



The Times-News

Twin Falls, Idaho/98th year, No. 346

Friday, December 12, 2003

50 cents

GOOD MORNING

WEATHER



Today: Cloudy today with chance of snow tonight, high 39, low 30.

Page A2

MAGIC VALLEY



Court race: Jim Jones, a former attorney general from the Magic Valley, is considering running for the Idaho Supreme Court.

Page B1

MONEY

Robust sign: Year-to-date Magic Valley construction values pull to 6.5 percent lead over last year.

Page D6

WEEKEND



Hallelujah! The Magic Valley Chorale delivers "The Messiah" this weekend.

Page C1

SPORTS

Coke tourney: The College of Southern Idaho women opened strong against the Northwest All-Stars Thursday.

Page D1

OPINION

No new governance: Changing hospital governance means less public knowledge about finances, today's editorial says.

Page A6

COMING UP

Read about the monastery
Just in time for holiday giving, here's a book about Ascension Priory.

Saturday In
The Times-News

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Dow returns to 10,000 milestone

Analysts say economy shows other signs of improvement

Combined wire reports

This year's rally in stocks, which hit a milestone Thursday, hasn't been strong enough to make Kevin Flynn forget about the money he lost in the downturn.

"Let's just say that three years ago I had about three times more money in one account than I do now," said Flynn, 41, of Martinez, Calif. "It took me 10 years to save all that money and it's not even close to being back where it was."

Flynn, who works for a real estate title company, has struck

More on the market - D6

with the market, though. He still invests 10 percent of his paycheck in his 401(k). He's encouraged by the gains he's seen this year, but he can't shake the nagging feeling that more losses might be lurking around the corner.

"I'm worried that everything I spent years working for could come crumbling down in one lousy year again."

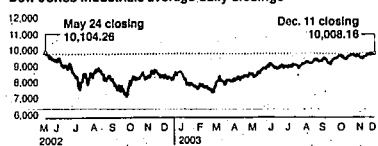
The Dow Jones industrial aver-

age has not broken the 10,000 barrier since May 24, 2002.

"If the number 10,000 makes the public feel better, then fine," said Larry Wachel, market analyst at Wachovia Securities in New York. "But I'm going to hang with this market because the economy is improving and earnings are sparking - not because of some number."

Others were more cautious. "The Dow index is simply a nostalgic unit of measurement," said Ernest Cask, a trader who was walking out of the New York Stock

Dow Jones Industrials average daily closings



SOURCES: Moneyline Tolerance; Associated Press

Exchange after the market closed. Cask said he follows other indexes more closely - such as the Russell 2000, which measures the performance of small-cap companies,

and the Standard & Poor's 500 index, a basket of 500 widely held stocks that provides a broad snapshot of the overall U.S. equity market.

FOR A GOOD CAUSE



CORY MITCHELL/The Times-News

Don Newman walks by a wreath designed by Cindy Toler and Helen Dutton for the St. Benedict's Family Medical Center Foundation's second annual Festival of Wreaths in Jerome Thursday. The festival runs today from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. and Saturday from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. in the old Ridley's store building at 233 W. Main. Admission is \$5 for adults, \$4 for seniors, \$3 for students and \$1 for children under 6.

Some ambulance districts thrive; others don't

By Sandy Miller
Times-News writer

TWIN FALLS - While Twin Falls County commissioners ponder the idea of an ambulance taxing district, the Ada County Ambulance District is hoping lawmakers hear its call for help.

If they don't, the ambulance district will be bankrupt in two years, Ada County Communications Director John Barclay said. "We're a victim of our own scrupulous guarding of the public treasury," Barclay said.

Like many of Idaho's 18 ambulance districts, Ada County set up its district years ago before Medicare began fiddling with reimbursement rules. The county set its levy at just .0001 percent, and for years, it

Please see AMBULANCE, Page A7



Magic Valley Regional Medical Center paramedics respond to a car accident recently. Twin Falls County commissioners are looking into creating an ambulance taxing district, which would be the 19th in Idaho.

B. ASHLEY SMITH/The Times-News

Troops, families struggle with orders back to Iraq

The Associated Press

TWENTYNINE PALMS, Calif. - After months of duty in Iraq, Marine Gunnery Sgt. Elia Fontecchio spent several days trying to figure out how to break the news to his wife that he would be going back to the combat zone.

In the end, he told her in a private moment, simply and in straightforward fashion. At first, she was angry and disappointed. Now, she is just trying to make every minute count.

"Every day is one day closer until he goes away," said Kinney Fontecchio. Her husband has not gotten his orders yet but expects he will be sent back sometime after New Year's.

Thousands of military mem-

Bush defends stand on Iraqi contracts; Involes from Halliburton draw scrutiny - A2

bers and their families have begun grappling with the news that many of those who have already completed one tour of duty in Iraq will be sent in again as part of what the Pentagon calls the biggest series of troop rotations since World War II.

For some, it is a morale challenge as they face another long separation from their families. For others, it is a second chance to take care of what they see as

Please see IRAQ, Page A2

Pilot stranded in Antarctica causes a ...

DIPLOMATIC ICE STORM

By Mike Conder
Associated Press writer

SYDNEY, Australia - What does a man have to do to get a tank of gas in Antarctica?

A daredevil Australian pilot who flew his homemade plane over the South Pole last weekend has ignited a storm between Australia and its two closest allies - the United States and New Zealand - who are refusing to refuel his aircraft, which is stranded on an ice runway on the edge of Antarctica.

Pilot Jon Johanson's frosty reception came because he has fallen foul of a long-standing policy at some Antarctic research stations of refusing to sell fuel to adventurers.



Australia is upset that the U.S. and New Zealand have refused to refuel the plane of daredevil Australian pilot Jon Johanson, shown Sunday in Invercargill, New Zealand, prior to his flight.

AP Photo

"I'm not very optimistic about being able to persuade the New Zealanders and the Americans," Australian Foreign Minister Alexander Downer said Thursday. The U.S. National Science

Foundation and Antarctica New Zealand, both government-funded scientific research programs, do not supply or stock fuel for pri-

Please see PILOT, Page A2

Who's most at risk?

The Times News and The Associated Press

TWIN FALLS - Despite reports that two more people have died from influenza in Idaho, there's no reason for panic, local health officials say.

People who are at risk of serious complications from the flu make up a small part of the population, and the vast majority of people who get it will recover with few problems.

"If you're healthy and you do get the flu, you're probably just going to be uncomfortable for a few days," said Monica Smith, South Central District Health public relations officer.

Those who are in the high-risk category and have not yet gotten a flu shot may have another chance. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention has issued a nationwide directive that doses being saved for children awaiting their

follow-up shots should instead go to high-risk people, who include those age 65 and over.

The CDC will obtain more vaccine in January to cover those needing a second dose, Smith said. Children getting the vaccination for the first time require two doses to make inoculation effective.

U.S. Health and Human Services Secretary Tommy Thompson said the government had arranged for 100,000 doses of adult vaccine to be shipped from Aventis Pasteur immediately and distributed based on each state's population. In addition, 150,000 doses of children's vaccine are expected to be shipped to the states by January, Thompson said.

The nation's two producers of flu shots reported last week that they had shipped their entire supply of about 80 million doses. However, Aventis had set aside 250,000 doses at the CDC's request last week when it became clear that short-

Please see FLU, Page A2

Reports: Don't panic over flu

TWIN FALLS FORECAST

Today: Increasing clouds and breezy at times... Highs in the upper 30s... Tonight: Cloudy and brisk with rain and snow showers developing... Tomorrow: Cloudy and breezy with more rain or snow showers...

BURLEY/RUPERT FORECAST

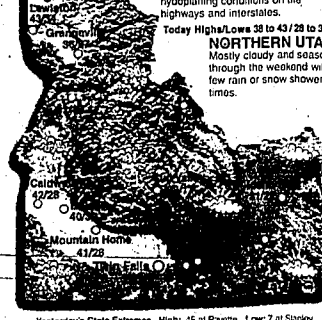
Today: Mostly cloudy and breezy. Highs in the lower 40s... Tonight: Cloudy and brisk with snow showers. Lows in the middle to upper 20s...

IDAHO'S FORECAST

Tomorrow: Cloudy and breezy with more rain or snow showers. Highs in the lower to middle 40s.

SUN VALLEY, SURROUNDING MTS. BOISE

Cloudy, and unsettled weather is expected over the next few days... Today Highs 25 to 35... Tonight's Lows 10 to 25



Yesterday's State Extremes - High: 45 at Pocatello... Low: 7 at Stanley

TWIN FALLS FIVE-DAY FORECAST

Table with 5 columns: Today, Tonight, Saturday, Sunday, Monday, Tuesday. Includes weather icons and temperature ranges.

ALMANAC - TWIN FALLS

Table with 4 columns: Temperature, Precipitation, Humidity, Barometric Pressure. Includes sunrise and sunset times.

REGIONAL FORECAST

Table listing regional forecasts for cities like Boise, Burley, and Pocatello.

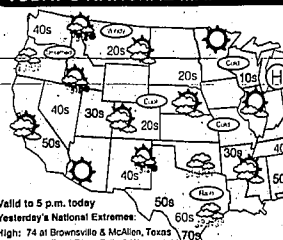
NATIONAL FORECAST

Table listing national forecasts for various states and cities.

WORLD FORECAST

Table listing world forecasts for various countries.

TODAY'S NATIONAL MAP



CANADIAN FORECAST

Table listing Canadian forecasts for various cities.

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Strikes at Saddam killed civilians

WASHINGTON - Fifty U.S. airstrikes aimed at Saddam Hussein and other senior Iraqi leaders during the U.S.-led invasion of Iraq failed to kill any of their targets but killed and injured dozens of civilians, said a report released Thursday.

Halliburton probe finds overcharges

WASHINGTON (AP) - Pentagon officials found that Vice President Dick Cheney's former company may have overcharged the Army by as much as \$61 million for gasoline in Iraq, senior defense officials said Thursday.

Flu

Continued from A1. Because of clinics being held Thursday, South Central District Health was unsure how many doses it will have left.

Iraq

Continued from A1. unfinshed business. "We're all definitely surprised that we were going back so soon," said 1st Lt. Adrian Haskamp, executive officer of India Company, 2nd Battalion, 7th Marine Regiment at Twentynine Palms.

Pilot

Continued from A1. vate individuals," the U.S. agency said in a statement e-mailed Thursday to The Associated Press.

Who's at risk?

People most at risk for serious complications from influenza include: People age 65 and over... Residents of nursing homes and long-term care facilities...

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Latest figures: The latest deaths reported Thursday brought Idaho's total to 13 from influenza or pneumonia since the flu season began early this fall.









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CORRECTION: Former dairy had 1,100 cows. Wednesday's newspaper contained incorrect information about the site of a proposed residential development near Burley.

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 <p>'02 DODGE DAKOTA CREW CAB 4x4 SLT Stock #5726 • Power Windows • Power Locks • Power Mirrors • Tilt Steering • Cruise Control • CD • Wheels • Tow Package</p> <p>Retail Price \$22420 Smart Buy \$18595</p>	 <p>'00 PONTIAC GRAND AM GT Stock #178E • Power Window • Power Locks • Power Mirrors • Tilt Steering • Cruise Control • CD • Wheels</p> <p>Retail Price \$14320 Smart Buy \$9995</p>	 <p>'98 BUICK LESABRE LIMITED Stock #904D • Power Windows • Power Locks • Power Mirrors • Power Seats • Tilt Steering • Cruise Control • Cassette CD • Leather • Wheels</p> <p>Retail Price \$12710 Smart Buy \$7995</p>	 <p>'03 ISUZU RODEO 4x4 Stock #5813 • Power Windows • Power Locks • Power Mirrors • Tilt Steering • Cruise Control • CD • Roof Rack</p> <p>Retail Price \$24640 Smart Buy \$18995</p>
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OPINION

Opinion Editor: David Cooper - 733-0931, Ext. 246

Friday, December 12, 2003

The Times-News

Page A-6

EDITORIAL

If hospital goes private, expect less information

Listen carefully to Twin Falls County Commissioner Tom Mikesell, when he talks about changing Magic Valley Regional Medical Center's governance structure.

Mikesell, the freshman member on the three-person county board, is correct when he says, "At this point, there's no need to change the governance."

Magic Valley Regional leaders have said that favor a private, nonprofit, 501(c)3 corporation. The ultimate decision is up to Mikesell and his two fellow commissioners. Fortunately, Mikesell says he won't even entertain the thought of deciding without consulting county voters.

"I certainly wouldn't do it without taking it to a vote," Mikesell said. "It's far too important to not let everyone have their voices heard." Meanwhile, Mikesell will become a voting member of the Hospital Board. That's a promising sign for Twin Falls County residents, who deserve more representation on hospital issues.

Keeping elected leaders and voters involved in hospital governance is a crucial part of having a public hospital. Two decades ago, voters rejected privatization.

As a public hospital, Magic Valley Regional is required by law to reveal its financial records for public review. Hospital officials have long contended that this openness harms the hospital's ability to compete effectively in the medical industry. They say applying public-agency rules to the county hospital gives private competitors the advantage of looking at Magic Valley Regional's financial figures.

But Magic Valley Regional appears to have flourished as a public entity over the years. The hospital purchased its main competitor, the Twin Falls Clinic & Hospital, two years ago, making itself the undisputed pre-eminent medical facility in Twin Falls County.

And remember, that deal was hashed out behind closed doors, because it was a legal negotiation. So much for the contention that the hospital can't avoid the public eye under the current rules.

Hospital officials say they need to shield themselves from competition, and a switch to a private structure will enable that. But the closest competition is St. Ben's in Jerome. St. Ben's has \$17 million in annual revenue, compared with Magic Valley Regional's \$109 million.

The Twin Falls hospital has been boosted for years about being independent from tax dollars. Now it wants the county to create an ambulance district.

The current, hospital-run ambulance service has resulted in a \$508,000 loss for the hospital. So it wants county taxpayers to be the primary source for filling the revenue gap. The district would cost property owners about \$20 a year for every \$100,000 of assessed property value.

But according to hospital records, the hospital's 10 top-paid paramedics made a total of \$308,473 in overtime and other extra pay in the 2003 fiscal year. Individually, that breaks down to boosting each paramedic's base pay by somewhere between 80 percent and 120 percent.

Private-sector managers commonly aim to hold overtime pay to about 1 percent or 2 percent of base pay. That's an enormous amount being spent on an apparently short-handed ambulance crew — and yet there's no shortage of trained ambulance workers wanting to get into the profession.

Whether that constitutes mismanagement is up to county residents to decide. But remember this: If Magic Valley Regional switches to a private, nonprofit entity, the public will lose its ability to review payroll data in this fashion. In an age when health-care costs are soaring, the public should be able to observe financial figures at the county-owned hospital. It's just another reason for keeping hospital governance as it is.

Our view: The public should resist changes to Magic Valley Regional Medical Center's governance. What do you think? We welcome viewpoints from our readers on this and other issues.

President takes wrong turn on Medicare

Dear Mr. President: You fought for the Medicare prescription-drug bill and you won a big legislative victory. But I wonder if you will someday regret signing it.

Pushing the measure through the Congress will be a big plus for your campaign next year. But after that, as the program goes into effect, the risk of a backlash shouldn't be discounted.

E. THOMAS MCCLANAHAN

Most seniors already have prescription-drug coverage of some sort. When the new benefits become effective, many seniors may find them less generous than what they already have.

And the cost of the program are likely to be much higher than initially projected, which is par for the course with new entitlements. Fiscal hawks are raising alarms about the rising federal deficit.

But the real worry is the perception of foreign investors, who send their capital to our shores and in the process help keep our interest rates low. If they decide other countries offer better investment opportunities, our interest rates will shoot up.

Worst-case scenario: A vicious cycle in which rising interest rates choke off economic growth, leading to lower growth in revenue, further worsening the deficit.

We're a long way from that. The economic recovery is going much better than what economists were predicting just six months ago. But the financial markets are watching.

If, next year, you took a much tougher line on federal spending that would do a lot to convince the markets that the permitting balloon won't be permitted to expand indefinitely.

I'm with you on tax cuts, because they spur economic growth and over the long haul they expand the tax base. I'm with you on the war in Iraq. But



even if you're re-elected in a landslide next year and the Republican majority is strengthened in Congress, any hoped-for political realignment could be short-lived if the federal government continues its explosive growth.

To be blunt, Mr. President, when it comes to spending discipline, you haven't been doing your part. To be an effective tax-cutting president, you've got to insist on more restraint.

The leadership of Congress, which represents regions and disparate interests, is to seek compromise simply by adding more spending. Only the president, who represents the nation as a whole, can provide a counterweight.

It is true that much of the recent spending explosion can be used, directly or indirectly, to Sept. 11. Pentagon outlays obviously had to increase. The same goes for the costs of boosting homeland security.

A lot of this spending, such as the \$87 billion to rebuild Iraq and Afghanistan, represents one-time expenses rather than continuing programs. When those one-time outlays are taken out, the

overall budget trend looks less worrisome. But even with that in mind, what does one make of last year's farm bill, which will cost more than \$73 billion over 10 years? And what about the energy bill, with a projected cost of more than \$30 billion — 300 percent higher than what you requested? Instead of threatening a veto, Mr. President, you're still calling for approval.

When you tip all this with a new prescription-drug benefit, you've got a major budgetary problem.

Your original plan was a good one: Add a prescription-drug benefit only after major reforms to Medicare. The idea was to give seniors help in buying health policies offered by private companies. Seniors would get a "coupon," and be allowed to make choices based on their own needs. From a reform standpoint, however, what emerged was pretty wimpy.

The bill will allow competition between Medicare and private insurance plans, but only in metropolitan areas — and only after 2010.

The bill's expansion of Health Savings Accounts was a win for reformers, but the long-term effects are tough to judge. Supporters say HSAs will have significant long-term influence on health-care spending; they will encourage people to put aside more money for future health expenses, and allow companies to offer policies emphasizing coverage for major medical risks. Workers would pay everyday health care from their HSAs. We'll see. But this year's legislative triumph may simply have sown the seeds of crippling tax increases later in the decade. With the leading edge of the baby-boom generation due to retire soon, the resulting tax bill — and the risk of benefit cuts — may discredit Republicans in 2008.

Is this scenario likely? No. I think the economy will continue to grow faster than expected and produce more revenue than expected. But the risk of a serious fiscal crisis shouldn't be ignored. Mr. President, it's time to start using that veto pen.

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Get ready for new Bush photo ops

JIM SHEA

Location: Never Land. Mission: Michael Jackson investigation. President's outfit: Standard CSI gear, rubber gloves, Q-Tips. Script: President on hands and knees gathering evidence in Jackson's bedroom.

Banner: "Just Beat It" — Not On My Watch.

Location: Oil field. Mission: Drilling for crude. President's outfit: Work gloves, dirty overalls, hard hat.

Script: President is working on a rig when it suddenly strikes oil. Banner: "Filler Up America."

Location: A local pharmacy. Mission: Getting prescription drugs to elderly. President's outfit: White lab coat.

Script: President fills prescriptions for elderly customers, refuses to take any payment. Banner: "It's On Me, And The GOB"

Jim Shea is a columnist for The Hartford Courant.

Location: Iraq. Mission: Looking for WMDs. President's outfit: Full chemical suit.

Script: Wielding a ticking Geiger counter, the president uncovers a huge stockpile of nuclear weapons. Banner: "If You Want A Job Done Right."

Location: America. Mission: Operation Merry Christmas. President's outfit: Red suit, white beard, sack.

Script: President crosses the country in Air Force One personally distributing toys to tots in swing states. Banner: "Ho, Ho, Ho."

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The Times-News

Stephen Hartgen Publisher
Clark Walworth Managing editor
Mike Smith Advertising director

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

LETTER

Coverage of Pearl Harbor memorial was lacking

I found it odd, even a little sad, that The Times-News didn't make a better effort in remembering Dec. 7 and the people involved that terrible day in Americans' history.

I found two articles. One in Page A3 — it was small — and in the "funny papers," "B.C."

Thank God they had room for all the Christmas ads! We didn't have a wood shed, but we all had a healthy respect for Dad's razor strap.

ANN PARKER
Shoshone

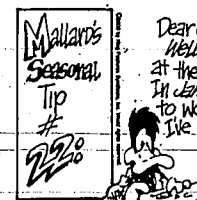
Old-fashioned discipline could help justice system

As an 83-year-old great-grandmother, may I suggest to the Minicassia Criminal Justice Court Officer Russell Rasmussen some advice concerning Tony Alton.

I was one of seven children raised by my daddy's "Board of Education" applied (when needed) to the "seat of learning." We didn't have a wood shed, but we all had a healthy respect for Dad's razor strap.

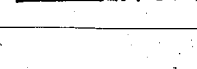
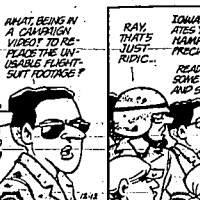
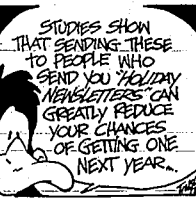
By Garry Trudeau

Mallard Fillmore



Dear (Imagine your name here), Well, 2003 was a big year at the Fillmore house. In January, I ate, slept, went to work and watched TV. I've incurred a list of the shows I watched in February.

By Bruce Tinsley



Ambulance

Continued from A1

brought in enough property tax dollars to support the ambulance district. The district had even built up a little reserve fund for a rainy day.

Now, largely because of changes in Medicare rules, Ada County and other Idaho counties are pushing a bill to allow ambulance taxing districts to lift the annual 3 percent cap on raising property taxes just one time to boost their levies - up to .0004 - to meet their needs.

Medicare has never reimbursed at full cost for ambulance service, but until a few years ago, ambulance services could bill Medicare patients for the balance of what Medicare didn't pay. Medicare no longer allows ambulance services to bill patients for the balance, and many ambulance districts are feeling the pinch, some more than others.

In Ada County, an ambulance transport requiring basic care costs about \$500, while a transport requiring advanced life support can cost up to \$1,000, Barclay said. But Medicare only reimburses about \$200 for a basic transport and \$350 for an advanced transport. Because ambulance districts can no longer send Medicare patients a bill for the balance, they have to absorb the loss, and Ada County is feeling the pain.

"Right now, we're just trying to avoid cuts in service and extended waiting times," Barclay said.

Lifting the cap

Sponsored by former Ada County Commissioner Roger Simmons and heavily backed by the Idaho Association of Counties, House Bill 193 would make the higher property tax levy possible for ambulance service. Such raises would require the approval of two-thirds of voters, said Maggie Mahoney, a policy analyst with the Idaho Association of Counties. Once the levy was raised once, the 3 percent cap would go back into effect.

Mahoney said the bill could mean millions of dollars for larger counties and thousands of dollars for smaller counties. The bill was introduced last year, but it never made it out of the House Revenue and Taxation Committee.

"The committee was concerned that for larger counties, it might create extra revenue and give counties too much authority and too much money," Mahoney said. "The committee is not supportive of tax increases and were hoping

Ambulance districts in Idaho

District name	County
Ada County Ambulance	Ada
Clearwater Valley Ambulance	Adams
Bannock County Ambulance	Bannock
Bingham County Ambulance	Bingham
Blaine County Ambulance Service	Blaine
East Boise County Ambulance	Boise
Bonneville County Ambulance	Bonneville
Canyon County Ambulance	Canyon
Clematis County Ambulance	Clearwater
South Custer Ambulance	Custer
Fremont County Ambulance	Fremont
West Jefferson Ambulance	Jefferson
Jerome County Ambulance Service	Jerome
Kootenai County Ambulance	Kootenai
Madison County Ambulance	Madison
Payette County Ambulance	Payette
Power County Ambulance	Power
Welfer Ambulance	Washington

Source: Idaho Tax Commission

the counties could resolve it without a tax increase."

But the bill remains one of the Association of Counties' top priorities, and the organization plans to reintroduce it during the next legislative session, Mahoney said. "There also might be a way to work with lawmakers in Congress to rewrite the Medicare laws," Mahoney said.

Some districts thrive

Not all county ambulance districts are hurting. "Creating an ambulance district was one of the best things Clearwater County ever did," said Clearwater County Commissioner Stan Leach.

"It's been a very good thing for us," Leach said. "We've upgraded our level of professionalism and improved our standard of care. We've been able to keep up with upgrading equipment."

The county runs its own ambulance service, which is staffed with emergency medical technicians. The service has seven ambulances, the most recent one purchased with a Lewis and Clark Bicentennial grant. Commissioners serve as the ambulance district directors, and there's also an advisory board staffed by public officials, emergency medical technicians and others.

Clearwater County hasn't experienced the money problems of other counties.

"We've had no problem raising property taxes," Leach said. He said billings for non-Medicare patients have balanced out what the county doesn't receive in Medicare reimbursements.

Life was much harder before the ambulance district, back when

towns were running their own ambulances, coordinated by the county sheriff's office.

"They were surviving strictly off billing, and it was going downhill fast," said Les Eaves, director of Clearwater County Ambulance. "More people were moving into the area, but there weren't enough runs to keep the ambulances going."

Taxes from the ambulance district coupled with payments of fees from non-Medicare patients keep a steady flow of dollars coming into the district.

"Now, we're getting new ambulances rotating through," Eaves said. "We're not rolling in dough, but it's definitely an improvement that's benefited the entire area."

The secret of saving dollars is having paid volunteers, Eaves said. Eaves, an EMT is the ambulance service's only paid employee. The service has 28 paid volunteers in Orofino, 14 in Weippe, 13 in Pierce and 11 in Elk River. Volunteers are scheduled a week at a time and paid between \$15 and \$20 per run, depending on the service.

'A perfect marriage'

In Blaine County, the ambulance district contracts with the Ketchum and Wood River fire districts to provide emergency services. All their firefighters are cross-trained, working as both firefighters and paramedics.

"Because they're cross-trained, they can respond both to a fire and to a broken leg on Mt Baldy," said County Commissioner - Sarah Michael.

And because the two fire districts and the ambulance district are separate taxing entities, there's more money to go around, Michael said. The ambulance district will bring in \$318,000 this year, and the total budget is \$1.2 million. The Ketchum Rural Fire District will get \$569,000 to provide services in north Blaine County, and the Wood River Rural Fire District will get \$533,000 to provide services in southern Blaine County.

The Wood River Rural Fire District has 10 full-time firefighters and 30 paid volunteers and the Ketchum Rural Fire District has 11 full-time firefighters and 40 paid volunteers, all cross-trained to fight fires and provide emergency medical care. There is at least one medic - a firefighter cross-trained

as a paramedic - on each call. Others are certified emergency medical technicians.

"We believe it's a perfect marriage," said Bart Lassman, chief of the Wood River Rural Fire District. "We're able to provide a little higher level of fire protection and 24-7 response."

And like Clearwater County, volunteers play an important part in providing services. Volunteers are paid between \$8.50 and \$13 an hour depending on their level of training, Lassman said.

"The national average is to have one-third of your department made up of volunteers," Lassman said.

But even though utilizing volunteers can save money, Blaine County Ambulance has also felt the sting of shrinking Medicare reimbursements and the rising costs of providing medical services. "Blaine County is having growing pains, and the EMS system is something we need to look at as we grow," Lassman said. "I believe the people in Blaine County are getting an incredible deal, as we are providing a paramedic level service for a fraction of what it actually costs to provide the service. With what's happening now, it's hard to maintain."

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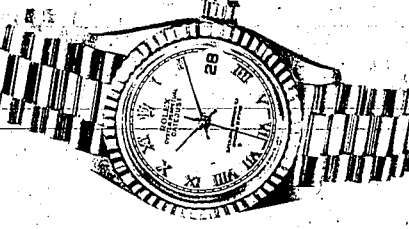
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NATION/WORLD

Senator criticizes delays at Guantanamo; first detainee meets with lawyers

SAN JUAN, Puerto Rico - Sen. John McCain said Thursday he is concerned about the failure to move ahead with prisoners' trials at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, where after nearly two years the military has allowed just one detainee to meet his lawyers.



Sen. John McCain

Speaking by phone from Washington, a day after touring Guantanamo, McCain said "bureaucratic inertia and fear of making a wrong decision" led to delays in the cases of some 660 people held on suspicion of links to Afghanistan's ousted Taliban government or the al-Qaida terror network.

"I think the conditions are adequate, in some cases more than adequate. But my concern is the disposition of the prisoners," McCain told The Associated Press.

Sweden, which has one citizen at Guantanamo, announced Wednesday it will seek to host an international seminar in the coming months on whether the United States is violating international law by keeping prisoners without charge.

U.S. officials classify the captives as unlawful combatants and say important intelligence is still being gleaned in interrogations.

Nation/World in brief

Law aimed at protecting food supply takes effect

REYNOSA, Mexico - Indian pigeon peas, Mexican cilantro, Turkish laurel leaves - any food headed for the American market - will be more closely examined as of Friday under new rules to thwart bioterrorists.

Under the Bioterrorism Act, the U.S. government requires 400,000 food handling companies - at home and abroad - to register all products with the Food and Drug Administration.

While the new regulations affect both imported and domestic food, foreign exporters fear they will be hit the hardest. Many say it could drive them out of the U.S. market, although some hope the new law will expedite trade.

The law requires those exporting food to the United States to give American inspectors advance notice before shipments arrive - two hours for those crossing the border by truck, four hours for those on planes or trains, and eight if landing by ship.

Government warns college students of identity fraud

WASHINGTON - Federal

education officials are warning college students to watch out for identity-theft amid concern that it could land young adults in huge debt.

Education Department leaders on Thursday unveiled a Web site, www.ed.gov/misused, that offers advice on how to prevent identity theft - the stealing of personal information - and how to respond to it.

The department has created several ways for people to report trouble, including a hot line, 1-800-MIS-USED, and an e-mail address, oig.hotline@ed.gov.

College students are particularly vulnerable, the department says, because of the many ways they share Social Security numbers or other personal information, such as in applying for credit cards and loans, buying items online or having their course grades posted by professors.

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Defense seeks probation for preacher, twin brother

AUSTIN, Texas - A defense attorney asked for probation Thursday for a preacher and his brother convicted of beating a boy with a tree branch for goofing off at a summer program.

Seeking the lightest sentence possible from the jury, attorney Carlos Garcia argued that 23-year-old twins Joshua and Caleb Thompson deserve a second chance. Possible punishments range up to life in prison.

The Thompsons were found guilty Wednesday of felony

injury and aggravated assault in the beating of 11-year-old Bible student Louie Guerrero last summer. The brothers' father, Hank Thompson, leads the fundamen-

talist Capitol City Baptist Church where Joshua Thompson ministered to Spanish-speaking members. - compiled from wire reports

Watch for MEGA-Millionaire auction results in Saturday's Times-News!



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AROUND THE VALLEY

Suspect in assault appears in court

TWIN FALLS - A man suspected in the sexual assault of a child had his first appearance in magistrate court Wednesday.
Adam Jackman, 19, of Filer, faces one charge of lewd conduct with a minor and one charge of injury to a child, both felonies.
The maximum penalty for felony injury to a child is 10 years in prison. The maximum sentence for lewd and lascivious conduct with a minor is, said Grand Loebs, Twin Falls County prosecutor.
Jackman's preliminary hearing is scheduled for Dec. 19.
Bond was set at \$1 million.

Officials release name of bridge jump victim

JEROME - A woman who fell to her death off the Perrine Bridge Dec. 5 died from internal trauma due to impact, Jerome County Coroner Gerald Oyster said. The death was ruled a suicide.
Charlene Louise West Quilantan, 54, of Nampa and formerly of Rupert, was seen by a jogger who was crossing the bridge around 6 a.m. on Dec. 5. The jogger saw a woman standing next to the guard rail on the west side of the bridge, according to a release issued last week by the Jerome County Sheriff's Department.
When the jogger looked back, the woman was gone, the release said.
A short time later, two kayakers saw a body floating in the river west of the bridge, according to the release.

Buhl chamber sponsors lighting contest

BUHL - The Buhl Chamber of Commerce will again sponsor a holiday outdoor lighting contest to residents and businesses within Buhl School District boundaries.
The top winner will be a guest of the chamber meeting and luncheon in January.
To have the homes or businesses judged, please call 543-6682 before noon on Wednesday, Dec. 17.

BPA fish, wildlife meeting set for Monday

BRUNEAU - A public meeting will be held from 6:30 to 8 p.m. Monday at the American Legion Hall in downtown Bruneau to identify local goals and financial needs for Snake River subbasin fish and wildlife mitigation efforts.
The meeting will be hosted by the Shoshone-Paiute Tribe and the Idaho Council on Industry and the Environment.
The Northwest Power and Conservation Council mandated subbasin planning as part of its fish and wildlife program to ensure that local mitigation efforts are appropriate to local conditions. The Bruneau subbasin includes Owyhee County and Elko County in Nevada.
The Shoshone-Paiute Tribe is overseeing efforts to write a plan that includes local input to guide the allocation of Bonneville Power Administration funds for mitigation projects. The Idaho Council on Industry and the Environment is working with the tribe and its contractor, Ecovista, to organize public involvement.
Each year the Power and Conservation Council reviews proposals for funding research and on-the-ground projects that will help implement its fish and wildlife program to offset environmental consequences of the hydropower system.
Compiled from staff reports



Jim Jones will make an announcement on Jan. 13 regarding his potential candidacy for Idaho Supreme Court.

Running for high court

Former M.V. man prepares possible bid for Idaho Supreme Court

By Julie Pence
Times-News writer

TWIN FALLS - A former Idaho attorney general who grew up in Magic Valley says his broad background would help make him an effective member of the state Supreme Court.

Jim Jones, 60, who grew up near Eden and served as attorney general from 1983 until 1990, said Thursday he'll make an announcement on Jan. 13

Jerome regarding his potential candidacy for the state's high court.

Jones already has committed of 50 people who will do his fundraising. If he runs, it will be for the position from which Justice Wayne Kidwell is resigning, Sen. Bart Davis, R-Idaho Falls, has also expressed interest in the position. Candidates for the court must formally file for the seat between March 8 and March 19. Jones ran twice for the U.S.

House against Rep. George Hansen in the 1970s before winning the attorney general job. He also ran for the U.S. Senate against Larry Craig, losing in the primary in 1990. Since then, he has practiced law in Boise, focusing primarily on business law.
Jones met on Thursday with The Times-News editorial board. He said he thinks he is a particularly strong candidate for the high court because he has a broad background that goes

beyond just business law.
"I've been very sensitive to human rights," Jones said, listing examples of his accomplishments while he was in office as attorney general.
Jones said he established a consumer protection unit and championed legislation on victims' rights, domestic violence, drug trafficking, hazardous waste transportation, protection of child victims and
Please see JONES, Page B3

A CHRISTMAS CAROL



Memorial Elementary School first-graders Katherine Kottlerling, Yadhra Estrada and Daniel Vargas sing a Christmas song during Thursday's Christmas program at the Rupert school. The children performed their Christmas program twice Thursday, once during the afternoon and also in the evening.

New sales tax remains option, says Newcomb

Sales tax on services could prevent large cuts in 2005-06 fiscal budget

The Times-News and The Associated Press

BOISE - Imposing sales tax on services could be a sound approach to a changing state economy, says House Speaker Bruce Newcomb, R-Burley.
And it could keep lawmakers from making massive cuts in state government for the 2005-06 fiscal year, he said.



Rep. Bruce Newcomb

In an interview with The Associated Press Thursday, Newcomb seemed intent on pursuing expansion of the sales tax to services to capture the fastest-growing part of the economy. The value of service transactions that the state does not tax has tripled in the last 14 years from \$4.7 billion to more than \$14 billion while transactions that are taxed only doubled in the same period.

"It goes right back to the same thing we said in the beginning, that the service side of the economy has increased threefold and the production side hasn't," Newcomb said. "Your tax system has to recognize that change."
A special legislative tax force looked into that issue this past year but accomplished little beyond wrangling over the merit of the exemptions from the tax.

Newcomb said the task force could be revived next spring - with at least some new participants - to focus more narrowly on the issue of taxing services.

Newcomb told The Times-News Wednesday that he doubts future economic growth can offset the loss of the state's penny sales tax increase in mid-2005. Lawmakers have the resources to write an adequate state budget for the next spending year, but after that it becomes a worry.

The recent hints that Idaho's economy might have finally bottomed out and is expanding again are encouraging, Newcomb said. But he sees less than robust economic growth, which will not bring tax collections up to the point needed to finance state programs at the levels expected even during the slowdown.

"Micron is still moving like a snail, and that's the state's largest employer, so I think it's going to be really difficult" without maintaining at least some of the revenue the temporary tax has generated, Newcomb said in an interview with The Associated Press.

"We've got a long way to go," he said. "Between the mandates, health and welfare, prisons and
Please see TAX, Page B3

Castleford pursues leads in securing funding for reducing arsenic levels

By Sandra Wisecover
Times-News correspondent

CASTLEFORD - City officials say they will pursue new leads for financial help to solve the city's arsenic problem.

There is more than \$1 billion available to assist with compliance to the new arsenic standard through the U.S. Department of Agriculture and more than \$800 million available in low-interest loans for compliance through the Idaho Rural Water Association, the City Council was told in a letter from two water interest groups.

The letter is co-signed by Idaho Rural Water Association CEO Don Munkers and National Rural Water Association Analyst Mike Keegan. The state and national water associations - which represent more than 400 communities in Idaho - have been the leading advocates of what they contend would be a reasonable arsenic rule. Sen. Larry Craig, R-Idaho, has been one of the key supporters of both compliance funding

“ They still haven't answered our questions about how many died of arsenic poisoning in this country.”

“ Patsy Kinyon, Castleford city clerk

and laws that would work better for small communities, Munkers and Keegan said in the letter.
The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's 2001 Arsenic Rule goes into effect on Jan. 23, 2006. Castleford's arsenic levels have tested at slightly more than 22 parts per billion, which will be out of compliance with the new 10 ppb standard.
Castleford and other communi-

Burley HS principal resigns

By Shelley Ridenour
Times-News writer

BURLEY - Doug Bailey resigned from his job as Burley High School principal on Wednesday, citing personal reasons.

Bailey's resignation followed his reinstatement to the job Tuesday, following a two-week suspension that was lifted Monday afternoon.

Bailey was suspended for unprofessional conduct. School officials declined to release any details of the suspension, citing the protection afforded personnel issues under state laws.

Bailey attended and participated in the Tuesday night School Board meeting, helping explain a proposed reconfiguration plan for Burley schools.
Cassia County School District Superintendent Mike Chesley said his discussion with Bailey when the principal submitted his resignation was brief. Bailey was released from his job by Chesley on Wednesday, but the School Board must officially accept the resignation, Chesley said that should occur at the board's next

“ [Bailey] put in a lot of his own time and effort making Burley High School the good school it is today.”

“ - Mike Chesley, Cassia County School District superintendent

regular meeting, which is scheduled Jan. 13.

Chesley said he understands that Bailey plans to move to the Boise area, where he grew up.
Bailey "did a lot of positive things in his job," Chesley said. "He put in a lot of his own time and effort making Burley High School the good school it is today."
Bailey was hired as BHS principal in June 1999. He worked at the American Falls High School
Please see PRINCIPAL, Page B3

Snowpack levels

Watershed	% of Avg*	% season peak**
Upper Snake Basin	100%	29%
Salmon Falls	102%	26%
Salmon	94%	24%
Oakley	94%	22%
Big Wood	86%	23%
Little Wood	95%	25%
Henry's Fork/Teton	103%	29%
Big Lost	97%	25%
Little Lost	81%	23%
	Aa of Dec. 11	

*A comparison of basin snowpack, on this day, with a 30-year average.
**An indicator of basin snowpack for the entire snow season, which peaks in late March.

MAGIC VALLEY WEST

OBITUARIES

For obituary rates and information, call 735-3278 Monday through Saturday. Deadline is 4 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 4 p.m. every day. To view or submit obituaries online, or to place a message in an individual online guestbook, go to www.magicvalley.com and click on "Obituaries."

Mark Randall Childs - Buhl

Mark Randall Childs, 46, of Buhl, died Monday, Dec. 8, 2003, at his home in Buhl. The service will be held at 10 a.m. Saturday, Dec. 13 at the Buhl cemetery.

father passed away when Mark was 12 years of age and he lost his mother when he was 23. He attended school at Filer and Dietrich. Mark enjoyed fishing and hunting with his father, grandparents, Cecil and Utahna Childs; and his brothers. He also enjoyed drives through

the desert. He will be missed by all who knew and loved him. Rest in peace, dear brother.

Mark is survived by his brothers, Allen Childs, Dan Childs, Mike Childs, Jim Childs, Les Childs; sister, Angela Brigg; and stepfather, Arnold Bridge.

Vaughan Douglas 'Doug' Maughan - Twin Falls

Vaughan Douglas Maughan, 49, died unexpectedly Wednesday, Dec. 10, 2003, at his home in Twin Falls. He was born June 21, 1954, in Pocatello, Idaho, to Fred H. Maughan and Sue Carole Maughan. Doug was the first of six children born to Fred and Carole. Doug brought immediate joy to the young Maughan family as they carved out a good living in Pocatello. Doug moved to Twin Falls when he was 14 and lived the rest of his life in the city that he loved. Doug graduated from Twin Falls High School in 1974 where he made many lifetime friends. Doug worked for several years for Magic - Valley Rehabilitation Services and had a deep fondness for the staff that helped him develop life skills that would eventually enable him to live independently on his own. Doug enjoyed a wonderful life visiting his many friends and keeping in daily contact with his family. Doug was our family communicator. If anyone of us needed family news, Doug was the one to call for an update. He



kept us all in touch and would not take no for an answer when it came to birthday greetings, Christmas get-togethers or family barbecues. Doug will be sorely missed. His unexpected passing will leave a tremendous void in all the lives that he touched. He taught us important lessons to live by such as telling those you love everyday how much they mean to you. Doug never met a

stranger. He loved all types of music, especially rock and roll.

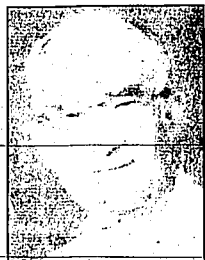
Doug is survived by his parents, Fred (Kay) Maughan, Sue Carole (Ray) Rocha; his brothers, Dennis (Pam) Maughan, Scott (Jackie) Maughan; sisters, Vicki Daily, Shelli (Armando) Ormelas and Chris (Dale) Kelly. Doug loved his many nephews and nieces, cousins, aunts and uncles.

Doug was preceded in death by his maternal grandfather, Vaughan Lyons, DDS; grandmother, Marion Lyons; paternal grandfather, Morgan P. Maughan; grandmother, Eleanor Maughan.

The service for Doug will be held at 11 a.m. Saturday, Dec. 13, 2003, at The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints 5th Ward building, 421 Maurice St. N., Twin Falls with Bishop Loren Ward conducting. Burial will follow at Sunset Memorial Park. Friends may call from 4-8 p.m. Friday at Reynolds Funeral Chapel and from 10 a.m. until the time of the service at the church. Services are under the direction of Reynolds Funeral Chapel, Twin Falls.

Keith E. Moon - Heyburn

Keith Eckland Moon, 79-year-old Heyburn resident, died Wednesday, Dec. 10, 2003, at the Cassia Regional Medical Center in Burley. He was born Aug. 10, 1924. Heyburn, the son of Ray Thomas and LaPril Nelson Moon. Keith served in the U.S. Navy during World War II. He was an active member of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints and served in many capacities. He served a mission to Australia and following his retirement he served a genealogical mission in North Salt Lake. He married Ila Marie Ricks on Aug. 3, 1957, in Heyburn. Their marriage was later solemnized in the Los Angeles Temple. Keith was a teacher at Kennedy Junior High in Saratoga, Calif. and at West Minico Junior High.



He enjoyed painting and wood working. Survivors include his wife, Ila of

Heyburn; five children, Robert Sanger of California, Donald Williams of San Jose, Calif., Diana Wilson of Modesto, Calif., Nancy Jeppson of Provo, Utah, and Richard Moon of Hooper, Utah; and 19 grandchildren.

He was preceded in death by his parents, four brothers and a daughter.

The service will be held at 11 a.m. Monday, Dec. 15, 2003, at The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints Emerson Ward Chapel, 950 W. 125 S. of Paul, with Bishop Ted Tateoka officiating. Burial will be in the Riverside Cemetery in Heyburn with military rites. Friends may call from 10-10:45 a.m. Monday at the church. Arrangements are under the direction of Payne Mortuary in Burley.

Rachel Ann Bankhead - Malta

Rachel Ann Bankhead, 44-year-old Salt Lake City, Utah, and former Malta resident died suddenly in Salt Lake City, Utah.



She was born Oct. 6, 1959, in Logan, Utah, the daughter of Gerald Bretnelley and Jane L. Humphreys Bankhead. She spent her younger years in Wellsville, Utah, and attended schools in Wellsville, Hyrum and Smithfield. After graduating from Skyview High, she attended Rick's College in Rexburg for one year. She then enrolled in the Hollywood Beauty College in Logan, Utah. After graduating, she went to work for the Shear Shack in Logan, Utah. She also worked for C&Y Dairy and Amalgamated Sugar Company in Malta. She moved to Salt Lake City in 1986, and worked at the Red Lion Inn and the Salt Lake Convention Bureau, where she worked until the time of her passing. She was involved in the Big Brother and Big Sister Program, volunteered at Primary Children's Hospital, the Youth Cancer Camp, Relay For Life,

Survivors include her mother, Janet Bankhead of Malta; a brother, Jerry (Lisa) Bankhead of Malta; a sister, Connie (Rich) Redman of Albion; five nieces and five nephews: Cole, Sylvane, and Kyle Montgomery; Tracy, Brett, Kris; and Justin Bankhead, Jennifer, Nicole and Kyle Redman.

She was preceded in death by her father, Gerald Bankhead on May 28, 2002.

The service will be held at noon Saturday, Dec. 13, 2003, at The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints Albus Ward Chapel, with First Counselor Jim Powers officiating. Burial will be in the Valley Vu Cemetery in Malta. Friends may call from 10:30-11:45 a.m. Saturday at the church.

The family suggests that memorials in memory of Rachel be given to the Make-A-Wish Foundation, PO Box 453, Boise, ID 83701-0453. Arrangements are under the direction of Payne Mortuary, 221 W. Main St. in Burley.

DEATH NOTICES

Reginald Elaster
JEROME - Reginald Elaster, 49, of Jerome, died Monday, Dec. 8, 2003, at his home.

The memorial service will be held at 10 a.m. Saturday, Dec. 13, 2003, at Howe Robertson Funeral Church in Jerome with the Rev. Baldwin Camm officiating.

Elsie May Warthen
RUPERT - Elsie May Warthen, 85, of Rupert, died Wednesday, Dec. 10, 2003, at Minidoka Memorial Hospital.

Arrangements will be announced by White Mortuary in Twin Falls.

William 'Dick' R. Beeson
RUPERT - William "Dick" R. Beeson, 97, of Rupert, died Wednesday, Dec. 10, 2003, at the Minidoka Memorial Extended Care. A memorial service will be held at a later date. Arrangements are under the direction of Hansen Mortuary in Rupert, Idaho.

Dale Barningham
HEYBURN - Warren Dale

SERVICES

Mary Teresa Tverdy of Twin Falls, funeral Mass at 10 a.m. today at St. Edward the Confessor Catholic Church; interment will follow in Sunset Memorial Park (White Mortuary).

Oran Albert Jones of Hollister, memorial service at 2 p.m. Saturday at White Mortuary.

Robert William Ratto Sr. of Hansen, service at 1 p.m. Saturday at the Kimberly 2nd Ward LDS Chapel; interment will follow at the

Barningham, 64, of Heyburn, died Thursday, Dec. 11, 2003, at Saint Mark's Hospital in Salt Lake City, Utah.

Arrangements will be announced by Rasmussen Funeral Home, 1350 E. 16th St., Burley.

Annette Montoya
TWIN FALLS - Annette Montoya, 45, of Twin Falls, died Tuesday, Dec. 9, 2003, from injuries suffered in an automobile accident.

Arrangements will be announced by White Mortuary in Twin Falls.

Magic Valley Veterans Cemetery south of Hansen; friends may call from 10 a.m. today at the White Mortuary, Kimberly Chapel.

Floyd Samuel Barker of Vallejo, Calif., and formerly of Elba, service at 11 a.m. Saturday at The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints Elba Ward Chapel; burial will be in the Grandview Cemetery in Elba; friends may call from 10-10:45 a.m. Saturday at the church (Payne Mortuary, Burley).

Rep. wants review of Air Force threat to expel academy cadet

DENVER (AP) - Rep. Heather Wilson, an Air Force Academy graduate, is asking the Air Force to reconsider a threat to expel a sophomore for refusing to tell who gave her a sip of whiskey.

Cadet Christina Fifer of Inverness, Fla., turned herself in three weeks after taking a sip of whiskey from a bottle provided by a senior female cadet.

The academy has cracked down on hard on alcohol abuse partly because alcohol was found to be a factor in 40 percent of the 142 sexual assault cases in the past decade. The sex assault scandal resulted in the ouster of the academy's top four officers earlier this year.

Wilson, a Republican from New Mexico, compared the amount of

alcohol involved to a sip of communion wine.

"She knows what she did was wrong. She was willing to acknowledge it and take responsibility for her actions... She's tough as nails. If we do not want this young woman at the academy, who do we want?" Wilson said in a letter to Air Force Secretary James Roche.

Lt. Col. Will Nichols, a spokesman for Roche, said the secretary was not available for comment. Nichols said he could not comment on the letter but said that Roche is following events at the academy very closely.

Academy spokesman John Van Winkle declined comment because of privacy rules.

Fifer, meanwhile, has said she

was first told she would not have to identify the cadet who provided the whiskey. Lt. Gen. John Rosa, academy superintendent, subsequently wrote her to demand that she name the other cadet.

Fifer has been told she faces expulsion for refusing to obey a direct order. She already has been restricted to the academy for 60 days and fined half of her pay for two months.

Wilson said she had not intervened at the request of Fifer. "I heard of her situation through a concerned third party. Because of the implications of aspects of her case continued to trouble me. I initiated contact with her and with her counsel," Wilson wrote.

Washington, Idaho agree to water study

SPOKANE, Wash. (AP) - A historic agreement will set in motion studies of an underground river that supplies drinking water to 400,000 people in Washington and Idaho.

On Thursday, officials from the two states and the federal government planned to sign the "memorandum of understanding" that spells out how they will work together to study the Spokane Valley-Rathdrum Prairie aquifer.

Congress has approved \$500,000 toward the \$3.5 million comprehensive study of the aquifer and its interaction with the Spokane River, which flows from Lake Coeur d'Alene in northern Idaho to the Columbia River in Washington, Washington Department of Ecology spokeswoman Jani Gilbert said Wednesday.

"We'll still have to ask for additional funds," Gilbert said. "But when the memorandum is signed, we can start some on-the-ground assessment on the status of the aquifer. We hope to do more than just sit around and plan."

Officials from the Washington Department of Ecology, the Idaho Department of Water Resources and the U.S. Geological Survey planned to sign the agreement near the Spokane River's headwaters in Post Falls, Idaho.

The Geological Survey will perform the study, with help from the two states' agencies of the slow-moving, underground river flowing underneath the Spokane River from Rathdrum Prairie in North Idaho to Spokane.

No one knows how much water is in the aquifer—and a dispute between the two states on water withdrawals came to a head last year, when two power companies applied for millions of gallons of water a day to cool proposed power plants in Idaho. The permits were subsequently denied.

In Washington state, no new permits allowing water withdrawals have been issued since 1994 because of concerns about low flows in the Spokane River, which interacts with the aquifer.

Idaho tightened rules governing new water withdrawals by designating the supply a groundwater management area and created a nine-member committee to consider how to protect the aquifer.

Environmental groups unsuccessfully sought a water withdrawal moratorium in Idaho until the federal study is completed.

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The Family of Winnie Neilson would like to thank the community for the memorial contributions, cards, calls and expressions of sympathy received throughout Winnie's illness and death. They were very much appreciated. Also our thanks to Idaho Home Health and Hospice.

Glenn Neilson
Her sisters; Colleen, Betty & Geri
Her brother; Mike, & Their Families

Mike and Catherine Parke, & the staff of Parke's Magic Valley Funeral Home, respectfully request your presence at the

Seventh Annual Lighting of the Memorial Christmas Tree
Saturday, December 13, 2003
at 7 p.m.

at
PARKE'S MAGIC VALLEY FUNERAL HOME
2551 Kimberly Road
Twin Falls, Idaho
(208) 735-0011

Our firm offers — free of charge — the presentation of the "Angels for Christmas" tree ornaments and a special speaker, Pastor Jim Sommer.

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DEQ plans pollution control for Raft River

BURLEY - The Idaho Department of Environmental Quality is seeking public comment on a water quality plan for the Raft River subbasin.

The agency is proposing a pollution control plan for the subbasin, a requirement under the Clean Water Act to meet federal water quality standards. The proposal targets excessive sediment, bacteria, nutrients and temperature in Raft River, Cassia, Fall and Lake Fork creeks; and Sublett Creek and reservoir.

Comments will be accepted through 5 p.m. Jan. 6. Copies of the plan are available for review at DEQ's Twin Falls office and at libraries in Burley and Oakley. It's also available online at www.deq.state.id.us under the water quality section.

Direct questions, comments and requests to Clyde H. Lay, DEQ Twin Falls, 601 Pole Line Road, Twin Falls, ID 83301. He can be reached at 736-2190 or chlay@deq.state.id.us.

Wendell United Methodist Women host potluck

WENDELL - The Wendell United Methodist Women will have a potluck lunch at 12:30 p.m. today.

Jean Harris will present the program, "Advent Christmas - Star Child: When Christmas Comes for Everyone."

For more information, call Mary Lou Ruby at 536-6583.

Kimberly hosts annual quilt show at City Council

KIMBERLY - The annual library quilt show will be held in the City Council meeting room next to the library from Jan. 11 through Jan. 30, Councilwoman Lee McKinlay

Company asks state for changes in irrigation

BOISE (AP) - PacifiCorp is asking state regulators to make it easier for irrigators to shift water pumping to off-peak hours.

The irrigation credit control credit rider program gives irrigators who volunteer to shift their electrical use to light-load hours credit against their monthly demand charge. The program paid nearly \$300,000 in credits over the four-month irrigation season last year.

The proposed changes will streamline the enrollment process and make more customers eligible to participate, state regulators said.

If the changes are approved, PacifiCorp would allow customers who agreed to enter the program during the last irrigation season but later dropped out to participate in 2004.

The company would also pay up to \$1,000 toward the cost of timers or other load control devices

Around the valley

has announced.

The event will run from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m., Mondays through Saturdays. Registration will be Jan. 8 and 9 from 11 a.m. until 6 p.m. Pick up day for the quilts will be Jan. 31 with no viewing on that day.

Antique quilts and wall hangings as well as modern ones will be shown. Because of limited space, previous entries are recommended. There will be a favorite quilt vote.

For more information, contact Jacquie Luff at 423-5135.

Jerome Recreation District hosts meeting Tuesday

JEROME The Jerome Recreation District will hold its monthly board meeting at 7 a.m. Tuesday at the recreation center, 2444 S. Lincoln.

Anyone interested is invited to attend the meeting.

Plug into the holidays ...

Times-News holds contest
All decked out for the holidays? The Times-News is looking for homes with great lighting displays so we can share the list with readers.

Send in the address of your favorite display and a short description of the home, along with your own name and phone number, by Dec. 15. Send to: Denise Turner, The Times-News, P.O. Box 548, Twin Falls, 83303-0548. Or e-mail to denise@magicalvalley.com. Or fax to 734-5558.

For more information, call 733-0931, Ext. 243.

—compiled from wire reports



Rep. Michael K. Simpson, R-Idaho, left, laughs with Speaker of the House Dennis Hastert during the lighting of the 2003 Capitol Holiday Tree in Washington Thursday. The tree was donated by the state of Idaho.

65-foot spruce adorns Capitol

WASHINGTON (AP) - House Speaker Dennis Hastert lit a 65-foot Christmas tree Thursday that had traveled 2,000 miles from Idaho to decorate the U.S. Capitol lawn.

"This is a great season of joy, a season of reflection and a season of thanksgiving," said Hastert, R-Ill. The tree is an Engelmann Spruce from the Boise National Forest in Idaho. It is decorated with 6,000 ornaments handcrafted by Idaho children and 10,000 lights.

"This is living proof that Idaho is home to more than its famous potatoes," Agriculture Secretary Ann Veneman said.

A Christmas tree has been a tradition at the U.S. Capitol since 1964. It will be lit from nightfall to 11 p.m. each evening through Jan. 1.

Idaho also provided about 70 other smaller trees that will be placed in the U.S. Supreme Court, the Botanical Garden and federal office buildings in Washington.

Authorities confirm wolf attack

LIVINGSTON, Mont. (AP) - Federal wildlife authorities confirmed that wolves attacked seven sheep on a southwestern Montana ranch, and the predators are suspected in the deaths of nine other sheep on an adjoining ranch the next night.

Seven of Bob Weber's sheep fell prey to wolf attacks sometime late Tuesday or early Wednesday, Ed Bangs, a wolf recovery coordinator for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, said.

Thursday morning, Weber's

brother, Hubert, 71, woke up to find nine dead sheep on his adjoining ranch. Authorities have still to confirm these deaths were by wolves.

Bangs said if a wolf attack is confirmed on Hubert Weber's ranch, the brothers will need permits to kill any wolves that come on their property.

"Federal law requires two separate, confirmed wolf attacks on a property before the owner can be issued a kill-on-sight permit. Since these two attacks happened on

adjoining property, however, Bangs said the brothers would be "eligible for the permits."

Bob Weber said he found five sheep already dead Wednesday morning. Two others were "tore up so bad" he had to shoot them, he said.

He said most of the sheep were attacked within 100 yards of his house, which is 12 miles south of Livingston.

"That's next year's income," he said. "It's tough and it's going to get worse before it gets better."

Calif. officials appear close to agreement

SACRAMENTO, Calif. (AP) - Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger and lawmakers from both parties were close to agreement Thursday on plans to borrow \$15 billion and impose a state spending cap, legislators said.

The proposal appeared all but done just days ago, in an early setback for the new governor.

The agreement would require the Legislature and the governor to adopt and stick to a balanced budget - meaning spending would have to match revenue. It also calls for the creation of a reserve fund and prohibits future borrow-

ing to pay for operating expenses.

If approved by the Legislature, the measures would be put before the voters on the March ballot.

The \$15-billion bond issue would be used to help close a budget deficit of \$10.7 billion. It was the state's fiscal crisis that helped bring down Democratic Gov. Gray Davis and propel Schwarzenegger to office in a recall election in October.

Assembly Republican leaders were meeting at noon with the governor-Schwarzenegger's spokesman Rob Stutzman said the GOP governor was optimistic an agreement would be approved.

Legislative aides, speaking on condition of anonymity, said Schwarzenegger agreed to soften his position on a hard spending cap that would restrict the number of dollars that could be spent in any one year.

In exchange, the sources said, the governor got a stronger commitment from Democrats toward building a reserve fund as well as authority to call the Legislature back into session during a fiscal crisis.

Legislative aides, speaking on condition of anonymity, said Schwarzenegger agreed to soften his position on a hard spending cap that would restrict the number of dollars that could be spent in any one year.

In exchange, the sources said, the governor got a stronger commitment from Democrats toward building a reserve fund as well as authority to call the Legislature back into session during a fiscal crisis.

Principal

Continued from B1

principal for one year before taking the job in Burley. He was the Raft River High School principal for five years before then. He also taught government at Burley High School and coached football at Oakley High School earlier in his career. Bailey taught at Minico High School, too.

Reached by *The Times-News* Thursday, Bailey said he had no comment about his decision to resign.

Jeff Harrah was named acting BHS principal, Chesley said. Harrah had been the BHS assistant principal. Whether Harrah's \$59,235 annual salary will be increased for the interim assignment hasn't been determined, Chesley said. Bailey's salary was \$69,108.

Chesley described Harrah as "a very intelligent and capable man." Harrah worked his way

GOODING COUNTY COURTS

The Times-News

GOODING - Recent activity in 5th District Court in Gooding County included the following:

Misdemeanor sentences

James A. Moretz, 28, driving without privileges amended to failing to purchase/valid driver's license; \$70.50 fine, \$63.50 court costs; failure to provide proof of insurance; \$75 fine, \$32.50 court costs; Magistrate Judge Kevin P. Cassidy.

Jorge - Romeres-Cortes, 26 - driving without privileges amended to failure to purchase/valid driver's license; \$68.50 fine, \$63.50 court costs; failure to maintain liability insurance; dismissed by prosecutor; Magistrate Judge Kevin P. Cassidy.

Nancy Frances Allen, 38, trespass; \$300 fine, \$300 suspended, \$63.50 court costs, \$35 probation fee, \$100 public defender fee; one year unsupervised probation; 90 days in jail, 90 suspended; reckless driving amended to inattentive/careless driving; \$250 suspended, \$125.00 court costs; one year unsupervised probation; 90 days in jail, 90 suspended; assault; malicious injury to property; dismissed by prosecutor; Magistrate Judge Ronald Neza, 20; use or possession of drug paraphernalia with intent to sell; \$100 fine, \$63.50 court costs; Magistrate Judge Kevin P. Cassidy.

Civil

Idaho Collection Bureau vs. Greg D. Henson. Seeking \$1,611, plus \$102.75 interest; \$535 attorney fees. Plaintiff alleges that defendant owes for accounts assigned to the plaintiff for collection.

Capital One Bank vs. Robert S. Hendricks. Seeking \$1,487.46, plus interest; attorney fees of \$425.36. Plaintiff alleges that defendant owes for purchases made or cash advances obtained on his/her Capital One Bank account.

Magie Valley Collections and Recovery vs. Tracy L. Carpenter and Wayne Carpenter. Seeking \$1,092.28, plus interest; \$364 attorney fees. Plaintiff alleges that defendant owes for accounts assigned to the plaintiff for collection.

Action Collection Service vs. Randall Bean. Seeking \$2,029.23, plus interest of \$359.29; attorney fees of \$600. Plaintiff alleges that defendant owes for accounts assigned to the plaintiff for collection.

Idaho Billing Services vs. Alfred E. Etkow. Seeking \$3,448.48, plus interest of \$1,000. Plaintiff alleges that defendant owes for accounts assigned to the plaintiff for collection.

Child support cases

State of Idaho Health and Welfare vs. Jason - Rowland - and - Theresa - Lons-Swickland. Seeking of Mr. Rowland: determination that he is the father of Destanie Dawn Rowland based on voluntary acknowledgment; \$24,000 his pro share of all costs; 51 percent of child's medical expenses; \$330 attorney fees.

Jennifer Freguila vs. Michael Bekoff. Seeking an order awarding Jennifer Freguila primary custody of the children Michael Bekoff and Keaton Bekoff; \$289.06 monthly support; 50 percent of children's medical expenses.

Jones

Continued from B1

malicious harassment and anti-terrorism. Jones said the malicious harassment legislation for which he advocated was eventually used against the Rev. Richard Butler in Kootenai County. Butler's Aryan Nations group was once the most prominent neo-Nazi organization in the nation.

State Sen. Laird Noh, R-Kimberly, said Jones was an impressive attorney general.

"He's quite ethical and can be quite tough," Noh said. "He's one of the best attorneys general we ever had. He is the author of what

ethics statutes we have in state government."

Noh also pointed out that Jones was instrumental in steering the state through the crucial, precedent-setting resolution to the Swan Falls dispute in the Bliss area during the 1980s. The argument was between water users and Idaho Power Co. over ownership of upstream water rights.

Jones said he set the stage for current water law, including the adjudication process and setting new criteria for unclaimed water upstream.

Noh also mentioned Jones'

investigation of large gas companies. The ploy of merely asking the companies why they charged Idaho drivers more for gasoline than that these in surrounding states lowered gas prices significantly overnight, Jones said, laughing and dismissing the effort.

"Believe me, Swan Falls took a lot more work than sending a letter to the gas companies," he said. "Nevertheless, Noh said he's not throwing his support behind Jones."

"I told him I won't endorse either candidate," Noh said. "I'm not a great fan of electing judges,

I generally feel we who are involved in politics are better to stay out of those things."

But Jones said he thinks it's better to have a mix of both appointed and elected judges in the state.

"Our system of some judges elected and some appointed is a safety valve," he said, noting that appointments can be as political as elections.

"Let the people have some say," Jones said.

Times-News writer Julie Pence can be reached at 735-3241 or by e-mail at jpence@magicalvalley.com.

Tax

Continued from B1

education, you just can't avoid it."

Gov. Dick Kempthorne made a similar assessment a week ago, predicting that the state economy will not have recovered fully until a year after the temporary tax hikes expire.

Rather than returning to spending cuts, he suggested that be placed in reserve to deal with that bridge year. But analysts have been uncertain how that would be achieved when revenue has been sufficient only to support currently authorized spending as it is.

In addition to a sales tax on services, an extended phase-out of the temporary tax increase is one option, Newcomb said.

Once the bottom fell out of the economy in 2001, just months after lawmakers overwhelmingly

approved a record tax cut, the state slashed \$200 million in spending over two budgets and still faced a huge deficit in this year's \$2 billion budget.

To avoid another drastic cut, Kempthorne and the Legislature temporarily raised the sales tax a penny to 6 percent and the cigarette tax 29 cents, to 57 cents a pack, generating about \$190 million to plug the gap.

The \$23 million in higher cigarette taxes will be banked in a reserve during the 2004-05 fiscal year, but the governor and Legislature will still have the \$160 million generated from the extra penny of sales tax to maintain services at past levels. Even if programs are not expanded, just increased demand from Idaho's growing population and inflation

in medical, energy and other expenses add tens of millions of dollars to that base budget annually.

The state spending plan lawmakers will write this winter for the 2004-05 fiscal year has been made relatively easy with a \$50 million, no-strings-attached windfall from the federal government - Idaho's share of a state aid package included in last year federal tax cut. Economic growth has also built up a modest \$30 million cash surplus over the anemic revenue forecast for the current budget.

But the federal money and cash from the temporary tax both disappear for the 2005-06 spending year, leaving what some like Newcomb believe will be another huge gap between revenue and budget demands.

A bloc of conservative lawmakers, led by retiring House tax committee Chairwoman Dolores Crow of Nampa, has tried to use the economic decline to force major cuts in state spending.

They lost last spring, but Crow is proposing legislation to cut the sales tax to 5.5 cents from 6 cents beginning next July. That would eliminate more than \$80 million from the revenue lawmakers expect to have to finance the next budget.

Newcomb and others have taken the opposite view. The speaker suggested possibly phasing out the penny increase over as much as four years - a quarter of a cent a year through mid-2009. That would let even modest economic growth each year cover the lost revenue, advocates say.

Arsenic

Continued from B1

total that cost estimates for construction of a plant to remove excess arsenic could go as high as \$200,000. Annual operational costs have been estimated as high as \$1,000 per household. But

Mehran said EPA estimates the average operational cost for systems in the 100- to 500-people category to be approximately \$163 per household per year, which would translate to about \$17,000 per year with Castleford's 104 connections.

Shelley Ridenour is editor of *The Times-News* Mini-Cassia Bureau. She can be reached at 208-677-4042, Ext. 642, or by e-mail at sridenour@magicalvalley.com.

"All that is new," City Clerk Patsy Kiryon said Wednesday. "It's like the left hand doesn't know what the right hand is doing, but they want all of us in the middle to comply."

According to Mehnan's letter to Castleford, the 2001 Arsenic Rule is based on studies on arsenic exposure and health effects in a Taiwanese population.

"They still haven't answered our questions about how many people died of arsenic poisoning in this county," Kiryon said. "There is still no test results in the U.S."

MORNING BREAK

ACROSS

- Slender woodwind
- Ray of "Battle City"
- Riga populace
- Ramble
- Dinner course
- 17 Vegetable with heat
- Closet type
- Indian jacket
- Punchments style
- Fighting force
- Vow tassel
- Water slides
- Hopahazard
- Triop
- Situa. as a fact
- Eastern way
- Start of a refrain
- Russian president
- 43 Purpose
- 44 Shred
- 45 Blisful cloud
- 46 Inhabitants
- 47 Proclamations
- 48 Court divider
- 49 One of the rich
- 50 Rocket platform
- 51 Damp
- 52 Caricard
- 53 Fries or cola
- 54 Slow, o.g.
- 55 Body error
- 56 Address one
- 57 68 Jules Verne's captain
- 58 Prime David
- 59 Went to the bottom
- 60 Spoke

DOWN

- 1 Aigeman
- 2 Use a dnt
- 3 Soloma vow
- 4 Abu Dhabi and Cuban
- 5 Cindor
- 6 Ecotivac
- 7 John Wayne's nickname
- 8 Uncork
- 9 Candy on a rich
- 10 Reversed
- 11 Novelist Morrison
- 12 Ancestral chart
- 13 IRS IDs
- 14 Heal
- 15 It's lost!
- 16 Pub. submissions
- 17 Author of "The Plague"
- 18 Use a crane
- 19 Bane
- 20 Pinedale pepper
- 21 Wannabe
- 22 City's last
- 23 Aigeman
- 24 Support
- 25 Church
- 26 Honorae
- 27 Sharpens
- 28 Westernmost
- 29 Alutian island
- 30 Proceed with caution
- 31 42 Mythical creatures
- 32 Eve's third
- 33 Jailed delicacy
- 34 Branchid
- 35 Brief sample
- 36 Supplement
- 37 Science classes
- 38 55 At the summit
- 39 Annapolis inst.
- 40 Greek letters
- 41 Verdi heroine
- 42 Branchid
- 43 Eighteen
- 44 whaler
- 45 62 Walked
- 46 Antlered grazer

Thursday's Puzzle Solved

A	T	R	E	S	A	L	D	S	R	A	M	S
A	D	R	I	C	E	P	I	O	T	O	R	A
R	E	A	L	I	E	P	H	A	T	E	O	I
P	A	R	A	D	E	M	T	M	S	E	N	O
S	T	E	A	L	S	T	E	A	L	A	T	L
S	L	A	M	T	S	E	T	S	E			
N	O	V	E	L	L	A	D	E	S	I	R	E
T	I	B	E	R	I	A	L	E				
P	R	E	S	E	N	T	A	R	S	E	N	A
I	N	K	I	N	K	E	R	A	J	I	L	L
W	O	L	F	S	M	A	N	O	R			
A	L	O	P	E	T	O	I	O	L	I	N	G
G	R	E	E	L	O	C	O	L	A	L		
E	V	E	L	S	O	O	P	E	R	E	S	E
D	E	N	I	O	P	T	S	U	S	A	N	

Threats must be taken seriously

DEAR ABBY: I am a 16-year-old girl with a problem I can't talk to anyone about. I have been with my boyfriend, "Jon," for about five months. He has always been kind of jealous and controlling. Recently my parents told me I couldn't see him anymore. Jon became furious when I told him how my parents feel, and now he's talking about killing them so we can be together. I know he is serious.



DEAR ABBY
Abigail VanBuren

I really love Jon. He is the first boy who has shown an interest in me. My parents and I have always had a great relationship and my mom is like my best friend. I totally don't want to see them get hurt. I don't know what to do. I can't tell my parents and I can't tell the police. I have tried to talk Jon out of it, and tell him they will learn to accept him over time. He just gets mad and says I am taking their side. Please tell me what to do.

loyalty. The boy you are involved with appears to have serious mental problems. He desperately needs psychological evaluation and counseling. Unless you do something now, Jon could talk himself into doing something to your parents - and you will be an accessory because you knew it was going to happen and did nothing.

-ANONYMOUS IN FORT MYERS, FLA.

I urge you to warn your parents about Jon's threats, so they can protect themselves - and you. As much as you may love him, you cannot reason with someone who is irrational and possibly homicidal. PS. Do not allow Jon to make you feel guilty for wanting to protect your parents. Your first responsibility is the safety of your family. So please don't wait. Tell them now. A good way to begin would be to clip this letter, hand it to them and tell them that you wrote it.

Wednesday is fight night

Wednesday is the week's big day for family fights, according to a new survey of marriage counselors. This goes against previous reports which listed Sunday as the worst for household skirmishes. What makes Wednesday so noteworthy isn't clear. But one counselor said it's the day when a lot of people wonder, "Where am I heading with this same old routine, anyway?"



REVISITED
L.M. Boyd

It's pretty hard for us amateurs to get-it-through-our-heads-that occasional rain makes wicker lawn furniture last longer. Have you seen any round sailboats on TV footage out of Iraq? Neither have I. But that sort of circular vessel - it looks like a big bowl - is said to be common there. It's called a "kufa."

Q. Who wrote "Chopsticks"? And when?
A. Arthur de Lull was originally listed as the composer. But that

turned out to be a pseudonym for a 16-year-old girl named Euphemia Allen. In 1877. Same year Bell sold his first telephone. And barbed-wire-prices-dropped from 18 to 8 cents a pound. And Thomas Edison yelled "Mary had a little lamb" into his funny speaking machine.
Q. What's a camel's body temperature?
A. At night, 105 degrees F. During the heat of the day, 93 degrees F.
Bowhead whales can sing two notes at a time. Imagine that! One whale sings a duet.

Sagittarius: You think of your home as your castle

IF DECEMBER 12 IS YOUR BIRTHDAY ... your secure and loving childhood led you to expect and receive the best. Your home is your castle; you're a good friend, though you've a tendency to manipulate when you want your way.

ARIES (Mar. 21-Apr. 19): As Saturn's influence is felt, some things need changing. It's not so easy as old habits die hard.

Taurus (Apr. 20-May 20): You be missing the point by looking at the world through rose-colored glasses.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Jumping to conclusions and making a bad assessment of a complex situation can endanger a partnership.

CANCER (June 21-July 22): However hard you try, you can't please everyone. With certain people, you achieve as much by standing your ground as you do giving way.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): You're looking for answers as the moon enters your sign today. You'll see your working life and what has to be done in a clearer light, with refreshing new ideas buzzing.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Indulging in heavy thoughts isn't usually your style, but with the sun in LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Just when you think you're going in the right direction, someone comes along and makes life more interesting.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Someone who's trying to be in control has no idea that things should be left to you.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Everything tends to be exaggerated at the moment. Steering away from problems, especially where money is involved, is wise.

HOROSCOPE

Jeralaine Saunders

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Feeling fearful and apprehensive right now, you heed your inner voice counseling caution.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): As the moon opposes Neptune, you may be longing for that special moment when loving words meet your ears.

PISCES (Feb. 19-Mar. 20): Get the facts straight rather than wondering; this could lead to a moment for sharing views on life. An acquaintance becomes a friend.

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IDAHO/WEST

Worries about spread of cattle disease lessen

CHEYENNE, Wyo. (AP) - Concern that brucellosis might have spread to more than one cattle herd in the state lessened Thursday as an adult cow at Riverton was traced back to the herd where the disease is already suspected and with evidence that a man with the disease has had it for several years.

Meanwhile, procedural problems have pushed back by a week the date a U.S. Department of Agriculture lab expects to have the final results of testing on the Sublette County herd where some head are thought infected, according to Gov. Dave Freudenthal's spokeswoman, Lara Azar.

The tests from the National Veterinary Services Laboratory in Ames, Iowa, were originally anticipated Wednesday or Thursday.

Another round of testing was ordered because of the errors.

Brucellosis can cause cows to abort and, rarely, chronic flu-like symptoms in humans. How the disease spreads is not completely understood; but the Sublette County herd grazed near a state elk feedground where elk have been known to carry the disease.

Brucellosis in more than one herd in a state results in revocation of that state's brucellosis-free status.

So far only Colorado has imposed sanctions on Sublette County cattle, but restrictions are likely from other states if the final results from Ames come back positive.

Azar said Logan has been talking with officials from Montana, Utah, Idaho and elsewhere and they have agreed to wait to decide on banning Wyoming cattle until after the results are in.

State and federal officials have

been trying to determine the extent of brucellosis infection in Wyoming since tests last week suggested that about 30 of 391 head in the Pinedale-area herd were infected.

The latest efforts included testing Thursday at the Riverton Livestock Auction, where a cow with brucellosis was sold. Janice Woron, office manager for the sale barn, was unsure who was doing the testing.

Keep track of your investments with the Times-News Money pages

Watch for **MEGA-Millionaire** auction results in Saturday's Times-News!



Rev. Jackson will speak at Idaho State

POCATELLO (AP) - The Rev. Jesse Jackson is scheduled to deliver the keynote address at Idaho State University next month.

Jackson, a civil rights leader and twice a presidential candidate, will headline this year's Human Rights Celebration on Jan. 28. The appearance is paid for by the student government and NAACP HIV/AIDS Education Prevention Project.

The 62-year-old Jackson unsuccessfully ran for the Democratic nomination in 1984 and 1988.

"Whether you agree with Jesse Jackson or not, he's a huge figure coming to southeast Idaho," said Idaho State student Mou Debnath, who arranged the appearance.

Youth faces charges in traffic death

LEWISTON (AP) - A teenager has been ordered to stand trial in the Aug. 31 death of a passenger in his pickup.

Aaron Stover, 18, of Lewiston will be arraigned on the vehicular manslaughter charge Dec. 18.

Authorities said Stover had a blood-alcohol content of 0.13 at the time of the accident that claimed the life of Ian Borders, 18, of Lewiston. The legal limit in Idaho is 0.08.

The Nez Perce County Sheriff's Office said Stover was driving more than 60 mph in a 45 mph zone when he lost control of the vehicle east of the Lewiston Roundup Grounds. The truck rolled three times before it came to rest on the roof, trapping Borders inside.

Authorities said Borders died at the scene.

Judge schedules two hearings in kidnapping case

SALT LAKE CITY (AP) - A judge on Thursday scheduled closed-door competency hearings in January for the homeless couple arrested with kidnapping Elizabeth Smart.

Judge Judith Atherton set Wanda Barzee's hearing for Jan. 9. Barzee's husband, Brian David Mitchell, had a two-day hearing scheduled for Jan. 27-28.

Atherton acted Thursday during a scheduled competency proceeding for Barzee.

Her defense lawyers contested the findings of two experts who examined her mental state. But the results of those findings were not made public during the open court session and not discussed in court.

"I hope they both will be held responsible for their actions, convicted and sentenced," Salt Lake City District Attorney David Yocom told reporters after the hearing.

Smart's father, Ed Smart, was present for the courtroom session. He said it was the first that he had seen Barzee. He said it was "hard to imagine" Barzee's alleged part in the crime.

"I think she was a good mother, a caring mother," Smart said after the hearing.

Barzee, 57, and Mitchell, 50, have been charged with aggravated kidnapping, aggravated sexual assault and aggravated burglary in Elizabeth's June 5, 2002, abduction.



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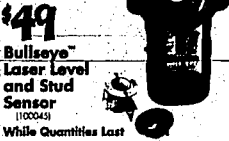


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**General merchandise prices may vary thru 1/17/04/2003 if there are no market variations (commodities excluded). Key Credit Terms: 10% Off Credit Offer: Subject to Credit Approval. Maximum discount is \$200. Offer valid for new accounts only. Additional terms apply. See store for details. FINANCE CHARGES accrue from the date of purchase and all accrued FINANCE CHARGES will be added to your Account for the entire promotional period if qualifying purchases, including premiums for optional credit insurance, are not paid in full before the end of the deferred payment period or if you fail to make any required payment to your Account when due. See below for details. We will approve for purchase of \$299 or more made on the Home Depot Consumer Credit Card APR for purchases of \$2,000 or more, default rate for purchases of \$2,000 or more APR: 21%. Minimum Finance Charge \$1.00. See cardholder agreement for details. Offer is for individuals, not businesses. Credit offers subject to change without notice. Finance charges available upon request. We reserve the right to limit quantities to the amount reasonable for homeowners and our regular customer customers. It is our policy to not fulfill, source advertising in the event of an error, we will make every reasonable effort to accommodate our customers. Details on any product warranties available at store. ©2003, HOME DEPOT, INC. All rights reserved.

IDAHO

Lawmakers leave inquiry of university complex to others

BOISE (AP) — Legislative leaders said they will let others do the follow-up in response to this week's investigation into the University of Idaho's botched University Place complex.

"I don't think the Legislature needs to do anything except let the process follow its course," said Senate President Pro Tem Robert Geddes, R-Soda Springs.

Geddes and House Speaker Bruce Newcomb, R-Burley, believe the next step is up to Attorney

General Lawrence Wasden and the prosecutors in both Latah County, where the university is located, and Ada County, where the Boise project is sited.

The report of Boise attorney Larry Prince found the school and its foundation may have violated state law and breached the fiduciary trust owed financial supporters in their financial manipulations during the early phases of the project.

The \$136 million University Place project started in 2001, when

the economy still seemed strong. It originally was to include a building for University of Idaho classes, a health-sciences center for Idaho State University Programs, and the Idaho Water Center, which would house federal, state- and university-related activities.

The complex was seen by many university advocates as critical to maintaining the school's clout against the rising influence of Boise State University.

But the financial maneuvering

cost both former University of Idaho President Robert Hoover and former Financial Vice President Jerry Wallace their jobs, and the project was scaled back last summer to one \$48 million building.

Geddes was one of the leading sponsors of the bill authorizing bonds to be floated to finance the complex. Gov. Dirk Kempthorne backed the deal, and Newcomb was among the overwhelming majority of legislators to vote for bonding.

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CASSIA COUNTY COURTS

BURLEY — Recent activity in 5th District Court in Cassia County included:

Misdemeanor sentencing

Julia R. Ellis, 47, failure to purchase a driver's license, pleaded guilty, \$60 fine, \$63.50 court costs; Magistrate Judge Rick L. Ballar.

Rosebeth Duranetti, 23, disturbing the peace, pleaded guilty, \$36.50 fine, \$63.50 court costs, one year's probation, five days in jail, five days suspended; Magistrate Judge Rick L. Ballar.

Miguel Angel Moguel, 19, driving without privileges, pleaded guilty, six months' driver's license suspension, one year's probation, 30 days in jail, 30 days suspended; Magistrate Judge Michael R. Crabtree.

Ruby Joe Ray, 27, disturbing the peace, pleaded guilty, \$68.50 fine, \$63.50 court costs; Magistrate Judge Michael R. Crabtree.

Leslie Everett Steele II, 27, disturbing the peace, pleaded guilty, six months' probation, five days in jail, three days suspended; Magistrate Judge Michael R. Crabtree.

Saul C. Zaragoza, 30, one count failure to purchase a driver's license, pleaded guilty, \$68.50 fine, \$63.50 court costs, one count failure to appear, dismissed; Magistrate Judge Michael R. Crabtree.

Michael Lee Terry, 31, one count driving without privileges, pleaded guilty, six months' driver's license suspension, one year's probation, 30 days in jail, 28 days suspended, four days Mini-Casas work in lieu of jail; one count failure to provide proof of insurance, dismissed; Magistrate Judge Michael R. Crabtree.

Annun Michael Rector, 19, one count driving without privileges, pleaded guilty, \$200 fine, \$78.50 court costs, 180 days' driver's license suspension, one year's probation, 30 days in jail, 28 days suspended, four days Mini-Casas work in lieu of jail, one count failure to provide proof of insurance, dismissed; Magistrate Judge Michael R. Crabtree.

Christina Beltran, 28, one count failure to purchase a driver's license, found guilty, six months' probation, 10 days in jail, 10 days suspended, one count failure to appear, found guilty; Magistrate Judge Rick L. Ballar.

Jesus Ascencio Esquivel, 56, one count misdemeanor driving under the influence, amended to habitual driving, pleaded guilty, \$240 fine, \$63.50 court costs, one year's probation, 30 days in jail, 20 days suspended, one day credit, one count open container violation, dismissed; Magistrate Judge Michael R. Crabtree.

Driving under the influence sentencing

William Roy Olson, 35, misdemeanor driving under the influence, pleaded guilty, \$200 fine, \$78.50 court costs, 90 days' driver's license suspension, one year's probation, 180 days in jail, 170 days suspended; Magistrate Judge Michael R. Crabtree.

Felony dismissals

Rud Lee Anderson, 44, one count aggravated assault, dismissed; one count enhancement for use of a deadly weapon, dismissed; Magistrate Judge Michael R. Crabtree.

Felony sentencing

Robert Howard Adams II, 48, one count misdemeanor trespassing, dismissed; one count misdemeanor possession of drug paraphernalia, dismissed; one count felony possession of a controlled substance, pleaded guilty, \$688.50 court costs, 1100 restitution, one month's probation, 42 months' indeterminate penitentiary time, 42 months' indeterminate penitentiary time; Judge Monte H. Carlson.

Commercial truck driving sentencing

Kevin Casey Barker, 33, safe loading violation, pleaded guilty, \$43.50 fine, \$63.50 court costs; Magistrate Judge Rick L. Ballar.

Alford E. Gilliam, 31, failure to stop at checking station, pleaded guilty, \$118.50 fine, \$63.50 court costs; Magistrate Judge Rick L. Ballar.

Luis A. Martinez, 44, motor carrier log book violations, pleaded guilty, \$263.50 fine, \$63.50 court costs; Magistrate Judge Michael R. Crabtree.

George V. Howe, 46, motor carrier log book violations, pleaded guilty, \$43.50 fine, \$63.50 court costs; Magistrate Judge, Michael R. Crabtree.

Marc L. Hippence, 27, failure to obtain oversize permit, pleaded guilty, \$68.50 fine, \$63.50 court costs; Magistrate Judge Michael R. Crabtree.

James J. Bryant, 64, motor carrier violation of out of service order, pleaded guilty, \$43.50 fine, \$63.50 court costs; Magistrate Judge Rick L. Ballar.

Howard B. Sargent, 52, safe loading violation, pleaded guilty, \$43.50 fine, \$63.50 court costs; Magistrate Judge Rick L. Ballar.

Thorne J. Christensen, 32, failure to obtain oversize permit, pleaded guilty, \$68.50 fine, \$63.50 court costs; Magistrate Judge Michael R. Crabtree.

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See the Religion section of Times-News Saturday, Dec. 20

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Now \$19.50 EACH PIECE Orig. \$39 Misses' & Petites' IN STUDIO SEPARATES Choose from knit tops, blouses, pants and shirts.	Now \$24.99 Orig. \$48 Juniors' VELOUR PANT & JACKET SETS	Save 50% Orig. \$26-\$39.50, NOW \$13-\$19.75 Girl's 3-16 & Boy's 3-20 FASHION TWILL & DENIM BOTTOMS	Now \$29.99 Orig. \$45-\$50 Men's CABLE CREW NECK SWEATERS
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Save 50% SELECTED WOMEN'S FALL SHOES	NOW \$24.50 EACH PIECE Orig. \$49 Misses' JOSEPHINE CHAUS SPORT VELOUR	Save 33% ENTIRE STOCK OF LADIES' SLIPPERS & GLOVES From Isotoner & Activizer. Sale ends Monday, December 15, 2003	Save 33% Orig. \$19, NOW \$12.73 LIZ CLAIBORNE BOX WALLETS

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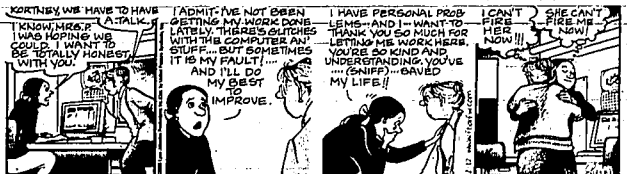
Classic Peanuts

By Charles M. Schulz



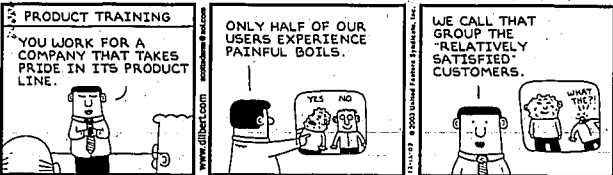
For Better or For Worse

By Lynn Johnston



Libert

By Scott Adams



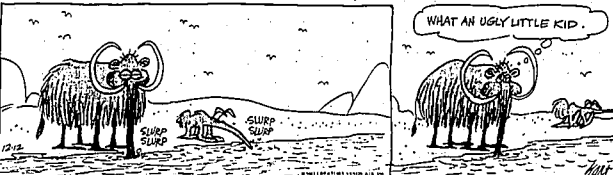
Blondie

By Dean Young & Stan Drake



B.C.

By Johnny Hart



Pickles

By Brian Crane



Garfield

By Jim Davis

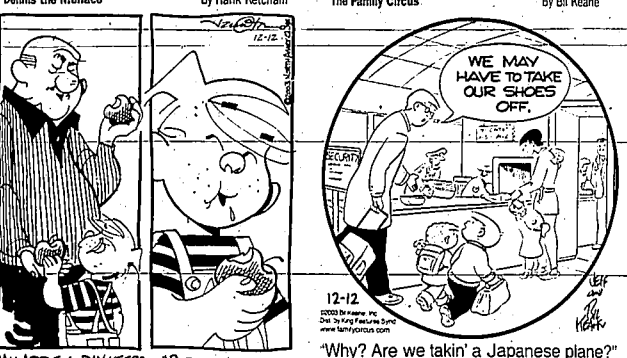


Dennis the Menace

By Hank Ketcham

The Family Circus

By Bil Keane



Hi and Lois

By Chance Browne



The Wizard of Id

By Brant Parker & Johnny Hart



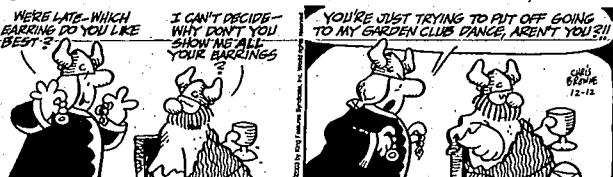
Rose is Rose

By Pat Brady



Hagar the Horrible

By Chris Browne



Zits

By Jim Borgman and Jerry Scott



Beetle Bailey

By Mort Walker



Luann

By Greg Evans



Frank and Ernest

By Bob Thaves

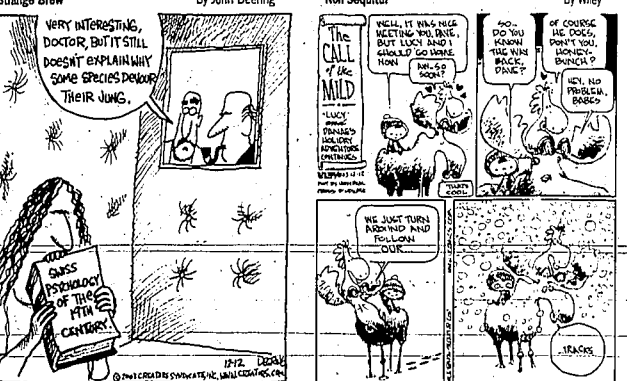


Strange Brew

By John Deering

Non Sequitur

By Wiley



The Bom Laser

By Art Sansom & Chip



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bits
in entertainment



American fable

Hailey's Company of Fools will present its musical theater production of O. Henry's "The Gift of the Magi" tonight, Saturday night, Sunday afternoon and Wednesday and Thursday nights in the Liberty Theater.



What the Dickens?

The College of Southern Idaho Theater Department will present a different twist on Dickens - "A Christmas Gift" tonight and Saturday night in Room 119 of the Fine Arts Center in Twin Falls.

Love a parade?

The Buhl Light Parade rolls through Buhl Saturday night, following by caroling at the Eighth Street Center at the Eighth Street Center, hosted by the Buhl High School Jazz Band and Select Choir. The parade will be preceded by the annual Kiwanis Chili Feed from 5:30-8 p.m. at the West End Senior Center.

Deck the halls

St. Benedict's Foundation in Jerome and the Blaine County Senior Connection will wrap up their festivals of trees today and Saturday, in the old Ridley's store on West Main Avenue in Jerome at the nexStage Theater in Ketchum.

For times, dates and details, see Events Spotlight on Pages C3-6

Stand and deliver



R. ASBLEY SMITH/The Times-News

If you go ...

- What: The Magic Valley Chorale will present Handel's "Messiah."
- Where: College of Southern Idaho Fine Arts Center auditorium, Twin Falls.
- When: Saturday at 8 p.m. and Sunday at 2 p.m.
- How much: Tickets, which are \$5 for general admission and \$3 for seniors and students, are available at Arlene's Flowers in Jerome, at Welch's Music, Everybody's Business and the CSI Bookstore in Twin Falls, or at the door.

Joe Caspersen, left, director of the Magic Valley Chorale, talks with orchestra member Adam Kroeger, while Sue Miller, foreground, plays her violin during rehearsal Wednesday for their production of "The Messiah" at the College of Southern Idaho Fine Arts Center auditorium. Performances are scheduled Saturday night and Sunday afternoon.

M.V. Chorale presents 'The Messiah' - and then some

By Steve Crump
Times-News writer

TWIN FALLS - Think you know "The Messiah?" You don't know the half of it. "There are some sections of Part 1 and Part 2 that are rarely performed," said Joe Caspersen, director of the Magic Valley Chorale, which will do its semi-annual production of Georg Friedrich Handel's oratorio Saturday night and Sunday afternoon in the College of Southern Idaho Fine Arts Center auditorium. "They're beautiful pieces of music in their own right, and I think audiences will enjoy them."

The 1743 classic performed, start to finish, clocks in at more than three hours; modern audiences won't sit still for that. In fact, King George II, who originally stood up for the "Hallelujah Chorus," may have simply been stretching his legs.

"We always get more participation when we do the 'Messiah,' and I think the fact that we're doing some lesser-known sections has 'kept' turnout" at the rehearsals higher," Caspersen said. "They've had to work a little harder at learning it."

"The Messiah," of course, isn't a

Christmas piece - Handel meant it to be non-liturgical, or not about any specific Christian festival. It's a long, rambling disquisition on the life of Christ, heavy on quoted prophecies from the book of Isaiah that Handel - and his little-remembered lyricist Charles Jennens - turned into memorable music.

And not so memorable. "The history of this music is that people have always been looking for ways to shorten it," Caspersen said. "So there are some surprises when they hear it in its entirety."

This is the 10th "Messiah" in the 31-year history of the Chorale. There are 68 voices this year, along with the Kimberly High School Choir, which is doing its own "Messiah" later Saturday at the Kimberly LDS Stake Center.

Soloists include tenors Milton Barrus, Jack Van Buren and Jon Hunt, basses Kevin Glenn and Robert Blackston, alto Jami Butler, sopranos DeAnna Manns, Teresa Berry, Rebecca Wilden and Corinne Caspersen.

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

Meet the choir

Members of the Magic Valley Chorale performing "The Messiah"

- Sopranos - Catherine Allain, Twin Falls; Jane Andressen, Shoshone; Deanna Ashby, Twin Falls; Michele Astle, Twin Falls; Rosemary Barja, Twin Falls; Teresa Berry, Twin Falls; Joan Carr, Twin Falls; Corinne L. Caspersen, Twin Falls; Serena Jenkins Clark, Twin Falls; Wanda Mae Cook, Twin Falls; Denise Deelstra, Wendell; Paula Dodd, Twin Falls; Georgia Durbin, Twin Falls; Kimberley Hafer, Twin Falls; Helen Lucke Gooding; Maggi Machala, Twin Falls; DeAnna Manns, Twin Falls; Roxane Minns, Twin Falls; Annie Laurie Newman, Jerome; Heidi Schneidermann, Buhl; Barbara Schroeder, Twin Falls; Diann Smit, Twin Falls; Rebecca Wilden, Twin Falls; Lois Willis, Hansen
- Altos - Donna Aase, Twin Falls; Robyn C. Bunker, Filter; Sandra Barrus, Twin Falls; Norma Bartholomew, Jerome; Jami Butler, Jerome; Linda Chaptin-Fraser, Twin Falls; Harriet Denton, Twin Falls; Marilyn Dilagaggio, Twin Falls; Alicia Fort, Twin Falls; Mary Haigh, Shoshone; Annette S. Hansen, Twin Falls; Sherri Johns, Twin Falls; Phyllis Lewin, Twin Falls; Pauline McCracken, Twin Falls; Jane Munro, Twin Falls; Marilyn Paul, Shoshone; Teala Percip, Twin Falls; Dorothy Pfeifferle, Twin Falls; Louise Smith, Gooding; Kayla Tolman, Jerome; Karen Tucker, Jerome; Gail Watson, Twin Falls; Bailey Webb, Shoshone; Rhonda Wong, Twin Falls; Pamela Yore, Twin Falls
- Tenor - Milton Barrus, Twin Falls; Jon Hansen, Twin Falls; Jon Hunt; Kimberley; Jack Van Buren, Twin Falls; Scott Wilson, Twin Falls
- Bass - Robert Blackston, Twin Falls; Matthew Bowman, Twin Falls; Paul Bowman, Twin Falls; Adam Cleveland; Hagerman; Jared Coley, Twin Falls; Lew Fort, Twin Falls; Kevin Glenn, Kimberley; Jacque Hamilton, Twin Falls; Joseph Hutchinson, Buhl; Ted Larsen, Twin Falls; Tom Machala, Twin Falls; Was Shinn, Twin Falls; Roger Vincent, Twin Falls; Austin S. Webb, Twin Falls
- And members of the chamber orchestra: First violin - Lori Caspersen, Kathy Harris, Rebekah Jones, Linda Seaman
- Second violin - Sue Miller, Annette Barnum, Angelita Fillmore, Michael Machala
- Viola - Kevin Howard, Debra Touchette
- Cello - Rick Strickland, Barry Hamilton, Kaylie Steel-Jenette Miller
- Bass - Ron Brackett, Heather Jones
- Trumpet - Jack Speicher
- Harp/patchord - Lori Chandler
- Percussion - Adam Kroeger

HOW SUITE IT IS

'Nutcracker' returns to Twin Falls

By Steve Crump
Times-News writer

TWIN FALLS - Eight years, seven "Nutcrackers." And that's just one dancer in the family.

"I just love it," said Timbrel Essma, a 16-year-old sophomore at Twin Falls High School who's been one of the local dancers in the Ballet Idaho production of Tchaikovsky's holiday classic since 1996. "I love the music, and although the choreography is the same, it's still fun."

Its 2003 performance will be Monday night in the College of Southern Idaho Fine Arts Center auditorium.

Timbrel's only "Nutcracker" free December in recent years was in 2001, when there was no production staged locally.

Timbrel's sisters Angela, 18, Danielle, 14, and Christie, 12, are "Nutcracker" veterans as well.

"It's so great to work with the professional (Ballet Idaho) dancers," Timbrel said.

The Ballet Idaho pros - Ballet Idaho is another incarnation of the Eugene, Ore., Ballet - tour throughout the Northwest with "The Nutcracker" every November and December, performing with local dancers who are cast for the younger roles.

This year, Timbrel is a Flower - as in "Dance of the Flowers" -

Sugary-plummetry

- What: Ballet Idaho will present Tchaikovsky's "The Nutcracker."
- Where: College of Southern Idaho Fine Arts Center auditorium, Twin Falls.
- When: Monday, 7:30 p.m.
- How much: Tickets, which are \$18 for adults and \$10 for students and children, are available at Everybody's Business, Kurt's Pharmacy and Hallmark, Crowley's Old Time Soda Fountain, the CSI Community Education Center and the Magic Valley Arts Council office in Twin Falls; at Sav-Mor Drug in Buhl; Arlene's Flowers in Jerome and at CSI Outreach Centers in Burley and Gooding.

Meet the dancers

Local youngsters in the Ballet Idaho production of "The Nutcracker":

- Baby mice - Jas Anderson, Emma Burgess, Sosana Carpenter, Hanna Dashiw, Shelby Hamblen, Alexa Johnson, Meghan Jones, Hailey Sandison, Kayla Thompson, Austin Waddoups
- Angels - Stephanie Brunelle, Sosana Carpenter, Marieth Garcia, Alexa Johnson, Meghan Jones, Sami Lofgran, Jenna Perry, Sierra Sandison, Hailey Sandison,

- Kayla Thompson
- Ladybugs - Megan Brennan, Stephanie Brunelle, Kiah Carpenter, Wiesten Hill, Page Loti, Sierra Sandison
- Party guests - Megan Brennan, Elizabeth Brunelle, Kiah Carpenter, Holly Hansing, Kirsten Hill, Jene Johnson, Ashley Moulton, Allison Underwood
- Flowers - Angelle Essma, Danielle Essma, Timbral Essma, Kristian Garcia, Kayla King, Caitie Kirby, Elena Louder, Caitlin Stanley

but she's been a Baby Mouse, a Ladybug and Party Guest in previous performances.

"The only one I've missed is an Angel," she said.

Timbrel and Angela, who've also danced extensively in local musical theater, both have an eye on dance in the future - perhaps as career, or a college major. If so, chances are they'll meet

"Nutcracker" again, since it accounts for a majority of the annual income of professional dance companies in America.

"I never get tired of 'Nutcracker,'" Timbrel said.

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

Centre Stage dances keeps 'Nutcracker' tradition alive

The Times-News

BURLEY - For the 15th consecutive December, Jennifer Sager and her Centre Stage Studio of Dance and Performing Arts will present Tchaikovsky's "The Nutcracker."

Two performances are planned - tonight and Saturday afternoon in the King Fine Arts Center.

Also appearing will be professional ballet dancers Jenny Bowden and Adam Miele in the roles of Sugar Plum Fairy and the Cavalier.

Although the theme of the production remains the same, the scenery, costumes and choreography are constantly changed to keep each year's fresh.

Paige Washburn, 14-year-old daughter of Daryl and Lyn Washburn of Oakley, has been selected by audition to play the leading role of Clara. Paige has been rehearsing in Utah with Bowden and Miele.

Starring in "The Nutcracker" will be Kate Coats as Fritz, Steve Floyd as Herr Drosselmeyer, Melissa Lynch as the Scottish Grandmother, Wendy Morrison as Mother Ginger and Jessica and Mike Ruffell as Clara's father and mother.

Advanced dancers from the Centre Stage who will be in major roles, include Felicia Horsley and Mattie Washburn as the Columbine Dolls; Whitney Beck and Cara Van Tassel as the

Holiday revelry

- What: The Centre Stage School of Dance and Performing Arts of Burley will present Tchaikovsky's "The Nutcracker."
- Where: King Center, Burley.
- When: Tonight at 7:30 p.m. and Saturday at 2 p.m.
- How much: Tickets, which are \$8, are available at Premier Dancwear, 1225 Oakley Ave., Burley, from members of the cast, or at the door. Reserved patron-of-the-arts seats are \$10 and \$12. For reservations, call 436-6484.

little Soldier Dolls; Kyrie Moon and Hilary Smith as the Harlequin Dolls and Hilary Parish and Whitney Liz Goodrich as the Snow Queens. Anna Rigas and Kelsey Kloefer will be Mouse Kings and Brianna Hansen and Mattie Washburn will be Dew Drop Flowers.

Miele, the production's Cavalier, was born and raised in Windham, Maine, where he began his formal training at the Maine State Ballet from his father Jonathan, a Broadway veteran, and his mother Linda, the youngest dancer ever to be accepted into the New York City Ballet Company at age 13.

He has studied professionally with John Gardner, Amanda McKerrow, John Seyla from

Please see NUTCRACKER, Page C7

WEEKEND

The Times-News Opinion pages — a community forum

Third 'Lord of the Rings' movie shows on area screens Wednesday

New to the valley

• "Lord of the Rings: The Return of the King" — With "The Lord of the Rings: The Two Towers" and "The Lord of the Rings: The Fellowship of the Ring," Peter Jackson delivers a decent ending to his fantasy trilogy — actually, about 12 endings. Unable to settle on a finale among the many farewells and epilogues in J.R.R. Tolkien's text, director Jackson decided to use them all. The result is an endless parade of false endings that will give you a great lower back workout as you rise from your theater seat thinking things are finally over, then settle back in for the next prolonged addendum. This is the main flaw to an otherwise rousing, action-packed closing chapter that began with 2001's "The Fellowship of the Ring" and continued with last year's "The Two Towers." The nine-hour theatrical epic winds up petering out in anti-climactic torpor. PG-13



Actor Viggo Mortensen is shown in his role of Aragorn. Aragorn is a reluctant hero who helps defeat the ancient evil of Sauron in New Line Cinema's 'Lord of the Rings' trilogy.

• "Love Don't Cost a Thing" — Nick Cannon stars in this update of the 1987 romantic teen comedy "Can't Buy Me Love," in which an uncool kid cuts a deal with a popular girl to act as his date. With Christina Milian. Directed by Troy Beyer. (PG-13, for sexual content/humor).

• "Masked and Anonymous" — Something-is-happening-in-this-surprisingly funny Bob Dylan vanity project directed by Seinfeld alum Larry Charles, but it's never quite clear what it is. Dylan sings great and acts poorly as gnomish folk-singer Jack Fate, surrounded by a star-studded cast including John Goodman, Luke Wilson, Jessica Lange, Jeff Bridges and Penelope Cruz. Before viewing, attaining a Ph. D. in Dylanology is recommended, if not required. PG-13 (Profanity, violence, willful incoherence) — Dan DeLuca.

• "Something's Got to Give" — Jack Nicholson and Diane Keaton team-up in this romantic-comedy about an old rogue who falls for the mother of his latest youthful conquest. With Keanu Reeves, Frances McDormand, Amanda Peet and Jon Favreau. Written and directed by Nancy Meyers. (PG-13, for sexual content, brief nudity and strong language.)

• "Stuck on You" — Damon and Greg Kinnear star as conjoined twin brothers who face life apart once they are separated in this Farrelly brothers' comedy. With Eva Mendes, Seymour Cassel and Cheri. (PG-13, for crude and sexual humor and some language.)

• "Sylvia" — Director Christine Jeffs' chronicle of the poet Sylvia Plath, played by Gwyneth Paltrow as a glowing meteor doomed to vaporize in earth's atmosphere. With Daniel Craig as Plath's husband Ted Hughes. R (nudity, sex, profanity, suicide) — Carrie Rickey.

Continuing

• "Bad Santa" — Directed by Terry Zwigoff, who did such great work with the teen misfits of 2000's "Ghost World," this black comedy has moments of inspired impertinence, but the unpleasantness of its title character (Billy Bob Thornton) spills over to the film as a whole. R (crude language, strong sexual content, some violence)

• "Brother Bear" — With top-notch (traditional) cartooning talent and a script laced with jokes that parents and guardians can chuckle at, Disney's "Brother Bear" is a solid entry in the family film fare category — a generally upbeat and engaging tale of friendship and understanding. G (mild violence)

• "Dr. Seuss' Cat in the Hat" — The studio production kit says that "Dr. Seuss' The Cat in the Hat" runs 73 minutes. What it doesn't say is that one cat-in-the-hat minute equals a dog year. This is not "The Cat in the Hat." This is kitty litter. PG (crude humor, double entendres)

• "Eli" — An enjoyably goofy Yuletide tale, "Eli" follows Will Ferrell in yellow tights as he leaves Santa's workshop at the North Pole to go looking for his biological father (James Caan) in New York — braving the Candy Cane Forest, the Sugar Plum Valley and the Lincoln Tunnel to get there. PG (profanity, cartoon violence)

• "Gothika" — Hyper-rational criminal psychologist Halle Berry thinks she's delusional: She sees undead people in this unnerving thriller from Mathieu Kassovitz that suffers from a weak third act. R (violence, profanity, nudity)

• "The Haunted Mansion" — Eddie Murphy stars in a diverting but formulaic film about a family trapped overnight in a spooky Southern chateau. Based on one of Disney's theme park rides, it's kid-approved. PG (gentle scares)

• "Honey" — As sweet and undemanding as its name, the movie goes down smooth and simple. Given the nominally gritty urban music world it takes place in, that's a reality-defying accomplishment of a classically Hollywood kind. Set in a pleasingly sanitized South Bronx that has more warm-hearted huggers than cold-blooded muggers, this is an Andy Hardy hip-hop movie, a genial young person's fantasy earnestly dedicated to the proposition that "finding something that makes you happy is a million times better than finding something that makes you rich." Echoing everything from "Fame" to "Flashdance," it stars Jessica Alba of TV's "Dark Angel" as a young woman who's gotta follow

her dream and dance, dance, dance. Directed by Bill

Please see MOVIES, Page C7

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WEEKEND

St. Benedicts group hosts Festival of Wreaths

HOLIDAY EVENTS

Today and Saturday

St. Benedict's Foundation will present its 2003 Festival of Wreaths at the old Ridley's store on West Main Street in Jerome. Hours are 10 a.m.-7 p.m. today and 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Saturday. The Jerome Chamber of Commerce Holiday Home Tour Live Auction will be held starting at 6 p.m. on Saturday at the festival site. Admission to the festival is \$5 for adults, \$4 for seniors and \$1 a kids 6 and under.

Today and Saturday

The Blaine County Festival of Trees will be held at the mezzanine Theater in Korchum. The opening gala is scheduled tonight from 7:10 p.m.; tickets are \$20 per person or \$30 per couple. Decorated trees will be display today from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. and Saturday from 1-6 p.m.

Saturday

The Buhl Light Parade rolls through Buhl at 7 p.m., followed by caroling by the West End Singers at the Eighth Street Center.

Sunday

The third Christmas in City Park concert of the Advent season will be held at 5 p.m. in Twin Falls City Park, with music by the Magic Valley Carolers, under the direction of Roger Vincent. Free.



cial admission and \$3 for senior citizens and students, are available at Welch Music and the CSI Bookstore in Twin Falls, at Arlene's Flowers in Jerome or at the door.

Monday

The Eugene, Ore., Ballet will perform Tchaikovsky's "The Nutcracker" at 7:30 p.m. in the College of Southern Idaho Fine Arts Center auditorium, Twin Falls. Tickets, which are \$18 for adults and \$10 for students and children, are available at Everybody's Business, Mart's Pharmacy and Hallmark, Crowley's Old Time Soda Fountain, the CSI Community Education Center and the Magic Valley Arts Council office in Twin Falls; at Sav-Mor Drug in Buhl; Arlene's Flowers in Jerome and at CSI Outreach Centers in Burley and Gooding.

Dec. 20

A Christmas dance will be held at 8:30 p.m. at the Marsh Creek Event Centre, 899 S. Highway 77, Albion. The band will be The Bronsons. Cover charge is \$5; must be 21 to attend.

tonight and Sunday and \$12.50 on Saturday. For reservations and information, call (800) 821-1103.

Tonight and Saturday

Exit 69 will play from 9 p.m. to 1 a.m. at Honker's Place, 121 Fourth Ave. S., Twin Falls. Cover charge is \$4.

Saturday

Rocking Horse will play from 9 p.m. to 1 a.m. at The Oasis, 1007 Blue Lakes Blvd. N., Twin Falls. No cover charge.

Dec. 19 - Utah

Sevendust will play Brick's in Salt Lake City at 6:15 p.m. Tickets, which are \$19, can be reserved by phoning Smith's Tix at (800) 888-TDXX or online at <http://www.smithstix.com>. Brick's is located at 579 West 200 South.

Dec. 20 - Utah

Rancid, Tiger Army and F-Minus will perform at the Utah State Fairpark in Salt Lake City at 6 p.m. Tickets, which are \$16.50, can be reserved by phoning Smith's Tix at (800) 888-TDXX or online at <http://www.smithstix.com>. The Utah State Fairpark is located at 155 North 1000 West.

Feb. 3 - Boise

Victor Wooten will perform at the Big Easy Concert House at 8 p.m. Tickets, which are \$18.50, can be reserved by phoning (800) 965-4827, online at <http://www.ticketweb.com>, or at Atkinson's Market in Korchum. The Big Easy Concert House is located at 416 S. Ninth St.

COUNTRY MUSIC

Tonight and Saturday

Pure Country will play from 9 p.m. to 1 a.m. at TJ's Lounge, 112 Broadway Ave. S., Buhl. No cover charge.

Tonight and Saturday


Country Classics will play from 9 p.m. to 1 a.m. at Montana Steakhouse, 1826 Canyon Crest Drive, Twin Falls. No cover charge.

Saturday

Mixed Emotions will play from 8:30 p.m. to 12:30 a.m. at George K's East Restaurant and Lounge, 325 E. Third N., Burley. No cover charge.

Please see EVENTS, Page C4

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DANCE

Tonight

The Snake River Elks Lodge will host a dance at 8 p.m. at the lodge, 406 E. 200 S., Jerome. Music will be provided by The Echos. A \$5 donation is suggested. "Dinner" also will be available in the restaurant. For more information, call 324-0200.

Tonight and Saturday

Jennifer Sager and Centre Stage Ballet Company will present their 15th annual production of Tchaikovsky's "The Nutcracker" at 7:30 p.m. tonight and 2 p.m. on Saturday at the King Fine Arts Center, Burley. The cost is \$8 for general seating and \$10 and \$12 for reserved seating. Call 436-6484 for reservations.

Tonight, Saturday, Sunday, Wednesday and Thursday - Utah

Ballet West will dance Tchaikovsky's "The Nutcracker" at 7 p.m. tonight, Saturday, Wednesday and Thursday and at 2 p.m. on Saturday and Sunday in Salt Lake City's Capitol Theater. Tickets, which range from \$10 to \$55, can be reserved by phoning Art Tix at (801) 355-2787. Capitol Theater is located at 50 West 200 South. The production continues through Dec. 31.

Saturday and Sunday

The Magic Valley Chorale will present Handel's "Messiah" at 8 p.m. on Saturday and 3 p.m. on Sunday, College of Southern Idaho Fine Arts Center auditorium, Twin Falls. Tickets, which are \$5 for gen-

ROCK 'N' ROLL

Tonight, Saturday and Sunday

Bill Haley's Comets will do two shows a night at Cactus Petes Resort Casino in Jackpot. Prices for the 8 p.m. dinner show start at \$14.99 tonight and Sunday and \$19.99 on Saturday. Tickets for the 11 p.m. cocktail show are \$10

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WEEKEND

Events

Continued from C5

Saturday
The Fugitives will play from 9 p.m. to 1 a.m. at Shakers, 826 Highway 81, Declo. No cover charge.

Wednesday

through Dec. 21
Baillie and the Boys will do two shows a night at Cactus Petes Resort Casino in Jackpot. Prices for the 8 p.m. dinner show start at \$14.99 on weeknights and Sundays and \$19.99 on Saturdays. Tickets for the 11 p.m. cocktail show are \$10 on weeknights and Sunday and \$12.50 on Saturdays. For reservations, call (800) 821-1103.

Dec. 30-31

Lee Greenwood will do two shows a night, at 8 p.m. and 11 p.m., at Cactus Petes Resort Casino in Jackpot. Ticket prices start at \$30. For reservation and information, call (800) 821-1103.

Jan. 25 - Boise

Riders in the Sky will play the Morrison Center on the campus of Boise State University at 3 p.m. Tickets, which are \$15 and \$20, can be reserved by phoning Select A Seat at (208) 426-1494 or online at <http://www.idahotickets.com>

Feb. 6 - Boise

Tony Furtado will play the Big Easy Concert House at 8 p.m. Tickets, which are \$10, can be reserved by phoning (800) 965-4827, online at <http://www.wreck-etweb.com>, or at Atkinson's Market in Ketchum. The Big Easy Concert House is located at 416 S. Ninth St.

Dec. 20 - Utah

Naughtly by Nature will play Teazer's Sports Bar and Grill in Ogden at 10 p.m. Tickets, which are \$20, can be reserved by phoning Smith's at (800) 888-TXXX and online at <http://www.smithstix.com>. Teazer's Sports Bar and Grill is located 367 36th St.

CLASSICAL MUSIC

Tonight

Jenisha Cox will perform her Boise State University senior piano/vocal recital at 6:30 p.m. in the choir room of the College of Southern Idaho Fine Arts Center. Free.

Sunday

Students in the College of Southern Idaho Music Department will perform their Honors Recital at 2 p.m. in the Fine Arts Center auditorium, Twin Falls. This recital is open to the public with a suggested donation of \$3 per person to go to the CSI Music Scholarship Fund.

Sunday - Utah

Utah Symphony will perform "The Messiah Sing-in at the Tabernacle" in Salt Lake City's Temple Square at 7 p.m. Tickets, which are \$6 and \$13, can be reserved by phoning Smith's at (800) 888-TXXX or online at <http://www.smithstix.com>.

Jan. 9-10 - Utah

Utah Symphony will perform Dvorak's "Concerto for Violoncello and Orchestra," 8 p.m. on Jan. 9 and 2 p.m. on Jan. 10, in Salt Lake City.

City's Abravanel Hall. Tickets, which are \$24, \$28, \$36 and \$40, can be reserved by phoning ArtTix at (801) 355-2787. Abravanel Hall is located at 123 West South Temple.

Jan. 15 - Utah

Utah Symphony will perform a program of baroque and new-veau baroque music at 7:30 p.m. in Gardner Hall on the campus of the University of Utah in Salt Lake City. Tickets, which are \$27, can be reserved by phoning ArtTix at (801) 355-2787.

Jan. 30-31 - Utah

Utah Symphony will perform Beethoven's Seventh Symphony at 8 p.m. nightly in Salt Lake City's Abravanel Hall. Tickets, which are \$16 to \$40, can be reserved by phoning ArtTix at (801) 355-2787. Abravanel Hall is located at 123 West South Temple.

Feb. 6-7 - Utah

Utah Symphony will perform a program of Strauss and Brahms at 8 p.m. nightly in Salt Lake City's Abravanel Hall. Tickets, which range from \$16 to \$40, are available at the door. Abravanel Hall is located at 123 West South Temple.

Please see CALENDAR, Page C5

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WEEKEND

Calendar

Continued from C4

OPERA

Jan. 17, 19, 21, 23 and 25
Utah Opera will sing Engelbert Humperdinck's "Hansel & Gretel," at 7:30 p.m. on Jan. 17, 19, 21 and 23 and at 2 p.m. on Jan. 25, in Salt Lake City's Capitol Theater. Tickets, which are \$12 to \$55, can be reserved by phoning ArtTix at (801) 355-2787. The Capitol Theater is located at 50 West 200 South.

MISCELLANEOUS

Tonight

Brian Farnon and the Twin Falls Centennial Orchestra will perform at 7:30 p.m. at the Radio Rodeo Events Center, Twin Falls. Tickets, which are \$5, are available at the door. The Radio Rodeo is located at 241 Main Ave. W., 736-4282.

Saturday

Bob Nora Band will play from 9 p.m. to 1 a.m. at Mr. Bill's, 101 N. Alder, Jerome. No cover charge.

Wednesday

Bob Nora Band will play from 9 p.m. to midnight at The Oaks, 1007 Blue Lakes Blvd. N., Twin Falls. No cover charge.

Thursday

DJ night with Markus from Z103 will be featured from 9 p.m. to 1 a.m. at Honker's Place, 121 Fourth Ave. S., Twin Falls. No cover charge.

Dec. 19

Darkwood Consort, a clarinet/violin chamber duo, will perform at 8 p.m. at the Eighth Street-Center-in-Buhl-a-concert that will include dessert. Tickets, which are \$30, are available at the Eighth Center or by phoning 543-2888.

Dec. 19-20 - Utah

Peter Schickel will perform a holiday concert with the Utah Symphony at 8 p.m. nightly in Salt Lake City's Abravanel Hall. Tickets, which are \$22, \$29, \$36 and \$45,

can be reserved by phoning ArtTix at (801) 355-2787. Abravanel Hall is located at 123 W. South Temple.

Dec. 31

The Twin Falls Centennial Commission will host a New Year's Eve Gala, 7 p.m. until after midnight at the Magic Valley Mall, featuring three musical venues, plus fireworks, games, fun, food and merchandise sales. Advance tickets will be \$12 for adults, \$10 for students and seniors or \$35 for families of up to five; tickets at the door are \$15. They cover admission, food and activities, but not alcohol. Tickets are available at all First Federal Savings Bank branches, at all Twin Falls Wells Fargo bank locations, at The Happy Camper, Closs Office Supply, Everybody's Business and the College of Southern Idaho Bookstore, Blip Printers and the Twin Falls Centennial office in Twin Falls and at Rosebuds in Jerome.

Jan. 9

New Hollywood String Quartet will perform at the Presbyterian Church of the Bigwood in Ketchum at 7:30 p.m., the second Sun Valley Center for the Arts Chamber Artist Series event of the season. Tickets, which are \$25, are available at the door or by phoning (208) 726-9491, Ext. 10.

KARAOKE

Tonight

Karaoke will be featured from 8:30 p.m. to 12:30 a.m. at Garibaldi's, 113 Broadway Ave. S., Buhl. No cover charge.

Tonight

High Mountain Karaoke will be featured from 9 p.m. to 1 a.m. at Shakers, 826 Highway 81, Declo. No cover charge.

Tuesday

Kroakers Karaoke will be featured from 9 p.m. to 1 a.m. at Honker's Place, 121 Fourth Ave. S., Twin Falls. No cover charge.

Tuesday

Kroakers Karaoke will be featured from 9 p.m. to 1 a.m. at Honker's Place, 121 Fourth Ave. S., Twin Falls. No cover charge.

Tuesday

Kroakers Karaoke will be featured from 9 p.m. to 1 a.m. at Honker's Place, 121 Fourth Ave. S., Twin Falls. No cover charge.

cover charge.

Tonight

Kroakers Karaoke will be featured from 9 p.m. to 1 a.m. at the Melody, 502 Sixth St., Rupert, and from 9 p.m. to 1 a.m. at Cheers, 163 West U.S. Highway 30, Burley.

Tonight, Saturday and Sunday

Karaoke with Rabid Dog Entertainment will be featured from 8:30 p.m. to 12:30 a.m. at the Pioneer Club, 1519 Kimberly Road, Twin Falls. No cover charge.

Saturday

Karaoke will be featured from 8 p.m. to midnight at the Sagebrush Lounge, 325 Main St., Hazelton. Singers can bring their own CD's for karaoke. No cover charge.

Saturday and Thursday

Karaoke will be featured from 8 p.m. to midnight at the 610 Club, 1054 Overland Ave., Burley.

Saturday

Kroakers Karaoke will be featured from 8:30 p.m. to 12:30 a.m. at the Driif Inn, 545 F St., Rupert, and from 9 p.m. to 1 a.m. at the Big Kahuna, 9 E. Main, Declo.

Monday

Karaoke will be featured at 7 p.m. at the Schubert Theater, 402 Main St., Gooding.

Tuesday

Karaoke will be featured from 9 p.m. to 1 a.m. at Honker's Place, 121 Fourth Ave. S., Twin Falls. No cover charge.

Tuesday

Kroakers Karaoke will be featured from 9 p.m. to 1 a.m. at Honker's Place, 121 Fourth Ave. S., Twin Falls. No cover charge.

Tuesday

Kroakers Karaoke will be featured from 9 p.m. to 1 a.m. at Honker's Place, 121 Fourth Ave. S., Twin Falls. No cover charge.

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WEEKEND

Spotlight

Continued from C5
 started from 9 p.m. to 1 a.m. at the George K's East Restaurant, 325 E. Third N., Burley.

Tuesday through Saturday

Karaoke will be featured from 8 p.m. to 1 a.m. at the Klover Klub, 402 Main N., Twin Falls.

Wednesday

Kraakers Karaoke will be featured from 9 p.m. to 1 a.m. at the Office Lounge, 118 E. Idaho St., Paul.

Wednesday and Thursday

P & D Karaoke will be featured from 9 p.m. to 1 a.m. at Montana Steakhouses, 1826 Canyon Crest Drive, Twin Falls. No cover charge.

Thursday

Karaoke will be featured from 9 p.m. to 1 a.m. at The Oasis, 1007 Lake Lakes Blvd. N., Twin Falls. No cover charge.

Thursday

Kraakers Karaoke will be featured from 9 p.m. to 1 a.m. at the Riverside, 197 W. Highway 30, Burley.

COMEDY

Saturday

Comedians Harold Gomez and Dee Erasmussen will perform at 8 p.m. at the Schubert Theater in Gooding. Tickets, which are \$5, are available at the door.

Jan. 23 - Idaho Falls

Second City will play the Colonial Theater at 8 p.m. Tickets, which are \$18, can be reserved by phoning (208) 722-0171. The Colonial Theater is located at 489 "A" St.

T.H.E.A.T.E.R

Tonight and Saturday

The College of Southern Idaho Theater Department will present "A Christmas Gift," 8 p.m. nightly, Room 118, CSI Fine Arts Center. Tickets are \$6 for general admission and \$4 for students and senior citizens. Tickets may be purchased between 1 and 4 p.m. today at the Fine Arts box office (west entrance of building) and between 8 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. at the CSI bookstore or by calling 732-6788.

Tonight and Saturday

St. Thomas Playhouse will present "The Tragicomic Christmas of Ned Riddle Hood," 7 p.m. nightly, St. Thomas Episcopal Church, Sun Valley. Tickets, which are \$10 for adults and \$4 for kids 18 and under, are available at the door.

Tonight and Saturday

- Elko, Nev.

The Great Basin College Theater Program will present Charles Dickens' "A Christmas Carol" at 7 p.m. nightly in the Western Follide Center's G Three Bar Theater at Fifth and Railroad streets. A matinee will be held at 2 p.m. Saturday. Admission is \$5 per person or \$15 for families.

Tonight, Saturday,

Wednesday

and Thursday

Company of Fools will present its musical theater production of O. Henry's "The Gift of the Magi," at 7 p.m. tonight, Saturday, Wednesday and Thursday and 2 p.m. on Sunday in the Liberty Theater, Halley. Tickets, which are \$12, are available by phoning 578-9122 or online at <http://www.ticketweb.com>. The production continues through Dec. 21.

Jan 22-24, 29-31

The Friends of CSI Players will present David Auburn's "Frost" 7 p.m., Lamphouse Theater, Twin Falls. Tickets, which are \$8 in advance and \$10 at the door, are available at the Lamphouse Theater, the College of Southern Idaho Community Education Center or by phoning 732-6288.

Jan. 27-29 - Boise

The national tour of David DaSilva's musical version of "Fame" will play the Morrison Center on the

campus of Boise State University at 8 p.m. nightly. Tickets, which are \$25, \$38.50 and \$46, can be reserved by phoning Select A Seat at (208) 426-1494 or line at <http://www.idahotickets.com>.

Jan. 29-31

Magic Valley School for the Performing Arts will present Gene DePaul and Johnny Mercer's "Seven Brides for Seven Brothers" in dinner theater at 7 p.m. nightly at the Twin Falls Reformed Church. Tickets are \$13.50, which includes dinner catered by Outback Steakhouse. There's also a matinee scheduled for 3 p.m. on Jan. 29; tickets are \$6 for adults and \$3 for children. The Twin Falls Reformed Church is located at 1631 Grandview Blvd. N.

Herrett Center for Arts and Science on the campus of the College of Southern Idaho in Twin Falls will present "The Christmas Star" at 7 p.m. today, Saturday and Tuesday along with a matinee at 2 p.m. Saturday. Another attraction is "Steamrolling Through the Holidays" at 8:15 p.m. today, Saturday and Tuesday. "The Search for Life" will be shown at 4 p.m. Saturday. Tickets, which are \$4 for adults, \$3 for senior citizens 60 and over, \$2 for students and \$9 for families, are available at the door. Children 4 and under are not admitted. Afternoon shows are \$1.

ART SHOW

Through Jan. 9

The Sun Valley Center for the Arts will present a new exhibition, "At the Edge of Science." Through drawings, video and cameraless photography, nine nationally known and emerging artists explore the cosmos and examine

the relationship among chance, causality and the laws of nature. Gallery hours are Mondays through Fridays from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., and admission is free. The Sun Valley Center is located at 191 Fifth St. E. in Ketchum.

Through Jan. 29

"Retro Steel," a retrospective of the work of Twin Falls artist LaVar Steel, will be on display in the Jean B. King Gallery at the Herrett Center for Arts and Science on the campus of the College of Southern Idaho in Twin Falls. Gallery hours are Tuesdays and Fridays from 9:30 a.m. to 9 p.m., from 9:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. on Wednesdays and Thursdays, and from 1-9 p.m. on Saturdays. Admission is free.

Through Jan. 31

Holiday-themed art and the work of sculptor Yvonne Jacques will be on display at the Magic Valley Arts Council office, 132 Main Ave. S., Twin Falls. Free.

PLANETARIUM

Tonight, Saturday

and Tuesday

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WEEKEND

Movies

Continued from C2
Woodruff. With Joy Bryant, Lonette McKee, Melchi Pfuler and Danu Moscow...

"The Last Samurai" - A U.S. Army officer (Tom Cruise), who is hired by the emperor of Japan to train soldiers in modern warfare...

"Looney Tunes: Back in Action" - Enlivened by spy jobs and almost enough unbridled movie love to plug the plot holes, Joe-Dante's movie signals a distinct improvement over the dreary synergy of "Space Jam"...

There's more - Steve Martin and the glorious Joan Cusack included - but mostly there are just gags, most of which seem pitched to the boomers and post-boomers who will presumably be escorting the film's youngest fans to matinees...

"Lost in Translation" - Sofia Coppola's dreamy film about jet-lagged American sleepless in Shinjuku, Tokyo's business district. Bill Murray is inebriated moving as an actor at his midlife crisis who connects with Scarlett Johansson, a newlywed adrift while her hus-

Nutcracker

Continued from C1
American Ballet Theatre-Larry Lav Horn from the Minnesota Ballet, Beverly Love from the Royal Academy of Canada and Adam Luders from the Royal Danish Ballet...

What's playing

Starts today
Twin Falls

Twin Cinema
"Bad Santa"
"Brother Bear"
"Dr. Seuss' Cat in the Hat"
"Elf"
"Haunted Mansion"
"Honey"
"Looney Tunes: Back in Action"
"Lord of the Rings: Return of the King" (starts Wednesday)
"The Missing"
"The Missing"
"Radio"
"Something's Got to Give"
"Stuck on You"
"Timeline"

Burley
Odyssey Theater
"Gothika"
"The Last Samurai"
"Love Actually"
"Love Don't Cost a Thing"
"The Matrix Revolutions"

Lamphouse Theater
"Masked and Anonymous"
"Veronica Guerin"

The Orpheum
"Master and Commander"

Halley/Ketchum/Sun Valley
Magic Lantern
"Bad Santa"

Jerome
Jerome Cinema
"Dr. Seuss' Cat in the Hat"
"Haunted Mansion"
"Lord of the Rings: Return of the King" (starts Wednesday)
"The Missing"
"Stuck on You"

band is off an assignment. R (lap dancing, sexual candor)
"Love Actually" - Given its status as an elaborate holiday concoction, it's simplest to think of this movie as a box of fine chocolates filled with a variety of contents...

press material can't manage to list them all. It's got a fine cast, including such known quantities as Hugh Grant, Emma Thompson, Alan Rickman, Colin Firth, Laura Linney and Liam Neeson, but best of all it's got Richard Curtis...
"Master and Commander" - Directed by Peter Weir from a script he cowrote with John Collee, the film intends to be an intelligent epic, but it's the epic qualities more than the intelligence that holds us. While Russell Crowe is the rare heroic actor who

can handle any kind of psychologically complex role, he's not really called on to do that here, playing an 18th century sea captain. That the film succeeds despite a relative lack of depth and emotional involvement shows how powerfully effective it is in doing what it does best, recreating an extended mythical duel between Aubrey's HMS Surprise and the French (changed from the American in the original novel) privateer Achéron. Based on two of the 20 novels written by Patrick O'Brian in a series called the Aubrey-Maturin novels after the captain and his best friend and shipmate Dr. Stephen Maturin (played by Paul Bettany)...

"The Matrix Revolutions" - The Wachowski Brothers bring their epic cybertrilogy to a close with a crash and a whimper as the great battle of Zion is fought, the Oracle cracks wise and bakes cookies, and Keanu Reeves' Neo is stuck in limbo trying to figure out how to deal with that sinister, sneering Agent Smith dude...

"Radio" - Cuba Gooding Jr. and Ed Harris star in the "inspired by a true story" tale of a good-hearted, mentally challenged town character and the noble high school football coach who befriends him: PG (profanity, adult themes)
"Timeline" - Easily the best "Dude, Where's My Century?" flick since "Bill & Ted's Excellent Adventure"... Archaeologists - get faxed to the 14th century to rescue an associate and discover that, despite their degrees, they

know surprisingly little about their subject. PG-13 (medieval battle, profanity)
"Veronica Guerin" - Cate Blanchett takes the title role in this slick biopic of the Irish news-paperwoman who risked her life exposing drug kingpins. The Joel Schumacher-directed pic is full of pumped-up emotion and the kind of dramatic confrontations that Hollywood lives for: R (violence, profanity, drugs)

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Jack and Diane
Something's Gotta Give
PG-13 JACK'S BACK, AND WE'VE GOT HIM
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LOVE DON'T COST A THING
PG-13 NICK CANNON CHRISTINA MILIAN
Now at the Odyssey 6 Theatre

"Brothers Stick Together."
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stuck on you
PG-13 A Farrelly Outrageous New Comedy
Now at the Twin & Jerome Cinema

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Fri - Sun 10:00 - 4:00 - 6:45 - 9:30
Looney Tunes (M) Daily 7:00 - 9:30
Fri - Sun 12:30 - 2:45 - 5:00 - 7:00 - 9:30
Bad Santa (M) Daily 7:00 - 9:30
Fri - Sun 12:30 - 2:45 - 5:00 - 7:00 - 9:30
Timeline (M) Daily 7:30 - 9:45
Fri - Sun 12:15 - 2:30 - 4:45 - 7:30 - 9:45
Disney's Haunted Mansion (PG) Daily 7:30 - 9:45
Fri - Sun 12:15 - 2:30 - 4:45 - 7:30 - 9:45
Honey (M) Daily 7:40 - 9:50
Fri - Sun 12:30 - 2:45 - 5:00 - 7:40 - 9:50
Radio (M) Daily 7:30 - 9:45
Fri - Sun 12:15 - 2:30 - 4:45 - 7:30 - 9:45
Brother Bear (G) Daily 7:15 - 9:30
Fri - Sun 12:00 - 2:15 - 4:30 - 7:15 - 9:30
The Cat in the Hat (M) Daily 7:40 - 9:50
Fri - Sun 12:30 - 2:45 - 5:00 - 7:40 - 9:50
Will Trent (M) Daily 7:00 - 9:20
Fri - Sun 12:00 - 2:15 - 4:30 - 7:00 - 9:20
Stuck on You (M) Daily 7:00 - 9:30
Fri - Sun 12:00 - 4:00 - 7:00 - 9:30
Something's Gotta Give (M) Daily 7:00 - 9:30
Fri - Sun 1:00 - 4:00 - 7:00 - 9:30

The ODYSSEY 6
160 Eastwood Valley Mall Fr. 734-2400
Adults \$5.00 before 5:15 pm on Matinees
Love Actually (M) Daily 6:45 - 9:30
Fri - Sun 12:15 - 2:30 - 4:45 - 7:30 - 9:30
The Last Samurai (M)
Showing on 2 Screens
Daily 5:45 - 7:30 - 9:15
Sat - Sun 12:30 - 2:00 - 4:00 - 5:45 - 7:30 - 9:15
Matrix Revolutions (M) 6:45 - 9:30
Fri - Sun 12:15 - 2:30 - 4:45 - 7:30 - 9:30
Gothika (M) Daily 7:00 - 9:15
Fri - Sun 12:30 - 2:40 - 4:50 - 7:00 - 9:15
Love Don't Cost a Thing (M) Daily 7:00 - 9:15
Fri - Sun 12:30 - 2:40 - 4:50 - 7:00 - 9:15

Jerome Cinema
955 West Main Jerome 734-2400
Adults \$4.50 before 5:15 pm on Matinees
The Missing (M) Daily 7:00 - 9:30
Fri - Sun 1:00 - 4:00 - 7:00 - 9:30
Cat in the Hat (PG) Daily 7:15 - 9:30
Fri - Sun 12:30 - 2:45 - 5:00 - 7:15 - 9:30
Radio (M) Daily 7:30 - 9:45
Fri - Sun 12:15 - 2:30 - 4:45 - 7:30 - 9:45
Disney's Haunted Mansion (PG) Daily 7:30 - 9:45
Fri - Sun 12:15 - 2:30 - 4:45 - 7:30 - 9:45

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WEEKEND

CSI Honors Recital takes place on Saturday

The Times-News

TWIN FALLS - Students in the College of Southern Idaho Music Department will perform their Honors Recital at 2 p.m. Saturday, in the Fine Arts Center auditorium.

Professor George Halsell says the recital will feature outstanding music students performing on piano, flute, saxophone, cello, string bass and voice.

Handel will be performed by Jenete Miller, Owen Shelley, Sue Ha, Justin White, Collette Clark, Heidi Walton, Carren Hamilton, Aaron Miller, DJ Clark, Corinne Casperson, Shelli Howell and Ben Dekkar. The performers are students of CSI Music Faculty mem-

bers Carson Wong, Sue Miller, Jo Gerrish, Brent Jensen, Serena Jenkins-Clark, Diane Davis and Larry Goolsby. This recital is open to the public with a suggested donation of \$3 per person to go to the CSI Music Scholarship Fund.

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Auditions for 'Yankees' are Sunday, Monday

The Times-News

TWIN FALLS - Auditions will be held Sunday and Monday for the Dilettantes of the Magic Valley's production of the musical "Damn Yankees."

The cast will be chosen at tryout from 3 to 9 p.m. on Sunday and from 5 to 9 p.m. on Monday at Inmanuel Lutheran School, 2055 Filer Ave. E. Children are asked to come from 3 to 4 p.m. Sunday, and dancers from 4 to 5 p.m. Dec. 14.

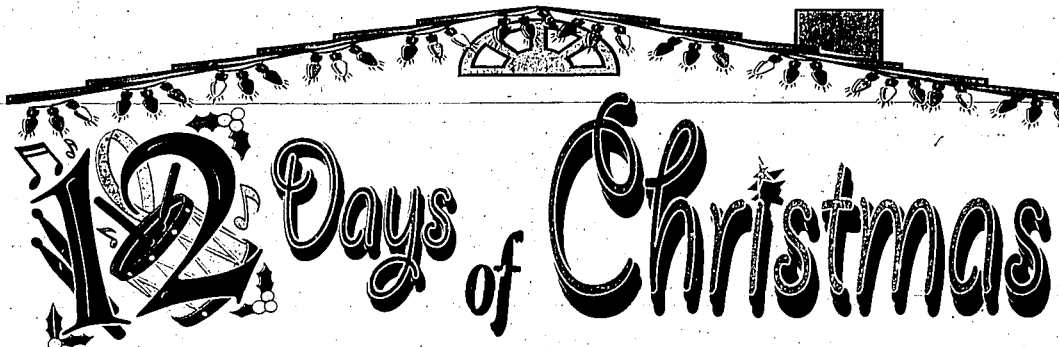
Especially needed are 15 men, 15 women and boys and girls ages 8 to 16. Also needed are at least a dozen male and female dancers.

Those trying out should come prepared to sing a song of their own choice, or one from the show. Familiar musical numbers include "You've Gotta Have Heart," "Showcase Joe from Hamilton," "You and I" and "Whatever Lola Wants." An accompanist will be provided.

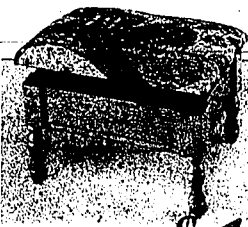
The production is scheduled for March 19-21 and March 25-27 at the College of Southern Idaho Fine Arts Center auditorium.

For more information, call Sharon Warner at 733-7321.

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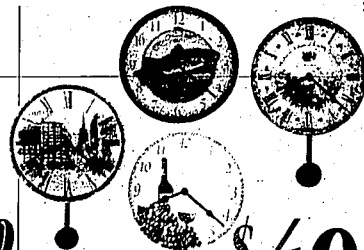
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WEDDING

Jill and Luke Udy

MALTA - Jill Robinson and Luke Udy were married Nov. 26 in the Colonia Juarez, Chihuahua LDS Temple.

A reception to honor the couple will be held from 7 to 9 p.m. Friday, Dec. 12, at the Elba LDS Church.

The bride is the daughter of Russell and Kelly Robinson of Dublin, Mexico. She is attending Brigham Young University, studying marriage, human and family development.

The bridegroom is a 1997 graduate of Raft River High School. He served a mission in the Canada Toronto West LDS Mission. He is currently attending Utah Valley State College majoring in marketing and is employed by Loanology Mortgage.

Blaine tree festival opens

The Times-News

KETCHUM - Blaine County's Festival of Trees kicks off tonight with the opening gala from 7-10 at the nextStage Theater.

Proceeds from the two-day event benefit Blaine County senior citizens. Trees and decorations can be viewed from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. today and Saturday.

In addition, a Teddy Bear Tea, sponsored by First Bank of Idaho, is planned for 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. today at the nextStage. There will also be a Winter Wonderland and a Gingerbread House, from 1-6 p.m. Saturday at the Blaine County Senior Center in Halley.

Tickets to the gala are \$20 per person or \$30 per couple, available at the door.



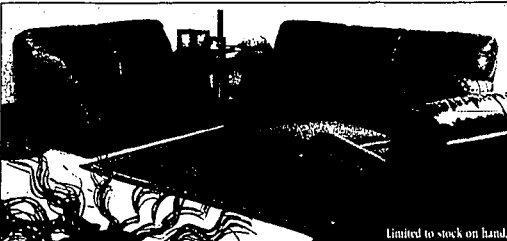
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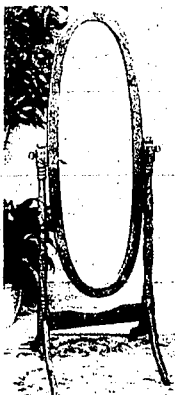


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MORNING LINE

SPORTSQUOTE

You don't know of no great player without confidence.

-Dancer running back Clinton Portis on his perceived cockiness

TRIVIA

QUESTION: Who are the four NBA players who have scored 70 points in a game?

...answer below

TODAY'S SCHEDULE

College basketball
Coca-Cola tournament
 Women, Casper at CSI, 8 p.m.
High school girls basketball
 Valley, Carey, Cole at Murtaugh tournament, TBA
 Lighthouse Christian at Hagerman, 6 p.m.
 Twin Falls at Idaho Falls, 6 p.m.
 Castleford at Hansen, 6 p.m.
 The Community School at Shoshone, 6 p.m.
 Teton at Castleford, 6 p.m.
 M.V. Christian at Rait River, 6 p.m.
 Camas County at I.E. Christian, 6 p.m.
High school boys basketball
 Burley at Twin Falls, 6 p.m.
 Jerome at Buhl, 6 p.m.
 Kimberly at American Falls, 6 p.m.
 Dietrich at Richfield, 6 p.m.
 Filor at Wendell, 6 p.m.
 Community School at Shoshone, 7:30 p.m.
 Gooding at Glens Ferry, 6 p.m.

IN BRIEF

Lions Club holds hoops registration

BURLEY - All fifth and sixth grade boys interested in playing basketball are encouraged to drop by White Pine School's front foyer to register for this year's season. The cost is \$15 per player, or \$5 plus a good used coat, which will go to the Christmas Council's food drive. The Lions Club program is focused around building confidence and commitment in area youth through sports.

Pomerelle resort offers free learn-to-ski day

ALBION - Anyone age seven or older that has never tried skiing or snowboarding is encouraged to come to the Pomerelle Mountain Resort Saturday, Dec. 20 at 9 a.m. for a free equipment rental and 1.5-hour lesson. After the lesson, participants are welcome to spend the rest of the afternoon practicing on the beginner rope tow area with a complementary ticket. Lessons begin at 10:30 a.m. All participants will need to bring valid identification. Please pre-register at 673-5599.

TFHS softball and baseball teams sell fruit

TWIN FALLS - The Twin Falls High baseball and softball teams will sell grapefruits and oranges Saturday at \$15 a 20-pound case or \$27 for one case of each as a fundraiser for the programs. The fruit will be available at the corner of Bluc Lakes Boulevard and Fler Avenue from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. To order ahead, call Wick Baumert at 733-4978 or Mike Federico at 736-8310.

Candleridge course offers golf packages

TWIN FALLS - Candleridge Golf Course is offering all-inclusive golf packages through Dec. 31. Unlimited golf, unlimited range balls and use of an electric cart may be purchased for the 2004 season at rates of \$500 for one person, \$750 per couple and \$1,000 for a family. Call 735-6577 for more information.

Compiled from staff reports

TRIVIA ANSWER:

Elgin Baylor, Wilt Chamberlain (four times), David Robinson, David Thompson.

CSI rolls to 11th straight win

Golden Eagle women outshine NW All-Stars, 89-66

By Kevin Colbert
Times-News writer

TWIN FALLS - The College of Southern-Idaho may not technically have any all-stars on its women's basketball team.

But whatever the Golden Eagles lack in star power they made up for in depth and team play in an 89-66 win over the Northwest All-Stars in the second game of the Coca-Cola Tournament Thursday night at the CSI Gymnasium.

Midland College (Texas) knocked off Casper College (Wyo.) 78-69 in the first contest. CSI plays Casper at 8 p.m. tonight.

Brandi Moore gave maybe her best performance of the season with a team-high 17 points and 10 rebounds to spark CSI (11-1).

"I've been telling Brandi all year that there are certain things she can do to help our team," said CSI head coach Randy Rogers. "She can rebound and score when she gets those rebounds, and post up. She did all of those tonight. I'm really, really proud of her."

Moore scored 14 of her points in the second half - a half where she grabbed five offensive rebounds and converted three of them into points.

Melanie Halauia also finished the evening with a double-double, chipping in with 11 points and 10 rebounds.

Kristen Pool, a former Nevada-Las Vegas player, scored 24 points to lead all scorers for the All-Stars. Deena Baru, a former CSI player who later competed at Montana State-Billings, finished with 21 points and 11 rebounds.

CSI jumped out to an 11-0 lead on the way to a 43-30 advantage at halftime. Halauia scored eight points and grabbed eight rebounds in the first 20 minutes.

The Eagles then led 16-4 before the All-Stars narrowed the gap to 22-18 after Amy Moutat's steal and coast-to-coast layup.

Lenka Zimova, at 6-foot-5, took advantage of the All-Stars inside. Melanie Diane Pearson, 6-1, is the All-Stars' tallest player.

The Eagles outrebounced their opponents 63-35 for the game. The size advantage was especially a factor considering the All-Stars



CSI's Moore (17) celebrates with teammates after a game.

dressed just eight players for the game.

"We knew it was going to be a physical game inside," said All-Stars coach Mary Moutat. "We got in some foul trouble and were playing pretty small at the end. It's tough. They get the ball inside and put pressure on you."

Jordan Eckman provided a spark in the first half for CSI. The freshman guard played just seven minutes, but scored four quick

points midway through the frame. She first struck with a short jumper, then followed that up on the All-Stars' next possession with a steal, drive into the lane and quick hit.

"Jordan will always hustle for you, always try to give you the energy that you need on defense," Rogers said. "Again, offensively, she's getting better and better. She's starting to score a little bit more."

CSI NW All-Stars 89
 Northwest All-Stars (66)
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SCORES AND STATS

SPORTS IN BRIEF

FOOTBALL

2003 NFL Playoff Possibilities

AFC EAST
New England Patriots 11
Buffalo Bills 10
Miami Dolphins 7
New York Jets 6

Basketball

Supernovs at Pistons, ESPN, 6 p.m.
Mavericks at Lakers, ESPN, 8:30 p.m.

Boxing

Friday Night at the Fights, ESPN2, 7 p.m.

Golf

PGA Tour Target World Challenge, second round, USA, 1 p.m.

Rodeo

Wangler National Finals, eighth round, ESPN, 11 p.m.

Soccer

NCAA Division I tournament, semifinal, St. John's vs. Maryland, ESPN2, 3 p.m.

Area ski report

Begin Again - Plan to Open 12/13-14
The area ski season is getting underway...
Ski resorts are reporting good snow conditions...

Burley football team will become 'Santa's helpers'

BURLEY - Coach Scott Pailin and the Burley High School football team are offering their services as Santa's helpers this holiday season.

Williams and sister Venus in the final game

Williams, 21, has won five of the last seven Grand Slam tournaments, beating older sister Venus in the final game.

LSU's Nick Saban wins AP Coach of the Year

NEW YORK - This is one honor LSU coach Nick Saban won't have to share.

Helsman finalists all win awards

LAKE BUENA VISTA, Fla. - Mississippi quarterback Eli Manning was one of four Heisman Trophy finalists to be honored Thursday night.

Boise State downs Idaho State 87-78

POCATELLO - Jermaine Blackburn scored 17 points to lead Boise State to an 87-78 victory over Idaho State Wednesday night.

Tagliabue considers pair of Monday night games

NEW YORK (AP) - NFL owners may be asked to consider the possibility of two Monday night games each week to avoid the recurring problem of meaningless late-season games in the league's showcase telecast.

Seattle agrees to deals with Winn and Franklin

SEATTLE - The Seattle Mariners agreed to multiyear contracts Thursday with two key contributors from last season, switch-hitting outfielder Randy Winn and right-hander Ryan Franklin.

Serena Williams signs with Nike for \$40M

-Serena Williams can start putting a swoosh on the tennis outfit she designs.

College football schedule

Table with columns for Date, Time, and Game details.

College basketball schedule

Table with columns for Date, Time, and Game details.

College basketball scores

Table with columns for Team 1, Team 2, and Score.

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Late Wednesday sums

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Transactions

CHICAGO (AP) - The Chicago Cubs have traded pitcher Ryan Dempster to the Los Angeles Dodgers.

Transactions

NEW YORK (AP) - The New York Yankees have traded pitcher Johan Santana to the Florida Marlins.

Transactions

ST. LOUIS (AP) - The St. Louis Cardinals have traded pitcher Jason Motz to the Pittsburgh Pirates.

Transactions

PHOENIX (AP) - The Arizona Diamondbacks have traded pitcher Matt Stairs to the San Francisco Giants.

Transactions

ATLANTA (AP) - The Atlanta Braves have traded pitcher Tim Lincecum to the Seattle Mariners.

Transactions

MINNEAPOLIS (AP) - The Minnesota Twins have traded pitcher Matt Stairs to the San Francisco Giants.

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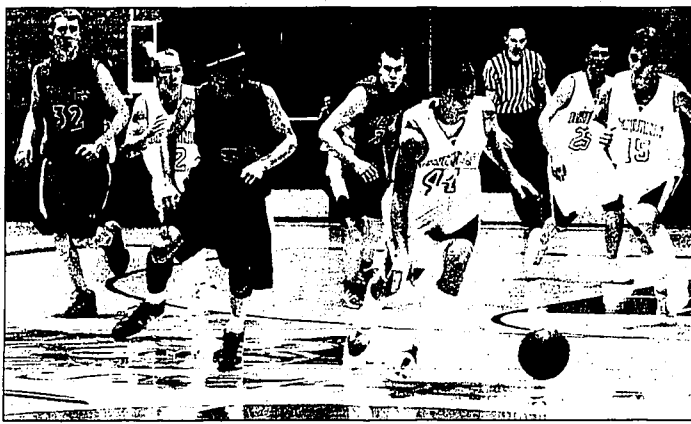
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VARSITY

Bobcats face former coach



In this file photo, Twin Falls' Luc Martin chases after the ball during the Bruins' 88-72 win over the Boise High Braves in Twin Falls Nov. 30.

Battle against Bruins won't be one of mutual admiration

By Eric Larsen
Times-News writer

TWIN FALLS — The familiarity is fading.

A full season removed from former coach Matt Harr leaving Burley to lead the Twin Falls Bruins boys basketball team, the Bobcats and second-year coach Jack Bagley have their own identity. The Bobcat seniors were only sophomores when Harr last coached at Burley and few of them saw varsity action under the former coach.

Make no mistake, Harr's thumbprint is still visible on the Burley hoops program — but it's fading. So don't expect tonight's game at Bruin Gymnasium to be a festival of mutual admiration. Both these teams want a win.

Burley comes in with a 1-1 record after Wednesday's home win over Declo. Senior post Scott Randleklev posted 13 points and six rebounds against the Hornets and will look to continue his strong inside play against the Bruins.

At 6-foot-5, Randleklev leads one of the few area teams that has the size to match up with the Bruins' bruising posts. Grayden Funk, a 6-foot-3 senior wing, complements Randleklev's inside presence with a great touch from the outside.

"Scott is our go-to guy and we need to get him the ball," Bagley said. "Funk is just a tremendous shooter on the outside."

Led by 6-foot-4 senior post Luc Martin, Twin Falls (2-1) is looking to bounce back after Saturday's 70-60 road loss to Boise. Harr has been working his Bruins hard all week after a letdown in intensity against the Braves.

"After the Boise game, I don't care if we score any points, but we're going to play hard. We better after the game Saturday."

Game of the Week



Burley vs. Twin Falls

Harr said, "Disappointed after the loss, Harr is hoping his team will find a tenacious streak against the Bobcats. If they don't, Harr could make some major changes."

"We're solid from our seniors through our freshmen. It's good because there's no position that's safe here," Harr said. "I think Saturday was a definite wakeup call for both the coaches and players."

With that motivation, the Bruins should come out fired up against Burley. If Martin can work his magic in the post and sharp-shooting junior twins Mike and Mitch Smith get their jumpers to fall, it could be along night for the Bobcats.

"Once we figure out how our inside and outside games complement each other, we'll be pretty good," Harr said.

For the Bruins, solid defense will be key. "It's all going to be about defensive for us because they have such tremendous shooters and post players that can really score," Bagley said.

"If you concentrate too much on the posts, their guards will kill you."

Community School at Shoshone

Coming off 71 and 92-point performances, Ketchum's Community School Cutthroats (3-1), hope to continue their hot shooting at Shoshone (1-2) tonight. After a tough loss to a 2-0 Hagerman boys hoops team Wednesday, coach Larry Messick is looking for his team to bounce back and slow the Cutthroat offense. If the Indians can control the pace and keep the score under 50, they could even their record to 2-2. However, if the Cutthroats can handle the Indian defense and successfully break the press, this one could turn into another Community School track meet.

Glenns Ferry at Filer

The new-look Wildcats host a quick Glenns Ferry team in Saturday's non-conference boys basketball game. While Filer has a size advantage over the smaller Pilots team, experience is at a premium after last year's graduation of nine varsity players. Filer senior post Kyle Robinette and 6-foot-3 junior Dan Ramseyer will look to take advantage of their height in the pivot. The two combined for 42 points in Filer's upset against Valley. However, Filer has a tough game at Wendell tonight. Look for the Pilots to come out running, hoping to wear down the Wildcats early.

Girls basketball

The two top Region Four-Five-Six girls basketball teams square off in conference play Saturday night. Lady Bruin junior post Hannah Heidenreich will have her hands full with 5-foot-10 Lady Grizzly senior Ashley Baldwin. With the ability to pound the ball low and drill free-pointers,

Baldwin looks like an early All-State first teamer. The Bruin defense will have a tough task containing Baldwin, but if they can limit their open shots, the Lady Bruins will have a good chance at taking an early lead in the conference standings.

Mountain Home at Jerome

The Jerome Lady Tigers look to keep rolling in Saturday's non-conference home game against Mountain Home. After Jerome's Wednesday night rout of Century, the Tigers are looking stronger than ever. Guards Mallory Meservy and Whitney Clark combined for 36 points against the Diamondbacks, proving that team's can't just focus on shutting down senior posts Elisa Hope and Vanessa West.

While the Tigers are rolling, coach Michelle Skyles doesn't believe her team has played their best yet. Which leaves the question, how good will the Lady Tigers be when they put that great game together?

Wrestling

Burley, Madison, and Minico travel to Rigby Saturday for an early-season, non-conference wrestling meet. Burley 215-pounder Cole Jones will be looking to start the season strong in hopes of improving on last year's fourth place finish at state. With returning state qualifiers, Burley could be the favorite Saturday.

However, Minico has more than just tradition this year. Seniors Gene Hammond and Kevin Killoy qualified for state last year, and freshman Josh Clapier was a freestyle and Greco-Roman state champion at the junior high level.

Wendell's Pope keeps presence around hoop

Player of the Week



Kael Pope
Wendell boys basketball

WENDELL — Forget the 14 points, 12 rebounds, and four blocks per game. Senior center Kael Pope's 6-foot-8 frame gives the Wendell Trojan boys basketball team a weapon few Idaho teams have — a legitimate road-block in the Trojans' full-court press.

Having Kael back there allows us to run around and take chances," sophomore point guard Zac Davis said. "We can go for the ball and know he'll be back there to back us up."

With Pope guarding the basket, the rest of the Trojan lineup can take advantage of their athleticism in a press that has created turnovers and easy baskets for coach Allen Kelsey's team.

"We miss him when he's not out there," Kelsey said. "We usually call off the press when he goes out."

With a summer of practice and hard work in the weight room, along with a state-championship football season, Pope entered the 2003-04 — basketball — season stronger than ever before.

"I knew I had to work out to get stronger and bigger," Pope said. "I wanted to improve all my stats and do everything I could to make the team better."

Coming into the season, Pope had tough decisions to make. He was courted by Southern Utah University, Idaho State University, and Utah State, among others for his skills in both football and basketball. Pope signed a letter of intent to play basketball on scholarship with Southern Utah last week, putting himself on the short list of area basketball players to sign with NCAA Division I schools.

"The first call to get from a college is fun, but you realize they call a lot of players," Pope said. "But when you get the second and third call and learn about the scholarship, that's when it starts to get exciting, when you realize how interested they are in having you play there."

As for the choice between football and basketball, Pope went with his heart.

"I chose basketball because I love the game," said Pope. "Southern Utah had a good atmosphere, the players were the kind of people I want to be acquainted with, and I really liked coach (Bill) Evans."

With his college decision over with, Pope is glad to have one less distraction during his senior basketball season.

Off-court, Pope is the 6-foot-8 baby of a close family. With eight older brothers and sisters, Pope must be a favorite with the phone company.

"I call to all my brothers and sisters very often," Pope said. "I'll call my brothers and sisters and talk for an hour, and when you have eight brothers and sisters, that ends up being eight hours on the phone."

Wendell can continue their run this year and attain their goal of a 2A state championship, the Papes will really have something to talk about. Wipe off your chin, phone company executives.

—Eric Larsen

2003 Idaho Girls Basketball Standings

Class 5A			Class 5A		
Region Four-Five-Six			Region Four-Five-Six		
	Conf	All		Conf	All
Slyline	3	0	6	1	0
Twin Falls	1	0	5	1	1
Highland (Poc)	1	1	3	3	3
Idaho Falls	1	1	1	1	1
Minico	0	2	2	6	6
Pocatello	0	2	1	6	6

Class 4A			Class 4A		
Great Basin			Great Basin		
	Conf	All		Conf	All
Jerome	2	0	8	0	0
Century	0	1	5	3	3
Burley	0	1	2	5	5

Class 3A			Class 3A		
Sawtooth Central Idaho Conference			Sawtooth Central Idaho Conference		
	Conf	All		Conf	All
Gooding	2	0	5	2	2
Wood River	2	0	5	2	2
Declo	1	1	4	3	3
Hansen	0	1	3	6	6
Kimberly	0	1	2	4	4
Gooding	0	3	2	4	4

2003 Idaho Boys Basketball Standings

Class 5A			Class 5A		
Region Four-Five-Six			Region Four-Five-Six		
	Conf	All		Conf	All
Pocatello	0	0	1	0	0
Twin Falls	0	0	2	1	1
Idaho Falls	0	0	2	1	1
Slyline	0	0	1	1	1
Highland (Poc)	0	0	1	1	1
Minico	0	0	1	1	1

Class 4A			Class 4A		
Great Basin			Great Basin		
	Conf	All		Conf	All
Century	0	0	2	2	2
Burley	0	0	1	1	1
Jerome	0	0	0	3	3

Class 3A			Class 3A		
Sawtooth Central Idaho Conference			Sawtooth Central Idaho Conference		
	Conf	All		Conf	All
Buhl	0	0	1	0	0
Declo	0	0	1	1	1
Wood River	0	0	1	1	1
Kimberly	0	0	1	1	1
Filer	0	0	0	0	0
Gooding	0	0	0	0	0

Parry's Power Guide

Idaho High School Boys Basketball Week of Dec. 8-14

By Noland Parry

Team	Rating	11. Rigby	76.2	25. Payette	45.2	35. ISDB	21.3
Class 5A							
1. Centennial	99.8	12. Burley	75.6	26. Gooding	45.1	36. Greenleaf Friends	21.0
2. Timberline	95.4	13. Mountain	75.6	27. Weiser	44.1	37. North Gem	20.9
4. Burah	93.9	14. Emmett	74.8			38. Magic Valley Chr.	19.6
4. Meridian	93.2	15. Caldwell	71.2			39. Clark County	18.9
5. Lewiston	91.5	16. Kuna	65.8			40. Garden Valley	18.7
6. Pocatello	91.0	17. Jerome	58.9			41. Highland	18.2
7. Idaho Falls	88.1	Class 2A					
9. Sleevet	86.7	1. Grace	61.1	4. Carey	42.3	42. Rimrock	16.4
11. Eoale	86.2	2. Malad	60.2	5. Mackay	42.3	43. Bliss	16.2
12. Highland	85.3	3. Ririe	59.8	6. Genesee	42.2	44. T.R. Christian	16.1
13. Twin Falls	83.9	4. Wendell	58.8	7. Raft River	40.1	45. Wilder	13.5
14. Mountain View	83.9	5. Pirth	58.6	8. Neperece	38.8	46. Logan	13.4
15. Capitol	82.4	6. Preston	78.1	9. Kootenai	37.7	47. Camas County	11.5
16. Boise	79.2	7. Shibley	69.8	10. Shoshone	37.4	48. Ledmore	6.3
17. Minico	77.6	8. Snake River	69.5	11. Shoshone	36.6	49. Falls Christian	6.2
18. Coeur d'Alene	76.6	9. Bomers Ferry	63.7	12. Notus	35.6	50. Midvalde	5.7
19. Skyline	74.9	10. Sugarloaf	63.1	13. Cascade	34.4	51. Cambridge	4.6
20. Nampa	71.6	11. Middleton	63.1	14. Hansen	34.4	52. Meadows Valley	1.8
Class 3A							
1. Declo	78.2	12. Salmon	62.0	15. Butte County	30.4	53. Salmor River minus-0.4	1.8
2. Preston	78.1	13. South Fremont	60.2	16. Parma	46.2	54. Lighthouse Christian	1.4
3. Shibley	69.8	14. Kimberly	58.7	17. Kamiah	45.1	55. Lighthouse Christian	1.4
4. Snake River	69.5	15. Priest River	58.0	18. Prairie	44.4	56. Leigos	1.3
5. Fruitland	67.9	16. Filer	57.0	19. Glenns Ferry	44.1	57. Lighthouse Christian	1.3
6. Marsh Valley	65.6	17. Timberlake	56.7	20. McColl-Dunnally	44.0	58. Lighthouse Christian	1.3
7. American Falls	64.7	18. Teton	55.6	21. Challis	42.0	59. Lighthouse Christian	1.3
8. Lakeland	63.7	19. Tetonia	55.2	22. West Jefferson	40.9	60. Lighthouse Christian	1.3
9. Bomers Ferry	63.7	20. Bear Lake	54.8	23. Aberdeen	39.7	61. Lighthouse Christian	1.3
10. Sugarloaf	63.1	21. Priest River	51.9	24. Clearwater Valley	37.9	62. Lighthouse Christian	1.3
11. Middleton	63.1	22. Kelloug	51.9	25. North Fremont	36.6	63. Lighthouse Christian	1.3
12. Salmon	62.0	23. Buhl	51.8	26. Wallace	36.6	64. Lighthouse Christian	1.3
13. South Fremont	60.2	24. St. Maries	51.4	27. Marsing	32.9	65. Lighthouse Christian	1.3
14. Kimberly	58.7	25. Wood River	48.0	28. Orofino	19.2	66. Lighthouse Christian	1.3
15. Priest River	58.0	Class 1A					
16. Filer	57.0	1. Castelfork	51.1	2. Clark Fork	45.5	35. ISDB	21.3
17. Timberlake	56.7	3. Hagerman	44.1	4. Carey	45.0	36. Greenleaf Friends	21.0
18. Teton	55.6	4. Carey	44.1	5. Mackay	42.3	37. North Gem	20.9
19. Tetonia	55.2	5. Pirth	58.6	6. Genesee	42.2	38. Magic Valley Chr.	19.6
20. Bear Lake	54.8	6. Preston	78.1	7. Raft River	40.1	39. Clark County	18.9
21. Kelloug	51.9	7. Shibley	69.8	8. Neperece	38.8	40. Garden Valley	18.7
22. Buhl	51.8	8. Snake River	69.5	9. Kootenai	37.7	41. Highland	18.2
23. Maries	51.4	9. Bomers Ferry	63.7	10. Shoshone	37.4	42. Rimrock	16.4
24. Wood River	48.0	10. Sugarloaf	63.1	11. Shoshone	36.6	43. Bliss	16.2
Class 1A							
1. Castelfork	51.1	12. Notus	35.6	13. Cascade	34.4	44. T.R. Christian	16.1
2. Clark Fork	45.5	13. Cascade	34.4	14. Hansen	34.4	45. Wilder	13.5
3. Hagerman	44.1	14. Hansen	34.4	15. Kootenai	37.7	46. Logan	13.4
4. Carey	44.1	15. Kootenai	37.7	16. Troy	34.0	47. Camas County	11.5
5. Mackay	42.3	16. Troy	34.0	17. Horseshoe Bend	33.9	48. Ledmore	6.3
6. Genesee	42.2	17. Horseshoe Bend	33.9	18. Rockland	33.9	49. Falls Christian	6.2
7. Raft River	40.1	18. Rockland	33.9	19. Shoshone	32.2	50. Midvalde	5.7
8. Neperece	38.8	19. Shoshone	32.2	20. Colo Valley Chr.	32.2	51. Cambridge	4.6
9. Kootenai	37.7	20. Colo Valley Chr.	32.2	21. Cuddese	31.3	52. Meadows Valley	1.8
10. Shoshone	37.4	21. Cuddese	31.3	22. Mountain Cove	30.6	53. Salmor River minus-0.4	1.8
11. Shoshone	36.6	22. Mountain Cove	30.6	23. Richfield	29.2	54. Lighthouse Christian	1.4
12. Notus	35.6	23. Richfield	29.2	24. Kendrick	28.9	55. Lighthouse Christian	1.4
13. Cascade	34.4	24. Kendrick	28.9	25. Mullan	28.9	56. Leigos	1.3
14. Hansen	34.4	25. Mullan	28.9	26. Council	28.6	57. Lighthouse Christian	1.3
15. Kootenai	37.7	26. Council	28.6	27. Timberline	27.4	58. Lighthouse Christian	1.3
16. Troy	34.0	27. Timberline	27.4	28. Artaugh	27.4	59. Lighthouse Christian	1.3
17. Horseshoe Bend	33.9	28. Artaugh	27.4	29. Lakeside	27.0	60. Lighthouse Christian	1.3
18. Rockland	33.9	29. Lakeside	27.0	30. Deary	25.0	61. Lighthouse Christian	1.3
19. Shoshone	32.2	30. Deary	25.0	31. Idaho City	24.6	62. Lighthouse Christian	1.3
20. Colo Valley Chr.	32.2	31. Idaho City	24.6	32. Dietrich	23.7	63. Lighthouse Christian	1.3
21. Cuddese	31.3	32. Diet					

SPORTS

Puzzling 49ers take on Bengals

By Dave Goldberg
Associated Press writer

The Cincinnati Bengals are the NFL's feel-good story this season. The San Francisco 49ers are the most puzzling team: 6-1 at home, 0-6 on the road.

So it's little wonder that the Bengals are favored by three points - the home-field advantage - when the 49ers come to town Sunday.

Considering the disparity between the way San Francisco plays at home and on the road, that spread isn't much.

In six road losses, the 49ers have allowed an average of 27 points. In seven home games, they've outscored the opposition 219-82.

Despite that, San Francisco remains marginally alive for a wild-card playoff berth, although it would have to win its last three games and hope for a lot of help. Two of those games are on the road, which makes the postseason even more unlikely.

The Bengals are still in contention for the AFC North, a game behind Baltimore after their 31-13 loss last week to the Ravens.

"We'll be fine," says Marvin Lewis, a coach of the year contender after taking over a 2-14 team that had been the NFL's laughingstock for a decade. **BENGALS, 27-12.**

Philadelphia (plus 2) at Miami (Monday night)

At least the Dolphins get warm weather this week after losing in the snow in New England. Jay Fiedler, who reinjured his knee last week, says he can play, but he might be limited.

The Eagles are a tiebreaker ahead of the Rams for home-field advantage in the NFC.

EAGLES, 24-22

Seattle (plus 7) at St. Louis

The Seahawks trail the Rams by two games in the AFC West. The Rams are 6-0 at home, Seattle is 1-5 on the road, and the Rams clinch the division with a win.

RAMS, 31-20

Dallas (pick 'em) at Washington

The Cowboys have lost three of four, but Bill Parcells' defense could be a problem for Tim Hasselbeck.

COWBOYS, 20-10

Carolina (minus 6) at Arizona

Yet another shot at the division clincher for the Panthers.

PANTHERS, 20-15

Detroit (plus 14) at Kansas City

Get-well week for the Chiefs; the Lions tie an NFL record with their 2nd straight road loss.

CHIEFS, 21-10

Houston (off) at Tampa Bay

The "off" is for David Carr's injury. Carr is getting better, but ...

BUCCS, 27-13

Baltimore (minus 6) at Oakland

The Ravens beat the Raiders 16-3 in the AFC title game three years ago in Oakland.

RAVENS, 16-3

Atlanta (pick 7.5) at Indianapolis

Win one for Dan? Sorry.

COLTS, 29-20

Minnesota (minus 1.5) at Chicago

The Vikings rarely win outdoors. Rex Grossman, who will start at QB for Chicago.

BEARS, 20-19

Green Bay (minus 5) at San Diego

The Packers still have a shot.

PACKERS, 34-17

Jacksonville (plus 7) at New England

The Patriots haven't allowed a touchdown in their last four home games.

Drew Ledwith has shown promise, but he hasn't seen a Bolichick defense yet.

PATRIOTS, 17-2

Buffalo (plus 6.5) at Tennessee

Pro picks

The Bills are back in form, and Steve McNair is limping again. But ...

TIANS, 22-17

Cleveland (plus 10) at Denver

Not THAT easy.

BRONCOS, 19-13

Pittsburgh (plus 3) at New York Jets

Which team is more disappointing?

STEELERS, 26-20

New York Giants (plus 7.5) at New Orleans

The Giants are playing backups for backups.

SAINTS, 30-7

LAST WEEK: 8-8 (spread); 8-8 (straight up)

OVERALL: 107-81-4 (spread); 118-74 (straight up)

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11 Items Have a Full Manufacturers Warranty! Same Day Installation - Financing Available - 90 days same as cash. We Accept all Major Credit Cards. Expires 12/24/03 at 7:00pm. Limited to stock on hand.

FREE Installation. Does not include extra parts or custom work.
Dash kits, wire harnesses, antenna adapters & remote start bypass modules are extra cost if vehicle requires them for proper installation.

MONEY

Business Editor: Virginia S. Hutchins 733-0931, Ext. 242

Page D-6

Friday, December 12, 2003

The Times-News

BRIEFLY IN MONEY

Delta alters corporate governance policies

ATLANTA - Delta Air Lines' board of directors has implemented a policy that requires shareholder approval for future severance packages for senior executives in some cases.

That change and others announced Thursday are intended to ensure that Atlanta-based Delta's corporate governance policies meet federal and New York Stock Exchange guidelines.

Delta's hub in Salt Lake City is Magic Valley travelers' only direct destination from the Twin Falls airport.

The nation's third-largest airline said its board has adopted a policy that requires shareholder approval for future severance arrangements for executive officers that provide benefits exceeding 2.99 times salary and bonus. The Delta board said it also supports the expensing of stock options, but wants guidance from regulators on a standard valuation method.

Other changes to Delta's corporate governance policy include: establishing independence standards for members of the board; adopting revised corporate governance principles relating to the board's composition, function, structure and responsibilities; and electing a presiding director to chair executive sessions of the board.

The compensation of senior executives at Delta has been a significant issue at the airline for months as it has sought to gain deep wage cuts from pilots.

Earlier this year, it was revealed that a select group of executives had received millions in company payments to a program to protect their pensions.

After the uproar, Delta canceled the final payment to participants of its supplemental executive retirement plan and discontinued the program, which would have been fully funded at \$65 million by next year.

Ameristar claims top spot in riverboat winnings

ST. LOUIS - Ameristar Casinos Inc. bested Harrah's Entertainment Inc. in a fierce marketing battle to claim the top spot among St. Louis-area riverboats last month.

Ameristar's St. Louis property - whose Jackpot, Nev., sister casinos are major Magic Valley employers - won \$22.6 million from gamblers, up 13 percent from a year earlier.

Harrah's was close behind with \$21.2 million in adjusted gross receipts, or total bets minus total payouts. Its take for November was up 6 percent from the same period in 2002.

Ameristar and Harrah's have been spending heavily on advertising and promotions to attract gamblers. Their casinos were the only two in the St. Louis area to post year-over-year increases.

Casinos in the St. Louis area won \$69.51 million from gamblers in November, up 1.3 percent from a year earlier.

Cash diet can help control impulse spending

NEW YORK - Impulse spending, the urge behind a thoughtless (and often useless) purchase, has busted many budgets. Fortunately, a simple strategy can break this bad habit.

Try withdrawing the amount of money you normally spend each month on food, clothing, gas, dinners out, movies, etc. Reduce this amount by 10 to 20 percent.

New try to make it last. Avoid use of credit or debit cards, except for emergencies or extraordinary circumstances. The simple act of handing over cash for purchases, for some reason or other, is far more difficult than swiping a piece of plastic.

This strategy may do more than just save money. The use of cash could alter your spending habits, revealing where impulse purchases have overburdened your budget - perhaps a meal out when you could have prepared one at home, perhaps a purchase of an item that was later available for a discount.

If you manage to get by without dipping into the 10 to 20 percent you set aside, put that money in a fund for a big ticket item (a car or vacation, for example), some investment or retirement.

Compiled from wire reports

Construction hits year-to-date lead

By Virginia S. Hutchins
Times-News writer

TWIN FALLS - Plentiful permits for new industrial buildings and million-dollar homes, issued in September, propelled Magic Valley's year-to-date construction values to a nice lead over the 2002 pace.

For the first time in months, projects receiving building permits in September totaled an estimated \$2.6 billion, up from \$2.1 billion in August.

Please see CONSTRUCTION, Page D7

Magic Valley's construction values for all permit types

Area	September 2003	September 2002
Gooding County (entire county)	\$1,268,775	\$434,932
Hailey	\$4,161,737	\$1,530,783
Ketchum	\$7,754,790	\$1,715,829
Sun Valley	\$1,753,800	\$2,853,923
Blaine County (unincorporated portion)	\$9,030,100	\$2,135,600
Jerome	\$836,201	\$330,159
Shoshone	\$115,800	\$115,400
Twin Falls	\$3,877,431	\$3,967,527
Twin Falls County (unincorporated portion)	\$2,683,295	\$1,575,513
Cassia County (entire county)	\$1,023,217	\$1,391,319
Rupert	\$88,122	\$44,080
Minidoka County (unincorporated portion)	\$453,786	\$485,541
Total	\$32,658,054	\$16,650,608

Permits for new single-family homes

Area	Sept. 2003	Sept. 2002
Gooding County (entire county)	7	1
Hailey	13	9
Ketchum	4	1
Sun Valley	2	3
Blaine County (unincorporated portion)	11	4
Jerome	1	1
Shoshone	1	1
Twin Falls	28	24
Twin Falls County (unincorporated portion)	13	6
Cassia County (entire county)	4	4
Rupert	0	0
Minidoka County (unincorporated portion)	1	2
Total	86	56

Source: "Idaho Construction Report" by Wells Fargo. September report is the most recent available.

Optimism bolsters market

Dow closes above 10,000 on strong retail sales

NEW YORK (AP) - The Dow Jones industrials closed above 10,000 Thursday, a milestone not seen in 18 months as investors cheered Federal Reserve minutes that suggested higher interest rates wouldn't come anytime soon.

Stocks gained ground on a better-than-expected November retail sales report before springing higher in the late afternoon after the Fed released minutes indicating its concerns about a sluggish job market.

"What got the rally started was the Fed," said Michael Murphy, head trader at Wachovia Securities in Baltimore. "It's the old Goldilocks theme - low rates, low inflation and strong growth," explaining that it was the right combination for a strong advance.

"This market is ready to have a good run to the end of the year. People are looking at the economy and are starting to see good growth," he said.

The Dow closed up 86.30, or 0.9 percent, at 10,008.16, according to preliminary calculations. The last time the index closed above 10,000 was May 21, 2002, when the Dow stood at 10,104.26.

The broader gauges also finished higher. The Nasdaq composite index climbed 37.67, or 2 percent, at 1,942.32. The Standard & Poor's 500 index gained 12.16, or 1.2 percent, at 1,071.21.

The milestone marked a solid comeback from the Dow's five-year low of 7,286.27 on Oct. 9, 2002 and to many represents the return of the bull market following three years of bitter declines.

Many analysts had wondered whether the Dow could push past 10,000 on a longer-term basis, citing psychological resistance. Indeed, the blue chips bounced up and down after the Dow crossed the 10,000 mark for all of one minute in intraday trading Tuesday.

Earlier Thursday, the Commerce Department reported a 0.9 percent rise in November retail sales as the nation's shoppers descended on stores with a fresh burst of energy. It was the largest advance since August, and beat the expectations of economists, who had forecast a 0.7 percent rise.

Please see STOCKS, Page D7



The Dow Jones Industrial Average brushes 10,000 as traders work on the floor of the New York Stock Exchange Thursday. Wall Street moved higher Thursday after a government report showed better-than-expected growth in November retail sales, raising new hopes that the economic recovery is sustainable.

Sears hopes Lands' End boosts sales

Knight Ridder News Service

CHICAGO - Claudia Miller is becoming a Lands' End junkie. The 52-year-old resident of south suburban Homewood, Ill., shelled out more than \$360 on Lands' End's prepai apparel in a three-day period.

But she didn't pick up the phone. She traveled to Sears, Roebuck and Co. stores in Calumet City and Orland Park.

"I have always liked Lands' End products, but it's too hard to buy from a catalog. It's sizing. My husband is very particular about his clothes fit," said Miller, who works as a librarian. Now that Sears carries Lands' End for men, she can pick up a few things for her spouse and return them without the hassle of a UPS pickup.

As the holiday season heads into high gear, stores like Miller's fill the hearts of Sears executives with hope that the Hoffman-Estates, Ill.-based chain can turn around an almost relentless two-year decline in sales.

A good holiday performance would be particularly welcome this year because for the first time in decades, Sears has only its retail business to count on. Its highly profitable credit card business was sold off this summer.

"I think this is a very important fulcrum to see what the new Sears looks like and what earnings it will generate," said Heather Brilliant, retail analyst with Morningstar Inc. in Chicago.

Aside from Lands' End through-out the chain and some new high-end apparel lines in a spattering of stores, Sears doesn't have all that much new to show customers this holiday season, retail experts say.

Instead, Sears is counting on more in-store KB Toys boutiques and an extensive inventory of DVD players - three times normal levels - to help it pull out a same-store sales gain in December, which would be the first in six years.

On top of that, experts add, it's not clear what Sears' long-term strategy is. Does it want to muddle its merchandise and demographics, slightly upmarket, a strategy that the nearly \$2 billion acquisition of Lands' End plays into?

Or does it want to be a serious contender in the discount arena? That seems to be the game plan behind Sears Grand, the company's new free-standing store for men, which mixes soda and dips with Sears' more traditional mix of casual apparel and appliances.

Young and in debt: Repaying the piper

The Washington Post

Christopher Sivy thinks he's pretty good with his finances, especially for a 23-year-old. Sivy just moved to Alexandria, Va., from Allentown, Pa., and with a starting job in information technology, he has no problem paying \$160 on his student loan every month. He even saves a little bit out of each paycheck so that someday he can buy a condo.

But when Sivy wanted some wheels, he turned to the most popular financing plan for someone his age: a credit card. He put a new \$7,000 motorcycle on a credit card with no interest for a year, and he plans to pay it off before the year runs out. But if he can't, he says, he'll switch it to another interest-free credit card.

"I had to have a motorcycle," he said with a grin.

Sivy is part of a generation of consumers who have embraced and used debt in a way that no generation has before. The polar opposite of the post-

Tips on managing credit card debt

- Transfer balances from a card with a high interest rates to one with a lower rate.
- Pay more than the minimum balance each month, even if it's just a little bit more.
- Always pay on time. Late fees add up and can raise your interest rates.
- Don't make assumptions about future income.
- Parents should not bail out their adult children. It keeps them from learning about living within their means.
- Never pay credit with more credit.
- As soon as you get into trouble, go to a certified credit counselor.

war generation, which feared debt, today's young adults view credit cards as a welcome and easy path to the lifestyle they see around them.

Please see DEBT, Page D7

Counselors try to teach credit skills

The Washington Post

There has been a concerted effort by financial counseling organizations to educate consumers about debt and how to manage it. Clearly, there is a lot to teach. A recent survey by Myvesta, a Rockville, Md.-based financial education firm, showed that 64 percent of consumers ages 18 to 24 don't even know the interest rates they pay on their credit cards. Others don't understand that it can take decades to pay off a \$3,000 credit card balance if you pay only the minimum each month.

Some colleges are starting to offer financial education classes, and nonprofit organizations like JumpStart of Washington are pushing for improved personal financial literacy in the nation's schools. Nonprofit credit counseling programs, too, perform a number of outreach programs to reach people before they get into trouble.

But how do you teach restraint? "Simply going through financial education doesn't necessarily make you smarter and bet-

ter able to handle money - it makes you more confident that you know what you're doing," said Steve Rhode, president of Myvesta. "Children especially learn more from watching their parents, from the media, from friends and from experiences."

Indeed, twentysomethings who have no credit card debt and are living well without their means are likely to be learned that, from their parents. Adrienne Coyle, 22, works for the Mortgage Bankers Association in Washington, but that's not why she religiously avoids credit card debt: It's because her father drummed it into her starting in high school that credit cards should be used only if you have the cash in the bank to pay the bill.

Coyle became so wary of credit card debt that her father had to persuade her to get a card just to build up her credit. "I have one credit card. I put one thing on it a month and I pay it off," she said.

But not all parents have the same influence. And it's those kids who may have to learn their financial lessons the hard way.

MARKETS

CLOSING FUTURES

Table with columns: Commodity, High, Low, Change, and various market data for futures contracts.

WHEAT

Table showing wheat market data including 5,000 bu minimum, cents per bushel, and various contract types.

NEW YORK (AP) - Futures trading on the NY Merc

Table with columns: Commodity, Open, High, Low, Settle, and market data for New York futures.

LIVESTOCK

Table with columns: Commodity, High, Low, Settle, and market data for livestock futures.

GOLD

Table with columns: Commodity, High, Low, Settle, and market data for gold futures.

Rates fall for 30- and 15-year mortgages

WASHINGTON (AP) - Rates on 30-year and 15-year mortgages moved down this week, good news for people interested in buying a home.

BEANS

Table showing bean market data including 100 bushels and various contract types.

CHEESE

Table showing cheese market data including 100 lbs and various contract types.

POTATOES

Table showing potato market data including 100 cwt and various contract types.

SOYBEANS

Table showing soybean market data including 5,000 bu minimum, cents per bushel.

NATURAL GAS

Table showing natural gas market data including 100 MMBtu and various contract types.

Rates for one-year adjustable mortgages

Rates for one-year adjustable mortgages, however, averaged 3.77 percent, unchanged for the third straight week.

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Table showing grain market data including 100 bushels and various contract types.

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Rates for one-year adjustable mortgages

Even with the recent gyrations in mortgage rates, economists predict home sales will hit record highs this year and post their second-best year ever in 2004.

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Rates for one-year adjustable mortgages

Separately, the Mortgage Bankers Association of America said refinancing accounted for 46.4 percent of all home-mortgage applications filed last week, down from 50 percent the previous week.

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Rates for one-year adjustable mortgages

The drop in refinancing as a share of total loan originations is bringing to light the desire of many homebuyers to look at adjustable-rate and hybrid loan products - those where the rate is fixed for three to seven years - as an alternative to traditional fixed-rate financing, particularly as short-term rates remain so low, said Jay Brinkman, the association's vice president of research and economics.

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Rates for one-year adjustable mortgages

Never miss the action! The Times-News

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Table showing mutual fund data including fund names, shares, and prices.

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Something missing?

We're able to customize our market, if you're interested in a stock, mutual fund, or commodity that's not in our report, just call us

Something missing?

We'll try to include it. Please call Ramona Jones at 733-0931. Ext. 262, with your suggestions.

Never miss the action!

The Times-News

50 LEGALS

Continued from previous page
And Burley Ranger District, Sawtooth National Forest. This meeting is open to the public. This meeting is being conducted by Perkins Co LP as a consultant contractor for the Idaho Department of Lands. For more information contact Bob Maynard at 208-343-3434.

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Actions planned and taken by your government are contained in public notices. They are part of your right to know and to be informed of what your government is doing. As self-government charges all citizens to be informed, this newspaper urges every citizen to read and study these notices.

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LOST 2 Labrador Retrievers 1 of 1 Bull, male, 12/08/03 PO, Both males, 1 adult chocolate, 1 younger black with collar and tags. Call 208-534-01 or 208-837-4015.

LOST

LOST Australian-Border Collie X, black, tan and white with purple collar. Last seen 11/26 just south of Timberman Hill on Hwy 75. Reward. 721-0302.

LOST

LOST Cocker Spaniel 2 1/2 year old, male, tan, white, wearing red collar. Call 208-734-9717.

LOST

LOST Dachshund puppy, black. Answers to baby. Lost in the Pradidone streets. Call 208-734-3863.

LOST

LOST Doberman, old Black Sheena. Heyburn area. 11-29. 208-679-9979.

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108 PROFESSIONAL SERVICES

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BANKRUPTCY

Guaranteed lowest price. Unsettled divorce. \$295 + filing fees. Call 734-866-882-2399.

BANKRUPTCY

First in line for RAYBORN LAW WEST Twin Falls. 208-732-5676.

104 PERSONALS

To the person who stole my dog. I wish you had Karma for ten years. And that they fax visit you for their therapy!

106 SPECIAL NOTICES

***** CERTIFIED Family Home has room available, for elderly person who needs a loving, safe, friendly & caring environment. Please call 208-326-6560.

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ASKING QUESTIONS? Conduct public opinion polls over the telephone. ABSOLUTELY NO SALES! \$7.00 to \$5.00 per hour. Casual work environment. 24 hours. Meals & snacks included. 15-30 hr per week. Great part-time job or second job. Close to CSI campus. For more information Call 736-2853.

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Lot Manager needed for new & used car dealer. Must have mechanical aptitude. Call Kevin at 208-788-2225.

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The Times-News has a part-time opening for a Customer Service Representative. This position must be able to handle multiple responsibilities. Ideal candidate should possess an excellent phone presence, strong customer service skills, computer aptitude and the ability to work well with others. Sales experience and being a self-starter is a plus. Schedule is Monday - Friday, 8am to noon. All interested individuals should fill out an application. The Times-News Attn: Don Weick P.O. Box 548 Twin Falls, ID 83303. A DRUG FREE WORKPLACE.

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P.T.S.I. Boise, looking for owning drivers, flatbed. Great lease. Fast settlements. Call Mike Kimball 208-289-0113.

DRIVERS

Robert Leitch Trucking has 2 openings for qualified drivers, 11 Western States. Home most weekends. Pay DOE. Clean driving record. Call 208-543-6118. Drug free workplace.

DRIVERS

Earn up to \$30,000, come get your Class A CDL with R & A Truck Driving School, 208-738-9282.

FOOD SERVICE

Experienced Kitchen Manager for Assisted Living Facility in Burley. Hands on position. Must have experience in cooking for senior population. Great pay, 401k, ask for Lisa or Joy.

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Satellite Installers Needed! We have experience in DirectV. Positions filling quickly. Fax resume to: Attn. Aaron 208-461-2168.

MECHANIC

FT. diesel mechanic for local trucking company. Must have own tools. Benefits. Wago DOE. Send resume to Box 95647 in c/o The Times-News PO Box 548 Twin Falls, Idaho 83303.

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Work in our Burley office. Copy Editor-page designer (Must be willing to work evenings & weekends).

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MEDICAL

CNA & Co-manager position needed for a new assisted living facility in Burley. Call for details. Warm and friendly atmosphere, competitive wages, all shifts available. PT/FT. Maquet 1-208-677-5451 to schedule interview.

MEDICAL

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Friday, Dec. 12, 2003

THE ACES ON BRIDGE

Bobby Wolff

"It is the province of knowledge to speak, and it is the privilege of wisdom to listen."
— Oliver Wendell Holmes

Quite frequently, the opponents' bidding will get in your way and prevent you from bidding as accurately as you would like. But there is an upside to their intervention: Sometimes, the opponents' auction will persuade you to follow a winning line that would have been less than obvious without their help.

In today's four-spade contract, for example, when West leads a heart to dummy's ace, you must make use of dummy's relatively scant entries to play on clubs at once. It would normally be quite tempting to lead a club to your king, but not after West's vulnerable overall: As it is, though, leading a club to your eight makes more sense, and West will win and pump you with another heart. You ruff, draw two rounds of trump only, and cross to the diamond ace. Now you must lead another club, and again it makes sense to lead a low card from dummy, just in case East had started life with a doubleton club queen. When East follows low, you insert your nine. West will win with his ace and tap you yet again with a third heart.

When you take this trick, you leave East with the long trump, but that player is now out of hearts. So you can simply play off your winning diamonds and club king. East has to follow suit to all of your winners and can score trick 13 by ruffing your last club. But before he can do that, you have 10 tricks in the bag.

NORTH 12-1 A		EAST	
♠ 8 6 2	♥ A 8 4 2	♠ 10 9 7 5	♥ 10 7 3
♦ A 2	♣ 10 5 4	♦ K 9 8	♣ Q 7 3

WEST		EAST	
♠ K Q J 9 6	♥ 10 7 5 4	♠ 10 9 7 5	♥ 10 7 3
♦ A J 6	♣ A J 6	♦ K 9 8	♣ Q 7 3

Vulnerable: Both
Dealer: South
The bidding:
South West North East
1 ♠ 2 ♠ Pass
1 ♠ All pass

Opening lead: Heart king

BID WITH THE ACES

South holds:		West		North		East	
♠ 8 6 2	♥ A 8 4 2	♠ 10 9 7 5	♥ 10 7 3	♦ K 9 8	♣ Q 7 3	♠ 10 9 7 5	♥ 10 7 3
♦ A 2	♣ 10 5 4	♦ K 9 8	♣ Q 7 3	♠ 10 9 7 5	♥ 10 7 3	♦ K 9 8	♣ Q 7 3

ANSWER: Bid two diamonds. It feels wrong to pass out one spade (you might miss a game) or to raise to two spades with three such poor trumps, and bidding no-trump without a club stopper looks inappropriate. But if you give preference to two diamonds, your partner advances with extra-

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WANTED 1970 - 1974 Honda 90 ATC 3 wheeler. Call days 436-0311 or eve. 725-3056
WANTED Duck & Goose log bands. Will pay \$10 each. I will pick up. Call 934-5832, mossago.

WANTED Good ewes, preferably Polypays or Dorsets or with lambs at side. Buy or trade 4x4 pickup for ewes, lambs, farm equip, or stock trailer? Need nice cab for IHC Hydrol 100 & 706. 308-8499.
WANTED Late model Compaq Van. -Old Dodge barrel shot guns. Rifles -22 Winchester pumps. -30.06 Bolt -32 caliber cut hand gun. Call 208-538-2679 leave message

WANTED Old gas pumps or gas station items. Top money paid. Tony 208-868-0274.
WANTED old military medals, uniforms, insignia, documents, & souvenirs. Please highest price. Paul Nutting 233-1691

WANTED Old Playboy magazines, 1950's & 60's. Write to Box 95648, c/o Times-News, Box 548, Twin Falls, ID, 83303
WANTED Overhead garage door (single). Call 208-735-8277
WANTED SEWING MACHINE Small Vintage Singer. Total weight, 15 pounds including case. \$200. 208-734-8821

WANTED to buy 109 splitter. Call 208-739-8589 or 208-731-4301
WANTED used video games, PS1, PS2, X Box, Game cube, GBA, GBC. Call Jake 539-7997 jake-wright@icdn.com
WANTED Vintage Fender ampifiers. Please call 208-426-8491

WANTED young family looking for a piano and a 4-wheeler. Call 208-734-1220 or 208-404-3332.
BROWNING Citon vector plus, 3 1/2" 12 gauge. Excellent \$700/offer. Call 208-934-8489 days 208-934-4776 evenings.
RUGER .357 GP 100, 4" barrel with holster. Gun was bought new this summer. Includes RCS dies, 700 S&W bullets, brass, and shell holders. Worthover \$400 selling for \$360. Also old ugli fiberglass Sears rowboat & trolling motor for \$50. Call 208-646-7387

RUGER 25.06 with custom stock, scope, and case. \$400. Call 735-8730.
RUGER 7mm stainless barrel, synthetic stock, with stainless scope. \$400. Call 208-734-1495.

SPORTING EQUIPMENT
SNOWBOARD & bindings. Rossignol Nomad, 2002, size 14.5. good condition. \$200/offer. Call 641-9233
GARAGE SALES
RUPERT indoor Holiday Bales Sale, Dec. 11, 12 & 13, 9-6 am to 7:2, 270 Winchester 24" barrel rifle, china cupboard, old tire trucks & lots of misc. 436-3670, 200 826 W

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 In an effort to keep our town neat, we ask that you remove any garage sale signs that were placed in our community advertising your sale. Thank you for your cooperation!
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HONDA '86 GL1200, Goldwing Aspen Cade, 48,300 miles, excellent shape. \$4000. Call 208-734-8821
HONDA '98 XR100, low hours, original tires and hand grips, like new. \$1550/offer. 734-4957.
HONDA '00 XR70, Excellent condition. \$500/offer. Call 208-934-6789

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HONDA Trail 90, high and low range. Looks good, runs good. \$350. Call 208-679-4198
SAND TIRES Douglas wheels fit Banshoe like new, \$300. Tournament Football table, \$100. Multitool, drill mill and lathe, \$300. Henry C 208-731-8772.

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BOAT 10 ft. flat bottom aluminum boat with 10 hp Johnson engine, \$750 offer. Call 437-2028 or 309-0063.
YAMAHA '92 WR200 quill, trail gear. Good cond. \$1500. 543-5838 eve/ Sat
YAMAHA '94 YZ80 New top end, Great bike. \$850/offer. 208-332-4139

USED SHELLS
 Fit most trucks - Selection Quality - Low Prices- 206-312-1525
CAMPER SHELL & carpet kit for crew cab short box. \$100. 543-5838 eve/ Sat
ELKHORN '99 9 1/2 ft. Fully self-contained, long overcab with queen bed. AC. 208-316-0300.

FLEETWOOD '99 Elk Horn, 9 1/2 ft. long, exc. cond. \$12,000. 734-9311
COBRA '91 class C, 28 ft. motorhome on a Ford chassis. Excellent condition. AC, generator, extra fuel tank, walk around queen bed, sleeps 8. Call 543-5057 or 308-6309.

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WINNEBAGO '94 22 ft. Chetlain, AC, microwave, 41' Onan generator, new tires, new mattress, hitch, 454 eng \$9500 733-0628.
 Placing an ad in classifieds online is a piece of cake. Call 733-9331.

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YAMAHA '94 YZ80 New top end, Great bike. \$850/offer. 208-332-4139

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- Power Door Locks
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- Cruise Control
- CD Player
- Rear Spoiler
- 100,000-Mile Powertrain Warranty

MSRP \$16,989
 Rebate \$3,000
 Military \$750
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2004 FORD MUSTANG V6 COUPE

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- Power Windows
- Power Door Locks
- Power Mirrors
- Power Seat
- 6-Disc CD Player
- Rear Spoiler
- 16" Aluminum Wheels

MSRP \$20,375
 Rebate \$3,000
 Military \$750
BL Discount \$1,630

2004 FORD TAURUS SE 4-DOOR

#644001




- Power Windows
- Power Mirrors
- Power Door Locks
- AM/FM/6-Disc CD
- Remote Entry
- Automatic
- Air Conditioning
- Cruise Control
- Tilt Steering
- Power Seat

MSRP \$21,475
 Rebate \$3,000
BL Discount \$1,480

2003 FORD RANGER REG CAB XL

#623001



- Air Conditioning
- AM/FM Stereo
- 4-Wheel ABS

MSRP \$14,940
 Rebate \$3,000
 FMCC \$1,000
 Military \$750
BL Discount \$595

2004 FORD RANGER X-CAB 4X2 XLT

#554024



- Air Conditioning
- AM/FM/CD
- 4-Wheel ABS

MSRP \$18,480
 Rebate \$2,500
 Military \$750
BL Discount \$1,235

2003 FORD RANGER X-CAB 4X4 XLT

#553029

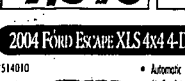


- 4.0L V6 Engine
- FX4 Offroad Group
- Remote Entry
- Privacy Glass
- Air Conditioning
- Tilt Steering
- Cruise Control

MSRP \$24,870
 Rebate \$3,000
 FMCC \$1,000
 Military \$750
BL Discount \$2,125

2004 FORD ESCAPE XLS 4x4 4-DR

#514010



- Automatic
- Air Conditioning
- Tilt Steering
- Cruise Control
- Power Windows
- Power Door Locks
- Power Mirrors

MSRP \$22,840
 Rebate \$1,500
 Military \$750
BL Discount \$1,345

2004 FORD EXPLORER XLS 4x4 4-DR

#524001



- Automatic
- Air Conditioning
- Step Bars
- AM/FM/CD Player
- Safety Canopy
- GPS System

MSRP \$30,935
 Rebate \$3,000
 Owner Loyalty \$1,000
 Military \$750
BL Discount \$2,190

2004 FORD EXPEDITION XLT 4x4

#534002




- MSRP Package
- 4.6L V8 Engine
- Safety Canopy
- Trailer Loe
- Adaptive Trac
- Third Row Seat
- Rearview Sensing
- GPS System
- Loaded

MSRP \$40,170
 Rebate \$2,500
 FMCC \$500
BL Discount \$3,715

2004 FORD F150 X-CAB 4x4 XLT

#534001



- 6.0L V10 Engine
- Automatic
- Air Conditioning
- FX4 Package
- Reverse Sensors
- Interior Cab Steps

MSRP \$36,435
 Rebate \$2,000
 Bonus Cash \$500
 Military \$750
BL Discount \$3,185

2003 FORD F250 X-CAB 4x4 XLT

#573021



- 6.0L Diesel
- AM/FM/CD Player
- Trailer Loe
- Power Seat
- Reverse Sensors
- Interior Cab Steps

MSRP \$40,315
 Rebate \$3,000
 Military \$750
BL Discount \$3,570

2004 FORD F250 CREW CAB 4x4 XLT

#574014



- 6.0L Diesel
- AM/FM/CD Player
- Trailer Loe
- Power Seat
- Reverse Sensors
- Electric 4x4

MSRP \$42,535
 Rebate \$2,000
 Bonus Cash \$500
 Military \$750
BL Discount \$4,290

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2003 MITSUBISHI ECLIPSE RS

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- 2.4L SOHC 16V 4-Cylinder Engine

MSRP \$18,717
 Rebate \$3,000
 Loyalty Cash \$1,000
BL Discount \$3,185

2003 MITSUBISHI OUTLANDER XLS AWD SUV

#403014



- 2.4L SOHC 16V 4-Cylinder Engine
- Sportronic 4-Spd. Automatic Transmission
- Leather
- Heated Front Seats
- Power Sunroof
- AM/FM/CD Player

MSRP \$24,470
 Rebate \$2,000
 Loyalty Cash \$1,000
BL Discount \$1,475

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 Doo 583, (2) Phazer's Mountain Max Light 500, Z-Man 4 place trailer, Package Deal! 532-4573

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POLARIS '00 700 RMK track 138. \$3500. Call 208-543-5555

POLARIS '00 800 RMK, Cover 144 track simmons skis \$2000. 255-5597

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SKI-DOO '00 Summit 700, 1300 mi., nice condition. Call 1132 E 31st or 191 or 539-1410

TRAILER '98 ZIoman 3 place, drive on/off, flatbed, 2 x 16' ovr. cond. \$1600. Call 208-734-9898

TRAILERS (2) 4 place ZIoman \$1200. Other custom built \$1000. Call 208-438-8700 days or evns

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 75R15 studied, like new, \$75. TIRE CHAINS (2) sets, new \$35/each set. Call 208-543-2347

TIRES Avon 30x8.5X15LT, mud and snow tires, brand new, with '84 Bronco, set, \$650. 734-1259

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FORD '84 F-150, V6, AT, 4 door, 40 overboard \$175. 4000/offer. 788-9831

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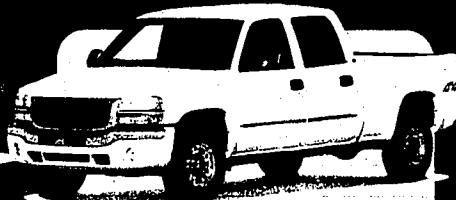
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