

The Times-News

Twin Falls, Idaho/98th year, No. 35

Tuesday, February 4, 2003

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GOOD MORNING

WEATHER



Today: Cloudy and breezy, maybe snow. High 30, low 17. Page A2

MAGIC VALLEY

Inspection: Twin Falls' historic grain silos will get some expert attention. Page B1

MONEY



Modest rise: Investors extend Wall Street's rally into second session. Page C1

COMPUTERS & TECHNOLOGY



Invisible cash: France is moving to a smart card that replaces cash. Page C4

SPORTS



Surprise showing: Two U.S. women won medals in the World Alpine Ski Championships Super G event Monday. Page D1

OPINION

A cruel shame: Investigation into animal cruelty at local dairy doesn't help Idaho dairies, today's editorial says. Page A6

COMING UP



Try these home-style dishes:
A Buhl cook has compiled her own cookbook.

Wednesday In The Times-News

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The Times-News
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Engineers saw little risk

Falling insulation was a recurring problem

The Washington Post

Eighty seconds after Columbia blasted off Jan. 16, NASA engineers saw a puff on the underside of the left wing and immediately began investigating whether an errant piece of foam had seriously damaged the shuttle.

Over the next two weeks, engineers pored over film clips of the launch and used modeling techniques to guess at the extent and location of the damage,

THE SHUTTLE DISASTER

Look for these stories inside:

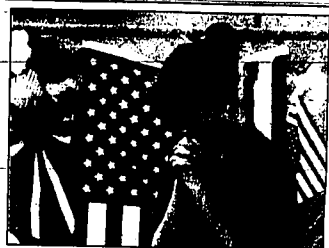
- NASA investigators look for "missing link." Page A2
- Recovery team finds shuttle's nose cone. Page D6
- Columbia debris might be too damaged to give useful clues. Page D6

NASA officials said. One important factor stood out as they weighed whether the problem was serious. It had happened before.

Columbia's first mission, in April 1981, had almost exactly the same problem. Shortly after launch, about 13 to 15 tiles were thought to be dislodged and engineers had to decide whether that would pose a risk to the spacecraft during the fiery re-entry into Earth's atmosphere.

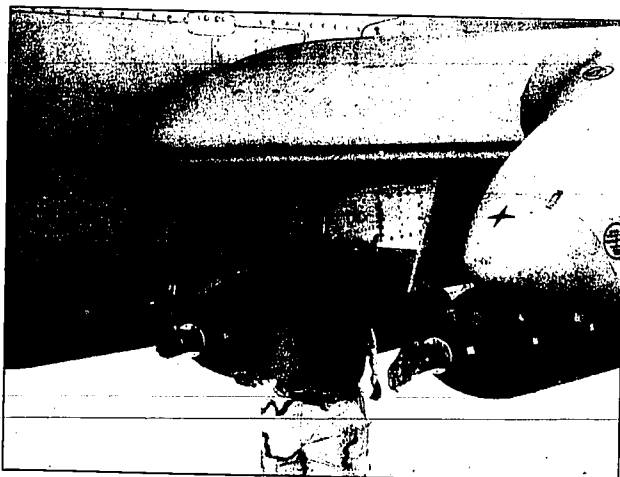
In what was to be Columbia's last mission, engineers reached the same conclusion that they had during the first and others: Although there was a "potential for a large damage area to the tile," according to a NASA internal flight report released Monday, the spacecraft was not at serious risk.

Please see SHUTTLE, Page A3



Angela Gwosd of the Clear Lake Texas High School Girls Golf team poses after the team visited a memorial to the space shuttle Columbia crew outside the the Johnson Space Center in Houston Monday.

IN HARM'S WAY



Idaho Air National Guard Master Sgt. Kirk Weinert of Buhl poses in front of an A-10 aircraft near Kuwait City. The A-10s have been involved in dropping leaflets to Iraqi citizens, said Weinert's father, Ron Weinert.

Middle East deployments worry families

On duty

People serving in the Persian Gulf who have family in the Magic Valley include:

- Army Pvt. Cole Fleener, Twin Falls, serving in Kuwait.
- Navy Gunners Mate Ryan Watson, Kuna, on board the USS Nassau.
- Idaho Air National Guard Master Sgt. Kirk Weinert, Buhl, serving near Kuwait City.
- Marine Lance Cpl. Joshua VanCasteren, Twin Falls, location unknown.
- Marine Lance Cpl. Cory Snow, Eden, on board the USS Boxer.
- Navy Seaman Kevin Gilley, Eden, serving in Kuwait.

Families who have loved ones serving in the Persian Gulf or Afghanistan, or likely to be deployed there, please call Times-News features editor Steve Crump at 735-3223, or e-mail crump@magicvalley.com. We're looking for names and e-mail addresses of local people serving overseas, among other information.

By Nate Johnson
Times-News writer

TWIN FALLS — For families across the Magic Valley, international news has become personal.

On Jan. 23, Jim VanCasteren learned that his son, Joshua VanCasteren, a lance corporal in the Marines, was scheduled to ship out from his base in California the next day. The destination: Kuwait.

"We made a mad dash to California," Jim VanCasteren said. The Marines didn't leave until the evening of Jan. 25, and Jim VanCasteren was able to spend some time with his son and meet his friends in the Marines. The men were trained to show confidence, which made Jim VanCasteren feel better, but underneath their polished calm the soldiers seemed a little nervous, he said.

Back in Twin Falls, Jim VanCasteren himself readily admits he's nervous. Suddenly the talk of weapons inspections and negotiations at the United Nations is important to him.

"I watch the news quite a bit

The Blue Star — B2

closer and see what's going on," he said.

If inspectors find chemical weapons, it isn't only proof that Iraq has lied to the world; it also means there will be fewer chemicals that could kill Joshua VanCasteren.

Other people with family members in the Persian Gulf have the opposite reaction.

"I don't dwell on the news, not any more than I have to," said Lili Watson of Twin Falls, whose grandson, Ryan Watson, is aboard the USS Nassau. "It doesn't do any good. It kind of tears at you."

The news does mention where the USS Nassau is, though, allowing family to follow Ryan Watson's course.

Gary Snow of Eden didn't have a chance to talk to his son, Cory Snow, before he left. The Marine had to help lead the USS Boxer, the

Please see FAMILIES, Page A3

Bush budget plans for record deficits

Elements include tax cuts, rise in NASA funds

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — President Bush shipped lawmakers a \$2.23 trillion budget for 2004 on Monday bearing record deficits and seeking deep new tax cuts, an ambitious expansion of Medicare and bolstering security at home and abroad at the expense of domestic programs.

Though Republican majorities in Congress mean Bush's plans will get a better reception than last year's did when Democrats ran the Senate, some elements will clearly be reshaped, like his call for a fresh 10-year, \$1.3 trillion tax cut. Whatever happens, the proposal sets the stage for a partisan battle over fiscal priorities likely to rumble right into next year's White House and congressional elections.

Democrats said the budget would deepen government debt

Money for wildfires — B4

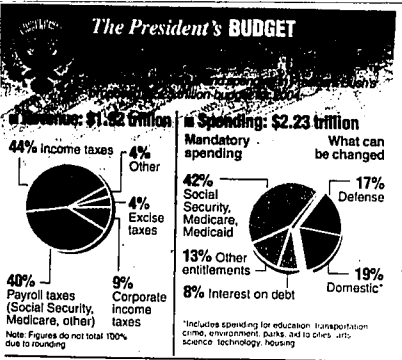
just as it should be shoring up Social Security and Medicare for the approaching retirement of the 76 million-stretch baby boom generation.

"Buried in President Bush's budget is a plan to dismantle Social Security and Medicare," said Rep. Charles Rangel of New York, the House Ways and Means Committee's top Democrat. "By demanding large tax cuts again even though there are no longer surpluses, the administration will starve the government of funds."

The president said his plan focused on the most important challenges facing the nation.

"A recession and a war we did not choose have led to the return

Please see BUDGET, Page A2



Highlights

- \$15 billion for Homeland Security Dept., up 5%
- \$27 billion for NASA, a 3% rise
- \$15.5 billion for Veterans Affairs, an 11% increase
- \$28 billion for Labor Dept., a 1% cut
- \$11.5 billion for Defense

Source: U.S. Office of Management and Budget, AP Graphic: Tim Gohmert, Judy Trepo

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Animal rights group pushes cruelty charges

By Jennifer Sandmann
Times-News writer

TWIN FALLS — Animal rights activists want the Twin Falls County prosecutor to bring animal cruelty charges against a local dairy operator.

Prosecutor Grant Loeb is standing firm in his opinion that he does not have enough evidence to charge Dutch Touch Dairy owner Jack Tuls in connection with cruelty to animals.

The controversial People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals announced Monday that it urged Loeb to prosecute Tuls. The organization sent Loeb a strongly worded letter and faxed a copy of it to the newspaper.

"It is inexcusable that no charges have been filed against Dutch Touch Dairy," wrote Lori Kettler, a PETA attorney. Contacted later by The Times-

News, Kettler said she had spoken with Loeb by phone. While it still seems that there is the potential for charges, she said, she was more sympathetic to Loeb's position concerning the evidence he has.

An Idaho Department of Agriculture investigation at Tuls' Dutch Touch Dairy in August determined that the Filer-area dairy did not provide "reasonable care or sustenance to crippled or sick animals," and that the dairy subjected the cows to "needless suffering and inflicted unnecessary cruelty by dragging, lifting and burying live animals."

Loeb provided The Times-News with new information Monday about his office's involvement in the case.

"I'm disturbed by it. I think it's an important case and needs to be prosecuted," he said.

Please see CRUELTY, Page A2

Officials question Medicaid 'self-declaration'

Lawmakers hope to root out fraudulent claims

By Julie Pence
Times-News writer

BOISE — Officials of the Idaho Department of Health and Welfare say they believe their clients usually tell the truth. That is why they let them enroll for Medicaid by mail without having to prove need.

But some lawmakers question the policy, and as a result, the relatively new enrollment procedure could get some scrutiny as they look for ways to reduce government waste and avoid a tax hike.

Under a policy called "self-declaration," Health and Welfare

officials say allowing people to sign up for Medicaid without proving how much they make — or even providing Social Security numbers — without going to a Health and Welfare office works well. The practice — in place for about three years — has made no difference in the number of cases the agency finds to be either fraudulent or placed in the wrong programs, said Bill Walker, a spokesman for the agency.

Before self-declaration, people signing up for medical assistance had to fill out a 28-page form so complicated that it discouraged them from getting help, said

Newcomb wants to audit schools' books — B1

Health and Welfare Director Karl Kurtz in his presentation to the Legislature's budget committee last week. In addition, clients had to go into offices to apply, which not only was time-consuming for case workers but also demeaning to clients, others have said.

In an effort to streamline the process, the application was reduced to four pages. Clients can simply print the forms off the Internet, fill them out and put them in the mail.

Before streamlining the application process, the agency's internal

Please see MEDICAID, Page A2

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TWIN FALLS FORECAST

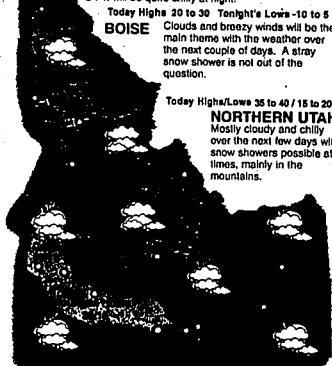
Today: Breezy and seasonably cool under plenty of clouds. A light snow shower is possible.
Tonight: Cloudy, breezy and chilly. Lows in the middle teens.
Tomorrow: Mostly cloudy, breezy and seasonably cool. Highs in the lower 30s.

BURLEY/RUPERT FORECAST

Today: Clouds and cool temperatures are expected today. Winds will be breezy. Highs lower 30s.
Tonight: Mostly cloudy, breezy and chilly. Lows in the middle teens.
Tomorrow: Mostly cloudy, breezy and seasonably cool. Highs in the lower 30s.

IDAHO'S FORECAST

SUN VALLEY, SURROUNDING MTS.
 Mostly cloudy, breezy and chilly over the next few days with light snow showers possible, mainly over the mountains. Any new accumulation should be under 2". It will be quite chilly at night.
Today Highs 20 to 30 **Tonight's Lows -10 to 5**
BOISE
 Clouds and breezy winds will be the main theme with the weather over the next couple of days. A stray snow shower is not out of the question.



Yesterday's State Extremes - High: 59 at Holzer. Low: 2 at Stanley. Weather keys: S=sunny, PC=partly cloudy, MC=mostly cloudy, C=cloudy, TH=thunderstorms, SH=snow, P=rain, SN=snow, I=flurries, W=wind, M=missing

Randy Hansen

Chevrolet

Cadillac

Poline At Blue Lakes North

Budget

Continued from A1
 of deficits," Bush said in a message accompanying the five-volume, 13.5-pound blueprint. "My administration firmly believes in controlling the deficit and reducing it as the economy strengthens and our national security interests are met."
 One item sure to get special attention on Capitol Hill was Bush's proposal to give NASA a modest 3-percent increase to \$15.5 billion in the fiscal year that begins Oct. 1.
 The budget, completed before Saturday's space shuttle Columbia disaster, included \$3.97 billion for the shuttle. The administration said that was 4.7 percent more than it expected

Circulation

Daniel Walock, circulation director

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TWIN FALLS FIVE-DAY FORECAST

Today	Tonight	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
High 30 Low 17	Low 17	31/13	31/13	38/16	39/18

ALMANAC - TWIN FALLS

Temperature	Precipitation	Humidity	Barometric Pressure	Sunrise and Sunset
Yesterday's High: 37 Yesterday's Low: 28 Normal High/Low: 57/-18 Record High: 82 in 1995 Record Low: -13 in 1966	Yesterday's: 0.00" Month to Date: 0.00" Avg. Month to Date: 0.00" Water Year to Date: 2.52" Avg. Water Year to Date: 4.35"	Yesterday's High: 62% Yesterday's Low: 60% Today's Forecast High: 60% Today's Forecast Low: 60% A winter year runs from Oct. 1 to Sept. 30	8 p.m. Yesterday: 30.00 in. Snobs R. Wyoming: 84% Reading are % of normal value yesterday	Today: Sunrise: 7:46 AM, Sunset: 6:56 PM Wednesday: Sunrise: 7:47 AM, Sunset: 6:57 PM Thursday: Sunrise: 7:48 AM, Sunset: 6:58 PM Friday: Sunrise: 7:49 AM, Sunset: 6:59 PM Saturday: Sunrise: 7:50 AM, Sunset: 7:00 PM

REGIONAL FORECAST

City	Today	Tomorrow	Thursday
Boise	37/18	34/18	30/20
Bonanza Ferry	32/18	32/17	30/20
Burley	35/13	32/12	30/20
Challis	32/10	24/1	30/20
Cooper's Lake	32/10	30/19	34/22
Elko, W.	31/10	24/1	30/20
Evans, OR	47/24	45/25	46/23
Grange	22/6	20/14	34/22
Hagerman	33/16	34/12	34/22
Idaho Falls	31/8	31/10	30/20
Kalispell, MT	29/8	21/1	30/20
Jerome	34/6	34/18	30/20
Leavitt	40/25	39/25	40/27
Malad City	26/1	26/1	30/20
Malta	29/10	26/5	29/10
McCall	24/5	18/1	30/20
Massena, MT	31/17	31/17	31/18
Postville	25/13	23/10	25/12
Portland, OR	49/28	48/30	50/30
Rupert	32/15	31/14	32/15
Shoshone	23/1	18/1	30/20
Richland, WA	42/26	37/23	34/24
Rogerson	30/18	31/14	31/14
Salmon	25/11	26/1	30/20
Salt Lake City, UT	31/18	26/1	31/17
Spokane	24/5	22/9	22/9
Starline	24/5	22/9	22/9
Sun Valley	28/3	25/7	20/2
Valerius, MT	16/5	12/10	17/2

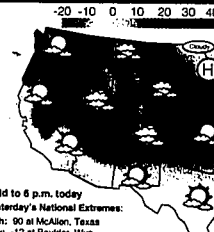
NATIONAL FORECAST

City	Today	Tomorrow	Thursday
Albany	53/25	52/30	50/30
Albany, GA	54/25	53/35	50/30
Baltimore	50/41	50/35	50/30
Birmingham	47/28	51/33	50/30
Boston	45/28	54/12	50/30
Charleston, SC	65/35	67/31	60/30
Charlotte, NC	48/18	53/18	50/30
Chicago	30/17	26/12	30/20
Cleveland	30/17	26/12	30/20
Denver	45/28	54/12	50/30
Des Moines	20/2	20/7	30/20
Detroit	45/28	54/12	50/30
El Paso	64/32	60/31	50/30
Fort Worth	54/32	50/31	50/30
Honolulu	81/65	80/65	80/65
Indianapolis	32/10	26/12	30/20
Jacksonville	60/39	60/39	60/39
Kansas City	30/17	26/12	30/20
Las Vegas	57/34	54/34	50/30
Los Angeles	60/39	60/39	60/39
Los Angeles	60/39	60/39	60/39
Memphis	48/28	48/28	48/28
Minneapolis	30/17	26/12	30/20
Miami	22/4	18/6	30/20
Mobile	47/21	50/31	50/30
New Orleans	57/41	57/47	50/30
New York	47/21	50/31	50/30
Oklahoma City	45/23	30/27	30/20
Omaha	20/4	25/8	30/20

WORLD FORECAST

City	Today	Tomorrow	Thursday
Alaska	51/30	50/30	50/30
Alaska	51/30	50/30	50/30
Alaska	51/30	50/30	50/30
Alaska	51/30	50/30	50/30
Alaska	51/30	50/30	50/30
Alaska	51/30	50/30	50/30
Alaska	51/30	50/30	50/30
Alaska	51/30	50/30	50/30
Alaska	51/30	50/30	50/30
Alaska	51/30	50/30	50/30

TODAY'S NATIONAL MAP



Cruelty

Continued from A1
 Loeb said he needs more evidence to be able to file a lawsuit to what happened at the dairy.
 "Until we get further evidence, we can't proceed with prosecution," he said.
 One suspect, a former dairy employee, has moved and can't be found, authorities say.
 Contractor Michael Cody Prestin provided a written statement to the Ag Department saying he witnessed Jack Tuls order a dairy employee to move a cow near death from the hospital barn to the dead pit.
 Loeb said a manager could have assumed that an employee would follow the orders properly, euthanizing the animal and then moving it to the dead pit.
 In his statement, Prestin said

Medicaid

Continued from A1
 audits that took into account hundreds of cases revealed about a 4 percent error rate, Walker said. Errors occur either because of fraud or honest mistakes on the part of the clients or from being assigned to the wrong programs, he explained.
 But the co-chairman of the Joint Finance Appropriations Committee, Sen. Dean Cameron, R-Rupert, said Health and Welfare employees who administer the program have told him and other lawmakers that self-declaration has plenty of problems.
 In addition, Legislative Audits—a state agency upon which lawmakers rely for statistical data—found a 25 percent error rate in a sampling of 53 cases out of the 11,114 children enrolled in the Children's Health Insurance Program during 2000 and 2001. The legislative audit service

that on or about Aug. 15, he saw an employee tie a rope around both of the cow's hind legs and lift the animal off the ground with a forklift. He found the animal about two hours later, still alive in the dead pit.
 Paul Lederer, a retired farmer, told reporters he shot the cow with his own gun, say Ag Department investigation records obtained by *The Times-News* through a public records request. The cow had been partially buried while still alive, Lederer told reporters.
 Just the day before, inspectors reported Lederer had told them he was the dairy's new manager. He said he had stopped by to have coffee with Tuls, said that Tuls was pulling his hair out trying to manage the dairy, and offered to help.

The next day, the same day that he shot the cow, Lederer told inspectors Jack and his wife, Tillie Tuls, wanted him to leave the dairy.
 On Aug. 23, the county's chief civil deputy prosecutor, Rosemary Emory, went to the dairy prepared to take action to seize the entire herd of cows, Loeb said. But veterinarians inspecting the dairy had determined the cows were in better condition, he said.
 Ag Department inspector Tami Frank's written report says that on Aug. 23, she and veterinarian Phil Mamer met with representatives from the sheriff's and prosecutor's offices to tell them about their concerns "with the lack of management at the dairy." Frank's report stated:
 "The deputy prosecuting attorney

wanted to come with us for the evaluation and also wanted to contact Jack Tuls' bank in China, Calif., to tell them of the latest developments. Twin Falls County officials were concerned that they will be forced to seize the herd. They are unsure how they will afford the care of the cows."
 The description of the prosecutor's involvement ended there.
 Norfolk, Va.-based PETA's guiding principle is the belief that animals "are not ours to eat, wear, experiment on, or use for entertainment."
 Jack and Tillie Tuls refused repeated requests from *The Times-News* to respond to the Ag Department's investigation.
 The department says the dairy has a manager in place now and is operating smoothly.

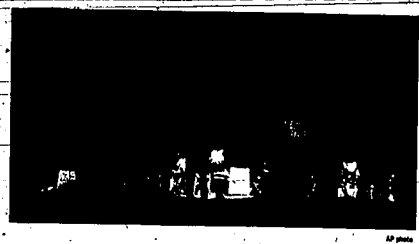
are on Medicaid. Of those people, 98,000 are children under the age of 19, and almost 12,000 of them are in the Children's Health Insurance Program. A family qualifies for Medicaid if it makes less than 133 percent of the federal poverty level. The federal government pays 70 percent of the bill. For children to qualify under the CHIPs program, the family has to make between 133 percent and 150 percent of the federal guidelines for poverty. The federal government reimburses the state for 80 percent of CHIPs cost.
 To qualify for CHIPs, a family of four has to have a monthly income before taxes of no more than about \$2,300. For each additional person in the family, the agency adds \$385 the family can make each month. CHIPs covers all children's health care, including unpaid bills three months before enrolling.

Investigators look for 'missing link'

The Washington Post

NASA investigators Monday offered a new interpretation of the sudden heating the shuttle Columbia experienced on its left wing and side as it descended toward its destruction, speculating that fatal damage began elsewhere on the spacecraft.

They have been studying the possibility that the shuttle's insulating tiles had been damaged as early as the first minutes of the flight when a piece of foam insulation appeared to break off from the shuttle's massive external tank and strike the underside of the left wing near the wheel well, where instruments recorded the unusual warming just prior to the disaster. At a late-day briefing in Houston, shuttle manager Ron Ditmore also said it is possible the spacecraft was breached some place other than the wheel well where the temperature increases were first registered. He said engineers were baffled as



Mourners gather near the entrance to the Johnson Space Center Monday in Houston. Mourners came throughout the day to leave memorials and pay respects to the seven crew members lost on the Columbia space shuttle.

to how the observed temperature increases in the left wheel well and fuselage "end up with an event that lost the vehicle."

The evidence leaves engineers thinking "there's some other missing link that we don't have yet

that's contributing to this temperature increase."

That missing link was the subject of a massive, around-the-clock search through telemetry readouts and other records as well as through farms, fields and lakes — an effort that promised to go on for weeks or months.

Last night, the Associated Press reported that searchers had found Columbia's nose cone buried deep in the ground near the Louisiana border.

"It's reasonably intact," said Warren Zahner, a senior coordinator for the Environmental Protection Agency, which is overseeing collection of shuttle debris.

NASA Monday set up an additional base of operations at Carswell Air Force Base near Fort Worth to collect the thousands of fragments of debris, in addition to one already established at the Barksdale Air Force Base in Louisiana.

Engineers have been directed to consider the giant external tank as a possible root cause of the accident, Ditmore said. But they will also continue to investigate a range of possible alternative causes from inspection procedures to wiring and computer controls.

Police find woman slain in Phil Spector's home

Authorities arrest legendary record producer

ALHAMBRA, Calif. (AP) — Phil Spector, the legendary record producer whose "wall of sound" helped change the sound of pop music in the 1960s, was arrested Monday for allegedly shooting a woman to death at his suburban mansion.

Spector, 62, was seized at the castle-like estate around 5 a.m. after someone in the home called authorities. He was released shortly after 7 p.m. after posting \$1 million bond, said Los Angeles County sheriff's Deputy Rich Pena.

Attorney Robert Shapiro, whose clients have included O.J. Simpson, was representing Spector. "I don't know answers to any of this," Shapiro said by telephone from the Alhambra Police Department before Spector's release.

Authorities did not immediately identify the woman or her relationship to Spector. The victim, found in the foyer, appeared to be in her early to mid-20s and authorities were trying to locate her relatives, sheriff's Lt. Daniel Rosenberg said. He said deputies had found the murder weapon but released no details.



Phil Spector Arrested in connection with murder

Police arrived after someone in the home called to report shots had been fired, Rosenberg said.

"Someone else was there at the time of the shooting," he said, declining to elaborate. A black Mercedes-Benz sedan with the driver's door open was parked in the driveway of the home, which records show Spector bought in 1998 for \$1.1 million. Authorities towed the car away later in the day.

Shuttle

Continued from A1

As a result, ground controllers apparently did not consider the radical measures that might have saved the mission soon after liftoff or bringing the shuttle in at a re-entry angle that could have allowed the crew to parachute to safety.

After the shuttle disintegrated while returning to Earth on Saturday and the damaged tiles emerged as one of the prime candidates for the cause, NASA engineers began examining their calculations and wondering whether they had made a catastrophic mistake. Investigators have focused on the tiles but have not ruled out other possible causes of the disaster.

While it is easy to conclude the engineers were right about the first mission and wrong about the last, what happened this time may be more complicated: Both decisions involved judgment and chance, and those factors can produce unpredictable outcomes

when a 178,000-pound spacecraft hurtles through the upper atmosphere at 17,500 miles per hour.

"This is not the first time that we have had debris generated from the external tank that has struck the underside of the wing," said Ron Ditmore, NASA's space shuttle program manager. The thinking was, "this has happened before, yes, it can impact the tile; yes, it could take some of the coating off; yes, it can even gouge out some of the tile. But it has never represented anything more than that."

Film clips taken during liftoff indicated a puff below the left wing — the result of what was probably a piece of insulation foam hitting it. Pictures taken during the blinding light of liftoff were imprecise in showing the damage, and engineers were left to guess at what had happened.

The astronauts could not see the damage because it was on the bottom of the shuttle. The crew did not have on-board cameras to sur-

vey the tiled bottom of the orbiter. NASA had spurned an independent advisory panel's recommendation in 1997 that it create such a camera for use with every flight.

A Jan. 17 review of the film taken at liftoff was followed by analyses and a meeting of engineers on Jan. 20, Ditmore said in a press briefing Monday. Teams of engineers discussed different aspects of risk — the teams varied in size from 30 to as few as one or two when the questions became highly specialized. The engineering analysis concluded as early as Jan. 22 that the risk was not serious, a decision confirmed by final reviews on Jan. 23 and 24.

Senior NASA officials were briefed Jan. 24 and 27, Ditmore said. Both meetings confirmed the engineers' conclusion that the spacecraft was not at serious risk.

Since the damage was under the wing, in an area not visible to the astronauts, the engineers on the ground made several assumptions about what had happened.

Like doctors asked to diagnose the extent of an injury without being able to actually see it, the engineers started by estimating the size of the projectile that hit the wing.

From the puff in film clips when the foam disintegrated into dust on impact with the wing, the engineers calculated it was probably 20 inches long, 16 inches wide, 6 inches deep and weighed 2.67 pounds.

The calculations erred on the side of caution, Ditmore said, meaning that the foam probably was smaller and lighter.

Next, the engineers estimated the angle at which the foam hit the wing — and concluded it was quite sharp, a glancing blow.

From these assumptions, the engineers deduced the impacts of the foam hitting one tile and a larger area. Again, this technique had proved highly reliable in the past and usually overestimated the amount of damage, Ditmore said.

U.S. soldier shot in Germany

BERLIN (AP) — A U.S. soldier was seriously wounded by gunfire early Monday after he pulled his car off the road in southern Germany to clean ice from the windshield, police said.

The 26-year-old private first class from the U.S. Army's 1st Infantry Division was wearing civilian clothes when he was shot in the left hand and leg on his way to the barracks in Schweinfurt, 60 miles east of

Frankfurt, Schweinfurt police spokesman Karl-Heinz Schmitt said in a statement.

Police said they were focusing on a personal motive, after both German investigators and U.S. military officials said there were no indications of a terror attack.

"It looks like a criminal act," police spokesman Rüdiger Klein said. "We're tending to look at (the soldier's) personal relationships."

Families

Continued from A1

ship he would travel on. Even if he had time, Gary Snow isn't sure what he would have told his son.

"What do you say to him? Keep your head low?"

Not all the soldiers in the Persian Gulf are cut off from their parents. Kirk Weiner, a father of Idaho National Guardsman, sends e-mail from Kuwait to his father, Ron Weiner, in Buhl. Weiner has been in Kuwait long enough to find a way to communicate, but he can't say exactly what he's doing for security reasons.

Some soldiers stop short of giving their family all the details to protect them. Gary Snow's son in the Navy, Kevin Gilley, told his parents he was in Spain, when he was actually in Kuwait, because "he knew his mother would be worried if she knew he was in the Middle East."

Parents and grandparents said having their children in the military and in harm's way affects their political views on the potential war.

"I'm not such a hawk that I used to be," Gary Snow said. "But I know that this needs to be done."

"Of course I hate to see us going to war, but it may be necessary. I don't go," Lila Watson said. "We can't sit here and just let the enemy take us over."

"It's scary, I'll tell you that right now. We're concerned, but not the point that I'd go over the hill and say, 'Don't go,'" Myron Schroeder of Twin Falls said. Schroeder's grandson is headed for the Persian Gulf, and his granddaughter-in-law recently returned from Qatar.

Families don't like the idea of their children fighting. At the same time, they say the men and women are on an honorable mission.

Nels Moller looks at the situa-

tion from a different perspective. The Paul farmer's son was killed in the Gulf War.

"I don't like Saddam Hussein — he's the one most responsible for my son's death — but I don't like the way the administration is handling things," Moller said.

The biggest unanswered question, Moller said, is: What happens after the war? There is still no exit strategy.

Kirk and Ron Weiner have differing opinions about war in Iraq.

"Watching all the bleeding hearts in the states on the news makes most of us really mad," Kirk Weiner wrote in an e-mail to The Times-News. "The thing to remember is that we are here so that all of you can rest easy and not worry about another Sept. 11. It gets pretty discouraging, hearing all the anti-war sentiment. We

need to have the support of our families, friends and the public in general."

"Not being in favor of the war shouldn't be interpreted as not supporting the troops," Ron Weiner said. "The reasons for war have not been clearly made, and I hope we can avoid it."

Caleb Jones of Twin Falls decided to join the Army in December as the threat of conflict grew. He wanted to join his twin, Chad Jones, a Marine.

"I felt if he was in there doing that whole gig, I at least wanted to be in there with him," Caleb Jones said.

Caleb Jones said he is not worried about war. "I don't think

there will be a massive ground attack," he said.

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Mountain West OPTICAL

Jackpot Community Library is going strong

Patrons like convenience, computers

By Sam Fellman
Times-News correspondent

JACKPOT, Nev. — Now that the Jackpot Community Library has been in operation for 21 months, Terry Dunn is convinced that it's a good deal.

Dunn, the community librarian, takes over duties at 2 p.m. each afternoon, except Mondays. Up until that time, it is the school library and not open to the public. Mostly, the students use the place.

"I would like to see more adults. Our Spanish section is really expanding," Dunn said. She hopes the Hispanic population will use it more once the word gets out that they are increasing their Spanish section. The one area that is plenty busy is the computer section.

"All this week it's been standing room only," Dunn said.

A lot of people who don't have computers at home or tourists wanting to check their e-mail visit. Terry Nall likes the convenience and as a ranch hand. "Lately, I have been here about two days a week," he said.

Library hours

The library, which is located near the Jackpot Combined School and Jackpot Recreation Center, is open to the public from 2-7 Tuesday through Thursday, 2-6 p.m. Friday and 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday.

The use of the computers and Internet access is a free. Library cards also are free.

The library, which was built as a school/community facility and patterned after libraries in other small communities throughout the state, is full service, with audio and video materials and a large assortment of books, said Dunn, who is paid by the town of Jackpot. She also can order books from other libraries throughout the state.

"If we don't have it, we can get it," she said.

The library will soon replace two of its eight computers with new state of the art ones. The computers are manufactured for the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation by Gateway Inc., and are available to libraries partici-



Jessa Henson, front, and Ronnie Pierce use the popular computer section at the Jackpot Community Library. The library is used by Jackpot school students and the public.

Sam Fellman/The Times-News

pating in the State Partnership Program through a grant, Dunn said. One of the computers will be in Spanish.

The library also houses a children's room and a meeting/class room where Dunn holds special programs for the children. At 3:30 p.m. each Wednesday, she offers

a story hour and craft activity, and another craft activity at 12:30 p.m. each Saturday. These are open to all children, residents and guests alike.

Via long-distance education, several teachers are working towards their master's degrees at the library, including eight pursu-

ing a master's in literacy studies from the University of Nevada Reno.

"With LDE, we can interact with our professors," said Sue Frank, first-grade teacher. "It's close to the school."

Bryan Messmer, the Jackpot

Combined School principal, said high school students also can use the long-distance learning for honor courses.

The combined library operation is going well, he added. "When you combine the resources of the school and the county, everybody wins."

Student takes spot in honor choir

HEYBURN — A Heyburn student was selected to perform in the 2003 All-Northwest Honor Choir.

Daniel Rock, son of Don and Diane Rock of Heyburn, is one of more than 900 high-school students in the Northwest region selected to perform in the 2003 Northwest Division Conference of the National Association for Music Education at Portland, Ore. Rock, a tenor, will perform with the mixed choir.

With assistance from Burley High School music teacher Cindy Hansen, Rock will prepare music that will be performed under the



Daniel Rock

leadership of prominent conductors at this biennial event, organizers say. Students will spend three days rehearsing with one of four conductors in preparation for performances Feb. 15-16 in the Oregon Ballroom at the Oregon Convention Center. The All-Northwest Mixed Choir and Women's Choir concert will take

place at 2 p.m. Feb. 16.

The All-Northwest Honor groups consist of a concert band, symphony orchestra, mixed choir, women's choir, jazz band and jazz choir. The concert band and symphony orchestra each will have about 200 instrumentalists. The jazz band will have 18 instrumentalists; and the mixed, women's and jazz choirs combined will have about 500 vocalists.

More than 4,000 student musicians auditioned for the groups. Approximately 20 percent reached the final division-level selection to be included in the groups.

Theta member teachers enjoy Christmas festivities at their December meeting in Jerome.

From left, back row: Begle Hatmaker of Shoshone, Sandra Calkins of Richfield, Rosie Dockstader of Jerome, Dorothy Morris of Buhl and Kathy Bolan of Gooding; front row: Michelle Powell of Gooding, Phyllis Rickert of Jerome and Donna Pence of Gooding.



Photo courtesy of LULU MAE COATES

Teacher organization celebrates

JEROME — The Theta Chapter of Delta Kappa Gamma celebrated the holidays with festivities, information and community service.

The chapter is a part of the national organization for female educators.

The December meeting was held at the home of Lulu Mae Coates in Jerome. Nine members attended.

President Dorothy Morris presented a program on testing in Idaho schools, and discussed the several tests required to meet state and federal government mandates. She also provided information about an incentive

program sponsored by the Albertson Foundation for the schools and teachers.

A legislative update was given by Kathie Boian, who also urged all teachers to make it a priority to become informed about issues in this legislative session affecting public education.

Every member brought books to contribute to Operation Wishbook, a project of the Idaho Reading Association and Theta Chapter to help every student have his or her own book. Several schools are represented in the Theta membership, and a member's school and grade level is selected to be the recipient of

this project each December.

Funds for the World Fellowship were contributed through a silent auction. These funds are used to award scholarship money to Delta Kappa Gamma members selected from worldwide applicants each year.

An exchange of wrapped Christmas ornaments also was held among the members, and members enjoyed dinner served by hostesses Melba Fisher, Rosie Dockstader, Phyllis Rickert and Lulu Mae Coates.

The next regular meeting will be held on Feb. 12 at the Gooding Middle School with Gooding members serving as hostesses.

STORK REPORT

Magic Valley Regional Medical Center

Arianna Marie Carter, daughter of Roxann McLane and Jon Walker Carter of Twin Falls, was born Tuesday, Jan. 14, 2003.

Drake Jon Paul Caldwell, son of Sara Ann and Randy Caldwell of Kimberly, was born Sunday, Jan. 26, 2003.

Alexandria Marie Foster, daughter of Tina Marie and Albert Drew Foster of Twin Falls, was born Monday, Jan. 27, 2003.

Kayden James Parkinson, son of Bethany J. and Bing G. Parkinson of Heyburn, was born Monday, Jan. 27, 2003.

Rhiana Rayne Matthews, daughter of Rebecca M. and Rocky T. Matthews of Murtaugh, was born Tuesday, Jan. 28, 2003.

Banika Louisa Rivera, daughter of Alana C. and Raul Rivera of Hansen, was born Tuesday, Jan. 28, 2003.

Kaleb Joseph Wolters, son of Ingrid Patricia and Eric Joseph Wolters of Shoshone, was born Tuesday, Jan. 28, 2003.

Holden Andrew Davis, son of Tammy F. and John D. Davis of Twin Falls, was born Wednesday, Jan. 29, 2003.

Nickeli Christopher Thompson, son of Sheila Ruby and Michael Joseph Thompson

To announce a birth Send a copy of the birth certificate to: Melissa Morgan The Times-News P.O. Box 548 Twin Falls, ID 83303 Or fax to: 734-5538 Deadline: noon Tuesday for Sunday's paper; and noon Friday for Tuesday's paper. More information? Call Melissa at 735-3278

of Twin Falls, was born Wednesday, Jan. 29, 2003.

St. Benedict's Family Medical Center

Dylan Gerald O'Brien, son of Denny and Becky O'Brien of Jerome, was born Saturday, Jan. 25, 2003.

Alondra Quezada, daughter of Jesus and Yesenia Quezada of Buhl, was born Saturday, Jan. 25, 2003.

Dominic Michael Warren, son of Joe and Christina Warren of Gooding, was born Monday, Jan. 27, 2003.

Kassandra Lopez Rosales, daughter of Maria Teresa Rosales and Mauricio Lopez of Wendell, was born Monday, Jan. 27, 2003.

Kaylee Rebecca Bay, daughter of CJ Bay and Rebecca

Thiemann of Gooding, was born Monday, Jan. 27, 2003.

Cassia Regional Medical Center

Sharon Lara, daughter of Vanessa and Andres Lara of Burley, was born Thursday, Jan. 23, 2003.

Emily Lopez, daughter of Marisela Tovar and Baldemar Lopez of Burley, was born Saturday, Jan. 25, 2003.

Isaiah Jason Cordova, son of Heather Peterson and Louis Cordova Jr. of Burley, was born Saturday, Jan. 25, 2003.

Cherish Quinn Cox, daughter of Cheri Erickson and John Cox of Burley, was born Monday, Jan. 27, 2003.

Natalie Grace Barclay, daughter of Scott and Melanie Barclay of Burley, was born Monday, Jan. 27, 2003.

Emily Kayla Mejia, daughter of Sonia Mejia of Burley, was born Monday, Jan. 27, 2003.

Dakoda James Huber, son of Cody and Misty Huber of Paul, was born Tuesday, Jan. 28, 2003.

Jaiden Marie Garza, daughter of Dawn M. Lance and Juan Garza Jr., was born Wednesday, Jan. 29, 2003.

Ivy Nicole Davidson, daughter of Stephen and Teresa Davidson, was born Thursday, Jan. 30, 2003.

Student nabs Stuart bee championship

TWIN FALLS — Joseph Laskey, a seventh-grade student at Robert Stuart Junior High School in Twin Falls, won the school-level competition for the National Geographic Bee on Jan. 15, and a chance at a \$25,000 college scholarship.

The school-level bee, where students answered oral questions on geography, was the first round in the 15th annual National Geographic Bee.

Shauna Robinson is Joseph's social studies teacher at Robert Stuart.

The school winners, including Joseph, have taken a written test,



Joseph Laskey

and up to 100 of the top scorers in each state will be eligible to compete in their state bee on April 4.

The National Geographic Society will provide an all-expenses paid trip to Washington, D.C., for state champions and teacher-escorts to participate in the national championship on May 20-21. The first-

place national winner will receive a \$25,000 college scholarship, and a lifetime membership in the National Geographic Society.

"Jeopardy!" host Alex Trebek will moderate the national finals on May 21. The program will air on the National Geographic Channel, and afterward on PBS stations. Anyone can brush up on geography with the GeoBee Challenge, an online geography quiz at www.nationalgeographic.com/geobee, which poses five new questions a day from previous National Geographic Bees.

Shoshone students become NJHS members at ceremony

SHOSHONE — Thirteen students from Shoshone Junior and Senior High School were inducted into membership of the National Junior Honor Society at a candlelight ceremony at the school Jan. 9.

Members were selected by a faculty council for meeting high standards of scholarship, service, leadership, character and citizenship.

Society members are expected to make exemplary contributions to the school and community, said Michele Will and Linda Prescott, chapter advisers. The Shoshone Junior High

School Chapter has been active since 1990.

The National Junior Honor Society ranks as one of the oldest and most prestigious national organizations for high school students. Chapters exist in three-fourths of the nation's high schools and, since 1921, millions of students have been selected for membership.

Thousands of dollars in scholarships also have been awarded to senior members since 1945 by the sponsoring organization, the National Association of Secondary School Principals.

New National Junior Honor Society members are, from left, front row: Derek Tuckett, Pat Ross, Logan Sant, Crikette Jensen, Devonna Stanhop; back row: Rob Merrick, Brandon Klegia, Hailey Robinson, Kresley Robinson, Kristin Davidson and Ashley Clifford. Not pictured is Kori Bingham and Vance Bullock.



Photo courtesy of Shoshone High School

EDITORIAL

Dutch Touch probe hits dairies with a black eye

A state report alleging animal cruelty at a Twin Falls County dairy turns out to be the stomachs of most outside observers, and it could give the entire dairy industry an undesired black eye.

Revelations from an Idaho Department of Agriculture investigation provide ghastly details of alleged animal cruelty at the Dutch Touch dairy south of Filer. They couldn't have come at a worse time for Idaho's dairymen, whose reputation already suffers because of a few rogue operators.

Idaho Dairy Bureau Chief Marv Patten's report concluded that Dutch Touch Dairy, owned by Jack and Tillie Tuls, failed to provide "reasonable care or sustenance to crippled or sick animals." It further found that the dairy subjected livestock to "needless suffering" and "inflicted unnecessary cruelty by dragging, lifting and burying live animals."

Photographs taken by investigators make an even stronger case. Some of the pictures show animals unburied in open, shallow pits. One shows a sick and dying cow, lying on ground that has been marked by the animal's futile thrashing. Another picture shows underfed livestock in uncleaned pens. These are unacceptable conditions, even to untrained observers.

Statements of former employees shed some light on the practices at the dairy. One worker said "downer" cows "unable to stand due to sickness, injury or old age" were not given food or water. Additionally, dead animals were buried improperly — some while still alive, according to Patten's report.

Responsible farmers, ranchers and other stewards of livestock know that proper and

humane animal husbandry is essential to a profitable business — as well as a rewarding element of their jobs.

Humans owe decent treatment to the animals they control, whether those animals are pampered house pets or livestock bound for slaughter. Most livestock owners appreciate this responsibility and take careful steps to maintain their animals' well-being.

Some people have criticized the Department of Agriculture as an apologist for dairies. But the department did a thorough job in the Dutch Touch investigation by making more than two weeks of nearly daily inspections at the facility until the situation

improved. Then inspectors gathered all possible evidence and handed it to local legal authorities.

The decision not to prosecute for animal cruelty seems, in retrospect, premature. Even a casual reading of the state's report appears to show sufficient evidence for at least a close inquiry. It may be true that pinning the abuse on a particular individual would be hard, but that's what investigations are for. Local legal authorities should persist in gathering evidence in the case, and prosecute those responsible for mistreating helpless animals.

Some dairy critics will jump on this latest episode as evidence that the entire dairy industry — especially large dairies — mistreats livestock for selfish gain. Readers should recognize this is one case, and that most dairies treat animals humanely.

Unfortunately, the Dutch Touch probe inevitably brings embarrassment to the broader industry. Dairymen who care for their livestock should condemn what has transpired at the Filer dairy.

Space beckons us to move forward

On Saturday, I set three alarms for 6 in the morning. But when I turned on the television, I was puzzled by the relative silence at Mission Control. Though landing time was approaching, there was little activity. The realization dawned as slowly for me, a veteran astronaut, as for everyone else. There was no immediate or decisive announcement, only a slow recognition that a catastrophe had occurred.

I didn't know these astronauts. But I know what they were doing, because I've done it.

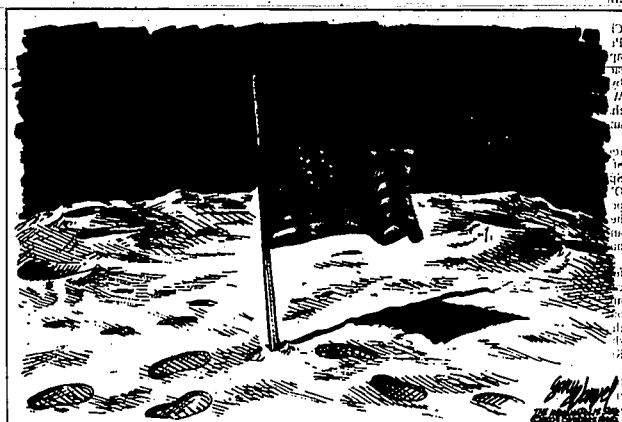
Astronauts face danger all the time. It's a job where danger is a basic assumption. But you don't think of it that way. You can't.

I became an astronaut because flying had always been part of my life. My father had flown in the 1920s and '30s; he was a major in the Army Air Corps. He was acquainted with Amelia Earhart and Orville Wright. My aunt was one of the first stewardesses, and my uncle was an air traffic manager at Eastern.

Flying at that time was exciting; it was a new kind of frontier. It wasn't yet something all the other children thought of. There was no such thing as being an astronaut in those days, but I knew from a very young age that I wanted to go up in the air.

It was always dangerous. Being a pilot in Korea was dangerous, and I did that. For a fighter pilot, the danger is that people are shooting at you. In space, the danger is different: It is the unknown, the inability to respond. In space, we always knew that we were risking our lives. But if you're going to do it, you can't think of it that way. I've had my moments where things went wrong, and I've had to push aside fear.

In 1969, when Neil Armstrong and I made the first landing on the moon, descending toward the surface we experienced a series of computer alarms, and then we ran low on fuel. We didn't panic



because we had learned to manage those emotions and set them aside. We had been trained to understand that not everyone survives these situations. That's just the nature of the business.

I don't know that it makes us heroes. I don't even know if the Columbia astronauts were heroes. They were doing something challenging, and they faced great danger. But it all happened so fast that they weren't given the opportunity to respond. A hero is someone who is faced with a decision, and the decision that is made is ultimately what makes that person into a hero. But these men and women had no time to choose. They were just doing their duty. They weren't offered a chance to respond. They died doing their duty.

What's important now is that we not stop or slow down our space program.

We should take a step back and figure out what went wrong, and we should think about whether we chose the best possible path. But then we have to acknowledge that we did choose it, and that we owe it to our partners and investors

and to the nation and to those who sacrificed their lives to continue it.

There were alternatives that the National Aeronautics and Space Administration might have chosen, and we might be in better shape if we had chosen differently. We underestimated the cost of the space shuttle. It is more complicated to maintain than we believed. The space station is far more difficult to assemble than we had originally thought. International cooperation is not an easy thing to establish. And the cost of erecting the space station and the time it is taking to put it up are not what we anticipated; it is much more difficult.

One thing that this terrible tragedy has demonstrated is that we don't have an adequate escape provision on the shuttle itself. I have been encouraging NASA to modify the shuttle.

This catastrophe might have been avoidable if there had been a discrete, survivable escape pod that could separate from the orbiter as it began to break up. Possibly, the astronauts would have been able to continue the reentry, with parachutes guiding

them to a soft landing on land or ocean.

But that's all hindsight. Now we have to look for the best alternatives going forward, so that when we look back 10 or 15 years from now, we can say that in 2003, as a result of the Columbia tragedy, we examined our alternatives closely and made the right decisions.

The United States started something in space, and the world expects us to continue. The future still holds great possibilities. We have to start thinking seriously about the notion of public space, travel and commercial activity in space. Beginning with government research and exploration, we need to move toward private citizens in space. We must develop mature, rockets and spacecraft, as well as hotels and habitats in low orbit for public space travel. From that base we can venture beyond to Earth orbit to the moon, to asteroids and to Mars. It's absolutely critical that we continue our efforts.

Buzz Aldrin is the second human to walk on the moon.

Volunteers go the extra miles for Fruiland dogs

Mega kudos to Dr. James and Bonnie Larue. They and their support staff are showing by example the true meaning of the word "shelter."

I hope that everyone in the community will assist them in their effort to house and care for all the dogs they brought back to Filer from Fruiland.

SUE STROBEL
Twin Falls

Family farms get squeezed out by big industry

Family farms and dairies have fed the nation and the world, and produced solid, hard-working citizens — the essence of America — and complaints about ag were rare. This is changing. When a non-family corporation is the owner, the farmer becomes a hired hand where he was previously his own boss. Corporations and huge operations don't have personal investment to care well for the land, the animals, the water and the community. In the industrial model of agriculture, a few people get wealthy and the divide between rich and poor grows wider.

Family farms and dairies are being squeezed out. Supply of milk exceeds demand, and the large operations can weather the low prices, but the small operation folds.

Is this inevitable or desirable? Do we want to lose family farms and the community they create? Other states and countries have

taken measures to protect the family farm. Farming states such as South Dakota and Nebraska have passed family farm legislation that allows family operations to grow but does not allow non-family corporations. And Europe feeds its people with many small farms and dairies — they do not have industrial-size operations.

The demise of the family farm and dairy is not inevitable, but it will happen, and quickly, if we do nothing to prevent it. Everyone can do something to help. It matters to all of us.

Buy local products. Our area has farms where you can buy directly from farmers and ranchers — often at prices lower than those of imported products at large chain grocery stores. Fill out stores' customer service forms; ask store managers and restaurateurs to support local farms and dairies. Some of these local farms are organic, too. When you buy locally, you are not just purchasing excellent products, you are also supporting a quality of life. Planning and zoning minutes show that Mary Nunez stated that their dairy imports heifers from other states. Local farms could band together and hire a person to tell consumers how to buy their products.

Understand the difference between small operations and industrial agriculture. How many family operations must experience bankruptcy or foreclosure before they realize it is not in their interest to align themselves with industrial ag? When they make this step, we can join with them to ask our legislators to pass family

farm bills.

Do we care enough to act before it is too late?

BETTY SLIFER
Filer

Compromising faith leads to political bondage

Japan bombs Pearl Harbor; we forgive but did not forget. Terrorism in the name of Allah destroyed two towers in New York City, murdering thousands; we may forgive, we will never forget. Wickedness must be disciplined. Nobody wants war, yet there is no peace. Man's heart is deceitful and desperately wicked; who can know it?

Lying mortally wounded in the first wave of the 2nd Marines, hitting the beach of Tarawa, an island in the Pacific during World War II, I watched helplessly with agonizing grief over 2,000 brave men being killed or wounded; we have forgiven, I cannot forget. Remember our past. Honor them who served us. They died so our little children like Jacyra Crist could, in peace and freedom, share her faith with others, especially in public schools and properties.

We should be appalled at the school district's action against Jacyra; it displays in shame officials losing sensitivity of people. We arrived at this point since Darwin's evolution theory, giving politicians control of human spiritual integrity in public schools. Much of our taxes goes toward our public school systems. Government threatens to withhold monies allocated to schools if they do not teach

following government curriculum unproven evolution. Setting policy requiring schools and teachers what and how they must teach with threats of teacher termination. We cannot blame teachers — they are trapped in this program as we are. Politicians demand more taxes, supposedly for schools and teachers. Unfortunately, officials also gain ability controlling teachers, keeping Christianity out of public places. Maybe we need some new attitudes?

Under pretense as the American Civil Liberties Union, a national politically potent lawyers association, focuses in on keeping Christianity out. They persuaded some politicians and the Supreme Court (back then) into implementing their deceitful deeds. Pastor James Kennedy of Coral Ridge Ministry in Fort Lauderdale, Fla., has exposed on videotape the complete history of the ACLU postulate communism beginning that is very informative.

We can change things if we let our inner self look closely for whom we vote. Those thinking they evolved from gorillas (their choice), leave them be. Vote for people who think along the lines of our founding fathers, electing, honorable and trustworthy leaders with understanding of the rightful intentions of the Constitution.

We must not compromise our faith; without it, we live in bondage under the law. Trust our rest to lawyers? Heaven forbid.

FRANK POPPAY
EVELYN POPPAY
Buhl

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

LETTER

U.S. can't sit and wait for terrorist attack

I can't believe the logic used by Marvin Cazier to knock President Bush and his plan to find and kill Saddam Hussein. Don't you think President Bush had good reason for certain that the four commercial airlines in September 2001 were headed to destroy our White House and Capitol and the Twin Towers in New York City, he would have authorized our Air Force to destroy each of them on route? It was war, and any war has casualties.

Why should we as a nation sit back and wait for Hussein and his terrorists to arm a nuclear or other weapon of mass destruction and find a way to deliver it on the USA or one of our allies. He openly hates us big time

from 1991. He has a track record of terror and mass destruction.

All people of conscience hate war. I believe George Bush is a man of conscience and is not doing this for political reasons as the Democrats are trying to make us believe. I truly believe he and his advisors know what Hussein is hiding and what will eventually come down if Saddam Hussein is given the necessary time to develop weapons of mass destruction and a delivery capability — like a commercial airliner.

I have a Marine son in Kuwait who I dearly love and pray for his safety as well as all our military personnel doing their jobs. I want him home safe and alive — but he has a job to do for us. God bless us.

JOHN H. WILSON
Twin Falls

Doonesbury



By Garry Trudeau

Mallard Fillmore



OPINION

Newspapers remark on Columbia disaster

The following are editorials that appeared in national newspapers following Saturday's disaster of the space shuttle Columbia.

Ingredients of an inquiry

After the space shuttle Challenger exploded in 1986, President Ronald Reagan appointed a 13-member commission to investigate. It was headed by former Secretary of State William P. Rogers and included three physicists, two astronauts and a test pilot.

Now, after the Columbia disaster Saturday morning, the head of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration, Sean O'Keefe, has appointed an "independent, objective board." It is heavy on generals and admirals and short on scientists and astronauts.

Reagan's approach - which in four months pinpointed the cause of the crash and NASA's mistakes - is far preferable to one set up by NASA itself. For that reason, President Bush should quickly to set up a Rogers-style commission.

Independence is important because NASA has had questions to answer. Among them: Did NASA adequately investigate the safety implications of a piece of foam hitting the left wing of the shuttle on take-off? Did budget cuts that put off safety upgrades on the shuttle contribute to the crash? On such difficult, now highly charged issues, NASA should not be expected to be truly objective.

NASA says experts around the country concluded that the launch incident was not a problem. But NASA did not take steps to follow up, such as having powerful telescopes focus on the wing.

No one has linked the budget cuts to the crash. But for months NASA's Aerospace Safety Advisory Panel has complained that cuts were hurting shuttle safety. The former head of the panel, Richard Blomberg, said last April, "I have never been as worried for space shuttle safety as I am right now."

The broader lessons of the Challenger accident took more time to emerge. Experts from different fields took away different lessons. To Feynman, the accident was a clear example of what happens when bureaucrats ignore the advice of engineers. Those in other disciplines viewed it as a cautionary tale about technical decision-making in the face of political pressure.

The commission that investigates the Columbia crash needs a similar array of experts - scientists, engineers, astronauts and savvy politicians - to find out what went so tragically wrong 40 miles above the earth.

The St. Louis Post-Dispatch

Rewards still outweigh risks

Millions of people in this country and around the world compulsively watched the tragic TV images Saturday, as the space shuttle Columbia burned up on reentry, killing seven astronauts.

Few viewers appreciated the irony that they were able to get the news of this spectacular NASA failure so quickly only because of some of the space program's lesser-known successes. The news came over satellites, receivers and other space technology.

That same technology, in ways large and small, has made our lives better. It has been worked into our cars, smoke detectors, microwave ovens, clothing and even our food. It helps us fight disease, through CAT scans and mammograms.

Space exploration gives us more accurate weather forecasts, about hurricanes, tornadoes and droughts. It helps sailors, pilots, even hunters and hikers find their way by using global positioning satellite receivers. It helps scientists understand ocean currents and winds, and even global warming. And it opens doors of knowledge about the world, the solar system and the universe.

But just as the rewards of space exploration are great, so are the hazards.

U.S. Sen. Bill Nelson, who flew

aboard Columbia in 1986, reminded us Saturday that "space flight is risky business." Lots of people are now asking if the rewards justify the risks. On balance, we believe they do. All explorers of a new frontier with a hostile environment, like Lewis and Clark 200 years ago, face dangers. I-we would fly, we must risk the fall.

Apollo 1, Apollo 13, Challenger and now Columbia. Those names sadden us and remind us of some painful truths: "Rocket science" is still hard to master. It's a very dangerous and unpredictable universe out there, and our home planet is a tiny blue speck in the vastness of space. Our toughest spacecraft and boldest astronauts put their survival on the line every second they fly.

The Sun-Sentinel (Fort Lauderdale, Fla.)

'Columbia is lost'

Gliding toward its landing at 12,500 mph, 200,000 feet above the Earth, the shuttle Columbia seemed headed for the conclusion of a successful mission. To most of us, humdrum - mission. There had never been an accident in descent in 42 years of U.S. manned spaceflight. Then, unbelievably, the craft burst into flames and came apart, killing all seven astronauts aboard and raining pieces of flaming metal over eastern Texas. "The Columbia is lost," President Bush told the nation Saturday. "There are no survivors."

Like the Challenger explosion 17 years ago, this disaster leaves Americans stunned and shaken. It is unspeakably sad: for the families of the courageous astronauts involved, for the scientists and engineers of the space program, for the Israeli people who saw air force Col. Ilan Ramon become the first Israeli astronaut on this mission, and for most Americans, who have been battered by Sept. 11, a struggling economy, and the sober realization that this country may soon be sending its young people into war in Iraq. This loss will further test the resilience of the national spirit.

It is a loss, of course, that America will surely pass. Almost immediately, President Bush vowed to the stricken families that the country would set to work determining the cause of the accident and getting the space program back on track. "The cause in which they died will continue," he told the nation. "Our journey into space will go on."

The public's immediate fear, especially with an Israeli on board, was that terrorism was involved. That seemed unlikely, since the explosion occurred far beyond the range of any missile. Early speculation also centered on the space program's left wing, which may have been struck by foam insulation during liftoff. But NASA specialists insisted that seemed to do no damage. The truth is, it will take time to find out exactly what happened. Immediately, and properly, the government announced an independent investigation.

Saturday's terrible accident reminds us that spaceflight will always be risky. But, ultimately, as long as the human spirit endures, we will not turn back.

Providence Journal

The spirit to go on

And now this. With America fighting one war and on the brink of another, with the atrocity of 9/11 still an open wound, amid an economy that is shaky at best, in the depths of a bitter winter, the space shuttle - the pride of a nation - disintegrates just 16 minutes from home, and seven astronauts are lost.

Life is starting to feel like an endless stress test. What's a country to do? Try saluting. It's not something you see much of anymore, this gesture associated most often with military people acknowledging a superior.

But the salute is also a universal sign of honor, respect, good wishes and goodwill. Salute the crew of Columbia for living their risky dreams. The space program truly attracts our best and brightest, people with the talents and skills to lead safer and much more lucrative lives. Instead, they chase their passion for the unknown in the only country on Earth that makes such pursuits and makes them possible.

Salute the vision of America as a "melting pot" for the world, a vision so embodied in the Columbia team - men and women, dark and light, native and immigrant, even an ally from a foreign land. Salute what the space shuttle represents - the spirit of a nation that was founded by adventurers and has never stopped pushing the envelope of human achievement. As President Ronald Reagan said in his inspiring speech after the 1986 Challenger shuttle disaster, "I know it's hard to understand, but sometimes painful things like this happen. It's all part of taking a chance and expanding man's horizons. The future doesn't belong to the faint-hearted."

Salute the resolve of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration in the face of this third major disaster in its history. NASA is shaken, staggered even. But its engineers and scientists are nothing but determined to figure out what happened and why, so that it can never happen again. NASA will not have the luxury of lengthy mourning and introspection. Salute all those who serve your country, whether in space or in Afghanistan or in waiting for the possible conflict to come. Whatever the collective psyche on the home front, the feelings are much more intense on the front lines and in the reserves - and in the minds of those who make the decisions that affect so many lives.

Columbia was a disaster, small in scale, perhaps, when set against 9/11 or a commercial aviation crash or a war. But symbolically, emotionally, spiritually, it was another reminder that America is mighty but not invincible - incredibly advanced, but still vulnerable to the unknown. It's a hard time to be at ease. So it's good we have so much to salute.

Detroit Free Press

Columbia's 7 held a passion to explore

Michael Anderson, David Brown, Kalpana Chawla, Laurel Clark, Rick Husband, William McCool and Ilan Ramon were not names familiar to most Americans until Saturday's catastrophe.

Yet the seven astronauts who perished when the shuttle Columbia disintegrated possess the "right stuff" Tom Wolfe wrote of in his 1979 classic on the birth of America's manned space program.

The right stuff is much more than bravery, though it certainly requires an extraordinary amount of courage to tower into a space shuttle, ignite a tower of explosive fuel and take off. The right stuff is an unquenchable passion to explore and push the boundaries of science and technology.

Most American schoolkids growing up in the early 1960s knew the names of Mercury Seven astronauts Scott Carpenter, Gordon Cooper, John Glenn, Virgil Grissom, Wally Schirra, Alan Shepard and Deke Slayton - this country's space pioneers. They were regarded as heroes and celebrities.

The Columbia Seven who died Saturday did not join the space program for fortune or fame. They became astronauts to help mankind expand its understanding of the universe.

Each of the astronauts came to NASA with outstanding resumes. Rick Husband and William McCool were experienced military test pilots. David Brown and Laurel Clark were both physicists and experienced pilots. Michael Anderson was a veteran military pilot and a technology expert. Kalpana Chawla, born in India, was an aerospace engineer and a robotics expert. Ilan Ramon, Israel's first astronaut, was a veteran military pilot and an electronics and computer engineer.

Certainly many will grieve the deaths of those seven explorers. Yet this heartbreak will not stir off others who have the right stuff. Despite the grim news on the latest shuttle tragedy, tonight there will be schoolchildren throughout the world who will be inspired by the Columbia Seven. They will look into the dark sky and decide that they too want to explore the stars.

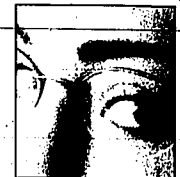
That's because the right stuff is a potent component of the human spirit.

The Orlando Sentinel

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The Times-News: Your guide to Magic Valley

Reading, Writing Corporate Sponsor.

6 On Your Side reveals the pros and cons of school districts turning to corporations for funding.

Tonight at 10:00

Study recommends limits on use of herb ephedra

PHILADELPHIA (AP) — Ephedra, an herb found in weight-loss and bodybuilding supplements, is unsafe, even when taken in recommended doses and should be restricted, according to doctors who studied reports of bad reactions to the herb.

U.S. poison control centers reported 1,178 adverse reactions to ephedra dietary supplements in 2001, said the study, which was to be posted on the Annals of Internal Medicine's Web site Tuesday and published in the journal next month. Ephedra accounted for 64 per-

cent of all adverse reactions involving herbs, even though it is found in fewer than 1 percent of all herbal products sold. "It comes down to a risk-benefit ratio," said one of the report's authors, Dr. Stephen Bent. "The benefits for ephedra are not at all well established."

Doctors seek pill to postpone heart valve replacement

WASHINGTON (AP) — Tens of thousands of Americans face the heart valve replacement that Sen. Bob Graham underwent last week, open-heart surgery that is likely to increase dramatically as the population ages. But what if a simple pill could slow the rusting of the aortic heart

valve and let patients postpone, maybe even avoid, the surgery that is today's only fix? Scientists have uncovered tantalizing evidence that statins, those pills so popular to lower cholesterol, might do just that — and not through any cholesterol effect, but by a completely different

action that suggests even patients with low cholesterol might benefit. "It's very exciting," says Dr. Ann Bolger of the American Heart Association, who is monitoring early research that suggests bad valves are half as likely to worsen if patients take statins.

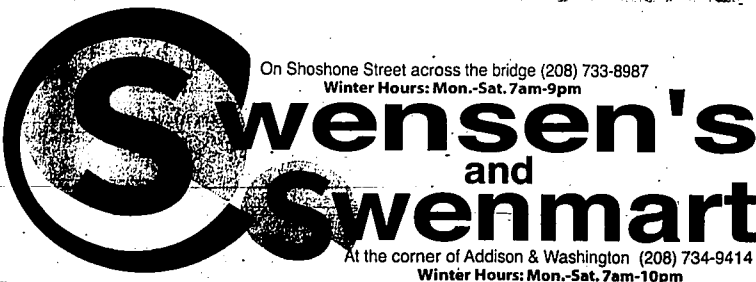
SALAD DAYS AT SWENMART

Words like green, leafy, and fresh-picked may seem a little out of place — given that the only things you'll find growing in Southern Idaho this time of year are houseplants. But thanks to the close relationships we've formed with trucking companies and vegetable growers in warmer states like Arizona and California, we're able to

bring you your favorite varieties of lettuce — fresh from the farmers' fields — at some pretty amazing prices. So stop by Swenmart and Swensen's Market this week and pick out a head of lettuce that looks like it could have come straight from your own garden. And turn February into your own personal salad days.

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AROUND THE VALLEY

House panel looks at expanding dental care

BOISE — A subcommittee to the House Health and Welfare Committee is recommending expanded dental care to Medicaid patients considered to be at high risk, said Rep. Sharon Block, R-Twin Falls, chairwoman of the subcommittee.

As a result of the state budget crisis last year, Gov. Dirk Kempthorne reduced dental care under Medicaid to children, pregnant women and adults needing emergency care. Since then, the governor and the Legislature have been criticized by advocates for the poor and some dentists for excluding adult Medicaid patients from maintenance dental care.

The subcommittee's recommendation would provide dental care for some of those excluded adults, though Block said she's not yet sure what would qualify someone to be considered high risk.

"That would be up to the (Health and Welfare) department," Block said, "but the money to pay for it will have to come from the Health and Welfare budget, not the general fund. They will have to keep (the definition) in line enough to stay within their budget."

Block emphasized the House Health and Welfare Committee will have to approve the recommendation before it can go to the House floor for debate.

Ball bondsman pleads innocent to theft charge

TWIN FALLS — A Twin Falls ball bondsman and business owner who was arrested Thursday pleaded innocent Monday to a grand theft charge.

District Judge Nathan Higer set a trial date of May 28 for Charles Legg. A pretrial conference was set for May 12.

A grand jury on Wednesday handed down an indictment charging Legg with grand theft by deception, according to court records. Police with search warrants early Thursday converged on Legg's business, home and other locations, and Legg was arrested. He later posted bail and was released.

Competition will be tough for spots on shelter board

TWIN FALLS — A total of 37 Twin Falls and Twin Falls County residents turned in applications for spots on a seven-member animal shelter advisory committee to be formed by the city of Twin Falls.

The deadline for the applications was Friday, but there was no word Monday as to when the City Council planned to start interviewing candidates or how soon the animal shelter committee will be up and running. The council recently authorized the formation of the committee, which will operate in same manner as the city's other advisory boards, such as the parks and recreation commission.

The applicants: Donna Bohrn, Cindy Broome, Carol Broz, Richard Cooke, Karla Cordova, Debbie Currier, Kenneth Hanson, Beverly Danvers, Marilyn Day, Ralph Day, Dan Gibbons, Marjorie Hansen, Joseph Hawkins, Sandie Hemingway, Anita Henna, Stephanie Hillius, Robin Hunt, Carol Kaufman, Fran Kornblum, Charles Langley, James LaRue, Charles Lenkner, Tara Martens, Dave Montgomery, Jan Peters, Bob Powers, Debra Preece, Edward Resnick, Bernice Richardson, Judy Ruprecht, Carrie Shelton, Louis Sitton, Donna Stallen, Karen Stroder, Cyrus Warren, Ernie Willis and Carolyn Wolter.

Compiled from staff reports

Snowpack levels

Watershed	% of Avg.	% of 1991
Upper Snake River	84%	51%
Salmon Falls	82%	38%
Salmon	82%	58%
Oakley	53%	34%
Big Wood	84%	51%
Little Wood	118%	75%
Henne Fork/Teton	79%	51%
Big Lost	101%	60%
Little Lost	77%	46%

As of Feb. 3.

A comparison of basin snowpack, on Feb. 3, with a 30-year average.

Lawmakers consider audits

Rep. Newcomb wants to track school spending

The Associated Press

BOISE — House Speaker Bruce Newcomb plans to ask the state Office of Performance Evaluations to conduct an audit on how effectively schools spend their dollars.

He hopes to track how well school districts use their money for everything from running bus systems to improving student achievement.

A performance audit looks at how wisely money is spent on



programs, instead of how an organization accounts for the money. Newcomb, R-Burley, is expected to ask for audits on three of Idaho's 114 school districts to help legislators better understand how education dollars are spent. Those districts have not been chosen.

Rakesh Moham, director of the Office of Performance Evaluations, said his eight-person office could handle in-depth audits on one small, one medium and one large district. Add any more, Moham said, and the audits would be affected by a lack of manpower.

Newcomb will take his request to the Joint Legislative



oversight committee, which directs the work of the performance evaluation office. The request comes as Gov. Dirk Kempthorne is pushing for a 1.5-cent-per-dollar sales tax increase to close a \$200 million gap between state revenues and the cost of running state government.

Newcomb said the state could not adequately address budget issues without more information on how school districts operate.

Darrel Deide, Kempthorne's newly named education adviser

Looking for fraud — A1

and former Caldwell School District superintendent, backs the audits.

"We have to look at how every dollar is being used in the classroom and what percent gets to the classroom teacher," he said.

Newcomb said he is not sure lawmakers would get sufficient information on schools this year to help them with the immediate budget crisis. But he predicts Idaho's economic recovery will be slow in coming, and lawmakers could face tough budget issues during the next five years.

Half the money Idahoans pay in sales and income tax goes to

Please see AUDITS, Page B3

PREPARE TO PUMP



Jim Webb jokes with Red Cross nurse Lou Johnson while having his 200th unit of blood drawn in Twin Falls on Monday. Webb, who has become a familiar sight at blood draws, was honored for reaching a lifetime total of 25 gallons donated. A blood drive continues from noon to 6 p.m. today and from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Wednesday at the First Presbyterian Church, 209 Fifth Ave. N. For an appointment or more information, call Shelia Warren at 734-4586.

T.F. grain silos will get expert inspection

By Mark Heinz
Times-News writer

TWIN FALLS — An expert's eye might soon determine if historic grain silos in Old Towne are worth saving.

The City Council Monday agreed to put \$1,900 toward bringing that expert to town.

The council unanimously approved a request by the Twin Falls Historic Preservation Commission to pay half the cost of bringing a concrete and cement expert to town to inspect the silos.

Historic Preservation Commission Chairman Paul Smith said the silos don't seem to be in any immediate danger of falling down or suffering

other major failure. But the years are starting to tell on the structures, which were built around 1915, he said.

The Twin Falls Urban Renewal Agency has agreed to pitch in half the price of having the expert do a thorough assessment of the silos and provide an estimate of what it might cost to repair them, Smith said. With the city's \$1,900 approved, the inspection can probably soon be scheduled.

The silos' future beyond that isn't clear, he said. But the Historic Preservation Commission would like to see them turned into some sort of landmark — possibly by having them painted with murals or a sign commemorating the city's

centennial in 2004, Smith said.

In another matter, the council agreed to waive the building and water and sewer tap fees on a new complex the South Central Community Action Agency wants to build soon on property along South Washington Street.

The agency is now working out of four buildings near Old Towne, and the structures are all but dilapidated, agency spokesman Ken Robinette told the council. The hope is to get all the agency's operations under one, new roof, he said.

South Central Community Action has its hands in a variety of charity and aid programs, including heating bill assistance for low-income families, aid to

homeless people and helping to secure community development block grants, Robinette said.

The council also:

- Agreed to give a 1948 fire engine owned by the city to the Twin Falls Optimist Club. The club hopes to repair and restore the engine and use it for parades and other community events.

- Agreed to extend until June 2005 the city's agreement to share facilities — such as gymnasiums, parks and baseball fields — with the Twin Falls School District.

Times-News reporter Mark Heinz can be reached at 735-3238 or by e-mail at mheinz@magicalvalley.com.

Officials: County hospitals hold benefits

By Sandy Miller
Times-News writer

TWIN FALLS — County hospitals do have some advantages.

There's local control. There's more accountability, and resources stay in the community. And the decision making is faster, said Pat Hermansen, president and chief executive officer of Portneuf Medical Center, a county-owned hospital in Pocatello.

Hermansen and Portneuf Board Chairman Paul Yokum fielded questions from Magic Valley Regional Medical Center's Hospital Board Monday.

Last year, Twin Falls County commissioners and Hospital Board members agreed to educate themselves on how other county hospitals, as well as non-profit and for-profit hospitals, operate. Hospital leaders previously had pushed to convert the county-owned hospital to a "community-based" nonprofit organization. At the same time, county commissioners in 2001 appointed an advisory committee to establish criteria for lease proposals from for-profit and nonprofit organizations interested in operating Magic Valley Regional.

Those efforts were put on hold after Magic Valley Regional bought the Twin Falls Clinic and Hospital, but now board members and commissioners are taking another look at hospital governance.

County Commissioners Gary Grindstaff, Bill Brockman and Tom Mikesell weren't present Monday, as they were attending the Idaho Association of Counties Legislative Conference in Boise.

Board members and commissioners want to have all the facts "so we would make a decision on an educational basis and not on a political basis," said Hospital Board Chairwoman Vesta Maughan.

Do county hospitals, whose meetings are open to the public, have a disadvantage when it comes to strategic planning?

"Not at all," Hermansen said. Although he agreed that non-profit hospitals, whose meetings are closed to the public, "don't have the same scrutiny," the open meeting law does allow county hospitals to do some strategic planning behind closed doors. (However, decisions must be made in open sessions.)

And when it comes to recruiting, all hospitals, whether county, nonprofit or for-profit, must offer competitive rates in order to attract employees, Hermansen said.

Hermansen and Yokum said one of the most important things hospitals can do is to maintain strong relationships with their physicians and include them in the decision making.

"When it comes to maintaining relationships with physicians," Yokum said.

Hermansen said the biggest challenges facing county hospitals is to stay at a shrinking state budget meeting different care needs and a growing dependence on mandated

Please see HOSPITAL, Page B3

Gooding council OKs Glanbia request

City will allow byproduct to be sent to sewer system

The Times-News

GOODING — While waiting for a state permit to increase the amount of wastewater it puts on farmland, Glanbia Foods Inc. may send the untreated cheese-processing byproduct to the city of Gooding's sewer system.

After learning the city sewer system wouldn't be harmed by the liquid, the City Council voted unanimously Monday to enter an agreement to accept up to 100,000 gallons of Glanbia wastewater daily for three months.

The decision came on the same day the Idaho Department

of Environmental Quality announced that it had denied a Glanbia request for a waiver to allow the company to exceed its winter land application limit for wastewater. Glanbia has asked the state Board of Environmental Quality to review the department's decision.

City officials said samples of Glanbia wastewater showed that it would not produce more sludge than the city can accommodate. The amount of sludge was the city's primary concern in the company's request, as there is plenty of capacity for the wastewater itself; the city

sewer plant is now operating at just a third of its 700,000-gallons-per-day capacity.

City officials expect Glanbia to send 50,000 to 100,000 gallons of wastewater per day to the sewer plant during the 90-day agreement. It will be trucked from the cheese plant to the sewer plant. The proposed agreement calls for Glanbia to pay the city at a rate of 60 cents per 1,000 gallons; processing of 100,000 gallons would generate \$600 per day.

City officials said they attempted to set a rate that would be fair to both the company and to taxpayers. The proposed rate for Glanbia is slightly

Please see GLANBIA, Page B3

Craters of Moon planners identify monument options

By Nate Johnson
Times-News writer

ARCO — Managers of the Craters of the Moon National Monument want to know if people want roads and explanatory signs or untouched wilderness.

Land managers have come up with four broad management plans based on comments received this past summer. They now plan three workshops to collect comments and seek more specific direction. The planning will eventually lead to an environmental impact statement.

"We'll be asking, 'What do

you like or dislike about any one of the alternatives and why?'" Craters Superintendent Jim Morris said.

Three things cannot change. Grazing and hunting will continue on the monument, and off-road vehicle use will be prohibited.

The monument managers have come up with four different alternatives, each proposing a different management style for the area:

- Alternative 1 — Take no action and continue manage-

Please see CRATERS, Page B3

MAGIC VALLEY/IDAHO

Banners represent tradition, pride

The Times-News

TWIN FALLS — The American Legion has rekindled a tradition to salute the country's military men and women by providing Blue Star service banners to their families across the nation.

The Blue Star service banner was designed and patented in 1917 by World War I Army Capt. Robert L. Queisser of the 5th Ohio Infantry, who had two sons serving on the front lines, according to an American Legion news release. It quickly became the unofficial symbol of a child in the service.

"The mayor of Cleveland, the Chamber of Commerce and the governor of Ohio have adopted this service flag," an Ohio congressman said into the Congressional Record back in 1917. "The world should know of those who give so much for liberty. The dearest thing in all the world to a father and mother — their children."

During World War II, the Department of War issued specifications on the manufacture of the banner as well as guidelines indicating when, and by whom, the service flag could be flown or the service lapel button could be worn. The banner can be seen hanging in the front window of Mrs. Ryan's house in the

Blue Star service banners

The American Legion is providing Blue Star service banners to families of the country's military men and women. Free color downloads of the banners are also available at the American Legion Web site at www.legion.org, and poster and stencil designs for home and automobile, as well as lapel pins, are available from the American Legion National Emblem Sales at 1-888-453-4466. For more information, call the American Legion at 317-630-1253.

movie "Saving Private Ryan." The Blue Star service banner is an 8- by 16-inch white field with a blue star sewn onto a red banner.

Today, Blue Star service banners are displayed by families who have loved ones serving in the armed forces, including activated members of the National Guard and Reserves, whether the family member is a son, daughter, brother, sister, wife, husband, cousin, grandchild or other family member. The banner displayed in the front window of a home shows a family's

Building Mideast conflict affects area families — A1

pride in their loved one serving in the military, and reminds others that preserving America's freedom demands much, the news release said.

Here's more information about the Blue Star service banner from the American Legion:

• The blue star represents one family member serving in the armed forces. A banner can have up to five stars, signifying that five members of that family are in military uniform on active duty.

• A gold star replaces the blue star if that relative was killed or died in service. If more than one star appears on the flag, the gold star takes the place of honor nearest the staff.

• Blue Star Mothers and Gold Star Mothers organizations were established during World War I and remain active today, although with reduced membership.

• Blue Star service banners, while widely used across America during World Wars I and II, were not embraced during the Korean or Vietnam wars with nearly the same enthusiasm.

Jerome council looks at contract for water system project design

By Dixie Thomas Reale
Times-News correspondent

JEROME — The City Council will start work on water system improvement tonight.

The council will consider a contract with Forsgren Engineering Inc. to design the water system improvements. The design services will cost \$347,200.

The city was granted judicial confirmation to borrow \$3.6 million from the state of Idaho to repair to the city's drinking water system by 5th District Judge Barry Wood in October.

According to the judicial confirmation documents, the city is borrowing \$3.6 million at 3.75 percent interest from the state, to be repaid in biannual installments over 20 years.

The city is providing a \$300,000 in local match, which includes acquisition of supplies and materials and use of city staff for labor and services related to the project, including engineering services.

The design work will assist in obtaining Idaho Department of Environmental Quality approval to proceed with construction.

The water system project will install new water lines in the southwest area of the city and on 16th Avenue East, Eighth Avenue East and Fourth Avenue East. Bottlenecks and dead-end lines around the city will be cured with a series of loops. Fire hydrants will be installed where

Meeting tonight

The Jerome City Council meets tonight at 7 p.m. in chambers, 100 E. Ave. A. The public is welcome.

The project will make improvements on the Peters well and secure water rights for the city into the future.

The overall water system plans include extension of 9 miles of water lines, construction a new million-gallon water tank at the butte east of town and installation of a new well at the butte.

At this point the city will only authorize work within the city limits and not the work related to the butte project.

At the time of judicial confirmation, City Administrator Travis Rothweiler estimated that city water user would see their bills rise less than \$20 per year with the project.

In other business, the council will consider memoranda of understanding between the city of Jerome and the city of Wendell and between the city of Jerome and Jerome County, to provide building inspection services for one another when a building official is out of town. If the memoranda are approved, a minimum of 48 hours' notice will be required for the services of a visiting building official.

Compensation will be billed at a rate of \$16.11 per hour, 36 cents per mile, and materials will be

billed at their actual cost.

The council will also vote on adoption of the 2000 edition of the International Fire Code. The state of Idaho and the state fire marshal have adopted the 2000 edition of the code.

Adoption of the code would promote uniformity in plan review of state-owned buildings and new construction and help maintain buildings throughout the city.

The council also will set 2003 irrigation assessments. The city staff estimates that \$95,760 will be required to maintain and operate the irrigation system for the current fiscal year. The estimate is the same as the 2002 costs.

The city holds 866 water shares in trust for the town site. The Northside Canal Co. assessment on the shares for the year is \$16,437. The American Falls Reservoir District operation and management assessment is \$518.

Residents' assessments are based on lot size. Lots 50 feet by 125 feet, or 6,250 square feet, are assessed at \$66.64 per square foot, or \$42.75. Those lots larger than 6,250 square feet are assessed at \$10.11 per square foot. Lots that are part of the system but that do not have access to irrigation water are billed a minimum of \$5.85. There are 2,207 properties that are assessed.

The city is responsible for delivery of water to the properties; property owners are responsible for delivery devices.

DEATH NOTICES

Jeannette D. 'Jean' Folkman

JEROME — Jeannette D. "Jean" Folkman, 89, died Saturday, Feb. 1, 2003, in Woodbury, Minn.

The service will be held at 11 a.m. Friday, Feb. 7, 2003, in the Jerome LDS First Ward Chapel, 825 East Ave. B, Jerome. Arrangements are under the direction of — Farnsworth Mortuary of Jerome.

Virginia E. Stearns

TWIN FALLS — Virginia E. Stearns, 75, of Twin Falls died Monday, Feb. 3, 2003, at Magic Valley Regional Medical Center. Arrangements will be announced by Reynolds Funeral Chapel in Twin Falls.

Lorraine Kay Brandt

BOISE — Lorraine Kay Brandt, 40, of Boise died Thursday, Jan. 30, 2003, at her home. Arrangements will be announced by Reynolds Funeral Chapel of Twin Falls.

Harry Hogan Jr.

TWIN FALLS — Harry Hogan

Jr., 84, of Twin Falls, died Monday, Feb. 3, 2003, at SunBridge Care Center.

Arrangements will be announced by Reynolds Funeral Chapel of Twin Falls.

Jay A. Brown

TWIN FALLS — Jay A. Brown, 81, died Monday, Feb. 3, 2003, in Twin Falls.

The service will be held at 12 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 6, 2003, in the Gooding LDS Chapel, 1228 Main St., Gooding. Visitation will be held from 6-8 p.m. Wednesday, Feb. 5, 2003, at Farnsworth Mortuary, 1343 South Lincoln, Jerome, and one hour before the service Thursday at the church.

Grace Edlund

RICHFIELD — Grace Edlund, 81, formerly of Richfield, died

Sunday, Feb. 2, 2003, at Magic Valley Regional Medical Center in Twin Falls.

Arrangements will be announced by Demaray's Shoshone Chapel.

Ted Hallquest

TWIN FALLS — Ted Hallquest, 74, of Twin Falls died Monday, Feb. 3, 2003, at Bridgeview Estates in Twin Falls. Arrangements will be announced by Demaray's Magic Valley Funeral Home of Twin Falls.

Rupert Tyrone Stevenson

SHOSHONE — Rupert Tyrone Stevenson, 62, of Shoshone, died Sunday, Feb. 2, 2003, at his home.

Funeral arrangements are pending and will be announced by Demaray's Gooding Chapel.

SERVICE

Catherine Mildred Watson Bisom Burks of Paul, celebration of life at 11 a.m. March 22 at the Paul United

Methodist Church, interment at 10 a.m. March 24 at Sunset Memorial Park, Twin Falls.

Dismissed

HOSPITALS

MAGIC VALLEY REGIONAL MEDICAL CENTER

Some names are omitted at the patient's request

OBITUARIES

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

TWIN FALLS

H. Reed Alderson

H. Reed Alderson, 79, of Twin Falls passed away Sunday February 2, 2003 at Magic Valley Regional Medical Center. Reed was born July 5, 1923, in Moberly, Missouri, the son of George and Clara Reed. Alderson joined the Army Air Force in 1943 and served until 1946 during WWII. He worked for the Lovi Strauss Company as a sales representative for 26 years.

Reed is survived by a son, Barry Reed (Lynna) Alderson of Paragould, AR; a daughter, Donna Alderson of Twin Falls; 3 grandchildren, Jennell Agnew, Amanda Joette Alderson and Zachary Reed Alderson; 4 great-grandchildren, Madelyn Alderson, Elizabeth R. Agnew, Heather L. Agnew and Mason R. Sletnick; and one brother, Donald V. Alderson of Bozeman, MT.

A private family burial will take place Wednesday, February 5, 2003, at Twin Falls Cemetery. Arrangements are under the direction of White Mortuary Chapel by the Park in Twin Falls. The family would like to extend a special thank you to Magic Valley Regional Medical Center and Mountain States Tumor Institute for their compassionate and wonderful care that was given.

GOODING



Florence Boyd Reed

Florence Boyd Reed, 84, a resident at Gooding, died Monday, February 3, 2003, at the Gooding Rehabilitation and Living Center in Gooding. Florence was born on January 15, 1919, in the Gooding Hospital, the daughter of Clarence and Clara Boyd. When Florence was five months old, her mother died. Her father, Clarence, married Agnes Farquhar who was a loving mother. Florence was raised and educated in Wendell, where she graduated from Wendell High School. Florence attended Link's Business School and Albion State Normal

School, where she graduated in 1944. She taught for two and a half years in Acapulco.

Florence married Ernest Reed of Gooding on November 3, 1944. Together they raised two sons, Jack D. Reed and Gene Reed. They married until 1975, when Ernest's health began to fail. He passed away on May 16, 1979.

Florence was a member of the Gooding United Methodist Church and a member and Past Grand Noble, Matron of Marguerite-Robert Lodge #88. She enjoyed crafts and playing pinocle. Florence was well known for her cheerful smile and attitude. She dearly loved her family and friends and will be missed by all who knew her.

Florence is survived by two sons, Jack Reed of Hagerman and Mike (Cherry) Reed of Gooding; a daughter-in-law, Lida (Bob) Hime, of Garden City, Idaho; seven grandchildren, eight great-grandchildren, and numerous nieces and nephews.

She was preceded in death by her parents, her husband, Ernest, her son, Gene, her brother, Francis, and a step-sister, Thelma. Funeral services will be held on Thursday, February 6, 2003, at 2 p.m. in Demaray's Gooding Chapel with Rev. Mike Gregor officiating. Burial will be in the Elmwood Cemetery in Gooding.

Family members and friends may call on Wednesday from 2 p.m. at Demaray's Gooding Chapel.

BOISE (AP) — A Blackfoot Republican wants to know why university positions are being cut despite an apparent increase in overall budgets in recent years.

Rep. Dennis Lake said Monday that a comparison prepared by the Legislative budget and policy office indicates that actual dollars funneled through Idaho University, Boise State and Idaho State actually increased from 2001 to 2003. The percentage of state general fund money declined during those years while student fees and other sources made up the difference.

"I hear all the cuts that go on and all the grief about the tremendous amount of loss of funding from the universities, but the truth is, the total amount of funding for the last three years have gone up \$60 million. What's wrong with this picture?" Lake asked Jane McClaran of the Division of Financial Management office during a meeting of the House Education Committee.

McClaran acknowledged that the three universities successfully sought grants and other state funding, but said the institutions have had to develop multiple plans to deal with reductions in state funding.

"Then why all the cuts (in personnel) if the funding is going up?" Lake persisted. "To me, it shouldn't matter that much where the funding comes from. If



they've got extra dollars, they should not be cutting people."

McClaran said that out of the 178 positions cut from four-year institutions in the past year, all but 12 were vacant or voluntary early retirements.

The problem with Lake's comparison is that it doesn't take into account specific-use money, such as research grants and bookstore revenue, said Stacy Pearson, associate vice president/controller for Boise State University.

"It's true that our budget has increased over those years, but a lot of that growth has been federal and state grants and contracts, and they are dedicated to programs," Pearson said. "Faculty can only really be paid from the general account."

Universities are precluded from taking money from an auxiliary enterprise, such as the student bookstore, and transferring the proceeds to pay for an unrelated use. The same is true for student lab or activity fees.

"We can't collect fees from the marching band and use that money to hire an instructor," Pearson said. "When state funding goes down, it hits us where we have to use that money, and that's instruction."

Universities have been espe-

cially at odds with state government since Gov. Dirk Kempthorne and the Legislature cut colleges and university funding last year by \$15 million. In November's general election, Democratic candidates won the most successful against Republican incumbents in Pocatello, Boise and the Moscow-Lewiston area — all home to universities.

According to the Legislative Services Office comparison:

• The University of Idaho's total funding increased the most, from \$262 million in 2001 to \$294 million in 2003. During the same time, state funding decreased, from \$85.6 million in 2001 to \$85.2 million in 2003.

• Idaho State University overall funding increased from \$172 million in 2001 to \$189 million this year. State support dropped from \$60.4 million to \$60.1 million.

• Boise State University overall funding increased from \$191.9 million in 2001 to \$216.8 million last year. State support increased from \$66.4 million in 2001 to \$73 million in 2002, but then dropped to 66.5 million in 2003.

• Lewis-Clark State College overall funding fell from \$34.2 million in 2001 to \$13.17 in 2003. State funding increased slightly, from 11.9 million in 2001 to \$12.1 million.

IDAHO LEGISLATIVE LOG

Sent to Governor

HB87 (Appropriations) — Moves the Office of Aging to the Governor's Office from the Secretary of State.

HB68 (Newcomb) — Revises definitions in the College Savings Program law.

HB69 (Newcomb) — Clarifies the tax consequences of a non-qualified withdrawal from a College Savings Program account.

Confirmed by Senate

Scott Patrick, Boise, to the Idaho Aeronautics Advisory Board.

Introduced in Senate

SB1056 (Resources and Environment) — Reduces to two from four the number of meetings the Board of Scaling Practices must hold annually.

SB1057 (Resources and Environment) — Transfers the

responsibility of the Bureau of Mines to the Idaho Geological Survey.

SB1058 (Resources and Environment) — Increases the fee to protest a matter before the Water Resources Department from \$25 to \$100.

SB1059 (Resources and Environment) — Authorizes reciprocal agreements between the Fish and Game Commission and Indian tribes in Idaho.

More evidence

Classified information on Iraq goes before the U.N. Security Council on Wednesday
See page A-3

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'The deer are gone'

Help herds recover, area hunters tell F&G

By Shari Chaney
Times-News writer

BURLEY — It was fun to go hunting in the '80s and '90s, Burley hunter Kevin Larson said. There were actually deer to hunt.

Oakley's Robert Critchfield agreed. Something has to be done to bring deer numbers back up, he and Larson told regional wildlife manager Randy Smith at a public meeting Monday with Idaho Department of Fish and Game officials.

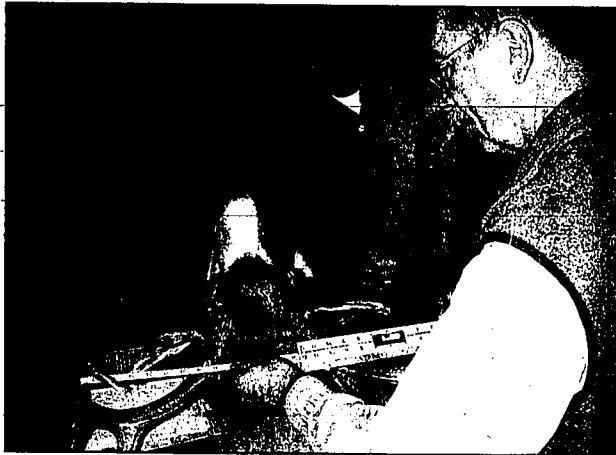
Deer numbers are low, Smith agreed. The number of deer in the area is about 50 percent of what it was in the early '90s. Hunter success is still high, but hunters are working harder for smaller deer.

"We need to do something, because the deer are gone," Critchfield said.

A decline in deer numbers and proposed regulations to keep all-terrain vehicles on roadways only were the main topics of conversation at the Burley public meeting, Smith said. Roughly 50 people took time to talk with Fish and Game officials, peruse the four displays outlining proposed changes in policies and take part in a survey with comments and ideas.

Use of motorized vehicles is a hot topic. "The ATV issue is the number one thing we hear," said regional wildlife biologist Bruce Palmer.

In the Magic Valley region, Units 48 and 49 in primarily Blaine County are being considered for a new regulation restricting motorized vehicles to "established roadways capable



Carl Nellis, left, and Clayton Nielson, right, measure the distance between antlers on Jody Osterhout's deer he brought in during an Idaho Department of Fish and Game open house in Burley on Monday.

Have something to say?

Two more meetings seeking input on Fish and Game issues are set this week:

- Today, 5-8 p.m., KMYT Community Room, Twin Falls.
- Wednesday, 5-8 p.m., Blaine County Courthouse, Halley.

of travel by full-sized automobiles." Unit 47, in southwest Twin Falls County, had the restriction in place last year.

One man said he supported allowing ATVs off road to carry

"game out once it is down. Mike MacDonald, environmental staff biologist, said unarmed retrieval — allowing a hunter without a gun to take an ATV in to carry the animal out — is a possibility.

Most people at the public meeting supported restrictions. "I'd just as soon walk and get a good deer," Critchfield said.

People get lazy taking ATVs on trails and off-roading, and the deer are paying a pretty big price," Larson said.

Paul hunter Royle Thomson said ATV use has increased dramatically. "They're everywhere," he said.

ATVs should be restricted to the roads just like any other

motorized vehicle, he added.

There has been significant support for motorized vehicle restrictions, said Dr. Fred Wood of Burley, Fish and Game commissioner for the Magic Valley region. It is a question of how severe the restrictions should be.

"What people want is responsible use of ATVs," Wood said. Smith noted it isn't just ATVs that will face restrictions; restrictions will apply to all motorized vehicles.

Times-News writer Shari Chaney can be reached at the newspaper's Magic-Valley Bureau at 677-0442, Ext. 638.

Fish and Game commission issues resurface

Idaho sportsmen try to change way members are picked

BOISE (AP) — A group of sportsmen is trying once again to change the way Fish and Game commissioners are appointed and to make them more immune from politics.

A petition with 35 signatures attached was filed with the Idaho Secretary of State's Office on

Monday, the first step in a process that would put the proposal on the 2004 general election ballot.

Like last year's attempt, the changes would create a Citizen's Wildlife Advisory Council in seven regions to nominate candidates to fill vacancies on the Fish and Game Commission. The governor would select one of two nominees, who would serve staggered six-year terms.

The new proposal also puts the Fish and Game Department budget out of reach of state legisla-

tors once it is passed into law. A vote of at least five commissioners would be required to make any further adjustments.

"We're trying to make sure that the citizens have more input into the selection of the commissioners, and the commissioners have more independence," said former Idaho Fish and Game Director Jerry Conley, who officially filed the petitions Monday.

The new plan includes a provision that commissioners could only be removed "for cause" — not merely for policy disagree-

ments — and increases terms from four years to six.

Last January, Gov. Dirk Kempthorne was drawn to the center of an uproar over the departure of Fish and Game Director Rod Sando. The director was ousted after two years for reportedly failing to adequately consider concerns of landowners and resource users.

While the Fish and Game Commission has control over department personnel, legislative leaders said the order to fire Sando came from the governor.

Shootings kill one, injure two near Utah university

SALT LAKE CITY (AP) — Two men were critically injured and another man was killed in early morning shootings near the University of Utah.

Police initially responded to a report of a traffic accident Monday morning when they

found Jose R. Talancon, 21, lying on the street with a gunshot wound.

Another man, Jamie Nunez-Gutierrez, 31, also shot, was inside a vehicle that had rolled into a parked car.

A few hours later, a newspaper

carrier found a third man, dead from a gunshot wound to the head, on the street a few blocks away. His identity was not released.

Police said the shootings may be related, but they were releasing few details Monday after-

noon. The motives were unclear, and no suspects had been identified.

The two wounded men were reportedly on life support in "very critical condition," police said.

Rupert council will hear Wilson Theater report

The Times-News

RUPERT — The City Council is expected to hear a report about the Renaissance Arts Center and Wilson Theater at its 7 p.m. meeting today.

Chris Jackson said Wilson Theater officials try to report to the council annually about money raised and progress made at the theater. The city has an interest in the theater because it owns the building and leases the property to the arts center.

Larry Duff, chairman of the Renaissance Arts Center, will make the presentation.

The council also will discuss the composition of the Rupert Citizen Advisory Committee. There is an open position on the board, and there is a proposal to appoint a Rupert business owner to fill the vacancy.

Members of the Rupert Citizen Advisory Committee are John Cooper, Elizabeth Burr-Jones, Santos Garza, Bob Nevarez, Frank Rodriguez Jr.

and Ray Stockton.

Other items on the agenda include approval of an agreement to Dwinelle Allred for expenses incurred while serving on the Mini-Cassia Transportation Committee, final readings of ordinances to adopt 5th Street as a local improvement district with Kraft Foods, and second reading of an ordinance to annex the south half of 100 South and four additional parcels of property on East Baseline Road.

The south half of 100 South from Oneida to South A streets does not include the annexation of any residential properties, officials said.

The owners of the four additional parcels of property requested annexation. Lucille Downs and Gary Friesen own land east of the city limits on East Baseline Road and asked City Attorney Rick Bollor about annexation.

The council meeting is open to the public.

Searchers find missing girl

Mini-Cassia in brief

"It was a good experience for us to get all the agencies involved and all cooperating," Soto said.

Ex-detective will discuss drugs today in Burley

BURLEY — A retired Los Angeles Police Department narcotics detective will give presentations today regarding club, designer and "date rape" drugs.

A seminar for law enforcement officers, medical personnel and other professionals is set for 3 to 4 p.m. in the Little Theater at Burley High School, 2130 Park Ave. A presentation for the general public is 7 to 9 p.m. in the King Fine Arts Center at Burley High School.

Admission to the events — for touring talks by Trinka Porat — is free, and parents are encouraged to bring their children.

— compiled from staff reports

Bomb scare closes dorms again

PULLMAN, Wash. (AP) — More than 400 Washington State University students were forced to spend a second night evacuated from their dormitories because of a bomb scare.

The threat against Perham and adjoining Streit Hall had specified that a bomb would go off on Monday, and school officials

decided to keep the dorms closed through Monday night even though a search on Sunday found no sign of a bomb.

"We're erring on the side of caution," said Clarence Taylor, a WSU spokesman.

Many of the students have been sleeping on mattresses at the Student Recreation Center on campus, Taylor said.

Craters

Continued from B1

exists of the monument as it exists today.

• Alternative 2 — Provide more visitor services with increased vehicle access across the monument and a new visitor center at Kings Bowl. Alternative 2 also shows an improved gravel road running from Minidoka to Kings Bowl.

• Alternative 3 — Preserve the natural features of the monument and limit road travel and visitor services.

• Alternative 4 — Emphasize aggressive weed and fire management. This alternative shows the most roads in the monument, including the road from Minidoka to Kings Bowl, but the roads are purely functional. In alternative 4, the roads are not accompanied by interpretive signs, trails and parking areas called for in alternative 2.

The alternative does not spell out where campgrounds would be built, roads removed or burns prescribed.

"They were intentionally very vague," BLM monument manager Rick Vander Voet said. The people who come to the

Craters comment

Public meetings regarding management of Craters of the Moon National Monument take place this month. Each open house runs from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.

• Saturday, Arco-Butte Business Center, 150 N. Main.

• Feb. 15, Carey, High School multi-purpose room, Carey.

• Feb. 22, Rupert City Hall, 124 E. St., Rupert.

Call 527-3257 or 732-7200 to register. You do not have to register to attend, but registering allows planners to have an adequate supply of materials at each meeting.

To learn more, go to <http://www.nps.gov/cmo> and click on events calendar.

workshops will help develop the plans and provide more detail, Morris said.

"This is going to be quite a bit more structured than the meetings," Vander Voet said. "We'll sit people down with maps and have them mark them up."

The environmental impact statement is scheduled to be finished at the end of this year.

Hospital

Continued from B1

reimbursements. In other action Monday, the board approved negotiating a contract with the Salt Lake City-based Jacobsen Construction/HKS, a design-build firm, to help with the hospital's long-term facility plan.

Hospital Board member Bill Block cast the lone no vote, saying he thought the decision was premature.

Block favored limiting the initial contract with Jacobsen/HKS to the master plan and not construction. That way the hospital could make another request for proposals from construction firms when the plan is complete and possibly save money.

Block said although he is a supporter of the design-build process, "it would be premature to tie ourselves to a contractor until we identify exactly what the project is."

The rest of the board approved hiring Jacobsen Construction/HKS over the St. Louis, Mo.-based Hospital Building and Equipment Co., the second finalist. Magic Valley Regional staff and members of its Planning and Community Relations Committee visited sites under construction by both companies. One of the things that drew them toward Jacobsen/HKS was the company's willingness to include staff in the planning and design

process and the minimal interruption to patients and staff during the construction process.

Board member Cindy Collins, via speaker phone, said Jacobsen/HKS "shows more flexibility, and I think we need that."

Hospital officials haven't yet mentioned any financial details of a contract with Jacobsen/HKS. Other Hospital Board business included:

• Auxiliary president — Magic Valley Regional Director of Volunteer Services Lorraine Devey introduced Ron Eversole, the first man to serve as president of the Magic Valley Regional Auxiliary since 1959. They presented the board with a

symbolic \$376,985 check representing the 22,000 hours that 154 volunteers have put in during the last year. It would take 11 full-time employees to provide those same services.

• Housekeeping — The board approved medical staff rules and regulations.

• Foundation — Magic Valley Regional Foundation Director Larry Baxter gave the board a foundation update. The foundation is a separate entity from the hospital, a philanthropic organization governed by a 25-member volunteer board. Baxter said the foundation had \$2.1 million in assets and awarded nearly \$500,000 in grants in 2001.

over rules they say shut out the public from the permitting process.

Retired 7th District Judge Ted Wood of Bonneville County, who is presiding over that case, suggested last week that the matter could be settled if Glanbia would treat its wastewater before applying it to the land. He's not related to Barry Wood.

Glanbia owns plants in Gooding, Twin Falls and Richfield and is the largest milk processor in the region at 7.7 million pounds a day. Its corporate parent, Glanbia Plc, is based in Kilkenny, Ireland.

Feb. 27. The board is expected to conduct a hearing before making a decision. Meanwhile, Glanbia's request to expand land application by 530 acres is being considered by DEQ officials after objections were expressed by the public. Some neighbors say they're concerned about odors and pathogens that might result from more wastewater being applied to the land.

Among them are 5th District Judge Barry Wood, acting as a private citizen, and Gooding contractor Ben Giesse, who are suing DEQ

Glanbia

Continued from B1

higher than the rates for existing city business and household customers.

The proposed agreement would allow the city to pull out of the deal immediately if there is any variation from its terms.

Glanbia has a permit to apply water to 940 acres near the plant but wants to bump up that acreage by 530 acres to handle increased wastewater during the non-growing season.

In 2002, the company paid a fine of \$8,000 for exceeding the terms of its existing wastewater

Audits

Continued from B1

public schools, and the Legislature picks up the tab for about 75 percent of the total cost of educating kids. Idaho's education budget is about \$1 billion a year.

Bea Black, a Boise School Board member, said she welcomes a state audit.

"I think you should always be open to an audit to make sure money is being properly uti-

lized," she said. "The Legislature has a right to ask the questions." Rep. Fred Tilman, House Education Committee chairman, has been talking about conducting performance audits on schools for several months. Part of his concern grows out of a lawsuit against the state by several northern Idaho school districts seeking greater help from lawmakers in paying for safer, newer buildings.

IDAHO/WEST

House panel curbs state police proposals

BOISE (AP) — Two bills being driven by the Idaho State Police got pulled over and towed off the legislative track Monday by the House Judiciary Committee.

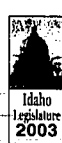
One bill would have amended the Idaho DNA Act of 1996 by adding "burglaries" to the list of crimes for which convicts must provide samples.

The material would then be added to the Idaho DNA Database, a library of personal identification markers and other biological information.

The American Civil Liberties Union opposed the bill, saying the original act was intended to catch violent felons. People who may only have committed such as low-level crime as stealing a pack of gum from a convenience store would have to submit to DNA testing, said Harry Durand, ACLU legislative liaison.

"DNA is powerful stuff. It can reveal a lot more about you than your identity. It reveals your ethnicity, your parentage, even your genetic predisposition to certain diseases," Durand said.

A number of committee members, including retired state trooper and Republican Rep. Richard Wills of Mountain Home,



backed the idea. "We take fingerprints for any felony, so we take the identification now," Wills said in arguments for the bill. "This is more accurate than anything we've had before."

Jim Clark of Hayden said that bill "really reminds me of 'Big Brother.' Now we're going to get DNA on everybody?"

After the vote, however, Durand noted that some on the committee hoped to return with a bill even broader in scope that would require DNA testing on anyone convicted of any felony.

"It's like your social security number. That was supposed to be used only to track your income tax — now they use it for everything," she said. "Anytime the government says 'trust us, I don't.'"

The other bill killed by the committee would have made it unlawful to secretly record a person in a residence, business, or other building where the person has a reasonable expectation of privacy.

Kempthorne raises more money to pay off campaign

BOISE (AP) — Republican Gov. Dick Kempthorne raised another \$22,000 during the last six weeks of the year, mostly from corporations and special interests, to pay off his successful 2002 re-election campaign.

With just \$2,500 in unpaid bills at year's end, Kempthorne spent just under \$1.1 million to defeat Democrat Jerry Brady, the Idaho Falls newspaper publisher who also spent just over \$1 million. But a third of Brady's

money was his own.

In the most competitive of the fall races, Democrat Marilyn Howard spent just \$132,000 to win a second term as State Schools Superintendent over Republican Tom Luna.

Luna, a former school board member who spent much of the campaign criticizing the quality of education Kempthorne was touting to his supporters, spent \$192,000 to get 45 percent of the vote.

Bush would spend more to stop wildfires, less on fish

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Bush is calling for increased spending for wildfire prevention, but apparently would cut spending for salmon restoration in the Northwest's Columbia River Basin.

The president's proposed budget for the next fiscal year, announced Monday, also includes language that some members of Congress interpreted as a call to privatize the Bonneville Power Administration, the federal agency that markets power to the Northwest.

Bush's \$2.2 trillion proposal for the fiscal year that starts Oct. 1 includes about \$2.2 billion for wildfire prevention and firefighting — an increase of nearly \$220 million over last year's budget request. The 2002 wildfire season was one of the worst, with more than 7 million acres burned — twice the 10-year average.

"For the safety of our communities and the restoration of our forests and wildlife, we have to reduce hazardous fuels in our forests," said Interior Secretary Gale Norton. Bush's budget would allow thinning and planned burns in about 1.1 million acres of national forests, about one-third in areas near populated areas.

The budget also would authorize \$91 million — an increase of \$21 million — for a forest legacy program that helps landowners preserve private forests.

Unlike last year, the administration did not announce a dollar figure to show how much money it is requesting for each of the 10 federal agencies charged with salmon recovery. But conservationists said they fear that last year's \$506 million request could be cut by as much as \$50 million.

"If this budget is as bad as we fear, it will pull the rug out from

under salmon-dependent communities," John Kober of the National Wildlife Federation. "We can save wild salmon and help the Northwest's economy at the same time, but we need leadership from the White House and Congress."

A White House official, speaking on condition that not be identified, denied that the administration was reducing its commitment to salmon restoration. The budget includes a \$3 million increase in salmon programs for the National Marine Fisheries Service, the official said.

The Army Corps of Engineers, which last year celebrated a proposed \$20 million increase — to \$128 million — for salmon restoration, would receive nearly that amount this year.

Environmentalists also complained that Bush did not include any money to help buy and protect forest land in the central Cascade mountains. The Cascades Conservation Partnership has come up with about \$50 million since it was formed three years ago — about \$36 million in federal funding and the rest from private donors. The money has helped set aside more than 20,000 acres of forest land throughout the Pacific Northwest — including nearly 4,000 acres purchased last year near Snoqualmie Pass in Washington state.

Group members had been counting on at least \$10 million in Bush's budget and were stunned to see they were shut out.

"This is a real slap in the face to the citizens of Washington state," said Mitch Friedman, executive director of Northwest Ecosystem Alliance, a partnership member. "Over 16,000 citizens have donated over \$14 million to this historic effort over the last two years."

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Smart family seeks more tips

New sketch of possible suspect is released

SALT LAKE CITY (AP) — The family of Elizabeth Smart announced a new reward Monday for anyone with information that can exonerate Richard Ricci, the top potential suspect in their daughter's kidnapping.

They also discussed and released a sketch of another handyman that had worked around the home. Elizabeth's sister says the man they knew only as "Emanuel" may bear a resemblance to the man who took Elizabeth from their room last June 5.

Elizabeth's parents Ed and Lois Smart announced a new reward of \$10,000 for anyone with information that Ricci was not involved in the kidnapping. The Smarts said the information would be evaluated by a committee of three police detectives and three FBI agents



This is a police composite sketch of a man who called himself 'Emanuel' and had worked at Edward Smart's home in 2001.

who are familiar with the case. "Anyone out there who truly

knows that Richard Ricci wasn't involved ... I would like to have Richard out of my life," Ed Smart said.

Salt Lake City police still consider Ricci the top potential suspect and are seeking information on his whereabouts between May 30 and June 8.

Ricci, who worked as a handyman at the Smart home, suffered a spontaneous cerebral hemorrhage in his prison cell in August and later died. Ricci, who was not charged in the disappearance, was in prison for a parole violation and maintained his innocence in the Smart case.

In a statement about the reward, Ricci's widow, Angela Ricci, said her family supports any effort made to find Elizabeth, but "we feel it unnecessary to exonerate Richard for something of which he was never charged — much less convicted of."

The Smarts also announced

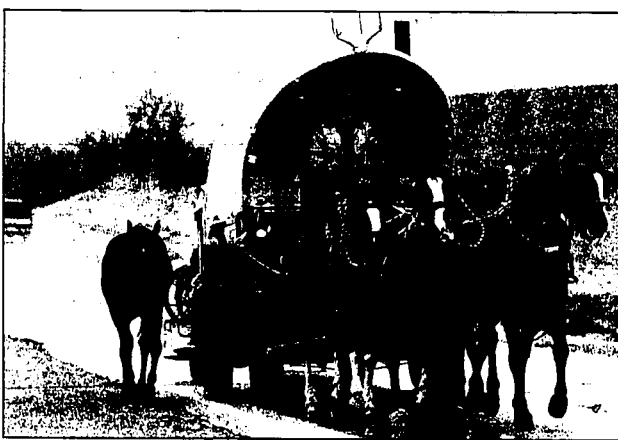
they want the public's help in locating a man who called himself "Emanuel" and did some work at the home in November 2001. The Smarts described him as white and around 50 years old, with dark brown hair. Police do not consider him a suspect.

Lois Smart said she met the man in downtown Salt Lake City. When he asked for a handshake, she offered him work at their home.

Ed Smart said the man did about five hours of work in their back yard and on their roof.

The couple said the man had little contact with their children, though they did see him. Their daughter, Mary Katharine, who shared a bed with Elizabeth the night she was abducted, came to them recently and said "Emanuel" bore some resemblance to Elizabeth's kidnapper. She did not tell them she recognized him absolutely, the Smarts said.

AT A HORSE'S PACE



Red Dekota drives his covered wagon a few miles north of Carbondale, Kan., Monday. Ron and his wife, Teresa, are traveling by wagon from Arco to Muskogee, Okla., as a way of taking their time and seeing the sites.

Students mourn avalanche victims

DEWINGTON, Alberta (AP) — Clutching flowers and tissues, stunned students and parents filed into an elite private school Monday to mourn seven classmates killed in a massive British Columbia avalanche.

Parent Derek Tripp called the tragedy an "act of God" as he dropped off his 10-year-old daughter at Strathcona-Tweedsmuir school.

"I don't think there's anything you can do to prevent what happened," Tripp said. "I feel absolutely terrible for the students and the parents involved. It's absolutely heartbreaking."

The bodies of the seven Grade 10 students were to be taken to Calgary on Monday from the avalanche area near Rogers Pass, British Columbia, in Canada's Glacier National Park.

Jeff Trickett, Daniel Arato, Michael Shaw, Scott Broshko, Marissa Staddon, Alex Patillo and Ben Albert were killed in the slide. Another seven students and three adult supervisors were caught in the avalanche but escaped with minor injuries.

Grief counselors were at the school to help students. Regular morning classes were canceled so students could visit a makeshift memorial in the school's theater, where seven desks representing each victim were flanked with flowers and sympathy cards.

Utah panel OKs changes to death penalty law

SALT LAKE CITY (AP) — Lawmakers took the first step Monday toward bringing Utah's death penalty law in line with a recent U.S. Supreme Court ruling.

The Senate Judiciary Committee unanimously approved the bill which defines

when a defendant is mentally retarded.

In June, the U.S. Supreme Court declared in the case of Atkins v. Virginia that executing mentally retarded murderers is unconstitutionally cruel. However, the court left it to the states to define mental

retardation.

Sponsored by Ogden Republican Sen. David Gladwell, the bill provides that definition, sets parameters regarding when it can be raised as a defense and determines who makes the finding during the prosecution of a case.

Man suspected of providing gun that killed officer faces charges

SALT LAKE CITY (AP) — Prosecutors have filed federal drug charges against a man suspected of providing the gun used in the killing of a West Jordan police officer.

Michael V. Sathaphan, 18, is facing one count of possession of methamphetamine with intent to distribute. At an initial court appearance Monday, Judge Samuel Alba ordered him to remain in jail at least until a detention hearing on Wednesday.

The drugs were seized in a raid Jan. 29. Police claim they found

the drugs along with drug paraphernalia, cash and guns.

Authorities say when they interrogated Sathaphan, he acknowledged selling a 9mm handgun to Tyler Atwood late last year. Atwood is suspected of giving that gun to Justin Van Roekel — who used it to shoot and kill West Jordan police officer Ronald Wood on Nov. 18.

Van Roekel killed himself as police closed in on him.

Atwood is facing robbery charges. He and Van Roekel were allegedly partners in crime for a number of heists, police said.

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NATION/WORLD

Iraq explains presence of warhead

Country makes rare admission to head of inspectors' report

BAGHDAD, Iraq (AP) — Iraq took the unusual step of issuing an explanation for a missile warhead discovered Monday by U.N. arms inspectors — before the monitors themselves made the news public.

The inspectors found the abandoned case of a small rocket and a "modified, damaged and abandoned warhead" at a missile parts factory south of Baghdad, the Iraqi News Agency said, describing it as a Russian-made Luna — a short-range rocket permitted under U.N. resolutions.

Iraq, however, rarely reports on what the inspectors find. The report appeared timed to give Iraq's version of events before the discovery was publicized by the United Nations.

The discovery last month of 12 empty chemical warheads — which the Iraqis considered an oversight on their part — was cited by the United States as an example of Baghdad failing to comply with terms of U.N. Resolution 1441.

Iraq is especially sensitive to such allegations ahead of Secretary of State Colin Powell's appearance before the Security Council on Wednesday. Powell plans to present evidence that Iraqi President Saddam Hussein has retained his arsenal of weapons of mass destruction.

Photographs of mobile biological weapons installations and transcripts of overheard conversations among Iraqi officials are part of the evidence Powell will present to the council Wednesday, a Bush administration official said.

Iraq denies holding any banned biological, chemical or nuclear weapons but is under pressure to improve cooperation with U.N. inspectors.

The United States and Britain insist Saddam still is hiding banned weaponry and say they will disarm Iraq by force if necessary. The United States has deployed almost 50,000 troops in the Gulf region, a number that may double soon.



Iraqi President Saddam Hussein speaks to senior military officers in this Iraqi News Agency photo made available Monday.

Saddam ratchets up television appearances

BAGHDAD, Iraq (AP) — It's 9 p.m. in Baghdad, time for the main TV news and a solid hour or more of Saddam Hussein, giving pep talks to his generals, ordering coffee, sending regards to faraway tribal chieftains and denouncing American "wickedness."

Although his portraits and statues are everywhere, the Iraqi leader hardly ever appears in public, and until the past month he hadn't been seen much on tightly controlled state television. But lately the personality cult has been dominating the air waves, usually in excerpts of meetings with officers and aides.

Field-Marshal Saddam Hussein, "The Leader, President, The Victorious, May God Protect Him" in the official media's words, is usually seen in a three-piece suit at the head of a long table, a small leather bag of his beloved Cuban cigars at hand.

The officers, ranging in rank from colonel to general, stand stiffly at attention and salute as Saddam walks in. His son Qusay, a civilian who heads the elite Republican Guard Corps, is often present and also at attention.

"It is sweet to sit and talk to you," Saddam tells a group of army officers in footage from Jan. 27.

The officers, mostly in olive-green army fatigues, tell Saddam how privileged they are to meet him. One officer tells of being nagged by his children who have seen other officers with Saddam on TV and want to know when it'll be dad's turn. Officers sometimes break into songs of praise of Saddam.

The reasons for all this sudden exposure are many: a way of rallying the estimated 22 million Iraqis for a possible American attack, a show of control and business-as-usual, a display of battle readiness and a demon-

stration of loyal camaraderie at a time when Saddam's enemies are reported to be working on the generals to overthrow him.

Those in search of other fare can flip to Al-Shabab, a channel set up in 1994 by Saddam's oldest son, Qudai. Lately it offers the American series "VIP," starring Pamela ("Baywatch") Anderson, and an Egyptian soap opera about a greedy man who marries women for their money, only to lose it all on the stock market.

But many Iraqis are tuning in to the Saddam footage, if only for the novelty of seeing him relaxing, talking and joking.

Here's the leader meeting with army commanders. As each officer identifies himself, Saddam names his tribe or clan and sends regards to its chief. Battle tactics come up and he is instantly the supreme commander, stressing, for example, that war games should use live ammunition.

Powell will offer U.N. evidence against Iraq

WASHINGTON (AP) — Secretary of State Colin Powell will present photographs of mobile biological weapons installations and transcripts of overheard Iraqi conversations to convince allies that Saddam Hussein has potent arsenals in defiance of U.N. disarmament demands, an administration official said Monday.

Powell sifted through classified U.S. intelligence on Monday to choose what he will make public on Wednesday to the U.N. Security Council. He is expected to display the photographs and refer to transcripts, an official told The Associated Press.

The chairman of the House Armed Services Committee, Rep. Duncan Hunter, R-Calif., said he expected the evidence to show details of a transfer of technology from other countries and the relocation of weapons systems within Iraq.

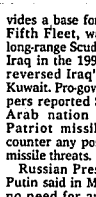
"He can go into a level of detail with respect to the present maintenance of the stock that he hasn't gone into before," Hunter said in an interview.

As the administration sought to expand its network of potential coalition partners, Powell met with the king of Bahrain,



Colin Powell

Sheik Hamad bin Isa Al-Khalifa, who then called on President Dick Cheney and planning to President Bush at the White House.



Colin Powell

which provides a base for the U.S. Navy's Fifth Fleet, was the target of long-range Scud missiles fired by Iraq in the 1991 Gulf War that reversed Iraq's annexation of Kuwait. Pro-government newspapers reported Sunday that the Arab nation was deploying Patriot missile batteries to counter any possible long-range missile threats.

Russian President Vladimir Putin said in Moscow there was no need for another Security Council resolution on Iraq but he would not rule one out — as Bush said he was not doing, either.

"The inspectors need to tell us what more they need from Iraq, what else can be demanded of Iraq so their works could be more effective," Putin said.

Blair pushes France to back war

PARIS (AP) — A French-British summit opens today with a focus on Iraq. During talks at a northern seaside resort, British Prime Minister Tony Blair is expected to try to persuade President Jacques Chirac to ease his anti-war stance.

At issue is a possible second U.N. Security Council resolution on Iraq that would justify military action against Saddam Hussein over his alleged weapons of mass destruction.

France has hinted it might use its veto power as one of five permanent members of the Security Council to block a resolution calling for an attack on Iraq.

Blair has long supported President Bush's stance that U.N. backing might not be necessary, and Britain is Washington's closest ally on Iraq — sending 35,000



Tony Blair

troops to the Persian Gulf to prepare for a possible war. But after talking with Bush — in Washington last week — Blair went further than before in support of a Security Council vote on Iraq. In Le Touquet, a resort of grassy beaches and pine forests, Blair is expected to repeat an argument he advanced Monday in the House of Commons — that the United Nations could be discredited if it fails to follow through on demands that Saddam disarm.



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MAGIC VALLEY

Notes on the economy

Magic Valley report

Help wanted ads drop

Someone's looking for help. But not as much as a year ago. Local employers in January placed fewer newspaper ads looking for workers than they did a year earlier. Last month, employers in The Times-News classified advertising section bought 1,153 employment ads. That's 4 percent below the 1,196 such ads placed in January 2002. But it tops the 877 of January 2001. The state will release its forecasts of January's county-by-county employment situation Feb. 21.

Source: The Times-News' classifieds sales manager Deby Johnson

BRIEFLY IN MONEY

Tax office offers help with forms

TWIN FALLS - Puzzled by your tax forms? Taxpayers can get tax help from the Internal Revenue Service at 1038 Blue Lakes Blvd. N., Suite C (that's in the Idaho State Tax Commission office, behind the Big S Sporting Goods store) every Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday through Feb. 27.

Hours of service:
• Tuesdays - 10 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.
• Wednesdays - 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.
• Thursdays - 8 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.
Help includes tax forms, answers to tax questions, assistance solving federal tax problems, and courtesy basic return preparation for lower-income taxpayers, generally those with incomes of \$35,000 and less.

Those intending to take advantage of the courtesy return preparation should bring all relevant information, including Social Security cards for each person listed on the tax return; their tax booklets; all wage and earnings statements (Forms W-2), interest and dividend statements (Forms 1099); copies of last year's tax returns; and any other information concerning income and expenses for 2002.

If filing jointly, both spouses must be present to sign the required forms for e-filing.

Idaho Power ends year with more business

BOISE - Idaho Power ended 2002 with 11,000 more customers than it began.

The utility's total number of customers last year was 114,066.

More than 1,400 commercial customers were added last year. The company also added 318 new irrigation accounts.

Idaho Power is an IDACORP subsidiary that provides electricity to customers in southeastern Idaho and eastern Oregon.

IDACORP will report its fourth-quarter results on Friday, before the stock markets open. The company will hold a news conference at 2:30 p.m. that day to discuss the fourth-quarter earnings and the outlook for 2003.

Anyone may listen through a live webcast on the Internet. Conference call logistics are posted on www.idacorp.com. A replay will be available on the company's Web site, too.

Major airlines improve performance in 2002

WASHINGTON - Major airlines arrived on time more and passengers complained less about service last year, thanks to traffic-control changes, good weather and fewer people flying.

The 10 biggest U.S. airlines posted their best on-time record since 1995, when the government started keeping comparable records.

Fliers on those airlines arrived within 15 minutes of schedule 82.1 percent of the time last year, up from 77.4 percent in 2001, the Transportation Security Administration reported on Monday.

During 2002, the Transportation Department received 43 percent fewer complaints about airline service than in 2001, according to the report.

"We haven't had the kind of weather problems in recent years that we had in 2000," said David Smallen, the transportation statistics bureau spokesman. Weather causes about two-thirds of all delays.

compiled from staff and wire reports

United Electric sends out checks

The Times-News

Co-op's customers receive refunds

HEYBURN - People who were United Electric Cooperative customers in the early 1970s have been sent patronage refund checks totaling \$285,607.

On Saturday, United Electric officials mailed out 1,450 checks to qualified co-op customers from 1971 and 1972, United Electric General

Manager Ralph Williams wrote, in a press release.

The amount of each check varied because of different amounts of usage during the two years.

United Electric officials are trying to catch up on some older credit payments to bring the co-op to a 20-year rotation,

Williams said. Becoming more current in capital credit payments assured adequate security for United Electric while returning profits to members, he said.

Don Dean of United Electric said current members are needed for some former members so their checks may be mailed out.

Those members for whom the co-op doesn't have current addresses are listed on United's Web site, www.unitedelectric.org.

United Electric is headquartered in Heyburn. The cooperative provides electric service to 5,592 meters in Cassia and Minidoka counties.

To provide a current address, customers may call United at 679-2222.

CAUTIOUS ADVANCE



Employees on the floor of the New York Stock Exchange observe two minutes of silence at 9:00 a.m. MST Monday to honor the crew of the space shuttle Columbia. Good economic news sent the market up on Monday.

Stocks rise modestly on better-than-expected earnings

The Associated Press

NEW YORK - Investors cautiously extended Wall Street's rally into a second session Monday as lower prices temporarily offset the market's concerns about war.

The advance, also supported by better-than-expected earnings and economic news, was unsurprising after the market's three straight losing weeks and big drop for the month of January.

Still, analysts were doubtful that any gains would be long lasting given investors' ongoing fears that a war with Iraq would further hurt the frail economy.

In a sign of investors' caution, trading volume was extremely

light and stocks were unable to hang on to their biggest gains Monday.

"(The market) is not up in a convincing way. There is very little enthusiasm for buying equities at the moment," the prospect of war still looms large in many people's thinking," said Alan Ackerman, executive vice president at Fehnestock & Co.

The Dow Jones industrial average closed up 56.01, or 0.7 percent, at 8,109.82, after climbing as much as 98.27 in earlier trading. The Dow lost 1 percent last week, its third straight losing week. On Monday, the blue chips added to Friday's gain of 108.68, their biggest advance in four weeks.

The broader market was also

higher, having suffered three consecutive weekly declines as well. The Nasdaq composite index rose 2.88, or 0.2 percent, to 1,323.79. The Standard & Poor's 500 index advanced 4.62, or 0.5 percent, to 860.32.

Economic news that exceeded Wall Street's expectations contributed to the market's gains. The Commerce Department reported construction spending jumped by 1.2 percent in December. The increase was larger than the 0.3 percent increase that analysts were predicting and marked the biggest gain in 10 months.

And the Institute of Supply Management said U.S. manufacturing activity grew for the third straight month in January,

although the pace slowed. The private industry group said its index manufacturing activity had a reading of 53.9, slipping from a revised 55.2 for December. A reading above 50 indicates expansion in activity, while a reading below 50 points to contraction.

But the market's gains were modest following the news, which analysts attributed to investors requiring more proof that the economy is on the mend.

"We have to see a pattern with these economic numbers. One day is not going to do it. Let's see what happens on the next round," said Stephen Cori, principal and head of equity trading at The Williams Capital Group.

Past mismanagement adds to Kmart's woes

By Rachel Beck

Associated Press writer

NEW YORK - It wasn't enough that Kmart had, Wal-Mart as its biggest threat, that it was struggling to turn around its business or that the economy had weakened.

Kmart's former executives took a bad situation and made it much worse by allegedly buying unnecessary inventory, deceiving vendors and lavishing themselves with perks.

We've already signed up for the "opt-out" service offered by the credit bureaus. Can we

"This was a key catalyst to bringing this company down, and it could hurt its ability to get back up," said Bart Flickinger III, managing partner at the consulting firm Strategic Resource Group.

When Charles Conaway took over as chief executive of Kmart in June 2000, he joined a company still looking for direction.

His predecessor, Floyd Hall, had closed unprofitable stores, sold off foreign assets and upgraded the fashions in its stores. But there was still a great deal of work to be done to keep Kmart competitive.

Kmart was getting squeezed

from all sides. In the discount-store arena alone, there was Wal-Mart, the world's largest retailer, which had more stores and significantly lower prices. Target, a smaller rival, had a more upscale clientele that favored its trendy fashions and home products.

Other retailers were expanding onto the national scene. That included Kohl's, which offered name-brand clothing and housewares at reasonable prices.

On top of all that, stock prices had begun to decline after a record-setting bull market, and the economy showed some signs

of weakness. Consumers were starting to pull back.

But Conaway had a plan to turn Kmart around. He closed more underperforming stores. He cut prices on 40 percent of its products. He set out plans to expand more stores into super-market-discount store hybrids. He hired new talent.

From the outside, Kmart seemed headed down the right path.

Behind the scenes, problems lurked.

An internal investigation launched by Kmart has found

Please see Kmart, Page C2

'Opt-out' service won't always eliminate credit solicitations

Question: I recently received a notice from a local car dealership that I had been "pre-approved" for an auto loan up to \$24,632. The letter said the offer was based on "certain credit qualifying information received from a credit reporting agency." Apparently, these folks took it upon themselves to run a credit check on me. Can they do that? And is there anything we can do to put a stop to this nonsense?

Answer: The car dealership didn't run a true credit check on you. What it did was pull from a credit bureau a list of

MONEY
TALK
Liz Pulliam
Weston

require credit agencies to have our permission before releasing our credit data?

Answer: The car dealership didn't run a true credit check on you. What it did was pull from a credit bureau a list of

consumers who met some minimum-credit standard the dealership had set.

This is what credit card companies do before sending out fleets of "pre-approved" credit offers.

By the way, selling such lists is the way credit bureaus make money. These are private businesses that gather and sell information about consumers.

Other than using the opt-out service - which reduces but doesn't eliminate such credit solicitations - there's not much you can do. (For people not

familiar with the service, it's run by the major credit bureaus and can be reached at (888) 5-OPT-OUT. You'll need to enter your Social Security number and other information to identify yourself.)

If you had applied for the loan, then the dealership would have pulled your full credit report to determine if you were creditworthy. Despite the wording of the notice, you wouldn't be guaranteed the loan.

The good news, if there is any, is that these "pre-approved" offers don't hurt

your credit score.

Q: In the past you've advocated letting the IRS deposit a refund directly into your checking account. You should revise your thinking on this. To have the refund electronically deposited is to give the government access to your bank account. This allows them to review your bank records and also make withdrawals without your permission or knowledge. Anyone authorized to make electronic deposits, including

Please see TALK, Page C2

COURT - FILINGS

The Times-News

BOISE - Recent activity in U.S. Bankruptcy Court included these Magic Valley filings:

Chapter 7, nonbusiness, under \$50,000.

Richard Alan Oengra and Heather Elaine Oengra, also known as Heather Elaine Jex, 851 Shenandoah Drive, Hailey, individual, nonbusiness, Chapter 7, 1-15 creditors, assets under \$50,000, liabilities under \$50,000. Case no. 03-40116.

William Stephen Ranalli Jr., 761 Main Ave. W., No. 10, Twin Falls, individual, nonbusiness, Chapter 7, 1-15 creditors, assets under \$50,000, liabilities under \$50,000. Case no. 03-40123.

Alan Richard Javes, doing business as Innovative Wind Works, 4219 N. 1400 E., Buhl, individual, nonbusiness, Chapter 7, 1-15 creditors, assets under \$50,000, liabilities under \$50,000. Case no. 03-40134.

Glenn Jeanne Rudolph, 720 Second Ave. W., Twin Falls, individual, nonbusiness, Chapter 7, 1-15 creditors, assets under \$50,000, liabilities under \$50,000. Case no. 03-40135.

Steven Kent Schmitt, 2456 Fourth Ave. E., Twin Falls, individual, nonbusiness, Chapter 7, 1-15 creditors, assets under \$50,000, liabilities under \$50,000. Case no. 03-40139.

Yvonne S. Vuori, also known as Yvonne Vuori-Sellers, 210 12 Second St., Rupert, individual, nonbusiness, Chapter 7, 1-49 creditors, assets under \$50,000, liabilities under \$50,000. Case no. 03-40147.

Maria Garcia Rojas, 720 Sunrise Blvd., Twin Falls, individual, nonbusiness, Chapter 7, number of creditors not listed, assets under \$50,000, liabilities under \$50,000. Case no. 03-40151.

Richard Shannon Ross, 207 S. 1070 E., Hagerman, individual, nonbusiness, Chapter 7, 1-15 creditors, assets under \$50,000, liabilities under \$50,000. Case no. 03-40164.

Schule-Hart Cordell, 849 E. 3000 N., Kimberly, individual, nonbusiness, Chapter 7, 16-49 creditors, assets under \$50,000, liabilities under \$50,000. Case no. 03-40166.

Mona E. Watson, also known as Mona E. Branstad, 624 N. Fillmore St., Jerome, individual, nonbusiness, Chapter 7, 16-49 creditors, assets under \$50,000, liabilities under \$50,000. Case no. 03-40168.

Chapter 7, nonbusiness, \$50,000 to \$100,000.

Janet L. Gortsema, 371 High St., Bliss, individual, nonbusiness, Chapter 7, 16-49 creditors, assets under \$50,000, liabilities \$50,000 to \$100,000. Case no. 03-40121.

Chapter 7, nonbusiness, \$100,000 to \$500,000.

Leticia P. Benavidez, also known as Leo P. Benavidez, and Encarna R. Benavidez, also known as Emma R. Benavidez, 101 N. Ninth St., Buhl, individual, nonbusiness, Chapter 7, 16-49 creditors, assets under \$50,000, liabilities \$100,000 to \$500,000. Case no. 03-40119.

Robert Gayle Andrusson and Nancy Marie Andrusson, 675 E. 400 N., Rupert, individual, nonbusiness, Chapter 7, 16-49 creditors, assets \$100,000 to \$500,000, liabilities \$100,000 to \$500,000. Case no. 03-40120.

William Paul Mares, also known as Mal Prior, Meadows Park, No. 13, Broadway Road, Ketchum, individual, nonbusiness, Chapter 7, 1-15 creditors, assets under \$50,000, liabilities \$100,000 to \$500,000. Case no. 03-40127.

James Raymond Winn, doing business as Winn Gas & Oil, 577 W. Baseline Road, Paul, individual, nonbusiness, Chapter 7, 50-100 creditors, assets \$100,000 to \$500,000, liabilities \$100,000 to \$500,000. Case no. 03-40128.

Adolf Frank Radel, also known as Adolf Radel, 245 Shenandoah Drive, No. 801, Hailey, individual, nonbusiness, Chapter 7, 16-49 creditors, assets under \$50,000, liabilities \$100,000 to \$500,000. Case no. 03-40130.

Rachele Diane Buzalski, also known as Rachele Diane Johnson, 522 W. Ave. G, Jerome, individual, nonbusiness, Chapter 7, 16-49 creditors, assets under \$50,000, liabilities \$100,000 to \$500,000. Case no. 03-40131.

Samuel Porter Collins and Christine Ann Collins, 444 E. 200 N., Shoshone, individual, nonbusiness, Chapter 7, 1-15 creditors, assets \$100,000 to \$500,000, liabilities \$100,000 to \$500,000. Case no. 03-40133.

Samuel Porter Collins and Christine Ann Collins, 444 E. 200 N., Shoshone, individual, nonbusiness, Chapter 7, 1-15 creditors, assets \$100,000 to \$500,000, liabilities \$100,000 to \$500,000. Case no. 03-40133.

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Samuel Porter Collins and Christine Ann Collins, 444 E. 200 N., Shoshone, individual, nonbusiness, Chapter 7, 1-15 creditors, assets \$100,000 to \$500,000, liabilities \$100,000 to \$500,000. Case no. 03-40133.

MORNING LINE

SPORTSQUOTE

“He’s a good kicker.
But he’s an idiot.”

”

—Indianapolis Colts
quarterback Peyton
Manning on kicker Mike
Vanderjag’s comments to
about Manning and coach
Toby Dunne

TRIVIA

QUESTION:

The Atlanta Thrashers’ Dany
Healey on Sunday became the
fifth player to score four goals in
the NHL All-Star game, joining
Wayne Gretzky (1983), Mario
Lemieux (1990), Vincent
Damphousse (1991) and Mike
Gartner (1993). What was
notable about Gretzky’s four-goal
game?

...answer below

TODAY’S SCHEDULE

High school boys basketball
TFCA at Jackpot, Nev., 7:30
p.m.
Castleford JV at M.V.
Christian, 7:30 p.m.
Comm. School at Bliss, 7:30
p.m.

Camas County at Shoshone,
7:30 p.m.
Richfield at Carey, 7:30 p.m.
Hansen at Hagerman, 7:30 p.m.
Minico at Madison, 7:30 p.m.

High school girls basketball
SA Region III District Four-
Five-Six Tournament
Minico at Pocatello, 7:30 p.m.
Idaho Falls at Highland, 7:30
p.m.

**AA District — Four-Five
Tournament**
Burley at Jerome, 7 p.m.
3A District Four Tournament
Kimberly at Filer, 7 p.m.
Gooding at Declo, 7 p.m.
Buhl at Wood River, 7 p.m.

JV Tournament, at Declo HS
Declo vs. Filer, 4:15 p.m.
Buhl vs. Gooding, 5:30 p.m.
2A District Four Tournament
Glenns Ferry at Valley, 7:30
p.m.

JV Tournament
Glenns Ferry/Valley winner at
Wendell, 6 p.m.

High school wrestling
Minico at Century, 7 p.m.
Buhl at Burley/Dale, 7 p.m.

High school bowling
Minico at Hansen, 4 p.m.
Gooding at Twin Falls, 4 p.m.

IN BRIEF

Academic state
champs announced

BOISE — Four area high
schools were named as state
academic champions in their classi-
fications of boys and girls basket-
ball and wrestling. It was
announced Monday by the Idaho
High School Activities
Association.

In girls basketball, Jerome
won the Class 4A divisions with a
team mark of 3.85 in a 4.0 grade
point average. Murtaugh won 1A
with a 3.74. Timberline won 5A
with a 3.84 mark while Shelley
took 3A with a 3.84 average and
Firth 2A with 3.89.

In boys hoops, Valley High
School took 2A with a 3.62 grade
point average. Highland took 5A
with a 3.84 average while
Century won 4A with a 3.65
mark. Shelley took 3A with a
3.54 average while Council won
1A with a 3.52 average.

In wrestling, Buhl is tops in
Class 3A with a 2.27 grade point
average. Class 5A went to Idaho
Falls, 3.17; 4A, Madison, 3.63 and
Firth in 2A-1A combined, 3.55.

Plaques for each team will be
presented at the state champi-
onship tournaments.

Compiled from staff reports

TRIVIA ANSWER:

Gretzky scored all four goals
in the third period of the
Campbell Conference’s 9-3 victory
in 1983.

Shoshone slips past Dietrich

Richfield eliminates
Ketchum, 37-29

By Kevin Hall
Times-News writer

SHOSHONE — The goal was to
hold Rayna Parker and the
Dietrich Blue Devils to “around
40 points.”

With Parker hobbled by a sore
ankle, the Blue Devils finished
with 42, not enough to catch
Shoshone, which defeated the
defending Class 1A state runners-
up, 45-42, to claim the champi-

Northside Conference
Tournament

onship of the girls Northside
Conference Tournament at
Shoshone High School Monday.

The win carried with it an auto-
matic berth to the Girls Real
Deity Shoot Out in Nampa on
Feb. 19-22. The Indians (18-5) also
take the No. 1 seed from the
Northside to the one-day, 1A
District Four Tournament back at
Shoshone on Feb. 12. Dietrich (21-
3) faces a must-win game with
Richfield on Wednesday, with the

winner also receiving its ticket to
state.

Richfield (11-10) advanced to
the second-place game by knock-
ing off The Community School,
37-29, in a rematch of the first
round. This time, the Cutthroats
(9-9) couldn’t overcome the Tigers
as they did the first time when
they rallied from nine back.
Candace Farnworth led all scor-
ers with 10 points for Richfield.

It was the first triumph in three
meetings for Shoshone over its
Lincoln County rivals, who had
cruised through the conference
regular season 12-0.
Sophomore Amanda Gulliford

made three 3-pointers and topped
all scorers with 16 points to lead
Shoshone, which added 13 points
from feisty point guard Meghan
Sorensen.

“A lot of them were just falling
— lucky shots,” Gulliford said.

Sorensen came up clutch from
the free throw line late, sinking 5-
of-6 in the final 52.1 seconds.

Amid a crowd of well-wishers
after the contest, Indians coach
Tim Chapman said he thought
free throws could decide the out-
come.

“When we came in here I
wrote on the board, ‘Free throws
win games.’ We’re not a great

free throw shooting team but
Meghan Sorensen stepped in
there and kind of sealed it for
us,” he said. “No one expected us
to beat Dietrich this year. I think
our girls just wanted it a little bit
more.”

Sorensen said in their first two
meetings, Shoshone played their
rivals close both times, giving the
young Indians confidence for
Monday’s matchup.

“We got closer every time we
played them... we knew we could
beat them,” she said. “We just
had total faith in ourselves.”

Please see NORTHIDE, Page D2

U.S. women shine at Worlds

Yanks win silver,
bronze in Super G

By Erica Bulman
Associated Press writer

ST. MORITZ, Switzerland —
Suddenly, the prediction of a soli-
tary medal seems tame. The U.S.
women have won two already at
the world championships, and
sense more on the way.

“It’s amazing,” Kirsten Clark
said. “We’re definitely off to a
great start.”

Clark won the silver medal
Monday in the super giant slalom
on the second day of the worlds,
finishing 0.02 seconds behind
Michaela Dorfmeister of Austria.
Clark’s teammate, Jonna
Mendes, won the silver, 0.15
seconds behind Dorfmeister.

Dorfmeister was timed in 1
minute, 27.48 seconds on the
Engiadina course for her second
world title. She won the downhill
two years ago.

Breaking into tears, she kissed
the snow, her skis and her first
and punched the air.

“Luck was on my side today,”
Dorfmeister said. “I am a bit
stunned. I was very emotional
today.”

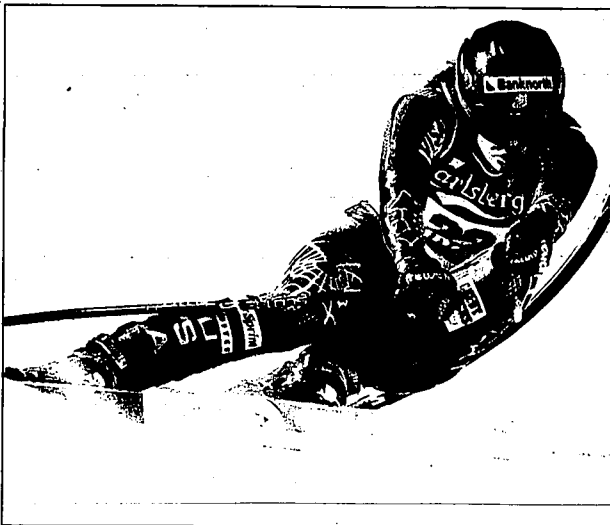
The performance by the U.S.
women was all the more surpris-
ing considering they had not had
a top-three result in the Super G
this season on the World Cup cir-
cuit.

“I can’t say it was expected. It’s
awesome to stand on the podium,”
said Clark, of Raymond,
Maine. “I definitely think there
are more podiums on the
women’s side.”

The women’s success comes a
day after American Bode Miller
shared the silver in a Super G.
Apart from the United States
and Austria, no other nation has
won a medal at the worlds.
Austria has two gold and one sil-
ver, the Americans two silver and
one bronze.

Entering the championships,
U.S. Alpine director Jesse Hunt
said the team was aiming for
three medals in the men’s events
and one in the women’s.

“Bode came back to our hotel
kind of showing off his medal,”
said Clark, grinning. “It definitely
gave us momentum to see
Bode do so well. It generated a



American Kristin Clark competes in the women’s Super G at the World Alpine Ski Championships in St. Moritz, Switzerland Monday. Clark took second and Jonna Mendes third in a surprisingly strong showing by the U.S. women.

lot of energy and enthusiasm.”
In other U.S. results, Caroline
Lalivie went off course and failed
to finish a race for the ninth
straight time at the Olympics at
worlds, and Julia Mancuso came
in 21st.

Mendes said the women on the
team now believe they’re capable
of top-three finishes.

“I think a couple more medals
isn’t out of reach,” said Mendes,
of Heavenly, Calif. “We’re shoot-
ing for more.”

Before Monday, Clark’s best
Super G results this season were
fourth-place finishes in Aspen,
Colorado, and Lake Louise, Alberta.
Mendes was eighth in Cortina
d’Ampezzo, Italy.

At the Salt Lake City Olympics
last winter, the United States
won just two silvers, with Miller
placing second in the combined
and giant slalom.

Please see WOMEN, Page D4



Jonna Mendes of the United States reacts after skiing to the bronze medal in the women’s Super G at the World Alpine Ski Championships on Monday.

Sister guides Dale Jr.’s deals

By Jenna Fryer
Associated Press writer

MOORESVILLE, N.C. — After
months of pondering the contract
offer, Dale Earnhardt Jr. decided
he needed some advice.

He didn’t call a lawyer, an
accountant or an agent.

Instead, he took the paperwork
to his sister, Kelley, and let her
hash out a deal.

If it’s business, pleasure or per-
sonal, Earnhardt’s 30-year-old sis-
ter is the first person the
NASCAR superstar turns to.

“Dale Jr. was always littler
than everybody — shy, got picked
on a lot at school — and I was
always the caretaker for him. It
gave me momentum to see
Bode do so well. It generated a

It started when they were chil-
dren of an absent father, living
with their mother in Virginia.
Kelley, two years older than her
brother, always looked after him.
Eventually, they moved to
North Carolina to be with their



Kelley Earnhardt stays busy as brother Dale Earnhardt Jr.’s business manager.

father, the late Dale Earnhardt,
but were split up when Dale Jr.
went to boarding school and
Kelley went to college.

The time apart was good for
the little brother — “he started to
become his own person” — but
not so good for their father.

reconnect with his children. He
begged Kelley to leave school in
Wilmington, N.C., promising her
she could live by herself and
even start her own racing
career.

“He was just starting to
become a lot more family-orient-
ed, and we just never got to see
each other,” she said. “He sent
Please see SISTER, Page D4

Florida moves to No. 1
spot for the first time

The Associated Press

GAINESVILLE, Fla. — The
Gators finally made it.

The team that spent its formative
years being coached by
assistants from the football staff
and playing in a dingy, dimly lit
gym made it to No. 1 in the AP
poll Monday for the first time in
its 88-year history.

“I think we made it by a
process of elimination,” Florida
coach Billy Donovan said.

The Gators (18-2, 7-0
Southeastern Conference)
jumped from fourth to first after
a week in which the three teams
ahead of them — Arizona,
Pittsburgh and Texas — all lost,
while they won twice to stretch
their winning streak to 14
games.

Least they got too excited.
Florida’s first game as a top-
ranked team comes Tuesday at
No. 6 Kentucky in a game that
will decide the leader in the SEC
East.

“The key is to be humble,”

College standings — D3

Donovan said, “or this could be
the shortest-lived stay at No. 1 in
the history of college basket-
ball.”

Either way, it has been a long
time coming.

Before 1980, Florida played in
the old Alligator Alley, a dusty
little gym that seated 7,000. The
Gators liked to schedule games
for midday, hoping to gain an
advantage from the sunlight
shining through the windows
and temporarily blinding opposi-
tion players.

It wasn’t until 1960 that
Florida emerged from the dark
ages and hired a full-time basket-
ball coach, Norm Sloan.
Before that, the Gators normally
found their coach by searching
their roster of assistants from the
football team, or by picking a
volunteer from the physical
education faculty.

Please see FLORIDA, Page D2

SPORTS

Tiger and Ernie begin to renew their rivalry

By Doug Ferguson
Associated Press writer

A record score. A dramatic shot. A stirring comeback. They sound like movie show-stopping feats by Tiger Woods, only he hasn't played in two months.

This is the work of Ernie Els, who has given golf what has been sorely lacking — a real threat to Woods.

"He has always been the guy that I thought had the ability to get better and contend for No. 1," said two-time U.S. Open champion Curtis Strange, a golf analyst for ABC Sports. "Ernie's knock has been, does he have the fore-up-and-go? If there's ever a time, it might be now because of his start."

The Big Easy, as Els is called, won the Heineken Classic in Australia to finish almost everywhere he goes, the 27-year-old Woods has been recovering from knee surgery in Florida and won't return until at least next week in San Diego.

The first tournament where both are scheduled to play is the Match Play Championship at the end of the month. They wouldn't face each other until the finals, and the top two seeds rarely advance all the way in 18-hole matches.

The following week, both are supposed to play the Dubai Desert Classic in the United Arab Emirates. Those prospects are in doubt as the United States moves closer to war.

Els is in no hurry. "It will come to a head sooner or later, and you guys are probably going to write it up quite a bit now," Els said. "I'm going to stick to my guns. Hopefully, with this form I'll have a good chance of playing against any field."

Els has won two U.S. Opens. But no one has been runner-up to Woods more often than Els — six times — including four tournaments in 2000 when Woods shattered one record after another.

Els began working with a sports psychologist and decided to worry more about his own game than whether it was good enough to beat Woods.

He held off Woods at Doral last year, added his third major at the British Open and then really took

off. He has won five of his last seven tournaments dating to the World Match Play Championship in England, where he shot a 60 early in the event.

"I kept it going," he said. "This game is quite amazing sometimes."

He finished last year by winning the unofficial Nedbank Challenge in South Africa by eight strokes.

This year, only his equipment and endorsement deals changed.

Els blitzed the winners-only field at Kapalua to win by eight strokes at 31 under par, a PGA Tour record. The next week in Honolulu, he won on the second playoff hole over Aaron Baddeley with a 55-foot birdie putt from the fringe.

Just when it seemed his global travels were catching up with him, Els shot 66-55 for the weekend at Royal Melbourne to win by one over Nick Faldo and Peter Lonard.

It was reminiscent of when Woods recovered from a 10-stroke deficit to win the Deutsche Bank-SAP Open in Germany two years ago, closing with 63-66.

"This one is good... sweet," Els said. "I haven't come from behind for quite some time."

The only blip was at the Singapore Masters, where Els blew a final-round lead and lost to unheralded Zhang Lian-Wel of China with a bogey on the last hole.

Still, Els is leading the money list on the PGA Tour and on the European tour, and Woods will have some catching up to do when he returns.

"Don't think Tiger isn't chomping at the bit," said Strange, who has talked with Woods during the past few weeks. "He doesn't miss a thing. I still think Ernie has to be sharp to beat him, but the gap looks smaller because Ernie is playing so well."

Woods has had his share of rivals: David Duval won 11 times in 34 tournaments to replace Woods at No. 1 briefly in 1999. Phil Mickelson has won more tournaments than anyone but Woods over the last five years.

Still, no one has served up such a tantalizing threat.

"It's certainly going to be interesting," Strange said. "It has nothing to do with rooting against Tiger. As a player, I want to see Tiger pushed. I want to see how good he can be. I don't think golf needs this, but it's going to be good."

Lady Pilots down Wendell in District Four opener

WENDELL — Glenns Ferry reeled off an 8-0 scoring run early in the fourth quarter to pull away from host Wendell in a 46-32 opening win at the District 4 Class 2A girls basketball tournament.

The Lady Pilots play at No. 1 seed Valley Tuesday with Wendell awaiting the loser of that game on Thursday.

"We just kind of fell apart offensively," said Trojan coach Ryan Pope. "They wanted it a little more than we did. Up to that point it was anybody's ballgame."

Three Pilot players scored 12 points apiece in the victory — Kenzie King, Kylee Noble and Jessica Simons. Wendell was paced by Madison Campbell with 16 points.

Local sports

Monday in the Murtaugh High School gym.

Summer Hansen scored 12 points and Jill Harper 8 in the losing effort.

Hansen faces Hagerman in a loser-out game Friday at 6 p.m. followed by the conference championship between Oakley and Murtaugh at about 7:30 p.m.

Hansen 62, Hagerman 23
MURTAUGH — This one was never in doubt as Hagerman held Castleford to two points in the first quarter to eliminate the Lady Wolves from the Magic Valley Conference girls basketball tournament by a score of 62-23 on Monday.

Shannell Knight scored 19 to lead the Pirates into a loser-out game at 6 p.m. Friday against Hansen. That contest is followed by the conference championship between Oakley and Murtaugh at about 7:30 p.m.

Magic Valley

Conference Tournament

Hansen 42, Raft River 37

MURTAUGH — Junior Bonnie Freestone pumped in 18 points while Kristy Bates and Brianna Stanger each added 10 to lead the Hansen Huskies past Raft River 42-37 in loser-out play at the Magic Valley Conference girls basketball tournament on

Hagerman 62, Castleford 23

MURTAUGH — This one was never in doubt as Hagerman held Castleford to two points in the first quarter to eliminate the Lady Wolves from the Magic Valley Conference girls basketball tournament by a score of 62-23 on Monday.

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Dallas topples Jazz on Van Exel 3-pointer in final seconds

SALT LAKE CITY (AP) — Nick Van Exel hit a 3-pointer with 13.1 seconds to play and the Dallas Mavericks spoiled Karl Malone's 1,400th career game by beating the Utah Jazz 92-90 Monday night.

Dirk Nowitzki scored 25 points and Steve Nash had 20 points and six assists for the Mavericks, who squandered a 16-point lead before rallying for their fourth straight win. Utah's Matt Harpring, who missed Saturday's game with sore ribs, returned to the lineup and scored 20 points but he missed a baseline jumper that would have forced overtime.

Malone finished with 18 points and Scott Padgett scored 13 for the Jazz, who outrebounded the Mavericks 46-31.

Van Exel finished with 12 points, including the final three after Andrei Kirilenko gave Utah a 90-89 lead on a layup with 29.9 seconds left at the end of a frenzied Jazz possession.

Utah got off three shots during the possession and somehow came up with each offensive rebound. But the Mavericks had plenty of time and Van Exel calmly hit the shot from the right corner to win it.

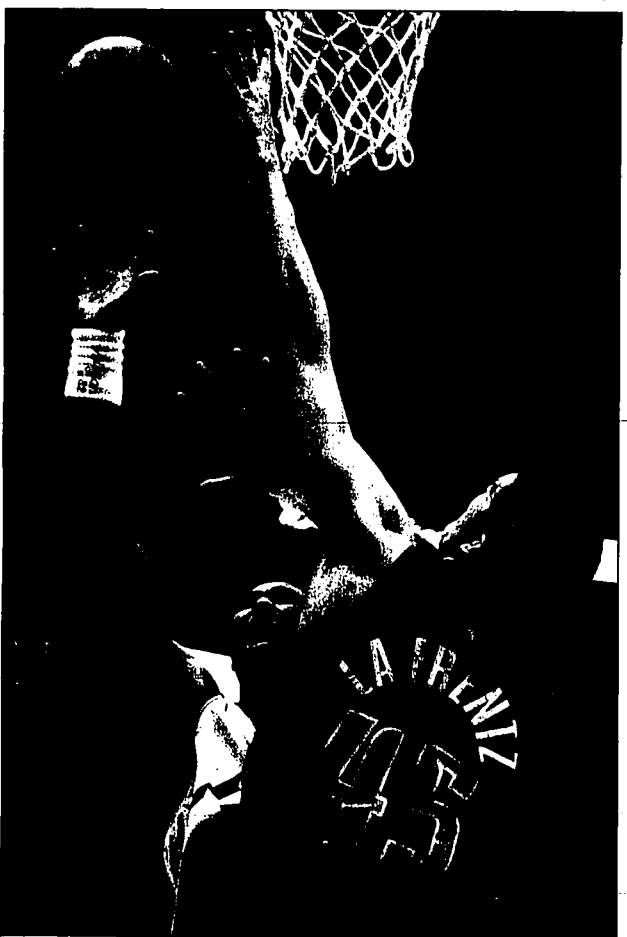
Michael Finley finished with 17 points for Dallas. Tony Massenburg scored 11 and Kirilenko added 10 for the Jazz.

After the game, Dallas assistant Del Harris charged onto the court and yelled at the officials about the physical contact, which had two flagrant fouls, technicals and lots of contact inside that wasn't called.

The Jazz fell to 2-2 during coach Jerry Sloan's suspension for shoving an official.

It didn't look good for the Jazz early as Dallas scored the first 10 points of the game and held a 20-4 lead at one point.

But Utah steadily came back and finally took the lead by closing the third quarter with a 16-7 run.



Dallas Mavericks center Karl Malone fouls Utah Jazz forward Karl Malone during the fourth quarter Monday, Feb. 3, 2003, in Salt Lake City. The Mavericks beat the Jazz, 92-90.

Paul Pierce led Boston with 27 points and was 9-of-11 from the foul line, while Antoine Walker and rookie J.R. Bremer each added 20.

Eric Williams scored 13 and Tony Battie grabbed 13 rebounds for the Celtics.

Nets 109, SuperSonics 108 OT

EAST RUTHERFORD, N.J. —

Kenyon Martin scored a career-high 35 points and Jason Kidd hit a 3-pointer with 1:31 left in overtime to lead the New Jersey Nets to a 109-108 win over the Seattle SuperSonics on Monday night.

Desmond Mason scored a season-high 30 points but missed a 3-point attempt at the buzzer in a disheartening loss for Seattle, which rallied from a 17-point deficit in the second half.

Heat 99, Hawks 79

MIAMI — Eddie Jones scored 26 points, including 5-of-8 shooting from 3-point range, as Miami ended Atlanta's three-game winning streak.

Reserve forward LaPhonso Ellis added 15 points and Mike James had 13 as the Heat bench outscored Atlanta's reserves 39-15. Brian Grant got his 19th double-double of the season with 11 points and 14 rebounds.

Florida

Continued from D1

They have been much, much better of late, reaching the NCAA finals in 2000 and rising to No. 2 in the poll as recently as last year.

But the top spot in the AP poll has always seemed like a better fit for the football team.

Until now.

Their 14-game winning streak

ties the school record set last year. Their ascension to No. 1 came two months to the day of their last loss, Dec. 3 at West Virginia.

The Gators became the 49th school to be ranked No. 1 in the history of the AP poll, which started during the 1948-49 season.

They join Alabama as the sec-

ond team to reach the top spot for the first time ever this season. The Crimson Tide has since fallen to 22nd.

Florida received 50 first-place votes and 1,764 points from the 72-member national media panel to easily outdistance Arizona (16-2), which dropped out of No. 1 after losing at home to Stanford on Thursday.

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SPORTS

NHL survives a fuzzy finish

By Hal Bock
Associated Press writer

Who won? What was the final? It used to be so simple. Just check the scoreboard.

These days, that's no guarantee. Determining victory has suddenly turned into a dicey issue, clouded by bailouts and shootouts, replays and regrets, ties and double winners — all kinds of complications.

The latest fuzzy finish occurred Sunday when the West defeated the East in the NHL All-Star game. The only problem was that nobody was quite sure of the score.

For the first time in years, the game resembled real hockey. Instead of the toroidal, excuse-me defense that produced 212 goals in the last 13 years of All-Star games, this contest delivered a reasonable score — a 5-5 tie.

Baseball went through that last summer when both teams ran out of players at its All-Star game in Milwaukee and decided a 7-7 tie was fine. Hockey, however, was prepared: There would be a shootout — a series of penalty shots to decide the game, cruel and unusual punishment for the goalies, a kind of legalized target practice.

Five shots for each team. The team with the most goals wins. Seems reasonable. The West scored three goals. The East scored one.

Final score: West 6, East 5.

That's not what the scoreboard said, though. Up there, the score was 6-6 for the West. The scorekeeper assumed each of the shootout goals counted in the final score, when they all added up to just one deciding the game.

Later, NHL officials corrected the mistake. Sports commentator Frank Deford thought the NHL did fairly well, considering some of the misadventures of the last year in Olympic figure skating, baseball and the NFL.

"Give the NHL credit," Deford said. "They had one team winning, and it was the right team. That's a step in the right direction."

"Baseball had no team win-



Western Conference player and Detroit Red Wing Sergei Fedorov tries to shoot around East goalie Patrick Lalime of the Ottawa Senators during the NHL All-Star game held Sunday.

ning. The Olympics had two teams winning and the NFL had the wrong team winning.

"Sure, they got the score wrong, but you have to cut them some slack. Given the fact they have two teams bankrupt, they've got other things to worry about."

This confusion began a year ago when the Olympic figure skating pairs competition ended with two couples awarded gold medals, a French judge fighting a scandal and the sport with a red face.

In last summer's baseball All-Star game, managers Joe Torre and Bob Brenly cleverly ran out of players, leaving commissioner Bud Selig to deal with a tie game. The commissioner could have sent a cab to the airport to gather some of the stars who fled the ballpark as soon as they were out of the game.

Instead, Selig looked rather befuddled, threw his hands up to declare a tie, and solved it by solemnly pledging this would never happen again.

Believe that and you'll believe the Chicago White Sox will always play in Comiskey Park instead of something called U.S. Cellular Field.

Just as the bad taste from the baseball-XII-Star tie was fading away, along came a platoon of NFL referees poking their heads into oversized, hooded TV replay monitors, trying to get calls right.

And then, when they got them wrong anyway, we had the lordly league apologizing for the mistake. Our regrets for the error, the proprietors of the NFL advised the New York Giants after a blown call bounced them from the playoffs. And have a nice offseason.

Then there was college foot-

ball's national championship at the Fiesta Bowl decided in double overtime with Ohio State beating Miami. The only problem was Miami thought it had won. Its players and fans rushed on the field to start the celebration, then contritely retreated when an on-site referee threw a flag and signaled pass interference, giving Ohio State another chance.

Was it really pass interference? Maybe. Maybe not. There's no replay in college football, but that probably would only have complicated the matter even more.

Mistakes happen. What's troubling is they keep happening.

Next week, the Westminster Dog Show moves into Madison Square Garden. Don't be surprised if the best-in-show accepts the blue ribbon with a hearty, "Meow!"

Women

Continued from D1

At the last worlds in St. Anton, Americans won just one medal, a super G gold by Daron Rahulov, and failed to medal at the 1999 worlds at Vail, Colo.

With Canadians Genevieve Simard and Melanie Turgeon fourth and sixth Monday, North Americans held four of the top six spots. Austria's Alexandra

Meissnitzer was fifth. Dorfmeister captured the Super G bronze medal at the 1999 worlds in Vail. The Austrian had not won another Super G this season, finishing third in Val d'Isere, France, at the beginning of December.

She was a Super G silver medalist at the 1998 Nagano Olympics.

Sister

Continued from D1

me flowers one time at school, and I still have the card. It said, 'It's been so long, I have almost forgotten what you look like.'"

So Kelley came home, transferring to UNC-Charlotte, where she earned her business degree while driving Late Model cars. At the same time, Dale Jr. was getting his start in NASCAR, along with their older half brother, Kerry.

As Dale Jr. started to blossom into a NASCAR star, their father took care of everything. The son had little interest or involvement in the business side of racing, and no one had a problem with it.

Whatever was good for the father was good for the son.

"When dad was here, him and (stepmother) Teresa, whatever they did for dad, they mimicked for Dale Jr.," Kelley said. "They made his decisions. Even when he started his own company, they made the decisions about where he banked, all of his insurance. ..."

"They told him what they were doing, but he didn't really care to sit there and understand it."

Then, Earnhardt was killed in a wreck at the 2001 Daytona 500. Brother and sister were on their own again, and Kelley knew Dale Jr. would need her.

"I called Dale up and said, 'I need to work for you, and you need me to come work for you,'" she remembered. "It took him about three weeks. He always had the trust in me; he knows how I operate."

Those close to the family have always said Kelley is most like her father: no-nonsense, with a keen sense for business, but able to kid around at the proper time.

And when it comes to her brother, no one has ever looked after him the way she does.

So Dale Jr. turned everything over to her, making Kelley his business manager.

She's president of JR Motorsports, his company that encompasses everything not related to his Winston Cup team, which is owned by Teresa and Dale Earnhardt Inc.

"I instill a lot of trust and dependability on her to help me out, because she's pretty smart about this stuff," he said. "And let's face it, I'm probably not too experienced in it. I would probably let people walk off with the bank."

Kelley didn't let that happen when it came time for Dale Jr. to sign a contract with DEI. He had worked under a handshake agreement with his father but wanted something official this time around.

He rejected lifetime contract that Teresa offered, and worked with Kelley on the things he wanted included in his new deal.

Although they have solid relationships with Teresa and their half siblings, the two of them have created their own mini-family.

The birth two years ago of Kelley's daughter, Karsyn, has changed them both. Dale Jr. spends hours on end with his niece, sometimes playing computer games with her, sometimes secretly teaching her curse words, and sometimes just sitting back and watching her.

And Karsyn's arrival finally allowed the little brother to look after his sister.

"He'll tell me about dating, going out or outside interests. You don't need to be doing that, because you have Karsyn," she said. "He definitely is way harder on me about personal things than I am on him."

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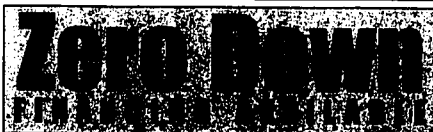
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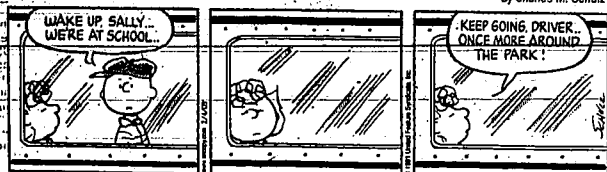
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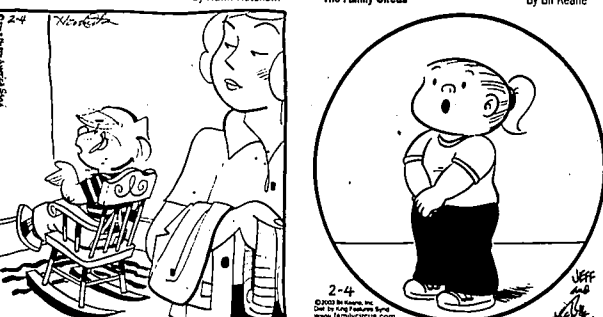


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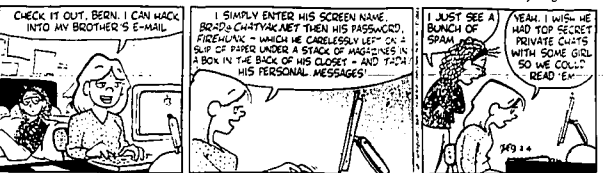
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