



The Time

GOOD MORNING

WEATHER

Today: Colder with a chance of snow. High 34, low 19.
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MAGIC VALLEY

Talk to your rep: Reach your legislators before the 2003 session starts
Page B1

MONEY



Outlook 2003: Magic Valley businesses geared for growth.
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IDAHO

State news: The top stories of the year from Idaho.
Page C7

FAMILY LIFE



A weird year: Humor columnist Dave Barry's look back at 2002.
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SPORTS



Cream of the crop: The Top Sports Stories of 2002.
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Upset: Giants stun Eagles, grab NFC wild-card playoff spot.
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OPINION

Future of ARTEC: The exit of top officials at ARTEC means changes are necessary, today's editorial says.
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PATIENCE, PATIENTS



Dr. Robert Lobb checks a chart in the hallway at Magic Valley Regional Medical Center. Lobb was chief of staff at the Twin Falls Clinic and Hospital before the merger and is now interim chief of staff at Magic Valley Regional.

Time has eased some fears about bigger hospital

One-year checkup
TEC & H
MVR & M

On Jan. 1, 2002, doctors at the Twin Falls Clinic and Hospital sold their 44-bed facility to the county-owned Magic Valley Regional Medical Center for \$18.1 million. The broker series reviews the merger's aftermath.

Today:

- What patients and doctors think.
- Contrasts, similarities in east- and west-Idaho.

Monday:

- What employees think.
- Magic Valley Region's future.

TWIN FALLS - The former Twin Falls Clinic and Hospital had a small but loyal following. And when Magic Valley Regional purchased the Clinic at year ago, some Clinic patients were worried: What would happen to the doctors they had trusted, the staff they had come to know, the place where they had felt comfortable and safe? A year later, those fears seem to have subsided for many former Clinic patients - but not for all of them.

"I think people should have a choice," said Kathy Ugalde. "I didn't want to see a monopoly with

What they're saying

How's what some hospital patients and health-care workers say about last year's hospital merger.

"Some people still resist change, but I think they give equally good care."
- Roberts Bena, a patient at the former Twin Falls Clinic and Hospital and at Magic Valley Regional Medical Center

"A lot of patients were very upset when they found out Magic was going to take over. They don't want Magic taking

shopping for a buyer in 2001, she preferred a proposal for Saint Alphonsus Regional Medical Center to buy it. But when negotiations with the Boise-based St. Al's broke

"It allows us to offer more services and better equipment now that the two entities are combined. You require a certain number of patients, and when they're divided between two entities, neither has enough to do it."
- Dr. Ron Poffinger

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Please see **MERGER**, Page A7

U.N. agency will withdraw N. Korea inspectors

The Associated Press

SEOUL, South Korea - The U.N. nuclear watchdog decided Saturday to pull its inspectors out of North Korea by New Year's Eve, a step demanded by the North that will leave the world without an eye into the secretive nation's nuclear program.

The head of the monitoring agency's head denounced the North's "defiance" and accused it of escalating the crisis over its plans to revive a mothballed nuclear reactor, which the United States fears will be used to produce nuclear weapons.

Trying to stave off the escalating tensions, South Korea said



North Koreans shout anti-U.S. slogans during a rally celebrating the withdrawal of the U.S. army from the Korean Peninsula, in Pyongyang, North Korea, Saturday. About 10,000 people took part in the rally.

Bush, Dems trade jobs on loss of jobless benefits

The Washington Post

WACO, Texas - President Bush and the opposition Democrats each vowed Saturday to renew unemployment benefits as nearly 800,000 jobless Americans were cut off from federal assistance.

The cutoff Saturday came because Congress failed last month to reconcile differences between a Democratic plan for a \$5 billion extension of benefits and a Republican plan for a \$500 million extension. Bush declined to take a position on an extension of benefits until two weeks ago, when it was announced that November's unemployment rate had reached 6 percent, the highest in more than eight years.

"One of my first priorities for the new Congress will be an extension of unemployment ben-

effits for Americans who need them," Bush said Saturday in his weekly radio address.

The pledge was one of several Bush made in outlining his agenda for 2003. He also called for legislation to stimulate job growth, disarm Iraq, add a prescription-drug benefit to Medicare and curb medical malpractice lawsuits.

Sen. Hillary Rodham Clinton, D-N.Y., delivered the Democrats

Please see **JOBLESS**, Page A2



Sen. Hillary Clinton

<p>7 days, 7 reasons to read</p>	<p>Doggie dentistry?</p> <p>It's important to take care of your best friend's teeth. Monday</p>	<p>Ring a ding</p> <p>The bells are ringing this season. Tuesday</p>	<p>Car competitors</p> <p>Auto students make final round. Wednesday</p>	<p>Count the birds</p> <p>Hagerman Christmas bird count keeps a tab of friendly skies. Thursday</p>	<p>Wired?</p> <p>Big changes are taking place in south-central Idaho cable television. Friday</p>	<p>Clean surfin'</p> <p>Christian filmmakers have made a movie to attract wave-riders to the faith. Saturday</p>	<p>Temper, temper</p> <p>How parents can deal with toddlers' tantrums. Sunday</p>
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TWIN FALLS FORECAST

Today: Colder with a chance of snow. Highs near 34.

Tonight: Bristk with evening flurries. Lows near 19.

Tomorrow: Some clearing with a declining chance of snow. Highs near 31.

BURLEY/RUPERT FORECAST

Today: Scattered snow showers and strong winds. Highs in the 30s.

Tonight: Mostly cloudy and brisk. Evening flurries possible.

Tomorrow: Partly to mostly cloudy and chilly. Highs in the upper 20s to lower 30s.

IDAHO'S FORECAST

SUN VALLEY, SURROUNDING MTS. Windy with scattered snow showers redeveloping off and on throughout the day. Travel may be difficult at times. Expect areas of ice and blowing snow.

Today Highs 34 to 38. Tonight's Lows -1 to 9. BOISE ... Falling temperatures and brisk winds with an accompany scattered snow showers. Accumulations will be light. Snow shower activity will carry over into Monday.

Today High/Lows 36 to 40 / 19 to 24. NORTHERN TETON ... Falling temperatures, heavy, steady, cloudy, c/c/snowy showers expected through the night. Monday will be clearing and cold.



Yesterday's Blizz Extreme - High: 52 at Boise. Low: 27 at Spencer ...

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Jobless

Continued from A1 weekly radio address, and she blamed Republicans for the failure to extend unemployment benefits.

"In the recession of the early 1990s, we increased benefits five times," she said. "Today, our unemployment rate has soared to 6 percent, and Congress and the President have extended benefits only once - and once is not enough."

States typically provide 26 weeks of jobless assistance. Congress in March provided a 13-week extension of payments. Payments are routinely renewed by lawmakers in difficult economic times. But Congress's failure to pass a new extension before it expired means that between \$500 and \$200,000 in jobless workweeks lost benefits Saturday.

Clinton, with Sen. Don Nickles, R-Okla., passed Senate legislation that would have extended federal payments to those receiving unemployment benefits for those yet to lose state benefits. House Democrats continue to push a similar plan.

House Ways and Means Committee Chairman Bill Bonior, R-Calif., proposes allowing those whose 13-week extended benefits were cut off to receive their remaining payments. Additional payments would go only to people in 16 states where unemployment levels exceed 5.5 percent. Another Republican plan would extend benefits through June 1 and further for those living in high-

unemployment areas. Bush, in announcing his support for an extension two weeks ago, said he would support making the extension retroactive, but he did not mention other specifics.

After Democratic leaders in November sent a letter to Bush urging him to push for an extension, White House press secretary Ari Fleischer repeatedly declined to give a position for Bush, saying only that he would "continue to work with Congress" on the matter.

Outgoing Senate Majority Leader Tom Daschle, D-S.D., said on Friday that Republicans had taken an "unconscionable" position. Democrats point to a Labor Department estimate that a dollar spent on unemployment payments generates \$2.15 in economic activity as recipients spend their benefits.

Bush began Saturday's radio address by noting again that the economy in 2002 was "pulling out of a recession that began before I took office." Now, he continued, "this economy is strong, and it can be stronger."

He called for passage of an economic stimulus plan and efforts "to ensure that all Americans have access to high quality, affordable health care." His list for 2003 included reforms of Medicare and the addition of a prescription benefit to the health care program for senior citizens.

The president also reiterated his determination to pursue the fight against terrorists and Iraq's weapons, and he repeated his desire to renew the 1996 welfare reform law and to aid religious and community nonprofits.

Circulation

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Times-Herald telephone directory table with columns for service type and phone number.

TWIN FALLS FIVE-DAY FORECAST

Weather forecast grid for Twin Falls, Monday through Thursday, including temperature, precipitation, and humidity.

ALMAHAC - TWIN FALLS

Temperature, Precipitation, Humidity, and Barometric Pressure data for AlmaHac.

Moon Phases and Moonrise and Moonset times for Twin Falls.

REGIONAL FORECAST

Regional forecast table for Idaho cities including Boise, Burley, and others.

NATIONAL FORECAST

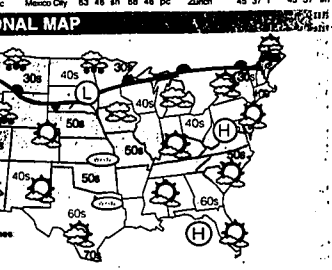
National forecast table for various US cities including Chicago, Denver, and New York.

WORLD FORECAST

World forecast table for international cities including London, Tokyo, and Sydney.

CANADIAN FORECAST

Canadian forecast table for cities like Calgary, Edmonton, and Vancouver.



Korea

Continued from A1 Saturday it would appeal to China and Russia - North Korea's long-time allies - to pressure the North to back down.

Meanwhile, in the North Korean capital of Pyongyang, 10,000 people rallied against U.S. policy, the North's official news agency said.

North Korea's demand for the inspectors' expulsion stepped up the challenge to the United States, which has taken a hard line toward North Korea, refusing to negotiate unless the North abandons its nuclear ambitions.

In an interview with The Associated Press, Mohamed ElBaradei, director of the U.N. International Atomic Energy Agency, said the North Koreans were "still pursuing their policy of defiance. They continue to escalate a crisis situation."

But he held out hope that diplomatic efforts would push North Korea's leadership to reverse course.

The IAEA's board of governors will meet at the agency's Vienna headquarters on Jan. 6, when it will consider whether to refer the matter to the Security Council - a grave diplomatic maneuver that could lead to sanctions or other punitive actions against North Korea.

Tuition

Continued from A1 State University, Boise State University and Lewis-Clark State College. The College of Southern Idaho, as a community college, does not face that restriction and does charge tuition.

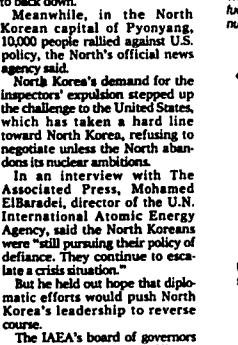
While Idaho's four-year state institutions must rely on state funding and other revenue for professors' salaries and other instructional costs, they charge fees for things such as maintenance and operation, student services and institutional support.

Solid legal ground?

The area that propelled Missouri into trouble was the variability with which it applied the fee. That is, the more units a student took, the higher the fees imposed.

Yongbyon plant

The United Nations says North Korea has moved 1,000 fuel rods to the Yongbyon nuclear plant. Plutonium for nuclear weapons could be manufactured at the site.



That the board would like to give diplomacy - and North Korea - another chance to comply with its international obligations," ElBaradei told the AP by telephone from Sri Lanka, where he is vacationing.

The agency has three inspectors monitoring North Korea's main nuclear complex at Yongbyon north of Pyongyang, which has been frozen since 1994 under an

agreement with the United States that fell apart this year.

On Friday, North Korea said the inspectors were no longer welcome. ElBaradei responded by sending a letter of protest to the North Korean government. North Korea did not reply but on Saturday, North Korean officials told the monitors directly "they should leave the country immediately." IAEA spokeswoman Melissa Fleming said.

The inspectors were preparing to leave by Tuesday, she said. ElBaradei told the AP the inspectors would begin making their way to Pyongyang on Sunday and would leave North Korea altogether by Tuesday.

After announcing Dec. 12 that it would revive the Yongbyon complex, North Korea removed IAEA monitoring seals and cameras from the site.

The inspectors are the body's last means to monitor the situation there.

"This is a country that with impunity is trying to walk away from its international obligations," ElBaradei said. "They think by putting as much pressure on the international community as possible, they'll get its attention and get it to negotiate. What they don't understand is that no country is ready to negotiate under duress."

What would have to change

While legalizing tuition at the University of Idaho would require a change to the state's constitution, to do so for the state's other four-year institutions would only require the Legislature to make the change.

That's because the constitution recognizes the existence of the University of Idaho, the state's land grant university. Other colleges came after the constitution. Thus, their prohibition of tuition comes in the form of a statute, a law that was created by the Legislature and can be altered by lawmakers.

After all, much has changed in the last century. Not only has the percentage of state funding toward higher education decreased in the last few decades - a nationwide trend - but government has evolved into more of a user-fee service. Thus, just as one pays an entrance fee for a state park, a student ought to pay tuition to attend a state college, he said.

"A lot of people feel there should be change, that since we're supporting the higher education system with fees we ought to give up the charade," Bowen said. "It's 100 years of trying to do something indirectly what you can do directly."

That's the stance of the State Board of Education. Board member Karen McGee said the current tuition and fee arrangement is successful in part because of the time the board takes to obtain student input. In fact, some fees are student-initiated, such as the fee to build a recreation center at the University of Idaho, McGee added.

"It's become a way for students to have some of what they want on campus," McGee said. Times-Herald writer Robert Mayer can be reached at 735-3231 or via e-mail at rmayer@magicalidaho.com. The Associated Press contributed to this report.

Poll: Bush tops list of admired

WASHINGTON (AP) - Hillary Rodham Clinton, Laura Bush and J. Lo have something in common: Americans like them.

A Gallup poll found the nation divided in the contest for "most admired" woman. Among men, President Bush remained the clear favorite for the second year in a row.

Clinton, the former first lady who now represents New York in the Senate, and her successor in the White House, Laura Bush, topped Gallup's list of women along with talk show host Oprah Winfrey. Clinton was favored by 7 percent of those surveyed; Bush and Winfrey had 6 percent each.

Among men, the president had a commanding 28 percent for men - well ahead of the runner-up, former president Jimmy Carter who was in single digits.

Jennifer Lopez's new movie and album, along with heavy media coverage of her pending wedding nuptials to actor Ben Affleck, boosted her to the sixth spot with 2 percent. That put her on par with incoming Sen. Elizabeth Dole, R-N.C., and national security adviser Condoleezza Rice. Former first lady Barbara Bush and former British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher each got 3 percent.

Among younger respondents, Lopez outpolled them all with 10 percent.

Party lines had some bearing on results. Clinton pulled 15 percent among Democrats; the first lady led among Republicans, with 13 percent. They remain no longer in 1948. His dip in Gallup's 2002 poll mirrors his sliding approval ratings over the last several months.

President Bush had earned 39 percent in the wake of last year's terrorist attacks, a record high among men since the survey began in 1948. His dip in Gallup's 2002 poll mirrors his sliding approval ratings over the last several months.

TITHING THE LOTTERY



Andrew Jackson "Jack" Whittaker Jr., his wife, Jewell and their granddaughter Brandi Bragg, 15, pose for a photograph after being interviewed on NBC's Today Show in New York. Whittaker won a \$113.4 million Powerball lottery payout from the Multi-State Lottery Association.

Pastors prepare for possible windfall from Powerball winner

CHARLESTON, W.Va. (AP) - One of the Church of God's basic tenets is the tithing - the donation of 10 percent of one's earnings to the parish. In Summers County, where the median income is \$21,147, that doesn't necessarily add up to big bucks.

Ten percent of \$170 million, though - that's another story. On Saturday, two days after Powerball mega-jackpot winner Andrew "Jack" Whittaker announced plans to donate \$17 million to three pastors, two of the likely recipients said they're excited, and nervous, and wondering about the details. How will the donation work? Can they use the money for their own parishes or will it be a fund they simply administer?

And most fundamentally: Did Whittaker - who mentioned the places where his donations would go but not the pastors - really mean them?

"We'll just have to wait and see what happens."

- Bishop Cecil Welch

"We'll just have to wait and see what happens," said Bishop Cecil Welch, the pastor of Whittaker's hometown parish in Hinton.

Said C.T. Mathews, senior pastor at the parish Whittaker now attends: "The whole world's looking at West Virginia."

Hinton is a rail-stop town of about 3,000 in Summers County near the Virginia border. Welch said all of his 50 members tithe to the church, including Whittaker, whom he has known for 19 years.

Whittaker hasn't contacted Welch since winning Wednesday's \$314.9 million pre-tax jackpot - the largest single

lottery ticket in history - and Welch declined to speculate in depth. But he said the parish needs a new gym and an after-school center for its youth.

Founded in 1886, the Church of God claims 6 million members in 150 countries. Among its principles are evangelism and an individual experience of God, which can include speaking in tongues.

Though Whittaker donates to the Hinton church, he and his family attend a Church of God in nearby Hurricane, where Mathews is senior pastor.

Mathews said Whittaker hasn't contacted him either. But he said Whittaker, a millionaire contractor even before the lottery hit, has already been generous in helping the church.

"We know him real well - real good people," Mathews said. He said Whittaker's wife, Jewell, teaches at a "children's church" on Wednesday nights.

War on terrorism tops Bush's election agenda

Democrats contend document reveals politicization of issue

CRAWFORD, Texas (AP) - An internal White House document outlining President Bush's re-election agenda starts with "War on terrorism (Con't)" and homeland security. It's the latest sign, critics say, that presidential advisers are seeking political gain from the Sept. 11 attacks.

The single-page, sparsely worded document titled "Possible '04 Signature Issues" was discussed this month in a White House meeting chaired by chief of staff Andrew Card to fine tune Bush's 2003 legislative agenda, several senior White House officials told The Associated Press.

White House communications director Dan Bartlett said the "Signature Issues" list does not portend efforts to make terrorism a political centerpiece in 2004 - it simply outlines a complicated set of issues Bush must confront, such as terrorism, or that he wants to put forward, such as Social Security reform, he said.

"The items reflected in this particular document speak to issues in which the country and the administration will be facing in the next few years, including the war on terrorism," Bartlett said. Bush has said the fight against terrorism will take years to win.

But Democrats said the document bolsters their claim that White House officials have methodically worked to politicize the war on terrorism - starting with tactics that helped Republicans make major gains in November's midterm elections.

"It continues to be shocking, but it's not surprising, that this administration will exploit the war on terrorism and national security issues for their advantage if they can," said Sen. John Kerry, D-Mass., who is seeking the Democratic presidential nomination.

After the midterm shelling, Democratic leaders vowed to be



President Bush
Terrorism, then health care

Health-care dilemma - CB

more critical of Bush's anti-terrorism campaign, even at the risk of politicizing the issue themselves.

The document lists 10 issues starting with the "War on terrorism (Con't)" and "Protecting the homeland (Con't)." There is no further elaboration, but the abbreviation for "continued" also is noted with the next four issues: health care costs and access; legal reform, faith-based services and education; Higher education, Social Security reform, tax reform and immigration reform round out the list.

White House officials, most of whom spoke on condition of anonymity about the list obtained by the AP, said the document was not intended to rank issues in any priority. They said it was produced by a White House aide - whom they wouldn't identify - in an effort to make sure the 2003 and 2004 agendas did not conflict.

Democrats scoffed at the explanation. "It's always been clear what they've been trying to do. You just don't very often find a document that spells it out so clearly," said Joe Lockhart, press secretary in the Clinton White House.

Screened-luggage deadline looms, but analysts don't predict gridlock

Los Angeles Times

WASHINGTON - Air travelers might face more intrusions and inconvenience when the federal government's requirement to screen all checked luggage goes into full effect Tuesday, experts in the aviation industry predict.

But massive gridlock appears unlikely, because the additional scrutiny by Transportation Security Administration screeners should take no more than 10 minutes for most passengers, government and airport officials said. That should fit within the 90-minute check-in window that airlines recommend for travelers with luggage.

"It's going to go pretty smoothly," said Kevin Mitchell, chairman of the Business Travel Coalition, an advocacy group for passengers. The security agency "got a lot of kudos for its performance over Thanksgiving, and they have a great incentive not to let the progress they made slip away."

Travel is usually light around the New Year's holiday, so any problems with the luggage checks might not emerge until the volume of passengers picks up. Some airports might prove to be more of a bottleneck than others.

Another uncertainty is the security administration's lack of a written policy for compensating travelers if items are lost or damaged during searches.

Although screening all checked luggage with explosives-detection equipment is a milestone in trying to prevent terrorist attacks, aviation security is expected to remain a work in progress for years.

Much of the equipment rushed to airports some might be rendered obsolete. Research is under way to find technology that is faster, more accurate and less bulky.

Other changes in the works include a "trusted traveler" program for people who pass background checks. Also, software developers are working on an expanded edition of a computerized passenger profiling system used to screen reservations.

A year ago, after Congress imposed the luggage screening deadline, even Transportation Secretary Norman Y. Mineta said it was unrealistic.

Now, in a major accomplishment for the security agency, most of the nation's 425 commercial airports will have the bag-screening equipment installed and operating on time.

Congress recently gave the agency some wiggle room by allowing it to grant extensions at airports that could not meet the deadline. These facilities are expected to provide comparable security by using other measures, such as bomb-sniffing dogs, hand searches and assuring that a bag gets pulled from the cargo hold if its owner fails to board the flight.

Around the country, fewer than 20 airports are expected to receive extensions, although they are likely to be large facilities such as Dallas-Fort Worth International Airport and Denver International Airport.

Security administration officials acknowledge that meeting the year-end deadline will be only a first step, but they say they had no other option.

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NATION

Increasingly, park rangers deal with crime as well as critters

Recent death helps prompt feds to consider increasing security for employees, visitors

WASHINGTON (AP) — National Park Service rangers still guide nature walks and offer information and advice to millions of visitors each year. These days, they also frequently are called upon to put their lives on the line to stop drug smugglers and apprehend violent criminals.

A series of attacks on rangers, including the fatal shooting in August of a ranger at Arizona's Organ Pipe Cactus National Monument, and a scathing report on problems in the Interior Department's law enforcement structure have officials looking at changes aimed at protecting rangers and park visitors.

Today's rangers are armed, in some cases with M-16s. They remain spread thin, however, with fewer than 1,400 patrolling 84 million acres in 387 parks, monuments and historic sites that attract more than 400 million visitors annually.

And while the National Park Service has had an increased budget in recent years, it's the bureaucracy that has increased, not the number of rangers in the field.

National Park Service Director Fran Mainella issued a set of directives this month to streamline the chain of command and patch holes in the rangers' ranks that she said were nearing critical proportions.

Problems with crime arise when staffing shortages force rangers to patrol wide expanses alone, with particular trouble along the borders and coasts, are more prone to violence than ever, said Larry Parkinson, a former FBI assistant director.

Interior Secretary Gale Norton hired Parkinson in July as a deputy assistant secretary to shape law enforcement across the department.

In the last month alone, park rangers helped chase down and arrest an armed felon at Arches National Park in Utah, helped arrest a suspected methamphetamine maker at Pae Ridge National Military Park in Arkansas and made several drug arrests along the Mexican border.

"There's no doubt about it that criminals are getting mean," said Randall Kendrick, executive director of the U.S. Park Ranger Lodge, a branch of the Fraternal Order of Police that represents park rangers. "But our agencies seem to have adapted or adjusted. The Park Service does not seem to be able to do this."

National FBI statistics indicate rangers are assaulted more often than any other federal law enforcement officers, but many people dispute the accuracy of park statistics because the Park Service does not have a standard reporting procedure. Different parks have different reporting standards, so some incidents are not reported.

Earlier this year, the Washington-based group Public Employees for Environmental Responsibility released figures that the number of attacks, threats and incidents of harassment against park service employees had risen from 57 in 1999 to 80 in 2000 and to 222 in 2001.

A report by Interior Department Inspector General Earl Devany said this year that the department's law enforcement was in disarray, its crime statistics unreliable.

Republican Sen. Charles Grassley, R-Iowa, called it "one of the most damning indictments of a federal law enforcement agency that I have ever read."

Adopting a standard reporting system is one of the changes the department is making. Others include a field training program, in which rookie rangers start out patrolling alongside veterans; and assigning to chief rangers at parks responsibility over investigations and law enforcement matters, rather than having them answer to superintendents. The superintendents often lack law enforcement training, said Murphy, former director of California's parks system.

The department also is preparing to ask Congress for more money to hire law enforcement officers, although the requests are still being worked out with Bush administration budget officials, Parkinson said.

Kendrick said part of the fight is making sure more money means more rangers. A 2000 study by the International Association of Chiefs of Police said that despite a 56 percent increase in the Park Service's



Kristopher Eggle



AP photo

Law enforcement and federal agency employees come together to say good-bye to slain Organ Pipe Cactus National Monument Ranger Kristopher Eggle during his memorial service Aug. 12 at Ajo Calvary Baptist Church in Ajo, Ariz.

Cactus National Monument, which rangers in Kendrick's group voted the most dangerous in the system because drug traffickers and alien smugglers often cut through it.

Kristopher Eggle became the third ranger shot to death on the job since 1998 when he was ambushed at Organ Pipe in August while helping Border Patrol agents catch two men suspected by Mexican officials in a drug-related killing.

His mother, Bonnie Eggle, said during a recent visit to Washington that if Congress had answered earlier pleas for more rangers, better equipment and a stronger border, her son might still be alive.

"He didn't deserve a bullet from an AK-47. He didn't deserve a 6-foot grave," Bonnie Eggle said. "But that's what he got because he was not cared for enough by those who could have made a difference."

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Report: Celebrity doc who lost license too advantage of patients

LOS ANGELES (AP) — A doctor whose license was revoked for allegedly carrying to the drug demands of Hollywood celebrities took advantage of some of his more mentally unstable and chronically ill clients, a newspaper reported Saturday.

In its investigations of Dr. Jules Lusman, the state Medical Board heard from several patients who said Lusman tried to take advantage of them, according to the Los Angeles

Times, which cited state and court records.

In one complaint, a frail Pacific Palisades woman said the doctor tried to get her to co-sign for his mortgage, according to state records.

In another, a man accused Lusman of stealing his Rolex watch. After Lusman showed him a bill for his services, the man concluded he must have handed over the watch while in a narcotic haze, records showed.

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Merger

Continued from A1
off, Magic Valley Regional stepped in.
Ugalde said she continues to see the doctors she has always seen at the Clinic. But she now goes to the smaller St. Benedict's Family Medical Center in Jerome for her other health-care needs, such as mammograms.

"At Magic Valley, you're just a bigger," Ugalde said. "I want to go somewhere where they know my name."
But Dr. Robert Lobb, the Clinic's former chief of staff at Magic Valley Regional, said Ugalde seems to be in the minority among former Clinic patients.

"There were a lot of patients who were definitely against it, and some were very vocal about it," Lobb said. "But the overall feeling is people who were negative prior to the merger have found their experience for the most part positive."
Those include 82-year-old Reva Clark, who was not only a Clinic patient, but also a Clinic employee before her 1992 retirement. Clark recently found herself a patient at Magic Valley Regional.

She said she realized there was nothing to be afraid of.
"This is a good place - a good, small hospital," Clark said. "People have gone out of their way to be nice to me. Before they walk in the door, they put a smile on their face, and they are so good to you."

Likewise for Roberta Beus, a patient down the hall from Clark. Like Clark, Beus also worked for the Clinic, first as a bookkeeper and later as a stenographer in the 1950s and 60s. But she has been happy with her care at Magic Valley Regional.

"I've had excellent care here, especially from the young aides," Beus said from her hospital bed. "They're always pleasant and helpful."

Boosting service or profits?

The Clinic opened its doors in 1947 with just 10 inpatient beds. By the time Magic Valley Regional bought it a year ago for \$16.1 million, it had grown to 44 inpatient beds. It included an emergency room, an eight-bed intensive care unit, a full-service laboratory, an X-ray department and an integrated oncology department.

At the time of the sale, Magic Valley Regional leaders tried to reassure patients they'd see no big changes in services.

"As we have negotiated this agreement, the best interests of our community have been our utmost concern," Magic Valley's then-CEO, Jerry Hart, said in October 2001. "This is not just a decision about the business of delivering health care. It is a unique opportunity for us to bring benefits to health-care consumers."

Magic Valley Regional brass promised patients would see expanded services, and less duplication would keep health care costs down.

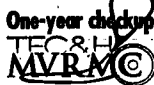
But some patients continue to contend the purchase had more to do with boosting Magic Valley Regional's bottom line than improving health care for patients.

"It's supposedly a public-owned facility, and it sneaks under the table to buy it the way they did," said Frank Mascari, who has been a patient at both the former Clinic and Magic Valley Regional. "I have a big problem with that. If they had such a big surplus of

The bottom line

The Twin Falls Clinic and Hospital purchase turned Magic Valley Regional Medical Center into a bigger operation. Some key facts and figures:

- MORE PATIENTS**
• The hospital admitted 10,227 patients during the 2001-02 fiscal year, which ended Sept. 30. That's up from 8,649 the previous year.
- MORE REVENUE**
• Total inpatient revenue was \$88.2 million, up from \$67.4 million the previous year.
- Outpatient revenue was \$59 million, up from \$51.1 million the year before.
- After deductions, the hospital ended Sept. 30, up from \$75 million the previous year.
- MORE COSTS**
• The hospital spent \$37.8 million in fiscal year 2001-02. That's up from \$27.2 million the previous year.
- Salaries cost \$37 million, up from



One-year checkup
\$32 million the previous year.
• Supplies cost \$14.7 million, up from \$12.9 million the year before.

THE BOTTOM LINE
• The hospital ended up with \$4.3 million in net income, down from \$4.9 million the year before.
• The hospital has \$111 million in total assets, up from \$92 million the previous year.

RISING FEES
• Health care fees at Magic Valley Regional will rise 4.5 percent this year. That's less than last year's 6 percent increase and considerably less than the 12 percent national average, according to Chief Financial Officer John Groesbeck.

What they're saying

"At the Clinic, your bill would be submitted to the insurance company and the Clinic would send you a bill for the balance. Now the hospital wants your money up front. They say, 'If you don't give us your money now, you don't get service.'"
- Frank Masland, who's been a patient at both the former Clinic and Magic Valley Regional

"I've gotten very good care."
- Magic Valley Regional patient Juan Lamprich of Burley

"Where patients have solid relationships with their physicians, those relationships haven't changed with this at all."
- Jamie Drusey, Magic Valley Regional's vice president of patient services

"It became numbers instead of patients. All of our patients had to re-register all over again. Why not take our registration forms and use them as their own? The elderly get tired of filling out things all over again."
- Roseanne Turner, a former Clinic pharmacist, now working at St. Benedict's Family Medical Center

"They shouldn't feel apprehensive. They have a good attitude here. On a scale of 1 to 10, I'd rate them 9 or 9.5."
- Reva Clark, a former Clinic patient who recently was treated at Magic Valley Regional Medical Center

money, they could have spent it on people who need medical care - not on a new hospital, not put another hospital out of business."

Doctors see benefits

Doctors say they already experiencing some benefits from the sale, with the two formerly competing groups of doctors coming together as a team.

Before Magic Valley Regional bought the Clinic, Dr. Lobb had been a supporter of medical choice. As a former Clinic board chairman, he defended the value of competition in the medical marketplace and opposed creating a one-hospital town.

"We did tout competition as good because it provided alternatives," he acknowledged recently. But now he champions the oppo-

sive viewpoint.
"Competition in health care is different than competition in other businesses," he said.

One benefit of the sale, in Lobb's eyes, is the luxury of a full night's sleep.

"We now have emergency room physicians in place to take care of whatever is perceived as an emergency," Lobb said. "We've learned to rely on them as well as trust them to care for our patients. Before, we didn't have emergency room doctors. We'd get called at 2:30 in the morning to come down and check someone's sore throat."

Magic Valley Regional's updated computer information system is also a bonus, Lobb said. With the click of a mouse, doctors can see just what their fellow doctors are doing for their patients, better coordinating care.

"If I want to see what lab have been done, we can just pull it up on the computer," Lobb said.

Of course, there have been some challenges. Clinic doctors used to be able to hop on an elevator to do patient rounds. Now they have to drive a few miles from their downtown offices. When they get there, there are more patients to see.

"Coordinating care and getting studies done in a timely, patient-friendly situation is harder because of the increase in volume," Lobb said. "It can be time-consuming for the patient."

Dr. David McClusky, whose father helped found the Clinic, agrees.

"Service has changed," McClusky said. "My patients used to be able to go to my office, down to the lab and to X-ray in an hour and a half. Now it's a two-day process. I'm used to care happening at a faster rate. The biggest frustration is that it's the patients who are inconvenienced."

McClusky, a third-generation doctor, said practicing the art of medicine is becoming more and more difficult in today's medical world.
"If I have a complaint, it's not about the merger," McClusky said. "It's about the incapacitating paperwork and rules we have to live under in this day and age of health care. The problem is the health care system. Half of what I do has no value to my patients."

Times-News writer Sandy Miller can be reached at 735-3264 or by e-mail at smiller@magicvalley.com.

Family, friends mourn soldier killed in firefight in Afghanistan

NEW YORK (AP) - Friends, relatives and fellow soldiers gathered Saturday to grieve for a U.S. paratrooper killed during a firefight in eastern Afghanistan, with a major general calling him a "servant of our nation."
Sgt. Steven Checo, 22, a soldier in the 82nd Airborne Division, died Dec. 21 from a gunshot wound.

A funeral Mass in Spanish was held at Mother Cabrini Church, not far from where the child of Dominican immigrants grew up in the Manhattan neighborhood of Washington Heights. He and his family had moved to Elizabeth, N.J., about three years ago.

"Not only has he served, but he has given the ultimate sacrifice, his life, so you and I can be free in this land of ours," the Rev. Joseph Orlando told mourners.

Cardinal Edward Egan also offered a prayer during the Mass.

After the funeral, Checo was honored with a 21-gun salute at a cemetery in the Bronx, where his body was to be cremated, by uniformed soldiers from the 82nd Airborne. The division commander, Maj. Gen. Chuck Swannack, presented flags to his mother and father.

"He was a very dedicated, faithful, servant of our nation," Swannack told reporters after the service.

"You don't know how proud of



U.S. Army soldiers carry the body of Sgt. Steven Checo during his funeral at Mother Cabrini Church Saturday in the Manhattan neighborhood of Washington Heights. Checo, 22, a soldier in the 82nd Airborne Division, died Dec. 21 from a gunshot wound during a firefight in eastern Afghanistan.

him we are," said his brother, Erik Checo.

Checo was the 17th American killed in hostile action in Afghanistan since the war on terror began late last year.

As a boy, he had been active with a Navy-based youth group and wanted to join the military

"from the get-go," said his uncle, Gilberto Checo. "That was his life."

A member of the youth group, Neglinson Garcia, said Saturday that Checo was the "peacekeeper" among his friends.

"I'm going to miss him a lot," Garcia said.

Boy Scout ousted for atheism files appeal

The Seattle Times

SEATTLE - Darrell Lambert, the 19-year-old who was tossed out of the Boy Scouts last month for being an atheist, has asked the organization to reconsider.

Lambert wrote a five-page appeal and sent it to the Boy Scouts of America's Western Region office in Tempe, Ariz., on Monday. In the 10 years he has been in the group, he earned 37 merit badges, attained the highest rank of Eagle Scout and was named assistant scoutmaster, a leadership position in his Port

Orchard, Wash., troop.

His mother is the scoutmaster, and most of Troop 1531 supports him. If he didn't fight back, Lambert believes he'd be abandoning them.

"I don't think it's right for them to kick me out," Lambert said. "I've shown I can be a good citizen without believing in God."

The Chief Seattle Council of the Boy Scouts, the regional governing body, revoked Lambert's membership last month. The council is referring media questions to the national office. Gregg Shields, the national spokesman,

is on vacation.

The national media, including The Washington Post, The New York Times, National Public Radio and CNN, have covered the story. And, by scrupulously calling reporters back last month, he racked up a nearly \$300 phone bill.

There are 12 points to the Boy Scout law. Scouts must be trustworthy, loyal, helpful, reverent and cheerful, among other things. Reverent not only means respectful but "reverent to God." Which of the points get enforced depends on the local chapter.



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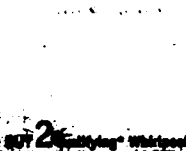
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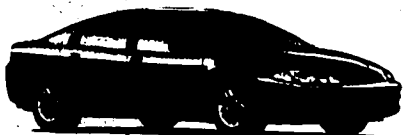
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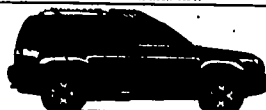
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Ban or not?: Congress faces next step in cloning issue

By Louan Neergaard
Associated Press writer

WASHINGTON - Real or hoax, the claim that the world's first human clone has been born puts the next step squarely into Congress' court: Will it ban baby-making via cloning?

President Bush led a conservative drumbeat Friday, urging lawmakers to take that step. But even a ban would reach only so far - presumably people could still go abroad to seek cloning experiments.

The nation has no specific law against human cloning. But the Food and Drug Administration, which regulates human experiments, contends that its regulations forbid human cloning without prior agency permission - permission it has no intention of giving.

FDA officials already are investigating whether Clonaid, a company that claimed to have produced the cloned baby girl born to an American woman, illegally performed any of the work on U.S. soil.

There is broad support in Congress for an overt ban of cloning to produce babies, partly from concern that FDA's authority won't hold up in court.

But many senators are not averse to cloning embryos solely for research that could cure diseases such as Alzheimer's or diabetes, and they blocked passage of legislation that would ban that type of cloning, too.

Now the question is whether the uproar over an alleged cloned baby will break that stalemate - and if so, whether Bush and his allies would succeed in also banning the cloning of embryonic cells for medical research.

Clonaid's announcement "should serve as a chilling reminder that individuals are still trying to clone human beings," said incoming Senate Majority Leader Bill Frist, R-Tenn., a physician who backs a ban on all forms of human cloning.

Lawmakers expressed skepticism Friday that Clonaid, a company formed by a sect that

believes in extraterrestrials, had indeed produced a clone.

Still, leading Republicans, backed by some powerful religious groups, called for a quick ban when Congress returns next month.

"The president believes, like most Americans, that human cloning is deeply troubling," said White House spokesman Scott McClellan. "Despite the widespread skepticism among scientists and medical professionals about today's announcement, it underscores the need for the

new Congress to act."

But lawmakers who had pushed for a compromise studiously avoided comment Friday, whether it proves true or a hoax would warm efforts to keep cloning for medical research legal.

"This science offers us enormous hope," said Michael Mangillo of the Coalition for the Advancement of Medical Research, which is preparing to fight again for so-called therapeutic cloning.

Idaho pastors show concern over cloning

NAMPA (AP) - Some Treasure Valley pastors expressed concern Friday after a cloning company announced that a baby girl had been born and was a clone of her mother.

Bob Hines, senior pastor at Broadway Avenue Baptist Church, said that if claims from Clonaid are true, the company has crossed an ethical line.

"God is the creator of life," he said. "This is not a science that men need to be getting involved in, that we need to go forward on."

Ronald Clagg, the pastor of the New Life Celebration Church of God in Caldwell, said cloning efforts will likely fall short of creating a complete human being.

"It would be pretty tough to create someone and give them the creative traits God would give them," Clagg said. "Every human being is actually a body with a soul. That gives them the capacity to think and choose and feel."

"How can they give this, whatever it is, a soul? No one's really dealt with that issue as far as I've heard."

Hines added that cloning technology raises difficult, and complicated, questions.

"You begin to make decisions on what the criteria is for quality of life, and who decides what criteria is chosen for that?"

UFO's and Raelians claim - it's not science as usual

Experts struggle with validity of group's assertions

By Matt Cronson
Associated Press writer

In the beginning, it was a news conference like any other. A few minutes after 9 Friday morning, a woman stepped up to a podium in a South Florida hotel meeting room and began to speak.

Then things got weird. Brigitte Boisselier, a striking French woman with haphazardly dyed red hair, talked about the origins of life. She discussed her beliefs as a member of a religion, the Raelian sect, that preaches that we were all created by extraterrestrials. She bitterly accused the international press of unfairly labeling her a fraud and repeatedly pronounced it "my day."

Then Boisselier claimed that with the Cesarean delivery of a baby girl on Thursday to undisclosed parents in an undisclosed location, one of the most incredible feats in the history of science had been achieved: the birth of a cloned human.

This is not how science usually gets done. Accustomed to getting their news from staid, peer-reviewed scientific journals and monotonous meeting presentations, cloning experts had no idea how to evaluate Boisselier's claim.

"One has to be really skeptical at this point. One has to see real, clear, independent verification," said Ronald M. Green, a Dartmouth College biologist who advises Massachusetts biotech company Advanced Cell Technology on ethical matters.

Boisselier, a former chemistry professor, said she had expected that objection. So she had a throng of reporters that she had engaged one of their own to arrange for DNA testing of the mother and her alleged clone.

Michael Guillen, a former science correspondent for ABC's "Good Morning America," stepped forward and explained that in about a week he would have DNA evidence of the genetic relationship between mother



Brigitte Boisselier, chief executive of Clonaid, and Claude Vorilhon, founder of the Raelian movement, answer questions on CNN's 'Newsnight with Aaron Brown' in North Miami Beach, Fla., Friday. Boisselier announced that Clonaid has produced the world's first cloned baby human.

and alleged clone.

Most major scientific advances do not come from laboratories headed by people who believe that little green aliens came to Earth to tell a former auto-racing journalist, Rael founder Claude Vorilhon, that they had created the human race through genetic engineering. And they usually aren't revealed at Holiday Inn press conferences in Hollywood, Fla., about 25 miles down the coast from the headquarters of the National Enquirer.

For example, when Advanced Cell Technology developed a way last year to clone human embryos as a source of tissue for transplantation, it reported the advance in the Journal of Regenerative Medicine.

When Ian Wilmut of the Roslin Institute in Scotland kicked off the cloning frenzy by creating Dolly the sheep in 1997, he told the world in the British Journal Nature.

Even when they do convene

news conferences, triumphant scientists usually hold them on university campuses or at the headquarters of scientific societies.

The scientists working with Boisselier have never published any results anywhere relating to their cloning effort. It's because they fear the negative backlash if they do, Boisselier explained Friday.

Experts differ on exactly how hard it would be to make a serious attempt at human cloning. The process involves removing the genes from an egg cell, then replacing them with DNA from a donor. Under the proper conditions, scientists can then stimulate the modified cell to begin dividing and implant it in a mother. If things go well after that - and often they don't - it is pregnancy as usual.

To do this, you need a machine that costs about \$100,000 and a technician who has experience using it to inject cells into other cells under a

microscope. There are probably a few hundred such machines in the United States, cloning expert Mark Westhusin of Texas A&M University estimated.

You also need the proper chemical baths to dunk the cells in, plus a source of donated eggs

and a willing fertility clinic to fetch them for you. You need a decently outfitted biology lab with a few pieces of specialized equipment and access to the few hundred papers that have been published - on mammalian cloning in the last few years.

"It might cost you several million dollars in total," Westhusin said.

There's a legal question, too. The United States has no specific law against human cloning, but the Food and Drug Administration, which regulates human experiments, contends its regulations forbid human cloning without prior agency permission - which it has no intention of giving. President Bush went a step further Friday, urging lawmakers to ban baby-making via cloning.

Boisselier said her scientists have worked in several labs. They began working with human cells in January, she said, after experimenting for more than a year on cattle.

As one of several scientists who finally succeeded in cloning pigs after two years of trying, University of Georgia cloning expert Steve Stice finds that timeline a bit hard to swallow.

"That's an awfully steep learning curve," he said. "It's awfully unlikely in my mind that they could be that successful that quickly."

Well-known scientists have failed to clone monkeys, which as primates ought to be more like humans than the four-footed mammals that have been cloned so far.

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NATION



John Taylor, the U.S. Treasury Department's undersecretary for international affairs, right, and U.S. Undersecretary of State Marc Grossman speak to the media after their talks with Turkish Foreign Ministry officials Saturday in Ankara.

U.S. offers Turkey aid to offset Iraq war impact

ANKARA, Turkey (AP) — The United States and its key ally Turkey have agreed on the shape of an aid package to help Turkey's struggling economy withstand a possible war in neighboring Iraq, a U.S. official said Saturday.

"On the economic assistance package, we've made some good progress. We've established an agreement on the overall structure of the assistance," John Taylor, the Treasury Department's undersecretary for international affairs, told reporters at the end of two days of talks in the Turkish capital.

Taylor did not elaborate on the scope of the aid, but characterized it as "flexible" and "adaptable."

Turkish news reports have said Turkey is demanding up to \$28 billion in support, but the report says the amount could vary according to what type of operation takes place.

"The overall magnitude is not the thing that we focused on. We focused on trying to make it as useful for Turkey in the event of a conflict," Taylor said. "Our assistance package is part of preparation, but the purpose is to avoid conflict."

Turkey's support is crucial to any U.S. military operation against Iraq, and Turkey was a staging point for air raids during the 1991 Gulf War. But Turkey ends a peaceful solution to the situation, fearing a new war could devastate its economy or destabilize the region.

"Agreement was reached that this support must be — adaptive, quick, flexible, effective and changing," Economy Minister Ali Babacan said in a written statement.

Turkish newspapers have

reported that Washington is looking to use Turkish bases, ports and railroads and possibly deploy tens of thousands of troops to Turkey. The U.S. and Turkish governments have not commented.

Turkey says it has lost up to \$40 billion in trade with Iraq over the past decade.

"There's going to be an economic loss during this war," Turkish Foreign Minister Yasar Yakis said Saturday, according to the semi-official Anatolia news agency. "We're telling the United States: You need to support us so we can get over these difficulties."

Turkey's military and political leaders met Friday to discuss Washington's "expectations from Turkey" in a war, but did not say if they would extend help to Washington.

The United States is Turkey's most important ally. Although Turkey's leaders have long expressed opposition to a war, Turkey is likely to have little choice but to extend support to the United States if Washington resorts to war.

Washington's support was key to helping Ankara receive some \$16 billion in loans, amid a recession that saw Turkey's economy shrink 9.4 percent last year. Taylor said Turkey was making good progress in implementing belt-tightening measures and its economy was recovering from the crisis.

Turkey especially fears that a war to depose Iraqi leader Saddam Hussein could open the way to independent Kurdish state in northern Iraq. That, Turkish leaders fear, could encourage Kurdish rebels who waged a 15-year war in southeastern Turkey.

Northern Iraqi city could be key

Saddam considers Kirkuk his capital after Baghdad

By Robin Wright — Los Angeles Times

CHAMSHAMAL, Iraq — Just 30 minutes down the road from this isolated checkpoint, beyond Iraqi troops and artillery deployed on a rocky ridge, lies a city that could make or break a U.S. intervention in Iraq.

Kirkuk might be one of the first stops for American troops. The northern Iraqi city's importance was first hinted at in the Old Testament. King Nebuchadnezzar cast the Jews of Babylon into a "burning fiery furnace" — a site that some Middle East scholars believe was the endless flame from Kirkuk's natural gas, a clue to oil deposits discovered some 2,500 years later that give modern Iraq its economic and strategic importance.

But protecting Iraq's oil wells to ensure that President Saddam Hussein's forces don't destroy them, as they did to Kuwait's rigs before withdrawing from that country in 1991, is only one reason that U.S. troops might deploy in this city. More important, say U.S. officials and Iraqi dissidents, is its ethnic makeup.

Kirkuk is the Jerusalem of Iraq, a city of about 900,000 with conflicting claims on the land that symbolize a bigger flash point. Rivalries are so deep that any scramble for the city could become a war within a war — with Iraqis fighting among themselves to claim it, potentially dragging in neighboring countries.

"Taking Baghdad will determine the outcome of the war. Sorting out Kirkuk will determine what happens afterward," predicted a senior U.S. official.

In an ironic twist on the conflict over Jerusalem, Arabs dominate Kirkuk, largely because of a deliberate and decades-long campaign by the Iraqi leader to change the makeup of its population.

Between 120,000 and 200,000 Kurds as well as other Turkomans and Assyrians have been expelled from Kirkuk since 1991, according to U.N. officials and a recent Human Rights Watch report. Tens of thousands were forced out in earlier decades.

Most were dumped at this lonely checkpoint, where Kurdish guards man a small concrete shelter, or two other crossing points into the northern Iraqi enclave known as Kurdistan. And most are still waiting near here to reclaim the seized land, homes and possessions turned over to Arabs during Saddam's rule and



A mock victim of a chemical attack is treated inside a decontamination tent during a drill at a beach resort in Fintas, 18 miles south of Kuwait City on Monday. Kuwait's Civil Defense Department conducts regular chemical and biological warfare drills in several locations in preparation for any attack from Iraq in case of an armed conflict in the area.



SOURCES: Associated Press, GlobalSecurity.org, CIA

to bring Kirkuk back under Kurdish control.

"Kirkuk is the embodiment of the Kurds' suffering in Iraq. It's the place of the most brutal campaign of ethnic cleansing, which continues to this day," said Barham Salih of the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan, or PUK, which controls this checkpoint and half the Kurdish enclave that has gained self-rule since 1991 under protection from U.S. and British warplanes.

"For Iraq to be peaceful and rid of its terrible past, any new government has to redress the injuries of the people of Kirkuk," said Salih, prime minister in the eastern sector of Kurdistan.

A recent study by the Brookings Institution warned that, if Saddam is toppled, the anger and plight of hundreds of thousands of displaced people could ignite "political struggles

that are now dormant, suppressed by the larger struggle against the regime in Baghdad."

But undoing the past presents its own problems, which is why American troops are likely to try to take and hold Kirkuk as one of the early acts of any military operation, U.S. officials say. The goal will be to prevent any race for the land by Kurds and other displaced minorities — and the outbreak of an internal war that could divert U.S. attention and unravel the postwar transition.

In the confusion of conflict, that might be a tough assignment, U.S. analysts and Kurdish officials concede.

Kirkuk's status has been a top issue since the Kurdish parliament resumed in October after a six-year hiatus due to internal tensions. One proposal calls for Kirkuk to be named the capital of Kurdistan — a step that could provoke other ethnic groups.

It could also anger Turkey, which traditionally sees Kirkuk as a stronghold for Iraq's ethnic Turkomans, a smaller minority. Turkey also fears the impact that a stronger Kurdish region would have on its own restive Kurds,

who are the world's largest ethnic group without a state. Even Kurds recognize that any attempt by their fighters to capture the city could provoke Turkish military intervention.

Any move by Turkey might in turn draw in neighboring Iran. The Arab world also could become concerned if Kurds — who are ethnically Indo-European — should try to take back the homes, businesses and land given to Arabs.

In an attempt to calm the passions, Kurdish leaders lately have begun taking a pragmatic line.

The PUK and the Kurdistan Democratic Party, or KDP — the two dominant northern parties — have pledged that Kirkuk's prized oil fields, discovered in 1927, should continue to be administered by the central government in the capital, Baghdad. The area, one of two leading Iraqi oil sites, produces as much as 1 million barrels a day and has more than 10 billion barrels of proven reserves, according to oil analysts.

But Kurds do insist that oil revenues benefit the local population.

As required, Iraq hands over list of scientists to U.N.

BAGHDAD, Iraq (AP) — Baghdad complied with a key United Nations demand Saturday by delivering a list to weapons inspectors naming over 500 scientists linked to Iraq's nuclear, chemical, biological and missile programs, a U.N. official said.

U.N. weapons sleuths hope that the list, written in Arabic, will open new avenues to learning more about Iraq's suspected weapons of mass destruction programs.

In the world body's tough new sanctions regime, U.N. inspectors are allowed to speak to Iraqi scientists in private — an option Washington hopes will prompt scientists to reveal hidden arms programs.

So far, inspectors have interviewed two key scientists — both in the past week. Both, however, refused to talk alone with U.N. officials, and Iraqi officials remained present.

"We have received from the Iraqi National Monitoring Directorate a list of names of personnel associated with Iraq's chemical, biological, nuclear and ballistic missile programs," Hiro Uchi, the spokesman for the U.N. office in Baghdad, told reporters Saturday. The list contained more than 500 names, he said.

The list hand-over marks Baghdad's latest show of cooperation toward the new weapons inspections. While strenuously denying it possesses arms of mass destruction, Iraq has so far complied with most Security Council requirements, including allowing the initial return of inspectors, giving access to sites the experts

want to search and delivering its Dec. 7 declaration on the state of its weapons programs.

If Iraq convinces inspectors it is not hiding weapons of mass destruction, it might avoid a U.S. strike. But inspectors have said Iraq's weapons declaration is wanting, and America has dismissed it as a lie.

Security Council Resolution 1441 allows inspectors to take willing scientists out of Iraq to interview them. Iraqi officials have said they don't think that is necessary but will allow it if a scientist consents.

Since arriving in Baghdad on Nov. 27, inspectors have been speaking to engineers and experts at sites they have searched. But there have only been two reported interviews with Iraqi scientists, with the first occurring Tuesday.

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Investigation points to link between al-Qaida, African diamonds

The Washington Post

ANTWERP, Belgium — An aggressive year-long European investigation into al-Qaida financing has found evidence that two West African governments hosted the senior terrorist operatives who oversaw a \$20 million diamond-buying spree that effectively cornered the market on the region's precious stones.

Investigators from several countries concluded that President Charles Taylor of Liberia received a \$1 million payment for arranging to harbor the operatives, who were in the region for at least two months after the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks on New York and the Pentagon. The terrorists moved between a protected area in Liberia and the presidential compound in neighboring Burkina Faso, investigators say.

Long accused of sanctioning illicit diamond and weapons trad-

ing, Taylor and President Blaise Compaore of Burkina Faso deny the charge, but it is included in a summary of the joint intelligence findings.

The Washington Post obtained a copy of the military intelligence summary, which offers the clearest picture yet of al-Qaida's secretive business operations in West Africa and an elaborate plot that began in 1998 to hide substantial terrorist assets in diamonds. This account draws on interviews with senior investigators, the intelligence report and documents obtained independently that verify its findings. The Post also interviewed two sources with direct knowledge of certain events, who asked that their names not be used for fear of retribution.

European and Latin American investigations also found evidence that a group of people buying diamonds on behalf of the terrorists were simultaneously

Long accused of sanctioning illicit diamond and weapons trading, Liberian President Charles Taylor and President Blaise Compaore of Burkina Faso deny the charge.

attempting to procure sophisticated weapons, such as missiles that could shoot down aircraft. The Post has learned. Investigators have been unable to trace the diamonds since they left Liberia and Burkina Faso.

The diamond-buying operation appears to have been hatched in response to a move by the United States in 1998 to freeze al-Qaida assets after attacks on two U.S. embassies in Africa that were blamed on the organization. Senior European intelligence sources said they have been baffled by the lack of U.S. interest, particularly by the CIA, in their recent findings. The CIA, which in the past has downplayed reports of al-Qaida's diamond

connections, declined to comment.

In the weeks after the Sept. 11 attacks, the U.S. Defense Intelligence Agency did try to monitor the two senior al-Qaida operatives supervising the diamond trading, who were known to be hiding in an elite military camp in Liberia. Both men were on the FBI's Most Wanted list of terrorists. The Pentagon prepared a small Special Forces team in neighboring Guinea to snatch the two, but the mission was not carried out because the team could not confirm the targets' identities, according to sources.

The European law enforcement investigations, launched

soon after Sept. 11, have focused on three people who allegedly served as conduits to the al-Qaida operatives: Aziz Nassour, a Lebanese diamond merchant; his cousin Samih Osailey; and Ibrahim Bah, a Senegalese soldier of fortune who has trafficked for years in diamonds and guns across Africa. All three deny involvement with al-Qaida or in illegal activities.

Al-Qaida's diamond purchases were first reported in The Washington Post 13 months ago. Subsequent investigations by Belgian police and other European intelligence agencies have shed new light on the operation's scope, its financing and al-Qaida's extensive ties in West Africa.

Several other efforts have been underway to unravel illicit diamond trade through Liberia and its links to weapons smuggling and terrorism. A specially appointed U.N. panel of experts

has studied the issue, and the Security Council in 2001 accepted the panel's recommendation to ban international travel by Taylor, his family and senior government officials.

Much of the new evidence of al-Qaida's diamond plot flows from the April 12 arrest here of Osailey, who is in prison awaiting trial on charges of diamond smuggling and illegal weapons sales. Osailey is involved with a small diamond importing company believed to have been used by the al-Qaida operatives. He has pleaded not guilty.

In Osailey's case, Belgian investigators say they uncovered bank records showing that the diamond company enjoyed a sudden surge in business and turned over almost \$1 billion in the year before Sept. 11. Investigators also have found telephone records of calls to Afghanistan, Pakistan, Iraq and Iran.

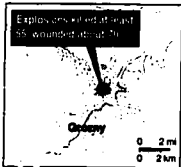
Fatal Chechen blast has Russia still reeling

Los Angeles Times

MOSCOW — As the death toll from a double suicide blast in Chechnya grew to at least 55, Russian officials on Saturday were desperately seeking to explain how the attackers got through several military checkpoints to bomb the pro-Moscow government headquarters — the most heavily protected building in Grozny.

Friday's attack, which injured more than 120, raised new doubts about Moscow's Chechnya policy, but officials vowed to press ahead with a referendum on the republic's future, due in March.

Critics, however, questioned official claims that the Chechen conflict is over and that the republic is stable enough for a meaningful referendum.



SOURCES Associated Press. **ESPI** AP terrorism is to "give up political stereotypes and double standards" — referring to Russia's view that Chechen rebels should be hunted as vigorously as al-Qaida militants are pursued.

Zhilin said the attack "testifies to the fact that (the Russian forces) do not control anything in Chechnya, not even their own HQ. If a couple of suicide drivers can stage a successful attack on a government complex, it means only one thing: There is utter disorder there."

Victor Kazantsev, Putin's representative in the Caucasus, placed the blame on authorities in Chechnya. "Those in charge of the security of the government compound did exceptionally badly. Carelessness was shown by many, from a rank-and-file soldier to high-ranking people," he said, suggesting, without naming names, that a Chechen minister had been negligent.

Kazantsev insisted that if well-established security procedures had been followed, the attack could never have succeeded.

Chechen Prime Minister Mikhail Babich said investigators were looking into how the bombers managed to bring so many explosives into central Grozny.

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Bush seeks to increase pressure on N. Korea

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Bush administration is prepared to dramatically intensify economic pressure on North Korea through Asian allies and the United Nations unless Pyongyang stops its nuclear weapons programs, U.S. officials said Saturday.

U.N. inspectors will leave — Page A1

The strategy hinges on the belief of U.S. officials that North Korea's neighbors, thus far unwilling to crack down on the communist regime, will grow impatient and nervous if the situation worsens.

After several days of escalating tensions, President Bush's advisers are pondering ways to confront North Korea with the prospect of economic collapse if it continues to seek new

atomic weapons on top of the one or two Kim Jong Il's government is believed already to have.

Neither that ultimate goal nor the tactics themselves are dramatically different from the administration's approach since the fall. But administration officials, eager to show they're responding to North Korea's defiance, are recasting their approach with an emphasis on the economic impact of U.S. actions.

If North Korea does not change course, the administration could find it necessary to encourage neighboring coun-

tries to reduce economic ties with Pyongyang, officials said on condition of anonymity. They said the administration is even considering asking South Korea to break all ties with the North if the situation does not improve.

After discussing the tentative plans Saturday, administration officials tried to soften the impact later in the day out of concern the Asian allies might feel they were being manipulated by the United States.

They emphasized in the subsequent interviews that it may well be that if North Korea continues to defy the international commu-

nity, U.S. pressure won't be needed to spur the allies into action because they will want to crack down on North Korea on their own.

Assistant Secretary of State James Kelly or another envoy is expected to visit the region next month to sound out the countries involved and encourage a united front.

Lawmakers urged the administration Saturday to form a united front with North Korea's neighbors to pressure Pyongyang.

The administration is also quietly encouraging the U.N. monitoring agency to take the crisis to the Security Council, where economic sanctions could be threatened.

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WORLD

Protesters borrow from Villa's bag of tricks

MEXICO CITY (AP) - There's a Pancho Villa revival going on, but it's not the books, the new Antonio Banderas movie or the nostalgia wave that worries some Mexicans. It's the real-life reawakening of Villa's violence.

Rising social unrest swept to the pinnacles of power Dec. 10 when protesters on horseback broke down the ornate wooden doors of Congress and surged into the lower legislative chamber to demand subsidies for farmers and pay raises for teachers.

The protest was reminiscent of Villa's sweep across northern Mexico in the 1910-17 revolution, when he and his pistol-packing, horse-riding soldiers would burst through the gates of elegant haciendas to loot the rich landowners.

The invasion stunned lawmakers. The time for such violence is long past, all parties agreed - even Mexico's leftist Democratic Revolution Party, which itself has flirted with violent demonstrations and rebellions.

"These violent pressure tactics are not the way to solve society's just demands," Democratic



Ranchers on horses stand in one of the interior patios of the national legislature in Mexico City Dec. 10 after breaking into the building and demanding a meeting with legislators over subsidies and teacher pay. The scene was reminiscent of revolutionary hero Pancho Villa's tactics in the early 1900s.

Revolution congressional leader Jesus Ortega said.

To some Mexicans, though, Villa remains a hero and his

methods still appeal. Few embody Mexico's chaotic violence, devil-may-care attitude, sense of rough justice and spon-

aneous rebellion as much as the revolutionary leader.

His image has gone commercial, with restaurants from San Francisco to Moscow adopting Villa's name or grinning face as trademarks. New Mexico even has a state park named for Villa - at the site of the 1916 raid where Villa's men crossed into the United States and killed 18 Americans.

The Antonio Banderas movie now in production in Mexico, "And Starring Pancho Villa as Himself," is expected to be a largely sympathetic view.

Recent writings like historian Friedrich Katz's 1998 two-volume biography, "The Life and Times of Pancho Villa," have cast the revolutionary as a social crusader who cut taxes and built schools during his brief time in power.

"Pancho Villa is synonymous with the fight against injustice," said Adolfo Lopez, a Mexico City assemblyman who in 1988 founded a rough-and-tumble slum group named the Francisco Villa Popular Front to fight for affordable housing.

Mexicans scoff at Spaniard playing revolutionary hero

MEXICO CITY (AP) - Mexicans are not taking kindly to the idea of Pancho Villa, the stout, pistol-packing hero of the 1910-1917 revolution, being played by a spindly Spaniard for an American audience - two nationalities Villa loathed.

Spanish actor Antonio Banderas filmed the HBO movie "And Starring Pancho Villa as Himself" at a time when Hollywood's treatment of history is becoming a sensitive point for Mexicans. Actress Salma Hayek recently starred as Mexican artist Frida Kahlo in a Hollywood movie filmed entirely in Mexican-accented English.

Some Americans, on the other hand, may not like the largely sympathetic treatment the HBO film is apparently giving Villa, who led the last army to invade the United States, killing 18 Americans during a 1916 raid on Columbus, N.M.

Modern-day Villa imitators like Adolfo Lopez Villarreal - who founded a rough-and-tumble slum group named the Francisco Villa Popular Front in Mexico City in



Antonio Banderas

1988 - aren't happy about the HBO film.

"They should have given the role to a Mexican," Villarreal said. "I like Banderas, but he's a Spaniard. I think there are Mexican actors who could do the role well."

America Del Valle, a 21-year-old student, knows a thing or two about Villa-style politics. In July, she helped lead a modern peasant uprising in Atenco, a town east of Mexico City. She egged on machete-wielding farmers on horseback, took hostages, hijacked gas tanker trucks and threatened to blow them up - all in the name of defending the town's land. "It's very Hollywood, to use big-name actors who have never participated in real-life political movements to depict revolutionaries," Del Valle said in a telephone interview from the farming town of Atenco.

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EDITORIAL

Delivering results is key to ARTEC's survival

The departure of David Sass, executive director for the Advanced Regional Technical Education Center...

Our view: The exit of top leaders from the Advanced Regional Technical Education Center bode ill for the agency's future.

What do you think? We welcome viewpoints from our readers on this and other issues.

The number of ARTEC students rose, but many stayed on their home campuses. ARTEC's core concept foresaw kids traveling to specialized programs in other towns...

ARTEC's quest for shared technical education has enjoyed highs and lows, but over time the mistakes have exceeded the hits.

Although the idea of creating a technical outreach program to serve the valley's various high schools sounded promising at first, it hasn't stood the test of time.

The Times-News Publisher: Stephen Harige, Managing Editor: Clark Werth...

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EVOLUTION



Affirmative action fight suffers

The great tragedy of Trent Lott is not that one man managed to tarnish the entire Republican Party's image on race after all, only 9 percent of African American voters chose President Bush.

The tragedy is that he managed to sabotage conservative ideas in the process, making the right's principled opposition to affirmative action seem like nothing more than a front for latent bigotry.

NORAH VINCENT

The tragedy is that (Trent Lott) managed to sabotage conservative ideas in the process, making the right's principled opposition to affirmative action seem like nothing more than a front for latent bigotry.

This is a monstrous lie. Conservatives do not oppose affirmative action because they are crypto-racists. They oppose it because they believe that affirmative action itself is to have become racist and, what's more, unconstitutional in its current form.

It was not always so, nor was it intended to be. President Johnson said in 1965, "you do not take a man who for years has been hobbled by chains, liberate him, bring him to the starting line of a race saying, 'You are free to compete with all the others...'"

Poll shows Democrats back Hillary

As soon as Al Gore rocked the political world by withdrawing his name from consideration for the 2004 Democratic presidential nomination, the wild speculation began as to whom would be the new favorite to take his place.

Actually, only a few of us probably gave it any thought whatsoever, but someone (probably some 40-year-old guy who still lives with his mother) was apparently just eaten up with curiosity and went out and took a poll.

Sen. Hillary Rodham Clinton of New York (actually she's from Illinois) was my first choice, but she moved to New York because the people from Arkansas kept making fun of her maiden name) was the runaway favorite of a group of registered Democrats were asked to choose their favorite potential 2004 candidate.

BILL FERGUSON

certainly applies to Sen. Clinton. And when she does run, she will be a formidable candidate. Oddly enough though, I am looking forward to that day. Because even though I dislike almost everything about Hillary Clinton, there is one thing I love about her - she's a three-dimensional character that people react strongly to, either positively or negatively.

LETTERS

This year, one of the largest farm relief bills in history was passed. In this bill was a provision allotting \$793 million for drought relief for ranchers who raised cattle, sheep, goats or buffalo.

Conservative or liberal? Due to 9-11, our government created the second largest department in our history - the Department of Homeland Security, with a budget in the billions.

Republicans' behavior is far from conservative. Liberal or conservative, that is the question. Mr. Webster says conservatives are "disposed to preserve existing conditions or institutions, cautious or moderate."

Present administration seems bored and determined to go to war. Doesn't it seem strange that the only role of restraint and reason in the executive branch is Colin Powell, the only one - to my knowledge - who has ever fought in a war?

Liberal or conservative, that is the question. Mr. Webster says conservatives are "disposed to preserve existing conditions or institutions, cautious or moderate."

Before someone accuses me of being unpatriotic, I served with a parachute regiment in Europe during World War II. In case of war, I would support my country to the best of my ability.

In November, our government had a budget deficit of \$53.1 billion; a year ago, the November deficit was \$54.3 billion.

Wars are not exciting or romantic; young men and women will be killed. Remember the 59,000 lost in Vietnam. I'm sure the world would be better off if Saddam Hussein was ousted or dead.

Most powerful president since LBJ

This is the time of year when many newspaper and magazine editors take a look back at the past 12 months to pick the most important/interesting stories of the year.

JAMES KLURFELD

What I'm talking about is that George W. Bush has become the most powerful president since Lyndon Johnson, after his landslide victory in 1964.

The events of the last year, combined with unusually adroit maneuvering by the White House, have put Bush, an unlikely Caesar, in this position.

It is incumbent upon the new Republican leadership to repair the damage done when self-preservationists betray their principles and give their political opportunism ammunition in the process.

So Bush has the strong support of the American people, controls Congress, can tie up the nation's courts, and has a new public spokesman for the Senate.

But Bush has the strong support of the American people, controls Congress, can tie up the nation's courts, and has a new public spokesman for the Senate.

Another major terrorist attack is certainly inevitable. And Bush inevitably will have to deal with the phenomenon that almost always brings down the very powerful: hubris, a word the Greeks used to describe an overweening sense of self-confidence that leads to troubling, often tragic, miscalculation.

James Klurfeld is a columnist and editor of Newsday's editorial page.

Post-bowl riots shame college campuses

LETTERS

With bowl season upon us, it's time to examine college football's long tradition of ritualistic mayhem. Most of the time the madness is restricted to the field with fans staving the field and felling the goal posts after the final horn sounds.

HERBERT LONDON

Recently, however, the pandemonium has spilled onto the streets with cars overturned and set on fire, windows shattered and stores looted. According to one report, last fall's "rivalry week" — during which football rivals played each other — resulted in more destruction in a seven day period than campus life has seen in years.

The days of academic violence resulted in college administrators scrambling to take preventive action against a recurrence. A West Virginia victory over rival Virginia Tech resulted in fires and destruction in Morgantown, W.Va., even though the game was played several hundred miles away in Blacksburg, Va. When Ohio State defeated the University of Michigan riots broke out in Columbus, turning one off-campus community into a war zone.

Obviously college students will remain passionate about their teams. Some will have this passion explode into exuberance. Clearly post-game celebrations cannot be legislated. But celebrations need not result in violence



and destruction.

As the radius for potential trouble has expanded, colleges have responded with aggressive police action which can be both a deterrent and a catalyst for violence. But preparation is not enough to keep some students from acting. Anticipating postgame hijinks, Ohio State administrators planned for a "riot free" celebration after the game against Michigan. It didn't have the slightest effect.

What administrators often overlook is that colleges have become a setting for much anti-social behavior.

Alcohol is a standard accompaniment at athletic events and large crowds produce a sense of anonymity that cloak irresponsible actions. Television cameras focus on the bizarre and the ridiculous, while showing off — always a teen-age issue — has

been transmogrified into ESPN highlights.

Some institutions have simply sold the field to off-limits to fans. Other colleges have instructed security police to use pepper spray to deter rowdies. Some schools employ surveillance cameras and telephone hot-lines. At the University of Maryland a zero-tolerance policy has been established in which anyone caught lighting a bonfire is immediately expelled.

While students are divided on the appropriate disciplinary procedures, many believe the incidents represent a rite of passage, a part of the college experience.

If this is the case, then university officials have an obligation to redefine the college experience. It is one thing to produce "Animal House," as a Hollywood film and quite another matter to shift one's gaze away from the

reality of destruction. Students should learn that defacing private property has the same penalty for college students as it does for non-college students.

If nonconformity is the goal, then the herd of irresponsible rabble rousers should face expulsion and the full weight of legal authority. Students shouldn't be coddled simply because they carry a college ID card.

Big-time college sports have overestimated the importance of games with the hype casting a hypnotic spell on some students. But this unruly behavior can't simply be rationalized as the detritus of big time athletics.

Something else is in play. In my judgment unsportsmanlike behavior on the field has its correspondent equivalent of irresponsible behavior off the field. "Dissing" an opponent is not so distant from "dissing" authority figures.

It wouldn't be too hard for college administrators to figure this out if they weren't seduced by the revenue from bowl appearances and television contracts. The next time a school official contends "nothing can be done about postgame antics," ask how much revenue his institution gains for the rights to air the college's football games. That should put this matter in perspective immediately.

Herb London is a National Press Club first amendment fellow and the John M. Olin professor of humanities at New York University and the president of the Hudson Institute.

Youth is out as many world leaders get older

Whatever happened to the youth culture? It got old. And so here we are, overrun by a bunch of seven-year-olds who are making the news.

On Monday, Secretary of Defense Donald H. Rumsfeld, age 70, caused more than a ripple when he declared that the United States could fight a war against Iraq and North Korea simultaneously.

One might consider other headlines. Bill Donaldson, the new pick to lead the Securities and Exchange Commission, is 71. Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat is 73; his great antagonist, Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon, is 74. Another 74-year-old is United Nations weapons inspector Hans Blix.

Federal Reserve Chairman Alan Greenspan is 76, and Jimmy Carter, who just won a Nobel Peace Prize, is 78. Frank Lautenberg, the once and future senator from New Jersey, is almost 79; both John Whitehead, overseeing the rebuilding of Ground Zero in Manhattan, and Pope John Paul II have reached octogenarian status. And Sen. Strom Thurmond, still a center of attention, is 100.

But wasn't it always like this? Old men running things? After all, the word "senator" comes from the Latin word for "old." But back then, "old" was relatively young — 50 or 60. And so it was with American politicians: one shouldn't be fooled by white hair and boards. George Washington, for instance, was 56 when he was elected to the presidency; Abraham Lincoln was 51. And the two Roosevelts, Theodore and Franklin, served six terms in the White House, been seen three, and yet both were dead of natural causes at age 60 and 63, respectively.

But if the Aging of America hasn't gathered much news, one reason could be that the news gatherers don't think getting old is that big a deal. After all, it's happening to them, big time. Dan Rather is 71. And his colleague at CBS, Mike Wallace, is 84. But, of course, they probably don't look so superannuated to their big boss, Wisconsin chief Summer Redstone, 75. Indeed, many of the brightest names in broadcast news, such as Tom



JAMES P. PINKERTON

Brokaw and Peter Jennings, are well into their 60s. And don't tell anyone, but Barbara Walters is 71.

To be sure, some stars in society seem to be getting younger; figure skaters and tennis players blossom in their teens. But the country as a whole is getting older and living longer. The median age in America was 35.3 in 2000, up seven years just from 1970. And the prospect of death continues slowly to recede, like an un-Rogaine hairline. Life expectancy is now nearly 77, and an American who has already reached age 65 can expect to live another 18 years.

Of course, being alive is not always the same as keeping up with change. Ask Walter Mondale, or William Webster, or Henry Kissinger. In the past few months those three septuagenarians all tried to return to public life — as senator, regulator and 9/11 investigator — and yet found themselves rejected. In the case of Kissinger, the accumulated negatives of his more than three decades in the spotlight finally hit critical mass. Why? One reason is that many of his fiercest critics from the Nixon days — such as Daniel Schorr, once of CBS, now pontificating for National Public Radio at age 86 — are still around to hound him.

So what's not to like about this creeping gerontocracy? With aging comes a setting of ways, and so it follows that the older we get, the deeper the rut we get into. That's what happened in Japan, a land of healthy but stubborn old people and not enough young people. As the demographics of the country have widened, its capacity for creative national problem-solving has shriveled.

Such a fate could befall the United States, too, as the baby boomers — the oldest of whom will turn 57 next year — keep on going and going and going. And, of course, it's possible that modern medicine will enable someone alive today to live on indefinitely. So Americans might soon be confronted by a battery of boomer Methuselahs, still going strong in their overbearing ways.

Who, for example, would you rather listen to for the next hundred years, Bill Clinton or Rush Limbaugh? And so maybe Americans, aging, although not

necessarily graying, might yet ask themselves if getting older is worth all the hassle.

James Pinkerton is a Newsday columnist.

Dairy industry should stop denying obvious problems

In your editorial of Nov. 20 about hydrogen sulfide standards, you wrote: "Once again, common sense and practical science have prevailed over the emotional appeals of dairy critics." This made me think of the TV show I recently saw about Benjamin Franklin.

If anyone ever embodied the ideals of "common sense and practical science," it was Franklin, a prosperous businessman who devoted a lot of time to experiments and inventions that would improve ordinary people's quality of life. For instance, he took on the problem of rotting animal and human waste in the streets of Philadelphia, a city that grew in his lifetime from 4,000 to 20,000 inhabitants.

Instead of shrugging off or trivializing people's complaints and concerns, he took up the challenge of fixing them. Unlike many of his fellow prosperous businessmen, then and now, Franklin had the vision to understand that improving quality of life is also ultimately good for business and growth.

It seems that the big dairy people could learn and profit from Franklin's example. Instead of absurdly denying the common-sense evidence of their own failures, they should look beyond their short-term profits and fix the situation. Even if (and it's a very big "if") the sulfides aren't at unsafe levels, living every day (eating, working, going to the prom) amidst a putrid stench shouldn't be accepted as a valid price to pay for "economic growth." And, oh yeah, where do those dairy owners live?

ERICA DAVID
Twin Falls

Maggies act viciously toward other animals

So David Freshour's favorite

bird is the magpie. Apparently, Mr. F. has never raised critics of any sort.

Granted, they are a pretty bird. My experience with magpies started years ago when I heard a commotion in the barn yard. There was a hen vainly trying to protect a clutch of newly hatched chicks from several magpies. The tiny chicks were peeping in distress, their eyes pecked out. Some were killed outright, all of them bloody.

I chased off the magpies, killed the wounded babies, got my 22 rifle and set up in the empty pign and waited. Soon they were back.

I don't recall how long I stayed nor how many magpies I shot. There was quite a pile of them. Maggies also await newborn lambs. The first thing they do is peck out the eyes. They do the same with fawns or any other helpless critter. They rob nests of eggs or kill any baby birds they can get to.

I agree heartily with Bonnie Smith; they are definitely a detriment to all wildlife as well as domestic life.

They are supposed to be protected because of a treaty with Mexico, as they are scavengers. These magpies do not migrate south.

They are definitely not protected on my property. I use a 410 shotgun now as I'm not as good a shot as I used to be.
EDITH ROBERTSON
Wendell

Write to us

The Times-News welcomes letters from readers on subjects of public interest. Letters may be brought to our Twin Falls or Burley office; mailed to P.O. Box 648, Twin Falls, ID 83303; faxed to (208) 734-5538; or e-mailed to letters@magicvalley.com

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GERONIMO!



An unidentified extreme skydiver parachutes down off one of the Petronas Twin Towers during a practice session in Kuala Lumpur on Saturday. Skydivers plunged off the world's tallest buildings Saturday to warm up for a competition held only rarely because the activity is banned in most countries. Many of about 60 competitors expected to take part in the extreme skydiving tournament, which starts today and ends Jan. 6, leapt off the 1,483-foot, nickel-plated towers.

Team will examine Hemingway's past

Cuba joins forces with U.S. to probe author's life

Los Angeles Times

SAN FRANCISCO DE PAULA, Cuba — His bearded countenance looms large in American literature, yet even lifelong scholars of Ernest Hemingway concede that they know little about the half of his adult life spent in this palm-shaded Havana suburb.

The gaps in those 21 years may soon be filled: Cubans have decided to share with Americans a trove of writings, journals, photographs, letters and jotted notes the author left behind.

In a rare act of collaboration between the countries that claim "Papa" as their own, Cuban and U.S. researchers are combing through the 9,000 books lining the walls of the salon and study at Finca Vigia, his home in Cuba, the land where he wrote "For Whom the Bell Tolls" and his Pulitzer Prize-winning "The Old Man and the Sea." They are scouring the cluttered guest-house cellar where more than 3,000 photographs and an equal number of manuscript pages and letters have nestled in boxes and file drawers for more than four decades. They are probing and cataloging and putting together the pieces of a life on the edge between discipline and indulgence.

"Hemingway had an understanding of the Cuban spirit that made people here feel close to him, that he was like us," said Carmen Fournier, a literature professor at Havana University who will be working with U.S. scholars researching and micro-filming the long-neglected contents of Finca Vigia.

Fournier traces Cubans' affinity for that writer to his humble redemption of his 1954 Nobel Prize to those who inspired his story, describing himself as a "Cubano sato," a phrase from the Cuban dialect meaning flirt and half-breed.

"Cubans wept when he said that," Fournier said.

The cellar contents and Hemingway's massive library have been in Cuban custody since the author left the island, and there has never been a comprehensive, in-depth examination of the material, she said. Fournier expects the joint work, being funded by a grant from the Rockefeller Foundation and conducted by an array of Cuban and U.S. Hemingway experts, to preserve the fragile memorabilia and shed light on the subject's creative process.

"It's like an archeological dig. You hope there will be interesting and exciting things to discover,

and you think there will be, but you won't know exactly what unless you excavate with an open mind," said Sandra Spanier, a Penn State University professor recently named by the Hemingway Foundation to edit a multivolume anthology of the author's personal correspondence. She visited the cellar stash in March and November but only long enough to see that the search-and-rescue project will take years.

Few expect to discover unpublished novels or whole stories, because Hemingway stored his writings in a bank vault that was emptied after his death. But the snippets of everyday life being gleaned from marginalia and his copious correspondence disclose previously unknown details of the mercurial author. Spanier says scholars have been surprised by Hemingway's impressive command of Spanish, his apt attention to household matters, even his taste in music and the bitter repartee that marked his marriages.

"He wrote out instructions to the servants on how to cook his meals. He paid a lot of attention to domestic details. It really rounds out our image of Hemingway as a rough, tough big-game hunter and deep-sea fisherman," Spanier said.

The Cuba of the 1940s and '50s was an ideal retreat for Hemingway, she says, because he could find the solitude he needed to write and the outdoor sports and carousing to which he devoted equal attention.

At the lush Finca Vigia estate, Hemingway rose at dawn each day to write standing up for as long as six hours. He would then abandon his Royal typewriter to head off to the marina at Cojimar to take out his 40-foot fishing boat, the Pilar. Evenings he divided between the Old Havana haunts of El Floridita and La Bodeguita del Medio, the former for daiquiri binges and the latter for mojito moods.

Hemingway's Cuban estate remains much as it was when he left in 1960 for Idaho, where he took his own life a year later. The rooms that visitors can view from the open doors and windows look as if the writer might just have stepped out for a moment. Books are still piled on his desk and shelves and beside the toilet, just as he left them. Stuffed game trophies mounted on the walls, pottery and trinkets acquired during travels to Europe and Africa, even his old Victrola and stash of big band albums give the appearance of a house still lived in.

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Sawdust on the floor of your heart

It was last Monday, the eve of Christmas Eve, and my girlfriend came home from work with tears streaming down her face.

"What's the matter, honey?" I asked with alarm. "The Christmas Shoes," she sniffled.

"The what?" "The radio. A little boy is trying to buy a new pair of shoes with pennies so his mama will look pretty if she goes to meet Jesus tonight."

"Marlin," I replied, "listen to NPR next time."

She won't, of course. Victoria is a city girl besotted with the heart-break and hal-le-lujah of C&W, and she'll fall for country's siren songs for the rest of her days, knowing full well that Nashville is plucking her heartstrings like a steel guitar.

Think not? Consider some of the other lyrics of "The Christmas Shoes," by the Georgia-based Christian country group Newsong:

"It was almost Christmas time, there's snow in another line. Tryin' to buy their last gift or two, not really in the Christmas mood. Standing right in front of me was a little boy waiting anxiously. Facing round like little boys do, and in his hands he held a pair of shoes."

His clothes were worn and old, he was dirty from head to toe. And in his hands he held a pair of shoes.

His clothes were worn and old, he was dirty from head to toe. And in his hands he held a pair of shoes. I couldn't believe what I heard him say.

Sir, I want to buy these shoes for my Mama, please.

It's Christmas Eve and these shoes are just her size.

Could you hurry, sir, Daddy says there's not much time.

You see she's been sick for quite a while.

And I know these shoes would make her smile.

And I want her to look beautiful if Mama meets Jesus tonight.

He counted pennies for what seemed like years.

Then the cashier said, "Son, there's not enough here."

He searched his pockets frantically. Then he turned and he looked at me.

He said Mama made Christmas good at our house.

Though most years she just did without.

Tell me, Sir, what am I going to do now? I've got to buy her these Christmas shoes.

There was a university study on depression done in the late 1970s that tracked alcohol consumption in bars and taverns where country music was played and compared it to bistros that featured other kinds of music - or just silence. It found that roadhouse patrons stayed longer and drank more.

Wouldn't you? Consider Karl Davis and Harry Gray's 1952 bluesgrass ballad, "I'm Here to Get My Baby Out of Jail," recorded by Marty Robbins, the Everly Brothers, and many, many country artists:

"I'm not in your town to stay, said a lady old and gray. To the warden of the penitentiary, I'm not in your town to stay and I'll soon be on my way."

Please see CRUMP, Page B7

Snowpack levels

Watershed	% of Avg.	% season peak **
Upper Snake River	72%	28%
Salmon Falls	72%	28%
Salmon	70%	23%
Oxbow	64%	20%
Big Wood	101%	30%
Little Wood	128%	36%
Hevora Port/Teton	67%	22%
Big Lost	100%	25%
Little Lost	70%	23%

* As of Dec. 26. A comparison of basin snowpack, on this day, with a 30-year average.

** National Weather Service estimate of basin snowpack on this day, with a 30-year average.

A YEAR AFTER THE MERGER

Hospital works to satisfy patients

By Sandy Miller
Times-News writer

TWIN FALLS - No one chooses to be a hospital. So Magic Valley Regional is working on making its patients' stays as pleasant as possible.

Head nurses make regular contact with patients to see what their needs are and to make sure they know the shift nurses' names. Nurses are encouraged to take a holistic approach to caring for their patients, considering not only their physical needs, but their spiritual and emotional needs as well.

The hospital changed the tone of call buttons so they wouldn't sound like the constant ringing of a telephone. Hydraulic hinges were put on patient charts so they wouldn't make an annoying clang against hospital beds. The hospital turns down the lights at night so patients can sleep.

"Patients need to recuperate. They need to rest," said Magic Valley Regional Marketing Coordinator Rhonda Bright.

And when patients leave the hospital, hospital staff members follow up with phone calls and letters.

"If they identify a concern, they make sure it's addressed right away," Bright said. "Communication is a key thing we're working on. People have more questions. We want to help answer their questions."

Magic Valley Regional is one of more than 800 hospitals across the nation that contract with Press Ganey, a patient satisfaction surveyor based in South Bend, Ind.

The hospital sends surveys to patients after they leave the hospital, and patients send them back to Press Ganey. Press Ganey tabulates the scores and sends them back to the hospital.

"It shows us how well our hospital stacks up against hospitals across the country," Bright said. "We like the fact that we have a large comparison group. Our goal is to be the best of the best. In order to do that, we thought we needed to compare ourselves to other hospitals that are also working on service improvement."

And according to Press Ganey, Magic Valley Regional is generally doing a better-than-average job of making patients feel comfortable. Here's what third-quarter scores, from the period from



Fran Winetta comforts Rena Clark at Magic Valley Regional Medical Center. Clark, a former employee and patient of Twin Falls Clinic and Hospital, said she was pleased with the care she received after Magic Valley Regional bought the clinic.

July through September, show about patient ratings of Magic Valley Regional:

• Inpatient satisfaction - Magic Valley Regional had a score of 82.9, up from 82.1 the previous quarter. That score put the hospital in the 51st percentile of U.S. hospitals - which basically means it scored better than about half of the hospitals rated.

"That's pretty good, Bright said, considering how Magic Valley Regional's patient numbers have climbed since buying the Twin Falls Clinic and Hospital.

"Since they purchased the clinic, scores have remained pretty steady," Bright said. "We anticipated some decrease would happen. New patients might not know where they need to go - they're working with new staff, new faces. There's more

confusion. We're trying to alleviate some of those things."

• Outpatient satisfaction - Magic Valley Regional had a score of 89.7, up from 88.5 the previous quarter. It was in the 52nd percentile compared with other Press Ganey hospitals - again, about the middle of the pack.

"We're trying to look through their eyes on how they're receiving care," Bright said. "At the downtown campus, we remodeled the patient registration area to make it more confidential and put staff more at eye level. We moved the diabetes educators to the downtown campus so they had a private space to meet with patients and their families."

"• Emergency room - The hospital's ER had a score of 84.4 up from 83.4 the previous quarter. It measured in the 84th per-

centile among Press Ganey hospitals - meaning only 16 percent scored better.

That's an achievement considering the ER's crowded conditions. The emergency room saw 3,783 more patients than it had expected to from October 2001 through September 2002, much of which was due to the hospital's January purchase of the clinic and the closing of that facility's emergency room.

"The emergency department had huge volume increases," Bright said. "Still, they reduced waiting times. Emergency room staff made sure parents had information on how long it would take their child to recover so they didn't have to make an unnecessary trip back to the emergency room. It relieved patients and caregivers so they please see SATISFACTION, Page B7

One-year checkup

TEV&M

On Aug. 3, 2002, doctors at the Twin Falls Clinic and Hospital sold their 44-bed facility to the county-owned Magic Valley Regional Medical Center for \$18.1 million. This two-day series reviews the merger's aftermath.

Today:

- What patients and doctors think.
- Contrasts, similarities in eastern Idaho.

Monday:

- What employees think.
- Magic Valley Regional's future.

Pocatello hospitals merge

By Sandy Miller
Times-News writer

POCATELLO - Health-care competition has taken much the same form in Pocatello as in Twin Falls.

Until this year, Pocatello had two competing hospitals - one a county hospital, and one run by Intermountain Health Care, a Salt Lake City-based nonprofit.

On Oct. 1, IHC's 100-bed Pocatello Regional Medical Center and the county's 164-bed Bannock Regional Medical Center joined forces.

The two facilities were christened Fortneuf Medical Center, serving about 135,000 people who live in the region.

"There had been talk about it for quite some time," said the hospital's community relations manager, Christa Madsen-Smith. "There was a feeling that services were being duplicated, and in order to provide the best service to the community in a cost-effective way, we decided a merger would be a good thing."

Employees at both hospitals had the same anxieties experienced at Twin Falls when first told of the merger.

"Naturally, there were some concerns when we announced the prospect of consolidation back in April," said Marilyn Speirs, vice president of community and public affairs at Fortneuf. "There were some legitimate concerns. They really viewed this as a change, and any change represents a change in behavior. There were concerns about loss of jobs, the notion of competition. People had been bettided those hospitals

What they're saying

"They were two smaller hospitals competing with each other and duplicating services. Both were in dilapidated states. Community leaders thought it was a great time to bring them together."

- Doug Crabtree, CEO at Eastern Idaho Regional Medical Center in Idaho Falls, speaking about the merger of Pocatello's two hospitals

"If the directorship and administration are truly responsive to the community's needs, then a single hospital is probably OK."

- Dr. Ty Erickson, an obstetrician and partner at the new Mountain View Hospital in Idaho Falls

"It didn't eliminate the competition. It's still there. There are hospitals all around us."

- Marilyn Speirs, vice president of community and public affairs at Fortneuf Medical Center, about the merger of Pocatello and Bannock regional medical centers

for a long time. Except for a few people in management, no one found himself out of work, Speirs said. Please see POCATELLO, Page B7

Idaho Falls opens up new hospital

By Sandy Miller
Times-News writer

IDAHO FALLS - For 15 years, Eastern Idaho Regional Medical Center, a 300-bed hospital owned by the health-care behemoth HCA, held a monopoly on acute health care in Idaho Falls.

But what happened earlier this month is exactly the opposite of what has played out in Twin Falls. Some Idaho Falls doctors decided competition was a good thing. So they created an institution remarkably similar to the defunct Twin Falls Clinic and Hospital.

"HCA is one of the largest hospital chains in the country, but they weren't responsive to the community, they weren't as responsive to the community's needs," said Dr. Ty Erickson, an obstetrician and partner at the new Mountain View Hospital.

Erickson and other doctors say they began noticing an exodus of patients to hospitals in Rexburg, Blackfoot, Pocatello and Salt Lake City about four years ago.

"Why? It was cheaper to go out of town, they contend. "We were faced with a hospital that had a monopoly on the town, and their prices were simply higher than other facilities," Erickson said.

Several large employers' insurance plans began paying 90 percent of medical costs for employees traveling out of town for health care, and only 70 percent for employees who went to Eastern Idaho Regional, said orthopedic surgeon Dr. Greg West.

What they're saying

"There were a lot of people going out of the area for services. Fifteen percent of deliveries were going out of the area."

- Dr. Greg West, an orthopedic surgeon and partner at the new Mountain View Hospital in Idaho Falls

"We live in a very mobile society. It's not unusual for people to go out of town."

- Doug Crabtree, CEO of Eastern Idaho Regional Medical Center in Idaho Falls

"Even though there's two hospitals in town, we feel it will be good for the community."

- Dr. Ty Erickson, an obstetrician and partner at the new Mountain View Hospital

"Expenses have gone up because it's harder to recruit personnel. There are increased capital expenses if you don't have the right balance of community needs."

- Crabtree

system where we had more control over costs. So, in early December, 20 local doctors opened Mountain View Hospital, a 20-bed community hospital offering obstetrics, gynecology, orthopedics, surgery, radiology, ear, nose and throat, urology and plastics. The new hospital cost \$30 million to build and equip. The doctors own 85 percent; the remaining 15 percent is owned by the Kansas-based ACS group, which manages the facility.

"Different animals"

Eastern Idaho Regional's chief executive officer, Doug Crabtree, has a different view from the doctors on the newly competitive hospital environment.

"To say that Mountain View and EIRMC are in competition is misleading," Crabtree said. "Mountain View has its role, and we have our role. We're completely different animals."

He describes his hospital's role as "a tertiary care medical center, which includes an ER, full lab, critical care unit - services that aren't typically found in a specialty or niche hospital." Eastern Idaho Regional has some impressive services. For instance, 97 percent of heart surgeries done at Eastern Idaho Regional are done without need of a heart-lung machine: "No one in the country is doing better on open hearts," Crabtree said. He said Eastern Idaho Regional are done without need of a heart-lung machine. He said Eastern Idaho Regional are done without need of a heart-lung machine. Please see IDAHO FALLS, Page B7

MAGIC VALLEY/WEST

DEATH NOTICES

Estelle L. Carraway RUPERT - Estelle L. Carraway, 81, of Rupert, died Saturday, Dec. 28, 2002, at her home.

The funeral will be held at 11 a.m. Tuesday at Hansen Mortuary Chapel, 710 Sixth St., with Dean Cameron officiating.

Burial will follow at the Rupert Cemetery. Friends may call from 6-8 p.m. Monday and one hour before the service Tuesday at Hansen Mortuary Chapel. The family suggests donations be made to the Minidoka County Historical Society.

Betty Ann McDowell TWIN FALLS - Betty Ann McDowell, 54, of Twin Falls, died Friday, Dec. 27, 2002, of injuries sustained in an automobile accident.

Arrangements will be announced by Reynolds Funeral

Chapel in Twin Falls.

Lola Windle

TWIN FALLS - Lola Windle, 82, of Twin Falls, died Saturday, Dec. 28, 2002, at Sunbridge Care Center in Twin Falls.

Arrangements will be announced by White Mortuary in Twin Falls.

Callie H. Peterson

JEROME - Callie H. Peterson, 98, of Jerome, died Friday, Dec.

27, 2002, in Jerome. Arrangements will be announced by Farnsworth Mortuary in Jerome.

Richard N. Hand

JEROME - Richard N. Hand, 87, of Jerome, died Friday, Dec. 27, 2002, at St. Benedict's Family Medical Center in Jerome.

At his request, no service will be held. Cremation arrangements are under the direction of Hove-Robertson Funeral Chapel in Jerome.

SERVICES

Hailey Cemetery.

Vanita May Josephine Helms of Twin Falls, service at 11 a.m. on 7, 2003, at Our Savior Lutheran Church, 1708 Heyburn Ave. E., Twin Falls; burial will be at the Soldier Mountain/Mt. View Cemetery in Fairfield.

HOSPITAL

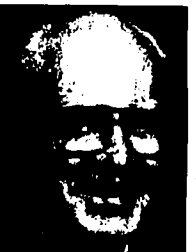
MAGIC VALLEY REGIONAL MEDICAL CENTER Some names are omitted at patients' request.

Admitted Dallas Pence of Buhl

OBITUARIES

For obituary rates and information, call 733-0931, Ext. 278, between 2 p.m. and 5 p.m. Monday through Saturday. Deadline is 4:30 p.m. for next-day publication. The e-mail address for obituaries is obits@magicvalley.com. Death notices are a free service and can be placed until 5 a.m. every day.

TWIN FALLS



woman She was an expert with a rifle, and enjoyed hunting, camping, and all out-of-door activities. She retired from Troy Laundry. Lucy is survived by two children, Taron and Staci of Twin Falls and Eugene Raymond Webb of San Gabriel, CA, one brother James Higgins of Santa Ana, CA, four grandchildren, two great-grandchildren, six great-great-grandchildren, one sister-in-law, Margjorie Higgins, one brother-in-law, Lee Hogg, nine nephews and four nieces. Funeral services will be conducted at 2 p.m. Tuesday, Dec. 31, 2002, at White Mortuary Chapel by the Park. Interment will follow at Twin Falls Cemetery. Friends may call at White Mortuary, Monday, from 4-8 p.m.

JEROME



William E. 'Bill' Mead William E. "Bill" Mead entered into eternal rest on Tuesday, December 24, 2002, at age 69 at Magic Valley Regional Medical Center in Twin Falls, Idaho. Bill was born to Delbert Allen and Mabel Cleo Varner Mead on June 12, 1933, in Douglas, Kansas. In August 1937, he moved with his family to Idaho. In 1941, they relocated to various townships in Wyoming and Oklahoma, returning to Idaho in May of 1949. Bill served in the Navy on a LST during the Korean Conflict. Afterwards, he spent a short time in Colorado, California, Montana, Oregon and Wyoming returning to Idaho to make his home. Bill married Velde Johnson in Jerome in 1955 to this union, 5 children were born. They later divorced in 1966, he married Della Harris Falten in Shoshone, ID. Together, they raised her 5 children along with one born to their union and a grandson who they adopted at a young age. Bill was a ranch hand, landscaper and tree trimmer. But his love of travel brought him to long haul truck driving for Cady Auto, Montana Express and others. This was the love he loved the most. After a massive heart attack in January 1986, he was forced to discontinue his various occupations. Bill loved horses and cars. He enjoyed riding, hunting, fishing and spending time in the mountains at the lamb shippings his sister and brother-in-law had. He traded cars, teased, joked and visited over coffee. Bill is survived by his wife, Della of Jerome, sons, Delbert, Bill and Tim of Spokane, WA, Lacey of Sacramento, CA, Jason of Jerome, two daughters, Marshelle Dolorge Earhart of Keystone Heights, FL, Shannon (Rick) Otton of WA, stepchildren, Patty (Keith) Turgott of AZ, Owen (Toem) Falten of Wendell, Raven (Ruth) Falten of Shoshone and a sister, Juanita Neils (Alan) Posey of Jerome, one daughter, Florence Andrews of Buffalo, MO, 26 grandchildren, 6 great-grandchildren, numerous nieces and nephews and many cousins and numerous friends. He was preceded in death by his parents and one stepdaughter, Etta, and a stepson, Jesse. Funeral Service will be held on Monday, December 30, 2002, at 11 a.m. at Hove-Robertson Funeral Chapel with Pastor Gene Kissing officiating the service. A viewing will be held on Sunday, December 29, from 6-8 p.m. at the funeral home. Arrangements are under the direction of Hove-Robertson Funeral Chapel.

Bobby Joe Denton Bobby Joe Denton, 60, of Hazelton, passed away Friday, December 27, 2002, at his home. He was born March 28, 1942, in Lepanto, Arkansas, the son of W.J. and Marcel Denton. Bob served in the Navy from 1960-1964 and during this time he met the love of his life K. Douglas. They were married on May 13, 1962, in Long Beach, California. Bob served on the Naval Ship USS Montrose. Bob loved his family and enjoyed his work. He served as Captain and Vice President of the Twin Falls Mounted Sheriff's posse, enjoying many years of riding with them. He also enjoyed rides in the hills and hunting. In his later years, Bob became very involved with antique tractor pulling and was a member of the Magic Valley Tractor Pullers. Bob is survived by his wife, K. Denton of Hazelton, two brothers, Billy (Ruby) Denton of Mississippi and Jerry (Pat) Denton of Arkansas, one sister, Brenda Smith of Kansas, Arkansas, his children, Rick (Barbara) Raven of Boise, Bill Beck of Portland, OR, Dena (Paul) Gouvea of Boise, Marcy (Dallas) Bruders of Hazelton, grandchildren, Jake Rertz, Logan and Jeremiah Sunson, Bobby Westlake, Nicole and Cori Gouvea, Lori, Mindy, Taren, and Casey Bruders, a great-grandson, Chase Sunson, and two more on the way due to April and May Bob was preceded in death by his parents and a daughter, Jessie Westlake. Memorial services will be held at 11 a.m. Tuesday, December 31, 2002, at the Valley Christian Center, 215 Main St. in Hazelton, with Pastor Kent Sullivan officiating. Services and cremation will be under the direction of White Mortuary Chapel by the Park in Twin Falls.

Lavem Cecil Boyd

Lavem Cecil Boyd went peacefully to be with the Lord, Wednesday, December 25, 2002. Lavem was born July 3, 1915, in Hazelton. He grew up on a farm in Hazelton. He married Vera Warner on Jan. 25, 1948, in Portland, Oregon. He and Vera farmed until 1970, when he purchased and managed the Oregon Trail Motel in Buhl. They later traded the motel for land in Twin Falls, where the First Church of the Nazarene now stands. Lavem faithfully served the Lord, giving selflessly of his time in support of the church and its people. Whenever he saw a need, he was right there to help. He had a servant's heart. He is survived by his wife, Vera of Twin Falls, two sons, Jerry (Lyn) Boyd of Monroe, WA, Dennis (Neva) Boyd of Nampa, one daughter, Joann Torres of Springfield, MO, one brother, Art Boyd of Smithville, TX, six grandchildren and one great-grandchild. Memorial services for Lavem will be conducted at 11 a.m. Monday, Dec. 30, 2002, at the Twin Falls First Church of the Nazarene, with Rev. Jerry Koster officiating. Interment will be in Sunset Memorial Park. Friends may call at White Mortuary, "Chapel by the Park," on Sunday from 1-5 p.m. The family suggests memorials to the First Church of the Nazarene, 1231 Washington St. N., Twin Falls, Idaho 83301.

TWIN FALLS



Lucy Ella Sonner Lucy Ella Sonner, 98, of Twin Falls, died Tuesday, Dec. 24, 2002, at Curry Retirement Estates. She was born April 12, 1904, in Stauben, Maine, the daughter of Ruben Willis and Jeanette Wilson Higgins. Her parents homesteaded on the Salmon tract. She loved animals and was an excellent horse-

More may join phosphorus panel

POCATELLO (AP) - A panel appointed by Gov. Dirk Kempthorne last week to explore future uses of the closed FMC Corp. phosphorus plant may add new members. The group - dubbed the Idaho Optimum Initiative - is commissioned with finding ways to replace some of the 300 jobs lost when the plant closed last year and promoting possible development of an ethanol or electrical generating plant. Panel members announced Friday they would likely add representatives from Bannock County, the Pocatello and the Shoshone-Bannock Tribes. It already includes business, government and union leaders, such as

Democratic Rep. Elmer Martinez, outgoing Power County Commissioner Valerie Hoybjerg, Shoshone-Bannock Tribes Planning Director John Norstog and Bureau of Indian Affairs superintendent Eric LaPointe. Pocatello Mayor Roger Chase was among the first to criticize the panel's makeup. "I think that there is a good reason to have a task force to look at this subject, but I think the way it was set up was certainly poorly done," Chase said. "It didn't include enough involvement of local people or their feelings." Chase said the exclusion of members from the cities of Pocatello and

Bannock County and a Shoshone-Bannock tribal member was noticeable. "You need to be more professional than that when you are setting up a panel of this magnitude, and particularly with the groups you are dealing with here," Chase said. "You have a sovereign nation in the tribes, two counties and two cities that are going to be greatly affected by this." Kempthorne's spokesman Mark Snider said no one was intentionally left out and that the panel can add members. "If the members of the group feel there needs to be broader scope of representation, they are free to include other folks," Snider said.

State investigates gas release from mill

LEWISTON (AP) - The Idaho Department of Environmental Quality is investigating a gas release from the Potlatch Corp. mill that fouled Lewiston air Friday morning. Enforcement action might be pursued, department spokesman Hurdson Mann said.

The odorless methyl mercaptan was not dangerous, but violated the department's odor standards, he said. "It's the same chemical they put in natural gas so you can smell it. It has a very low odor threshold. You can smell it at one part per billion," he said. Mann described the gas, which is a by-product of the pulping process, as an irritant but not a carcinogen. However, it can be harmful to people who are sensitive or have upper respiratory disease, he said.

No health problems were reported. According to Potlatch Environmental Engineering Manager Susan Somers, the gas was released after a line that carries it to a facility where it is burned became clogged. The line was cleared by Friday afternoon. "Normally all that stuff is piped in and burned in the kilns or the noncondensable gas incinerator," she said. Somers said the clogged pipe is being analyzed to determine why it got plugged. She reported the

release to the National Response Center, a federal clearinghouse for accidental chemical releases. Facilities such as Potlatch are required to report releases of methyl mercaptan that exceed 100 pounds. The report set in motion a chain of notifications to both

state and local emergency planners, according to Mann. Nez Perce County Emergency Management Director Mel Johnson and local hazardous materials teams were notified, and a conference call was organized between state, local and national officials.

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Nampa eyes \$38 million school bond

NAMPA (AP) - Nampa High School officials could ask for a \$38 million new school bond as early as this spring.

Education leaders said more schools are needed to keep up with the city's explosive growth. "It's still really preliminary, but it's looking like we'll need a new high school," District Administrator Harmon Hurren said. About \$23 million of the bond would be used to build a third high school to open in fall 2005, with a capacity of 1,500. Two new elementary school buildings would also be covered, at about \$6 million each, and remaining money would be used to buy property for future school sites.

School officials estimate the new high school could handle new students for an additional nine years. The proposal is not expected to raise tax levy rates. The district has formed a committee of 50 staff members, parents and other community members to make recommendations about a bond measure, which could be presented to the School Board in February.

The school district has an enrollment of more than 12,300. Nampa is Idaho's second-largest city. Nampa High School, designed for 1,350 students, currently has 1,380 students. In three years, 1,700 students are expected to be enrolled.

Skyview High School was designed for 1,500 students and has 1,546 students. In three years, enrollment is expected to be about 1,800 students.

District officials originally planned to include a request for a new high school in a May 2001 bond issue. But they feared the school board would lead voters to reject the bond, so a lesser amount and fewer schools. Voters approved the \$39.75 million request.

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MAGIC VALLEY/WEST

Police identify two crash victims

JEROME - Two people who died Friday evening in a Jerome County crash have been identified as a Jerome man and a Twin Falls woman.

Callie H. Peterson, 68, and Betty McDowell, 54, died at the scene when the cars they were driving collided head-on, the Idaho State Police reported.

Peterson's passenger, Vivian L. Peterson, 64, also of Jerome, was taken to Magic Valley Regional Medical Center. A hospital spokeswoman said Saturday evening she could not release information on a patient's condition.

At 7:30 p.m. Friday, McDowell was southbound on U.S. Highway

Magic Valley in brief

93 about four miles north of Interstate 84 when her white four-door Mitsubishi drifted across the center line, the ISP said. Her car hit the white four-door Honda that Callie Peterson was driving northbound.

Jared Shupe, 23, of Salt Lake City came upon the crash scene in a Ford pickup and drove into the borrow pit to avoid the cars, the ISP said. Neither he nor passenger Ila W. Miller, 77, also of Salt Lake, were injured.

The Petersons had been wear-

ing only the shoulder portions of their seat belts, the ISP said. McDowell had been wearing her seat belt.

The crash is still under investigation.

Garage fire sends Buhl man to M.V. hospital

BUHL - A Buhl man was treated for smoke inhalation Saturday evening following a fire in his garage.

Around noon Norman Stombaugh was starting an oil stove, located in the garage of his home at 1015 Burley Ave., when the stove exploded, said Buhl

Assistant Fire Chief Earl Tyree. The explosion caused the bottom of the stove to drop out, spilling burning oil onto the floor.

The blaze consumed the contents of the garage, including Stombaugh's car, a 2002 Buick.

Stombaugh was taken by ambulance to the Magic Valley Regional Medical Center. He was later released.

"I'm OK and really appreciative of the fire department, (quick response unit), hospital staff and all the neighbors," he said.

Firefighters were on the scene for about 1.5 hours. Tyree estimates the loss at \$50,000. -compiled from staff reports

Yellowstone opens up road to Old Faithful

YELLOWSTONE NATIONAL PARK, Wyo. (AP) - The road between the West Entrance and Old Faithful opened to snowmobiles and snowcoaches Saturday.

Most of Yellowstone's roads were scheduled to open for the winter season on Dec. 18. This winter, insufficient accumulation has prompted park officials to open the roads one section at a time.

The road from the South Entrance to Old Faithful was opened Dec. 18, followed by the route from the East Entrance to West Thumb.

Even so, park officials were urging snowmobilers to use caution and drive slowly where less snow had accumulated.

The road from the Mammoth Terraces near the North Entrance to Norris Geyser Basin

was expected to remain closed except to authorized operators using rubber-tracked snowcoaches.

The road from the North

Entrance to the Northeast Entrance remains open to automobile traffic throughout the winter, so long as it is able to be kept clear.

Teenager faces charges in cousin's stabbing death

SANDY, Utah (AP) - A family fight ended in a death early Friday morning when a teenager allegedly stabbed his cousin during a dispute over beer.

Police Sgt. Michelle Burnette said three cousins were drinking just before 2:30 a.m. when they began fighting about the beer.

During the fight, victim Cedric Yanito, 23, apparently struck his 17-year-old cousin on the side of the face with a gold club.

The 17-year-old then allegedly stabbed Yanito in the chest, Burnette said. Yanito was flown to University Medical Center where he was pronounced dead a short time later.

The 17-year-old was transported to Alta View Hospital, treated for a large gash that required

several stitches, and was later booked into juvenile detention on suspicion of criminal homicide, Burnette said.

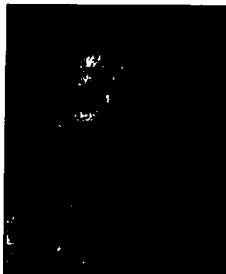
The teenager lives with his parents in Midvale.

Friday's incident marked the second time in a week that a family member allegedly stabbed another during a fight.

On Christmas night, a 72-year-old father reportedly stabbed his 39-year-old daughter because he did not agree with her lifestyle, Midvale police said.

She managed to grab the knife from him and stabbed him in the leg and bit him on the face, police said.

The woman was listed in satisfactory condition at LDS Hospital.



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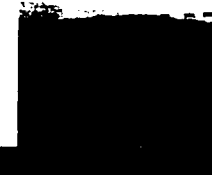
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Boise State's record-setting, WAC championship football team is going to the Humanitarian Bowl, and there were other Broncos who won major honors and put up impressive numbers in 2002...

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- ◆ **More Idahoans go to Boise State** (92 percent of fall enrollment) than any other state institution; students from every U.S. state and more than 60 foreign countries also attend
- ◆ **Business professor Tom Foster** selected winner of the 2002 National Decision Sciences Institute's Instructional Innovation Award
- ◆ **Boise State listed among top master's universities** in the West in *US News & World Report*
- ◆ **Electronics Instructor Jim Jozwiak** chosen as Motorola Educator of Year
- ◆ **Faculty members wrote an estimated 750 books, poems, textbooks, articles and stories; 1,000 journal and book reviews; and made 650 professional paper presentations**



- ◆ **Football team ranked No. 18** by ESPN/USA TODAY and No. 15 by Associated Press; **Dan Hawkins** named WAC Coach of the Year; **Brock Forsay** and **Quintin Mikell** named WAC Offensive and Defensive Player of the Year, respectively
- ◆ **Athletic department honored** by NCAA and USA TODAY for student athletes' graduation rate
- ◆ **Student-athlete Jeanne Orm** selected NCAA Woman of the Year for Idaho, the fifth consecutive Bronco to win the award
- ◆ **Wrestling team won 2002 Pac-10 championship; Mike Young** selected Pac-10 Coach of Year; **Ben VomBaur** named All-American

WAC Coach of the Year Dan Hawkins (left) with Idaho Professor of the Year Todd Shallat

2002 at Boise State: We've got winners all over the place

MAGIC VALLEY/WEST

Exhibit offers insight into stage combat

By Karen Bosack
Times-News correspondent

KECHUM — As the flat side of the broadsword hit Geoffrey Alm on the face, the gasping audience fixated on the blow and dull thud of the weapon.

"Oh, I can't hear to watch," said a 10-year-old Rachel Whitaker.

"Alm, meanwhile, was busy trying to milk the collective gasp for all he could get.

"If she had really hit me in the face with a broadsword, I don't think I'd be getting up. At the very least, I'd probably be burying my head in my arms to protect it," said Alm, who teaches stage fighting at the University of Washington.

"But we're trying to tell a story. My head comes up so the audience can see my reaction — the shock in my eyes, the quiver in my lips. My job is to make the hitting seem more interesting than it would in real life."

This behind-the-scenes look at the illusion of stage combat is part of a unique hands-on exhibit at the Sun Valley Center for the Arts that ends this month.

The exhibit — "Backstage: The Art of Stagecraft" — gives viewers a glimpse of what happens behind the curtains to make a play come to life.

The center, normally a gallery for paintings and sculpture, has been transformed into a stage complete with makeup room, sound booth and light board.

During the past couple of months visitors have had the opportunity to learn the secrets of applying stage makeup, adjust lighting to create different moods, stage play with sound effects and try their hand at stage combat.

"There are a lot of professions involved with theater besides acting, but often we're not aware of them because we don't see them as we do the actors," said Amy Wigstrom, the center's director of performing arts and a former employee of the Seattle Opera and Seattle Children's Theatre. "We wanted to unmask that side of theater from the audience's point of view."

Alm easily entertained audience members with his tales of attempting to produce blood via peanut butter, computer chips and other gizmos.

About 35 hours of practice go into every minute of stage combat, he added.

When actors fight with swords, he said, they attempt to miss their opponents by 6 inches. But they turn at such an angle that it looks as if they have made contact. When they do make contact, they attempt to strike where there's a muscle and pull away quickly so they get the sound without the impact.

"If the victim reacts to it properly, the illusion looks real," he said.

Typically, when someone's stepping on another's foot, his hand on the victim and then slap his own hand just as he pulls it away. That way he gets the sound with none of the sting.

The victim, not the aggressor, controls the action, Alm said. When he's pretending to strangle

Suspect in Caldwell beating death pleads innocent

CALDWELL (AP) — One of three people charged with murder for allegedly beating a man and leaving him to die in a Caldwell park has pleaded innocent.

Eric Owen, 20, is charged with first-degree murder for the beating death of Cary Sturgis earlier this month. He was arraigned on Friday.

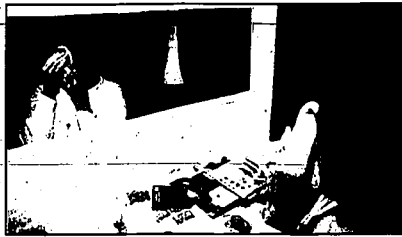
Owen pleaded innocent despite a Caldwell police statement that alleges he confessed to the crime, along with 18-year-old Dane Lawson and 16-year-old Cole Scott.

Lawson and Scott are scheduled to appear in 3rd District Court on Jan. 16. Owen is scheduled for a jury trial to begin April 14.

The three defendants are being held without bond in Canyon County jail and face life in prison or the death penalty if convicted.

someone, he allows the victim to lead him, much as a ballroom dancer would lead his partner. Every once in awhile an actor gets a broken nose or a punctured lung — but the incidence is minor considering all the fighting that takes place on stages across the world.

Safety extends to the audience, too. He said: "You don't pay good money to have a sword come flying into the audience."



Lill Simpson of Halley checks out how she'd look in elephant ears at the makeup desk set up at the Sun Valley Center for the Arts.

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WEST

Paper names LDS president Hinckley Utahn of the year

SALT LAKE CITY (AP) — After a year that began with the Winter Olympics and ended in a bitter battle over who controls the behavior on the Main Street Plaza, The Salt Lake Tribune has chosen a prominent player in both these dramas as its Utahn of the Year.

Mormon church president Gordon B. Hinckley is the newspaper's sixth annual resident of the year, according to an article for Sunday's editions.

The Utahn of the Year is selected by The Tribune's editors and publisher based on a person's influence — positive or negative — during the past year.

"The Olympics and the Plaza are dramatic bookends to a year of headline-making events in which Hinckley's veiled hand was apparent — influence often viewed differently on each side of Utah's unique demographic line," the Tribune said.

During the 2002 Winter Olympics, The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints' 92-year-old leader showed the world that the Mormon church is a mainstream religion, the newspaper said.

"No other LDS leader, not even Brigham Young, has brought such visibility and prominence to his religion," the

article said.

By the end of the year, the city's attention had turned to the Mormon-owned Main Street Plaza.

A court ruling in October found that the walkway through the plaza is a public easement, and First Amendment rights could not be restricted there.

The church, which had turned the block of Main Street into a park between its offices and the temple, argued that they owned the land outright and had the right to control behavior there.

The city and church continue to look for a compromise on the situation.

Utah county considers tax increase

SALT LAKE CITY (AP) — A budget crunch brought on partly by an October 2001 double homicide investigation and a July wildfire, Daggett County officials are proposing a substantial increase in property taxes.

On Friday, residents attended a public hearing in Manila on the plan to increase property taxes by 17 percent in order to prosecute two suspects in the murders of Kelly Jack Carter, 27, and Brad Wesley Gross, 23, as well as to pay off a state assessment for fighting the Mustang Ridge wildfire in eastern Utah's Uinta Mountains.

A notice for the hearing in the area newspaper along with the planned tax hike caused a stir.

Daggett County Auditor RaNae Wilde said Friday before the meeting.

But, she said, even if the proposal is approved by the County Commission on Tuesday, the overall tax rate still will be lower than it was in 1992, '93 and '94.

On a primary residence in Daggett County with a market value of \$147,010, property taxes would rise from \$699 to \$860, Wilde said.

On a secondary residence with a market value of \$94,850, property taxes would increase from \$739 to \$902, she said.

Last year, Daggett County collected \$211,503 in property taxes.

If the tax increase passes, Wilde expects it would increase county coffers by \$281,233 — for a total tax collection of \$492,736.

Budget cuts in Utah may lead to inmate release

SALT LAKE CITY (AP) — More than 400 inmates may be released by March if legislators approve Department of Corrections budget cuts, prisons chief Mike Chabries said Friday.

Chabries said he was responding to Gov. Mike Leavitt's request to evaluate the effect of the Legislature's decision during a special session last week to cut nearly \$3.5 million from the Department of Corrections budget.

Chabries said the cuts would mean more than 400 inmates would have to be released by March 1. The department tentatively has decided to close the 30-bed Lone Peak minimum-security facility at the Point of the Mountain.

review all the prisoners, Chabries said.

In 2001, budget cuts forced the closure of two prisons and the early release of 400 inmates. The pardons board chose those who already had parole dates and those who had committed nonviolent crimes and weren't violent while in prison.

Chabries said it's likely the board will use the same criteria this time.

The challenge is to find the right 400 inmates to release.

Keeping people on parole instead of in prison helps the cash-strapped state. Instead of spending \$24,000 per year to house a prisoner, Utah pays \$2,000 per year to supervise a parolee.

Lone Peak houses the Flame-In-Go firefighters and other inmates in work-release programs.

About 100 of the 400 early release inmates may come from the state inmates now housed in county jails, Chabries said. The department also may have to close the Diagnostic Evaluation Program, where 100 unsentenced offenders are undergoing court-requested tests.

"Everything is tentative," he said. "The governor asked me to do this a week ago. I gave it to him today."

The budget cut could result in the loss of 81 staff positions, but Chabries said some of those employees may find other positions within the department.

The Board of Pardons ultimately will make the decision about which inmates are released. It will take them up to two months to

But while it may seem the best choices would be parolees who have almost completed their supervision, they could be exactly the wrong people to remove from new re-entry education and support programs that have lowered recidivism from 50 percent to 40 percent.

Instead, those prisoners most likely to be repeat offenders could be released, he said. While that choice may seem counterintuitive, he said, that way police could re-arrest them and severely overburdened parole agents wouldn't have to add the predictable losers to their supervisory caseloads.

About 38 percent of state prisoners are drug offenders; 30 percent or so are in for property crimes. Ten years ago, both populations were about 20 percent lower, Chabries said.

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Managers release Castle Rocks plans

By Nate Johnson
Times-News writer

ALMO — The managers of City of Rock Island Reserve have issued a planning document for the proposed Castle Rocks State Park, which is now available on the Internet.

The document contains the parameters for park development. Castle Rocks is not a state park but could become one if the National Park Service completes an exchange for state land in the Hogerman Fossil Beds National Monument.

City of Rocks Superintendent Wallace Keck, who would also supervise Castle Rocks, plans to conduct public meetings this spring to gather input for the direction of the park, if the trade goes as planned.

- Personnel within the Idaho Department of Parks and Recreation have made the following commitments for land use at Castle Rocks if it becomes a park:
 - Big Cove Road, which connects to the Almo-Elba Road north of Almo, would be the only vehicle access to the park. New roads and parking areas would be limited to minimize visual and aerial impacts to the surrounding area.
 - Overnight camping would be allowed. Managers would build a group picnic site. Managers would only allow low-density, low-impact uses of the park.
 - Grazing would continue in non-sensitive areas.
 - Administrative facilities would be established in the existing ranch buildings.
 - Park officials would manage hunting to ensure the safety of visitors.

See the report
You can find the full planning document for Castle Rocks at www.idps.gov/cir/pghm/facts.html.

In addition to these guidelines, the planning document contains the suggestions of a planning group. This group, which met in May 2001, consisted of employees of the Park Service, the U.S. Forest Service and Parks and Recreation. The group suggested the park managers identify places of historical significance in the park and fund ways to preserve them so visitors could learn about the history of the place.

The group recommended a parking lot and bathroom at the ranch house and no other vehicle access in the park. Horses should be allowed in the park, as long as they have a certified weed-free grazing permit or feed pellets, the group said. The planners suggested making an equestrian and mountain-bike trail, a flat trail along streams and near rocks, and steeper trails providing climbers access to the rocks. Planners also suggested ways the managers could exchange parts of the park with private landowners.

Because there is no money to spare in the state budget, Parks and Recreation would open the park using only the money it generates from grazing leases and user fees. The park would run on its current budget — less than \$20,000 — which comes from grazing leases.

Times-News writer Nate Johnson can be reached at 677-4042, Ext. 637, or by e-mail at njohn@magicalvalley.com.

Idaho Falls

Continued from B1

Regional has been a shot in the arm to the local economy.

"You can drive up and down this side of town and see what the medical field has meant to the community," Crabtree said. "It's been good for health care and good for the economy. We recruited specialists and offered more services. Last year we recruited over 20 new physicians. Each of them had an office staff of five or 10 people. That meant at least 100 jobs for the community."

Still, Crabtree admits the new competition, located across the street, will hurt his hospital's bottom line. Crabtree contends duplication of services does not benefit patients.

"We have five MRIs in Idaho Falls — more MRIs than entire provinces have in Canada," he said. "Someone has to pay for those."

But West said competition can help keep health care costs down if there's a large enough volume of patients. There are 173,000 people who live within a 25-mile radius of Idaho Falls. That's enough patients to keep both hospitals in business, West said.

"There are ways competition can work," West said. "It does get very costly to have two identical facilities. Part of the problem is, in medicine there isn't a free market system like a grocery store on every corner

where one grocery store is selling apples at \$2 a pound so another sells them at \$1.99 a pound.

"In health care, you're dealing with third-party payers, and there's a tendency to drive up the volume. Subconscious things can happen, like ordering more tests to drive up the volume. You don't want to create an atmosphere where you have to start doing that to pay the bills. You have to be very careful to not drive costs up."

"You have to ask yourself, 'What do you give up?' so you're not going head to head over services."

Erickson sees Mountain View working with Eastern Idaho Regional to provide quality medical care to patients in the region. Mountain View doctors have privileges at Eastern Idaho Regional and said they will continue to send some patients there.

"We're not trying to be everything to everyone," Erickson said. "We want to keep patients in the community. Instead of having an adversarial relationship, our hospital would refer our high-risk patients to EIRMC. The quality of care at Eastern Idaho Regional Medical Center is outstanding."

Times-News writer Sandy Miller can be reached at 735-3264 or by e-mail at smiller@magicalvalley.com.

Pomerelle owners look to relieve overcrowding

By Nate Johnson
Times-News writer

ALBION — At 11:30 a.m., when the Pomerelle parking lot filled up, John Burrows plowed part of the Howell Canyon Road to create more places for skiers to leave their cars.

Pomerelle Mountain Resort does not seem crowded in the lift lines. Even on Saturday, which was one of the busiest days for the resort this season, the lines lasted no more than a few minutes. But in the lodge people filled every seat during the lunch hour, and in the rope tow area, first-timers had to work to stay out of each other's way.

The owners of the ski area have started building an expansion to accommodate more people. Local land owners have opposed the expansion, fearing it would impact their water supply and the environmental integrity of the mountain.

The rope tow area is even more crowded during the week when three or four bus loads of children are all trying to learn, said ski instructor Dan Rowe. "You look up on the rope tow and it's solid bodies," he said.

The expansion would include three new lifts for beginners, giving them more space to learn. The resort owners also plan to build a new lodge where doctors could sit and look down on Mills Run. The improvements would eventually attract more people to Pomerelle, said Burrows, who is one of the



Crowds at Pomerelle Ski Resort have overwhelmed Saturday skiers. The ski area has a proposed expansion of the base area, more lifts and opening new terrain will help alleviate the congestion.

resort owners.

"Build it and they will come," he said. "If you have nice accommodations people will use them."

More people is precisely what local landowner Earl Warthen is worried about. In his opinion, more people will amount to more cars dripping fluids into the snow, more knuckleheads dropping candy wrappers and more trees cut down.

Although Woody Anderson, another resort owner, agrees that there will be impacts, he said he thinks the land can sustain more people. Besides, the U.S. Forest Service has already approved the

expansion, Anderson said.

Many planned expansions depend on water. Pomerelle needs water for the lodge and to make snow in the proposed beginner area. The tops of bushes are still visible through the powder in this proposed learning area, although all the other slopes are covered in snow.

For several years the Forest Service has been negotiating with water users downstream, trying to establish one new water right on the mountain and transfer an existing water right for the resort. Three men, including Warthen,

are protesting the permit applications, putting the expansion on hold.

If the Forest Service secures the permits and Pomerelle builds the expansion, Anderson will look for still more elbow room. He would like to build a lift on Mount Harrison, to the west, giving skiers a greater vertical drop than they can find at Bald Mountain in Sun Valley. He is also considering the possibility of running snowcat ski tows. For now he's concentrating on obtaining water permits and providing more room for beginners.

Crump

Continued from B1

I'm just here to get my baby out of jail

Oh, warden, I'm just here to get my baby out of jail

I said to raise my baby right, I have proved both day and night

That he wouldn't follow the footsteps of his dad

I have searched both far and wide, and I found that he had died in jail

But at last I found my baby here in jail

Oh, warden, at last I found my baby here in jail

It was just five years today, when his daddy passed away

He was found beneath the snow

so cold and white

Now that I would to take his ring, and his gold watch and his chain

When the county laid his daddy in the grave

Yes, warden, the county laid his daddy in the grave

I will pawn you his watch, I will pawn you his chain

I will pawn you my diamond wedding ring

I will wash all your clothes, I will scrub all your floors

If that will get my baby out of jail

Yes, warden, if that will get my baby out of jail

Then I heard the warden say to the lady old and grey

I'll go bring your darling baby to your side

Two iron gates swing wide apart, she held her darling to her heart

She kissed her baby boy and then she died

But smiling, she kissed her baby boy and then she died

Sigh

Evils is dead, and I don't feel so good myself

Steve Crump is the Times-News features editor. Write to him at crump@magicalvalley.com.

Satisfaction

Continued from B1

didn't come back unnecessarily. Especially for self-pay patients, ER visits are expensive things."

• Same-day surgery — This was a weak spot, but Bright cites improvement efforts.

The hospital had a score of 89.1, down from 89.3 the previous quarter. It measured in the 36th percentile compared with other Press Ganey hospitals — meaning 62 percent of the hospitals scored better.

"We moved the last appointment to 7 p.m. from 5 p.m., so there's not so much of a rush," Bright said. "We have operating room circulators who call families in the waiting areas when a procedure runs longer than an hour. A tracking card is attached to a same-day surgery patient's chart so the doctor knows exactly which waiting room a patient's family is in."

• Canyon View — The hospital's mental health unit scored of 87.6 and measured at the 95th percentile. That means only 5 percent of Press Ganey hospitals scored better. One of the things Canyon View initiated was daily feedback sessions, where patients could express their needs and play a more proactive role in their healing process, Bright said.

"The staff had a half-day insert-vice with the pastoral team so they could help meet patients' spiritual needs," she said. "We have hospitals calling Canyon View from all over the country asking them what they're doing."

• Home health — The home health department had a score of 90.7, up from 90 the previous quarter, and measured in the 69th percentile compared with other hospitals, up from the 61st percentile the previous quarter.

The 69th percentile means 31 percent of hospitals scored better.

Bright said home health staff members are taking extra time to answer patients' questions and are showing concern.

Scores in the 80s and 90s show most patients are rating Magic Valley Regional's services as "good" or "very good," Bright said. She said the hospital recently began inviting former patients to "focus groups" to help the hospital further improve patient satisfaction.

"Things are working," Bright said. "Are we satisfied? We're working on it. We choose to be excellent — at the top of all hospitals across the country."

Times-News writer Sandy Miller can be reached at 735-3264 or by e-mail at smiller@magicalvalley.com.

Pocatello

Continued from B1

"We provided all non-management people they would have a job," his said. "We've seen to eight managers lost their jobs because of duplication. In some instances they found other jobs in the organization."

The first thing the hospital did was consolidate services. It kept

the emergency room at the Bennoch site, built in 1952, and named Pocatello Regional's ER, built in 2001, into a 12-hour urgent care center. It traded in both hospitals' MRI for a new \$1.5 million MRI with advanced technology.

"We're already seeing some of the benefits," Miller said. "It

afforded us the opportunity to not duplicate services and expensive equipment. Bringing services together will represent a savings."

Times-News writer Sandy Miller can be reached at 735-3264 or by e-mail at smiller@magicalvalley.com.

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The Times-News

Sunday, December 29, 2002

Section C

MORNING LINE

SPORTSQUOTE

“I’m really exciting, I smile a lot, I win a lot and I’m really sexy.”

”

—Serina Williams, who was named female athlete of the year by The Associated Press

TRIVIA

QUESTION: Which was the first expansion team to win an NFL championship?

...answer below

IN BRIEF

Flames get Darryl Sutter as new coach

CALGARY, Alberta — Darryl Sutter was hired as the new coach of the Calgary Flames on Saturday.

Sutter was fired by the San Jose Sharks on Dec. 1 after an 8-12-2 start. He will make his debut with Calgary on Sunday night against the Anaheim Mighty Ducks.

Calgary fired Greg Gilbert on Dec. 3. Gilbert was in his second full season as coach after taking over the team in March 2001, when Don Hay was fired.

Al MacNeil, the special assistant to general manager Craig Burton, was the interim coach. Sutter's name was among the first to surface as a potential candidate when the Flames fired Gilbert and assistant coach and McCrimmon. Sutter's family has roots in Alberta and his brother, Brian, coached the Flames for three seasons.

In his first five seasons with the Sharks, Sutter had a regular-season record of 192-182-60.

Report: Brooks offered job as Kentucky coach

LOUISVILLE, Ky. — Former NFL coach Rich Brooks was offered a job as Kentucky coach on Saturday night and asked a report the Wildcats had asked him to become their football coach.

CBS Sports said Kentucky had picked Brooks, who guided the St. Louis Rams in 1995-96.

Reached at the couple's home in Oregon, his wife, Karen, told The Associated Press that he was in Kentucky, but would not say whether the job was his. A call to Brooks' cell phone was not immediately returned.

Kentucky media relations director Brock Downing said Saturday night that athletic director Ed Barnhart would make an announcement concerning the head coaching vacancy by Monday at the earliest.

Tennessee St. suspends basketball coach

NASHVILLE, Tenn. — Tennessee State has suspended basketball coach Nolan Richardson III indefinitely for an unspecified violation of university policy.

Richardson, the son of former Arkansas coach Nolan Richardson, was suspended Friday and did not travel with the team to Ohio State for Saturday's game.

The suspension, first reported by Nashville television stations and The Tennessee newspaper, was confirmed by the university in a statement Saturday.

The NCAA is investigating the program for rules violations under Richardson. The inquiry involves allegations of impermissible practices out of season, providing extra benefits to recruits and unethical conduct by a coach.

Compiled from wire reports

TRIVIA ANSWER:

The expansion Minnesota Vikings, who began play in 1960, won the NFL title on Jan. 4, 1970 with a 27-7 win over the Cleveland Browns. The Vikings played on to lose to the Kansas City Chiefs, 23-7, in the last NFL Super Bowl.

TIMES-NEWS SPORTS STORY OF THE YEAR

The 2002 Winter Olympics and torch relay

Relay, Salt Lake Winter Games, top local sports scene for 2002

The Times-News

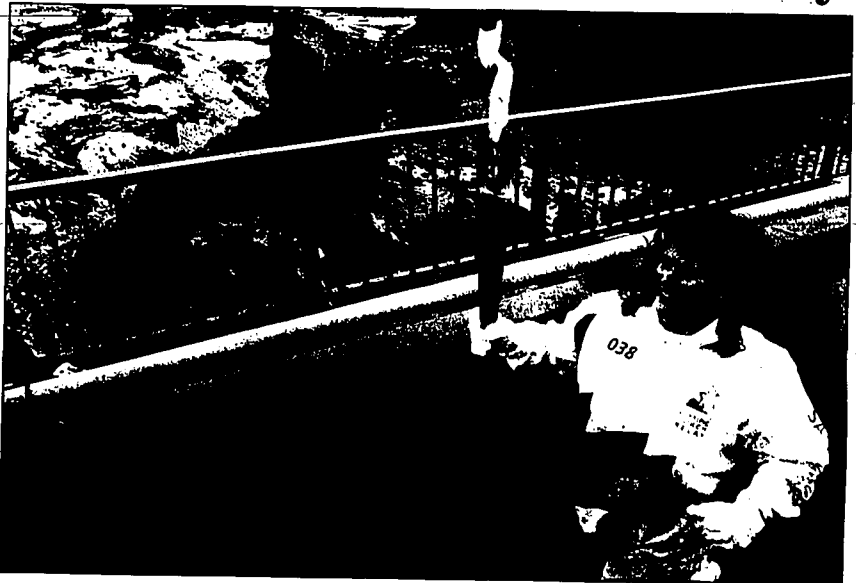
TWIN FALLS — For a moment, as it passed before us, we felt hopeful and proud.

Proud to be free. Prouder to be an American. And prouder still, cheering on the Olympic torch.

Its flame flickered past us here in Twin Falls with a message of hope in the wake of a tragic September 11 morning just five months earlier.

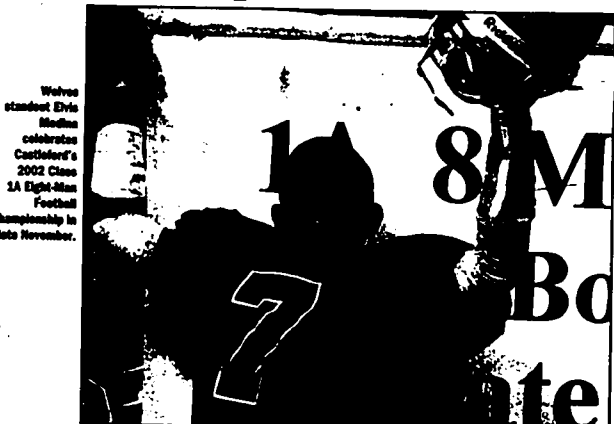
The subsequent Salt Lake City games that followed the Olympic Torch's travels were even more intriguing. You had Idaho's Picabo Street competing for her final time. You had Skategate and Sarah Hughes. You had armed guards and Apache helicopters overhead. You had a United States team winning a record 34 medals.

Please see TORCH, Page C2



Jennie Fallmer from Burley is the first to carry the Olympic flame into Twin Falls across the Perrine Bridge in January. Fallmer is a vocational rehabilitation counselor and is expecting her first child in the fall.

The Top 10 sports stories of 2002



Times-News sports staff picks important local moments

The Times-News

The Top 10 stories of 2002, as determined by Times-News sports editor Kevin Hall and sportswriters Scott Thompson and Joe Paisley, are listed as they occurred this past calendar year.

• In April, Randy Rogers takes over as CSI head women's basketball coach, replacing Steve Irons, who resigned after only two weeks on the job for health reasons. Irons had taken over for Kendall Grant, who resigned three weeks earlier.

• In May, the Twin Falls Lady Bruins golf team defied history to become just the second team to ever win three straight state titles. The Bruins did it in dominating fashion with a 23-shot victory despite poor weather conditions. Please see TOP 10, Page C2

More, more and more demands your intrepid reporter

Excuse me a minute here as I climb up on the lap of Sports Santa.

I have a list, and I've checked it twice since opening all my gifts under the tree a few days ago. And I'm still missing some things. I know I'm asking for a lot — another year as good as this past one. But isn't that why Sports Santa is here?

I want to see Burley senior running back Jed Thomas playing football next year in state and on scholarship. If this kid isn't D-1 material, I need to be covering croquet Friday nights in the fall because it would mean I know nothing about football. I can understand a national bias against Idaho athletes but a prejudice from Idaho schools mystifies me. All Centennial graduate Brock Forsy did this year was lead the nation in scoring for Boise State.

I want to turn on the tube this March and see Minico grad Clare Bodensteiner and the Stanford Cardinal on their way to a national championship.

I want to see more Jerome girls basketball games. The Tigers are loaded with talented, classy and smart young women, and that starts right at the top with coach Michelle Skyler. Sure, she's a tremendous motivator who can X and O with anyone, but we're talking about the Tigers today for the ceremony they had honoring



THOMPSON TIMEOUT Scott Thompson

Buhl's Brandt Hostman, who is still recovering from injuries suffered in a car wreck while going to a summer league game in Jerome. Good programs happen to good people.

I want to see Matt Harr coaching when it counts again. But this time for his alma mater — Twin Falls. All he did last school year was lead the Burley baseball team to the state title and the basketball team to a second-place finish.

I want again to cover the Glenns Ferry football team in the playoffs just to see coach Joel Herrmann's ever-changing game plan. Will the Pilots be in the wishbone, the power-I or four wides? Probably more than that, though, I want to see Zach Simons and Co. on the diamond since I have yet to see the powerhouse Pilot baseball team due to quirks in scheduling.

I want to watch the Jerome boys soccer team reap the rewards of a first-ever trip to state. It says here, the Tigers are Please see TIMEOUT, Page C2

Twin Falls downs Spartans

By Sarah Dean Times-News writer

TWIN FALLS — The Lady Bruins completed a sweep of Minico, 39-27 on Saturday, defeating the Spartans for the second time this season in Region III girls basketball play.

Lady Bruin Amanda Hovey led all scorers with 15 points, including two 3-pointers, and Danielle Maloney netted 11 points to help Twin Falls cause.

Minico's Jayme Allen and Monica Jensen scored seven points each to lead the Spartans. Jensen opened scoring 30 seconds into the game on an offensive putback following a shot by Whitney Martin.

Twin Falls responded by stepping up the pressure defense, holding Minico to just seven more points in the first quarter.

By the end of the half, it looked like a game of keepaway, with more passing than shooting. The halftime score was 24-17, Twin Falls.

In the second half, both teams

focused on defense and by the end of the game the only shots to be made for either team were on fouls.

Minico coach Clint Straatman said his team needs to work on putting the ball in the net.

"We played well defensively, but we didn't execute one play down the stretch," Straatman said.

Twin Falls coach Joe Sheppard said neither team shot well, but both played excellent defense.

"We didn't do well tonight, but it is just a matter of playing more games," Sheppard said. "We need to get back in the flow. We should be playing well by February."

Twin Falls (9-1, 3-0 Region III) plays at Bishop Kelly Friday, and Pocatello on Saturday. Minico (2-10, 1-3 Region III) plays Rigby Jan. 7.

Small text block containing contact information for the newspaper.

Giants fight their way into playoffs

The Associated Press

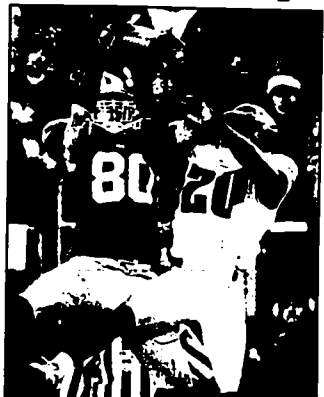
EAST RUTHERFORD, N.J. — After spending four quarters trying to give away a wild-card berth, the New York Giants got one anyway — courtesy of the Philadelphia Eagles.

Matt Bryant kicked a 39-yard field goal 5:10 into overtime, and the Giants capped a late-season run to the postseason by beating the Eagles 10-7 Saturday.

"This was a reflection of our whole season," said Giants safety Shaun Williams, whose interception set up the game-winning kick. "A lot of bad things happened but we just kept fighting."

The Giants (10-6) overcame four turnovers, including three lost fumbles by Tiki Barber, and a missed field goal in winning their fourth straight. Barber ran for a career-high 203 yards in helping the Giants return to the playoffs for the first time since 2000.

Please see NFL, Page C4



Giants tight end Jeremy Shockey catches a pass in the end zone for a touchdown over Eagles free safety Brian Dawkins Saturday at Giants Stadium in East Rutherford, N.J. The Giants won 10-7 in overtime to make the playoffs as a wild-card team.

SPORTS

Stackhouse lifts Wizards past Hawks

WASHINGTON (AP) — Jerry Stackhouse scored 15 of his 29 points in the fourth quarter as the Washington Wizards broke a three-game losing streak with an 84-76 victory over the Atlanta Hawks on Saturday night.

Stackhouse, who said he didn't get the ball enough in the fourth quarter of Thursday's loss to Detroit, started the final period with a 3-pointer after the Hawks' cut the Wizards' lead to one. He added a pair of free throws and an emphatic one-handed driving dunk in a decisive 13-4 run that put Washington ahead by 10 with 5 minutes left.

Pacers 91, Hornets 84 INDIANAPOLIS — Ron Artest scored 20 points and reserve Eric Strickland scored 12 of his 20 in Indiana's decisive run as the Pacers defeated New Orleans.

Strickland, replacing an ineffective Jamaal Tinsley at point guard, sparked a 16-9 surge over the final 3:21 for the Central Division-leading

Pacers (23-8). Baron Davis scored 22 points for New Orleans, which overcame 26.5 percent shooting in the first half to rally from a 45-35 deficit and make the game close throughout the second half.

George Lynch's layup with 3:32 remaining tied it at 75-75, but Strickland and the Pacers took over from there. Strickland made all three of his field goals and all six of his free throws to lead the Celtics surge.

Magic 101, Celtics 95 ORLANDO, Fla. — Tracy McGrady scored 25 points and Mike Miller had 20 as Orlando handed Boston its third straight loss.

Andrew DeClercq had 13 points and 12 rebounds for his first double-double with Orlando, which blew a 19-point lead but put the game away with a 9-2 run that Miller capped with a 3-pointer for a 95-89 lead with 2:45 left.

Orlando, which had won four of its last six, avoided a four-game losing streak to Boston. The Celtics haven't won that many consecutive games in the series in a decade.

Pistons 106, Timberwolves 82 AUBURN HILLS, Mich. — Richard Hamilton scored 24 points, and Chauncey Billups added 21 against his former team as Detroit routed Minnesota.

Mehmet Okur had a career-high 15 points and Ben Wallace added 10 points and 17 rebounds for the Pistons, who improved to 4-1 against the Western Conference — best of any Eastern Conference team.

Kevin Garnett led Minnesota with 20 points and 13 rebounds, while Mark Jackson added 17 off the bench as the Timberwolves lost for the third time in five games.

Mavericks 107, Knicks 82 DALLAS — Steve Nash and Nick Van Exel regained their shooting touch, helping the Dallas Mavericks return to their high-scoring ways with a 107-82 victory over the New York Knicks on Saturday night.

Nash had 19 points on 6-of-9 shooting and Van Exel scored 15. Dallas led by 27 after three quarters, enabling coach Don Nelson to rest his Big Three of Nash, Dirk Nowitzki and Michael Finley.

WENDELL — Wendell's buzzer-beater fell short and New Plymouth held on for a nonconference boys basketball win, 45-44, at the Wendell Holiday Tournament Saturday afternoon.

The 3-point attempt came only three seconds after Pilgrims forward Adam Shockley hit 1-of-2 free throws to break the tie.

New Plymouth guard Drew Johnson lit up the Wendell gym, hitting 5-of-9 3-point attempts en route to a game-high 21 points.

"Johnson is quite a player," said Trojans coach Alan Kelsey. "He's a tough, tough player. We didn't give him much room and he kept hitting them."

Foul trouble hampered Wendell, sitting down leading scorer Kael Pope with five minutes left. He finished with 8 "points" and 11 rebounds.

WENDELL — Melba 97, Glens Ferry 57 behind eight players scoring in double figures Saturday afternoon in game three of the Wendell Holiday boys basketball Tournament.

Zach Simons scored 24 points in the loss.

The Community School 25, 0-2 plays at Camas County next Saturday.

The Community School 65, Jackpot, Nev. 37 JACKPOT, NEV. — Bret Watson pumped in 18 points and Jim Fairchild added 16 as The Community School romped past Jackpot, Nev., 65-37, in nonconference boys basketball play Saturday night.

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Pilgrims edge Trojans, 45-44

Local sports

"They did a nice job of double-teaming Kael and slowing the game way down," Kelsey added. "We have to learn to play without (Pope)."

A.J. Kelsey scored 14 and handed down 11 boards. Wendell (5-2) hosts Gooding on Jan. 6.

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Wendell Holiday Tournament schedule and scores for various schools and events.

MEMORABLE MOMENTS OF 2002

- Special moments: 1. Rust standout Brand Hornet... 2. Wendell... 3. The Buzzi... 4. The Buzzi... Individual performances: 1. CSI sophomore Ricky Clemans... 2. Wendell Trojans... 3. Burley... 4. Oakesley... 5. Minto...

UPSETS

- 1. The Buzzi... 2. The Buzzi... 3. The Buzzi... 4. The Buzzi... 5. The Buzzi...

WRESTLING

- 1. Defending Olympic Greco-Roman wrestling champion... 2. Defending Olympic Greco-Roman wrestling champion... 3. Defending Olympic Greco-Roman wrestling champion...

INJURIES

- 1. In May, the Burley Bobcats... 2. In July, defending Olympic Greco-Roman wrestling heavy-weight champion... 3. In November, Gooding Senator April Homan...

Top 10

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A RACE TO REMEMBER



Bill Faulkner Jr. and other Faulkner Racing Team boats are backed into the Snake River to stir the waters in remembrance of Lance Faulkner in late June.

Timeout

Continued from C1. On their way to becoming a state power... I want to see a speedy runner on first with a big lead and a good jump trying to steal second against Twin Falls catcher Brett Miller... I can't wait for state wrestling championship bouts as grapplers condense all their hopes, their dreams and their strength into the most exhausting and exhilarating six minutes in sports...

Torch

Continued from C1. With the Olympic Winter Games just 3.5 hours away and the torch its symbol of courage and spirit... The torch fulfilled a year and a half of planning for the city to "light the spirit within" and around Twin Falls... The torch humbled those who carried it, while inspiring those who watched it... It was the first time since 1954 that the torch visited the Magic Valley... The torch humbled those who carried it, while inspiring those who watched it...



Defending Olympic Greco-Roman wrestling champion Rulon Gardner looks on while two participants try out some moves during a camp Gardner held in Kimberly this July.

Economic crisis dominated the year for Idaho

By Bob Fick
Associated Press writer

BOISE - The Idaho economy that began unraveling last year fell apart in 2002.

Bankruptcies jumped for the second straight year.

Thousands were thrown out of work.

Any hope of a quick economic recovery was dashed.

Facing a deepening deficit, the state made its first-ever cut to public education funding and slashed cash for colleges.

As the year ended, the politically unpalatable prospect of a tax increase hung over the Idaho Legislature - one of the few remaining alternatives to draconian spending cuts in eliminating a \$160 million deficit. From the upcoming budget.

But while the state's economic problems dominated headlines during the past 12 months, 2002 also saw voters rally the unprecedented repeal of term limits and the legality of electronic gambling machines in Indian casinos.

A Fish and Game director was forced out, the exceptional Capitol security precautions taken after the terror attacks were withdrawn and a U.S. Supreme Court ruling raised serious questions about the validity of Idaho's death penalty.

But it was the continuing fallout from the economy that rocked the state.

In less than two years, a state economy that boasted high incomes, low unemployment and building budget surpluses had morphed into one where unemployment hit a 15-year high, businesses and plants closed and budget deficits reached record highs.

Since February, 8,500 jobs have disappeared. More than 6,300 of those were in Ada and Canyon counties, where electronics plants like Zilog and Micron Technology began cutting back in 2001 in reaction to a weak market for products such as computer memory chips.

Agriculture was one relatively bright spot. Despite another year of drought, farm prices appeared to have bottomed out and began making a slow comeback. The state also slipped through the fire season without a major blaze.

Still, the overall economy suffered and Gov. Dirk Kempthorne and lawmakers said state government must tighten its belt just like Idaho families had to.

That led to \$23 million out from state's public schools while colleges sustained a 10 percent funding reduction. University of Idaho President Robert Hoover began looking for another job out of the state, but agreed to stay in Idaho after some key lawmakers indicated they would try to find more cash for colleges in 2003.

To raise more money for their schools, the presidents of Idaho's three universities and Lewis-Clark State College proposed raising student fees.

Combined with the deepest state spending cuts made in 20 years, Kempthorne used every cent of the state's cash reserves. Now, after two years of buttressing spending beyond tax revenues with money from the state's savings, any cushion is gone.

Kempthorne pledged to oppose further education cuts or reductions in health care and public safety, leaving himself little maneuvering room for dealing with upcoming budget shortfalls.

The 2002 political campaign was entwined in the downward economic spiral. Democrats took advantage of the first legislative redistricting plan drafted by a bipartisan citizens commission to double their numbers in the state Legislature.

But even with four more Democratic senators and five new representatives, the Legislature remained the most Republican in the nation.

Kempthorne won a second term, but without the help of voters in the state's largest county and seat of state government. Democrat Jerry Brady nabbed more votes than the Republican in Ada County.

Democrats managed to retain their hold on the State Schools Superintendent's office, re-electing Marilyn Howard. But the minority party lost the controller's office, which they held since 1957.

Meanwhile, voters narrowly made Idaho the first state in the nation to repeal statewide term

limits. Pro-term limit forces from outside Idaho pumped about \$500,000 into the failed effort to keep the restrictions on elected service.

The Idaho Legislature repealed the 1994 initiative in February and voters ratified that decision by a mere 1,889 votes.

The state's Indian tribes also spent \$4 million to assure passage of their initiative to clearly legalize the thousands of electronic gambling machines that so have made reservation casinos so profitable.

Lawsuits over both propositions have been promised.

As Kempthorne struggled with the budget, he also quietly undid what his critics called heavy-handed security measures imposed after the Sept. 11 terror attacks. The barricade around the



Idaho Deputy Attorney General Michael Henderson speaks at a news conference at the State Attorney General's Office in Boise on June 24. Henderson discussed Idaho's position on a decision by the United States Supreme Court that juries, not judges, must make the crucial decisions that mean a convicted killer lives or dies. The high court's decision was one of the top 10 stories of the year for the state.



Left, Gov. Dirk Kempthorne speaks in his office on Jan. 25, in Boise, as Rep. Maxine Bell, R-Jerome, co-chair of the Joint Finance-Appropriations Committee, looks on. Above, a street branching from Capitol Boulevard that leads to the Idaho Statehouse building was closed due to increased security on Nov. 2, 2001, in Boise. Removal of the security measures and Kempthorne's re-election were two of the top 10 stories of the year for the state.

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Capitol came down in the spring and the closed streets on the north and south sides of the building were reopened. The heavy contingent of State Police and National Guard patrolling the government complex was released.

And finally in early fall, all the entrances to the Capitol were reopened to the public.

The governor continued to defend the measures, saying he would rather react strongly and protect lives than fail to take precautions and watch someone injured or killed.

Kempthorne was also drawn to the center of the uproar over January's departure of Fish and Game Director Rod Sande. The director was ousted after two years for reportedly failing to adequately consider concerns of landowners and resource users.

While the Fish and Game Commission has control over department personnel, legislative leaders said the order to fire Sande came from the governor.

Sande's dismissal prompted a failed attempt for a voters initiative to check the governor's power to appoint Fish and Game Commission members. Leaders of that drive promised to try again if the Legislature does not respond to their concerns.

The state has also been reeling from last June's Supreme Court ruling that indicated Idaho's death penalty law is invalid because a judge - not a jury - decides whether a convicted murderer should be executed.

The state Supreme Court followed by overturning one death sentence without explanation, beyond citing the federal court ruling. Several other murder cases have been plea-bargain down because of the uncertainty.

And a federal appellate court is considering whether the other 21 death sentences in Idaho, and those in states with similar laws, should be thrown out.



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Looking back

Top stories of 2002

- BOISE (AP) - Here is how Idaho's newspaper editors and broadcast news directors ranked the top stories in the state during 2002.
1. The bottom falls out of the Idaho economy.
 2. Economic crisis prompts first-ever cut in state school support.
 3. Fish and Game Director Rod Sande forced to resign.
 4. Bipartisan panel redraws legislative district lines.
 5. Term limit initiative is repealed.
 6. Gov. Dirk Kempthorne wins second term.
 7. Removal of the Capitol security following Sept. 11.
 8. Voters approve Indian gambling initiative.
 9. Governor appoints task force to address economic crisis.
 10. U.S. Supreme Court ruling places death penalty in jeopardy.

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2002 saw deaths of human rights leader, philanthropist

BOISE (AP) - Here are some notable Idahoans who died in the past year.

January
Cliff Long, of Idaho Falls, was a longtime Bonneville County Commissioner and Republican Party official in eastern Idaho. He was 77.

David Little, of Emmett, was the son of Idaho "sheep king" Andy Little and served eight terms in the Idaho Legislature. He was 83.

March
Ron Peterson, of Pocatello, was Idaho State University's men's golf coach from 1996 to 2001. He was 87.

David Sparrow, of Boise, was chairman of the Idaho Wheat Commission and played a key role in the state's campaign to escalate wheat and other commodity exports. He was 51.

February
Mary Jensen Smith Oldham, of Rexburg, was the first woman to practice law and serve as justice of the peace in Idaho. She was 89.

Mary Elizabeth Thomas Peavey Brooks, of Twin Falls, was a former state legislator who served as director of the U.S. Mint under Presidents Nixon and Ford. She was 94.

E.C. "Chuck" Palmer was the Ada County Sheriff in 1982 when a teenager jacked for failure to pay traffic tickets was beaten to death in jail, leading

to major changes in how juvenile offenders are handled in Idaho. He was 70.

Wes Tronson, of Boise, was a former state senator and long-time Gooding County assessor. He was 85.

Robert Lamphere, who lived part-time in Hayden, was the former FBI counterintelligence specialist instrumental in unmasking many Soviet spies during the Cold War. He was 83.

May
Bruce Bowler, of Boise, who helped preserve many of Idaho's most prized landscapes, helped write the 1938 initiative establishing the Fish and Game Commission. He was 91.

Bill Granton was a pioneer in Idaho television broadcasting, working into the late 1970s before winning a seat on the Ada County Commission. He was 82.

June
Ken Dulaney, of Big Spring, Texas, was the former general manager of The Morning News in Blackfoot. He was 60.

Jim Fox was the broadcast voice of Idaho State University athletics since 1978. He was 63.

July
Melba Crapo, of Idaho Falls, was the mother of Idaho's junior U.S. senator, Michael Crapo. She was 91.

Ted Pence served as mayor of Buhl in the 1970s and early 1980s. He was 81.

August
Juanita Rodriguez was an Idaho State Journal reporter, editor and editorial board member during a career that spanned more than a quarter century. She was 52.

Bill Wassmuth was the former

northern Idaho Roman Catholic priest who became a leader in the fight against Aryan Nations and other hate groups. He was 61.

Ray Brackett, of Three Creek, was a six-term state legislator and member of a ranching family which settled on southwestern Idaho's high desert 120 years ago. He was 88.

Jazz great Lionel Hampton, of New York, had dedicated himself to promoting the annual jazz festival at the University of Idaho, whose School of Music bears his name. He was 94.

September
Colleen Fouche, of Post Falls, was the founder of Coeur d'Alene's Lighthouse Christian Academy. She was 52.

Albert Parisot, of Coeur d'Alene, was a corporate lawyer for the J.R. Simplot Co. a one of the first magistrates in northern

Idaho. He was 74.

Robert Harry "Gabby" Williams was the former baseball player and manager of the Lewiston Broncos. He was 79.

Robert Lee, of Rexburg, was a three-term member of the state Senate and the first chairman of Idaho Water Resource Board after it was formed in the mid-1960s. He was 70.

October
Mary Maxine "Sally" Reed, of Boise, successfully challenged to Idaho's law favoring men over women as estate administrators, prompting the U.S. Supreme Court's first decision extending equal protection to women. She was 93.

Kent Cooper, of Albion, was a 10-time National Finals Rodeo saddle bronc qualifier. He was 47.

Glenn Davis, of St. Anthony,

was a Fremont County Commission member. He was 80.

November
Walt Lowe played in Boise's first professional baseball game and later became the radio voice of the city's minor league team. He was 83.

December
Wiley Dodds, of Twin Falls, began his newspaper advertising career at the Twin Falls Daily News in 1936, worked for a time at the Caldwell News Tribune and then spent almost all of the rest of his life at the Times-News. He was 86.

William Carlson, of Arco, was the magistrate in Butte County for 13 years after 23 years as the county's prosecutor and was scheduled to retire in mid-January. He was 65.

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NATION



Wind storm kills Washington 10-year-old

SEATTLE (AP) - Utility crews began their post-Christmas weekend scrambling to restore power to tens of thousands of homes and businesses in the dark because of high winds in the Puget Sound area.

Nearly 30,000 homes remained without power early Saturday, and officials said some customers might have to wait until Monday before they can turn the lights back on.

More than 300,000 homes and businesses were without power at the height of the storm Friday.

The storm claimed one life. Ten-year-old Cody Allen Brown died Friday after he became tangled in a downed 7,200-volt power line near his home outside Olympia.

The boy was not breathing when McLane Fire District 9 firefighters arrived. His grandmother apparently pulled him away from the line after the mid-afternoon accident, district spokesman Davis Foster said. "It's a miracle she wasn't hurt."

Several minor injuries from downed trees and wind-tossed debris were reported.

The storm dumped snow in the Olympics and Cascades, but high winds caused most of the problems, knocking down trees and utility poles in western Washington and Oregon.

At least two homes were damaged by fallen trees - one in Fircrest, south of Tacoma, and another on Steamboat Island near Olympia, the state capital.

"I'm just so glad this happened after Christmas," said island homeowner Tricia Durham after a 100-foot oak crashed through



Top, Mike Adair, standing in his dining room, views the bedroom of his home in Port Orchard, Wash., Friday, after a large tree crashed into it. His wife, Corinne, left the room moments before the tree fell. Above, Bob Hamby, from the Kitsap County Roads Department, cuts a tree that fell from wind gusts in Port Orchard. The wind storm whipped the coasts of Oregon and Washington and sped inland, dumping snow in the mountains and knocking out power to thousands before the storm swept north into Cascade late in the afternoon.

the roof and into her family room. Sustained midday winds in the Puget Sound region were as high as 49 mph at Alki Point in West Seattle with gusts to 62 mph, National Weather Service fore-

caster Dana Felton said. Stronger winds were recorded in the Olympic and Cascade ranges, including one gust clocked at 128 mph above White Pass, southeast of Mount Rainier

in the Cascades. Forecasters were predicting a rain, scattered showers or cloudy skies, with snow in the mountains and must less wind for the next several days.

Tiny northern California town up for sale finds a buyer on eBay

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) - Sold: a fixer-upper Northern California town, for nearly \$1.8 million - on Internet auction site eBay. Now tiny Bridgeville waits to see who its new owner is.

If the deal goes through as expected, 82 acres of Bridgeville will go to the unidentified buyer who put in a bid for \$1,777,877 just seconds before the Internet auction closed Friday.

Lappie, who owns Bridgeville along with his wife Elizabeth, said he hopes the new owner will fix up the town, which dates back to the 19th century. But the Lappies won't be hanging around to find out. They've already purchased a new home in Fortuna, about 25 miles away.

"We were just waiting to sell this town and pack up all our stuff and be gone," said Joe Lappie.

Bridgeville is the first town to be sold on the Web site, said eBay spokesman Kevin Purslove. Almost 250 bids were cast during the town's month on the electronic auction block.

"I would say that's above average. That's a pretty heavy level of bidding activity," Purslove said.

The town, which Elizabeth Lappie acknowledged was a

"We were just waiting to sell this town and pack up all our stuff and be gone."

- Joe Lappie, town's current owner

fixer-upper, comes complete with a post office, a mile and a half of river bank, a cemetery and more than a dozen cabins and houses. "Your own zip code will now be 95525," the eBay description reads.

About 20 people live in the area affected by the sale; whether they get to stay in the rental properties is entirely up to the new owners, said Denise Stuart, the real estate agent who placed the listing. She said about 600 people live in the surrounding area.

Bidding went well beyond the asking price of \$775,000. It started Nov. 27 at \$5,000.

Bridgeville is located 260 miles north of San Francisco in rural Humboldt County. Lappie and her husband Joe have owned the town since 1985.

After conventional means of

selling proved unsuccessful, the Lappies decided to try their luck on eBay. They say they put the town up for auction because they couldn't afford the estimated cost of renovating it - about \$200,000.

Joe Lappie said the highest bid was more than he expected. "A million and a half, I figured that was the right price," he said. Final bids for real estate posted on eBay aren't binding.

"It's up to the seller and the high bidder to negotiate how they are going to consummate the deal" after bidding ends, Purslove said. "They'll close the deal offline."

Stuart said she's received calls from people around the world since bidding closed. Some have offered to buy the property for \$2 million.

But the Lappies will stick with the eBay bidder, someone from out of the area who wanted to let the purchase "sink in" before coming forward publicly, Stuart said. She expects the deal to be completed within 60 days.

Although there's been interest in the property over the years, no one ever met the asking price - much less offered more than twice that price - until it was posted on eBay.

Health care poses challenge for Bush

By Ronald Brownstein
Los Angeles Times

WASHINGTON - Eight years after Bill Clinton's attempt to restructure the health care system nearly capsized his presidency, circumstances are propelling President Bush toward another confrontation with the enduring problems of cost, access and equity in American medicine.

Bush and the incoming Republican majority in Congress aren't considering reforms as sweeping as Clinton's failed proposal for universal health coverage. But with the system falling into a spiral of rising costs and declining access, Congress and the administration are approaching pointed debates on a daunting menu of health care dilemmas.

Topping the list are questions of how to provide prescription drugs for seniors; reform Medicare before the retirement of baby boomers; protect state public health programs facing potentially crippling cutbacks because of huge budget deficits; and, most perplexingly, reduce the number of Americans without health insurance, which is rapidly rising again.

In all, the interlocked problems are beginning to resemble the ominous conditions in the early 1990s that inspired Clinton's unsuccessful quest to guarantee coverage for all. "It's been almost 10 years since health care was on the national agenda," said Dr. E. Richard Brown, director of the Center for Health Policy Research at University of California, Los Angeles. "It hasn't gone away."

For Bush, the growing anxiety over health care could prove a principal domestic vulnerability in the 2004 campaign. But Republicans also see an unprecedented opportunity in the new year to redefine the party's image on an issue where the public has usually placed more trust in Democrats.

With the GOP now controlling both chambers of Congress and Sen. Bill Frist, R-Tenn., a physician, emerging as the new Senate majority leader, Republicans may have their best chance ever to define a free-market vision of health care reform. The question will be whether they can sell that vision to a public skeptical of many of the most powerful players in that market, such as insurance companies and drug manufacturers.

After relative calm during the boom years of the mid- to late-1990s, the health care system today seems under stress from virtually every angle.

Rapid increases in pharmaceutical prices are straining the bud-

gets of seniors and generating sustained pressure to provide a prescription drug benefit under Medicare. But that pressure is coming even as the steadily growing cost of Medicare - fueled by both the rise in medical costs and the growing number of retirees - is itself straining the federal budget.

Meanwhile, a renewed surge in the cost of health insurance, which had moderated in the mid-1990s, is pressuring employers and driving up the number of Americans without coverage. Health insurance premiums for employers jumped by almost 13 percent in 2002, the second consecutive year of double-digit increases and the largest one-year spike since 1990, according to a recent Kaiser Family Foundation survey.

Against that backdrop, some Republicans see dissatisfaction over health care as one of the greatest potential dangers to Bush in the 2004 vote. In a recent ABC/Washington Post poll, 33 percent of Americans said they approve of his handling of health care issues - a much weaker rating than he received for his handling of the economy (50 percent in the survey).

The White House recognizes the vulnerability. Aides are putting out the word that health care initiatives will have a prominent place in Bush's agenda for the new year.

But signaling interest and achieving results are different things. Republicans and Democrats remain sharply divided on how to confront the principal challenges in the health care system, which could make it difficult for Bush to move his ideas through the narrowly divided Senate.

Still, the unified Republican control of both chambers and the White House, and the ascendance of Frist - who has specialized in health care issues since arriving in Congress in 1995 - could give the White House agenda new momentum.

Details on the White House health care plans are being closely held and by several accounts still being finalized. But Bush already has made some of his priorities clear.

On the uninsured, Bush last year offered an agenda with several components. One element has broad appeal among liberals: increasing funding for community health centers that provide care to the uninsured. Bush also wants to expand medical savings accounts, a conservative favorite that provides tax-free accounts in which individuals can save money to pay most of their medical expenses while buying insurance only to cover catastrophic costs.

S. California smog declines

LOS ANGELES (AP) - If wet, windy weather holds through New Year's Eve, Southern California is expected to reach an important milestone in its war on smog: For the first time, the region is on pace to meet federal carbon monoxide standards.

To comply, the area has to have no more than one day each year over a two-year period in which emissions standards are exceeded. So far it has posted only one bad day this year. It had none in 2001.

The South Coast Air Quality Management District attributed

the trend to improved smog-control devices on newer cars.

"We've come a long way," said Joe Cassmassi, senior meteorologist with the AQMD.

Southern California, a region known for having some of the nation's dirtiest air, still has high levels of ozone and particulate matter pollution.

Nonetheless, reaching the federal standard for carbon monoxide shows the state is committed to cleaning up, said Jack Broadbent, an air division chief for the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

<p>Matinee Today</p> <p>Orpheum Theatre</p> <p>AMERICA WAS BORN IN THE STREETS</p> <p>Odyssey 6 Theatre</p> <p>GAMES OF NEW YORK</p>	<p>Jerome Cinema 4</p> <p>Lord of the Rings: Two Towers</p> <p>Twin Cinema 12</p> <p>Hot Chick (13)</p> <p>Two Weeks Notice (13)</p> <p>Wild Thornberry Movie (PG)</p> <p>Maid in Manhattan (13)</p> <p>Harry Potter 2</p> <p>Santa Clause 2 (G)</p>
<p>LAMPHOUSE THEATRE</p> <p>AUTO FOCUS</p> <p>Daily 4:30-7:00-9:15</p>	<p>Big Fat Greek Wedding</p> <p>Two Weeks Notice (13)</p> <p>Wild Thornberry Movie (PG)</p> <p>Maid in Manhattan (13)</p> <p>Harry Potter 2</p> <p>Santa Clause 2 (G)</p>

OUTLOOK 2003 • OUTLOOK 2003 •

Magic Valley counts on growth

While state, nation struggle, five local businesspeople hope for continued prosperity

STORIES BY
VIRGINIA S. HUTCHINS

In the final days of 2002, some of Magic Valley's small businesses are counting on the valley's continued growth, farmers' optimism, snowfall and new investments in their own operations to keep them vigorous in 2003.

"2002 was a real good year for us. Even though the economy, you know, was supposed to be real bad, it was real good for us," said Sheri Wales, co-owner of Ron's Heating & Air Conditioning in Kimberly.

The business saw service orders come in at a brisk clip, and people kept spending on furnaces and air conditioners. Revenue grew 40 percent over 2001 levels, Wales said, and Ron's Heating aims for another 40 percent rise in 2003.

"Either that, or higher," she said.

But some local businesses expect continued difficulty recruiting workers with specialized skills.

"Probably the biggest challenge we're going to have is finding skilled, qualified professionals in our industry," said Ken Simmons, co-owner of Snake River Glass in Twin Falls.

He said it's hard to attract glaziers - who cut and install glass - to a small community. In some cases, he grows his own.

"We like to find professionals who are already journeymen in that field, but we do train a number of employees," Simmons said.

Published here are the comments of five business people from a variety of industries around Magic Valley. All hope the coming year brings revenue growth of 10 percent or more.

In some cases, a lot more.



Mark Marrow, the wood shop supervisor for Snake River Glass, installs a pane of glass in a door at the company's Twin Falls assembly plant. The company would like to expand its custom door and window business in 2003.

Strong building supports glass industry

TWIN FALLS - Local growth is hearty enough to feed the contenders in the competitive industry of glass, one player said.

"Building in the Magic Valley seems to be stable, and with the number of people moving here, I would think that trend would continue," said Ken Simmons, co-owner of Snake River Glass.

"I think there's kind of a stronger trend in commercial growth in the Magic Valley, too - starting to see more and more businesses come in," he said. "Looking around the valley, you see more businesses popping up. Existing operations, too, are making improvements or moving into better facilities. And many of them need windows."

Residential remodeling, for greater energy efficiency, accounts for about half of Snake River Glass' business, Simmons said. New-home building

• OUTLOOK 2003 •

accounts for something like 30 percent.

The rest is automotive and commercial projects and repair jobs.

It's a seasonal business that slows in winter. Fall 2002 wasn't hot for Snake River Glass, perhaps because of the economy, Simmons said.

"The rest of the year was about average."

Revenue for the year was about level with 2001.

"A little stronger, perhaps, in the new-home sales category," he said. Simmons hopes a market expansion for the company's custom windows and doors will drive a 20 percent increase in overall sales in 2003. He

thinks that's doable.

Snake River Glass manufactures many custom items that it ships to Arizona, Nevada and California. It wants to get its windows and doors into Oregon and Washington and strengthen sales in Colorado and Wyoming, promoting the Idaho product via the Internet, contractor mailings and the like.

If it succeeds, that will mean more jobs in Magic Valley. Snake River Glass now employs 12 people full time, including two who work from a store in Bellevue.

The 37-year-old business has witnessed a "wide variety of economic twists and turns," said Simmons, who has co-owned it for three years. When the Twin Falls economy is down, he said, the Sun Valley area picks up the slack. And vice versa.

"So it's a good chemistry or combination of the two."

Heating firm posts its best year ever

KIMBERLY - If Ron's Heating & Air Conditioning realizes its aims in 2003, it will add employees, get a bigger shop and better equipment, and repeat or top this year's 40 percent revenue growth.

Magic Valley's economy can support those goals, co-owner Sheri Wales said. "Kimberly and Twin are coming together, and Filer, and everybody wants better units. And all the new stuff coming out, it's more efficient," she said.

Ron's Heating - with Wales and her husband and two other employees - sells, installs, services and repairs furnaces and air-conditioning units. The Twin Falls School District and Magic Valley Mall are among its clients for servicing and troubleshooting.

This year was the best yet for the 7-year-old business, Wales said.

She credits construction of new houses and business buildings, with help from a hot summer, for driving the demand. Wales said her industry has many new, small competitors all around the valley. But Ron's Heating doesn't consider itself threatened by new competition because it survived the first, critical years of a business startup.

"What we figure, either you make it in the first two years, or you don't," she said. "Two to five years."

OUTLOOK 2003

OUTLOOK 2003

Bellevue grocery store owner has high hopes for new year

BELLEVUE - Glenn's Grocery owner Glenn Brannen has high hopes for 2003.

"I expect it to be better than this last year, as a matter of fact," he said. "Bellevue is a growing community, and I see a lot of growth. There's no way for it not to grow. And I should get a piece of it."

Residential expansion is the driver, but the commercial sector contributes, too.

"We added a deli to our grocery store a year ago, and so far it's been very suc-

• OUTLOOK 2003 •

cessful," Brannen said. "So that leaves me with kind of an unknown - as to how the deli business will go."

To create the specs for people to sit and eat, without adding square footage, Glenn's Grocery eliminated some groceries. Its new-concentration on the

deli and the fresh meat department - "an old-fashioned butcher shop" - should lead a 10 percent revenue increase overall in 2003, Brannen predicted.

Revenue in the past year was flat, he said, "because of the overbuilding of grocery stores in the valley." Over the past 10 years, three new grocery stores have opened in Wood River Valley. To reinvigorate the grocery business, the area's growth needs to catch up with extra capacity in the market, he said.

Glenn's Grocery next year might add one position to its staff, now nine full-time and three part-time employees, Brannen said.

But much depends on the skiing and farming that are the basis of the Wood River Valley economy.

"It hinges on snow and water, almost totally," he said.

So Brannen pays attention to rainfall and snowpack data. A trucking company in town sends its truckers to stay at Cottage Inn. And Bruesch keeps his eye on class reunions.

"Cause I always fill up on those."

INSIDE

Solid agriculture numbers bode well for Burley-based aerial applicator Ag-Air Inc. Page D2

Gooding's Cottage Inn remodels to keep up

GOODING - Expect to see Dale Bruesch with his sleeves rolled up for much of 2003.

"I'd like to finish remodeling all the rooms," said Bruesch, manager of Cottage Inn.

Bruesch, who owns the hotel business but leases the property, has two more rooms to paint and carpet, bathrooms and kitchens to revamp, some refrigerators and stoves to replace, plumbing to check in all the bathrooms, and a few bathroom sinks to replace.

He and his wife, the inn's only employees, do much of the remodeling work themselves. The property owner will invest "at least another two or three grand" in the remodeling, Bruesch said.

This year Cottage Inn painted and carpeted 16 of the hotel's 16 rooms, at a cost of about \$300 each, and spent \$6,000 or \$7,000 on repaving the parking lot.

Investment pays off. "It seems like every time we improve something, the business gets better and better," Bruesch said.

He said Cottage Inn's total occupancy rate and revenue rose 25-30 percent in 2002 compared with 2001, when the property was under different management. And Bruesch expects more gains in 2003.

"I'm expecting, hopefully, at least another 15, 20 percent," he said. "It seems like people are traveling more again."

Summer 2002 was evidence of that. "I was full the entire summer from about April-May to the beginning of September. I was booked up tight," Bruesch said. And while last winter was a slow time, "I've almost already filled up again."

Many of Cottage Inn's customers stay long term.

The biggest challenge Bruesch expects in 2003 is his location.

"A lot of people don't come out here to Gooding until they have a reason. We're like 10 miles off the interstate," he said.

But the Idaho School for the Deaf and the Blind across the street brings hotel business in the form of parents and visiting teachers, he said. The College of Southern Idaho center nearby brings guest teachers to town, and students in need of temporary lodging. A trucking company in town sends its truckers to stay at Cottage Inn.

And Bruesch keeps his eye on class reunions.

"Cause I always fill up on those."

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Better farm prices help Ag-Air thrive

By Virginia S. Hutchins
Times-News writer

BURLEY - Agriculture's upswing suggests improvement in 2003 for aerial application Ag-Air Inc.

"From what I see right now, I think it's going to be better," owner John Cooper said. "The wheat market's on its way up, and wheat tends to control everything else."

Wheat is a crop that's relatively easy and inexpensive to grow, he said. So when wheat prices rise, farmers plant more wheat and less of everything else - nudging up prices for other commodities.

Cooper has seen conditions improve for potato growers in the past year and a half.

"They have a little more cash in their pocket, which means they're going to spend a little more money in this valley," he said.

And sugar was worth more this year than it has been in a while, Cooper said.

Better farm prices - and the absence of an electrical utility's power buyback program - pushed Ag-Air's revenue up 35

percent over 2001.

The business, based in Burley, serves all of Mini-Cassia. In a normal season, it employs four or five people as loaders and uses two or three pilot-plane pairs. Ag-Air's main equipment to do much more crop dusting than it's doing.

Farm conditions now lead Cooper to expect 15 percent revenue growth in 2003.

Agriculture, he said, "is kind of a perception."

If farmers think they'll get better prices, they will. They hang onto their crops and wait for the good prices, and they invest more in fertilizer, fungicides and the like.

"Because they see they're going to get a return," Cooper said. "They won't put that in on a low (price) crop because they can't hold it."

He observes farm equipment being moved on dealers' lots, and sees updated machines on farms - another sign that the local ag economy is improving.

Farmers are like the rest of us, Cooper said. If things are tight, they spend less money. And fewer dollars trickle down to the rest of the economy.

"When the farmers are doing well, we're all doing well," he said.

"All you can do is just hope the ag economy stays good."

Michael Brent Armstrong
TWIN FALLS - Jensen Jewelers announced the graduation of Michael Brent Armstrong of Jensen Jewelers in the Magic Valley Mall from a certified professional jeweler program.

Armstrong completed the 11-week course and received certification. The course involves training in product areas of the jewelry industry, including diamonds, genuine stones, watches and jewelry making.

Lesley Ruby
TWIN FALLS - Lesley Ruby, a registered and licensed occupational therapist, recently earned the designation of certified hand therapist.



Commission. Ruby is a hand therapist at the Center for Physical Rehabilitation in Twin Falls. The CHT is an internationally recognized credential for therapists who specialize in upper extremity rehabilitation.

Currently, Ruby is one of eight CHTs in Idaho and the only CHT in the Magic Valley, she said. To earn certification, Ruby was required to obtain at least

five years of clinical experience, and 2,000 hours of clinical experience in the field of hand therapy, and pass the examination administered by the HTCC.

Ruby has worked at the Center for Physical Rehabilitation since 1997 and received her bachelor's degree in occupational therapy from the University of Alberta in 1993. She also is certified in neuro-developmental technique for adults and to administer functional capacity evaluations from Iserhagen Work Systems. She is a member of the Idaho Occupational Therapist Association and the American Society of Hand Therapists.

Mark Danielson
TWIN FALLS - KTVE, Idaho's News Channel 7, announced Mark Danielson as its executive news director.

Danielson, an Idaho native, has more than 16 years of experience working for news organizations including NBC stations KORA-TV in Sacramento, Calif., and KSL-TV in Salt Lake City. Danielson joins Channel 7 from KIFTV, the ABC affiliate in Idaho Falls-Pocatello, where he was station manager and news director for more than four years.

A graduate of the University of Utah, Danielson was born in Sun Valley, grew up in the Wood River Valley and later moved to Twin Falls, where he graduated from Twin Falls High

School in 1988. Danielson will start working for Channel 7 after the first of the year. He will be joined by his wife, Deborah, and two children.

Shariene Climer
BUHL - Shariene Climer is the person behind the pleasant voice when you call the Buhl police station, and that's one reason Climer received the Buhl Chamber of Commerce's Extra Mile Award for December.



Climer is the record manager of the police department. She is one of the women in the Buhl motor vehicle branch nominated Climer for her friendly smile, eagerness to help people and willingness to translate on many occasions.

"She is dedicated to her job and we appreciate her willingness to help," said Beverly Bonn, motor vehicle manager.

Mayor Barbara Gietzen presented Climer with a plaque, a bouquet of roses, miscellaneous gifts and gift certificates from merchants.

Nick Hallett
RUPERT - The American Association of School Administrators said Nick Hallett, Minidoka school superintendent,

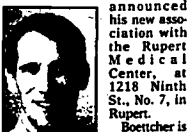
is one of 18 superintendents selected for the AASA President's Technology Award.

The national award recognizes superintendents who use technology to advance teaching, learning and student achievement. The nomination cited the Minidoka district's accomplishments in staff application of technology, instructional technology classes, online classes, dual credit technology classes, community support of educational technology and staff development.

Hallett said his contributions were minor compared with those of the community and staff who made the accomplishments possible.

Hallett will be recognized at the national AASA conference and exposition and will receive an expenses-paid trip to Apple Computer's Technology Leadership Institute and an Apple Titanium PowerBook laptop computer.

Dr. Greg Boettcher
RUPERT - Dr. Greg Boettcher announced his new association with the Rupert Medical Center, at 1218 Ninth St., No. 7, in Rupert.



Boettcher is accepting new and current patients seeking family care or obstetrics. He can be reached at 436-3161.

OUTLOOK 2003

U.S. hopes for a better business world in '03

By Rachel Beck
The Associated Press

NEW YORK - Fast-forward to the end of 2003. Things are looking good. Really good.

The business scandals have gone away. The economy is back on track. Investors have stock research they can trust. Stocks are rallying. We are living in the perfect business world.

Maybe too perfect.

All bets are for next year to be better than this one was. But don't count on the tough times to be completely gone. We have just started down the road to recovery.

Still, it is nice to dream. We deserve to do that after what we went through in 2002.

Executives were accused of stealing from their own companies and falsifying financial statements. The economy nearly tumbled into a recession again. Investment firms were found touting stocks they didn't believe in.

Even Martha Stewart made headlines for some alleged corporate misbehavior. No one would have predicted that the domestic design tycoon would get caught up in an insider trading mess.

Everything seemed to be falling apart at once.

It caused investors to panic. They didn't know whom to trust and what disaster would happen next. They fled the stock market, sending Wall Street indexes down to their lowest level in more than five years.

We were battered and demoralized. Now, we will have to wait and see if the worst is really over.

Will we wake up a year from now to find things so different? The good news is that change has already started.

New laws intended to crack down on corporate crime are forcing companies to be more forthcoming in their financial statements, cut back on all sorts of executive perks and provide greater disclosure on insider trading.

And CEOs and corporate boards are now being held more accountable for what goes on in their businesses.

Then there is the crackdown on biased stock research. Some Wall Street firms are finally creating giant walls between their ana-

lysts and investment bankers to prevent conflict of interest.

Farmers are actually starting to call bad investments bad and advising investors to sell some stocks, a big switch from the past.

As for the economy, the Federal Reserve's 12 Interest-Rate Hikes, the first in two years, including a half percentage point in November, stopped us from sliding into a recession again.

The lower interest rates spurred businesses to resume spending a little on technology and equipment, kept inflation under control and have a boon to the housing market.

The stock market is showing some signs of life. Investors are selectively returning to the market, looking for good deals on quality stocks that have fallen steeply over the last few years.

All this feels good. But the problems of the business world aren't close to being fixed, and there is no guaranteeing that some ever will be.

The economy's next challenge will be the possible slowdown in consumer spending and the housing market, which have helped prop up the economy in recent years. A pullback could be devastating.

The bear market on Wall Street left individual investors with deep scars from the huge losses they sustained. That might stop them from buying much again, at least in the near future, and that would temper the overall market's gains.

There is also the chance that investors may forget what they learned in the recent past, get tempted again by "hot" stocks and create another bubble to burst.

Then there are the corporate crooks, which have helped them to cheat and steal, but chances are they will find new ways to loot the system. They always do.

Looking ahead to 2003, we can hope for better.

We just need to keep our expectations in check.

Rachel Beck is the national business columnist for The Associated Press. Write to her at rbeck@ap.org

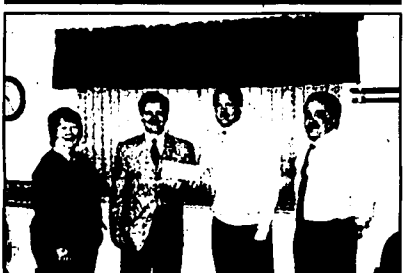
Credit card companies push programs to keep customers loyal

cent, followed by 12 percent who belonged to a hotel program.

When asked why, more than half (54 percent) said rewards for products and services were the main reason they had joined, with 49 percent calling discounts the prime motivation to sign up.

"Loyalty programs have come of age," said Lee Smith, president of InsightExpress, an online market-research firm based in Stamford, Conn. "People are more willing to part with personal demographic information if the reward perceived is valuable."

CONTRIBUTIONS



Diane Wood, director of patient care services at St. Benedict's Family Medical Center, left, and Donnie Mangham, executive director of the St. Benedict's Foundation, accept a \$1,000 donation from sales representative Tyrell Scoria and store manager Kurt Brystrator, right, of Marco.

Jerome's St. Benedict's Foundation received a \$1,000 donation from the Kistler Family Foundation. The Kistler Family Foundation Philanthropic Gift Fund was established to benefit organizations and projects of special interest to the fund creators, with an emphasis on health-related projects. The Kistler family established Marco and helps communities served by Marco.

The gift will be used to purchase needed medical equipment, said Dennis Maughan, executive director of St. Benedict's Foundation.

The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development contributed \$94,000 to the Finally Home! Home Buyer Education Program in 2002, assisting with educational contract expenses, textbooks and other class materials and program administration.

Additional leading contributors included U.S. Bank, Wells Fargo, Washington Mutual, The Allstate Foundation and Idaho Housing and Finance

Association. Each contributed \$7,000 or more to the program. Idaho Partners for Home Buyer Education Inc. administrator Sue Pissani said.

First Federal Savings Bank was also among the 2002 major financial contributors.

PHIBE is a nonprofit organization that has joined with local partners in Idaho to offer free home buyer education since 1999. Finally Home! classes cover everything from qualifying for a mortgage and choosing a real estate professional, to making an offer and closing.

Finally Home! has graduated over 6,300 future Idaho homeowners since its inception, and anticipates graduating another 2,850 in 2003.

Wells Fargo in December donated more than \$70,000 to Idaho nonprofits.

The organizations benefiting included Renaissance Arts Center Inc.'s Wilson building and theater renovation project in Rupert, which received \$5,000, Wells Fargo said.

MILESTONES

U.S. Bank push nets \$30M in new business

TWIN FALLS - Minneapolis-based U.S. Bank said its representatives took to the streets and phones Dec. 12 and contacted 183,235 customers or potential customers and netted more than \$30 million worth of new business.

U.S. Bank thanked large corporations, small businesses and retail customers for their business and asked how they might be of additional service. The business blitz in Idaho and 23 other states was an opportunity to showcase U.S. Bancorp's products and services and attract new customers.

U.S. Bancorp, with assets in excess of \$174 billion, is the eighth largest financial services holding company in the United States. The company operates 2,133 banking offices and 4,680 ATM's.

Burley merchants give away car

The Times-News

BURLEY - The Burley Area Merchant's Association, for a second year, gave away a car during its annual Christmas giveaway promotion. This year's car, a 1997 Ford Aspire, was donated by EZ Money Auto.

The drawing which was held Dec. 14.

BAMA is a business and retail organization that promotes local shopping through annual sales and promotions in the summer, with the July Sidewalk & Antique



From left an Mary Ann Watah, Burley Area Merchant's Association president; Shirley Carter, winner of BAMA's car giveaway; and Mark Martin, owner of EZ Money Auto, which donated the car.

Burley merchants give away car

Sale, and at Christmas, with the Great Gift Giveaway. Money spent on advertising for the promotions comes from annual dues and the proceeds of the official Idaho Regatta T-shirt sales in June. The yearly advertising budget reaches about \$9,000.

BAMA is responsible for seeing that Santa is at his house between Thanksgiving weekend and Christmas for local children to visit. A member of BAMA, Ronco Building Supply, donated Santa's house and stores it 11 months out of the year.

TELL US YOUR BUSINESS

Y... is a weekly feature that highlights commercial activity in the Magic Valley. If you have information about any of the following, The Times-News wants to hear about it:

- Promotions and staff changes.
- New openings.
- Seminars and workshops.
- Awards and accomplishments.
- Charitable business activities.
- Other business news.

Your business deadline: Noon Wednesday for publication the following Friday.

Please e-mail items to Business Editor Virginia S. Hutchins at virginia@magicvalley.com or contact her at: The Times-News, P.O. Box 548, Twin Falls, Idaho 83303, 733-0931, Ext. 242, Fax: 877-4543 or 734-5536.

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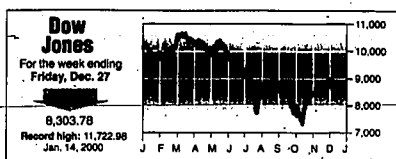
Rising oil prices worry investors

NEW YORK (AP) — A long-dormant fear surfaced on Wall Street this past week as rising oil prices reminded investors that inflation might pose another threat to the uncertain economic recovery.

Increasing tensions with Iraq and an oil-strike-in-Venezuela sent already advancing crude prices even higher, and in turn thwarted the stock market's usual Santa Claus rally. The price of oil for delivery in February closed at \$32.72 a barrel Friday, and some analysts predict it could soon hit \$35.

Analysts fear Wall Street will revisit five- and six-year lows made in July and October.

"I see that happening in January. I hate to break the bad news," said Gary Kalbaum, market technician for Investors' Edge Partners in Orlando, Fla. Inflation hasn't been a concern for months, but a higher price for crude can ripple into the rest of the economy, driving prices for all kinds of goods and services higher. What has Wall Street worried



is the fact that an uptick in inflation could prompt the Federal Reserve to raise interest rates more aggressively.

Analysts have predicted that the Fed will begin raising rates next year as the economy shows more signs of strengthening. Ordinarily, such action would be viewed as a good thing, a sign that the Fed has confidence in the economy. But it becomes worrisome if inflation is also a factor — the Fed is likely to be more vigilant if it feels the need to keep prices in line.

Stocks fell this past week, stifling the so-called Santa Claus rally the market usually enjoys when investors are really looking forward to the new year.

"Nervousness has been the driving factor of market activity. A little nervousness can be a depressing element on stocks," said Kevin Caron, market strategist, Ryan, Beck & Co. Kalbaum said the selling could become more pronounced because stocks are falling below their levels of October, when the market began its autumn rally.

M.V. farmers log solid year despite irrigation worries

TWIN FALLS — Southern Idaho growers got a new farm bill in 2002 and better prices than expected in some markets, but all that might have been just a sideshow if the irrigation season had turned out worse.

A snowpack that reached just three-quarters of normal, coupled with two years of drought, had many concerned about just how long the 2002 irrigation season would last.

But nearly perfect spring conditions meant the watershed yielded more water than expected and kept irrigation water flowing all season.

"We were surprised it came out as well as it did," said Vince Alberdi, general manager of the Twin Falls Canal Co.

Bean acreage rises; fall weather drags out harvest
TWIN FALLS — A year of fluctuating prices and political disputes made 2002 a year to remember for dry edible beans, peas and lentils. Fortunately, positives seemed to outweigh the negatives over the year.

Though planting intentions were predicted to be down in the Gem State initially, high prices came into play and acreage actually increased over the previous years.

Harvest seemed to last forever this year. Steve Sallsbury, University of Idaho extension educator for Twin Falls County, said that while the weather was an issue, yields were average in the area and the quality was good.

Beef exports to Japan fall; exports to other nations rise

TWIN FALLS — Cases of bovine spongiform encephalopathy — also known as "mad cow" disease — in Japan had a significant impact on the U.S. beef market in 2002.

According to Wilson Gray, University of Idaho extension livestock economist, Twin Falls, nearly 80 percent of U.S. beef exports flow to Japan.

When BSE was discovered there, the Japanese market for U.S. beef fell to nearly half, he said.

On the positive side of trade for 2002, Gray said domestic beef exports to South Korea and Mexico rose dramatically this year.



Alfalfa growers see a more normal year

TWIN FALLS — Good production and more acres combined to keep the lid on the hay market in 2002.

Lars Larsen, a market analyst for the U.S. Department of Agriculture Market News Service in Moses Lake, Wash., credits adequate irrigation water and no outside interference — such as the power buyback of 2001 — for the good production year.

Low milk prices dominate dairy industry

TWIN FALLS — It has been a challenging year in the dairy industry with faltering milk prices topping the list of "highlights" in 2002.

"The lows are easy to identify, price, obviously," said Bob Naerobout, executive director of the Idaho Dairyman's Association. "It is not only important to the dairy industry in Idaho, but in my opinion, in the industry throughout the country."

While producers look for ways to cut costs, regulatory legislation passed in 2001 is raising costs on the farm. Adhering to new detailed nutrient management plans, dairymen are seeing additional costs in handling waste.

Also in the fray is the cost of responding to public demand that odor be diminished if not dispelled.

Idaho grain growers enjoy a better year

BOISE — Given what growers of small grain had to work with in 2002 — exceptionally hot and dry conditions — the crop turned out better than expected.

Wheat yields were off 15 to 20 percent across the state, but that was offset by higher prices. Although wheat prices had plateaued toward the end of 2002 and the price of soft white had actually fallen somewhat, 2002 was still one of the best years price-wise Idaho wheat producers have seen in several years.

Barley producers also consider 2002 to be a good year, especially when compared to what happened across the nation. U.S. barley production was the lowest since 1938 and total acreage was the lowest since 1989.

Some potato growers get out of the business

BLACKFOOT — A number of small growers of potatoes in Magic Valley and Treasure Valley are going out of business this year.

Contract prices are not high enough for the risk involved, said Keith Exolis, executive director of Potato Growers of Idaho.

On top of the prices being poor for contract potatoes, probably the news of most significance for the year was first that J.R. Simplot Co. was cutting back contracts and second, the announcement that the Simplot Hayden plant would close.

While Idaho production was up, the state's production was hindered by a shortage in the rest of the nation.

Sugar beet industry pushes for market balance

RUPERT — At the beginning of the year the sugar beet industry's main goal was to get an over-supplied and price-depressed market in balance for adequate and sustainable returns to growers.

Mark Duffin, executive director of Idaho Sugarbeet Growers Association, said that two of the main underlying goals have been accomplished and a third could be accomplished soon.

The passage of the Farm Bill was the first hurdle. The second was gaining legislative authority to stop importation of sugar products, such as exports molasses, that circumvent the tariff quota.

While both of those issues were resolved, the trade dispute with Mexico is still in active negotiations, he said.

Just last month the company changed the policy so that an employee must still be with the company at the time of the payout.

Is it fair or legal to deny this payout if I was employed the entire time that the profit-sharing period covers?

As it may not be fair, but Bill Bethune, a Tyson Corner, Va., lawyer who represents corporate interests, said: "The general rule is that an employer reserves the right to amend the plan by changing the rules, provided the employer makes the change in a uniform and non-discriminatory manner with regard to all employ-

ees. And the change must be prospective."

Moreover, he said it is common for companies to require that an employee still be working for the firm when the payout is made.

But Bethune said he "would have a problem" with what this worker's company has done, changing the eligibility rules shortly before the end of the year for the 2002 payout, as opposed to setting new rules for 2003 and beyond.

"It's changing the rules after the game is played, or at least deep into the game," he said. "I'm not saying it's a foul, but the participant ought to take a look at the plan and see what it says. Most workers can get a copy of the plan by just asking for it" from the per-

sonnel or human resources office.

Q: My wife and I are moving to Boise, Idaho, next month due to a new job she accepted. My question is how to handle the contact information on the resumes I am going to distribute in my search for employment. Do I list my address in Memphis, and my current phone there and e-mail address? By the time the resumes are received we'll probably be on the way to Boise.

A: Palmer Suk, president of Snelling Personnel Services, a Vienna, Va., recruiting firm, said he would not continue to list the Memphis address and phone number. Rather, he said, he would list his new Boise address if he already has one, as well as his cell-phone number and e-mail address.

"If he doesn't have a place to live yet, perhaps he has a relative who lives there and could list that," Suk said. "I don't think it's a huge issue, but a local address always looks better."

Kenneth Brademeier writes on workplace issues for The Washington Post.



Changing jobs presents challenges

Leaving one workplace for another always presents some challenges, such as for these two workers.

Q: I currently work for one company but will change jobs very soon. Because of an excellent year, my current firm will have a maximum return on its profit-sharing plan. Previously, employees who worked the full year were eligible for a payout around March, whether still employed or not.

Just last month the company changed the policy so that an employee must still be with the company at the time of the payout.

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Boeing ponders uncertain future

SEATTLE (AP) - The year can't end soon enough for Boeing. The aerospace manufacturer limped through 2002 as it dealt with a series of setbacks, particularly in its core commercial jet business. Boeing cut 30,000 jobs, announced more reductions for 2003, slashed production in half, lost the year's biggest plane order and was forced to watch as the airline industry underwent a massive shakeout.



Boeing Commercial Airplanes chief executive Alan Mulally pauses during a news conference in Seattle on Dec. 20. Mulally announced Boeing Co. has decided to shelve its proposed high-speed Sonic Cruiser passenger jet in favor of developing a more-traditional but highly fuel-efficient airliner. While airlines had shown interest in the high-tech aircraft, they felt the fuel-efficient plane was more important.

Industry analysts saw a bigger problem - Boeing's failure to champion a vision for the future. The company's decision to shelve ambitious plans to build a Sonic Cruiser jet, which would travel near the speed of sound, made them question whether Boeing has lost its nerve.

"You could either regard 2002 as (Boeing's) taking a break or as a pattern for the future," said Richard Aboulafia, aviation director with Teal Group of Fairfax, Va. "It's the latter that is a bit disturbing."

To be sure, it was a difficult year for the commercial aviation sector.

The airlines that are Boeing's customers were hurt by the sluggish economy, a drop in business travel and the aftereffects of the Sept. 11 attacks. The biggest names in U.S. aviation - including United Airlines, which filed for bankruptcy - laid off tens of thousands of workers and cut routes as they reported billions of dollars of losses.

Boeing was forced to reschedule deliveries of more than 500 jets - easily a year's work - since

the attacks and halved its production rates, laying off thousands. The cuts will continue in 2003, the company said.

Boeing also lost a huge order to its chief competitor, Airbus of Toulouse, France. British low-fare carrier easyJet announced in October it would order 120 jets from Airbus - despite an existing fleet of Boeing 737s - and take options on another 120.

Instead of building the Sonic Cruiser, Boeing said it plans to launch in 2004 a more traditional, middle-of-the-market, super-efficient jet the size of a 767.

Analysts noted that in the past, Boeing has forged ahead when the economic climate was shaky and the outlook for orders poor.

"They'll be waiting until demand begins to be asserted before they really commit to it (the Sonic Cruiser)," said Paul Nisbet, an analyst with JSA Research. "It is a change. They've been willing to commit to airplanes (before) without much in the way of orders."

Teal Group's Aboulafia said Boeing, from a commercial jet production standpoint, did little

this year but retreat and protect its profits.

"It's part of the new Boeing," Aboulafia said. "It's about generating value for shareholders and return on investment and not market leadership."

Including all its businesses, the company earned a profit of \$1.73 billion, or \$2.14 a share, for the first nine months of the year, an revenue of \$4.0 billion, with the majority coming from commercial airplanes.

Boeing chairman Phil Condit defended his company's moves, saying it "won't run away from a development opportunity that we think's got a good market." He added that Boeing continues to develop new defense aircraft and high-speed Internet connections for air travelers.

"There's so much exciting going on," he said.

For the year ahead, the company will have to cope with the airline industry's continuing problems. It has projected delivering only 275 to 285 jets in 2003, which would be one of its lowest production years in a decade.

The company will also face shrinking backlogs in orders for its 747, 767 and 757 lines, with the 757 outlook looking particularly grim. The 757 had no new orders in 2002, leaving only 29 of the planes to be built as of the end of November.

If Boeing can't secure new orders, it might need to cut its already reduced production rate of two jets a month, Nisbet estimated, or possibly close the line for good.

Enron executives resist testifying for prosecutors

The Washington Post

Federal prosecutors, preparing to expand their case against Enron Corp. next month, are running into resistance from a small group of senior executives who occupied key positions at or near the top of the Houston energy company, people close to the investigation said.

Richard A. Causey, Enron Corp.'s former chief accounting officer, is not cooperating with prosecutors seeking his testimony against the company's former chief executive, Jeffrey K. Skilling, and its former chairman Kenneth L. Lay, the sources said. By pleading guilty and agreeing to testify, Causey could receive a promise of leniency.

But Causey - who approved the huge secretive financial deals that helped top Enron - maintains that he did nothing wrong and will defend himself if he is indicted, which is expected to happen by the middle of January, lawyers in the case said. Causey's lawyer, Reid Weingarten, had no comment on Causey's response to the Enron investigation. He has said previously that Causey did not violate accounting regulations when he approved Enron deals.

A second former high-ranking executive, Kenneth D. Rice, likewise says he broke no laws when he headed Enron Broadband Services, which Skilling promoted heavily two years ago, shortly before the unit collapsed. Prosecutors have sought to


incriminate Rice through the testimony of his subordinates. Several of Rice's deputies have been told that they are targets in the investigation, and at least one of them is cooperating with prosecutors, lawyers in the case confirmed.

Former chief financial officer Andrew S. Fastow, who was Skilling's key deputy, pleaded not guilty to fraud and conspiracy charges and has not cooperated with investigators, lawyers said.

"The pressure on Enron executives is intense, more in the style of organized-crime prosecutions than white-collar crime cases, some lawyers said. "Prosecutors are putting the squeeze on family members" of potential defendants by going after their financial assets, said former U.S. Attorney Daniel K. Hedges, a Houston lawyer.

Justice Department spokesman Mark Covello would not discuss specifics of the Enron case. Corporate-fraud investigators are determined "to bring the greatest amount of pressure to bear on white-collar criminals," he said.

The willingness of Causey and some former colleagues to challenge prosecutors reflects a hardened stance by those insiders, lawyers said. Without their help, the government would have to convince juries that Enron's financial reports were systematically distorted by improper - and bewildering - accounting maneuvers approved at the top of the company.



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		624 Unfurnished Apts./Duplexes	
		625 Rooms For Rent	
		626 Mobile Homes	
		627 Office & Retail Rentals	
		628 Commercial Property	
		629 Condominium/Time Shares	
		630 Storage/Warehouse Rental	
		631 Farms For Rent	
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		633 Computers	
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		635 Furniture/Carpet	
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		637 Auctions	
		638 Jewelry & Furs	
		639 Lawn & Garden	
		640 Exercise Equipment	
		641 Miscellaneous For Sale	
		642 Musical Instruments	
		643 Office Equip./Supplies	
		644 Pets & Supplies	
		645 Stereo/Video/CDs	
		646 Tools & Machinery	
		647 Variety Food & Services	
		648 Video Equipment	
		649 Wanted To Buy	
		650 Camping Equipment	
		651 Garage Sales	
		652 Medical Supplies	
		653 Flea Markets	
		654 RECREATION	
		655 ATVs & Motorcycles	
		656 Bicycles	
		657 1001 Auto Parts & Accessories	
		658 1002 Auto Parts & Accessories	
		659 1003 Trucks	
		660 1004 Auto Wanted	
		661 1005 Antiques & Collectibles	
		662 1006 Semi-heavy Equipment	
		663 1007 Trucks	
		664 1008 Auto Parts & Accessories	
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350-500 Meadows Lane
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(BURLEY)

CURRENT MOTOR ROUTES AVAILABLE

BELLEVEUE/HALLEY KETCHUM
Both Carrier & Substitutes needed

If you live in these areas and would like to be a carrier.

Please contact the District Manager 733-8351, ext. 348.

CURRENT WALKING ROUTES AVAILABLE

TWIN FALLS

RT. 887
1000-200 Park Meadows
1000-1200 Twin Peaks

If you live near one of these areas and would like to be a carrier. Please contact the District Manager 733-8351, ext. 347.

ROUTES AVAILABLE

In the Burley and Rupert area

We are currently accepting applications for independent carriers

Stop by the Burley office at:
1285 Overland Ave.
(Old Floor Building)

301

A \$250,000 1st yr potential. Work FT at home. Not M.M. 1-800-808-7861.

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December to Remember
IT'S OUR YEAR-END BLOWOUT TIME!

1995 BUICK REGAL #2126-1..... Now \$3,888	1998 NISSAN FRONTIER EX CAB #2116-0..... Now \$10,988
1995 BUICK LESABRE #21159-1..... Now \$4,888	2000 FORD RANGER SUPER CAB #21252-0..... Now \$11,988
1997 FORD RANGER XL #21350..... Now \$5,988	2001 DODGE INTREPID #21214-01..... Now \$11,988
1998 BUICK PARK AVE #20337..... Now \$6,488	1998 GMC 1500 4X4 #21064-3..... Now \$11,988
1995 FORD F-150 EX CAB #21145-0..... Now \$6,488	2001 MITSUBISHI ECLIPSE #21220-1..... Now \$12,988
1999 FORD RANGER #21137-0..... Now \$6,488	2001 GMC JIMMY #21257-0..... Now \$12,988
2001 CHEVROLET METRO #21255-0..... Now \$6,488	2001 GMC JIMMY #21259-0..... Now \$12,988
2000 ISUZU HOMBRE #21150..... Now \$6,988	2001 GMC JIMMY #21259-0..... Now \$12,988
1994 FORD F-150 XLT #21145-0..... Now \$6,988	2000 NISSAN KINGCAB #21189-0..... Now \$12,988
1996 FORD F-250 4X4 #21140-0..... Now \$6,988	1999 BUICK REGAL G.S. #21102-0..... Now \$12,988
1998 DODGE 3500 DUALY #2003-1 (RATED)..... Now \$7,288	2002 CHEVROLET IMPALA #21239-0..... Now \$12,988
2000 CHEVROLET PRIZM #21223-0..... Now \$7,488	2000 BUICK LESABRE LIMITED #21201-1..... Now \$13,888
1999 CHEVROLET TRACKER #21221-0..... Now \$7,488	2002 BUICK REGAL #21220-0..... Now \$13,988
1994 GMC YUKON #21129-0..... Now \$7,488	2001 PONTIAC AZTEC #21221-1..... Now \$13,988
1999 CHEVROLET S-10 #21171-0..... Now \$7,788	1997 GMC 2500 #20201-1..... Now \$14,988
1999 PONTIAC GRAND PRIX #20246-7..... Now \$7,788	2000 GMC 2500 #21253-0..... Now \$16,888
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1995 CHEVROLET 2500 4XA #20217..... Now \$7,988	2000 TOYOTA SIENNA VAN #21150-0..... Now \$16,988
1999 MAZDA 626 #21221-1..... Now \$7,988	1999 GMC 1500 4XA #21194-0..... Now \$18,788
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1999 OLDS CUTLASS #21202-0..... Now \$8,988	2000 GMC 1500 4XA #20204-1..... Now \$20,988
1997 CHEVROLET ASTRO #21161-0..... Now \$8,988	2002 BUICK PARK AVE #21254-0..... Now \$21,988
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1999 BUICK LESABRE #21104-1..... Now \$9,988	2001 CHEVROLET 2500 REG CAB #21255-0..... Now \$22,988

NO REASONABLE OFFER WILL BE REUSED

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1427 BLUE LAKES BLVD. N. 733-1823 1-800-333-2310 TWIN FALLS, ID

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A Fishing Trip To St. Johns Fishing Lodge.

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THE RIGHT WAY. THE RIGHT CAR.

A SHORT DRIVE WILL SAVE YOU THOUSANDS.

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The Drift Inn, Rupert
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View 100+ Listings on Web www.angelusberry.com

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WILL CLOSE
Tuesday, Dec. 31st at 3:00 p.m. and will be closed on Wednesday.
New Years Day.
Classified line ads to run Wednesday, January 1 need to be placed by noon on Tuesday.
Classified line ads to run Thursday, January 2nd need to be placed by 2 p.m. on Tuesday.

Your Friends at the Times-News
Happy New Year

Read The Classifieds Every Day!

CLASSIFIED ADVERTISERS RESPONSIBILITIES
Please check your ad on the first day it is published. We make every effort to avoid errors by carefully proofreading. If you find an error please call 733-0931 ext. 2. We cannot be responsible for more than one day's error if you do not call it to our attention.

FILER
Exceptionally graceful 4 bdrm, 2 1/2 bath, 3100 sq ft home on 8.22 acres. Beautiful open floor plan. Upstairs loft overlooks gorgeous living room. Greenhouse/tpa room off master suite. Live stream runs through fully fenced property. \$305,000. Call Kip 208-338-8885

Lovely starter home in quiet neighborhood.
3 bdrm, 2 bath, 1570 sq ft. Formal dining room, family room, and enclosed patio. \$64,900. Call Kip 208-338-8885

JEROME
Beautiful 2-story family home on a quiet cul-de-sac. Features 4 bedrooms, 2 1/2 baths. Gas heat. AC. Deluxe kitchen. \$129,900. Call Sherri Puffin 734-3968, #104754

Just like new! 3 bdrm, 1.75 bath mfg home. Clean & well maintained. AC, gas heat & vinyl siding. Nice room. \$79,900. Call Elmer Blaikie 420-2990.

TWIN FALLS
Bring us an offer! One of our best listings: 4 bdrm, 2 bath, on quiet street. Plenty of storage. Drive by 832 Blinnwood Place. Call Steve Kohrsoop 734-1991 to see. Near beautiful brick home. 2 bdrm, 2 bath, fully fenced, near new school to college in quiet neighborhood. \$129,900. Call Elmer Blaikie 420-2990 #105370

Great horse property!
Home on 3 acres w/3 water shares. Hardwood windows in barn 1 bdrm. Garage/hop included. \$179,900. Call Sherri Puffin 731-3968 #105067

BRICK 3 bdrm, 2 bath home. 2 car garage. 1708 sq ft on main floor & 602 sq ft barn. Call Elmer Blaikie 420-2990 #104180

2 bdrm, 1 bath home on busy street. Great commercial location. \$12 sq ft. shop out back. Electrical service updated. Fresh paint. \$66,000. Call David Watson 543-8345. #105106

magic valley realty
734-1991

NEW HOMES COME BUILD WITH US!

Merry Housing Idaho is now accepting applications for the Magic Valley Self-Help Housing Program.
Homes are 3 or 4 bedrooms, 2 baths and double car garage!
Low monthly payments are adjusted to your income.
There is NO down payment!
Funded by USDA Rural Development

PUBLIC NOTICE
Actions planned and taken by your government are contained in public notices. They are part of your right to know and to be informed of what your government is doing. As self-government charges all citizens to be informed, this newspaper urges every citizen to read and study these notices. We advise these citizens.

who seek further information to exercise their right to access public records and public meetings
IMPORTANT
Please address all legal advertising to:
LEGAL ADVERTISING
The Times News
PO Box 548
Twin Falls, ID 83305-0548
Deadline for legal ads: 3

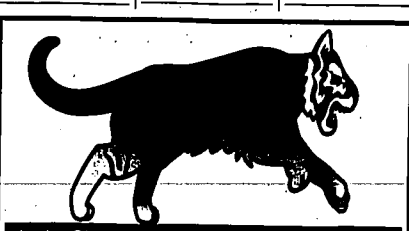
days prior to publication, noon on Wednesday for Sunday, noon on Thursday for Monday, noon on Friday for Tuesday and Wednesday, noon on Monday for Thursday and noon on Tuesday for Friday and Saturday. Holiday deadlines may vary. If you have any questions call Ruby at 735-3324.

Loan No. 517820700
T.S. No. 1047918-09
Parcel No. 90703
NOTICE OF TRUSTEE'S SALE
On March 19, 2003, at the hour of 11:00 a.m., of said day, at the FRONT ENTRANCE OF FIRST AMERICAN TITLE COMPANY, 260 THIRD AVENUE NORTH, TWIN FALLS, IDAHO, FIRST AMERICAN TITLE INSURANCE COMPANY, as trustee, will sell at public auction, to the highest bidder, for cash, cashier's check drawn on a State or National Bank, a check drawn by a State or Federal Credit Union, or a check drawn by a State or Federal Savings and Loan Association, Savings Association, or Savings Bank, all payable at the time of sale, the following described real property, situated in the County of TWIN FALLS, State of IDAHO, and described as follows, to wit:

LOT 19 IN BLOCK 4 OF OLDEN ADDITION, TWIN FALLS COUNTY, IDAHO, RECORDED IN BOOK 4 OF PLATS, PAGE 13. "LOAN MOD RECORDED 2/27/2002 AS INST 82002-003645
Commonly known as 1130 4th Avenue East, Twin Falls, Idaho 83301.

Said sale will be made without covenant or warranty, express or implied, regarding title, possession or encumbrances to satisfy the obligation secured by and pursuant to the power of sale conferred in the deed of trust executed by CARL M. WIRE AND STACEY HENKE, HUSBAND AND WIFE, as Grantor, to TWIN FALLS TITLE & ESCROW COMPANY, as Trustee, for the benefit and security of GMAC MORTGAGE CORPORATION, as Beneficiary, recorded April 25, 2000, as Instrument No. 2000-005129". Mortgage records of TWIN FALLS County, Idaho.

Said sale will be made without covenant or warranty, express or implied, regarding title, possession or encumbrances to satisfy the obligation secured by and pursuant to the power of sale conferred in the deed of trust executed by CARL M. WIRE AND STACEY HENKE, HUSBAND AND WIFE, as Grantor, to TWIN FALLS TITLE & ESCROW COMPANY, as Trustee, for the benefit and security of GMAC MORTGAGE CORPORATION, as Beneficiary, recorded August 15, 2001, as Instrument No. 2001-014866. Mortgage records of TWIN FALLS County, Idaho.



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The Times-News Classifieds
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1263 Overland Ave. Burley 677-4042
www.magicvalley.com

The default for which this sale is to be made is: Failure to pay the monthly payment due June 1, 2002 of principal, interest and impounds and subsequent installments due thereafter; plus late charges; together with all subsequent sums advanced by beneficiary pursuant to the terms and conditions of said deed of trust.
The estimated balance owing as of this date on the obligation secured by said deed of trust is \$73,537.77.
THE ABOVE GRANTORS ARE NAMED TO COMPLY WITH SECTION 45-1506(a)(1), IDAHO CODE. NO REPRESENTATION IS MADE THAT THEY ARE, OR ARE NOT, PRESENTLY RESPONSIBLE FOR THIS OBLIGATION.

The default for which this sale is to be made is: Failure to pay the monthly payment due July 1, 2002 of principal, interest and impounds and subsequent installments due thereafter; plus late charges; together with all subsequent sums advanced by beneficiary pursuant to the terms and conditions of said deed of trust.
The estimated balance owing as of this date on the obligation secured by said deed of trust is \$39,477.30 including interest, costs and expenses actually incurred in enforcing the obligation hereunder or in this sale, and trustee's fees and/or reasonable attorney's fees as authorized in the promissory note secured by the aforementioned Deed of Trust.
Dated: November 15, 2002
C/O CAL-WESTERN RECONVEYANCE CORPORATION
PO Box 22004
El Cajon, CA 92022-0004
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A/LUS Cards

PUBLISH: December 8, 15, 22 and 29, 2002

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NEW HOMES COME BUILD WITH US!

Merry Housing Idaho is now accepting applications for the Magic Valley Self-Help Housing Program.
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Low monthly payments are adjusted to your income.
There is NO down payment!
Funded by USDA Rural Development

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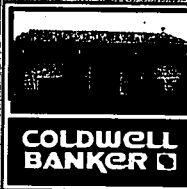
602 HOME S. FOR SALE 602 HOME S. FOR SALE 602 HOME S. FOR SALE 602 HOME S. FOR SALE 602 HOME S. FOR SALE 602 HOME S. FOR SALE

REAL ESTATE

In lieu of another ad or cards to my many wonderful customers and clients, I have send a donation in your honor to the Mini-Cassia Christmas Council. Please have a great holiday season. I'm thankful to all of you.



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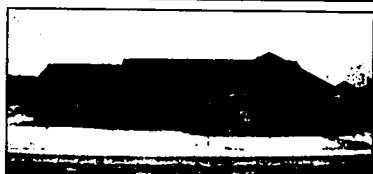


Orlean Smith
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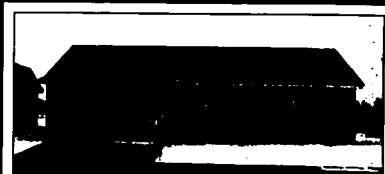
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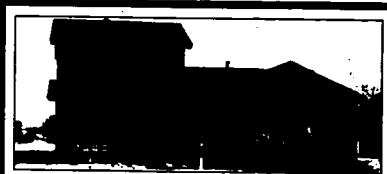
- 1 — Wills Inc. believes you deserve a building contractor with nearly 40 years experience that has consistently built good quality homes & is here to stay.
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2562 CARRIAGE WAY
\$134,900
Just Reduced!!
3 bedroom, 2 bath,
brick trim, lawn & sprinkler included.



1474 ATLANTIC
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3 bedroom, 2 bath, 2 story home
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Air conditioning included.



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patios, 2 car garage and 3 bedrooms. All
for only \$149,000. Ready to move into,
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Call Jeff Blick Today (208) 280-2800

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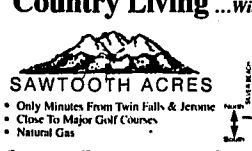


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Jerome. Just right for a growing family.
Lots of character and great location with
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sq. ft., 3 bedrooms, 2 baths.
MLS #103839 - \$99,000

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2 story home on 2 acres,
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only \$110,000
Call Leroy 834-6140
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3 bdrm, 2 bath, large
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garage w/waterage rm., 1
acre lot, membership incl.
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family rooms, \$750/month.
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purchase. Call David
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Special! Beautiful brick
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View Acres on 1+ acres.
Built 1997, 3383 sq. ft.,
on 2 levels, 6 bdrm, 3.5
bath, propane, AC,
3-car, auto sprinklers,
large deck, Wilsonart
floor, built-in bar
\$258,000 735-1200

TWIN FALLS
UNDER CONSTRUCTION
On North Drive, 3
bdrm, 2 bath, 1588 sq ft.
He entry, kitchen, bath
granite countertops, full
bath & sprinklers.
\$129,900

**4 bdrms, 2 baths, fire-
place, rec room, jacuzzi,
covered patio. On .75
acre in city limits, North
location.**

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REALTY
733-0404**

TWIN FALLS - 2 HOUSES
ON 1 LOT, \$83,000
Happy Year

**NELSON
REALTY, LLC
734-3930**

TWIN FALLS 3 bdrm, 3
baths, Candelridge subdi-
vision, Seward, Ohoo, 17,
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WENDELL
2850 S 1500 E - 12 acres
all-ala, 4 bdrms, Energy
efficient 1700 sq ft. home,
\$124,000

HAGERMAN
2006 S 1175 E - Approx.
23 acres, home offers
open floor plan, plus shop,
RV shelter, water. Resal-
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ASHBY 2 BELL
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View Acres on 1+ acres.
Built 1997, 3383 sq. ft.,
on 2 levels, 6 bdrm, 3.5
bath, propane, AC,
3-car, auto sprinklers,
large deck, Wilsonart
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Farm for sale.
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BURLEY
5 acres. Deep water
through acreage most of
the year. Utilities, Energy
5 shares of TFCO water.
Great home site. Home
w/1.5 acres, 3 bdrms, 2
bath, auto sprinklers.
Call David Wal-
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MAGIC VALLEY REALTY
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Farm for sale.
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WATER
5 acres. Deep water
through acreage most of
the year. Utilities, Energy
5 shares of TFCO water.
Great home site. Home
w/1.5 acres, 3 bdrms, 2
bath, auto sprinklers.
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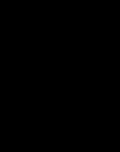
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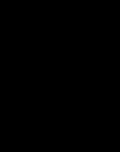
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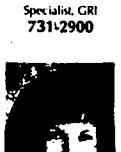
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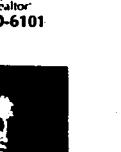
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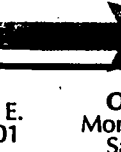
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Sunday, Dec. 29, 2002

THE ACES ON BRIDGE Bobby Wolff

Dear Mr. Wolff: Do the experts use suit-preference as well as, or instead of, encouraging and discouraging signals?

ANSWER: I sympathize with both your one-no-trump call (better than one-king, since your action is more likely to get you to game) and your decision to run to two clubs. Regardless of the result, you had reason to expect that declaring two clubs would be less catastrophic than playing one no-trump doubled.

Dear Mr. Wolff: Playing Two-Over-One Game Forcing, what are the suit requirements to open a suit and then jump in over a two-level response? Does it show extras as well as a good suit?

ANSWER: My view is that a jump shows a semi-solid suit or better (missing at most one of the top three honors) and not a dead minimum. So, holding ♠4-4, ♥A-Q-10-6-5, ♣K-3-2, 10-4, I would open one heart and rebid two hearts over two clubs. Give me the club king instead of the 10, and I would jump to three hearts.

Dear Mr. Wolff: When holding a 10-count and three trumps in response to a one-spade opening bid, should one treat the hand as a limit-raise via forcing no-trump, or as a constructive raise to two? The hand that caused me concern was ♠A-10-2, ♥K-10-6, ♦K-8-4-3-2, ♣9-4.

ANSWER: This is an exceptional 10-count, not just because it is all aces and kings, but because of the five-card suit and the potentially useful trump and heart line holdings. I would treat this hand as a limit-raise, but take away the fifth diamond and make it a small club, and I would just raise one spade to two spades.

Dear Mr. Wolff: How should I handle the following hand? My LHO opened three hearts, my partner doubled, and my RHO bid four hearts. I had been dealt ♠4-2, ♥5-4, ♦K-J-5-3-2, ♣10-4-3. I passed, and we defended against four hearts down a trick. But could have made five clubs.

ANSWER: Although there is an element of luck to it, I believe it may be right to bid four no-trump over four hearts. This is neither Blackwood nor to play. It shows both minors, asking partner to pick one, and it is the common meaning of four no-trump in competitive auctions.

Dear Mr. Wolff: I overcalled one heart with one no-trump, holding ♠10-5, ♥K-J-4, ♦A-Q-10-4, ♣K-Q-10-4-3. I was in a bind. Should I have run to two clubs when this got passed back to me? I did — and found that one no-trump would have been cheaper, as my partner had 4-3-4-2 shape with one point!

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Tuesday, Dec. 31st at 3:00 p.m. and will be closed on New Years Day.

Classified line ads to run Wednesday, January 1 need to be placed by noon on Tuesday.

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BRAND NEW 2003 GMC YUKON XL 2500

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2003 JEEP WRANGLER 4x4

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NOW \$15988

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2003 DODGE CARAVAN

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LATHAM DISCOUNT \$6,502

NOW \$18288

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64 months at 5.99% APR, DAC.



2003 DODGE INTREPID

Stock #324-014 Color Lt. Almond • Air Conditioning • Tilt Steering • Cruise Control • Power Windows, Locks, Seats • Sunroof • ABS/PM Cassette CD • 7 Year 70,000 Mile Power Train Warranty • 24 Hour Roadside Assistance • Dual Air Bags

WAS \$26,285
LATHAM DISCOUNT \$4,897

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2003 DODGE DAKOTA CLUB CAB 4x4

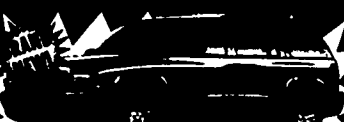
Stock #3TD-303 Color Graphite • Automatic Transmission • Air Conditioning • Tilt Steering • Cruise Control • Power Windows • Power Locks • 7 Year 70,000 Mile Power Train Warranty • 24 Hour Roadside Assistance • Dual Air Bags

WAS \$29,850
LATHAM DISCOUNT \$8,362

NOW \$21488

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2003 DODGE DURANGO 4x4

Stock #3DR-303 Color Thunderbolt Green • Automatic Transmission • Air Conditioning • Cruise Control • Power Windows • Power Locks • 7 Year 70,000 Mile Power Train Warranty • 24 Hour Roadside Assistance • Dual Air Bags

WAS \$35,280
LATHAM DISCOUNT \$9,392

NOW \$25888

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2003 DODGE 1500 QUAD CAB 4x4

Stock #375-010 Color Graphite • Air Conditioning • Cruise Control • Tilt Steering • Power Windows • Power Locks • Power Seats • Keyless Entry • Tire Package • 7 Year 70,000 Mile Power Train Warranty • 24 Hour Roadside Assistance • Dual Air Bags

WAS \$37,146
LATHAM DISCOUNT \$10,958

NOW \$26188

OR \$319 MO.

64 months at 5.99% APR, DAC.



2003 CHRYSLER 300M

Stock #3M-010 Color Sapphire Blue • Automatic • Air • Tilt • Cruise • Power Windows • Power Locks • Sunroof • Leather • Loaded • 7 Year 70,000 Mile Power Train Warranty • 24 Hour Roadside Assistance • Dual Air Bags

WAS \$36,120
LATHAM DISCOUNT \$6,432

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2003 DODGE 2500 QUAD CAB 4x4 DIESEL

Stock #3T-021 Color Flame Red • 4-Speed • Air • Cruise • Tilt • Power Windows • Power Locks • Power Mirrors • AM/FM CD • 7 Year 70,000 Mile Power Train Warranty • 24 Hour Roadside Assistance • Dual Air Bags

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Beep your way through a 'secure' life

I beep. There's no other way to say it. Whenever I go through the doors of stores that have shoplifting security systems, I beep. Just like Road Runner. Without a Wile E. Coyote in sight.

It's downright embarrassing. But I guess it would be even worse if anyone ever cared.

I started beeping at a little boutique in California on vacation last summer. The clerk was sure she could solve the problem. She asked if I had an employee entry card, to unlock doors at my workplace. I handed it to her and she ran it across some sort of scanning device, gave it back to me and turned her attention to some paperwork on her counter.

"That will take care of it," she said tersely.

I thanked her and walked through the detector at the exit door, beeping all the way. The clerk never looked up.

Since then, I have beeped at Target, Rite Aid, Barnes & Noble and Walgreens. Sometimes coming. Sometimes going. Sometimes both. One day, I beeped at one branch office of the Post Office, but not at another. When I beep, I usually begin frantically explaining why I am not a thief, but no one ever listens. No one even checks my bags. I don't understand how anyone ever catches any real criminals.

Maybe some of the store security guards actually do detain some shoppers. My daughter says they ignore me because I chatter about my beeping so much that they can't wait to get rid of me. I usually just leave, and take whatever you want with you."

A while back, one of the cheerier cashiers tried to tease me about my little problem.

"Hey," he called to the cashier in the adjacent aisle. "Keep an eye on this one. I think they are going to cuff her on her way out."

I have tried to solve the problem all sorts of ways. A few weeks ago, I cornered a customer service representative and asked her why I beep at stores.

"Do you have any credit cards?" she asked.

Doesn't everyone?

I have tried taking various items out of my purse and leaving them in the cashier's hand. I have so much stuff that it's really hard to go the process of elimination route.

One day, I asked a group of my own co-workers if they ever beep. I don't think they've stopped laughing yet.

It's so alone. I don't think anyone else ever beeps. My Wilona Ryder didn't beep at Saks Fifth Avenue.

Last week, I thought about making a new year's resolution: I will go to the ends of the earth to find a way never to beep again. Or something like that. But that didn't seem very practical.

Instead, I decided to go on the offensive, against no one in particular.

On Friday, I marched into Rite Aid and proceeded to tell a cashier another life story. I spent five minutes explaining to her that I never beep when I walk into Rite Aid, but I always beep going out.

"I'm going to show you every-thing in my purse right now and also when I come back through the checkout line," I told her, "and then I WILL be going out your door. You'll see. I will."

The clerk yawned. I smiled. Mission accomplished.

I grabbed a cart, finished my shopping, paid for my purchases, forced the poor clerk to look in my purse again and strode toward the sensor at the store exit, head held high.

When I passed through the security bars, I braced for the onslaught.

Total silence. Not a beep in earshot.

Now, they really do think I'm crazy.

Denise Turner is assistant features editor at The Times-News.

Wary were we

Dave Barry gets to the bottom of it

By Dave Barry
Night Rider News Service

... If you had to pick one word to describe our national mood in 2002, that word would be "wary." We went to sleep wary, and we woke up wary. We wallowed in wariness. We were rabbits.

This was partly because bad things kept happening. But it was also because government officials kept issuing alarming, yet vague, warnings. "We have received reliable information," an official would say, "that something bad might happen. We don't know what, or when, or where. But it is very, very bad. So we urge all citizens to continue leading normal lives, while remaining in a state of stark terror. Tune in tomorrow and we'll see if we can't ratchet this thing up a notch or two."

We were also wary of the stock market. One day it was up; the next day it was down; the next day it was WAY down. We watched our 401(k) plans decline from a retirement villa in France to a refrigerator carton in an alley.

We became even warier when we found out that some large corporations had out that some large business ethics as Bonnie and Clyde. It got so bad that we even became wary of Martha Stewart.

But, somehow, one wary day at a time, we got through 2002. Now we are poised to enter a new year, which according to Wall Street analysts will be 2003, so we would not bet on it. But before we move ahead to wherever we're going, let us take one last, wary look back at the year just completed, starting with ...



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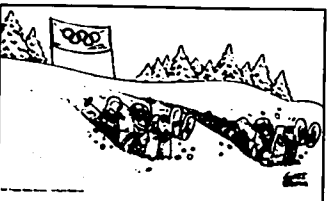


January

... which begins on a hopeful note in Europe, as the nations of the European Union replace their individual currencies with the new "euro," which is expected to boost the European economy by tricking clueless American tourists into leaving unintentionally gigantic tips.

The big domestic news is not so good in the United States, where President George W. Bush and the Congress discover that the federal budget surplus, which only moments earlier had been trillions of dollars, is now ... missing! Everybody looks high and low for it, but the darned thing is just GONE. Iraq is suspected.

The big domestic issue is Homeland Insecurity, which is most noticeable at airports, where the Department of Transportation, having determined that every single Sept. 11 hijacker was a young male from a Middle Eastern country, has implemented a shrewd policy of hassling randomly selected elderly women.



February

... opens with a World Economic Forum meeting in New York City, where angry protesters, determined to rid the world of poverty, hunger, disease and pollution, attack the obvious root cause of all these problems: The Gap.

In the War on Terrorism, security personnel at Chicago's O'Hare airport wrestle would-be passenger Marlene A. Greipner, 91, to the ground after an alert screener notices that she is carrying an object that is later confirmed by the FBI, using spectrographic analysis, to be a pretzel. The Department of Homeland Insecurity places the nation on a Code Magenta Alert ("A Tad Higher Than Relatively High, But Not Totally High.")

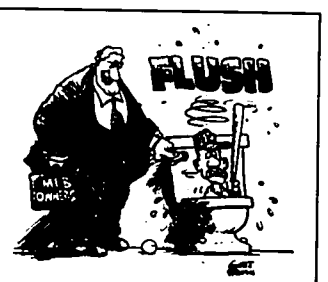
The Winter Olympics bring thousands of athletes and spectators from around the world to Salt Lake City to celebrate the official Olympic theme: "A Salute to Metal Detectors." The big scandal occurs in pairs figure skating, where the Canadian team clearly outskates the competition, only to see the gold medal awarded, in a judging decision that creates an international uproar, to ... Iraq. And speaking of international tension, in ...



March

... the situation worsens in the Middle East as Israeli tanks, following a series of Palestinian attacks, surround Yasser Arafat's headquarters, cutting off the electricity, telephone service, water and pizza delivery.

In business news, investigators probing the Enron send in troops to capture the accounting firm of Arthur Andersen, only to discover that the top auditors have escaped to ... Iraq. The Department of Homeland Insecurity responds by ratcheting the nation up to a Code Ochre Alert Status ("Deeply Concerned").



April

... when Secretary of State Colin Powell travels to the Middle East to (a) restore peace to the troubled region, and (b) receive a plaque from the Association of Troubled Middle East Travel Agencies honoring him for making the 5,000th official U.S. peacekeeping trip. At the awards ceremony, Powell jokes: "We expect to get this thing resolved any day now," which gets a big laugh, punctuated by mortar fire.

On the domestic terrorism front, the U.S. Immigration and Naturalization Service, fighting up its procedures, quietly reverses its decision to grant a student visa to Osama bin Laden. This decisive action enables the Department of Homeland Insecurity to ratchet the nation's Color Code Security Status all the way down to Mauve ("Calm, But Tense").



May

... the big news is the release of the fifth installment in the Star Wars series, "Star Wars II," which continues to express creator/director George Lucas' artistic vision, summed up by the statement: "I don't understand Roman numerals."

In other film news, al-Qaida, apparently seeking to disprove reports that its leader is dead, releases its latest video, "The Osama bin Laden Fugitive Workout." The Department of Homeland Insecurity decides to ratchet the nation's Color Code Security Status up a notch to Key Lime ("Partly Cloudy").



June

... Britain's Queen Elizabeth II celebrates the 50th year of her reign at a star-studded gala concert featuring performances by Paul McCartney, Eric Clapton and Ozzy Osbourne, who, in the dramatic highlight of the evening, bites the head off one of the Queen's Welsh corgis.

But the mood is not so jubilant in the Middle East, where, following a series of Palestinian attacks, Israeli tanks again surround the headquarters of Yasser Arafat and slowly press against it until it is the size of a twin bed. The crafty Arafat escapes again by claiming he has a dental appointment.

Wildfires rage out of control in Colorado and several other western states, burning thousands of acres and destroying dozens of homes. Investigators searching an area where one of the largest blazes originated find a Zippo lighter bearing a thumbprint belonging to ... Iraq. The nation's Color Code Security Status is quickly raised to Maroon ("Dark Brownish Red").

For more of Dave Barry's take on 2002, please see 'Barry' on page E-6.

FAMILY LIFE

HO-HO-HO!

By Willy A. Wiseman, New York, New York

THE Sunday Crossword

Edited by Wayne Robert Williams

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- 50 Gas: prof.
- 51 Critic
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- 81 Toyota model
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- 85 Pot roast ingredient
- 88 Maltre
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- 96 Start of the poem
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- 115 Military officer
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- 44 "The Godfather" writer
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- 48 Trademark swab
- 49 Fall to excess
- 51 Native fellow
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- 55 Pei's first name
- 57 Stenographer
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- 63 Credit card comp.
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- 67 R.E. Lee's nation
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- 87 Padlocked
- 89 Turned
- 90 Arabian leader
- 91 Brief book
- 95 Covering of feathers
- 94 Greek-Italian street
- 95 Mr. Churchill
- 97 Scroddling coals
- 99 Ethnic
- 100 Bus, letter abet
- 103 Flower element
- 106 Arab
- 107 "Pretty Woman" man
- 108 Frozen drops
- 109 Pasta
- 110 Bovine bunch
- 111 Impole
- 112 Latin way
- 113 Barbary deitzen

Wife in backseat would prefer to be up front

DEAR ABBY: My husband and I spend one weekend a month with his mother, taking her shopping, to dinner, movies etc. My problem is I always wind up sitting in the backseat, whenever she is with us.



DEAR ABBY
Abby Cadabby

It's not as though we have a little car and it would be hard for her to maneuver in and out. We have a nice-sized van, and I think she could get in and out of the back just as easily as she can from the front seat.

It has been this way for a couple of years now, and I haven't said anything to my husband because she is his mother. But I feel as his wife I should be honest with my husband.

Please help. We are about to go on vacation with my mother-in-law, and I don't want to have to spend it in the backseat for a six-hour drive.

DEAR ABBY: My neighbor of five years, "Christopher," recently confided to me that he is a crossdresser. At first I gave him credit for being so open about it, but ever since that conversation, I see him dressed only as "Kristin."

Whenever he sees me outside, Christopher comes over all dolled up. He even walks his dog dressed as Kristin - complete with heels and hose. He thinks I don't have a problem with it, but now that I'm actually seeing him dressed in women's clothing, I'm not sure.

He is now asking me to "do lunch" and wants to accompany me to my all-female gym. Please help me, Abby. I liked him as Christopher, but I'm really uncomfortable with Kristin. It's to the point where I no longer feel comfortable going outside for fear I'll have to deal with this guy. What can I say to him?

respect, I think you're lovely as Kristin, but I'm more comfortable with my friend, Christopher. That should get you off the hook.

DEAR ABBY: One of my coworkers, "Helen," celebrated her birthday. It's a tradition at our office to "surprise" the birthday person with a cake, so Helen's closest co-worker went out to buy one. When it came time for the surprise, everyone was astonished to see Helen's age written on the icing.

None of us here is a kid anymore, and that information should not have been included on the cake. The woman who changed the party thought it was hilarious, but Helen was not amused.

Abby, was it wrong for Helen's age to be revealed in such a manner? And how should I approach her friend to let her know it was a bad idea?

IN THE GARDEN STATE
DEAR CARING CO-WORKER: Yes, it was wrong. Helen deserves an apology. Mentioning age in the workplace can be discriminatory. And unless you want a prankster doing the same thing to you, I recommend that you present the "prize party" tell the offender it was a bad idea.

Don't let bad behavior escalate

QUESTION: When I ask my 4-year-old, Lulu, to do something, she will do it, but not before she stomps, complains, talks under her breath, huffs and pouts, or all of the above. Should I punish that behavior, or should I be grateful she obeys and let her vent?



PARENTING
John Rosemond

ANSWER: You should be grateful Lulu obeys, but when it's a bad idea to give free rein to her "venting." The general rule: bad behavior, ignored, worsens. There's a good chance your daughter's slowly will escalate, however slowly, into belligerent disrespect, then defiance. To prevent this, I recommend "three strikes, you're out." The first time she vents, Lulu spends 15 minutes in a relatively isolated area. Use a timer so you don't have to deal with the second most annoying question in the universe: "Can I come out now?" (The most annoying: "Are you serious?") The second vent of the day earns 30 minutes in the chair, and the third means she goes straight to her room for the rest of the day and goes to bed an hour early. Assuming both male and female, we will it should take to convince Lulu to control her little outbursts.

months. The difficulty is with the latter. This well-mannered, easy-going, very loving child is having trouble at Mother's Morning Glory. This is his second year. Last year he cried every day I dropped him off but would stop within 10 minutes. This year, instead of my walking in, we use the carpool line so I don't have to get his brother out of his car seat. When the supervising teacher tries to get him out of the car, he cries, falls into the floorboard and struggles. This morning, he greeted at the teacher as he tried to unbuckle him. Now I'm getting reports he has become defiant and disrespectful. Yesterday, he began throwing things after the teacher reprimanded him. She thinks he's insecure because there's a second child in the family, but he acts anything but insecure at home. She's also thinking of doing a special reward system for him, which

I think is a bad idea. Do you have any suggestions?

ANSWER: I agree that this behavior is nothing to do with his younger brother's arrival. This problem started before his brother was born and has simply escalated. I agree that a special reward system is a bad idea. When a child behaves badly, punishment is the answer. Unfortunately, preschools cannot receive certain accreditations if they punish bad behavior. The fact that this program is optional overrides all other considerations. When a 2-year-old gets into a snit over attending an optional program and the resistant behavior is spiraling downward, I recommend taking him out. It's not worth the battle, and besides, you may not be able to win. Let several weeks go by and then find another program or a smaller, cooperative play group. A change of venue may make all the difference.

John Rosemond is a family psychologist. Questions of general interest may be sent to him at Affirmative Parenting, 1020 East 86th Street, Suite 258, Indianapolis, IN 46240-5686. Web site: <http://www.rosemond.com>

Teach your dog to pee on command

In the good old days, a dog could eliminate practically wherever it wanted.

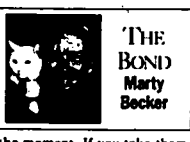
Going "No. 2" in the sleeping area of the cave was frowned upon by the four-legged family, but usually every tree-walker, an invisible target with a cocked leg, said, "Hit Me." Many could jump, aimed and fired in response.

That was before dogs started being housed with people who lived in 35th floor apartments, or who adorned the floor of their "cave" with expensive carpeting and priceless antiques that can't stand the acid washing of canine urine.

Whether you are caught up in the city pace and face streets drenched in freezing rain or are a suburban pet parent and don't want your lawn pot pockmarked with dozens of "dog logs" or yellow grass circles signifying direct hits, it's a great idea to teach your dog, let's just say it, pee or poop on command.

The concept first interested me when we got our beloved wire-haired fox terrier, Scooter, as a puppy during the start of a long, cold Idaho winter.

During housebreaking, we decided we wanted her to go to the bathroom in a designated area of the yard, so that cleanup would look like it was in the TV commercials. Also, flying snow and six months of freezing nighttime temperatures made expediency of elimination a priority. Rather than running around catching snowflakes with her long tongue, we wanted Scooter to get down to business, with her business.



When Scooter showed signs of wanting to eliminate in the house or yard, we'd get giddy happy with our voices, rush over to her potty spot and say, "Be quick!"

Behaviorists told the Becker family to make sure that we all spoke with about the same tone of voice. They didn't want me in my papa bear voice saying, "BE QUICK!" while my young son said the same thing in my own falsetto.

Once Scooter did her duty, we praised her verbally, patted her on the head, and on occasion gave her a tasty treat. Be careful that they don't know you have treats or give them every time or some dogs will pay more attention to the treat than the feat you wish them to perform on cue.

Whereas puppies gotta go, gotta go, many times a day, a mature dog will have 2-3 bowel movements a day. As far as urination, male dogs urinate more often than female dogs because they are

more focused on marking their territory. Also, many puppies, both male and female, will pee multiple times on a single trip out to the yard or on the street.

Practice makes perfect pees and poops. After several times of having them go on cue and be rewarded for it, you're ready to start taking a dog that isn't showing signs of having to go potty and encouraging them to go on command anytime, anywhere. Old dogs can learn new tricks as well.

"Housebreaking need not be a lengthy penance," says Dr. Nicholas Dodman, author of "If Only They Could Speak," and director of the behavior clinic at Tufts University School of Veterinary Medicine. Most dogs can be trained to "go the bathroom" on cue, where and when you want within a one week training period. Training by means of a "clicker" (a sound-maker that is a secondary reinforcer) speeds up the learning process (see www.petplace.com for information on clicker training).

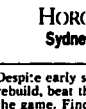
By the way, if you do happen live on the 35th floor of a skyscraper, you can always train your dog to "go potty" in an indoor receptacle filled with proprietary dog litter.

"Dog litter technology may well be the way of the future for smaller dogs," says Dr. Dodman. And since 37 percent of the nation's 63 million dogs are under 18 pounds weight, it covers quite a few bases. It also preserves lawns, trees and the sidewalk, making more than just the owner happy. Trust me, you'll like to have a "Be Quick" in your dog training repertoire when the nights are cold or you're ready for bed.

Dr. Marty Becker is the resident veterinarian on ABC-TV's "Good Morning America" and the author of "The Healing Power of Pets" Write him in care of Knight Ridder/Tribune News Service, 790 National Boulevard, Building,

Taurus: Don't equate delay with defeat

IF DECEMBER 29TH IS YOUR BIRTHDAY... you possess intuitive intellect, and you succeed when you heed "inner voice." You changed your name on more than one occasion. You are emotional and romantic. Capricorn, Cancer natives play active roles in your life, could have these letters in names: B, K, T. Next year you begin life anew; love plays major role, and July will be most romantic, profitable month.



HOROSCOPE
Sydney Omarr

TAURUS (Apr. 20-May 20): Do not equate delay with defeat. Focus on home, marriage and family. Love spark reignites; you will be vigorous, dynamic, Capricorn involved.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): You help others and yourself to find suitable living quarters. Last-minute change of plans will accurately work in your favor. Read and write, learn by teaching. Virgo figures prominently.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Relative who had been "out of touch" makes surprising appearance. Broken relationship can be mended. If you so desire, tonight you could learn luxury item as gift. Libra involved.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Define terms, avoid self-deception. You do not have complete story; dig deep for information. You could learn more than you care to know. Knowledge is power; handle it with wisdom, maturity.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Power play! Circumstances take

sudden turn in your favor. You get proverbial lucky break. Your value will be acknowledged. You can be in love and also be loved. Cancer native featured.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): By staying beyond the immediate, you can predict your future and make it come true. Long-range prospects come into sharp, clear focus. You could fall in love during journey. Aries represented.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Let go of preconceived notions; be inventive and creative, and take cold plunge into future prospects. Wear bright colors, make special appearances. Taurus will play fantastic role.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): If single, you will encounter future mate. If married, there will be an addition to family. You will be offered partnership deal; get commitments in writing. Capricorn plays sensational role.

PISCES (Feb. 19-Mar. 20): Write, advertise and publish. Your humor and intelligence will receive greater recognition. You will be popular; people want to wine-and-dine you. Sagittarian figures in scenario.

Protect your skin from winter dryness. Monday in Health and Fashion

ENGAGEMENTS

ARCHIBALD-PICKERING

RUPERT - Mr. and Mrs. Archibald of Boise announce the engagement of their daughter, Amy Archibald, to Robert Pickering, son of Bill and Marie Pickering of Rupert.

Archibald graduated from Centennial High School and is attending Boise State University working on a master's degree in social work.

Pickering is a graduate of Minico High School and the University of Idaho.

The wedding is planned for Saturday, The couple will reside in Minneapolis, Minn.



Robert Pickering and Amy Archibald



Tyson Bryant and Sadie Smith

SMITH-BRYANT

RUPERT - Lloyd and Sandy Smith of Rupert announce the engagement of their daughter Sadie Lee Smith, to Tyson Jacob Bryant of Mountain Home.

Smith graduated from Minico High School in 1998. She received an associate's degree in elementary education from the College of Southern Idaho. She is currently attending Idaho State University and will receive a bachelor's degree in elementary education in May.

Bryant, formerly of Los Angeles, Calif., graduated from high school in 1996 and served four years in the United States Air Force. He is currently employed at Saint Alphonsus Regional Medical Center in Boise as a software engineer.

The wedding is planned for 6 p.m. Friday at the Rupert First Christian Church. A reception to honor the couple will follow at the same location.

The couple will reside in Mountain Home.

BLACK-RASMUSSEN

BURLEY - Mr. and Mrs. Lloyd Pugh and Tom Black of Salmon announce the engagement of their daughter, Shawnee Black, to Corey Rasmussen, son of Layne and Gayle Rasmussen of Burley.

Both Black and Rasmussen will be attending - Idaho - State University. Rasmussen will be pursuing graduate studies in biology. He is employed by ISU.

The wedding is planned for 3 p.m. Saturday at the Zion Lutheran Church, 2410 Miller Ave., Burley. A reception to honor the couple will be immediately following the ceremony at the Rupert Fairgrounds.



Corey Rasmussen and Shawnee Black

CHILCOTT-WEBB

TWIN FALLS - The parents of Rebecca Anne Chilcott and Benjamin Gordon Webb announce the engagement of their children.

Chilcott is the daughter of Michael and Brenda Chilcott of Redmond, Ore. She is a recent graduate of Eastern Oregon

University and is employed by the state of Idaho.

Webb is the son of Mary Lou Webb of Twin Falls and the late Monte C. Webb. He is a student at Boise State University and is a manager at the Lowe's Home Improvement Store in Boise.

The wedding is planned for 6 p.m. AUG. 29, 2003, at St. Marks Catholic Church in Boise.

DEAN-WAGNER

BUHL - Nelda K. Dean of Buhl announces the engagement of her daughter, Lisa Anne Dean, to Jason Paul Wagner, son of Edmund and Janet Wagner of Moscow. The bride-to-be is also the daughter of the late Alvie R. "Dad" Dean.

Dean is a 2000 graduate of Filer High School and a 2001 graduate of Mr. Juan's College of Hair Design. She is employed at The Cut Away in Twin Falls.

Wagner is a 1996 graduate of Moscow Senior High School and a 1997 graduate of the College of Southern Idaho in diesel mechanics. He is employed at United Parcel Service in Twin Falls and by Ross Drown in Filer.



Jason Wagner and Lisa Dean

The wedding is planned for Jan. 10, 2003, at the White House in Twin Falls.



Trini and Joe Torres

THE TORRESSES

TWIN FALLS - Mr. and Mrs. Joe Torres were joined in an open house June 30 for their 50th wedding anniversary.

Torres and Trini Ybarra were married Dec. 21, 1952, at West Memphis, Tenn.

The couple is originally from San Antonio, Texas. They came to Twin Falls in 1954, where they still reside.

The open house was hosted by the children and their families, made of: (Meg) Torres of Denver, Colo., Margaret (Bill) Bradshaw and Teresa (Allen) Easterling, all of Pocatello, Rebecca Torres and Shirley (Burt) Webb, all of Twin Falls, Virginia (Garry) Campbell of Kimberly, Janet (Larry) Carlson of Redmond, Wash., and Rachel (Tim) Mueller of Plano, Texas.

The couple has 21 grandchildren and 10 great-grandchildren.

DOWNING-BOKMA

BUHL - Lonnie and Vicki Downing of Bonners Ferry announce the engagement of their daughter, Jennifer Cynthia Downing, to Peter Robert Bokma, son of Harry and Flora Bokma of Buhl.

Downing is a graduate of Rocky Mountain College and will be receiving her master's degree in teaching from Washington State University.

Bokma is a graduate of the University of Idaho mechanical engineering program and is employed by Translation Technologies Inc.



Peter Bokma and Jennifer Downing

The wedding is planned for July 19, 2003, in Bonners Ferry.

KOYLE-MOLINA

RUPERT - Jerry C. and Julie Koyle of Rupert announce the engagement of their daughter, Makyla Koyle, to David Molina, son of Alvin and Delia Molina of Rupert.

Koyle is a 2001 graduate of Minico High School. She attended Idaho State University and is attending the College of Southern Idaho. She is employed by the Goody Basket in Burley.

Molina graduated in 2001 from Minico High School and attended ISU. He is employed by Pickett Equipment and Molina Handyman Services in Rexburg.

The wedding is planned for Friday in the Bountiful, Utah, LDS Temple. A reception to



David Molina and Makyla Koyle

honor the couple will be held from 7-9 p.m. Saturday at the Rupert LDS Stake Center, 324 E. 18th St.

OKELBERRY-ROBB

HAZELTON - Mark and Cheryl Okelberry of Hazelton announce the engagement of their daughter, Tiffany Okelberry, to Tyler Robb, son of Dale and Penny McIntire of Fruitland and Larry and Kimmie Robb of Eagle.

Okelberry graduated from Valley High School at BYU-Idaho. She is employed at Bingham Memorial Hospital in Blackfoot as a registered nurse.

Robb graduated from Fruitland High School and served as LDS minister in San Jose, Calif. He is attending Idaho State University, majoring in pre-dentistry, and is employed as a manager at Grocery Outlet in Pocatello.



Tyler Robb and Tiffany Okelberry

The wedding is planned for Friday in the Bountiful, Utah, LDS Temple. A reception in their honor will be held from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. Friday at the Hazelton LDS Church.

WEDDING



Gregory and Ashley Swenson

SKOUSEN-SWENSON

RUPERT - Ashlee Lynn Skousen and Gregory Jason Swenson were married Dec. 27 in the Salt Lake LDS Temple.

The bride is the daughter of Phillip and Patricia Skousen of Orem, Utah. She graduated from Orem High School and is attending Utah State University studying secondary education.

The groom is the son of Alan and Sheila Swenson of Rupert. He graduated from Minico High School and served an LDS Mission in the Bordeaux France Mission. He has attended Utah State and is employed at Home Depot in Logan.

A reception to honor the couple will be held from 7-9 p.m. Saturday at the Budget Showroom, 300 Overland Ave. in Burley.

The couple will reside in Logan, Utah.

Comedienne Paula Poundstone rehabilitates her reputation

By Bettijeno Levine
Los Angeles Times

HOLLYWOOD - It isn't easy to cozy up to Paula Poundstone. She is not warm, ingratiating, glib or self-revealing. She has mastered none of the faux bonding techniques so many celebrities use with interviewers to make themselves seem worthy of prime time.

On Sunday, at 10 a.m., she is barely awake and highly nonverbal as she ushers an invited guest into her home in a manner that suggests she had little part in issuing the invitation. Balloons float from the white picket fence and signs drawn by the three Poundstone children - ages 4, 8 and 11 - still decorate the front door and living room. They read, "Poundstones Together Forever" - the theme of a party the night before to celebrate the family's reunification.

On Dec. 11, after her children had spent 18 months in foster care, Poundstone regained custody. They were removed from her home after she pleaded no contest to a felony count of child endangerment and misdemeanor infliction of injury on a child. The endangerment charge involved drunk driving with children in the car.

Now her lawyer and manager are on a campaign to put the comedienne back in circulation, to get her face in every magazine, newspaper and TV show possible in an attempt to refurbish what they consider an unfairly tarnished image. Her career is picking up slowly. The bookings are trickling in, but the campaign is geared toward picking up the pace.

Poundstone - yawning, uncombed and with a hacking cough - obviously isn't thrilled with this new public relations push: But if it will help her family's life get back onto an even financial keel, she'll put up with it. Within limits.

Poundstone says she has "apologized endlessly to my kids. I have explained that I made a really bad mistake, that I owed up to it and had to be punished. I tried to explain it as a sort of lesson, so they know that when you do something wrong, you should confess and take the punishment and never do it again."

She says she has not touched alcohol since her arrest and never would again "because of the terrible toll it inflicted."

A charge of lewd conduct was dropped soon after it was brought against the comedienne, says her attorney, Richard Pfeiffer. A court gag order prevents them from discussing why the charge was ever made - and why it was never pressed.

Poundstone says: "I can only tell you that if they could have nailed me, they certainly would have. I pleaded guilty only to what was true - which was my alcohol problem."

On this morning, it seems evident that the children are all Poundstone cares to discuss - although only in ways she believes will not invade their dignity or privacy. This attitude has been irritating to both her longtime manager, Bonnie Burns, and Pfeiffer, who asked the Los Angeles Times to meet with the comedian, hoping to reestablish her image as a caring and responsible - they might call her extraordinary - mother.

The attorney has asked to sit in on the interview, not because he's afraid Poundstone might say too much, but because he's afraid she won't say enough. He explains: "In the Larry King interview last week, King started to ask questions about her children's disabili-



Comedienne Paula Poundstone and her 11-year-old daughter, Toshia, are shown in their Santa Monica, Calif., home.

ties and she stopped him. She said her children are wonderful people, they aren't defined by disabilities and they weren't castaways that she rescued. But if you meet those children, see what Paula has done with and for them, see the love in that family - you will get a totally different picture than was implied when the charges were brought. She never got the huge publicity when the (lewd conduct) charges were so quickly dropped."

Thomas, the 4-year-old, climbs on Poundstone's lap and remains there to help with the interview. He is highly verbal about the family's nine cats, one dog and the constipated lizard who gets a 20-minute massage from his mommy every day. Not to mention his depth of knowledge on how firemen dress to fight fires and why Christmas trees need water.

Thomas "is great in school, has lots of friends and he's an excellent child aren't you?" Poundstone says, rucking him gently. He became her foster child when he was 2 days old, and they have been together ever since. She adopted him when he was 2. The attorney whispers that he had certain "health problems" the reporter should know about. Poundstone refuses to continue such a discussion.

Toshia, Poundstone's 11-year-old daughter, has joined the party. How are you? The reporter asks. "I'm happy," she answers in a soft voice.

What do you want for Christmas? "Whatever I want, my mama will get me," she replies sweetly.

She walks toward her mother, and drops unsteadily into a chair beside her.

"She's just stopped using her crutches," Poundstone says.

The attorney is aching to explain. When Paula and Toshia leave for the kitchen, he whispers: "She has cerebral palsy. Paula takes her to therapy a few times a week, and does exercises with her every night - and now she's walk-

ing without crutches."

Poundstone, asked later about this and other health issues the lawyer has mentioned, becomes upset that her daughter may be misrepresented as "damaged." All three of her children go to the same Santa Monica public school. Toshia has been mainstreamed. She has friends. She feels comfortable.

"The story is about me and my problems, not about them," Poundstone says.

At the time of her arrest, Poundstone was caring for two foster children along with her own three. (The foster children were placed in other homes.) She has fostered eight children through the years, she says, including the three she has adopted. When asked why she began fostering children, Poundstone says, "I wanted to do something important."

How could she juggle a career and such a large family? "I had two nannies - it was critical that the children have consistent care, get to school and gymnastics and all their other appointments when I was away performing - which I tried to keep to a minimum."

Of course, at the time her mothering began, Poundstone's career was on a high note, her financial picture was solid, she owned a lovely home. She could afford the lessons, the therapies, the tutors, the nannies. Since her legal problems began, she says she has gone into "humongous debt." She sold her home to pay for the army of lawyers and assorted other costs related to the cases in criminal and family courts.

But in her abrupt way, Poundstone says she is not in any real sense complaining. She allows as how she understands that she "had to pay for the really bad thing I did, which was to drink and endanger my children by doing so." She sounds relieved to have met and coped with that problem and to have it behind her. Now, she hopes, her future will be clear.

WEDDING



Byron and Cassandra Posey

Byron and Cassandra Jo Krug were married Nov. 29 at the Jerome County Courthouse. Officiating was Magistrate Judge Thomas Borreson.

The bride is the daughter of Vernon Krug of Dell, Mont., and Brenda Krug of Dillon, Mont. Parents of the bridegroom are Darin and Connie Posey of Jerome.

Vernon Krug, father of the bride, served as the bride's witness. Eric Hallman, brother of the groom, served as the groom's witness.

Conklin was the gift attendant. The bride is attending Lima High School in Lima, Mont., where she will graduate in May 2003. She is employed at Yesterday's Restaurant in Dell, Mont.

The bridegroom is a 1999 graduate of Jerome High School. He is employed at Bear Creek Ranch in Dell.

The newlyweds reside in Dell.

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CHRISTMAS AROUND THE WORLD

Students in Peggy Price's second grade class at DeClo Elementary have been studying Christmas around the world. They prepared notebooks and learned how to say "Merry Christmas" in different languages. As part of their study, Price, right, held a tasting party of Christmas treats from around the world. Mothers furnished the foods. There were colombes or dove cookies from France, butter cookies from Greece, spice cookies from Germany, pizza from Italy, 12-fruit compote from Poland, lucia buns from Sweden, popcorn balls and candy canes from the United States, kovrasika medayras from Russia, honey from Czechoslovakia and wassail from England.



Photo courtesy of MARY LYNN BOWLER

Buhl library starts book talk

BUHL - The Buhl Public Library has developed a book talk program for the winter with the help of local participants.

The book discussion group will meet from Jan. 16 until March 13, 2003. It will be held from 7:15 p.m. to 8:45 p.m. Thursdays in the library meeting room.

Local readers will lead the group, answer questions and direct inquiry. Patrons may attend one or all four sessions. Multiple copies of the books are available for checkout.

The books that were chosen are "The Winter of Our Discontent" by John Steinbeck, to be discussed on Jan. 16. Group leader Carolyn Erickson says the book, although an older work, speaks to a lot of current issues when in a moment of moral crisis,

the main character decides to take a holiday from his own scrupulous standards.

"Across Open Ground" by Heather Parkinson will be discussed on Feb. 6 and led by Cindy Bjornberg of Hansen. Bjornberg was an active participant in the library's previous Let's Talk About It Program.

This first book by an Idaho author also was selected as the community reads book by the Twin Falls Public Library, with the Buhl Public Library also participating in this program. Set in Idaho, the book explores love and the land on the eve of World War I. Four copies of the book have been donated to the Buhl library by the Buhl Rotary Club. "O Pioneers!" by Willa Cather

is set for discussion Feb. 27 and will be led by Janice Jensen. A classic work that is set in America's heartland at the turn of the century, the book brings to life the story of men and women who fought to turn the wilderness into a home, as well as private struggles in their own hearts.

"I Know Why A Caged Bird Sings" by Maya Angelou will be discussed March 13. It is autobiographical, and explores issues growing up female and black in America. Jean Dudley will lead discussion.

People interested in participating in the program or just interested in reading the books are welcome to check them out or get more information by calling the Buhl Public Library at 543-6500.

STORK REPORT

Magic Valley Regional Medical Center

Dillon Andrew Suter, son of Elisha and Jason L. Suter of Jerome, was born Wednesday, Dec. 18, 2002.

Gregory Justin Olson, son of Crystal Gayle Houser of Twin Falls, was born Thursday, Dec. 19, 2002.

Brisa Marie Lisonbee, daughter of Brandy Lynette Hanson and Bradley Boyd Lisonbee of Twin Falls, was born Thursday, Dec. 19, 2002.

Carlos Alfredo Morales, son of Maria deLourdes Garcia of Jerome, was born Thursday, Dec. 19, 2002.

Tawny Jo Wight, daughter of Bobbie Jo and Jesse Blaine Wight of Jerome, was born Thursday, Dec. 19, 2002.

Ariah Lynn Cox, daughter of Sarah Lynn Cox of Jerome, was born Thursday, Dec. 19, 2002.

To announce a birth Send a copy of the birth certificate to: Melissa Morgan The Times-News P.O. Box 548 Twin Falls, ID 83303 Or fax to: 734-5538 Deadline: noon Tuesday for Sunday's paper; noon Friday for Tuesday's paper. More information? Call Melissa at 735-3278

Vicki and Bart Brandell of Twin Falls, was born Friday, Dec. 20, 2002.

Dennis Ray Vincent III, son of Lori Lynn McKinley and Dennis Ray Vincent II of Shoshone, was born Monday, Dec. 23, 2002.

Cooper Matthew Trease, son of Amaris and John M. Trease of Twin Falls, was born Monday, Dec. 23, 2002.

St. Benedicts Family Medical Center

Taven Conner Dellos, son of Dwight and Danielle Dellos of Wendell, was born Saturday, Dec. 21, 2002.

Phoenix Skye New Felix, daughter of Deborah New and Tomas Felix, was born Saturday, Dec. 21, 2002.

Gwendolyn Ann Houser, daughter of Michael and Danielle Houser of Gooding, was born Saturday, Dec. 21, 2002.

SERVICE NEWS

Va. for a regularly scheduled six-month Mediterranean deployment in early December.

Home to more than 5,000 Sailors, this floating city is longer than three football fields, 20 stories high and equipped with its own airport. At a cost of nearly \$5 billion per carrier, the ship is able to launch aircraft from anywhere in the world at a moment's notice, the U.S. Navy reported.

The carrier has the ability to deploy missiles from its airborne arsenal.

"The carrier's backbone of the battle group, and can provide air support anywhere in the world," said Melton, 21.

Their early December departure meant being far from family during the holiday season.

"I'm going to miss my wife and daughter. It hurts to say good-bye and I hope they understand why I must leave," Melton said. "I tried to prepare my family by bringing everyone closer together and explaining my role in the Navy."

Melton joined the Navy in February 2001.

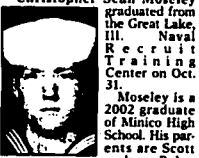
"My job is to provide fuel to all aircraft on board," Melton said. "Without Sailors like me doing our job, the planes couldn't fly, and the carrier would be useless."

Moseley graduates from Great Lake training center

Christopher Sean Moseley graduated from the Great Lake, Ill. Naval Recruiting Center on Oct. 31.

Moseley is a 2002 graduate of Miniro High School. His parents are Scott and Belva Moseley of Rupert.

He has been assigned to the USS Carl Vincent, out of Bremerton, Wash.



Christopher Moseley



Robert Melton Jr. is on board the aircraft carrier USS Harry S. Truman.

Melton spends holidays on aircraft carrier Truman

During the holidays, Navy Petty Officer 3rd Class Robert L. Melton Jr., son of Robert Melton Sr. of Jerome, is stationed on board the nuclear-powered aircraft carrier USS Harry S. Truman.

The carrier departed Norfolk,

BUILDING SANDCASTLES



At the Minico Scepticists' monthly meeting, Magistrate Judge Larry Duff spoke about the Sandcastles program, which has been initiated in the Mini-Cassia area. The program is a one-time group session for children of divorce between the ages of 6 and 17. The last half hour includes the parents, and focuses on improving communication. Minico Scepticist president Ann Marlon and Barley Scepticist president Lori Hemrickson present Duff with a check for \$1,000 each to help with the continuation of the program.

FOCUS ON PEOPLE

Delta Epsilon Chapter Initiates Stone

Andrew Stone, son of Dana and Roshanna Stone of Twin Falls, has been initiated into Delta Epsilon Chapter at the University of Puget Sound in Tacoma, Wash.

He is a graduate of Twin Falls High School. Delta Theta Pi, which was founded in 1839 at Miami Ohio University, says it is dedicated to scholarship, brotherhood and

community service.

Head Start honors people for contributions

The Idaho Head Start Association announced its annual award and scholarship winners for 2002.

The Head Start families, staff members and community volunteers are recognized for their contributions to Head Start and their local communities.

An awards luncheon honoring recipients will be held in Boise

on Jan. 13, 2003 in conjunction with the association meeting.

The following were local award winners at the state level: Staff of the Year - Joy Trowbridge, South Central Head Start, Twin Falls.

Support Staff of the Year - Jan Tackett, South Central Head Start, Twin Falls.

Beating the Odds award - Penny McBride, South Central Head Start.

Parent of the Year - Gerry Hildreth, South Central Head Start.

Magic Valley students graduate from Boise State

BOISE - Boise State University awarded degrees to 1,086 students at its 70th Commencement ceremony Dec. 20 at the Boise State Pavilion.

Following are graduates for August 2002 and December 2002 in the various colleges:

College of Applied Technology

Associate's of applied science, drafting technology
Hazel Jean Lawrence Schaffer
Technical certificate, electrical line worker
Allyson Cody Bo Montgomery
Associate's of applied science, electronics technology
Bobbie Anthony J. Higgins
Theresa Brad Jason Myers
Technical certificate, surgical technology
Barley Sarah Aldrich Cook

College of Arts and Sciences

Bachelor's of science, biology
Barley David L. Morris
Bachelor's of arts, English, general literature emphasis
Tylie Pallas Brynild R. Cole
Bachelor's of arts, English, liberal arts

emphasize
Haggen Holly Milledew
Bachelor's of arts, English, linguistics emphasis
Twin Falls Melissa Grunshaw Jackson
Master's of science, geology
Plebea Nora Christine Smith
Bachelor's of fine arts, graphic design
Haley Sarah Anne Curtis
Bachelor's of fine arts, illustration
Hylburn Sharon C. Hestad
Master's of science, interdisciplinary studies
Twin Falls Leatrice Marie Rapp
Bachelor's of fine arts, visual art, performance option
Haley Zack K. Luff
Bachelor's of fine arts, visual art, drawing emphasis
Jerome Jason Glenn Warmack
Bachelor's of fine arts, visual art, painting emphasis
Hylburn Sharon C. Hestad
Master's of science, interdisciplinary studies
Rupert Leslie Kim Fredericksen
Bachelor's of fine arts, visual art, painting emphasis
Rupert Robin Susana Hestad
Bachelor's of fine arts, visual art, painting emphasis
Hylburn Sharon C. Hestad

College of Business and Economics

Bachelor's of business administration, accounting
Gooding Danny J. Darrn

Haley Tabatha L. Willis
Jerome Shon Roy Buhler
Ketchum Ruth J. Robertson
Twin Falls David A. Grund, Christopher Harmon, Brad Hodges, Darrin M. Huber, Sergio Sankin, Emily Ann Nigar and Xiang Zhou
Bachelor's of business administration, business economics
Paul Charles Scott Merrill
Bachelor's of business administration, general business management
Buhl James M. Toone IV
Burler Sean K. Harris
Haley Ryan Gresson
Bachelor's of business administration, finance
Twin Falls Mark A. Tucker
Bachelor's of business administration, general business management
Burler Sheryl Stevenson
Gooding Sharon Roger Nielson
Ketchum Tara J. Dittmer
Twin Falls Sarah Christensen and Ray D. Wutrich
Bachelor's of business administration, general business management
Ketchum Matthew A. Jenson
Bachelor's of business administration, general business management
Twin Falls Ray D. Wutrich
Bachelor's of business administration, networking and telecommunications
Burler Sean K. Harris

College of Education

Master's of arts, education, curriculum and instruction
Twin Falls Kevin Schwanz
Bachelor's of science, education, educational technology
Kimberly Renee Suzanne Horner
Twin Falls Terri Sue Severn
Bachelor's of arts, elementary education
Gooding Jennifer T. Brown
Hagerman Carrie Ann Osborne
Twin Falls Kerri Sue Severn
Master's of science, exercise and sports studies
Rupert Sandra D. Meador
Bachelor's of science, physical education, K-12, secondary education
Burler Marcel J. Jensen

College of Engineering

Bachelor's of science, construction management
Metch Jeffrey Wray Miller
Bachelor's of science, electrical engineering
Rupert Shaun A. Meador

College of Health Sciences

Associate's of science, health information technology

Please send your news and photos to:
We want your news
Community Editor
Pat Marantonia
The Times-News
P.O. Box 548
Twin Falls, Idaho 83303
733-0931 Ext. 208
Fax: 677-4543 or 734-5538
E-mail: patm@magivalley.com

Deadlines
For the Sunday page: noon Wednesday
For the Thursday page: noon Friday
For the Tuesday page: noon Monday
For the Saturday page: noon Tuesday
For the Wednesday page: noon Friday

Buhl High School goes online.
Monday in School Days

SENIOR CALENDAR

Take a trip through your imagination

Twin Falls Senior Citizens Center

616 Eastland Drive
Dinner served from noon to 12:30 p.m. Suggested donation is \$3 for seniors. The cost is \$4 for non-seniors under 60 and \$2.50 for children under 12.
Monday: lasagna, green beans, tossed salad, french bread, fruit cake
Tuesday: Salad bar
Wednesday: Menu not available
Thursday: Menu not available
Friday: Menu not available
Activities
Library, Pool Room, and Bargain Center with cards, games, color television, puzzles and movies. Open weekdays from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.
Monday: Quilting from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.
Foot clinic; make appointment Tuesday
Blood pressure check

West End Senior Citizens Inc.

1010 Main St., Buhl
Noon meals served Monday through Friday. Buffet meal at 1 p.m. on Sunday.
Evening meals served at 5:30 p.m. Monday and Thursday. Lunch prices are \$3.50 and evening meals will be \$2.50. Sunday dinners are \$4. Meals can be delivered Monday through Friday. Call 543-4577 for more information. Free bus service to and from meals is available Monday evening, Tuesday at noon and Thursday noon and evening. Call the center by 10 a.m. to arrange a ride. Coffee and cinnamon rolls each morning at the center, everyone is welcome.
Sunday: Fried chicken
Monday: Hamburger casserole
Tuesday: Pork roast dinner
Wednesday: Center closed
Thursday: Center closed
Friday: Center closed
Activities
Thrift shop open every day. Quilting, 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. The Roseland Band plays from 8-11 p.m. the second Saturday of each month. Admission is \$4.
Sunday
All-you-can-eat fried chicken dinner buffet; \$4 for seniors, \$4.25 for non-seniors and \$2.50 for children under age 12.
Monday
Exercise from 7-8 a.m. and 10 a.m.

Gooding County Senior Citizens Inc.

308 Senior Ave.
All dinners at noon. Suggested donation is \$3 for seniors.
Monday: Ham and beans, carrots, crackers, fruit, cinnamon roll
Tuesday: Spaghetti, green beans, cole slaw, garlic bread, cookie
Wednesday: Center closed
Thursday: Roast beef, mashed potatoes, gravy, broccoli, apple sauce, Jell-O, whole wheat roll, cake with lemon pineapple sauce
Activities
Monday
Pool at 9:30 a.m.
Pinochle at 12:30 p.m.
Hand and foot at 6 p.m.
Tuesday
Pool at 9 a.m. and 1 p.m.
New Year's Eve party at 6 p.m.
Thursday
Pool at 9:30 a.m.
Linda Norris at 12:30 p.m.
TOPS at 5 p.m.
Pinochle at 7 p.m.
Friday
Bridge at 1 p.m.
Hand/foot at 1 p.m.
Bowling at 1:30 p.m.
Bingo at 6:30 p.m.
Saturday
Breakfast from 7:30-10:30 a.m.

Filer Senior Haven

222 Main St., Filer
Dinners served at noon on Tuesday and Thursday. Suggested donation is \$3 for seniors. Home delivered meals available each meal time.
Tuesday: Hot turkey sandwich
Thursday: Roast beef sandwich, mashed potatoes, gravy,

liced carrots, jellied fruit salad, vanilla cream pudding

Ageless Senior Citizens Inc.

310 Main N., Kimberly
Monday: Hot dogs, sauerkraut, potatoes, fruit salad, bread and butter, apricots, cookie, coffee, milk
Wednesday: Center closed
Friday: Potato bar, peaches, pudding, coffee, milk
Activities
The thrift store is open from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Mondays, Wednesdays and Friday and from 1-4 p.m. Tuesdays and Thursdays.
Tuesday
Bingo at 7 p.m.
Thursday
Crafts at 1 p.m.
Friday
Bingo at 11:55 a.m.
Pinochle at 1 p.m.
Sunday
Pork chop dinner from 12-2 p.m., \$6 for adults and \$4 for children under age 12.

Camas County Senior Center

127 E. Willow, Fairfield
Meals are served at 12 p.m. Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Fridays. The suggested donation for seniors is \$2.50. The cost is \$3 for adults and \$2 for children under age 10. To eat a meal at the center, call ahead at 764-2226.
Tuesday: Center closed
Wednesday: Center closed
Friday: Turkey, noodles, mashed potatoes, peas and carrots, green salad, bread, fruit, cookies
Activities
Friday
Pool from 10:30 a.m. to 12 p.m.
Quilting from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Gooding County Senior Citizens Inc.

308 Senior Ave.
All dinners at noon. Suggested donation is \$3 for seniors.
Monday: Ham and beans, carrots, crackers, fruit, cinnamon roll
Tuesday: Spaghetti, green beans, cole slaw, garlic bread, cookie
Wednesday: Center closed
Thursday: Roast beef, mashed potatoes, gravy, broccoli, apple sauce, Jell-O, whole wheat roll, cake with lemon pineapple sauce
Activities
Monday
Pool at 9:30 a.m.
Pinochle at 12:30 p.m.
Hand and foot at 6 p.m.
Tuesday
Pool at 9 a.m. and 1 p.m.
New Year's Eve party at 6 p.m.
Thursday
Pool at 9:30 a.m.
Linda Norris at 12:30 p.m.
TOPS at 5 p.m.
Pinochle at 7 p.m.
Friday
Bridge at 1 p.m.
Hand/foot at 1 p.m.
Bowling at 1:30 p.m.
Bingo at 6:30 p.m.
Saturday
Breakfast from 7:30-10:30 a.m.

Jerome Senior Center

212 First Ave. E.
All dinners at noon. Suggested

donation is \$3.
Monday: Beef enchiladas, Spanish rice, winter mix vegetables, tossed salad, fruit, cookies
Tuesday: Ham, raisin salad, sweet potatoes, carrots, Jell-O with fruit, strawberry squares
Wednesday: Center closed
Thursday: Oven baked chicken, scalloped potatoes, polar vegetables, green pea salad, blueberry cheecake
Friday: Salisbury steak, potatoes, gravy, winter mix vegetables, Jell-O with fruit, pineapple upside down cake
Activities
Monday
Aerobics at 11 a.m.
Tuesday
Pinochle at 1 p.m.
Friday
Aerobics at 11 a.m.
Old Time Fiddlers at 1 p.m.
Pinochle at 2 p.m.

Richfield Senior Center

Monday: Center closed
Tuesday: Taco soup, deviled eggs, corn bread, pumpkin pie
Shoshone Senior Center
218 N. Rail St. W., Shoshone
Tuesday: Center closed
Wednesday: Center closed
Friday: Baked potato bar, homemade bread, cake, milk, coffee
Activities
Friday
Pinochle at 1 p.m.

Shoshone Senior Center

218 N. Rail St. W., Shoshone
Tuesday: Center closed
Wednesday: Center closed
Friday: Baked potato bar, homemade bread, cake, milk, coffee
Activities
Friday
Pinochle at 1 p.m.

Silver and Gold Senior Citizens

203 Wilson, Eden
Open from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. Monday through Thursday and from 8 a.m. to noon Friday. Suggested donation for seniors is \$3. All meals include salad, dessert, fruit, milk and coffee. Mondays are cookie and bread days and Wednesdays are cinnamon roll and maple bar bake days. Home delivered meals are delivered Monday through Friday.
Tuesday: Center closed
Wednesday: Center closed
Thursday: Menu not available

Hagerman Valley Senior/Community Center

140 E. Lake, Hagerman
Open 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Monday, Wednesday and Friday. Lunch is served at noon on Monday, Wednesdays and Fridays. Suggested donation for seniors is \$3, non-seniors \$4 and children under 12, \$2. Coffee, tea, juice and bread served with all meals.
Monday: Menu not available
Wednesday: Menu not available
Friday: Menu not available
Thrift store open Monday, Wednesday and Friday from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Blaine County Senior Center

921 Third Ave. S., Hailey
Meals are served at noon on Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday. Milk, juice, coffee and tea are served with all meals.
Tuesday: Pork roast, brown gravy, potatoes, glazed carrots, rolls, deviled eggs, black forest cake
Wednesday: Menu not available

Friday: Menu not available
Activities
Tuesday
Blood pressure check

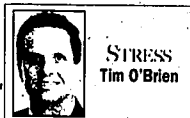
Mindoka County Senior Citizens Center

702 11th St., Rupert
Meals are served at noon and home delivered upon request. Juice and assorted beverages are served every day with meals.
Monday: Hamburger goulash, vegetables, peach cobbler, biscuits
Tuesday: Roast pork, potatoes, gravy, vegetables, fruit crisp, corn bread
Wednesday: Center closed
Thursday: Macaroni salad, tomato soup, grilled cheese, pudding
Friday: Smorgasbord
Center gift shop is open from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Monday through Friday. Quilting and pool table daily during center hours. Crafts every day. Volunteers are needed to do grocery shopping for shut-ins. Call Rideleys at 436-1200.
Monday
Exercise from 10-11 a.m.
Songfest from 11 a.m. to 12 p.m.
Bridge
Tuesday
Quilting from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.
Bingo from 1-2 p.m.
Thursday
Exercise from 10-11 a.m.
SHIBA Medicare supplemental insurance assistance from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Call George Schwinderman at 436-9107.
Friday
Pinochle from 1-4 p.m.
Bingo at 7 p.m.

Golden Heritage Senior Center

2421 Overland, Burley
All dinners are served at noon.
Monday: Pork patty steak, potato wedges, corn, tomato, assorted desserts
Tuesday: Center closed
Wednesday: Center closed
Thursday: Beef stroganoff, mixed vegetables, hard roll, fried salad, apricot crisp
Friday: Tuna casserole, biscuits, green beans, mixed fruit, date pudding
Activities
Monday
Pool at 10 a.m.
Exercise at 11:15 a.m.
Pinochle at 1 p.m.
Tuesday
Pool at 10 a.m.
Exercise at 11 a.m.
Friday
Pool at 10 a.m.
Exercise at 11 a.m.
Bingo at 1 p.m.
Pinochle at 1 p.m.

Dream large dreams. They take no more effort than small flights of fancy and imagination with giant wings. Don't just "think outside the box," live outside of it. And use it for extra storage.
Go with me on an inner journey. It is free, except your investment in time. Imagine yourself, feel yourself unbridled, unencumbered by any type of limitation. No borders, boundaries, height or depth, simply freedom all around you. Right now, you have no cares, worries, no money or health considerations or concerns. Just free, unrestricted, eternal.
Close your eyes and see vast spaces above, below and all around you. Breathe in gently, calmly, deeply. Exhale naturally without effort. Feel yourself expanded to the edge of your expanded inner space. Have the sense of comfortably floating within it. Now feel yourself enclose and contain all this vastness within you.



STRESS
Tim O'Brien

Think of an animal. Now play an elephant's head on it, a duck's bill, an eagle's wings. Hear it as it looks like a car; moving on it's roller blade feet. Hear it grow 20 times larger. Now, view it through a microscope because it is so small. Let yourself build fantastical homes floating on gossamer seas.

Think of an animal. Now play an elephant's head on it, a duck's bill, an eagle's wings. Hear it as it looks like a car; moving on it's roller blade feet. Hear it grow 20 times larger. Now, view it through a microscope because it is so small. Let yourself build fantastical homes floating on gossamer seas.

Allow your mind to consider infinity: foreverness, limitlessness in all ways and directions. Imagine world hunger does not exist, replaced by adequate food for everyone.
Contemplate peace among nations. Can one person be peaceful? Can one person live a non violent life? Then it is potentially possible for all to live that way. As you inhale and exhale calmly, see all problems as solved. View obstacles as only opportunities to find innovative, practical solutions.
Now have someone with your imagination. Think of an animal. Now place an elephant's head on it, a duck's bill, an eagle's wings. Hear it as it looks like a car, moving on it's roller blade feet. Hear it grow 20 times larger. Now, view it through a microscope because it is so small. Let yourself build fantastical homes floating on gossamer seas.

Expand yourself one final time to encompass the entirety of creation. Now view it as it becomes the size of a single drop of water on the tip of your finger. And the space around it, what is it and what does it contain?
Gently bring yourself back to the present. How do you feel after this exercise in expanding our limits? Are you calm and relaxed with a feeling of closeness to the universe? Did any of the exercise or the sensations it produced cause you to feel uneasy?
Whatever you experienced, just think about it and notice the reactions you have. Try this exercise often. Expand and contract, shift your viewpoint and perspective. Allow yourself to experience new, enhancing and potentially liberating thoughts and feelings.

Breathe in relaxation. Exhale tension. Simply allow yourself to feel that the universe is a hologram. Every portion contains an image of the whole. Intricately interwoven, interwoven, apparently separate but all connected. Now look at the spaces between the planets, the areas between the stars. Those spaces contain more than 99 percent of the matter in the universe. Wonder what it is? Wonder how can it be there and we can't see it? We can't see the

Get out into the universe and look back at your box and wonder why you spend so much time inside it.

Tim O'Brien writes continuing education courses and presents seminars on stress management. Readers may write to him at 2938 Wellington Circle East, Tallahassee, Fla. 32308 or send e-mail to tim@hyperstress.com. He also has a Web site at www.hyperstress.com.

Perfect Wedding

The following businesses can help make your wedding a memorable occasion.

FORMAL WEAR/SHOES/VEILS

Hart's Tax and Gowns
1101 Filer Ave. E.
Twin Falls 734-8391

Sweetheart Manor
Overland E 42nd St.
Burley 678-6092

JEWELRY

Boyer Jewelry
1838 Addison Ave. E.
Twin Falls 735-8552

Walmart (Wedding Rings)
415 River View Dr.
Burley 677-4709

LIMOUSINES/LUXURY CARS

Hertz of Magic Valley
636 Poleline Road
Twin Falls 733-4000

LODGING/TRAVEL

4 Ways Travel
160 2nd Street W.
Twin Falls 734-7605

NAILS

Amy's Nail Boutique
French Tips, Gel Nails
Fast Service, No Lifting or Breaking
Twin Falls 711-0267

PHOTOGRAPHY/VIDEOGRAPHY

Aliens Photo
105 E. Main
Jerome 121-2446
Paul Critchfield Photography
Twin Falls 734-5223
Pomerelle Portrait Design Studio
Boise, Idaho
Twin Falls 734-9969

Presentations R Us
Wedding & Reception Personal
Presentations 158-0004

Soundworks Video & Audio Productions
818 10th Ave. E.
Jerome 124-2593

WEDDING & BRIDESMAID DRESSES/SHOES/VEILS
Christie's New Years Eve Dresses

Wedding & Rental Shop
770 S. Main
Twin Falls 734-8838

To advertise in the
Bridal Directory
call 735-6219

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FAMILY LIFE

For pampered pets, every dog has his day spa

By Fredrick Kunkle
The Washington Post

You want to pamper her, so you reserve the five-star penthouse suite, replete with expansive views, 24-hour attendants and tasteful decor accented with original artwork. You schedule time for her to soak in the gentle blue froth of a 90-degree hydrotherapy pool or perhaps engage in a vigorous workout in the state-of-the-art exercise room, followed by a massage and an hour or so in the beauty salon. You think nothing of spending as much as \$230 a day — not for your bride but for the family dog.

Luxury such as this awaits far more than 100 dogs — and not quite as many cats — at the Olde Towne Pet Resort in Fairfax County, Va., a two-story, \$7 million Xanadu for the fur set that opened last month in Fairfax County, Va.

Billed as a day spa and hotel for pets, the facility is fully booked for Christmas. Similar deluxe pet hotels have popped up across the country in New York, Miami and, of course, Hollywood. Britain expects its first swanky pet hotel next year, in Yorkshire.

The Olde Towne Pet Resort's owners already are shopping in Montgomery County, Md., for a place to open another facility.

"Oh, my God! It's just staggering!" said Merrie Morris, who boarded Molly, her "schnoodle" (schнауzer, half poodle), for a weekend in the top-flight rooms. "I mean it looks like an elementary school or something!"

Morris, 44, who lives in Alexandria and works for the city, said the resort is expensive. But, then, she and her husband have no children and no other creature except a deaf cat to pamper. So they splurged.

"And this is something I see in my circle of friends," she said.



Lola, a terrier, gets a little direction while Franny lounges on the couch at the Olde Towne Pet Resort in Fairfax County, Va. Pats can watch television or the family's home movies, in case homesickness hits.

"When I was growing up, a dog was just an add-on to the family, but it really wasn't like a person. But now, with many people, dogs have become much more like a member of the family. Just like you want to send your kid to a good private school or whatever, you want to send them to a good place."

To pet fanciers, the Olde Towne Pet Resort is another sign of progress toward viewing animals as equals, as measured by the most indisputable standard of status: money. But to others, the new resort — arriving at a time when humans struggle to find affordable housing — symbolizes sheer decadence.

"I think what it suggests is that people ... are lacking some priority of values," said Fred Guy, who teaches at the Hoffberger Center for Professional Ethics at the University of Baltimore.

"Basically, it's showing off, just like a guy with a new BMW," he said.

Steven Wise, an animal rights

specialist and author, said he sees nothing wrong with looking after animals' care.

"There are many people for whom their companion animals are the most significant relationship in their lives," he said. "Should people be spending all that money on Fido when there are people starving? The answer is: If they don't, people are still going to starve."

Recent surveys of pet owners offer a snapshot of the trend to humanize one's pet: 55 percent call themselves "mom" or "dad." Eleven percent say they feel closest to their pets while exchanging kisses; 5 percent talk baby talk to their animal friend. Nearly one in five carries a pet's picture in the wallet.

More than half of all dog owners will buy the canine a Christmas present, one in five will buy a toothbrush, and about 8 percent might buy a casket for their dog when it dies.

"Even in this depressed economy, the veterinary industry and

the pet industry is holding its own," said Jeff Werber, a California veterinarian and former host of "Petecetera" on the Animal Planet channel.

"Why? Because pets are kids." With agrarian life and up-close contact with animals a distant memory for most, animals have become more exotic. As the nation grows ever more urban and faceless, people turn to pets for warmth and understanding. At the same time, pets can enhance community life, Werber said.

"Certainly, in the bigger cities, we've sort of lost our trust in people. And one thing I think an animal does, it truly breaks down that barrier," Werber said, pointing to how many times strangers approach a person with a dog and strike up a conversation.

On picture Los Angeles Lakers superstar Kobe Bryant, a client of Werber's, sweating because one of his shoe-size Pomeranians seems to have a limp, Werber said. In love: We love them because they love us. Unconditionally.

"I can leave my house for 30 seconds to go take my garbage out to the curb, and I can come back and my Labrador will greet me as if he hasn't seen me in a month. I only wish my kids would get half that excited after not seeing me for a month," Werber said.

Peter Singer, an Australian often viewed as the father of the animal rights movement, cautioned that pet excess is not necessarily proof that people have deepened their regard for animals, except superficially.

"If people are still sticking a knife or a fork into a pig or calf while they spend thousands of dollars on medical care for their dog," he wrote in an e-mail interview. "It doesn't do much for animal rights, nor for an ethic of equal consideration for all."

There's not an extra second to celebrate the new year

Each year the days get longer as earth orbits from "north-pole-pointing-away-from-the-Sun" in December to "north-pole-pointing-toward-the-Sun" in June. But irrespective of the seasonal changes in the number of daylight hours, the day — the time required for the earth to spin once on its axis — is getting longer.

Blame the moon and its tides. Its orbital period is a lot longer than the earth's rotational period. So ocean tides (which always point at the moon) sweep around the planet (or, more accurately, the earth's surface sweeps under the tides) in about a day, steadily dissipating energy. Actually, the atmosphere and ground also experience tides, and a consequent energy loss. This energy is converted into heat via friction, warming the land, sea, and air infinitesimally.

There's no free lunch; this heat comes from the moon's orbit and earth's spin. Thus, the moon gradually spirals away from us, and earth spins down like a child's top, albeit excruciatingly slowly.

Science requires greater precision than the inconsistent earth's spin can provide, so physicists have defined a second as exactly 9,192,631,770 oscillations of an excited Cesium atom. The minute is 60 times longer, the hour 60 times longer still, and the day 24 times longer again.

Meanwhile, earth keeps slowly winding down. As a result, every few years, a "leap second" must be added to keep our clocks in sync with our lethargic planet. Since 1972, some 23 leap seconds have been added. Earlier this year, the International Earth Rotation Service (wouldn't it be cool to have that on your busi-



SKYWATCH
Chris Anderson

Sky Calendar
(through Saturday)

- Planets:
One hour before sunrise:
Venus: SE, low
Mars: SSE, low
Jupiter: W
One hour after sunset:
Saturn: E, low
- Moon: New moon Wednesday, 7:20 p.m. Close to Mars this morning, close to Venus Monday morning.
- Other: Earth at perihelion (closest to Sun for 2003) Friday, 10 p.m. (91,405,400 miles).

ness card?) announced that no leap second would be inserted at the end of 2002, because the discrepancy between the Cesium clocks and earth's spin have accumulated less than 0.9 seconds of error since the last leap second was added in 1999.

So if you're planning to party all night this New Year's Eve, sorry — you won't get an extra second this year like they did in '99.

Next week: A new comet for the new year.

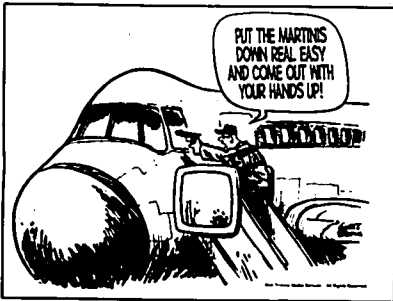
Chris Anderson is the planetary production specialist at the Faulkner Planetarium at the Herrett Center for Arts and Science at the College of Southern Idaho in Twin Falls. Write to him at camerson@csid.edu

Barry

Continued from E1
July

... two pilots scheduled to fly an America West plane from Miami to Phoenix are ordered from the cockpit at Phoenix International Airport and found to be drunk. The pilots aroused suspicions when they made a preflight announcement asking if any passenger "happens to have a casket."

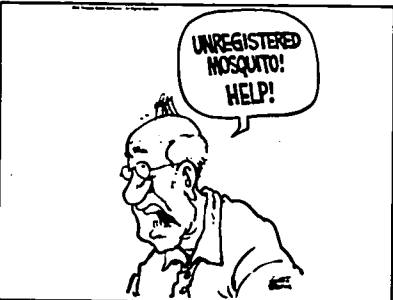
In sports, baseball immortal Ted Williams dies. His son says the body will be frozen, so it can be revived in the future. A court approves this plan, on the condition that the son be frozen at the same time, so he can be revived in the future to explain everything to his dad. We wish.



September

... when Florida, having learned nothing from history, attempts to hold another election. Everything goes smoothly, with virtually no problems reported, until the polls open. Election officials begin to suspect that new computerized voting machines might have been programmed incorrectly when, instead of reporting the vote totals, the machines connect to the Internet and send out 126 million e-mails offering discount Viagra.

Robert Torricelli announces that he is dropping out of the New Jersey Senate race because he is a good man who has done nothing wrong.



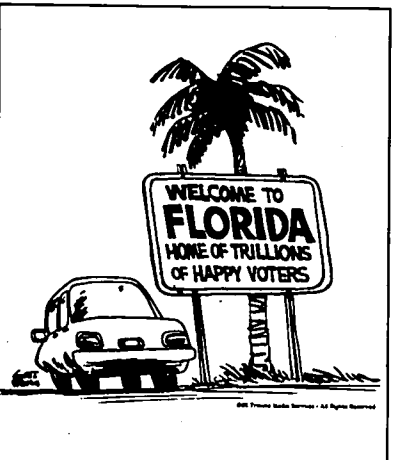
November

... the Republicans win big in the mid-term elections, giving President Bush a clear mandate to push forward with his foreign and domestic agendas, as long as he thinks a domestic agenda up. The Democrats, desperate for leadership and beginning to realize that Walter Mondale is not the answer, begin making discreet inquiries into the availability of Hubert Humphrey.

World tension eases when Iraqi dictator Saddam Hussein, under intense international pressure, announces that he will allow UN weapons inspectors "full access to Ahvas, Hamedan, Mashad, Rasht, Urmia, and Zahedan. World tension increases again when the UN inspectors, having visited these sites, report that they are located in Iran.

SEC agents confirm reports that Martha Stewart recently contracted with a local New York architectural firm to design her a cave. The National Security Color Code is quickly bumped up to Jalapeno ("Everyone dead!").

Speaking of scary situations, in ...



August

... financially strapped Brazil, in a cost-raising move considered by some experts in international law to be of questionable legality, announces it has sold Uruguay to Paraguay for \$200 million.

The nation's Color Code Security Status is raised to Peach ("Viewer Discretion Advised"). And speaking of fugitives: Martha Stewart, pursued by the Securities and Exchange Commission, flees to a remote area of Westport, Conn., and barricades herself inside a primitive cabin with only nine bathrobes. SEC agents surround the structure but are reluctant to attack, as Stewart is known to possess a set of very sharp paving knives and a military-grade glue gun.

But things get even scarier in ...



October

... when the Washington, D.C. area is terrorized by a string of deadly sniper attacks. After weeks of escalating fear and tension, police are finally able to break the case by identifying, then arresting, the only two males in the United States who have not appeared on CNN or Fox as sniper experts.

But the scariest news comes from North Korea, which announces that, in violation of a 1994 agreement with the United States, it is developing nuclear weapons. An angry President Bush responds by pointing out that "if you spell Korea backward, you get Aekw, which sounds like heck of a lot like... Iraq."

Reacting quickly, the Department of Homeland Insecurity produces, in mere hours, a new National Security Color Code: Tangerine ("Uh-oh!").



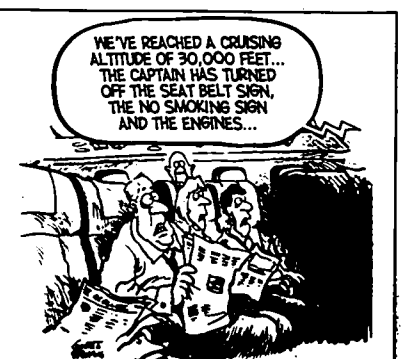
December

... hopes for peace soar when Saddam Hussein, as ordered by the UN, finally turns over a list of materials that could be used to make weapons of mass destruction. These hopes are dashed when UN inspectors begin translating the list from Arabic and find that the first item is "a partridge in a pear tree."

In a surprise political development, Al Gore, having apparently received a status report from earth, announces that he will not run for president in 2004. Within hours the Democratic party leadership, reacting to this devastating news, runs out of champagne.

On the Republican side, Sen. Trent Lott gets himself into hot water when the news media report that (a) he suggested Strom Thurmond would be a good president and (b) his DNA is virtually identical to that of a mackerel.

The news is not so good from a remote, forbidding mountain region near Westport, Conn., where SEC agents prepare to attack a 24,500-square-foot, centrally heated, country-French-style cave containing Martha Stewart, only to discover



that their worst-case nightmare scenario has become a reality. The fugitive taser goddies has gotten hold of a nuclear food processor. "If she presses the power button," states one official, "New England is radioactive color

slaw." In response, the National Security Color Code is ratcheted up to its highest level, Traffic Cone Orange ("Yikes!").

Dave Barry is the humor columnist of the Miami Herald.