I'm going to go out there and play well," she says. "Even against the top players, I'm always going to give them a good match and make it hard for them."

Williams, the defending champion, started this year poorly. She endured the most lopsided loss of her career, 6-1, 6-1 against Hingis in the Australian

Open quarterfinals, and lost in the first round at the French Open.

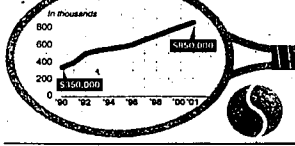
But Williams rebounded to win Wimbledon for the second year in a row. She has won three of the past five major titles and appears poised to dominate the sport the way she did the second half of 2000.

She's 3-0 against Capriati, including victories at the Ericsson Open final in March and at New Haven last week. But Capriati has the higher ranking and U.S. Open seeding at No. 2.

"Both of us are doing pretty well this year, and neither of us is No. 1 just yet," Williams said. "If she was No. 1, she sure would deserve it. If I was No. 1, I guess I would too."

Big-time payday

Prize money for the 2001 U.S. Open remains the highest in all sports, topping \$15.8 million for the first time. The closest non-tennis event is the Daytona 500, which offered a total purse in excess of \$10 million last February. Here's a look at the prize money awarded to both the men's and women's singles champions since 1990.



SOURCE: United States Tennis Association

Ed O'Connell/AP

Haas takes Hamlet Cup title match

COMMACK, N.Y. (AP) — Tommy Haas beat Pete Sampras 6-3, 2-6, 6-3 in the finals of the Hamlet Cup on Sunday, extending Sampras' winless streak to 16 tournaments.

The sixth-seeded Haas, who finished with 15 aces, beat Sampras for the first time in five matches on hardcourt. He beat Sampras on clay in Dusseldorf in May 2000.

Haas won 40 of 50 first-point serves as compared to 31 of 41 for Sampras.

The victory was the second of the year and third in the career of the 23-year-old German, who earned \$54,000. The third-seeded Sampras, a wild card into the tournament, picked up \$31,500.

"It was a great way to win a tournament, beating a player like Pete," Haas said. "I've been serving well all week and hope to do the same in the U.S. Open."

"My goal is the third or fourth round. In 1999, I got to the fourth round and that was my best showing."

Sampras, who has a record 13 Grand Slam titles and 63 career victories overall, lauded Haas.

"Give him credit," Sampras said. "He served well. I played a loose game. I had only six aces, and you can't do that on a fast court."

Sampras, competing in his third final this year, has not won a tournament since Wimbledon in 1999. He claimed to be satisfied with his game heading into this week's U.S. Open.

"I'm ready for the U.S. Open," he said. "My body feels good, and I played pretty well the whole week. I needed matches, and I hit my stride. I'm satisfied."

Haas took a 2-1 lead and closed out the first set with an ace. Sampras had 11 unforced errors.

Haas took charge in the third set, breaking in the second game and moving out to an insurmountable 3-0 advantage.

Georgia Tech avoids upset

EAST RUTHERFORD, N.J. (AP) — A run at the national title is still a long way off for No. 10 Georgia Tech.

The Yellow Jackets' high-powered offense sputtered to a 13-7 victory over Syracuse in the Kickoff Classic on Sunday as George Godsey hooked up with record-setting Kelly Campbell 10 times for 193 yards and Joe Burns ran for 113 yards and a touchdown.

Georgia Tech, with 18 starters returning from last year's 9-3 team that averaged nearly 34 points per game, is hoping to make a run at dethroning Florida State as Atlantic Coast Conference champions and then bidding for a national championship.

"But in a game that was anything but classic, Georgia Tech discovered it needs a lot of work before challenging the sixth-ranked Seminoles on Sept. 15.



Georgia Tech quarterback George Godsey looks for a receiver as he rolls out during the second quarter against Syracuse in the Kickoff Classic Sunday. Georgia Tech beat Syracuse 13-7.

AP photo

Godsey, who completed 64 percent of his passes last season, was 15-of-26 for 224 yards, and cornerback Marvious Hester intercepted a pass at the Syracuse 6 to set up Burns' 1-yard TD.

Burns, who ran for more than 900 yards a year ago, carried 34 times and padded his numbers by picking up 55 yards on three runs late in the game. His TD with 8:27 left in the half gave Tech a 10-0 lead.

Syracuse, guilty of crucial penalties that kept alive Georgia

Tech drives, stayed in the game thanks to the Yellow Jackets' failure to make big plays.

Troy Nunes, a victim of three of Georgia Tech's four sacks, scored on a 1-yard keeper with 8:35 left in the third quarter to pull the Orangemen within 10-7. But the Yellow Jackets defense — helped by a number of tipped passes and a dropped ball by Johnny Morant at the Tech 24 with 6:32 left — held on.

Nunes finished 19-of-32 for 183 yards and an interception.

Stewart forgives and forgets way to Sharpie 500 victory

BRISTOL, Tenn. (AP) — The situation had the potential for disaster: Jeff Gordon leading lap after lap around the tight turns of Bristol with hotheaded Tony Stewart right on his bumper.

The two clashed in this very place just a few months before, and the slightest tap from Stewart could have sent his rival into the wall and been the sweetest redemption.

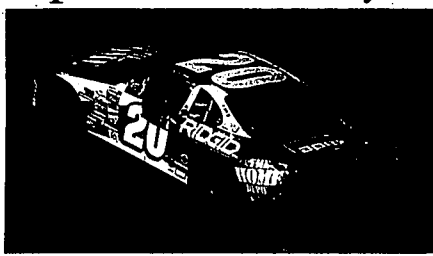
Instead, Stewart slipped right past Gordon and drove off to victory in Saturday night's Sharpie 500 — proving he can forgive and forget.

"There are 43 professional guys that start the race every week and you're not going to get along with all of them 100 percent of the time," Stewart said. "Bristol in the spring was Bristol in the spring, this is the fall race. It's a whole different day."

Still, it's doubtful retaliation was far from Stewart's mind as he followed Gordon around and around Bristol Motor Speedway.

"Why would I worry?" Gordon said before the race. "He's on probation."

In the end, it was Stewart's desire to win on his favorite track that took priority.



Tony Stewart does a burnout in front of the grandstands after winning the NASCAR Sharpie 500 at Bristol Motor Speedway Saturday in Bristol, Tenn.

Although he came into the race with 11 careers victories, none of them were at Bristol Motor Speedway — a track he liked before he even drove stock cars and fell in love with the minute he saw it.

"The first time I came in here I was amazed, we came through that gate and got down into the infield, I looked up and never saw a sight like what I saw that day," Stewart said. "Anytime

anybody has ever asked me what my favorite track was, I always say Bristol."

If winning there would be his greatest triumph, winning at Bristol was his most satisfying victory.

"Having the opportunity to drink the milk in victory lane (at Indy) is something I dearly hope I have an opportunity to do before I quit driving race cars," he said.

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MORNING BREAK

ACROSS
 1 Botches
 6 Fall to hit
 10 Invitation letters
 14 Blind area
 16 Not taken in by
 18 Mayberry kid
 19 Antilles island
 21 Ungulate's foot
 19 Toasty
 22 Scarry country
 21 Movie movie, perhaps
 24 "White metal"
 28 Verdi opera
 27 Novel thoughts
 30 Engraver's Durak
 33 Org. of Prices and Love
 34 "This is ___"
 "Tax"
 37 Pi follower
 38 "That ___ Cat"
 39 Assarts before proof
 40 No longer drunk
 43 Chums
 44 Little 'un
 46 Connecting rooms
 47 Will
 48 Overthrowing
 50 Painter of ballerinas
 62 Incoherent
 62 Joe's Jerry
 63 Slippy
 63 negative
 67 "Name" star
 69 No intended
 81 Hamburg's river
 83 Moduler
 10 Component
 84 Small, silvery fish
 86 Finger Falana
 67 Have supper
 68 1946-82 N.L. home-run leader
 69 Grafton and Lyon
 70 Units of work
 71 Impertinent

DOWN
 1 Hals of Haydn
 2 The king of France

Some people smile with their eye

Most people smile with both lips and eyes, but some with eyes only, and others with lips only. Not just you and I, but experts, too, say the eye smiles tend to be sincere, the lip-only smiles not necessarily.

List "pundiculation" as another word for "yawn." Do it now.

Q. It has been widely reported that Albert Einstein never went swimming. Why not?
 A. Couldn't swim.

Q. "Who was the first full-fledged war correspondent?"
 A. Believe that would have to be William Howard Russell of the London Times. He covered the Crimean war from 1854 to 1856, then the battle of Bull Run in our Civil War.

Q. "What's a malapropism?"
 A. Stereotype, Insinuating, Polo



Your bones are about half water. Mine, too.

Occasionally you hear a sports-caster describe an exciting game as "a real barnburner." The phrase has been around for awhile. In the 1800s, a New York editor wrote that a certain group of Democrats were so zealous they'd burn down the barn to get rid of the rats. Those Democrats thereafter called themselves the Barnburners.

The town of Modesto in California came to be so called because its founders were too modest to name it in honor of themselves.

Our Love and War man is studying a survey to find out what qualities the typical young man thinks important in his prospective matrimonial mate. Of the fellows polled, 51 percent said "that the loves me" is the most significant matter of all.

No doubt, no doubt. Sixty-four percent said "sense of humor." Sixty-four percent said "honest confidence." In the sexist categories, 40 percent said "nice hair," 33 percent said a "pretty face" and "ample bust" was listed by 16 percent.

The government of Liechtenstein at last report still got 10 percent of its income from the stamp post office stamps.

Q. "Why is that light striped merime fabric called 'sereu'?"
 A. Can only report it came from the Hindi language for "milk and sugar." How it got to be a cloth name I don't know.

Q. "What are 'detergent foods'?"
 A. Those that supposedly clean your teeth as you chew them. Apples. Celery.

Saturday's Puzzle Solved

ELK	FACE	BALIVIVA
DEN	AMON	OLIVER
MOIE	DOMER	TICATE
CON	RA	EN
NOIE	ONGE	ETIMOR
DRANK	GORE	OAK
BADEEST	NUAGEBY	
ARNO	WREN	
PACORAT	HOWERED	
ADD	EPER	ENINE
TELLS	RHEA	ROVE
EAT	MOLD	STEP
COITON	BEEDOR	ELB
CONMIT	BRIT	ROE
TEEG	ENBY	BIA

3 Vehicular 150
 4 Apron element
 5 Black and
 6 White
 8 Angora goat
 7 Properly arranged
 9 Shows
 10 Intellectual fortitude
 9 Divan
 10 Leased
 11 Backup piece
 12 Singer Damon
 13 Finger Falana
 22 Writer's block
 23 Frontiersman Carson
 25 Bendu stems
 28 Think alike
 29 Beach tracta
 42 Intentionally short put
 32 Indianian
 34 Pleasantry

38 Condescend
 40 Memento
 42 No-deg holder
 45 Transparent copy
 48 Exploit
 49 Shallow dishes
 51 Zones
 54 Uneels

55 Cries piteously
 56 Way in
 58 Naked
 59 Invites
 61 Goffer Ernie
 62 Head or
 63 Fartigno
 65 Hamm or Farrow

Detection, treatment prevent eye disease

DEAR ABBY: I am an ophthalmologist who specializes in the treatment of diseases of the retina - which is the "seeing tissue" of the eye. You cannot imagine how frustrating, disheartening and sad it is to see patients on a daily basis who have vision loss from the effects of diabetes. In many instances, I am the person who first informs them that they may not get their vision back and eventually they will become legally blind.

The reason I am frustrated is because I know that if these patients had only come in earlier or exercised better control of their blood sugar (glucose) levels, blood pressure and cholesterol, most of their visual loss could have been avoided.

Please, Abby, remind your readers with diabetes that by maintaining control of their blood sugar they can reduce visual loss. Every patient over the age of 30 who is diabetic should have an eye exam as soon as he or she is diagnosed and a yearly exam thereafter. Diabetic disease does not cause pain and it must be treated early, while vision is still good, to avoid serious loss of sight. With proper care, and attention, blindness - one of the most devastating complications of diabetes - can be prevented.

DAVID S. BOYER, M.D., DIRECTOR, AMERICAN DIABETES ASSOCIATION OF L.A.

DEAR DR. BOYER: Thank you for an important letter. I was shocked to learn that an estimated 16 million people in the United States have diabetes, and one-third of them do not know they have it. While diabetes affects people of all ages and ethnicities, diabetes is more prevalent in minority communities - especially Hispanics, African-Americans and American Indians.

However, regardless of ethnicity - if there is a history of diabetes in the family, an annual physical examination and an eye examination by a medical doctor

Aries: Reach beyond the immediate

IF AUGUST 27TH IS YOUR BIRTHDAY... you are dynamic, can be romantic to degree of passion. Your heart goes out to the underprivileged people. You have participated in humanitarian projects. Aries, Libra persons play major roles in your life, could have these letters, initials in names: L.R.

ARIES (Mar. 21-Apr. 19): Reach beyond the immediate. Give full rein to intellectual curiosity. People are drawn to you. You have gift of making people laugh if even in grief.

TAURUS (Apr. 20-May 20): Dig deep for information; you might learn more than you care to know. Involves financial status of partner, mate. Truth frees you from doubts, suspicions.

MIRROR, MIRROR ON THE WALL



Erin Owensby of Collerville, Tenn., examines a large curved mirror at the Big One flea market held at the Midlands Fairgrounds earlier this month in Memphis. Owensby says she comes to the flea market every month.

HOROSCOPE Sydney Omarr

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Be ready for change, travel and variety of sensations. Spotlight on what you write and read. Focus also on partnership, marriage. Virgo in top role.

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Your kind of day! Emphasis on beautifying home, making domestic adjustment that could lead to marriage. Highlight harmony, do not force issues.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Utilize showmanship to put program across. Vital information has been withheld, deliberately or otherwise. You exude aura of sensuality, sex appeal.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Power play! Green light flashes for your project, ambitious project. Engineering problem with be solved.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Travel indicated; longer journey than expected. Open lines of communication; someone in distant city or foreign land wants to "tell you something."

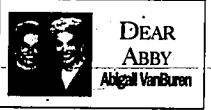
SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Toss aside preconceived notions. Make fresh start, exercise independence of thought, action. Don't follow others, create your own tradition. Leo involved.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): You could be "talk of the town." Emphasis on where you live. You are pulled in two directions - follow your heart.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Look behind scenes. Meditate, permit answers to flow within to surface. Don't fear the unknown. You will be introduced to "mysterious" individuals.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Hopes, wishes fulfilled. Don't ask for more than you can handle. Luck rides with you; in matters of speculation, stick with number 4.

PISCES (Feb. 19-Mar. 20): Get ideas, concepts on paper. You gather a written word. Filmmaker serious, heats up. Certain Virgo individuals will play "sensational" roles.



are a must. The sight you save, and the quality of life you improve, could be your own.

DEAR ABBY: The letters from "Furious in Adrian, Mich.," the 14-year-old whose ex-boyfriend wrongly claimed to have had sex with her, and "No Big Deal in New Jersey," who suggested telling people, "... he tried, but he was sooo small..." reminded me of an episode on the sitcom "Welcome Back Kotter."

A pretty girl in class was rumored to be promiscuous. All the guys bragged about sleeping with her at one time or another. Her solution: She announced that she was pregnant and was going to publicly reveal the identity of the father of her baby in class the next day. By morning, not one male would admit to ever having slept with her, with one exception. The character Horack - the class nerd - proclaimed that he was the father and would marry her if she would have him. He probably couldn't even spell S-E-X, let alone get a date with a girl. But she was determined to do "the honorable thing."

If "Furious" would announce that she was pregnant and that she was bringing a paternity suit against her ex-boyfriend and his parents, I think he would stop the lying.

TAMMY IN FLORIDA DEAR TAMMY: But what if he didn't? Some misguided young men are under the impression that fathering a child makes them appear manly - although nothing could be further from the truth.

"Furious" has enough problems already without spreading a false rumor that could backfire.

Law saves pastry from refrigeration

LOS ANGELES (AP) - Now members of the city's Korean community can eat their chewy bite-sized rice cakes and enjoy them too.

Los Angeles County health officials had required bakeries selling the steamed cakes, called duk or thuk, to refrigerate them, a move some say ruins the taste.

"The people didn't buy it," said Young Hui Lee, owner of Seoul Kitchen. "They think, 'How come it's so hard? Maybe it's a day old.'"

Gov. Gray Davis agreed, saying eating a refrigerated rice cake is "like eating a hockey puck."

He put an end to that Friday in Korean town, when he signed into a law a bill allowing the cakes to be served at room temperature if they are dated and carry a label warning that they should be eaten within 24 hours. The cakes are made by soaking rice in water for several hours, then grinding it into a paste and rolling it into balls, which are steamed.

The balls, often filled with red beans, fruit or nuts, are mainly served as a dessert snack and are popular at birthdays and other celebrations.

County health officials say they were only enforcing the law when they cracked down in July, telling bakery owners to refrigerate the cakes.

"In terms of our procedure, we were doing what we're supposed to, which is preventive public health," said Terrance Powell, the county's chief of environmental health services.

Assemblywoman Carol Liu, who sponsored the bill to change the law, disagreed. "It would have been a disgrace to allow a thoughtful regulation to rob Korean-Americans in Los Angeles of this tradition," she said.

Actor's diary goes missing, is presumed stolen

LONDON (AP) - A diary Richard Burton kept during his first tempestuous marriage to Elizabeth Taylor is missing and presumed stolen from the British Broadcasting Corp.

The diary was among items that Burton's widow, Sally, lent to the BBC earlier this year for the filming of a documentary about the actor's life. After the items were returned in March, Sally Burton discovered the diary was not among them.

"The possibility that it has been stolen is a strong one," a BBC spokeswoman said Friday on customary condition of anonymity. She said the diary had been kept in a locked cupboard at the BBC's west London television center.

Scotland Yard confirmed it was investigating the theft of documents from the BBC.

"We haven't given up hope of recovering it and we have been co-operating with the police over

People in the news

this matter," the BBC spokeswoman said.

The diary was written in 1965, the year after Burton and Taylor married for the first time.

A Welsh miner's son, Burton went through two tumultuous marriages to Taylor - his co-star in films including "Cleopatra" and "Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf?" - between 1964 and 1976. He was nominated seven times for an Oscar but never won, then died in 1984 at age 58.

Governor calls in sick, cancels fair appearance

ST. PAUL, Minn. - An injured but forced Gov. Jesse Ventura to call in sick and cancel a day-long appearance at the Minnesota State Fair on Friday.

The injury occurred Thursday afternoon. Spokesman John Wodele said he didn't know how Ventura hurt his back or the extent of the injury.

"He had great difficulty trying to move this morning," Wodele said.

Last summer, the 50-year-old Ventura hurt his back while playing golf.

Wodele wouldn't say whether Ventura played golf Thursday, but he said the governor continued his official business around p.m. and the injury occurred sometime later.

Ventura's prior injury was described as an "inflammation of the tendons and tissue in the neck." The gliosis is any of the three muscles that form each of the buttocks. It made it painful for him to sit or move.

Wodele and Lt. Gov. Mark Schunk were tapped to fill in for Ventura on his weekly radio show, broadcast from the WCCO Radio booth at the fair.

- compiled from wire reports