

The Time



Twin Falls, Idaho/97th year, No. 365

Tuesday, December 31, 2002

50 cents

GOOD MORNING

WEATHER

Today: Rain and snow showers, wind. High 37, low 25.

Page A2

MAGIC VALLEY

Tragedy: Gooding snowmobiler dies in Elmore County avalanche.

Page B1

MONEY

Slight improvement: Average annual unemployment for the Twin Falls area dropped one-tenth of a percent, the state estimates.

Page D1

WEST



Cookin' compost: Company mines gold at south end of horse, markets high-end manure.

Page B4

SPORTS

It's H-Bowl time: Boise State takes on Iowa State in the Humanitarian Bowl today.

Page C1



Coaching carousel: Three NFL coaches lost their jobs Monday, and an old standard could be back in the league soon.

Page C1

OPINION

Spotlight on letters: A heartfelt note of thanks for those who wrote letters in 2002, in today's editorial.

Page A10

COMING UP



Class act

Your complete guide to the winter semester at the College of Southern Idaho.

Wednesday in The Times-News

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MEMORIES OF 2002

A year of jubilation, sorrow – and quirks

We saw fire in 2002, and we saw rain.

The year began with an Olympic torch extravaganza. Dell Computer Corp.'s local work force grew like wildfire, until more than 700 Twin Falls workers could say, "Dude, I got a Dell job!"

But stormy economic conditions clouded the Mini-Cassia area. In the midst of tough times nationwide, the J.R. Simplot Co. plant began hundreds of predicted layoffs at its Heyburn potato plant.

In some ways, 2002 was like many other years for Magic Valley. Drought-wary farmers kept their fingers crossed all summer. Dairy odors incited political scuffles.

Republicans, as usual, won most of the elections.

But 2002 had its quirky stories, too. The sidarm-slinging surgeon. The postal pot



Photo by Lisa M. Colton

A Twin Falls fireman escorts a tenant as she retrieves personal items and her cat from her home at 250 Blue Lakes Blvd. The house, divided into two living spaces, had an upstairs fire that killed two children in November.

principal. The tomato greenhouses that never quite ripened.

It was a year worth remembering. You'll find lots more memories on Page B1.



SALT LAKE CITY

Lisa Shenk is overcome by emotion while carrying the Olympic torch along Blue Lakes Boulevard during the Twin Falls leg of the 2002 Winter Olympics torch relay in January. Shenk, who had recently had a leg amputated, was nominated to carry the torch by her husband Troy, who was killed in a car accident the previous September.

Photo by Steve Smith



Photo by Steve Smith

A federal investigator photographs the wreckage of a light plane that crashed into a fuel truck at Jordin Field, Magic Valley Regional Airport in September, killing three people.

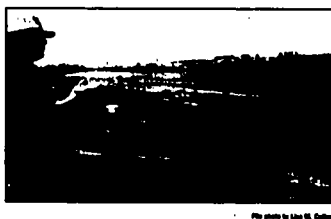


Photo by Lisa M. Colton

Hank Halliger views a waste-holding pond at his Flot-area dairy, Desert Rose Farms. The dairy, by many accounts, has reduced the odor it emits, but state officials say there's more room for improvement.



Photo by Lisa M. Colton

Marcy Belshe is one of the few people who was happy on the last night of her job as a potato trimmer at the J.R. Simplot Co. in October. Belshe, 62, received early retirement and no longer has to work.

Council votes to buy Auger Falls land

By Mark Heinz
Times-News writer

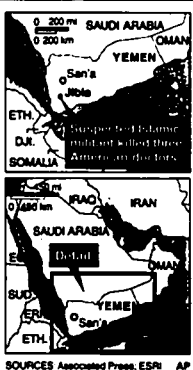
TWIN FALLS – When the city takes formal possession of about 545 acres in the Auger Falls area of the Snake River Canyon, don't expect it to be highly developed. Twin Falls Mayor Lance Clow said.

"It's not going to be the type of park with soccer fields and things like that," Clow said. "It's going to be a nature park with hiking trails and great views."

The City Council voted unanimously Monday to spend about \$1.3 million from the city's reserve funds to buy the land. It includes about 23 acres just west of the city's sewage treatment plant, and more than 500 acres located about a mile and three quarters west – or downstream – from there.

The deal is still subject to final review by City Attorney Fritz Wonderlich. But no hitches were anticipated late Monday, and Wonderlich told the council that the property apparently has no outstanding liens against it.

Please see COUNCIL, Page A2



SOURCES: Associated Press, ESRI, AP



Yemeni military guard the entrance to Jibla Hospital in Jibla, Yemen, in this image taken from television, Monday. A suspected Muslim extremist, hiding his gun cradled like a baby, slipped in to the hospital and opened fire, killing three American missionaries and seriously wounding a fourth, officials said.

Attacker kills three Americans in Yemen

The Washington Post

Who the victims were – A4

Yemeni capital, Sanaa. Officials in Yemen said al-Kamil was connected to extremist groups and believed the killings would bring him closer to God.

Killed in the attack were hospital administrator William Koehn, 60, of Arlington, Texas, who had planned to retire in October; purchasing agent Kathleen Garity, 53, of Watwatosa, Wis.; and physician Martha Myers, 57, of Montgomery, Ala. Donald Caswell, 49, a pharmacist from

Levelland, Tex., was wounded in the attack. Caswell underwent surgery to remove two bullets from his abdomen and is expected to recover from his injuries.

The assault was quickly condemned by U.S. officials, who said investigators were still trying to determine if the shootings were connected to the al-Qaida network or other organized terrorist groups. White House spokesman Scott McClellan said U.S. authorities would seek to prosecute those responsible.

"We strongly condemn and

Please see YEMEN, Page A2

M.V. wage growth beat state's numbers

The Times-News and The Associated Press

TWIN FALLS – Low wages are still a reality of life in Magic Valley.

But the valley's workers last year narrowed the wage gap between themselves and the rest of Idaho, new data indicate. Particularly improved were wages on the north side of the Snake River Canyon, where dairies and cheese plants have provided year-round, stable income for many formerly seasonal workers.

Annual average wages rose during 2001 in seven of Magic Valley's eight counties, and all those hikes were bigger than the state's tiny average, the U.S. Department of Commerce's Bureau of Economic Analysis reported Monday. Sparsely populated Camas County, with a 5.5 percent decline, was the exception.

Changing wages – A2

Please see WAGES, Page A2

TWIN FALLS FORECAST

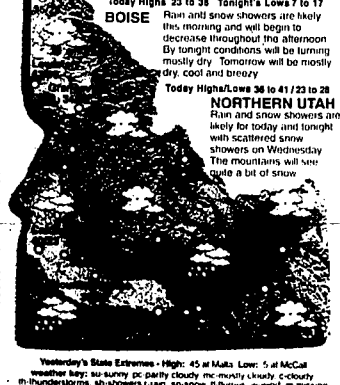
Today: Rain and snow showers likely for most of the day and it will be very heavy. Highs in the middle to upper 30s...

BURLEY/RUBERT FORECAST

Today: Rain and snow showers likely along with heavy clouds. Highs in the middle to upper 30s...

IDAHO'S FORECAST

SUN VALLEY, SURROUNDING MTS. Snow will continue to fall for the better part of today and it will be moderate to heavy...



Yesterday's State Extremes - High: 45 at Maltz. Low: 5 at McCall...

Weather key: sun/sunny; part/sunny; cloudy; mostly cloudy; clearing; overcast; rain; snow; ice; rain/snow; ice/snow; wind; misty; fog; haze; smoke; clouds; etc.

Randy Hansen Chevrolet Cadillac Pololine At Blue Lakes North

Seven-way battle develops for Resources Committee top spot

A property-rights advocate from Tennessee who once compared environmentalists to Nazis is apparently the leading candidate in the seven-way Republican race for what many in the West see as the most important job in the U.S. House...

Council

While the general vision for the city's use of the area is settled, many specifics are still open for discussion. Council said. Better for access to the Snake River for boaters and rafters might be a goal, as well as some picnic-style dining areas, he said.

Circulation Daniel Walock, circulation director

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TWIN FALLS FIVE-DAY FORECAST

Today, Tonight, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday, Saturday. Rain and snow showers likely with gusty winds. Drizzle, winds and scattered snow showers.

ALMANAC - TWIN FALLS

Temperature, Precipitation, Humidity, Barometric Pressure, Sunrise and Sunset, Moon Phases, Moonrise and Moonset, Snowpack

REGIONAL FORECAST

Table with columns for City, Today, Tomorrow, Thursday. Lists cities like Boise, Burley, Elko, etc.

CANADIAN FORECAST

Table with columns for City, Today, Tomorrow. Lists cities like Calgary, Edmonton, Vancouver, etc.

Wages

Lincoln County has the fastest mover. In all of Idaho, in fact. Its average annual wage shot up 11.8 percent, topping second-place Blaine County...

Changing wages

Table with columns for County, Wages, % change. Lists Blaine, CAMAS, CASSIA, etc.

Yemen

deplore the murder of three American citizens who were providing humanitarian assistance to the Yemeni people. McClellan told reporters in Crawford, Texas, where President Bush was vacationing at his ranch...

Rehnquist lobbies Bush for judicial pay raises

WASHINGTON (AP) - Chief Justice William H. Rehnquist has stepped up the pressure for judicial pay raises, making a personal appeal to President Bush.

Rehnquist lobbies Bush for judicial pay raises

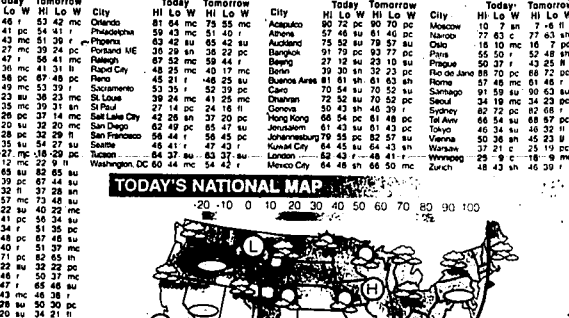
Rehnquist met with Bush before Christmas at the White House about pay raises for federal judges, a meeting that stoked rumors that the 78-year-old chief justice, who has had bouts with illness and injury, may retire in 2003.

The Times-News Information Line 735-3350. Ski, Lottery and Weather Information are just a phone call away!

WORLD FORECAST

Table with columns for City, Today, Tomorrow. Lists cities like Atlanta, Baltimore, Bangkok, etc.

TODAY'S NATIONAL MAP



Valid to 6 p.m. today. Yesterday's National Extremes: High: 84 at Laredo, Texas. Low: 10 at Saratoga Lake, N.Y.

Changing wages

say the current economic downturn would be even worse if corporate and personal income taxes had not been reduced.

Changing wages

The weakness in average wage growth was occurring at the same time Idaho's population growth was picking up. The Census Bureau reported earlier this month that the state's population from mid-2001 to mid-2002 continued climbing toward 1.6 million, rising another 1.6 percent.

Changing wages

Nationally, the average wage was up 2.6 percent. The weaknesses in Idaho wages happened as lawmakers were being cautioned against major permanent tax reductions...

Changing wages

place like Yemen," said Jerry Rankin, president of the mission board. Hospital staff limited their work to humanitarian purposes and were careful not to proselytize in Yemen, an overwhelming Islamic nation...

Changing wages

deplore the murder of three American citizens who were providing humanitarian assistance to the Yemeni people. McClellan told reporters in Crawford, Texas, where President Bush was vacationing at his ranch...

Changing wages

Officials in Yemen said the suspect was a member of the opposition Islamic Party. He was a follower of Ali Mohammed Jarallah, an extremist leader being questioned by authorities in connection with the killing on Saturday of the Socialist Party's deputy leader...

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Nuclear inspectors leave North Korea

BEIJING (AP) - Two U.N. nuclear inspectors expelled by North Korea arrived in China early Tuesday, leaving the communist nation's nuclear program increasingly isolated from international scrutiny.



The nuclear facilities in Yongbyon, North Korea, are seen in this satellite image taken on Aug. 13.

The two inspectors - believed to be a Lebanese man and a Chinese woman - emerged from the arrival hall at Beijing's Capital Airport on a flight from Pyongyang and said they would head to the International Atomic Energy Agency's headquarters in Vienna as soon as possible.

"We cannot comment on anything at this stage," the man said, mobbed by reporters.

North Korea ordered the expulsion of the two U.N. monitors on Friday, depriving the U.N. atomic agency of its final means of monitoring a nuclear program Washington fears will be used to produce atomic weapons.

On Monday, Russia, North Korea's longtime ally, warned the communist regime not to withdraw from an international agreement to halt the spread of nuclear weapons.

Russia's comments were a blow to the North's efforts to cast the nuclear issue as a dispute strictly with the United States.

South Korea expressed alarm at signs its neighbor was preparing to exit the treaty, which seeks to confine nuclear weapons to the United States, Russia, Britain, France and China. Still, the South insisted dialogue was the only way to resolve the problem peacefully.

Washington rules out any talks before the North changes course. Assistant Secretary of State James Kelly will go to South Korea next month to talk to U.S.

U.N. broadens Iraqi import ban

The Washington Post

UNITED NATIONS - The U.N. Security Council Monday adopted a U.S.-sponsored resolution that tightens regulations on Iraqi imports of some viruses, airplane flight simulators, communications equipment and high-speed motorboats that have potential military applications.

The 15-nation council voted 13 to 0 to add the items to a 302-page list of products that require Security Council approval before they can be imported into Iraq. Russia and Syria abstained, marking the first open sign of council division on Iraq policy since it unanimously passed a resolution last month demanding Iraq submit to the resumption of U.N. inspections.

The council's decision to regulate additional imports to Iraq follows an intense effort by the Bush administration to convince council members that Baghdad may convert these items to military uses in a war against a U.S.-led coalition. It immediately drew charges from Iraq and Syria, the council's only Arab member, that Monday's action would worsen the plight of ordinary Iraqi citizens.

"This will hinder and create obstacles in the implementation of the oil-for-food program," said Iraq's deputy U.N. ambassador, Mohammed Ali, referring to a U.N.-supervised humanitarian program. "This program has not

been able to respond to the needs of the Iraqi people, and nothing but the lifting of sanctions will end their suffering."

Washington failed to win council support for one of its most important initiatives: a proposal to regulate Iraqi imports of atropine, a standard heart drug that also is a nerve agent antidote. Citing concerns that Baghdad may be purchasing large quantities of atropine in preparation for a

chemical weapon attack against American troops, U.S. officials argued that the council should play a central role in monitoring its use in Iraq.

But faced with opposition from France and Russia, Iraq's two major suppliers of atropine, the United States settled for a compromise that would allow Iraq to import atropine without council monitoring in doses typically used for medical purposes.

They're resolute.

Find out what some Magic Valley people are resolving to do in the new year.

Wednesday In The Times-News

After Christmas Sunglass Sale

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White House sees no need to rush on N. Korea action

Los Angeles Times

WASHINGTON - In a shift in policy, the Bush administration said Monday that it is in no rush for U.N. Security Council action on North Korea's nuclear program and played down emerging differences with key allies over the issue.

Three days after signaling a desire for swift Security Council condemnation of Pyongyang's resumption of its nuclear program, officials said they now intend to follow the lead of the United Nations' nuclear watchdog, the International Atomic Energy Agency.

And they insisted that the Bush administration, despite its declared desire for a program of pressure known as "tailored containment," is not pushing allies to apply sanctions.

"The secretary of state has not asked any nation to take economic actions against this desperately poor country, North Korea," said Philip T. Reeker, the deputy State Department spokesman.

The shift suggested that the administration wants to slow the pace of developments on the North Korean arms issue at a time when Pyongyang has been trying to urge the United States to make concessions on economic assistance and suspended fuel oil deliveries, analysts said.

North Korea, which suspended its nuclear weapons program in 1994 under international pressure, has in the past two weeks taken steps to restart its nuclear power facilities at Yongbyon - which could produce plutonium for nuclear weapons - and has given notice of its plans to eject

the three IAEA inspectors who have been monitoring activities there.

South Korea's Yonhap news service said this morning that two inspectors had left North Korea on a flight to Beijing. The third had left Saturday. Some analysts speculated that the administration's desire to put off Security Council deliberations may also reflect allies' resistance to the U.S. desire to cobble together a program of international sanctions.

On Monday, Russia and South Korea warned that taking a hard line against the isolated and impoverished nation could be counterproductive.

But analysts said the latest pronouncements out of Washington left it even less clear how the White House hopes to get Pyongyang to abandon its nuclear arms program.

"I want to know: What are we intending? It's just very confusing," said Joel S. Wit, a top State Department specialist on Korea during the Clinton administration.

In television appearances Sunday, Secretary of State Colin L. Powell sought to reduce tensions by declaring that Pyongyang's recent actions had not created a crisis. He said the United States was not contemplating military action.

L. Gordon Flake, executive director of the Mansfield Center for Pacific Affairs in Washington, said it appeared that U.S. officials were determined "not to do anything to precipitate a crisis. So if they can use the cover of the IAEA process to give themselves more time, that's what they'll do."

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NATION

Shooting victim was nearing retirement

MANFIELD, Texas (AP) — Less than a year short of his retirement, William E. Koehn died doing what he was called to do, running a Baptist hospital and making toys for the needy in Yemen, his son-in-law said Monday.

The 60-year-old hospital director was one of three Americans gunned down Monday at Jibla Baptist Hospital in the Yemeni city of Jibla. The others were a doctor from Alabama who had been there nearly as long as Koehn, and a hospital purchasing agent from Wisconsin. A pharmacist from Texas was wounded.

The gunman entered the hospital hiding a semiautomatic rifle under his jacket to make it resemble a child, according to Yemeni officials. He opened fire in a room where Koehn was holding a meeting, said a statement from the Southern Baptist Convention's International Mission Board, based in Richmond, Va.

Koehn, 60, originally of Arlington, Texas, had planned to retire next October, the mission board said.

Koehn and his wife, Marty, had been in Yemen since 1975, their son-in-law, Randal Pearce, said outside his home in Mansfield, about 15 miles from Fort Worth.

"There are always concerns, but he knew why he was there. He was there to help people, and he felt safe," Pearce said.

"We have found them to be gracious and kind," Pearce said of the Yemencis. "Otherwise, Bill and Marty would never have spent their lives serving there."

In addition to being the hospital administrator, Koehn made wooden cars for orphans in Jibla. His wife Koehn was not near the shooting and was not hurt.

Also killed was Dr. Martha C. Myers. "She loved the people very much. She felt like that was home," her father, Ira Myers, said in Montgomery, Ala.

Ira Myers, the retired director of the Alabama Department of Public Health, said Yemen had been his daughter's home for 24 years.

He said his daughter "had the opportunity to talk to the native women. That would not have been

FBI searches for five illegal immigrants

WASHINGTON (AP) — Information from a passport smuggling investigation set off a nationwide search for five men of Middle Eastern origin who may have entered the United States from Canada on Christmas Eve, an FBI official said Monday.

A White House spokesman said the intelligence came from an anti-terrorism investigation but the official, and an FBI spokesman, said they could not link — or rule out — a connection to a terrorist plot or cell.

The FBI released photographs of five men Sunday in hopes they would be recognized. However, bureau spokesman Ed Cogswell acknowledged the FBI is not certain the names and birth dates released with the photos are correct, or that the men even entered the country.

Nonetheless, federal and local officials are taking no chances.

U.S. Customs Service spokesman Dean Boyd said inspectors along the U.S. Canada border have stepped up their vigilance, asking more questions and increasing the number of vehicle and cargo inspections.

The intelligence information

Wanted by the FBI

The FBI is searching for the following men, who are believed to have entered the United States illegally on or around Dec. 24.



Abid Noraziz Ali, 25; Iftikhar Khozmal, Ali, 21; Mustafa Khan, Owasbi, 33; Adil Pervez, 19; Akbar Jamal, 28

NOTE: Names and ages may have been falsified.

SOURCE FBI

on the men came from an investigation into a worldwide smuggling operation that brings individuals with illegal passports into the United States.

The subjects of the manhunt are not those who ran the operation but likely are people who may have been smuggled across the border, Cogswell said.

The search comes just before large crowds gather for New Year's Eve celebrations, especial-

ly in New York. The nation's color-coded terrorism alert system remained at yellow — the third of five levels.

New York City police spokesman Michael O'Looney said his department has increased its counterterrorism efforts as a result of the FBI warning and shared the names and photographs of the five men with its various police commands.

In Crawford, Texas, where

President Bush is spending time at his ranch, White House spokesman Scott McClellan told reporters the information on the five men was developed "in the course of ongoing investigations relating to the war on terrorism."

"We don't have any specific information that ties them to terrorism activity, but we do believe they have entered this country illegally," he said. "And any time anybody enters the country illegally we want to know why they're here and we want to question them."

McClellan said he would not comment on sources or methods of intelligence that tipped off authorities.

The names released by the FBI are: Abid Noraziz Ali, Iftikhar Khozmal Ali, Mustafa Khan Owasbi, Adil Pervez and Akbar Jamal. Each has a purported birthdate between 1969 and 1982.

The FBI said it was working with the Customs Service, the Immigration and Naturalization Service and the Transportation Security Administration to find the men.

Missionaries slain

Three American missionaries were killed and another seriously wounded at a Southern Baptist hospital in Jibla, Yemen, on Monday. A suspected Islamic militant was arrested.

KILLED
William E. Koehn, 60
Hometown: Arlington, Texas
Occupation: Hospital director
Missionary service: 28 years



Koehn

Dr. Martha C. Myers, 57
Hometown: Montgomery, Ala.
Occupation: Physician
Missionary service: 24 years



Myers

Kathleen A. Gariety, 53
Hometown: Wauwatosa, Wis.
Occupation: Purchasing agent
Missionary service: 10 years



Gariety

INJURED
Donald W. Caswell, 49
Hometown: Leveland, Texas
Occupation: Pharmacist
Missionary service: 1 1/2 years



Caswell

SOURCE: Associated Press

possible for a male doctor in that culture. She delivered lots of babies."

He said his daughter also helped UNICEF with immunization programs. "We are concerned for the people who have been getting their care from Martha and the others at the hospital. Now where do they go?" asked Myers, 78.

Helicopter lifts escapees from prison

PONCE, Puerto Rico (AP) — A helicopter swooped down to a maximum security prison in this city in southern Puerto Rico and flew away with five "extremely dangerous" convicts on Monday, authorities said.

The charter helicopter later landed at Isla Grande airport in San Juan without the convicts and

the pilot said two people hired him to fly from San Juan to Ponce, police Lt. Col. Jose Caldero said, without identifying the pilot.

During the flight both pointed guns at him and ordered him to fly to Las Cucharas prison, Caldero said.



Winter grillin'

Cooked anything on the grill lately? It may not be the wrong season.

Wednesday in The Times-News

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SMALL BUSINESS SPOTLIGHT

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NATION

Judge orders access to sniper case statements

FAIRFAX, Va. (AP) — A judge ordered prosecutors Monday to turn over statements that sniper suspect John Lee Malvo may have made to police regarding two of the shootings.

Juvenile and Domestic Relations Court Judge Kimberly Daniel ordered the statements turned over to the defense by Jan. 8. She also denied a request by attorneys for Malvo, 17, to postpone the Jan. 14 preliminary hearing in the death of Linda Franklin.



Sniper shooting suspect John Lee Malvo is escorted out of Fairfax Juvenile and Domestic Relations Court after a hearing in Fairfax, Va., Monday.

Malvo and John Allen Muhammad, 41, are suspected in 21 shootings — 14 of them fatal — in five states and Washington, D.C., including the October sniper attacks that terrorized the capital region.

The two are being tried first in Virginia, where they face capital charges. Malvo is charged in Franklin's slaying Oct. 14 in Falls Church, while Muhammad was charged in the Oct. 9 shooting of Dean Harold Meyers in Massachusetts.

The judge's order covers any statements Malvo may have made about either of those two slayings.

Prosecutors had argued that

the defense had a compelling interest to be given the information early: "I believe there is good cause because of the complexity and severity of this case."

The defense also cited news reports that investigators had recorded statements made by Malvo.

To deny us access to the recordings is a denial of due process," said lead defense attorney Michael Arif. "Everyone in the free world seems to have Malvo's statements except the defense."

The Washington Post reported in November that police spent seven hours interrogating Malvo after he was sent to Fairfax County to be prosecuted in the Franklin slaying. Malvo's court-appointed guardian, Todd Pett, said he asked investigators to end the questioning but was brushed aside.

Both the Post and The New York Times have reported that Malvo confessed to being the shooter in some of the sniper shootings, and the Times said investigators concluded that Malvo may have been the triggerman in most if not all of the killings.

entitled what they were given today." Fairfax County prosecutor Robert Horan said. If the case ends up in circuit court for trial, then the defense is entitled to the information, Horan said. But the judge said she thought

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Report: 59 million in U.S. volunteered after Sept. 11

WASHINGTON (AP) — After a 10-hour workday on Capitol Hill, political staffer Kim Taylor headed to a poor section of Washington to tutor children. On Sundays, she takes them to a museum, play or ice skating rink.

"It's a chance for me to actually feel like I'm doing something," said Taylor, 32, of Washington.

According to the Labor Department's newest estimate, 59 million Americans like Taylor performed volunteer work between September 2001 and September 2002. They tutor, mentor, build affordable housing, teach computer skills, clean parks and streams, and help communities respond to disasters.

In its first such study of volunteerism in more than a decade, the agency found 27.6 percent of the civilian population age 16 and over volunteered.

On average, Americans put in about 52 hours of volunteer work during the year, according to the estimate by the Bureau of Labor Statistics. The numbers were based on a survey of 60,000 households in September.

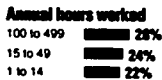
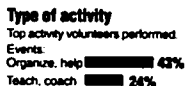
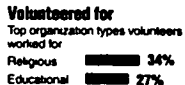
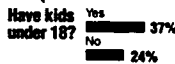
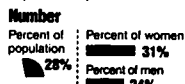
"It gives balance to my life," said Taylor, who volunteers for the Washington-based Horton's Kids, a not-for-profit tutoring and mentoring organization. "Working with these children reminded me that no matter how hard my job was, it wasn't as hard as the challenges that these children have."

The Labor Department's estimate follows President Bush's State of the Union address in January urging Americans to commit at least 4,000 hours — the equivalent of almost two years of work weeks — to community service during their lifetimes. More recently, he's touted volunteerism in television ads.

The department survey showed religious, educational and youth-service-related organizations had the greatest number of volunteers.

U.S. Volunteers

Facts on the 59 million people who volunteered in the U.S., Sept. 2001-Sept. 2002:



© 2002 BLS
Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics
Graphic: Julie Swartz/Lisa Hurling

Other findings include:

- The volunteer rate was higher among women than men.
- Employed persons were more likely to volunteer than those who were unemployed or not in the labor force.
- Among the age groups, those 35 to 54 were the most likely to volunteer, with one in three having donated their time. Volunteer rates were lowest among seniors citizens and those in their early 20s.

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WORLD

Musharraf: Pakistan was prepared for nuclear war

KARACHI, Pakistan — Pakistan's president indicated Monday he had been ready to use nuclear weapons if Indian forces crossed the two countries' border earlier this year, but his government later backed off the assertion, saying he never specifically mentioned atomic weapons.

Nevertheless, Pervez Musharraf's comments appear to confirm fears that the world was close to witnessing its first bilateral nuclear war. India also possesses nuclear arms, and the situation so worried Washington that it at the time — just as Pakistan became a key ally in the war on terror — that it wanted Americans to leave India.

The danger point came when India and Pakistan sent troops to their shared border after a deadly attack on the Indian Parliament last December. New Delhi blamed Islamabad for helping to mastermind the assault that killed 14 people. While Pakistan denied playing any part.

"I personally conveyed messages to (Indian) Prime Minister Vajpayee through every international leader who came to Pakistan that if Indian troops moved a single step across the disputed frontier, they should not expect a conventional war from Pakistan," he told Pakistan's An Four veterans.

However, army spokesman Gen. Rashid Qureshi said later Monday that the president's mention of nonconventional war was just a reference to the use of nuclear weapons. Qureshi said Musharraf meant that the people of Pakistan together with the conventional army would "neutralize" any enemy aggression. Nowhere did he say that Pakistan would use nuclear weapons at all.

During the heightened tension between the nuclear armed neighbors, the U.S. Ambassador in New Delhi, Robert Blackwell, said there was a chance — though a "rather small" one — that the conflict between India and Pakistan could have led to nuclear war.

Blackwell said the threat of nuclear war caused the United States to speed up a warning to its citizens to leave India. Washington had long advised Americans to stay away from Pakistan.

The two nations had already fought three wars in 20 years, and if several another war was imminent, could intensify international diplomatic may brought the neighbors back from the brink.

But a summit for said Monday that Pakistan nuclear capability would not have deterred it. "We were absolutely ready to use nuclear war if the forces were well equipped. Cross Trust of India would not have been a major Political/Military Strategy. Such a decision on whether to go to war is ultimately a political decision."

Experts used recently as both sides said they were stepping back from their war footing. After massing over a million troops along their common border, India announced in October that it began pulling back its troops. Last month Pakistan said it was doing the same.



Pervez Musharraf



A National Rainbow Coalition supporter hangs on to a street light during the swearing-in ceremony of the newly elected Kenyan president, Mwai Kibaki, Monday in Nairobi, Kenya.

Kenya's third president takes oath

Throng roars approval for new leader

NAIROBI, Kenya (AP) — Tens of thousands of Kenyans cheered their approval as Mwai Kibaki was sworn in as their president Monday, exulting in his historic victory over the party that ruled the country for nearly four decades.

Many people climbed up trees and lampposts to witness the inauguration of the man they are counting on to rebuild this once prosperous East African nation. Kibaki, 71, a former vice president and finance minister, promised not to disappoint them.

The crowd jeered and heckled outgoing President Daniel arap Moi — who ruled the country for 24 years with an autocratic hold on power — as he arrived at Nairobi's downtown Uhuru Park for the inauguration and sat next to his successor.

Moi listened stone-faced as Kibaki highlighted the failings of his government. "I am inheriting a country which has been badly ravaged by years of misrule and ineptitude," Kibaki told the huge crowd. "You have asked me to lead this nation out of the present wretchedness and malaise on to the promised land, and I shall do so."

When Kibaki told the crowd that government should not be a burden on the people, one man shouted, "Tell him!" and pointed at Moi.

Kibaki pledged to create jobs

for millions of unemployed, provide free primary education and lead a government that won't be run on the "whims of individuals."

Kibaki's National Rainbow Coalition won a landslide victory in elections on Friday, ending 39 years of rule by the Kenya Africa National Union.

In Washington, State Department spokesman Philip T. Reeker welcomed the election as having been free and fair. He praised Moi and Kibaki's opponents for an orderly change in Nairobi.

Moi, 78, was forced to step down by a 1991 constitutional amendment that limits presidents to two five-year terms. In complying, he paved the way for a peaceful transfer of power, rare on the African continent.

On stage, he handed over the ceremonial sword of command to Kibaki — who was in a wheelchair with a cast on his leg from a car accident this month — and shook his hand, congratulating him on his victory. "The people of Kenya have spoken," Moi said. Many Kenyans blame Moi, whose blanket use of patronage resulted in crippling mismanagement, for the culture of corruption that has plunged Kenya into its worst economic crisis since independence from Britain in 1963 and frightened away much needed foreign investors.

Police estimate that more than

100,000 people attended the ceremony; many were perched on trees, lampposts and adjacent buildings to witness the historic event.

"It's a great day in the history of Kenya because it's like a second independence for Kenya. For the first time our wishes as an electorate have gone through successfully," said Ferdinand Makokha. "It's been a dream for every Kenyan."

Storm rips islands; fate of residents unclear

CANBERRA, Australia (AP) — A savage cyclone that swept over two remote Pacific islands, has wiped out communications and left the fate of the 1,300 residents unknown.

Meteorologists said Monday that the storm was strong enough to level buildings.

Cyclone Zoe swept over the

islands of Tikopia and Anuta in the southwest Pacific on Sunday morning, with winds possibly gusting up to 223 miles an hour, according to the Tropical Cyclone Warning Center in Brisbane, Australia.

The islets are in the Solomon Islands' remote Temotu Province.

Mazda 6 Sports Sedan advertisement with image of the car and promotional text.

The Times-News will close... Tuesday, December 31 at 3:00 p.m. and will be closed on New Year's Day. Classified line ads to run on Wednesday, January 1st need to be placed by noon on Tuesday.

Winter's winged friends Christmas bird count tracks those that flew through the area. Thursday, in the Outdoors section

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U.N. inspectors' visit hits a nerve at Iraqi plant

BAGHDAD, Iraq (AP) — As U.N. arms inspectors made their fifth visit to an Iraqi missile factory, the facility's manager was clearly upset. The U.N. experts did their jobs with no trouble, but the experience, Monday shows how repeat U.N. inspections can chafe at the so-far cordial relations between inspectors and Iraqi officials.

Hussein Mohammed, manager of the al-Samoud factory, said inspectors stormed into his plant "like gangs." While his angry

words to reporters were but a blip in an otherwise routine day, keeping the inspections from turning sour is important because America has threatened military action at any suggestion the U.N. program is being obstructed.

Iraq also raised new objections Monday to U.S. demands for Iraqi weapons scientists to be interviewed outside the country. Gen. Husein Mohammed Amin, Iraq's liaison to the inspectors, urged any interviews be held in Iraq and

said past U.N. talks with scientists showed assertions Iraq would pressure scientists to lie were "cheap American claims."

"They met thousands of scientists for thousands of hours, with the presence of the Iraqi side, without intervention from the Iraqi side," he told the Arab satellite TV channel Al-Jazeera.

U.N. teams visited at least six sites Monday, including three facilities they had checked earlier. Among these were the Central

Public Health Laboratory in Baghdad, a water treatment plant and facilities that deal with pesticides and resins.

Also Monday, 13 U.S. religious leaders and experts on a humanitarian mission to Iraq began a four-day visit to Iraq that is to include tours of schools and hospitals and meetings with Iraqi Christians. The delegation is headed by Bob Edgar, general secretary of the National Council of Churches.

Venezuelan oil minister says crisis will affect markets 'for some time'

CARACAS, Venezuela (AP) — World oil markets will suffer for some time from the effects of the strike aimed at toppling President Hugo Chavez, Venezuela's top oil official said Monday.

The 4-week-old strike has shut down key sectors of the economy and created gasoline and food shortages throughout Venezuela, the world's No. 5 exporter. Oil production has plunged from 3

million barrels a day to 260,000 barrels a day.

"For some time, we will have distortions on the world oil markets due to this situation," Oil Minister Rafael Ramirez acknowledged Monday.

The strike escalated Monday as police used tear gas to separate opponents and supporters of Chavez outside the state oil monopoly's headquarters.



China launches its fourth unmanned spaceship, Shenzhou IV, Monday morning at the Jiuquan Satellite Launch Center in northwest China's Gansu Province.

China plans to put human in space

BEIJING (AP) — Exciting over the launch of its fourth unmanned space capsule, China said Monday it is on the verge of sending a human into orbit — a step toward fulfilling its decades-old dream of joining the elite club of space-faring nations.

The Shenzhou capsule, which blasted off before dawn Monday from a rocket base in the Gobi desert, carried all the equipment for manned flight, the government said. It said the mission will test life-support and other systems.

If no problems are reported, then a manned flight is "just around the corner," said Zhang Qingwei, president of the state-run China Aerospace Science and Technology Corp., which manufactured the capsule, quoted by the official China Daily newspaper.

The secretive, military-linked program is a key prestige project for the communist government. A manned launch would make China one of the three countries, after Russia and the United States, to put a human in space on its own.

China is proceeding cautiously and hasn't announced a date for a manned launch. But — in a replay of the U.S. Soviet space race of the 1960s — its leaders tout China's test flights as proof of the communist system's technical prowess as they strive to win popular support at home and respect abroad.

The main news outlet Monday on state television devoted 10 minutes to the Shenzhou launch. State newspapers were emblazoned with color pictures of the flames from the Long March rocket lighting up the night sky. "Flying into space — and flying toward glory," declared the Communist Party newspaper People's Daily.

The flight was the fourth for a Shenzhou capsule — whose name means "sacred vessel" — and the second in less than 10 months. Foreign experts have said China is likely to conduct four or five test launches before sending up a human.

Astronauts picked from the ranks of fighter pilots in China's air force have been training for several years to make the first flights into space. Officials refuse to disclose their identities, though as official confidence grows, state media have begun to divulge some details of their training — much of it believed to take place in a converted medical laboratory in Beijing.

The Shenzhou is based on Russia's Soyuz space capsule, with extensive modifications by Chinese designers.

Two astronauts — dubbed "taikonauts" after the Chinese word for space — have been sent to study at Russia's cosmonaut school, and are believed to be teaching others. The astronauts used the Shenzhou IV before its launch for their first training in a capsule, state media said.

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COMPUTERS AND TECHNOLOGY

PC makers move in new directions

The Washington Post

How old is too old? Once upon a time, computer users felt obliged to upgrade their machines on a regular basis. But sales of the desktop PC fleet have been basically flat for a couple of years now.

The near future doesn't look any better. Marketing consultant Gillespie Ventures found this year that consumer interest in buying a new computer is at a five-year low. Half of computer-owning consumers have had their PCs for more than two years, the longest since 1994.

They can afford to do that for a simple reason: The primary uses for home computers are still word processing, surfing the Web and writing e-mail, none of which require much in the way of hardware.

Even the technically adept aren't buying the latest and greatest any more. Robert Clementi, an electrical engineer who lives in Manassas, Va., is still using an older model that runs Windows 95.

He has no interest in modernizing his computers, because what he's got works. "I'm petrified of upgrading," he said. "Every time I've upgraded it takes days to get things running. Some things never work again."

As a result, computer makers are heading in some surprising directions in search of profits. Who would've thought a few years ago that Dell would market handheld organizers, that Gateway would sell plasma television sets and that Apple would become known as the company that makes those nifty iPod MP3 players?

It's gadgets such as digital cameras and music players whose sales are still increasing, not the computers they connect to.

Roger Kay, director of client computing at research firm IDC, thinks that is partly because most people who have computers have reached a "good enough" level of computing.

Microsoft has positioned its



Computer makers are moving in new directions, such as Dell marketing handheld organizers and Gateway selling plasma TVs.

Windows XP as the operating system for experiencing multimedia on your computer. But set aside the company's ads that showed people rejoicing in XP's multimedia talents (then taking spontaneous flights): The MP3 players and digital cameras that people are buying all work like previous versions of Windows. To take

a typical example, Kodak's EasyShare LS443 zoom digital camera, for example, works on operating systems going back to Windows 98, and on processors starting at 233MHz.

(Why Windows 98? Windows 95 doesn't support the USB connections used by nearly all new peripherals.)

The same goes for computer games. Gaming used to be the number one application for converting shiny new computers into wheezing husks. But even the latest pixel-pushing titles haven't kept up with the advances Silicon Valley has made in terms of processor speed.

A new space exploration game from Electronic Arts Inc. called Earth & Beyond, for example, specifies as its minimum processor a 500MHz Intel Pentium III or equivalent AMD processor. Even the cheapest computer available from discount computer maker eMachines offers more than three times that horsepower on its most basic configuration, which goes for \$399. (Many games do require more powerful graphics cards, but they can be added to older systems much easier than processor upgrades.)

For non-gaming users who aren't interested in editing digital video, the desktop is becoming more of a hub — a locker for slushing your digital stuff — than anything else. Load up your MP3 player, drop off some backup copies of your digital files, and off you go. If that's how you use your computer, you can skate by without a new desktop for years to come.

It's only if you want more than that, if you want to start editing that content, that a new PC begins to become important. You're not going to be doing any digital video editing without a reasonably fast and new processor, a huge hard drive and a FireWire port to bring your footage in from a digital camcorder. You're not going to be able to connect a DVD-recording drive to your PC unless it has either FireWire or a USB 2.0 port.

So, how old is too old? Maybe the question isn't relevant anymore. It used to be the case that the computer industry made sure that your PC was obsolete by the time you got home from the computer store. But these days, there's only one person who can determine whether your PC is too old: you.

Thin-screen TV industry produces flat-out success

Los Angeles Times

In addition to giant tubs of mayonnaise and mega-packs of toilet paper, thousands of Costco shoppers are finding room in their carts for a more high-end product: plasma TV sets.

Sharp price cuts have brought plasma sets and other thin, flat televisions out of high-end electronics boutiques and into thousands of mass-market outlets such as Costco, a wholesale buying club best known for offering members bulk items and big discounts.

The least expensive plasma sets still cost a hefty \$3,000 or more, yet sales are growing so rapidly that many manufacturers are racing to boost production.

"Everyone has been surprised by the quantities that have moved," said Tim Farmer, a vice president of research, Wash.-based Costco Wholesale Corp.

The burgeoning popularity of thin-screen TVs has prompted even major retailers to jump into the fray. In all, more than two dozen companies now market some version of the product.

That increase, combined with expanding production capacity and improved technology, could push the price of plasma sets down by one-third next year, according to analyst Richard Doherty of Envisioning Group, a technology research firm in Scarsdale, N.Y.

"There is strong consumer demand, but not enough to stop the free fall," Doherty said.

Manufacturers already are selling the bulk of a plasma set — the glass panel — at or near a loss in their hunger for a share of the growing market, some industry analysts and executives say. But they're not just competing with each other; they're also trying to fend off challenges from competing thin-screen technologies, such as liquid crystal displays or LCDs.

It is too early to write an obituary for bulky picture tubes, which will remain the most affordable TV sets for years to come. Still, analysts and industry executives insist that thin screens already have started their transformation from a niche product into the dominant format for TV sets in the digital era.

It may take another decade, but thin will win.

The demand for thin screens is fueled in part by the advent of DVDs and digital TV broadcasts, which offer more detailed pictures and more lifelike colors than conventional analog TV signals. To see the difference, consumers need a set that can pack more information onto the screen

than their current TVs can.

"This sharpness is most vivid on screens that are 40 inches diagonal or larger. At that size, however, traditional direct-view and projection TVs are so bulky that many consumers have trouble finding a place for them at home."

Hence the interest in thin screens — models sleeker and lighter enough to hang on a wall.

The glass panels at the heart of plasma and LCD sets come mainly from about a dozen companies with factories in Japan, Korea and, increasingly, China. About 800,000 plasma panels will be shipped this year around the world, said Mark McConaughy, senior vice president of the advanced technology group of Viewsonic Corp. of Walnut, Calif.

That is minuscule compared with the overall market for TVs, which is about 140 million sets this year. Still, McConaughy said 2003 would be a "breakout year" for plasma because shipments should double.

Helping drive the growth are new or expanded manufacturing facilities. For example, Japanese electronics giant NEC Corp. doubled the capacity of its factory in Japan this year, reaching 300,000 to 400,000 plasma panels. And it plans to launch a new production line and boosting production from 180,000 panels a year to 300,000.

Meanwhile, plants are becoming far more efficient, slashing the cost per unit. The average factory had to scrap or rework 85 percent of the panels produced three years ago, but now rejects only 10 percent, said Tom Edwards, senior analyst at NPD Technology, a research firm in San Jose.

As competition has heated up during the last four years, prices have fallen more than 50 percent. According to NPD Technology, the average price of a plasma display sold in the United States dropped from \$12,700 in January 1999 to \$6,100 in October 2002.

Prices will have to drop significantly more, however, to attract masses of buyers, said Tamaryn Pratt, an analyst at Quintel Research in New York. A Quintel survey found that more than 70 percent of consumers interviewed want screens larger than 40 inches but they quickly lose interest in sets that cost more than \$2,000.

A look at how the technology predictions panned out

By Mike Langberg

Knight Rider News Service

Predicting the future is easy, sticking around to see the outcome of your predictions is hard.

Ten years ago, I consulted several Silicon Valley experts and came up with "Scenes from 2002," showing how technology would change our lives in a decade. Published in the San Jose Mercury News on Oct. 25, 1992, my scenario blended hope and hype (To see what the original looked like, go to www.bayarea.com/tech/02scn.htm).

Now that 2002 is almost past, I've decided to revisit my crystal ball, going and rate myself against the real world. So how'd I do? Overall, I'd give myself a B — several dead on predictions are balanced against several very wrong ideas. Here are the points by point details.

1. The best phone.
At 6:30 a.m. on Sept. 13, 2002, the best phone rings. It's the programmed wake-up call for Nancy Newstuf, a real-estate agent who lives in San Jose with her husband, Ned, and 10-year-old son, Nelson. The flat-panel display lights up with the image of this year's hot Hollywood hunk, teen star Macaulay Culkin, whom Nancy has selected to deliver her morning greeting. After the third ring, Macaulay says, "Wake up, Nancy," she responds, "I'm up, I'm up," and Macaulay starts delivering a personalized local traffic options.

REPORT CARD: D. Computerized "intelligent agents," such as the virtual Macaulay Culkin, were a hot topic 10 years ago and looked achievable within a decade. But the technology to make this work — especially reliable speech recognition and realistic text-to-speech conversion — has proven elusive. As the old joke goes, intelligent agents are the technology of the future, and

always will be.

2. Driving to her first appointment.
Behind the wheel of her electrically powered 1999 General Motors Megavolt, Nancy retrieves her voice-mail messages on the car phone. A client is eager to look at new-home listings in Los Gatos. Nancy calls the office central computer and, using carefully chosen text and instructions, orders it to send pictures of several homes to her client by high-resolution color fax.

REPORT CARD: A and B. I give myself an A for predicting the arrival of electric cars. They're not yet a big part of the market, but electric and hybrid vehicles are no longer an unusual sight on San Francisco Bay Area highways. Using wireless phones in the car, while not necessarily a safe practice, is certainly common today. I only get a B for predicting Nancy would use a voice response system to retrieve messages, such systems exist today, but aren't widely used. High resolution color fax never happened because people now share images by attaching digital pictures to e-mail messages.

3. Showing a home.
Shown a home in Los Gatos, Nancy's clients are eager to buy. Nancy takes her computer phone out of her purse and calls into a local bank. Writing on the phone's screen with a stylus, Nancy quickly assures the potential buyers that they can just barely afford the \$900,000 three-bedroom house.

REPORT CARD: A and A. As a daily source joke, I suggested in 1992 that ordinary homes in Los Gatos would cost nearly \$1 million in 2002. The joke's on us! It's anything. I was on the low side. As for the "compu-phone," it exists today in the form of wire-

less "communicators" such as the Handspring Treo and T-Mobile Sidekick — costing only a few hundred dollars and providing access to Web sites that can answer questions such as how big a mortgage home buyers can afford.

4. At the office.
When Nancy arrives at the office, she clips on her employee badge, which includes a tiny radio transmitter identifying her to the office monitoring system. While Nancy is talking with her friend Susan in an adjoining office, the monitoring system automatically transfers an incoming videophone call for Nancy to Susan's phone. It's a reluctant seller with an offer on his home that he worries is too low. As they talk, Nancy displays on the screen a list of recent home sales in the neighborhood. Either Nancy or the client can touch any listing on the screen to call up a picture of the home and details of the sale.

REPORT CARD: C and B. The technology for "active" employee badge systems, but haven't been adopted in a big way because it's too expensive and many people are reluctant to have employers tracking their movements. Two people in separate locations viewing the same material on their computer screens is an everyday occurrence, but collaboration software that allows each person to make changes is still in its early stages.

5. Lunch.
On the way to a nearby park to lunch, Nancy grabs a sandwich from the office refrigerator and her five-pound portable satellite TV. Sitting on a park bench, Nancy unfolds the collapsible 2-foot dish, pops up the 10-inch flat screen and watches today's episode of the newly merged mega-soap "As the Hospital Turns in Santa Barbara" beamed directly from a satellite.

22,300 miles overhead.

REPORT CARD: B. Direct-broadcast satellite television, which didn't exist in 1992, is now a certified hit, with somewhere around 19 million homes in the United States subscribing to either DirecTV or Dish Network. However, the need to precisely aim the receiving dish has prevented the development of portable satellite TV players. Portable players are due next year, meanwhile, for the XM and Sirius satellite radio services.

6. Shopping.
On the way home from work, Nancy decides to look for a dress. She asks the car phone to tell her which stores are having sales. With a call into an electronic Yellow Pages database and coordination with the car's internal satellite navigation system, a display screen quickly produces a map showing Nancy's location and the nearest stores holding sales on women's clothing.

REPORT CARD: C. In-car electronic navigation systems have been available for several years, but are still quite expensive and rare. There are a few services, such as General Motor's OnStar, that gives a vehicle's location to a human operator, who will then tell the driver how to reach nearby stores. But the process isn't yet automated.

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- Argument
- Concert
- Ceremonial act
- Spell
- Part of U.A.E.
- Dash
- Overdrawing
- Termination of assistance
- Incense
- Fully developed
- Godless of
- Legal blunder
- Donkey's bray
- St. Louis landmark
- Periods
- Search blindly
- of Salazar
- Design style of the 1930s
- Salman's org.
- Bkani for one
- Ghndor or
- 3 Sandler or
- 46 Exploited
- 47 Highway divider
- 48 Absence of feeling
- 51 Speaker of
- 52 Operastown
- 53 Overly
- 54 Gathering
- 56 Most abundant
- 62 Puppeter
- 63 Biographical beginning
- 65 Nothing but
- 66 Pocket words
- 67 Unhurried
- 68 Ashen
- 69 Small, silver fish
- 70 Shaped with an
- 71 Long, difficult journey
- DOWN**
- 1 Rose source
- 2 Become weary
- 3 Sandler or
- 4 Renaissance
- 5 More spooky
- 6 Be unwell
- 7 Long man
- 8 French painter
- 9 California
- 10 Squared car
- 11 Traveled on
- 12 horseback
- 13 Gone by
- 21 Round Table
- 22 address
- 23 Bat word
- 24 Terra firma
- 27 Call me
- 28 Furiosa
- 29 Boston fish
- 30 Burdened
- 32 Family dwelling
- 33 Vaunted
- 34 Proceeds
- 37 Medicinal fluid
- 40 Panic sorerider
- 41 Humaniung
- 42 Soothing
- 44 Verbium
- 46 Slovenly
- 48 Pen point
- 50 Quitters
- 52 Swoist stroke
- 54 Little snakes
- 55 Filing wedge
- 56 Clut
- 57 Chromastim
- 59 Bosc or Anjou
- 60 Perry's creator
- 61 Snek
- 64 Pull behind

Monday's Puzzle Solved

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INSPIRE THE CLOWN
ENSURE THE INDEBTED

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OR TEMENT TREE
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OR GONKHAM IRE
PLU ONIA KNEW
EDT SPOTIVY SASS

Black becomes basic for weddings

DEAR ABBY: Re the letter about wearing black at weddings. I am a professional pianist/organist who has played for numerous weddings.

Last winter, I was asked to play for a large wedding. I chose a black dress with a fancy sequined jacket. Before the wedding, I dropped by to visit my 90-year-old mother, who questioned my black dress. I assured her that black was now appropriate.

My house was on the way to the church, and taking my mother's comments into consideration, I decided to change into a rose-colored dress. When I walked into the church, you guessed it - I was greeted by a sea of black. The groomsman all wore black tuxes, the bridesmaids had long black dresses, and even the singers I was to accompany were dressed in black.

For a moment, I wanted to dash back home and change again, but I didn't. I just smiled at the irony.

-CHARLOTTE



DEAR ABBY
Algal VarBuren

We have the freedom to wear and enjoy beautiful, joyful colors! This is especially true at weddings, which should be happy occasions.

And by the way, to those ladies who shop so carefully to find just the right black dress - once you enter a room full of other black dresses, you're just another grain of sand on the seashore.

Whoever believes the myth that black dresses make one look slim - guess again. Sorry, girls, if you're fat, you're fat - that black dress isn't fooling anyone.

-LOVES COLOR IN OHIO

DEAR LOVES COLOR: The old saying that color evokes emotion must be true, because from the tone of your letter it's clear you're seething red. Please remember that what people wear isn't as important as how they feel in it. (It would be interesting to know what women in the Middle East would wear if their governments allowed them the choice we enjoy in this country - may I live to see the day?)

IN LAST WEEKS, NM.

DEAR CHARLOTTE: I hadn't realized that so many women now wear black to weddings that the few who don't have become "standouts." Read on:

DEAR ABBY: In response to the woman whose mother thought wearing black to a wedding was taboo: That mom has obviously never been to a New York wedding, where wearing black is practically a requirement. My husband's family lives there, and at a recent wedding with more than 100 guests, I was one of only six women not wearing black. (Two of my three sisters-in-law had their bridesmaids wear black.)

-COLORFUL

IN NEW ENGLAND

DEAR COLORFUL: Interesting. However, let's be clear to all my readers. Nowhere is it written that black must be worn to a wedding - unless the bride requests it.

DEAR ABBY: While wearing black may, indeed, be considered "classy" and "sustained" by many women today, I personally find the trend depressing.

The last wedding I attended, only about five of us wore something other than black. When I looked out at the couples on the dance floor, it reminded me of television clips I had seen of the crowds in the Middle East. "I have to my friends repeatedly, 'We are not nuns, and we are not Amish and we are not oppressed women.'

from their loved ones today. It takes only a moment to send greetings to our friends stationed around the globe. Simply e-mail them at www.OperationDearAbby.net and wish them a Happy New Year.

And to each of you, a happy, healthy 2003.

Matinee Today

Orpheum Theatre
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 All Seats \$4.50 Below 5:30 p.m.

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AUTO FOCUS
 Daily 4:30-7:00-9:15

Jerome Cinema 4
 655 West Main • Jerome • 734-2400

Let's Get the Blues, Two Towers

- Today 12:30-4:00-7:30
- Sat. 12:30-4:00-7:30-9:00
- Sun. 12:30-4:00-7:30-9:00
- Tue. 12:30-4:00-7:30-9:00
- Tue. 12:30-4:00-7:30-9:00
- Tue. 12:30-4:00-7:30-9:00

Odyssey 6 Theatre

Analyze This
 Today 12:30-3:00-5:00-7:30-9:40

Pleasantville
 Today 12:30-3:00-5:00-7:10-9:20

8 Crazy Nights
 Today 12:30-3:00-5:00-7:10-9:20

Dealing with the Dead
 Today 12:30-3:00-5:00-7:10-9:20

Death Wish
 Today 12:30-3:00-5:00-7:10-9:20

Twin Cinema 12
 160 Commerce Dr. • Twin Falls 734-2400

Hot Chick (13)
 12:30 - 2:45 - 5:00 - 7:30 - 9:45

Treasure Planet (PG)
 12:30 - 2:45 - 5:00 - 7:30 - 9:45

Catch Me If You Can (13)
 1:00 - 4:00 - 7:00 - 9:55

Lord of Rings: Two Towers (13)
 TC #5 - 2:00 - 7:45 DTS Digital
 TC #6 - 12:45 - 5:00 - 9:00 Dolby Digital
 TC #8 - 12:00 - 3:30 - 7:15 Dolby Digital

Big Fat Greek Wedding (PG)
 12:30 - 2:45 - 5:00 - 7:30 - 9:45

Two Weeks Notice (13)
 12:30 - 2:45 - 5:00 - 7:30 - 9:45

Wild Thornberry Movie (PG)
 12:00 - 2:15 - 4:30 - 7:00 - 9:10

Maid in Manhattan (13)
 12:45 - 3:00 - 5:15 - 7:40 - 9:50

Harry Potter 2 (PG)
 12:00 - 3:30 - 7:15 - 9:10

Santa Clause 2 (G)
 12:00 - 2:15 - 4:30 - 7:00

Flies can't eat dry food

If it's not wet, a fly can't eat it. Maybe you didn't know you quoted Lord Byron now and then. It was he in his "Don Juan" who originated the antique saw: "Truth is stranger than fiction."

Men told pollsters what qualities they wanted most in the women they marry. This was 30 years ago. The results for these, in order: 1. Sincerity. 2. Good humor. 3. Personality. 4. Beauty. 5. And "a terrific torso without the aid of mechanical underwear." How would their answers stack up today?



REVISITED
L.M. Boyd

Q. What's the shape of the Milky Way?
A. Think of it as a warped phonograph record with a scalloped edge, one side bent up, the other down. So says a University of Maryland astronomer.

Aries: People will look to you for entertainment

IF DECEMBER 31ST IS YOUR BIRTHDAY - you were on your own mentally and physically at relatively early age. Your parents remained together for many years, at times mainly because of you. You are unorthodox in your views, drawn to ancient wisdom, including astrology. Taurus, Leo and Scorpio persons play major roles in your life.

ARIES (Mar. 21-Apr. 19): People will look to you for entertainment, especially comedy. Keep up with news from faraway places, including foreign lands. The long-awaited telephone call comes prior to midnight.

TAURUS (Apr. 20-May 20): Details unravel, and you get for story behind the story. Broken relationship can be mended if you so desire. Leo, Scorpio and another Taurus figure in scenario.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Lie low, wait game. Attention revolves around partnership and marriage. This could be a romantic New Year's Eve, but your heart may not be completely in it. Sagittarius represented.

HOROSCOPE
Sydney Omar

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Be close to home if possible. Family member feels neglected; help make up for this with show of affection. Go easy on consumption of adult beverages.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): You don't have necessary information; wait. Listen and observe. Individual utters romantic words, but this may be under the influence of "strong waters." Avoid self-deception.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): You will be with one who cares about you. Listen and observe. Individual utters romantic words, but this may be under the influence of "strong waters." Avoid self-deception.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Finish what you start. Steer clear of arguments based on religious beliefs. You may not agree, but insist that others have right to express themselves.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Let go of preconceived notions; it is the time to try something new. New Year's Eve will be very romantic for you, but don't get involved unless your heart is in it.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Lunar cycle high; you can make this New Year's Eve one of the happiest if open to experiences. Individual you care about will confide. "I can hardly keep my hands off you!"

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Look behind scenes a clandestine relationship could be taking place under your roof. It might be awkward to interfere, but this involves friends who should know better.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): You will be involved, and unless careful it could be with the "wrong person." Be moderate in consumption of adult beverages. You will require clear thinking on this New Year's Eve.

PISCES (Feb. 19-Mar. 20): Professional career a clandestine invitation and will be present at celebration. Maintain composure and at least some degree of dignity.

YEAR END CLEARANCE SALE

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Black Rock
 143-2500
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EDITORIAL

Thanks to all who sent wisdom or jibes in '02

They are doctors, farmers, teachers, politicians, average Joes and Janes. They live in the governor's mansion, a Twin Falls apartment, or a Bliss farmhouse. They have opinions about politics, agriculture, education, economics, and even a flea-bitten dog named Sheep. Who makes up this vibrant collection of wit, wisdom and dry humor? You do, of course. This year The Times-News printed letters from 1,950 readers - an increase of 200 authors over the previous year. And that wasn't the only jump. Our total volume of published letters rose to 2,490, an increase of 300 com-

Bits of the best from 2002

Here are a few excerpts from our favorite letters in 2002:

Let's face the sad truth: you "Timed Snooze" editorial writers would endure a three-legged, flea-bitten, yellow dog, if he were running (or, limping) on the Republican ticket. Oh, yeah! You would wisely declare, "Sheep doesn't chase cars anymore, since his unfortunate accident, and his is being reported that he has been scratching 25 percent less." Why don't you write "Republican dog, Democrat bad" and spare us the agony?
JERRY CRAWFORD
Wendell

As an aside, isn't it ironic that the proponents of term limits have vowed to vote those legislators out of office who disregarded the popular vote, thereby proving that they actually have term limits?
JOHN COX
Twin Falls

There is a big difference between voting for someone who is smart and being stupid.
DAN HENRIE
Burley

During my 69 years, I have lived in nine Idaho counties and testify to the fact that the woods are full of bright folks who are filled with an abundance of community pride.

I noticed, too, these woody folk pruned their trees and culled their herds, which had a positive effect on productivity. (Must have been a public official who figured that out for them.)

I sure want to thank our governor for the fierce battle he waged to protect the will of the people. He must be plum tickered out and desecrating of a rest.
O. DEAN HODGES
Twin Falls

No, they are not changing the name of the Burley airport. We will call it the Burley airport any way. That's like the Frank Church Road of No Return. No, it's still the Salmon River. If they change the name of



Burley to "the town that once was" I'll go for that.
LLOYD ELDON COX
Burley

The police would be spending the time much more usefully doing something about the inattentive drivers running around with a cell phone stuck in their ear - like for instance the Twin Falls Police Community Resource officer who was driving down Addison at 4:30 this afternoon with one stuck in his ear. And incidentally, guess who was not wearing a seat belt while doing it?
WAYNE TRANDISEN
Twin Falls

I would remind you that, in the same way that the First Amendment is the law of the land, so are those laws requiring less external enforcement, including grants. It's pumping off the Ferraro Bridge guys. Certainly. But have you ever heard of natural selection? To the extent that nature has considerably more resources, let's allow

her to enforce her own laws. All of them.
RICK BOLLAR
Rupert

A gathering system of pipelines should be built to all of the effluent ponds in southern Idaho, terminating at a manifold into a large central pipeline. That central line would go to California. This way Idaho would get rid of the most offensive source of odors and groundwater pollution and California would get the Idaho water they have so long coveted.
TED LINDGREN
Hollister

Just a curiosity on my part, but if one could translate terrorist words such as "al Qaeda," "Hamas," "Jihad" and "Herzallah" into English language, would it say something like "Ninth U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals"?
BO ISAIAK
Paul

performance on the Lawrence Welk show, he would say, "Wonderful, wonderful, wonderful."

After seeing the placement of the speed limit sign near the Twin Falls High School going east (it is behind a tree), I must say, "Wonderful, wonderful, wonderful."

This letter has two messages: One, maybe someone should vote the sign, and two, I am showing my age.
RON DABNEY
Twin Falls

I do take some solace in the fact that this newspaper conceded, "Burley is arguably the most appealing Democrat at running for statewide office this year." That is, from this newspaper, high praise. The Times-News endorses the Republican candidate over the Democrat every time, in every race, unless the Republican is under investigation for a felony offense.
KEITH RORAK
Hailey

The Times-News

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

The members of the editorial board and writers of editorials are Stephen Hartgen, Clark Walworth, Steve Crump, David Cooper and Shelley Ridenour.

Getting in touch

- Want to make your feelings known to your senators in Congress? Here's how:
Sen. Mike Crapo: Twin Falls, call or write: Linda Norris, senior regional director 202 Falls Ave., Suite 2 Twin Falls, ID 83301 734-2515; Fax 733-0414 In Washington: 111 Russell Washington, DC 20510 (202) 224-6142 email messages can be sent via
Sen. Larry Craig: In Twin Falls, call or write: Mike Matthews, regional director 1292 Addison Ave. E. Twin Falls, ID 83301 734-6780, Fax 734-3905 In Washington: 520 Hart Senate Office Building Washington, DC 20510 (202) 224-2752 e-mail: http://craig.senate.gov/email

LETTER WRITERS' NAMES FOR 2002

- A
Boris Baid, Leo Bann, Bruce Bann, Bill Bann, ...
B
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V
W
X
Y
Z

Doonesbury



Maillard Fillmore



Please see NAMES Page A11

Western Family
MACARONI & CHEESE
7.25 Oz.

5/\$1 CASE OF 24: \$4.80

WAREHOUSE SHOPPING AT SWENMART

So, you are having a difficult time imagining Swenmart in a Warehouse store context. Sure, you may not be able to drive a tractor-trailer into the store (or a Metro, for that matter), but you "will" find wholesale prices this week during our first WESTERN FAMILY CASE GOODS SALE of the new year. It is an opportunity for you to fill the trunk with all your favorite items without breaking that New Year's resolution to stay within the budget.

Western Family
TUNA
6.125 Oz.

2/88¢ CASE OF 48: \$21.12

Western Family
TOMATO SAUCE
8 Oz.

8/\$1 CASE OF 48: \$6.00

Western Family
CORN FLAKES
18 Oz.

99¢ CASE OF 12: \$11.88

Western Family
BAG CEREALS
28 - 32 Oz.

2/\$5

Western Family
COFFEE
38 - 38 Oz.

\$3.99

Western Family
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25 Lb. Bag **\$3.99**

Western Family
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Western Family
PASTA
Spaghetti or Macaroni

3 Lb. Package **99¢**

Western Family
SPAGHETTI SAUCE

26 - 30 Oz. **99¢**

Western Family
APPLESAUCE
15 Oz.

3/\$1 CASE OF 24: \$8.00

Western Family
MANDARIN ORANGES
11 Oz.

2/78¢ CASE OF 24: \$9.36

Western Family
Whole Kernel or Creamed

CORN BEANS
14.5 - 16.25 Oz. Can **3/\$1** CASE OF 24: \$8.00

Western Family
MUSHROOMS
Stems & Pieces
4 Oz.

3/\$1 CASE OF 24: \$8.00

Western Family
CHILI
15 Oz.

69¢ CASE OF 24: \$16.56

Western Family
KETCHUP
24 Oz.

89¢ CASE OF 18: \$14.24

Western Family
FRUIT
Fruit Cocktail - Peaches
Pears 15 Oz.

89¢ CASE OF 24: \$21.36

Western Family
TOMATOES
Whole - Diced - Stewed
Crushed, etc. 14.5 Oz.

2/\$1 CASE OF 24: \$12.00

Western Family
MARGARINE
1 Lb. Cubes

3/\$1 CASE OF 30: \$10.00

Western Family
ORANGE JUICE
12 Oz. Froz. Conc.

79¢ CASE OF 24: \$18.96

Western Family
BATH TISSUE
4 Roll Pkg.

79¢ CASE OF 24: \$18.96

Western Family
PAPER TOWELS

2/\$1 CASE OF 30: \$15.00

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88 Oz. Regular Only

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Western Family
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Boneless **BARON OF BEEF ROAST**
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Boneless Beef **SHOULDER STEAK**
1 Lb. **\$1.99**

Lean & Tender **BEEF CUBE STEAK**
1 Lb. **\$2.89**

Boneless Beef **RIBEYE STEAK**
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Whole Body **ROASTING CHICKEN**
1 Lb. **49¢**

Falls Brand **PORK SHOULDER STEAK**
1 Lb. **\$1.19**

Western Family **LUNCH MEATS**
Water Thin 2.5 Oz. Several Varieties **3/\$1**

Falls Brand **COUNTRY-STYLE SPARERIBS**
1 Lb. **\$1.19**

Falls Brand **PORK CUBE STEAK**
1 Lb. **\$2.19**

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14-18 Oz. **2/\$5**

Western Family **SANDWICH COOKIES**
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Habeco **SALTINE CRACKERS**
18 Oz. **89¢**

TOSTITOS
12-12.5 Oz. **2/\$5**

Western Family **YOGURT**
8 Oz. **4/\$1**

Western Family **STRING CHEESE**
1 Oz. **5/\$1**

Western Family **POT PIES**
7 Oz. **2/88¢**

Western Family **MEDIUM CHEESE**
One Flavor Only 2 Lb. Brick **\$3.99**

Cream & Water **COTTAGE CHEESE**
16 Oz. (Reg. or Low Fat) **99¢**

ALL LETTUCE

• Iceberg
• Green Leaf
• Red Leaf
• Romaine **69¢** Large Heads Ea.

Crisp **CUCUMBERS**
3/\$1

Fresh Green **BELL PEPPERS**
3/\$1

Texas Rio Star **GRAPEFRUIT**
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Red or Gold **DELICIOUS APPLES**
Large 59¢ Lb.

RADISHES & GREEN ONIONS
3 bunches for \$1

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YELLOW ONIONS
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Red, Ripe **TOMATOES**
89¢ Lb.

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79¢ Ea.

Fresh **CILANTRO**
2 bunches for \$1

JALAPEÑO PEPPERS
99¢ Lb.

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CRACKED WHEAT BREAD
1 Lb. Loaf **\$1.09**

HARD ROLLS
12 Count **\$1.39**

MAPLE or CHOCOLATE BARS
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Winter Hours: Mon.-Sat. 7am-10pm

PRICES GOOD THROUGH MONDAY

Reorganizing: Commissioners get ready for assessors' moving out.

MAGIC VALLEY

INSIDE

Obituaries B2-3 West/Nation B4

City Editor: Chad Baldwin, 735-9811, Ext. 234

The Times-News

Tuesday, December 31, 2002

Section B

AROUND THE VALLEY

THE YEAR THAT WAS 2002

Inmate walks

away from job site

TWIN FALLS - Police were looking late Monday for a Twin Falls Community Work Center inmate who apparently walked away from a job site.

Daniel Reyes, 23, was last seen at about 4 p.m. at his place of work in Twin Falls, said Idaho Department of Corrections spokeswoman Teresa Jones, who didn't specify the business.

When Community Work Center staffers went to pick him up from work after his shift ended at about 6:25 p.m., he wasn't there and was reported as a "walk-away."

Reyes had been at the center about a month. He was nearing parole after serving a little over a year for two convictions: one and a half to five years for aggravated battery in Cassia County, and a concurrent term of one and a half to five years for eluding a police officer in Minidoka County.

Reyes - who is Hispanic, 5-foot-8, 215 pounds with brown eyes and black hair - was last seen wearing a gray sweatshirt, Jones said. He has several tattoos, including a web with three dots near his left thumb.

Anyone with information about Reyes is asked to call the Southern Idaho Regional Communications Center at 735-1911.

Inmates at the Community Work Center generally are within a year of their parole dates. Most of them have jobs and use the wages both for savings and to repay the state for incarceration costs. They live in the center, where there is supervision and doors are locked at night.

Deputies search for suspect in burglary

Buhl - Twin Falls County Sheriff's Office deputies late Monday were looking for a man who apparently entered a home near Buhl and assaulted a teenage girl that morning.

It was reported that a man entered the home, at 4000 S. 1400 W., at about 8 a.m. and assaulted the girl, who was asleep in the house at the time, a sheriff's office news release said.

A neighbor reported seeing a blue mid-sized passenger car in the home's driveway at about that time.

The suspect was described as 6-foot-2 to 6-foot-4, medium build, wearing a black and red coat. Anybody with information should call investigator White at the sheriff's office, 736-4019, or CrimeStoppers at 732-5387. Callers to CrimeStoppers may remain anonymous.

Hospital contributes to swim program

TWIN FALLS - Magic Valley Family YMCA is getting some new help to provide swimming instruction for its Twin Falls third-graders.

Magic Valley Regional Medical Center joins Wells Fargo Bank and the United Way of Magic Valley as sponsors of the program, through which all third-graders in the city's public schools receive eight free water safety lessons at the YMCA city pool. The hospital's Community Relations Committee approved a \$4,000 donation to help with the program.

The money comes from the Community Health Improvement Fund designated each year by the Hospital Board to assist programs that improve the overall health of the community.

The YMCA has been conducting this program in cooperation with the Twin Falls School District for the past 18 years and will provide water safety instruction to more than 800 boys and girls this year.

"By providing this program, the YMCA is able to promote safety to children and ultimately to reduce the number of injuries and deaths related to water sports," said Terry Schultz, Hospital Board member. "We're proud to help sponsor the program."

Compiled from staff reports

Snowpack levels

Table with 4 columns: Watershed, % of Avg., % snowpack, % snowpack. Rows include Upper Snake River, Salmon Falls, Salmon, Oakes, Big Wood, Little Wood, Henrys Fork/Teton, Big Lost, Little Lost.

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

**As of Dec. 30. An indicator of health of the snowpack for this winter season. Snowpack is the sum of 180 to 200 years.

Here are some of the events and issues that shaped Magic Valley in 2002:

Crime

• Leslie Peter Bowcut of Burley gets 30 years to life for his part in an Internet child porn ring.

• A rash of robberies hits Twin Falls.

• Victor Cuellar is shot to death at a Hansen party. His twin, Francisco Cuellar, is wounded. Rolando Garza charged in the shooting.

• Dr. James Retmier, chief of staff at Magic Valley Regional Medical Center, is charged in connection with a shooting outside a Twin Falls bar. He pleads innocent and awaits trial.

• A man kills himself after wounding a Camas County deputy.

• A seven-hour motel standoff in Twin Falls ends in an arrest.

• A murder-suicide leaves two men dead in Halley.

Fatalities

• Three people die in Twin Falls fires, including a November blaze that kills two children.

• Jade Edwards, 2, spends a night in a wrecked car, after her mother dies in a crash north of the Perrine Bridge.

• A plane crash kills three people at the Twin Falls airport.

• A BASE jumper dies in a Perrine Bridge leap.

Education

• Students begin taking the Idaho Standards Achievement Test.

• Twin Falls voters reject a \$7 million professional-technical center.

• Facing a tight budget, the College of Southern Idaho cuts jobs, raises tuition and puts construction on hold - even as enrollment rises.

• Bickel Elementary School's principal is caught mailing herself a pound of marijuana. Mary Lee Roberts resigns and pleads guilty to a felony.

• Jim Pehrson resigns as the Cassia County School District's finance director, charged with embezzling more than \$48,000.

• The Twin Falls School District adopts random drug testing for high school students who take part in activities. But no tests for employees.

The environment

• Gooding County rejects Jerome Cheese Co.'s wastewater pipeline.

• The company says out of Idaho.

• Neighbors fight a Glanbia Foods Inc. plan to increase waste water land application in Gooding County.

• Shoshone's much-disputed pole finally begins to shrink.

• The Energy Department meets a deadline for hauling 15,000 drums of nuclear waste

out of Idaho.

• Ruth Monahan becomes supervisor of the Sawtooth National Forest.

Politics

• State Rep. Celia Gould of Buhl loses the GOP nomination for lieutenant governor.

Please see 2002 PAGE B3



Antonio Sanchez scrambles across the top of a pile of tires at Idaho Tire Recovery Inc. near Shoshone. More than a million tires accumulated on the property and created a hazard, but the former owner of the property has begun to remove them.



The photo by Lisa M. Costner



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pipeloe. The company says out of Idaho. • Ruth Monahan becomes supervisor of the Sawtooth National Forest.

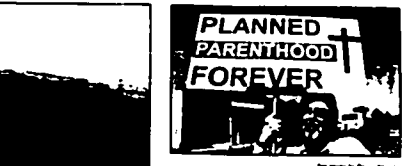
Above, fifth-grader Tyson Clark, 10, reads 'Harry Potter and the Goblet of Fire' during reading time at Hansen Elementary School. Hansen fifth-graders had some of the highest scores in Magic Valley on the inaugural fall 2002 Idaho Standards Achievement Test.



Leslie Peter Bowcut listens to testimony of a police detective during his October sentencing hearing in Burley on charges of lewd conduct with a child. He was sentenced to 30 years to life in prison and faces additional federal charges.



The photo by Lisa M. Costner



Above, John Walsh was the sole picketer at the official opening of the Twin Falls Planned Parenthood office in June. Though anti-abortion protesters demonstrated at the site earlier.

Left, North Carolinian Jim Goyer, 74, makes history in August by becoming the oldest man in the world to BASE jump from a man-made structure, the Perrine Bridge.

Expert says weather caused avalanche

By Mark Heinz Times-News writer

Backcountry information

For the latest backcountry conditions, visit the Sawtooth National Forest Avalanche Center's Web site at http://www.avalanche.org/sawtooth/adv_current.php.

MOUNTAIN HOME - Snowmobilers caught in an avalanche that took the life of an 18-year-old Gooding man Saturday were the victims of an unfortunate circumstance through no fault of their own, a search and rescue expert said Monday.

Chase Swenson was pronounced dead at the scene after attempts to revive him through cardiopulmonary resuscitation failed, said Elmore County Search and Rescue Coordinator Jim Noland. Swenson, his brother,

Sheridan Swenson, and two others had just stopped their snowmobiles near the base of a bowl-like feature near Big Roaring River Lake in the Trinity Mountain Area of Elmore County when the slide struck, Noland said. He said he didn't know the identities of the other two people in the party.

Chase Swenson and the others hadn't gone into a restricted area, ridden their machines on dangerous slopes or done anything else to invite trouble, Noland said.

"One of the witnesses told me they felt a mist - like a light snow/rain mist. And then instantly the slide hit them, with no warning at all," he said.

Sheridan and Chase Swenson were both buried, but the slide missed the other two, Noland said. They spotted one of Sheridan Swenson's gloved hands sticking out of the snow and quickly dug him out.

But Chase Swenson was Please see AVALANCHE Page B3

Architect pitches plan for Ketchum city offices

By Karen Bossack Times-News correspondent

KETCHUM - A new city hall, police department and planning and zoning offices would sit on the site of the current visitor information center under a proposal that will be the subject of a public hearing on Jan. 21.

Ketchum architect Jim Rusvico designed the unsolicited proposal for city-owned property at Fourth and Main streets. He drew up the proposal at his own expense, hoping the city might buy into it.

Box with text: To find out more... He envisions a two-story, 30,000-square-foot building that occupies a footprint of 15,000 to 16,000 square feet. That would leave several thousand square feet. Please see KETCHUM Page B3

DEATH NOTICES

Harvey J. Walter
JEROME - Harvey J. Walter, 81, of Jerome, died Sunday, Dec. 29, 2002, at the St. Benedict's Long Term Care Center.

Lynn J. Parris
SHOSHONE - Lynn J. Parris, 83, of Shoshone and formerly of Blackfoot, died Friday, Dec. 27, 2002, at the Gooding Memorial Hospital.

Alice Estelle Nye
TWIN FALLS - Alice Estelle Nye, 61, of Twin Falls, died Monday, Dec. 30, 2002, at the Magic Valley Regional Medical Center in Twin Falls.

Leo B. Holcomb
TWIN FALLS - Leo B. Holcomb, 87, of Twin Falls, died Monday, Dec. 30, 2002, at his home.

Bobby Joe Denton of Hazelton, memorial service at 11 a.m. today at the Valley Christian Center, 215 Main St., Hazelton (White Mortuary, Twin Falls).

Lucy Ella Sonner of Twin Falls, service at 2 p.m. today at White Mortuary.

Ricardo Hitchcock
POCATELLO - Ricardo Hitchcock, 94, of Pocatello and formerly of Buhl, died Monday, Dec. 30, 2002. Arrangements will be announced by White Mortuary in Twin Falls.

Estelle L. Caraway of Rupert, service at 11 a.m. today at the Hansen Mortuary Chapel, 710 Sixth St.; friends may call one hour before the service at the funeral chapel.

George W. Mendenhall of Kimberly, service at 11 a.m. Thursday at the Kimberly 2nd Ward LDS chapel, 222 Birch St.; friends may call from 8 to 8 p.m. Wednesday at White Mortuary in Twin Falls and one hour before the service Thursday at the church.

Shirley B. Uptain
BUHL - Shirley B. Uptain, 74, of Buhl, died Saturday, Dec. 28, 2002, in Twin Falls.

Royce J. Booth of Malta, service at 11 a.m. today at the Malta 1st and 2nd Ward LDS chapel; friends may call from 10 to 10:45 a.m. today at the church (Rasmussen Funeral Home, Burley).

George W. Mendenhall of Kimberly, service at 11 a.m. Thursday at the Kimberly 2nd Ward LDS chapel, 222 Birch St.; friends may call from 8 to 8 p.m. Wednesday at White Mortuary in Twin Falls and one hour before the service Thursday at the church.

SERVICES

HOSPITAL

MAGIC VALLEY REGIONAL MEDICAL CENTER
Released
Kathryn Syverson of Twin Falls.

OBITUARIES



Cindy Lee Cimer Roberts

Cindy Lee Cimer Roberts died Monday, Jan. 13, 1982, at the age of 41. She was born in Reno, Nev., and was the daughter of James Eugene Cimer and his wife Kathie J.

Anna Caroline Jensen

Anna Caroline Jensen was a lady of quiet dignity, sincere faith and possessed of the wonderful ability to give and enjoy friendship.

HELENA

HELENA, Mont. (AP) - Montana, Idaho and 20 other states are asking the U.S. Supreme Court to overturn a ruling that struck down Arizona's attempt to issue licenses to out-of-state hunters.

Economy

- Dell Computer Corp. opens a Twin Falls service center.
Republican Tom Gannon of Buhl beats Democrat Bill Chisholm for a state Senate seat.
Magic Valley incumbent legislators all win re-election.

Local government

- Twin Falls County voters reject a \$16 million jail.
Twin Falls County's sheriff lacks command of the four-county 911 center.

Health care

- The county-owned Magic Valley Regional Medical Center buys the Twin Falls Clinic and Hospital.
St. Benedict's Family Medical Center announces plans for a new hospital south of Jerome.

Local government

- Continuing drought pinches water users, but favorable spring weather helps.
Surface water users and groundwater pumpers make a historic deal that leads to curtailment of pumping.

Montana, Idaho want hunting ruling shot down

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Cassia Commissioners plan for courthouse reorganization

By Nate Johnson Times-News writer

BURLEY - Cassia County commissioners are already moving offices in the courthouse in anticipation of the assessor's office moving out of the building in 2003.

The Cassia County Assessor's Office will move into the brick office building across the intersection to the southeast of the courthouse sometime next year.

The room now used as the court assistance office will be used as the court assistance office with a good holding cell, McMurray said.

Heyburn man dies of crash injuries

BOISE - A 20-year-old Heyburn man died Sunday of injuries suffered in a Friday morning accident near Interstate 84.

Steven Harrison died at Saint Alphonsus Regional Medical Center in Boise.

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have to be covered with bars. The current holding cell could become an attorney-client conference room.

Because McMurray has been hired as the new Cassia County administrator, he will move out of his other office at the end of the week.

County Assessor Marty Holland gave commissioners tentative plans for the new county annex. When people walk into the building, they would see a 24-foot counter to the left and a smaller counter opening into the property division on the right.

Commissioners are moving the assessor's office out of the courthouse into a room for other county offices and to increase the security of the building by reducing foot traffic.

Commissioners decided to start moving some offices immediately. They will move the assistance office from an isolated second-floor room to the basement office occupied by Deputy Cassia County Prosecuting Attorney Kerry McMurray.

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have fewer inmates around the end of the year, he said.

Black Pine Mine taxes - Black Pine Mine owes the county \$98,599 in taxes, Cassia County Prosecuting Attorney Al Burtis said.

International Building Code - Commissioners adopted the 2000 edition of the International Building Code, the International Residential Code - except for chapters five through eight - and the International Energy Conservation Code.

Other commission business included - Probation violation decrease - In his monthly report to commissioners, Public Defender Doug Whipple said the number of parole violations has decreased.

County expansion - Forest Service Minerals Specialist Steve Flock reported the Fish Creek Quarry is asking for permission to expand.

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Avalanche

buried under about 5 feet of snow, and it took the members of this party and some passers-by who stopped to help about 20 minutes to find him and dig him out, Noland said.

One of the people there started CPR immediately, but to no

Noland said. That's because new snow has been piling up on top of old, and the snow, and masses of it can break free with little or no warning.

Ketchum

feet of open space outside that would preserve views of Baldy, he said.

Ketchum

Ketchum - could be included on the site outside a new visitor center. Ruscitto also suggested remodeling the existing Ketchum City Hall - formerly a car dealership - for \$1.5 million or tearing it down and rebuilding it for \$5.5 million to accommodate the Ketchum Fire Department, which is burning in the area.

Fish and Game adds fee for late harvest reports

BOISE (AP) - Hunters who report at a license vendor before a new hunting license can be issued. Regulations prohibit issuing a new license to those with delinquent reports on whether they harvested deer, elk or antelope.

WEST/NATION

GOLD FROM THE TAIL END OF A HORSE

Colorado company markets high-grade manure as compost

CARBONDALE, Colo. (AP) — Many folks might look at the fruit of Jim Duke's labor and deem it a bunch of horse manure.

They'd be right. But the piles sitting out here on a scenic mesa above the Roaring Fork Valley represent something more than waste, something that just might be the ultimate in designer goods in an area where everything from dog bowls to doorknobs is designer custom.

"This 'caca,' as Duke likes to call it, comes from the barns and paddocks of pampered thoroughbreds.

And much of it will be recycled back to the owners of those fillies and stallions as truckloads of nitrogen-rich compost for their lawns and flowerbeds. But some of it will be turned into what Duke hopes will become a must-have gift for those who have everything else.

Jim Duke and his wife and business partner, Kathy, will be rolling out several lines of compost early next year that will put a touch of chic in doo-doo. The composted manure will be sold in brightly colored bags with cleverly barbed narratives that set it apart from plain old sacks of dung.

As the Dukes put it in their advertisements: "Can't find the right words? Say it with Caca. Can't find the right gift? Give 'em a little Caca."

The products will include "Caca de Cabolla Feliz" — loosely translated, "Happy Horse Droppings." The narrative on this product will explain how only happy horses contributed to the compost. Duke said that happy horses aren't hard to find in Aspen because they have private trainers, therapists, masseuses and psychics.

"Aspen Blonde Bedding Material" is, according to the packaging, "extremely hot" and prone to "turning volatile if



Jim and Kathy Duke stand in front of steaming compost piles in the horse manure processing area above Carbondale, Colo., one of two outdoor processing plants they operate as CacaLoco Compost, earlier this month.

improperly handled." "Buddapoo" dumps a little manure on the craze for yoga and Eastern mysticism.

"This is worth trying in Aspen," said Jim Roman, who sells tons of the Dukes' bulk product at his Planted Earth nurseries in Carbondale and Aspen.

The Dukes also have piles of human sewage sludge, chipped construction waste and shredded office paper at the Garfield County landfill. The piles are undergoing the pathogen-killing composting process that turns the material into a rich garden additive that is so changed after it "cooks" that Duke can dig into the pile with his bare hands and hold up an earthy-smelling handful for an up-close sniff.

Even that product is getting the designer treatment.

"Bureacrap" is already being sold in bulk to nurseries and landscapers. But soon Bureacrap is going to be offered as the perfect gift for friends who work in white-collar cubicles.

"It's derived from the only truly

balanced budget known to exist where the outputs never exceed the inputs," reads the narrative that will grace the bags.

The Dukes also will offer some personalized caca options. Usaka Caca, a refillable bag for CacaLoco compost, will be available with buyers' own personal messages on the bags. Instead of giving out coffee mugs, key chains or hats with logos, CacaLoco owners, says he knows the option of handing out clever bags of manure.

"We have a lot more fun doing this than probably anyone else has looked out over his excrement empire at the landfill."

Duke says with pride that just about everything he has ever done has turned to caca. And it would be the truth.

Duke holds a master's degree in range ecology and has completed a "feces thesis" toward a doctorate.

His caca-focused working days began with a stint in Alaska studying the eating habits of

mountain goats by examining their droppings. He started and headed the Pitkin County recycling program and has been a waste consultant with Larimer County. His wife was a mortgage banker before she quit to help in the manure business.

Duke, who drives around in a truck with a bumper sticker reading, "A rind is a terrible thing to waste: compost," and says he was from all the Rooter drivers, says he knows he's in a business that suffers from a "sludge phobia" and is the "least glamorous component of recycling."

But he is passionately committed to teaching everyone else that caca should not be treated as a problem to be discreetly disposed of.

Instead, he can reel off terms like "microbial uptake" and the "nitrogen release curve" to explain why it is important to get feces back in circulation.

It is important for the Earth's ecology, he says. And it makes a mighty trendy gift.

California nears deadline to sell river water

EL CENTRO, Calif. (AP) — California's poorest county found itself under enormous pressure Monday to sell a portion of its Colorado River water from desert farms to cities — or trigger an immediate cut in the state's water supply.

The Bush administration has given a water board in the Imperial Valley until midnight Tuesday to decide, along with the ultimatum: Sell the water or we will take it away. Imperial has what everybody in the thirsty West wants. More than a trillion gallons of Colorado River water is poured across the area, turning the desert into one

of the richest farm belts on Earth.

"Sometimes, it's not good to be the big fish in the pond," said Don Cox, a retired farmer and former member of the Imperial Irrigation District's board. "Everybody's trying to catch you."

Three weeks ago, Imperial's water board narrowly rejected a deal to sell a portion of its massive share of Colorado River water to San Diego for the next 75 years. The deal, years in the making, was the cornerstone of a broader agreement to wean California from its overdependence on the Colorado.

Following weeks of intense discussion with other Southern California water agencies aimed at resurrecting the deal, the Imperial Valley water board scheduled a series of meetings Monday and Tuesday. The board said it could take action Tuesday.

"Every board member I've spoken to has talked about sleepless nights," said Sue Giller, a spokeswoman for the Imperial Irrigation District. "All of them feel the weight of this decision."

The federal government wants that deal signed. Unless Imperial's water board approves it by New Year's Eve, Interior Secretary Gale Norton will force

Imperial farmers and water districts serving Los Angeles and San Diego to live with less water from the Colorado in 2003.

Even if the board refuses to change its vote, taps won't run dry in California. Water agencies that supply Los Angeles and San Diego say they have enough reserves to supply 17 million customers for at least two years.

In Imperial, the cuts will deprive the county about 7 percent of its supply of Colorado River water — roughly the same amount that would have gone to San Diego under the sale.

"If that's not a threat, what is a threat?" Cox said.

Yellowstone opens most of its roads to snow traffic

YELLOWSTONE NATIONAL PARK, Wyo. (AP) — Most roads in Yellowstone National Park were open Monday to snowmobiles and snowcoaches, but Superintendent Suzanne Lewis warned they could close at any time because of weather and road conditions.

The majority of the park's roads were scheduled to open Dec. 18, but insufficient snowfall prompted officials to open the roads one section at a time.

The road from Mammoth Terraces near the North Entrance to Norris Geyser Basin remained closed Monday, and the road from Fishing Bridge to Canyon closed Sunday because there were long stretches of bare pavement, Lewis said.

The East Entrance road near Mary Bay and Steamboat Point was open to limited traffic.

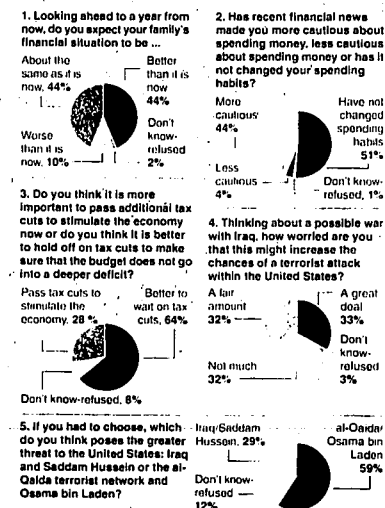
Roads completely open Monday included the routes from the South and West entrances to

Old Faithful, the road from the East Entrance to West Thumb and the Madison to Norris road. The road from the North

Entrance to the Northeast Entrance remained open to automobile traffic through the winter, so long as it can be kept clear.

Americans would rather wait on new tax cuts

Almost two thirds of Americans polled believe it would be better to wait on tax cuts to make sure the budget does not go into a deeper deficit.



NOTE: Poll based on online interviews with 1,008 randomly selected adults from all states except Alaska and Hawaii. The poll has a margin of error of plus or minus 3 percentage points. The survey was conducted Dec. 11-17 by ICR International Communications Research of Media, Pa.

SOURCE: ICR International Communications Research for The Associated Press

Poll suggests Americans are wary about tax cuts

WASHINGTON (AP) — Americans believe by a 2-to-1 margin that it's prudent to hold off on more tax cuts, a center-right President Bush's domestic policy agenda, an Associated Press poll found.

They greet the new year more cautious about their personal spending yet somewhat optimistic their financial situation will improve.

On the international front, the poll found people wary of a war with Iraq and much more likely to wait on Osama bin Laden and his al-Qaida network, as threats to the Iraq President Saddam Hussein.

Those anxieties were voiced by Joanne Arriola, a 62-year-old retiree from a utility company in Butte, Mont. She's seen her retirement fund reduced sharply in the troubled economy, worried about the effects of a war in Iraq and is convinced that war will return to America.

"It's a scary new year," she said. "My children are too old to go, but a lot of young people aren't."

"When the war starts, it will start here, too. I think that once we're in the war, we're going to see something awful."

Two-thirds said they were worried that war with Iraq would increase chances of a terror attack in the United States, according to the poll conducted by ICR International Communications Research of Media, Pa.

On economics, even most Republicans said it would be better to hold off on tax cuts to avoid deeper deficits. The White House is pushing together tax cuts that could total \$100 billion.

It would feature lower taxes on shareholders' dividends, accelerate the 2001 tax cuts for all but the wealthiest Americans and provide new depreciation breaks

for businesses.

"My husband and I decided to pay off all our debts," said Julia Kermer, 37, a pharmacy technician from Frederick, Md., "and I think it's better for the government to wait on more tax cuts. They are a quick fix, but they start undermining the income coming in to support this or that program."

Almost half, 44 percent, said they expect their family's financial situation will be better a year from now. That's a more optimistic view of the future than a year ago, when a third felt that way. The poll of 1,008 adults was taken Dec. 13-17 and has an error margin of plus or minus 3 percentage points.

Republicans were more optimistic than Democrats and young adults significantly more optimistic than older people.

But if many people are expecting the economy to improve, they're also watching their spending more carefully. In the poll, 44 percent said they were more cautious about spending in the spring of 2003, before the nation's economic bubble began to deflate.

Women had a more cautious outlook than men, blacks more cautious than whites.

The economic uneasiness was evident even though public support for President Bush remains strong in polls generally, especially his performance on fighting terrorism. Bush already has given the go-ahead to double the 50,000 U.S. troop deployment in the Persian Gulf region in early January for possible war with Iraq, according to administration officials.

resort to report the find.

But after being offered free ski-lift passes and dinner for two he would bring the card to the resort, the man reportedly insisted on some signed Redford memorabilia.

When a resort representative responded that Redford "does not do that kind of thing," the man said Redford wouldn't get his card back and hung up, Green

Police Lt. Doug Edwards said.

Police then called the man, who refused to give his address and told an officer that he threw Redford's card in a trash bin. Police could fish it out, he told an officer.

Police traced the call and went to the man's apartment. They recovered the credit card.

The man did not get the free ski passes, a free dinner or an

autograph. He also did not get charged with a crime, Edwards said.

"The finder was not charged, on account of his sudden change of heart," the officer said when they arrived at his home, "according to a report about the incident on the city's Web site."

The report concluded: "Greed often has its consequences."

Man tries to get actor's autograph for finding credit card

OREM, Utah (AP) — He could have had a nice meal and free ski-lift passes. But a man who tried to get autograph memorabilia for finding Robert Redford's lost credit card got a visit from the cops instead.

Police in Orem, a city close to Redford's home and his Sundance resort, say the man found the card Saturday near a convenience store and called the

Cannon explodes, kills man

SARATOGA SPRINGS, Utah (AP) — A 29-year-old Saratoga Springs man killed with a relative set of a homemade cannon and it exploded.

The victim was identified as Stuart Bodell.

The accident happened Saturday as about 10 people from two Utah County families were shooting skeet just west of

Saratoga Springs near Lake Mountain Estates.

Sheriff Sgt. Dennis Harris said no citations were issued, but the case was still under investigation.

He said the cannon was made of metal that had been welded together.

The victim was struck by two pieces of metal.

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Happy tube year!
See Wednesday's paper for complete New Year's Day TV listings.
The Times-News

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MORNING LINE
SPORTSQUOTE

What I have to think about is the players here. All the boosters and alumni and the support I've gotten has grounded me that I came here for a reason. I came here to win a championship and that has not been done yet.

Off football coach Tom Cable on why he turned down an offer to join new UCLA coach Karl Dorrell as an assistant

IN BRIEF
CSI moves CNCC games to Thursday

TWIN FALLS - The College of Southern Idaho announced it has moved Friday's scheduled men's and women's home basketball games with Colorado Northwestern to Thursday due to a scheduling conflict.

Filer holds weekend basketball camp

FILER - The Filer boys basketball team will hold its annual Wildcat Basketball Camp at the high school on Saturday and Sunday from 10 a.m. to noon each day.

Log Tavern holds dart touney tonight

TWIN FALLS - A New Year's Eve dart tournament will be held at the Log Tavern tonight starting at 7 p.m.

Group offers free cross-country lessons

HAGERMAN - Cross-country Idaho is offering free cross-country lessons and rentals on Saturday, Dec. 31 at Magic Mountain Ski Resort.

U of I's Cable turns down UCLA assistant job

MOSCOW - University of Idaho football coach Tom Cable has decided to stay in Moscow, Idaho, recently saying he would leave unless his assistant coaches are given longer contracts.

Compiled from staff and wire reports

Surging Broncos meet slumping Cyclones

No. 18 Boise State eyes opportunity in Humanitarian Bowl

The Associated Press

BOISE - For a team looking to enhance its stature, the Humanitarian Bowl is just what Boise State needs. The game is on national television, and the 18th-ranked Broncos play Iowa State, a respected opponent from the powerful Big 12.

country. Now they're 7-6, having lost five of their last six games. Another loss could leave a longover due coach Dan McCarney might have to spend the rest of the winter trying to cure, especially with 40 of his top 48 players returning.

Broncos won the Western Athletic Conference in a romp, going 8-0 and winning those games by an average of 37 points. They did stumble in their only game against an opponent from a major conference, turning the ball over seven times and giving up seven sacks in a 41-14 loss at Arkansas. That's not much consolation for Iowa State.



Who: Iowa State (7-6) vs. No. 18 Boise State (11-1)
Where: Bronco Stadium, Boise
When: Today, 10:02 a.m.
TV: ESPN (Ch. 29 from Falls)

Boise State has a balanced offense, which could pose a challenge for Iowa State. Tailback Brock Forester has rushed for 1,533 yards and scored 29 touchdowns. Quarterback Ryan Dinwiddie, who missed a game last week, is expected to start.

NFL ax falls

Campo, Coughlin, LeBeau lose coaching jobs

By Dave Goldberg
Associated Press writer

America's Team fired its coach. America's lightningstock did, too. And Jacksonville got rid of the only coach it has ever had.



Jacksonville coach Tom Coughlin reacts to an official's call Nov. 10 in Jacksonville, Fla. Coughlin, the only head coach in Jaguars history, was fired Monday after eight seasons.

The Dallas Cowboys fired Dave Campo after three straight 5-11 seasons; Cincinnati fired Dick LeBeau after finishing with a 2-14 record - awful even by the Bengals' low standards; and the Jaguars fired Tom Coughlin after a 6-10 mark, their third straight losing season.

"This change is more about a change in philosophy, not about what Dave didn't do," Jones said of Campo.

That philosophical change presumably would take Jones out of the coaching equation and off the sideline, where he often watches during games. Jones also has served as his own general manager and has made most of the personnel decisions.



Bengals coach Dick LeBeau watches on the Buffalo Bills beat his team Sunday in Orchard Park, New York. Sunday, LeBeau was fired Monday.



Cowboys coach Dave Campo watches the sideline Jan. 6 in Pontiac, Mich. Campo was fired Monday after three straight 5-11 seasons.

Coughlin had served as coach and general manager during all eight years of the Jaguars' existence. He went 72-64 and twice took Jacksonville to the AFC championship game, but the Jags went 19-29 the past three years.

"I've considered many things," he replied. "Do I intend to do that? No, I do not."

The NFL said it is studying the merits of that claim.

Brown's stand probably will cause a number of potential head coaches to turn down the job.

Reports conflict over Parcells, Cowboys

The Associated Press

With Dave Campo out of the way, Bill Parcells can step right in for the Dallas Cowboys. Of course, with Parcells, you never know.

ing reports surfaced about whether Parcells had taken the coaching job. Team owner Jerry Jones spoke at length with Parcells at least twice before the Cowboys ended their season with a 20-14 loss at Washington on Sunday.

afternoon that Parcells agreed to an \$18 million, four-year deal and would be introduced as the team's coach today. The story was based on an unnamed source close to Parcells and Jones.

that Parcells' agent, Jimmy Sexton, and two other unnamed sources said there was no deal. Team spokesman Rich Dalrymple wouldn't comment on the newspaper's report and said the team had no plans to discuss the coaching situation any further Monday.

Wake Forest shoots down Ducks

Minnesota surprises No. 25 Arkansas

The Associated Press

SEATTLE - Despite having one of the nation's best rushing offenses, Wake Forest took to the air in the Pearl on Saturday. James MacPherson completed 9 of 15 passes for a season-high 241 yards and two touchdowns as the Demon Deacons beat Oregon 38-17 Monday at Seahawk Stadium.

high as No. 6, but they simply weren't the same without quarterback Joey Harrington, a 2001 Heisman finalist last year. The team lost five of its last six, a year after going 11-1 and winning the Fiesta Bowl.

Wake Forest's Jason Anderson leads in a 57-yard touch-down pass from James MacPherson to the Demon Deacons beat Oregon 38-17 in the Seattle Bowl Monday.

Clemens, Yankees agree to 1-year, \$10 million deal

The Associated Press

NEW YORK - Roger Clemens wants to say goodbye to baseball with the New York Yankees. The six-time Cy Young Award winner agreed Monday to a \$10.1 million, one-year contract and probably will retire after next season, his 20th in the major leagues.

3,909 strikeouts, third on the career list behind Nolan Ryan (5,714) and Steve Carlton (4,136). With a 293-151 record, Clemens has a chance to overtake Tom Seaver (311) and Gaylord Perry (314) next season, which would put him in 15th place on the career wins list.

Compiled from staff and wire reports

Compiled from staff and wire reports

SPORTS

Late triple helps Bucks bag Mavs

DALLAS (AP) — Tim Thomas hit a splitter from the left corner with 9.9 seconds remaining as the Milwaukee Bucks rallied from a 17-point second-quarter deficit and handed the Dallas Mavericks their second home defeat of the season, 110-107 on Monday night.

games, with 24 points in just 28 minutes and helping added 11 points and 10 rebounds. Kirilenko, who had a career-high six blocks in Utah's last game against Philadelphia, also had three steals and sparked the big Jazz rally.

Washington Wizards 112-95 Monday night. Pat Garrity had 21 points off the bench and Mike Miller added 20 for Orlando, which has won five of its last six.

loss for Atlanta under new coach Terry Stotts, who replaced the fired Lon Kruger on Friday.

Jazz 107, Raptors 85 SALT LAKE CITY — Andrei Kirilenko scored 20 points and blocked five shots as the Utah Jazz beat Toronto 107-85 Monday night, the Raptors' seventh straight loss.

Knicks 96, Spurs 95 NEW YORK — Allan Houston scored 28 points, including the game-winning free throws with 5.3 seconds left, and Michael Doleac added a season-high 16.

Nets 102, Cavaliers 88 EAST RUTHERFORD, N.J. — Kenyon Martin celebrated his 25th birthday with 28 points and 10 rebounds, and the New Jersey Nets tied a franchise record with their 13th straight home win.

Trail Blazers 85, Pistons 74 AUBURN HILLS, Mich. — Rasheed Wallace scored 19 points and Bonzi Wells added 17 as the Portland Trail Blazers won their eighth straight game.

Utes stun No. 1 Alabama for milestone win SALT LAKE CITY (AP) — Nick Jacobson scored 13 points, including two free throws with 24.2 seconds left, as Utah defeated No. 1 Alabama 51-49 Monday night.

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Top 25 college basketball head Coppin State 63-37 on Monday night.

mid-half spurt with a series of layups as No. 14 Kentucky pulled away to defeat Tennessee State 115-87 Monday night.

No. 24 LSU 69, New Orleans 57 BATON ROUGE, La. — Ronald Dupree scored 18 points on 7-of-11 shooting as 24th-ranked Louisiana State rallied from the 24-point halftime deficit and recorded its seventh straight win, 69-57, over New Orleans.

No. 4 Arizona 85, Boston U 71 TUCSON, Ariz. — Luke Walton hopped off the court after re-injuring his troublesome right ankle, and No. 4 Arizona beat Boston University 85-71 Monday night to win its Fiesta Bowl Classic for the 17th time in 18 tries.

No. 8 Notre Dame 76, Vanderbilt 63 SOUTH BEND, Ind. — Chris Thomas scored 19 points and Matt Carroll added 15 as No. 8 Notre Dame (11-1) beat Vanderbilt 76-63 Monday night.

Toledo 81, No. 15 Michigan St. 76 EAST LANSING, Mich. — Nick Moore scored 19 points as Toledo blew a 13-point second-half lead but held on to upset No. 15 Michigan State 81-76 Monday night.

No. 25 women No. 3 Connecticut 74, Florida St. 65 TALLAHASSEE, Fla. — Diana Taurasi and Ann Strother paced 18 points apiece as third-ranked Connecticut (11-0) extended the nation's longest winning streak to 50 games with a 74-65 victory Monday night over Florida State.

No. 5 Oklahoma 100, North Carolina-Asheville 64 NORMAN, Okla. — Ehi Eze scored 18 points and freshman Kobi Bonkoff had 17 for 10th-ranked Oklahoma (7-2), which beat North Carolina-Asheville 100-64 Monday night.

No. 12 Florida 91, Florida A&M 58 GAINESVILLE, Fla. — Matt Banner scored 18 points, hitting four 3-pointers, as No. 12 Florida beat Florida A&M 91-58 Monday night.

No. 16 Mississippi St. 85, South Alabama 74 MOBILE, Ala. — Tummy Bowers and Derrick Zimmerman scored 21 points apiece to lead Mississippi State over South Alabama 85-74 Monday night.

No. 9 Arkansas 87, Loyola Marymount 52 FAYETTEVILLE, Ark. — Ruby Vaden scored 16 points and reserve Dana Cherry added 15 before leaving with an injury in ninth-ranked Arkansas' 87-52 victory Monday night over Loyola Marymount.

No. 7 Illinois 63, Coppin St. 37 CHAMPAIGN, Ill. — Brian Cook, the Big Ten's leading scorer, matched his season average with 20 points as No. 7 Illinois

No. 14 Kentucky 115, Tennessee State 87 LEXINGTON, Ky. — Keith Bogans scored a season-high 26 points and ignited a decisive sec-

No. 17 Missouri 65, Valparaiso 47 COLUMBIA, Mo. — Ricky Paulding scored 32 points and former College of Southern Idaho star Ricky Clemens added 18 and seven assists as No. 17 Missouri defeated Valparaiso 65-47 on Monday night.

No. 10 Minnesota 63, Dayton 64 DAYTON, Ohio — Lindsay Whalen had 33 points, 11 assists, six rebounds and six steals as 10 Minnesota remained undefeated with an 83-64 victory Monday night over Dayton.

Rams pull major rally to knock off San Francisco

ST. LOUIS (AP) — Long game from postseason contention, the St. Louis Rams showed one last time what made them NFC champions just a year ago.

The NFC West champion 49ers (10-6) played a game of keep-away in the first half, taking a 17-0 lead as they tuned up for next week's wildcard playoff game against the New York Giants.

Brandon Manumaleua for a 6-yard touchdown pass and Isaac Bruce for a 26-yarder that cut the gap to three points with 7:09 to go.

to Ernie Conwell with 1:53 remaining to complete the comeback.

Broncos Continued from D1 four games, with a broken ankle, has completed 67.6 percent of his passes for 2,123 yards and 19 TDs.

for itself. Iowa State presents a challenge of its own with quarterback Seneca Wallace, who was mentioned as a contender for the Heisman Trophy before he and his teammates were done in by a rugged schedule.

passed for 361 as the Cyclones handed Iowa its only loss of the season.

the right things since arriving and, just as important in McCartney's view, they're practicing with the same enthusiasm that was missing in their last game, a humbling 37-20 loss to Connecticut.

Coaches

Continued from D1 Brown has kept many of the same assistants in place since Sam Wyche left, meaning the hiring options are limited for any new coach.

Seattle coach Mike Holmgren was meeting with team officials and may be forced to let go of his dual duties as general manager and coach. He also might have to fire some defensive assistants.

There are probably more changes to come around the league.

But team president Matt Miller and coach Marty Mornhinweg apparently remained open to the time being in Detroit, which is 5-27 in the past two seasons. Owner William Clay Ford was vacationing in Florida, and the Lions said they were closing down for the next two weeks.

Playoffs

Continued from D1 decade. Have to get by Cleveland and they had two three-point wins over the Browns this year.

only do so much. 3. New York Giants (10-6): A team with a lot of talent and chance. New York is on a roll, especially on offense, and is the only NFC team to heat the Eagles this season, running up 461 yards on them Saturday.

1. Philadelphia (12-4): Playing at home is a huge plus, particularly against Tampa Bay, which has turned in three straight awful performances at Veterans Stadium.

5. San Francisco (10-5 before Monday night's game): What would have happened if the 49ers' five dunks had puffed like they'd been expected to play? Maybe it was too good in the NFC West. Sometimes it's hard to suddenly turn things on.

Wake

Continued from D1 early emphasis on the passing game.

Minnesota coach Glen Mason had his way, Dan Nystrom would not have been the Most Valuable Player of the Music City Bowl.

MacPherson fared better, hitting Anderson with a 57-yard scoring pass early in the second quarter to push Wake's lead to 14-3.

The Gophers (8-5) had lost three straight bowls since beating Clemson in the 1981 Independence Bowl. They came into the game having blown their best start since 1961 by losing their final four games of the regular season and finishing seventh in the Big Ten.

Oregon starter Jason Jaffe completed just 1 of 7 passes for 4 yards before he was replaced late in the first quarter by redshirt freshman Kellen Clemens.

Arkansas (9-5), the SEC's Western Division champion, seeking its first 10-win season since going 10-2 in 1989. But Minnesota, with only two senior starters, dominated the Razorbacks. Arkansas is now 1-10 in its last 11 bowl games.

Oregon tailback Onterio Smith, who missed three of the last four games with an injury to his left knee that required surgery in late November, returned and gained 62 yards on 18 carries in what would be his final college game if he declines his \$1 million offer to join the NFL draft.

Nystrom bailed the Gophers out in the first half, when they repeatedly stalled near the goal line. He had kicks of 24, 45, 21 and 22 yards in the first half for a 12-7 halftime lead and added a 29-yarder in the fourth. His first three kicks made him the Big Ten's career field-goal leader, passing Travis Dorsch, who had 68 at Purdue.

Music City Bowl

Minnesota 29, No. 25 Arkansas 14 NASHVILLE, Tenn. — If

the senior became the fifth kicker with five field goals in a bowl game and the first since Dec. 28, 1995 when Texas A&M's Kyle Bryant did it in the Alamog Bowl against Michigan.

SCORES AND STATS

WHAT'S ON T.V.

Football

College: Humanitarian Bowl, Iowa St. vs. Boise St., ESPN, 10 a.m.
College: Sun Bowl, Washington vs. Purdue, CBS, noon
College: Liberty Bowl, Colorado St. vs. TCU, ESPN, 4:30 p.m.
College: Silicon Valley Classic, Ga. Tech vs. Fresno St., ESPN2, 4:30 p.m.
College: Peach Bowl, Tennessee

vs. Maryland, ESPN, 5:30 p.m.
College, San Francisco Bowl, Air Force vs. Va. Tech, ESPN2, 8:30 p.m.

Basketball

NBA: Spurs at Wizards, ESPN2, 6 p.m.

Area ski report

Idaho: Regan Basin - Sun 5:22n lift 23 skiers 1500 feet powder ground 23 33 base 5 of 10 lift, 90% open, Max lift 5:30p, Sat lift 9:40p.
Breadeagle - Mon 6:00n opening lightly 22 skiers 1500 feet powder ground 47 65 base 21 of 20 lift, 75% open, Max lift 5:45 p, Sat lift 7:30p 4:20p, Sat lift 9:30p 4:30p.
Lakeside Pass - Mon 4:15n opening lightly 22 skiers 1500 feet powder ground 27 33 base 18 of 18 lift, 200 skiers, 7 of 7 lifts, Sat lift 9:40p.
High Mountain - Mon 4 new powder, 25:20 lift, 2 lifts, Sun lift 9:40p.
Sagehen - Mon 4:15n opening lightly 22 skiers 1500 feet powder ground 27 33 base 18 of 18 lift, 200 skiers, 7 of 7 lifts, Sat lift 9:40p.
Pilot Peak - Mon 4:15n opening lightly 22 skiers 1500 feet powder ground 27 33 base 18 of 18 lift, 200 skiers, 7 of 7 lifts, Sat lift 9:40p.
Sawtooth - Mon 4:15n opening lightly 22 skiers 1500 feet powder ground 27 33 base 18 of 18 lift, 200 skiers, 7 of 7 lifts, Sat lift 9:40p.
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HOCKEY

National Hockey League

Eastern Conference: Pittsburgh 4, Atlanta 1. Pittsburgh scored on a breakaway with 20 seconds left in overtime, lifting Atlanta to its first victory over Pittsburgh. Atlanta lost all 14 previous games against the Penguins since joining the NHL three seasons ago. The Penguins, who had a four-game winning streak snapped, rallied to tie it with a pair of goals by Milan Kraft, the second with 5:53 remaining in regulation. Pittsburgh's goal was the Thrashers' only shot of overtime, while the Penguins fired seven at Atlanta's Paul Stumm. Andy Sutton and Dany Heatley also scored for Atlanta.

Predators 2, Senators 2

Nashville, Tenn. - Bill Houlder snapped a third-period tie with his first goal in 145 games and lifted Nashville over Ottawa. Denis Arkhipov and Andy Delmore also scored for the Predators, Houlder's game-winner came in his 200th consecutive game. Peter Schaefer and Daniel Alfredsson had Senators goals.

Capitals 4, Sabres 3

Washington - Dainius Zubrus had a goal and an assist in his return from the injured list as the Washington Capitals extended Buffalo's losing streak to six games with a 4-3 victory Monday night. Justin Jagr broke a 2-2 tie early in the third period, and Mike Grier and Ivan Čížek also scored for Washington - 5-0-1 in its last seven games. The Capitals have won five straight at home. Dmitri Kalinin, Ilya Kovalchuk and Vachek Valdula scored for Buffalo, 1-1 in his last 10 games. Zubrus missed 12 games with a right hand injury.

Devils 1, Bruins 0

Boston - Martin Houdichon finished with 20 saves in his fourth shutout of the season as New Jersey beat Boston. He is 17th on the NHL career list with 59 shutouts. Jay Panjolino scored the only goal at 16:13 of the first period when John Madden's shot deflected off Pandolfo's skate and beat John Gualone.

Islanders 2, Panthers 1, OT

Uniondale, N.Y. - Roman Hamlick scored his second goal of the season in the second overtime to give New York a victory over Florida. The Islanders have won three straight, all at home. They took all seven shots in overtime to move within one game of 300 (15 to 310) Chris Osgood stopped 21 shots. Ilya Noyevich scored for the Panthers, who played their 19th overtime in only 17 games this season.

INDIANA COACH GETS ONE-GAME SUSPENSION

Bloomington, Ind. - Indiana coach Mike Davis knew his on-court outburst during a loss to Kentucky earlier this month would cost him. The Big Ten made it official Monday when it suspended Davis for one game, a much lighter punishment than the six-game suspension he faced under league rules. Davis will miss Tuesday's game when the Hoosiers (8-2) play at Ball State, and assistant coach John Trebor will replace him on the bench. The conference also publicly reprimanded Davis and told him to write an apology to the officials who worked the Feb. 21 game. Davis again apologized Monday for charging onto the court to protest the lack of a foul call in the game's final seconds.

Kentucky hires Rich Brooks to coach football

Lexington, Ky. - Rich Brooks had been out of football for nearly two years, so he started to think his coaching career was over. Then the University of Kentucky called, and the 47-year-old Brooks was hired Monday as the Wildcats' new coach. Age is always a factor. I was very concerned. There were two periods in the last six months to a year that I thought I wasn't going to get a shot at it," said Brooks, who signed a five-year contract worth \$2.5 million a year. Brooks, who previously coached Oregon and the St. Louis Rams, has been out of football since January 2001, when he resigned as the Atlanta Falcons' defensive coordinator.

W.Va. governor asks U. of Virginia for apology

Charleston, W.Va. - West Virginia Gov. Bob Wise wants an apology from the University of Virginia after a halftime show in the school's pep band in the Title Bowl lampooned West Virginia's rural image. During the Cavaliers' Mountaineers matchup at Charlottesville, N.C., Virginia's independent pep band staged a parody of "The Bachelor," with a male Virginia student choosing between two female contestants. One female, purported to be from West Virginia, had blue overalls, a hat, a talent for square dancing and a dream to move to Beverly Hills, Calif. - a reference to "The Beverly Hills Cop."

Blazers spurn sister team Portland Fire

Portland, Ore. - The Portland Trail Blazers organization will not take over the Portland Fire for financial reasons, possibly spelling the end of the franchise. The Blazers have been in discussions with the Fire's owners, but the deal has not moved forward.

Raiders tight end Williams tears knee ligaments

Alameda, Calif. - Oakland Raiders tight end Roland Williams might play in the postseason despite a serious knee injury. Williams has a partially torn anterior cruciate ligament in his left knee, a complete tear of the medial collateral ligament and partial meniscus damage. Coach Bill Callahan said Monday that the team's trainers believe Williams could be ready when the AFC's top seed opens the playoffs in two weeks. Compiled from wire reports.

FOOTBALL

National Football League

Table with columns for Team, W, L, T, PF, PA, Pct. Includes teams like NY Jets, NY Giants, Buffalo, etc.

NATIONAL CONFERENCE

Table with columns for Team, W, L, T, PF, PA, Pct. Includes teams like NY Jets, NY Giants, Buffalo, etc.

AFC CONFERENCE

Table with columns for Team, W, L, T, PF, PA, Pct. Includes teams like NY Jets, NY Giants, Buffalo, etc.

NFL Summary

Table with columns for Rank, Team, W, L, T, PF, PA, Pct.

INDIVIDUAL STATISTICS

Table with columns for Player, Team, Pos, Stat.

WIDE FIELD BOUL

NFL Playoffs

Table with columns for Round, Team, Opponent, Date, Time.

College Football

Table with columns for Team, Opponent, Date, Time.

Baseball

Table with columns for Team, Opponent, Date, Time.

Baseball II

Table with columns for Team, Opponent, Date, Time.

Baseball III

Table with columns for Team, Opponent, Date, Time.

Baseball IV

Table with columns for Team, Opponent, Date, Time.

2002-03 Bowl Glance

Table with columns for Bowl Name, Date, Time, Location.

WEEKEND FOOTBALL

Table with columns for Team, Opponent, Date, Time.

WEEKEND FOOTBALL II

Table with columns for Team, Opponent, Date, Time.

WEEKEND FOOTBALL III

Table with columns for Team, Opponent, Date, Time.

WEEKEND FOOTBALL IV

Table with columns for Team, Opponent, Date, Time.

WEEKEND FOOTBALL V

Table with columns for Team, Opponent, Date, Time.

WEEKEND FOOTBALL VI

Table with columns for Team, Opponent, Date, Time.

WEEKEND FOOTBALL VII

Table with columns for Team, Opponent, Date, Time.

WEEKEND FOOTBALL VIII

Table with columns for Team, Opponent, Date, Time.

WEEKEND FOOTBALL IX

Table with columns for Team, Opponent, Date, Time.

SUPERSONICS 79, RUGGERS 77

Seattle - The Seattle Seahawks defeated the Denver Broncos 79-77 in a high-scoring game. The Seahawks scored 21 points in the fourth quarter to secure the victory.

BUCKS 110, MAVERICKS 107

Dallas - The Dallas Mavericks defeated the Milwaukee Bucks 110-107. Dirk Nowitzki led the Mavericks with 28 points and 11 rebounds.

MAGIC 112, WIZARDS 96

Orlando - The Orlando Magic defeated the Washington Wizards 112-96. Shaquille O'Neal dominated the paint with 24 points and 15 rebounds.

NETS 102, CAVALIERS 98

Cleveland - The Cleveland Cavaliers defeated the New Jersey Nets 102-98. LeBron James scored 28 points and had 11 rebounds.

HEAT 81, HORNETS 84

Orlando - The Orlando Magic defeated the Miami Heat 84-81. Dwight Howard scored 24 points and had 12 rebounds.

TRINITY BLAZERS 84, PORTLAND 74

Portland - The Portland Trail Blazers defeated the Trinity Blazers 84-74. The Blazers scored 20 points in the fourth quarter.

CHICKS 84, SPURS 85

Dallas - The Dallas Mavericks defeated the San Antonio Spurs 85-84. Dirk Nowitzki scored 28 points and had 11 rebounds.

WIZARDS 84, HORNETS 84

Washington - The Washington Wizards defeated the Orlando Magic 84-84 in a tie game. The Wizards scored 20 points in the fourth quarter.

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Bell choir rings in the holidays

By Heather Abel
Times-News correspondent

TWIN FALLS - Bells were ringing at the Bridgeview Estates Dec. 14 when the Presbyterian Chancel Handbell Choir performed beautiful Christmas music for residents to enjoy.

The hand bells are from England, and arranged like a piano keyboard. Each of the 10 members of the choir is responsible for different "notes" on the keyboard. Gold bells are like the black keys on piano, while the silver hand chimes are like the

white keys. Marjic Atkins has been playing with the bell choir for four years, and says she didn't know how to read any music before she started playing.

"I always thought it sounded so beautiful," says Atkins, whose daughter also is in the bell choir. Choir director Barbara Mix says Presbyterian church members went to England to purchase the bells currently used by the bell choir.

Bell playing originated in the 1950s in England, and Mix says there are more bell choirs now

than ever. "The choir is capable of playing everything from jazz to Latin to African music, not just holiday music.

The bell choir plays about once a month in church during the year, and every week during the month of December.

"They work really hard," Mix says.

The bells used by the Presbyterian Chancel Handbell Choir are supposed to reflect keys on a piano.

HEATHER ABEL/The Times-News



HOLIDAY SINGING

Jedd Callen and Devin Walker are part of the Jerome High School Chorallers group, which spent much of December entertaining around the Magic Valley.



Courtesy photo by TERESE HANDELNER

CITY SANTA



Dressed as Santa Claus, Burley City Administrator Mark Milton delivers Christmas greetings to Burley Fire Chief Phil Heiner and other city employees. Milton had the help of 'reindeer,' Mayor Jon Anderson.

TERESA HANDELNER/The Times-News

BUILDING GINGERBREAD HOUSES

Nalley Campbell and James Miller decorate miniature gingerbread houses, along with other students in Debbie Pierce's first-grade class at Dworsak Elementary School in Burley. The children enjoyed this activity at their class Christmas party, eating as many of the decorations as they put on their houses.



TERESA HANDELNER/The Times-News

CHRISTMAS GREENERY



Patti Herley, left, and her mother, Joanne Quigley, both members of the Castleford Patal Pals, select evergreen cuttings for Christmas swags. The club annually makes swags to hang on community public buildings and give to Castleford senior citizens to brighten their holiday.

HANDELNER/The Times-News

Santa delivers meals, holiday cheer to seniors

TWIN FALLS - Carrying on what has become tradition, the Twin Falls Senior Citizens Center dispatched Santa Claus on Dec. 19 to bring holiday cheer to some recipients of the center's home-delivered meals program.

Christmas gift bags containing fruit, mixed nuts and candy were delivered to about 120 older, homebound Twin Falls residents. An equal number of seniors received gift bags as part of a special Christmas lunch served at the senior center, located at 616 Eastland Drive.

Want to volunteer?

For more information on senior center programs or to volunteer at the center, call Karen Lewis at 734-5044.

Pat Barden, a volunteer driver for the home-delivered meals program, played the role of Santa for this year. In full Santa gear, he distributed bags and a "Ho ho ho" to the homebound clients on his 20-mile route.

About 30 volunteers assist in delivering meals, which are provided five days a week, with frozen meals delivered for weekends. However, turnover is high among the volunteers who receive only modest mileage allowance and special auto accident insurance coverage, said Karen Lewis, home-delivered meals coordinator.

"We are always in need of additional standby and regularly scheduled drivers," she said.

Twin Falls city residents presented the center with a gift in November when they voted in support of a city tax override measure to finance a new senior center at 530 Shoshone Ave. W. That building is scheduled to replace by late spring the older building currently in use, said Jacqueline Nix, center manager.



Left, Pat Barden, the Twin Falls Senior Citizens Center 'Santa Claus' for 2002, visits home-delivered meals recipient Henry Soehrted. Middle, Juanita Cox has a bag for Santa. Right, Santa visits Joe Laragon. Santa delivering the meals and holiday cheer has become a senior center tradition.

Photos courtesy of BBS Pictures

TWIN FALLS COMMUNITY

Students name their best teachers

Teachers in the region were honored by their former students in the 2002 edition of "Who's Who Among America's Teachers, 2002."

The former students are listed in "Who's Who Among American High School Students" or "The National Dean's List" publications, which recognize 5 percent of the nation's high school and college students respectively, according to the publishers, which are based in Austin, Texas.

The students were requested to nominate one teacher who "made a difference in their lives" by helping to shape their values, inspiring interest in a particular subject and/or challenging them to strive for excellence.

Area teachers are listed as follows:

- Twin Falls
Molly Arossa, Robert Stuart Junior High School
Curtis Assay, O'Leary Junior High School
Marcie Atkins, O'Leary
Beverly Beem, Magic Valley High School
Stacey Behrens, Twin Falls High School
Randall Bernchocha, College of Southern Idaho
LeeAnn Bloxham, Central Elementary School
Terry Bohan, Kimberly Middle School
Jay Bryan, Robert Stuart
Ralph Campbell, Kimberly High School
Brady Dickinson, Robert Stuart
Terry Dowd, Hansen Elementary School
Gary Doyle, O'Leary
John Eller, Kimberly High School
David Emerson, Kimberly Elementary School
Carol Erbaugh, Sawtooth Elementary
Maven Evans, Sawtooth Elementary
Ryan Fenderson, Twin Falls Christian Academy

- Kathy Graham, Sawtooth Elementary
Myrna Griffith, I.B. Perrine Elementary School
Mary Grindstaff, Robert Stuart
Gloria Harder, Twin Falls High School
Meile Harris, O'Leary
Linda Heinrich, Kimberly High School
Moirn Jacobson, Magic Valley Christian High School
Gary Krumm, Buhl High School
Kim Kvale, CSI
Joyce Lloyd, Perrine Elementary
Randall Maves, Castelford School
George Mc Adams, Kimberly Elementary
Joani McFarlane, Robert Stuart
Lindsay McMurry, Twin Falls
Sammary
Eva Meyerhoeffer, Sawtooth Elementary
Jeffrey Olson, Twin Falls High School
Penny Pattee, Murtaugh School
Katherine Plunk, Twin Falls High School
Kathleen Pullmann, CSJ
Mike Ridgeway, Robert Stuart
Rebecca Schell, The Montgomery Institute
Kelli Schroeder, Bickel Elementary School
Hilary Sneyes-Cate, CSI
Doris Sommer, O'Leary
Jason Torgirsson, Twin Falls High School
Debra Vorse, Idaho State University
Terry Waitley, Jerome High School
Amanda Weaver, Twin Falls
Darlene Wright, O'Leary
Deborah Brown, Jefferson Elementary School
James Dawson, CSI
Buhl

- Elementary
Castelford
Laurie Howard, Castelford School
Hansen
Laurie Fischbach, Hansen High School
Hazelton
Jan Carpenter, Valley High School
Kathy Clime, Shoshone School
Kimberly
Laurie Fischbach, Hansen Junior Senior High School
Chris Glenn, Kimberly High School
Susan Griffith, Kimberly Elementary School
Gregory Heidemander, former computer teacher
Christine Johns, Horizon Elementary School
Barbara Shockley, retired fifth grade teacher
Judy Young, Kimberly Elementary School
Elko
Tom Brown, Spring Creek High School
Margaret Duffy-Cook, Spring Creek High School
David Hines Jr., Elko High School
Patricia Josey, Great Basin College
Cody Kronka, Elko High School
Craig Kytlow, Elko High School
David McCabe, Elko High School
Darla Moore, Carlin Combined School
Katherine Schwandt, Great Basin College
Glenn Tenney, Great Basin College
John Tierney, Elko Junior High School
Jackpot
Susan Frank, Jackpot Elementary School
Nancy Tucker, Jackpot Combined School
Roger Wallick, Jackpot Combined School



At Bickel Elementary School, Angie Fillmore receives congratulations from Terrell Donicht, Twin Falls School District Superintendent, for her extra mile recognition.

T.F. music teacher lauded for going 'extra mile'

TWIN FALLS - The Twin Falls Area Chamber of Commerce Ambassadors awarded the extra mile award to Angie Fillmore, a music teacher in the Twin Falls School District.

When the school district discontinued funding the orchestra for the elementary students because of budget cuts, Fillmore started an all-volunteer after-school elementary orchestra called Stripes Alive for students from all over the district.

A commendation from Idaho Gov. Dirk Kempthorne to Fillmore was presented on Dec. 16 for receiving the chamber "extra mile" award by establishing the after-school program. The commendation stated that Fillmore had the thanks and deep appreciation of a grateful state.

Fair lists 2002 open class livestock winners

FILER - The Twin Falls County Fair announced open class results.

Southdowns

- Class 1 - Young Buck
Class 2 - Full Blood Lamb
Class 3 - Full Blood Lamb
Class 4 - Full Blood Lamb
Class 5 - Full Blood Lamb
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Class 80 - Full Blood Lamb



The Magic Valley Relay for Life won a second place state award for raising the most funds per capita in 2002. The local leaders recognized Magic Valley Bank for Sherry (Kelsey) Bliss' work as co-chairman and the work of other community volunteers. From left are Bob Giles, 2003 co-chairman; Pam Wright, a bank volunteer; Michelle Martin, a bank volunteer; Bliss, and Phil Bratton, bank president. Giles picked up the award in Denver, Colo.

2003 Relay kicks off next month

TWIN FALLS - It's time to think about Relay for Life. The kickoff for this year's Relay for Life will be held from 5:30 p.m. to 8 p.m. Jan. 8, 2003 in the Bridgewater Estates Great Room at 1828 Bridge View Blvd in Twin Falls.

For more information About the event or the location, call Bob Giles at 734-5618. Kathy Best at 825-5717 or Mary Baker at 326-6461

Each team is made up of an average of 10 to 15 people. Each team agrees to have at least one member on the track during the entire 18 hour event, and attempt to raise at least \$100 per team member for the American Cancer Society.

Relay for Life is not a "per lap" event, organizers say. Money is raised individually or by teams prior to and during the event. The evening will include speakers, films and refreshments. Teams can be made up of business associates, club and church members, families, friends and school classmates, and include children and adults.

THINGS TO DO

- Smile River Flat Barbecue Chorus - 7:30 pm. Tuesdays at 1212 N. Rupert. Menu of all day or dinner, call 330-0747.
Twin Falls Magistrate's Barbecue Open House - 7:30 pm. Tuesdays at 1212 N. Rupert. Menu of all day or dinner, call 330-0747.
Dance - Valley Springs Square Dance Club - 7 p.m. Tuesdays at the Methodist Church at 211 S. Beckham St. in Jerome, call Vera at 734-0306 or Tom at 324-6440. Complex website.
Rings - Silver and Gold Senior Center - 7:30-10 pm. 2012 Wilson, Edna, Duane and smaller spaces. Fee 6.30 pm. Mon. by over 18, call 825-2862.
Golden Years Senior Citizens Center - 7-9 pm. Wednesdays at 2118 N. Red St. W.
Twin Falls Magistrate's Barbecue Open House - 7:30 pm. Tuesdays at 1212 N. Rupert. Menu of all day or dinner, call 330-0747.
Alpha Senior Center - 7 p.m. Tuesdays at 600 Main Street in Kimberly. Anyone over age 55 welcome. Call 424-8138.
Golden Heritage Senior Center - 6:45 pm. Tuesdays at 2427 Cleveland Ave. in Burley, age 18 and over, call 426-9107.
Mishakita Senior Center - 7 p.m. Tuesdays at 2012 11th St. in Rupert, age 18 and over, call 426-9107.
Senior Citizens Center - 7:30 pm. Tuesdays at 2012 11th St. in Rupert, age 18 and over, call 426-9107.
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Students rev up for car competition. Wednesday in Community

COUPON Friday, Jan. 3, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. & Saturday, Jan. 4, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. One FREE Automatic Wash Holiday Token Special • 6 Tokens for \$10


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mclass@magicvalley.com



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208-734-5538 or 208-677-4543 (Burley)

REMEMBER
That birthday ad you placed some time ago in The Times-News? It's time to come back up your pictures. Snap by the Class Ad Dept. Today!

107 ANTI-AGING ESTIMATES
MECHANIC DRUG CENTER
FREE TESTS Always
Confidential 734-7472

108 BASKETBALLY
Allegiance & Inst. Accidents, divorce & criminal matters. (800) 252-2388. (208) 734-3367

112 LAW OFFICE
3385 Unrecorded divorce \$295 filing fees, 888-252-2388. (208) 734-3367
START THE NEW YEAR RIGHT!
Stop Smoking
Lose Weight
Build Self-Confidence
Magic Valley Hypnosis
829-5311

113
18 YRS. EXP. stay at home Mon, age 2 1/2 & up. reasonable rates. 733-0880
CHILD CARE 24 hours
includes meal, laundry & snacks included. All ages! Call 324-5784.
CHILD CARE Openings
Full/Part-time school. Lots of activities. Great environment to learn and grow. Call 324-0424

The Middleknuff Group • Ford • Blue Lakes

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1st Time Ever Offered!



\$3000 UNDER INVOICE

ON 2002s & 2003s

Sale ends January 4, 2003

- 0% for 60 Mos.
- 0 Payments for 1 Year
- No Down Payment

YES! We said \$3,000 under invoice on Ford cars & pickups and Mitsubishis in stock!

OAC, does not include new 6.0 diesel

"We'll Do Whatever It Takes, I Guarantee It!"

BLUE LAKES

1243 Blue Lakes Blvd., N. 208-734-3400
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BUICK

December 10 Remember

IT'S OUR YEAR-END BLOWOUT TIME!

1995 BUICK REGAL #21261 Now \$3,888	1998 NISSAN FRONTIER EXCAB #21190 Now \$10,988
1995 BUICK LESABRE #21181 Now \$4,888	2000 FORD RANGER SUPER CAB #22820 Now \$11,988
1997 FORD RANGER XL #21350 Now \$5,988	2001 DODGE INTREPID #22441 Now \$11,988
1998 BUICK PARK AVE #23007 Now \$6,488	1998 GMC 1500 4X4 #20843 Now \$11,988
1995 FORD F-150 EX CAB #21150 Now \$6,488	2001 MITSUBISHI ECLIPSE #22201 Now \$12,988
1999 FORD RANGER #21370 Now \$6,488	2001 GMC JIMMY #22570 Now \$12,988
2001 CHEVROLET METRO #22260 Now \$6,488	2001 GMC JIMMY #22580 Now \$12,988
2000 ISUZU HOMBRE #21150 Now \$6,988	2001 GMC JIMMY #22590 Now \$12,988
1994 FORD F-150 XLT #21450 Now \$6,988	2000 NISSAN KINGCAB #21820 Now \$12,988
1996 FORD F-250 4X4 #21420 Now \$6,988	1999 BUICK REGAL G.S. #21220 Now \$12,988
1998 DODGE 3500 DUALY #20213 TRATED Now \$7,288	2002 CHEVROLET IMPALA #22180 Now \$12,988
2000 CHEVROLET PRIZM #22230 Now \$7,488	2000 BUICK LESABRE LIMITED #22181 Now \$13,888
1999 CHEVROLET TRACKER #21271 Now \$7,488	2002 BUICK REGAL #22000 Now \$13,988
1994 GMC YUKON #21220 Now \$7,488	2001 PONTIAC AZTEC #22221 Now \$13,988
1999 CHEVROLET S-10 #21270 Now \$7,788	1997 GMC 2500 #22211 Now \$14,988
1999 PONTIAC GRAND PRIX #22267 Now \$7,788	2000 GMC 2500 #22520 Now \$16,888
1997 CHEVROLET 2500 4X4 #22221 Now \$7,988	2001 FORD EXPLORER #22140 Now \$16,988
1995 CHEVROLET 2500 4X4 #22217 Now \$7,988	2000 TOYOTA SIENNA VAN #21250 Now \$16,988
1999 MAZDA 626 #22271 Now \$7,988	1999 GMC 1500 4X4 #22190 Now \$18,788
1998 CHEVROLET 1500 4X4 #22217 Now \$8,888	2002 JEEP LIBERTY #22281 Now \$19,888
1998 CHEVROLET 1500 4X4 #22221 Now \$8,988	1999 CHEVROLET 2500 4X4 #22221 Now \$19,988
1999 PONTIAC BONNEVILLE #22281 Now \$8,988	1999 CHEVROLET TAHOE #22220 Now \$19,988
1999 MERCURY COUGAR #22220 Now \$8,988	2001 DODGE RAM #22220 Now \$20,988
1999 OLDS CUTLASS #22220 Now \$8,988	2000 GMC 1500 4X4 #22221 Now \$20,988
1997 CHEVROLET ASTRO #22220 Now \$8,988	2002 BUICK PARK AVE #22220 Now \$21,988
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2001 CHEVROLET LUMINA #22220 Now \$9,988	2001 FORD F-150 CREW CAB #22220 Now \$22,988
1999 BUICK LESABRE #22221 Now \$9,988	2001 CHEVROLET 2500 REG CAB #22220 Now \$22,988

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a December to Remember

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Year End Blowout!

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WILL BE SACRIFICED

Check out these savings!

BRAND NEW 2003 PONTIAC SUNFIRE

December to Remember! **\$11,988**

Summit White
Graphite Cloth Bucket Seat 2.2I
DOHC 4 Cyl. Engine, A/C, Power Locks
Am/Fm Trg. Lgh. Full Factory Warranty

MSRP \$16,475
MSRP \$16,475
MSRP \$16,475

BRAND NEW GMC SONOMA EXTENDED CAB

December to Remember! **\$16,988**

Summit White with Med
Grey Cloth V6 SFI Engine,
Heavy Duty Suspension & Speed Automatic,
A/C, Full Size Spare, Full factory warranty.

MSRP \$23,200
MSRP \$23,200
MSRP \$23,200

BRAND NEW 2003 BUICK CENTURY

December to Remember! **\$16,988**

White/Taupe Cloth
Interior, 3.1 Liter SFI V6
& Speed Auto, Electronic Trans, Am/Fm w/
Power Load CD & Cassette, Western Region Pkg. 6.1
Way Power Driver Seat, Floor Mats, P, PW, T8
Cruise, Air Conditioning, Full Factory Warranty

MSRP \$21,400
MSRP \$21,400
MSRP \$21,400

ZERO % FINANCING AVAILABLE ON ALL NEW MODELS

BRAND NEW 2003 PONTIAC GRAND AM

December to Remember! **\$13,988**

Galaxy Silver Metallic,
Dark Pewter Cloth
Bucket Seat, 2.7L Twin Cam 16V 4 Cyl.
Engine, 18 Cruise, Am/Fm/CD, A/C, Rear Deck Spoiler,
Carpenter Floor Mats, Full Factory Warranty

MSRP \$18,115
MSRP \$18,115
MSRP \$18,115

BRAND NEW 2003 GMC SIERRA 4-DOOR SXS

December to Remember! **\$25,988**

Onyx Black, Dark Power
Custom Cloth, SE Pkg, Vortec
5300 V8 4 Speed Auto Trans. w/ OD 2.7I Off
Road Pkg, Am/Fm w/ CD 3.73 Ratio Locking Rear
Differential, Power Seat, Painted Aluminum Wheels, 18
Trailer Pkg., P, PW, T8 Cruise, Full Factory Warranty

MSRP \$32,841
MSRP \$32,841
MSRP \$32,841

BRAND NEW 2003 BUICK REGAL

December to Remember! **\$20,988**

Sparkling Silver Metallic,
Med Grey Leather Interior, 3900
Series I V6 Electronic Cruise Control Dual Zone
Electrochromic Mirror, Am/Fm w/ Power Loading CD
Cassette, Steering Wheel Radio Controls, P, PW, T8
Cruise, Full Factory Warranty

MSRP \$25,275
MSRP \$25,275
MSRP \$25,275

ABSOLUTELY NOTHING HELD BACK

BRAND NEW 2003 PONTIAC GRAND PRIX

December to Remember! **\$17,988**

Ivory White, Taupe
Cloth Bucket Seat, 3.1 Liter 3100
SFI V6 Engine, 4 Speed Automatic Trans, 156
Widerock Smart Pkg, Power Seat 18" Spoke
Aluminum Wheels, Touring Trns, Am/Fm, A/C, P
PW, T8 Cruise, Full Factory Warranty

MSRP \$22,900
MSRP \$22,900
MSRP \$22,900

BRAND NEW 2003 GMC YUKON XL SLE

December to Remember! **\$33,988**

Power Windows, Power
Custom Cloth, SE Pkg, Vortec
5300 V8 4 Speed Auto Trans. w/ OD HD Trailer
Pkg, Cargo Pkg, Satellite P, PW, T8 Cruise,
Am/Fm/CD, Full Factory Warranty

MSRP \$47,999
MSRP \$47,999
MSRP \$47,999

BRAND NEW BUICK LESABRE CUSTOM

December to Remember! **\$22,999**

White Med Grey
Am/Fm/CD Cassette w/
Concert Sound, Electrochromic Mirror w/
Compass, Tractor Control Aluminum Wheels, On-
Star Power Driver & Passenger Front Seats, Dual
Information Center, Full Factory Warranty

MSRP \$28,000
MSRP \$28,000
MSRP \$28,000

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BRAND NEW PONTIAC BONNEVILLE SE SEDAN

December to Remember! **\$19,999**

Ivory White, Taupe cloth,
Split Bench, Am/Fm Stereo w/ Cassette & CD,
Programmable EQ & ABS, Full factory warranty.

MSRP \$24,999
MSRP \$24,999
MSRP \$24,999

2003 SIERRA 2500 HD S10 CREW CAB

December to Remember! **\$35,998**

Flare Red, Neutral
Leather Interior, 6.6L
Duramax Diesel 3 Speed Auto Trans., Allison Parked Alum
Wheels, Heavy Duty Toolbed, Equipment, Air Cond., Dual
Zone Automatic, Cruise Control, Remote Keyless Entry
w/ Alarm, Power Windows & Door Locks, 18" Spoke
w/ Compass & Trip Computer, 18" Spoke Wheels

MSRP \$45,200
MSRP \$45,200
MSRP \$45,200

BRAND NEW 2003 BUICK RENDEZVOUS

December to Remember! **\$26,988**

Light Spinel Grey
Metallic, Grey leather Interior,
3.4L SFI V6 Engine, 4 Speed Auto Trans,
Driver Info Center, Am/Fm/CD & Cassette, On-
Star Power Driver & Passenger Seat, Rear Seat Audio,
Aluminum 5-Spoke Wheels, Trailering Pkg.

MSRP \$32,900
MSRP \$32,900
MSRP \$32,900

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Custom harvesting/transporting grain/machines, repairs; CDL, must provide current driver's license showing acceptable driving record, 3 mo. exp. req.; tools, equipment, room and board provided free. Transportation expenses to work-site provided. Complete by 5:00 p.m. of work contract, or earlier, and return transportation to the place of recruitment upon completion of work period: 7-13 hrs./wk. period guaranteed from 2-5:00 to 11-01-03. Contact any local Job Service in Idaho.

AG WEEKLY CORRESPONDENTS
If you have a way with words, an agricultural background, why not earn some extra money as a part time correspondent with the Magic Valley's leading ag newspaper? Newspapers experience a plus. Send resume, list of references and examples of relevant work.

Ag Weekly Editor: Carol Dumas, P.O. Box 546, Twin Falls, Idaho 83303 or call 735-3221.

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Conduct public opinion polls over the telephone.

B.S. LUTELY N. SALES
Stirring research. 57.00 to \$9.00 per hour. Casual work environment. Flexible evas. days, & weeks hours. 15-30 hrs. per week. Good overtime pay. Second job ok. Close to CSI campus. For more info, call 735-2633111111.

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PT. Must be clean cut, customer friendly, references req. Apply in person at 1007 Blue Lakes Blvd. N. between 10am & 1pm.

Get us to reduce price when something items for sale classified.

Ring in the New Year with a great new career!

JOIN OUR TEAM TODAY.

- Career Advancement Opportunities
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\$7.00 per hour to start (min hrs req)

Call or stop by today for an interview
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We Offer Competitive Salaries & an Excellent Benefits Package for any Position 20+ Hours/Week. Bilingual Candidates Encouraged to Apply.

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Employment Lines (208) 737-2775

james@mvrrmc.com - James
jaye@mvrrmc.com - Jayce
web@mvrrmc.com

MAGIC VALLEY REGIONAL MEDICAL CENTER

Adults, Youths, Retirees
CASH REIMBURSEMENT

The Times-News is accepting applications for Walking Routes in Twin Falls.

These positions are 7-day, early-morning delivery positions and can be a source of additional income while you get paid for your morning walk.

Stop by The Times-News at 132 3rd St. West in Twin Falls or call 733-0931, ext. 302.

In Burley, go to The Times-News office at 1263 Overland, or call 373-4042.

CHILD CARE PROVIDER
Agape Christian Child-Care Center has 1 opening. Call 734-3883

COOK/PAUP COOK
In an Assisted Living facility. Call 924-8524 324-4912 ask for Dorothy or Brook

NATIONAL SERVICE/CUSTOMER SERVICE
Sales • Home builder. We offer top pay-salary + commission, great benefits, 401k, full benefit, Unbelievable opportunity, your resume to 208-732-3719 or call on information 732-5710

DAIRY
Daily feeders/routes/Herdsman w/hrs. exp. & rel. Call 536-6512

DRIVER
Class A CDL, deliver drug products locally. CDL, drug screen and background check. Salary between 8am-5pm. Mon-Fri. To sign up an interview appointment.

DRIVER Local Route
Seeking reliable, experienced driver with CDL (hazardous materials endorsement) at 734-5424 between 8am-5pm. Mon-Fri. To sign up an interview appointment.

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DRIVER
Class A CDL, deliver drug products locally. CDL, drug screen and background check. Salary between 8am-5pm. Mon-Fri. To sign up an interview appointment.

RN Staff Development Coordinator

Full time Mon - Fri. 8:00-5:00 pm
• Educational staff
• Oversees employee orientation, staff for recruitment
• S/NK Program

Salary & benefits available upon request. Don't miss out! Join our professional people in person at Twin Falls Care Center. Contact Person: Jenny Merritt

THE TIMES-NEWS WILL CLOSE

Tuesday, Dec. 31st at 3:00 p.m. and will be closed on New Years Day.

Classified ads to run Wednesday, January 1st and will be closed on New Years Day.

Classified ads to run Thursday, January 2nd and will be closed on New Years Day.

AGRICULTURE
Custom harvesting/transporting grain/machines, repairs; CDL, must provide current driver's license showing acceptable driving record, 3 mo. exp. req.; tools, equipment, room and board provided free. Transportation expenses to work-site provided. Complete by 5:00 p.m. of work contract, or earlier, and return transportation to the place of recruitment upon completion of work period: 7-13 hrs./wk. period guaranteed from 2-5:00 to 11-01-03. Contact any local Job Service in Idaho.

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Ag Weekly Editor: Carol Dumas, P.O. Box 546, Twin Falls, Idaho 83303 or call 735-3221.

DRIVERS
•FTR/retiree OTR. Routes Western States. Canada. \$500 sign on bonus. Fuel & safety bonus possible. Home frequently. 888-865-7600

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Monetary, Inc. is seeking a sales-oriented individual to fill a full time position in Twin Falls. • Exc. earning potential • Monthly bonus incentives • Medical, dental & vision insurance • Retirement profit-sharing plan • Paid vacation & holidays • If you have cash handling, key and keyboard exp. & bilingual skills please apply in person at: **MONETARY, INC.** 1517 Blue Lakes Blvd. Twin Falls, Idaho

GENERAL
NO EXPERIENCE NECESSARY
Direct Care PAID TO TRAINING Flexible shifts Good benefits Assists persons with developmental disabilities to achieve greater independence. Apply in person at Inclusion South, Inc. 454 Falls Ave., #101 Sun Valley, Idaho 208-738-7117

MANAGER
On site, residential home care manager. Full salary, Call 734-4338 or 742-7368 Angela.

DRIVER
Class A CDL, deliver drug products locally. CDL, drug screen and background check. Salary between 8am-5pm. Mon-Fri. To sign up an interview appointment.

DRIVER Local Route
Seeking reliable, experienced driver with CDL (hazardous materials endorsement) at 734-5424 between 8am-5pm. Mon-Fri. To sign up an interview appointment.

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RN Staff Development Coordinator

Full time Mon - Fri. 8:00-5:00 pm
• Educational staff
• Oversees employee orientation, staff for recruitment
• S/NK Program

Salary & benefits available upon request. Don't miss out! Join our professional people in person at Twin Falls Care Center. Contact Person: Jenny Merritt

THE TIMES-NEWS WILL CLOSE

Tuesday, Dec. 31st at 3:00 p.m. and will be closed on New Years Day.

Classified ads to run Wednesday, January 1st and will be closed on New Years Day.

Classified ads to run Thursday, January 2nd and will be closed on New Years Day.

AGRICULTURE
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Ag Weekly Editor: Carol Dumas, P.O. Box 546, Twin Falls, Idaho 83303 or call 735-3221.

JANITORIAL
15-20 hrs. per week. 57hr. week. Western States. Canada. \$500 sign on bonus. Fuel & safety bonus possible. Home frequently. 888-865-7600

OPTICAL
Dispensing opticians needed for growing business. Excellent hours, good benefits. Resume to Mountain West Optical call 733-1087 for appl.

OPTICAL
Experienced optician, 3 years of experience. Call 733-1087 for appl.

PROFESSIONAL
Program Coordinator oversees the Twin Falls Economic Development Program. Reviews goals and provides direction to Developmental Specialists for reaching those goals. Bachelors degree and experience required. FT, starting at \$22,880. Apply in person at: **COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIP NECESSARY**
Direct Care PAID TO TRAINING Flexible shifts Good benefits Assists persons with developmental disabilities to achieve greater independence. Apply in person at Inclusion South, Inc. 454 Falls Ave., #101 Sun Valley, Idaho 208-738-7117

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BLOWOUT!

FINAL DAY TODAY!



2003 DODGE NEON SXT

Stock #1105-015 Color: Yellow • 5-Speed • Air Conditioning • Tilt • Cruise Control • Power Windows & Locks • Spoiler • Sunroof • Chrome Wheels • 7 Year 70,000 Mile Power Train Warranty • 24 Hour Roadside Assistance • Dual Air Bags

WAS \$18,095
LATHAM DISCOUNT \$5,007

NOW \$13,088
OR \$179 MO.
72 months at 5.99% APR, O.A.C.



2003 JEEP WRANGLER 4x4

Stock #3WR-021 Color: Stone White • 5-Speed Transmission • Soft Top • 7 Year 70,000 Mile Power Train Warranty • 24 Hour Roadside Assistance • Dual Air Bags

WAS \$21,510
LATHAM DISCOUNT \$5,522

NOW \$15,988
OR \$209 MO.
84 months at 5.99% APR, O.A.C.



2003 DODGE CARAVAN

Stock #3TC-029 Color: White • Air Conditioning • Tilt Steering • Cruise Control • AM/FM Cassette • 7 Year 70,000 Mile Power Train Warranty • 24 Hour Roadside Assistance • Dual Air Bags

WAS \$24,790
LATHAM DISCOUNT \$6,502

NOW \$18,288
OR \$219 MO.
84 months at 5.99% APR, O.A.C.



2003 DODGE INTREPID

Stock #309-011 Color: Lt. Almond • Air Conditioning • Tilt Steering • Cruise Control • Power Windows • Power Locks • Sealed • Sunroof • AM/FM Cassette CD • 7 Year 70,000 Mile Power Train Warranty • 24 Hour Roadside Assistance • Dual Air Bags

WAS \$26,285
LATHAM DISCOUNT \$4,897

NOW \$21,388
OR \$259 MO.
84 months at 5.99% APR, O.A.C.



2003 DODGE DAKOTA 4 DOOR 4x4

Stock #17D-301 Color: Graphite • Automatic Transmission • Air Conditioning • Tilt Steering • Cruise Control • 7 Year 70,000 Mile Power Train Warranty • 24 Hour Roadside Assistance • Dual Air Bags

WAS \$29,850
LATHAM DISCOUNT \$8,362

NOW \$21,488
OR \$259 MO.
84 months at 5.99% APR, O.A.C.



2003 DODGE DURANGO 4x4

Stock #12D-303 Color: Timberline Green • Automatic Transmission • Air Conditioning • Cruise Control • Power Windows • Power Locks • 7 Passenger Seating • 7 Year 70,000 Mile Power Train Warranty • 24 Hour Roadside Assistance • Dual Air Bags

WAS \$35,280
LATHAM DISCOUNT \$9,392

NOW \$25,888
OR \$319 MO.
84 months at 5.99% APR, O.A.C.



2003 DODGE 1500 QUAD CAB 4x4

Stock #171-104 Color: Graphite • Air Conditioning • Cruise Control • Tilt Steering • Power Windows • Power Locks • Power Seats • Keyless Entry • Sun Package • 7 Year 70,000 Mile Power Train Warranty • 24 Hour Roadside Assistance • Dual Air Bags

WAS \$37,146
LATHAM DISCOUNT \$10,958

NOW \$26,188
OR \$319 MO.
84 months at 5.99% APR, O.A.C.



2003 CHRYSLER 300M

Stock #33M-010 Color: Sapphire Blue • Automatic • Air • Tilt • Cruise Control • 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

NOW \$29,688
OR \$359 MO.
84 months at 5.99% APR, O.A.C.



2003 DODGE 2500 QUAD CAB 4x4 DIESEL

Stock #171-102 Color: Flame Red • 6-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

WAS \$42,240
LATHAM DISCOUNT \$10,452

NOW \$31,788
OR \$389 MO.
84 months at 5.99% APR, O.A.C.

0% APR FINANCING
UP TO 60 MOS.

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BRIEFLY IN MONEY

WestCoast expects biggest losses for Q4

TWIN FALLS - Washington-based WestCoast Hospitality Corp., owner of WestCoast Twin Falls Hotel, on Monday updated its guidance for the fourth quarter and year ending today.

The company now expects its fourth-quarter loss per share to be in the range of 17 cents to 14 cents, compared with a loss of 4 cents a year ago. The year's earnings per share is estimated to be between 40 cents and 44 cents, compared with 59 cents last year.

WestCoast will release financial results during the last week of January.

Revenue is expected to range from \$43.7 million to \$44.7 million for the fourth quarter and \$193.5 million to \$195.5 million for the year, compared with \$26.2 million and \$120.6 respectively in the prior-year periods.

"The fourth quarter is typically the lowest revenue quarter during the year and results this year have been impacted by a continued soft economy, resulting in fewer business travelers," WestCoast said in a statement.

WestCoast's Twin Falls hotel is slated to be rebranded as Red Lion.

Wal-Mart: Sales picked up but will miss projection

BENTONVILLE, Ark. - World's largest retailer Wal-Mart Stores Inc. said Monday its sales were strong Christmas week - before and after the holiday - but it still expects only a modest gain in sales.

Wal-Mart - which has stores in Burley and Jerome - had earlier pulled back from its projection of a 3 percent increase of 3 percent to 5 percent for the holiday season over 2001 in stores open at least a year. On Monday, the company stuck to its revised prediction that same-store sales would gain 2 percent to 3 percent.

The company noted that its Sam's Club warehouse store division will likely post same-store sales lower than that of a year ago. Wal-Mart tracks its five-week holiday period from Nov. 30 through Jan. 5.

For the week ending last Friday, Wal-Mart said sales were strongest in home furnishings, electronics, toys, health and beauty and seasonal items. Also, sales were strongest in the northeast and Midwest, the company said.

Gift card sales were "very strong," the company said. Analysts have said retailers had a tough holiday season because of the slow economy and a shortage of hot items.

California firm plans to sell both operations

CALDWELL - KIT Manufacturing Co. has terminated the proposed sale of its Caldwell recreational vehicle production plant to one of its executives and is now planning to sell both the recreational vehicle and manufactured housing operations to an unidentified buyer.

In a statement, the Long Beach, Calif.-based company also said it intends to have its common stock delisted on the American Stock Exchange and dropped from trading.

The board approved the moves, and shareholder approval was expected since Board Chairman Dan Pucapala owns more than 49 percent of the stock.

Removing the company from the exchange was intended to maximize shareholder value from the sale and eliminate the cost of maintaining the listing.

The letters of intent called for the buyers to pay an unspecified amount of cash and assume the debt in the two production operations.

The company also makes manufactured homes in Caldwell.

Markets see mixed day as holiday lull continues

NEW YORK - Wall Street extended its holiday lull Monday, closing mixed as investors refrained from making big bets.

The Dow Jones industrial average closed up 29.07, or 0.4 percent, at \$32,285, having lost 2.4 percent last week.

Wall Street's broader gauges were mixed. The Nasdaq composite fell 8.77, or 0.7 percent, to 1,529.54. The S&P 500 index advanced 3.99, or 0.5 percent, to 879.39.

Compiled from staff and wire reports



Robyn Hutchinson takes a photo of her shift friends on break in the J.R. Simplot Co. lunchroom on her last night of work in late October. As the first round of permanent layoffs hit the Heyburn processing plant, Simplot provided cake and ice cream, free disposable cameras and address books to employees.

A small gain in 2002

Comings, goings add up to slight job growth in western Magic Valley

By Virginia S. Hutchins
Times-News writer

TWIN FALLS - Jobs gained, jobs lost. Both happened to the hundreds this year, with Dell Computer Corp. leading the creation and J.R. Simplot Co. leading the cuts.

The west side of the valley enjoyed the largest share of new jobs this year - eking out a little improvement overall - while the heaviest losses hit Mini-Cassia.

Here are snapshots of Dell's rapid expansion in Twin Falls: The computer maker's first local hires joined the payroll as trainees in January. On opening day in early February, Dell employed 203 people. In mid-September, it had more than 300. In late June, 396. In early September, about 555.

Dell is ending the year with a staff of 727, Michael Jailet, the company's site director, said Monday. More than 500 of those workers are on the technical-support side of the Twin Falls operation, and fewer than 200 are in customer service. Nearly all work full time. "I think we have five part-time people," Jailet said.

That staff of 727 falls a little short of the year-end, 750-job projection Dell made in September. Jailet on Monday said he had no projections to make about Dell's future employment levels.

On the other end of the valley this year, the biggest economic headlines announced had news.

J.R. Simplot Co. in May said it will close its Heyburn potato-processing plant. Dramatic attrition followed, paring Simplot's pink-slip plants. Still, the first phase of shutdown at the end of October brought 168 permanent layoffs at the plant and may have caused additional indirect job loss.

After the Heyburn food plant's two-week Christmas closure ends Monday, it will still employ about 287 hourly and 30 salaried workers, as it did following the October layoffs, Simplot spokesman Fred Zerza said this month. But temporary workers supply some of that labor now, to fill in for regular employees on vacation, do special projects and take up the slack left by continuing attrition.

Simplot still projects April 2004 as the Heyburn plant's final shutdown date. Market conditions will determine whether the company can operate all three remaining production lines until then, as it currently intends, Zerza said.

Magic Valley in 2002 saw other new employers arrive (such as a warehousing operation in Jerome, and canyon rim stores and restaurants in Twin Falls) and existing firms expand (including a Twin Falls plastics plant and a Jerome dairy processor).

But the valley also fit other layoffs hit. Among those with pink slips were Burley



Kmart workers, telemarketers in Jerome and cream-cheese factory workers in Rupert.

Shavonne Hayes, a trainer from Nashville, Tenn., left, reassures Cindy Hency she did a good job on a difficult and complicated customer-service call. The Dell Computer Corp. center in Twin Falls began taking calls in June about subjects such as billing, rebates and order status. The center originally opened to handle only technical questions from Dell computer users.

Three-county labor market

On the west side of the valley, the job news added up to slight growth in annual job numbers and slight decline in seasonally adjusted unemployment.

The Idaho Department of Labor estimates annual average unemployment for Magic Valley's main labor market - Gooding, Jerome and Twin Falls counties combined - at a seasonally adjusted 3.9 percent, said Greg Rogers, the department's regional labor economist for Magic Valley.

That's one-tenth of a percentage point lower than 2001's 4 percent.

"This was accomplished by a 3 percent increase in the civilian labor force coupled with just a very small increase in unemployment from last year," Rogers wrote in an annual report the department will release later. "This unemployment rate is very low, and the downward trend was supported of most areas in the state that showed an upward trend in unemployment in 2002."

Annual data for Mini-Cassia weren't available before the department's regular publication.

"2002 was a very good year for the Magic Valley economy despite a great deal of outside recessionary pressure on a statewide and nationwide basis," Rogers said.

Twin Falls, Jerome and Gooding counties enjoyed robust growth in nonagricultural job numbers in the early months of 2002. But by the end of the third quarter, the three-county job growth flattened.

"And in the fourth quarter the trends were slightly downward as the economy showed signs of cooling and

Please see JOBS, Page D3

Valley growth

This year brought job growth to Magic Valley's major labor market - Twin Falls, Jerome and Gooding counties combined. State analysts are projecting this year's best three-county numbers look:

INDIVIDUALS, TRACKED BY PLACE OF RESIDENCE	Projected		Change from last year, in %
	2002	2001	
Civilian labor force	50,320	48,960	3
Unemployed	1,970	1,950	1
Unemployed (unadjusted)	3.9	4	
Total employment	48,350	46,910	3.1
Civilian labor force	50,320	48,990	3.4
Unemployed	2,150	1,950	10.3
% of labor force unemployed	4.3	4	
Total employment	48,200	46,740	3.1

JOBS, TRACKED BY PLACE OF WORK

Nonfarm wage and salary employment	Projected		Change from last year, in %
	2002	2001	
	38,330	38,720	0.5
Goods-producing industries	6,930	7,080	-2.1
Manufacturing	1,790	1,800	5.3
Durable goods	5,140	5,100	1
Non-durable goods	1,390	890	11.2
Food processing	450	2,100	2.7
Food processing plants	420	1,110	2.7
Other food processing plants	30	990	6.1
Service-producing industries	32,000	32,640	1.3
Transportation, communication	2,690	2,720	0.1
Wholesale trade	2,210	2,290	0.8
Retail trade	8,050	8,140	1.1
Finance, insurance, real estate	1,310	1,170	5.8
Services	10,300	9,540	8
Government administration	3,820	3,800	1.8
Government education	3,520	3,670	4.1

Source: Idaho Department of Labor

Getting financial help is tough for caregivers

Question: I'm living with my mother, who has the beginnings of Alzheimer's. She is unable to function on her own because of her dementia. Physically, she is in good shape. Mentally, she gets quite confused and doesn't even remember sometimes that I'm living with her. Can I get any reimbursement from Medicare for being a live-in caregiver? I am not getting paid anything. We live off her trust and the estate of her late husband. I am 58 and gave up my job, my life in another state and my friends to take care of her. At this point I don't feel comfortable leaving



MONEY
TALK
Liz Pulliam
Weston

her alone for too long during the day and have decided it wouldn't be wise for me to get a part-time job. Are there any financial programs I can investigate?
Answer: Ed Long, an attorney who specializes in elder law, says it's extremely unlikely that

Medicare would pay you for your work.

First of all, Medicare doesn't pay for most home-provided care - particularly the kinds of custodial care needed by people with dementia. What meager pay is provided goes for professionals. So Medicare would pay your salary only if you were a licensed nurse, Long said, and willing to work for a home-care agency that served clients other than your mother.

Some states have programs linked to Medicaid that provide some support services for in-home caregivers. Medicaid is a

separate government program that does pay for custodial care, but usually only for the indigent. Given your mother's resources, your family probably doesn't qualify.

Long suggests that you contact your local Area Agency on Aging, listed in the government section of the phone book, for more details and for other resources that might provide some help. Alternatively, you could talk to a geriatric care manager or an elder law attorney in your area.

Please see WESTON, Page D2

COURT FILINGS

The Times-News

ROUSE - Recent activity in U.S. Bankruptcy Court included these Magic Valley filings.

Chapter 7, nonbusiness, under \$50,000

Durand D. Barnes, 703 Filer Ave., Twin Falls, individual, non-business, Chapter 7, number of creditors not listed, assets under \$50,000, liabilities under \$50,000, Case no. 02-42437.

Jerri A. Reyes, 426 Wyoming St., Gooding, individual, non-business, Chapter 7, 1-15 creditors, assets under \$50,000, liabilities under \$50,000, Case no. 02-42440.

Anthony Allen Ring, also known as Tony Ring, and Stephanie Ring, also known as Stephanie Ring, and Stephanie Raynes, 907 N. Buchanan, No. 4, Jerome, individual, non-business, Chapter 7, 16-49 creditors, assets under \$50,000, liabilities under \$50,000, Case no. 02-42441.

Bobbly Silvar and Christina Silvar, 669 River Road, Bliss, individual, non-business, Chapter 7, 1-15 creditors, assets under \$50,000, liabilities under \$50,000, Case no. 02-42445.

Harold E. Garcia and Jennifer K. Garcia, also known as Jennifer K. Shobe and Jennifer K. Jenkins, 1285 S. Lincoln, No. 80, Jerome, joint, non-business, Chapter 7, 16-49 creditors, assets under \$50,000, liabilities under \$50,000, Case no. 02-42460.

Chapter 7, nonbusiness, \$50,000 to \$100,000

Rose M. Wilcox, also known as Rose Mae Wilcox, 311 King St., Kimberly, individual, non-business, Chapter 7, 16-49 creditors, assets \$50,000 to \$100,000, liabilities \$50,000 to \$100,000, Case no. 02-42441.

Donald Carl Meline and Reba Mae Meline, 1845 S. 250 E., Burley, individual, non-business, Chapter 7, 16-49 creditors, assets under \$50,000, liabilities \$50,000 to \$100,000, Case no. 02-42442.

Leslie Lee Runnell, 1081 Second Ave. E., Twin Falls, individual, non-business, Chapter 7, 1-15 creditors, assets under \$50,000, liabilities \$50,000 to \$100,000, Case no. 02-42444.

Travis Lee Arbaugh, also known as Travis Arbaugh, and Susan D. Arbaugh, 2164 Highland Ave. E., Twin Falls, individual, non-business, Chapter 7, 1-15 creditors, assets \$50,000 to \$100,000, liabilities \$50,000 to \$100,000, Case no. 02-42449.

Billy R. Crystal and Zula M. Crystal, 2273 Hansen Drive, Burley, individual, non-business, Chapter 7, 16-49 creditors, assets \$50,000 to \$100,000, liabilities \$50,000 to \$100,000, Case no. 02-42456.

Reymundo Lara Sr., also known as Reymundo Lara, and Christina Lara, 1045 W. Main, and Christina Martinez Lara, 971 Burton Ave., Burley, individual, non-business, Chapter 7, 50-99 creditors, assets under \$50,000, liabilities \$50,000 to \$100,000, Case no. 02-42477.

Chapter 7, nonbusiness, \$100,000 to \$500,000

Brian Kurt Mills Sr. and Mary G. Mills, 411 E. 24th St., Burley, individual, non-business, Chapter 7, 1-15 creditors, assets under \$50,000, liabilities \$100,000 to \$500,000, Case no. 02-42474.

David Alvarez, 535 N. 600 W., Paul, individual, non-business, Chapter 7, 1-15 creditors, assets \$100,000 to \$500,000, liabilities \$100,000 to \$500,000, Case no. 02-42455.

Hal J. Rene, also known as Harold J. Rene, and Julie L. Rene, also known as Julia Lorraine Rene, doing business as Julie Rene, 1040 N. 60th, Crestview Drive, Twin Falls, individual, non-business, Chapter 7, 1-15 creditors, assets not indicated, liabilities \$100,000 to \$500,000, Case no. 02-42458.

Chapter 13, nonbusiness, \$100,000 to \$500,000

Julia Paul Cameron, 656 Crocus, Paul, individual, non-business, Chapter 13, 16-49 creditors, assets \$50,000 to \$100,000, liabilities \$100,000 to \$500,000, Case no. 02-42438.

MONEY

These resolutions can make for a better financial new year

Knight Ridder News Service

Your last day of 2002 probably will be spent doing things other than protecting your consumer interests...

1. Avoid your impulses

Too many times, people, many of whom cannot afford a large financial mistake, make snap decisions on big purchases...

2. Don't be too trusting

Learn as much as you can about sellers on online auction sites, mail-order operators or anyone else who wants your money before you get the goods...

3. Don't guess

Know the correct answers about your rights as a consumer. Charlotte-Better Business Bureau President Tom Bartholomay said...

4. Be destructive

Care for your mail by destroying it. North Carolina Consumers Council President Brad Lamb said...

5. Google it

Use the search engine that has become a verb (www.google.com) as a key tool in checking out offers, researching companies or learning about a new trend...

6. Get the whole picture

Avoid focusing solely on the monthly or weekly payments, whether you're leasing a car or getting a large-screen TV from a rent-to-own store...

7. Know when not to share

Judiciously guard your bank and credit-card account information and your Social Security number...

8. Make three important calls

Get familiar or reacquaint yourself with these three companies: Equifax, Experian and TransUnion...

9. Ask yourself: Who started it?

If nothing else, remember this: If you didn't initiate the call, the letter, the e-mail or the conversation and you're not sure of the source, don't bother listening to the offer...

10. Be a squeaky wheel

Don't just complain about a bad experience to your spouse, co-worker or neighbor. Change comes only when you complain to the right people...

(to you), even if they seem like a really nice person.

And don't go alone - take a friend or relative who can help you keep your head.

Learn as much as you can about sellers on online auction sites, mail-order operators or anyone else who wants your money before you get the goods...

Use the search engine that has become a verb (www.google.com) as a key tool in checking out offers, researching companies or learning about a new trend...

Avoid focusing solely on the monthly or weekly payments, whether you're leasing a car or getting a large-screen TV from a rent-to-own store...

Judiciously guard your bank and credit-card account information and your Social Security number...

Get familiar or reacquaint yourself with these three companies: Equifax, Experian and TransUnion...

If nothing else, remember this: If you didn't initiate the call, the letter, the e-mail or the conversation and you're not sure of the source, don't bother listening to the offer...

Don't just complain about a bad experience to your spouse, co-worker or neighbor. Change comes only when you complain to the right people...

Start with managers and company customer complaint lines. Still no satisfaction?

Then take the next step and reach the Better Business Bureau, which can mediate disputes, or state or federal consumer protection agencies...

Scammers, such as those running work-at-home schemes or illegal foreign lotteries, are charged because people come forward to say how they were swindled...

So pick up a phone or head to the Web and vent. Here's where: Federal Trade Commission - www.ftc.gov; (877) 382-4357, 7 a.m.-3 p.m. weekdays...

Better Business Bureau - www.bbb.org.

Weston

Continued from D1

If your mother is well off, by the way, you could arrange to be paid a reasonable salary from her assets. You'll want to talk to the elder law attorney about the best way to do this...

Step back and think about what you're doing. "Don't just rely on the salesperson," Schofield added. "Their loyalty is making a profit and not

whose entire business is built upon repeat clients and referrals. I have had the opportunity to view and track a consumer's credit history and score fluctuations over an extended period. I have witnessed scores improving after accounts were closed...

Step back and think about what you're doing. "Don't just rely on the salesperson," Schofield added. "Their loyalty is making a profit and not

them in the first place. My purpose in sending you this letter is that I see consumers every day who are not able to obtain the loan they want for the home they want due in part to erroneous advice.

If you're telling clients to close accounts in order to improve their FICO credit scores, then you're the one handing out erroneous advice.

The company that creates the FICO credit score, Fair, Isaac & Co., says it unequivocally Closing

credit accounts can never help a credit score, and might hurt it.

That's because the score measures the difference between available credit and how much is being used. The more available credit is being used, the worse the potential effect on the score. Reducing the total available credit by shutting down an account makes any remaining balances look bigger, proportionately.

You're right in saying that too many accounts also can hurt a score. But once the account has

been opened, Fair Isaac says, the effect on the credit score can't be reversed by shutting down the line of credit.

Of course, the number of open accounts is just one of the numerous factors that help shape a score. Another is the passage of time. That might be why you've seen some scores rise after an account was closed.

Rather than making assumptions about how credit scoring works, you might want to contact the National Association of

Mortgage Brokers, which has information and seminars for lending professionals on this topic. Your clients deserve a broker who truly is well informed - not just one who thinks she is.

Questions can be sent to Liz Pulliam Weston at asklizweston@hotmail.com or mailed to her in care of Money Talk, Business Section, Los Angeles Times, 202 W. First St., Los Angeles, CA 90012.

New York Stock Exchange

Table with columns: Name, Dr, Last, Chg, Volume, Bid, Ask, etc. Lists various stocks and their performance.

MARKET SUMMARY

Summary table with columns: NYSE, AMEX, NASDAQ, Most Active, Gainers, Losers, Dairy, etc.

SP 500

Table showing SP 500 performance metrics: High, Low, Open, Close, etc.

AMERICAN STOCK EXCHANGE

Table listing American Stock Exchange stocks and their prices.

NASDAQ NATIONAL MARKET

Table listing NASDAQ National Market stocks and their prices.

MARKETS

CLOSING FUTURES

Table with columns: Commodity, High, Low, Settle, Change. Includes Wheat, Soybeans, Corn, and other agricultural products.

WHITE WHEAT

Table with columns: Month, High, Low, Settle, Change. Lists wheat prices for various months from May to Dec.

WHEAT

Table with columns: Month, High, Low, Settle, Change. Lists wheat prices for various months from May to Dec.

LIVESTOCK

Table with columns: Month, High, Low, Settle, Change. Lists livestock prices for various months from May to Dec.

FOSSIL FUELS

Table with columns: Month, High, Low, Settle, Change. Lists fossil fuel prices for various months from May to Dec.

JOBS

Continued from D1. Employers showed more caution in new hiring, Rogers said. In the three counties, the sectors that showed the heaviest year-over-year increases were durable-goods manufacturing, with 11.2 percent job growth, and services, with 8 percent, the Labor Department reports.

BEANS

Table with columns: Commodity, High, Low, Settle, Change. Lists bean prices for various months from May to Dec.

SOYBEANS

Table with columns: Month, High, Low, Settle, Change. Lists soybean prices for various months from May to Dec.

METALS/CURRENCY

Table with columns: Commodity, High, Low, Settle, Change. Lists metal and currency prices for various months from May to Dec.

CHEESE

Table with columns: Commodity, High, Low, Settle, Change. Lists cheese prices for various months from May to Dec.

POTATOES

Table with columns: Commodity, High, Low, Settle, Change. Lists potato prices for various months from May to Dec.

SUGAR

Table with columns: Commodity, High, Low, Settle, Change. Lists sugar prices for various months from May to Dec.

Existing home sales slip, stay on pace for record year

WASHINGTON (AP) - Fewer previously owned homes were sold in November, but sales for all of 2002 are on track for the best year on record as some of the lowest mortgage rates seen in decades beckon people to buy. The National Association of Realtors reported Monday that sales of existing homes slipped to a seasonally adjusted annual rate of 5.56 million in November, a 3.5 percent decline from the previous month.

Jobs

Continued from D1. Employers showed more caution in new hiring, Rogers said. In the three counties, the sectors that showed the heaviest year-over-year increases were durable-goods manufacturing, with 11.2 percent job growth, and services, with 8 percent, the Labor Department reports.

Some of the trends in local employment, however, were obscured as businesses increased their use of temporary agencies in lieu of regular full- or part-time workers. Temp workers show up in the services category when they're operating buildings, processing potatoes, building houses, doing clerical tasks, administering, selling or fulfilling a host of other job descriptions.

Factors showing the steepest downward trends included finance, insurance and real estate; mining and construction; education; and nondurable-goods manufacturing.

Mining and construction decreased to a drop-off in heavy construction, Rogers said. "Many road and commercial building projects wrapped up early in the year, and so numbers were off slightly. The downward trends in heavy construction were offset somewhat, in Twin Falls County especially, by new home construction."

In the city of Twin Falls, officials issued 117 building permits for new single-family homes by the end of November. With one month to go, that total was already 32 percent above last year's record-breaking 241 annual count in Twin Falls, City Hall records show.

A small decline in retail job numbers is noteworthy because that was a high-growth sector in the past few years, Rogers said. "Although new retail businesses came to town, existing employers were cautious in new hires, choosing to expand existing employees' hours instead," he said.

Blame the state's revenue shortfalls for the loss of education jobs, he said. Economist's predictions: "Not bad so far, but what's to come?" It is not an exaggeration to say that the Magic Valley was a bright spot and an economic leader in the state of Idaho in 2002.

Times-News Business Editor Virginia S. Hutchings can be reached at 734-0911, Ext. 242, or at vrg@timesnews.com.

MUTUAL FUNDS

Large table listing various mutual funds with columns for fund name, share price, and other financial metrics.

COMICS

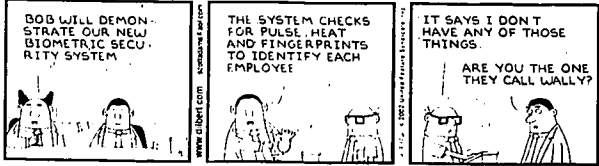
Classic Peanuts

By Charles M. Schulz



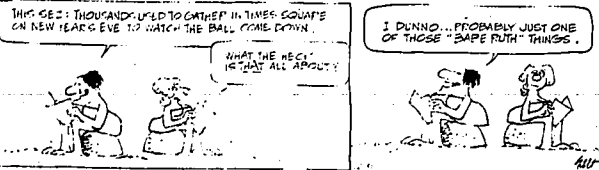
Dilbert

By Scott Adams



B.C.

By Johnny Hart



Garfield

By Jim Davis



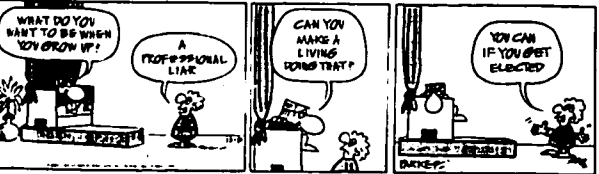
Hi and Lois

By Chance Browne



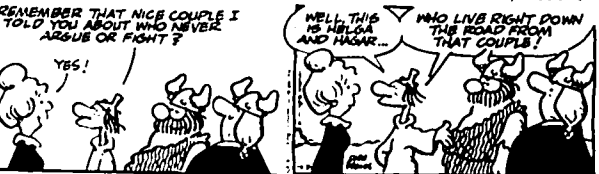
The Wizard of Id

By Brant Parker & Johnny Hart



Hagar the Horrible

By Chris Browne



Bottle Baby

By Mort Walker



Frank and Ernest

By Bob Thaves



The Boss Loner

By Art Sankson & Chip



For Better or For Worse

By Lynn Johnston



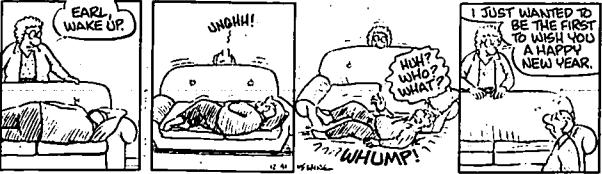
Blondie

By Dean Young & Stan Drake



Pickles

By Brian Crane

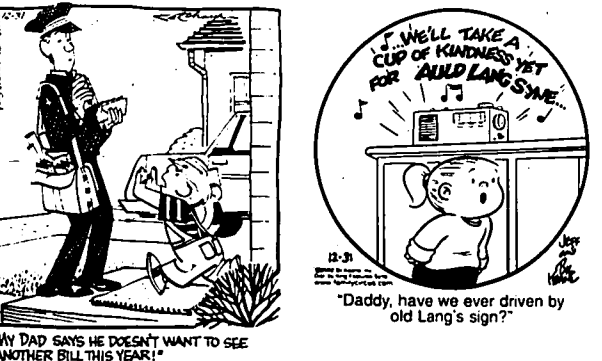


Dennis the Menace

By Hank Ketcham

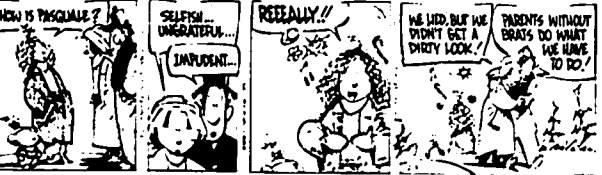
The Family Circus

By Bil Keane



Rose Is Rose

By Pat Brady



Zoo

By Jim Borgman and Jerry Scott



Looney

By Greg Evans



Strange Brew

By John Deering

Non Sequitur

By Wiley

