



The Time

Twin Falls, Idaho/98th year, No. 357

Tuesday, December 23, 2003

50 cents

GOOD MORNING

College report



Glenns Ferry's Corey Hall is a defensive standout for Boise State football, which plays today in the Fort Worth Bowl.

Page C1

WEATHER

Today: Increasing clouds. Tonight, cloudy with a chance of showers.

High of 38, low of 26.

Page A2

MAGIC VALLEY

Another delay: Twin Falls council again postpones action on annexation.

Page B1



Pit in the snow: Sun Valley's new half pipe opens.

Page B1

MONEY

Quarterly report: ConAgra posts earnings of 51 cents a share despite overall decline in sales.

Page D3

OPINION

Real estate rush: County leaders need to proceed slowly on Anderson Lumber building, today's editorial says.

Page A6

COMING UP

Party dishes

A Twin Falls cook shares his tried-and-true holiday recipes. Wednesday in The Times-News

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Full disclosure



The Van Engelen family, from left, Dave, Deb, Lacey and Dusty, look at pictures of their son and brother Brady, an Army platoon leader in Iraq, at their Twin Falls home Monday night. Van Engelen and his platoon are featured in the Dec. 29 edition of Time magazine, which names the American soldier 'Person of the Year.'

Family learns of soldier's mission in magazine

By Julie Pence
Times-News writer

TWIN FALLS — It could simply be that he's not given to bragging. Or it could be he was under orders not to talk about his real mission in Iraq. But whatever his reasons for not explaining that he regularly leads 12 men on raids in dangerous Iraqi cities, 1st Lt. Brady Van Engelen's family and girlfriend of almost five years will learn the details of his mission for the first time today — right along with everyone else in the world. That's when the last Time magazine issue for 2003 — the one famous for its "Person of the Year" choice — hits newsstands.

Van Engelen, an Army Ranger who will turn 24 years old on Sunday, grew up in Twin Falls. He heads the platoon in the Army's 1st Armored Division. It was chosen by Time to represent the 2003 Person of the Year — the 1.4 million men and women in the U.S. military, which invaded Iraq and captured deposed leader Saddam Hussein.



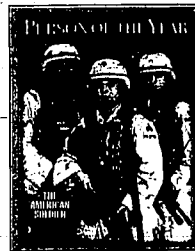
1st Lt. Brady Van Engelen

That explains why Dave Van Engelen got his first inkling his middle child would be in Time magazine only on Thursday when Brady sent him an e-mail. But the message barely alluded to something coming up in Time magazine. Then Van Engelen's girlfriend, Anastasia DeFelice, who works in New York City, got a hold of his family late Sunday evening after she had pulled up part of the story online.

"That was our first time to find out it was a major story," Dave Van Engelen said.

Van Engelen's mother, Deb Van Engelen, said.

That includes an empty big-box store, storage building and other facilities. Council members added three provisions to the agreement: The site can't be used for incarceration or detention of prisoners. The county must build an approved, secure pesticide storage facility and a pad for loading and mixing chemicals that would be used by the parks and waterways and weed departments. Those departments would maintain small amounts of fertilizers and pesticides on the property. The county must implement a landscaping plan with screening trees along the south side of the property within a year. The last provision was a response to requests from community members that nearby homes



Army platoon leader Brady Van Engelen of Twin Falls isn't on the cover of Time magazine, but he's featured prominently in stories about the magazine's 2003 Person of the Year — the men and women of the U.S. military.

T.F. council OKs Anderson Lumber conversion

By Kath Kowalski
Times-News writer

TWIN FALLS — The City Council has cleared the way for Twin Falls County to convert the old Anderson Lumber facilities on Eastland Drive into county government offices and storage.

Now, county officials must complete the deal to buy the property, and that could happen as early as today.

Other council business — B1

The City Council Monday approved a plan that will enable the county to use the majority of the property for offices and storage while renting part of the back storage building to Stock Building Supply, the current owner. County commissioners want to buy the 11.5 acres at 960 Eastland Drive

Quake shakes California, kills two

The Associated Press

PASO ROBLES, Calif. — A magnitude-6.5 earthquake ripped through California wine country Monday, killing two women as it brought down old downtown buildings in Paso Robles and rocked the state from Los Angeles to San Francisco.

The 11:16 a.m. quake smashed hard into the San Luis Obispo County town about 20 miles east of the epicenter, devastating an 1892 clocktower building and damaging more than 40 other buildings. The roof of the 12th century structure housing a jeweler, dress shop and novelty store fell onto parked cars.

"They are crushed like little toys, nothing left," said Nick Sherwin, 61, who had ordered staff and customers to flee his Pan Jewellers when he felt his first tremors.

Searchers pulled apart piles of bricks and mangled wood with



The wooden cupola that housed the town clock lies in the street in front of the historic two-story clock tower building following an earthquake in Paso Robles, Calif., Monday.

their hands, shovels and heavy equipment. The bodies of Jennifer Myrick, 19, of Atascadero and Marilyn Zufuto, 55, of Paso Robles, were found on

the sidewalk outside the dress shop, said police Sgt. Bob Adams. The owners of three cars damaged in the rubble were still unaccounted for.

Officials: High terror alert won't affect travel

The Times-News and The Associated Press

TWIN FALLS — An increase in the national terror-alert warning shouldn't affect airline travel or other aspects of life for most people in Idaho, officials say.

State police, military and security forces were operating at a higher state of alert Monday following the increase in the attack warning. However, state authorities listening in Sunday's conference call with the Department of Homeland Security said they heard no reason to suspect any targets had been singled out in Idaho.

At the Twin Falls airport, officials were still recommending that airline passengers arrive an hour before their departure times — the same as the past couple of years. "To the average person, it won't slow them down," Airport Manager Bill Carberry said, "but we are at a heightened state of vigilance."

For example, Carberry said airport employees are "taking a closer look at" unattended baggage. And "we're being very careful about unattended vehicles at the terminal," he said. "You can still pull up to drop people off, but don't abandon your car out front for any length of time."

Some visible changes at state and federal employees arrived at work Monday morning in Boise, where signs asking employees to wear identification tags at all times.

At Idaho's National Guard Headquarters at Gowen Field in Boise, military police had begun checking all identification. Across the runways at the Boise's new civilian airport, Boise Airport Police Lt. Terry Howard said, "We'll be beefing up patrols, doing certain things," such as increasing visibility of patrols and canine units.

Assistant Airport Director Garry Fraise said the addition of four new X-ray machines about a month ago has helped keep the wait for travelers at about 40 minutes or less during peak periods. Otherwise, the average wait is about 10 to 15 minutes.

State police spokesman Rick Ohnsand said officers will increase patrols at predetermined locations. But he also added, "This threat didn't seem to have anything specific for Idaho."

At Mountain Home Air Force Base, the security posture is not driven by the national alert level, which is for civilians, said Air Force spokesman Lt. Lucas Ritter of the 366th Fighter Wing. "To ensure potential backslash effect, even military critics acknowledge, is that many Americans could be scared away from fish in general — a bad choice."

"It's really unfortunate," especially for middle-aged people who are most in need of fish and least at risk from mercury, says Dr. William S. Harris of the American Heart Association.

His organization recommends that most people eat a variety of fish rich in omega-3s at least twice a week, even more for those diagnosed with heart disease.

Please see SALMON, Page A2

Fish low in mercury? Salmon, oysters top list

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Fish are heart-healthy, and most Americans should eat more. But fish also can contain mercury, and too much mercury can harm brain cells, especially in the very young.

So what are the best choices for both the heart and the brain? Salmon and oysters top the list as high in heart-healthy omega-3 fatty acids and very low in mercury, and there are numerous other low-mercury choices, too.

Yet the government has no consumer-friendly list of its own mercury testing results to help people of different ages choose seafood.

In fact, the good news about low-mercury choices has been far overshadowed by a battle over which fish the Food and Drug Administration should warn people most at risk from mercury,

TWIN FALLS FORECAST

Today: Dry with increasing clouds by late in the day. Highs in the upper 30s.
Tonight: Turning cloudy with a snow shower developing late. Lows in the middle 20s.
Tomorrow: Cloudy and breezy with occasional rain or snow showers. Highs in the lower to middle 40s.

BURLEY/RUPERT FORECAST

Today: Mostly sunny early then increasing clouds. Highs in the upper 30s to near 40.
Tonight: Turning cloudy with a snow shower developing late. Lows in the middle 20s.
Tomorrow: Breezy with clouds and showers. Highs in the lower 40s.

IDAHO'S FORECAST

SUN VALLEY, SURROUNDING MTS. Sunny skies will give way to clouds by later this afternoon. Snow will be developing on Wednesday and Thursday and could be heavy at times. Travel will be turning difficult.
Today High: 31 to 37. Tonight's Lows: 10 to 21.
BOISE Breezy winds and increasing clouds are expected today. Be prepared for occasional rain or snow showers on Wednesday and Thursday. Roads could turn slick at night.



Yesterday's State Extremes: 46 at Caldwell, 16 at Chubb. Weather key: su-sunny, pc-partly cloudy, mo-mostly cloudy, c-cloudy, th-thunderstorms, sh-snow/rain, sn-snow, fl-flooding, w-wind, m-missing

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TWIN FALLS FIVE-DAY FORECAST

Table with 7 columns: Today, Tonight, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday, Saturday, City. Includes weather icons and temperature ranges.

ALMANAC - TWIN FALLS

Table with 3 columns: Temperature, Precipitation, Humidity. Includes monthly and daily data.

Table with 2 columns: Sunrise and Sunset, U.V. INDEX. Includes times and index levels.

Table with 2 columns: Moon Phases, Moonrise and Moonset. Includes dates and times.

REGIONAL FORECAST

Table with 4 columns: Today, Tomorrow, Thursday, City. Lists regional weather forecasts.

NATIONAL FORECAST

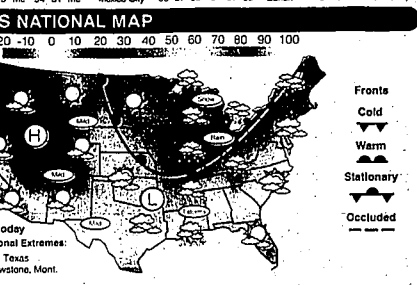
Table with 4 columns: Today, Tomorrow, Thursday, City. Lists national weather forecasts.

WORLD FORECAST

Table with 4 columns: Today, Tomorrow, Thursday, City. Lists world weather forecasts.

CANADIAN FORECAST

Table with 4 columns: Today, Tomorrow, Thursday, City. Lists Canadian weather forecasts.



Salmon

Continued from A1. "The message should be: 'Eat more fish for your health while minimizing your mercury intake.'" adds Ned Groth, a scientist with Consumers Union, a nonprofit group that is pushing the FDA to pull more low-mercury choices. Mercury pollution washes into waterways and builds up in fish. The bigger the fish, the more mercury it contains.
Over time, the metal can accumulate in fishers' bodies, too. High enough levels can damage the growing brains of fetuses and young children. About 8 percent of women of childbearing age have enough mercury in their blood to put a fetus at risk.
Far less is known about the potential dangers of mercury-containing seafood in other people. Consumer advocates say about 3 million people are extreme seafood lovers, eating so much of it per week that, depending on what varieties they choose, they might be at risk, too.
Still, exposure by fetuses and young children are clearly the biggest concern. The FDA's scientific advisers recently urged the government to stress low-mercury choices for women of childbearing age and youngsters, so the FDA is rewriting its seafood recommendations. The new list is due out next spring.
For now, a review of FDA's mercury measurements in 39 seafood varieties shows:
• Salmon, oysters, whitefish, sea bass, freshwater trout and sardines contain both high levels of heart-healthy omega-3s and low mercury levels, below 0.13 parts per million.
• Other low-mercury choices include perch, king crab, flounder, sole, pollock, catfish, croaker, scallops, crawfish, shrimp, clams and tilapia. They contain less omega-3s, but servings can add up.
• Tuna is controversial, because different varieties contain different amounts of both mercury and heart-healthy fats. Canned light tuna contains a small amount of

Anderson

Continued from A1. "We had no idea what Brady was doing until we read the article," she said. "He didn't even tell us he was the platoon leader."
DeFelicé said though she commiserates with him frequently in a chat room over the Internet, until reading the online story, she was under the impression what he did was mostly desk work. Dave Van Engelen said he began to suspect more a month or so back when one of Brady's fellow soldiers referred to the unit's former leader dying in action. The dead man had been Brady's former roommate. It turned out that Brady replaced the dead leader, a charismatic officer who was close to his troops.
"His was worried sick after hearing that," Dave Van Engelen said. "He told us he was king of in charge of a carpool, and he had never told us really what he did. You just worry about your kids. He's in a dangerous place, and there are some pretty radical peo-

Magazine

Continued from A1. Engelen, became immediately worried.
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Alert

Continued from A1. He signed in by authorized people.
At the Idaho National Engineering and Environmental Laboratory in the eastern Idaho desert, spokesman Rick Dale said the number of entrances to the site has been reduced.
"We're being much more careful on access to government buildings and doing checks, of badges," he said.
Bill Bishop, director of Idaho's Bureau of Homeland Security,

Send a message

This holiday season, The Times-News is helping Magic Valley News help you cheer to members of the U.S. military.
As a free public service, the newspaper offers "Holiday Military Messages." You can send seasonal greetings to members of the armed forces, and military personnel can send greetings back home. The greetings will appear on the newspa-

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Stay on top of your investments with the Money pages. Circulation: Daniel Walock, circulation director. The Times-News (UPS #1-1080) is published daily at 132 Third St. W., Twin Falls, by Lee Publications Inc., a subsidiary of Lee Enterprises.

CORRECTIONS: Quilting participant is named Deana Steel. A story Monday incorrectly spelled a participant in a Twin Falls centennial quilt project. The Times-News regrets the error. The Times-News NEW Information Line. 735-3350. Ski, Lottery and Weather Information are just a phone call away!

Send a message. This holiday season, The Times-News is helping Magic Valley News help you cheer to members of the U.S. military. As a free public service, the newspaper offers "Holiday Military Messages." You can send seasonal greetings to members of the armed forces, and military personnel can send greetings back home. The greetings will appear on the newspaper over there, and they do radical things."
Van Engelen took over the team, officially designated as Battery Platoon, Headquarters Battery, 2nd Battalion, 3rd Field Artillery Regiment of the 1st Armored Division, just two months ago.
DeFelicé took exception to the way the article described Van Engelen's developing relationship with his new platoon. The article said Van Engelen is "still fighting for his soldiers' respect."
"I was kind of offended by that. I'm sure he was too," said DeFelicé, a 24-year-old Sacramento, Calif., native. "He's very sensitive. Sometimes he'll keep things inside."
DeFelicé also said she didn't like the magazine's description of Van Engelen as a "tobacco-chewing, stoned" son. She said she's never known him to chew tobacco and jumped him about it the first chance she got.
"He said that he hadn't had any breakfast and that it took the edge off," DeFelicé said.
DeFelicé advised her sweet-heart to not waste any time getting rid of the habit.
DeFelicé met Van Engelen at Seattle University their freshman year. Brady was going to school on

NATION



Police officers of the airport unit inspect a car Monday during a random search of vehicles driving along the departures roadway of Philadelphia International Airport. Security measures have increased across the country, a day after the nation's terror threat level was raised to orange, or high.

Americans mostly shrug off orange terror rating

NEW YORK (AP) — Travelers encountered tighter security at the nation's airports, train stations, bridges and highways Monday morning, a day after the government raised the national threat level and said attacks were possible during the holidays.

Many people shrugged off the alert, but some were nervous.

In Connecticut, state troopers were watching highway bridges and riding on commuter trains heading in and out of New York.

"It's just the government making everyone aware so if something happens, they can say, 'See, we told you,'" said Eric Kerzner, 29, of Milford, Conn., who commutes to New York. "You can't be scared."

On Sunday, the federal government raised the national terror attack warning to "Code Orange," its second-highest level, following warnings that al-Qaida may be plotting attacks against the United States during the holidays.

Homeland Security Secretary Tom Ridge said threat indicators are "perhaps greater now than at any point" since Sept. 11.

Some commuters seemed unfazed by the new warning.

Joe Saydlowski, also of Milford, said the elevated level was expected with the recent capture of Saddam Hussein and the holiday season.

"It's disturbing, but I guess kind of anticipated," said Saydlowski, 51. "I think it provides more safety. I'm not sure how much additional protection there is in reality."

New York City, which has been at Code Orange status since the color-coded system was introduced in March 2002, mobilized hundreds of extra police officers to patrol in and around locations considered susceptible to attack — places of worship, landmarks, tourist attractions, Wall Street and subway stations among them.

Waiting for a subway in Lower

Manhattan on Monday morning, David Davidson of Brooklyn said he was not concerned about the elevated alert. "Not more than anything else. I understand that living is a risk in itself, and you take it," he said.

At several airports, including Cincinnati/Northern Kentucky International Airport in Hebron, Ky., the Phoenix Sky Harbor International Airport and Seattle-Tacoma International Airport, authorities were subjecting vehicles to inspection.

Governors across the country offered the same basic message: Although residents should be vigilant, there was no specific threat against their communities and they should stick to their holiday plans.

"We encourage people to go about their lives. I hope this is not another false alarm; but we have to be prepared," said Massachusetts Gov. Mitt Romney.

Companies argue about allegedly defective vests

CENTRAL LAKE, Mich. (AP) — Richard Davis invented a flexible, concealable type of body armor after taking a bullet while delivering a pizza. He vouched for his products by donning them and shooting himself with a gun — nearly 200 times over three decades.

The company he founded in 1972, Second Chance Body Armor Inc., became the nation's biggest supplier of bulletproof vests to law enforcement agencies. It claims to have saved more than 920 wearers from death or serious injury.

Now, Second Chance is drawing fire of a different sort: allegations that its vests are defective.

The accusations raise questions about the reliability of body armor worn by thousands of police officers around the nation. The controversy has generated at least six lawsuits, federal and state investigations, and finger-

pointing between Second Chance and the producer of Zylon, a high-tech synthetic fiber woven into many of Second Chance's vests.

One lawsuit blames Second Chance armor in the death of a California policeman last July. The latest case was filed last week by the state of Arkansas, demanding a \$454,000 refund for 557 vests bought for officers there.

Cases have also been brought on behalf of vest buyers in Massachusetts, Georgia, Illinois and Connecticut, where the state attorney general accused the company of causing police to play "real-life Russian roulette."

Editor's note:
The Times-News checked with area law enforcement, and they do not use this brand of bullet-proof vest.

Housing officials pull plug on lights

The Washington Post

Well before Santa lands anywhere near the public housing complex in Denville, N.J., residents will have taken down their lights and decorations.

Garlands, flickering bulbs and icicles pose safety hazards, according to a notice sent to the residents by the Morris County Public Housing Authority. Housing officials ordered decorations stripped from the buildings' exteriors. Anyone failing to comply would be fined.

Public housing director

Roberta Starter told the Star-Ledger the leases explicitly prohibit adornments.

Tenant Raysa Molina said her three kids were heartbroken: "It looks like it's not Christmas here."



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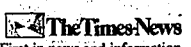
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News Room Phone Lines open on Wednesday
Reporter: Troy Foster call 735-3204 (until 6 p.m.)

News Room Phone Lines open on Christmas Day
Reporter: Karin Kowalski call 735-3231 (until 6 p.m.)


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NATION

Jury deliberates sniper's fate

CHESAPEAKE, Va. (AP) — A jury began deciding Monday whether Lee Boyd Malvo should live or die for his part in the Washington sniper attacks after his lawyer argued that the young man had fallen under the control of his twisted mentor, John Allen Muhammad.

Malvo, 16, was found guilty last week of murder in the killing of FBI analyst Linda Franklin, who was cut down by a single bullet to the head outside a Home Depot store. It was one of 10 slayings that gripped the Washington area with fear for three weeks in October 2002. Malvo was 17 at the time.

Last month, a jury in Virginia bench convicted Muhammad, 42, of murder and recommended the death penalty.

During Malvo's trial, his lawyers mounted an insanity defense, claiming indoctrination by Muhammad left him incapable of telling right from wrong. The jury rejected that defense, but it formed the basis of the attempt by Malvo's lawyers to save his life in the penalty phase of the case.



U.S. soldiers of the 1st Battalion, 22nd Regiment, (1-22) 4th Infantry Division, patrol outside Tikrit's city hall in Iraq, Monday.

U.S. forces cope with evolving guerrilla tactics

Roadside bomb kills two soldiers, wounds two more

TIKRIT, Iraq (AP) — In the early days of the guerrilla war, Lt. Col. Steven Russell's troops battled groups of insurgents armed with automatic weapons and rocket-propelled grenades.

Against Russell's tanks and Bradley's, the rebels were overwhelmed. So they adapted, switching to roadside bombs, hiding them in animal carcasses, sandbags and trash cans. Then the rebels learned U.S. patrol patterns. They launched a recent ambush on one unit by releasing a flock of pigeons to signal the arrival of American vehicles.

"They got smarter, so do we," said Russell, a battalion commander with the U.S. Army's 4th Infantry Division. "We've certainly been able to adapt."

Russell said his battalion responded by varying its movements. Soldiers developed a quick, efficient method for dealing with roadside bombs: blasting them with machine gun fire from their Abrams M1A1 tanks, making the bombs explode harmlessly.

Some of those makeshift explosives — activated by trip-wires, hard-wired electric triggers or remote control transmitters stripped from toys or doorbells — still explode with deadly effect.

On Monday, two soldiers from the U.S. Army's 1st Armored division and their Iraqi translator were killed by a roadside bomb in Baghdad. Two other American troops were wounded in the blast.

"This is their weapon of choice," said Capt. Jon Cocalupo, who commands an Army armored unit based in Tikrit. "They do not want to risk a direct confrontation."

As the ambushes continued, military convoys began beefing up their armor, bolting steel plates to the sides and floors of their Humvees.

"He's a thinking enemy. He gets a vote in our operations," said Lt. Col. Ken Devan, chief intelligence officer for the 1st Armored Division in Baghdad. "In some cases, he's probably looking at our patterns. That's why we try not to establish any."

The U.S. military has adjusted to enemy tactics in other ways too. American tanks and infantry fighting vehicles now patrol villages because their added height gives a better field of vision over villages' low brick walls and squat mud-brick huts. Instead of strafing enemy positions, combat helicopters are mainly used for surveillance and intelligence gathering.

Americans say they have also been using snipers to shoot insurgents who try to hide in a crowd, in an attempt to lessen civilian deaths in firefights.

In Tikrit, the 4th Infantry built a weapons range where soldiers on convoy duty practice battling ambushers, shooting from moving vehicles without hitting other Humvees and trucks in their convoy.

U.S. commanders also rely heavily on growing intelligence networks involving Iraqi informers and computer databases of suspects. Maj. Gen. Raymond Odierno, commander of the 4th Infantry, said such tools helped his division track and arrest Saddam Hussein earlier this month.

The software uses pattern-and-link analysis to find connections between suspected guerrillas, their funding sources and commanders.

"You try to predict what the enemy's going to do next. We try to cut him off at the knees," Devan said.

The U.S. military still uses its heavy weaponry at times. A recent raid involving dozens of Bradley fighting vehicles that rolled into Samarra, north of Baghdad, was a clear example of heavy punch tactics. Samarra has been one of Iraq's persistent hotspots, with the military estimating that 1,500 guerrillas operate in and around the city.

Judge: Pentagon cannot force troops to take anthrax shots

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Pentagon must stop forcing servicemen and women to take the anthrax vaccination against their will, unless President Bush signs a special order, a judge ruled Monday.

Millions of shots have been given and hundreds of service members have been punished for refusing them since the mandatory vaccinations started in 1998.

The judge ruled that certain experimental drugs unless people being given the drug consent or the president waives the consent requirement.

Congress passed the law following fears that the use of such drugs may have led to unexplained illnesses among veterans of the 1991 Persian Gulf War that have come to be known as Gulf War Syndrome.

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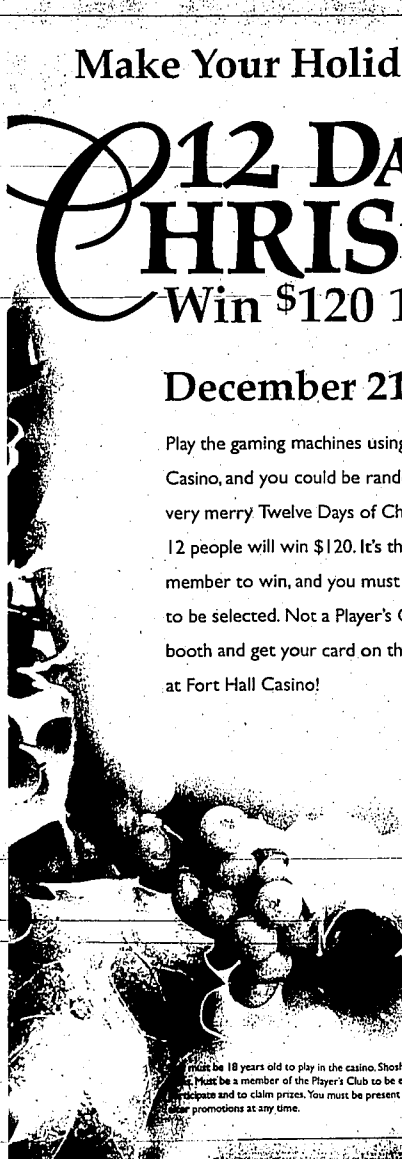
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Woman worries about temper problems

DEAR ABBY: "Kirk" and I have been together for more than three years, and last year he asked me to marry him. We have yet to set a date because we don't want to rush into anything. I am 25, he's 24.

Ninety-five percent of the time, we are happy. He calls out of the blue just to say he loves me. I write him love letters. He blows me kisses from across the room.

My only concern is, we have had two fights that became mildly physical, and I'm afraid of repeating my parents' mistakes. When I was a child, Dad hit Mom more than once. (My brother and I would hide in our rooms and hear her scream for us.) They finally divorced when I was in high school.

My last fight with Kirk was over a pregnancy scare. I had missed a couple of birth control



DEAR ABBY
Abigail VanBuren

to arrest me, but Kirk told them it was an accident.

I didn't mean to hit him, although my mom says maybe I did.

Kirk took all his things with him when he went to the hospital for stitches, then went to stay at his brother's. The next day when I saw him, he hugged me and said, "You have a sick baby to take care of." He said he had been in so much pain he hadn't had time to get mad.

I feel terrible. If he'd done this to me, I would never see him again. (Although once he did hit my head against the car window while he was driving.)

In my heart I know I didn't mean to hurt him, but nobody believes me. I should not have lost my temper. I know if I control myself and don't get mad over petty things, he will also be OK.

If he decides we should keep seeing each other, do you think it will work?

— LOST MY TEMPER IN CHULA VISTA

DEAR LOST: Your mother has spoken with the voice of experience, so pay attention. Young love may be tempestuous, but it is not supposed to leave you black-and-blue or with stitches. There are healthier, more constructive ways to deal with anger.

Unless you and Kirk learn to control your tempers in an adult and civilized fashion, you will repeat your parents' mistakes. As much as you may care for each other, it is vital you both get anger management counseling before you live together again. Please don't wait. Your problems will escalate if you ignore this issue.

ACROSS

- 5 Dato tree
- 9 Figure out
- 14 Thought
- 15 Religion
- 16 Set of bellows
- 17 Marx or Lenin
- 18 Accurate
- 20 Positions properly
- 21 Confidential
- 22 Olympics city
- 23 Profound
- 25 Wild Smith
- 26 Allowed to live
- 30 Rival
- 35 Cue
- 36 Consonant
- 37 By way of
- 38 Toy puncture
- 39 Pamphlet
- 40 Shoe part
- 41 Storage container
- 42 Use watch
- 43 Small trench
- 44 Oriental
- 45 Yogi's hobby
- 47 Annoy
- 48 Consider
- 49 W. mi. alliance
- 50 Blatter, 'grod
- 51 Make a grant
- 60 Unknown author
- 62 Alloy of iron
- 63 Method
- 64 W. mi. alliance
- 65 Pleasant condition
- 66 Wido-mouth
- 67 W. mi. alliance
- 68 Hari

Monday's Puzzle Solved

9 Bivalve mollusk
10 Sanctity
11 Pajamas
12 TV control
13 Author Ferber
18 Below
20 One who
21 VCS? (V)
22 Kipling order
24 Dips, e.g.
27 Outdoor dining
28 Extreme suffering
29 Losing My
30 Fiddler group
31 Bial look
32 Gymnastics
33 Sister's kid
34 Rapist
35 Woman
36 Coalition
39 Stroke of good luck
40 Small, crude dwelling
42 Nooks in stacks

SNIFFS LAW CAPS
HARARE ELI ALIT
ADORER APT PLEA
MAINEUVERS BOOIT
EWING INITIALS
REDPINE UAIN
ARARAT ASSASSIN
NIVEN IMA NOISE
KEEPERAKE MAORIS
LYE SITES
GOALIE DUMP
GREEP HUNBLEPIE
LORE GAP ATRILLY
ENTO ALE STAPLE
FOES STO ASSIS

- 43 Duranto or Stewart
45 Write one's name
46 Calhoun of "Full Frontal"
49 Wear away
50 Aida sofos
51 Italian eight
52 Christmas song
53 Febble
55 Arabian sultanate
56 Santa, CA clubs
57 Spades or clubs
58 Exxon, once
61 At present

Scorpios: Reach out and make peace with someone

IF DECEMBER 23 IS YOUR BIRTHDAY ... you were born on the cusp of Sagittarius and Capricorn and have the best qualities of both signs. You are ambitious (Capricorn) and hip (Sagittarius)—all at the same time, making you perfectly suited for the music industry, like the Gibb twins. Romantic yet sensible, with a great follow-through ability, you are able to reach for a star.

ARIES (Mar 21-Apr 19): Don't get too caught up in defending your position or converting someone to your point of view. Though your focus is career, friends are loving and need extra attention. However, be especially cautious if investing with them.

TAURUS (Apr. 20-May 20): You're sensitive today; try not to hold a grudge. Don't miss an opportunity to expand your horizons. Career is starting to bear real fruit.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Feelings can get out of hand with loved ones; make sure you're not overreacting. Your appeal is powerful, a period of inner examination is beginning. Learning should be fun.

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Your power to get things done is awesome. Take time to connect with someone special; after you talk about feelings, plan a romantic evening. It is time to take the plunge.

LEO (July 23-Aug 22): You can charm the birds right out of their trees. Consider using creative skills in a career. Co-workers should be great to work with today. You're in a loving place.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Give yourself a break from the volatile domestic atmosphere and try to have some fun. Creativity is on the rise. Daily

HOROSCOPE

Jeraldine Saunders

tasks are pleasant though may not always be clear.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Communications are intense; be careful as this is not the time to pick a fight, no matter how tempting. Home should be pleasant overall, and relationships with children run more smoothly.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Cash flow is a powerful focus. This is a great time to reach out and make peace; don't be hesitant. A home beautification project gathers momentum.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Watch how you push your agenda, and don't come on too strong. Consider a business partnership with someone you care about. Soothing words almost always smooth ruffled feathers.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): As the sun moves into your sign, the spotlight is on you and pretty much everyone responds well. Intense feelings are inaccessible or should be processed privately. Home may be combative — don't over-control.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Friends and group involvement stir your passions. You may be feeling invisible, but your charm comes through. Recognition may be delayed, but it will come.

PISCES (Feb. 19-Mar. 20): Use your magnetism to boost your career; just be sure you're not stirring up trouble that can haunt you later. Creativity is in hibernation. Friendships are especially rewarding.

SPLISH SPASH



A mannequin dressed as Santa Claus 'relaxes' Monday in a bathtub with a champagne glass in his hand, in the window of a Buenos Aires, Argentina, store.

Love changes women more than men

Q. How many species of creatures have only one eye?

A. Two. The water flea. And another crustacean known unsurprisingly as the cyclops. There aren't any one-eyed mammals or birds or reptiles or amphibians.

That student of the mind, Theodor Reik, said a declaration of love changes a woman but not a man. Or, more precisely, a woman sees herself as another person after a man tells her he loves—her. But after a woman tells a man she loves him, he sees in himself no change. If you question this difference, ask somebody. Your librarian maybe.



REVISITED
L.M. Boyd

The heart beat is two beats, actually. Medicos call the first "lub," the second "dub," and say "lub" lasts a little longer than "dub."

Tides have nothing to do with tidal waves. You knew that?

If you study to be an astronomer, odds are you'll wind up working for a university. That's the biggest employer of astronomers.

Used to be traveling penmanship teachers. Calligraphers. Before the Civil War, they'd hold classes in little bookshops or private homes. Sometimes they'd set up tables on street corners to offer fancy calling cards. I've read all you have to do to make a living is develop just one of your talents.

William Shakespeare wrote: "The rankest compound of villainous smell that ever offended nostril." You can see Limburger has been around for a few centuries. But can you explain why?

Locals down around Germany's Stuttgart are known for thrift. They have a saying that translates: "Sell your dog, and do your own parking."

Q. What do you call the body of a jellyfish?

A. Its "bell." Did I mention a jellyfish has no brain? Two-thirds of the stars we know about are paired—each in a pair pretty close to the same size, revolving around each other.

White Stripes lead singer faces aggravated assault charges

DETROIT (AP) — White Stripes lead singer Jack White was charged Monday with aggravated assault after a fight with the lead singer of another band.

White went to a police precinct early Sunday morning and gave a statement saying he struck Van Bondies' lead singer, Jason Stollsteimer, in self defense.

The Dec. 13 fight between White and Stollsteimer began shortly before midnight at the Majestic Theatre Center, where both men were in the audience for another concert.

Stollsteimer, 25, told police that White had punched him seven times in the face. Police said

Stollsteimer's right eye was bruised and swollen and he was bleeding from his nose. He was taken to Detroit Receiving Hospital, where he was treated and released.

White, 28, faces anywhere from no jail time to a maximum of one year in prison if convicted.

Wayne County Prosecutor Mike Duggan said Monday that the two had an ongoing disagreement that

began after Stollsteimer criticized White's role in producing the Von Bondies' first album.

"It seems that far too often celebrities think that the law does not apply to them," Duggan said at a Monday news conference.

White and Meg White, who make up the White Stripes, are nominated together for three Grammy Awards: album of the year and alternative music album

for "Elephant," and best rock performance by a duo or group with vocal for "Seven Nation Army." The song also earned Jack White a solo nomination for best rock song.

White also has a small role as a singer in the film "Cold Mountain," starring Nicole Kidman, Jude Law and Renee Zellweger, which opens Christmas Day.

Russell Crowe 'over the moon' about new son

SYDNEY, Australia (AP) — Russell Crowe, star of "A Beautiful Mind," now is the father of a beautiful child.

His wife, Danielle Spencer, gave birth to Charles Spencer Crowe Sunday night. The baby weighed 6 pounds, 2 ounces, Crowe's Australian publicist, Wendy Day, told Australian-Associated Press.

Crowe married Spencer, a 32-year-old singer, April 7 at his sprawling rural property of Man Glen near the east Australian beach resort town of Coffs Harbour.

If Crowe is nominated for an Academy Award, he'll skip the Oscars ceremony to stay at home and change his son's diapers, said his father-in-law, Don Spencer. "That's what he says. I think he'll be a fantastic dad ... he's over the moon."

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EDITORIAL

Don't make a hasty move on old Anderson building

The last-minute Christmas shopping rush apparently has spilled over into the real estate market.

Just days before the holiday, Twin Falls County commissioners are considering a 10-year lease-to-buy agreement for the old Anderson Lumber building on Eastland Avenue, for a price of \$3.2 million.

The Twin Falls City Council approved a change for the property on Monday night, which paves the way for the building's purchase. At the speed it's going, the deal could be done by today.

County leaders probably have the right intentions in pursuing the deal. But this holiday purchase shouldn't be made in a rush.

Commissioners need to step back, do more cost-benefit analysis and hear more public input, before signing on the dotted line.

The \$3.2 million price is conditional on a purchase before the end of the year. Stock Building Supply, the owner, is offering a \$1.8 million price break so the county will buy now. By selling it before Jan. 1, the owner can turn the transaction into tax savings.

But what's the real rush? This building has sat empty since Anderson closed its doors in May 2002. What's to prevent the owner from taking the write-off in 2004? If it's truly a good deal for the county and the seller, why can't it wait until public concerns are fully discussed?

To make this decision during the holidays, when citizens are paying scant attention to county issues, is unwise.

The 11-acre Anderson property includes a 35,000-square-foot main building, a 26,000-square-foot secondary building, and an open pavilion for storage. The county could use

the space to consolidate most of its operations into one building, allowing the county to sell eight buildings it owns elsewhere.

Commissioners estimate the county would fetch \$1.5 million by selling the eight buildings. Is that a realistic appraisal of their market worth? Would these properties sell at all in the current market?

Our view: Twin Falls County commissioners are moving too quickly on purchasing the old Anderson Lumber building.

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

The Anderson facility has wiring for phones, power and computer hookups, but it also will need \$700,000 of renovation. How will utility costs for the Anderson building compare with costs at the older buildings?

Then there are zoning and property tax issues. The county would lose \$55,000 in annual property taxes by making the purchase. Losing prime commercial property may not be a problem for local government. But local taxpayers will be forced to make up the difference.

Another question is what will happen with extra space at the Twin Falls County Courthouse and adjacent vehicle storage property. Are county commissioners giving an option to use that space for possible expansion of the county jail?

Commissioners should take time to address these issues, rather than proceed as usual. Just last week, they approved an ambulance taxing district that increases residents' property taxes. Yet they provided no clear answers on who will manage the taxing district and rein in the runaway overtime pay of ambulance workers.

County leaders are wise to look into the Anderson building purchase, but the deal needs more feedback and research. If commissioners don't use caution, this holiday purchase could lead to buyer's remorse.

Are we safe? We can't know

How the capture of Saddam Hussein made Americans safer?

Howard Dean's claim to the contrary set off a political firestorm last week as other Democrats flayed him and Republicans watched with satisfaction.

But Dean's question is more complex than either party admits.

It's easy to bask in emotional satisfaction over Saddam's downfall. Who (save blinded Arab nationalists) wouldn't cheer the capture of this sadistic monster?

TRUDY RUBIN

I saw what he did to his own people after they rose up against him in the wake of the 1991 Gulf War, and it was obvious.

But emotions aren't adequate to weigh Dean's contentious claim.

I think the only way to do so is to apply the convoluted wisdom of Donald Rumsfeld.

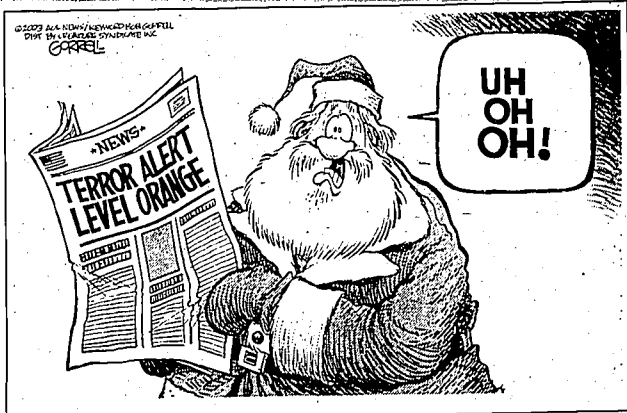
In February 2002, the defense secretary uttered some now-famous words when asked about reports that there were no known links between al-Qaeda and Iraq.

"Reports that say that something hasn't happened are always interesting to me," he said, "because, as we know, there are known knowns there are things we know we know. We also know there are known unknowns; that is to say, we know there are some things we do not know. But there are also unknown unknowns - the ones we don't know we don't know."

In other words - if I can be so bold as to translate Rumspeak - we had to act to avoid the risk of what we did not know.

So what are the known knowns about Saddam's capture? Who is definitely safer?

Iraqis and Iraq's neighbors are. A neutered Iraq no longer threaten them with tanks or weapons of mass destruction - such as the poison gas he used to slaughter Kurds and Iranians in the 1980s. And a safer Middle East is good for the United States, ensuring the uninterrupted flow of oil.



But are you, the residents of Peoria, Ill., or Pottsville, Pa., safer?

The answer may surprise you: We don't know enough to know.

Before the war, the administration claimed that Saddam had weapons of mass destruction and might pass them off to terrorists. More than 50 percent of Americans, according to polls, still believe that Hussein was connected to 9/11. Not so.

The administration has still not put forward proof that Saddam had any serious links to al-Qaeda. If Bush officials had any such evidence, they would certainly advertise it.

As for weapons of mass destruction, none have been found, and Bush's chief weapons inspector is on the verge of quitting. The president said last week that Saddam's threat was "the possibility that he could acquire weapons," not that he already had them. That is a big shift in position.

"If he were to acquire weapons, he would be the danger. That's what I'm trying to explain to you," he told Diane Sawyer, as she kept asking whether the weapons of mass destruction threat had been imminent or hypothetical.

"What's the difference?" the president asked.

The difference, of course, is that the administration based the war on the claim that Saddam "had the weapons already. In reality, the White House rallied Americans to fight an unknown American."

Yes, Saddam presented a "future threat - he might have resurrected his weapons program had he stayed in power, though we have no proof he would have cooperated with terrorists. The only danger we can be sure he posed was to the region, not to our shores. Now Hussein's toast, and we Americans are freed from that indirect threat."

Ironically, however, the invasion of Iraq and Hussein's fall have unleashed their own future dangers - more unknown unknowns.

Iraq is unstable, its political direction unclear. U.S. officials and Iraqi exiles have floundered so far in efforts to resurrect a broken country. The insurgency continues, and external terrorists hope Iraq will provide them with a new base of operations. The president says that the failure of democracy in Iraq "would embolden terrorists and their allies around the world."

Hussein's demise offers a new chance to revamp a faltering postwar occupation. It will liberate political forces that no longer fear his resurrection. It may undercut the insurgency and help Iraq's political process move forward.

Or it may prove a lost opportunity, and terrorism may worsen. We just don't know yet. That's why Dean's question is relevant - and hard to answer. There are too many unknown unknowns.

Trudy Rubin is a columnist and editorial-board member for the Philadelphia Inquirer. Readers may write to her at trubin@hillynews.com.

Ironically, the invasion of Iraq and Hussein's fall have unleashed their own future dangers - more unknown unknowns.

LETTERS

Apathy for draconian drug policy hurts us all

My daughter once explained to me the difference between the two political parties.

"Democrats don't want you to pee in the woods; Republicans don't want you to have any woods to pee in." It appears, however, that neither party has any objection to children peeing in a bottle at school. Since beginning the petition to repeal the school district's random drug testing, I have noticed that the overriding attitude seems to be one of apathy. Party affiliation doesn't seem to matter. About 70 percent are against random drug testing in our schools. The prevailing thought is "test your own kids, leave mine alone."

Yet the school board suggests that parents and students are in favor of the policy. Not so. Of those I met that know why, most have never read the Constitution and none understand that 250 over-the-counter medicines and foods register positive to the test. I met parents that actually believed that the "test" could differentiate between the alcohol in Nyquil (25 percent) and the alcohol in beer (12 percent). The Athenian playwright Aristophanes made an intuitive observation more than 1,000 years ago: "Youth ages, immaturity is outgrown, drunkenness can be educated and ignorance sobered, but stupid lasts forever."

Shareholders need to reject new measures on water

The Twin Falls Canal Co. shareholders should vote no to a proposed by-law amendment resolution scheduled for vote on Jan. 13, 2004 by the board of the Twin Falls Canal Co. to (a) eliminate the four required public notices in local newspapers of future intent to amend the company by-laws, (b) shorten the required notice period of an intent to amend the company by-laws from one month to 10 days and (c) to reduce the required percentage of shares voted to pass a company by-law amendment from two-thirds to one-half.

Last year out of 202,690.93 registered shares, only 11,808.55 were actually voted. If this proposed amendment had been in effect last year, roughly 5,905 shares could have amended the by-laws of our Twin Falls Canal Co. folks, do you realize that this is less than 3 percent of the shareholders and they could have legally amended your by-laws? That would have been with absolutely no required public notice and, in my opinion, too little effective shareholder

help us, we might make a Democracy. JOSEPH S. STANZAK Twin Falls

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notice for shareholders to reject. As shareholders, we have already had an instance where we stopped a by-law resolution concerning surface water, groundwater and due diligence advertisement to the Idaho State Department of Water Resources that would, in my opinion, have been very bad indeed for our company and our community.

The Twin Falls Canal Co. not only controls the lifeblood of every shareholder but of every individual and city in the web of the water delivery system. It is obvious common sense that there should be complete and effective adequate prior disclosure to the shareholders and the entire community of all important actions taken by our company. Our directors are not so omnipotent that they are beyond being able to benefit from shareholder and community input.

How do you think laws got passed that allow over-allocation of Idaho's water, disregard for public interest in water rights transfers and water rights transfers without public notice? That is what shareholders let some slick lawyer lobbyist and a state agency in Boise think for them. Give up your rights, give up your water - it's already shared! MAX D. HATFIELD Dallas, Texas

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Getting in touch

Want to make your feelings known to your representatives in Congress? Here's how:

Sen. Mike Crapo
In Twin Falls, call or write: Linda Norris, senior regional director, 202 Falls Ave., Suite 2, Twin Falls, ID 83301, 734-2515; Fax 733-0414
In Washington: 239 Dirksen Senate Office Building, Washington, D.C. 20510 (202) 224-6142
Crapo's home page at www.senate.gov/~crapo

Sen. Larry Craig
In Twin Falls, call or write: Mike Mathews, regional director, 560 Flier Ave., Suite A, Twin Falls, ID 83301, 734-6780; Fax 734-3905
In Washington: 520 Hart Senate Office Building, Washington, D.C. 20510 (202) 224-2752
e-mail: http://craig.senate.gov/email

Rep. Mike Simpson
In Twin Falls, call or write: Charlie Barnes, agriculture field director, 1201 Falls Ave. E., suite 225, Twin Falls, ID 83301, 734-7219; Fax 734-7244
In Washington: 1339 Longworth Building, Washington, D.C. 20515 Phone: (202) 225-5531 Fax: (202) 225-8216
Access Simpson's e-mail through his Webpage: <http://www.house.gov/simpson>

Doonesbury



Mallard Fillmore



By Bruce Tinsley

By Garry Trudeau

OPINION

Support for action in Iraq solidifies

Familiar consumers of the American media can be forgiven for believing that the Iraq war has created searing divisions in the American body politic of a kind not seen since the nation was torn apart in the later years of the Vietnam War. But is the reality division or consensus?

ROBERT KAGAN

In fact, Americans have been remarkably supportive of the Iraq war, both on the original decision to invade and on the need to keep troops in Iraq for years to come, if necessary. This support was on the rise, moreover, even before Saddam Hussein was pulled out of his hole this past week.

You could see the public mood reflected in the statements of Sen. Hillary Clinton of New York a couple of weeks ago. Clinton dismissed the anti-war argument: "I think that Saddam Hussein was certainly a potential threat" who "was seeking weapons of mass destruction, whether or not he actually had them." Her husband, another popular Democrat, said the same last July.

Clinton's pro-war statements shocked some, but she was only expressing the mainstream view. In a CNN/USA Today/Gallup poll taken over the weekend of Dec. 5-7 - before Saddam's capture - 59 percent of respondents said they believed it was "worth going to war" in Iraq; 39 percent said it was not. That poll reflected a steady trend that pre-dated Saddam's capture.

Support for the war, which had briefly fallen from more than 60 percent in the summer to 50 percent in early September, had been climbing, back up, ever since. Saddam's capture bumped the number a bit - 62 percent now believe the war was worth it; 33 percent think it wasn't - but they might have risen anyway.

The CBS/New York Times poll shows the same results: Before Saddam's capture, 64 percent believed the United States did "the right thing" going to war in Iraq, while 28 percent believed the war was a mistake. The percentages remain roughly the same after Saddam's capture.

This is a pretty solid pro-war consensus in historical terms, especially given the casualties U.S. troops have suffered in Iraq since the official end of the war, not to mention the endless stream of Iraq-related scandals involving alleged lies and the lying liars who tell them. By



comparison, in June 1999, about a week after the war in Kosovo ended in a casualty-free victory for the United States and its NATO allies, a Washington Post poll showed that 52 percent of Americans believed the United States had done the "right thing" by going to war while 40 percent still believed it was a "mistake." According to CNN's polls this year, only once has support for the Iraq war fallen as low as 50 percent, despite the steady stream of relatively bad news. This suggests that even if the fight in Iraq remains a tough slog in the coming months, public support may not drop that much.

The consistent pro-war numbers are even more surprising given the financial, so far, to uncover any chemical or biological weapons stocks in Iraq. According to an NBC News/Wall Street Journal survey, 57 percent of Americans believed the war "will have been worth-

while" even if weapons of mass destruction are "never" discovered - and that was before Saddam's capture. Now the number is 63 percent.

Perhaps more amazing is the strong public support for keeping U.S. troops in Iraq as long as necessary. In the latest NBC poll, 55 percent of respondents believe U.S. troops should "stay as long as necessary to complete the process" in Iraq - "even if it takes as long as five years!" Another 23 percent are willing to give it another year and a half. Only 20 percent want to "withdraw "as soon as possible." Those numbers, too, are virtually unchanged from a month ago.

You have to wonder, moreover, about the roughly one-third of the country that says it

opposes the war. How much of that opposition is antiwar, and

how much is anti-Bush? In 1999 a significant portion of the opposition to Clinton's war in Kosovo was simply Clinton-hating Republicans expressing their hatred. The same phenomenon is surely at work now.

So when some Democrats argue that Howard Dean can't win the general election, they would seem to have a point. As predicted, Dean has now surrounded himself with respected centrist advisers from the Democratic establishment. The big foreign policy speech they wrote for him masterfully tried to cast him as a moderate, which on some issues other than Iraq, he may well be. But Dean undid all his advisers' efforts when he insisted that "the capture of Saddam has not made America safer." A landslide's worth of Americans really don't agree.

Robert Kagan, a senior associate at the Carnegie Endowment, writes a monthly column for The Washington Post.

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This celebration of the holiday is presented by the performing ensembles of Baylor University.
9:00 p.m.

INDEPENDENT LENS GET THE FIRE! YOUNG MORMON MISSIONARIES ABROAD
Follow three Utah teens as they get the fire and test the faith in this religious rite of passage.
10:00 p.m.

During this season of giving, consider a tax-deductible calendar year-end gift to Idaho Public Television.

You can increase the value of your gift by pledging online. Your online pledge will be matched by KeyBank.

idahoptv.org/support

Sprint

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A FREE CAMERA PHONE and a \$25 Target GiftCard

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Clearly The Best.

Small print text at the bottom of the advertisement.

Cry wolf: Researchers say wolves could help reduce disease in elk

MAGIC VALLEY

INSIDE

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City Editor: Chad Balkin, 733-0931, Ext. 234

The Times-News

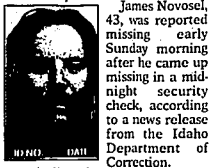
Tuesday, December 23, 2003

Section B

AROUND THE VALLEY

Inmate walks away from community center

TWIN FALLS - Police were looking Monday for an inmate who apparently walked away from the Twin Falls Community Work Center over the weekend.



James Novosel, 45, was reported missing early Sunday morning after he came up missing in a mid-night security check, according to a news release from the Idaho Department of Corrections.

After correctional officers noticed Novosel was not in his bunk for the security check, they did a complete check of the work center and a count of offenders and determined Novosel had escaped, the release said.

Novosel was serving a three- to four-year sentence for drug trafficking. A Blaine County judge sentenced Novosel in October. He was assigned to the work center as a cook.

There is a possibility Novosel will try to return to the Hailey area to retrieve some possessions, officials said. He also has family and friends in the Burley/Rupert area.

Inmates at the Community Work Center generally are within a year of their parole dates. Most of them have jobs and use the wages both for savings and to repay the state for incarceration costs.

They live in the center, where there is supervision and doors are locked at night.

Three remain in hospital after wreck on Highway 75

HAILEY - Three people remained in a Boise hospital Monday after a Friday night collision involving two vehicles and an elk on Idaho Highway 75 about two miles north of Hailey.

The wreck was triggered after a 1996 Chevrolet Tahoe struck an elk and the underage, unlicensed driver lost control of the SUV, which then was struck in the side by the front of a 1993 Chevrolet Blazer.

The young driver, Alan Torres, is 12 years old. Idaho State Police Cpl. Bob Bingham, who investigated the accident, cited Torres for not having a license, although an investigation continues.

Torres and a passenger in the Tahoe, Barbara Zavala, 15, both of Hailey, as well as the driver of the Blazer, John T. Loughran, of Ketchum, were taken by Life Flight to Saint Alphonsus Regional Medical Center in Boise. The hospital said it could not release the conditions of the teenagers without parental permission.

Loughran, 42, was listed in fair condition, the hospital said. Bingham said Torres was headed south after 10 p.m. Friday when the Tahoe struck an elk crossing the highway. The collision triggered the driver's airbag, apparently causing Torres to lose control, according to the report. The Tahoe crossed into the northbound highway lane. Loughran's Blazer plowed into the passenger side of the Torres vehicle where Barbara Zavala was sitting.

ISP also said that a relative of Torres, Christina Zaula, told Bingham that she was driving just ahead of the Torres vehicle and saw the collision. She also told ISP she gave permission to Torres to drive the SUV, which is registered to another person, Raul Salinas.

Compiled from staff reports

Snowpack levels

Table with 3 columns: Watershed, % of Avg., % season peak. Rows include Upper Snake Basin, Salmon Falls, Salmon, Oakley, Big Wood, Little Wood, Henry's Fork/Teton, Big Lost, Little Lost.

A comparison of basin snowpack, on this day, with a 30-year average. This is an indicator of how snowpack has changed over time.

T.F. council delays annexation

By Karin Kowalski Times-News writer

TWIN FALLS - A proposal to annex seven finished and planned developments around the city was delayed again Monday.

A week after postponing action on the annexation plan, the City Council on Monday did so again after hearing opposition to one part of the proposed ordinance.

The proposed annexation sites lie all around the city, but the largest bone of contention, the Candleridge East proposed development, is at the northeast

corner of Eastland and Candleridge drives on the northeast edge of the city.

Several residents of the area spoke against the growing density, problems with water and the proposed change in zoning of the area from R-1 43000 to R-1 Variable, which could allow for higher-density development in the subdivision that has yet to be built.

Jenna Johnson said she moved to that area because she liked the space and now she feels like the

city is closing in.

Roger Blades said he does not want to see city streetlights. He wants to see stars at night. He also had concern for wetlands in the area and traffic on Eastland Drive. He also said he fears tax increases as the city needs to build more roads, lights and schools.

Ruth Manwaring, another resi-

Several residents of the area spoke against the growing density, problems with water and the proposed change in zoning of the area.

dent of the area, said the current zoning is appropriate to the neighborhood; a transition from agricultural to residential land.

Developer Jack Straubhaar said the subdivision would have lots ranging in size from a third to a half of an acre. He said city water is needed in the subdivision because of the water table and a

history of agricultural pollution in the area.

Doug Vollmer, another developer of the property, said R-1 Variable is the most restrictive zoning designation that allows for commercial city water.

The council tabled the annexation ordinance to allow for more debate and will consider it again Dec. 29 at 6 p.m.

Other council business included:

Advisory boards - The council approved a new ordinance that clarifies the eligibility requirements for city advisory boards. People who serve partial terms

Please see COUNCIL, Page B3

CARVING THE SLOPES



Corey McDonald supervises the work in Sun Valley's new half pipe as a snow cat with a half pipe grinder attachment shapes the curved walls.

Crowds brave Sun Valley's new U-shaped playground

By Karen Bossick Times-News correspondent

SUN VALLEY - Sun Valley's new half pipe opened Monday without fanfare or even a ribbon cutting.

But it didn't take long for the word to spread and for snowboarders and skiers to line up on the hill above, sizing up the 400-foot-long, U-shaped playground.

"I'm having second thoughts the longer I stand here," Sun Valley ski instructor Brian Funsten said.

Snow riders showed their lift tickets to ticket supervisor Michael Spens. Then, keeping a respectful distance between one another, they dropped into the pipe one by one.

A few caught a foot of air careening off the sides of the 40-foot-wide pipe. Others barely climbed a foot up the 12-foot walls before they made tiny jumps, turning them back toward the ground.

"It's scary when you get in there," said 11-year-old Ian Murphy, who nevertheless made a respectable showing on snow blades even though he said he'd never tried anything of that sort before.

Workers have been laboring nonstop since early last week to ready the pipe for Christmas guests, who began showing up this weekend from as far away as Florida and Connecticut.

One snow cat pushed tiny

mountains of man-made snow into the U-shaped pit. A second employed a curved attachment known as a half pipe grinder, which resembled a conveyor belt with paddles, to shape the snow into a curved wall.

Sun Valley snowboard team member Nick Shurtz said the walls were still a little rough on Monday. "But it's worth the wait," he added.

Sun Valley officials hope the new half pipe will attract families with kids and garner good press coverage. But they're adopting a cautious wait-and-see attitude.

A half pipe built in the late 1990s on Dollar Mountain was closed after one season because it failed to attract enough users,

said Jack Sibbach, Sun Valley's director of marketing and sales. Critics said the pipe didn't get as much use as it could have because it was built on Dollar Mountain, which is considered a beginners' hill, rather than Bald Mountain.

The new one on Bald seemed to get plenty of use throughout its first morning, even though the Warm Springs side of the mountain doesn't get sun until midday during early winter.

But the type of use it was getting puzzled skier Stephen Beryx.

"They built it for snowboarders, but all I've seen is so far are skiers," Beryx laughed as his chair rose over the half pipe.

Hospital plans to use reserve funds for proposed expansion

By Rose Marie Parsons Times-News correspondent

RUPERT - Minidoka Memorial Hospital officials will have to dip into their cash reserves to cover some costs for the remodeling and expansion of the facility's nursing home, according to hospital Administrator Carl Hanson.

Hanson told Minidoka County commissioners Monday a \$5.5 million loan approved by U.S. Bank is \$1.1 million less than requested. He proposed a mix of funding sources to pay for the full project, including using some reserve funds.

Five years ago the hospital had no cash reserves, Hanson said. Reserves have grown to 60 days' cash on hand, but he would prefer to have 90 days' in reserve.

Hospital officials are willing to delay growth of the reserve fund in order to complete remodeling of the nursing home, he said.

Many of the improvements to the nursing home are mandated by Medicare, according to Hanson.

Hanson hopes the nursing home project will be completed by mid-May 2005.

Hanson also told the commissioners the hospital will get a new ambulance in February.

Other commission business included: Mental health contract - Deputy Minidoka County Prosecuting Attorney Alan Goodman said Canyon View Psychiatric and Addiction Services in Twin Falls is terminating its contract with the county to provide mental health serv-

ices to county residents who are involuntarily admitted and who are determined to be medically indigent. Canyon View is proposing a new contract that covers both involuntary and voluntary admissions.

Leased land - Brad Rogers said for the last two years he has not been able to produce a crop on land he leases from the county. He said he got good yields on the land before composted sugar beet return dirt was spread on the 35 acres next to the landfill. Rogers said water will not percolate through the compacted soil and his equipment will not rip it. He asked the county to help him get the field tilled. He has one year left on his lease but doesn't want to plant another crop until the ground can be cultivated.

Please see HOSPITAL, Page B3

M-C officials consider plans for wind farm

By Rose Marie Parsons Times-News correspondent

RUPERT - A planned wind farm on Cottorel Mountain would generate 160 temporary jobs during construction and about 20 permanent jobs, Mini-Cassia elected officials were told Monday.

Windland Inc. President-Road Doskeland discussed the project with Cassia and Minidoka county commissioners and four area legislators at a joint lunch meeting. Doskeland said he is excited about the Cottorel project for several reasons: The slope of the mountain near Albion is excellent for wind generation, and transmission lines for both Bonneville Power Administration and Raft River Electric are nearby.

If Windland officials are able to install 2.5 or 3 megawatt machines, fewer machines will be

The slope of the mountain near Albion is excellent for wind generation.

needed, according to Doskeland. A 3-megawatt tower would be 230 feet-tall with 300-foot-long blades. Most of the land where the project is planned is managed by the Bureau of Land Management. A couple of sections of state land are also involved.

The draft environmental impact statement for the project is expected to be finished in late winter or early spring, Doskeland said. He expects the final environmental impact statement to be finished in about a year, with the final decision coming down in the first quarter of 2005.

... ARE YOU LISTENING??



Wagner, 7-months-old, watches from a snug spot inside a miniature toboggan, as his two brothers sled Saturday at Woodland Park in Kellspeil, Mont.

Blaine County sheriff gets jury summons

Around the valley

HAILEY - The summons that arrived in the mail asked the recipient to answer questions to determine his qualification for jury service after Jan. 1 in 5th District Court.

Does he know any law enforcement personnel, or is he related to one?

Well, yes, he responded to the question: He not only knows many law enforcement personnel, but he is one.

Blaine County Sheriff Walt Femling duly answered all the questions and returned the paperwork to the jury commissioner.

The likelihood that Femling will be called to jury duty is virtually nil, as most people tried in the criminal court are in his custody at one time or another.

Femling, who has been sheriff for nearly 17 years and plans to seek re-election in 2004, also said Monday he has never served on a jury.

Kerry cancels book signing for campaign

KETCHUM - A planned book signing here today by U.S. Sen. John Kerry of Massachusetts has been canceled because of stepped-up activities in his campaign in the East for the Democratic presidential nomination.

Instead, the owner of Chapter One Books, Cheryl Welch, said she would deliver books to Kerry's vacation home just north of Ketchum for him to sign when he arrives later during the Christmas holidays.

She said that 20 to 30 people have bought Kerry's new book, "A Call to Service: My Vision for a Better America."

The Kerry home, tucked away in woods along the Big Wood River, was built decades ago by the parents of his second wife, Teresa Heinz Kerry, widow of the late Sen. John Heinz, scion of the condiment fortune who was killed in a 1991 Pennsylvania crash of his personal aircraft.

Driver license offices set their holiday hours

TWIN FALLS - The Twin Falls and Buhl driver license offices will have the following holiday hours:

- Christmas Eve - will close at noon.
 - Christmas Day - closed.
 - New Year's Eve - will close at noon.
 - New Year's Day - closed.
- Compiled from staff reports

FBI raids multi-million dollar California firm

SACRAMENTO (AP) - The FBI raided a Southern California investment company Monday, alleging that more than 1,800 investors who invested tens of millions of dollars were victims of a long-running confidence scheme.

No charges have been filed, but the FBI is investigating Financial Advisory Consultants as a possible Ponzi scheme, where early investors are paid with money from later investors, said FBI spokeswoman Laura Bosley.

James Lewis, who variously lists himself as the firm's president or, more recently, its funds manager, led an investor in August that his growth fund" alone had \$62 million in assets, according to an FBI affidavit. Lewis also operated an income fund that clients said is worth tens of millions of dollars.

His firm had more than 1,800 clients across the nation, one of Lewis' assistants told the FBI.

Agents executed a search warrant at the Orange County company's three-room El Toro office suite Monday, carting away boxes of documents, computers and other materials.

"They've got the place totally insulated," said a client who witnessed the raid and fears he will lose the \$350,000 he invested. "It looked like they were moving."

The state - Corporations Department has identified investors in Idaho, Utah, Oregon, Colorado, Georgia and California, according to the FBI affidavit. The AP has had calls from investors living as far away as Michigan.

The Associated Press disclosed earlier this month that Lewis, 57, has been investing millions of dollars for clients and claiming extraordinary financial returns for 20 years, without being licensed or regulated as required.

Moreover, the firm headquartered at 22972 El Toro Rd., has never provided clients with any details on how it invests their money. Since July, Lewis has been delaying withdrawal requests with the excuse that millions of dollars in investments have been frozen by the Department of Homeland Security - a freeze the AP reported does not exist.

Those details were confirmed in a sworn affidavit used to obtain the search warrant from a federal magistrate.

"There is probable cause to believe that FAC and Lewis, through the use of the mails, engaged in a scheme to defraud investors in FAC's Income and Growth Funds by operating a Ponzi scheme," FBI agent Brad Howard said in his affidavit. He further alleges that Lewis and the firm used the U.S. mail to sell securities without registering with the federal Securities and Exchange Commission.

Investors previously said they had been interviewed and provided financial records to investigators from both the SEC and the state Department of Corporations. The FBI is willing to share its information, but acted alone Monday and is the only agency involved in the criminal investigation, said spokeswoman Bosley.

Regulators are examining documents provided by Barry Minkow, a convicted felon turned anti-fraud investigator for San Diego-based Fraud Discovery Institute.

"The very substance and essence of this business did not exist," Minkow said Monday. Law enforcement officials acted quickly, Minkow said, because "they saw the guy digging a deeper and deeper hole, and they pulled the shovel out of his hand."

Chuck Woolstenhulme of Temecula invested \$100,000 with Lewis the day he saw Fox News interview Minkow based on the AP's story. He tried to get his money back, but failed.

"I'm glad it's come to this," Woolstenhulme said Monday. "It's an important step, I think, to see if there's any money left and how it gets distributed."

In a letter faxed to investors Friday, Lewis said his firm has "never charged for financial advice, nor have we ever sold any securities." He said that means he doesn't need to be registered with the SEC nor the state Corporations Department.

Orange County reports to investors, the BLM said totaled more than \$70,000 by 2001.

Deputy Attorney General Gina Session said that federal law - not state law - applies because the confiscation took place on federal land. She said the state's only role is to certify BLM's legal possession, which it is required to do under federal law when BLM presents the proper documents.

"The beef really is between Mr. Colvin and the BLM. We don't have a dog in this fight," Session said.

Van Zandt said Colvin and other ranchers have constitutionally protected property rights to use the land based in part on water rights that date back a century.

"These are not public lands," he said.

Session said the state "recognizes there is public land in Nevada under the jurisdiction of the federal government."

Sandoval, a Republican who said he wants to address the ranchers' concerns, attended the nearly six-hour hearing but Session presented the state's case.

Officials in Sandoval's office could not recall an instance of a state attorney general requesting such a judicial confirmation hearing, which are used only occasionally to review state bond issues.

Colvin in 2001. "I understand there are a host of issues of great concern to the ranching community and the duties of the brand inspector and the federal government," Berry told the ranchers' lawyer.

"You are asking this court to make significant constitutional determinations. ... But the issue before this court is very, very narrow," she said.

"Certain issues cannot be decided by a court. They have to be decided by your elected representatives and federal government. Judges do not make law."

The ranchers, represented by the Nevada Livestock Association, said Colvin and others should have been allowed a state court hearing to argue why the BLM has no authority to confiscate cattle accused of grazing on BLM land without a federal permit.

Michael Van Zandt, a lawyer for the group, said the state brand inspector was wrong to certify the BLM's possession of cattle based solely on BLM's documentation showing it had followed proper procedures in confiscating the livestock.

"The brand inspector has the legal authority to hold up the transfer and clear up any dispute over the legal possession," Van Zandt said.

The BLM maintains it has the authority to seize the cattle administratively - without judicial review - after a rancher accused of repeated trespassing is notified of the offense, warned about the consequences and notified of plans to impound the cattle.

In Colvin's case, BLM officials said they had warned him since 1995 that he was violating federal law and his cattle could be subject to confiscation for back fees the

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Utah senator's business dealings agitate critics

SALT LAKE CITY (AP) - As commitments for his business-related position increase, some critics complain that it's taking Utah Senate President Al Mansell away from state business too often.

Mansell next year will become president of the National Association of Realtors. But The Salt Lake Tribune reported Monday that his duties with the association repeatedly have pulled him away from his part-time job at the Capitol.

He missed Gov. Olene Walker's inauguration and her first meeting with legislative leaders because of association work.

Linda Hilton, an advocate for those with low incomes, said Mansell's absences thwart his leadership into question.

"If you're the leader of a group, you ought to be there to lead them," Hilton said. "Can you say that you're really providing leadership if you're not there to lead?"

Mansell said he has no plans to resign as Senate president.

"My job is to be available and make decisions," he told the Tribune. "I'm available pretty much on a daily basis, and I talk to Senate members pretty much on a daily basis."

"As far as getting things done and taking care of the Senate, I'm doing my job," said Mansell, a nine-year Senate veteran who was elected to the leadership position in 2000.

The Senate majority leader agrees.

Radio actor Tremayne dies at 90

LOS ANGELES - Les Tremayne, one of the best-known radio actors in the 1930s and '40s for his starring roles "The Thin Man," "The Falcon" and, most notably, "The Dick Tracy" series, died at 90.

Tremayne, whose film credits included the science-fiction classic "The War of the Worlds," died of heart failure Friday at a hospital in Santa Monica.

In a six-decade career that began on radio in Chicago in 1930, Tremayne once estimated that he had worked on more than 30,000 broadcasts, with as many as 45 radio shows a week in the 1930s.

In polls, he was voted the No. 1 dramatic actor in the medium.

Tremayne was so familiar to radio audiences that in one poll in the early 1940s, he was cited as

"if he thought he couldn't do the job, he would step aside," said state Sen. Mike Waddoups, the Taylorville Republican who sat in for Mansell at Walker's inauguration. "That time hasn't come as far as I'm concerned."

However, Mansell is scaling back.

He said he has sold his business, Mansell and Associates, because of the constraints of his legislative job and Realtors Association duties. And he does not plan to run for re-election as Senate president when his term ends at the end of 2004.

In the same time his political stock was rising, Mansell's professional career as a real estate broker was gaining national stature. An association member since 1969, Mansell moved from a position as a Realtors board member 20 years ago to president-elect this year.

To gain that position, Mansell had to pay his dues, traveling to association meetings and conferences month after month. This year alone, the association has held at least five executive meetings from a leadership summit in Chicago in March to the November expo in California.

His spokesman, Eric Isom, refused to detail his travel for the association. His state appointment calendars are deleted monthly to it's not possible to find out how many trips have been made.

Next year, Mansell will be expected at a yearlong schedule of meetings.

One of the three most famous voices in America. The other two were President Franklin D. Roosevelt and Bing Crosby.

He had a silken, wonderful voice - it was in the Orson Welles timbre; it kind of was honeyed in the best sense," Norman Corwin, the renowned radio writer, director and producer of the 1930s and '40s, told the Los Angeles Times.

"Les Tremayne," Corwin added, "was always a name that had considerable luster in the profession."

Marty Halperin, vice president of Pacific Pioneer Broadcasters, the social-professional organization that Tremayne helped found in 1956, said the actor's voice "was very authoritative and cultural, but he could do all sorts of accents."

Council

Continued from B1
are allowed to serve two terms in addition to the partial ones.

• **Plat approval** - The council approved final plats for two subdivisions. The Morning Sun subdivision east of Falls Avenue East and Eastland Drive will have 23 residential lots. Magic Valley Business Park No. 1, near the intersection of Kimberly and Hankins roads, will have three lots.

• **Liquor licenses** - Council members approved a liquor license to allow beer to be served at Nazz Kart at 302 Third Ave. S.

• **Firefighters** - Steve Haszler and Justin James, two Twin Falls firefighters, received certificates after passing a drivers' academy that included 100 hours of training. Tim Lauda, Rod Dixon, Mike Shewmaker, Rick Hatridge, Tom Colby and Matt Bayless all received their firefighter level II certificates for completing advanced firefighting courses.

• **Appointment** - Bill Merritt was approved for another three-year term on the Twin Falls Tree Commission.

Hospital

continued from B1
• **Petition** - Dan Hofstetter notified the commissioners he is circulating a petition requesting removal of the fence around the oval at Exit 208 because it hinders handicapped access.

• **Homeland security** - Minidoka County Disaster Service Coordinator George Falkner said the Department of Homeland Security has not identified any known targets in Idaho. When the terrorism threat level is raised, Falkner checks with the sheriff to be sure he has been notified.

• **Donation** - Commissioners voted 2-1 to contribute \$2,000 to

the South Central Community Action Partnership. Commissioner Dan Stapelman voted against the motion.

• **Planning commission** - Dick Galbraith and Arnold Patterson have each agreed to serve another term on the Minidoka County Planning and Zoning Commission. Galbraith is com-

pleting his second three-year term; Patterson is completing his first term.

• **Sheriff's vehicle financing** - Commissioners accepted a bid from D.L. Evans Bank to finance Sheriff's office vehicles at a 3.2 percent interest with no document fee.

WEST

Report: Utah women's, children's health care needs improvement

SALT LAKE CITY (AP) - Utah's health maintenance organizations lag behind the rest of the nation in areas of children's and women's health, but do better with diabetes care, according to an annual performance report.

The Utah Department of Health has issued its annual 2003 performance report rating Utah's health maintenance organizations, just in time for the health plan changeover season.

The first section of the new report describes how Utah's HMOs are performing in different areas of health care. Results rate Utah's groups above the national average in access by adults to preventive care and blood-sugar control in people with diabetes.

Utah's HMOs also have a lower Caesarean section delivery rate than the rest of the nation.

However, Utah HMOs scored lower than the national average

for children and adolescents' health maintenance and childhood immunizations.

Utah health officials and this report do indicate that childhood immunizations in Utah have improved in the past year, with just over two-thirds of all children covered by commercial HMOs receiving all the recommended immunizations. Improvement is also needed in consumer satisfaction.

The Medicaid HMOs scored higher than the national average in many areas, including adults' access to preventive care, care for diabetes patients, prenatal care, children's access to primary care practitioners, childhood immunizations and well-child visits in the first 15 months of life.

Areas where Medicaid HMOs in Utah need improvement are well-care visits for children ages 3-6 and for adolescents; breast

and cervical cancer screenings; and chlamydia screenings in women.

"This report allows health-care consumers to make informed decisions about their health care and at the same time helps HMOs know where to make quality improvements," said Annette Herman, HMO representative for the Utah Healthcare Committee and also president and CEO of United Healthcare Utah. "The data helps drive community education efforts, and that helps improve our residents' health status overall."

Approximately 35 percent of Utah's insured population is covered by one of the five commercial plans listed in the report, or one of the four Medicaid plans included. IHC is by far the largest HMO provider, with almost 469,000 persons enrolled earlier this year.

Population database may aid cancer research

SALT LAKE CITY (AP) - Utah's health-information databank may help researchers determine why some people exposed to radiation from the government's atomic weapons program developed cancer or other deadly diseases while others didn't.

The database could be used with information collected on people who claim they were sickened from the uranium industry or weapons-testing fallout.

Stephen M. Prescott, the director of the Huntsman Cancer Institute, called the melding of the two resources "a discovery engine" that could be used to identify the genes that make people susceptible to harm from radiation or possibly protect them.

"It's work already being done with mice," said Prescott, after

presenting the idea Dec. 15 to a panel of the National Academy of Sciences meeting in southern Utah. "But we should be able to find the gene for susceptibility in humans."

The Utah Population Database contains in-depth family health information from about 21 million people. Prescott said that has proven a powerful tool to understand the genetic basis of disease.

Combined with separate information resources about uranium-industry workers and those exposed to fallout from weapons testing, it could lead researchers to identify families with a genetic vulnerability or resistance to health damage associated with exposure to radiation.

The Board on Radiation Effects Research met earlier this

month in St. George, where it heard from uranium industry workers, the downwinders who blame atomic-weapons testing fallout for their illnesses, and the families of both groups.

The board's main task is to recommend whether to expand the kinds of illnesses and the geographical areas that are covered under the \$700 million federal government compensation program, the Radiation Exposure Compensation Act.

Suggestions are due within a year, so it's unlikely the board will include Huntsman's study proposal in its upcoming advisory report, said board Chairman R. Julian Preston.

"It would be a useful study, but it would take years," said Preston of identifying radiation-sensitivity genes.

Hawaii tree sellers slash prices because of glut

HONOLULU (AP) - Hawaii is known for its high cost of living. But this year, sprucing up the living room for the holidays only takes \$1 - even less in some cases.

A glut of Christmas trees has some merchants offering them for as little as a buck. Some overstocked sellers are even giving them away.

Sellers attribute the surplus of trees to dealers overcompensating for last year, when there was a shortage.

"Everyone and their mother was selling Christmas trees this year," said Ray Griego, assistant manager at Wal-Mart in Mililani. Griego brought in 5,600 trees and still had 1,000 left on Sunday. He planned to cut charities that

might be interested in taking some free trees off his hands.

Mahimalani Radliff closed her tree lot in Hawaii Kai on Saturday, even though she had 200 trees left.

With the surplus and competition from big-box stores selling trees at low prices, Radliff said she didn't see herself doing much more business.



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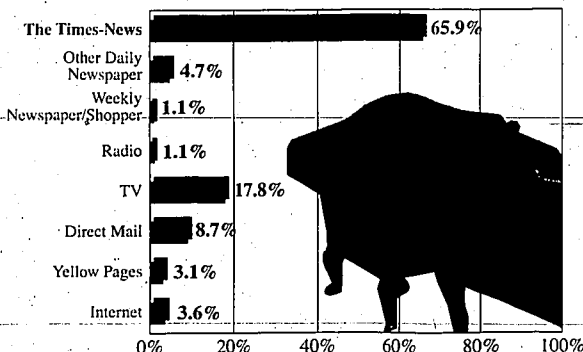
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Wolves could help control disease in elk

DENVER (AP) — Researchers are looking to wolves to help control the spread of chronic wasting disease in deer and elk, a fatal brain malady some biologists fear will invade Yellowstone National Park in the next few years.

Wolves' uncanny ability to spot vulnerable animals may make them the best natural control for the disease, since wolves could kill off sick animals, researchers say.

Wasting disease makes its victims tiny holes in their brains, the Denver Post reported.

"Wolves show up and say, 'Let's see what you've got,'" said National Park Service biologist Douglas Smith, who helped lead the program that returned wolves to Yellowstone in 1995 and 1996. "And if you don't have it, they leave on you like a fighter plane. The things they pick up on are incredibly subtle."

While the theory is still unproven, but some say it is worth factoring in to the debate as chronic wasting disease continues to creep north toward Yellowstone's famed nature hotels.

Wasting disease was detected in northern Wyoming's Bighorn Basin this year for the first time, and some Wyoming biologists fear CWD will move into the Greater Yellowstone ecosystem in the next year or two.

"Every idea should get a fair hearing and if that disease management is a fair question for a biologist to ask," said Russell George, director of the Colorado Division of Wildlife.

No one has been able to study whether wolves could control CWD-infected animals because the

range of predator and disease have never overlapped.

But over the next few years, that will likely change as both the disease and wolves spread out.

David Mech, a biologist with the U.S. Geological Survey who is considered one of the world's top wolf experts, cautioned that until wolves and wasting disease actually interact, theories about wolves controlling the spread of the disease are just speculation.

Wasting disease was first identified in a Fort Collins wildlife research station in 1967, spreading into southeast Wyoming by the 1980s. Last year it was discovered as far away as Wisconsin.

Unlike other predators like mountain lions and coyotes, wolves constantly test potential prey, looking for weakness. This hunting style, Smith said, seems perfect for tailored to removing sick animals.

"Wolves are probably the single best way to stop the spread of CWD," he said. "Chronic wasting disease causes animals to act weird. Wolves kill animals like that."

University of Calgary professor Valerius Geist, an expert on deer and elk, said wolves can remove infected individuals and clean up carcasses that could transmit the disease.

Geist and Princeton University biologist Andrew Dobson theorize that killing off the wolf allowed CWD to take hold in the first place.

A federal predator control program in the 1920s eliminated the last prairie wolves in the region, according to Michael Robinson of the Center for Biological Diversity.

Oil, gas permits rise under Bush

Requests strain BLM resources

WASHINGTON (AP) — Oil and gas companies eager to drill in the Rocky Mountain West appear to have an ally in the Bush administration, which is approving wells at a pace well ahead of the Clinton administration and looking to get even faster.

An Associated Press review of thousands of applications to drill on Bureau of Land Management lands since 1998 shows a 34 percent increase in the number of wells approved under Bush when compared with the last three years of the Clinton administration.

The vast majority of the permits, 94 percent since 2001, are clustered in five states: Colorado, Montana, New Mexico, Utah and Wyoming — a key region in the administration's push to open more public land for energy development.

The BLM has received nearly 26,000 applications to drill wells and approved nearly 19,000 since 1998 — nearly three of every four. BLM land and other federal land managed by the Interior Department contain an estimated 68 percent of nation's gas reserves and 74 percent of oil resources. The AP review covered detailed BLM records over the last three years and summary information dating to 1998.

A flood of permits has strained the BLM's meager resources, creating a backlog of applications industry officials say is leading to shortages and higher gas prices.

To answer critics, the Interior Department is seeking to speed up the process.

"We are blessed with vast resources. We have a stewardship responsibility to produce it and I think the American public expects us to produce it," said Patricia Morrison, an agency's principal deputy assistant secretary for land and minerals.

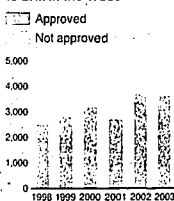
The BLM controls 262 million acres of land and 700 million acres of subsurface rights, with an annual budget of about \$2 billion and 10,000 employees — but it isn't enough to do the job.

The BLM field office in Buffalo, Wyo., has been swamped by the oil and gas stampede. It handles permits for the frenzied coal-bed

Applying to drill

Natural gas companies have been rushing to apply for drilling permits in the Rocky Mountain West but the paperwork bottleneck can take an average of three months for an approval.

Number of federal applications for permit to drill in the West



SOURCE: Bureau of Land Management AP

methane development of the Powder River Basin, where the agency expects to issue 3,000 permits in the coming year and methane is so shallow wells can be punched with rigs used to drill for natural gas.

Four years ago, 23 people worked at the Buffalo office. The number has more than tripled to 76 to handle the demand, more than 4,000 permit applications in the last three years.

Dennis Stenger, field manager of the office, said his staff has been aggressive in trying to get faster issuing permits to clusters of wells to avoid redundant environmental and cultural studies. That practice and others were adopted BLM-wide in a series of directives issued in April aimed at improving the permit process.

Without unforeseen delays, the office can generally get permits processed in 46 days, Stenger said. "You can't streamline much

more" without changing the environmental laws, he said.

Federal regulations, however, say the BLM is supposed to process permits in 30 days or less. The industry notes that a state like Colorado can often process permits to drill on state lands in as little as 10 days.

The AP review found it takes the BLM much longer — an average of 89 days over the last three years, excepting applications still pending at the end of the 2003 budget year.

Morrison said the numbers don't reflect delays caused by companies amending or withdrawing an application, but she conceded that people are taking too long to handle the linking of industry — and government. "That's exactly what we're trying to address," Morrison said.

The AP review found that, during the first 33 months of the Bush administration, the BLM approved 9,876 wells, or about 299 per month in the final 40 months of the Clinton presidency. 8,924 wells were approved, or 223 per month.

The volume of permit applications has also grown fairly steadily, from 3,790 in 1998 to 4,715 in 2003. The number approved has fluctuated some, but has generally increased as well.

Oil and gas companies contributed nearly \$2 billion to Bush's 2000 campaign and have already given nearly \$1 billion to his re-election bid, according to campaign finance records compiled by the Center for Responsive Politics. Since 1999, they have contributed \$20 million to political campaigns in the West, with roughly 80 percent going to Republicans.

Billions of dollars are at stake: A recent industry study by IHS Energy estimated an additional 264 million cubic feet of natural gas per day could be in production by August 2004 if the BLM were

able to wipe out its backlog in six months and begin consistently processing permits in 45 days. The Energy Department has estimated that, over the next two decades, gas consumption will grow by more than 50 percent, while production would grow by just 14 percent if it continues at its current rate.

Alberswerth, a public lands expert with the Wilderness Society, said the BLM simply doesn't have the funding and personnel to handle the increase in permit applications. He also said drilling in the West remains steady, despite the industry's grievances.

"Their theory seems to be that the obstructions and impediments are the environmental safeguards," he said. "From our perspective that's the wrong way to think. They should be the cutting corners on environmental protections to issue oil and gas drilling permits faster."

Krista Mutch, director of government affairs for the Denver-based Western Gas Resources company, said the industry has no plans to eliminate environmental safeguards.

"What we are suggesting is we all are seeking to increase the efficiency in the way we do our work," Mutch said. "The BLM is frankly not in the 21st century from a technological perspective. Congress has heard the industry complaints."

In the energy bill Republicans expect to receive next year, the BLM would get an additional \$1.5 billion to reduce the permit backlog in Colorado, Montana, New Mexico and Utah during the coming year. There are other provisions intended to speed things up, including the creation of a White House task force to coordinate energy projects, initiatives targeting the most crowded offices and tighter deadlines.

New Mexico study will look at Indian-town relationships

FARMINGTON, N.M. (AP) — The U.S. Civil Rights Commission plans to look into racial discrimination in communities that border Southern Indian reservations, and the first community to come under scrutiny will be Farmington.

The largest city in northwestern New Mexico was investigated by civil rights authorities in the mid-1970s after killings of Indian men.

Match has changed since, but conflicts still arise when a largely Indian population lives adjacent to a city controlled politically and economically by Anglos, said John Dulles, executive director of the commission's Rocky Mountain region.

Dulles met with Navajo and Farmington officials in August to get a sense of what issues the commission might face when it holds hearings here next spring.

"We're a long way from the 1970s. I think they'll find a different story," said City Manager Bob Hudson.

Hudson said, for example, that Indians now hold 18 percent of city jobs, thanks to the city's effort to recruit minority employees after the commission's last major study.

Dulles said the commission will look into discrimination or disparities in education, employment, political representation and public

safety and whatever citizens bring up at public hearings.

"I don't think it's all going to be negative indictments," he said. "It's trying to be as open-minded as possible."

Stan Augustine, head of the commission's New Mexico Advisory Committee, said the committee will do interviews beginning next month and plans to hold a forum in Farmington in May.

Complaints arising from the study would include recommendations for local, state and federal agencies and officials.

Farmington, with an estimated population of 40,500 last year, is the retail heart of the Four Corners. The Navajo Nation sits to its west and south, the Jicarilla Apache Reservation lies to the south and Ute tribes live in nearby southern Colorado. Farmington's population is 63 percent Anglo, 17 percent Indian and 17 percent Hispanic. Blacks and Asians make up the remaining 6 percent.

A 1975 study, "The Farmington Report: A Conflict of Cultures," contended the community took money from Indians and treated them badly. The report found underemployment of Navajos in business and government, police mistreatment of Indians and unscrupulous business practices.

Ninth Circuit upholds status for Indian casinos

SACRAMENTO, Calif. (AP) — A federal appeals court upheld California's tribal gambling law Monday, ruling that it violates no federal law even though it gives tribes special privileges to operate casinos.

The 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals in San Francisco upheld the July 2002 decision by U.S. District Judge David F. Levi in Sacramento, who ruled against four San Francisco Bay area card clubs trying to stop the state's first urban casino in San Pablo.

The ballot measure approved by California voters does indeed give American Indians a monopoly on Nevada-style gaming, which includes slot machines and blackjack, the district and appellate courts agreed.

But both found the state's deci-

sion to permit tribal casinos violates neither the federal Indian Gaming Regulatory Act (IGRA), nor the U.S. constitutional guarantee of equal protection.

An attorney for the card rooms did not immediately return telephone messages from an Associated Press reporter seeking reaction.

The card rooms' lawsuit challenged Proposition 13A, the state initiative passed in March 2000 that amended the state's constitution to permit tribes to operate casinos on their reservations.

The card rooms argued that voters were misled by proposition proponents and never expected the Las Vegas-style casinos would be popping up all over the state, including in urban areas.

The Lytton Band of Pomo

Indians, the main target of the suit, is planning to turn a car room across the bay from San Francisco into a casino.

The card clubs led by Aridchoke Joe in San Bruno, claimed the expansion of tribal casinos in recent years has hurt their business because they can't compete with the Las Vegas-style operations. They said they were fighting for their survival with the court challenges.

The card rooms argued that because Nevada-style gaming is illegal under state law, California must either shut down tribal casinos or allow other casinos to engage in Nevada-style gaming as well.

The district and appellate courts agreed the card rooms have been harmed by the tribal casinos,

but ruled there's no violation of federal law.

Both also ruled that giving Indians special gambling rights is not racial discrimination, saying tribes have special privileges because they are regarded as sovereign nations under the law. The courts said Congress was entitled to give the tribes special gambling opportunities as part of its effort to promote economic development.

"In summary, Congress acted rationally in balancing the sovereign interests of tribes and states," the appeals court ruled. "The state of California, which historically had banned casino gambling altogether, acted rationally in recognizing the sovereign interest of federally recognized Indian tribes to choose a different path on Indian lands."

Avalanche survivor now preaches awareness

YAKIMA, Wash. (AP) — Light, then darkness. Light, then darkness.

The sun beamed down on Brian Sall one second, and was gone the next. Over and over again, he saw light, then darkness as he and his snowmobiler tumbled down the side of an Oregon mountain five years ago.

When the whirling stopped, Sall was buried in several feet of snow, the victim of an avalanche.

Sall had not checked avalanche conditions, and he didn't have an electronic rescue beacon.

"He now has a healthy respect for the sheer power of snow."

"It's a lesson a lot of people should be told every year. They forget about the safety factors," he said. "I preach to people now to be snow smart."

The lesson is even more salient in the holidays approach, and more people head to the backcountry for a little exercise and fun in their free time. Many will disregard the dangers.

Washington state averages 1.5 avalanche-related deaths per winter season. Already, three people died this month in separate avalanches in the Cascades in Washington state.

In the latest case, the body of Carol Greene, 38, of Seattle, was



Brian Sall from Moxee, Wash., still has the stick that his friends used to find his body after he was caught in an avalanche while snowmobiling, near Paulina Mountain in Oregon in 1998.

recovered Saturday near the Alpenglow Ski Area east of Snoqualmie Pass, a week after she was buried in a slide while she was snowmobiling with a friend on the Snow Lake Trail.

"It is sort of a wake-up call," said Paul Baugher, director of the Northwest Avalanche Institute based in Enumclaw. "This year, we've already had double the average, and we're just at the beginning of the winter season."

All backcountry enthusiasts are urged to take steps to prevent a tragedy and know what to do should an avalanche occur, Baugher said.

"An avalanche is more seductive and alluring to people at times of really high hazard," he said. "When avalanches are at their most unstable, you have beautiful blankets of powder that people love to ski in, ride in. It just draws you in and belies the dangers that are increasing."

Once you're caught, and completely buried, your chances of surviving are one out of three.

"That's pretty grim," he said. "That's why the training becomes the foundation to everything."

One, people should heed the warnings. Most fatalities, up to 80 percent, occur when the ratings for avalanche danger are considerable or moderate — deaths that could easily be avoided, Baugher said.

And everyone who enjoys the backcountry should pack the necessary equipment, including elec-

tronic rescue beacons and probes.

In two of the three deaths this month, including a snowmobiler who died last week in the Wenatchee National Forest, the victims were not wearing beacons, Baugher said. A beacon won't prevent an avalanche but will improve the chances of a rescue. And an understanding of avalanches can go a long way, he said.

"People need to understand that in virtually every avalanche accident, the avalanche itself is triggered by the victim or a member of the victim's party," Baugher said. "People have this belief that someone just happened to be in the wrong place at the wrong time. It's not like that at all."

Sall remembers intensely the early moments of the roughly 20 minutes he was buried.

"When it stopped the amount of pressure against every square inch of my body was unbelievable. I couldn't even move my toes in my boots, or my fingers in the lining of my gloves, the compaction was so intense," Sall said. "It was darker with my eyes open than with my eyes shut."

"What people fail to realize, Sall said, is the force with which an avalanche compresses the snow, making it physically impossible to move."

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WORLD

U.N. will lead inspection on disarming Libya

VIENNA, Austria - The head of the U.N. atomic watchdog agency said Monday he will lead the first inspection of Libya's nuclear facilities as soon as next week, aiming to kick-start the elimination of the country's programs for weapons of mass destruction.

In the wake of Libya's surprise admission, Pakistan acknowledged Monday the possibility it may have provided nuclear technology to foreign nations.

Pakistan's government has strongly denied allegations it gave such information to countries such as Iran, North Korea and Libya - but said Monday it has questioned the formation of its nuclear program as part of its inquiry into whether any of its scientists acted without authorization.

Both Libya and Iran have imported centrifuges for uranium enrichment, although Libya - which publicly owed up Friday to having weapons of mass destruction - says it stopped short of an enrichment program. Diplomats have identified Pakistan as one source of Iran's equipment procurement.

Acknowledging a possible role by Pakistani scientists, Pakistani Information Minister Sheikh Rashid told the Associated Press in Islamabad on Monday that some individuals may have been acting something on their own.

Trial opens for Serbian prime minister's assassins

BELGRADE, Serbia - Montenegro - Sitting stoically in a bulletproof glass cage, 21 suspected gang figures and members of an elite police unit went on trial Monday on charges of assassinating Serbia's pro-Western prime minister in a plot to return Slobodan Milosevic's allies to power.

The trial is seen as a test of the independence of Serbia's judiciary after former President Milosevic's autocratic reign in the 1990s.

Legal experts and human rights activists have raised questions about who ordered the March 12 sniper slaying of Zoran Djindjic, how many shots were fired and how prosecutors handled the indictment.

The indictment charges 36 suspects with allegedly forming a "criminal enterprise" that attempted to topple Djindjic's government, though 15 suspects are at large and will be tried in absentia.

Authorities say the sniper attack in front of the prime minister's headquarters was part of a plan by Milosevic supporters to take power after the former president was ousted by Djindjic's pro-Western coalition in 2000 and extradited to the U.N. war crimes court in 2001 to face charges including genocide during the Balkan wars.

Rebels free five foreign hostages in Colombia

VALLEDUPAR, Colombia - Colombian rebels freed four Israelis and a Briton on Monday to a humanitarian commission, which whisked them away on two helicopters after 101 days in captivity in the jungle-covered northern mountains.

"We're free. We're free," said Mark Henderson, the British hostage, in a brief comment with The Associated-Press over a cell phone. Before the call was broken off, Henderson confirmed the cell phone call. The four Israelis had been freed by the National Liberation Army, known as the ELN.

Tammy Ohayon described an emotional conversation over a cell phone with her son, Orpaz Ohayon, one of the freed Israelis. "I spoke with my friend," the former hostage's mother told AP as she rushed from a Bogota hotel to the Israeli Embassy in the capital. "Everything is OK. He said 'Mommy, I love you.'"

During his captivity, in which he and the other hostages often went hungry and faced the threat of a violent death, Ohayon maintained a vow to stay alive, no matter what happened, his mother said.

"Every day and every night, he said 'I must leave Colombia alive, not dead,'" she recounted after talking to her son.

Lucky town hits it big in Spain's \$2.2 billion lottery

MADRID, Spain - The world's richest lottery spread \$2.2 billion in Christmas cheer Monday throughout Spain, including to a village whose name means luck. Spaniards spent the morning looking at television sets and radios for the latest edition of a sweepstakes that goes back to 1812 and marks the official start of Spain's holiday season.

World in brief

Known as El Gordo, or the Fat One, the lottery uses a complex system of shared numbers that shuns winner-takes-all jackpots and instead brings wealth to millions of people holding numbers that go from 00001 to 66,000.

Complicating matters further, each of those 66,000 numbers is repeated 1,900 times. People often team up to buy tickets costing \$25 each, so windfalls trickle through towns, offices, sports clubs and bars.

Tens of thousands win - from \$125 to \$250,000 on a single ticket.

This year's first-prize number was 42473. The 1,900 tickets bearing that number were worth a total \$470 million.

Six-hundred first-prize winners were sold in a village in Catalonia called Sort, which means "luck" in the northeast region's language. Many people trek there to buy tickets, making its lone lottery outlet - nicknamed The Golden Witch - Spain's busiest at Christmas.

Soviet diplomat Oleg Troyanovsky dies at age 84

MOSCOW - Soviet diplomat Oleg Troyanovsky, whose affable personality ran counter to the stereotype of the stone-faced Russian official during the Cold War, has died, the Foreign Ministry said Monday. He was 84. Troyanovsky died Sunday after a long illness. No further details were immediately available. Troyanovsky served for nine years as the Soviet Union's ambassador to the United Nations. - Compiled from wire reports

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The Times-News

Tuesday, December 23, 2003

Section C

MORNING LINE
SPORTSQUOTE

We're talking about we're not as bad as our record. That's a lie. We are as bad as our record.

Atlanta Hawks center Theo Ratliff. The Hawks have the second-worst winning percentage in the NBA (.241).

TRIVIA

QUESTION: Shaquille O'Neal ranks fifth in the NBA in rebounding. Who was the last Los Angeles Laker center to lead the league?

...answer below

TODAY'S SCHEDULE

High school girls basketball
Century at Bufiley, 6 p.m.
High school boys basketball
Jerome at Century, 6 p.m.
Pocatello at Minico, 6 p.m.

IN BRIEF

BSU boosters plan to meet tonight

TWIN FALLS - The Boise State Booster Club will meet at Wood's Sportsbar and Grill at 5:30 tonight for the Fort Worth Bowl. The Broncos play Texas Christian University.

Resort offers free cross country lessons

HANSEN - From 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 10, the Magic Mountain Ski Resort will sponsor free rentals and lessons for beginning cross country skiers. For more information, call Jack at 837-4505.

Open gym times are available in Twin Falls

TWIN FALLS - The City of Twin Falls Parks and Recreation Department and the Twin Falls School District are sponsoring a free open gym during the holiday break at Robert Stuart Junior High.

The gym is open from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. tonight and reopens this Saturday and Sunday from noon to 4 p.m. and then from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. Monday and Tuesday, Dec. 28-29.
The gym closes for the New Year's holiday and reopens Jan. 3 from noon to 4 p.m.
For more information, call 736-2265.

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, putting up lights, wrapping presents - can call 678-3903 or 431-4274, or e-mail hondo@pm.org to ask for assistance.
The fee-for-help is a donation made to the Bobcat Football Camp Fund. For your donation, a team of adult-supervised athletes will help you get ready for the holidays. They will also be available after Christmas to help take down decorations and haul away Christmas trees.
Compiled from staff reports

Burley football team will be 'Santa's helpers'

BURLEY - Coach Scott Palin and the Burley High School football team are offering their services as Santa's helpers this holiday season.
Anyone in need of holiday help - decorating, putting up lights, wrapping presents - can call 678-3903 or 431-4274, or e-mail hondo@pm.org to ask for assistance.
The fee-for-help is a donation made to the Bobcat Football Camp Fund. For your donation, a team of adult-supervised athletes will help you get ready for the holidays. They will also be available after Christmas to help take down decorations and haul away Christmas trees.
Compiled from staff reports

TRIVIA ANSWER:

Kareem Abdul-Jabbar, who averaged 16.9 rebounds in the 1975-76 season.

Plummer fills big shoes

Boise native leads Denver to playoffs

The Associated Press

DENVER - The Denver Broncos are in the playoffs for just the second time since John Elway retired. They've done it with a player who's looked a lot like Elway this season: Boise native Jake Plummer.

could do, in the pocket making plays when nothing's there. Jake has that ability to scramble, throw on the run and make the big-time plays that you look for in a top-notch quarterback."

How important has Plummer been? With him, Denver is 9-2 and averages 395 yards and 28 points per game. In the four games he missed with foot and shoulder injuries, the Broncos lost three and averaged just 17 points and 258 yards.

And Plummer's been at his best when Denver has needed him the most.

Three straight losses in the middle of the season left the Broncos in danger of missing the playoffs for the fourth time since Elway retired in 1999. Plummer's return

provided a quick fix. With Plummer, Denver has won four straight and five of six to clinch an AFC wild-card spot. In that span, he completed 66 percent of his passes for 1,279 yards and seven touchdowns with four interceptions.

He left no doubt against Indianapolis on Sunday throwing for 238 yards and a touchdown and running for two more scores in a 31-17 win. With Plummer creating space with bootlegs or by stepping up in the pocket, Denver held the ball for nearly 45 minutes and racked up 405 yards to end an eight-game road losing streak in December.

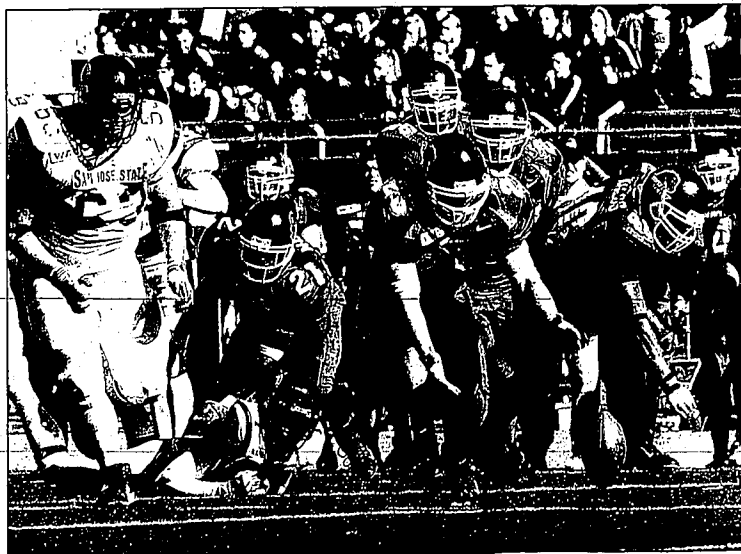
One of the knocks on Plummer

Please see DENVER, Page C2



Denver Broncos quarterback Jake Plummer (16) eludes Indianapolis Colts' Donald Strickland Sunday to score a touchdown during the first quarter in Indianapolis.

HALL IS A HIT



Boise State inside linebacker Corey Hall (25) scoops up a fumble in the Broncos' 77-14 home victory over San Jose State earlier this season. Hall and the Broncos play 18th-ranked Texas Christian University in today's inaugural PlainsCapital Bowl in Fort Worth, Texas.

Photo courtesy MAX COOPER, CSU MEDIA

Redshirt freshman flourishes at middle linebacker

By Eric Larson Times-News writer

BOISE - Sometimes, things just fit.

Korey Hall grew up in Glens Ferry, just an hour's drive out of Boise. So it was the natural choice for the 2001 Idaho 2A Player of the Year to make the short trip to play for the Boise State University Broncos.

The 6-foot, 228-pound inside linebacker is also a great fit in Broncos defensive coordinator Ron Collins' no-huddle defense. With great speed and the ability to react quickly, Hall is the type of sideline-to-sideline, linebacker NCAA programs need to combat

College connection

Editor's note: This marks the second installment of College Report, the Times-News monthly feature about former area high school athletes who have moved on to the college ranks. To submit information, please email Times-News sports editor Joe Paisley at jpaisley@magicvalley.com. Thanks for your help.

their opposition. But this is where the perfect fit

comes in. In Collins' defensive scheme, the inside linebacker doesn't call the coverage. Each player must know their role in the Broncos' read-and-react scheme that has allowed only 16 points per game.

In a traditional defensive system, a redshirt freshman like Hall would be mired on the bench behind a senior inside linebacker who has spent three or four years preparing for the leadership role. But Collins' system allows for athletic players like Hall to step into the game and contribute earlier in their collegiate careers.

"Korey is leading by example," Collins said. "In our no-huddle defense all our guys need to know

the scheme, so it's not like he's stepping in front of huddle. He just has to be physical and play hard."

Hall has played hard, making Collins look smart all year with 85 tackles and 2.5 sacks going into today's PlainsCapital Bowl post-season bowl selection as a NCAA Division I program.

But perfect fits don't just happen.

Please see HALL, Page C2

Sports world feels effects of terror alert

The Associated Press

NEW YORK - When the nation's terror alert was raised to its second highest level, Louisiana Superdome personnel were ready. "We've got the drill down pretty good," spokesman Bill Curl said Monday from New Orleans, where the Sugar Bowl will be played on Jan. 4.

He had one piece of advice for fans attending the Bowl Championship Series dice game between LSU and Oklahoma:

Nation reacts - A,1,3

"Come early and empty-handed." Several federal law enforcement officials, including Homeland Security Secretary Tom Ridge, mentioned major bowl games as potential al-Qaida targets. Still, they urged fans to go about business as usual.

"This is a period of celebration," Ridge said. "There are public gatherings in major urban areas around the country, big celebra-

tions - Times Square, Las Vegas, L.A., football games, you name it. And we encourage people to, like we said before, be vigilant and be aware."

That kind of atmosphere was already evident Monday at various bowl sites around the country.

"I visited the TCU practice on Sunday and there were more police around the team than there had been," said Tim Simmons of the Fort Worth Bowl. "That may be a function of them playing at home."

TCU plays Boise State in the inaugural Fort Worth Bowl on Tuesday night. Ross Bailey, in charge of operations at Amos G. Carter Stadium, said there would be extra security sweeps of the stadium.

At some sites, operating at a high level of security has been the norm since the terrorist attacks and few adjustments will be necessary.

The NFL declined to say if there would be additional security measures at games this week-end.

Chicago Cubs fan Bartman goes from goat to antihero

The Associated Press

CHICAGO - Two months ago, Steve Bartman was baseball's Public Enemy No. 1. A hapless ballhawk blamed for the Chicago Cubs' latest misery, the image of his outstretched hand made him the butt of jokes nationwide.

Founded by the media, Bartman has done seemingly everything in his power to stay out of the spotlight. But

in that quintessential American way, he's become a pop culture antihero. There are shirts with his likeness on the Internet. A trading card complete with a fake swatch of his bright green turtle-neck. And that infamous ball? It was just auctioned for \$106,600.

"When you say the Bartman ball, most people have seen that game. Even people who aren't baseball fans," said Brian Maren, vice presi-

dent of acquisitions for MastroNet Inc., the auction house that sold the ball. "It gets embedded in people's minds."

For those few who don't remember, Bartman was the Cubs fan who unwittingly deflected a foul ball away from Moises Alou in Game 6 of the National League championship series. The ball ricocheted back into the stands, and the Cubs' World

Series dreams disappeared right along with it.

The Florida Marlins, down 3-0 at the time, rallied to win Game 7. The Marlins went on to win Game 7 and advance to the World Series, where they beat the New York Yankees.

Bartman was blamed for the Cubs' demise, the newest goat in the team's sad lore. Never mind that Chicago blew a 3-1 lead in the series. Or that



Steve Bartman

Please see BOWL, Page C2

SPORTS

Wolfpack rips up Jayhawks

ORLANDO, Fla. (AP) — Philip Rivers made sure North Carolina State's disappointing season — and his record-setting career — ended on a winning note.

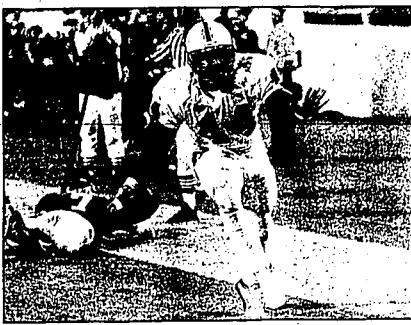
The Atlantic Coast Conference player of the year threw — for — Tangorino — Bowl records of 475 yards and five touchdowns Monday night, leading the Wolfpack to a 56-26 rout of Kansas.

Rebounding from a two-game losing streak that cost them a trip to a bigger bowl, the Wolfpack (8-5) marched 64, 68 and 97 yards on their first three possessions to build a 21-7 lead.

"You never do know if you're going to blow the doors wide open and just be hitting on everything," Rivers said. "But we felt coming in there were going to be some opportunities for big plays. We felt there were a lot of holes right behind the linebackers. That's where we attacked, and it got us rolling."

Rivers led an 88-yard drive in the third quarter, then broke the game open by taking advantage of a blocked punt to put the Wolfpack up 42-17 less than nine minutes into the second half.

Richard Washington scored on receptions of 45 and 14 yards, and Jerricho Cotchery had 13



North Carolina State's T.A. McLendon celebrates in the end zone in front of Kansas' Nick Reid (7) after scoring a touchdown during the second quarter of the Tangerine Bowl on Monday.

catches for 171 yards and one TD. T.A. McLendon got into the end zone three times, scoring on a 3-yard reception and runs of 1 and 26 yards.

Rivers, the ACC's career passing and total offense leader, was 21-of-24 for 268 yards and three TDs in the first half alone. He finished 37-of-45 for his fifth

way through the fourth quarter after the final completion gave him the Tangerine Bowl yardage record.

Kansas (6-7) fell short in its bid to finish with its first winning record since 1995, the last time the Jayhawks appeared in a bowl game.

Kansas' Bill Whittemore completed 20 of 41 passes for 243 yards and touchdowns of 23 yards to Charles Gordon and 11 yards to Clark Green.

The senior quarterback — who led the Jayhawks to a 5-2 start before missing nearly four games, all Kansas losses — also scored on a 9-yard run early in the fourth quarter.

The game was billed as a potential offensive shootout, and Rivers and Whittemore didn't disappoint bowl sponsors who savored the matchup of teams with explosive attack and defenses that struggled to contain opponents all season.

Kansas, which allowed an average of 392.6 yards and 28.3 points this year, yielded more 40 points for the fifth time.

North Carolina State had a typical night on defense, too, giving up 463 yards and just under 30 up 417.5 yards and just under 30 points per game during the regular season.

Favre handles grief, manhandles Raiders

OAKLAND, Calif. (AP) — Brett Favre dealt with the grief in the best way he could imagine.

He played his heavy heart out. Favre passed for 359 yards and four touchdowns a day after his father's death, moving into second place in NFL history for career TD passes while leading the Green Bay Packers to a 41-7 victory over the Oakland Raiders on Monday night.

With one spectacular long pass after another, Favre decimated the Raiders' patchwork defense with one of the greatest performances in his 13-year career. He finished just 3 yards shy of his career high while sending the Raiders to their worst loss in eight years.

Favre threw for a personal-best 311 yards and four TDs in the first half, quickly turning a crucial game for the Packers' playoff hopes into a blowout victory — and he did it on one of the saddest days of his life.

Irvin Favre died of a heart attack Sunday night while driving near his hometown of Kila, Minn. Brett decided to stay with the Packers (9-6) long enough to lead a victory that kept them in a tie with Minnesota atop the NFC North.

Favre was 22-of-30, smiling and hugging his teammates throughout the game. In the fourth quarter, he embraced his wife,

Deanna, before they headed home to Mississippi.

Though the formula is complicated, Green Bay can all but clinch a playoff berth with a victory over Denver on Sunday — and if the Vikings lose to Arizona, the Packers will win their second straight division title. The Packers also will be in the playoffs if Seattle loses to San Francisco on Saturday.

With the first of two first-half scoring passes to Javon Walker, Favre passed Fran Tarkenton on the NFL's career list with his 343rd career TD throw. The three-time MVP finished with 345, trailing only Dan Marino's 420.

Favre got a respectful ovation from the normally vicious Raider Nation when he was announced as a starter in his 205th consecutive game, an NFL record for quarterbacks. He might have been drowning in emotion, but his performance was almost amazingly poised — and his receiving corps was just as impressive against the bedridden Raiders (4-11).

Kirilenko scores 26, grabs 16 rebounds in Jazz win

CHICAGO (AP) — Andrei Kirilenko had 26 points and a career-high 16 rebounds Monday night to lead the Utah Jazz to a 92-80 victory, their 11th in 12 games over the Chicago Bulls.

Matt Harpring also had a double-double, finishing with 15 points and 14 rebounds for the Jazz, who wrapped up a six-game road trip with a 500 record. They won despite turning the ball over 26 times.

The Bulls sure made it interesting, though. Trailing by 20 early in the third quarter, they went on a furious rally and cut Utah's lead to 79-72 on a fast break dunk by Corie Blount with 3:46 to play. But



they couldn't get any closer, and were forced to foul the Jazz down the stretch.

Chicago has now lost three straight, and seven of its last nine. The Bulls had six players in double figures, but they were done in by a miserable first quarter and poor foul shooting. They were 27-of-37 from the line, and Utah outrebounded them 49-34.

Gill had 13 points to lead Bulls.

400-yard game this season, and seventh overall.

The 6-foot-5, 236-pound senior has been the starting quarterback for every game. The Wolfpack have played under coach Chuck Amato, who has taken his team to a bowl game in each of his four seasons. Amato removed Rivers mid-

had 14 points for Philadelphia, 9-of-20 from beyond the arc. Korver was 4-for-10 and McKie 3-for-5.

Nuggets 106, Grizzlies 99

DENVER — Voshon Lenard scored 24 points and Andre Miller had 21 points and 10 assists, leading the Denver Nuggets to a 106-99 victory over the Memphis Grizzlies on Monday night.

The Nuggets, matching their victory total of last season (17), opened the fourth quarter with a 14-4 run for a 95-84 lead. Memphis cut the deficit to four points with 1:25 left but got no closer.

Hall

Continued from C1

Like any puzzle, Corey Hall's success story at Boise State started in individual pieces that needed to come together. Only through a redshirt-year of preparation was Hall able to begin to piece his puzzle together.

"He probably gained the same thing every year gives you a shirt year," Collins said. "He got physically stronger and faster with a year of conditioning under our strength coach; he had a chance to get his academics in order; and he had a year to gain the knowledge. It takes to be a player at this level."

For Hall, the first year at Boise State was a big adjustment period, on and off the field.

"More than anything, you get the chance to get used to the program and catch up physically," Hall said. "The year gives you a chance to learn the plays and the university. At first it's pretty tough to figure out how to have enough time for everyone and yourself, but after a year you learn how to balance your schedule."

This season has seen solid to spectacular play from Hall. Hall totaled nine tackles — including 25 for losses — and forced a fumble in the Broncos' only loss, 26-24 at Oregon State. Against Western Athletic Conference rival Fresno State, Hall tallied 11 tackles in a 31-17 rout win. Those totals are just part of the job for Hall.

"You don't think about making stats," Hall said. "You take care of your assignment and as an inside linebacker you have the chance to make a lot of plays."

While it's easy for Hall to discuss how he gets the job done, bringing out blocks from big guys and using his quickness as an Oregon State's Stephen Jackson and Idaho's Zach Gerstner requires skill.

"Corey has great ability to change direction and a real sense for the ball," Collins said. "His explosive against blocks from big guys and he has a good grasp for the game."

Hall will need to use all those attributes tonight against a tough TCU attack that averages more than 200 yards rushing per game. The Boise State defense will also rely on the high-scoring Broncos' offense to put the Horned Frogs in a hole early, forcing them to go to the air.

"When our offense gives us a lead, it gives us a chance to be more aggressive and come at the other team with blitzes and different looks," Collins said. Going in to the Fort Worth bowl — a home game for TCU — Collins knows how important it will be for his team to come out and take the crowd out of the game.

"I can't really explain what this

season has been like, I just feel very fortunate to be a part of it," said Hall. "I'll be fun to play on national television and get some recognition, it'll be the end of a long year after we beat those guys."

With three years of eligibility left, Hall has only scratched the surface of what he can do at the collegiate level. There's a lot left of the puzzle to put together.

"I know there are a lot of little things I can do better when I get on the field," Hall said. "Getting to the quarterback, man coverage, there are a lot of different parts of the game I can work on."

That fact should excite Boise State fans. "We're looking for great things from him in the years to come," Collins said. "How good he can be is really up to him, but I think he can be a very good player, very dominant. He's already shown that he's at that point, but I think next year he'll show even more of that."

While this puzzle still some pieces missing, it doesn't look like that room will offer any space up the middle against Hall and the Boise State defense.

Other athletes

Tyler Layne, Northwest Nazarene cross country

JEROME — Tyler Layne, a 2001 Jerome graduate, runs for the Northwest Nazarene University track team as well as cross country team.

He consistently recorded the second of what he calls "the Most Improved Award from the coaches at the end of the season."

Whitney Martin, Boise State women's basketball

RUPERT — Whitney Martin is averaging 33 minutes a game and has scored two points off free throws and grabbed two rebounds, as of Dec. 20.

Bill Wigley, North Dakota State football

HEYBURN — The junior reserve linebacker had nine tackles in eight games this fall for the Bison.

Chris Paiz, Boise State women's basketball

TWIN FALLS — The former Twin Falls High standout is now a reserve point guard for Boise State. She is averaging 18.9 minutes a game along with 10-of-23 shooting from the field (as of Dec. 20) including 7-of-15 from 3-point range.

Whitney's goal helps Red Wings sing the Blues, 2-1

DETROIT (AP) — Ray Whitney's tiebreaking goal with 5:15 remaining lifted the Detroit Red Wings to a 2-1 victory over St. Louis on Monday night, snapping the Blues' nine-game unbeaten streak (7-0-2).

Pavel Datsyuk scored the other Detroit goal and assisted on Whitney's winner. Curtis Joseph made 24 saves, including several during a flurry in the final minute.

Dallas Drake scored the Blues' goal, and Chris Osgood made 22 saves.

After Datsyuk forced Alexander Khavanov into turning the puck over to Brett Hull behind the St. Louis net, Hull found Whitney in front. Whitney then put a shot past Chris Osgood.

St. Louis broke a scoreless tie 8:52 into the second period on Datsyuk's powerplay goal. His shot from the bottom of the left circle beat Joseph, who was sprawling.

Detroit tied it 1-1 three minutes later on Datsyuk's short-handed goal.

After stealing the puck from Scott Mellanby at the Red Wings blue line, Datsyuk went on a breakaway as he fought off



Christian Backman. Datsyuk's shot hit Chris Osgood's pads, bounced over the goaltender and into the net.

Stars 3, Hurricanes 1

RALEIGH, N.C. — Jere Lehtinen had two goals and an assist to lead the Dallas Stars to a 3-1 victory Monday night over the Carolina Hurricanes.

After a scoreless first period, Lehtinen gave the Stars the lead 2:25 into the second. Dallas nearly scored again, but Stars forward Jason Armokrooked the net off and wiped out Pierre Turgeon's goal.

Carolina answered with five seconds left in the second period when Jeff O'Neill tied it. O'Neill, set up by Sean Hill and Ron Francis, earned his 400th NHL point in Saturday's win at Boston. Lehtinen put the Stars back on top 2:41 by scoring a short-handed goal at 9:32 of the third period.

Rangers 4, Bruins 2

NEW YORK — Bobby Holik and

Petr Nedved each scored twice Monday night to lead the New York Rangers to a 4-2 victory over the Boston Bruins.

Holik's empty-net goal at 19:14 of the third period sealed the victory. Just before, Mike Dunham made a lunging stop to deny Patrice Bergeron's attempt at the tying goal. Bergeron fired at a seemingly open net from the slot. The Rangers improved to 8-5-2, 2 at home and are 3-3 in their last six overall.

Boston has just one win in 10 games (1-5-4) and two in the last 15 games (2-7-5-1).

Canadiens 4, Penguins 1

MONTREAL — Saku Koivu and Sheldon Souray had a goal and an assist apiece, and Jose Theodore made 16 saves to lead the Montreal Canadiens to a 4-1 win Monday night over the Pittsburgh Penguins.

Pierre Dagenais and Niklas Sundstrom also scored for Montreal, which has just four losses in its last 15 games (8-4-3).

Thomas Surovy scored for Pittsburgh, last in the Eastern Conference and winless in three

Senators 3, Panthers 2, OT

OTTAWA — Todd White scored at 1:34 of overtime Monday night to lead the Ottawa Senators to a 3-2 win over the Florida Panthers.

White fired the shot advantage of a turnover at the Panthers blue line to send White in alone on goaltender Roberto Luongo. White deked Luongo before sliding the puck in.

Rookie Antoine Vermette and Martin Havlat also scored for Ottawa.

Martin Proseuk, who shut out the Panthers on Dec. 3, made 19 saves for the Senators.

Valeri Bure scored twice and Luongo stopped 42 shots for Florida, which lost for the first time in three games and just the second time in seven.

Predators 3, Coyotes 3

NASHVILLE, Tenn. — Shane Dean scored the tying goal in the third period and two assists as the Phoenix Coyotes salvaged a 3-3 tie with the Nashville Predators on Monday night.

Another 100-yard game.

This time it was diminutive rookie Quentin Griffin. Collins also cleared the way for Plummer's second touchdown by taking out 230-pound Colts linebacker David Thornton.

"He proved that he can make some plays," Shanahan said. "It's really nice to see a guy step up in a game like that and play as well as he did."

And provide another weapon for Plummer.

course — sitting behind Bartman. Grant DePorter, a friend of the late Harry Caray and managing partner of a Chicago restaurant named after the legendary Cubs broadcaster, bought the authentic ball for \$106,600 last Friday.

The ball is now on display at the restaurant, but DePorter plans to destroy it Feb. 26 in a pagan-like sacrifice to the baseball gods. "I'd like to win (the World Series) and put him in the parade with us," Baker said. "Exonerate him for life."

Cubs

Continued from C1

score-handed shortstop Alex Gonzalez committed an error that led to the bases that fateful night. Or that Bartman did what any other fan would have done.

In a society where placing the blame is a constant game, Bartman was a very convenient target.

"That's not what I'd like to see," Cubs manager Dusty Baker said, defending Bartman at baseball's winter meetings. "That's what stood out at the time, but Gonzo

made an error, and Gonzo never makes an error.

"Sometimes that shows you maybe it was not meant to be." Bartman has done his best to fade into oblivion since releasing an apology the day after Game 6. Unlike those who capitalize on their misfortune, you won't find Bartman shilling his outfit on the Internet or taking a sledgehammer to that infernal ball. He's changed his phone number, and messages to him go unreturned. But for better or worse, his place in pop culture seems des-

getting there. We're feeling good about ourselves."

Of course, he's had some help. Over the past month, it's been running back Clinton Portis. Last year's NFL offensive rookie of the year ran for 692 yards, his past four games to move up to second in the NFL with 1,591 yards, but he didn't play Sunday because of a sprained ankle.

No worries. Denver, like it always does, simply plugged in another running back and got

two people were even trying to sell copies of the local papers from the day after Game 6.

But none of that compares to the frenzy over the ball itself, snagged by an attorney — a

Bowl

Continued from C1

school's final exams.

The Broncos have won 23 of their last 24 games, including 10 straight since a 26-24 loss at Oregon State in the third game this season. Boise State averages 44 points per game, second nationally and only a point less than Oklahoma, which scored at least 40 points eight times.

TCU, making its school-record sixth straight bowl appearances,

has won 21 of its last 23 games. The Horned Frogs have won 13 straight games at home, a school record, and are trying to win 12 games for only the second time.

"We're very excited to match our skills against another Top 25 team," Boise State coach Dan Hawkins said.

Boise State, in only its eighth Division I season, won all three of its Humanitarian Bowls. TCU is 7-12 in bowl games.

Best Available Copy

Picking a national champion - or two

SPORTS IN BRIEF

BCS standings bring a 'little' controversy

By Josh Dubow Associated Press writer

NEW YORK — From title showdowns in the Big Easy to blue turf in Boise, this bowl season figures to offer something for everyone. Want to watch two top running backs? There's the Las Vegas Bowl with Oregon State's Steven Jackson (4,396 yards) going against New Mexico's DonTrell Moore (1,438 yards).

How about a national title game? Well, there could be two this year. First, No. 1 Southern California takes on No. 4 Michigan in the Rose Bowl on New Year's Day with the Trojans hoping to win the Associated Press title.

Then comes the Bowl Championship Series title game at the Alamogordo Coliseum between No. 2 LSU and No. 3 Oklahoma. While the Trojans are the top team in both polls, they didn't qualify for the Sugar Bowl because they played the weakest schedule of the three title contenders.

But the AP's top team has never dropped after winning a bowl game. The USA Today/ESPN coaches' poll is obligated to vote the Sugar Bowl winner No. 1, setting up the opportunity for the

College football

first split title since 1997. "This is the national championship game for us, and Michigan is a great opponent," USC coach Pete Carroll said. "The fact that there's a little controversy just makes it that much more interesting."

The picks: No. 18 Boise State (minus 10.5) at No. 19 TCU (Fort Worth, today) Matchup of two of the best teams from non-BCS leagues ... BOISE STATE 34-20.

Oregon State (minus 2.5) vs. New Mexico (Las Vegas, Wednesday) Lobos looking for first bowl win since 1961 Aviation Bowl ... NEW MEXICO 24-20.

Houston (plus 10.5) at Hawaii (Hawaii, Thursday) This could be highest-scoring of all the bowls ... HAWAII 45-31.

Bowling Green (minus 7) vs. Northwestern (Motor City, Friday) Falcons QB Josh Harris threw for 402 yards in win vs. Wildcats in '01 ... BOWLING GREEN 27-17.

Virginia Tech (minus 2.5) vs. California (Ingleight, Friday) Bears look to spoil Kevin Jones' college finale ... CALIFORNIA 27-23.

Virginia (minus 2.5) vs. Bowling Green (Continental Tire, Saturday) Could be Panthers WR Larry Fitzgerald's final college game ... VIRGINIA 28-20.

No. 22 Nebraska (minus 3) vs. Michigan State (Alamo, Dec. 29) Bo Pelini hopes to earn Huskers'

full-time coaching job ... MICHIGAN STATE 24-13.

Texas Tech (minus 12.5) vs. Navy (Houston, Dec. 30) The Red Raiders top-ranked pass offense takes on Middies' No. 1 run game ... TEXAS TECH 45-20.

No. 5 Texas (minus 9.5) vs. No. 15 Wash. St. (Holiday, Dec. 30) Longhorns had been hoping for BCS berth ... TEXAS 31-20.

UCLA (minus 3) vs. Fresno State (Silicon Valley, Dec. 30) Bruins take four-game skid into bowl ... FRESNO STATE 17-13.

Auburn (minus 3) vs. Wisconsin (Music City, Dec. 31) Badgers coach Barry Alvarez looks for his 100th win ... AUBURN 24-17. No. 24 Minnesota (minus 3.5) vs. Oregon (Sun, Dec. 31) Gophers seeking fifth 10-win season over ... MINNESOTA 27-20.

No. 25 Utah (minus 2) vs. Southern Miss. (Liberty, Dec. 31) Utes coach Urban Meyer hot prospect for bigger jobs ... UTAH 21-17.

Arkansas (minus 2.5) vs. Missouri (Independence, Dec. 31) Expect lots of running ... MISSOURI 24-17.

Colorado State (off) vs. Boston College (San Francisco, Dec. 31) Rams counting on QB Bradlee Van Pelt to be healthy ... COLORADO STATE 24-14.

No. 13 Florida (minus 3.5) vs. No. 13 Iowa (Outback, Jan. 1) Gators won only previous meeting at '83 Gator Bowl ... FLORIDA 31-20.

No. 23 Maryland (minus 3.5) vs. No. 20 West Virginia (Gator, Jan. 1) Terps beat Mountaineers 34-7 in

September ... WEST VIRGINIA 27-23.

No. 11 Georgia (minus 3) vs. No. 12 Purdue (Capital One, Jan. 1) Bulldogs rallied from 25-0 down to beat Boilermakers in only other meeting at '00 Outback Bowl ... GEORGIA 24-23.

No. 1 USC (minus 6.5) vs. No. 4 Michigan (Rose, Jan. 1) Trojans do their part to win AP title ... USC 34-30.

No. 9 Florida State (minus 1.5) vs. No. 10 Miami (Orange, Jan. 1) Neither team wants to play this one and few want to watch it ... FLORIDA STATE 24-20.

No. 16 Ole Miss (minus 2) vs. No. 21 Oklahoma (Cotton, Jan. 2) Rebels QB Eli Manning looks to end his career in a shootout ... OLE MISS 28-20.

No. 6 Tennessee (minus 5.5) vs. Clemson (Peach, Jan. 2) Yellow Jackets outplayed by 27 in last year's Peach Bowl ... TENNESSEE 37-10.

No. 8 Kansas St. (minus 7) vs. No. 7 Ohio St. (Fiesta, Jan. 2) Wildcats RB Darren Sproles faces nation's toughest run ... KANSAS STATE 24-17.

Georgia Tech (minus 8) vs. Tulsa (Humanitarian, Jan. 3) Yellow Jackets won't be used to the cold in Boise ... GEORGIA TECH 24-20.

No. 2 LSU (Sugar, Jan. 4) Kansas State goes Tigers blueprint for beating Sooners ... LSU 27-17.

Previous week 3-4 (straight); 3-4 (vs. points) Season: 20/51 (straight); 127-118-2 (vs. points)

Orioles reach agreement with ex-Brave Javy Lopez

BALTIMORE — Javy Lopez agreed to a three-year deal with Baltimore on Monday, giving the Orioles a big hitter and another addition to their rebuilding program.

The agreement was confirmed by team spokesman Kevin Bohan, who declined to disclose details. The deal is contingent on the free-agent catcher passing a physical exam.

Baltimore already has added shortstop Miguel Tejada. The 2002 AL Most Valuable Player averaged a week ago to a \$72 million, six-year contract. Team officials have also been speaking with the agent of outfielder Vladimir Guerrero.

Lopez, 33, hit .328 last season for the Braves with 42 homers and 109 RBIs, both career highs. It was his best year since 1998, when he hit .284 with 34 homers and 106 RBIs.

UW loses softball coach due to drug scandal

SEATTLE — Teresa Wilson, who built the Washington softball program from scratch into a national powerhouse, lost her job Monday, the most significant fallout from a scandal involving a former team doctor who handed out narcotics to players.

"This is a difficult decision, but one I feel is necessary to move the program beyond the issues with which it has been dogged," said coach director Barbara Hedgus in announcing her decision to relieve Wilson of her coaching duties.

In October, state health investigators suspended the license of William Schreyer, who had been team physician for the softball team, after investigators determined he improperly prescribed and dispensed large quantities of narcotics, tranquilizers and other prescription drugs to UW softball players in recent years.

But Hedgus refused Monday to get into specifics of why Wilson was being let go as coach, citing an ongoing investigation by the university into the Schreyer case.

The Washington State Patrol and U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration, under guidance of the U.S. Attorney's Office, has opened a criminal investigation into the allegations involving the softball program.

Injury forces Malone to sidelined for three games

EL SEGUNDO, Calif. — Karl Malone will miss at least three games because of a sprained knee he picked up in a game against the Lakers' star forward.

Malone, who has missed only 11 games in his 18-plus NBA seasons, had an MRI examination Monday, and the news was better than expected. When the injury occurred on Sunday night's game against Phoenix, Malone said he heard something pop in his right knee.

Malone is averaging 14 points, 9.5 rebounds and 3.7 assists in 24 games this season — his first with the Lakers.

Rodman attempts comeback with ABA

LONG BEACH, Calif. — Dennis Rodman is trying to revive his basketball career with the Long Beach team of the American Basketball Association.

The 42-year-old former NBA star signed a contract Friday and will start practicing with the team after Christmas, said Steve Chase, president of the first-year franchise.

Rodman, who last played in the NBA in 2000 with the Dallas Mavericks, most likely will play his first game for the Jam in mid-January, Chase told the Long Beach Press-Telegram.

Post office named for Roberto Clemente

SAN JUAN, Puerto Rico — The main U.S. post office in Roberto Clemente's hometown was named for the Hall of Famer.

The U.S. Postal Service held a dedication ceremony Sunday in the 00983 ZIP code of Carolina, where the outfielder was born. Clemente also has been honored on U.S. postage stamps.

Clemente played for the Pittsburgh Pirates from 1955-72. He had 3,000 hits, batted over 300 13 times and earned 12 consecutive Gold Gloves. On New Year's Eve 1972, he died in a plane crash on a trip to aid Nicaragua earthquake victims.

Knicks fire Scott Layden, hire Isiah Thomas

NEW YORK — Scott Layden was fired Monday as president of the New York Knicks and Isiah Thomas was hired to replace him.

The move comes after New York missed the playoffs the past two seasons with a roster largely assembled by Layden. The Knicks are 10-18 this season, and recent speculation centered on coach Don Chaney possibly losing his job.

Thomas has been out of the NBA since being fired over the summer by the Indiana Pacers, where he was coach for three seasons.

Layden's last major move was the four-year deal that sent Latrell Sprewell to Minnesota for a princely \$10 million from New York. The deal has appeared to favor the Timberwolves during the first two months of the season. Sprewell has averaged 17.2 points for Minnesota while Van Lier has averaged 14.8 points and getting benched for the fourth quarter of several recent games.

Garrison will replace King as Fed Cup captain

NEW YORK — Zina Garrison will replace Billie Jean King as captain of the United States Fed Cup team next season. The Associated Press learned Monday.

Garrison, the Wimbledon runner-up in 1990, was appointed by USTA president Alan Schwartz for one year. A U.S. Tennis Association source told the AP on condition of anonymity. Her hiring was to be announced Tuesday, the source said.

Garrison becomes the country's first black Fed Cup captain in the 40-year history of the event.

King is stepping aside after leading the United States to four titles and 11 victories, but her tenure also was marked by conflicts with players. She will stay on as an assistant coach, the same position Garrison has held since 1999.

Newman takes top 2003 honors in NASCAR

NEW YORK — Ryan Newman was honored as Driver of the Year in 2003 after a season in which he won eight races and 11 poles in NASCAR's Winston Cup Series.

This was only the second time in the award's 37-year history the honor did not go to a series champion. Matt Kenseth won this year's Cup title.

Newman received the award in 1990, despite finishing second to Darrell Waltrip in the points.

Newman failed to finish seven of 36 races in 2003 and wound up sixth in the points, but he drove eight of the 18 races from pole and won four of them. He was also the favorite of 44 percent of the fans who voted online. That total counted as one vote in the final tally.

Kenseth drove just one pole from 1990 to 2002. Drivers receiving votes were series champions Paul Tracy (CART), Steve Kirkner (World of Outlaws), Greg Anderson (NHRA Pro Stock), Kenny Bernstein (NHRA Top Fuel), Scott Goodyen (NASCAR), J.J. Manzano (ISAC) and Neil Star Hornish, Jr., who made a late run at the title.

Deadline looms in A-Rod trade deal

ARLINGTON, Texas — A day before the deadline set by Texas to complete a trade of MVP shortstop Alex Rodriguez, the Boston Red Sox stood by their statement that the proposed deal "is dead."

Red Sox owner John Henry did not alter a position or say, in response to an e-mail from the Associated Press on Monday, that his club would contract the Rangers before the deadline.

If the deal is to be revived, Henry said, "I don't believe there are any public statements I could make—that would be helpful to the process other than to say that although there have been disagreements, I believe the principal investors on both sides have had good intentions throughout."

Rangers owner Tom Hicks set a 5 p.m. EST Tuesday deadline for the deal, which would send Rodriguez to Boston. Ramirez is Texas in a swap of baseball's only \$200 million-a-year players.

Compiled from wire reports

SCORES AND STATS

WHAT'S ON T.V.

2003 NFL Playoff Possibilities

Table with columns for AFC NORTH, AFC SOUTH, AFC EAST, AFC WEST, NFC EAST, NFC SOUTH, NFC WEST, and NFC NORTH. Lists teams and their records.

Table with columns for AFC NORTH, AFC SOUTH, AFC EAST, AFC WEST, NFC EAST, NFC SOUTH, NFC WEST, and NFC NORTH. Lists teams and their records.

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Table with columns for AFC NORTH, AFC SOUTH, AFC EAST, AFC WEST, NFC EAST, NFC SOUTH, NFC WEST, and NFC NORTH. Lists teams and their records.

Area ski report

Boyer Basin — Max 52.0 in. over 25 degrees pulled down to 17.0 by 10:30 a.m. ...

Frederick — Max 52.0 in. over 25 degrees pulled down to 17.0 by 10:30 a.m. ...

Leavitt Park — Max 52.0 in. over 25 degrees pulled down to 17.0 by 10:30 a.m. ...

Paradise — Max 52.0 in. over 25 degrees pulled down to 17.0 by 10:30 a.m. ...

Sierra Crest — Max 52.0 in. over 25 degrees pulled down to 17.0 by 10:30 a.m. ...

Sierra Nevada — Max 52.0 in. over 25 degrees pulled down to 17.0 by 10:30 a.m. ...

Sierra Pacific — Max 52.0 in. over 25 degrees pulled down to 17.0 by 10:30 a.m. ...

Sierra West — Max 52.0 in. over 25 degrees pulled down to 17.0 by 10:30 a.m. ...

Sierra East — Max 52.0 in. over 25 degrees pulled down to 17.0 by 10:30 a.m. ...

Sierra North — Max 52.0 in. over 25 degrees pulled down to 17.0 by 10:30 a.m. ...

Sierra South — Max 52.0 in. over 25 degrees pulled down to 17.0 by 10:30 a.m. ...

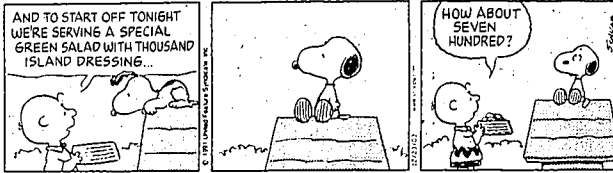
Sierra Central — Max 52.0 in. over 25 degrees pulled down to 17.0 by 10:30 a.m. ...

Sierra West — Max 52.0 in. over 25 degrees pulled down to 17.0 by 10:30 a.m. ...

COMICS

Classic Peanuts

By Charles M. Schulz



For Better or For Worse

By Lynn Johnston



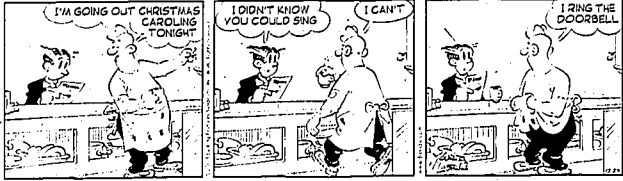
Dilbert

By Scott Adams



Blondie

By Dean Young & Stan Drake



B.C.

By Johnny Hart



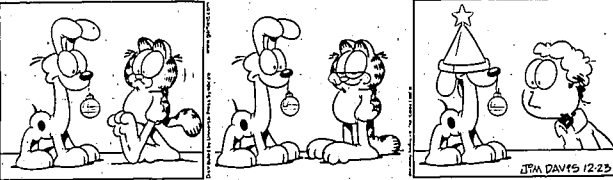
Pickles

By Brian Craven



Garfield

By Jim Davis



Dennis the Menace

By Hank Ketcham



The Family Circus

By Bil Keane



Hi and Lois

By Chance Browne



"INSTEAD OF THE USUAL BEDTIME STORY, HOW 'BOUT A TRIP THROUGH THE TOY CATALOG?"

"Could I mail this follow-up letter to Santa in case he has a surplus of anything?"

The Wizard of Id

By Brant Parker & Johnny Hart



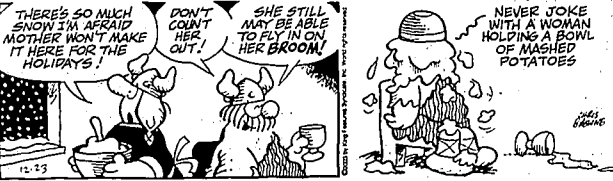
Rose is Rose

By Pat Brady



Hagar the Horrible

By Chris Browne



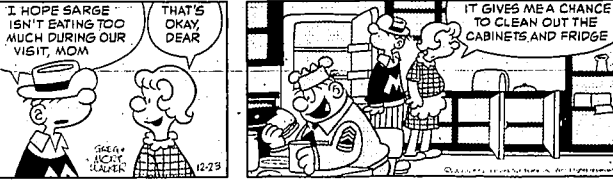
Zits

By Jim Borgman and Jerry Scott



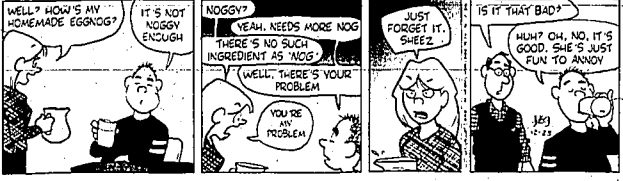
Beetle Bailey

By Mort Walker



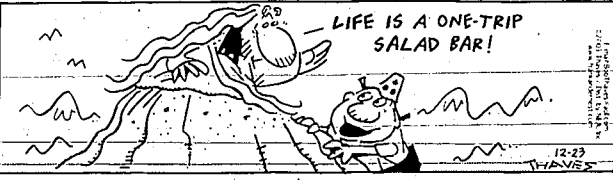
Luan Platter

By Brad Evans



Frank and Ernest

By Bob Thaves



Strange Brew

By John Deering



Non Sequitur

By Wiley



The Barn Loser

By Art Sansom & Chip



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104 Personals
105 Happy Ads
106 Special Notices
107 Abscon Alternatives
108 Personal Services
109 Health & Wellness
110 Home/Holiday Care
111 Entertainment Service
113 Child Care Services

200 EMPLOYMENT

210 Employment Wanted
217 Employment Opportunities

300 FINANCIAL

301 Business Opportunities
302 Money to Loan
304 Investments

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401 Schools/Education
402 Music Lessons
403 Tutoring

500 REAL ESTATE FOR RENT

501 Open House
502 Homes for Sale
510 Out-Of-State Homes
511 Out-Of-State Homes

600 REAL ESTATE SALES

601 Financial Services
602 Financial Education
603 Financial Services

700 REAL ESTATE SALES

701 Livestock & Poultry
702 Dairy Cattle & Supplies
703 Horses & Tack
704 Pets & Pet Supplies

800 REAL ESTATE SALES

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802 Appliances
803 Bazaars & Crafts
804 Electronics
805 Furniture & Pools
806 Clothing & Purses
808 Computers
809 Firewood

900 REAL ESTATE SALES

901 ATVs & Motorcycles
902 Boats & Accessories

1000 TRANSPORTATION

1001 Aviation
1002 Auto Parts & Accessories
1003 Autos Wanted
1004 Antiques & Collectibles
1005 Semis & Heavy Equipment
1006 Trucks
1008 SUVs
1009 Buses & Busses
1010 Autos for Sale
1011 Imports & Sports Cars
1012 Stock Cars
1013 Auto Services & Repairs
1019 Auto Dealers
1020 Service Directory

1100 TRANSPORTATION

1101 Aviation
1102 Auto Parts & Accessories
1103 Autos Wanted
1104 Antiques & Collectibles
1105 Semis & Heavy Equipment
1106 Trucks
1108 SUVs
1109 Buses & Busses
1110 Autos for Sale
1111 Imports & Sports Cars
1112 Stock Cars
1113 Auto Services & Repairs
1119 Auto Dealers
1120 Service Directory

1200 RECREATION

1201 ATVs & Motorcycles
1202 Boats & Accessories

FOOD SERVICE
Looking for good server. Pick up application between 11 am and 3 pm, Mon-Sat. Edith's Cafe 141 E. Hwy. 81 Burley.

MEDICAL
Idaho Home Health & Hospice wants you to be part of our team!
We are now accepting applications for Full-time or part-time RN case managers.

MEDICAL
Idaho Home Health & Hospice wants you to be part of our team!
We are now accepting applications for a Full-time staffing coordinator.
Prior experience in home health or private duty is preferred.
Please apply in person at 826 Eastland Drive. No phone calls please. EOE.

MILL OPERATOR
Western Stockmen's has an immediate opening for a mill operator at Burley feed store and mill. Individual will perform a variety of duties including: maintenance, bagging equipment, fork lift, load/unload product, maintenance and clean up. Prior experience preferred. Must have ability to read and comprehend simple instructions, have basic math skills, ability to move 100 lbs. and climb ladders. Must be willing to work varied shifts including Saturdays a minimum of 40 hours per week. Please apply in person at WSI, 1001 W. Main including operating license and motorist are encouraged to apply. Employment in drug screen required.

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Exp. framers & general construction laborers. Call for appointment 736-3855.

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ConAgre Cattle Feeding Company is an Equal Opportunity/Affirmative Action Employer. "Drug screen is required prior to employment"

INSURANCE PROCESSOR
We are looking for a bright, energetic individual to be part of our insurance team. Duties include the processing of personal lines insurance policies and providing support to account managers. Req. qualifications include high school diploma and computer experience. Preferred qualifications include additional education, insurance exp. in Idaho P/Ch. The position is permanent, full-time. Excellent working conditions and benefit package. Mail resume to: Starley-Lovitt Insurance, P.O. Box 1947, Twin Falls, ID 83303.

50 LEGALS

IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF THE FIRST JUDICIAL DISTRICT OF THE STATE OF IDAHO IN AND FOR THE COUNTY OF TWIN FALLS
Case No. CV 03-5847
NOTICE OF HEARING IN RE: MILAN KOSTANDINOV
DOB 10-29-1987
A Petition by Emlino Rasmussen, on behalf of Milana Kostandinov, son, born 10-29-1987 in Mormalching, County of Knapik, County of Burgundy, now residing at 294 Trotter Drive, Twin Falls, ID, 83301, for a change in name to Mily Rasmien has been filed in the above entitled court, the reason for this change in name being that it is his real name. The name of the petitioner or father is Emlino Rasmussen, residing at 294 Trotter Drive, Twin Falls, Idaho. Such petition will be heard at 2:00 o'clock p.m. on January 26, 2004, in courtroom number 5 of the Twin Falls County Courthouse. Objections may be filed by any person who can, in such objections, show to the court that the change is against a change of name. Witness my hand and seal of said District Court, this 19th day of December, 2003.
/s/Tamara Holstead, Clerk
/s/Emilio Rasmussen, Petitioner, Pro Se
PUBLISH: December 23, 2003, January 6 and 13, 2004

101 LEGALS

FOUND BORDER COLLIE
young male, Husky mix, about 70lbs. Found on Elmer Ave. West. Call 208-733-1931.
Found by victory bridge, brown dog, long hair, call 208-733-2324.

101 LEGALS

FOUND ROTWEILER, brown female, West Bull, wearing collar, no tag, call 208-453-2853
FREE 11 mo. old neutered male, wired haired, cute personality, 324-5151 between 8 am - 6 pm Monday & 8 am - noon on Sat. Call 733-8228
LOST 2 Labrador Retrievers west of Bl. Hill on 12/20/03 PM. Both males. 1 adult chocolate - 1 younger black with collars and tags. Call 208-643-8341 or 208-837-4015
LOST Lab. big red with red collar. Lost between Twin Falls and Kimberly. Call 733-8228
LOST Red Heeler, 1 yr. old male wearing a red collar. Between Burker King and Paul, answers to Roy. 208-638-8328 or 431-3683
LOST set of golf clubs, Near Clear Lakes golf course, Black traveling case, Cobra Irons, Taylor made driver, Callaway 7 wood. 208-317-8498
LOST Spring Spaniel, brown and white male. Has noticeable mole/burn on top of head. Lost near Edon on 12/9/03. Please call 208-295-0275

Resident Care Manager
FULL-TIME
\$3,000 Hire-on Bonus (closes 12-31-03)
Are you a self-starter? Do you possess strong internal motivation? Do you yearn for the opportunity to provide direct patient care and lead a resident staff? If so, you are the one we're looking for!
Resident Care Manager will assess resident health condition, interact with physician regarding resident status and receive orders, as well as direct LPN and CNA care giving staff. Resumes current in the Twin Falls area stating weekend shift as on-call manager. Long-term care & staff management experience is preferred.
We offer an excellent salary and benefits package. Please call Jeni at (208) 736-8666 for more information. EOE.
SunBridge Healthcare
www.sunh.com

ALCOHOLICS
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REMEMBER
That birthday ad you placed some time ago in the Times-News? Now is the time to come pick up your pictures. Stop by the Classified Dept. today!

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FREE TESTS, Always Confidential, 734-7472

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The Times-News has independent contractor opportunities in many areas throughout the Magic Valley.

Call Jeni at 208-733-0931 ext. 302.

104 PERSONALS

106 SPECIAL NOTICES

A FRIENDLY REMINDER
It is against Twin Falls City Ordinance to top trees that are in the City's right-of-ways
For more information call 736-2265.

FAX YOUR AD

TIMES-NEWS CLASSIFIED DEPARTMENT
208-734-5538
208-677-4543 (Burley)

The Times-News will close...

Wed., December 24 at 3:00 p.m. & will be closed on Christmas Day.

Classified line ads to run on Thursday, December 25th need to be placed by noon on Wednesday.

Classified line ads to run on Friday, December 26th need to be placed by 2:00 p.m. on Wednesday.

News Room Phone Lines open on Wednesday
Reporter: Troy Foster call 735-3204 (unit 6 p.m.)
News Room Phone Lines open on Christmas Day
Reporter: Karin Kowalski call 735-3231 (until 6 p.m.)
The Times-News will be open regular hours
Friday, December 26, 8 a.m. - 5:30 p.m.

Your Friends at The Times-News Wish you a Merry Christmas!

The Times-News
First in news and information.
www.magicvalley.com
132 3rd Street West, Twin Falls - 208-733-0931
1263 Overland, Burley - 208-677-4042

Holiday Military Messages

Merry Christmas

From All of Us!

Log on to
www.magicvalley.com

You can send Season's Greeting to members of the armed forces, and military personnel can send greeting back home.

The greeting will appear on The Times-News web www.magicvalley.com

- Submit an open holiday message to service people
- Read holiday messages from service people
- Read holiday messages to service people

Tuesday, Dec. 23, 2003

THE ACES ON BRIDGE

Bobby Wolff

'They're always throwin' goodness at you. But with a little bit of luck a man can duck!'

— Alan Jay Lerner

As modern bidding has improved, declarers have less and less experience in playing the 4-1 trump fit. On deals like today's, you sometimes have no choice but to declare these delicate trump fits, but the important thing to do is not to panic. Work out what you need to make your contract, then plan the play accordingly.

For example, after two rounds of hearts are led against your four-spade contract, your chances look negligible unless you trump 3-3, as you have two top club losers and one heart loser. You must therefore assume that the trumps will divide evenly. You now add up your tricks again, but you still have only nine winners. You need to set up an extra club winner, but you cannot afford to draw trumps first, or your opponents will have heart winners to cash as soon as they obtain the lead.

So ruff the heart at trick two and simply play ace and another club — without touching trumps. East will win the second club, but what is that player to do now? If he leads another heart, you will ruff in dummy, draw trumps, and have 10 winners. So it must be best for him to return a trump. You win in hand and duck another club, setting up the fourth round of clubs. When East wins and plays a heart, or goes passive again, you can draw all the trumps now, and dummy is high.

NORTH 1323-A
AKQ
AKQJ
A642

WEST EAST
AKQJ 653
K954 AK1086
10 109
642 KQ9

SOUTH
AKKJ2
K753
K875

Vulnerable: North-South
Dealer: East

The bidding:
South West North East
Pass 2♥ Dbl. 1♥
3♠ Pass 4♠ All pass

Opening lead: Heart queen

BID WITH THE ACES 1323-B

South holds:
653
AK1086
109
KQ9

South West North East
1♥ Pass 1♠ Pass

ANSWER: Bid one no-trump. You can't rebid four-card heart suit, introduce a three-card club suit, so all that is left is to raise spades, which is unattractive with three small cards, or to rebid one no-trump. That choice is less than ideal because of your doubleton diamond, but otherwise limits the hand efficiently.

If you would like to contact Bobby Wolff, e-mail him at http://www.bobbywolff.com Copyright 2003, United Feature Syndicate, Inc.

TWIN FALLS 1 bdrm, 520 2nd Ave. No. 4400-25 dep. rai. No pets. \$200-215.

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TWIN FALLS Avail. now, upstairs 2 bdrm., 2 bath, in 4+plex. Range, rebat., DW, W/D hookups, \$550 mo. No pets. Credit and land-lord check req. 734-4111.

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TWIN FALLS close to CSI, 2 bdrm, 1.5 bath, appls, \$650/mo. RoI. & \$300 Security dep. No pets w/d permit. 429-1995.

TWIN FALLS Best deal in town! Microwave, refrig., spa, cable TV, laundry, and daily maid service. Call 734-4111.

TWIN FALLS Sky Lane, 4 bdrm, 3 bath, wood floors. No smoking/pets. Starting at \$495. Call 734-0473.

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TWIN FALLS Warehouse/Shop/warehouse with restrooms and office. 4000 sq. ft., including office, 258 6th Ave. W. 733-0881 or 420-0081

TWIN FALLS 1000 sq. ft. office building w/kitchen, AC, fenced storage yard + more yard available. 12x24 storage shed. 2055 Osterloh. \$595 mo. Call 734-4111.

TWIN FALLS 3000 sq. ft. storage area with office and bathroom. \$600 month. 1920 Highway Ave. Roland, 539-4005.

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TWIN FALLS Single wide and new double spaces avail. Friendly Village Mobile Estates. Ask about 1 month rent FREE! Call 423-6253.

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TWIN FALLS 1 bdrm, 520 2nd Ave. No. 4400-25 dep. rai. No pets. \$200-215.

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Business & Service Directory Header with logo and text: 'You can advertise your business and reach over 50,000 potential customers every day! Call 733-0931, ext. 2 for information.'

Real Estate Listings: TWIN FALLS 1 bdrm, 520 2nd Ave. No. 4400-25 dep. rai. No pets. \$200-215. Includes various property descriptions and contact info.

ACUSTICAL & DRYWALL: Why call the rest? You deserve the best! DRYWALL 731-0788. Includes services like repair, texturing, and advanced painting.

CARPENTRY: Torres Carpentry - General home repair, interior/exterior, install windows, doors etc. Includes contact info for various carpentry services.

HANDYMAN & STORAGE SHEDS: Custom wood storage sheds, residential/commercial, electrical, plumbing, etc. Includes contact info for handyman services.

RV STORAGE: Enclosed long-term, call any RV. Easy access, secure. Competitive rates. Includes contact info for RV storage services.

SHARPENING SERVICE: John's Sharpening Service - Complete sharpening of all types of tools. Includes contact info for sharpening services.

Business & Service Directory Footer: Includes contact information for the directory and a note about advertising.

Woman's tiny village makes big Christmas magic

By Coreen Hart
Times-News correspondent

BURLEY—Twila Hunt is a collector of tiny buildings. She has more than 200 that all light, and hundreds of accessories to go with them.

"I set them up for her small town for the children."

"I guess about 75 or 100 people come every year," said her son, Allen Hunt Jr. of Burley. "She does it for them. All the work and the cost just evaporates as soon as a young family comes in to see it. It's like, 'Wow!'"

Allen helps his mother with the heavy work each year. They used to move all the furniture out of the living room, but for the last two years, they've emptied the solarium instead and then filled it to overflowing. Several smaller displays are in the living room, filling the top of every table and cabinet with twinkling, musical displays. Her visitors are enchanted.

This retired elementary school teacher began collecting about 1982, when her granddaughter gave her the first piece.

"It is called 'Church of the Open Door,' and I became attracted to the idea of collecting them," she said.

"She now has more than one dozen churches alone."

"I don't have all the pieces," she said. "They began producing these about 1979, I think. But I haven't missed any pieces since I began."

The whole family has pitched in to buy the pieces, all from one manufacturer, which comes up with new ones annually. She has houses, a library, a hospital, two crystal palaces and a glistening carousel with frosted-over windows and the shadows of horses going around inside. There are ski and sled slopes with moving skiers and sleds.

Shelly's Diner, though only a few inches tall, has a lighted 1950s interior, folks having a burger and a shake and its own separate flashing sign.

Modern buildings include a Harley Davidson dealership, Krispy Kreme doughnut store and the Hard Rock Cafe. An airport hosts crop dusters and private planes.

Residents of the tiny village include a boy making an angel in the snow, an entire Christmas parade and a sleigh with the king and queen.

"Many pieces will not be made again



COREEN HART/The Times-News



Above, Twila Hunt's tiny village is as large as any town, with more than 200 lighted buildings, animated scenes and even an airport. Left, this small church was Hunt's introduction to her collection of miniature buildings.

because the molds have been retired," Hunt said. "They're several pieces every year."

"She finds them at several large stores. One of her children finds pieces in Denver, where she lives.

"Little kids just love them," said Marianne Welch, owner of the Recollections store in Burley, of the tiny village pieces.

"They are a bit of peace and reverence," Hunt said. "I leave them up until winter is gone because I enjoy looking at them.

They put me back in the old world; a gentler, kinder world where there was less hurry."

Times-News correspondent Coreen Hart can be reached at 436-1186 or by e-mail at jimreec@safelink.net.

STORK REPORT

Magick Valley Regional Medical Center

Juan Carlos Montal Ojeda, son of Sulcema Diaz Hurtado of Wendell, was born Monday, Dec. 1, 2003.

Miguel Angel Gutierrez Guerrero, son of Maria Socorro Gutierrez of Jerome, was born Monday, Dec. 1, 2003.

Hallie Jade Bowman-Caldwell, daughter of April Ninkal Bowman of Kimberly, was born Tuesday, Dec. 2, 2003.

Porter Joe Andersen, born to Inger Hope and Stephen Robert Andersen of Burley, was born Thursday, Dec. 11, 2003.

Alyse Michelle Benson, daughter of Michelle and Craig Thomas Benson of Twin Falls, was born Thursday, Dec. 11, 2003.

Joshua Dale Bower, son of Rachel Dawn and Daniel Ross Bower of Buhl, was born Thursday, Dec. 11, 2003.

Vanessa Maria Contreras, daughter of Claudia Juarez Rodriguez and Jose Manuel Contreras of Gooding, was born Thursday, Dec. 11, 2003.

Keegan Baylee Fink, daughter of Sara Marie and Joseph Leonard Fink of Twin Falls, was born Thursday, Dec. 11, 2003.

Bethany Dean Grindstaff, daughter of Deborah Kaye and David Wayne Grindstaff of Rogerson, was born Friday, Dec. 12, 2003.

Cody Allen Berkley, son of Estella Grace Conde of Jackpot, Nev., was born Friday, Dec. 5, 2003.

Zachary Tyler McNeil, son of Kristina Marie and Tyler Dale McNeil of Twin Falls, was born Tuesday, Dec. 9, 2003.

Seth Stephen Rahe, son of Pamela Jayne and Stephen Donald Rahe of Twin Falls, was born Tuesday, Dec. 9, 2003.

Cindy Edwin Peterson, son of Cindy Lynn and John Edwin Peterson of Buhl, was born

To announce a birth send a copy of the birth certificate to:
Melissa Morgan
The Times-News
PO Box 5418
Twin Falls, ID 83303
Or fax to: 735-5533
Deadline: noon Tuesday for Sunday's paper; and noon Friday for Tuesday's paper.
More information?
Call Melissa at 735-3278

Wednesday, Dec. 10, 2003.
Colin Kyle McBride, born to Amy Lynn and Lance Dean McBride of Twin Falls, was born Friday, Dec. 12, 2003.
Shogan Justus Parker, son of Lelly Ann and Richard Cole Parker of Twin Falls, was born Sunday, Dec. 14, 2003.
Kaden Timothy Vargas, son of Jaclyn Ann and Sean Robert Vargas of Jerome, was born Wednesday, Dec. 17, 2003.

St. Benedicts Family Medical Center

Gabriella Aleecia Kunz, daughter of Kevin and Jennifer Kunz of Gooding, was born Wednesday, Dec. 3, 2003.

Vanessa Reyes, daughter of Guadalupe and Arturo Reyes of Gooding, was born Thursday, Dec. 4, 2003.

Cleo Rosanne Kirby, daughter of Jessica Miller and Kirby Gough, was born Thursday, Dec. 4, 2003.

Ruth Johanna McCarron, daughter of Weston and Rachel McCarron of Jerome, was born Tuesday, Dec. 9, 2003.

Cassia Regional Medical Center

Travis and Melissa Fenstermaker of Burley, was born Tuesday, Dec. 16, 2003.

T.F. County youngsters earn ribbons at 2003 fair

FILER—The University of Idaho Extension Service reported winners of the Twin Falls County Fair.

- Prize Show Showmanship
 - Class 1: Alexia Stephens, red
 - Class 2: Alexia Stephens, red
 - Class 3: Alexia Stephens, red
 - Class 4: Alexia Stephens, red
 - Class 5: Alexia Stephens, red
 - Class 6: Alexia Stephens, red
 - Class 7: Alexia Stephens, red
 - Class 8: Alexia Stephens, red
 - Class 9: Alexia Stephens, red
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 - Class 99: Alexia Stephens, red
 - Class 100: Alexia Stephens, red

- Adrian Machado, blue, first
- Blake Lammers, red
- Anna Murray, red
- Justin Paul, blue
- Leah Schaefer, blue
- Austin Webb, blue
- Class 14: Weston Johnson, red
- Class 15: Cayce Esteban, red
- Class 16: Emily Linder, red
- Class 17: Garrett Garret, red
- Class 18: Gage Holt, blue
- Class 19: Ryan Kozel, blue
- Class 20: Mackenzie Noe, blue
- Class 21: Raymond Kozel, blue
- Class 22: Kelly Madson, blue
- Class 23: Austin Dale, blue
- Class 24: De Wambert, blue
- Class 25: Joshua Welch, red
- Class 26: Tucker Williams, red
- Class 27: Amy Cozsa, blue
- Class 28: Mary Decker, red
- Class 29: Bryce Hagen, blue
- Class 30: Conni Maxwell, red
- Class 31: Kaitlyn Kozel, blue
- Class 32: Marc Ransper, blue
- Class 33: Logan Pfeifer, red
- Class 34: Logan Pfeifer, red
- Class 35: Leah Schaefer, blue
- Class 36: Leah Schaefer, blue
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- Class 100: Leah Schaefer, blue

Murtaugh man seeks donations for after-school center

MURTAUGH—Murtaugh School District Superintendent Dennis Osman presented 14 musical instruments to Greg Griggs as a donation for the district for Griggs' learning center project.

In turn, Griggs presented the school with certificates that are a part of several programs he created that are designed to give students an incentive to achieve higher. "Personal" and "academic" goals for themselves.

Due to several factors, the Murtaugh District faced cuts in its music department, Griggs reported. He plans to remodel his building adjacent to his Hoagie Street Country Store into an after-school learning center for homework, music and drama. For more than two years, he has sought old or broken instruments so that students could have one to learn on before they choose to buy one. He has tuned pianos and repaired instruments over the years, he said.

With the donation from the school, he has about 25 instruments, Griggs reported. He has been playing about 46 years, has taught several students and has at least two teachers lined up to help provide free lessons for young people and adults.

The community also has donated instruments, material for a library by 32-foot stage, computers, printers, televisions and video tape and



Murtaugh School District Superintendent Dennis Osman, left, presents 14 instruments to Greg Griggs as a donation for Griggs' learning center project.

recorders for audio and visual learning skills for the center. The school will help with learning programs on disk, and teachers have offered personal time to tutor children with homework.

Murtaugh is a small town and there are no physical places available where young people can "hang out" and receive free "positive asset building," he reported.

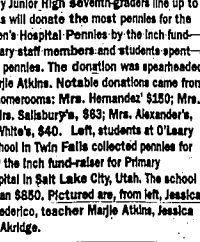
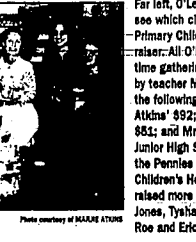
For nine years, he has been helping to build assets. The HealthNet Coalition of public agencies also has promoted "asset building" and defines assets as developmental building blocks needed by young people to avoid risky behaviors.

He also introduced a reading program into the elementary school, called the "reading-avenue challenge." Encouraging children to read and play music is an asset he has committed to developing at a community level the best he can, Griggs said.

He also challenged small businesses to become an "Asset Building Business," focus on the problems facing schools and find ways to be part of the solution, he reported.

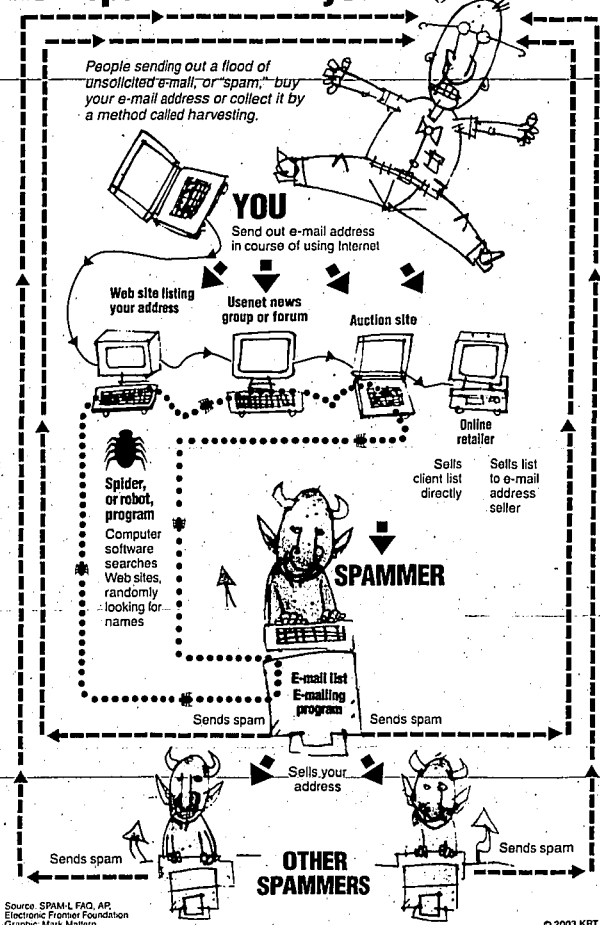
PENNIES BY THE INCH

Far left, O'Leary Junior High seventh-graders line up to use which class will donate the most pennies for the Primary Children's Hospital Pennies by the Inch fund-raiser. All O'Leary staff members and students spent time gathering pennies. The donation was spearheaded by teacher Marjorie Atkins. Notable donations came from the following homes: Mrs. Hernandez' \$180; Mrs. Atkins' \$92; Mrs. Sallabury's, \$83; Mrs. Alexander's, \$83; and Mr. White's, \$40. Left, students at O'Leary Junior High School in Twin Falls collected pennies for the Pennies by the Inch fund-raiser for Primary Children's Hospital in Salt Lake City, Utah. The school raised more than \$850. Pictured are, from left, Jessica Jones, Thyia Federico, teacher Marjorie Atkins, Jessica Roe and Erica Akridge.



COMPUTERS & TECHNOLOGY

How spammers find you



Source: SPAM! F.O. AP, Electronic Frontier Foundation
Graphic: Mark Mattson

Spam may actually multiply under new law, experts warn

The Dallas Morning News

DALLAS — Recent headlines might leave the impression that spammers are about to be given the boot from our bloated e-mail inboxes.

The CAN-SPAM Act has just been signed into law, and New York's attorney general has joined mighty Microsoft in a lawsuit aimed at dismantling one of the largest junk e-mail networks in the country.

But many experts are warning that laws and lawsuits cannot quell the rising tide of unwanted X-rated come-ons and Viagra pitches. In fact, they say, the CAN-SPAM Act actually legitimizes spam. Lawsuits, meanwhile, are proving ineffective and may only force U.S. spam operations off shore.

"It's going to get worse," says Doug Peckover, co-founder and chairman of Dallas-based software company, Privacy, Inc. "In fact, you may look back at 2003 as the good old days, before things got really out of control."

Peckover's company sells computer programs designed to help people track down and avoid unwanted e-mail solicitations, so his opinions should be taken with a grain of salt. But they are buttressed by dozens of nonprofit spam fighters, state attorneys general and consumer advocates.

In fact, about the only segment of the Internet industry happy with provisions of the law seems to be the direct marketing industry, it supposedly regulates.

Those like Scott Hazen Mueller, chairman of the Coalition Against Unsolicited Commercial E-Mail (CAUCE), believe the law is flawed because it doesn't tell marketers not to spam. Instead, he says, it gives them rules that "make it easier."

"This law does not stop a single spam from being sent," Mueller says. "It only makes that spam slightly more truthful. It also gives a federal stamp of approval for every legitimate

marketer in the U.S. to start using unsolicited e-mail as a marketing tool."

The bill, signed Tuesday by President Bush, provides large fines and jail time for e-mail marketers who use tricky and misleading ways to contact e-mail recipients into purchasing products, viewing pornography or being scammed.

It also bans tactics such as using false return addresses and requires adult-themed messages to be labeled. The law authorizes the Federal Trade Commission to set up a "Do Not Spam" or "opt-out" registry of Internet users, similar to the agency's popular "Do Not Call" telemarketing list.

But the Internet is not like a regulated telephone service and cannot be legislated like one, critics say. Spammers based in Hong Kong will be unlikely to heed any of the regulations or the opt-out registry, they say.

Beyond that, outlawing forged return addresses and fake head-

ers may reduce "bad" spam. But, in its place, thousands of other "legal" messages can now be sent. Every company now has one legitimate shot at sending a consumer e-mail. And it only has to stop when given specific instructions by the consumer or through the FTC registry.

The Internet Committee of the National Association of Attorneys General has steadily opposed the new federal law, saying key provisions are full of loopholes.

For example, the committee points out, it requires a spammer to "know" the header they're using would probably mislead an e-mail recipient. It exempts spammers from prosecution if their e-mail address is "unexpectedly and temporarily" unable to receive an opt-out request. And spammers can avoid all liability by showing they've established "reasonable practices" to avoid violating the law.

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Think 'Back to the Future': New phone offers visuals

By James Coates
Chicago Tribune

Remember the scene in "Back to the Future" where breadwinner Michael J. Fox gets a call while the family is at dinner and says he'll take it on the screen in his den? In the den he stands in front of a flat-panel wall-mounted TV where his employer is pictured in real-time, full-frame color video.

Way back in 1985 when "BTTF" was released, wall-mounted big screens were strictly science fiction and video phones were tiny black-and-white affairs that were the butt of jokes about rushing out of the shower to answer the phone naked as a jaybird.

Well, friends and neighbors, I can tell you that the day has finally arrived that we really can rush to the phone from the shower and create a stir on a friend's TV.

Today's review covers the spanking new Viscon Broadband VSPPhone, an ordinary-size tele-

phone-handset-with-a-built-in-6-inch video screen and RCA in and out ports to connect to any television set, if desired.

The phone works through a high-speed Internet connection via cable modem or DSL. The voice and pictures are sent and received as digital data, and there is no transmission cost for video calls after you've paid for your Internet connection. A call can be made around the world as easily as around the block.

At \$599 per phone, this is not for the faint of heart, and you'll need two of them unless you like talking to yourself. But I'll wager that there are a great number of grandparents, parents, separated romantic partners and others who might find it well worth the minimum tariff of \$1,200 for two phones.

And if you're a business, these \$600 terminals can replace costly video conferencing fees and let calls swap documents and other files as well as converse in full-

color, 30-frames-per-second-video only a bit inferior to cable reception.

Now to the gritty details. The phones are offered by a Dallas-based venture at Viscon.com and need a minimum of roughly 128 kilobits-per-second upload speeds and can operate as fast as about 512 kbps. Those speeds are easily handled by cable modems and digital subscriber lines but not by satellite Internet connections.

I tested a loaner and, following the simple instructions offered over the phone by an installer, I was up and running in a matter of a minutes.

When I just plugged the phone directly into my cable modem, the device automatically accessed the Internet and started making calls. But I needed help changing my router settings to plug the phone into my home network through the cable/DSL router. Most home users certainly will add the phone to these routers that supply broadband to computers.

PC displays can be made game-friendly

By James Coates
Chicago Tribune

Computer Q&A

Q. When I run game programs (Thomas & Friends, Maggie's Farmyard) on my Toshiba Tecra 8000 laptop, they fill up just a part of the screen display, about a 7-by-5-inch rectangle. How can I set things up so that the game programs will fill the whole 14.1-inch screen?

A. I've tried changing the pixel dimensions in the Display/Settings/Screen area but that doesn't help. Is there anything else I can try?

—Don Ehrett
A. My youngest child is 29 years old so I'm a tad rusty about that little locomotive named Thomas, not to mention events in Maggie's

Farmyard, Mr. E., but I do know how to fix things so your youngsters can view the games with a full screen.

As you've found, the solution doesn't always lie with going to the screen resolution settings tab after right-clicking on the desktop and picking Properties. This is because most Windows computers don't permit settings as low as required for many games—resolutions of 640 by 480 pixels. Yours probably doesn't get any smaller than 800 by 600 pixels.

Here's the fix:
The later versions of Windows create a compatibility setting for games that allow users to set the

size of the display to a screen-filling 640 by 480 pixels rather than the normal settings used for ordinary work.

For Windows-based software, find the game's icon and give it a right-click and pick Properties in the pop-up menu that appears. Now click on the Compatibility tab, where you will find a check box to order the display always at the game standard of 640 by 480.

Folks with older DOS-based games also right-click on the icon and pick Properties. But DOS games present a Screen-tab. You want to pick Full Screen. The game will do just that, and if you want to return to the regular screens use Alt + Enter to toggle between the displays.

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BRIEFLY IN MONEY

Idaho irrigation show takes place in Nampa

NAMPA — The latest information about irrigation equipment will be on display at the Idaho Irrigation Equipment Show from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Jan. 7 and from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. Jan. 8, organizers say.

The event — at the Nampa Civic Center, 311 Third St. S. in Nampa — is free to the public, and no registration is necessary.

More than 60 equipment manufacturers, dealers and distributors of landscape and agricultural irrigation products will be at the show to display their equipment and services.

"This is a great chance for growers and landscape irrigation contractors to come and see the latest developments in the industry and find solutions to their irrigation needs," said Dan Meeker, show co-chairman.

Free technical seminars for turf irrigation and agricultural irrigation will also be presented. Five classes provide recertification credit for Idaho and Oregon private applicator licenses. Also, 19 credits have been approved for the certified crop adviser continuing education credit program.

From 8 to 9:30 a.m. Jan. 7, the Idaho Irrigation Equipment Association will sponsor the "2004 Water & Power Outlook." Representatives from the National Weather Service, the Bureau of Reclamation and Idaho Power Co. will present weather forecasts and stream flow and reservoir storage data, and discuss irrigation-related programs and power supplies.

From 8:15 to 8:50 a.m. Jan. 8, Rick Haines, radio personality and Western Division ag director for the Northern Ag Network, will speak on "Revitalizing Rural America."

Classes will be offered free each day during the trade show. Contact an irrigation dealer for a brochure with class times, or call Tondee Clark at 377-8188 to request a brochure.

Washington Federal announces dividend

JEROME — Seattle-based Washington Federal Inc. — parent of Washington Federal Savings — on Monday announced a quarterly cash dividend of 22 cents per share.

The dividend will be payable Jan. 23 to common stockholders of record on Jan. 9. This is Washington Federal's 84th consecutive quarterly cash dividend.

With 119 offices in eight states, the company reported \$7.5 billion in assets and \$4.6 billion in deposits as of Sept. 30.

Melaleuca expands operations in Idaho

IDAHO FALLS — Melaleuca Inc. is planning to break ground next spring on a \$30 million project south of town to eventually centralize its manufacturing, warehousing and office operations.

The company had first planned to build a new warehousing facility inside city limits, but company President Frank VanderSlot said Melaleuca would outgrow the building too quickly.

He said company growth projections indicated the planned facility would only support its operations for 11 or 12 years, not the 25 years they had forecast.

Company officials started looking for a larger piece of ground and sought one in Bonneville County where Melaleuca could avoid paying \$300,000 a year in city taxes.

He estimated the project will take five or six years to finish. The first push will be to build new warehouse space.

Melaleuca currently has 100,000 square feet of warehouse space throughout Idaho Falls and Bonneville County. After the distribution center is constructed, Melaleuca will move its manufacturing operations and eventually its offices to the site.

Melaleuca produces cosmetics, household products and nutritional supplements.

The company employs 1,440 in eastern Idaho, all but 320 living in Idaho Falls.

VanderSlot said that although Melaleuca has operations in Knoxville, Tenn., he'll keep main operations in eastern Idaho.

Compiled from staff and wire reports

ConAgra sees earnings rise

Report comes despite overall decline in sales

QUARTERLY REPORT

The Associated Press

OMAHA, Neb. — ConAgra Foods reported Monday that its second quarter earnings rose nearly 15 percent, despite an overall decline in sales.

Net income was \$270.1 million, or 51 cents a share, in the quarter ended Nov. 23, compared with \$235.8 million, or 44

cents a share, in the same period last year.

Sales were \$3.8 billion, compared with \$4.5 billion for last year's second quarter.

Analysts expected earnings of 49 cents a share, according to a survey by Thomson First Call.

ConAgra has the Lamb

Weston Inc. potato-processing plant in Twin Falls and various other business operations around Magic Valley.

The company's second-quarter earnings reflects a 4-cent-per-share charge relating to the discontinued operations of United Agri Products.

Earnings are up 87 cents a share for the first half of fiscal 2004.

ConAgra plans to start a \$1 billion share repurchase program in December, funded by its strong cash position, company

officials said.

ConAgra reported second-quarter growth in brands including Banquet, Chef Boyardee, Egg Beaters, Hunt's, Kid Cuisine, Marie Callender's and Wesson. Declines were seen in its Armour, Blue Bonnet, Butterball, Healthy Choice, Parkay and Swiss Miss brands.

Phillips is the second-largest U.S. food company behind Philip Morris Co's Kraft Foods, which also has Magic Valley operations.

COURT FILINGS

The Times-News

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

Chapter 7, nonbusiness, under \$50,000

Misty Hefflin, also known as Misty Shobe, 902 S. 200 E., Hazelton, individual, nonbusiness, Chapter 7, 1-15 creditors, assets under \$50,000, liabilities under \$50,000. Case no. 03-42644.

Gary Lee Butenschoen, 193 E. 400 S., Jerome, individual, nonbusiness, Chapter 7, 16-49 creditors, assets not indicated, liabilities under \$50,000. Case no. 03-42654.

Jeremy Stephen Normand and April Kay Normand, 594 E. 300 S., Burley, individual, nonbusiness, Chapter 7, 16-49 creditors, assets under \$50,000, liabilities under \$50,000. Case no. 03-42662.

Barry Alan Fullmer, 385 Quincy St., Twin Falls, individual, nonbusiness, Chapter 7, 1-15 creditors, assets under \$50,000, liabilities under \$50,000. Case no. 03-42670.

Irene E. Study, 12457 Idaho Highway 75, Ketchum, individual, nonbusiness, Chapter 7, 16-49 creditors, assets under \$50,000, liabilities under \$50,000. Case no. 03-42671.

Kim Godfrey and Janelle Rene Godfrey, also known as Janelle Rene Behm, 600 S. Fillmore St., No. 16, Jerome, individual, nonbusiness, Chapter 7, 16-49 creditors, assets under \$50,000, liabilities under \$50,000. Case no. 03-42673.

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

Frances Thornton, also known as Frances Herrick, 1233 Sparks, Twin Falls, individual, nonbusiness, Chapter 7, 16-49 creditors, assets \$50,000 to \$100,000, liabilities \$100,000 to \$500,000. Case no. 03-42682.

Doing things differently



Jose Vargas, 24, left, and Matthew Wanlin, 24, work on digitally enhancing photos using Max software at the Bellamax, Inc. office building in San Francisco on Thursday. With sales of digital cameras rising steadily, Bellamax was able to raise \$6.3 million from several venture capitalists.

Venture capitalists go out on a few odd limbs

The Associated Press

SAN FRANCISCO — Venture capitalists have been treading carefully since their dot-com misadventures, but still occasionally wander off the beaten path in search of runaway successes.

The quest sometimes turns quirky concepts into wannabe businesses. The past year was no different, even as venture capital investments fell to their lowest level since 1997.

There is, for example, the Massachusetts startup that got \$47.5 million to fund its work developing a treatment for insomnia and jet lag. Or the Internet cooperator of political campaigns who got \$300,000 of venture capitalist backing.

The two ventures were among 47 unearthed when PricewaterhouseCoopers, Thomson Venture Economics and the National Venture Capital Association pored through industry statistics to identify 2003's oddest startups.

Other anomalies include a startup that makes energy efficient traffic lights with hidden security cameras; an Internet service that touches up digital

Odd ventures

Some unusual startups funded by 2003 venture capital, and their funding:

Atomic Dog Publishing — \$2.47 million, online college textbook publisher.

Capella Education — \$7.5 million, online university.

Currenex — \$3.6 million, online currency exchange.

DriveSafety — \$1.5 million, driving education simulator.

FortHealth Technologies — \$7.4 million, robotic drug dispensing.

JobFlash — \$1 million, automated employee screening, recruiting.

photos; and a startup making hybrid baseball bats with wooden barrels and aluminum handles.

Even the bat maker's chief executive, Jack Cipoletti, thought the concept was wacky when Mountaineer Capital approached him to oversee the firm's \$300,000 investment in West Virginia Bats LLC. But now he believes the company in Eleanor, W.Va., is about to uncover a new market.

The five-employee startup has already sold about 6,000 models of the "Original Metal Wood" bat,

mostly to youth leagues. The bat, which wholesales for about \$10, is supposed to last as long as 10 plain wooden bats, which sell for about \$30.

West Virginia Bats hopes to start making money by late next year and has hopes of some day persuading Major League Baseball to let its players use its equipment during batting practice.

Still, Cipoletti realizes failure is a distinct possibility.

"Let's face it, a venture capital

Odd ventures

startup is a roll of the dice," he said.

Overall, the 47 odd ventures received a combined \$492 million in venture capital during 2003, the research led by PricewaterhouseCoopers found.

That's about 3 percent of the estimated \$17 billion in VC money invested this past year. Most of it flowed into familiar high-tech strongholds from hardware to biotech.

In venture capital investing, a herd mentality can sometimes cause trouble by creating too many startups chasing after the same customers. And that's one allure of the odd venture.

Julie Wainwright suffered through a glut at the height of the dot-com boom while she ran Pets.com, which became famous for its sock-puppet mascot. But high-brand-recognition wasn't enough to help Pets.com rise above eight other online pet stores, contributing to the company's high-profile collapse three years ago.

Today, Wainwright is happy to be chief executive officer of Bellamax Inc., a San Francisco-based startup without any

Please see VENTURE, Page D4

Odd ventures

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Please see VENTURE, Page D4

Zoning dispute slows decision on ethanol plant

The Associated Press

ONTARIO, Ore. — Despite urging by some county officials, a court decision that affects the building of a new bio-refinery near Ontario is on hold until the new year.

Before construction, officials must approve a rezoning of the site, from exclusive farm use to agricultural-industrial use. The concept has drawn opposition from some area residents, and Malheur County Court officials have decided any decision can wait until January, to give both sides more time to prepare their arguments.

The delay has left at least one county official frustrated. Malheur County Judge Russ Harsh said he thought a decision could, and should, have been made before last week.

"It was kind of hoping we would get the thing resolved ... one way or another," he said.

People living close to, or in the general area, of the proposed site oppose the siting of the bio-refinery in their vicinity. They list pollution, odors, additional traffic, noise, fog and traffic and a possible decline in property values as key issues.

But officials with Treasure Valley Renewable Resources, the

Please see ETHANOL, Page D5

With inheritance come priorities of paying off debt

Question: My husband recently inherited about \$80,000. He is just a few years away from retirement and wants to make sure he uses this money wisely. Our first thought was to put \$50,000 toward our mortgage, allowing us to pay off the house around the time he is thinking of retiring. We are one year into a \$90,000, 15-year mortgage at 5.5 percent. It seems like a smart thing to do, seeing as there isn't much else out there making 5.5 percent without risk. We aren't sophisticated financial investors, but the peace-of-mind aspect of this is also para-

**MONEY
TALK**

Liz Pulliam
Weston

mount to my husband. The rest of the money might go to pay off credit cards (although they are currently at 0 percent). We have two kids in college, and we'll probably continue to make monthly payments on their low-

cost student loans. I am a little worried, however, that this infusion of money will make us ineligible for future college loans we will need to use all this money as described above. Should we worry about that and what should be our priorities be for this money?

Answer: Don't worry about your ability to get loans for education. You usually can borrow the entire cost of an education without showing any financial need.

As for your second question: The priorities you just identified for using the money are fine. You

just need to reorganize their order.

Whenever you get a windfall, your first goal should almost always be to pay off any credit card debt — even if it's at 0 percent. That rate isn't fixed and could shut you up with little notice. Paying off credit cards and other revolving debt also should boost your credit score, the three-digit number that lenders use to evaluate your credit-worthiness.

Once that debt is paid off, the next step is to retire any other nondebt-related debt. So you'll need to determine whether your mortgage or the student loans are

providing any tax advantages.

Many student loans are below 3 percent — inexpensive money by any measure, but even more so if you are able to write off the interest. As much as \$2,500 of student loan interest is deductible each year if your modified adjusted gross income as a couple is \$100,000 or less (\$50,000 for single people). Your deduction begins to phase out after that point and disappears entirely when your income reaches \$130,000 (\$65,000 for singles).

Please see MONEY, Page D5

MONEY

Weekend shoppers don't reverse trend

Merchants again pin hopes on final days

NEW YORK (AP) - A late buying binge over the weekend wasn't enough for Wal-Mart and other merchants to offset modest sales trends throughout the holiday season, according to early data.

To recoup lost business, the nation's merchants are again relying on the final days before Christmas and post-holiday sales, which are expected to be boosted by the redemption of gift cards.

"Traffic was heavy, but not overwhelming. And I didn't see the panic I did last year," said Marshall Cohen, senior industry analyst at NPD Inc., a market research firm in Port Washington, N.Y.

Wal-Mart Store Inc. announced

Monday that although sales improved somewhat over the weekend, December same-store sales growth was still tracking at the low end of the 3 percent to 5 percent range for this holiday season. Rather, people are following various gift trends - buying everything from pastel pink cashmere sweaters and monogrammed goods to DVD players.

Cohen suspects that most stores will meet the low end of holiday sales expectations, making it "better than last year, but not a whole lot better."

John Morris, an analyst at Harris Nesbitt Gerard, who follows mall-based apparel chains, agreed, saying that "expectations are quickly coming down to reality."

"It's not the gangbuster holiday that people were expecting back in the early fall," he added. And though many stores refrained from heavy discounting earlier in the season, they

seemed to have eventually buckled under pressure after seeing the strategy backfire. Morris estimated there were 10 percent fewer markdowns going into the start of the season than there were a year ago. As of this past Saturday, that difference narrowed to a 4 percent decline from year-ago levels, he said.

Even discounts on Saturday failed to please shoppers like Dominique Vickers, who started her holiday buying a week ago. "Things could be a little cheaper," she said. The Manhattan resident, who was among the crowds outside Macy's Herald Square on Saturday, "Last year, most of the shoes were like half off at Macy's."

Luxury stores have fared the best, while department stores are tracking below sales projections, estimated Michael P. Niemira, chief economist and director of research at the International Council of Shopping Centers.

NEW YORK (AP) - Wal Street pushed up the stock market Monday as investors cautiously picked up shares on expectations of stronger growth in 2004. A heightened terror alert limited gains.

Trading was choppy and light as many investors got an early start on the Christmas holiday. The stock market will be open for a half session Wednesday, close on Thursday for Christmas and then reopen for a half session Friday.

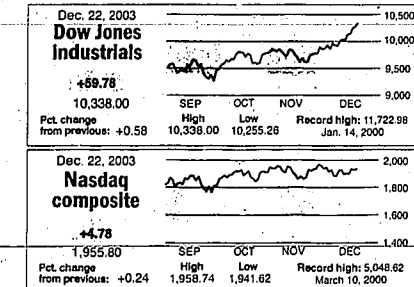
"There's a little bit of caution given the security alert," said Russ Koesterich, U.S. equity strategist at State Street Corp. in Boston. "That might be holding back what normally would be some follow through from last week's gains."

"Generally speaking, this part of the year is seasonally very strong, and you've got strong earnings and economic backing up the market," he said. "We can get past this blip due to the terror alert, we have the potential to go higher."

The Dow Jones industrial average closed up 59.78, or 0.6 percent, at 10,338.00, having advanced 2.4 percent last week to notch its fourth straight week of gains. On Monday, the blue chip average rose to its highest level since May 17, 2002, when it stood at 10,353.08.

The broader market also rose. The Nasdaq composite index gained 4.78, or 0.3 percent, to 1,955.00, having edged up 0.1 percent last week.

And the Standard & Poor's 500 index rose 4.28, or 0.4 percent, to 1,092.94, following a weekly gain of 1.4 percent. Monday's close was the highest level since May 23, 2002.



Wal Street rises to 52-week highs

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Venture

Continued from D3 notable competition. The company touches up digital photography for businesses and consumers. The online service, which Bellamix also sells through other photo Web sites, will remove red eyes on a digital snapshot for 49 cents per photo, rearrange the scenery for \$2.99 or even change people's skin tones for \$7.99.

With sales of digital cameras rising steadily, Bellamix was able to raise \$6.3 million from seven venture capitalists and persuade Wainwright to take another stab at running an Internet business.

"The dot com time was crazy, but this company is founded on

sound business fundamentals," she said. "There is a real need for what we do. We think of ourselves as Adobe Photoshop on steroids."

Adobe Systems Inc., which makes the popular Photoshop software, is one of the top 5 among Bellamix's financial backers. The potential to revolutionize a prosaic piece of machinery - the traffic signal - helped OptiSoft Inc. raise \$10 million during 2003 and recruit former Compag Computer Corp. board member Ted Enloe as its chief executive.

The Richardson, Texas-based startup uses its energy-efficient traffic signals will save cities and counties thousands of dollars on

their power bills during the next 30 years while offering a possible tool to fight street crime and terrorism.

OptiSoft's signals can accommodate hidden security cameras and even sensors that might detect vehicles carrying biological and nuclear weapons. The traffic signals also have battery back-up systems that will keep them operating for up to 72 hours during a blackout.

"Traffic signals really haven't changed much since 1958," Enloe said. "We think it's time to bring them into the 21st century."

It's always difficult to separate startups destined for success from those headed for futility, said Mitchell Kertzman, a former

high-tech CEO and now a partner at Hummer Winblad, a San Francisco venture capital firm. Like Google, for example.

Few venture capitalists were initially willing to take a chance on startups developing online search engines, reasoning there was no way to make much money from the free service. In the past year, though, advertisers paid an estimated \$2 billion to have their links displayed alongside relevant search results, helping to fund industry leader Google into a prized investment.

"Just because something doesn't appear to have a viable business model today doesn't mean it will always be that way," Kertzman said.

NASDAQ NATIONAL MARKET

Table listing NASDAQ National Market stocks with columns for Name, Div, Last Chg, and various price metrics.

NEW YORK STOCK EXCHANGE

Table listing New York Stock Exchange stocks with columns for Name, Div, Last Chg, and various price metrics.

MARKET SUMMARY

Table summarizing market activity for NYSE, AMEX, and NASDAQ, including Most Active and Gainers/Losers lists.

DIARY

Table showing market activity for Diaries, including Advanced, Declined, and Unchanged categories.

DIARY

Table showing market activity for Diaries, including Advanced, Declined, and Unchanged categories.

DIARY

Table showing market activity for Diaries, including Advanced, Declined, and Unchanged categories.

INDEXES

Table showing various market indices and their performance.

INDEXES

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INDEXES

Table showing various market indices and their performance.

STOCKS OF LOCAL INTEREST

Table listing stocks of local interest with columns for Name, Div, PE, Last Chg, and YTD % Chg.

STOCKS OF LOCAL INTEREST

Table listing stocks of local interest with columns for Name, Div, PE, Last Chg, and YTD % Chg.

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Table listing stocks of local interest with columns for Name, Div, PE, Last Chg, and YTD % Chg.

MARKETS

Newspaper baron goes before SEC

CLOSING FUTURES

Table with columns for market type (Man, Com, Ag, etc.), contract name, and price/point change. Includes sub-sections for Wheat, Soybeans, Corn, and other commodities.

METALS/CURRENCY

Table listing prices for various metals (Gold, Silver, Platinum) and currencies (Euro, Yen, etc.) with their respective price changes.

NEW YORK (AP)—Newspaper baron Conrad M. Black was called before the Securities and Exchange Commission on Monday but wouldn't answer questions about millions of dollars in unauthorized payments he and other executives collected.

Money

Student loan interest is an important part of the investigation, which means you can write it off regardless of whether you itemize your deductions.

BEANS

Table listing prices for various bean contracts, including White Beans, Pinto Beans, and other types.

CHEESE

Table listing prices for various cheese contracts, including Cheddar, Swiss, and others.

GRAINS

Table listing prices for various grain contracts, including Wheat, Corn, and Soybeans.

POTATOES

Table listing prices for various potato contracts, including Idaho Potatoes and other varieties.

Holiday tipping is a way of showing your appreciation for the people who provide services for you. It's voluntary, of course, and there are no hard-and-fast rules.

Ethanol

Continued from D2. A personal pitch from Oregon Gov. Ted Kulongoski helped company that wants to build the refinery, said the proposed site is the one which best fits the criteria for a plant site.

LIVESTOCK

Table listing prices for various livestock contracts, including Cattle, Hogs, and Poultry.

FOSSIL FUELS

Table listing prices for various fossil fuel contracts, including Oil, Gas, and Coal.

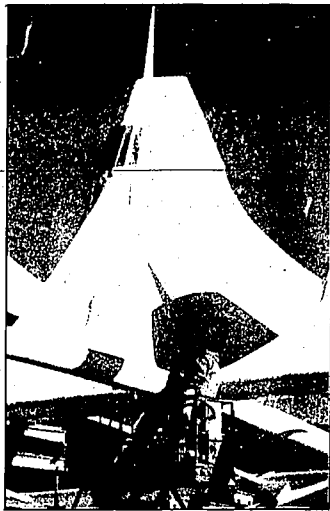
MUTUAL FUNDS

Large table listing various mutual fund contracts, including Domestic Equity, International, Bond, and Money Market funds.

WEST/NATION

ROOFSCAPE

A welder works on the metal skeleton for a roof over the departure area in front of Denver International Airport Monday. Work on the roof has been in progress for several months.



AP photo

Scientists link diesel soot, global warming

WASHINGTON (AP) — Soot mostly from diesel engines is blocking snow and ice from reflecting sunlight, which is contributing to "near worldwide melting of ice" and as much as a quarter of all observed global warming, top NASA scientists say. The findings about the snow and ice albedos — their power to reflect light falling on the surface — raise new questions about human-caused climate change from the Arctic to the Alps. "We suggest that soot is a more all-around 'bad actor' than has been appreciated," NASA scientist James Hansen and Larissa Nazarenko wrote in a paper published Monday in the Proceedings of the National

Academy of Sciences. Soot comprises carbon particles that are, along with salts and dust, byproducts of burning fossil fuels and vegetation. In developed countries, the biggest source is diesel fuel. Elsewhere, burning wood, animal dung, vegetable oil and other biofuels is a major source of soot. Hansen, director of NASA's Goddard Institute for Space Studies, and Nazarenko, a staff associate there, found soot is twice as potent as carbon dioxide in changing global surface air temperatures in the Arctic and the Northern Hemisphere. Greenland may be an exception, they said, because it is downwind from Canadian forests

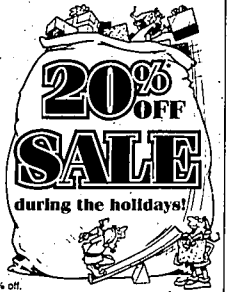
and has little manmade pollution. In response to questions from The Associated Press, Hansen said Monday that the authors estimate the soot effect is equivalent to putting a 1-watt bulb, the size of a miniature Christmas tree bulb, over every two square yards in the Northern Hemisphere. The effect is greater in northernmost snow regions, and about zero in the tropics.

Time to liquidate? Use The Times-News Marketplace classifieds to turn possessions into cash.

LAMPHOUSE THEATRE
223 5th Ave. S. T.F. • 736-8600
The Station Agent
Today 4:15-7:15-9:15
Masked and Anonymous
Bob Dylan, John Goodman, Jim Brogan, Jessica Lange
Today 4:30-7:00
We will be closed
Dec. 24th & 25th

Come in and enjoy our...

WENDELL True Value
Help Is Just Around the Corner
597 South Idaho Street
536-6458
*Does not include items already marked 40% off.



Gourmet dish runs afoul of animal activists

An all-out food fight is taking place in California's wine country, and residents of the chic culinary destination of Sonoma aren't thrilled with the opening shins. Vandals have flooded an upscale food specialty shop and covered its walls with graffiti. Ducks have been sprung from their cages at a farm.

Activists who want the sale of foie gras, the fat-engorged liver of ducks and geese, banned in Sonoma and elsewhere, argue that force-feeding the animals to produce the delicacy is cruel and inhumane.

In Defense of Animals and other groups have concentrated their efforts on several Northern California restaurants and Sonoma Foie Gras, the only West Coast producer of the haute cuisine.

Five hundred people signed a petition to ban foie gras sales. The Sonoma City Council has taken no action, but activists pledge to continue their fight.

Some visitors can't stomach new Disney ride

Maybe the new motto at Disney World in Orlando should be "thrills, chills and ... spills!"

It turns out that the park's new mega-ride Mission: Space, a centrifuge-powered attraction that simulates a rocket launch, is making a few people queasy. So the ever-fastidious park is doing something it has never done before: It is placing motion sickness bags in the seating areas of the \$100 million ride, much like

Nation in brief

those commonly seen in airplanes.

"One person getting sick is one too many," said Disney spokeswoman Rena Langley.

Artificial tree needles Texas's house speaker

For the first time, the Christmas tree standing in the Texas House chamber was not grown on Texas soil. This year's tree is synthetic — and it was made in China.

House Speaker Tom Craddick's wife, Nadine, accepted the flame-resistant, artificial Oregon fir as a donation from an Austin store. The allergy-prone Craddicks have never opted for a real tree in their 34 years of marriage, and they were not about to break that tradition for the House, said Bob Richter, Craddick's spokesman. Craddick, a Republican, was elected speaker in January.

The 15-foot tree has not impressed some Texas tree growers and Democrats.

"We ought to support Texas, not China's Rep. Jim Dunningan, chairman of the House Democratic Caucus, told the San Antonio Express-News.

Craddick, unfazed, plans to select a fake tree for the chamber as long as he is speaker, Richter said.

"It's a beautiful tree," Richter said. "I don't think you can tell if it's real or fake."

— compiled from wire reports

Snap Up Big Savings On Our Coolest Camera Phone. And get up to 4 flip phones FREE!

verizon wireless
We never stop working for you!

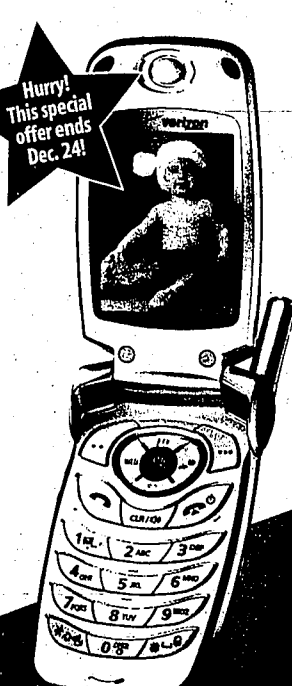
AUDIOVOX 8900 Camera Phone

Was \$99.99
Now \$59.99

Our Lowest Price Ever! While Supplies Last.

After \$70 mail-in & \$40 instant rebate (\$169.99 activated phone price). With new 2-yr. agreement. Shipping charges apply.

- PIX and TXT Messaging capable
- 2-way speakerphone
- Download ring tones, games & graphics



Hurry! This special offer ends Dec. 24!

Plus, get up to 4

FREE FLIP PHONES!

With purchase of any phone \$49.99 or above. With new 2-yr. agreement per phone. Shipping charges apply.

LG VX3100



Get a FREE PHONE! every two years!

Loyal Verizon Wireless customers always get the best deals on new phones. Get a free phone every two years valued up to \$100 or \$100 towards the phone of your choice. Just sign a new 2-year agreement on any plan \$34.99 or higher.

Extended store hours during the holiday season. Call store for details.

verizonwireless.com

CALL 1.800.2 JOIN IN 1.800.256.4646

Sorry -- We No Longer Accept Checks at ALL Interstate Amusement Theatres Your Movies from December 22 to 23

THE EASY - FAST GIFT ALTERNATIVE INTERSTATE AMUSEMENT CINEMA CASH You Pick the Amount and You Control the Price -- At All Theatre Box Offices During Normal Operating Hours

Sorry - We No Longer Accept Checks

Twin Cinema 12 100 Eastland Pkwy Falls 320-9200 Adults \$5.00 below \$15 pm on Mondays

Had Santa (M) Today 7:40 - 9:50 Time Line (M) Today 12:15 - 2:30 - 4:45 - 7:30 - 9:45 Boney's Haunted Mansion (PG) Today 12:15 - 2:30 - 4:45 - 7:30 - 9:45 Honey (M) Today 12:30 - 2:45 - 5:00 - 7:40 - 9:50 Master and Commander (M) Today 12:15 - 2:45 - 6:45 - 9:30 Diner's Brother Bear (G) Today 12:30 - 2:45 - 5:00 The Cat in Hat (PG) Today 12:30 - 2:45 - 5:00 - 7:40 - 9:50	Wet Hot Elf (PG) Today 12:15 - 2:30 - 4:45 - 7:30 - 9:45 Snuck on You (M) Today 1:00 - 4:00 - 7:00 - 9:30 Some Things Gotta Give (M) Today 1:00 - 4:00 - 7:00 - 9:30
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LORD OF THE RINGS: RETURN OF THE KING (M)
Cinema #6 • Dolby Digital 1:00 - 7:30
Cinema #8 • Dolby Digital EX 2:00 - 7:15
Cinema #9 • DTS Digital 12:00 - 4:30 - 9:00
Advanced Tickets on Sale!

The Oxyseye Inside Magic Valley Mall TF 734-2400 Adults \$5.00 before 5:15 pm on Mondays

The Last Samurai (M) Today 12:30 - 4:00 - 7:30 - 9:15	Love Don't Cost a Thing (M) Today 12:30 - 2:45 - 5:00 - 7:00 - 9:15
Radio (PG) Today 12:30 - 2:40 - 4:50 - 7:00 - 9:15	The Missing (M) Today 12:45 - 3:45 - 6:45 - 9:30
Goat (M) Today 12:30 - 2:40 - 4:50 - 7:00 - 9:15	Looney Tunes (PG) Today 12:30 - 2:40

Loraine Cinema 955 West Main, Irvine 734-2400 Adults \$5.00 before 5:15 pm on Mondays

Mona Lisa Smiles (M) Today 1:00 - 4:00 - 7:00 - 9:30	Snuck on You (M) Today 1:00 - 4:00 - 7:00 - 9:30
LOR: Return of the King (M) Today 2:00 - 7:30	Diner's Haunted Mansion (PG) Today 12:30 - 2:45 - 5:00 - 7:15 - 9:30

The Oxyseye 114 Main Avenue Twin Falls 734-4000 Adults \$5.00 before 5:15 pm on Mondays

Mona Lisa Smiles (M) Today 7:00 - 9:20

VERIZON WIRELESS COMMUNICATIONS STORES
Extended holiday hours. Please call store for details.

BOISE Bose Town Square Mall 1P Level, near the Disney Store 208-375-5888	DIANO FALLS 2141 E. 17th St. Across from Grand Teton Mall 208-325-2000	MERIDIAN Meridian Crossroads 1400 N. Eagle Rd. Corner of Fairview & Eagle 208-895-0103	TWIN FALLS 1239 Polkline Rd. Near Barnes & Noble 208-735-2022
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The magic of Christmas

Inside this special Season's Greetings section you will find letters to jolly old St. Nick from Miss. Moore's 2nd Grade Class at Harrison Elementary in Twin Falls. Also, you will find a coloring contest and Season's Greetings from our area merchants & local letters to Santa.



Watch for our new facility in January!

HAPPY HOLIDAYS

To Magic Valley, Wood River, Eastern Idaho and Nevada areas:
Thank you for giving us the privilege of serving you.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year from all of us at

S & G PRODUCE
198 Locust Street South
Twin Falls • 733-3405

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year



2440 Eldridge Avenue
Twin Falls • 734-7770



Wishing You Every Happiness At Christmas!
May peace, love, joy and good fortune visit your home this holiday season. We really appreciate your visiting us this past year.

BOISE

Paper Solutions, Packaging
1544 West 27th Street
Burley
678-3531

Christmas Bells Are Ringing!



Hope the holidays are music to your ears. Thanks for being such good customers!

2589 East 500 South • Paul • 438-8450

From organic farms using NO antibiotics, NO hormones and NO pesticides.

GREETINGS

Magic Valley Abrasives, Inc.

Thank You for your support this past year.

Happy Holidays!

Tracie Shelly Pat



Jerome
WAL★MART
Supercenter

Open 24 Hours

Wishing you all a very Merry Christmas!

2680 S. Lincoln, Jerome • 324-4333

HAVE YOURSELF A MERRY LITTLE CHRISTMAS and a PROSPEROUS NEW YEAR.

God Bless America

Burks Tractor Company

3140-Kimberly Road, Twin Falls • 733-5543

Family Practice Including Obstetrics

FAMILY CARE PHYSICIANS, P.A.
112 West Fifth • Jerome, ID 83338 • 324-1157

Merry Christmas & Happy New Year!

James S. Irwin, MD
Dave A. Arthurs, D.O.
James D. Lohmann, MD
Alice Trabert, FNP
Diplomates, American Board of Family Practice

J
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A Merry Christmas...

...to you and your family from all of us.

BILLS AUTOMOTIVE & MUFFLER

402 Main Avenue South
Twin Falls • 733-0081

TERRY SCOTT BILL TOM BILL CHERI

PEACE & JOY


Dear Santa,
I've been good all year.
Could you please bring me a
2 Fast 2 Furious Trailer, a
car set, and a Game Boy
Advance Charger!
Yours truly, Leroy

Dear Santa,
I've been really good to my
mom and dad. I want a baby
doll that feels real and two
Brat dolls. Thank you! I'll
bake you some cookies.
Yours truly, Dacia

Dear Santa,
I want a coat like Lexy's
coat please. I have been a
good big sister. I want a
real to baby again. Thank
you lots.
Yours truly, Hailee

Dear Santa,
Can you do this for me? I
thought about what I said. I
changed my mind. I don't
want \$1000. I will make
extra cookies.
Yours truly, Daraan

To our many friends both far and "Dear"... Thanks for your kind support this past year.




ARK ANIMAL HOSPITAL
William Fulcher, D.V.M.
208-678-1177
750 21st St.
Heyburn, Idaho 83336

From Our Home to Yours...
Wishing you all a Merry Christmas & a Happy New Year

RAMSEY
HEATING & ELECTRIC

2600 Overland • Burley, ID 83318 • 208-678-0459



Coloring Contest

Rules:
Crayons, markers or colored pencils may be used.

Age Groups:
3-5 years / 6-8 years / 9-12 years

All entries must be received by January 9, 2004.
Winners will be announced January 16, 2004 in The Times-News.

Prizes will be awarded!

Mail to:	Name _____
Inside Sales	Address _____
c/o Times-News	Town _____
P.O. Box 548	Age _____ Phone _____
Twin Falls, ID 83301	Must be received by January 9, 2004

Best Wishes from Us to You.

HASKIN INSURANCE SERVICES, INC.
518 Oneida
Rupert, ID
(208) 436-4141

Best Holiday Wishes

The holidays are almost here. With joy and hope and much good cheer. We hope your season brings all the best. And thanks to all for being our guest!



McCam

218 W Hwy 30 • Burley, Idaho • 678-9431

CHEERS TO YOU!

You deserve a big hand for being such great neighbors. Merry Christmas and many thanks.

JB's
BURLEY
Overland & 5th Street • 678-0603

Proclaim Joy Throughout the World!

Greater Valley COMPUTER STORE

It's Christmas! Thank you for being such a loyal customer.

(208) 678-0964
2853 Overland • Burley, Idaho



Warmest regards for the holidays.

From our family to yours, our heartfelt appreciation for your friendship and support, throughout the year. Have a very happy holiday season!

FILER'S MUTUAL
TWIN FALLS, ID

400 Main St. • P.O. Box 89 • Filer, ID
(208) 326-4331 • Fax: (208) 326-3190

EATON DRILLING & PUMP SERVICE

Season's Greetings

May you enjoy a wonderful holiday with family and friends. We're very grateful to you for your support, and look forward to serving you again next year.

24-Hour Service
485 S. IDAHO ST. • WENDELL • 536-2223

Warmest regards for the holidays.

HARVEY'S Office plus
YOUR BEST VALUE...EVERYDAY
1860 Kimberly Road
Twin Falls • 734-9560

Bring Home the HOLIDAY SPIRIT

Happy Holidays, Magic Valley


Walker Center
Quality People Providing Quality Care

Now serving adolescents, outpatient & inpatient!
1-800-227-4190



Catch the Spirit

Happy Holidays!
to all our friends and neighbors,
Warm wishes for a wonderful holiday season.



Northside Bus Co.
324-4426
47 S. 100 W. • Jerome, ID. 83338


Dear Santa,
I've been really good this year. Can I have the Barbie Minivan? Can I please? I will bake you some cookies. Be careful flying.
Yours truly, Gail

There is no time more fitting to say
THANK YOU
and wish you a Happy Holiday Season
and a New Year of Health, Happiness and Prosperity.

The crew of Aspen Grove Home Health & Hospice

208.678.2152 208.733.2234

Gem State Trophies wishes you every happiness at Christmas time & the upcoming year!




GEM STATE TROPHIES
AWARDS FOR ALL OCCASIONS
297 Local St. S.
Twin Falls, ID 83301

Peace on Earth
May goodwill and joy fill your heart at Christmas time and always.
With much gratitude to you for your patronage.

BABELS CLEANERS
228 Shoshone Street East
Twin Falls, Idaho 83301
733-2258

Dear Santa,
I've been really good this year. Can I please have a soft purple coat with buttons. I want a watch too.
Yours truly, Carina

Greetings of the Season



THE DEPOT GRILL
since 1923

Closed Christmas Eve,
Christmas Day & Dec. 26
Reopens 6 am Dec. 27
Open 24 hours

545 Shoshone St. S. • Twin Falls
733-0710


ALASKA'S BEST
WILD ALASKAN HALIBUT & CHIPS

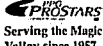
Christmas Eve serving Chicken Noodle Soup FREE!
Closed at 4pm

Ron & Deb Anderson
702 F Street, Rupert, Idaho 83350
208-436-CHIP (2447)

Thank you
for your patronage this past year and many to come!

Nu Vu Glass



NU-VU Glass  **PROSTARS**
Serving the Magic Valley since 1957.

1601 Overland Avenue Burley • 208-678-2229
421 Eastland Drive Twin Falls • 734-9877

Business Systems

"We wish all of our customers a safe and happy holiday and thank you for your patronage!"

THE QUALITY WE PROMISE IS IN THE PEOPLE WE SEND
BEST CUSTOMER SERVICE IN SOUTH CENTRAL IDAHO FOR OVER 26 YEARS. IF YOU HAVEN'T DONE BUSINESS WITH MAGIC VALLEY BUSINESS SYSTEMS, YOU ARE IN FOR A PLEASANT SURPRISE.

Dear Santa,
I've been really good this year. Can I have an electric scooter please? Be careful flying.
Yours truly, Jonathon


Wishing You Every Happiness at Christmas and Many Thanks for Your Loyal Support

STEAM STORE OF MAGIC VALLEY INC.

208-734-3694
1-800-338-4113
1982 Floral Ave.
Twin Falls

Barclay Mechanical Services, Inc.

PAUL, IDAHO
490 W. 100 S. Highway 25
208-438-8108
Toll Free 800-438-7441



A.M.I. SUPPLY
"Go nuts over our bolts"

May goodwill and joy fill your heart at Christmas time and always. With much gratitude to you for your patronage.

719 Overland Ave
Burley, Idaho
678-4632 • 312-2394
Fax: 678-4620

Home For The Holidays
Wishing everyone in our fine community a joyous holiday season.

AMERICAN REAL ESTATE
"Where Your Dreams Begin"

818 Oneida • Rupert • 436-0720

BLAD THINGS

May you celebrate a beautiful season of spirit and radiance.
Blessings to our many friends, all over the area.

Plew's Heating & Air Conditioning
350 Main Ave. N. • 734-5143



Dave, Kay, Emily, Craig N., Bill, Craig P., Mike, Rene, Tim, Khadija and Bryce

Dear Santa,
I've been very good. I try to do my best in school. Can you please get me an S.P. please? I will make cookies.
Yours truly, Ivan

EURO Style Hair, Etc. Etc.

679 Filer Ave. • 733-5082

Wishing you every happiness at Christmas time!

Haircuts • Highlights • Color • Perms
Manicures • Pedicures

Wishing you warm holiday greetings from all your friends at

EPIC TRAVEL

1815 South Lincoln
Jerome, Idaho
324-2394

Merch Bright
We hope each day of the holiday season is filled with good times, love and laughter. Merry Christmas and many thanks for your business.

AmeriPride
DENIM AND APPAREL SERVICES
403 Main Ave. W. • Twin Falls
733-6716 • 1-800-788-4415

Dear Santa,
I've been a good boy this year. Can I please have a Game Boy Advance? I don't want a lump of coal.
Yours truly, Trevor

Dashing through the Snow...

Hope the season delivers much good cheer and many good times. With sincere thanks to all who have visited us this year. Your kind friendship makes it all worthwhile. Noel!

Gaylon's Auto Body

709 2nd Street • Rupert, ID
(208) 436-9716

Warm Wishes
From our family to yours, our heartfelt appreciation for your friendship and support throughout the year. Have a very happy holiday season!

DALE'S OFFICE SYSTEMS
2235 Overland • Burley,
(208) 478-8682
Fax: 478-8682

Deck the Halls



HOME FOR THE HOLIDAYS
Wishing everyone in our fine community a joyous holiday season!

SUPERIOR DOOR CO. INC.

151 Trade St.
Twin Falls, ID
734-4657
800-714-4657

Dear Santa,
I've have been really good this year. I want Hot Wheels 35 Raptor Blast. I want a Ninja Turtle toy. I want a Play Station 2 Game Boy Advance SP.
Yours truly, Abraham

Senior CAESARS ROYAL RESTAURANT
Have a marvelous Christmas and a Happy New Year from your friends at Senior Caesars.
645 Filer Ave. • Twin Falls, ID
733-9716

Season's Greetings from Us to You
The UPS Store
Thanks for your business!
322 E. Main • Burley 678-0127
131 N. Main St. • Halley 788-8885
480 2nd St. E. • Ketchum 726-6896

The holidays are almost here, With joy, hope and much good cheer. We hope your season brings all the best, And thanks to all for being our guest!
Suburban Propane
108 Oneida • Rupert, ID 436-9664

Dear Santa,
I've been really good for my mom. Can I have a bean bag for Christmas please can I? Can I? Please and a new bike too?
Yours truly, Jaden

Mountain West Realty
Residential • Commercial Farm & Ranch land
658 Overland • Burley 878-3500
Have a Very Happy Holiday Season!

Happy Holidays
from everyone at **Dickson Oil Co.**
F and 25 • Rupert, ID 436-6609

Let The Holiday Spirit Ring!
It's the most wonderful time of year to celebrate kindness, friendship and family. We're grateful to have you in our family of customers, and we wish you all the best this holiday season.
Magic Valley WOMEN'S HEALTH
Mark T. Aton, MD • E. Monte Crowell, MD • Donald E. Smith, MD
David C. Allen, MD • Doreen W. Coleman, MD • Elva Greenhouse, MD
630 Addison Ave West, Suite 710 • Twin Falls, ID 83301
(208) 733-2882

Dear Santa,
I've been really good this year Can I have a Hot Wheels fire ball? With 5 cars and a motor cycle game and a play Station 2. Yours truly, Devin

May your holidays glow with happiness
Thanks for the pleasure of your patronage. You've helped make this a very successful year for us, and we hope that all good things come back to you during this special season.
RAFT RIVER ELECTRIC
155 North Main • Malta • 645-2911

Wishing you & yours Happy Holidays this Christmas season.
ESTHER'S SONS, INC.
LICENSED • INSURED • BONDED
734-9244

Happy Holidays
GOODING COUNTY MEMORIAL HOSPITAL
Quality care close to home!
GC MH 1120 Montana Street Gooding, Idaho 83330 (208) 934-4433

Dear Santa,
I've been really good this year. I want a remote controlled red car. I will put out milk and cookies.
Yours truly, Jaime

Season's Greetings
from **FIRST FEDERAL**
Burley and Rupert Branches

Season's Greetings
from the staff at **Hub Plaza**
Hwy 24 Rupert, ID 679-2122

Happy Holidays from Skateland
Hours:
December 21 - 23 • 1pm - 4pm
December 26 - 30 • 1pm - 4pm
December 26 & 27 • 7pm - 11pm
And on New Year's Eve • 8pm - 1am

Dear Santa,
There are 2 things that I want a puppy and a lil' Bratz's House and I will leave some cookies and milk.
Yours truly, Shanna

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year from your friends in Inside Sales!
Tammy
Debi
Barbara

Tip, Kamala, Gen, Shara, Jan, Angie, Hunton, Melanie, Sheryl, Deana
Jagged Edge thanks their customers past & present for their patronage! Happy Holidays!
JAGGEDge
Hair Salon
302 2nd St. E. • Twin Falls • 734-5970 or 734-6216



Best Holiday Wishes
Perkins
1564 Blue Lakes Blvd. N
736-8473

WINTER NIGHT CHRISTMAS

Dear Santa,
This is what I have wanted for a long time a Lizzo Cd where she sings Christmas time. Oh! I have been a good sister.
Yours truly, Lexy

Dear Santa,
I've been a really good boy this year. Can I please have the big Tonka fire truck with the ladder on top of it?
Yours truly, Zechariah


Dear Santa,
I've been good for my mom and dad. I love you Santa. I want a Bratz's doll this year.
Yours truly, Kaylee

Merry Christmas to all!
Hope Santa is very good to you this year. Many thanks for being so good to us.



719 Blue Lakes Blvd. N
733-8650

May your season be aglow with an abundance of happiness and love.



Leah's
Gifts and Ceramics

Give your loved ones a gift from the heart!

- We carry Ducon Supplies -
618 Main Ave. N. • Twin Falls
734-3227

Wishing you Happy Holidays



We look forward to another year

181 Blue Lakes Blvd. N
736-2045


From our family to yours, please accept our sincere wishes for a blessed and happy holiday.

Independent Growth, Inc.

5 East 200 South
Burley, ID 83318
(208) 878-9165

Happy Holidays

May you enjoy a wonderful holiday with family and friends.
We're very grateful to you for your support and look forward to serving you again next year.



BASKIN ROBBINS
677 Blue Lakes Blvd. N.
734-5507

Merry Christmas from

LET'S RIDE
SUZUKI

Nick & Gaylynn

1430 OVERLAND AVE.
BURLEY, ID • 678-3858

Winter Fun Quiz

Winter begins on December 21. How much do you know about the season? Test your knowledge by taking the quiz below. Circle the answer you think is correct.

- The winter solstice is the ___ day of the year.
 - Shortest
 - Longest
 - Coldest
 - Hottest
- Winter in South America occurs at the same time as this season in North America.
 - Fall
 - Summer
 - Spring
 - Winter
- What part of the body is a muff designed to keep warm?
 - Hands
 - Feet
 - Head
 - Neck
- According to the U.S. National Weather Service, how long must a severe snowstorm last before it is called a blizzard?
 - Three or more hours
 - Five or more hours
 - 10 or more hours
 - 24 or more hours
- This year, the winter solstice occurs on:
 - December 1
 - December 25
 - December 31
 - December 21
- Where did the 1980 Winter Olympic Games take place?
 - Albertville, France
 - Oslo, Norway
 - Lake Placid, N.Y.
 - Sarajevo, Yugoslavia
- A long, narrow sled that has no runners and curls up at its front end is called a _____.
 - Bobsled
 - Luge
 - Sleigh
 - Toboggan
- How many goals must a hockey player score in one game in order to score a hat trick?
 - Two
 - Three
 - Four
 - Six

Answers
1.A 2.B 3.A 4.A 5.D 6.C 7.D 8.B

Seasons Greetings

To old friends, new friends and friends yet to be made, we send our best wishes for a glorious holiday and a prosperous new year.



Happy Holidays!



SOUTHERN IDAHO BUSINESS

Settling the Facts About Santa

To millions of children all over the world who celebrate Christmas, no other symbol of the holiday fills them with such joy as Santa Claus. This legendary figure flies around the world in his sleigh filled with toys. He drops down the chimney delivering gifts to good girls and boys, and is a favorite of children, no matter what country they live in. Santa Claus, a jolly, stout man with a twinkle in his eye, rosy-red cheeks and a cheerful laugh, is the American adaptation of the European legend of Saint Nicholas. He wears a bright red suit trimmed with white fur, a long red cap and shiny black boots. In England, he wears the very same outfit, but there he's called Father Christmas. In France, children refer to him as Pere Noel, which means Father Christmas. He wears a long red robe and white fur hat with wooden shoes. In Switzerland we see another variation on Santa. His name is Saint Nicholas, and he wear a long white robe and a tall pointed hat called amiter. There are numerous other counterparts of Santa Claus across the globe, including the German Kris Kringle, the Italian Befana, the Swedish Jultomten and Russia's Babouschka. Though he may look a bit different and be called many names, to children of all countries his message is the same. They peek out the windows and hope to catch a glimpse of this special man as he flies through the sky, delivering gifts for boys and girls to enjoy on Christmas day.

Dear Santa Claus, I have been thinking about you for a long time. I wish you could see me and my family. I love you and I hope you have a great Christmas. How is Rudolph? I hope he is doing well. I have been thinking about you for a long time. I wish you could see me and my family. I love you and I hope you have a great Christmas. How is Rudolph? I hope he is doing well. I have been thinking about you for a long time. I wish you could see me and my family. I love you and I hope you have a great Christmas. How is Rudolph? I hope he is doing well.

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HAPPY HOLIDAYS. We appreciate how sweet you've been to us, all year long! MAGIC VALLEY. 114 MARKET AVE. • TWIN FALLS. 733-9690

Joy to all. We waited the whole year through to say a heartfelt "thank you" for all that you've meant to us, and wish you "Merry Christmas!"

Hailstone Drywall and Acoustics. We wish you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. Many thanks for your support!

To our friends... With warm regards at this Holiday Season. Thank you for your gift of friendship. Stigars 1000 Springs Resort.

Happy Holidays to all of you from Blackdiamond Computer Systems. For all your computer needs, all year round.

A Note of Thanks. We would like to reflect on this past year and thank all who have helped us, including the Twin Falls City Police Department, the Sheriff's Department, all Home Health Hospice organizations, and clergy and chaplains.

WHITE Mortuary & Crematory. Reynolds Funeral Chapel. 1/4 mile no. of Junction HWY 93 & 25 402 DC Circle • Jerome 324-6591

This one's for you! Best wishes and many thanks to our loyal customers and friends. Dino's Burger & Brew.

Hayes Construction Co. Inc. May the wonders of this holy season embrace you with light and love. With heartfelt gratitude from all of us.

Here's Hoping Your Christmas Is A Classic. We're sending our best wishes to the many good friends and neighbors we've had the pleasure of serving this year. May your heart and home be filled with good, old-fashioned Christmas cheer.

HAPPY HOLIDAYS. Wishing you all things bright and beautiful at Christmastime. Thank you for putting your trust in us. WAITE ELECTRIC CO.

Seasons Greetings. MARBLE N' COUNTERS. Happy Holidays to you from Tyler Hansen Scott Hansen.

Santa's helper's are here to help you... Don't let your debt ruin your holiday!

LEONS. Consumer Credit Management Services. North Plaza Office 800 Falls Ave. Suite 11 Twin Falls, Idaho (208) 733-2227

Happy Holidays! Unique Gifts, Collectibles & So Much More! SAV-MOR DRUG.

Wishing You Every Happiness At Christmas. May peace, love, joy and good fortune, visit your home this holiday season. We really appreciate your visiting us this past year.

Bundle Up In Joy! Here's hoping the festive spirit of the holiday season wraps itself around you and makes you feel warm all over.

With warm regards. May you & your loved ones be safe and cozy this holiday season. From all your friends at... Intermountain Heating & Air Conditioning.

Expressly for You, Our Very Best Holiday Wishes! We're here for all your transportation needs. WAGNER Livestock Trucking Co.

An Old-fashioned Holiday Wish for You. Here's hoping this holiday evokes fond memories of celebrations past and brings you all the joy and excitement of Christmas to a child. Thanks for doing business with us. We look forward to seeing you often in the year to come.

BOUNDING JOY. May the holiday season bring music to your ears and happiness to your heart. Many thanks. From the Staff & Residents of WARREN HOUSE.

Warm Wishes. From our family to yours, our heartfelt appreciation for your friendship and support, throughout the year. Have a very happy holiday season!

Season's Greetings. May the sounds of celebration and good cheer surround you and yours this holiday. Thanks for your loyal patronage. meineke Care Care Center.

Merry Bright. We hope each day of the holiday season is filled with good times, love and laughter. Merry Christmas and many thanks for your business. R & L Green Chop, Inc.

Home For The Holidays. Wishing everyone in our fine community a joyous holiday season! BEARNS QUALITY FLOORING, INC.

PSI wishes all a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year! Service is closed Christmas Day & New Years Day. Service will resume the following day.

Friends like you are the reason we've enjoyed a merry season. So we mean it when we say, Hope glad tidings come your way!

Thank you for stopping by CROWLEY'S SODA FOUNTAIN & GENERAL STORE. 144 Main Ave. S. Twin Falls, Idaho 733-1041

Wise Men Still Seek Him. May the Christ of Christmas bless your Holiday Season. from... Diana & Carl Sweet.

CHRISTMAS IS COMING! We all know Santa's on his way. Making now the best time to say, Thank You All and Happy Holidays! GEORGE K'S.

We extend to all our friends and neighbors warm wishes for a wonderful holiday season. KAM GAS.

Best Holiday Wishes. The holidays are almost here. With joy and hope and much good cheer. We hope your season brings all the best. And thanks to all for being our guest!

Best Wishes and many thanks for your loyal patronage! WESTERN APPRAISAL. 423 Main Ave. E. Twin Falls, Idaho 733-1473

May you and your loved ones find enlightenment this holiday season. We appreciate your kind support! Desert Industries.

May peace, love, joy and good fortune, visit your home this holiday season. We appreciate your visiting us this past year. Boyer Jewelry.

Best wishes & many thanks to our loyal customers & friends. BURGER STOP. 1335 Addison Ave. E. Twin Falls, ID 734-0427

Hope the season delivers much good cheer and many good times. With sincere thanks to all who have visited us this year. Your kind friendship makes it all worthwhile. Noell B & K AUTO.

Sweet Insurance Inc. 421 Washington St. N. Twin Falls • 733-0998 Res. 734-5333 Fax-733-0525



Dear Santa
I've been a really good girl
this year. I like your pres-
ents. I'm hoping you come
this year. I wish that you
have a good weekend.
Yours truly, Fahira

Dear Santa,
Can you give me so many
stuffed animals that they fill
up my whole closet? Please?
Yours truly, DeVon

HAVE A HOLLY, JOLLY CHRISTMAS!
Our sincere wishes for a glorious holiday that gladdens your heart and leaves you with wonderful memories to last a lifetime. Customers like you have given us so much to be thankful for, and we greatly appreciate your patronage.

S & D AUTOMOTIVE
Owned & Operated by Jeff and Jana Wills
734-2267

139 Blue Lakes Blvd. S. • Twin Falls

May your holidays flow with happiness

Thanks for the pleasure of your patronage. You've helped make 2003 a very successful year for us, and we hope that all good things come back to you during this special season.

PERSONNEL PLUS
YOUR TOTAL STAFFING SOLUTION

111 Filor Ave., Twin Falls, ID • 733-7300
735 Overland, Burley, ID • 678-4040
513 5th St., Rupert, ID • 434-4040

THIS ONE'S FOR YOU
Best wishes and many thanks to our loyal customers and friends.

TWIN FALLS Care Center

674 Eastland Drive • Twin Falls, Idaho
Tel. (208) 734-4264 Fax (208) 734-0647
Physical, Occupational & Speech Therapy • IV and Wound Care
Hospice Contracts • Medicare & Medicaid Certified

HAPPY HOLIDAYS!
Wishing you all things bright and beautiful at Christmastime.
Thank you for putting your trust in us.

DELL P. SMITH, M.D., F.A.C.S.
Member
American Urological Association

552 Shoup Ave. W. (208) 735-8386
Twin Falls, ID 83301 1-888-223-9147
dsmithmd@mvrnc.org www.dellsmithmd.com

Joy to All

We waited the whole year through, to say a heartfelt "thank you," for all that you've meant to us, and wish you "Merry Christmas!"

GROCERY outlet!

2318 Addison Ave. E.
Twin Falls, ID

HEATING & Terry's AIR CONDITIONING

Best Wishes

1526 Highland Ave. E. • Twin Falls, ID 83301
208-734-4376

Hope the holidays are music to your ears.
Thanks for being such a good customer.

Heritage Retirement Centers, Inc.

Heritage of Twin Falls 622 Filor Ave. W. Twin Falls, ID 83301 (208) 733-9064	Woodstone 491 Caswell Ave. W. Twin Falls, ID 83301 (208) 734-6062	Heritage of Boise 1777 S. Curtis Rd. Boise, ID 83705 (208) 376-4191
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"Home for Senior Citizens"
Residential Assisted Living Since 1960

Where ever next year takes you,
may you find happiness along the way.

High Desert TILE & DESIGN

Thank you very much for your continued support throughout the year.

Happy Holidays!

Season's Greetings

MAGIC VALLEY COUNSELING SERVICES
Specializing in Women, Children and Families

Wishing you peace and happiness during the holidays.

1002 Shoshone East • Twin Falls • 734-7714

Wishing you many blessings this holiday season!

PHYSICIAN CENTER

630 Addison Ave. W.
Ste. 100
Twin Falls

733-4343

Have yourself a Merry Little Christmas from your friends at

Gem State Welder's Supply

1440 Kimberly Road
FAX 208-733-9564

TWIN FALLS
733-9553
Toll Free in Idaho
1-800-427-8075

Merry Christmas To All and Wishing You a Happy and Safe New Year!

LaRue Veterinary Clinic, P.C.
James L. LaRue, DVM

Medicine • Dentistry • Surgery • Ultrasonography
Radiology • Small Animals & Equine
Companion Animal Practice

(208) 326-8646
3893 N. 2250 E. • Filer, Idaho

Best Holiday Wishes!

Mountain Meadow Sales

The holidays are almost here,
With joy & hope & much good cheer.
We hope your season brings all the best,
And thanks to all for being our guest!

1255 E. Main Street
Burley, ID
(208) 678-2488

COOL

from your friends at

The Times-News

GREETINGS

The stockings are hung,
The tree's glowing bright.
It's going to be a wonderful night!
Merry Christmas everyone, and thanks for your continued loyal patronage with us.
We look forward to serving you in the new year.

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