

The Times

Twin Falls, Idaho/98th year, No. 362

Sunday, December 28, 2003

\$1.50

GOOD MORNING

A look back Year

Today, The Times-News begins a review of the major events of 2003, starting with Dave Barry's annual humorous take on the past year.

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World news Page A9
National sports Page C1
National finance Page D3
Dave Barry Page E1

WEATHER

Today: Cloudy with a few snow showers.
High of 34, low of 25.
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MAGIC VALLEY

Frozen skiers: New philanthropic group takes over zany Freeze on Skis fund-raiser.
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FAMILY LIFE



Barry funny: Columnist Dave Barry looks back in horror at lowlights of 2003.
Page E1

CENTENNIAL

Celebrate the centennial: You might learn a song, go to a gala, share old photos, or pick out a memento to mark Twin Falls' first century.
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OPINION

Hasty decision: Twin Falls County's real estate proposal looks worse and worse, today's editorial says.
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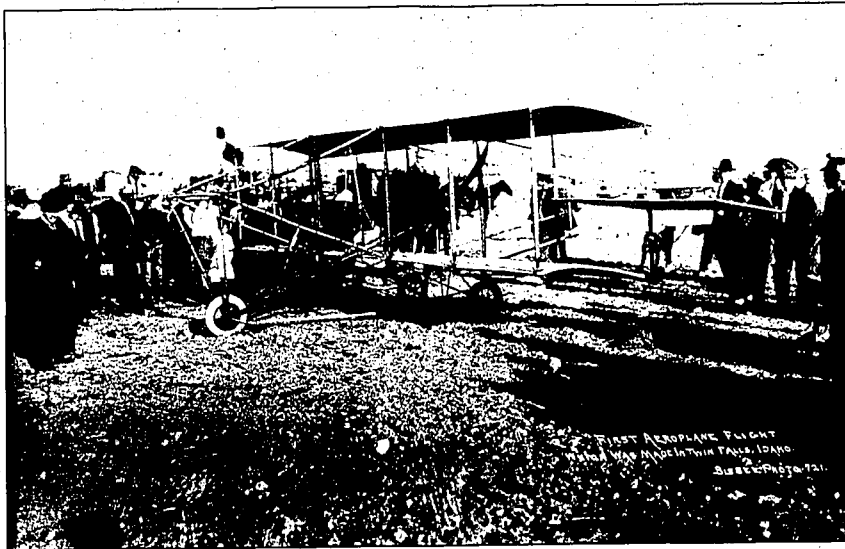
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Blue yonder



Pioneer photographer Clarence Biebow took this photo of the first airplane to visit Twin Falls, a Curtiss pusher biplane, on Sept. 19, 1913. Glen Curtiss, the Wright Brothers' primary competitor in the early aviation market, sent dozens of his airplanes on promotional tours of small towns in the years before World War I.

M.V. flew with more enthusiasm than skill

By Steve Crump
Times-News writer

TWIN FALLS—His mother got the second flight lesson ever given in Twin Falls. And almost Thelma Anne Dean's last.

"When the new Eagle-Rock was delivered, it had to be flown in by the instructor who would teach Dad how to fly," recalled Dr. Adrian Dean, a Twin Falls psychiatrist whose father, Lionel, was a local aviation pioneer. "He took up my father for a ride and then took up my mother."

Putting planes to work — E6

On the approach to the landing field, which was between the Perrine Coulee and the railroad track on the current Sunset Memorial cemetery property, the pilot lost control and he and my mother crashed in the coulee.

"She had water up to her chin and injured her knee and ankle, but otherwise was OK."

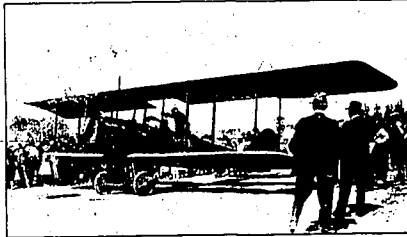
Thus did gracious travel come to Twin Falls.

And in a land where the sky is

Please see FLIGHT, Page A7



The wreckage of this Swallow mail plane that crashed near King Hill on April 15, 1927, killed pilot William Sanborn. One month later, Charles Lindbergh landed in Paris after the first non-stop trans-Atlantic flight.



Barnstorming near Kimberly, circa 1920.

Luck powered early aviation

The Times-News

TWIN FALLS — Sticks. Wire. Fabric. And 30 gallons of gasoline.

South-central Idaho's first flying machines were invitations to a funeral.

The workaway airplanes of early aviation in Idaho were, before World War I, the Curtiss Pusher biplane, and after the Armistice, the Army surplus Curtiss JN-4 "Jenny" and the British deHavilland DH-4.

They were flown by show pilots, barnstormers and early bush pilots, and they required skill — and luck — unimaginable today.

The Curtiss Pusher, 28 feet long, 38 feet at the wing, was powered by a 25-horsepower engine that turned a wooden propeller behind the pilot — pushing the aircraft through the air. Directional control was accomplished — if it was accomplished at all — by turning a steering wheel on the control column left or right, fore and aft movement of the column controlled climb and descent, and roll was achieved by leaning left or right against a shoulder yoke that worked the ailerons.

It was slow to climb, hard to turn and especially susceptible to crosswinds. So many crashed today.

Please see LUCK, Page A7

Investigators trace infected Holstein to Canadian herd

Link could save U.S. beef trade

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Investigators tentatively traced the first U.S. cow with mad cow disease to Canada, which could help determine the scope of the outbreak and might even limit the economic damage to the American beef industry.

Dr. Ron DeHaven, the

Agriculture Department's chief veterinarian, said on Saturday that Canadian officials provided records indicating the sick Holstein was in a herd of 74 cattle shipped from Alberta, Canada, into this country in August 2001 at Eastport, Idaho.

"These animals were all dairy cattle and entered the U.S. only about two or two-and-a-half years

Effect on exports — C7

ago, so most of them are still likely alive," DeHaven said.

The sick cow's presence in that herd does not mean all 74 animals are infected, DeHaven said. Investigators will probably find where the other 73 animals are within a matter of days, he said. Finding them will help investigators determine if any other animals are sick and need to be

tested.

In May, Canada found a lone cow with the disease in Alberta but has not been able to determine the source of infection.

If U.S. and Canadian officials confirm that the sick cow in Washington state came from Canada, it might save the export market for the American beef industry, because the United States could keep its disease-free status and continue trade.

Federal officials announced on

Tuesday that tests indicated the cow, which ended up at a Washington farm in October 2001, had mad cow, a brain-wasting illness. The international laboratory in England confirmed it Thursday.

Mad cow disease, known as bovine spongiform encephalopathy, is a concern because humans who eat brain or spinal matter from an infected cow can develop variant Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease. In Britain, 143 people died of it

Please see COW, Page A2

A workshop for ratepayers

An informational meeting hosted by staff from the Idaho Public Utilities Commission will begin at 7 p.m. Jan. 15 in Twin Falls City Council Chambers, 305 Third Ave. E. PUC staff will provide information and answer questions about Idaho Power Co.'s request for a 17.7 percent general rate increase. The meeting will not be a public hearing on the rate proposal by Idaho Power. The commission plans to hold a series of public hearings in April to solicit public comment. The three-member commission will conduct the April hearings and will take sworn testimony from the public at that time. Find more information online at www.puc.state.id.us.

Industries, advocacy groups join Idaho Power rate case

By Jennifer Sandmann
Times-News writer

TWIN FALLS — Nine groups representing consumers and industries will intervene in Idaho Power Co.'s proposed general rate increase that will be decided by state regulators in the spring.

By intervening, organizations become full parties to the case, said Gene Fadness, spokesman for the Idaho Public Utilities Commission.

Idaho Power has requested a 17.7 percent base rate increase to generate \$86 million annually to pay for infrastructure demands, personnel and what the company says are the increased costs of doing business. The company has not had a general rate increase for 10 years.

It's different from the annual rate adjustment Idaho Power customers see in the spring. The annual adjustment moves-up and down the base rate, but the costs the company incurred in the previous year. A general rate increase would raise the base rate, or the starting point, for the annual power cost adjustments.

The Public Utilities Commission will decide in the spring whether to approve the requested increase in full or in part.

Groups or organizations that have intervened have not yet outlined positions for or against the rate increases. They include:

- Community Action Partnership Association of Idaho: This network of Community Action agencies that includes the Idaho Migrant Council will advocate for programs that assist low-income households in handling electrical costs.

The groups say a rate increase would disproportionately affect low-income households.

"Low-income customers pay the highest percentage of their income (to electrical costs), so they are the hardest hit," said Michael Karp, a Washington state consultant for the groups. "It can put them over the edge."

Please see POWER, Page A2

7
days,
7
reasons
to read

How to wake up

Weary of your walking coma? Find out how to snap out of it.



Monday

Volunteering

A Burley optometrist leads a volunteer screening.

Tuesday

Low-carb eating

Find out why it's still in vogue.

Wednesday

On the water

Try some canoeing at Balanced Rock.

Thursday

Lights, camera, action!

Suddenly, the Magic Valley is a hotbed for young filmmakers in a hurry.



Friday

Meet women ministers

Growing numbers serve churches in the Magic Valley.

Saturday

Dear Abby

Boy-friend's shaking has teen quaking in fear of abuse.



Sunday

TWIN FALLS FORECAST

Today: Cloudy and cold with a chance for snow showers. Highs in the 30s.
Tonight: Snow showers possible. Lows in the mid 20s.

Tomorrow: Partly to mostly cloudy and cold with a low snow showers. Highs in the lower 30s.

BURLEY/RUPERT FORECAST

Today: Cloudy and cold with a chance for snow showers. Highs in the 30s.
Tonight: Snow showers possible. Lows in the mid 20s.

Tomorrow: Partly to mostly cloudy and cold with a low snow showers. Highs in the lower 30s.

IDAHO'S FORECAST

SUN VALLEY, SURROUNDING MTS. A good chance for occasional snow showers today through the next several days as a series of moist Pacific storm systems will be passing through.

Today Highs 17 to 27. Tonight's Lows 7 to 17. BOISE Cloudy and chilly for the next several days with periods of snow showers at times through mid week and into the New Year.

Today High/Lows 32 to 37/24 to 29. NORTHERN IDAHO Cold and unrelenting with frequent periods of snow and snow showers through mid week.



Yesterday's State Extremes: 30 at Lowell; Low: -7 at Stanley.
Weather key: s=sunny, pc=partly cloudy, mc=mostly cloudy, ec=cloudy, th=thunderstorms, sh=snow showers, r=rain, sn=snow, fl=flooding, w=wind, m=missing

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TWIN FALLS FIVE-DAY FORECAST

Today	Tonight	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday
High 34	Low 25	32/15	25/10	31/23	38/26

ALMANAC - TWIN FALLS

Temperature	Precipitation	Humidity	Barometric Pressure
Yesterday's High: 38 Yesterday's Low: 20 Normal High/Low: 44/18 Record High: 58 in 1976 Record Low: -22 in 1936	Month to Date: 1.1" Year to Date: 2.0" Temperature & Precipitation Year to Date	Yesterday's Low: 60% Today's Forecast Low: 40%	Yesterday: 30.17" Today: 30.17"

Moon Phases

Dec. 30	Jan. 7	Jan. 15	Jan. 21
First Moon	Full Moon	Last Moon	New Moon

Moonrise and Moonset

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday
Moonrise: 12:23 PM Moonset: 11:08 PM	Moonrise: 12:23 PM Moonset: 11:08 PM	Moonrise: 12:23 PM Moonset: 11:08 PM	Moonrise: 12:23 PM Moonset: 11:08 PM

Yesterday's Weather

City	Hi	Lo	Precip.
Boise	33	18	0.00"
Burley	28	20	0.00"
Challis	21	11	0.00"
Coeur d'Alene	21	11	0.00"
Idaho Falls	19	15	0.03"
Jerome	30	19	0.00"
Lewiston	26	22	0.00"
Lowell	30	30	0.00"
Malden City	30	21	0.00"
Malta	20	11	0.00"
Payette	21	15	0.00"
Shoshone	19	15	0.00"
Salmon	28	18	0.00"
Twin Falls	14	7	0.00"

Sunrise and Sunset

City	Sunrise	Sunset
Boise	6:27 AM	5:12 PM
Burley	6:27 AM	5:12 PM
Challis	6:27 AM	5:12 PM
Idaho Falls	6:27 AM	5:12 PM
Jerome	6:27 AM	5:12 PM
Lewiston	6:27 AM	5:12 PM
Lowell	6:27 AM	5:12 PM
Malden City	6:27 AM	5:12 PM
Malta	6:27 AM	5:12 PM
Payette	6:27 AM	5:12 PM
Shoshone	6:27 AM	5:12 PM
Salmon	6:27 AM	5:12 PM
Twin Falls	6:27 AM	5:12 PM

U.V. INDEX

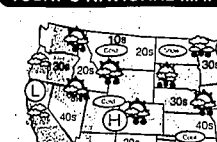
Low	Moderate	High
1-2	3-5	6-8

The higher the index the more sun protection needed.

WORLD FORECAST

City	Today	Tomorrow
Albuquerque	58/30	60/30
Anchorage	50/45	54/41
Atlanta	50/35	54/41
Baltimore	50/35	54/41
Bangkok	80/73	84/76
Beijing	43/21	45/23
Berlin	45/30	47/32
Buenos Aires	75/67	77/69
Caracas	81/65	84/68
Chicago	77/54	75/50
Colon	81/65	84/68
Dallas	54/34	56/36
Denver	54/34	56/36
Hong Kong	81/65	84/68
Los Angeles	54/34	56/36
London	46/36	48/38
Madrid	54/34	56/36
Mexico City	73/57	75/59
Moscow	60/45	62/47
New York	47/40	51/43
San Francisco	54/34	56/36
Seattle	54/34	56/36
Shanghai	54/34	56/36
Singapore	81/65	84/68
Sydney	73/57	75/59
Taipei	54/34	56/36
Tokyo	54/34	56/36
Washington	54/34	56/36
Wellington	54/34	56/36
Yokohama	54/34	56/36

TODAY'S NATIONAL MAP



In Times Square, icon's beauty is skin deep

NEW YORK (AP) — Only one man holds the key to this room deep under Times Square, where the only sounds are a hissing pipe and a rumbling subway overhead. Behind the blue padded door are the pieces of the New Year's ball that will mark midnight as it slides 77 feet down a pole atop One Times Square.

The crystal sphere lands amid the gritty water tanks, rickety planks and iron gates that fill the rooftop of this building — one of the most recognizable in the world. The 25-story tower has hosted New Year celebrations since it opened in 1904, with the famous "ball drop" added in 1907.

For all its exterior glamour, though, One Times Square is a little like an amusement park funhouse — more glitz than guts.

The building is covered on the outside with billboards, flashing lights and an electronic news zip-

per, but it is virtually empty inside. Countdown Entertainment, which co-produces the annual Dec. 31 event, is the only tenant on its 21st and 22nd floors.

"This whole building is a promotional event," Countdown president Jeff Strauss said.

One Times Square earns most of its keep as a backdrop for billboards, electronic ads and the New Year's ball. It serves as "an icon of advertising and modern culture," says entertainment analyst Louis Brill.

Inside, its labyrinth of staircases, halls and elevators are dotted with dust bunnies and wrapped in an eerie hush. On a recent afternoon, the New Year's crew was assembling the ball in the basement room.

Strauss has the only key and he's guarding a secret: the new pattern of Waterford crystal triangles for this year's ball. An electrician unwraps 72 triangles from boxes

that arrived from Ireland; more than 400 other crystals peek from metal storage trunks. Nearby sits the metal "skeleton" that holds the crystals, the pulsating strobe lights and hundreds of other bulbs.

Days before the big night, the 1,070-pound ball is moved to the roof. Its halves are clipped onto the steel pole that rises toward the sky, along with steam waiting up from a giant "hot" noodle soup advertisement below.

On New Year's Eve, the rooftop will become a maze of cables and wires.

"The light power is the equivalent of a Broadway show," says John Trowbridge, a production lighting expert who will direct the crew looking down on hundreds of thousands of revelers expected at Times Square.

One Times Square opened a century ago as headquarters of The

Power

Continued from A1

• **American Association of Retired Persons:** AARP will work along with the Community Action Partnership for the same-kind of programs. AARP has more than 150,000 members in Idaho.

• **Older Americans:** particularly those on fixed incomes, are particularly vulnerable to rapid increases in energy prices, AARP's petition to intervene says.

• **Retirees and low-income households:** spend an average of 16 percent of their income on energy costs, AARP says.

• **Kroger Company:** The company, which owns Smith's and Fred Meyer stores, said it operates 11 stores and other facilities in Idaho. In Idaho, Kroger uses more than 30 million kilowatt hours of power each year and is one of Idaho Power's largest commercial customers, according to Kroger's petition to intervene.

• **Micron Technology Inc.:** The Boise semiconductor manufacturer says its plant near Boise is Idaho Power's largest customer.

Rate proposal rundown

• **For small commercial users:** the increase would be 2.1 percent, which includes a proposed monthly service charge increase from \$2.51 to \$3.01.

• **For large commercial customers:** rates would rise 15 percent, which includes a proposed monthly service charge increase from \$5.54 to \$21.

• **For industrial users:** rates would rise 13.9 percent.

• **For irrigators:** rates would increase by 25 percent, which includes a proposed in-season monthly service charge increase from \$10.07 to \$25.

• **Service charges:** are designed to recover fixed costs related to billing, and distribution that do not vary with the amount of energy used.

• **Seasonal rates for residential and small commercial customers:** are proposed. Summer base rates, charged between June and August, would be 25 percent higher than current base rates to meet the costs of increased electrical generation. The base rate proposed for the rest of the year is actually slightly lower than the current base rate.

• **The average residential bill** for 1,200 kilowatt-hours a month is \$61.67. Under the proposal, it would rise to \$68.92 from September through May and to \$83.55 for June, July and August. That would amount to an increase of \$7.25 a month for nine months of the year and an increase of nearly \$22 a month during the summer.

Cow

Continued from A1

after an outbreak of mad cow in the 1980s.

Federal officials insist U.S. meat is safe because the brain, spinal cord and lower intestine — parts that carry infection — were removed from the cow before its meat was processed for human consumption.

Despite those assurances, more than two dozen countries banned U.S. beef this week. The United States lost 90 percent of its beef export market, industry officials say, and producers stand to lose up to \$6 billion a year in exports and falling domestic prices. Agriculture Department officials went Saturday to Japan, a top buyer that has banned American beef, to discuss maintaining trade.

Connecting the infected cow to Canada could deal another blow to the Canadian beef industry, which has struggled since it found its case of mad cow last May. It lost \$1 million in beef trade per day as countries cut off beef imports.

Dr. Brian Evans, chief veterinary officer of the Canadian Food Inspection Agency, emphasized that the cow's origins have yet to be confirmed. He noted that details on the cow's records in the United States do not match the ones kept in Canada.

Canadian papers show the cow had two calves before it was shipped to the United States, which wasn't documented by U.S. officials.

Also, DeHaven said Canadian papers say the diseased cow was 6.5-years-old — older than U.S. officials had thought. U.S. records say the cow was 4 or 4.5-years-old.

Because of the discrepancies, Evans cautioned against "a premature conclusion that the definitive animal or definitive birth

place has been located."

The age is significant because the animal may have been born before the United States and Canada in 1997 banned certain feed, which is considered the most likely source of infection.

Cows get infected by eating feed which contains tissue from the spine or brain of an infected animal. Farmers used to feed their animals such meat to fatten them.

Although U.S. officials have maintained the food supply is safe, the government recalled an estimated 10,000 pounds of meat cut from the infected cow and from 19 other cows all slaughtered Dec. 9 at Vern's Moses Lake Meat Co., in Moses Lake, Wash.

Ken Petersen, of the department's Food Safety and Inspection Service, said, "It's too early to know how much of the product has been brought back, though we know that some of the product is beginning to be at least held at the retail facilities."

Officials say the slaughtered cow was deboned at Midway Meats in Centralia, Wash., and the meat was sent to two other plants in the region, identified as Williams Valley Meat and Interstate Meat, both near Portland, Ore.

Meanwhile, the Food and Drug Administration is trying to find out if the cow ate contaminated feed — a difficult task because the animal may have gotten the disease years before it appeared sick. The disease has an incubation period of four or five years.

Dr. Stephen Sundlof, head of the FDA's Center for Veterinary Medicine, said the agency is accounting for all of the byproducts rendered from the cow, including items like soap and soil nutrients.

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Daniel Walock, circulation director

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12/28/03	18 17 32 34 43	\$1.1M
12/29/03	18 17 32 34 43	\$1.1M
12/30/03	18 17 32 34 43	\$1.1M
12/31/03	18 17 32 34 43	\$1.1M

IDAHO LOTTERY

WILD CARD: Queen of diamonds
Saturday, December 27
Friday, December 26
Thursday, December 25

Times-News writer Jennifer Sandmann can be reached at 733-0931, Ext. 237, or jsandmann@magicvalley.com

NATION

Survivors recall terror of deadly mudslides

SAN BERNARDINO, Calif. (AP) — The creek at the Devore KOA campground started creeping over its banks early Christmas morning, the water from the heavy rainstorm colored black by ash runoff from hillsides devastated by fall wildfires.

Joe and Patsy Plante tried all day to ignore it as the water inched toward their 26-foot trailer home at the campground in the foothills of the San Bernardino Mountains. Then, just before 6 p.m., a levee above the campsite broke.

Plante looked out his window in time to see the trailer behind his shift in a torrent of rushing water and head straight toward him. He opened the door, then thought better of it as 4-foot-wide boulders, uprooted trees and waves of mud rolled past with a deafening roar. "When I opened that door I thought we were dead," Plante said. "I saw all the trailers getting pushed along by the mud and water. You could hear the crunch of the metal when they hit each other."

The Plantes' trailer was spared. That night, the couple spent an hour slogging through waist-deep mud and then walked nearly a mile off the mountain in the dark and rain with other evacuees.

They had survived one of two massive Christmas Day mudslides in the San Bernardino Mountains that killed seven people and left at least nine missing in the muddy debris.

Four children and an adult were found dead Friday as rescue crews reached Waterman Canyon, where a church camp caretaker had invited friends and relatives to a Christmas party. A man and a woman were also found dead near the Devore campground, where 52 trailers were destroyed and the Plantes were among 52 people evacuated.

Rescuers were hampered by heavy rain and fog, and unstable ground. Vegetation that had held the soil in place burned off this fall when wildfires ravaged the mountains. "Mud was the biggest part of the problem," said Bill Brothers, a volunteer with the Rim of the World Search and Rescue Team. "It would look solid, but if you stepped on it, it was like lentil soup — it was so unstable. Everything



Tonya Best cries while being comforted by her brother, Ron Starer, Friday in Devore, Calif., after finding out their mother, Janice Bradley, was missing from her mobile home, after a mudslide destroyed it and several other mobile homes at a KOA Campground on Thursday. Their mother's body was found later in the day, 2-3 miles away near Outer Highway 215 in the wash area.

AP photo

was changing and shifting. You really had to watch yourself."

His team helped rescue one man stuck in mud up to his chest at the Greek Orthodox Saint Sophia Camp.

After using chain saws to remove two large trees pinning the man, the rescuers discovered he was still pinned by a boulder wedged against his right heel. His body temperature dropped dangerously and he became incoherent.

"It was such a race with time to get him out," Brothers said.

The man was eventually freed, but in the darkness the team had to call off a planned search of the other side of the stream. "It's very difficult to call off the search because we've been on searches that have been called off where you think people couldn't survive and then they do," Brothers said. "It was really frustrating."

Getting out required jumping from rock to rock to avoid the quicksand-like mud and dodging boulders and washouts.

At the Devore campground, Brian Delaney, 19, gathered with about 30 other people inside a recreation center. They were alarmed by the heavy rain, remembering warnings about the danger of mudslides following the wildfires.

The recreation center was far from the hills than the trailers, but the mud still began to seep through the door. The power went out, and boulders the size of Volkswagen Beetles crashed past.

Mud and debris quickly filled the center four feet deep. "There were kids sitting on the pool table, and the pool table was almost up to the ceiling on the mud," Delaney said.

Delaney was up to his chest in the freezing cold mud but managed to break a window and step outside, only to sink neck-deep into another quagmire. He was trapped there until rescuers could pull him from the muck, and even then, he had to shed his clothing to reduce the mud's grip.

He was one of three people from the KOA campground treated for injuries. Two people died in that mudslide, identified by county authorities as Janice Arlene Stout-Bradley, 60, and Carol Eugene Nuss, 57. Residents said Stout-Bradley was the campground manager.

Delaney was treated for hypothermia at the Community Hospital of San Bernardino. The next morning, dressed in hospital pants and a light jacket, he was still shivering as he sipped soup at a shelter.

The disaster struck hard at the campground's 40 year-round residents, who were evacuated during the wildfires and had celebrated their return from that exile with a Thanksgiving potluck dinner.

"We left all our Christmas gifts, all our clothes and we never did get to cook the Christmas ham," said Laura Richardson, whose truck was washed a mile downhill by the mudslide. "It's been an awful 2003. 2004 has got to be better."

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Mud and debris quickly filled the center four feet deep. "There were kids sitting on the pool table, and the pool table was almost up to the ceiling on the mud," Delaney said.

Delaney was up to his chest in the freezing cold mud but managed to break a window and step outside, only to sink neck-deep into another quagmire. He was trapped there until rescuers could pull him from the muck, and even then, he had to shed his clothing to reduce the mud's grip.

He was one of three people from the KOA campground treated for injuries. Two people died in that mudslide, identified by county authorities as Janice Arlene Stout-Bradley, 60, and Carol Eugene Nuss, 57. Residents said Stout-Bradley was the campground manager.

Delaney was treated for hypothermia at the Community Hospital of San Bernardino. The next morning, dressed in hospital pants and a light jacket, he was still shivering as he sipped soup at a shelter.

The disaster struck hard at the campground's 40 year-round residents, who were evacuated during the wildfires and had celebrated their return from that exile with a Thanksgiving potluck dinner.

"We left all our Christmas gifts, all our clothes and we never did get to cook the Christmas ham," said Laura Richardson, whose truck was washed a mile downhill by the mudslide. "It's been an awful 2003. 2004 has got to be better."

The recreation center was far from the hills than the trailers, but the mud still began to seep through the door. The power went out, and boulders the size of Volkswagen Beetles crashed past.

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Poll suggests support for Medicare law waivers

WASHINGTON (AP) — The American public initially supports Medicare legislation providing help with prescription drugs, but that support fades when presented with criticism of the bill signed into law this year, a poll released Saturday suggests.

Asked whether they support "a Medicare bill which among other things provides prescription drug coverage and allows private companies to provide some services," almost two-thirds, 63 percent, said yes, according to the poll by the National Annenberg Election Survey.

When those polled were presented with opponents' arguments that the bill won't help sen-

iors that much and cutting costs will eventually destroy Medicare, support faded. After hearings those arguments, only one in five of the total sample, 21 percent, supported it and another two in five said they were unsure.

Opposition to the bill weakened when opponents were given the additional argument that cutting costs is essential for Medicare to survive.

The poll found that almost half in the sample were unsure about the Medicare bill once questions were raised on either side.

The poll of 1,615 adults was taken from Dec. 8-23 and has a margin of sampling error of plus or minus 2 percentage points.

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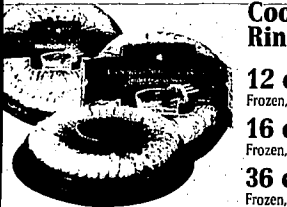
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2\$5 FOR 5

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Shrimp** Fresh Values Price
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NATION

Transgendered community remembers the murder that sparked a national movement



Brandon Teena

FALLS CITY, Neb. (AP) — Ten years ago, a handsome, brown-haired 21-year-old named Brandon Teena was raped and later murdered by two men after they discovered he was not born a man.

The New Year's Eve tragedy in rural southeastern Nebraska inspired the award-winning 1999 film, "Boys Don't Cry." It also touched off a movement in the transgendered community.

In the days after Teena was killed, a new generation of activists banded together to demand greater civil rights protections. Ten years later, 65 municipalities and states have hate crime laws that specifically include transgendered people, according to the Transgender Law Policy Institute. California became the fourth state to adopt such a law earlier this year.

Big corporations, such as Hewlett-Packard and Nike, have adopted similar rules. And 145 members of Congress have banned discrimination from their offices, said Riki Wilchins, executive director of the Washington-based Gender Public Advocacy Coalition.

"How many times do you get to see a giant sea change like this in people's perceptions? But you look at Congress, corporate America, and cities and states ... and you see this enormous change in how people are looking at gender as a civil rights issue," Wilchins said.

The national attention given to Teena's murder also helped introduce the idea of being transgendered to mainstream America,

said Shannon Minter, a board member of the Transgender Law and Policy Institute in New York.

"People are just much less freaked out about the concept, and see us more as human beings with partners, families, children," said Minter, who is transgendered.

Many activists say Teena's murder attracted so much attention because of its brutality and the failure of law enforcement to protect Teena.

John Lott and Marvin Nissen were convicted of murdering Teena, who had dated a female friend of the two men. They also killed Lisa Lambert, 24, and Phillip DeVine, 22, who both witnessed Teena's death in a farmhouse.

A week before the killing, Teena had told the local sheriff the men had raped him, but the sheriff took no action.

In a scathing court opinion in 2001, Nebraska Supreme Court Chief Justice John Hendry said former Richardson County Sheriff Charles Laux showed indifference by referring to Teena as "it" and not immediately arresting the suspects.

Lott is now on Nebraska's death row. Nissen was sentenced to life in prison.

Though much has improved for the transgendered community in the last 10 years, there is still a long way to go, Minter said.

In the past year alone, Remembering Our Dead, an online memorial that tracks bias killing of transgendered people around the world, recorded 17 deaths in the United States.

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Public wonders: Who pulled the trigger?

Experts say the truth may never be known

CHESAPEAKE, Va. (AP) — Both snipers have been convicted, but the verdicts have left a nagging question: Which of them pulled the trigger in the shootings that killed 10 people and wounded three others in and around the nation's capital in October 2002?

In convicting Lee Boyd Malvo of murder, a jury determined he fired the head shot that killed Linda Franklin as she stood by her car.

Finding Malvo to be the triggerman was necessary to convict the 18-year-old on one of two murder counts, and the guilty verdict indicated the jury believed Malvo's initial confession that he was the sniper in all the shootings, though he later denied most of the responsibility.

"I believe he was the triggerman in all of them," said juror

William Hurdle.

A different jury convicted John Allen Muhammad, 42, of the murder of Dean Meyers at a gas station, but with a different set of rules: it did not have to find that he pulled the trigger in order to convict him.

The verdicts don't necessarily conflict, but legal experts say whole truth may never be known.

"The facts in criminal cases can be very messy," said Scott Sundby, a professor at Washington & Lee University law school in Lexington, Va. "We tend to think of trials as TV shows or movie scripts, where we will know by the end who did what and for what reason. That's usually not really the case."

Malvo, who was 17 at the time of the shootings, calmly told police after his arrest that he fired all the shots during the three-week series of attacks. He bragged about how difficult the head shots were, described how the victims fell, and said he only wounded 13-year-old Iran Brown instead of hitting him in the head because the boy moved.

Months later, Malvo began giving defense psychiatrists and psychologists a different account. He admitted shooting 35-year-old bus driver Conrad Johnson, the final sniper victim, but denied being the shooter in the other attacks.

Prosecutors contended Malvo's initial story was the truth, but defense attorneys argued that Malvo had to protect Muhammad, a man he saw as a father figure, and then told psychiatrists the truth as he emerged from Muhammad's psychological spell.

Muhammad refused to speak to police and mental health experts

and did not testify.

"Our ability to access the past is always problematic, and especially when there's two people and one of them is talking and the other isn't," said Anne Coughlin, a University of Virginia law school professor.

However, she said, "We know enough. The state produced sufficient, credible evidence that testified to what these men did, what their differing roles were, and that they are roughly equal in terms of culpability."

Forensic experts found Malvo's DNA and fingerprints on the rifle used in the killings. DNA consistent with Muhammad's also was found on the gun, and forensics linked Muhammad to a telescopic sight found in the car in which the two were arrested.

Witnesses described seeing both Muhammad and Malvo near crime scenes around the times of the shootings, although no one ever saw who fired the gun.

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CONSUMER NEWS:

IF YOU READ NOTHING ELSE IN TODAY'S PAPER...READ THIS!

CHEVROLET CADILLAC OF TWIN FALLS IS HOLDING ITS FIRST EVER "MILEAGE AMNESTY" EVENT

By: Scott Munroe

(Twin Falls) — They say there's nothing new under the sun and that's been true, until now! This Fri. Sat. Sun. Dec. 26th thru 31st Chevrolet Cadillac of Twin Falls will have possibly the most unique savings event ever. For these 6 days only, they'll be appraising trade-in cars as if they had 15,000 fewer miles than is shown on the odometer!

"Mileage is one of the most significant items we look at when we appraise the value of a customer's trade in," said Ken Lynch, the manager in charge of used vehicle appraisals at Chevrolet Cadillac of Twin Falls. "It's right there in the Kelley Blue Book. As a car hits different mileage levels the value goes down. Any trade-in, regardless of condition is worth more if it has fewer miles." It's a fact of life that we've all come to accept.

But leave it to the innovators at Chevrolet Cadillac of Twin Falls to come up with a way to truly turn back time! "We're faced with a serious problem," said Barry Langdon, the General Manager of Chevrolet Cadillac of Twin Falls, "we're overloaded with new vehicles that we have to move and we've got a tremendous demand for good used cars that are just hard to find.

After analyzing the problem, we feel like we've come up with the perfect solution to solve both issues." Barry continued, "Even though it's an expensive proposition for us, we decided the best way to get quality trade-in's is to

"...give customers a way to actually get more for their old car than it's worth."

The easiest way to do that is to appraise every trade-in as if it had 15,000 fewer miles...it's like putting a full year's worth of depreciation right in the customer's pocket."

And to solve the excess new vehicle problem?

"That's the really exciting part," said Lynch, "we've rolled back prices on our entire excess inventory and clearly posted the discount price right in the window. These savings are huge!" I toured the Chevrolet Cadillac of Twin Falls lot and was astonished by what I saw. Mr. Langdon showed me 2003 Chevy Cavalier for only \$8,995 or 2003 Chevy Malibu for only \$10,995. Impressed, I asked them to show me exactly how the sale would work. Mr. Lynch walked me through it. "Let's say your trade in is pretty good shape for a vehicle of that age. Your mileage is 42,650 so when I check the book value it should be worth around \$15,900. Now, let's see what happens when we take 15,000 miles off the odometer reading. The value goes up by \$1250 making your trade in worth \$17,150 for these 6 days only." It's important to remember that the overall condition and marketability of your vehicle are factors that contribute to the determination of the actual trade in value of your car and that this incredible opportunity only applies to customers trading in their old car on the purchase of a new or used vehicle.

So, now it's easy to see with these trade-in values, fantastic discounts prices, huge rebates and low interest rates why this weekend is the best chance of the year to get the vehicle you want at a payment you can afford. "Looking at all these factors, we predict that we'll have customers come in whose payments may actually be lower on their new car than on the car their driving now," Langdon added. "...this truly is an opportunity that a smart customer just can't pass up."

Chevrolet Cadillac of Twin Falls is located on the corner of Pole Line Rd. and Blue Lakes Blvd. North. Sale hours are Mon. thru Sat. 8:00am - 8:00pm, and Sunday 10:00am. to 5:00pm.

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Flight

Continued from A1

blue 250s a year, aviation kept its stick-and-string, seat-of-your-pants, daring young look in their flying machines all the way after it had become routine elsewhere.

"It was just a short dirt strip and Piper Cub, but they served the purpose," said 85-year-old Dorothy Hutchings, a charter member of the Twin Falls Flyers Club who took to the skies in 1941, at the age of 23.

"Flight itself created a revolution in Idaho," wrote Arthur Hart, the Idaho state historian, in his 1991, "Wings Over Idaho." Idaho's thousands of square miles of mountains and wilderness suddenly became passable by plane in hours rather than weeks. Not only could pioneer pilots fly into towns all over the state, but national and international aviation figures came to Idaho as well.

By the 1920s — in the wake of World War I and the flu pandemic — many of the state's 430,000 residents had a fatalistic attitude about risk. And they were absolutely star-struck by the likes of Lucky Lindy and Eddie Rickenbacker.

There wasn't a boy — and there were very few girls — in the small towns at the back of beyond who didn't want to be like them.

"Idaho seemed to follow aviation events with exceptional interest," said Wayne White, who wrote the three-volume "History of Aviation in Idaho" in 1977, with a grant from Boise State University. Six months after the Wright Brothers' first successful flight at Kitty Hawk, N.C., 100 years ago, an Idahoan named Stewart Winslow fabricated a heavier-than-air craft powered by a bicycle and tried to launch it from a bluff overlooking the Snake River near Lewiston.

It crashed, of course.

Magic technology

But things got better, thanks largely to the intense competition between the Wrights and their chief rival, Glen Curtiss — who hit upon the idea of sending his airplanes on tours of small towns across America.

Frank Hall, a Curtiss pilot, landed at Twin Falls on Sept. 19, 1913 — the first recorded flight in the Magic Valley.

"His afternoon flights from the ballpark followed a baseball game to which fans paid 50 cents admission," the Twin Falls Times reported. "Of course, anywhere the area could see the plane fly for free, but the promoters pointed out the advantage of a seat in the stands."

"The starting and lighting of an airplane is fully as great a sight as to see one in actual flight in the air. One does not get a correct idea of what they are and how they work without seeing the start and finish."

By 1920, using World War I surplus Curtiss Jennies and DeHavilland DH-4s, pilots offered a more varied program. According to Hart, the first part of the show was exhibition flying, like that presented at Shoshone on April 24, 1920, with "all the stunts known, including the Immelman turn, the barrel roll, loop the loop etc." Near Pilot Hugh Barker took passengers for short flights, and since most biplanes used in barnstorming could take two passengers in the forward cockpit, the flier could make what was then a lot of money in one day. It was the aerial acrobatics that drew the crowds, after which the more daring lined up a flight.

Flying Idahoans

Within a few years, the barnstormers were locals like Dean, who was an auto mechanic by trade. They operated with respect to a barn, and any farmer's or rancher's pasture was their airport for a few hours.

According to White, the first ride was usually offered to the property owner, and then — for a fee — to anyone else within earshot.

Ten dollars per passenger was the going rate — or you could get "the works" for \$15, according to Virgil Adair, a Boise barnstormer. "The works" included aerial gymnastics that resulted in the passengers throwing up long before they returned to earth.

J. Howard Firebaugh, a barnstormer from Mountain Home, told

South-central Idaho aviation timeline

- **1913:** First airplane — a Curtiss pusher biplane on a company promotional tour — lands in Twin Falls. The site: the 9-year-old town's baseball field.
- **1914:** First airplane lands in the Wood River Valley: a Curtiss pusher biplane sets down on a field at the site of the current Friedman Memorial Airport in Halley.
- **1927:** Rupert builds an airport on a 30-acre piece of farmland. Local sheepman John Brockie constructs a hanger and his pilot, Russell Owens, inaugurates the facility with stunt flying.
- **1928:** Lionel Dean, a Twin Falls auto mechanic, buys an Eagle Rock biplane, the first aircraft owned by a Twin Falls resident. That same year, Dean builds Twin Falls' first airfield, on a site south of Kimberly Road just east of Twin Falls.
- **1930:** With financial backing from the Twin Falls Chamber of Commerce, Dean builds a new airfield five miles south of Twin Falls, on a site a mile southeast of the current Twin Falls airport.
- **1932:** Friedman Memorial Airport opens south of Halley — with a grass runway running parallel to the Wood River Branch of the Oregon Short Line Railroad.
- **1938:** The Idaho Public Utilities Commission grants Capital Air Lines permission to serve Twin Falls for freight and passengers.
- **1941:** The Twin Falls Flyers Club is organized. The group claims —

although several other clubs dispute it — to be the oldest continuously operating flying club in America.

• **Sept. 29, 1942:** Staff Sgt. Raymond Joslin, a Flier native, is killed when the bomber to which he is assigned is shot down on a raid against Japanese ships in the Solomon Islands. The Twin Falls airport is later named in his honor.

• **1944:** Charles Reeder opens a charter aviation business, Reeder Flying Service, at the Twin Falls airport, specializing in light instruction. Reeder evolves into a multi-dimensional aviation services company.

Zimmerly Air Transport begins regular flights from Boise to Twin Falls.

• **1948:** Twin Falls County taxpayers approve a \$250,000 bond issue to buy 675 acres of land a mile northwest of the Twin Falls airstrip to build an airport. Empire Airlines begins regular service from Boise to Twin Falls, Burley and Gooding.

• **1948:** The Twin Falls airport opens.

• **1972:** Twin Falls County voters refuse permission for the state to join a regional airport authority that seeks to build a new facility near the intersection of U.S. Highway 93 and Interstate 84 in Jerome County.

• **1978:** Twin Falls and Blaine county voters turn down a fresh effort to establish a regional airport authority, effectively killing the project.

• **1997:** Twin Falls-to-Boise air service ends when Horizon Airlines pulls out of Twin Falls.

“

On a good day, you could take 40 or 50 flights. At \$5 a flight, or two and a half for each passenger, that wasn't bad. Gas didn't cost so much in those days and living expenses, even on the road, didn't cost too much.

”

— J. Howard Firebaugh, barnstormer from Mountain Home

Hart: "On a good day, you could take 40 or 50 flights. At \$5 a flight, or two and a half for each passenger, that wasn't bad. Gas didn't cost so much in those days and living expenses, even on the road, didn't cost too much."

"Lionel did much barnstorming around southern Idaho at Oakley, Filer, Halley, Gooding, Buhl, the Hagerman Valley and other places," Thelma Dean wrote in 1977. "It was during these barnstorming days that the Dean family discovered that old aviation adage was so true: 'The greatest danger in aviation is starvation.' I'm glad we had the garage business for along with the fun and excitement of flying and the garage going strong, we could eat too."

Changing times

Things started to change in 1926 when Congress passed and President Coolidge signed the Air Commerce Act, regulating aviation. Barnstormer rates dropped to a penny a pound for a quick trip around the field.

Pilots were subject to certification, and aircraft had to be inspected in order to be licensed. Many barnstormers in Idaho found their places grounded by federal inspectors.

"Idaho had its renegade aircraft pilot owner who hid his uninspected aircraft on a farm, not infrequently behind a barn, for curious eyes to see," according to White. "This same type fought the federal inspectors over other issues, particularly the need for a pilot's license. The Boise and Twin Falls areas had

several individuals who could be so categorized."

Many of the barnstormers sold their planes and quit, never caring to fly in a respectable and regulated environment. Others became flight instructors.

Or they found more practical uses for their skills. Pioneer aviators in these parts planted fish, hunted coyotes, repaired power lines — even herded sheep.

"Idaho sheep rancher John 'Jack' Brockie pioneered the use of an airplane to keep track of his flocks in winter areas," Hart wrote. "He bought a plane in May 1927 and hired Russell Owen as pilot. Owen and Brockie flew regularly from Rupert over much of south-central Idaho. After searching for days on horseback for a missing band and its herd in June 1927, Brockie and Owen took to the air and found them within 20 minutes."

"Owen moved to Boise in 1928 to give flying lessons, but other pilots continued to fly for ranchers when their flocks were lost or trapped by winter snows, as happened in December 1928 near Strevell. One band of 1,700 sheep was caught en route from Soda Springs to Malta when 18 inches of snow fell at Meadow Brook Pass. Only by dragging juniper trees behind horses was a trail broken that allowed the sheep to get through to Malta where their winter hay was stored."

Taking off

That same year, Dean — who had taken his first airplane ride with a barnstormer in 1924 — bought his first airplane, the aforementioned Eagle Rock. The only places to land were alfalfa or wheat fields, and then only after the crops were harvested or before they were planted. So he bought 29 acres east of Twin Falls and built an airstrip with a hairpin turn, 1,320-foot runway. After Thelma's crash, finding a new location became a priority.

He discovered one on the Salmon Tract, state-owned land available for 25 cents an acre. Dean and a local jeweler, Jack Umbaugh, chipped in \$200 each to start a fund, and eventually they raised \$1,600 — enough for the Twin Falls Chamber of Commerce to buy 240 acres with a marked slope. It opened in 1930.

It was there that Dorothy Hutchings became one of the first female pilots in Idaho.

"Flying was exciting in those days," she said. "It was a grand bunch of people."

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

Novelty inventor dies at 77

Los Angeles Times

Harold von Braunhut, the creator of Sea Monkeys, X-Ray Specs and other quirky novelties marketed to children via advertisements in comic books, has died. He was 77.

Von Braunhut, whose reported involvement with white supremacists in recent years tarnished his reputation as a noted contributor to pop culture, died of unknown causes Nov. 28 at his home in Indian Head, Md., after suffering a fall.

The holding of 195 patents, von Braunhut had an uncanny flair for dreaming up inexpensive products aimed at the youth market. And the former manager of novelty acts was a master of advertising hyperbole.

He was the man behind Amazing Hair-Raising Monsters — cards depicting monsters whose bald heads grew "hair" when water was added — and Invisible Goldfish, which came with a glass bowl, invisible goldfish food and a

guarantee that their owners would never see them.

Von Braunhut also marketed Crazy Cakes (pet ham crabs) and the "blushingly funny" X-Ray Specs, which were said to enable the wearer to "see through skin. See through clothing!"

But his best-known creation was Amazing Live Sea Monkeys, which he billed as "a true Miracle of nature."

Who could resist the "World's Only Living, Breathing Instant Pets?"

Illustrations depicted the Sea Monkeys as grinning creatures wearing crowns and bathing suits and happily swimming next to an undersea castle.

But what arrived in the mail were actually hybrid brine shrimp eggs that came to life when immersed in water.

(Begin optional trim)

Included were a "Deluxe micro-view Ocean Zoo" plastic aquarium, "Banana Treat," a supply of "dessert for our aquatic pals" and "Cupids' Arrow," a "mating pow-

der" for "shy Sea Monkeys afraid of 'marriage'."

For tiny, translucent "instant pets" that got side there was even "Sea Monkey Medicine," which was "almost as good as having a team of Sea Monkey doctors standing by in the (emergency room)."

The "instant pet" idea is said to have come to von Braunhut in 1957 when he saw a bucket of brine shrimp being sold as fish food in a pet store.

"I was always interested in wildlife, and I was looking for something that would interest other people in it," he told The Baltimore Sun in 1997.

The Sea Monkey eggs reportedly remain in a sort of suspended animation until they are placed in water that has been mixed with a secret formula devised by von Braunhut that causes them to hatch.

Introduced in 1960 as "Instant Life," von Braunhut's hybrid brine shrimp eggs failed to catch on. But sales soared after they were rechristened Sea Monkeys in 1962.

Luck

Continued from A1

that the Glen Curtiss Company developed the Jenny, a quantum leap in technology but not much of an improvement in safety.

"The passage of the Air Commerce Act of 1926 caused quickly realized problems for the Jenny owner," Boise State University professor Wayne White wrote in his 1977 history of aviation in Idaho. "The federal inspectors red-tagged many of these aircraft as unfit and unsafe to fly."

In 1927, the Army ordered all surviving Jennies — which had been America's primary training aircraft during World War I — to be junked regardless of their condition "or local flying needs."

"The airplane to be salvaged will be dismantled insofar as is necessary to mutilate all component parts beyond the possibility of future use, and commanding officers of each station will be appointed an officer who will per-

sonally witness the destruction of this property," the Army directive said.

Why such ill will toward an old friend?

Jennies, the aircraft of choice for barnstormers, had dodgy handling characteristics and agonizingly slow lift. Many ended up as tree ornaments or implanted in the side of a barn.

And, of course, they had the structural integrity of your average box kite.

"Impact with the ground created a crumbling accordion effect with fine possibilities ever present," White wrote.

The DH-4, which had been used as a reconnaissance airplane by the British, French and Americans during the war, was chosen as the first postwar air-mail plane, although its pilots called it "the flying brick" for its heinous touch.

"On routes where it was first tried, even daylight flying was

suicidally dangerous," wrote Arthur Hart in his 1991 "Wings Over Idaho." The one from New York to Chicago was deadly in winter. Of the 40 original pilots on the route, 30 were killed flying the mail within a few years."

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AMERICA DIVIDED

War in Iraq choice as top news story of 2003

By David Crary
Associated Press writer

The "major combat" phase was over in six weeks, but the war in Iraq—from its tumultuous prelude to a still-active insurgency—was in the global spotlight throughout the year.

By an overwhelming margin, the U.S.-led invasion and occupation was voted the top story of 2003 in The Associated Press' annual survey of American editors and news directors. Even with voting ending the day before Saddam Hussein's capture, the Iraq story received first-place votes from 280 of the 287 AP newspaper and broadcast members who cast ballots.

The clear runner-up, with five first-place votes and most of the second-place votes, was the Columbia space shuttle disaster, the explosion that killed seven astronauts during their descent on Feb. 1.

It marked the second straight year that Iraq was judged the dominant story—the threat of war and demands for disarmament directed at Saddam ranked No. 1 in the poll for 2002.

Here are 2003's top 10 stories, as voted by AP members:

1. WAR IN IRAQ: After months of ultimatums and military buildup, President Bush announced the start of the war against Iraq on March 19. U.S. and British forces quickly seized huge swaths of territory, and by April 7 much of Baghdad was overtaken. Bush declared major combat over on May 1, but shrewd insurgents killed more than 200 coalition soldiers in the often difficult occupation that followed. Saddam was captured Dec. 13.

2. COLUMBIA DISASTER: The shuttle crew's 16-day research mission ended 16 minutes short of touchdown on Feb. 1 when the Columbia disintegrated into fiery debris over Texas. Investigators later said the cause was a chunk of foam insulation that broke off the fuel tank and pierced the left wing on launch day.

3. CALIFORNIA RECALL: Initially, it seemed a long shot perhaps suited to a Hollywood script. But Californians defied expectations by signing enough petitions to set up an attempt to recall unpopular Democratic Gov. Gray Davis, then after a unanimous vote on Oct. 7 and replaced him with Arnold Schwarzenegger, the Austrian-born body builder turned action film star.

4. SARS: The first unsettling reports emerged from Asia in February of a new, unnamed disease. Within a few weeks, SARS

was a household name.

Cases of severe acute respiratory syndrome spread to more than 25 countries in North America, South America, Europe and Asia. About 8,000 people were infected; roughly 780 died, though health experts generally were pleased with efforts to control the outbreak.

5. NORTHEAST BLACKOUT: A computer malfunctioned at an Ohio utility on Aug. 14, and North America's worst-ever blackout swiftly spread through eight states and part of Canada. Millions of people lost power, including all of New York City, Cleveland and Detroit.

6. IMPROVING ECONOMY: After a couple of trying years, the U.S. economy showed signs of revival. Much of southern California killed 22 people, scorched nearly 1 million acres and destroyed 4,800 homes and other buildings in October and early November—the most damaging wave of fires in state history.

7. BUSH TAX CUT: In May, Congress handed Bush a major victory by approving \$330 billion in tax cuts through 2013—the third largest tax cut in history. The measure passed by only one vote in the Senate, after Republican leaders prodded some of their hesitant colleagues.

8. ELIZABETH SMART: Nine months after she was abducted from her bedroom in Salt Lake City, 15-year-old Elizabeth Smart was found in March in a nearby suburb in the company of a homeless couple who now face kidnapping and sexual assault charges. By autumn, Elizabeth was back in school, and the subject of a made-for-TV movie.

9. DEMOCRATIC CAMPAIGN: The field grew steadily to 10, then dropped back to nine, but it was the man leading in the polls—former Vermont Gov. Howard Dean—who became the focal point of the race for the Democratic presidential nomination. He won the endorsement of former Vice President Al Gore and became the target of choice by his Democratic rivals in debates and increasingly barbed TV ads.



Leslie Swalley, center, of Lakewood, Wash., holds a flag and a sign in support of U.S. troops as she shares a corner with others who are protesting the war in Iraq, Nov. 15, near an entrance to Fort Lewis Army Base in Lakewood, Wash. The protesters were far out-numbered as hundreds of people supporting the troops came out to wave flags and signs.

War, gay marriage, abortion – 2003 was year of taking sides

By Sharon Cohen
Associated Press writer

For many Americans, 2003 was a year to take sides. From church pews to the courts, from talk shows to the halls of Capitol Hill, debate over social issues—abortion, gay marriage, the right to die—stirred a nation that also was divided over the war in Iraq.

The sense of unity that swelled across the country in the wake of the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks faded, and heated rhetoric and fingerpointing returned as America edged closer to the 2004 presidential race.

"Cynicism is back in full force. Extraordinary political partisanship and acrimony are back," says David Blankenhorn, president of the Institute for American Values, a think tank focusing on family and civil society.

Politicians traded insults and clashed over tax cuts and Medicare reforms, pro- and anti-war supporters rallied in the streets, and social activists faced off before the U.S. Supreme Court this year.

Political divisions in America are becoming more pronounced as the two major parties grow more polarized, according to Andrew Kohut, director of Pew Research Center for the People & the Press.

"We're seeing more differences between Republicans and Democrats on issues than we have since the mid-1980s," he says. The split is evident on a wide range of topics, including social spending, religion and the war on terrorism.

A recent Pew poll, for instance, found that 72 percent of Republicans favor a government policy of holding suspected terrorist without trial—a view held by just 46 percent of Democrats surveyed.

Affirmative action supporters hailed a Supreme Court ruling that race can be one of the factors colleges use to choose their students. Gay rights advocates celebrated landmark state and federal legal victories and the first openly gay bishop in the Episcopal Church.

Right-to-life activists applauded President Bush's signing of a new law restricting certain abortions, which was promptly challenged.

Other contentious issues came to be identified with individuals. Alabama Chief Justice Roy Moore tested the firewall between church and state and was ousted when he refused a federal court order to remove a Ten Commandments monument from a government building. He plans to appeal to get his job back.

Kerri Schavo, a severely brain damaged woman in Florida, personified the anguishing debate over the right to die in a family dispute that escalated into a court battle that eventually involved Gov. Jeb Bush and the state Legislature.

All these social issues have been on and off the nation's radar for decades, but this year the public had one more reason to disagree: the war in Iraq.

"There was great unity around the war in Afghanistan but great divisions around the war in Iraq," says Blankenhorn, of the Institute for American Values. "There's a great uneasiness. People are dying every day."

Many recent polls have shown the nation is fairly evenly divided on how President Bush is handling Iraq—a significant drop from April, the month after fighting began, when a CBS poll, for instance, showed a 75 percent approval rate. (On the other hand, support for Bush's campaign against terrorism remains strong, with almost two-thirds approving in several polls.)

A USA Today-CNN-Gallup poll taken in December, after the president's Thanksgiving trip to Baghdad, showed six in 10 of those surveyed approved of the decision to go to war—the highest level of support since August.

Earlier polls, taken when the headlines were dominated by reports of mounting U.S. casualties in Iraq, suggested growing disenchantment with the war.

An early November ABC News-Washington Post poll found 54 percent of Americans saying the war was worth fighting—a drop from 70 percent in late April. That poll also found 58 percent of those surveyed said U.S. military forces should remain in Iraq until civil order is restored regardless of casualties, a decline from 72 percent in July.

"I think there's a concern that this will be a quagmire and it will go on forever...and we're paying the cost of it in dollars and lives," says Robert Shapiro, a political

“
The 9-11 moment was a very unique moment in our history, a unique coming together. It's unrealistic to expect that to continue for a long period of time.
We spar, we disagree, but we still go on.
”

— Karllyn Bowman,
public opinion analyst

scientist at Columbia University who specializes in public opinion. Shapiro says the dwindling support also is tied to growing skepticism about the Bush administration's claims that Iraq had weapons of mass destruction, one of the justifications for toppling Saddam Hussein.

Beyond all the polls and political bickering, there were poignant reminders, too, in the heart of America of how divisive the war can be—even within individual families. When Army 1st Lt. Brian Slavens, a Chinook helicopter pilot killed in Iraq, was buried in Illinois in November, his divorced parents honored him in different ways.

His mother rejected a military funeral and publicly blamed President Bush for her son's death. His father, a veteran, defended the president and attended a ceremony with American flags, a helicopter flyover and a rifle salute.

It didn't always take life-and-death matters to polarize people in 2003.

One of the biggest rifts occurred in the Episcopal Church with the elevation of V. Gene Robinson, the first openly gay bishop consecrated by a major Christian denomination.

Another split over gay-related issues occurred last summer when the U.S. Supreme Court struck down a Texas law that made homosexual sex a crime.

The 6-3 decision was cheered by gay-rights advocates and denounced by conservatives.

"The court has taken sides in the culture war," Justice Antonin Scalia wrote for the three dissenters, suggesting the ruling would invite laws allowing same-sex marriages.

This fall, Massachusetts' highest court took on that very issue, ruling that it is unconstitutional to deny same-sex couples the right to

marry and giving legislators six months to rewrite the state's marriage laws.

Canadian courts also legalized gay marriage over the summer. Kohut, of the Pew center, says while polls show a liberalizing trend toward acceptance of homosexuals, it doesn't extend to gay marriage.

"That seems to be a line in the sand that the American public doesn't want to cross," he says.

A Pew poll released in November found opposition to gay marriage had grown since midsummer, with 32 percent favoring it and 59 percent against it. In July, 38 percent approved and 53 percent were opposed.

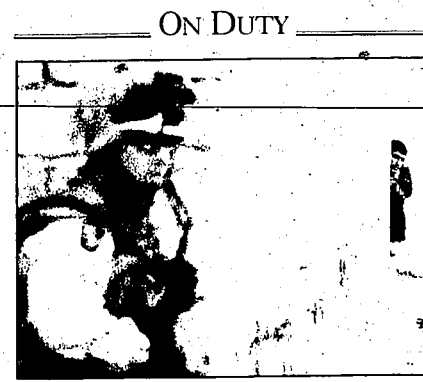
Americans also are split over abortion rights, always a politically charged issue that made headlines this year when Congress passed and Bush signed a bill that bans certain late-term abortions. An NBC News-Wall Street Journal poll released in November found 47 percent of those surveyed favored—and 40 percent opposed the ban.

Hundreds of anti-abortion opponents rose to applaud the president even as abortion rights activists mobilized to challenge the new federal ban in court.

But a nation divided over social issues is not new or unusual, some pundits say, and they caution against exaggerating the impact.

"Americans want the same things for their families, communities, their country," says Karllyn Bowman, a public opinion analyst at the American Enterprise Institute. People generally don't "think about most of these issues as we do about our daily lives."

"The 9-11 moment was a very unique moment in our history, a unique coming together," she adds. "It's unrealistic to expect that to continue for a long period of time. We spar, we disagree, but we still go on."



An Iraqi peers out onto the street as a U.S. Army soldier of 1st Battalion takes his position during a patrol in Tikrit Iraq, Saturday. The war in Iraq was the nation's top news story of 2003.

Terror groups grow more decentralized, yet attack more despite crackdown

By LOUIS MEIXLER
Associated Press Writer

ISTANBUL, Turkey (AP)—Bombings by groups linked to al-Qaida killed dozens of people in 2003, most of them in Islamic countries, leading to a backlash against radical groups among some Muslims.

While the U.S. government heightened alert levels at year's end, the shift in targets from Western to Muslim countries raises the possibility that Osama bin Laden's terrorist network has been stymied by Western security measures and battered in the war against terrorism, and that it now depends on local militants to carry out attacks.

The changing tactics led to bombings in Saudi Arabia, Turkey, Indonesia and

Morocco that were mostly linked to groups affiliated with al-Qaida or radicals trained in bin Laden's camps.

It was a reflection of both the strengths and the weaknesses of al-Qaida. The network's core leadership has been targeted by U.S. attacks in Afghanistan and is on the run, but thousands of militants—by some estimate up to 20,000—have been trained in Afghanistan since 1996, analysts said. The militants returned home, where they set up local groups.

"The network has metastasized well beyond the organizational boundaries of al-Qaida," said Steven Simon, a counterterrorism expert with the U.S. National Security Council in 1994-99. "Innumerable local groups now subscribe to the bin Laden agenda."

"The group has done its work," he said. "The group has spurred a worldwide insurgency."

That fight is now mostly being seen in Muslim countries. In Turkey, attackers who killed 62 people in November in a spate of suicide bombings that targeted synagogues and British interests were believed to have been trained in bin Laden's camps in Afghanistan.

A bombing the same month in the Saudi capital, Riyadh, that killed 17 people—including five children—in an upscale housing compound bore the hallmarks of an al-Qaida attack, U.S. and Saudi officials said.

An August blast at the J. W. Marriott hotel in Jakarta, Indonesia, that killed a

dozen people was blamed on a local group with ties to al-Qaida.

Five near-simultaneous suicide attacks on May 16 in Casablanca, Morocco, aimed at Jewish and Spanish targets killed 45 people including 33 bystanders. That was also tied to a local group whose members trained in Afghanistan.

The attacks on lightly guarded civilian targets in Muslim countries are in part due to increased security measures in the West that have made it more difficult to attack in the United States and Europe, analysts said.

That "doesn't mean at all that al-Qaida is not still trying to strike the United States on its own soil," Simon said. But "it is certainly more difficult."

It is also easier for militants to operate on

their home turf, and the attacks might be part of a strategy to spread the movement. In Turkey, for example, militants have been able to melt into the overwhelming majority Muslim society.

On Kenya's largely Muslim coast, al-Qaida operatives have settled down in small towns and married local women, integrating into a society where they can operate more freely. Hundreds of new members have been recruited there, said U.S. Marine Brig. Gen. Martin Roberson, commander of a U.S.-led anti-terror task force based in nearby Djibouti.

The four November bombings in Turkey was a clear example of the growing trend. The suspected attackers were Turks who trained in Afghanistan in al-Qaida camps.

NATION/WORLD

Coordinated rebel attacks in Iraq kill 13, injure 172

KARBALA, Iraq (AP) — In the biggest rebel attack since Saddam Hussein's capture, suicide bombers and assailants with mortars and grenade launchers blasted coalition military bases and the governor's office in this southern city Saturday, killing 13 people and wounding at least 172.

The death toll in Karbala included six coalition soldiers — four Bulgarians and two Thais; six Iraqi police officers; and a civilian.

At least 172 people, many of them civilians caught in the chaos, were wounded in three nearly simultaneous assaults apparently designed to test the resolve of Washington's allies in the coalition governing Iraq. A Polish-led force is responsible for security around the holy Shiite city of Karbala.

Also Saturday, Iraq's U.S.-led administration put bounties of \$1 million each on the heads of 12 remaining fugitives from the coalition's list of the 55 most-wanted Iraqis.

Administrators already are offering \$10 million for information leading to the capture or death of the 13th remaining fugitive — Izzat Ibrahim al-Douri, a senior official in the former regime and a Saddam Hussein confidant who now is the most wanted man in Iraq.

Insurgents also may have targeted this city 70 miles south of Baghdad on the assumption that military targets there would be more vulnerable to attack. The most intense rebel activity is in Sunni areas west and north of Baghdad, where combat-tested American troops have more experience fending off suicide bombers and other assaults.

One of four suicide bombers in Karbala gained entry to a Bulgarian camp, cutting through roadblocks in a car and destroying a building where the headquarters of the unit was located, Bulgarian Deputy Defense Minister Ilko Dimitrov said in Sofia.

Four Bulgarian soldiers were killed and 27 others were wounded, Dimitrov said.

"We expected these attacks because Karbala was suspiciously peaceful in the recent time," said Nikola Kolev, the Bulgarian army chief of staff. "We improved security measures every day but terrorists change their tactics all the time."

Bulgaria, a staunch supporter of the U.S. military campaign in Iraq, has a 485-member light infantry battalion stationed under Polish command.

A car bomb also killed two Thai soldiers on guard duty when the vehicle rammed into the walls of their camp, a Thai spokesman said in Bangkok. Thailand sent 422 soldiers to Iraq in September to provide medical aid and help rebuild war-shattered infrastructure.

The Thais were confident enough about their security that they planned to send 200 Thai civilians to visit their troops. A Thai newspaper, The Nation, said the tourists would travel with sen-



A university building watchman is helped Saturday after he was injured in one of several bomb attacks in Karbala, Iraq. Rebels unleashed a coordinated assault on military bases and the governor's office in the southern city of Karbala on Saturday, killing six Iraqi police officers and four coalition soldiers.

Attacks kill 13

Rebels unleashed a coordinated assault on military bases and the governor's office in Karbala on Saturday, killing 13 people including six soldiers from the U.S.-led occupation force and six Iraqi police officers.



SOURCES: Associated Press; ESRI, AP

ior military officials in February. In the wake of the attacks, it was unclear whether the plan would go ahead.

President Bush called the prime ministers of Bulgaria and Thailand to express his condolences for the soldiers killed in Saturday's attacks. White House spokesman Jimmy Orr. He did not have further details of the calls.

Bush placed the calls from his ranch in Crawford, Texas.

Six Iraqi police officers and an Iraqi woman living next to one of the military bases were killed in Karbala, said Ali al-Azzawi, deputy director of the General Hospital. Some 135 Iraqi civilians and police officers also were wounded there, many of them slightly, he said.

In Baghdad, U.S. Army Brig. Gen. Mark Kimmitt said 37 coalition soldiers, including five Americans, were wounded.

"It was a coordinated, massive attack planned on a big scale and intended to do much harm," Polish Maj. Gen. Andrzej Tyszkiewicz said from his headquarters at Camp Babylon, east of Karbala.

Poland commands a multinational force of 9,500 soldiers, including 2,400 Poles.

After the attacks, U.S. troops sealed off the debris-strewn area around the governor's office. Three destroyed cars lay in the street. At the hospital, crying people crowded the corridors, searching for missing family members.

"I was in the front office when I heard a loud explosion," Wabab Abdel Hussain, a 45-year-old desk officer at the governor's office, said from his hospital bed, blood running down his face.

"Shattered glass hit me in the face and then I passed out. I woke up in the hospital."

Mohamed Jassim, 50, said he was about to enter the governor's office to try to settle a land dispute when a car bomb exploded, injuring his hand.

"I was knocked out on the floor by the explosion," he said.

He blamed supporters of Saddam, whose arrest was a major victory for U.S. troops, though American commanders believe the insurgency is a loose-knit organization without a rigid command and control structure.

Wolfowitz remains dedicated

By Thomas E. Ricks
The Washington Post

In September, Deputy Secretary of Defense Paul Wolfowitz appeared in Manhattan at an event sponsored by the New Yorker magazine. As he began to speak, he was interrupted by shouts of "War criminal!" and "Murderer!"

"I can't resist," he said evenly. "This is what is wonderful about this country. It is —"

Another shout: "Shame on you."

Wolfowitz drove on: "... and what is finally wonderful is 50 million, roughly 50 million Afghans and Iraqis, are finally able to speak this way without having their tongues cut out."

A few minutes later, a young man ran to the base of the stage, jabbed a finger at Wolfowitz and shouted, "You should be tried for treason, you Nazi!"

Wolfowitz looked a bit distant as he coolly responded, "Frankly, my own reading of history is that exactly this kind of tactic is what the Nazis did and what the totalitarians did in trying to stop people from listening and talking."

Saddam Hussein, he went on to say, was a malevolent dictator who clearly needed to be removed for the good of both the American and the Iraqi peoples. "I think anyone with the slightest bit of moral sense understood what an evil man Saddam was and how much better off the world would be with him gone."

No deputy secretary of defense has ever held the prominence that Wolfowitz has had over the last two years. He is widely seen inside the Pentagon as the most likely replacement if Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld steps down.

And no figure in the administration, except possibly Vice President Cheney, is as closely identified with the drive to invade Iraq and depose Saddam. "This is Wolfowitz's baby," said one person who has served as a senior official of the Coalition Provisional Authority, the U.S.-led occupation power in Iraq. "He feels responsible for it."

To understand Wolfowitz, notes a friend and former colleague, it's important to understand that Wolfowitz believes there is real evil in the world, and that he is confronting it.

The lesson that Wolfowitz took away from the Cold War, says Eliot Cohen, who knew him at Johns Hopkins University, where Wolfowitz was once a dean, is "that the world really is a dangerous place, and that you have

to do something about it."

Paired with that is his belief that the United States can best respond to totalitarianism by emphasizing freedom and democracy.



Paul Wolfowitz

Wolfowitz possesses "a basic optimism about the potential of human beings for moderation and self-governance, and a belief in the universal appeal of liberty," Cohen says.

That combination of a hard-headed view of some men with an idealistic faith in mankind, Cohen concludes, adds up to "a distinctively American take on the world."

So when Wolfowitz talks with great intensity about Iraq, it isn't just because his political future and his place in history are likely to be determined by the course of events there. He sees the U.S. invasion as part of a larger campaign against terrorism, and that post-Sept. 11, 2001, fight as the third great American struggle against totalitarianism.

And his place in history are likely to be determined by the course of events there. He sees the U.S. invasion as part of a larger campaign against terrorism, and that post-Sept. 11, 2001, fight as the third great American struggle against totalitarianism.

The similarity among all three struggles is that "we're dealing with a fundamental existential threat to our way of life, to our

values," he says. The main parallel is "not so much the nature of the enemy we're confronting as in the nature of the challenge it presents to us. That is, it really does require mobilization of a major effort on our part. It requires contemplating a long-term struggle."

This isn't just theorizing. Wolfowitz's own life runs through all three of those confrontations.

Though he didn't say so that day in New York when he was accused of being a Nazi, he lost most of his extended family in the Holocaust.

Wolfowitz, 60, shies away from discussing it.

Asked about it, his response is seemingly off point. "The event that happened in my college years that had the biggest single impression on me, even more than Kennedy's assassination, was the Cuban missile crisis" — that is, the prospect of nuclear holocaust.

Some observers speculate that one lesson Wolfowitz took from the Holocaust is that the American people need to be pushed to do the right thing, because by the time they entered World War II, it was too late for millions of victims of the Nazis.

Asked about this, Wolfowitz agrees but expands on the thought — and connects it to Iraq.

"I think the world in general has a tendency to say, if somebody evil, like Saddam is killing his own people, that's too bad, but that's really not my business." "That's dangerous," he continued, because "Saddam was 'in a class with very few others — Stalin, Hitler, Kim Jong Il. People of that order of evil — tend not to keep evil at home, they tend to export it in various ways and eventually it bites us."

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WORLD

Officials report quake toll in Iran could reach 40,000

BAM, Iran (AP) — Overwhelmed relief crews picked up the rubble searching for survivors or bodies Saturday, a day after an early morning earthquake killed perhaps tens of thousands of people and devastated much of this ancient city in southeast Iran.

One American was killed and another injured as they visited the city's 2,000-year-old citadel, a U.S. State Department official said in Washington. The injured American was hospitalized in Tehran, State Department spokesman Lou Fintor said. The victims' names were not released.

As help began arriving from around the world, the scope of the disaster was so vast that a precise death toll was not available. The Interior Ministry estimated 20,000 dead, but two leading rescue officials said the number could be twice as high.

More than 30,000 people were injured, the ministry said.

The earthquake, which struck at 5:28 a.m. Friday, was measured at magnitude 6.3 by Iranian authorities and 6.5 by the U.S. Geological Survey in Colorado. The city is about 630 miles from Tehran.

"As more bodies are pulled out, we fear that the death toll may reach as high as 40,000. An unbelievable human disaster has occurred," said Akbar Alavi, the mayor of Kerman, the provincial capital.

Bam, in southeast Iran, suffered such extreme damage because most of the buildings are made of unreinforced mud brick and the quake was centered only about 10 miles outside the city, said Harley Benz, a USGS seismologist.

"The communities in this part of Iran are really not resilient to earthquakes," said Benz, head of the National Earthquake Information Center in Golden, Colo. "It's very sad and unfortunate."

Aftershocks shook Bam on Saturday, including one that registered a magnitude of 5.3, sending panic through the city.

Rescue workers in Bam pulled 150 survivors from the rubble Saturday, said Masoud Amiri, an officer with the Revolutionary Guards. The survivors included a baby, who was listed in stable condition.

A provincial government official said Iranian officials told The Associated Press that 3,000 bodies have been recovered and buried in graves and more than 9,000 of the injured were sent to hospitals throughout the country. The leader of a relief team, Ahmad Najafi, endorsed the 40,000 estimated death toll, saying rescuers pulled 200 bodies from one street in an hour.

"My father is under the rubble," one man said to Interior



An Iranian woman weeps in front of a building which destroyed in a massive earthquake that hit the ancient city of Bam about 300 kilometers (630 miles) southeast of the capital Tehran, Iran, Saturday. The provisional death toll in Iran's earthquake is 20,000 with more than 30,000 people injured the Interior Ministry said in a statement Saturday.



Iran's Red Crescent members walk with their dogs through the rubble of the earthquake in Bam city about 1000 Kms (630 mile) southeast of Tehran on Saturday.

Minister Abdolvahed Mousavi Lari, interrupting a news conference. "I've been asking for help since yesterday, but nobody has come to help me. Please help me. I want my father alive."

Lari directed an aide to make sure the man got help. The minister also emphasized that the official projected death toll in the city of 80,000 was only an estimate.

"There is not a standing building in the city," he said. "Bam has turned into a wasteland. Even if a few buildings are standing, you cannot trust to live in them."

The quake largely destroyed the city's best-known structure, the Bam citadel. The tallest section of the ancient mud fortress

crumbled like a sand castle. Throughout the city, rescue workers and relatives of the missing dug with shovels and bare hands to extricate bodies or survivors from flattened buildings.

Nations dispatched search teams and offered assistance or promised to send help. Rescue teams from Switzerland, Britain, Germany, Russia and elsewhere arrived with equipment and dogs trained to search for survivors amid the rubble.

In Geneva, the international Red Cross issued a preliminary appeal for \$12.3 million to help bring relief assistance to the quake zone, reporting that an estimated 50,000 people were left homeless.



Iranians injured when a massive earthquake hit the ancient city of Bam, Iran, wait for assistance in Kerman airport, Iran, Saturday.

erected by relief workers.

In a cemetery, workers prepared a mass grave that already held 20 corpses. Nearby, a cleric and 10 relatives said prayers over another grave.

"This is the Apocalypse. There is nothing but devastation and debris," one man, Mohammed Karimi, said Friday as he brought the bodies of his wife and 4-year-old daughter to the cemetery.

"Before she went to sleep she made me a drawing and kissed me four times," a tearful Karimi said of his daughter. "When I asked, 'Why four kisses?' she said, 'Maybe I won't see you again, Papa.'"

With hospitals in the area destroyed, military transport planes had to evacuate many wounded to the provincial capital, Kerman, or Tehran.

The earthquake wrecked a prison outside Bam, allowing some 800 inmates to escape, said a guard, Valid Masoumpour.

Iran has a history of earthquakes that kill thousands of people, including one of magnitude 7.3 that killed about 50,000 people in northwest Iran in 1950.

China states first SARS case since July

BEIJING (AP) — China on Saturday announced its first suspected SARS case since July, saying the patient was hospitalized in the southern province where the virus is believed to have originated.

The one-sentence announcement by the official Xinhua News Agency didn't give any other details. It cited Guangdong health authorities.

The World Health Organization and health authorities in Hong Kong, which borders Guangdong, said earlier that China had informed them of the suspected case.

The pneumonia-like viral disease has sickened nearly 8,100 people worldwide, including 774 who died, according to the World Health Organization. Most of the cases happened late last winter and spring. SARS killed 349 people on China's mainland and sickened more than 5,000.

The government said in July that the mainland's last 12 patients had been declared free of the disease. WHO officials have recently been warning of a possible resurgence of the disease in flu season, and appealed for foreign aid to help China improve its disease warning and research.

Health officials in Guangdong, contacted by telephone, refused to comment. They referred questions to the information office of the provincial Communist Party branch, which didn't answer telephone calls.

But a WHO spokesman said China's Ministry of Health notified the agency on Friday that a journalist in the Guangdong provincial capital of Guangzhou might be suffering from the flu-like disease.

The man was admitted to a specialized SARS hospital in Guangzhou on Dec. 20 with a headache and high fever, WHO spokesman Peter Cordingley said, by phone from the agency's regional office in Manila.

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Scientists hope to contact Mars probe

LONDON (AP) — Europe's first Mars probe remained silent for a third day, but scientists cling to the hope Saturday that the Beagle 2 spacecraft had landed safely on the Red Planet and would respond to a call from its mother ship in about a week.

"We haven't yet played all our cards," said David Southwood, the European Space Agency's director of science. "The baby we believe is down on the surface and the mother is very anxious to get in touch."

The British-built Beagle was turned loose by the Mars Express more than a week ago and was scheduled to land on the surface of Mars on Christmas Day and begin searching for signs of life.

But repeated efforts that began Thursday to pick up a signal from the probe, using the powerful radio telescope at Jodrell Bank Observatory in England and NASA's orbiting Mars Odyssey, have failed.

Scientists now hope Mars Express will be able to contact Beagle once it enters its correct orbit Jan. 4.

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The Brother Bear (G) Today 12:30-2:45-5:00
The Cavin Hat (PG) Today 12:30-2:45-5:00
Cheaper by the Dozen (PG) Today 12:15-2:30-4:45-7:30-9:50
w/extra Elf (PG) Today 12:15-2:30-4:45-7:30-9:45
Cold Mountain (R) Today 1:30-3:45-6:15
Stuck on You (13) Today 1:00-4:00-7:00-9:30
Sometimes Gotta Give (PG) Today 1:30-3:45-6:15-9:30
Lord of Rings 3: Return of the King (PG) Cinema #6 - Dolby Digital 1:00-7:30
Cinema #8 - Dolby Digital EX 2:00-7:15
Cinema #9 - DTS Digital 12:00-6:15-9:30
Bad Santa (R) Today 7:40-9:50

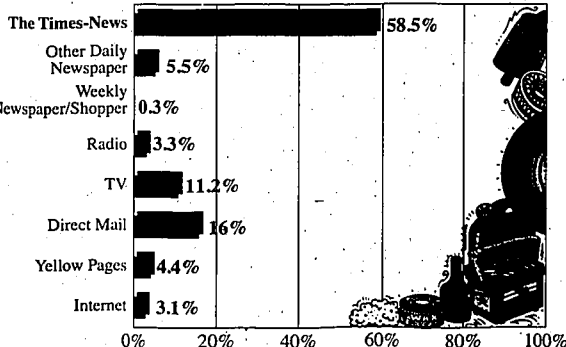
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The Last Samurai (R) Today 12:30-4:00-6:45-9:30-9:15
Gothika (R) Today 12:30-4:00-6:45-9:15
Extra Fan (PG) All New Action Today 1:00-4:00-7:00-9:30
Love Don't Cost a Thing (13) Today 2:40-7:00
Missing (R) Today 12:45-3:45-6:45-9:30
Looney Tunes (PG) Today 12:30-2:40
Paycheck (R) Today 1:15-4:15-7:15-9:45

Jerome Cinema 555 West Main Jerome 734-2400
Adults \$4.50 before 5:15 pm on Mondays
Mona Lisa Smile (13) Today 1:00-4:00-7:00-9:30
Lord of Rings 3: Return of the King (13) Today 2:00-7:30-DTS Digital
Cheaper by the Dozen (PG) Today 12:30-2:40-4:50-7:15-9:15
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WORLD

Villagers wait to return home after gas leak

DUNHAO, China (AP) — Sitting in their temporary shelter in a government office, Xiong Ching hugged her two sons and waited anxiously Saturday for word that they could return to their village after crews sealed a gas well in China's southwest that spewed toxic fumes and killed at least 198 people.

Xiong's family was among 4,000 people forced to flee their homes by the disaster that left villages strewn with the bodies of adults and children.

"I'm lucky I wasn't injured," said Xiong, 33, whose family shares a crowded family planning center with hundreds of evacuees. "But I miss my home. I feel like I've lost everything."

Hundreds of police and soldiers continued searching the area Saturday for survivors and more bodies, the government said.

Scientists, meanwhile, were measuring toxins in water and on

plants after crews plugged the well in a remote, mountainous area within 210 miles northeast of Chongqing, said. But it said people who lived within three miles of the gas field in the town of Gaoqiao, northeast of the major city of Chongqing, weren't allowed to return yet.

Emergency crews spent two hours pouring sealant down the well but didn't give any other details of the operation Saturday, the government said. Earlier reports said technicians were using earth-moving vehicles. Newspaper photos showed them wearing respirators and silvery, head-to-toe protective suits.

While officials have said that light rains forecast over the next three days should help clear away the poison, the official Xinhua News Agency, citing unidentified experts, warned it could also make ground pollution worse.



Workers cheer after successfully sealing a gas well that exploded earlier this week in Kaxian County, some 210 miles northeast of Chongqing, southwest China, on Saturday. Toxic fumes killed at least 198 people and forced 41,000 to flee a remote, mountainous area in China's worst recent industrial accident.

Voters may elect Milosevic to parliamentary seat

BELGRADE, Serbia-Montenegro (AP) — It looks like another rough day for Serbian politics Sunday — four indicted war criminals are running for parliament.

The elections could result in seats for at least two of them, Slobodan Milosevic and a former associate. They won't be taking those seats, since both are in jail in The Hague, awaiting trial. But their election will deal a prestige blow to U.S. and European hopes of fostering a pro-Western democratic leadership.

Three years after Milosevic was overthrown and a decade of Balkan wars neared their end, Serbians have become disillusioned with democracy. That's evident from their failure, three times in a row, to get a big enough turnout to elect a president.

Sunday's election is likely to be just as inconclusive. Polls are predicting the Radical Party will win the most seats in the 250-member parliament, but not enough to form a majority coalition.

The Radical Party's lead candidate is Vojislav Seselj, a former Milosevic associate. Before he was jailed pending trial for alleged war crimes during the Balkan wars, his claims to fame included spitting at the parliament speaker and brandishing a handgun in front of the parliament building. The Radicals are projected to win 24 percent of the vote, and the Socialists, who are running Milosevic, 8 percent. The closest

pro-democracy grouping is G-17 at 21 percent.

The poll published Monday of 1,500 people by the Strategic Marketing agency did not have a margin of error.

Serbian Prime Minister Zoran Djindjic of the pro-democracy bloc expects many will vote for the extremists to show their dissatisfaction with the West and three years of market reforms that have left them little better off than under Milosevic.

"Even Hitler came to power through democratic elections," Djindjic told The Associated Press, equating the wave of anti-Western feeling with Germany's sense of betrayal after World War I.

Although average monthly salaries have tripled to the equivalent of about \$300 since Milosevic fell, prices of some basics like household electricity have increased tenfold. Industrial production has dropped by 3 percent this year, and privatization of state-owned companies has helped to drive up unemployment to about 30 percent.

Fractures in the pro-democracy bloc that took over after Milosevic's fall and allegations of widespread corruption have left Serbs hugely disappointed.

The Radicals, meanwhile, have toned down their nationalist rhetoric and focused their election campaign on promising cheap bread, effective government and the revision of allegedly corrupt privatization deals.

This has spread their appeal beyond the nationalist fringe to ordinary folk like Dragan Pavlov, unemployed since the state-run bank where he worked went bankrupt amid government efforts to reform the economy.



Slobodan Milosevic

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OPINION

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

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Sunday, December 28, 2003

The Times-News

EDITORIAL

County should ask voters' permission to buy old store

The more we learn about Twin Falls County's latest real estate venture, the worse it sounds. The county is proposing a \$3.2 million lease-purchase of the old Anderson Lumber property on Eastland Drive. A decision is scheduled for Monday—just 10 days after the county divulged the idea.

Discounting two weekends and a holiday, this rapid timetable has given citizens only four business days to react. One of those four days was Christmas Eve, when the courthouse closed early.

The county's haste, which seemed imprudent at first, looks increasingly foolhardy as issues come to light.

Consider these points: **Financing**—The lease-purchase scheme is remarkably similar to the city of Boise's failed 2002 police building project. A Boise judge found that plan to be an illegal evasion of Idaho's rules for public agency borrowing.

As you may recall, Idaho's Constitution deliberately makes it hard for tax-supported agencies to borrow money. Generally, an agency has to ask voters to approve a bond issue, and voters have to give two-thirds approval.

That's to make sure elected officials don't plunge into expensive, tax-supported projects without broad community support. But there's a loophole for special cases. If a project is an "ordinary and necessary expense," a judge can OK it without a public vote.

In the Boise case, Judge Cheri Copsey rejected the "ordinary and necessary" ploy. She told the city to go ask voters' permission. We have a hunch a local judge would reach the same conclusion about the Anderson Lumber deal. After all, what's "ordinary and necessary" about a new office building?

Maybe Twin Falls County officials forgot about Copsey's ruling. Or maybe—and this is worse—they realized no judge would rubber-stamp new offices without a public vote. So they bypassed the judge and went ahead on their own. Either way, the plan does not appear to be legal.

Process—Commissioner Tom Mikesell made a remarkable confession last week. He said the three commissioners had considered going to a judge

but decided not to—in an unrecorded 2-1 "straw vote." He wouldn't say who voted on which side.

This informal, unrecorded, secret vote plainly violates Idaho's Open Meetings Law. The public's business is supposed to be done in public, not in back-room straw votes. To admit the vote occurred is, in effect, to admit the law was broken.

Our view: Twin Falls

County's hasty purchase looks increasingly foolhardy as issues come to light.

What do you think?

We welcome viewpoints from our readers on this and other issues.

appropriating money for payments.

Two problems thwart that reasoning. First, Judge Copsey considered a similar plan in Boise—and rejected it as a thinly veiled bank loan.

Second, suppose the county wants out of the deal a few years from now. Suppose the commissioners stop making payments.

Then what? They pack up and move—where?

By then, the county may have sold its old office buildings, though that's no sure thing. Officials would have to buy or rent new space, after sinking millions in a lumberyard they'd never own.

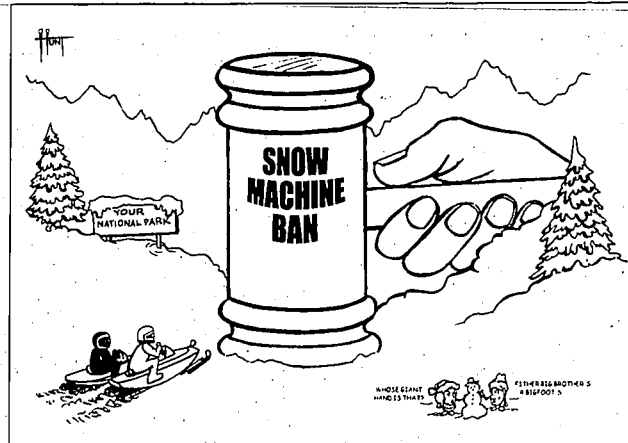
The county's escape hatch is effectively welded shut. **Priorities**—Before Dec. 19, did anyone hear county officials talk publicly about their urgent need for new offices? Last we heard, the county urgently wanted a new jail.

When did the urgency shift to office space? Can the county afford both?

If this project goes forward at all, it certainly shouldn't go forward on Monday. At a minimum, the commissioners need to take this proposal to a judge—who then should defer to voters.

Unfortunately, there's little to stop the commissioners if they choose to ignore the law. Unless indignant taxpayers challenge the county in court, the commissioners will get away with it. Idaho's Constitution will be circumvented, your taxes will pour into a hastily considered purchase, and your rights will be eroded.

This community desperately needs a few courageous citizens who will challenge overreaching public officials. The question is, does it have any?



Activists endanger farmers' livelihoods by targeting water

I have read with interest the various recent editorials, guest viewpoints and news coverage *The Times-News* has provided relative to the challenges your area faces along the Snake River. My organization, the Klamath Water Users Association, represents those irrigators who were denied Klamath Project water in 2001 by regulatory agencies in the name of protecting sucker and salmon populations via the federal Endangered Species Act. The Klamath project is a 200,000-acre area of small family farms and ranches that straddles the Oregon-California border.

The 2001 water cutoff had immediate and far-reaching impact on the local community. Loss of irrigation supplies devastated farmers and imparted an estimated \$200 million economic "ripple" effect through the broader community. Impacts continue as farm tenders now question the endless curfew of growers whose century-old water supply has been put at risk. The 2001 cutoff also tragically underscored the vital linkage that exists between irrigated farmland and wildlife.

Water that would normally flow through farmland habitat was directed instead toward species protected under the federal act. The vitality of more than 430 other wildlife species was threatened when subjected to the same fate as farmers.

This tragic decision has been called into question by two studies developed in the past year by the National Academy of Sciences. An academy committee concluded that there is "no substantial scientific foundation" for the 2001 decision to maintain higher lake levels for the endangered suckers or higher minimum Klamath River flows for threatened coho salmon.

Despite the infusion of improved science like the NAS report into Klamath management issues, a coalition of environmental activists, many of the same groups that have now set their sights on the Upper Snake River

READER COMMENT

Dan Keppen

Basin in Idaho, has flooded the Klamath Basin with legislation, litigation and press attacks aimed at removing Klamath Project farmers and ranchers from their land.

The hard-working landowners I represent have been on the receiving end of a cruel and long-distance war being waged by environmental activists who zealously assert that our water project—representing only 2 percent of the total land base of the Klamath River watershed—is somehow responsible for all of the environmental woes of the river system. These advocates are intent on portraying the Klamath Basin as a poster child to help fuel outside efforts that are focused on litigating, legislating and publicly condemning our community for doing what it has done for 96 of the last 97 years—irrigating farm and ranch land.

These interests know that federal water projects are an easy target of litigation, since federal environmental and clean water laws govern project operations. The lawsuits are often aimed at federal agencies—such as the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation and fishery agencies—which, on the surface, give the appearance that the environmental plaintiffs are simply interested in correcting errors made by some non-descript governmental agency. The true intent targeted of these actions, however, ultimately becomes the landowners and water users who fall under the management jurisdiction of the federal agencies. It is the farmers and ranchers that pay the price of litigation through increased management practices, altered uncertainty and escalating legal expenses to defend their interests.

Some environmental activists take umbrage when besieged landowners tag these litigious actions as "anti-farming." I have

yet to receive a satisfactory response from activists when I ask how these actions could possibly be perceived as being "pro-farming." In our basin, things have gone this far: Activists earlier this year sent landowners a cruel, threatening letter telling them to sell out.

Without a doubt, constructive environmental organizations exist. But they do not, by any means, control the dialogue in the Klamath Basin.

Heads up, Idaho. Take a look at the coalition that has been developed to attack our rural community on www.klamathbasin.info. A broader, West-wide environmental coalition that is likely very interested in the Snake River can be studied on the Web site belonging to the Western Water Alliance.

Some of the organizations that form these alliances will no doubt be familiar to you. One vocal organization that has lined up against Idaho water users—Earth Justice—has been a primary mover of litigation intended to take water away from Klamath Basin irrigators. Many of our irrigators are descendants of world war veteran homesteaders that were promised reliable water supplies in the early half of the 20th century.

Idaho agricultural water users must ask the so-called "conservationists" a simple question: are you for us or against us?

If they are for you, and if they want to fix the perceived problem, they will embrace a watershed-wide approach to solving your area's problems. Such a solution would look at all of the stressors to fish and would avoid placing a disproportionate burden of "fixing" the perceived problem on any one sector of the community.

I wish you luck in your challenging endeavors.

Dan Keppen is executive director of the Klamath Water Users Association, a nonprofit corporation that has represented Klamath Irrigation Project farmers and ranchers since 1953.

Can cheating on diets cause medical emergencies?

What's the one thing easier than making New Year's resolutions? Breaking it the following week, of course.

Most of the time, that's no big deal. Maybe you resolve to be nicer to other people, but you end up snapping at a co-worker. The result: You feel guilty, apologize, and move on.

But as 2004 dawns, thousands of people are considering a resolution that can have profound personal consequences—whether it's kept or broken. The vow in question? Committing to a low-carbohydrate, high-fat diet.

Many people swear by these popular weight-loss plans. And research studies do indicate they can help people shed unwanted pounds—though the weight loss seems to be about the same (or even slightly less) that what is experienced on other popular diets.

But do low-carb diets have a darker side? A growing number of people are reporting serious medical problems that may be associated with these eating plans.

AMY JOY LANOU AND PATRICK SULLIVAN

Take Maurice Gleeson, a 42-year-old London man who went on a low-carb diet as an experiment for "Real Story," a reality television show on the BBC. Gleeson's low-carb adventure ended when he was rushed to the hospital with acute constipation and a suspected bowel blockage. He was given morphine to control agonizing stomach pains.

According to one low-carb proponent, Gleeson made doctors a little nervous. "He was a little bit 'cheated,'" as Gleeson freely admitted in the video diary he kept for the show, he deviated from the low-carb diet on several occasions by drinking alcohol and eating chocolate cookies.

Mixing high fat and high carb can be deadly, claimed Collette Heimowitz, vice president of Atkins Health and Medical Information Services, in a BBC interview.

That could make doctors a little nervous. On most diets, you suffer a predictable consequence from eating forbidden foods you don't lose weight. But on a low-carb plan, cheating can apparently result in hospitalization.

Gleeson is far from the only person to experience serious health problems while on a low-carb diet. Perhaps the most tragic example is Rachel Huskey, a 16-year-old Missouri girl on a low-carb diet who collapsed at school and died of sudden heart failure. A post-mortem examination of Huskey revealed low calcium and potassium levels in her blood.

Those depletions disrupted Huskey's normal cardiac functions and caused her heart to stop, according to a Southern Medical Journal article co-authored by Paul Robinson, M.D., an assistant professor of child health at the University of Missouri. The depletions were most likely caused by Huskey's adherence to a low-carbohydrate diet, Dr. Robinson says.

How strong are the links between such serious conditions and low-carb diets? The truth is, the medical community doesn't yet know. For years, the American Heart Association has warned that low-carb, high-fat diets could be dangerous over the long term, in part because regular consumption of high-fat foods has been linked to heart disease and some types of cancer. But much less attention has been paid to short-term risks.

As public health authorities and the medical community begin to examine the Huskey case and others like it, we may get definitive answers.

Meanwhile, one thing is clear: low-carb diets are not the only way to lose weight. Dean Ornish, M.D., has demonstrated convincingly that a low-fat vegetarian diet helps people shed excess pounds in a healthful way. Indeed, in a recent study at Tufts University, the Ornish plan took more weight off participants than did a low-carb plan.

And if you cheat on a low-fat vegetarian diet, you know what happens? You don't lose weight. Now that's a New Year's resolution we can live with.

Amy Joy Lanou is nutrition director of the Physicians Committee for Responsible Medicine. Patrick Sullivan is a PCRM staff writer. Readers may write to them at PCRM, 5100 Wisconsin Avenue NW, Suite 200, Washington, D.C. 20016. Web site: www.pcrm.org.

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

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734-2515; Fax 733-0414
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Washington, D.C. 20510
(202) 224-6142
E-mail messages can be sent via Sen. Crapo's home page at www.senate.gov/crapo

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Access Simpson's e-mail through his Webpage:
<http://www.house.gov/simpson>

County purchase should go to voters or a judge

The county commissioners first give you, the taxpayers, an ambulance district without going to the voters for approval. Their statements that voters approved the district 10 to 1 at meetings is erroneous, as the meeting I attended had almost 75 percent input by Magic Valley Regional Medical Center employees and very little input from county taxpayers.

Then we have Tom Mikesell saying, "I could not approve any new taxes without voter approval." Remember, Mr. Mikesell made this a campaign promise during the last election. All large expenditures not planned and approved in the county budget should go to the voters or judicial authorization. While an ambulance district can be created by the commissioners, it is not always wise to leave voters out of the decision.

Now we have a building purchase with 18 payments of \$1 million; this is a total cost to the county of \$4.16 million, plus

\$700,000 for renovation. Let us first be accurate on what the county will pay. I would say to Mr. Mikesell, regardless of the total, if it is not in the budget planning process, then it must have judicial confirmation or a bond issue put before the voters.

I think we all remember the jail issue, although \$30 million is no different than \$57 million when it comes to approval. I believe this is an illegal purchase and commissioners should be held liable to the county if this purchase goes through.

I campaigned in 2002 on a plan that included a three-year budget planning process and a five-year planning process; the county needs to set priorities. Ask these questions: Are we out of space? Are we in emergency need of additional space? Can we continue as we are for three or more years? Remember, we just purchased a building last year.

While consolidating our offices in the county is needed, it should be planned for and not a "great money-saving effort." There are many other priority needs in the county. Committing to a yearly cost of more than \$300,000 will

reduce the ability to improve employee benefits or pay the lack of deputies and jail overcrowding. I could go on but will simply state if I am elected as county commissioner in 2004, the voters will have the final say, and I will keep my promises.

BOB POWERS
Twin Falls

Likening Sen. Clinton to Saddam was wrong

The Christmas Day libel of New York's Sen. Hillary Rodham Clinton by Mike Simmons of Buhl is sick, sick, sick! To say that the front-page picture of Saddam Hussein was likely New York Sen. Hillary Rodham Clinton is simply a case of scorpions of the mind crawling out to sting away at decency of the season. That *The Times-News* printed such a series of non-sequiturs of such poor taste makes me hope your editorial staff will review its principles of publication.

Let us try to keep politics on the issues, not on any filth in our minds.
GRANT UPTAIN
Hagerman

WASHINGTON'S SPECIAL INTEREST CHRISTMAS PARTY



Intelligence, personality perish at dinner parties

STEPHEN BAYLEY

Rare is the occasion when wit flourishes or booming ideas resonate around the table. Locked in a delicate and passionless quadrille of misguided politesse, guests trace a blameless path of non-confrontation while the angel of silence hovers above.

them. The dictionary defines an opinion as a "judgment resting on grounds insufficient for complete demonstration." If we are honest, that means an exciting and interesting idea, because there can be few things more satisfying than "complete demonstration." As the French know, "le secret d'un grand est de dire tout" ("the knack of being boring is to say everything").

Much better to take a conceptual risk and struggle to give birth to an idea. What we need are more daring demonstrations; ideas need to be launched long before their design has been finalized or their journey fully mapped. But the suggestion is always that to be "opinionated" is an unattractive quality. What a condemnation of our slack ways! Surely, to be opinionated is to be in possession of the juice that lubricates the moves of civilization.

Not everyone agrees. Discussing the value of opinion on the BBC, I discovered the density of the opposition. The philosopher believed that sensory data alone were adequate for the formation of ideas. I argued that something else was required to make the world interesting and gave the following example: My sensory data tell me, I said on air, that you are sitting there in a beige sweater. My opinion, however, is that I wish you were not. And that you have terrible taste.

And I think I won the argument.

It is exactly the same distinction that binary pioneer Claude Shannon made between data and information. Data are measurement, or what Donald Rumsfeld would call "known knowns." But information is also greater superior because it is data with the added value of meaning and direction. Data record facts, information changes ideas.

The Greeks, of course, had a word for it. That word was "idiot." Only lately has it come to suggest intellectual impairment; originally an idiot was a person of strong and independent views who was unafraid to air them.

In this sense, idiocy is immensely important. "Let's invite a lot of idiots to dinner," far from being a recipe for disaster, is the specification of an entertaining evening.

The risk is surely worthwhile. Risk and error are handmaidens of authentic idiocy. As Henry Ford knew, making a mistake is just an opportunity to start again more intelligently.

Ludwig Wittgenstein said if people never did silly things, nothing worthwhile would ever happen.

The consequence of discouraging well-meaning idiocy was perfectly understood by humorist O. Henry, who once said, thinking of the dinner from hell, "I drink to make other people amusing."

As-in-desperate-search-of-entertainment, you raise yet another glass, just meditate whether you might not be (even) better off with some cheery opinions than another large glass of spicy Napa Pinot Noir.

Stephen Bayley is author of "A Dictionary of Idiocy" (Gibson Square Books, London, 2003).

Classifieds
733-0931

'Napalmed Girl' promotes aid mission

KIM PHUC

As Congress and the White House begin to set priorities for next year's budget, I ask policy-makers in Washington not to forget the little girl in the famous photograph running down a road to escape napalm fire in Vietnam.

I am that girl, and my life changed forever that day.

I lost two cousins and many friends in that bombing 31 years ago during the Vietnam War. Sixty-five percent of my body was burned, and I had to endure many surgeries. For many years I also lost my ability to fly. I was filled with anger and bitterness toward my government, toward Americans, toward anyone who was "normal."

My mother was caring through-out this ordeal, but she was also tough, telling me: "You have to realize the whole world is not going to pity you. You must make a change and get through this."

My journey into adulthood took me from Vietnam to Cuba and finally to Canada, where in 1992 I began to confront my past and make a new home and a new life for myself. Along the way, many doctors and caring individuals helped me, the first being Nick Ut, the Associated Press photographer who took the picture and rushed me to a hospital, saving my life.

I am happy now because I can experience love, peace and forgiveness. As a teenager, I thought I would never have children. I

thought no one would ever love me or want to touch me. But now I am married and have two beautiful sons.

I was fortunate to have had so many help me, and I always wanted to use my experience to help others. That is why I started my foundation for children caught in war's cross-fire.

There are millions of children who have been traumatized by war. In some countries it is rare to find a child not hurt by war. Many children, hurt physically and psychologically, may never recover without extensive help.

Over the last century, the nature of war has changed dramatically. Today, 90 percent of war's casualties are civilians, most of them women and children, according to the United Nations. Humanitarian assistance to women and children caught in armed conflicts should be a top priority. But, unfortunately, this is not the case.

Though the United States for years has provided food, medical care and shelter to civilians affected by war, it has not done nearly enough to help protect women and children from the attendant horrors of war, such as rape and mutilation, prostitution, forced recruitment of children into the military, psychological trauma, family separation and physical

abuse in refugee camps.

To help change this, I am working with Save the Children and dozens of other humanitarian organizations to persuade Congress to provide greater protection for women and children in war and conflict zones.

Last October, the Senate approved an amendment to the foreign operations spending bill that would require the U.S. government to develop an integrated strategy for addressing these issues. It also would prohibit federal aid to the administration agency that had not adopted a code of conduct to protect beneficiaries from sexual exploitation and abuse.

The amendment is a first step toward enacting the broader protections included in the Women and Children in Conflict Protection Act—a bill that would provide \$45 million in new funding to help women and children suffering from the ravages of war and conflict. On behalf of millions of war victims like myself worldwide, I urge the administration and Congress to support the act.

The legislation would not end wars or the terrible suffering of so many women and children, but at least it would recognize that they should come first, not last, when the United States responds to war and its terrible aftermath.

Kim Phuc is founder of the Kim Phuc Foundation.

LETTER

Publicity campaign hides beef's hazards to health

The response of government officials and the beef industry to the first suspected case of BSE (mad-cow disease) in this country is disingenuous, misleading and inadequate. While they seek to reassure the public that the beef supply is quite safe and that there is no need for us to change our eating habits, they fail to admit that industry practices have left us vulnerable to disease outbreaks.

The fact that calves are weaned on feed supplements containing bovine blood plasma and the fact that only one in 5,000 cattle are tested for disease create a dangerous situation for the consuming public. To downplay the significance of the outbreak of BSE by saying it was "only one cow" neglects the probability that many more cattle are infected. The one so far discovered is almost certainly only the tip of the iceberg. This is why we believe in the free market, let us trust the market forces will work out. After all, if people cut back on beef consumption, other protein food sources will benefit as they take up slack. In the meantime, the prudent course for the consumer would seem to be to avoid beef.

BILL FLANERY
Twin Falls

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2003 "Lifetime Achievement Award" and 2003 "Person of the Year Award"

The Chamber's 2003 *Lifetime Achievement Award* is given to an exceptional member of our community. This person has been a resident of our community for at least ten years and has done an outstanding job of serving our Magic Valley Community. This individual should have shown the volunteerism, service and dedication that have significantly added to our area's quality of life in his or her business and personal life.

2003 Person of the Year. Each year the Twin Falls Area Chamber of Commerce recognizes community residents who have made significant contributions to our quality of life in the Magic Valley.

Please include the information listed below (that applies to the nominee), to help the Ambassadors make their decision.

- What major contribution(s) has this individual made to improve the business climate and/or the overall community spirit of Twin Falls during the past 10 years/12 months?
- Biographical information
- Club or service work
- Volunteer work
- Chamber of Commerce volunteer work
- Church activities

Register Your Nominations at Our Website Today!!!
www.twinfallschamber.com

Nominations for both awards must be received at the Chamber office by December 31, 2003.

TWIN FALLS AREA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
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Celebrate 2004 by Celebrating 1904



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Wednesday, December 31

7pm until Midnight

Magic Valley Mall

The fun kicks off at 7 p.m. with family activities including carnival games, sumo wrestling, mazes, face painting, music by Octane, a rock band from Mountain Home, and storytelling by Mary Inman. At 9:00 p.m. the Twin Falls Centennial Orchestra and Luis Vargas spinning the hits, keep the party going. Food provided by Soran Catering with a no-host bar.

Don't miss the kickoff event to the celebration of the century. Between dances, view the historic gallery filled with Bisbee photos, the Perrine stagecoach and other memorabilia, or get your old-time style photo taken for \$10. During the celebration that night, Ralph Lehrman's sculpture of I.B. Perrine will be presented to the public for the first time.

Advance Ticket Prices

Adults \$12

Students/Seniors \$10

Family (5) \$35

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At door admission \$15 per person

(Admission cost includes everything except alcoholic beverages)

For more information, contact
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I want a case-sensitive word with you

You can't draw breath anymore unless you know The Password.

And not just one Password: Order something online, log on to your bank account, send a package via United Parcel Service, use an ATM, sign up for an Internet dating service, pull out your debit card - any of these activities demand eight to 12 characters with at least one letter or number, all of which must be case-sensitive.

What's more, just a Password won't do: You also have to have a User Name.

And as your bank or your department store or Amazon.com will be happy to tell you, it should be something that you'll easily remember.

In my case, that would be my Lhasa apso's name, Petunia. But "Petunia" has long since been used by others, so I have to embellish. I've tried "Petuniadog," "Petuniamutt," "Pestilentbeast" - anything that 3,000 other people haven't thought of.

Of course, no such Password exists, so mine are starting to look like personalized license plates: "TUNANI," "LHASAH," "ND," "AFSOFPSO," "PETULNT" - you get the idea.

It's exhilarating when you finally find a User Name and a Password that actually works, but you know they won't work for long.

That's because they're all different. I shipped my son's birthday present to him by UPS in June, and since all

of the company's front-end transactions nowadays are done on a computer terminal, at the time I created a User Name and Password that I had completely forgotten by the time I sent Eric his Christmas gift earlier this month.

So I cooked up yet another User Name and Password, which had escaped me when, three days later, I shipped my 4-year-old cousin's birthday present.

Tell me, what do you think the chances are that I remembered that new User Name and Password when I sent his Christmas gift a week later?

At some point in the not very distant future, UPS's computer database will seize up and crash, choked with Steve Crump User Names.

All of this is puzzling since the Internet excels at interactive transactions - and everybody you deal with online already knows everything about you anyway.

Why can't I just log on with my mother's maiden name? Or where I was born? Or Bill Gates' phone number?

Because, silly, that would be insecure - and cyberspace these days is all about security.

Justifiably so, up to a point: You certainly don't want Martha Stewart to know your credit card numbers and to share them with her cellmates.

But what happens when security begins to protect you from yourself? I don't know this Crump guy, do I?

Why does he want to know how much I have in my Christmas Club account?

Eventually, of course, all this forgotten information overload is going to create a feedback loop so severe that whenever you log on as yourself, your bank will inform you that you're not who you think you are, so they're calling the Department of Homeland Security.

Please see **PASSWORD**, Page B7

Snowpack levels

Watershed	% of Avg.	% section pack **
Upper Snake Basin	100%	35%
Balmain Falls	115%	34%
Balmain	97%	32%
Oakley	111%	31%
Big Wood	62%	30%
Little Wood	104%	32%
Henry Fork/Teton	116%	35%
Big Lost	103%	35%
Little Lost	81%	29%
As of Dec. 27		

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

Counties seek real estate data

The Associated Press

BOISE - County governments intend to propose legislation in the next few months that would require the sales price of real estate transactions to be disclosed to counties.

The measure would be partially in response to a new law that has taken the burden of proof off of property owners in property valuation disputes and put it on county assessors.

Idaho residents have never been required to report the actual sales price of real estate transactions.

But county assessors are required by law to set property tax values at fair-market value, resulting in a kind of guessing game.

Under current law, most real property is assessed at market value each year. By comparing current sales of similar properties, the assessor estimates how much a buyer might reasonably pay for a home if it was for sale.

Maggie Mahoney, a policy analyst for the Idaho Association of Counties, said, giving assessors access to price information would lead to more accurate assessments. "And what better determines

fair-market value than the actual sales price?" she said.

Counties were able to make the system work until last year, when the Legislature changed the burden of proof in property tax appeals. Now, it's much easier for a business or homeowner to get tax values reduced.

The legislation, HB 302, was sponsored by six Republican representatives, including House Tax Chairwoman Dolores Crow and Dover Rep. George Eskridge. It included an emergency clause to make it applicable even to pending appeals, boosting the odds for

businesses involved in high-stakes tax appeals.

The bill was endorsed by the Idaho Association of Commerce and Industry, the state's most influential business lobby; the Idaho Farm Bureau; and the Idaho Board of Realtors.

Although aimed at helping the individual homeowner, it has also given huge price breaks to big business and commercial property holders.

Shortly after it passed, Amalgamated Sugar Co. won an appeal cutting its taxable valuation by as much as two-thirds in

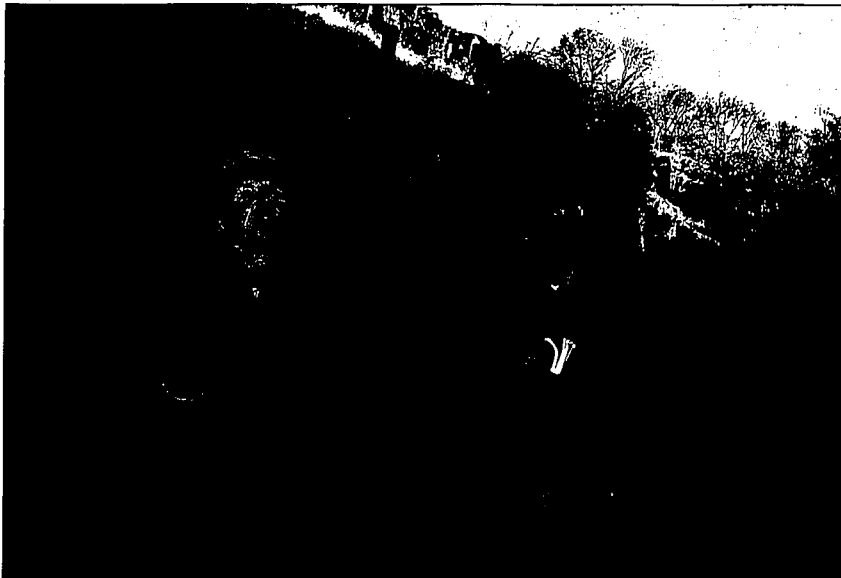
Twin Falls, Minidoka and Canyon counties. The state Board of Tax Appeals ruling, which is being appealed in court by the counties, saves the company hundreds of thousands of dollars a year, which have to be made up by other taxpayers.

Eskridge said last spring that he co-sponsored HB 302 more out of concern for individual homeowners than large businesses.

"I'm not worried about the big corporate guys," he said. "I'm worried about the individual landowner."

The Legislature begins Jan. 12.

FOR THE BIRDS



David Mead, left, and Jeff Ruprecht, both volunteers for the Audubon Society bird count, search for birds in Rock Creek Park, Twin Falls Saturday morning. Some 15 Audubon Society members counted birds in the Twin Falls area as part of a national program to track bird populations.

Annual bird count draws people from their slumber

By Rebecca Moery
Times-News writer

TWIN FALLS - Yellow, pink, purple and blue smeared the morning sky as the sun inched over the scraggly branches of poplar trees.

But for some early risers Saturday morning, the sunrise was not the main attraction.

Almost 1,500 Red-winged Blackbirds were believed to be hiding near the water quality ponds north of North College Road, and bird counters were hoping to see them take flight.

"Birds don't like the wind," sighed David Mead, a retired banker.

A trio of amateur ornithologists embarked on the Prairie Falcon Audubon Society's annual Christmas bird count, conducted locally for the past 28 years. Nationally, the Audubon Society has conducted the counts for 104 years.

At daybreak, temperatures struggled to reach 20 degrees. Wind lashed mist off the pond and froze it to brittle grass that hung listlessly over the water's edge.

A flock of American Crows was unconcerned about the weather

and the human interlopers and pecked at sweet corn leftovers in a field.

Five groups participated in the Twin Falls count, a total of 15 people, canvassing a 7 1/2 mile area.

The world's largest biological research project, said Jeff Ruprecht, is used to assemble data that is compiled, analyzed and published.

"It's valuable for determining trends in population," said Ruprecht, a public health nurse who established the local bird count. "We can see what happens in the Twin Falls area from year to year."

He cautioned that the number can vary depending on the weather and other factors.

But Saturday's bright sky was an aid to identification, he said, because birds' colors and markings could be seen more easily than if it were cloudy.

This year there were three area counts: Twin Falls, Hagerman and Murphys Hot Springs/Jarbridge.

Ruprecht and his fellow birders, including his son Peter, continued on to Rock Creek, where they added a new bird to their list.

"See it there, in the sunlight?" Ruprecht said. "I was thinking it



American Crows take flight as the sun rises over a field north of North College Road Saturday morning.

might be a Mountain Bluebird, but they wouldn't still be blue this time of year."

A Scrub-Jay showed its feathery head to bird counters for the first time within the city.

"Pretty tame, isn't it?" Mead said. "Thank you for being a show-off!"

A Red-tailed hawk, Mallards, Belted Kingfishers, and Cedar Waxwings perched among and flew above the Russian Olive trees.

"This is a good area year-round

for bird watching," Ruprecht said. "There are a variety of habitats: agricultural lands, marsh land, wetlands, sagebrush steppe."

By day's end, four new birds were accounted for: Scrub-Jay, Chukar, Peregrine Falcon and White-breasted Nuthatch.

Counting birds with the naked eye, sometimes while a flock is flying, is difficult.

And the huge volunteer effort,

Please see **BIRDS**, Page B7

Heyburn man wants to secure 43 acres of Simplot land

By Shelley Ridenour
Times-News writer

HEYBURN - A Heyburn man who ran for the mayor's post in November wants to see if there's a way the city could secure 43 acres of undeveloped land now owned by the J.R. Simplot Co.

Mitch Johnson last week noticed "for sale" signs posted on two parcels of land east of the

Heyburn RV Park. The land is about evenly split, one parcel containing 22 acres and the other 21 acres. The property is zoned light industrial but has no services in place. The larger piece is listed for sale at \$184,000 and the 21 acres are listed at \$200,000, Johnson said.

Johnson wants the city to acquire the land and develop it now in a fashion to complement

the nearby parks and walking trail which Heyburn city officials have developed along the Snake River. If the development can't occur soon, he advocates the city holding on to it "for some future use when the economy is better."

"The city has worked hard to develop that area," Johnson said. "I'm concerned it could be developed in a manner that's not best for the area. The wrong develop-

ment could detract from the city's work out there."

Johnson is going around the community to see if others share his view. If so, he wants to form a group that would work to obtain the land. Johnson started some door-to-door visits last week but found few people home because of the holidays. He plans to keep at that effort for the next couple of weeks.

He thinks the work should be done by volunteers, rather than by city officials. He asks that anyone who wants to help with the project call him at 677-9933.

Johnson wonders why Simplot doesn't just give the land to the city.

Simplot spokesman Fred Zerna said no such request has been made out to the company.

Please see **LAND**, Page B7

MAGIC VALLEY/WEST

TWIN FALLS ARRAIGNMENTS

The Times News

TWIN FALLS - Recent activity in 5th District Court in Twin Falls included the following:

Anthony Dean Wibel, 41, 761 Main Ave. W., No. 3, Twin Falls, driving under the influence; public defender appointed; pleaded innocent; evidentiary hearing set for Jan. 15, \$5,000 bond. Scott Lee Mathers, 43, 3019 N. 320 E., Kimberly; battery/traumatic injury, intimidating a witness; private counsel; no plea entered; preliminary hearing set for Jan. 2, \$2,500 bond; injury to a child; private counsel; pleaded innocent; pretrial conference set for Feb. 24, released under own recognizance (this case only).

Terry D. Fletcher, 37, 206 S. Locust, Twin Falls; failure to purchase, contempt; public defender appointed; pleaded innocent; pretrial conference set for Jan. 6, \$500 bond; driving without privileges; public defender appointed; pleaded innocent; pretrial conference set for Feb. 24, \$500 bond. Ryan Michael Serpico, 19, 1561 N. 3500 E., Kimberly; possession of paraphernalia; public defender appointed; pleaded guilty; sentencing set for Jan. 27, \$2,000 bond.

Patrick E. Gullina, 42, 248 Second Ave. W., No. 203, Twin Falls; domestic battery; public defender appointed; pleaded innocent; pretrial conference set for March 16, released under own recognizance.

Brian Schneider, 45, 3225 Dunford Drive, Salt Lake City; drug trafficking in methamphetamine; public defender appointed; no plea entered; preliminary hearing set for Jan. 2, \$100,000 bond.

David A. Peterson, 21, 345 122 Fourth Ave. N., Twin Falls; theft of a vehicle; public defender appointed; pleaded innocent; pretrial conference set for March 16, released under own recognizance (this case only).

Chad Wahl, 36, 3600 N. 3650 E., Kimberly; probation violation/revoking arrest, theft by receiving/stealing stolen property; public defender appointed; pleaded innocent; evidentiary hearing set for Jan. 22, \$25,000 bond; pro-



apportioned; no plea entered; preliminary hearing set for Jan. 2, released under own recognizance.

Dustin Mark Johnson, 15, 1430 Eighth Ave. E., Twin Falls; driving under the influence (under 21), failure to purchase, leaving the scene of an accident; public defender appointed; pleaded innocent; pretrial conference set for March 16, released under own recognizance.

Denise Dawn Curney, Jr., 36, 122 Elm Street, Twin Falls; malicious injury to property; public defender appointed; pleaded innocent; pretrial conference set for March 16, released under own recognizance.

Christopher James Roland, 31, 252 Western, Twin Falls; possession of paraphernalia; public defender appointed; pleaded innocent; pretrial conference set for March 16, released under own recognizance.

Shawn Levi Howard, 27, 1770 Heyburn Ave. E., Twin Falls; theft by receiving/stealing stolen property; public defender appointed; no plea entered; preliminary hearing set for Jan. 2, \$500 bond.

Nicky A. Lewis, 39, 554 Lynwood Blvd., Twin Falls; possession of paraphernalia; public defender appointed; pleaded innocent; pretrial conference set for Feb. 24, \$500 bond; unlawful possession of a firearm; private counsel; no plea entered; preliminary hearing set for Jan. 2, \$100,000 bond.

Jeremy T. Larson, 23, 1957 E. 1530 S., Gooding; possession of a controlled substance; public defender appointed; no plea entered; preliminary hearing set for Jan. 2, \$1,500 bond.

Levi M. Nipper, 19, 711 12th Ave. N., Burley; driving under the influence, theft by receiving/stealing stolen property; public defender

appointed; pleaded innocent; pretrial conference set for March 16, released under own recognizance.

Rebecca J. Fulman, 29, 1239 Kimberly Road, No. 5, Twin Falls; battery; public defender appointed; pretrial conference set for March 16, released under own recognizance.

Nike Shane Aweel, 31, 409 Highway 30, No. 14, Filer; driving without privileges, possession of marijuana; public defender appointed; pleaded innocent; pretrial conference set for March 16, \$500 bond; possession of a controlled substance; public defender appointed; no plea entered; preliminary hearing set for Jan. 2, \$1,500 bond.

Andriel Eric Nutter, 34, 881 Lawrence St., Twin Falls; forgery; public defender appointed; no plea entered; preliminary hearing set for Jan. 2, released under own recognizance.

Walter Lee Tews, 31, 1302 Eighth Ave. E., Twin Falls; probation violation - assault; public defender appointed; pleaded innocent; evidentiary hearing set for Jan. 22, \$250 bond.

Tyrene Nathaniel Arthur, 26, 615 Midway Dr., Box 115, Filer; domestic battery; public defender appointed; pleaded innocent; pretrial conference set for March 16, \$500 bond.

Brian R. Lee, 29, 141 Warm Springs Ave., Boise; battery; interfering with a 911 call; private counsel; pleaded innocent; pretrial conference set for March 16, released under own recognizance.

Melanie F. States, 32, 433 Addition Ave. W., No. 15, Twin Falls; domestic battery; public defender appointed; pleaded innocent; pretrial conference set for March 16, released under own recognizance.

Adam A. Gomez, 16, 1723 Second Ave. E., Twin Falls; grand theft; public defender appointed; no plea entered; preliminary hearing set for Jan. 9, released under own recognizance.

Expansion could cause air problems

DURANGO, Colo. (AP) - Plans to add thousands of natural gas wells in the Four Corners region has prompted concern among state and federal agencies about skyrocketing air pollution.

The gas industry plans to drill more than 10,000 wells over the next 20 to 30 years in the San Juan Basin, one of the nation's richest repositories of fossil fuel. The basin extends from southern Colorado into New Mexico.

The Durango-based San Juan Citizens Alliance said the federal Bureau of Land Management office in Farmington, N.M., backed industry plans to add 10,000 New Mexico wells without adequate analysis.

The BLM this fall said the potential impacts of gas development include poor visibility and air quality standards in Mesa Verde National Park and the Zuni and San Pedro Parks wilderness areas.

BLM field manager Steve Henke in Farmington said his agency is committed to meeting federal air-quality standards.

San Juan County, N.M., has only one-fifth of the Albuquerque area's population of 557,000. Yet state air-quality experts say the area posts some of the highest levels of surface ozone in the state.

"It is surprising," New Mexico Air Quality Bureau manager Mary Uhl told The Denver Post. "Most ozone problems in the United States occur in metropolitan areas with populations greater than a million."

Just how bad the ozone problems are in Durango and other parts of southern Colorado isn't known: The Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment focuses its ozone-monitoring efforts on the Front Range, spokesman Christopher Dunn said.

"We ought to at least know what the ozone level is in Durango and whether it is going up or down," retired public health physician Brooks Taylor said. "We're not in a crisis yet. We're right before it."

Ozone is an odorless, colorless component of smog. Even at low concentrations, it can cause chest pains, coughing, nausea and throat irritation. Repeated exposure can cause lung damage.

OBITUARIES

For obituary rates and information, call 735-3278 Monday through Saturday. Deadline is 4 p.m. for next-day publication. The e-mail address for obituaries is obits@magvalley.com. Death notices are a free service and can be placed until 4 p.m. every day. To view or submit obituaries online, or to place a message in a traditional online guestbook, go to www.magvalley.com and click on "Obituaries."

May Isabelle Gallant - Burley

May Isabelle Gallant, 82, of Burley, died Friday, Dec. 26, 2003, at Cassia Regional Medical Center.

She was born Nov. 3, 1921, in North Adams, Mass., the daughter of Joseph Alfred and Flora Mary Bourassa Gallant. May received a master's degree in nursing from Catholic University of America in Washington, D.C. She served in the United States Army Nurse Corps, where she was director of Maternal and Child Health Programs.

She worked for 20 years and retired in 1977 with the rank of colonel. She then worked for many years as a public health nurse. She was a member of the Roman Catholic Church and enjoyed fishing.

She is survived by two children, Deanna G. (Robert) Davis of Burley and Timothy Stephen Gallant of Fayetteville, N.C.; one grandson, Robert "Clarence" Davis of Burley; and three great-grandchildren, Robbie Davis, Kayden Davis and Taylor Davis. She was preceded in death by



her parents and one sister, Isabelle Mary Cadorette.

A vigil service with recitation of the rosary will be held at 7:30 p.m. Monday, Dec. 29, 2003, at Saint Nicholas Catholic Church, 802 F St., Rupert.

The funeral mass will be celebrated at 11 a.m. Tuesday, Dec. 30, 2003, at Saint Nicholas Catholic Church with the Rev. Father Boniface Lautz as celebrant.



Paul (Lynn) Bybee; his stepmother, Dawnline Decker; a nephew, Corey (Lisa) Albertson; and a nephew, Whit Albertson, all of Idaho Falls. He had a special place in his heart for Glenda Miller and Michelle Wilson of Twin Falls. They were his best friends. He was preceded in death by his father, Edward L. "Buck" Bybee, and his grandparents.

The funeral will be held at 1 p.m. Monday, Dec. 29, 2003, at Buck-Miller-Hann Funeral Home, 825 E. 17th St. in Idaho Falls, with the Rev. Richard W. Collin of St. John Lutheran Church officiating. Friends may visit with the family one hour prior to the service at the funeral home. Burial will be at Fielding Memorial Park in Idaho Falls.

David Micheal Bybee - Twin Falls

David Michael Bybee, 52, of Twin Falls and formerly of Idaho Falls, died Dec. 25, 2003, at Eastern Idaho Regional Medical Center in Idaho Falls of a brief illness.

He was born Sept. 11, 1951, in Idaho Falls, the son of Edward Lee and Eileen Guderjohn Bybee. He spent his early years in Idaho Falls and had lived many years in Twin Falls. While living in Twin Falls, he did volunteer work until a hip injury prevented him from participating. He loved and collected country music and loved to watch his nephew, Whit, play sports. He had a wonderful sense of humor, was kind and loving. He taught us all patience, love and a great caring for others.

He is survived by his mother



and stepfather, Eileen and Ike Catherman; a sister, Diane (Dan) Albertson; a brother, Jesse (Christine) Mayne; a brother,

three great-grandchildren, Emma Walters, Ethan and Erica Winter; two brothers, Kenneth Wright of San Angelo, Texas, and Glenn Wright of Yakima, Wash.; and two sisters, Lucille Duschler of Ocala, Fla., and Betty Edwards of Myrtle Creek, Ore. She was preceded in death by her parents; her husband; her brothers, George and Milburn; and sisters, Rama and Nadine.

The funeral will be held at 2 p.m. Monday, Dec. 29, 2003, at the First Christian Church in Gooding with the Rev. Andy Morris officiating. Burial will be in the Elmwood Cemetery in Gooding. Viewing for family and friends will be from 3 to 6 p.m. Dec. 28, 2003, at Demaray's Gooding Chapel. For those who desire memorial contributions may be made to the Youth House of the First Christian Church in Gooding.

Mary Majorie Hale - Gooding

On Dec. 25, 2003, our mother and grandmother went to be with her Lord.

She was born April 22, 1918, in Golden City, Mo., to Thomas LeRoy Wright and Fannie Mable Boyd Wright. The oldest of eight siblings, she was raised and educated in Golden City, graduating from Golden City High School in 1936. Majorie married William J. Hale on Oct. 27, 1938, in Tulsa, Okla. They lived and farmed three years in Missouri before coming to Idaho. She worked at the Idaho State School for the Deaf and the Blind for 13 years. Majorie was a member of Gooding's First Christian Church since 1943. She was a member of the Gooding Hospital Auxiliary and the Gooding Senior Citizens.

Majorie's surviving family are her two daughters, Nancy Adams of Gooding, Idaho, and Susan and



Glenn Stokes of Pocatello, Idaho; three grandchildren, Pamela Jo and Ted Walters of Buffalo, N.Y., Janet Rae and Jim Winter of Gooding, Idaho, and Stephen and Becca Stokes of Moscow, Idaho;

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Wishing you and yours a Happy, Healthy and Prosperous 2004.

From Mike and Catherine Parke and the staff of Parke's Magic Valley Funeral Home and Twin Falls Cemetery

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MAGIC VALLEY/WEST

DEATH NOTICES

Newell Dee Barzee

GOODING - Newell Dee Barzee, 73, of Gooding, died Friday, Dec. 26, 2003, at his home. The funeral will be held at 11 a.m. Tuesday, Dec. 30, 2003, at the Gooding LDS Church with Bishop Randall Quigley officiating. A private family graveside will follow at the Elmwood Cemetery in Gooding. Friends may greet the family from 10:30 a.m. until time of the service Tuesday at the church. Arrangements are under the direction of Demaray's Gooding Chapel.

Helen Kaczmarek

GOODING - Helen Kaczmarek, 85, of Gooding, died Saturday, Dec. 27, 2003, at Gooding County Memorial Hospital in Gooding. Arrangements will be announced by Demaray's Gooding Chapel.

Dorothy Rice

WENDELL - Dorothy Rice, 87, of Wendell, died Friday, Dec. 26, 2003, at St. Benedict's Family Medical Center in Jerome. Arrangements will be announced by Demaray's Wendell Chapel.

Opal Irene Nauman

ROGERSON - Opal Irene Nauman, 71, of Rogerson, died Saturday, Dec. 27, 2003, at Magic Valley Regional Medical Center in Twin Falls. Arrangements will be announced by Parker's Magic Valley Funeral Home in Twin Falls.

Marion Gibson

PAUL - Marion Gibson, 74, of Paul, died Saturday, Dec. 27, 2003, at her home. No public services will be held. Arrangements are under the direction of the Hansen Mortuary Rupert Chapel.

Victor Crismor

BUHL - Victor Crismor, of Buhl, died Saturday, Dec. 27, 2003, at Stony Creek Living Center in Twin Falls. Arrangements will be announced by Farmer Funeral Chapel in Buhl.

Lurlie Baiff Schroeder-Jones

EARP, Calif. - Lurlie Baiff Schroeder-Jones, of Earp, Calif., and formerly of Buhl, died Thursday, Dec. 25, 2003, at her home. Arrangements will be announced by Farmer Funeral Chapel in Buhl.

Daniel A. Jones

EARP, Calif. - Daniel A. Jones, of Earp, Calif., died Thursday, Dec. 25, 2003, at his home. A service will be held in San Diego, Calif.

SERVICES

Norman Moore Miranda of Wendell, memorial service at 1:30 p.m. Monday at the Wendell United Methodist Church (Demaray's Wendell Chapel).

Wanda Ione Haskins McKinney of Twin Falls, service at 11 a.m. Monday at the First Christian Church in Twin Falls; interment will follow the service at the Twin Falls Cemetery; visitation from 5 to 7 p.m. today at Parker's Magic Valley Funeral Home, 2551 Kimberly Road, Twin Falls.

Andrew Leonard Emerson of Twin Falls, graveside service at 11 a.m. Monday at Sunset Memorial Park; friends may call from 4 to 8 p.m. today at White Mortuary in Twin Falls.

Gary Bengoechea of Meridian, service at 10 a.m. Tuesday at

Cloverdale Funeral Home in Boise; viewing will be from 4 to 6 p.m. Monday at the funeral home.

Mildred "Millie" A. Springman of Gooding, service at 3:30 p.m. Wednesday at the First Christian Church in Gooding; burial will be at Elmwood Cemetery in Gooding; family and friends may call from 1 to 7 p.m. Tuesday at Demaray's Gooding Chapel.

Kenneth Duane "Kenny" Leazer of Twin Falls, memorial service at 11 a.m. Friday at White Mortuary in Twin Falls.

Anne Field Johnson of Twin Falls, celebration of life and a showing of her artwork at 11 a.m. Saturday at Our Savior Lutheran Church, 1708 Heyburn Ave. E., Twin Falls (Parker's Magic Valley Funeral Home, Twin Falls).

Survey measures how people get around

BOISE, Idaho (AP) - Most capital city residents drive to the downtown area by car, but then choose footpower to get around, a new survey has found.

Nine out of 10 people interviewed in the Downtown Boise Mobility Study walked around in the city core. The study of 400 people was conducted in October.

Jennifer Barrus is typical of many respondents. The 31-year-old drives about eight miles to downtown, parks just beyond the

metered area and walks a few blocks to her bank job. She does errands and shops by foot on her lunch break or after work. "I have considered the bus," Barrus said. "But I love my car. The bus would almost make me feel stranded."

The survey is one part of a study that will result in a long-term downtown transportation plan. Goals include getting people to and from downtown safely. Recommendations eventually will

be made for a circulating route and some type of vehicle, such as trolley, electric bus or train, officials said.

The result could include a downtown trolley system connecting Boise State University, Ann Morrison and Julia Davis parks to downtown.

The study team consisting of business people, politicians and government officials is scheduled to issue a final report and recommendations next summer.

Idaho women's parade team will march in London

COEUR D'ALENE, Idaho (AP) - Thirty-nine members of the Red Hot Mamas dance team will march in London's annual New Year's Day parade.

The 100-person group of Coeur d'Alene-area women performs zany dance moves with shopping carts and don signature hats adorned with grocery items such as cereal boxes and potato chip bags.

For the London performance, the group will feature a British grocery product on their hats.

Molly Habenicht will lead the group with her toilet plunger "baton."

About a million people will line the parade route, which winds past Westminster Abbey, Trafalgar Square and Piccadilly Circus. The Mamas sold raffle tickets to

cover their travel expenses. The Mamas gained national media exposure after performing in President Bush's 2001 inauguration parade.

They have just returned from performing in the Hershey, Pa., centennial celebration. The "London team" of 39 planned leave Sunday.

TWIN FALLS CITY COURTS

TWIN FALLS - Recent activity in 5th District Court in the city of Twin Falls included the following:

Driving under the influence sentences

Donald Edward Silva, 65, 1246 Sixth Ave. W., Twin Falls, driving under the influence, excessive blood alcohol; \$1,000 fine with \$1,000 suspended; 365 days in jail with 314 suspended; credit for 31 days served; driving privileges suspended for 365 days; 24 months probation; shall not possess or consume any alcoholic beverages; submit to alcohol/urine testing complete; alcohol treatment; Magistrate Judge Randy J. Stoker.

Misdemeanor sentences

Heather Jean Hughes, 27, 388 Jefferson St., Twin Falls, driving without privileges; \$500 fine with \$500 suspended; 60 days in jail with 28 suspended; credit for 18 days served; 12 months probation; Magistrate Judge Randy J. Stoker.

Mary Ellen Hatch, 26, 320 Main Ave. S., No. 123, Twin Falls; one count possession of marijuana; \$500 fine with \$500 suspended; 60 days in jail with 28 suspended; credit for 18 days served; 12 months probation; Magistrate Judge Randy J. Stoker.

Shauna Wood, 22, 225 N. Lincoln, Jerome; violation of a no contact order; pleaded guilty; \$300 fine with \$300 suspended; 60 days in jail with 28 suspended; credit for 18 days served; 12 months probation; Magistrate Judge Randy J. Stoker.

Paul Douglas Carter, 41, P.O. Box 738, Wendell; driving without privileges; \$500 fine with \$500 suspended; 60 days in jail with 28 suspended; credit for 18 days served; 12 months probation; Magistrate Judge Randy J. Stoker.

Sharon Grayson Hines, 19, 1955 Outerloop Ave., Twin Falls; one count minor consumption of alcohol; pleaded guilty; \$1,000 fine with \$1,000 suspended; 365 days in jail with 314 suspended; credit for 31 days served; driving privileges suspended for 365 days; 24 months probation; shall not possess or consume any alcoholic beverages; one count open container; \$500 fine with \$500 suspended; 60 days in jail with 28 suspended; credit for 18 days served; 12 months probation; Magistrate Judge Randy J. Stoker.

Shirley M. Molina, 19, 534 Third Ave. W., Twin Falls; pet; \$150 fine with \$150 suspended; 60 days in jail with 28 suspended; credit for 18 days served; 12 months probation; Magistrate Judge Randy J. Stoker.

Shirley M. Molina, 19, 534 Third Ave. W., Twin Falls; pet; \$150 fine with \$150 suspended; 60 days in jail with 28 suspended; credit for 18 days served; 12 months probation; Magistrate Judge Randy J. Stoker.

Shirley M. Molina, 19, 534 Third Ave. W., Twin Falls; pet; \$150 fine with \$150 suspended; 60 days in jail with 28 suspended; credit for 18 days served; 12 months probation; Magistrate Judge Randy J. Stoker.

Justin Lamar Davis, 21, 450 N. 1000 E., Buhl; reckless driving; amended to inattentive driving; pleaded guilty; \$500 fine; 60 days in jail with 28 suspended; credit for 18 days served; 12 months probation; Magistrate Judge Randy J. Stoker.

Steve/Nonene Eugene Hendricks, 33, 359

months probation; \$35 per month probation fee; shall not possess or consume any alcoholic beverages; submit to alcohol/urine testing complete; one treatment/counseling ordered by probation officer; Magistrate Judge Randy J. Stoker.

Stephen Kelly Osborne, 36, 3605 S. 1700 E., Wendell; fail to purchase/invalid driver's license; \$69 fine; \$63.50 court costs; Magistrate Judge Randy J. Stoker.

Jeffrey Lee Hamilton, 33, 279 Monroe, Twin Falls; malicious injury to property; pleaded guilty; \$300 fine with \$300 suspended; 60 days in jail with 28 suspended; credit for 18 days served; 12 months probation; 335 per month probation fee; shall not possess or consume any alcoholic beverages; restitution to victim; Magistrate Judge Randy J. Stoker.

Scott Lee Erdmann, 38, Cedar No. 13, Sun Valley; domestic battery; amended to disturbing the peace; pleaded guilty; \$150 fine; \$63.50 court costs; 60 days in jail with 28 suspended; credit for 18 days served; 12 months probation; Magistrate Judge Randy J. Stoker.

Jody Glenn Fritz, 32, 620 14th Ave. N., Buhl; driving without privileges; pleaded guilty; \$750 fine with \$750 suspended; 90 days in jail with 89 suspended; credit for 18 days served; 12 months probation; Magistrate Judge Randy J. Stoker.

Terry Keith Hillman, 48, 435 Rose St. N., Twin Falls; possession of drug paraphernalia with intent to use; pleaded guilty; \$300 fine with \$300 suspended; 60 days in jail with 28 suspended; credit for 18 days served; 12 months probation; 335 per month probation fee; shall not possess or consume any alcoholic beverages or where they are present; submit to alcohol/urine testing; complete any treatment/counseling ordered by probation officer; Magistrate Judge Randy J. Stoker.

Angela Joy Moody, 19, 336 Lois St., No. 5, Twin Falls; battery; disturbing the peace; pleaded guilty; \$150 fine with \$150 suspended; 60 days in jail with 28 suspended; credit for 18 days served; 12 months probation; Magistrate Judge Randy J. Stoker.

Shirley M. Molina, 19, 534 Third Ave. W., Twin Falls; pet; \$150 fine with \$150 suspended; 60 days in jail with 28 suspended; credit for 18 days served; 12 months probation; Magistrate Judge Randy J. Stoker.

Shirley M. Molina, 19, 534 Third Ave. W., Twin Falls; pet; \$150 fine with \$150 suspended; 60 days in jail with 28 suspended; credit for 18 days served; 12 months probation; Magistrate Judge Randy J. Stoker.

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Shirley M. Molina, 19, 534 Third Ave. W., Twin Falls; pet; \$150 fine with \$150 suspended; 60 days in jail with 28 suspended; credit for 18 days served; 12 months probation; Magistrate Judge Randy J. Stoker.

Shirley M. Molina, 19, 534 Third Ave. W., Twin Falls; pet; \$150 fine with \$150 suspended; 60 days in jail with 28 suspended; credit for 18 days served; 12 months probation; Magistrate Judge Randy J. Stoker.

Bornh Ave., Twin Falls; one count violation; amended to disturbing the peace; pleaded guilty; \$150 fine; \$63.50 court costs; 60 days in jail with 28 suspended; credit for 18 days served; 12 months probation; no contact with victim; one count resisting or obstructing an officer; dismissed by prosecutor; Magistrate Judge Randy J. Stoker.

Raymundo Chavez, 20, 215 Camarillo, Twin Falls; fail to purchase/invalid driver's license; pleaded guilty; fines and court costs; waived; credit for jail time already served; Magistrate Judge Randy J. Stoker.

Alex Robert Aragon, 25, homeless, Twin Falls; one count possession of drug paraphernalia with intent to use; pleaded guilty; \$1,000 fine with \$1,000 suspended; 365 days in jail with 314 suspended; credit for 31 days served; 24 months probation; 335 per month probation fee; shall not possess or consume any alcoholic beverages; submit to alcohol/urine testing; complete any treatment/counseling ordered by probation officer; one count provide false information to an officer; pleaded guilty; \$63.50 court costs; one count fail to purchase/invalid driver's license; dismissed by prosecutor; Magistrate Judge Randy J. Stoker.

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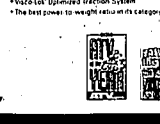
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SHOVELING THE ROOFTOP



AP photo

Mike Tyrrell shovels snow Wednesday from the roof of his family's home in Kenai, Alaska, as Ashley Thornton watches from the comfort of the living room below. The Kenai area received several inches of snowfall this week.

Search resumes for three Utah avalanche victims

PROVO, Utah (AP) — Rescue crews were to resume the time-consuming task Sunday for three men who were caught during an avalanche in the backcountry of northern Utah.

Four rescue dogs and their handlers, along with about 30 searchers, were called off the mountain after sundown Saturday. The search was to start again 7:30 a.m. MST Sunday. The workers and dogs had spent Saturday trudging through the snow, looking for a sign the snowboarders caught in the heart an avalanche Friday afternoon in Provo Canyon.

Dogs on Saturday sniffed out areas with the possible scent of the men, then poles up to 20-feet long marked the spot as people began to dig through the snowpack, which had a consistency compared to wet cement.

"We've been in constant contact with the families," said Sgt. Yvette Rice, a spokeswoman with the Utah County Sheriff's Department. "We have told them specifically that the likelihood of their children being found in a live state is not very realistic."

The operation resumed Saturday with a helicopter crew dropping explosives on the mountainside to break up potential snow slides so search teams could safely resume the search, which was led by the rescue dogs.

Officials said the rescue would continue into the afternoon and evening, depending on the condition of the workers and dogs as well as the bitterly cold mountain weather.

Red Newberry, 20, of Pleasant Grove, Adam Merz, 18, and Mike Hebert, 19, both of Orem, were among a group of five friends who were swept down by the ava-

lanche Friday afternoon. Two others of the group survived, but the three were still missing when the search was called off because conditions were too dangerous, with loose snow still trickling downhill and masses of snow clinging to slopes above the search area.

Explosive charges were dropped from a helicopter Saturday morning to trigger controlled avalanches. Matt Long, 18, of Pleasant Grove, was buried to his chest but dug himself out. J.D. Settle, 20, also of Pleasant Grove, was completely buried but rescued by a bystander and escaped with a knee injury.

Long was led by one of the dog handlers back up the mountain side to assist in the search late Saturday afternoon. Long was fitted with an avalanche beacon like the rest of the rescuers were wearing during the search.

A snowshoer reported the avalanche Friday afternoon in the Aspen Grove area of Provo Canyon, about a mile north of Sundance ski resort. The area is considered backcountry and has no avalanche control.

The "snowboarders, who were one of three groups caught by the avalanche, were swept a half mile down a narrow chute above Aspen Grove. Snow piled up 4- to 14-feet deep at the bottom of the slide, which Utah County Sheriff Jim Tracy said was about three city blocks wide.

The avalanche hit near the end of a storm that dumped 29 inches of snow in the Sundance area in 24 hours, according to the National Weather Service.

None of the snowboarders carried standard avalanche safety equipment such as radio transmitters, shovels or probe poles, Tracy said.

Wages for state workers lag behind average

Salaries drop to 14.6 percent below market rate

BOISE (AP) — No raises for state employees for two straight years is prompting many to move to other jobs despite a difficult employment market, Idaho Division of Human Resources Director Ann Heilman warned.

Heilman called for some kind of pay incentive to stem the departures.

State workers' average wages are now 14.6 percent below market rates. And some groups, like state nurses, are more than 22 percent below the mark, she said.

To bring the wages up to the market rate would cost a staggering \$85 million next year, an amount no one in state government expects Idaho's tight state budget to yield. As a result, state workers' morale is down, and average turnover is up to 13 percent — 28 percent for nurses.

"Even in this depressed job

market where many people are having trouble finding jobs, state employees are leaving for other jobs," Heilman said.

"What concerns me is when the economy turns and people have more opportunities, what's our turnover going to do?" Gov. Dirk Kempthorne said he is aware of the situation.

"I'm very sensitive to the fact that for an outstanding group of state employees that have worked diligently through these tough times, it's been two years."

Kempthorne said. But each percentage hike for 24,000 state salaries costs the state budget \$5 million. And with Idaho's temporary sales tax increase scheduled to expire on

July 1, 2005 — leaving a \$160 million hole in the state budget — funding is uncertain.

Heilman is recommending a variety of options, led by a 10 percent pay boost for the state's nurses. She also suggests a five-year plan to bring state salaries up to the mark, which would require funding for raises averaging 6.8 percent next year, and each of the following four years.

If that cannot be done, she recommends as much of an overall increase as a possibility. Failing that, Heilman seeks one-time bonuses for outstanding employees to entice them to stay with the state through the downturn.

"I think the vast majority of state employees are hopeful that this Legislature will give them a signal that they're valued. It's the

state employees that have been saving the money."

The past two years have been difficult. Legislators allowed agencies to grant raises if they could find savings in their personnel budgets. But only 13.1 percent — 3,174 workers out of 24,239 — got raises or bonuses. Agencies could only use savings from their personnel budgets, not from other areas. With budget cuts and layoffs, those were hard to come by.

One agency that recently found savings to offer raises was the state Department of Correction, where workers' wages lagged far behind.

But the only reason the money was found was because fewer inmates arrived at the state's prisons than expected, meaning fewer guards and support workers had to be hired on.

At the same time, rising health insurance costs have meant decreases in take-home pay for some state employees.

Seventy-three state employees were laid off in fiscal year 2003, which ended July 1. Heilman said some had more than 20 years of state service.

“Even in this depressed job market where many people are having trouble finding jobs, state employees are leaving for other jobs.”

— Ann Heilman, Idaho Division of human resources director


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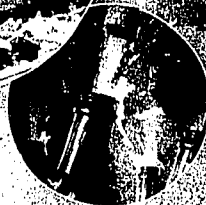
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Key figure in drug case surrenders to officials

COEUR D'ALENE (AP) — The suspected ringleader of multimillion-dollar marijuana smuggling operation has surrendered to the Idaho State Police.

Nathaniel William Nate Norman, 21, was a federal fugitive since November when a dragnet hauled in more than a dozen alleged co-conspirators, including his mother. He surrendered to state detectives on Friday morning.

"It was a surprise to me when his attorney called and said he was coming in," Capt. Clark Rollins said.

Norman is named in two federal indictments alleging smuggling, conspiracy, possession with intent to deliver and money laundering. He was booked into the Kootenai County jail without bail.

He is expected to make a first court appearance this week. Then, a federal judge will decide if he remains behind bars pending

further proceedings.

"He's been a fugitive so long. I don't know what the judge will do," Rollins said.

Most of the 16 indicted co-defendants were released without having to post bail on certain conditions.

Drug agents have been after Norman since he was identified as the target of rival drug kingpin Brendan Butler.

Authorities said Butler was slain in October 2002 by a California man Butler hired to rob, kidnap and kill Norman and take over his organization.

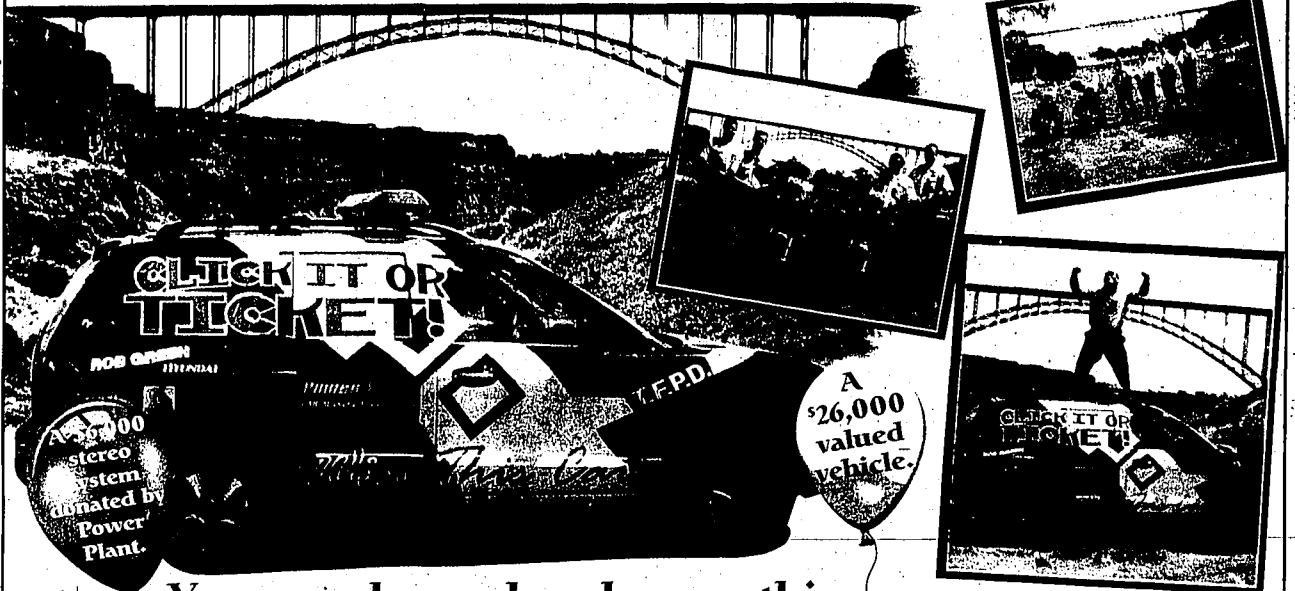
More than \$40,000 in cash and several pounds of marijuana were confiscated in the operation where Norman's alleged henchman, Ben Scozzaro, and his girlfriend were held hostage for a time. The leader of the gang, Giovanni Mendola, 32, was sentenced to life with parole possible after eight years.

**Twin Falls Police
Departments**

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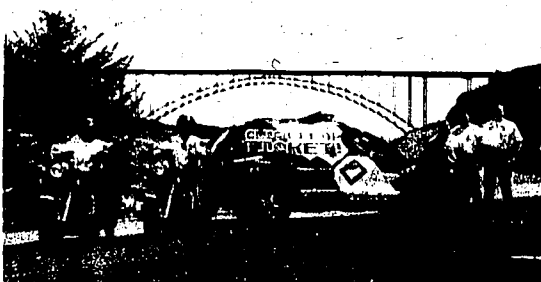
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**To be given away
New Years Eve
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If you haven't registered, YOU STILL CAN!
Here's how it works!

During the year, in an effort to increase the use of seat belts, the Twin Falls Police Department had randomly stopped motorists and if they were wearing their seat belt, the officer gave them his/her business card. In order to enter the drawing, they simply wrote their name, address and phone number on the back of the officers' business card and deposited it at either of the Rob Green Auto Dealerships. If you haven't gotten your business card in the final drawing, stop any police officer and ask them for a card. Then enter New Year's Eve at the Magic Valley Mall. Any questions, call Detective Sergeant Bill Hanchey at 735-7283.



Lack of seat belt use is the #1 cause of death in crashes, with over 50% fatalities and 70% serious injuries.

"Click it or Ticket" promotion has brought lots of great response from the community. In the year since it was started, we have gone from 39% seat belt use to over 70% now!

Winner must have a valid driver's license and you need not be present to win!

PLUS...lots of other prizes! Special support from Lytle Signs and The Times-News.

HOLD ON



Jenny Vang, left, and her stepbrother, Lee, enjoy a carnival ride during the Hmong New Year Celebration Saturday at the Fresno Fairgrounds in Fresno, Calif.

Arthritis costs state millions per year

BOISE (AP) — Treatment, lost wages and reduced productivity from arthritis is costing Idaho \$489 million a year, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention estimates.

The center's recent report, based on data from 1997, calculated the direct and indirect costs of the rheumatic disease.

Idaho residents pay \$215 million in direct payments for physician visits, medication and hospitalization, the center estimated, while the state's economy suffers an additional \$274 million in indirect costs such as lost wages and limited productivity.

"In Idaho, one in three adults over the age of 18 have arthritis, while almost half of all people over the age of 65 have the disease," said Patti Moran, the Idaho Department of Health and Welfare's arthritis program manager. "Arthritis can be a very debilitating disease and expen-

“
In Idaho, one in three adults over the age of 18 have arthritis.

”
— Patti Moran, Idaho Department of Health and Welfare's arthritis program manager.

sive to treat.”
Nationally, more than five million working-age Americans experience physical limitations from the disease, the department

estimated.
Arthritis is one of the leading causes of disability in the United States.

Moran said costs are likely higher than the Center for Disease Control reported, in part because of the rising price of new treatments and surgeries for the disease.

Some treatments can cost between \$12,000 and \$20,000 a year, she said.
The costs could continue to rise as the baby boomer generation ages and as the overall health of the state declines, she said.

“We are seeing a growing number of people in Idaho and the U.S. who are overweight or obese, which increases the risk of developing osteoarthritis,” Moran said.
Regular exercise cuts the risk of arthritis because it nourishes the joints, strengthens muscles and helps people maintain a healthy weight, she said.

Afghan seeks normal life after ordeal

BOISE (AP) — Scars gouge Abdulaziz Alizayi's face, reminders of a bomb that tore through his body and Afghanistan home 15 years ago.

But in his eyes you see a strength bora from surviving the loss of his entire family, his horrific injuries and a move around the globe to a new land.

“I've been through a lot. When you are alive, you have to live your life. You have to accept and have hope,” he said.

For Alizayi, hope is in Boise. It comes as a new life and new surgery to repair the 32-year-old's face. He came here in July as a refugee. Eight years ago, his father and two brothers, who supported a democracy, were murdered at the hands of Afghanistan's Taliban regime.

“When my mother saw my father's body, she was crying and she cursed the Taliban and they shot her,” he said.

After the death of his family, Alizayi hid in many villages until he was smuggled into Turkey via Iran more than two years ago. He lived in a Turkish refugee camp before the United Nations, U.S. State Department and World Relief partnered to place him in the United States.

“My journey is over. I am here right now,” he said through an interpreter.

The journey began with an Afghan guerrilla bomb. Alizayi doesn't talk about the details of what happened or why the rebel weapon was launched at his family's home when he was a teenager. But

the results are obvious.

The blast tore away part of his jaw. He has since had six reconstructive surgeries to patch him back together; most were performed in various hospitals in Afghanistan. During one surgery, a portion of leg bone was grafted to his lower jaw.

All the surrounding tissue and muscle was sewn in over the graft to hold it in place. That made it difficult for Alizayi to speak — his voice is muffled, nearly inaudible. He also has difficulty eating.

“They basically just sewed his tongue and everything there to hold the graft,” said Dr. Ron Lowry, an oral and maxillary plastic surgeon in Boise.

When Alizayi arrived in Boise, doctors had to pull his infected teeth to help prepare his mouth for dentures and realign his jaw. That procedure was performed by Dr. Robert DiGrazia, chief of dental staff at Saint Alphonsus Regional Medical Center.

DiGrazia served as in the medical corps in Vietnam. He said he wants to help someone who was struggling for freedom and democracy. Alizayi now needs a surgery known as vestibuloplasty to create a base for new dentures, DiGrazia said.

“With teeth and a little more self-esteem, he will do fine,” DiGrazia said.

Lowry will perform the surgery soon. He said he will release the tissue on Alizayi's jaw down to the bone, then place a skin graft taken from his thigh to cover the wound. The procedure will take about three hours.

Lowry said he knows he can spare that time to help someone who, as a result, will benefit for a lifetime. Refugees who come to the United States get eight months of cash assistance and Medicaid, said Mark Kadel, case manager for World Relief in Boise.

They also get English classes plus eight weeks of job development. During that time, World Relief helps them find jobs and become self-sufficient.

The money and medical coverage Alizayi receives will end Feb. 28, before he is completely recovered from the surgery, Kadel said. The amount also is decreasing, so in January he will receive less than \$200 to cover his basic needs.

World Relief is asking for donations so he can finish medical treatment and recover before his doctors give him a release to work.

“For the rare cases where they are not employed, what we look for is community involvement and help,” Kadel said.

Alizayi said his hopes and dreams are simple. He wants most of all to get a job, “any job.”

When he lived in Afghanistan, Alizayi worked as a bus driver and an embroidery machine operator, Kadel said. He wants to get a car. Alizayi already obtained his Idaho driver's license, and rides a bicycle to get around town, Kadel said.

Alizayi wants to become a citizen, get married and have a family. “My hope is to get a job, settle down, find a wife and be like any other people,” he said.

Counting Birds

Twin Falls County count: Twenty-eight species were accounted for, compared with 65 last year. There were 15 people in the field and five counting birds at bird-feeders.

Four new birds were spotted, including:
• Scrub-jay
• Chukar
• Peregrine Falcon
• White-breasted Nuthatch

Hagerman count: Twenty-eight people counted 87 species in Hagerman last week, which usually is the largest count in the state.

Murphy's Hot Springs/Jarbridge count: Twenty-two species were identified. This count, in its second year, drew five bird watchers.

Idaho man helps needy

IDAHO FALLS (AP) — It doesn't take much to motivate Reginald Reeves.

An innocent remark, which most people would leave to the wind, inspires Reeves to move mountains.

Take his recent trip to Guatemala. While there, Reeves overheard a man saying he wished computers were available to teach children.

Reeves, an attorney from Idaho Falls, told the man he'd have his computers. The stranger, accustomed to the world and the things people say, didn't believe him.

Soon after, three dozen computers arrived in Guatemala and 271 children began their education.

But that's not the end of this story. One school isn't enough to satisfy Reeves. A new school for 1,000 Guatemalan children is in the works. The sugar-cane company building the school is waiting for Reeves to ship more computers.

“They don't know it yet, but I'm going to make them build some more schools,” Reeves said.

This is a man with a gift for creating small miracles. When Reeves heard about grocery stores throwing away perfectly good food, he began gathering and delivering it to those in need — homeless shelters, soup kitchens and senior citizen centers.

The Domestic Violence Intervention Center in Idaho Falls has come to depend on these deliveries. Women gather for weekly Wednesday meetings and eat the doughnuts, bread and cakes saved and delivered by Reeves' loyal crew.

Sometimes, Reeves or one of his helpers shows up with a birthday cake for a child staying in the DVIC crisis center — a small ray of light for an innocent placed in a terrible situation.

“We get a lot of help from the community,” said Teena Schuldt, director of Idaho Falls' Domestic Violence Intervention Center. “But every once in a while you get somebody who provides continuous sup-

“
The things he does for veterans ... legendary.”

— John Black, gofer for Reginald Reeves

port.”

That's Reeves. But that's not all he does. Not by a long shot.

A retired lieutenant colonel in the U.S. Army, Reeves knew of many former military men and women living in areas without easy access to medications.

Before the military began shipping medicine in the mail, Reeves found a way to get these people what they needed. To this day, Reeves regularly drives to Mountain Home Air Force Base to deliver computers, clothing, books and toys to service members.

“The things he does for veterans ... legendary,” said John Black, a retired military man from Idaho Falls who calls himself Reeves' gofer.

This dedication to community began in 1950, when Reeves challenged fellow University of Idaho students to give more blood than any other college in the nation.

At one point, Reeves went to a trout stream where students had gathered to see the football team off. He grabbed a cheerleader's megaphone and convinced many in the crowd to follow him to the student union building, where students were giving blood.

After three years and 24 gallons later, Reeves is still going strong. When Reeves heard pharmaceutical companies were giving medicine to the poor, he set up offices in Idaho Falls, Boise, Blackfoot, Mountain Home and Halley to help people make better advantage.

Today, more than 1,000 Idahoans use the service. When Reeves

heard about motels throwing away used linens, he began collecting and giving them to needy people: towels, bed sheets, pillows and pillowcases. Clothing with a broken zipper or spot on the collar is saved for poor mothers and children.

When Reeves heard about book stores throwing away books the stores couldn't sell, he rescued them for rural libraries. He couldn't bear the thought of stores ripping the covers off books and throwing them in the trash.

“Since I was a child, I always thought of books as having souls,” Reeves said.

His generosity is contagious. One morning, a retired railroad man from Idaho Falls was shopping for groceries. He saw a stranger with a shopping cart packed full of baked goods. Orland Bailey asked the man what he was doing.

He was rescuing food for Reginald Reeves. Bailey is now one of Reeves' loyal helpers, gathering food from Idaho Falls-area grocery stores seven days a week and delivering it to those in need.

“By doing this, I've been able to meet a lot of nice people,” Bailey said.

Reeves, who works in Idaho Falls Monday through Wednesday and lives in Halley on Thursday and Sunday, has not gone unrecognized for his good works.

Recently, he was given two prestigious military awards, the Commander's Award for Public Service and the Civilian Service Award.

Earlier this year, Idaho Gov. Dirk Kempthorne presented Reeves with a Brightest Star Award, given to people who improve the lives of children.

But service, Reeves believes, is its own reward. After all, one doesn't spend 25 hours a week gathering food, arranging for free flights for cancer patients and locating computers for children in Mississippi and Guatemala because that's before. There is likely to be more of a hair trigger on an evacuation now.

It's deeper than that. It has to be.

More rain could prompt evacuations

Los Angeles Times

LOS ANGELES — With another storm expected to batter Southern California early this week and the possibility that more rain would crumble, rescuers worked furiously Saturday to find the remaining victims of the Christmas Day mudslides in the San Bernardino Mountains.

After a day of digging and sifting through mud, authorities said they had found two more victims and officials believe seven bodies are still buried in the mire and brush

torn loose by Thursday's torrent that swept into the St. Sophia Camp and Retreat in Waterman Canyon, above San Bernardino.

Because of the potential for further loss of life, authorities said they were considering evacuating the canyon below areas stripped of vegetation in the October and November wildfires in San Bernardino County in heavy rains.

Peter Brierty, fire marshal for the county, said his department may ask canyon dwellers to leave their homes if it predicted storms his as early as Monday night. Many people in these areas also had to flee

their homes during the fires.

“We have to think about it. We'll look at the water accumulation in the canyon, the predicted amount of water to be dropped and how specific areas are looking,” Brierty said. “We will respond faster and quicker than before. There is likely to be more of a hair trigger on an evacuation now.”

County officials also said they were preparing to use air raid sirens and emergency broadcast announcements on radio and television stations to warn residents of heavy rains and potential mudslides.

Biologists report record fall chinook nest count

BOISE, Idaho (AP) — This year's survey of fall chinook salmon spawning nests in the Snake River has yielded the largest number of those “redds” since the research began in 1991, Idaho Power Co. biologists report.

The annual survey, located a total of 1,524 redds. Last year, 1,113 were found in the river.

The study looks for signs of fall chinook spawning between Idaho Power's Hells Canyon Dam and Asotin, Wash. This year's survey

was concluded Dec. 12.

Idaho Power, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the Nez Perce Tribe cooperate in the census that usually starts in late October.

Most of the search is done by helicopter and supplemented by underwater surveys which locate redds not visible from the air.

This year, biologists found 394 nests by using boat-mounted underwater cameras. In 2002, that turned up 235 redds.

Concerns over the wild Snake River fall chinook, which is an endangered species, prompted Idaho Power to voluntarily change the way it operates its complex of three Hells Canyon dams.

In 1992, the company began holding outflows from Hells Canyon Dam at consistent levels during the spawning season from mid-October to early December. That ensures the redds remain submerged.

Password

Continued from B1

In the meantime, they'll be happy to e-mail you a clue as to what your User Name and/or Password might be.

They'll send this to your third cousin Artie in Delaware, who prints it out, has it notarized and mails it, in a stamped, self-addressed envelope without a return address, to a post office box

in Wendell, which can only be opened with a key that you'll find in a locker at the bus depot in Burley.

With the proviso that it be opened, memorized and the paper it's written on be swallowed on the spot.

Of course, if you ever want to return anything that you buy online, you're required to enter your User Name and Password

backwards.

And if you can't remember that, well, Secretary Tom Ridge will be sending some people out to have a word with you.

There's no use hiding from them, either: They know your PIN.

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

Land

Continued from B1

“No one has asked us to donate it,” he said. “We have no formal request to donate it to the city of Heyburn or anybody else.”

Simplot acquired the unimproved land “many years ago for reasons that are now obscure,” Zerra said. He wasn't able to find anyone at the Simplot headquarters who could offer any historical perspective on why the land was purchased.

The company never used the land, Zerra said. Now that the Heyburn potato processing plant has been closed, use of the land isn't likely, so Simplot officials decided to put it on the market.

Now that the property is for sale, Zerra said Simplot officials “probably aren't inclined to”

donate the land to someone.

Meanwhile, there's no change of plans regarding the future of the recently closed processing plant in Heyburn, Zerra said.

Cliff Lough, the plant's environmental supervisor, continues to work at the plant, Zerra said. None of the plant's employees who stayed on staff with Lough after the plant closed Nov. 1 are still on the job, he said. Those employees worked for varying lengths of time, between two and four weeks.

“Cliff remains and will remain indefinitely until all the class details are complete,” Zerra said. There's no time frame for that, he said.

Lough will coordinate the removal of some of the processing equipment and parts that will be

moved to other Simplot plants, he said.

As well, Lough continues some environmental monitoring the company must perform and addresses security issues at the plant, Zerra said.

The long-term future of the property remains undecided, Zerra said.

“We have not yet made a determination as to what we will do with the property, although we have no plans to use the plant. It's a process now of gathering information that will guide us in the use of the land and of the buildings.”

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

Birds

Continued from B1

with an estimated 45,000 people nationwide, means getting a precise count is tricky.

Counters are headed up by a compiler, such as Rupprecht, and new groups must go through protocol to get approval for a count. Some groups enlist the help of expert birders.

“Count to 10 and see how many components of 10 there are,” Rupprecht said of estimating a flock's numbers. “Yes, there are some assumptions made, but there are safeguards.”



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EFFECTIVE DATES:

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THUR
28	29	30	31	1

Coming Monday

Playoff berths are clinched as the NFL's regular season ends.

SPORTS

Sports Editor: Joe Paisley, 735-3239 (Hours: 2-11 p.m.)

The Times-News

Sunday, December 28, 2003

Section C

MORNING LINE

SPORTSQUOTE

"But we must admit that thousands of pounds of fat were burned just from people running away from this nightmarish, 'totally '80s' design."

— editors at NASCAR.com, on the point scheme on stock car racer Kenny Wallace's yellow, orange and blue Starter 2 car that was voted the second scariest on the NASCAR circuit in 2003.

TRIVIA

QUESTION:

Who's the only major leaguer to have hit into four triple plays?

...answer below

IN BRIEF

Jerome announces gym schedule

JEROME — The Jerome Recreation District has announced its open gym schedule for the holidays.

The gym will be open to seniors from 8:30-11 a.m. Dec. 29-31 and Jan. 2. The gym will be available for adults from 11 a.m.-1 p.m. on Dec. 30-31 and Jan. 2. The youth open gym will be from 1:30-3 p.m. on the 29-31, as well as Jan. 2 and 3.

Call 324-3389 with any questions.

Youth basketball camps set for T.F.

TWIN FALLS — The Twin Falls High School basketball coaches have announced the dates for the upcoming classic clinic and Little Dribblers hoops camps. The classic clinic, for boys and girls in grades 4-6, will be held from 8 a.m.-noon on Jan. 10 at O'Leary Junior High School.

The camp will be instructed by TFHS coaches and players. The cost is \$20 per participant.

A Little Dribblers camp will also be held for boys and girls in grades kindergarten-3.

The clinics will take place from 10 a.m.-noon on Jan. 17 and 24, and also from 6-7 p.m. on Jan. 26.

The campers will also perform at halftime of the TFHS girls basketball game on Jan. 29.

All participants will receive a T-shirt, with the first 175 Little Dribblers campers receiving a custom Bruin basketball.

Registration forms are available at Donnelly Sports. Call Matt at 735-5310 for more information.

Baseball camp will be Jan. 17-19

LOGAN, Utah — The Rocky Mountain School of Baseball will hold its 11th annual Winter Ball Camp in Mesquite, Nev. on Jan. 17-19. The camp will be conducted for ages 8-18. The staff will consist of college coaches, professional players and pro scouts.

For more information or to register, log on to www.rmsb.com, or call toll free at 877-272-0862.

SKI resort will sponsor free rentals, 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.

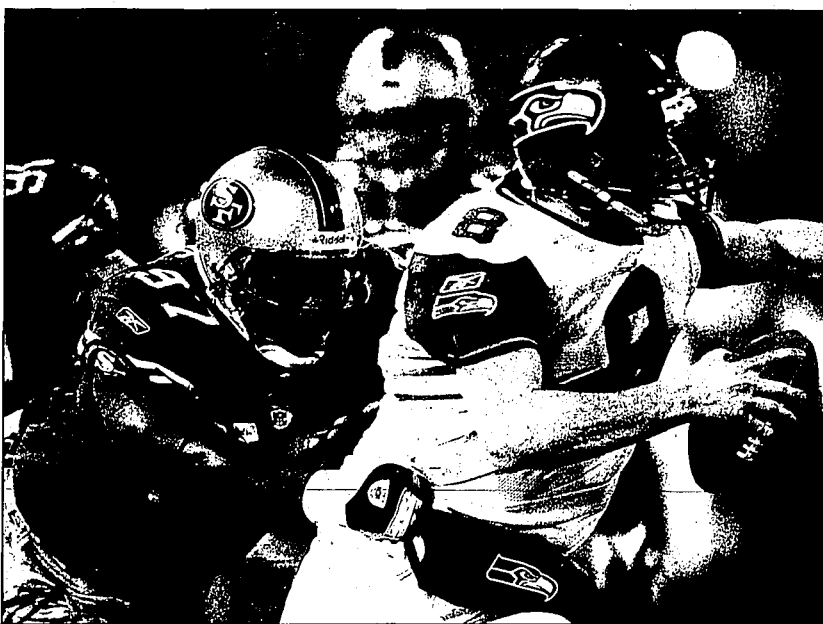
For more information, call Jack at 837-4505.

Compiled from staff and wire reports

TRIVIA ANSWER:

Hall of Fame third baseman Brooks Robinson of the Baltimore Orioles

DOING THEIR PART



Seattle Seahawks quarterback Matt Hasselbeck, right, gets away from the San Francisco 49ers' Bryant Young, left, in the fourth quarter in San Francisco on Saturday.

Seahawks must now wait for playoff fate after 24-17 win

By Greg Beacham
Associated Press writer

SAN FRANCISCO — The Seattle Seahawks' bench practically exploded when Jeff Garcia skipped a fourth-down pass off the turf at mid-field with 1:06 left. Several Seahawks charged onto the field waving their helmets, and several others threw most of their uniforms into the crowd in celebration.

The Seahawks' 24-17 victory over San Francisco on Saturday earned them a chance at the playoffs — and an uneasy Sunday of waiting.

Matt Hasselbeck passed for 315 yards and threw scoring passes to Koren Robinson and

Alex Bannister to keep the Seahawks' postseason hopes alive.

Seattle's first win in San Francisco since 1979 wasn't pretty, with both teams struggling to move the ball on a chilly day at Candlestick Park. But Hasselbeck and Shaun Alexander came up with just enough big plays to give the Seahawks (10-6) their second road victory of the season and a sweep of the 49ers in 2003.

Now the Seahawks need Minnesota to lose at Arizona, or Denver to beat Green Bay at Lambeau Field on Sunday. Seattle also could get in if Dallas loses at New Orleans, kicking off a complicated scenario that would eliminate the Packers.

"You win, and you give yourself a chance to go the playoffs," said Alexander, who rushed for 60 of his 85 yards in the fourth quarter. "I thought, 'I can't let this opportunity slip away to do something this organization hasn't done for a long time.'"

The Seahawks haven't made the playoffs since coach Mike Holmgren's first season in 1999, but they're ready to end that frustration with consecutive season-ending victories over NFC West rivals Arizona and San Francisco.

"We needed to win the last two to have a chance," Holmgren said. "They did what I asked them to do. Now it's out of our hands. I told the fellows if they don't normally go to

Please see SEAHAWKS, Page C2

A YEAR OF SCANDALS, GLORY AND THRILLS

By Steve Wiltstein
Associated Press Columnist

Deliciously scandalous, terribly tragic, and occasionally comic, the sports world in 2003 boiled over with stories of murder, rape, drugs,

Year in review

boozing and buffoonery. Sports beats merged with police beats in strange places:

— A rock quarry near Waco, Texas, where the body of Baylor University basketball player Patrick Dennehy was found.

— A courthouse in Eagle, Colo., where Kobe Bryant faced a charge of sexual assault.

— A laboratory and grand jury room in San Francisco, where Barry Bonds, Marion Jones and dozens of other pro and Olympic athletes were linked to a probe involving steroids.

— The coaching ethics-challenged campuses of Georgia, St. Bonaventure, Fresno State, Michigan, Iowa State and

Washington, to be forgotten, a strip-joint in Florida where Mike Price partied too heartily and lost his Alabama football dream job even before he settled in.

The sports landscape oozed much from coast to coast, January to December.

Yet past the garbage and 2003 was a year of uncommon glory and thrills in all the right places:

— Lance Armstrong, climbing Please see YEAR, Page C2

— A strip-joint in Florida where Mike Price partied too heartily and lost his Alabama football dream job even before he settled in.

The sports landscape oozed much from coast to coast, January to December.

Yet past the garbage and 2003 was a year of uncommon glory and thrills in all the right places:

— Lance Armstrong, climbing Please see YEAR, Page C2



Kobe Bryant, left, looks at his defense attorney Pamela Mackey as he is advised by Eagle County Judge Frederick Gannett during a hearing at the Eagle County courthouse Aug. 6 in Eagle, Colo.

Islanders puts chill on hot Maple Leafs with 3-1 win

By Ira Poddal
Associated Press writer

UNIONDALE, N.Y. — Mark Parrish scored the game-winning goal for the second straight night, lifting the New York Islanders to a 3-1 victory that snapped the Toronto Maple Leafs' point streak at 16 games Saturday.

Toronto went 14-0-11 since their previous loss in regulation on Nov. 20 at Edmonton. The run tied the longest in the NHL since the 1999-00 season, when points were first awarded for overtime losses.

Parrish, who scored in overtime Friday to beat New Jersey, calmly controlled a rebound in front of Ed Belfour and steered it into the open right side of the net 4:34 into the third period.

Matias Weinhandl also scored for New York, which has won six straight at home and is 8-2-0-1 since a seven-game losing streak. Toronto had its road unbeaten streak snapped at eight games (7-0-1), one short of the team record set in the 1947-48 season.

Parrish added an empty-net goal with 6:1 seconds left to seal it. Former Islanders captain Bryan McCabe slammed the puck back into the Toronto net in frustration as New York celebrated.

The Islanders have handed Toronto two of its seven regulation losses this season, winning twice at home.

It became clear that it wouldn't be the Maple Leafs' night when, after they pulled Belfour for an extra attacker, they were caught with too many men on the ice with 57.4 seconds remaining.

Toronto got out of the first period with a 1-0 lead, despite being outshot 8-3 and not getting a puck in on goalie Garth Snow until 13:02 elapsed.

Islanders nemesis Darcy Tucker gave the Leafs a 1-0 lead with 4:21 left in the first period on Toronto's third shot.

Joe Nieuwendyk dug the pug out of the right corner and made a perfect, blind, behind-the-back pass in front to Tucker, who was left alone at the top of the crease. He easily beat Snow for his 13th goal and first in 12 games.

SPORTS

Virginia grabs bowl title

Defense holds Fitzgerald scoreless

By Jenna Fryer
Associated Press writer

CHARLOTTE, N.C. — Matt Schaub capped his career as Virginia's most prolific quarterback by taking a knee on his second consecutive Continental Tire Bowl victory.

Larry Fitzgerald could only watch from the Pittsburgh sidelines, hands on his hips in yet another disappointing loss in what might have been the final game for one of the greatest players in Panthers history.

Virginia made it 2-for-2 in the 2-year-old Tire Bowl by using solid defense to snap Fitzgerald's record touchdown streak at 18 games in a 23-16 victory on Saturday.

"We have worked very hard to become a significant defensive team and we knew stopping Larry Fitzgerald was going to be important," Cavaliers coach Al Groh said. "He can do in one or two plays what a 12-play drive usually does, so we put an emphasis on him."

The Cavaliers (8-5) did it by limiting the looks in Fitzgerald's direction with a steady pass-rush that led to five sacks and only six throws to Fitzgerald.

The Heisman Trophy runner-up, who could petition the NFL for early entry into the draft, was held to five catches for 77 yards and failed to score a touchdown for Pittsburgh (8-5) for the first time since Oct. 12, 2002, against Notre Dame. His 18 consecutive games with a touchdown is an NCAA record.

"I don't play for records," he said. "The record was fun and I thank my teammates for helping me get it. Records are meant to be broken."

So what could have been Fitzgerald's swan song instead became Schaub's big day. He threw for a 244 yards and a touchdown — the 56th of his career, a Virginia record — to earn the MVP award in the second-year bowl.

Virginia used a goal-line stand on Pitt's first drive of the game. The Panthers were stopped on four straight plays from the 1. The Cavaliers also sacked Rod Rutherford on fourth-and-10 near the end of the first half, and forced him into a costly fumble that basically sealed the game.

Connor Hughes kicked a 39-yard field — his third of the game — to give Virginia a 23-16 lead with 2:28 to play.



Virginia's Matt Schaub (7) and Almondo Curry (22) raise the trophy as coach Al Groh, center, looks on after their 23-16 win over Pittsburgh in the Continental Tire Bowl in Charlotte, N.C., Saturday. Schaub threw for 244 yards and a touchdown—the 56th of his career.

AP Photo

Avalanche edges out Flyers 3-2 in overtime

DENVER (AP) — Rob Blake scored the tying goal, and Colorado pulled its goalie, and Milan Hejduk scored 1:42 into overtime to give the Avalanche a 3-2 win over Philadelphia on Saturday night.

Philadelphia took a 2-1 lead midway through the third period on Radovan Smit's one-timer, but couldn't convert on a two-man advantage less than a minute later. It proved costly when Blake beat Jeff Hackett just seconds after Philippe Sauve skated off for an extra attacker. Joe Sakic had two assists, giving him 17 points in the past 10 games.

Stars 4, Blue Jackets 3

COLUMBUS, Ohio — Brenden Morrow and Mike Modano each had a goal and an assist to lead Dallas.

Modano, who scored eight seconds into the game, and Morrow each have at least one point in the last four games. Morrow has goals in the last four.

Seahawks

Continued from C1.
church, I want them in church tomorrow. I hope we get a chance to keep playing."

Jed Weaver and Cedrick Wilson caught TD passes from Garcia for the 49ers (7-9), who wrapped up just their third losing season since 1983 with a roundly dismal effort. San Francisco dropped just its

Defensesmen Richard Matvichuk and Teppo Numminen also had goals for the Stars.

Lightning 4, Bruins 2

TAMPA, Fla. — Martin St. Louis scored two of Tampa Bay's team-record three short-handed goals and assisted on the third.

St. Louis became the first player with three short-handed points since Nov. 18, 2000, when Marian Hossa and Radek Bonk each did it for Ottawa against Florida. The NHL record is four, set by Keith Tkachuk on April 7, 1995, for Winnipeg against Vancouver.

Panthers 3, Mighty Ducks 2

SUNRISE, Fla. — Olli Jokinen scored on the power play 9:28 into the third period and Roberto Luongo made 34 saves to help Florida overcome a two-goal deficit.

Jokinen scored his 12th goal of the season when he beat Jean-

Sebastian Giguere to the glove side. Anaheim has lost six straight on the road and is winless in 13 consecutive road games.

Devils 2, Penguins 0

PITTSBURGH — Corey Schab made 21 saves and Jay Fandella and Jeff Friesen scored power-play goals for New Jersey.

Schaub made just his second start of the season Saturday while star Martin Brodeur was rested. The shutout was the sixth of Schaub's career. It was his first victory since he beat Pittsburgh 3-1 on March 21.

Sabres 3, Capitals 1

WASHINGTON — Miroslav Satan had a goal and two assists, and Daniel Briere scored the tiebreaking goal with 15:41 left to lead Buffalo.

Mika Noronen had 21 saves for the Sabres, 2:01 following a seven-game losing streak. Peter Bondra scored for the Capitals.

Hurricanes 2, Canadiens 1 OT

RALEIGH, N.C. — Sean Hill broke Carolina's power-play slump, scoring twice with the man advantage in leading the Hurricanes to an overtime victory.

Hill's game-winner came three seconds after Andrei Markov was called for a cross check on Jeff O'Neill 35 seconds into OT. Ron Francis won the draw and Hill blasted a high shot over the glove of Jose Theodore.

Glendales 3, Coyotes 1

PRESTON, Ariz. — Scott Walker had a goal and two assists, helping the Nashville Predators spoil Phoenix's first game in its new arena.

Marek Zidlicky had a goal and an assist, and Tomas Vokoun made 32 saves to further silence the standing-room-only crowd of 19,052 in the 17,799-seat Glendale Arena.

Steinbrenner faints, taken to hospital

SARASOTA, Fla. (AP) — New York Yankees owner George Steinbrenner fainted Saturday at a memorial service for football great Otto Graham and was hospitalized in stable condition, an emergency official said.

"Right now, he's fine," Paul Dezi of the Sarasota County Fire Department told The Associated Press.

"He fainted. When we arrived, he was alert and oriented. He was very talkative in the ambulance," he said. "He was stable."

The 73-year-old Steinbrenner was taken to Sarasota Memorial Hospital. He was given oxygen, an electrocardiogram and intravenous fluids in the ambulance, Dezi said.

Based on the preliminary tests, "Everything showed up fine," Dezi said.

"There's nothing obvious on our side," he said. "I just talked to someone who was with him in the hospital, and Mr. Steinbrenner seemed OK."

Sarasota Herald-Tribune columnist Doug Fernandes said he was

about 20 feet away when Steinbrenner fell during a slide show. The presentation, prepared by Graham's grandchildren and shown at a reception, featured pictures of Steinbrenner and Graham together. "He went to reach for a chair but he missed, and he went face-first into the carpet," Fernandes said. "People were stunned. They started loosening his tie and his collar. He was out for a few seconds. By the time they wheeled him out, his color had returned."

Temperatures were normal for this time of year, in the mid-70s. The reception room was full of Graham, a longtime friend of Steinbrenner, died Dec. 17. The Hall of Fame quarterback was 82.

Hospital spokeswoman Lynn Cassan did not comment to the AP citing patient confidentiality.

Steinbrenner, grew up in Cleveland and later became long-time friends with Graham, the Browns' star quarterback from 1946-55. They were golfing partners, attended banquets together and helped each other with charity events.

Pistons' Wallace comes through late

ATLANTA

(AP) — Ben Wallace made two late free throws — his first points of the game — and had a block on the next possession, helping the Detroit Pistons beat the Atlanta Hawks 87-84 Saturday night.

Richard Hamilton scored 28 and Bob Sura added a season-high 13 for the Pistons, who snapped a two-game losing streak. Sura was the 24th player this season to get his highest Detroit Pistons guard Bob Sura (5) passes the ball behind the point.

Total his back past Atlanta Hawks center Theo Ratliff (42) during a 6-1 in 1's first half Saturday in Atlanta.

Jason Terry and Shareef Abdur-Rahim scored 20 apiece but couldn't stop the Hawks from losing for the ninth time in 10 games.

Wallace was 0-for-3 from the field but came through at the line after being fouled on a layup with 1:44 left and the score 81-81. Only a 53 percent foul shooter, he swished both shots to give Detroit the lead for good.

Knicks 100, Heat 80

MIAMI — Keith Van Horn scored 28 points and point guard Frank Williams moved into the starting lineup, helping New York to its most lopsided victory this season.

The Knicks scored 13 of the game's first 15 points, then closed the third quarter with an 18-2 run to build their advantage to 83-59. Van Horn scored 17 points in the quarter, including all four of his 3-pointers.

Williams, a second-year guard making his first NBA start, had 14 points — including baskets in the final second of the second and third periods. All-Star Houston added 15 points for New York, which shot 51 percent.

Lamar Odom scored 25 points for the Heat.

Bulls 100, Wizards 86

CHICAGO — Jamal Crawford made five 3-pointers and scored a career-high 42 points for victorious Chicago.

Coming off a 40-point performance at Cleveland on Friday, Crawford outdied himself. He was 16-for-27 from the floor and 5-for-7 from 3-point range. Prior to Friday, Crawford shot just 14-for-54 in the previous three games.

Chicago started to pull away late in the third quarter, using a 12-2 run to turn a 61-60 deficit into a nine-point lead. Crawford



AP Photo

Vikings

Continued from C1.
Grant" or "why are they torturing us like this?"

Some day you will look back and realize that these were the good old days, the glory years. We've never had it so consistently good from the first day of spring training to the last football game of the winter.

I'm not even including the Gophers hockey championship or the great run by their women's basketball team. Every team has had a chance, every team has been a contender.

It wasn't so long ago that we were in the opposite position. In

Year

Continued from C1.
the Pyrenees and cruising into Paris for a fifth straight Tour de France.

The soul of a champion shone through when Armstrong took a spill in the hills. Clipping a road-bugging fan's bag, he fell over, bloodied his left elbow, grazed his hip, and wiped out another rider, the clatter of bikes scratching against the roar of the crowd.

Armstrong's fight-or-flight instincts kicked in, his heart pumped faster, and he felt "a big, big rush of adrenaline." For days he had looked laggard. Now he fought and he flew, a mad man six miles from the finish on a grotesque 99-mile climb through the Pyrenees.

— Ohio State battling Miami in double overtime, then a flag came flying, the celebration was halted and one of college football's greatest games kept going and going and going.

When it finally ended, Ohio State winning 31-24, no one was quite sure which play was the biggest. In all, there were 32 plays that could

have been the final snap of the game.

— The Boston Red Sox and Chicago Cubs, trying to shake their hated image as lovable losers, struck down in seven-game playoffs by the finger of fate and the hands of a fan.

They came so close to meeting each other in the World Series in a kinship of mutual suffering. Instead, they each found ways to lose again. Indecision by Boston manager Grady Little and too much pride by pitcher Pedro Martinez brought the Red Sox down even after they led 5-2 in the eighth inning against the Yankees in Game 7 of the AL championship series.

At Wrigley Field, the Cubs were five outs from their first World Series in 58 years, leading 3-0 in Game 6, when left fielder Moises Alou lost a foul fly to a fan and shortstop Alex Gonzalez made an error. Eight runs later, the Cubs were good as gone.

— The Florida Marlins winning the World Series with young Josh Beckett on the mound, old Jack McKeon in the dugout and a low-budget team that beat the haughty Yankees in their own house.

"You believe me now that anything can happen," the cigar-puffing McKeon said after

The Seahawks went ahead 21-17 late in the third on Robinson's diving 30-yard TD catch, which was upheld after review. Robinson had six catches for 85 yards.

After several minutes of ineffective offense for both teams, the Seahawks made a pounding 70-yard drive centered on Alexander. Seattle handed off to Alexander

on nine of the 13 plays on the drive, which ended with Josh Brown's 33-yard field goal with 1:56 left to clinch the franchise's 11th win season in 17 years.

"The things we were doing were stupid mistakes, and very correctable," Hasselbeck said. "Nobody lost their mind, and everybody kept their calm."

good run. Three out of four isn't bad.

Four for four is virtually unheard of. (I'm not counting the Devils, Islanders or Nets as New York City teams. They actually consider the New York teams their biggest rivals.)

Boston area teams—Red Sox, Patriots, Celtics and Bruins—will accomplish the feat in 2003. But they're still whining about the baseball team losing to the Yankees, so maybe this type of dissatisfaction is contagious.

Stop for a minute, take a deep breath and look around. It's been fun, hasn't it?

The 23-year-old Beckett threw a five-hitter on three days' rest to close out the Yankees 2-0 in Game 6 of the World Series. "This guy has the guts of a burglar."

The burglar walked away with the Series MVP. — Roger Clemens going out grandly even in defeat, throwing a 94 mph fastball for a strikeout in the series to cap a Hall of Fame-bound career with 310 victories and 4,099 strikeouts.

The stadium, sparked with flashlights as thousands of fans photographed his first and last pitches. Clemens acknowledged the crowd in Miami with a curtain call, doffing his cap to the fans and to several Marlins who had tipped their caps to him.

One day everything in sports — as lovely, and the next day there was scandal and panic. The year lurched from celebrations to arrests and firings and back again. It was the kind of year when it paid to have a selective memory, filtering out the ugly and remembering only the grandeur of the championships and games.

Steve Wilstein is a national sports columnist for The Associated Press. Write to him at swilstein@att.net.



SPORTS

Patriots clinch home-field advantage for playoffs

By Howard Ulman
Associated Press writer

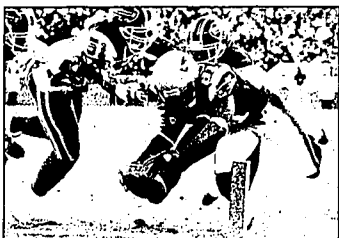
FOXBORO, Mass. — Tom Brady needed just one outstanding play to assure the New England Patriots of home-field advantage throughout the AFC playoffs.

And they did it with a score of redemption, beating the Buffalo Bills 31-0 Saturday in the regular-season finale after losing the opener to them by the same score.

Brady threw four touchdown passes to four receivers in the first half — after throwing four interceptions in the loss to Buffalo — and New England rolled into the playoffs with a franchise-best 12-game winning streak.

The Patriots (14-2) had their best season ever and earned a first-round bye in their quest for a second Super Bowl championship in three seasons.

Their first playoff game, on the field where they went 8-0 this season, will be Jan. 10 or 11 against the lowest remaining seeded team after next weekend's wild-card games.



Patriots wide receiver
Beth Johnson
scores a
touchdown
Saturday in
Foxboro,
Mass.

AP photo

The only way they could have missed the AFC's top seed was if they lost and Kansas City would have beaten Chicago on Sunday.

The Bills (6-10) lost seven of their last nine games in the last game of coach Greg Williams' three-year contract. He never took them to the playoffs, and an announcement about his future is expected this week.

The Patriots haven't lost since Sept. 28, when they were edged in

Washington 20-17. But for the first time since then, they won by more than 14 points and weren't threatened in the second half.

Their defense was strong as usual, posting the third shutout in the last four home games, a good sign with them at home for as long as they are in the AFC playoffs.

The Patriots preserved the shutout with Larry Izzo's interception in the end zone with 13 seconds left.

Their offense, facing the NFL's second-ranked defense, finally had a big game as Brady threw touchdown passes on three of their first four possessions in a span of less than 16 minutes.

They covered 1 yard to Daniel Graham, 9 yards to Beth Johnson and 15 yards to Troy Brown. The fourth touchdown pass, a 10-yarder to David Givens, made it 28-0 with 3:55 left in the half and came after Brady hobbled off the field after being hit in the left knee by former Patriots safety Lawyer Milloy.

Brady went 21-for-32 for 204 yards with no interceptions.

Former Patriots quarterback Drew Bledsoe completed just 12 of 29 passes for 83 yards and one interception and was sacked three times. He averaged just 17.9 yards passing in his 16 games after setting 10 franchise records last season.

Eagles 31, Redskins 7

LANDOVER, Md. — Donovan McNabb completed 23 of 32 passes

for 242 yards and three touchdowns and ran for another score in Philadelphia's victory over Washington that clinched the Eagles' third consecutive NFC East title.

The Eagles (12-4) secured a much-needed off week to rest their injured players. Philadelphia will have home-field advantage throughout the NFC playoffs if St. Louis loses to Detroit on Sunday.

The Redskins (5-11) lost 10 of their last 12 and finished with their worst record since going 3-13 in 1994, and there is rampant speculation over the future of coach Steve Spurrier.

The Eagles scored touchdowns on their first three drives to take a 21-7 halftime lead.

He was also savvy enough to spot tight end Chad Lewis completely uncovered to the right on a second-and-goal at the 3. With the Redskins' defense confused, McNabb took a quick snap and hit Lewis for the easy touchdown for the game's first score.

McNabb strolled across the goal

line on a 1-yard bootleg to make it 14-0 and celebrated by doing his version of Michael Jackson's "Thriller" dance. The 96-yard drive was kept alive by a third-down illegal-contact penalty on safety Todd Franz.

McNabb then hit Freddie Mitchell with an 8-yard TD pass following a fumble by Redskins quarterback Tim Hasselbeck deep in Philadelphia territory.

In the second half, McNabb threw an 11-yard TD screen to Cornell Buckhalter, who scored with an outstretched dive for the pylon.

McNabb completed passes to 10 receivers, including himself. One of his passes was batted back to him by LaVar Arrington, although the catch was a bad decision that resulted in a 7-yard loss. McNabb was over the 100-yard mark with room to spare in the first quarter, completing seven of his first nine passes, including a 40-yarder to Todd Pinkston.

Rock Cartwright's 1-yard second-quarter run was Washington's only score.

Time for the Greenie underachievement awards

By Jerry Greene
The Orlando Sentinel

ORLANDO, Fla. — Time to give out the Greenies — our annual Gangrene Awards for Outstanding Underachievement Against All Odds.

—A special Greenie goes to the East Rochester Giants (4-11) and East Rutherford Jets (6-9) for a combined home record of 5-10. That's enough underachievement to force New Jersey into paying attention to the Nets.

—The Bronze Greenie is shared by Pittsburgh (6-9), Cleveland (4-11) and San Diego (3-12). In any other season, all three failed badly enough to be named the ultimate Underachiever — but this is an exceptional year. (Atlanta (4-11) was disqualified under a special "Mike Vick In A Wheelchair" clause).

—The Silver Greenie goes to Oakland (4-11) for reversing last year's 11-5 record and trip to the Super Bowl. The Raiders look older than Al Davis and that's not possible.

—But the Golden Greenie must go to the Tampa Bay Buccaneers (7-8) for "Failure Beyond the Call of Duty." From Super Bowl champs to Stay-at-Home chumps in 10 months. A remarkable effort.

LAST WEEK: Look who's talking. That choking sound was coming from me after an 8-8 effort straight up (161-79 for season) and 8-8 against the spread (127-101-12 for season). This can still be my greatest season unless I gag on Sunday. Sadly, gagging is always an option.

Tampa Bay (7-8) at Tennessee (11-4) — Titans favored by 7. Before I forget, World Champions, a book-and-DVD set is on sale now at Buccaneers.com for a mere \$49.95. Relive the memories — and forget the rest. Titans by just 3.

Jacksonville (5-10), at Atlanta (4-11) — Falcons favored by 3. After hiring his new GM, Rich McKay, Falcons owner Arthur Blank gave us the most unfortunate quote of the season: "I've been dreaming more about Rich McKay for two years than I have about my wife." One can only wonder what Mrs. Blank had to say about that. In a Dreams-Aren't-Made-Of-This Upset Special, Jags by 6.

East Rutherford Jets (6-9) at Miami (9-6) — Fish favored by 4. Fish fans must be wondering why their beloved Dolphins didn't get a Greenie for Underachieving. But the Fish always underachieve — meaning that underachievement is the "norm." So it doesn't deserve an award. Still, finding a way to lose to the inept Jets on Sunday deserves special consideration. In a Mortal-Lost Upset Special, Jets by 3 in OT.

Chicago (7-8) at Kansas City (12-3) — Chiefs favored by 9.5. You think Bears coach Dick Jauron is going to keep his job again? That might change on Sunday after Chiefs RB Priest Holmes breaks every scoring record known to Man. Chiefs by 14.

Cleveland (4-11) at Cincinnati (8-7) — Bengals favored by 7.5. Speaking of records, Bengals WR Chad "Orange Shoe" Johnson is going for the Most-Fruitcake Award after being hit again last week for wearing shербet shoes. Then he said about his team: "We're the greatest improvement on grass." No, no, NFL — don't suspend him for that! It's not what you think. At least, don't suspend him. High-flying Bengals by 12.

Dallas (10-5) at New Orleans (7-8) — Cowboys favored by 2. We all know how the 'Aints' last game ended. Coach Jim Haslett still says the Jags made an illegal effort to block the PAT on the final play. Said Jim: "You cannot

Sunday games

Pittsburgh at Baltimore
6-9 9-6
By the time the Ravens play Sunday night against Pittsburgh they may already have clinched the AFC North title. But he still won't be able to rest Jamal Lewis to keep him healthy and fresh for the playoffs, because Lewis, who ran for 205 yards against Cleveland last week is within 48 yards of 2,000 yards for the season.

Indianapolis at Houston
11-4 5-10
The Colts hold the tiebreaker over the Titans in the AFC South because they won both meetings. But their loss to Denver last Sunday kept them from clinching the division title. That means Tennessee could take it with a victory over the Bucs and a loss by the Colts to the Texans. If Tampa Bay loses, it would become the first Super Bowl winner to finish under .500 since 1999.

Tampa Bay at Tennessee
7-8 11-4
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Denver at Green Bay
10-5 9-6
If both the Vikings and Packers win, Minnesota wins the NFC North. In Tempe, the Cardinals have been competitive in every game but one. Denver has nothing to play for after clinching a wild-card spot.

Minnesota at Arizona
9-6 3-12
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Dallas at New Orleans
10-5 7-8
How the Cowboys play this one may depend on what Philadelphia does Saturday — if the Eagles lose, Dallas could win the NFC East with a victory. In either case,

the young Texans have 14 players on injured reserve. Colts by 10.

St. Louis (12-3) at Detroit (4-11) — Rams favored by 10. Have you noticed that first-year Lions coach Steve Mariucci is getting no criticism at all? That's because we all know the Lions are pathetic — and because GM Matt Millen keeps doing things that are as witty as a fruitcake. Meanwhile, the Rams have won 7 straight and may be your NFC champ. Rams by 15.

Carolina (10-5) at East Rutherford Giants (4-11) — Panthers favored by 5. Just one question about this game — in the final seconds of the Giants' 12th loss, what's the liquid of choice to pour on Jim Fassel's head? Panthers by 9.

NFL WEEK 17

Are you in or out?

The AFC playoff teams entering the weekend were the Patriots, Chiefs, Colts, Titans and Broncos plus the winner of the North, either Baltimore or Cincinnati. The seeding order could change and so could the winner of the South, where Indianapolis currently holds the tiebreaker over Tennessee. The NFC teams in the playoffs are the St. Louis, Philadelphia, Carolina and Dallas. Minnesota holds the tiebreaker over Green Bay for the North title and the Packers and Vikings hold a wild-card tiebreaker over Seattle, the only other team alive.

Cleveland at Cincinnati
4-9 8-7
Even if they don't make the playoffs, the Bengals, 2-14 a year ago, have to be happy with the season. If they win this game, they would have their first winning season since 1990. The Browns are likely to retain Butch Davis, although his team has collapsed under him.

St. Louis at Detroit
12-3 4-11
The Rams gained the edge for home-field advantage in the NFC when the Eagles lost last week and will be trying to clinch it against a team that last week set an NFL record with its 24th consecutive road loss.

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Minnesota (9-6) at Arizona (3-12) — Vikings favored by 7.5. Remember when the Vikings were 6-0 and we were so impressed? Remember when Sammy Sosa's bat turned out to

be full of cork and we were so shocked? Remember when Martha Burk declared war on Augusta National and we thought everyone was going to care? The point, people, is that we are often wrong. Fading Vikes by just 3.

Chicago at Kansas City
7-8 13-3
The Chiefs are just 3-3 after their 9-0 start as the defense has allowed 45 points in two of the last three games. Would a .500 season save Dick Wauron's job?

New York Jets at Miami
6-9 9-6
A win by the Dolphins would give them a curious distinction — they would be the first 10-win team since the Dolphins and 49ers in 1991 to miss the playoffs. The Jets' Chad Pennington not broken his wrist in preseason. But they are just 4-4 in his starts and Pennington had his worst game ever last week, throwing five interceptions against New England.

Jacksonville at Atlanta
5-10 5-10
There is also a chance the Broncos could be without Herndon longer than just this week. Shanahan said Herndon could not have played this week, even if it was a playoff game, although he's hopeful Herndon can play with a

Carolina at New York Giants
10-5 4-11
Carolina rested five starters last week after clinching the NFC South. The Jacksonville-Atlanta game is a showcase of two of the game's best young QBs, Byron Leftwich and Michael Vick. Despite his team's record, Marty Schottenheimer will return next season to coach the Chargers. Bill Callahan's fate with the Raiders is uncertain.

Oakland at San Diego
4-11 3-12
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Broncos quarterback
Jake Plummer
has helped the Broncos
reach the playoffs for
just the second time
since John Elway
retired.

AP photo

Broncos will likely face Packers short-handed

By Frank Schwab
The Gazette (Colorado Springs, Colo.)

ENGLEWOOD, Colo. — Green Bay Packers quarterback Brett Favre might start the secondary Sunday and face four Denver Broncos defensive backs who weren't starting a week ago.

Two positions will definitely see a change from last week. Player-coach Jimmy Spence will start at cornerback in place of Kelly Herndon, who has two broken bones in his hand, and Sam Brandon will start at free safety in place of Nick Ferguson, who is on injured reserve.

Broncos coach Mike Shanahan said that cornerback Willie Middlebrooks will see more playing time than usual, and cornerback Ryan McNeil said he thought he might play some at safety Sunday as he gets used to a new role as a backup free safety.

"Favre's a great quarterback," safety Kenoy Kennedy said. "We've got our hands full."

Brandon, especially, will be looked upon to have a positive output heading into the playoffs because he will be the Broncos' starting free safety for the rest of the season. Brandon was a starter at the beginning of the season before Ferguson took his job.

"I've been there," Brandon said. "I practiced every play like I was going to start that week. I just got to get back in there and focus and play my game."

Kennedy said: "I guess (Brandon) had a little lack of concentration in a couple of games that got him demoted. But he has the ability and the skills to get it done."

There is also a chance the Broncos could be without Herndon longer than just this week. Shanahan said Herndon could not have played this week, even if it was a playoff game, although he's hopeful Herndon can play with a

Sponsorship deals lack permanence
By Kenneth Bredemeyer
The Washington Post

On Dec. 19, even before this year's Axa Liberty Bowl is played on New Year's Eve, the game's title sponsor, Axa Financial Inc., a New York financial services firm, announced it was ending its seven-year sponsorship with AutoZone Inc., a car parts retailer, automating it next year.

"Our business strategy did not allow us to create a long-term sponsorship," said Axa spokesman Jeff Taylor.

Likewise, Nathan Christian, a regional president for Wells Fargo & Co., said his institution is dumping its sponsorship of the Sun Bowl in El Paso after eight years.

"We did it in the first place (initially as the Northwest Sun Bowl before Wells Fargo bought Northwest), primarily as community support at a time when the bowl was on the lip of the grave" and without a corporate sponsor, said Christian, who lived in El Paso for 22 years before moving to Southern California.

"We've had a very good experience with our title sponsorship," Christian said. "But a sponsorship

last in Denver's playoff opener. Shanahan said Friday that Herndon was sore.

If Herndon is out for more than this week the Broncos will likely depend on Spence, who has been Denver's fifth defensive back in the Nickel package.

"Quarterbacks haven't really been coming my way, so I've been holding my own pretty much," Spence said.

Roster moves

The Broncos made two roster moves, elevating running back Cecil Sapp and receiver Nate Jackson to the active roster from the practice squad. If Shanahan decides to rest a lot of his starters who are nursing minor injuries, both Sapp and Jackson could be active Sunday. The Raiders cut defensive tackle Luis Almanzar and linebacker Patrick Chukwurah.

The Broncos practiced Friday without wide receivers Rod Smith and Deltha O'Neal, both of whom were attending funerals. Smith's grandfather passed away over the weekend, as did O'Neal's father. Shanahan said he expected both to be available for Sunday's game.

Favre returns

Favre, who missed practice Wednesday and Thursday while attending his father's funeral, was back at practice Friday.

"Obviously he had some catching up to do, but he's been doing this for quite a long time, so he probably had less catching up than most players would," Packers coach Mike Sherman told the Wisconsin media.

Backers wide receiver Robert Ferguson (Achilles), and cornerback Mike McKenzie (turf toe) haven't practiced all week. Sherman said he hoped each of them would be able to play Sunday.

Sponsorship deals lack permanence
has a life cycle. This has pretty much run its natural life cycle, like all advertising campaigns."

Osram Sylvania Inc., the Danvers, Mass., lighting company, released a statement after a run as sponsor of the Anaco Bowl in San Antonio from 1999 to 2001.

"When you get off the plane, there was no question it was the Sylvania Alamo Bowl, with signs everywhere," said Michael Colotti, the firm's vice president for brand management.

The problem, he said, was that Sylvania couldn't find enough people, especially decision-making executives, to fly to San Antonio for the game and related events. "One of the problems was the date," Colotti said. "It was always between Christmas and New Year's. That presented a marker."

As a result, Sylvania decided to spend most of its sports marketing dollars sponsoring the NASCAR racing team of driver Kevin Harvick, who competes in 300 races in Loudon, N.H., in September.

Memphis upsets Missouri 61-59; Saint Joseph's tops Pacific

The Associated Press

MEMPHIS, Tenn. — Memphis guard Antonio Burke contributed to a 61-59 victory over Missouri Saturday as Memphis beat No. 11 Missouri 61-59, the Tigers' third loss in four games.

Burke was 7-of-15 from the field, including 3-of-7 from 3-point range. Sean Banks added 13 points and eight rebounds for Memphis.

Missouri (4-3) got within 60-59 on Ricky Paulding's 3-pointer with 4.5 seconds remaining. Jimmy McKinney's running shot from just beyond the 3-point line as time ran out bounced off the rim, giving Memphis (7-2) its

third straight win.

No. 10 Saint Joseph's 73, Pacific 55

PHILADELPHIA — Delonte West scored 22 points and Jameer Nelson added 15 for No. 10 Saint Joseph's.

The Hawks (9-0) are off to their best start since they won their first 10 games in 1964-65. The Hawks won their first seven games last season before being upset by Pacific.

No. 13 Florida 109, E Kentucky 63

GAINESVILLE, Fla. — Anthony Robinson scored 22 points and No. 13 Florida breezed to the win

over Eastern Kentucky.

The Gators (8-2) shot 64.6 percent (42-for-65) to finish above 60 percent for the third time this season.

Florida freshman Lee Humphrey made his first three 3-pointers and went 3-for-4 for 11 points. Teammate David Lee, who finished with eight points, has made 17 straight shots and has gone 56 minutes, spanning three games, since his last miss.

No. 14 Cincinnati 83, Miami, Ohio 63

CINCINNATI — James White and Field Williams each scored 14 points and No. 14 Cincinnati extended its best start in four years by beating Miami of Ohio

83-63 on Saturday night.

Cincinnati (8-0) pulled out to a 20-point lead in the first half, but couldn't shake the RedHawks (4-5) until midway through the second half.

Tony Bobbitt added 11 points and Jason Maxell had 10 for Cincinnati, which has won its last six games against Miami. Danny Horace and Chet Mason led the RedHawks with 10 points apiece.

No. 16 Pittsburgh 52, New Hampshire 38

PITTSBURGH — Julius Page picked up the slack for injured guard Carl Krauser by scoring 19 points for No. 16 Pittsburgh.

Krauser, Pitt's leading scorer with a 15.6-point average, did not

play because of a groin injury.

Page, held to a total of 15 points in Pitt's previous two wins, made five 3-pointers and scored 11 points in the first half as Pitt took a 28-13 lead.

He came into the game averaging 12.9 points, second to Krauser.

Chris Taft had 14 points and 12 rebounds for the Panthers (12-0).

No. 19 Wisconsin 71, Ohio U. 48

CLEVELAND — Alando Tucker scored a season-high 22 points and Zach Morley had a career-high 14 for No. 19 Wisconsin.

Tucker, 6-foot-5 sophomore, went 8-for-13 from the field and added six rebounds as Wisconsin

(8-1) dominated underneath while tuning up for a game at Alabama on Tuesday.

Tucker hobbled off favoring his right knee in the final minute, his then Wisconsin was up 23 points and coasted to its fifth straight win.

No. 22 Purdue 82, Evansville 62

WEST LAFAYETTE, Ind. — Purdue's Kenneth Lowe scored 17 points to lead five Boilermaker players in double figures. Reserve Brett Buscher scored a season-high 12 and Evansville native Matt Kiefer added 14.

Kyle Ansinger led Evansville (1-7) with 16 points, including going 4-of-5 from 3-point range.

SuperSonics are smiling about Ray

By Jim Cour
Associated Press writer

SEATTLE — Rashard Lewis, the second half of the Seattle SuperSonics' 1-2 offensive punch, smiled mischievously when he saw the growing number of reporters waiting to talk to Ray Allen.

"Are you waiting to talk to Jesus?" the starting small forward asked, knowing full well that Allen's splashy return to the Sonics' lineup was the big NBA story in Seattle.

That's Jesus as in Jesus Shuttlesworth, a part Allen played as a one-dimensional actor in director Spike Lee's 1998 movie "He Got Game" that starred Denzel Washington.

After missing the first 25 games of the Sonics' season following arthroscopic surgery to his right ankle on Nov. 1, Allen made an impressive return to his team's starting lineup Tuesday night.

The 6-foot-5 shooting guard, a three-time All-Star and Seattle's best player, scored 24 points on 8-for-13 shooting, including 4-for-7 from 3-point range, and had seven assists in a 116-90 victory over the Phoenix Suns.

Without forward Amare Stoudemire, the Suns aren't a good team right now, but that didn't matter to the Sonics. Allen was back and they were in their most buoyant mood of the season.

Allen, 28, is certainly going to make coach Nate McMillan's job easier.

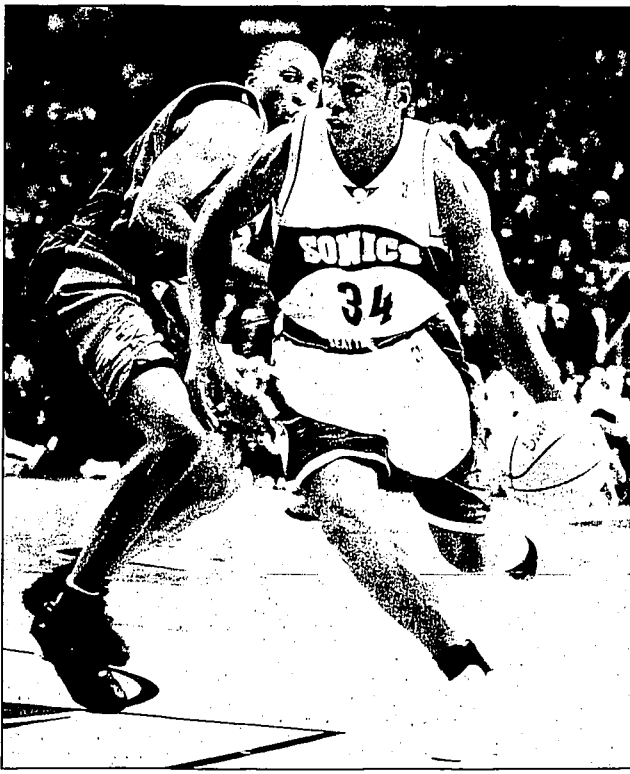
"He brings confidence to the team that he can make a play," McMillan said. "He gets the respect from the officials and from the opposing teams. I think it takes some of the pressure off of Rashard. It should help these guys relax a little bit more with him being out there."

It should help them relax a lot more, according to the players.

"The ballhandling, the shooting, the experience makes all the difference in the world," journeyman guard Antonio Daniels said. "We're a completely different team now."

Before Allen talked to reporters, he visited with Lewis, who had the game's final stats sheet in his hand.

"Look at this, Ray," Lewis said, pointing out how the Sonics



Seattle SuperSonics' Ray Allen drives to the basket past Phoenix Suns' Shawn Marion during the fourth quarter Tuesday in Seattle. Allen, who was starting his first game of the season after coming off an ankle injury, led all scorers with 24 points in the Sonics' 116-90 win.

passed the ball and spread out their offense against the Suns. "Nobody took more than 13 shots."

"That's good," Allen said. "That's very good."

The 6-10 Lewis, who had 22 points and tied his season high with 13 rebounds against the Suns, was called on to be the Sonics' leader in Allen's absence. It was an uncomfortable fit.

Lewis is in his sixth year in the NBA, but he's only 24, having been drafted by the Sonics' out of high school in Alief, Texas. He's happy to hand the team's leadership role back to Allen for awhile.

Allen is a career 19.9-points-a-game scorer and a career .458 shooter.

"It's going to make it a lot easier on me," Lewis said. "Instead of me being the focal point on the offensive end, now it'll be Ray and I'll probably be the second option. I think it'll open up more shots for me."

Acquired by the Sonics last Feb. 20 in the blockbuster trade that sent Sonics fan favorite Gary Payton to Milwaukee, Allen played 25 games with Seattle last season.

Allen, 28, averaged 24.5 points in 29 games for the Sonics, but they missed the playoffs with a 40-42 record.

The fans in Seattle loved the fiery Payton's game and competitive demeanor, but they love the affable Allen's jump shots and court acumen, too.

When Allen was forced to the sidelines with the first surgery of his basketball career seven weeks ago after he developed pain in his ankle in training camp, he spent his time off the floor wisely.

His mental game is strong, too. "I've been watching the game for two months," he said. "I see when we're scoring and when we're not scoring and what that is."

It helped out a lot. It allowed me to slow down the game and focus in on what plays need to be made and kind of provide some type of stability out there."

Allen cautions Sonics fans not to get too carried away by the team's 26-point victory over a struggling Suns team. The Sonics face the Minnesota Timberwolves and Kevin Garnett Saturday night in Seattle.

"I'd like to marvel at what we did because we had a pretty good game, but we have a lot of tough opponents coming up," he said. Starting center Jerome James has been a big disappointment this season, but he thinks he'll be vastly improved with Allen in the lineup. James had 11 points, six rebounds and four blocked shots against Phoenix.

The 7-1, 272-pound James loves to score points and he sees Allen helping him do that.

"He just passes the ball where you're supposed to pass it," James said. "That pass has been there every game. It just hasn't been delivered."

Despite loss, Williams has Tar Heels off to a good start

By Aaron Beard
Associated Press writer

CHAPEL HILL, N.C. — Before the season, Roy Williams deflected questions about high expectations for North Carolina by pointing to the team's 36 losses over the past two years.

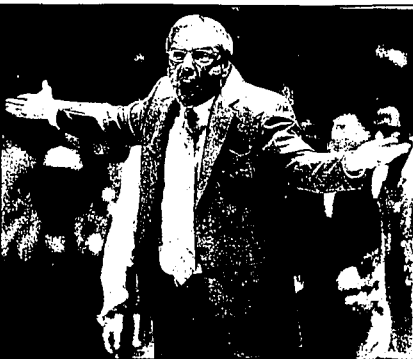
He was fond of saying "Oh! Roy ain't that good?" when asked whether he could lift a troubled program back in line with its storied tradition.

Seven games later, Williams has brought stability and confidence back to his alma mater, where he spent 10 seasons as an assistant to Dean Smith. The results show on the court, where the Tar Heels score more, shoot better and win.

"No coach is ever going to say they're pleased or that you're where you want to be unless it's the end of the season and you're the only one standing," said Williams, who left Kansas after leading the Jayhawks to the NCAA final last season.

"I'm not good enough to have a master plan to say where we should be at each week. We just go out every day and try to do the best we can do and try to get better."

North Carolina (6-1) reached No. 4 last week — its highest ranking since reaching No. 1 during the 2000-01 season — before last Saturday's 119-114 triple-overtime loss to unbeaten Wake Forest. The Tar Heels were off to their best



North Carolina head coach Roy Williams reacts to a call in the first half against Wake Forest in Chapel Hill, N.C., Dec. 20. Williams has brought stability and confidence back to his alma mater, where he spent 10 seasons as an assistant to Dean Smith. The results show on the court, where the Tar Heels score more, shoot better and win.

start since winning the first eight games of the 1998-99 season, but fell to ninth in this week's Associated Press poll.

North Carolina averages 92 points per game to rank second nationally and shoots 48 percent. Those numbers are up from 72.1

points a game and 44 percent shooting last year under Matt Doherty.

In addition, the Tar Heels have cut their 3-point attempts from 23.5 per game last year to 16.6 this year, part of Williams' emphasis on an up-tempo style

that thrives on easy baskets and shot selection.

But the changes in Chapel Hill go deeper than numbers. Armed with Smith's pedigree, Williams is a calming influence on a program that felt unprecedented turbulence in Doherty's three years.

Williams is well aware of the program's recent troubles, including an 8-20 season in 2001-02. That's why he's handling this year's team — loaded with sophomores and juniors — with care.

"If you're 15-0, you can push a team as much as you want to push them, because they believe in you and they believe in what they're doing," Williams said. "They're confident and they're just stubborn enough to say they can run longer than I can blow the whistle. But we don't have a team like that right now."

Williams' players have noticed the coach's approach. "Coach is just trying to feel us out right now," sophomore center Sean May said. "I know he wants to push a lot of buttons, but he doesn't really know the personalities on the team. He doesn't know really who can handle it and who can't."

May cited Williams' reaction to his 21-rebound effort in a win against Akron this month. Many of the rebounds came on his own misses after shooting 3-for-18, but Williams praised May's effort and didn't focus on his struggles.

"He said, 'It just wasn't your night and hopefully you won't have that night next week,'" May said.

"He's not really big on trying to make you feel bad about what you've done. He wants you to get your game going in the right direction, and he's done a great job so far."

Williams also used the triple-O loss as a teaching tool. In that game, the Tar Heels had several chances to win, but shot poorly from the free-throw line late and made several errors in the waning minutes.

That included a key foul by junior Melvin Scott that sent Chris Paul to the line to tie the game with 1.2 seconds left in the first overtime.

"He was just telling us that we have to learn how to win," Scott said. "We didn't hit free throws, but we did the small things. The quicker we learn from this game, the better we'll be."

In January, North Carolina begins a two-week stretch that includes games against No. 1 Connecticut, No. 2 Kentucky, No. 4 Georgia Tech and No. 24 Maryland.

Through that brutal stretch — and the rest of his tenure in Chapel Hill — Williams will expect one thing from this team.

"I think I'm a pretty easy guy to play for," Williams said, "as long as you bust your rear end and do it every possession."

Stanford puts Oregon State away early

STANFORD, Calif. (AP) — Sebnem Kimyacioglu scored 16 of her career-high 24 points in the first half as No. 9 Stanford defeated Oregon State 88-65 in a Pac-10 opener Saturday.

Kristen Nowlin added 16 points as the Cardinal (8-2, 1-0) improved to 19-0 at home against the Beavers. Chelsea Trotter scored 13 points and Azella Perryman had 12.

Junior transfer Howell, playing in her first game with the Beavers (6-4, 0-1), scored a career-high 32 points as Oregon State had its three-game road winning streak snapped.

Howell transferred from Nebraska in the winter of 2002.

Leilani Estavan had seven points and two assists to become the first player in Oregon State history with 200 assists and 900 points.

Stanford played without All-American senior forward Nicole Powell, who severely sprained her left ankle in a loss to Texas Tech a week ago. She's not scheduled to play on Monday against Oregon.

Oregon State sophomore guard Ebony Young missed the game after tearing the anterior cruciate ligament in her left knee against Cincinnati in mid-December.

Stanford held the Beavers scoreless for nearly six minutes of the first half and scored 20 unanswered points during a 28-2 run that made it 36-9 with 7:56 left in the half.

No. 17 LSU 75, Florida St. 68

ATLANTA — Doneeka Hodges and Temeka Johnson scored 20 points apiece, helping No. 17 LSU hold off Florida State.

Seimone Augustus added 14 points for the Lady Tigers (10-2), who won their ninth straight.

Genesis Choie had 15 for the Seminoles (6-4), who lost for the third time in five games. They haven't beaten a ranked team since Feb. 8, 2001, a 71-69 victory over No. 4 Duke.

The Lady Tigers (10-2) fought off several rallies in the second half.

They took a 13-point lead on a 3-pointer by Hodges soon after the break, before Florida State came back the first time.

A switch from zone to man-to-man helped the Seminoles, as well as the play of reserve Angelina Suran.

She didn't score but held Hodges in check for a five-minute stretch, allowing Florida State to get within three on a three-point play by Choie.

But LSU stretched the lead again when Sutton went up for the bench. She hit a layup and a pretty backdoor pass for a layup to start a quick 6-0 run.

No. 12 Georgia 78, Georgia Tech 62

ATLANTA — Kara Braxton scored eight of her 26 points in an early second-half run, leading No. 12 Georgia to a 78-62 victory over Georgia Tech.

Christi Thomas added 13 points for the Lady Bulldogs (8-2), who lost to the Yellow Jackets for the first time ever in last year's shootout. Georgia is 25-1 in the series.

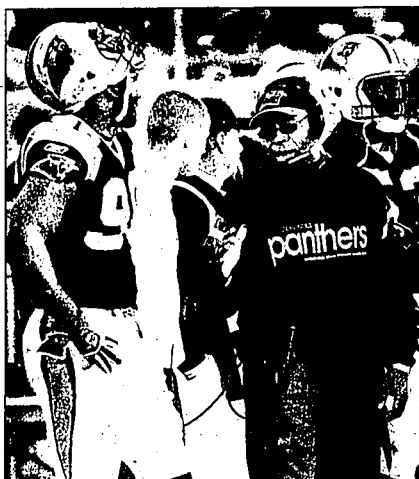
Fallon Stokes had 23 points and Megan Ison added 11 for Georgia Tech (7-3), which had no answer for the inside tandem of Braxton and Thomas.

Women's college basketball



Sebnem Kimyacioglu

SPORTS



Carolina Panthers (linebacker coach Sam Mills, right, talks with Al Wallace during the Panthers' game against the Philadelphia Eagles in Charlotte, N.C., Nov. 30.

Mills takes battle with cancer two weeks at a time

By Jenna Fryer
Associated Press writer

CHARLOTTE, N.C. — A lack of energy was the first sign that something was wrong with Sam Mills.

Two consecutive days without a workout had always been a stretch for the tough and gritty former five-time Pro Bowl linebacker.

Five days and not having the strength to hit the weights? Unheard of.

He didn't think he could be sick — he had sailed through a complete physical and colonoscopy just a few months before — but something wasn't right. He couldn't run, he couldn't lift and he soiled all over.

He had a doctor. One test led to another, then another, and finally a diagnosis: Mills had cancer of the small intestine.

It was a devastating blow for the Carolina Panthers, for whom Mills has been linebackers coach since 1999 and played the final three years of his 12-year career. During his stint, he has become one of the most popular fixtures in the short history of the franchise.

The team learned of Mills' diagnosis just hours before their Aug. 30 preseason finale and just weeks after linebacker Mark Fields had told them of his own Hodgkin's disease.

The Panthers were stunned, but Mills, who himself had just learned the severity of his illness, didn't blink. He coached that night and hasn't missed a game all season for the NFC South champion Panthers (10-5).

"It's like anything, when you have a crisis like this you just regroup," Mills said in his first interview since the diagnosis. "You say, 'Well, it's not time to just feel bad. It is what it is and now I need to regroup and see what's next.'"

"I don't know if it took me 24

hours to regroup, but I said 'OK, you've got lemons, now let's make some lemonade.' That's basically what I've been doing."

Now, he says he rarely looks ahead further than his next chemotherapy treatment.

"My long term now is probably two weeks, the next time I come back (for chemo)," he said. "That's kind of how we deal with it."

At first, the Panthers weren't sure how Mills' illness would affect him or the team. An aggressive treatment program — Monday through Wednesday every other week — led the Panthers to allow Mills to set his own schedule. They made some adjustments to the coaching staff and gave Mills the time and support he needed. But the Panthers never doubted Mills would fight.

"Even when I found out the news, I expected him to be around, and he is," coach John Fox said. "He is just that kind of person. A lesser person ... probably couldn't deal with it, but he is exceptional."

Mills is on the sideline every Sunday, and despite the chemotherapy, he maintains at least a semi-regular workout program that allows him to lift, run and ride a stationary bike — as early as a day after the chemo pump comes out.

To Mills, it's a battle of inner strength that he intends to beat.

"I'm with this team, and I'm around a bunch of guys who are in great health, 300-pounders that can run the 40 in 5.0 seconds," he said. "I leave this team on a Sunday and I go to another team. Now I'm surrounded by people that don't feel as good. You go from one extreme to the other."

"Mentally, it's the same thing. You've got people here who are mentally tough. There are people over there that are mentally tough, hanging in there and dealing with their situations."

Family is all-important for QB brothers

By Joseph White
Associated Press writer

ASHBURN, Va. — Chances are, Tim Hasselbeck will never find out what happened to Simone.

The young girl, perhaps 3 years old, clung to him the entire week he spent in Riverton City, Jamaica, a Kingston slum built around a trash dump. The connection was such that the Simone's teenage mother, seeing no future in such an ugly place, told Hasselbeck to take her daughter with him when he went home to America.

"I guess you never want to sound like you're soft or anything," Hasselbeck said. "But for me, yeah, emotionally, that was tough for me to see that. For a woman to say, 'Take my daughter.' That was hard for me."

Of course, Hasselbeck couldn't accept. He was a football player from Boston College trying to do some good during spring break, like his brother Matt before him, working with orphans and leprosy victims with a group called the Ignacio Volunteers.

Nearly six years later, in the cozy training facility of the Washington Redskins, the memories of that week in Riverton City's slum were more than just his first NFL victory — just three weeks ago — or the futility of his 0.0 quarterback rating in a game against Dallas.

"Kids are running around with no schools, no homes, no electricity, no place to go to the bathroom," Hasselbeck said. "When I was 3 years old, I was wondering what game we were going to play outside. If it was cold, I was going to come inside and have some hot chocolate."

And, as for Simone, one of many kids who turned Hasselbeck into a human jungle gym every day, he can only hope she turned out for the best.

"They live on a dump. They don't have an address," Hasselbeck said. "If there was any kind of way to find out, I'd love to know that things are a little bit better. It's sad thinking about."

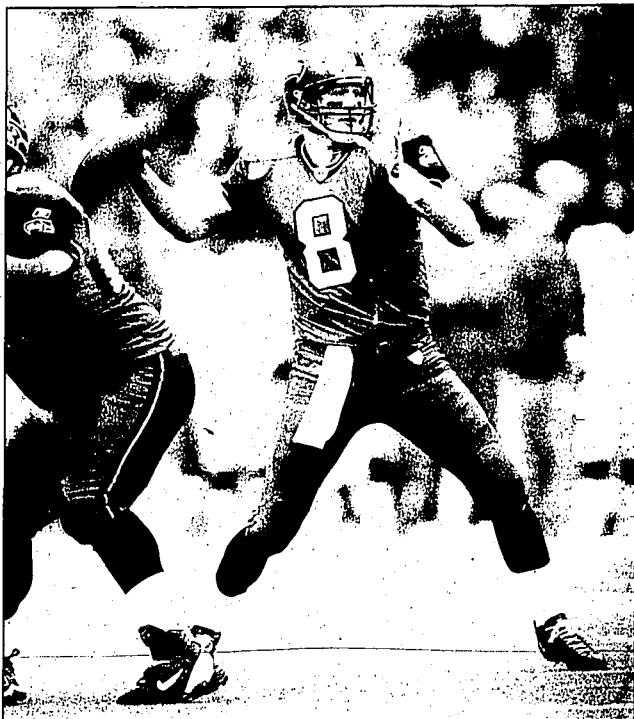
This has been a special year for the Hasselbeck family. After years of pink slips from various NFL teams, Tim latched on with the Redskins. He is finishing the season as the starter because of an injury to Patrick Ramsey and appears to have earned himself a roster spot for next season.

Meanwhile Matt is in Seattle, in his third year as the starter and as the Seahawks' nominee for the Walter Payton NFL Man of the Year for community service. Younger brother Nathanael is a red-shirt sophomore at Boston College.

Watching it all unfold is father Don Hasselbeck, who spent nine years as an NFL tight end.

"Everyone," says "Congratulations." The funniest part is I guess I'm excited for them, but I think Matthew is probably more excited about it than anybody," Don Hasselbeck said. "Because Matthew and Tim were so close."

The Hasselbecks are an emotional bunch, and their track record is one of caring. When Matt made the same trip to Riverton City, he watched a boy fall into a hole being used for a bathroom.



Above, Seahawks quarterback Matt Hasselbeck throws against the Cardinals Dec. 21, at Seahawks Stadium in Seattle. Left, Hasselbeck tips his cap to the crowd as he leaves the field after leading the team to victory over the Pittsburgh Steelers, Nov. 2 in Seattle.

That boy died, and one theory is that his assistance in the rescue effort is what gave Matt hepatitis, putting him in the hospital and causing him to miss spring practice the year he was vying for a starting job at BC.

"It was really a life-changing experience," Matt said. "It changed my perspective on everything. Whereas before I might have been the 'Why me?' thing, I just decided at that point, I was going to make the most of what I had and what I was given. God-given ability, health, all that stuff."

Don Hasselbeck didn't even

want his sons to play football. The physical pounding prompted him to encourage other sports. Finally, he promised to let them sign up on the day he retired, figuring they would be over it by then.

Wrong. "They were the same day that I told (Bill) Parcells I was done with the Giants," Don said. "They were standing there with their footbells under their arm."

"Can we sign up?" I said, "No, it's too late. Please?" Don took them to practice and ended up coaching them for nine years, passing along NFL tips to Pop Warner kids. He had his sons

play quarterback so they wouldn't get hurt.

But they were good. Tim, who went through various training camps and a stint in NFL Europe, became Matt's biggest sounding board. Matt would call Tim from the Seahawks' team bus after a game and get the full critique from his brother. Now Matt can return the favor.

"That's the most exciting part of it," Don said. "I know these guys, they enjoy it. They're passionate about it."

AP Sports Writer Tim Korte in Seattle contributed to this report.

Hull makes no secret of his style — and it's still effective

By Larry Lage
Associated Press writer

DETROIT — Brett Hull snakes around the ice, sneaks into open space and then winds up for a slap shot or leans in for a wrist shot.

Opponents know exactly what the Detroit Red Wings star likes to do and how he does it. But they still can't stop him, even at the age of 39.

Just two players in NHL history — Wayne Gretzky and Gordie Howe — have scored more goals than Hull.

"It's very surreal to hear my name mentioned with these two guys because I have so much respect for them," Hull said. "I'm not usually at a loss for words, but it's tough to describe how it feels."

Hull moved past Marcel Dionne for third place on the league's all-time list with his 732nd goal — and 106th game-winner — on Dec. 8 against Los Angeles.

And of course, he scored on a one-timer.

Luc Robitaille has seen Hull do it, as an opponent and teammate.

For years, the two played against each other. Then they joined forces for two seasons and helped the Red Wings win the 2002 Stanley Cup. Now,



Detroit's Brett Hull, left, and St. Louis' Ryan Johnson battle for the puck in Detroit Dec. 22. Teams know exactly what the Detroit Red Wings star likes to do and how he does it. But they still can't stop him, even at the age of 39.

Robitaille is back with the Kings, who gave up Hull's milestone goal.

"Everybody wants to check him, but he always finds that spot," Robitaille said. "Pretty amazing how he does it."

Hull, the son of Hall of Famer Bobby Hull, learned to shoot at a young age.

"That's all I worked on because I knew I wasn't going to beat anybody with my skates," he said. All that work is paying off.

As he has been for most of his career, Hull is among the NHL scoring leaders in his third season with the Red Wings.

"Especially with our injury situation, Brett is a big reason we've remained among the top teams in the Western Conference," Red Wings general manager Ken Holland said.

Hull scored 26 goals with Calgary before being traded to St. Louis during the 1987-88 season.

It was with the Blues that the blond-haired Hull became known as "The Golden Brett," a takeoff of his father's nickname, "The Golden Jet." In 10-plus seasons in St. Louis, Hull scored 527 goals.

He had 72 goals in 1989-90, 86 the following season — the highest total for a player not named Gretzky — and 70 goals the next year. His 228 goals over that span trail only Gretzky's three-season total of 250 goals from 1981-84.

Before the 1998-99 season, Hull signed as a free agent with Dallas and ended the year scoring the Stanley Cup-clinching goal in triple overtime.

"Not only has he had a phenomenal career with his numbers and an MVP award, but he's also won championships," Red Wings coach Dave Lewis said. "And, he's been a star and a spokesman for the league. It's tough to beat what he's done."

Rangers sign former All-Star outfielder

ARLINGTON, Texas (AP) — Outfielder Brian Jordan and the Texas Rangers agreed Saturday to a one-year contract that guarantees him \$1,375,000.

The former All-Star hit 299 with six homers and 28 RBIs in 66 games last season with the Los Angeles Dodgers before surgery July 11 for tendinitis in his left knee. He is expected to be at full strength when spring training starts.

Last year, the surgery was a tough decision, but I had to make a decision based on my career," he said. "It was a decision to get healthy and start over with a new team at 100 percent."

General manager John Hart said the signing of Jordan, who is expected to play right field, is another indication that the proposed trade of MVP shortstop Alex Rodriguez to Boston really is dead.

Rangers owner Tom Hicks ended talks Tuesday with the Red Sox, who were going to send outfielder Manny Ramirez to Texas.

"The signing of Brian solves our situation," Hart said. "We're going forward with Brian in the outfield and Alex at shortstop."

In 1,271 games over 12 seasons with St. Louis, Atlanta and Los Angeles, Jordan hit 287 with 173

homers and 764 RBIs. He was an All-Star with the Braves in 1999, when he hit .283 with 23 homers and 115 RBIs.

Jordan became a free agent when the Dodgers didn't exercise a \$10.5 million option, instead paying a \$2.5 million buyout.

After Jordan became a free agent, he also spoke with David Dellucci, who played for Texas manager Buck Showalter in Arizona from 1998-2000.

Dellucci's deal is expected to be finalized Monday.

Texas returns just three outfielders who played last season: two rookies and a second-year player who combined to play just 110 games.

The Rangers also are close to an agreement on a \$725,000, one-year contract with outfielder David Dellucci, who played for Texas manager Buck Showalter in Arizona from 1998-2000.

Dellucci's deal is expected to be finalized Monday.

U.S. loses 90 percent of beef exports

WASHINGTON (AP) — Just after discovering the nation's first case of mad cow disease, the United States has lost nearly all of its beef exports as more than a dozen countries stopped buying American beef as insurance against potential infection.

Gregg Doud, an economist for the Denver-based National Cattlemen's Beef Association, said that the United States, at today's market level, stands to lose at least \$6 billion a year in exports and falling domestic prices because of the sick cow.

"We've lost roughly 90 percent of our export market just in the last three days," Doud said.

Keith Collins, the Agriculture Department's chief economist, said the market probably will not see the full economic impact of the mad cow case until trading intensifies after the holidays. He has said that 10 percent of U.S. beef is exported.

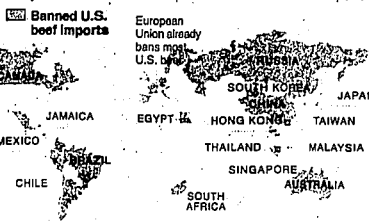
Japan, South Korea and Mexico are among the top buyers that banned American beef imports this week after the U.S. government announced it had found a cow in Washington state sick with the brain-wasting illness. An international lab in England confirmed the results Thursday.

As a safeguard, countries usually shut down meat imports from countries where the illness was found.

A U.S. delegation is leaving Saturday for Japan, which takes about one-third of all U.S. beef exports, and possibly other Asian

Countries rush to ban U.S. beef

In the wake of the United States announcement Tuesday that a cow in Mabton, Wash., tested positive for mad cow disease, as many as 27 countries have imposed a ban on U.S. beef imports.



SOURCE: Associated Press

countries that imposed bans on American meat and livestock this week. The Treasury Department said it is monitoring developments.

Mad cow disease, formally known as bovine spongiform encephalopathy, is a public health concern because it is related to a human disease, variant Creutzfeldt-Jakob. In Britain, 143 people died of the human illness after an outbreak of mad cow in the 1980s. People can get it if they eat meat containing tissue from the brain and spine of an infected cow.

Federal officials on Friday quarantined a herd of 400 bull calves,

two of which were offspring of the sick cow. During its life, the infected cow bore three calves.

One calf is at the same dairy near Mabton, Wash., that was the final home of the diseased Holstein cow, one is at a bull calf feeding operation in Sunnyside, Wash., and a third died shortly after being born in 2001, said Dr. Ron DeHaven, chief veterinarian for the Agriculture Department.

"There is the potential that the infected cow could pass the disease onto its calves," he said. No decision has been made on destroying the herds, he said.

Investigators are focused on finding the birth herd of the cow,

since it likely was infected several years ago from eating contaminated feed, DeHaven said. Scientists say the incubation period for the disease in cattle is four or five years.

Since 1997, the Food and Drug Administration has banned giving grazing animals feed that contains brain and spinal tissue to prevent the disease from appearing.

DeHaven said the investigation could lead to other states or Canada, which found a case mad cow disease in Alberta in May.

If U.S. officials determine the sick cow was imported from Canada and its offspring has been destroyed, they could protect the American beef trade from economic fallout, said Michael Stumo, an attorney for the Organization for Competitive Markets, a nonprofit group in Nebraska whose mission is to ensure fair markets for farmers.

But investigators have not yet found where the sick cow was born.

U.S. officials have repeatedly said the food supply is safe because the cow's brain, spinal cord, and lower part of the small intestine — where the disease is found — were removed before it was sent for processing.

Authorities are tracing where the meat from the animal went and the Agriculture Department has recalled 10,000 pounds of beef slaughtered Dec. 9 at Vern's Moses Lake Meat Co. in Washington state. Agriculture Secretary Ann Veneman said it was an extra precaution.

State: People should not worry about beef

BOISE (AP) — Even if beef potentially exposed to mad cow disease ends up in Idaho, consumers do not need to worry, state officials and retailers say.

Local supermarket chains have issued voluntary recalls after reports that Interstate Meats from Oregon delivered beef that may have been exposed to mad cow disease, or bovine spongiform encephalopathy. Humans can contract a form of mad cow disease, a variant of Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease, by eating infected bovine brain and nerve tissue.

Clarence Siroky, state veterinarian with the Idaho Department of Agriculture, said Idaho residents should not worry about the safety of beef.

"The risk is so small it is not even measurable," Siroky said. "I wouldn't be concerned."

WinCo Foods pulled all ground beef products Tuesday in the wake of reports that a supplier had delivered some of the beef in question, said Mark Read, the Boise-based chain's vice president.

Since then, WinCo issued a voluntary recall for some ground beef.

"It's a pre-caution," Read said. "Even the product that was subject to recall has a minimum risk to humans."

Fred Meyer issued a targeted voluntary recall for 96 packages of ground beef patties distributed to 75 stores in Idaho, Washington, Oregon and Utah, spokesman Rob Boloy said.

Boloy said Fred Meyer was

returning to its shelves all other Interstate Meat ground beef with current codes after the case, the company issued a letter stating their products are safe.

Idaho-based Albertsons and other Northwest retailers previously announced they would remove and recall certain ground beef from their stores in northern Idaho, Washington, Oregon and Utah.

Wal-Mart stores and Sam's Club spokeswoman Sharon Weber said.

Siroky said concerns that the animal was infected by eating tissue or fluid from cows are unfounded.

After an outbreak of mad cow disease in England in the 1990s, the Food and Drug Administration prohibited the use of rendered cow protein such as bones, hides, horns, muscle, trimmings from slaughter or brains and nerve tissue in cattle feed. The ban makes exceptions for fat and blood.

The law is enforced at the state level with employees who work for the Agriculture Department's feed division. Siroky said Idaho doesn't have a problem with feed manufacturers violating the ban.

Investigators have tentatively traced the first U.S. cow with mad cow disease to Canada.

Dr. Ron DeHaven, the U.S. Agriculture Department's chief veterinarian, said on Saturday that Canadian officials provided records indicating the sick Holstein was in a herd of 74 cattle shipped from Alberta, Canada, into this country in 2001 at Eastport, Idaho.

Are Dean's mistakes recipe for resilience?

Los Angeles Times

When Howard Dean appeared on NBC's "Meet the Press," the reviews were scathing, with most pundits calling the interview earlier this year a disaster. But others saw it differently. Traffic on Dean's Web site soared, and he collected more than \$100,000 in the next 24 hours.

When Dean suggested America was not safer with Saddam Hussein in custody, rivals in the Democratic presidential contest seized on his comments as a major gaffe. But days later, more than 30 New Jersey lawmakers — including Gov. James McGreevey — elbowed onto a packed stage to endorse him. The former Vermont governor has millions in the bank, more than any Democrat running, and a legion of followers, linked by the Internet, who crowd campaign events from Yuma, Ariz., to Manchester, N.H. But there is one advantage that has proved even more valuable for the impulsive and irrepressible Dean: a Teflon coating.

For weeks, frustrated opponents have attacked the Democratic front-runner on everything from his skimpy defense and foreign policy credentials to the secrecy he slapped on his gubernatorial records. Nothing has stuck.

Stumbles, such as Dean's remark about Confederate flag-wavers, and factual misstatements, such as his assertion no other candidate was discussing race before white audiences, have not only failed to slow his momentum but redoubled the commitment of Dean supporters.

"It's about all of us saying (expletive) to all the pundits," said Michael Cannon, 49, a New Jersey state worker who attended a rally in Trenton with a Dean



Democratic presidential candidate former Vermont Gov. Howard Dean bites into a hamburger at Morga Diner in downtown Waterloo, Iowa following a campaign appearance Saturday.

sweatshirt, T-shirt and button on the back of his baseball cap.

"Whenever negative stories surface, that just proves to me that I should be behind him all the more," Cannon said.

There has always been a strong anti-establishment flavor to the Dean campaign. So whenever he flirts in the eyes of so-called experts, it makes him all the more attractive to disaffected Democrats scornful of institutions like the major media.

The campaign even posts some of the harshest criticism on Dean's official Web site to spur fund-raising. When a mysterious political group called Americans for Jobs,

Healthcare and Progressive Values began airing an anti-Dean ad earlier this month, with images of Osama bin Laden, the former Vermont governor's camp amassed \$552,000 in a three-day Internet fundraising push.

"It's a polite way of saying where you can take it," Dean said. But even more, he seems to benefit from his unscripted, uncompromisingly blunt talk. Supporters see the occasional misfire as perfectly understandable, even virtuous. No matter that Dean has apologized several times during the campaign, most famously for his statement that he wanted to be the candidate for "guys with Confederate flags on their pickup trucks."

"It shows he's human," said Clifford Rames, 38, another Dean backer from New Jersey, who appropriated a blue-and-gold "Dean for America" sign as a souvenir from the McGreevey rally. "He's a person who goes to work everyday and occasionally messes up," Rames said, which suggests that Dean would not only be a "human president, he would understand the average person."

But skeptics, fearful that Dean would be a disaster as the Democratic nominee, say he might be getting the wrong signal from his fervent followers, in the same way an ill-mannered child is indulged by overly protective parents.

"Whenever he screws up, the campaign is quick to point out that e-mail traffic is up, contributions over the Internet are up," said John Weaver, a former adviser to Republican Sen. John McCain of Arizona who now consults for Democratic candidates.

"But those are all coming from tried-and-true supporters ... Surveys suggest a limit to his growth potential for a general-

election campaign, and that's what is worrisome to Democrats."

Already, rivals have seized on some of Dean's more provocative statements — including his recent comments regarding the capture of Saddam — to suggest the damage they could do him, along with fellow Democrats, in a general election campaign.

The Democratic Leadership Council, a centrist group that has feuded with Dean throughout the year, issued a statement last week asserting Dean's "running-mad disease" had produced a storehouse of "treasure for Karl Rove, whose opposition research file on Dean must be bulging like Santa's sack of toys," Rove is Bush's chief re-election strategist.

But others say that Dean's ability to withstand attacks — and even gain strength as a result — speaks to a depth of partisan support that could make him formidable in a general election.

Paul Begala, a Democratic strategist who helped elect President Clinton, compared Dean to the politician first fitted with the Teflon label, Ronald Reagan.

"He had that rock-solid base of social conservatives," Begala said of Reagan. "When he raised taxes in California and again in Washington, they didn't care. Divorced. Didn't care. Didn't go to church. Didn't care."

"Things that would have killed other politicians were fine for him because he had tapped into an important constituency in his party and he had that base."

In the same way, Begala went on, Dean's strength with core Democrats gives him the flexibility to reach out to swing voters should he win the party's nomination.

trying to pretend he is Howard Dean and is not trying to define himself as an alternative." But spokesman Jano Cabrera said Kerry "is simply echoing many of the choices Lieberman laid out more than a week ago in New Hampshire."

Kerry also defended fellow Democratic hopefuls from some of Dean's campaign charges and claims.

"Howard Dean says he's the only candidate who talks about race in front of white audiences, but many of the candidates in this field have dedicated themselves to this cause," he said. He called Dean's claim an insult to the two blacks in the race, Al Sharpton and Carol Moseley Brown.

Talking to reporters after his speech, Kerry stopped short of saying Dean was unelectable.

"All I'm trying to do is point out clear, real differences that matter to people who vote," he said.

Calf-raising process muddies mad cow probe

The Washington Post

SEATTLE — The coldly regimented process of raising a dairy cow in North America forces it at a very early age to depend on dietary supplements that in rare instances can spread mad cow disease, according to livestock experts.

In addition, the frequent shuffling of young dairy cows between specialized feedlots and milking farms — a routine part of large dairy operations — can also make it difficult to track an infected animal back to the herd where it was born, these experts say.

When these cattle move — even between Canada and the United States — they are not necessarily individually identified, said Mary Beth Lundy, a spokeswoman for the Washington state department of agriculture.

"There are ear tags," she said. "But they can fall off."

On large dairy farms in the United States and Canada, calves often are separated from their mothers within 24 hours of birth. The reason is money: The milk that a dairy cow produces is worth far more to a supermarket shelf than in the stomach of her newborn calf.

So calves, male and female, are shunted away from many large dairy farms — usually within two weeks of birth — to specialized feedlots, where they are quickly weaned from milk and fed protein supplement pellets, along with hay. These calves depend on supplements for most of their protein intake until they are about 3 months old, when they are mature enough to digest cellulose and absorb protein on their own.

Bovine spongiform encephalopathy, the brain malady known as mad cow disease, can infect cattle that eat protein supplements made from the remains of cows and other ruminants. The disease is not transmitted by milk, which calves would normally be getting from their mothers, were they not subject to modern dairy practices.

"Because of the supplement regime, dairy cattle are especially susceptible to this problem," said Arthur Linton, a cattle geneticist and director of Washington State University's Irrigated Agriculture Research and Extension Center.

In the United States and Canada, the ground-up remains of cows and other ruminants were banned as ingredients for cattle supplements in 1997. But the General Accounting Office, the investigative arm of Congress, has twice criticized U.S. enforcement of the ban.

The U.S. Department of Agriculture announced Saturday that the Washington state dairy cow that tested positive this month for mad cow disease probably came into the United States from the Canadian province of Alberta in late 2001.

The age of the infected animal remains in dispute. Canadian records show it was born in 1997, officials said, whereas U.S. records suggest it was about two

years younger.

American and Canadian investigators are still searching to verify the birth herd of the infected Holstein, as well as of 73 other dairy cows that entered this country on the same day.

All these cows, according to the USDA, were sold in October 2001 to the Sunny Dene Ranch in Mabton, Wash. Before they were purchased, though, officials said they were kept on a cattle feedlot or "finishing" farm in Mattawa, a small town beside the Columbia River in central Washington, where a veterinarian who lives in the area identified the feedlot as Behling Dairy Management. Calls to the feedlot were not answered Saturday.

Dairy calves are not uniquely susceptible to the risk of mad cow disease. The only other North American source of the disease was a beef cow. Beef cattle, although they usually stay with their mothers and suckle until they are at least 8 months old, are also fed some protein supplements.

But it is only in recent years, as many modern dairy farms have begun shuffling calves away from their mothers as soon as they are born, that dairy cows have become highly dependent on protein supplements for normal development.

On factory farms, female calves, called heifers, are far more valuable — and usually more carefully fed — than bull calves. Bull calves from dairy herds are usually castrated, becoming steers, and sent to feed lots, where they are fattened for slaughter, usually before the age of 2.

A bull calf is typically worth about \$100 but is worth the same age as a heifer, usually worth at least three times more. When a heifer reaches the age of 27 months and is pregnant for the first time, she is worth nearly \$2,000.

To protect their investment in these animals, many large-scale dairy farmers ship heifers to specialized feedlots called "heifer development operations."

There, they are put in individual pens, or calf hutches, and weaned from milk as quickly as possible.

"It is easier and less labor intensive to give them a dry feed, rather than a liquid," said Linton, the Washington State University cattle geneticist, who himself raises cows near Prosser, Wash.

Away from their mothers and quickly weaned, the heifers can't develop normally without protein supplements. It takes 60 to 90 days for them to develop the four-chamber ruminant stomach that allows them to eat, roughage and extract protein from it.

Osaka Massage

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736-1747

Kerry tells voters they face stark choice in month

Candidate criticizes Dean leading up to New Hampshire Democratic primary

MANCHESTER, N.H. (AP) — With a month to go before the New Hampshire primary, John Kerry made some of his strongest attacks yet against Democratic front-runner Howard Dean, portraying Dean as inexperienced in foreign policy, wrong-headed on the economy and a headstrong auditorium.

"We need more than simple answers and the latest slip of the tongue," he said. "This election is too vital for us to lose it if voters refuse to take a gamble on national security and the steadiness of our leadership."

He pointed to Dean's statements on Saddam Hussein's capture and Dean's answer to a hypothetical question about where Osama bin Laden should be tried, if captured.

"What kind of muddled thinking is it if you can't instantly say that in your heart you know that bin Laden is guilty?" Kerry asked. "After every episode comes a statement trying to explain it away. Will Americans really vote for a foreign policy by clarifying press release?"

The Massachusetts senator and Vietnam war veteran said "this is a perilous moment in history and we cannot master that moment with a stubborn unilateralism or a soft and vacillating

isolationism." Kerry, the early Democratic front-runner, now trails Dean by double digits in polls in New Hampshire — a state where Kerry has said he needs to finish No. 1 or No. 2 for his candidacy to have momentum.

Aides to Kerry note that Dean, the former Vermont governor, fares poorly against Bush in head-to-head matchups.

Kerry said "we can't beat George Bush by being Bush-lite," referring to Dean's criticism of more centrist Democratic candidates.

"But we also won't beat George Bush by being light on national security, light on fairness for middle-class Americans or light on the values that make us Democrats."

A spokesman for Sen. Joe Lieberman, who does not campaign on Saturday because of his Jewish religion, welcomed what he called "this latest iteration" of Kerry and said he "has stopped

trying to pretend he is Howard Dean and is not trying to define himself as an alternative." But spokesman Jano Cabrera said Kerry "is simply echoing many of the choices Lieberman laid out more than a week ago in New Hampshire."

Kerry also defended fellow Democratic hopefuls from some of Dean's campaign charges and claims.

"Howard Dean says he's the only candidate who talks about race in front of white audiences, but many of the candidates in this field have dedicated themselves to this cause," he said. He called Dean's claim an insult to the two blacks in the race, Al Sharpton and Carol Moseley Brown.

Talking to reporters after his speech, Kerry stopped short of saying Dean was unelectable.

"All I'm trying to do is point out clear, real differences that matter to people who vote," he said.



Sen. John Kerry

NATION

Girl overwhelmed by self-discoveries

DEAR ABBY: I recently discovered I am a lesbian. Unfortunately, I am already pregnant with my boyfriend's baby. We were both drunk when this happened, and it was a horrible mistake. My parents nearly disowned me when they realized I was going to have a child. (I am devout Christians.)

I don't know how they'll react when I tell them I am a lesbian. Abby, I am afraid to tell them. Please help me find a way.

-TEENAGE LESBIAN IN COLORADO



DEAR ABBY
Abigail VanBuren

Parents and Friends of Lesbians and Gays (PFLAG) can provide you with literature that will make it easier to talk to them. PFLAG can also offer the emotional support they will need. The address is: 1726 M St. NW, Suite 400, Washington, D.C., 20036. The Web site is www.pflag.org.

DEAR ABBY: I have a serious anger problem. When my fiancé and I first met, it was love at first sight. But after six months, everything he does seems to tick me off.

In the beginning, I didn't show him my ugly side. I didn't want to scare him off. Then he said he wanted me to be more open, so I let it all out.

Now I'm letting it out every single day. I get mad when he does or says the same things I do or say to him, and I'll iso-

late myself or give him the silent treatment.

I think I have a serious mental and/or anger problem, but I don't know if it comes from. Everybody thinks I'm crazy. They say, "I don't know because you're happy or mad because you have the same expression."

Maybe they're right. Maybe I'm not happy because I haven't accomplished anything in my life. (I am only 22.) Please help me.

-LASHING OUT IN NORTH CAROLINA

DEAR LASHING OUT: You are only 22. It's too early to declare yourself a failure. However, it is difficult to be loving to others if you don't like yourself.

Before you and your fiancé go any further, you must get to the root of what is really bothering you. A call to your local department of social services or mental health association will help you locate a counselor you can afford.

A course in anger management would also be helpful for both of you. Please don't wait. You have a right to be happy.

DEAR ABBY: Please inform your readers that if their child is enlisting in the armed services or plans to go overseas, the parents should also get passports.

Our son left to serve in Iraq. He is now in Germany for medical reasons, and we cannot get to him.

Passports take six weeks to process. They can be expedited for a hefty fee, but they still take two weeks to arrive.

-LEARNED IN WEST LAFAYETTE, OHIO

DEAR LEARNED: That's a helpful suggestion, and I'll pass it along.

P.S. Your son is in my prayers. Please let me know how he's doing.

Dear Abby is written by Jeannie Phillips.

Write to Abby

Sends letters to Dear Abby,
Universal Press Syndicate,
P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles,
Calif. 90069, or
via her Web Site at
<http://www.DearAbby.com>

Mrs. Rogers still carries on memory, work of her husband

People in the news

PITTSBURGH — Mrs. to the famed and beloved Mister Rogers, still speaks of the children's television host in the present tense nearly a year after his death.

"I talk about 'our' this and 'our' that, and I talk about him in the present tense an awful lot," said Joanne Rogers, 75. "I haven't been able to get used to the past tense."

Fred Rogers, the host of "Mister Rogers' Neighborhood," died Feb. 27 of stomach cancer.

Since her husband's death, Joanne Rogers has accepted awards on his behalf and talked to groups about Rogers' lifelong work helping children.

Last month, she spoke at a ceremony inducting Fred Rogers into the Broadcasting & Cable Hall of Fame in New York, and was so unsettled by a film clip of her husband she forgot whom to thank.

"They showed the film and I was so undone by it, that I went up, I had the notes right in front of me but I couldn't remember," she told the Pittsburgh Post-Gazette. "It was like everything in my mind had been knocked out."

Rogers said she is learning to cope.

"Sometimes I'm surprised that he doesn't just show up at the door," she said. "But on the other hand, I also know that he's not here and I'm coming to the realization slowly that he's not coming back."

'American Idol' Clay Aiken surprises fan with holiday wish

ATLANTA — "American Idol" runner-up Clay Aiken has granted a fan her Christmas wish.

Jennifer Wilson, a 15-year-old girl with cerebral palsy, was at one of his concerts earlier this month holding a sign for Aiken decorated with holiday lights.

Getting any closer to lights was beyond her wildest dreams.

But when her father, Wayne Wilson, lifted her out of her wheelchair for a bathroom break, the two ran into band members of the Black Eyed Peas, who also were performing that night.

They got Wilson backstage.

Aiken, who vaulted from obscurity to pop music stardom, posed for pictures with Jennifer and gave her an autograph.

"Even though Jennifer can be difficult to understand when she speaks, Clay listened intently and understood everything she told him," Wayne Wilson said. "He must have spent 10 or 15 minutes with her."

"I kept asking her what else she wants for Christmas, but she told me she already got everything. This was her one wish in life," he said.

—compiled from wire reports

BUHL BUSINESSES!

Happy New Year!

Another happy holiday season is upon us and time is right for reflection on the past year and looking ahead to an even brighter year. This year, we resolve to count our blessings and to be grateful for what we do have.

And what we have is you, our valued customers!

TheTimesNews Call Billie Henslee 735-3208

January Community Calendar

Mondays — 2nd & 4th Mondays — Castleford Men's Club, 12 noon at the Red Barrel

Mondays — Cards at the Senior Center, 6-9 p.m.

Tuesdays — First & Third Tuesdays — Chamber Lunch, 12 noon at Grandstands

Tuesdays — Every other Tuesday — Bingo, 7-9 p.m., West End Senior Center

Wednesdays — Kiwanis, 12 Noon at Grandstands

Wednesdays — Bingo, 7:00pm at the Moose Hall

Thursdays — First, second & third Thursdays — Rotary, 12 noon at the Grandstands

Fridays — West End Men's Association, 6:30 a.m. at the Grandstands

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We don't have the opportunity to slip away from us, so before 2004 arrives, we're sending our thanks and best wishes to everyone who has passed our way this year. We truly appreciate your business and look forward to seeing you in the new year. Happy New Year everyone!
543-4266 • S. Idaho 800-870-4520

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Pastor: Brent Huether
"Jesus Christ...the same yesterday, today, and forever"
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Wednesday Night Bible Study: 7:00 p.m.
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Fields 66 Service
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Come See Us For Old Fashioned Service!
326 Broadway Avenue South • Buhl • 543-4396
Another year has come and gone. Another holiday is here. So we'll sing a little song...Wishing you all a **HAPPY NEW YEAR!**
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HAPPY NEW YEAR!

HAPPY NEW YEAR!
May the coming year bring happiness along with health, prosperity and success. One thing we really know is true, is we owe ours all to you. So make some noise and celebrate, and have a fun-filled 2004, knowing that in all you do, our best wishes are with you!
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TIME to say "THANKS!"
As another great year winds down, we'd like to express our gratitude to all of you who have made our 25 years in business a source of pleasure and pride.
Best wishes to everyone for a happy and healthy 2004!
PIONEER FLOORS CARPET ONE

Wishing You The Best of Times
May all the seconds, minutes, hours and days amount to a year well-spent for you and loved ones. We know we really enjoyed every minute of serving you this past year, and look forward to sharing time with you in the year to come.
Happy New Year to all our customers and neighbors. Thank you for making this past year a great one for us. **We're driving protection™**
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Quality & Satisfaction...Our No. 1 Goal
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OUTLOOK 2004 • OUTLOOK 2004 • OUTLOOK 2004

A measure of success

Five local business people expect at least modest prosperity

STORIES BY
VIRGINIA S. HUTCHINS

In the final days of 2003, some of Magic Valley's small businesses are counting on training, advertising, new ventures, Idaho's economic recovery, snowfall and the resolution of local water-use disputes to keep them vigorous in 2004.

"I am expecting 2004 to be a really, really good year. The economy rebounding, you know, and all this rain. The farmers aren't going to be as worried, because it's nice and wet now," said Susie Boone, a partner in Primrose Lane Florist & Gift Shops in Buhl and Filer.

Among 80 respondents to a recent Twin Falls Area Chamber of Commerce survey, 55 expected 2004 to be a good year, and 22 predicted an excellent year.

But some local businesses expect continued difficulty recruiting workers with specialized skills.

"We do not have a lot of luck finding mechanics in this area," said Rod Burks, co-owner of Burks Tractor Inc. The Twin Falls business has many employees with more than 10 years' service, but it needs to make a few new hires every year.

And some business people fear they could be hit by rapidly escalating insurance costs, by new megaretailer competition or by delayed effects of a Heyburn plant closure.

To replace jobs lost this year at J.R. Simplot Co. and elsewhere, Magic Valley must draw new businesses. Particularly in Mini-Cassia, said Jeff Jensen of Burley Physical Therapy & Rehabilitation.

Despite this year's overall job growth on the western side of Magic Valley, he called the local economy "not very good."

"It does not seem to have affected our business yet, but I foresee that it could," Jensen said.

Published here are the comments of five business people from a variety of industries around Magic Valley. All hope the coming year brings revenue growth of 5 percent or more. In some cases, a lot more.

Florists aim for ambitious rate of growth

BUHL - Buhl's downtown revitalization construction and Idaho's economic troubles could be to blame for slower growth this year at Primrose Lane Florist & Gift Shops.

"It's the first year we have not grown by at least 25 percent. Because we've always grown, every year. And we have not had that record growth (in 2003)," said Susie Boone, a partner in the business.

The Primrose Lane owners bought the long-standing Filer store in September 1998 and opened its larger Buhl sister in July 2000. The shops employ four people (including the owners) full time, plus half a dozen part-timers and seasonal helpers.

"The revitalization was hard, because our streets were torn up. But they did it as fast as they could," Boone said. "And our customers were very patient," using the back door, or calling in their orders.

Please see FLORISTS, Page D2



Billy Sensabaugh, owner of Gooding Muffler, unloads a shipment of mufflers and muffler pipe Tuesday. Sensabaugh recently bought the shop from Rick Bauman and works on custom exhaust projects as well as traditional muffler jobs.

Shop owner counts on training, certification

GOODING - By the middle of 2004, Gooding Muffler owner Billy Sensabaugh wants to be certified for all the kinds of work he does.

"A lot of people probably just prefer it. I think it'd bring in more business if a guy was," said Sensabaugh, who will have to attend a factory training session in Salt Lake City for certification.

The Gooding man turned from employee to owner on Dec. 15, with his purchase of the muffler shop from his former boss, who did business as Pioneer Exhaust.

Why make that leap?

"It's been really busy since March," Sensabaugh said. That's when Pioneer Exhaust took over The Muffler Shop (previously Cheney Muffler) and Sensabaugh started working at the shop.

The 20-year-old business - now with

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its fourth owner and second location - specializes in mufflers, muffler repair, dual exhaust, 4-inch exhaust, shocks, brakes, struts and 3-inch custom exhausts for hot rods. Sensabaugh tackles those projects, and his wife handles the books.

In 2004 they'd like to add a third worker - a welder/mechanic - if the business stays strong. If Sensabaugh does the advertising he says he needs to do, he expects to make the hire within six months.

Despite the holiday season, the first indications pointed toward healthy business for his new purchase.

By Dec. 19, Sensabaugh had "jobs lined up into next week."

"The phone rings all the time," he said. The muffler shop's customers include many with older, car-show-quality hot rods, as well as owners of new trucks who want custom exhaust systems for the sake of appearance and "a performance sound."

"They like to take quiet cars and make them loud," Sensabaugh said.

Customers drive in from as far away as Sun Valley, Glenns Ferry and Mini-Cassia, he said. For now, the shop has enough muffler work that it doesn't need to expand into other fields.

"But we'd like to expand one day."

Vacuum seller sets sights on record year

TWIN FALLS - Almost every month this year, Sawtooth Vacuum & Water Conditioners has rung up gross sales about 20 percent higher than year-earlier levels.

"We have had an excellent year. It really surprised us," co-owner Rob Greenwood said.

"If we continue on this path, we'll have a record year (in 2004). We may even have a record year this year. There's two weeks left," he said Dec. 19.

Greenwood expects the Twin Falls company's growth to continue at this pace next year.

"For us to have this good of a year in a so-called down economy, we're really looking forward to 2004," he said.

Sawtooth Vacuum - an almost 12-year-old business which employs just its two owners - offers sales, installation, repairs and servicing of vacuum cleaners, water softeners and hot tubs.

Greenwood isn't sure what drove this year's sales growth. The local construction industry has been hot for a couple of years, but new-construction projects don't account for more than about 15 percent of Sawtooth Vacuum's business.

"We really don't have a han-



Wade Pettingill of Sawtooth Vacuum & Water Conditioners installs a water conditioner in the Twin Falls home of Jack and Lena Orr.

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OUTLOOK 2004

dle on why it went so well this year," he said.

If 2004 is similarly stellar, the owners might sign on a sales repres. active. But next year, Greenwood

and his business partner will keep an eye on megaretailer Wal-Mart and its interest in a possible Twin Falls opening.

The biggest share of Sawtooth Vacuum's revenue is from vacuum sales and repairs. Its next-largest revenue source is water-softening sales and rentals. And the small business competes with mass-merchandise discount stores.

“We’re happy the way things are going, and we just see it getting better.”

— Rob Greenwood, Sawtooth Vacuum & Water Conditioners

"Every time a new superstore moves in, it's always a challenge on the competition side of thing," Greenwood said. "Costco (Wholesale) is the real kicker for us."

In the coming year, Sawtooth Vacuum intends to target the high-end vacuum market and spend more advertising dollars on those lines. Greenwood said so many poor-quality vacuums have been on the market that people are looking to buy quality again.

Sawtooth Vacuum expects to cash in on that trend.

"We're happy the way things are going, and we just see it getting better."

Therapy company hopes for expansion

BURLEY - These days, Burley Physical Therapy & Rehabilitation is double-scheduling its patient time slots more frequently.

As patient load increased, 2003 revenue topped last year's by 7-10 percent, said Jeff Jensen, a physical therapist assistant.

All in all, it's been a dandy year. And in 2004, Burley Physical Therapy will aim for another 7-10 percent jump in revenue.

"Things are looking pretty good right now in the market," Jensen said.

Owner Nick Greenwell, a physical therapist, employs Jensen full time and two office assistants part time. And Burley Physical Therapy recently contracted with an occupational therapist.

In 2004, Jensen said, "we do hope to add staff."

Perhaps a full-time therapist and one or two part-time therapists. The business is close to being overbooked for its existing staff.

But with a tight market for licensed therapists, he said, Burley Physical Therapy might have trouble making the intended hires.

The business is trying to launch a wellness program - on weight, cholesterol, bone density, artery health, lipid levels and cholesterol, and general strength - for the general population, not just for therapy candidates. Depending on the interest it's able to generate in the program, Burley Physical Therapy might consider opening a separate clinic in 2004 to focus on wellness, Jensen said.

The company attracts some clients from the Twin Falls area, and it services a contract with a long-care facility in Kimberly. So the entire Magic Valley's economy matters.

Water issues, insurance costs temper outlook of tractor dealer

TWIN FALLS - Predict 2004?

You can count on uncertainty. "It's hard to figure out what's going to happen if there's no water," said Burks Tractor Inc. co-owner Rod Burks.

His customers are in agriculture, and much depends on this winter's snowfall and on a dispute that threatens ground water pumps on the north side of the Snake River.

Another uncertainty for Burks in 2004: "How much my health insurance is going to go up again."

He has no lofty expectations for next year's revenue. "Our basic goal is just to pay the bills, and to keep our people employed," said Burks, whose company provides jobs for 32

Please see TRACTOR, Page D2

MONEY

YOUR BUSINESS

CAREER MOVES

Jeni Busick

TWIN FALLS — The Times-News recently promoted Jeni Busick to home delivery manager.

Reporting to the newspaper's circulation director, Busick helps to oversee the circulation department.



She joined the company in July 2002 as a district manager in circulation. She has worked in the newspaper industry for about six years, with more than four of those years in Boise in retail advertising sales. She earned an associate's degree in health information technology from Boise State University.

Busick and her husband, Kevin, live in Twin Falls with their two daughters.

Chamber officers

HAGERMAN — Hagerman Valley Chamber of Commerce's officers for 2004 are Cheryl Hart, president; Lisa Ritter, vice president; and Angie Jones, treasurer. The chamber's other board members will be Kirt Martin, Lonnie Johnson, Wendy Unkel and Kris Pothier. Mark Bolduc will remain on the board as past-president, and Dale Scott will continue as secretary.

Pat Stewart

TWIN FALLS — On Monday, Pat Stewart will work her last day at City Hall before retiring.

Stewart started work for the city of Twin Falls on May 1, 1975, as a secretary for the city's irrigation and sanitation superintendent. Since then, she has also worked with city officials in the



Pat Stewart

tendent. Stewart's current position is executive assistant to the economic development director and the personnel administrator. She also is a City Hall liaison to the city attorney's office.

A retirement party at City Hall is open to the public. Stewart worked for four years as medical stenographer and spent many years as a stay-at-home mom before joining the city staff. She and her husband, Dale, live in Twin Falls. They're the parents of three and grandparents of three.

Sales award winners

JEROME — Ken Jensen and Pat Jones of Valley Co-Op in Jerome received recognition from CHS Inc. for outstanding performance from Sept. 1, 2002, to Aug. 31, 2003.

They significantly increased sales of Cenex lubricants over the fiscal year. As a result, they were presented with cash and prize awards and are being recognized within the CHS system.

CHS Inc. is a producer-consumer agricultural foods system owned by farmers, ranchers and their local co-ops from the Great Lakes to the Pacific Northwest and from the Canadian border to Texas. CHS is based at Inver Grove Heights, Minn.

MILESTONES

Seminis posts increase in sales for FY 2003

FTLER — Oxnard, Calif.-based Seminis Inc., which has a research and customer-service facility



between Filer and Twin Falls, said total sales for its fiscal year 2003, which ended Sept. 30, increased 5.5 percent to \$477.4 million compared with \$452.6 million last year.

"This increase reflected a positive currency impact mainly due to the continued appreciation of the euro," Seminis said in a statement.

Gross profit for 2003 was \$295.8 million, remaining unchanged as a percentage of sales at 62.0 percent.

The year's total operating expenses increased by 23.3 percent to \$291.3 million. The increase included \$56.5 million of nonrecurring expenses primarily

related to the company's Fox merger, exchange and recapitalization transactions, and associated noncash purchase accounting adjustments.

As a result of those nonrecurring expenses, operating income for 2003 was \$6.5 million, down 87.2 percent from \$50.4 million reported in fiscal 2002.

So Seminis ended its fiscal year with a net loss of \$30.4 million, compared with a net income of \$16.1 million the year before.

On Sept. 29, the company completed a merger with Seminis Acquisition LLC whereby Fox Paine and Co. LLC and certain Savia-related parties acquired all of the outstanding shares of Seminis Inc., effectively taking the company private. The company simultaneously issued \$150.0 million of senior subordinated notes due in 2013 and signed a new six-year \$250.0 million secured credit facility. The previous syndicated credit facility was paid in full.

As of Sept. 30, the company's outstanding debt totaled \$421.3 million.

Officials confirm mad cow diagnosis

WASHINGTON — A British lab provided initial independent confirmation Thursday that the United States has its first case of mad cow disease, U.S. agriculture officials said. Federal investigators labored to trace the path the infected animal took from birth to slaughter.

Scientists at the Veterinary Laboratories Agency in Weybridge, England, told the Agriculture Department they concur with the reading of tests on the stricken Holstein cow that led U.S. officials to conclude the animal had the brain-wasting disease, U.S. officials said.

"We are considering this confirmation," said USDA spokeswoman Alisa Harrison, adding that the English lab still will conduct its own test using another sample from the cow's brain. Final test results on the cow from Washington state were expected by the end of the week, she said.

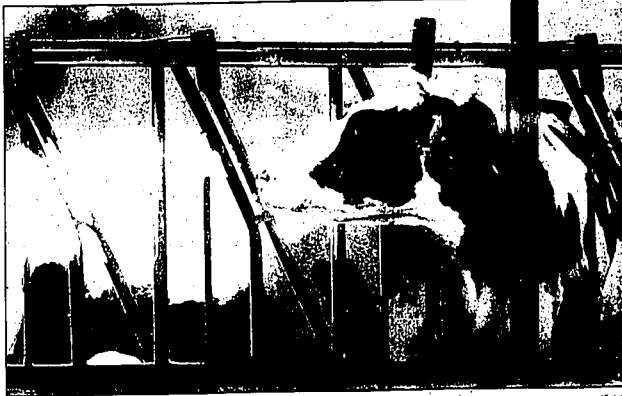
USDA Secretary Ann Veneman, during a news conference on Tuesday, stressed that the BSE incident is not terrorist related "nor is it related in any way to our nation's heightened alert status."

Potato processors

lay out challenges

BOISE — A survey of three major potato processing companies by U.S. Sen. Mike Crapo's office indicates that the J.R. Simplot Company, Lamb Weston and McCain Foods view the cost of upgrading older plants as a factor in their ability to continue operating in Idaho.

Crapo initiated the survey after Simplot announced it would close its old Heyburn spur-processing plant east of Burley and rumors circulated it also could shut down its Caldwell plant — developments that would have profound economic



A cow's breath is seen in the morning chill on the dairy farm Sunny Dene Ranch Friday in Mabton, Wash. The farm has been quarantined by the state because a cow that came from the farm was infected with mad cow disease.



Highlights of this week's Ag Weekly, The Times-News' weekly report on agriculture.

economic impacts on immediate communities and the state's crucial potato industry.

Idaho's distance from markets and discrepancies in currency exchange rates also were top concerns cited by the French fry companies, said Robert Ford, Crapo's state director of business, economic and rural development. It wasn't a scientific survey, but it

identified key root issues that could determine whether other Idaho processing plants could be mothballed and what possibly could be done to prevent that from happening, Ford said.

Washington judge will likely order no-spray zones

SEATTLE — U.S. District Court Judge John Coughenour is expected to order 60-foot no-spray buffer zones for ground application and 300-foot for aerial application of pesticides on cropland located along Northwest waterways.

In a lawsuit filed last spring, the Washington Toxics Coalition and other anti-agriculture, anti-timber

groups sought restrictions on ground and aerial applications of 54 pesticides along Northwest waterways to protect endangered salmon.

Coughenour announced his intentions last week to impose the no-spray buffer zones following four months of court-ordered negotiations that began in August between EPA, environmental and industry representatives over which pesticides should be restricted in the buffer, according to Joel Kretz, past president of the Okanogan County Farm Bureau.

However, it's unclear at this point whether the negotiations succeeded.

Concerns rise as dollar continues to fall

The Washington Post

WASHINGTON — With the economy expanding smartly, interest rates low and inflation in check, President Bush is sailing into the presidential election year with perhaps only a single dark economic cloud on the horizon: the shrinking U.S. dollar.

Whether that cloud produces a nourishing rain shower — in the form of swelling U.S. exports and a recovery of manufacturing jobs — or a deluge of rising interest rates and soaring budget deficits is the subject of increasingly heated economic debate.

Recent news of rapid third-quarter economic growth, rising consumer spending and climbing personal incomes did little to budge the dollar from its record lows against the 12-nation euro. The dollar has fallen about one-third against the euro since the start of the year — 15 percent this year alone. In the past 23 months, the dollar has slid 11 percent against all the world's currencies, according to Stephen Roach, chief global economist at Morgan Stanley & Co.

Currency analysts expect the trend to continue well into next year, if not beyond.

For now, economists say, the decline has on balance been a boon to the U.S. economy, pushing the price of American-made goods and services lower on the international market, stimulating exports while trimming imports. Indeed, the economic forecasting firm Global Insight Inc. has calculated that the dollar's decline has saved as many as 700,000 manufacturing jobs since the slide began in earnest two years ago. And as long as inflation stays low, there will be little pressure on the Federal Reserve to raise short-term rates from their historic lows.

But concerns are growing, especially on Wall Street, that the dollar's slide will inevitably drive up long-term interest rates, and some analysts think the decline could even force the Fed to raise the rates it targets. That could slow the nascent economic recovery, swell the already-recorded federal budget deficit and possibly resurrect an economic problem unseen for nearly 20 years: inflation.

In that scenario, foreign investors abruptly stop buying U.S. government dollar interest rates soar to lure them back, and the budget deficit explodes as the government struggles to pay the interest on the \$4 trillion debt

held by the public.

"To this point, the (currency) adjustment has been about as smooth as one could expect under the current circumstances," said Daniel Tarullo, a Georgetown University law professor and former international economic adviser in the Clinton White House.

"But is there a residual risk? Yeah, there's a residual risk," Charles Minter, a mutual fund manager at Constock Partners Inc. in Yardley, Pa., was more emphatic about a looming surge of interest rates. "If people don't want to own the dollar, they will have to be paid more to own the dollar. We're very concerned."

The nation's twin deficits — a trade gap approaching \$500 billion for 2003 and a federal budget shortfall nearing the same mark for the current fiscal year — will inevitably bring pain, in the form of rising interest rates and slowing increases in the standard of living, they say.

"A lasting recovery cannot be built on a foundation of falling savings rates, ever-widening current-account and trade deficits, and ever-rising debt burdens," Roach wrote in his year-end economic analysis.

But for now, foreigners — especially governments in Asia — con-

tinue to buy U.S. stocks, bonds and dollars, financing the two deficits and keeping the U.S. government afloat. Foreign governments and investors now own \$2.5 trillion more in U.S. assets than Americans own of foreign assets, Warren Buffett, chairman of Berkshire Hathaway Inc., said in a recent analysis in Fortune magazine.

Foreigners bought \$27.6 billion more U.S. stocks, bonds and other assets than they sold to Americans in October, a 560 percent leap from the \$4.2 billion the month before, according to the Treasury Department. And that surge came just as dollar fears were coming into focus.

As long as foreigners keep buying, the day of reckoning will be postponed, probably until later this decade, and certainly well after the 2004 presidential election, many international economists say.

"Everyone agrees these deficits are unsustainable; at some point, someone has to give," said Nouriel Rubini, an international economist at New York University's Stern School of Business. "I'm not sure if it's in two years or three years, but it will be in the medium term, not around the corner."

TELL US YOUR BUSINESS

Your business is a weekly feature that highlights commercial activity in the Magic Valley. If you have information about any of the following, The Times-News wants to hear about it:

- Promotions and staff changes.
- New certifications.
- Seminars and workshops.
- Awards and achievements.
- Charitable business activities.
- Other business news.

Please e-mail items to Business Editor Virginia S. Hutchins at virginia@magicvalley.com



Or contact her at: The Times-News, P.O. Box 548, Twin Falls, Idaho 83303, 208.734.9391, Ext. 242. Fax: 208.734.5433 or 734-5538.

Tractor

Continued from D1

This year was a reasonable one for the tractor business — "not crazy, not great" — and the pace picked up nicely in the past four months as milk prices rose.

"Without a doubt, the milk prices made a big difference," he said.

The service and parts sectors of Burks Tractor are each up by about 5 percent from last year. Equipment sales are flat with last year.

"Maybe a little bit better, but not much," Burks said.

It's difficult to project 2004 revenue from equipment sales.

"If you're off two tractors, you're off a couple hundred thousand dollars, or more than that," he said.

But Burks has targets for modest growth in parts and service. "I try to increase our service by about 5 percent a year. That's what I look for," he said.

But insurance costs, Burks said, are going through the roof. Particularly for employee health insurance, which cost Burks Tractor 30 percent more in 2003 than in 2002.

"That's where we're getting killed," he said.

Burks Tractor pays about \$450,000 annually for insurance policies—mainly employee health, business coverages and workers' compensation.

"And not one of those contribute to the bottom line," Burks said.

Five years ago, the combined cost was at about \$200,000.

Amid hardship, employers still show appreciation

By T. Shawn Taylor
Chicago Tribune

CHICAGO — When Kia Jones' friends ask how she scored tickets to the sold-out Beyoncé Knowles concert Friday night — on the day of the show, no less — she could tell them, "Outstanding performance."

That's not a comment on her ability to snag a coveted prize, but rather her assessment of how she does her job.

Jones, 22, an assistant store manager at a Chicago U.S. Cellular store, was among eight employees given tickets by the Urban Media Group, which owns the franchise.

That's not all. All 30 Urban Media workers will get cash bonuses ranging from \$50 to \$500 at the company holiday party Saturday night. Ten will receive free camera phones, and a manager will be surprised with a trip to Mexico.

"I've been talking about the

concert for months," Jones said last week. "I love Beyoncé. I was so happy and surprised when I got (the tickets) this morning."

Few companies can afford to be so generous at year's end as many fight their way back from three years of downsizing and slow growth. But those that did well this year, such as Urban Media, which grew from two stores a year ago to eight, are rewarding employees handsomely, using performance as their yardstick.

"We share the proceeds with our people, because without them, we wouldn't be where we are," said Marc Brooks, co-chairman of Urban Media, who gave company president John Hill Jr. a year-end bonus equal to 25 percent of his salary, including a Rolex watch. "We had a really good year."

Overall, fewer employers are giving holiday bonuses and gifts than a year ago, according to a survey of 339 companies by legal and business publisher BNA Inc. found that

employers are even less likely to give holiday bonuses this year than last, with falling to 18 percent from 21 percent of respondents.

"Some organizations have had some really tough times, so they've eliminated it because of layoffs and downsizing," said Rodger Stotz, vice president and managing consultant of Maritz Inc., which helps companies design incentives to raise employee performance.

But those companies that do provide end-of-year awards are basing them on performance. Since 1991, the number of companies offering pay-for-performance incentives has increased by nearly 30 percent, according to a recent survey by Lincolnshire, Ill.-based Hewitt Associates, a consulting firm.

But many companies that are struggling sell better. It is important to give workers a little something for the holidays, providing a small gift or offering some type of special recognition to show their

appreciation.

"They realize it has been a tough year. They give something small that's a reasonable expense," Stotz said.

Companies are being more careful about making the year-end gift something employees feel entitled to, the Hewitt survey found.

Of course, there are some exceptions. At United Parcel Service Inc. employees have come to expect a 15-pound frozen turkey for the holidays, a tradition that has endured for nearly 100 years.

"It has become something that employees look forward to," said Paula Smith, a spokeswoman in Atlanta for UPS, which plans to hand out more than 340,000 turkeys to employees this year.

Upholding tradition (22 percent) came in second to showing appreciation (54 percent) as the reason behind company holiday gifts, outranking to boost morale (19 percent), the Hewitt study showed.

But many companies that are struggling sell better. It is important to give workers a little something for the holidays, providing a small gift or offering some type of special recognition to show their

ping backward.

"So be thankful we're still growing," Boone said she still learned.

But she'll probably increase Primrose Lane's advertising

budget next year, and her revenue-growth target for 2004 is more ambitious than the 2003 performance.

"I'm going to put it back to 25 percent," she said.

Bull market returns, but will it stay?

NEW YORK (AP) — Investors celebrated the long-awaited return of the bull market in 2003, snapping up shares after three years of bitter declines. But 2004 arrives with a warning for an increasingly exuberant Wall Street: The best of the gains is over.

With stocks advancing since March on investor hopes for a strong economic recovery, the three main gauges are trading at their highest levels in nearly two years.

Stiff challenges for the coming year, however, include the risk of rising interest rates, a widening mutual fund probe and investor overconfidence.

"In 2004, the first issue is for individual investors to get their expectations in line," said Robert Froehlich, chief investment strategist for Deutsche Asset Management in Chicago. "When we started this year, no one thought anything positive was going to happen."

"Now that the Nasdaq is up 50 percent, many might believe we'll get 50 percent gains from here to eternity," he said. "But 2004 won't be as strong."

Market forecasts for the new year are certainly more modest, ranging from a flat performance to a 15 percent advance. At least one analyst believes that after a decent rise in the first half of 2004, the Dow Jones industrial will slide from over 10,000 back to 8,000.

In 2003, the three main gauges

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2004, both fundamental and technical.

— With short-term interest rates at a 45-year low, the Federal Reserve faces increasing pressure to raise rates to stave off inflation in a recovering economy. Indeed, at its Dec. 9 meeting, the Fed issued upbeat comments about the economy that some analysts believe signaled a possible rate hike by mid-2004. Higher rates could dampen consumer and business spending, which are critical to a solid rebound.

— A presidential election year typically sees modest stock gains. Analysts expect 2004 to be about 7.3 percent, compared to a robust 16.7 percent in the third year of a presidential term, according to the Stock

Trader's Almanac. Experts attribute that to political uncertainty in an election year and a "juicing" of the economy by incumbents in the third year that loses effect over time.

— State and federal regulators continue to widen their probe into shady trading practices in the mutual fund industry. While individual investors have largely stayed put in funds, more revelations of wrongdoing might rattle confidence and spark selling.

— In general, the value of stocks is a bit high relative to companies' profits, particularly in the tech sector. Many analysts believe stocks are due for a pullback of about 10 percent or more.

— It's pretty dangerous when investor consensus gets very bullish at the same time valuations are getting stretched and risks are high," said Bernie Schaeffer, chairman of Schaeffer's Investment Research. He forecasts a Dow 8,000 by the end of 2004.

Still, investors can't help feeling upbeat.

Ted Kennedy, an executive for a franchising company in Ann Arbor, Mich., recently began increasing his shares in health care and consumer cyclical, which typically do well during an economic recovery.

"There is life after recession," Kennedy said. "The decline that happened during the last bear market was the most significant in my investment lifetime — I had never seen a drop this sustained."

... Now I'm more optimistic."

That attitude is in sharp contrast to how investors felt when dismal corporate profits, terrorist fears and accounting scandals sent the Dow to a five-year low and the Nasdaq and S&P indexes to six-year lows on Oct. 9, 2002.

That date turned out to mark the end of the bear market which began in 2000 — the first three-year downturn since Franklin D. Roosevelt was president in 1941 — as investors came back in 2003, lured by rock-bottom interest rates, a \$550 billion tax cut package and optimism after the war in Iraq subsided.

Analysts say the good economic news will continue in 2004, but with investors upset, much of the strong data already has been priced into the market. That could make stocks resistant to a significant advance and vulnerable to declines should the data unexpectedly disappoint.

In addition, the market historically has seen short-term "cyclical" bull markets happen within a longer-term "secular" bear market. Some analysts believe a secular bear market began when the tech bubble burst in 2000; if so, that could mean fleeting gains in 2004.

"With rates rising, more of the surprises in 2004 will be on the upside than on the downside," cautions Tim Hayes, global stock strategist at Ned Davis Research in Venice, Fla. "The market has now gone up for more than a year. It wouldn't be unusual to see a stiff correction."

Workers seem wary over forecast of rebound

The Associated Press

In the 10 months since Kathie Cronin was laid off from Sprint Corp., she's come up empty trying to replace the \$52,000 salary, "three weeks paid vacation and the self-confidence she lost along with the job."

So the cubicle veteran changed course, signing on this fall at a just-hatched subdivision near her home in Harrisonville, Mo., and staking her economic bets on a newly issued real estate license. Still, her first check — no salary, just sales commission — is probably months away.

"As far as the economic recovery for me, I haven't seen it," says Cronin, whose workstyle now is a handful of half-butt hours edged by cow pasture. "But if I just can just hold on and make it through this crunch."

Cronin's uncertainty says a lot about the economy and the people who make it work as 2003 nears an end.

After almost three years of painful job cuts, corporate closings and thin corporate profits, this was the year the battered economy finally began to come back.

But many of the workers and businesses hit hardest by the downturn can only visualize a rebound. Even some who have seen a pickup in their fortunes remain doubtful about whether the turnaround can sustain a slow, steady rise.

For scores still out of work, even those looking ahead to a career change, the talk of an economic recovery is as credible as a mirage.

"You've heard the term fuzzy

logic? I think that's what we're getting from these economists," says Michael Williams of Portsmouth, N.H., a software developer who has been stringing together contract work since losing his full-time job in March of last year. "And you're getting it from employed economists, not the ones (jobless workers) who have been out there for a while."

That perception gap, between the rosy figures that signal a recovery and clouded public sentiment — makes a key juncture in all business cycles, economists say.

But the fact that people remain so uncertain two years after the recession officially ended shows this rebound is still quite fragile, with an upside most people will not see until well into next year.

"You can see the turn in the statistics, but in terms of what it feels on Main Street, it could be some time," said Anthony Chan, chief economist with Banc One Investment Advisors in Columbus, Ohio.

The rebound is documented in a raft of recent data. After showing modest growth early in the year, the economy raced ahead at an annual rate of 8.2 percent in the third quarter, the fastest pace in nearly two decades.

But while businesses have increased spending on new equipment, they remain reluctant to do so on people. For the majority who kept their jobs, that means longer hours and sometimes doing the work of two. Business have held the line on pay raises, trimmed benefits, and left people feeling squeezed.

The key remains new jobs, economists say.

"It's really the rebound in employment that matters for most people. They might be able to see business getting better, but they really feel it when job growth improves," said Richard Berner, chief economist for Morgan Stanley in New York.

The lag was relatively short in most past recessions. But it has stretched out this time, the result of the so-called "jobless recovery," 22 months in which the economy grew even as employment shrank.

That has stretched job searches. About a quarter of those searching for work — 2 million people — have been out of a job longer than six months.

The recovery isn't jobless anymore. The economy has regained 328,000 positions in the past four months after shedding 2.7 million during the downturn.

Slowly, more people are getting interviews and offers. Some of the first to benefit are people willing to take temporary jobs, added by companies still unwilling to commit to long-term staffing.

"This upswing in the last couple of months has been steady and strong and across the board," says John Boone, chief executive of Employment Trends, a small business recruiting firm in Oregon, that applies companies including a number of semiconductor plants.

The hours worked by Boone's temps increased by about 40 percent — equal to 134 more full-time positions — from October to November, usually a peak month.

But economists say many of the jobs lost during the downturn

won't come back. That reflects what some analysts say was being by U.S. businesses when times were good, as well as permanent changes including the relocation of jobs overseas.

The new reality has begun to sink in this year, spurring many jobless workers to go back to school or shift their focus in a bid to find something new. It hasn't been an easy transition.

"I see a lot of older students on campus. I see people in their 50s that are dragging their book bags behind them on wheels. It's really very humbling," says Vicki Wilson, an administrator at Alamance Community College in the textile hub of Greensboro, N.C.

Other workers have had to lower their sights, settling for survival jobs at much lower pay. They, too, remain doubtful that a rising economy will lift them off the rocks.

Terry Gaines, for one, Gaines lives in Portland, Ore., which has had all other large cities in unemployment. He became part of the statistics in July 2001 when he lost his job as a software support manager.

In theory, Gaines became part of the rebound when he finally found a job this past August as a sales associate at a Saks Fifth Avenue store. But he's making just a third of his previous pay and sees a limited upside, even looking to next year.

"I am very fortunate that I do have a job," he says. But the economy is not just making it difficult for individuals like myself. We are still fighting to make ends meet."

the millions of loans closed over the last year have left an important legacy, Fifth Third's Russell said.

"There's improved credit quality on the corporate side and for consumers who refinanced," he said. Millions of consumers now have loans at lower rates, a situation that helps their financial situation, he explained.

That means banks don't have to set aside as much money to cover loans, assuming the economy continues to improve, "we see a better credit picture, going into 2005 and 2006 as well," Russell said. "Banks benefited in 2003 from a fee standpoint, but going forward they benefit from a lower loss profile."

The other legacy of the refinancing boom is that banks have millions of loans locked in at low rates. Many banks sell loans to other banks or mortgage companies soon after closing on the mortgage with a customer, so they benefit from the fees the customer paid but aren't left with the loan on the books when interest rates begin moving upward.

That hasn't been "trying to get them off their backs, selling them and getting higher rates," McCune said. In some cases, banks may sell the loans at a loss.

Some winners, losers in 2003

NEW YORK (AP) — The opening bell of the stock market finally stopped sounding like a funeral chime in 2003, but that doesn't mean everyone was a winner.

Allegations of greedy behavior this year put many high-profile businesspeople on the hot seat — and on our list of losers. Among the winners, a few made the list not for their impressive portfolios but for their gumption in shaping the various business worlds where they dwell.

Without further ado, here are the good, the bad and the unhappy for 2003:

On the downside

DICK GRASSO

The scrappy chairman of the New York Stock Exchange became the target of a mob of investors and market watchers in August when they learned he had amassed \$139.5 million in benefits and savings during his tenure at the NYSE — and he was cashing it in. Then it turned out he was due another \$48 million in vested funds. Grasso defended his blue-chip payout by saying the exchange's board approved every nickel. He said he responded to his compensation every year with a simple "I'm blessed. Thank you." But by September, so many were calling for his head that he had to resign as the big boss of the Big Board. He hasn't been heard from since.

L. DENNIS KOZLOWSKI

The lavish lifestyle enjoyed by the former head of Tyco International Ltd. went on display this year at Kozlowski's trial. Prosecutors allege he and the company's former financial chief fled the firm of about \$600 million. Among the most eye-popping allegations, Kozlowski threw the most notorious toga party since "Animal House," decorated his various homes like wings of the Louvre and bought his maid a \$5,000 shower curtain — then allegedly stuck shareholders with most of the tab. Jurors got to see videotapes of much of it, including a \$2 million birthday bash. Kozlowski threw for his wife, Jimmy Buffet provided the entertainment. Now some people claim that there's a woman to blame. But the Manhattan district attorney says it's Kozlowski's own darn fault.

LORD CORNELL BLACK

While Lord Black, former CEO of Hollinger International Inc., was finishing up his biography of Franklin D. Roosevelt, he was allegedly cooking up a New Deal of his own: pocketing millions in deal-related fees that angry shareholders say should have gone right to the company. The uproar that ensued sent this British Lord a-leaping from his post as CEO of the newspaper company that owns the Chicago Sun-Times and the Daily Telegraph in London, though he remains its chairman and controlling shareholder. Black later said he'd have to let a lot of books to repay the dough. Lord knows he's right.

RICHARD S. STRONG

This year we learned the mutual-fund market was open as late as Denny's, but only insiders and big spenders got a seat at the counter. The SEC found that a quarter of the country's largest brokerages knew about after-hours trading that allowed big-shot investors to profit from the spread between a fund's 4 p.m. closing price and its opening price the next day. Other firms allegedly engaged in "market timing" or the rapid trade of securities. Richard S. Strong, founder of Strong Financial Corp., was one of the first to resign due to the scandal. He wasn't the only candidate in this category: Runners-up include Lawrence J. Lasser, former chief executive of Putnam Investments, where the scandal started a multibillion drain by fleeing customers. Strong and Lasser haven't been charged with wrongdoing, but there were civil charges against Invesco Funds Group Inc. CEO Raymond Cunningham, as well as Gary I. Filgren and Harold J. Baxter, the founders of Pilgrim Baxter & Associates.

SAM WAKSAL

The founder of ImClone Systems probably wished he could clone himself when it came time to report to prison in July. Waksal was sentenced to seven years behind bars for insider trading after he admitted tipping off his daughter to dump ImClone shares in January 2002, just before the stock took a nosedive. Starting in January, prosecutors will try to prove that Waksal's friend Martha Stewart also traded on insider information when she sold her ImClone shares. Waksal's 82-year-old father has also been charged. To make matters worse for Waksal,

his jail sentence came just as ImClone's shares were on the rebound.

47 PEOPLE YOU'VE NEVER HEARD OF

These are the foreign-currency traders who allegedly had more scams going than the back room of Tony Soprano's Bada-Bing Club. According to prosecutors, some run old-fashioned "boiler room" fraud schemes, working the phones to dupe investors with bogus trades. Others allegedly collected kickbacks from clients for transactions that ripped off the traders' own employers. Ultimately, the feds nabbed 47 on various charges. But from the sounds of it, you could safely bet 40,000. Supreme Court's (U.S. 5th) that investors could have rounded up more if they hadn't run out of room in the paddy wagon.

On the upside

FRANK QUATRONE

No wonder he's always smiling: Quatrone made many, many millions touting tech stocks during the bubble and slipped quietly away when it burst. Prosecutors say when it came time to carve up some of the juiciest initial public offerings of tech companies, he helped guide the knife. At his obstruction of justice trial, memos put into evidence seemed to back that up. But the key memo — in which Quatrone told his minions to "clean up" their e-mail boxes — didn't convince enough jurors, some of whom believed Quatrone when he said he was just reminding workers of company policy on record keeping. The result: a hung jury. So Quatrone's in the winner's box, and still smiling, at least until a new trial.

ELLIOTT SPITZER

There may be nothing scarier to a Wall Street exec these days than being told, "The New York attorney general's on the phone." This year, Spitzer passed out subpoenas among some of the nation's most respected financial institutions. Most recently, he has set his sights on the mutual fund industry, targeting firms that trade shares at the 4 p.m. price after the market closes. He compares it to "betting on a horse race after the horses have crossed—the finish line." Spitzer's investigations, especially when he is placing odds on the ambitious Spitzer parlaying all the headlines into a governorship in 2006. Or how about vice president next year, or presid

raw. Most people would call that a win. O'Donnell was sued by Cramer + Cramer, who claimed she broke her contract with the company when she abandoned a magazine venture inspired by, and named after, her. She counter-sued for \$125 million, claiming Cramer denied her the editorial control she had been promised over *Rosie*, the magazine. Both sides came out looking temperamental and headstrong, so the judge decided neither side deserved anything.

LINUS TORVALDS

Torvalds has long been the hero of computer geeks for developing an operating system some think is better than Windows, especially since it's free. But in 2003, it became clear just how important the project he launched as a teenager in Finland has become to corporate America. The SCO Group this year launched a \$3 billion lawsuit against IBM for distributing Linux, claiming it contained code from SCO's Unix, the older OS that inspired it. The tech press hung on Torvalds' every word concerning the case and the future of Linux. Wired magazine declared him the "Leader of the Free World." Whatever the outcome of the case, Torvalds is sure to go down in history as one of the most important programming innovators of our time.

ANNE MULCAHY

The Xerox CEO turned the copier company around, shaking it free of investigations into its finances and promising a profitable future. It wasn't painless. The company cut thousands of jobs and sold billions in assets since Mulcahy took over in 2001. What emerged was not a shrunken photocopy of the previous Xerox, but a high-tech outfit with a new menu of printing products for the wired office. The company is expected to post its second straight year of profits in 2003, and do even better in 2004.

DICK GRASSO

Yes, it's true, he's also in the losers column. But how can he not be a winner, too? After all, he's walking into his new \$140 million for his role as head cheerleader of the stock exchange. Not too shabby for a guy who didn't go to college and worked his way up from clerk on the floor of the exchange in the 1960s.

Banks will feel pinch as refinancing dwindles

Chicago Tribune

CHICAGO — About a year ago, Richard DeKaser, National City Bank's chief economist, was sure of one thing: There was no way the mortgage refinancing boom would continue throughout 2003.

He wasn't alone. Other economists were forecasting a slowdown when interest rates inevitably rose. The revenue that banks and mortgage companies were earning from application fees was going to shrink, analysts warned.

Their forecasts were correct, but about a year premature.

"We would have told you it certainly won't be better than 2002 was, and yet that's precisely the way it played out," DeKaser said.

Rates are slowly rising, prompting DeKaser and others to warn there will be a significant falloff in mortgage activity in 2004. That shift will hurt the bottom line for some banks that have made millions from mortgage application fees.

Mortgage interest rates hit their lowest levels since the 1950s in July, when the average rate for a 30-year mortgage was 5.2 percent. It has climbed about a percentage point since, and is expected to rise further in 2004.

"It's pretty clear to us that you won't see a repeat in 2004 of what

we saw in 2003," said Jim Russell, Fifth Third Bank's director of core equity strategy. "That's just crystal clear."

In terms of recent history, a rate of less than 7 percent is still a good deal. But people who needed to be enticed to refinance by the chance to get a lower rate have likely already done so. Gone are the days when homeowners refinanced and then did so again a short time later when rates dropped even more.

Some banks are already feeling the pinch. Washington Mutual, one of the largest mortgage lenders in the nation, recently announced that its fourth-quarter mortgage volume would be off about 50 percent from the third quarter.

"What is forcing the company to 'take steps to substantially reduce operating costs, and streamline and improve operations to drive efficiency,'" said chairman and chief executive Kerry Killinger.

"A lot of banks generated these low-rate loans, and then lived off the fees they generated," said John McCune, research manager of the banking group for SNL Financial, a financial news and research firm.

"What happened is there is a glut — a massive amount of low-interest loans out there after peo-

ple refinanced three, four, five times.

"What was propping up earnings wasn't the loans, it was the fees. Fee income has dried up, and they're stuck with these loans."

In August, there were 435,000 workers nationwide handling mortgage applications, the Mortgage Bankers Association estimates. By the end of 2004, that number will decline by 68,000, according to the industry group.

"They used temps to expand their labor force, and used technology to substitute for people whenever possible," said Doug Duncan, the association's senior vice president and chief economist.

The decline is because mortgage applications are down 40 percent to 50 percent from last summer's levels, a time that Duncan calls "a historic period."

For banks and thrifts, that period made a healthy boost to the bottom line. The gains recorded from making loans accounted for 13.1 percent of pretax profits for federally insured commercial banks during the third quarter, up from 5.4 percent last year, according to an analysis of mortgage banking exposure done this month by investment firm Legg Mason.

Although the number of refinancing applications has shrunk,

MONEY

Resolution idea: Unclutter financial life

Organization can provide sense of control, comfort

NEW YORK (AP) — Tired of dealing with a blizzard of bills every month? Confused by a flurry of statements from savings accounts old and new, large and small? Overwhelmed by stacks of documents when taxes are due?

Maybe it's time you tried to simplify your financial life.

Doing so, experts say, can help you get a handle on your spending, your debt and your savings. "The advantage of simplifying is that it gives you control and understanding — and comfort," said David Diesslin, a financial planner who heads Diesslin & Associates in Fort Worth, Texas. "From that you can build confidence in what you're going to do because you can focus on what's relevant."

Where should you begin? Diesslin suggests consumers cut down on the number of credit cards they hold and consolidate savings accounts.

"The simpler you make it, the easier it is to understand," he said. He also advises consumers to take time each year to calculate their net worth. That's the value of everything you own, including your home, minus the money you owe.

"It's a baseline to help individuals plan," Diesslin said. "It allows you to see if you've enhanced your personal economic situation or not over the course of the year."

Diesslin points out that if the

only thing that has improved during the year is the value of your home, it could signal the need for change. Someone close to retirement, for example, may need to take a hard look at the added expenses — such as real estate taxes and insurance — that will increase the cost of maintaining the home after paychecks stop. A younger couple may need to think about stepping up savings.

"You have to ask yourself the questions, 'Am I where I want to be? If not, what will I do differently to get somewhere else?'" he said.

Rande Spiegelman, vice president of financial planning at the Schwab Center for Investment Research in San Francisco, notes there are a number of psychological reasons why people keep many different accounts.

For one thing, consumers tend to compartmentalize — a bucket of money for the children's college education, another bucket for retirement, yet another bucket for travel.

"There's nothing wrong with different accounts for different objectives," Spiegelman said. "But at some point, it's important to look at your whole portfolio to see what you can gain from consolidating."

You may, for example, be paying fees at some financial institutions because you're not meeting minimum balance requirements, he

said. Or you may not be aware of the risks you're incurring because you're not properly diversified across all the accounts, he added.

And consolidating Individual Retirement Accounts will make it easier to see what you've got now — and how much you're likely going to be able to draw when you stop working.

"Fewer monthly statements means less to keep track of, giving you more time to work on strategy," Spiegelman said.

When it comes to debt, he suggests consumers try to rid themselves of credit cards and personal loans by paying it off with the home equity loan or line of credit, which probably qualifies for tax deductions.

"But you have to make sure you don't run up another big credit card bill," Spiegelman said. "If you don't pay off your charges on a monthly basis, it's all for naught. And you've put your home on the line."

New York-based financial adviser David Bach says one of the easiest ways to simplify your financial life is to put it on autopilot.

"Americans aren't lazy," Bach argues. "The reason we're not saving, the reason we're late on credit card bills, the reason we're not paying our mortgages off early is that we're too busy to focus on it."

Bach, in his latest book "The Automatic Millionaire," outlines a

dozen ways that consumers can increase their financial well-being while reducing the time it takes to do so:

- Use an automatic payroll deduction to fund your tax-sheltered retirement account.

- Bach suggests that consumers aim to set aside the equivalent of one hour's earnings per day.

- Start using automatic bill paying systems.

Many utilities, Internet service providers and other companies encourage consumers to have their bills debited directly each month from their checking or savings accounts.

Increasingly, Bach added, consumers are moving to online bill paying, using a single site like www.Paytrust.com or www.Quicken.com to set up monthly payments for recurring bills.

- Have your mortgage payment paid automatically from your bank account, and consider changing from a monthly to a biweekly mortgage payment plan.

Instead of 12 monthly payments, you'll make 26 biweekly payments and pay down your mortgage much faster. Bach said the average American will save \$45,000 or more in interest payments over the course of a 30-year mortgage loan.

"You just have to do this once," Bach said. "Then you don't have to worry about motivation because you can depend on the automation."

Playing hooky proves costly for employers

Chicago Tribune

Standing outside Gate D at Wright Field in Chicago on a recent weekday afternoon, Derek, a financial consultant who did not give his last name, was trying to be incognito in a polo shirt, shorts and sunglasses.

Derek was supposed to be at work. He told his boss that he needed a day because he was broken up over a beloved colleague's resignation. It was just an excuse to play hooky.

"I just stepped off for the day," said Derek, while waiting to join the meek crowd.

Employees calling in sick or making up excuses to get out of work is nothing new.

But at a time when employee ranks are thin because of layoffs and a reluctance to hire, unplanned employee absences can be costly, affecting productivity and a company's bottom line.

Absences can cost up to \$60,000 a year for small businesses and for large employers as much as \$3.6 million a year, according to a survey by CCH Inc., a Riverwoods, Ill.-based human resources provider.

For every employee who doesn't show up, the employer has to figure out how their work will get done," said Lori Rosen, a CCH workplace analyst. "If someone has to work overtime, or you have to call in a temp to do that person's job, it costs."

Costs for unplanned absences climbed last year to an all-time high of \$789 per employee, up from \$755 in 2001, according to the CCH survey. Yet the number of employees taking unscheduled work absences has declined in recent years, the survey showed.

"I think more people are not calling in sick because of the economy, due to the fact they are more concerned about their jobs," said John Dooney, a human resources expert and consultant to the Society for Human Resource Management.

When the weather is warm and the kids are out of school and something always seems more fun to do than work, some workers allow themselves the occasional "mental health day." Mondays and Fridays are especially popular because they add up to a long weekend.

Excuses range from the wacky to the morbid. Dooney said he worked with a client who discovered that a worker twice reported having to take off because her father had died.

For workers who remain, unscheduled absences can lead to increased workloads and stress, said Laura Stacker, founder of TheProductivityPro.com and a personal coach whose aim is to help people leave the office earlier.

"I think a lot of people are calling in sick not because they're ill physically, but because they're sick of the place, and they need a day to decompress," Stacker said.

Such absences are a "call to employers for more flexibility and not focusing so much on butts in seats but on results," she said.

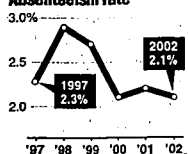
To reduce the number of unscheduled absences, some employers are changing rules. Popular today are paid-time-off plans, in which employees accumulate hours of paid time away from work for sickness, vacation or personal reasons.

"It does really matter why you're not here. It's your time. The only remaining requirement of the

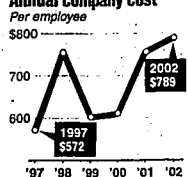
Absences, costs

A tight job market has led to a decrease in absenteeism, but the cost to cover missing employees has risen sharply

Absenteeism rate



Annual company cost



Note: Absenteeism rate equals paid unscheduled-absent hours divided by paid worked hours; unscheduled absences do not include vacation, holidays, jury duty, family medical leave, bereavement or disability leave. Source: CCH Inc. Graphic: Chicago Tribune. © 2003 KRT

employee is to let (the employer) know in advance," Rosen said.

Other employers are allowing employees to work 10-hour days, four days a week, for example, automatically giving them a three-day weekend.

Raytheon Corp., a technology firm specializing in military electronics and aircraft manufacturing, allows some workers to put in 80 hours every nine days, giving them an extra day off every other week, Dooney said.

At Chicago advertising agency Euro RSCG Tatham Partners, workers are allowed during the summer to leave early on Fridays.

"Early Friday morning, people are already pricing their golf swings at their office," said Jim Schmidt, chief creative officer for the agency.

"We're acknowledging there's a tendency for people to want to skate out at noon Friday. There's a reason why the Cubs schedule their 4:20 Friday games."

But such policies are rare. That's why some workers take matters into their own hands.

"Flexible work programs help. They give people the chance (to tell the truth) instead of being put in the situation of lying," Dooney said. "Most people don't want to do that. They may feel they can't be open with their supervisor, or the company doesn't promote work-life balance."

Many attendees at the Cubs game apparently had been at work earlier. They wore office attire — some with company logos prominently displayed on shirts and jackets.

Eddie Piscetto of Hanover Park, Ill., an auditor, said he was upfront with his boss.

"(Baseball) is a big priority," Piscetto, whose boss has given him tickets in the past.

But at a nearby tavern, George Stanton, who checked IDs at the door, doubted that most of the fans got out of work legitimately.

"Obviously, half the people here are playing hooky," Stanton said. "This many people cannot possibly have jobs and go to a Cubs game."

Economy takes bite out of traditional noon break

By John Owens
Chicago Tribune

Going out to lunch with a business associate or a co-worker used to be a common practice at Focal Communications. But things have changed at the Chicago-based phone service provider, which has been hard hit by the slump in the telecom industry.

The company laid off 300 employees in October and is reorganizing under Chapter 11 bankruptcy. The company's remaining 850 employees are scrambling to meet its restructuring goals.

"People are a little gun-shy about spending money and are being more conservative," said Jeff Greenberg, a managing director for Focal. "And some people just don't have time for lunch now."

Nationwide, businesses are turning the leisurely midday nosing break into a relic.

"People are a little gun-shy about spending money and are being more conservative," said Jeff Greenberg, a managing director for Focal. "And some people just don't have time for lunch now."

Nationwide, businesses are turning the leisurely midday nosing break into a relic.

Approximately half of full-time employees spend less time eating lunch than they used to, according to a recent survey of more than 1,000 people by the Washington, D.C.-based National Restaurant Association.

About one-fourth of those surveyed said they frequently spend things other than eating. About 40 percent reported when they do eat lunch, they bring something from home at least once a week.

At my desk, I eat at my desk, normally four days a week. That's because it's busy now."

Plus, intent on slashing costs, many companies are telling employees to cut back on taking clients out.

"I do a lot of business in New York, and I'm finding that restaurants are often empty in Manhattan during lunch," said Lyn Chamberlain, the owner of Skyemedia, a Sudbury, Mass.-based public relations firm. "Some of that's due to less tourism because of 9/11, but mostly it's that businesses don't want to spend for these lunches. It's becoming politically incorrect to spend \$50 for lunch."

Greenberg said Focal often views business lunches as an "unnecessary expense."

And taking out a customer or an employee, it's more of a reward than anything. And there are benefits to that," he said. "But we're

trying to find cheaper ways to accomplish the same thing."

"Too often, too little business is served up between courses, Greenberg added. "With business lunches, you end up never talking about what the stated goal is," he said. "You spend five minutes on business, and the rest is about personal things. And when you go out for a business lunch, you're looking at an hour and a half or two hours. That's a long time."

In an effort to take smaller bites from their workday and wallets, some business people are scheduling more early-morning meetings over breakfast, which often is quicker and cheaper than a sit-down lunch.

"I'll often do 6:30 a.m. or 7:30 a.m. breakfast meetings," Chamberlain said. "If you're going to eat during work, you'll eat during that time of the day."

Chamberlain said conference calls and events outside the workplace, such as half-day or all-day seminars, also are becoming more popular options.

"The bottom line is that if I'm going to do a meeting, I'm doing it without food," he said. "Most people don't want to be wined and dined at work. They're more interested in their co-worker's or business associate's intellectual capital."

Restaurants, too, are adapting to the change in lunch habits. In the Chicago area, restaurants either are opening new establishments that cater to customers with less time on their hands or they're offering carryout options in addition to their table service.

Industry observers cite Phil Stefani as one restaurant owner who's adjusting with the times. He recently opened Tuscany's Cafe in two downtown locations, which offer high-end Italian fare for the carry-out crowd. And downtown sit-down restaurants such as Nick and Tony's also have prepared food for their carry-out customers.

"The full-service restaurants are making a better effort to serve the quick-service crowd because of the time limitation," Illinois Restaurant Association spokesman Andrew Arons said. "They're basically going along with the market trend and trying to match that."

Despite the lack of interest in longer lunch breaks, Anderson says the restaurant industry generally is doing well. In 2002, the nation's 870,000 restaurants experienced their 12th straight year of growth, doing \$426 billion in sales. That is a 4.5 percent increase over sales in 2001.

Mutual fund outflows could prove costly to those who stay in

NEW YORK (AP) — As regulators continue to probe mutual fund practices, many skittish investors have been opting to get out of funds accused of wrongdoing. While advisers caution against panic selling, they say continued outflows could hurt those investors who stick around — even if a fund is later vindicated.

In recent weeks, mutual funds managed by Putnam Investments and Strong Capital Management Inc. have seen outflows from investors bailing out. On Monday, Putnam said it had another \$9 billion in redemptions, falling to \$247 billion in assets after pension funds in several states fired the fund as their manager.

While Putnam said the large redemptions have not interfered with its ability to run its funds effectively, investors might want to pay attention if large-scale selling continues or if the market were to decline significantly and reduce a fund's assets, financial planners say.

"We're not worried about the mutual fund market in the long run," said Deane Katz, a certified financial planner in Coral Gables, Fla. "But on the other hand, the big danger is whether there will be a big run on these funds."

"That makes them more expensive, and share prices will go down, so that's the big expense for people who are invested," she said.

In particular, fund managers who encounter large outflows often must sell investments they might otherwise choose to hold, leading to larger capital gains tax costs. Or they might hold an unnecessary amount of cash in anticipation of more redemptions.

A fund thus could lose out on returns if a fund manager is unable to be invested significantly in the stock market before the next big rally. It also means a manager might have less flexibility to stick with the fund's asset allocation.

Meanwhile, the higher turnover

and selling creates higher transaction and expense costs, which are spread out across fewer people as investors sell.

"The reason why performance may go down if there are heavy redemptions has nothing to do with the ability of the portfolio manager," said George F. Leopold Jr., a certified financial planner in Cherry Hill, N.J. "So investors should closely monitor the situation."

Investors who participate in mutual funds through 401(k) retirement plans have less to worry about, since taxes are deferred. In addition, given the three-year bear market, many fund managers likely have large capital losses built up that they could use to offset capital gains in 2003.

And investors who have money in fund families that have been implicated but not in the actual funds under investigation might want to see the cost impact. Often, the expenses are limited to the particular fund although some companies might spread it across the entire fund family.

So what should investors do? Advisers emphasize that there is no immediate need to bail, since the rising stock market has helped buoy mutual fund assets and given fund managers more flexibility. They also note that the industry as a whole appears to be reputable and should be particularly strong once the probes shake out.

But investors should monitor the investigations and consider changing funds if outflows continue to be high or the market begins to decline.

"If the market were suddenly to turn south and managers have to sell their stocks quickly, Putnam, for example, might end up taking a big sale price for the stocks. That could impact the performance of the whole fund," said Laura Lutton, mutual fund analyst at Morningstar Inc.

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LOST Dachshund older male, with tags. Lost 6 1/2 miles south of Buhi. Call 208-543-6083.
LOST Great Dane black and white, female. North East of Jerome. Call 208-34-3515 or 324-5712.
LOST Red Heeler, white/red, 7 years old, black collar with tags, possibly still blue hatched. Near 1600 East. Call 208-731-0248.
LOST saw horse, steel, missing between 3400 E. & 3300 N. Please return if found. Call 208-423-5212.
LOST saw horse, steel, missing between 3400 E. & 3300 N. Please return if found. Call 208-423-5212.
LOST set of golf clubs. Near Clear Lake Golf Course. Black traveling case. Cobra irons, Taylor made driver, Callaway 7 wood. 208-487-2125.
LOST Springer Spaniel, brown and white male. Has noticeable molting on top of head. Lost near Eden on 12/17/03. Please call 208-436-0259.
LOST trailer loading ramp. \$25 REWARD if found. Call 208-487-2125.
LOST white short haired male cat, cream colored ears/tail, blue eyes, 5 months old. 423-5584.
REWARD \$100
LOST Pointing Griffin, wired haired, near Big Sky Dairy, brown, male, collar with tags, friendly. Call 733-2113 or 731-6576.
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Please check your ad on the first day. If you find an error we will correct it. We are not responsible for errors after the first day of publication.
Call Twin Falls 733-0931 ext. 2, or Burley 677-4042.
It is against Twin Falls City Ordinance to top trees that are in the City's right-of-ways.
For more information call 733-2285.

FOUND

FOUND 1. Red Heeler, male adult, 3202 North 4900 East Murtagh.
2. Black Lab, male young adult, 700 block Blue Lakes.
3. Terrier X, female pup.
4. German Shepherd X, male pup.
5. Shepherd/Retriever X, neutered male adult.
6. Black Lab X, neutered male adult.
7. Lab/Retriever X, spayed female adult.
8. Yellow Lab X, female young adult.
9. Boxer X, male pup.
10. 2 Heeler/Corgi X, female pups.
11. Schnauzer/Alredale X, male pup.
Lots of cats and kittens for adoption!
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FOUND 4 of 4 keys at Kimberly Nurseries. Please call to identify. 208-733-2717
FOUND Terrier Mix, young female, golden, silver chain, well mannered. Call 208-543-5651.
LOST 2 Labrador Retrievers REWARD. West of Buhi on 12/08/03 PM. Both neutered males, 1 adult chocolate, 1 young or black with collars & tags. Call 208-543-5341.
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This is a public service announcement of The Times-News.
Classified... the solution to all your needs. 733-0931.

NOTICE OF MARSHAL'S SALE

United States of America, Plaintiff vs. Marvin Priebe, et al., Civil No. CV-94-0366-S-JL

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that on the 8th day of January 2004, at 1:30 p.m. of said day, on the front steps of the Gooding County Courthouse, Gooding, Idaho, the United States Marshal will, in obedience to the Order of Sale and Decree of Foreclosure, sell the following-described real property, pumps motor, and pivot, (to the extent it still exists) to the highest and best bidders for cash in lawful money of the United States of America. A personal check in the amount of ten percent of the bid will be accepted at the time of the sale with a cashier's check for the full amount of the bid within 24 hours of the sale. The United States of America, Farm Service Agency's (formerly Farmers Home Administration) bid will be \$497,438.09 with the market value of \$963,000. If you have any questions, contact Farm Service Agency, at (208) 324-4325.

REAL AND APPURTENANT PROPERTY

Township 7 South, Range 14, East of the Boise Meridian, Gooding County, Idaho
Parcel No. 1: Section 22: NW1/4 W1/2E1/4
Parcel No. 2: Section 22: E1/2NE1/4, EXCEPTING THEREFROM the South 25 feet thereof, together with all water and water rights, ditches and ditch rights used thereon or appurtenant thereto, including but not limited to 80 shares of North Side Canal Company, Ltd. water stock along with all water produced under license no. 36-7535 for 4.8 cfs. Also together with one G.E. 250 HP motor Serial No. AL1108155, one singular Wet Line Pump Serial No. 45613, one Valley Corner Pivot, Serial No. 18799, and one Valley Corner Pivot Serial No. 16956.
To the extent that they still exist, these are located on the above real property.
COMMONLY KNOWN AS: 2735 S. 1500 E., Wendell, Idaho

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Help People achieve their goals & become a Developmental Specialist
BA Degree in Special Education or related field full-time. Call Jody at Community Partnership 208-735-2124. AA/EOE*

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Local employer is seeking an energetic people person with office skills. Knowledge of computer programs, and a good memory, for a part-time position to work evenings and weekends. Bilingual a plus. Payroll skills a plus. For application process, please call 725-5002 or go directly to 532 Blue Lakes Blvd. N. Applications accepted Mon-Thurs 9am-4 pm.

HOUSEKEEPING
Sunbridge currently has the following positions available:
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Full-time experience with floors preferred.
We are looking for responsible housekeepers to clean residence rooms, facility hallways and sanitize the kitchen. Experience is preferred, will train. Please apply in person at 640 Filer Ave. W. Twin Falls ID 83301 or call 208-734-8845 EOE.*

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We are looking for a bright, energetic individual to be part of our insurance team. Online inside 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., Idaho P/C license. The position is permanent, full-time. Excellent working conditions and benefit package. Mail resume to: Starley-Levitt Insurance, P.O. Box 1947, Twin Falls, ID 83303.*

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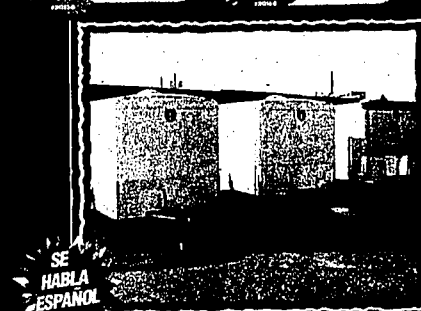
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 2003 HYUNDAI TIBURON Rob's Price \$17,488 WAS \$23,048 #N3000	 2003 HYUNDAI ACCENT Rob's Price \$9,988 WAS \$14,849 #3018	 2003 HYUNDAI ELANTRA Rob's Price \$11,988 WAS \$16,967 #N3100

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 2003 FORD RANGER XLT Rob's Price \$17,988 WAS \$20,995 #3008	 2001 FORD WINDSTAR Rob's Price \$13,988 WAS \$18,995 #3008	 2003 DODGE DURANGO SLT Rob's Price \$23,788 WAS \$28,995 #3008	 2003 HONDA ACCORD Rob's Price \$17,988 WAS \$22,995 #3008	 2003 CHRYSLER PT CRUISER Rob's Price \$13,788 WAS \$17,995 #3008

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Send, drop off, or email resume by Jan. 2, 2004 c/o Lane Schwarz, ischwarz@pmt.org 507 G Street, Rupert, ID 83350.
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The Times-News/Ag Weekly is accepting applications for a full-time media marketing support person.

This position will be responsible for updating visual projection elements and inputting news releases for AG Weekly as well as managing multiple mailing lists and databases.

This is a great entry-level position for someone interested in media distribution and marketing.

Ideal candidates will possess a working knowledge of basic mailing rules and regulations and have good keyboarding skills. They will be computer literate, have good attention to detail and work well independently. If interested, please send resume to: jane.goffin@e.net
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Join our team of highly motivated and dedicated employees serving our customers throughout southern Idaho, by seeking a position in our Valley District Office as a Natural Gas Technician. Position is responsible for service, adjustment and inspection of gas appliances and equipment. Install and maintain gas meter sets. Responds to customer calls and emergency noises. Assists in meter reading and line location. Will be required to reside in the Holey/Bellevue area and have a valid Idaho drivers license and safe driving record. Must have knowledge of gas codes and experience working with gas equipment, and basic hand tools. Must be able to work other shifts and have ability to work alone with limited supervision. Qualified individuals should submit a resume to:
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Business Opportunities

The Times-News has always dedicated itself to enhancing our delivery service for our customers. If you are very organized, self motivated, and enjoy working unsupervised, then we have the perfect business opportunity for you. We invite individuals who reflect our commitment to customer service and circulation growth to apply. Papers are early morning delivery.

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

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

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Middlekauff Blue Lakes Ford is looking to expand their sales force to sell their top-of-the-line Ford and Mitsubishi automobiles.

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200 EMPLOYMENT 200 EMPLOYMENT

Are you looking for a great opportunity to work for a great place?

PARKE VIEW CARE & REHABILITATION CENTER
is now hiring for CNA's.

Must be certified, detail oriented,
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some time ago in The Times-
News? Now is the time to
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Stop by the Customer
Service Dept today!

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Part-time X-ray techni-
cian, need for busy ortho-
pedic office in Ketchum.
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per hr. Fax resume to
208-726-8548 or call ask
for Nancy 208-726-5027

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\$36,000/DOE + Benefits
Idaho Democratic Party
seeking qualified person
with political, fund-raising,
& media communication
knowledge. Send resume
to: PO Box 445
Boise, Idaho 83701
info@idaho-democrats.org
or fax 208-326-1817.
Closes Jan. 7, 2004

Abbreviations bring abbreviat-
ed results. When you write
your classified ad, be sure
readers understand your
message - spell it out.

RESTAURANT
Waitperson needed.
Apply at Peking Restaurant
624 Blue Lakes Blvd.
Must be 19 years old.

RESTAURANT
Waitpersons needed for
all shifts.
837-6227 ask for Carol

SALES
The Health Food Place
has a full-time position
now open. Enthusiastic,
customer oriented, self-
motivated person. Retail
exp. a must. Apply at
1111 Blue Lakes Blvd.
Central Pointe Plaza.
Resumes required.

SECRETARY
Administrative secretary
/bookkeeper for victim
advocacy group. Full-time
position with Quick
Books, Windows, Excel,
and knowledge of fund
accounting. Must have
great organizational
efficiency & correspon-
dence skills. \$10/hr DOE.
Send resume to:
P.O. Box 2444
Twin Falls, ID 83303

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money? Why not sell those
stuffed good items you've been
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and repairing HF/VHF
/UHF mobile radios and
repeaters using AM,
FM, or SSB modulation
and testing equipment
including radio service
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generators, digital
multi-meters, power
supplies, pc comput-
ers, and radio program-
ming software resident
on laptop computers.
Customer resumes
reflecting experience
and skills related to this
position may be sub-
mitted to DHR, 700 W.
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83720 or you may
apply
http://www.dhr.state.id.us/
CurrentOpenings.asp.

217 EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES
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information is free.
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promise you a federal job.
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federal jobs, call Career
America Connection.
478-757-3000

218 TIMES NEWS CARRIERS
CURRENT WALKING ROUTES AVAILABLE
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RT. 553
100 Fair St.
100 Ramsey
BUHL
RT. 547
200-1000 9th Ave N.
800 Holly St.
RT. 548
400-800 7th Ave N.
400-900 8th Ave N.
TWIN FALLS
RT. 883
400-700 Ridgeway Drive
900-1300 Wendell Street
RT. 887
1000-2000
Park Meadows
1000-2000
Twin Parks Dr.
RT. 880
400-600 Park Terrace
1150-1250 Parkway Dr.
JEROME
RT. 518
200-400 5th Ave E.
100-800 6th Ave E.
RT. 520
100-700 1st Ave E.
300-700 2nd Ave E.
RT. 523
500-700 West Ave. B.
200-700 West Ave. F
RT. 525
100-200 7th Ave E.
100-800 8th Ave E.
RT. 537
100-400 East Ave E.
100-800 East Ave H.
If you live near one of
these areas and would
like to be a carrier
Please contact
Amy, District Mgr.
735-3347

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Both Carrier & Substitutes
needed
If you live in these areas
and would like to be a
carrier
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735-3348

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RT. 702
1800-2100 Candle Ridge
Dr.
2000-2200 Candlewood
Dr.
RT. 729
1100-1500 4th Ave. E.
1000-1500 8th Ave. E.
100-500 Ash St.
RT. 835
100-499 Tyler St
RT. 831
100-499 Fillmore St
300-499 Taylor St
RT. 732
100-400 Elm St. N.
100-1250 Heyburn E.
RT. 840
100-800 Pierce St.
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Jenna, District Mgr.
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Stop by our Burley office
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and fill out
an application.
1283 Overland Ave.

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RT. ROUTE 617
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and are interested in
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carrier
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Kathy, District Mgr.
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H St. to K St.
Route 428
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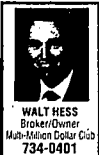
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734-0401



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734-0401



PEGGY CONNALLY
Sales Associate, ABR
Milton S. Producer
737-3925



VANCE WALKER
Sales Associate
420-0364



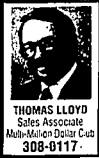
TAMI GOODING
Sales Associate
737-3940



KAY KENDRICK
Sales Associate
Multi-Million Dollar Producer
948-9400



DIANA WHITNEY
Sales Associate
734-2106



THOMAS LLOYD
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Multi-Million Dollar Club
308-0117



JO ANN REEVES
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BRENDA CARTER
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733-9026



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Sales Associate
404-9337



AMY PACKHAM
Sales Associate
308-0008



NICHOLE WEBB
Sales Associate
737-3906



• \$45,000 • Roseworth Reservoir
• MLS#106893 • 1 bedroom, 1 bath
House/cafe, outbuildings, 3 acres
Tom Lloyd 737-3924 or 308-0117



• \$47,900 • Filer • MLS#108115
• 1 bedroom, 1 bath
Great, clean home for the price!
Katy Partridge 737-3928 Ken Freeman 737-3915



• \$70,000 • Jerome • MLS#108726
Excellent investment
property with a 24 x 32 shop
Alex Castañeda 336-5728 13 Miranda 420-4779



• \$72,500 • Filer • MLS#108540
• 2 bedrooms, 1 bath
Remodeled, new foundation in 2002
Tom Lloyd 737-3924 or 308-0117



• \$73,000 • Twin Falls • MLS#107387
• 3 bedrooms, 1.5 baths
Full basement
Thelma Tomason 737-3939 Tami 737-3940



• \$74,900 • Twin Falls • MLS#108080
• 3 bedrooms, 1 bath
Lg. yard, 2 car garage, large master bedroom
Nichole Webb 539-7355



• \$76,000 • Jerome • MLS#107495
• 3 bedrooms, 1 bath
Remodeled home with fruit trees, garden
Loretta Thompson 731-1779



• \$77,500 • Gooding • MLS#107806
• 3 bedrooms, 1 bath
Hardwood floors, leave option
Juanita Myers 731-3625



• \$84,500 • Wendell • MLS#108449
• 3 bedrooms, 1.5 baths
20x25 shop, fenced, family room
Kay & Ernie Kendrick 948-9400 or 948-9401



• \$84,900 • Filer • MLS#107513
• 4 bedrooms, 2 baths
Mfg. home on 1.72 acres, priced to sell
Alex Castañeda 336-5728 or 13 Miranda 420-4779



• \$84,900 • Twin Falls • MLS#109043
• 2 bedrooms, 1 bath
Duplex with single garage
Diana Doman 737-3916 or 420-1810



• \$92,500 • Twin Falls • MLS#106424
• 3 bedrooms, 2 baths
TKO Construction "The Sunflower"
Twin Falls Homes.com Lynn Rasmussen 737-3900



• \$95,000 • Kimberly • MLS#107454
• 3 bedrooms, 2 baths
One acre, great views, super home
Twin Falls Homes.com Lynn Rasmussen 737-3900



• \$95,000 • Twin Falls • MLS#107531
• 4 bedrooms, 2 baths
"Sycamore" - Open Floor Plan
Thelma Tomason 737-3939 Tami 737-3940



• \$104,900 • Twin Falls • MLS#108958
• 4 bedrooms, 2 baths
Great family home, close to schools,
Kay & Ernie Kendrick 948-9400 or 948-9401



• \$105,000 • Twin Falls • MLS#109066
• 3 bedrooms, 2 baths
Brand new home has everything!
Twin Falls Homes.com Lynn Rasmussen 737-3900



• \$109,000 • Murtaugh • MLS#107319
• 6 bedrooms, 2.5 baths
6 BR country home, large heated shop
Vance Walker 624-3464 Katy Partridge 737-3928



• \$110,000 • Buhl • MLS#108314
• 4 bedrooms, 2.5 baths
Family room, nice, laundry room
Call Vicki Surber 280-6004



• \$120,000 • Jerome • MLS#106791
• 3 bedrooms, 2 baths
Retail shop, ft. approx. 4934
Alex Castañeda 336-5728 13 Miranda 420-4779



• \$120,000 • Kimberly • MLS#107553
• 2000 sq. ft. restaurant
seating for 60, suite 50's style
Kathi 212-9212 Randy 212-2228



• \$122,500 • Twin Falls • MLS#108599
• 4 bedrooms, 1.75 baths
Next to Candy Cane Park
Twin Falls Homes.com Lynn Rasmussen 737-3900



• \$124,900 • Twin Falls • MLS#108191
• 3 bedrooms, 2 baths
Deck, hot tub, vaulted ceilings
Call James 404-9337 or 423-6160



• \$144,900 • Twin Falls • MLS#108787
• 3 bedrooms, 2.5 baths
Office, huge master suite, 1900 sq. ft.
Ken Roy 731-4665 or Dorothy 737-3903



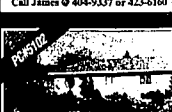
• \$124,900 • Shoshone • MLS#108874
• 3 bedrooms, 2 baths
Romy country home, view, wildlife
Louisa Harris 280-0822 Realtor related



• \$125,000 • Twin Falls • MLS#109026
• 3 bedrooms, 2 baths
Beautiful home close to schools
Dorothy 737-3903 Ken 737-3909



• \$129,000 • Twin Falls • MLS#108985
• 3 bedrooms, 2 baths
Beautiful new home in NE Twin Falls
Diana Doman 737-3916 or 420-1810



• \$132,000 • Twin Falls • MLS#108666
• 4 bedrooms, 1.75 baths
1991 sq. ft. Family room, and large yard
Nora Kent 731-6332



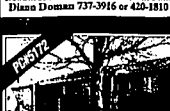
• \$144,900 • Twin Falls • MLS#108787
• 3 bedrooms, 2.5 baths
Office, huge master suite, 1900 sq. ft.
Ken Roy 731-4665 or Dorothy 737-3903



• \$145,000 • Twin Falls • MLS#108523
• 3 bedrooms, 2.5 baths
New floor plan, 262 sq. ft. master bath
Ken Freeman 737-3915 Katy Partridge 737-3928



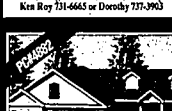
• \$155,000 • Filer • MLS#107766
• 4 bedrooms, 2 baths
Family room, formal entry, large kitchen
Tom Lloyd 308-0117 Vicki Surber 280-6004



• \$157,900 • Twin Falls • MLS#108947
• 5 bedrooms, 3 baths
3264 sq. ft., great area, 3 family rooms
Nora Kent 737-3962/731-6332



• \$164,900 • Twin Falls • MLS#106370
• 5 bedrooms, 2.75 baths
Built in 1999 Split bedroom floor plan
Thelma Tomason 737-3939 Tami 737-3940



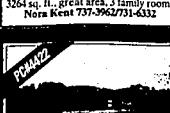
• \$173,900 • Twin Falls • MLS#108089
• 3 bedrooms, 2.5 baths
Wolverton Homes, 1962 sq. ft.
Thelma Tomason 737-3939 Tami 737-3940



• \$197,500 • Twin Falls • MLS#107046
• 4 bedrooms, 2.5 baths
RV parking, great yard and deck
Katy Partridge 737-3928 Ken Freeman 737-3915



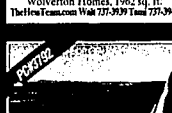
• \$237,000 • Twin Falls • MLS#107610
• 3 bedrooms, 2 baths
Beautiful, unfinished basement
Carolyn Carter 624-3327/313 Carolyn Carter



• \$280,000 • Heyburn Area
• MLS#107899
47 acre river front property
13 Miranda 420-4779 Alex Castañeda 336-5728



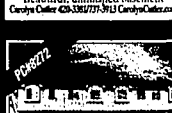
• \$285,000 • Twin Falls • MLS#106852
• 3 bedrooms, 2.5 baths
Spectacular custom home! Low Taxes
Call Carolyn Carter 624-3381 or 737-3913



• \$299,900 • Glenn Ferry
• MLS#107306/107541 • 3 BR, 2 B.A.
Incredible view, 3.5+ acres, pasture
Kathi Schrader 212-9212 or Randy Lawrence 212-2228



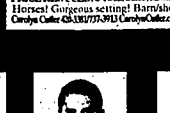
• \$324,900 • Twin Falls • MLS#108344
• 4 bedrooms, 3.5 baths
Honest, gorgeous setting! Hardwood
Carolyn Carter 624-3327/313 Carolyn Carter



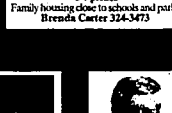
• \$1,000,000 • Jerome • MLS#107968
• 4+ acres
Family homestead close to schools and parks
Brenda Carter 324-3473



• \$299,900 • Glenn Ferry
• MLS#107306/107541 • 3 BR, 2 B.A.
Incredible view, 3.5+ acres, pasture
Kathi Schrader 212-9212 or Randy Lawrence 212-2228



• \$324,900 • Twin Falls • MLS#108344
• 4 bedrooms, 3.5 baths
Honest, gorgeous setting! Hardwood
Carolyn Carter 624-3327/313 Carolyn Carter



• \$1,000,000 • Jerome • MLS#107968
• 4+ acres
Family homestead close to schools and parks
Brenda Carter 324-3473



KATHY PARTRIDGE
Assoc. Broker, GRI, ABR
Multi-Million Dollar Club
324-3808



LOUISA HARRIS
Sales Associate
Multi-Million Dollar Club
280-0522



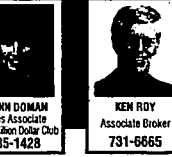
VICKI K. SURBER
Sales Associate
280-0404



NORA KENT
Sales Associate
731-6332



LEXI ROTH
Sales Associate
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LORETTA THOMPSON
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ALEX CASTAÑEDA
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Hablamos Español!
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Step-Ken Auto Parts
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502 HOMES FOR SALE

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502 HOMES FOR SALE

magic valley realty

Thank you, Magic Valley, for another great year!

FABULOUS FAMILY HOME!

Home features 3,088 sq. ft., 4 bedrooms, 2.5 baths. Beautiful kitchen with pantry and breakfast bar. Possibility for more room in unfinished basement. 3-car garage. On a nice, quiet cul-de-sac.

\$199,900! MLS#108944 Sherri Kirtland 731-2988

A heartfelt Thank You to my clients and customers for a bounteous year. May you all have a joyous holiday season and a prosperous New Year!

David Watson 731-6922

Art Jones Sales Associate 731-5415

Very nice metal shop with cement floors, gas heat and overhead doors. Work benches and parts bins. Has a connected storage shed. Highway frontage. \$125,000 MLS#104704

A Happy New Year!

8.89 acres in Buhl. Property is fenced and includes 3 ponds, 1 domestic well and 1 geothermal well. 5 shares of 34 Creek water. \$189,500 MLS#109050

Step-Ken Auto Parts
building, 10,579 sq. ft., O/H doors, 4 offices and restrooms. Cement floors. Good location in Old Town. Rental space available. \$165,000 MLS#100151

START THE NEW YEAR IN A NEW HOME!

Home has over 2,000 sq. ft. of living space, 4 bedrooms, 2 baths & hard basement. Attached 2 car garage. \$99,900 MLS#107312

Art & Debbie Goodman 731-2010 or 731-0300

WAREHOUSE

30,000 sq. ft. of space with 2,400 sq. ft. of office space. Gas heat, 220 electric, 2 loading docks and 3 overhead doors. I-84 freeway frontage in Jerome.

Kip McKelvey Cell: 280-5000 Office: 734-1991

WOODLAND ESTATES

Nice subdivision! City services available, nice community with great school system. Located near Burley, Twin Falls and Jerome. Easy access to the freeway. Irrigation water available in the summer. Great place to build a home.

Judy Holland 731-3141 judyholland@onewest.net

John P. Irwin REALTOR

Featured Home of the Week
250 4th Ave. E., Twin Falls
OWNER MUST SELL! 4 bedrooms, 1.75 baths. MLS#107202
DRIVE BY, THEN CALL JOHN! Reduced To \$79,900!

A Key Person to Know! 731-6510 or 731-6500
J.P. IRWIN REALTY - 800 FALLS AVE. E. SUITE 1, TWIN FALLS, ID 83301

Country Living ...With All The Extras!

122 Lots Built To Suit!
SAWTOOTH ACRES
Only Minutes From Twin Falls & Jerome
Close To Major Golf Courses
Natural Gas

SLUSHER CONSTRUCTION COMPANY - 644-1541

PRICE REDUCED ON NICE FAMILY HOME!

Very nice cottage-style home on large lot. Fully fenced, huge backyard, hardwood floors, cozy kitchen, family room & basement. \$91,900 MLS#107973

Call AMY BOSH Today! (208) 212-0820

Private Resort Awaits You!

Fabulous home offers approximately 6,117 sq. ft. including billiard room, library, exercise room, gourmet kitchen, 6 bedrooms, 4 baths, sitting on 4.13 acres. You have the opportunity to entertain from around the swimming pool, or enjoy your own private retreat! Jerome schools. \$1,100,000 MLS#109990

Call Betsy Florence Today (208) 280-3800

Professional Office For Rent

3 offices, reception area, break area, private bathroom, off-street parking. 1 month free with 1 year contract. 428 Main South, Twin Falls \$450/month

Call Jeff Blick Today (208) 280-2800

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OVER 2000 SQ FT OF OPEN FLOOR SPACE!!!

\$94,000 buys you 4 BR's, 2.5 baths and all freshly painted. Great family room. Deck from dining to all fenced back yard. #102616

TRIPLE HITTER!!
3 car garage, 3 Bedrooms!! Over 2700 sq feet on just under a country acre. Brand new kitchen and dining room. Extra storage inside and out. Metal roof and vinyl windows for a Home Run. #102554

LEASE/PURCHASE POSSIBLE!!
You could rent while you're getting your loan on this 4 BR on Conant. Over 2000 sq feet on main floor, fenced backyard with deck. Carefree brick exterior in SW Burley. \$110,000 #101407

Call Sheila Adams shadams@century21.com 2000 Overland, Burley 878-2121 Visit us at: www.c21riverside.com Century 21 Mortgage approval available 24 hours 7 days a week (208) 266-256 (91)

Sheila Adams

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Now taking applications for our waiting list for 1, 2 & 3 bedroom Apartments

Mountain View East 678-9141

Valley Park Apartments 436-5882

Southwood Apartments 436-0226

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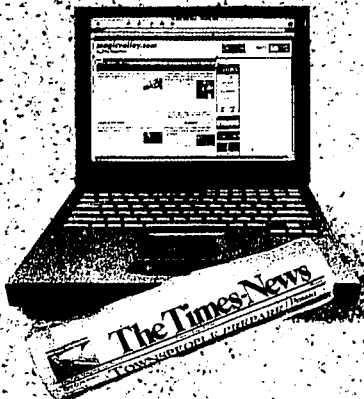
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RANCHES/DAIRIES**

BLACKFOOT cattle
ranch Eastern Idaho,
1,960 total deeded
acres. 500 acres state
Ag lease. 1,700 acre
farmable. 10,000 acre
range. 1,500 AUM.
Early April spring range.
900 wood acre allotment.
390 acres CRP. 3
irrigation wells. 2
circles and handlines.
Good potential for
expansion or dairy.
\$1,300,000. Owner
financing with 10 down.
Call 208-684-3999 or
435-627-0525.

CASSIA 337 acres, east
slope Burley Butte, potato
ready, 2 pivots, no rock.
208-676-5733/431-0832.
EMERSON area farm land
46 acres, sprinkler irrigated,
\$110,000. Terms
available. Can add 20
additional acres.
Call 208-431-4700.

**513 ACREAGE
AND LOTS**

HAGERMAN 1/2 acre lot in
Northview subdivision,
\$18,000 or trade, owner
finance. 208-539-7426.

JEROME
\$29,500 Approx. +/- 2.5
acre lot SW of Jerome.
Includes 2 shares of
Northside Canal Co.
water. For more details
visit TheHessTeam.com or
call Walt Hess 737-3939
or Tami Gooding
737-3940 MLS#108017
PC4511

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STATE REALTY, INC.
208-734-0400

KIMBERLY
\$69,500 This 5 acre parcel
is ready to become your
new home site. Natural
rock wall on East side of
property. Well installed
just needs power. For
more information visit
TheHessTeam.com or
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or Tami Gooding 737-
3940 MLS#106517
PC4351

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208-734-0400

TWIN FALLS
\$49,000 2 acres. Great
building site located south
of Rose Hill Subdivision.
For more details visit
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or Tami Gooding 737-
3940 MLS#106532
PC4521

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**514 INCOME
PROPERTY**

**SEALED BID REQUEST
BANKRUPTCY
PROPERTY**
Indian Springs Resort,
American Falls, ID.
182 acres, hot springs
swimming pool, two
residences, RV park,
driving range, artesian
hot spring, creeks,
group shelters, BID
OPENING January
16, 2004. Sale subject to
approval of U.S.
Bankruptcy Court and
Trustee. Information
packet, contact
Jim Morphy,
Gate City Real Estate,
Call 208-233-6821

TWIN FALLS "Tired of
stocks?" Check return
on new 4 trucks.
Call Chuck 733-8207

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Take a Look!
Great Investment.
3 Bed, 1 Bath,
1098 Square feet
located at:
512 Oak Street
Kimberly, Idaho
Agency Bid \$45,556.00
Appraised value as is:
\$54,000.00
Trustee Sale:
January 7, 2004 10am
First American Title
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Twin Falls, Idaho 83301
Contact:
USDA-Rural Development
1441 Fillmore, Suite C
Twin Falls, Idaho 83301
208-733-5380 Ext. 4

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208-734-0400

515 MOBILE HOMES

EDEN 12' x 50' 2 bdrm, 1
bath mobile home, \$600.
Call 208-825-5234 or
308-11254

PAUL '82 Skyline 14x52,
lawn, 2 bdrm, 1 bath, all
elect, swamp cooler, W.D.
\$5500. 438-5383 eves.

TWIN FALLS mfg. home 3
bdrm, 2 bath \$500 down
space rent \$205. Own
payment \$250. 733-8541

**515 COMMERCIAL
PROPERTY**

TWIN FALLS Great Op-
portunity! Building and
land on Addison E.
\$70,000 Restaurant
equipment for additional
\$12,000.
Happy Holidays!
NELSON
REALTY, LLC
734-3930

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WANTED**

ALL MAGIC VALLEY Area
I will buy/lease your home.
Any price. Any condition.
Call Dave @
208-632-0734 or 312-4335

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Mortgages -
Please send name,
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**521 MANUFACTURED
HOMES**

FLEETWOOD '85 28x54,
3 bdrm, 2 bath. Cash out
or assume current loan
OAC, must be moved.
Call 208-436-6315

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longer need it? Sell it with an
easy, inexpensive classified
ad. Call 733-0931.**

TWIN FALLS
\$40,000 Zones R-6 with
professional overlay-great
medical office location,
close to hospital. For
more information visit
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515 MOBILE HOMES

Nowly renovated
2 bdrm, 1 bath, appliances.
Halloway Property Mgmt.
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twinfallsrentals.com

BURLEY FOR RENT?
FOR SALE? 3 bdrm, 2
bath mfg home on 1.3
acres. Privacy, fenced
pasture. Exceptional
views of Mt. Harrison. All
appliances incl. AC. 208-
720-2167. 208-312-1242.

FILER 2 bdrm, 1 bath,
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dep. & rfs. 326-5305.

GOODING 3 bdrm, 2 bath,
2 car garage, close in,
\$500 + water & dep. no
pets/smoking. 934-8190

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3 bdrm, 2 bath, manufac-
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plns, sm. pasture, auto
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house has AC, pellet
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\$100,000 or lease for
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HOLLISTER acre 3 bdrm 2
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JEROME 1 bdrm. \$350.
210 3rd E. 1 bdrm. \$16.
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JEROME 2 bdrm, 1 bath,
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324-3733 or 731-3733

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BUHL Close to School. 2
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size yard. Pots OK. \$375.
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W/D hookup. Appl. Out-
side pet possible. Electric
heat. \$450. mo. + deposit.
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3 bdrm, 1 bath home
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JEROME 3 bdrm, 2 bath
nice dbl. wide, no pets,
long term, \$550 + dep.
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JEROME 3 bdrm, +, 2
bath, \$650 + dep. 212 3rd
Ave East. 208-736-0322

JEROME 3 bdrm, 1 bath,
Newly remodeled kitchen
railing, & stove. No smok-
ing/pets. \$560. Call 208-
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JEROME 416 East Ave F.
3 brm, 1 bath, garage,
\$575 + dep. No smoking.
324-3427.

JEROME in country 2 bed-
room, 1 bath mobile,
\$350 + dep (2) 1 bdrm,
\$300 + dep 208-324-3430

KIMBERLY 2 bdrm, 1
bath, full utility rm, quiet
st. close to schools, full
sprinkler system, covered
pool. \$540/mo. Call 208-
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KIMBERLY 4 bdrm, 1 bath,
Garage. \$500 + dep. Oil
heat. No smoking/pets.
208-733-4384/10-0728

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"How to stop paying rent
and own your own home."
Free Help
1-888-453-4177 Id# 1001

TWIN FALLS Lease to
Own! Nice 2 bdrm, 1 bath
home. Woodstove, gas
heat, newer carpet, large
kitchen, hall acre. Call for
details 208-736-8464.

TWIN FALLS with 2 bed-
room, 2 bath, full base-
ment, oven, range, gas
forced air, \$550/mo, plus
dep., no pets, no smoking.
Call at 731-6589 to see.

TWIN FALLS 2 bdrm, 440
Elm St., \$500. BUHL sm.
2 bdrm, 1009 Broadway
\$350, 3 bdrm, 309 9th
Ave N. \$500. Call 208-
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TWIN FALLS
2 bedroom, 1 bath town
house on one level with
laundry area, small fenced
courtyard. NO PETS. NO
SMOKING. \$450/mo.
\$425 dep. Call 737-3939.

TWIN FALLS 1 bdrm. Util.
incl. \$350 + dep. 434 4th
Ave. W. #1. 738-0322

TWIN FALLS 3 bdrm, +,
shop. \$550 + dep. 620
3rd Ave. W. 208-736-0322

TWIN FALLS 3 bdrm,
Newly remodeled kitchen
railing, & stove. No smok-
ing/pets. \$560. Call 208-
324-6893 or 731-6880

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324-3427.

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\$300 + dep 208-324-3430

KIMBERLY 2 bdrm, 1
bath, full utility rm, quiet
st. close to schools, full
sprinkler system, covered
pool. \$540/mo. Call 208-
423-4729 or 4

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4 LINES \$10 DAYS

For items under or adding up to \$1000 (Maximum of 4 items)

12 each additional line. Private Party only. Merchandise only.

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FILER 5 bedroom, 2 bath, 3250 N. 2300 E. #C, 6 mi. S. Fair H.S. 5600. month. Call 733-8691.

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Sunday, Dec. 28, 2003

THE ACES ON BRIDGE® Bobby Wolff

Dear Mr. Wolff: Do Responsive Doubles apply if dealer opens a suit, my partner doubles for takeout, and the next hand bids a new suit? Is my double now primarily for penalties, or for takeout?

Reply: Paul, Tucson, Ariz.

ANSWER: The logic of playing your double as penalties is that you don't need a takeout double here. If you have one or both of the other two suits, you can bid them - or, if necessary, get partner to pick by cue-bidding opener's suit. Only if opener's suit is raised is the double for takeout.

Dear Mr. Wolff: I opened one no-trump with the following collection: ♠ K-7-4, ♥ Q-10-8-5, ♦ A-Q-9-5, ♣ A-J. My partner used Stayman and I responded two hearts. What should I have done over a three-club call — which was natural and showed a game-forcing hand?

Forward March, Orlando, Fla.

ANSWER: Though you have only two clubs, your honors are well placed, so consider advancing toward slam. I'd mark time with a three-diamond call, suggesting good diamonds. I might pass a three-no-trump call now, but if partner showed signs of life, I'd cooperate and go past three no-trump myself.

Dear Mr. Wolff: I'd like to see top-class bridge played. Is going to the North American Bridge Championships the best way to do that, and where will they be held next year?

Spectator Sport, Elkhart, Indiana

ANSWER: I'd recommend going to the NABC both to watch and to play (Novice games and games for the less experienced are held every day. In 2004 the NABC will be in Reno from March 18 to 28, in New York from July 8 to 18, and in

Orlando from Nov. 18 to 28.

Dear Mr. Wolff: I had problems with a sequence (and later with my partner) here. I was dealt: ♠ 9-4, ♥ Q-8-6-5-3, ♦ 10-6-5, ♣ A-Q-3, and my RHO opened one diamond. I passed, my LHO responded one no-trump, and my partner doubled. I thought this was for penalties and passed — but declarer took seven tricks, and my partner took me this for takeout.

Confused, Waterbury, Conn.

ANSWER: Pretty much all initial or second-round doubles facing a hand that has passed, or has not yet bid, are for takeout. The exception is a double of a one-no-trump opener. Here, partner's double is for takeout of diamonds. You have just about enough to jump to three hearts as an invitation to game.

Dear Mr. Wolff: I thought I'd mastered Michaels Cuebids, and then my partner suggested we play Leaping Michaels. Is this a figment of his imagination — and should I be playing them?

Jumping Frog, Worcester, Mass.

ANSWER: Over a weak two-bid in a major, a jump-overcall of four of a minor can be used to show the other major and that minor, 5-6 and forcing. A cue-bid at the three-level, then, asks for a stopper for no-trump and is probably based on possession of a long solid minor. This gadget has real merit, but don't play it if you are inclined to forget the conventions you already use!

If you would like to contact Bobby Wolff, e-mail him at bobby@idnet.com. Copyright 2003, United Feature Syndicate, Inc.

CULTIVATOR small 2 years old, never used, \$150. Call 208-733-3653.

316 MISCELLANEOUS

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 730-2265.

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COMPUTER DESK, \$45. Bumper pool table, \$55. Pine kit table, L-shape, \$145. TV, \$35. 320-2510

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It pays to read the fine print.

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CONTRACTOR SAW 10" Delta, 220 volt, assorted saw blades, \$35/offer. 16" Makita beam saw, \$250. Call 208-720-4970

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WANTED TO BUY log splitter

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COLT 44-40, new service, \$595. Stevens 4035, 22 caliber, \$295. AMT Automag 2, 22 mag, \$225. Winchester 37 red, label 20 gauge, \$225. 208-733-6800 or 731-4167

REMINGTON 7mm mag. with scope, good condition, \$400. 208-539-5642

RUGER P-95 new, never been fired, 8mm, 2 mags, mag pouch, holster, 2 boxes ammo, hard case included. \$400 308-0808

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CAMPER 10 1/2' overhull w/jacks, 2 way refrigeration, water, tank, wired for AC/DC, no leaks, nice unit. \$400/offer. 733-3683

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ARCTIC CAT '96 440 very clean. Call 208-543-5301

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POLARIS '97 XLT, 800, piped 2500 mi. \$2300. Call 208-738-8258

POLARIS '00 700 RMK track 136, exc. shape, \$3000. Call 208-543-5555

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POLARIS '00 800 RMK, 80 miles on new motor, 151 track 2000 mi, exc. cond., \$4395/offer. 731-1002

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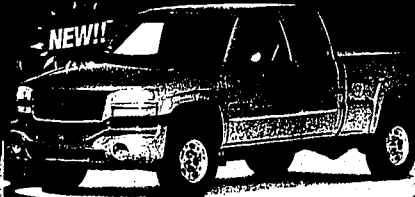
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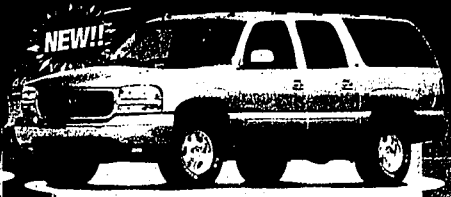
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- Automatic Transmission
- Air Conditioning
- AM/FM/CD

MSRP	\$15,455
Invoice	\$14,847
Rebate	\$5,000
College Grad	\$5,000
ESL/C	\$500
Commercial	\$500
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\$9,497 **\$169** PER MO.

2003 FORD FOCUS SE 4-DR

- 2.0L DOHC 16V Zetec
- Automatic Transmission
- Air Conditioning
- Crash Control
- CD Player
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- CD Player
- Spoke

MSRP	\$16,999
Invoice	\$16,011
Rebate	\$5,000
College Grad	\$5,000
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2003 FORD MUSTANG COUPE

- V6 Engine
- Pony Package
- Air Conditioning
- AM/FM/CD
- Alloy Wheels
- Rear Spoiler

MSRP	\$19,720
Invoice	\$18,641
Rebate	\$5,000
College Grad	\$5,000
Military	\$750

\$14,293 **\$229** PER MO.

2004 FORD MUSTANG COUPE

- V6 Engine
- Pony Package
- 6-disc CD
- Aluminum Wheels
- Power Seat
- Tilt Steering
- Cruise Control
- Air Conditioning
- Rear Spoiler

MSRP	\$20,575
Invoice	\$19,031
Rebate	\$5,000
College Grad	\$5,000
Military	\$750

\$14,881 **\$239** PER MO.

2004 FORD TAURUS SE 4-DR

- Automatic Transmission
- Air Conditioning
- 6-disc CD
- Power Seat
- Adjustable Pedals
- Keyless Entry

MSRP	\$21,475
Invoice	\$19,931
Rebate	\$5,000
College Grad	\$5,000

\$16,567 **\$269** PER MO.

2003 FORD RANGER XL

- 2.3L Engine
- Air Conditioning
- 4-Wheel ABS
- AM/FM/CD
- Tachometer

MSRP	\$14,945
Invoice	\$14,401
Rebate	\$5,000
College Grad	\$5,000
ESL/C	\$500
Commercial	\$500
Military	\$750
Blissnet	\$500

\$8,753 **\$149** PER MO.

2004 FORD RANGER X-CAB XLT

- 3.0L V6 Engine
- Air Conditioning
- AM/FM/CD
- 4-Wheel ABS

MSRP	\$18,889
Invoice	\$17,045
Rebate	\$5,000
College Grad	\$5,000
Military	\$750

\$13,395 **\$216** PER MO.

2003 FORD RANGER X-CAB 4X4 XLT

- 4.0L V6 Engine
- FX4 Off Road Package
- Remote Entry
- Air Conditioning
- Power Windows
- Power Door Locks
- 16 Steering
- Cruise Control

MSRP	\$24,870
Invoice	\$22,221
Rebate	\$5,000
College Grad	\$5,000
Military	\$750
Blissnet	\$500

\$17,072 **\$275** PER MO.

2004 FORD ESCAPE XLT

- Alloy Steel
- Step Bars
- Trailer Tow
- Retractable Rack
- Automatic Transmission
- Remote Entry

MSRP	\$24,430
Invoice	\$22,890
Rebate	\$5,000
College Grad	\$5,000

\$20,999 **\$338** PER MO.

2004 FORD EXPLORER XLS 4X4

- 4.0L V6 Engine
- AM/FM/CD
- Air Conditioning
- Power Windows
- Power Doors
- Safety Canopy

MSRP	\$30,935
Invoice	\$28,440
Rebate	\$5,000
College Grad	\$5,000
ESL/C	\$500
Commercial	\$500
Military	\$750
Blissnet	\$500

\$22,796 **\$367** PER MO.

2004 FORD F150 X-CAB 4X4

SAVE \$7342

MSRP	\$29,000
Invoice	\$27,400
Rebate	\$5,000
College Grad	\$5,000
ESL/C	\$500
Commercial	\$500
Military	\$750

\$21,738 **\$349** PER MO.

2004 FORD F150 X-CAB 4X4

MSRP	\$29,655
Invoice	\$27,900
Rebate	\$5,000
College Grad	\$5,000
Military	\$750

\$24,240 **\$389** PER MO.

2004 FORD F150 SUPER CREW 4X4 XLT

MSRP	\$33,870
Invoice	\$30,028
Rebate	\$5,000
College Grad	\$5,000
Military	\$750

\$28,878

2003 FORD F250 X-CAB 4X4 6.0 DIESEL

MSRP	\$40,515
Invoice	\$37,675
Rebate	\$5,000
College Grad	\$5,000
ESL/C	\$500
Commercial	\$500
Military	\$750
Blissnet	\$500

\$30,625 **\$AVE 9,690**

2004 FORD F250 CREW-CAB XLT 4X4

MSRP	\$42,575
Invoice	\$39,735
Rebate	\$5,000
College Grad	\$5,000
ESL/C	\$500
Commercial	\$500
Military	\$750
Blissnet	\$500

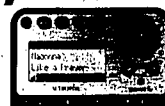
\$33,569 **\$AVE 8,966**

2004 FORD CREW CAB LARIAT 4X4

MSRP	\$45,130
Invoice	\$41,005
Rebate	\$5,000
College Grad	\$5,000
ESL/C	\$500
Commercial	\$500
Military	\$750
Blissnet	\$500

\$36,045 **\$AVE 9,385**

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AUDIOVOX
RADIO RECEIVER**



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2003 MITSUBISHI ECLIPSE RS

MSRP	\$18,717
Invoice	\$17,483
Rebate	\$5,000
College Grad	\$5,000
ESL/C	\$500
Commercial	\$500
Military	\$750
Blissnet	\$500

\$13,183 **\$209** PER MO.

2003 MITSUBISHI OUTLANDER

MSRP	\$19,077
Invoice	\$17,493
Rebate	\$5,000
College Grad	\$5,000
ESL/C	\$500
Commercial	\$500
Military	\$750
Blissnet	\$500

\$14,398 **\$229** PER MO.

2003 MITSUBISHI GALANT ES

MSRP	\$20,857
Invoice	\$19,486
Rebate	\$5,000
College Grad	\$5,000
ESL/C	\$500
Commercial	\$500
Military	\$750
Blissnet	\$500

\$15,486 **\$249** PER MO.

2003 MITSUBISHI LANCER RALLIART

'0 DOWN!

MSRP	\$18,572
Invoice	\$17,644
Rebate	\$5,000
College Grad	\$5,000
ESL/C	\$500
Commercial	\$500
Military	\$750
Blissnet	\$500

\$15,644 **\$249** PER MO.

4.9% APR for 72 months. 10% down or trade equity. Prices do not include tax, title or dealer doc fee. Photos for illustration purposes only.



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The Year-end Clearance...

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...Continues Today!

New 2003 VW Beetle



Power Windows • CPower Locks • Cruise Control • Air Conditioning • Automatic

Was \$17,400 - NOW... **\$14,488**

CON

Twin Falls
1534 Blue Lakes Blvd. N.
www.conpaulos.com • 800-233-2954
735-3900

Price plus tax, title, and dealer doc fee of \$179. Vehicle similar to illustration. Ad expires 12-31-03.

New Mazda B-2300



Air Conditioning • Cruise Control • Sliding Rear Window • Bed Liner

Was \$15,930 - NOW... **\$10,988**

CON

Twin Falls
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735-3900

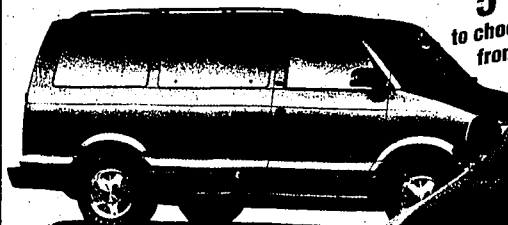
Price after rebate, plus tax, title, and dealer doc fee of \$179. Vehicle similar to illustration. Ad expires 12-31-03.



Team Con Paulos wishes you
and your family the happiest
of holidays along with a joyous
and prosperous new year!

250 Vehicles Must Go!

New Chevy Astro Vans



Rear Air • CD • AM/FM Stereo • Power Windows • Power Locks

\$19,988

LOWEST PRICE
IN THE STATE!

CON

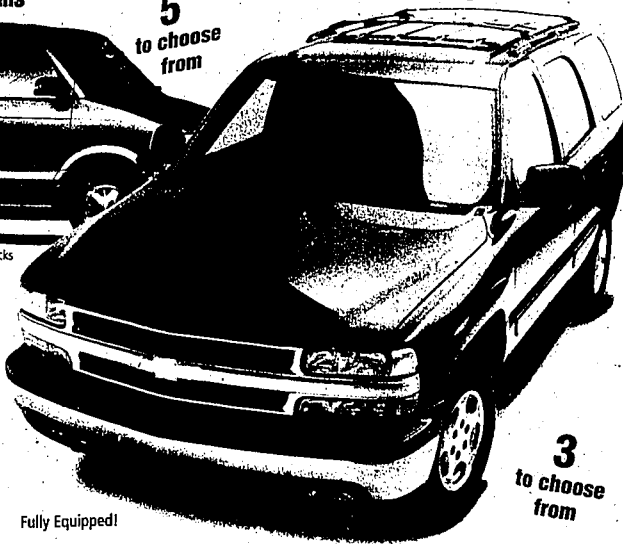
901 S. Lincoln • Jerome • 800-287-7000

324-3900

www.conpaulos.com

5
to choose
from

New Chevy Tahoes



Fully Equipped!

3
to choose
from

NOT \$40,000 but only... **\$29,988**

Price after rebate, plus tax, title, and dealer doc fee of \$179. Vehicle similar to illustration. Ad expires 12-31-03.

Save!

2003 Saturn I2000



New over \$22,000 - NOW...

Fully Loaded! **\$10,988**

CON

Twin Falls
1534 Blue Lakes Blvd. N.
www.conpaulos.com • 800-233-2954
735-3900

Price plus tax, title, and dealer doc fee of \$179. Vehicle similar to illustration. Ad expires 12-31-03.

CON Says

Before you buy, make
sure it's GM Certified!

GM Certified
USED VEHICLES

THE RIGHT WAY. THE RIGHT CAR.

2003 Chevy Cavalier



NEW over \$15,000... NOW **\$7,988**

2003 Chevy Malibu



NEW over \$22,000... NOW **\$9,988**

2003 Pontiac Grand Am



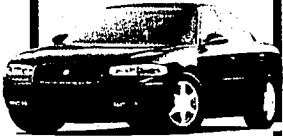
NEW over \$21,000... NOW **\$10,988**

2003 Pontiac Grand Prix



NEW over \$23,000... NOW **\$12,988**

2003 Buick Regal



NEW over \$26,000... NOW **\$13,988**

2003 Chevy Impala



NEW over \$29,000... NOW **\$14,988**

2003 Chevy Venture



NEW over \$27,000... NOW **\$15,888**

CON

901 S. Lincoln • Jerome • 800-287-7000

324-3900

www.conpaulos.com

Price plus tax, title, and dealer doc fee of \$179. Vehicle similar to illustration. Ad expires 12-31-03.

YEAR END INVENTORY BLOWOUT

featuring... **THE NEW DODGE
NEON SRT-4 IS HERE!**
HASSLE-FREE BUYING



HERE'S WHAT IT MEANS TO YOU...

- No Negotiation is Necessary
- No High Pressure
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The Factory Invoice Price and the Factory Rebate (which you keep) are Clearly Marked on the Windshield of Every New Vehicle on This Lot.

THIS IS HASSLE-FREE BUYING

Tires for LIFE

ONLY at Latham!

Available with any new vehicle purchase, you will never have to purchase tires for as long as you own your vehicle!!

2004 DODGE DURANGO 4x4

Stock #4DR-153. Color: Red • Automatic • V8
• Power Windows, Locks, Mirrors & Lamps • Cruise
• Dual Air Bags • 7 Year/70,000 Mile Power
Train Warranty • 24 Hour Roadside Assistance

FACTORY INVOICE** \$28013
FACTORY REBATE - \$3000

\$28013
OR **\$49³⁷⁶** MO.

*ONLY \$425 Due At Lease Signing
• 60 Monthly Payments Of \$376

2004 DODGE CUMMINS DIESEL 2500 QUAD CAB 4x4

Stock #4T-191. Color: Red • 5-Speed • Cruise • Tow
• Air • Dual Air Bags • 7 Year/70,000 Mile Power
Train Warranty • 24 Hour Roadside Assistance

FACTORY INVOICE** \$31811
FACTORY REBATE - \$3300

\$28511
OR **\$49³⁴⁸** MO.

*ONLY \$307 Due At Lease Signing
• 60 Monthly Payments Of \$348

2004 DODGE DAKOTA

Stock #4TD-087. Color: Silver • Air Conditioning
• 5-Speed Transmission • Dual Air Bags • 7 Year/
70,000 Mile Power Train Warranty • 24 Hour
Roadside Assistance

FACTORY INVOICE** \$15796
FACTORY REBATE - \$2500

\$13296
OR **\$49¹⁸⁹** MO.

*ONLY \$238 Due At Lease Signing
• 60 Monthly Payments Of \$189

2004 DODGE NEON SRT

Stock #4DN-012. Color: Graphite • Air Conditioning
• 5-Speed Transmission • Spoiler • Dual Air Bags
• 7 Year/70,000 Mile Power Train Warranty • 24
Hour Roadside Assistance

FACTORY INVOICE** \$15756
FACTORY REBATE - \$2000

\$13756
OR **\$49¹⁹⁹** MO.

*ONLY \$248 Due At Lease Signing
• 60 Monthly Payments Of \$199

2004 DODGE HEMI 2500 QUAD CAB 4x4

Stock #4T-171. Color: White • Automatic
• Cassette • Cruise • Air • Hemi • Dual Air Bags
• 7 Year/70,000 Mile Power Train Warranty
• 24 Hour Roadside Assistance

FACTORY INVOICE** \$28915
FACTORY REBATE - \$3300

\$25615
OR **\$49³¹²** MO.

*ONLY \$361 Due At Lease Signing
• 60 Monthly Payments Of \$312

2004 DODGE CARAVAN SE

Stock #4TC-041. Color: Silver

0% APR FOR 72 MO. OAC

\$18298
OR **\$49²⁴⁹** MO.

*ONLY \$298 Due At Lease Signing
• 60 Monthly Payments Of \$249

2003 JEEP LIBERTY 4x4

Stock #3JL-047. Color: Sport Black • Automatic
• Power Windows, Locks & Mirrors • Cruise • Air
• Dual Air Bags • 7 Year/70,000 Mile Power
Train Warranty • 24 Hour Roadside Assistance

FACTORY INVOICE** \$21486
FACTORY REBATE - \$2000

\$19486
OR **\$49²¹⁹** MO.

*ONLY \$258 Due At Lease Signing
• 60 Monthly Payments Of \$219

2004 JEEP LAREDO GR. CHEROKEE 4x4

Stock #4GC-045. Color: Silver • Automatic • Power
Windows, Locks & Mirrors • Cruise • CD • Air • Special
Edition • Dual Air Bags • 7 Year/70,000 Mile
Power Train Warranty • 24 Hour Roadside Assistance

FACTORY INVOICE** \$30643
FACTORY REBATE - \$3500

\$27143
OR **\$49³⁵⁷** MO.

*ONLY \$468 Due At Lease Signing
• 60 Monthly Payments Of \$357

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The YEAR'S OVER...

... and Dave Barry almost slept through it

It was the Year of the Troubling Question

The most troubling one was: What the heck happened to all those weapons of mass destruction that were supposed to be in Iraq? Apparently there was an intelligence mix-up.

As CIA director George Tenet noted recently, "Our thinking now is that the weapons of mass destruction might actually be in that other one, whaddya call it, Iran. Or Michigan. We're pretty sure the letter 'I' is involved."



**BY DAVE
BARRY
KNIGHT
RIDDER
NEWS SERVICE**

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Garrett & Sporkins



January

... Which begins with traditional New Year's Day celebrations all over the world, except at the Central Intelligence Agency, which, acting on what it believes to be accurate information, observes Thanksgiving.

In college football, the University of Miami Hurricanes defeat Ohio State in the Fiesta Bowl and reign as national champions for roughly a week, at the end of which a Fiesta Bowl official - a man with the reaction time of a Sequoia, who has been standing in the end zone the whole time, reflecting on the final play - throws a penalty flag, thus giving the game to Ohio State in what the legal scholars will deem the most flagrant



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miscarriage of justice in human history. Not that we Miami fans are still bitter.

In pro football, the Tampa Bay Buccaneers defeat the heavily favored Oakland

Raiders and win the Super Bowl, despite the objections of Fiesta Bowl officials who want to award the victory to Ohio State.

Speaking of setbacks, in ...

February

... U.S. coalition-building efforts are dealt a severe blow when France announces that it will not participate in the impending Iraq invasion, a decision that, in the words of Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld, "could seriously impair our ability to surrender." Elsewhere in the War on Terror, the Department of Homeland Security urges Americans to stock up on food, water, flashlights, duct tape and plastic sheeting. Within hours, al-Qaida surrenders, stating: "We cannot fight flashlights AND duct tape."

Meanwhile, tension between the U.S. and North Korea continues to mount as North Korea, in what the White House calls "a deliberate act of provoca-



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tion," uses nuclear missiles to destroy Columbus, Ohio. A visibly angry President Bush warns the North Koreans that they "better not give any of those missiles to Iraq."

On the economic front, the struggling airline industry undergoes another round of cost-cutting, highlighted by United Airlines' announcement that, beginning in March, passengers on international flights "will have to eat each other."

And things only get worse in ...

March

... When North Korean troops invade Oregon, prompting a grim-faced President Bush to declare that "time is running out for the Iraqi regime." But the U.S. continues to have trouble getting other nations to join the coalition, and is forced to bribe Turkey by giving the Turkish government an "economic aid package" consisting of \$37 billion in cash, plus unlimited nighttime and weekend minutes, plus what is described as a "hard-to-get video" of Britney Spears. With Turkey on board, the coalition now consists of seven nations, assuming you count Guam, Puerto Rico and Staten Island as nations.

On March 19, coalition forces attack Iraq; within days they control most of the southern part of the country and have taken many prisoners, including two of the three known Dixie Chicks. They do not immediately uncover any weapons of mass destruction,



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but do find a warehouse containing a large quantity of what is believed to be refined sugar, which CIA intelligence analysts note "is a leading cause of tooth decay."

In non-war news, the

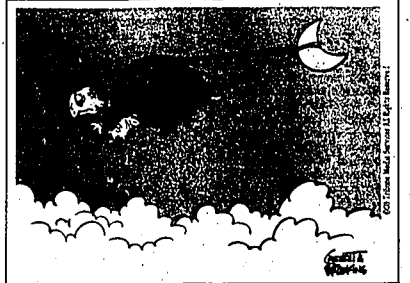
Academy Awards are held, with the Oscar for Best Picture going to "Chicago," only to be taken away by a Fiesta Bowl official and awarded to Ohio State.

And speaking of drama, in ...

April

... Coalition forces capture Baghdad, and hopes soar for a quick resolution to the conflict when a cheering Iraqi crowd topples a huge statue of Saddam. But these hopes are quickly dashed when, tragically, the statue fails to land on Gerardo.

Saddam himself is nowhere to be found, though he does release a videotape announcing plans to take his career "in a new direction," possibly including a "reality" TV show called Queer Eye for a Dictator Guy, in which he will undergo a makeover by five gay men, who will then be executed.



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In other news, North Korean troops capture Wisconsin.

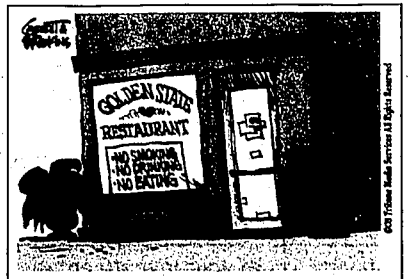
But things brighten a bit in ...

May

... When President Bush lands on the aircraft carrier USS Abraham Lincoln off the coast of California and declares, to a crowd of sailors, that major combat has ended. The jubilation is dampened somewhat when, moments after the president's plane departs, the carrier is damaged by a car bomb.

In domestic news, Congress enacts massive tax cuts in an effort to, in the words of a Republican leader, "see if we can push the deficit over the skillion-dollar mark."

North Korean troops occupy the Washington Monument. In entertainment news, CNN switches to a new format that



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consists entirely of Larry King talking to former prosecutors

about Laci Peterson. Speaking of upbeat, in ...

**For more of Dave Barry's
2003 year in review,
please see page E-3.**

Dog's runny nose can be symptom of serious problem

When a dog's nose runs, pay close attention to the color.

People get runny noses because we have lots of histamine in our noses, whereas for pets, their skin contains the bulk of their histamine. Allergies in humans cause runny noses and itchy eyes, whereas in dogs, allergies typically cause itchy skin. The end result is we blow our noses A LOT, and dogs scratch A LOT.



**THE
BOND
Marty
Becker**

When a dog's nose runs, you should check the color of the discharge to determine whether or not the problem is serious. For example, a viral infection can cause a clear, watery discharge that, like a human cold, will clear up on its own.

According to Symptoms and Solutions by Rodale Press, bacterial and fungal infections, which can cause a bloody, thick, milky or green discharge from the nose can be serious and should cause you to immediately take your pet to the veterinarian.

Dr. Marty Becker is the coauthor of the new book "Chicken Soup For The Horse Lover's Soul" and a popular veterinary contributor for ABC TV's "Good Morning America." Write to him in care of Knight Ridder/Tribune News Service, 790 National Press Building, Washington, DC 20045.

Preparations for the new year: Please eat your peas and pork

The call will come, as expected: "Did you eat your black-eyed peas?"

My mother, in Illinois, never can wait long to make sure I am properly prepared for the new year. When I was growing up, I thought everyone in the world ate black-eyed peas on New Year's Day for good luck. My family certainly did. Our southern roots demanded it.

Still today, Mom is convinced that much of the tragedy in the world could be avoided if more people would eat their black-eyed peas for the new year.

Luckily, I always liked the taste of black-eyed peas, because, at our house, everyone had to eat "at least one bite." I never figured out if the good luck was measured out in proportion to the amount of black-eyed peas you ate, but I do remember the year that one of my cousins rebelled against the ritual.

When the poor kid went back to school that year, he broke his arm in physical education class.

Thirty years later, it's a stigma she's never lived down.

After I left home, I swore I'd never again eat black-eyed peas on New Year's Day. Sort of the same way I swore I'd never tell my kids, "You can shoot your eye out with a BB gun." But by the time the new year's dinner baton had been passed on to my generation, I was a black-eyed peas convert.

Ritual has a strange way of doing that.

The dictionary defines "superstition" as "any belief that is inconsistent with known facts or rational thought." I guess that means I'm not rational when I eat my black-eyed peas on New Year's Day.

Once, I read a story about the origins of my new year tradition. It's been traced back to England and some settlers who brought the idea to Virginia during a time when black-eyed peas were considered a delicacy. Add rice to the peas and you have a casserole of Hoppin' John, which many southerners eat on Jan. 1 to give them prosperity in the new year.

But there are other traditions, too.

The Pennsylvania Dutch eat pork on New Year's Day, historians say, because the new year is a

Twin Falls Senior Citizens Center
520 Shoshone St. W.
Dinner served from noon to 12:30 p.m. Suggested donation is \$3.50 for seniors. The cost is \$5 for non-seniors under 60 and \$2.50 for children under 12.

Pool room open Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Lounge room available for television, puzzles and reading. Bargain Center will be open Monday through Friday, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Menus:
Monday: Beef stew, fruit salad, vegetables, cornbread, pineapple cake

Tuesday: Hot turkey sandwiches, mashed potatoes and gravy, vegetables, broccoli salad, lemon squares

Wednesday: New Year's dinner: Fried chicken, mashed potatoes and gravy, Gulliver corn, tossed green salad

Thursday: Closed

Friday: Closed

Activities:

Monday: Quilting, 9 a.m.-2:30 p.m.

Tuesday: Blood-pressure checks, 10:11-4:5 a.m.

Line-dancing, 7 p.m.

Wednesday: Quilting

Thursday: Closed

Friday: Closed

West End Senior Citizens Inc.

1010 Main St., Buhl

Menus:

Monday: Ham dinner, 1 p.m.

Tuesday: Scalloped potatoes with ham, salad, vegetables, rolls, dessert

Wednesday: Pork roast, mashed potatoes and gravy, vegetables, salad, dessert

Thursday: Cook's choice

Friday: Closed

Activities:
Monday: Exercise, 10 a.m.
Cards, 6-9 p.m.
Tuesday: Energy assistance, 9 a.m.-3:30 p.m.

Quilting, 8 a.m.-3 p.m.

Crafts, 1-4 p.m.

Wednesday: Exercise, 10 a.m.

Thursday: Closed

Friday: Closed

Filer Senior Haven

222 Main St., Filer

Dinners served at noon on Tuesdays and Thursdays.

Suggested donation: \$3 for seniors. Home-delivered meals are available each mealtime.

Menus:

Tuesday: Hot turkey sandwiches, potatoes, green beans, Jell-O salad, fruit cobbler

Thursday: Closed

Ageless Senior Citizens Inc.

310 Main St. N., Kimberly

Thrift store is open Mondays through Fridays, 8:30 a.m.-3 p.m.

No menus made available this week

Gooding County Senior Citizens Inc.

308 Senior Ave.

Closed until Jan. 5

Jerome Senior Center

212 First Ave. E.

All dinners served at noon. Suggested donation is \$3.

Menus:

Monday: Beef stroganoff over noodles, broccoli, pickled beets, fruit, cookies

Tuesday: Chicken a la king, mashed potatoes and gravy, corn, fruit, lemon bars

Wednesday: Porcupine meat-

balls, green-bean casserole, Jell-O with fruit, custard

Thursday: Closed

Friday: Closed

Activities:

Monday: Aerobics, 11 a.m.

Wednesday: Aerobics, 11 a.m.

Thursday: Closed

Friday: Closed

Camas County Senior Center

127 E. Willow, Fairfield

Meals are served at noon Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Fridays.

The suggested donation for seniors is \$2.50. Cost is \$3.50 for adults and \$2 for children under 10. All meals are subject to change. To eat a meal at the center, call ahead at 764-2225.

Center closed until Jan. 5.

Richfield Senior Center

Closed until Jan. 5

Shoshone Senior Center

218 N. Rail St. W., Shoshone

Menus:

Friday: Orange juice, baked potato bar, homemade bread, cake, milk, coffee

Activities: Pinochle, 1 p.m.

Silver and Gold Senior Citizens

203 Wilson, Edin

Suggested donations for seniors is \$3. All meals include salad, dessert, fruit, milk and coffee.

Mondays are cookie and bread bake days and Wednesdays are cinnamon roll and maple bar bake days.

Closed until Jan. 5.

Hagerman Valley Senior/Community Center

140 E. Lake, Hagerman

Open 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. Mondays,

Wednesdays and Fridays. Lunch is served at noon and Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays. Suggested donation is \$3, non-seniors \$4 and children under 12, \$2.

Menus:

Monday: Pork chops

Wednesday: Closed

Friday: Closed

Activities:

Thrift store open Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. Wednesday is \$2 bag day in the thrift shop

Blaine County Senior Center

721 Third Ave. S., Hailey

Meals are served at noon on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Fridays. Milk, juice, coffee and tea are served with all meals.

Menus:

Tuesday: Tossed green salad, buttered corn, pears, garlic bread, pumpkin bars

Wednesday: New Year's Eve party and buffet

Friday: Closed

Activities:

Tuesday: Reflexology, 10 a.m.

Blood pressure checks, 11:30 a.m.

Exercise, 1:30 p.m.

Thursday: Closed

Saturday: Closed

Minidoka County Senior Citizens Center

702 11th St., Rupert

Meals are served at noon and home delivered upon request. Juice and assorted beverages are served every day with meals.

Menus:

Monday: Assorted salad, beef

stew, biscuits, fruit bowl
Tuesday: Mixed vegetable salad, roast pork, mashed potatoes and gravy, cornbread, fruit crisp

Wednesday: Tossed green salad, chicken nuggets, french fries, corn, biscuits, chesecake

Thursday: Closed

Friday: Closed

Activities:

Monday: Quilting, 9 a.m.-3 p.m.

Pool, 9 a.m.-3 p.m.

Pinochle, 1-4 p.m.

Tuesday: Quilting, 9 a.m.-3 p.m.

Pool, 9 a.m.-3 p.m.

Wednesday: Quilting, 9 a.m.-3 p.m.

Pool, 9 a.m.-3 p.m.

Pinochle, 1-4 p.m.

Thursday: Closed

Friday: Closed

Golden Heritage Senior Center

2421 Overland, Burley

Menus:

Monday: Spaghetti, green salad, French bread, peaches, lemon bars

Tuesday: Bacon-lettuce-and-tomato sandwiches, potato soup, apple salad, brownies

Wednesday: Meatloaf, grilled onions and potatoes, cream peas, bread sticks, fruit salad, caramel pudding cake

Thursday: Closed

Friday: Closed

Activities:

Monday: Pool, 10 a.m.

Exercise, 11:15 a.m.

Pinochle, 1 p.m.

Tuesday: Pool, 10 a.m.

Dominoes, 10 a.m.

Exercise, 11 a.m.

Bingo, 7 p.m.

Wednesday: Pool, 10 a.m.

Exercise, 11:15 a.m.

Thursday: Closed

Friday: Closed



Simply For Seniors

Rev Up The Party With Some Senior Trivia

So you've just turned 65 and you're feeling a bit depressed. Sure, you can retire now, but you are also old enough to receive the senior citizen discount at your favorite restaurant. Worse yet, your family is throwing you a huge blowout for your 65th birthday. Don't feel dejected; rev up the party with some trivia that might stump some of your younger friends and family.

1. What was Walt Disney's first animated feature film?
a) Fantasia b) Bambi c) Snow White and the Seven Dwarves
2. What big band leader disappeared over the English Channel in December 1944?
a) Glenn Miller b) Count Basie c) Benny Goodman
3. What was the real name of actress Rita Hayworth?
a) Lucy Johnson b) Margarita Casino c) Betty Joan Perske
4. How many of the three stooges were there in all?
a) 3 b) 6 c) 9
5. What year was the first Academy Awards presented?
a) 1927 b) 1932 c) 1945
6. In what movie were the legs of Ronald Reagan's character amputated?
a) Kings Row b) Dark Victory c) Desperate Journey
7. Who was the first primetime TV couple to be shown together in bed?
a) Alex and Donna Stone b) Matt Dillon and Kitty Russell c) Fred and Wilma Flintstone
8. Whose death in 1967 was marked in London with the turning off of all outside lights at West End Theaters?
a) Jayne Mansfield b) Humphrey Bogart c) Vivien Leigh
9. What comic strip character did Joe Shuster and Jerry Siegel sell their rights to in 1938 for just \$130?
a) Superman b) Batman c) Wonder Woman
10. When did Babe Ruth hit his first Major League home run?
a) July 5, 1913 b) June 2, 1914 c) May 6, 1915
11. What illegal activity was John Wayne doing in the opening of the 1941 movie *Shepherd of the Hills*?
a) Robbing a bank b) Making Moonshine c) Kidnapping a child
- 12) What was the name of the B-29 bomber that dropped the atom bomb on Nagasaki?
a) Devil's Lair b) Bledstone c) Bock's Car

Answers: 1) c 2) a 3) b 4) b 5) a 6) a 7) c 8) c 9) a 10) c 11) b 12) c

A party just isn't a party without trivia. These are just some of the many questions you could ask. Make up a few more of your own, and show how wise you've become in your golden years.

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ENGAGEMENT

OSBORN-BINGHAM

RUPERT - Doug and Kathi Hall of Rupert announce the engagement of their daughter, **Tabatha Osborn**, to **Kade Bingham**, son of Ken and Wendy Bingham of Burley.

The wedding is planned for 1 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 3, 2004, at Sunrise P River Ranch, 400 S. 153 E. in Rupert. A reception to honor the couple will follow the ceremony from 3-5 p.m. at Sunrise P River Ranch.



Kade Bingham and Tabatha Osborn

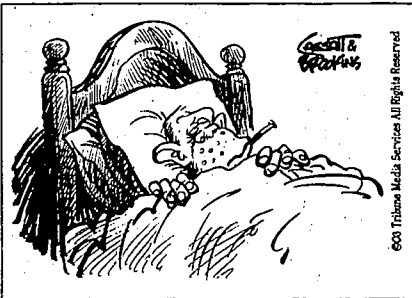
Stay on top of your investments with the Money pages.

June

...Hopes for peace in the Mideast soar when President Bush meets with Israeli and Palestinian leaders in a landmark summit, which goes really well until gunfire erupts over the seating arrangements.

North Korean troops, growing desperate for attention, announce plans to appear in a new "reality" TV show, tentatively titled "We Have Conquered Your Nation, Capitalist Scum," but it is canceled when network executives find out that nobody involved is blond.

The downward spiral continues in ...



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July

...When - in a catastrophe long predicted by geologists - a massive, violent tectonic shift opens a huge fault in the earth's crust, releasing a vast mutant swarming horde of gubernatorial candidates in California. "It's terrible!" reports one rescue worker. "There's porn

stars, washed-out actors, strippers, fanatics, lunatics, and somebody named Cruz Bustamante." Federal troops are ordered into the state, where they immediately become stuck in traffic.

Disney World, in what turns out to be a hugely successful promotion, holds the first-ever "North Korean Troops Day."

In entertainment news, CNN,

concerned about flagging viewer interest in the Lad Peterson format, switches to "All Kobe, All the Time." The music industry, in what is seen as a last-ditch effort to halt the sharing of music files on the Internet, asks a federal judge to issue an injunction against "the possession or use of electricity."

Speaking of which, the big domestic story in ...

September

...Palestinian and Israeli leaders finally recover the Road Map to Peace, only to discover that, while they were looking for it, the Lug Nuts of Mutual Interest came off the Front Left Wheel of Accommodation, causing the Sport Utility Vehicle of Progress to crash into the Ditch of Despair.

Meanwhile, Hurricane Isabel makes landfall on the Outer Banks of North Carolina, forcing the evacuation of 23,000 North Korean troops.

In the War On Telemarketing, a federal judge in Oklahoma blocks the implementation of the federal Do Not Call list on the grounds that it is unconstitutional. Hours later, he reverses the ruling on the grounds that his



house is surrounded by people with torches.

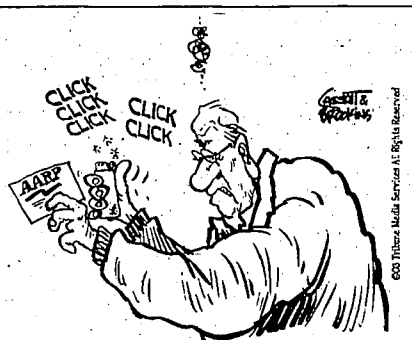
There is another popular uprising in ...

November

...A big political stink erupts over adding drug benefits to Medicare, with Republicans and Democrats battling fiercely to see who can pander the hardest to the crucial senior-citizen voting bloc. The Republicans prevail with the help of the AARP; this angers some AARP members, who attempt to burn their membership cards in protest, but are unable to work those newfangled childproof cigarette lighters.

Elsewhere, a group of "trade ministers" whom nobody has ever heard of gather in Miami to discuss something called the "FTAA," which nobody understands, while outside thousands of people protest for reasons that run the gamut from extremely vague to outright delusional. Most of the protesters are peaceful, although some become involved in violent clashes with North Korean troops.

In other news, pop superstar Michael Jackson again finds him



self in legal trouble when authorities in Santa Barbara order him fingerprinted and booked on charges of "extreme creepiness, even for California." Jackson's

attorney expresses outrage, telling a press conference that his client "doesn't even have fingerprints." And the strangeness only gets stranger in ...

DAVE BARRY'S 2003 YEAR IN REVIEW ... PART 2

August

...Begins on a quiet weekday morning in rural northern Ohio, where 83-year-old widow Eileen Freemunkle decides that, for a change, she will put two Pop-Tarts into her toaster, instead of her usual one. This rogue action sets off a chain of events that ultimately blacks out the entire Northeast. As rescue crews work overtime trying to keep people in the affected areas supplied with news about the developing Kobe Bryant situation, Congress swings into emergency action: within hours, Democrats and Republicans have issued literally hundreds of press releases blaming each other. Power is finally restored several days later by power-company workers, aided by bored North Korean troops.

In the arts, Madonna, demonstrating the courage, creativity and talent that have made her name synonymous with the word "Madonna," kisses Britney



Spears. This results in a worldwide tidal wave of publicity, followed by the emergence, on both

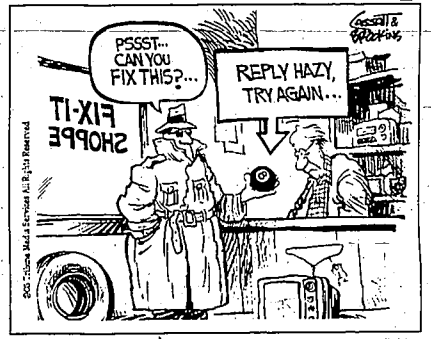
performers, of lip sores. And speaking of alarming, in ...

October

...When the people of California, by a large majority, vote to send incumbent governor Gray Davis back to his pod. They replace him with Arnold Schwarzenegger, who wins easily despite allegations that he gropes women, which he assures the voters that he will never do in his capacity as governor "without a really good reason." In his victory statement, Schwarzenegger announces that he will appoint a stunt governor, who will handle the tasks that he is physically unable to perform, such as pronouncing words.

On the economic front, there is good news from the Commerce Department, which reports a sharp upturn in the nation's economy, credited primarily to spending by North Korean troops.

In health news, authorities in Boston, Chicago and New York



report a rash of suicide attempts after the Florida Marlins win their second World Series in six years. The Marlins are helped by a fluke play when a foul ball, about

to be caught by Cubs outfielder Moises Alou, is deflected by a man who is later identified as a Fiesta Bowl official. And speaking of foul, in ...

December

...Which begins on an upbeat note thanks to strong holiday retail sales, as measured by the economic indicator of Mail Shoppers Injured In Fights Over Sony Playstations.

The month's most shocking story is another during-hush-hush secret holiday morale-building visit, this one by North Korean leader Kim Jong Il, who secretly travels to Washington, D.C., where he holds a reception for occupying North Korean troops. The Department of Homeland Security asked how Kim was able to enter the country undetected, speculating that "he must have removed his shoes."

Finally, in a heartwarming story of the season, on New Year's Eve U.S. military radar detects a mysterious object streaking across the sky. A telescopic investigation reveals that the object is what



NASA describes as "a heavily modified" 1953 Ford pickup truck, driven by Cuban refugees, apparently bound for the Moon.

Here's hoping they make it. Here's also hoping that 2004 is a wonderful year, or at least better

than 2003. Which shouldn't be hard.

Dave Barry is a humor columnist for the Miami Herald. Write to him at The Miami Herald, One Herald Plaza, Miami, Fla. 33132.

Birthday today? Avoid extremes and find a comfortable pace toward success

IF DECEMBER 28 IS YOUR BIRTHDAY - you have a mind that digs deep. Your strong will coupled with your ability to persevere make a formidable combination. You love freedom, but seldom feel completely free. It isn't always easy to know whether to move deliberately or impulsively. Try to avoid extremes and find a comfortable pace to proceed toward ultimate success.

ARIES (Mar. 21-Apr. 19): Though you're very sensitive now, you may prefer to keep emotions hidden from others. Work and career continue to expand. Partnerships and other cooperative business efforts will bring success.

TAURUS (Apr. 20-May 20): Traveling can bring a useful new acquaintance. Feelings are hidden but may be intense. Don't let sudden outbursts create problems.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Use your intuition to resolve a work situation that's of concern. Continue to find quiet time. Relationships are both sweet and passionate.

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Although love is on your mind, wait out negative stars to find satisfying romance. Work, too, may be frustrating; win co-workers over with a soft

HOROSCOPE Jeraldine Saunders

touch. Spiritual exploration is the key.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Protect yourself from disappointment by not expecting more than others can give. Make sure to let up on the practical focus long enough to have fun. It's not a day for a romantic proposal.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Deep

and sensitive connection with a beloved is available, but don't go overboard. Get some play out of your system so you can focus on business more easily tomorrow. Apply creative solutions to everyday problems.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Pay attention to your insights for the solutions to everyday problems. Enjoy your time at home and prepare for the demands of Monday, but don't take on too much and become overtired or irritable.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Watch for a tendency to overindulge as an

escape; let your common sense hold you back. Don't let your world get too small. Conciliatory gestures are better made now than next week.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Even though you're on a roll at work, do give yourself time to relax. Take it easy today. You're a force to be reckoned with, but don't abuse

it. Kiss and make up with poetry or a love letter.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): A caring communication hits its target. Money flow should stabilize soon. You're more charming to others now than you may realize.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Cooperative financial efforts bring

benefits. Watch what you say, though, as it's easy to say things in an irritable manner. You may feel like you don't exist except as a servant now.

PISCES (Feb. 19-Mar. 20): You're especially sensitive with the moon in your sign. Others are kind but possibly overpowering. It's easy to feel martyred at work.

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COMMUNITY

Community Editor: Pat Marcantonio - 735-3288

Buhl resident serves with fighter wing

By Rich Lamanca
Special to The Times-News

HOLLOMAN AFB, N.M. — Air Force Airman 1st Class Aaron P. Darrell, son of Jack and Lorena Darrell of Buhl, is a member of a unique team.

He is an aerospace ground equipment specialist with the 49th Maintenance Squadron, a part of the 49th Fighter Wing, the only F-117 Stealth fighter unit of its kind in the world.

During the early stages of Operation Iraqi Freedom, Darrell and his unit were on the world's stage, where the "Nighthawk" flew the skies over Iraq.

"In the maintenance field, I'm considered to be the jack of all trades," said Darrell, a 1998 graduate of Magic Valley High School in Twin Falls. "I support all of the equipment that supports the aircraft: such as hydraulics, air conditioning, heat, compressed air and many other necessities of the aircraft."

From chasing Japanese Zeros over the Pacific during World War II to flying the skies over Korea, Vietnam and Iraq, the 49th Fighter Wing, then known as the 49th Pursuit Group, has the nickname "fighter 49ers." Based in the arid desert of south central New Mexico

since 1968, the 49th Wing transitioned to the F-117 Nighthawk stealth fighter in 1992.

"Without our efforts, the aircraft would never leave the ground," Darrell said. "We supply the power that runs all of the test equipment on everything from electrical to hydraulics to the compressed nitrogen in the tires."

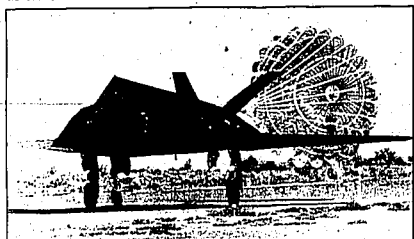
But uniqueness has drawbacks when it comes time to deploy. Darrell and his Holloman teammates have found themselves deployed for months at a time to places like Qatar, Iraq, Kuwait, Afghanistan and Kyrgyzstan, leaving family and loved ones behind and often doing without many of the "necessities" others take for granted.

Darrell is stationed at Holloman Air Force Base, near Alamogordo, N.M. and about 90 miles north of El Paso, Texas. The place is an arid, desert basin sandwiched between the Sacramento and San Andreas mountains.

"Life at Holloman is relaxed. The base is a great place to go to college and earn a degree or two. On the weekends there are many places to travel to including the mountains, which are only 20 minutes away. White Sands Monument is almost next door. This is a great assignment for a first time airman," he said.



Air Force Airman 1st Class Aaron P. Darrell is an aerospace ground equipment specialist at Holloman Air Force Base, N.M.



An F-117 Nighthawk stealth fighter releases its parachute after landing at Holloman Air Force Base. The Holloman-based 49th Fighter Wing is the Air Force's only stealth fighter unit.

Job's Daughters installs honored queen

TWIN FALLS — Jacinda Conrad, daughter of Blair and Lisa Conrad of Twin Falls, will be installed as honored queen of the International Order of Job's Daughters Bethel 43 at 1 p.m. Jan. 3 in the Masonic Temple at 883 Blue Lakes Boulevard N. in Twin Falls.

Other officers being installed include Jessica Lupton, senior princess; Abby Waters, junior princess; Brenley Box, guide; Tiffany Hermann, marshal; Arlyn Probasco, chaplain; Andrea Loya, librarian; Amanda Telleria, treasurer; Erica Kober, musician; Erica



Jacinda Conrad

Hermann, first messenger; Kendra McCollum, second messenger; Molly Breland, third messenger; Shayla Charbonneau, fourth messenger; Alyssa Olivieri, fifth messenger; Tiffany Bowman, inner guard; McKalee Conrad, outer guard; Natisha Lupton, junior custodian; Ariel Brim, senior custodian;

Shelby Nutting, custodian of lights; and Madison Henson, flag bearer. Choir members include Sierra Hoskins, Chelsey Haszler, Danielle Annis, Cathryn Walker, Erin Ferlic, Tara Lupton, Heidi Wiseman and Dani Hansen.

Retiring Honored Queen Katie Baxter will preside as the installing officer. She will be assisted by Jenni Ferlic, installing guide; Erin Ferlic, installing marshal; Jackie Baxter, installing chaplain; Becky Bratt, installing recorder; Jenni Kroll, installing musician; Jill Newham, installing junior custodian; Tara

Lupton, installing senior princess; Cathryn Walker, installing flag bearer; and Colene High, installing custodian of lights.

The ceremony will be narrated by Peggy Kroll. The Habel/Wagner family will host. Solos will be presented by Robin Johnson. The new queen's projects will be helping the Women's Crisis Center.

A reception follows the ceremony hosted by Debbie and Alison Wilder. The public is invited to the ceremony and reception.

Job's Daughters is an organization of service and leadership for young women.

Oakley Elementary students earn fitness award

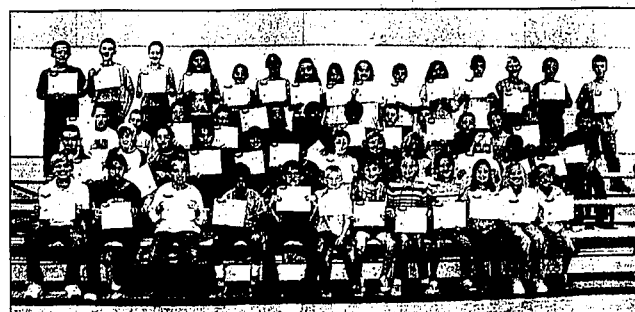
OAKLEY — The fifty-seven Oakley Elementary students who earned the Presidential Physical Fitness Award last school year helped their school earn this year's title of State Champion for its size category in the Presidential Physical Fitness Challenge.

This is the fifth year in a row that the school received the award. With almost one third of the student body qualifying for the fitness award, Oakley Elementary had the highest percentage of students earning the award of any other small school in the state.

In this program of the President's Council on Physical Fitness and Sports, the school received a certificate signed by President Bush for outstanding School Achievement in Physical Fitness. School Program Director Tim Archibald read a letter from the President congratulating the students and encouraging them to continue being physically fit.

Under the direction of Archibald, who is the school's physical education teacher, students who passed all five fitness tests last year earned an individual patch and a certificate signed by the President. This fall, each received a Champion patch during a ceremony.

"Students at Oakley are aware of the importance of being physi-



These Oakley Elementary School students helped the school earn the title of State Champion for its size category in the Presidential Physical Fitness Challenge for the fifth year in a row.

cally fit not only now, but in the future as well. This accomplishment has instilled deeper pride in being able to accomplish worthwhile goals," Archibald said.

Students receiving the award were Shayna Lierman, Kindra Lind, Mylee McKnight, Mark Alves, McKynley Sagers, Cordell Whittle, Dario Alvarez, Malia Arnell, Paige Cooper, Shannon Cooper, Mallory Critchfield,

Hannah Harrah, Lacy Kelley, Cedar Muhlestein, Anissa Paz, Bailey Smith, Aubrie Woodhouse, Derek Adams, Travis Anderson, Bailey Bench, Donny Clearwater, Jamison Jones, Stenson Marchant, Jacob Mitton, Alex Whiteley, Fernando Teller, Whitney Arnell, Addie Bedke, Jacoe Bedke, Kaili Boles, Laynee Cranney, Taylor Fehlman, Hayley Greenwell, Jessica Manning, Tyler Anderson, Brodie

Bell, Josh-Lind, Taylor Lloyd, Brandon Muhlestein, Michael Mullen, Eleazar Teller, Elissa Alves, Laura Austin, Victoria Hale, Jordan Lierman, Kori Poulton, McKenzie Zollinger, Travis Robinson, Jacque Bench, Elisabeth Rose, Jennifer Teller, Brett Arnell, Justin Cooper, Andrew Nilson, Hunter Wadsworth, Weston Cooper, Mark Pickett and Colten Wadsworth.

COMMUNITY EVENTS

CSI offers Geographical Information Systems class

TWIN FALLS — The College of Southern Idaho will offer "Introduction to GIS" from 4:30-6:20 p.m. Tuesdays, starting Jan. 20 in Room 124C of the Canyon Building at the CSI campus.

The class is open to anyone who uses or who would like to learn to use, statistical and geographical data.

GIS or Geographical Information Systems is a sophisticated software program that visually displays information data and links it to geographic locations, such as addresses, parcel numbers and census tracts. In the past decade, all federal government management agencies have been mandated to use GIS.

The class will use the Arc View program. Students will create maps with single and multiple themes and learn to search databases about selected themes.

Geographic mapping experience is not required, but familiarity with Windows is important. The text for the two-credit class comes with a CD that contains many GIS exercises.

For information, call Nancy Jonsson-Hyler at 732-6421 or e-mail at nhyler@csi.edu.

Gooding Basque Association offers meal

GOODING — The first Friday of each month, the Gooding Basque Association provides a Basque meal to the public as a fund-raiser.

The next meal will be held from 5:30 to 8:30 p.m. Friday at the new Basque Cultural Center at the intersection of Highway 26 and Highway 46 in Gooding.

The meal will be served buffet style. There is double seating capacity and will be no waiting to get your food.

Entrees include roast leg of lamb, salmon or chicken breast with Basque potatoes, Basque bread, green beans with ham, macaroni soup, salad bar, chocolate decadence, apple pie and flan. Pop, coffee and a no-host bar will be available.

Donations are \$14 for adults, \$12 for seniors and \$5 for the children's menu.

For more information, call Helen Sabala Faulkner at 934-5920.

Magic Valley New

Neighbors meets Tuesday

TWIN FALLS — The Magic Valley New Neighbors will hold a luncheon at 11:30 a.m. Jan. 6 at Prasa's Thai Cuisine, 428 Second Ave. E., Twin Falls.

Susan L. Courtney, professional nurse at Women's Health and Imaging Services at Magic Valley Regional Medical Center, will speak about women's health issues.

Luncheons are \$10 at the time of the luncheon.

Anyone interested in joining is welcome to attend.

For more information or reservations, call 420-8234, by Thursday.

STORK REPORT

St. Benedicts Family Medical Center

Chance Earl Freeman, son of Philene Staley of Jerome, was born Friday, Dec. 19, 2003.

Aldin Marie Marona, daughter of Scott Marona and Nicole Tucker of Twin Falls, was born Friday, Dec. 19, 2003.

Magic Valley Regional Medical Center

Aumcia Lucille Galley, daughter of Angela Mae Birdson and Dewaine Lee Galley of Twin Falls, was born Saturday, Dec. 6, 2003.

Mason Riley, twin daughter and son of Penny Jean and Scott Steven Ward of Twin Falls, were born Tuesday, Dec. 16, 2003.

Evan Ryan Allen, son of Bethany Marie and Ryan Kent Allen of Twin Falls, was born Tuesday, Dec. 16, 2003.

To announce a birth

Send a copy of the birth certificate to:

Melissa Morgan

The Times-News

P.O. Box 548

Twin Falls, ID 83303

Or fax to: 734-5538

Deadline: noon Tuesday for

Sunday's paper; and noon Friday

for Tuesday's paper.

More information?

Call Melissa at 735-3278

Jacob Alexander Bradford, son of Tracy and William G. Bradford of Twin Falls, was born Wednesday, Dec. 17, 2003.

Ashten Aaron Smith, son of Heather Anne and Aaron Terry Smith of Twin Falls, was born Thursday, Dec. 18, 2003.

Abigail Rae Harmon, daughter of Tamara Ann and Justin Isaac Harmon of Twin Falls, was born Saturday, Dec. 20, 2003.

SERVICE NEWS

Sorrell completes weeks of Marine Corps basic training

Marine Corps Pvt. Christopher R. Sorrell, son of Corina M. and Steven G. Bright of Jerome, has completed 12 weeks of basic training at the Marine Corps Recruit Depot in San Diego, Calif., which is designed to challenge new Marine recruits both physically and mentally.

In addition to the physical conditioning program, Sorrell spent numerous hours in classroom and field assignments, which included learning first aid, uniform regulations, combat war survival, marksmanship, hand-to-hand combat and assorted weapons training. They performed close order drill and operated as a small infantry unit during field training.

Sorrell is a 2003 graduate of Jerome High School.

Burkhalter graduates from basic military training

Army Pfc. Tessa D. Burkhalter has graduated from basic military training at Fort Leonard Wood, Wayneville, Mo.

The trainee received instruction in drill and ceremonies, weapons, rifle marksmanship, map reading, tactics, military courtesy and justice, physical fitness, core values and traditions.

Burkhalter is the son of Jeff S. Burkhalter and Toni L. Wilson, both of Buhl. In 2003, the soldier graduated from Castelford High School.

Andersen completes combat training in South Carolina

Army National Guard Pvt. Bryann H. Andersen has graduated from basic combat training at Fort Jackson, Columbia, S.C. During the nine weeks of training, the soldier studied the Army

mission, history, tradition and core values and physical fitness; and received instruction and practice in basic combat skills, military weapons, chemical warfare and bayonet training, drill and ceremony, marching, rifle marksmanship, armed and unarmed combat, map reading, field tactics, military courtesy and justice system, basic first aid, foot marches and field training exercises.

Andersen is the daughter of Debby Compton of Buhl. She is a 2003 graduate of Buhl High School.

Handy completes training at U.S. Army Infantry School

Army Pvt. Zachariah J. Handy has graduated from One Station Unit Training at the U.S. Army Infantry School, Fort Benning, Columbus, Ga.

The training consisted of basic military and advanced individual training.

The trainee received instruction in drill and ceremonies, military customs and courtesies, map reading, tactics, basic rifle marksmanship, physical fitness, field training and first aid.

During advanced training, the soldier received instruction to serve as an infantryman using light and heavy anti-air weapons, indirect fire support, and mechanized operations while assigned to a rifle or mortar squad. The training included weapons qualification, tactics, patrolling, navigation, field communications and combat operations; engagement in infantry combat exercises, battle drills, land mine locating, neutralizing and extracting; and survival operations during a nuclear, biological or chemical attack.

Handy is the son of Barbara Handy of Twin Falls. He is a 2003 graduate of Twin Falls High School.

Community: Tell us about it!

If it's news to you, we want to know:

- Community meetings.
- Individual achievements.
- Celebrations.
- Your kids and their activities.
- Reunions.
- Your kids and their activities.

Please send your news and photos to:

Pat Marcantonio

Fax: 677-4643 or 734-5538

E-mail: patm@magicvalley.com

FAMILY LIFE

ENGAGEMENTS

Sunday Crossword Edited by Wayne Robert Williams

NOEL By Robert H. Wolfe, North Woodmere, New York

ACROSS

1 Red Bordeaux
6 Down Under rock group
10 Dunfermline dagger
14 Walks in water
19 Organic compound
20 Royal flier
21 Snoozes
22 Regarding
23 Sole
24 Subterfuge
25 Mine entrance
26 Right-hand page
27 Cried after dark?
28 Rate of productive activity?
31 Writer LeShan
34 Kind of bread
35 More drollish
36 Duke of the Dodgers
43 Erving of hoops
45 Algebin port
46 J.R.R. Tolkien monster
49 Tantalizing remark
50 Coastal inhalations
54 Alejandro and Fernando
55 Hit the front of the ship?
59 Omnibus
60 Naval and
62 Delight in cruelty
63 Video-game paragon
66 Half, prof.
68 Crooked
69 More ironic
71 Black cuckoo
72 Tea container?
75 Loud explosive device?

DOWN

1 Patagonian hare
2 Give off
3 Steady bar
4 Word before up or drop
5 Rockville, NY
6 Bitterly pungent
7 Word before up or drop
8 Menu choices
9 Irrationist
10 Ginger cookie
11 Nothing in Quito
12 Grand-scale tale
13 Lander of cosmetics
14 Armed conflict
15 Once more
16 Room scheme
17 Ingress
18 on-Trent
19 Fitter and a Wello
20 Vegas numbers
21 Literary condensation
22 Al or Bobby of auto racing
23 Soph's residence
26 Popular cookie
27 Remembrance of a brave one?
28 Foot part
29 Dist. across
30 Back flow
31 Old-time motorcar
32 Actress Pinkert
33 NFL lineman
34 Tazian Buster
35 Take another bit of liquor?
36 Notions
37 January honoree
38 Hay wagon
39 Actor Jimmy
40 Perform again
41 de merite
42 Regarding
43 Cry out excitedly
44 Rene and Richard
45 Lander of Sp.
46 Martian neighbor
47 Author of "The Immortalist"
48 Decomposed
49 Mid-morning meal
50 Actress Gilbert
51 Goli's continent
52 Gold of Mexico
53 Gorrila expert
54 Fossey

BROGAN-MINGO

TWIN FALLS - Dave and Kristi Brogan of New Plymouth announce the engagement of their daughter, Shandi Rae Brogan, to Cody Shay Mingo, son of Art and Carla Mingo of Twin Falls.

Brogan is a graduate of New Plymouth High School. She is attending the College of Southern Idaho, majoring in veterinary technology.

Mingo graduated from Kimberly High School and is attending CSI, majoring in anthropology. He is employed at Big 5 Sporting Goods in Twin Falls.

The wedding is planned for Friday, Jan. 2, 2004, at the New



Cody Mingo and Shandi Brogan

Plymouth LDS Church. An open house will be held from 7 to 9 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 3, at 1175 E. 900 S., Eden.



Stephen Blauer and Dayna Powell

POWELL-BLAUER

BURLEY - Bill and Marilyn Powell of Orem, Utah, announce the engagement of their daughter, Dayna Powell, to Stephen Wayne Blauer, son of Wayne and Nancy Blauer of Burley.

Powell is attending Brigham Young University-Idaho, majoring in family science, and will graduate in April 2004.

Blauer is a 1999 graduate of Burley High School. He served an LDS mission in Florianopolis, Brazil. He is also attending BYU-Idaho and is majoring in business management. They met while dancing on the BYU-Idaho Folk Dance Team.

The wedding is planned for Tuesday, Dec. 30, in the Salt Lake LDS Temple. An open house to honor the couple will be held from 6 to 8:30 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 3, at the Rupert 10th Ward LDS Church, 526 S. F St.

They will reside in Rexburg, where they will continue their education.



Stephanie Wallin and Joseph Owens

WALLIN-OWENS

TWIN FALLS - David and Suzanne Hawkins of Twin Falls announce the engagement of their daughter, Stephanie Suzanne Wallin, to Joseph Rudy Owens, son of Steven and Maria Owens of Colorado Springs, Colo.

Wallin is a graduate of Twin Falls High School and attended Evangel University in Springfield, Mo. She is employed at Magic Valley Appraisal in Twin Falls.

Owens is a graduate of Palmer High School in Colorado Springs and attended Evangel University in Springfield, Mo. He is employed at Dell in Twin Falls.

The wedding is planned for 7 p.m. Friday, Jan. 2, 2004, at the First Assembly of God Church, 189 N. Locust in Twin Falls.

A reception will be held following the ceremony in the reception hall at the First Assembly of God Church.

Subscribe.
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ESKELSEN-HANSEN

RUPERT - El Ray and Joyn Eskelsen of Rupert announce the engagement of their daughter, Rebecca Lynn Eskelsen, to Lane Alvin Hansen, son of Arvin and Sherill Hansen of Rupert.

Eskelsen is a 1996 graduate of Minico High School and a 1998 graduate of the LDS Business College. She served an LDS mission from 2001-2003 in Panama City, Panama. She is currently working as a travel agent.

Hansen is a 1996 graduate of Minico High School and a 2003 graduate of Utah State University in financial counseling. He served an LDS mission from 1996-1998 in Indianapolis, Ind.

The wedding is planned for Friday, Jan. 2, 2004, in the



Lane Hansen and Rebecca Eskelsen

Bountiful LDS Temple. A reception to honor the couple will be held from 6 to 8:30 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 3, at the Rupert 10th Ward LDS Church, 526 S. F St.

HANSON-LICKLEY

TWIN FALLS - Kim O. and Carol L. Hanson of Twin Falls announce the engagement of their daughter, Erica Lynn Hanson, to Todd Stephen Lickley, son of Lonnie and Stefanie Lickley of Jerome.

Hanson is a graduate of Twin Falls High School and Idaho State University. She is employed at Bridge View Estates in Twin Falls.

Lickley is a graduate of Jerome High School and the University of Idaho. He is employed in his family's business in Jerome.

The wedding is planned for 2 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 7, 2004, at the Twin Falls Reformed Church. A reception will be held immediately following the ceremony at the Ballroom, 205 Shoshone St. N. in Twin Falls.



Todd Lickley and Erica Hanson

following the ceremony at the Ballroom, 205 Shoshone St. N. in Twin Falls.

WEDDING

FREY-SCHAFFER

BOISE - Melissa Frey and David Schaffer were married Oct. 11 at the Cathedral of the Rockies in Boise.

The bride is the daughter of Mark and Cindy Frey of Castleford. The bridegroom is the son of Lee and Beth Schaffer of Boise.

Claire McNulty-Drewes officiated the ceremony.

Alycia Thompson, sister of the bride, served as the bride's matron of honor.

Bridesmaids included Andrea Frey, sister of the bride, and Olivia Stoltzfus and Breia Alderson, friends of the bride.

Rik Morse, cousin of the groom, served as best man.

Groomsmen included Ryan Powers, Jeff Turner and Jon Gough, friends of the groom.

Ushers were Tim Frey, brother of the bride, and Jeremy Thompson, brother-in-law of the bride.

Special guests included grandparents of the bride, Jim and Mickey Lowder of Buhl and Juanita Frey of Castleford, and grandparents of the groom, Glenn and Ada Schaffer of Nampa.

A reception was held following



David and Melissa Schaffer

the ceremony at the home of David and Melissa Schaffer. Serving at the reception were Dennis and Pam Lowder, uncle and aunt of the bride, and Kara Schiefel, friend of the bride.

The bride is a graduate of Boise State University. She is employed at Hawley Troxell Ennis & Hawley in Boise.

The bridegroom is a graduate of Eastern Nazarene College in Quincy, Mass. He is employed at Inspirational Family Radio in Boise.

The newlyweds reside in Kuna.

WEDDING

SZUBERT-FLYNN

RUMSON, N.J. - Susan Szubert, formerly of Twin Falls, and Brett Flynn of Fair Haven, N.J., were married Sept. 20 at Holy Cross Church in Rumson, N.J.

The bride is the daughter of Marypat Fields of Corral and the late Conrad Szubert.

The bridegroom is the son of Tom and Pat Flynn of Rumson.

Mrs. Edward Donnelly, uncle of the bride, officiated at the ceremony.

Guitar music was provided by Randy Kehoe of Twin Falls. Tom Hebb was the organist.

Maria DeBoard of Twin Falls served as her sister's matron of honor.

Bridesmaids included Jodi Lambert Brown of Sidney, Australia, and formerly of Twin Falls, Taryn Flynn, sister of the groom, and Delia Frank and Margaret Britt of Rockville Center, N.Y., friends of the bride and groom.



Susan and Brett Flynn

Drew and Colin Flynn, both of Rumson, were their brother's best men.

Groomsmen included Ned Demong of Paris, France, Rob Kellogg of Annapolis, Md., Kevin McNally of Hazlet, N.J., and John Pratt of Boston, Mass.

A reception was held following the ceremony at the Rumson Country Club Pool House.

This bride is a graduate of Twin

Falls High School and Idaho State University. She is an insurance broker with the Egan Financial Group in Manassquan, N.J.

The bridegroom is a graduate of Rumson-Fair Haven Regional High School and Saint Lawrence University in Canton, N.Y. He is an investment manager with Lucas Capital Management in Red Bank, N.J.

After a honeymoon in Tahiti, the couple is living in Fair Haven, N.J.

While visiting for Thanksgiving, the couple received friends Nov. 28 at the Heron Room of the Ballroom in Twin Falls.

Time to liquidate? Use The Times-News Marketplace classifieds to turn possessions into cash.

ACE Bridal Registry

Barbara Hada & Reese Harper January 2nd
Kale Nix & Kyle Turbet January 2nd
Amber Christensen & Matthew Grayson January 3rd
Daleen Miller & Bryan Clark January 3rd
Vicky Hill & Curtis Warren January 3rd
Lindsay Hynes & Ryan Beck January 3rd
Becca Eskelsen & Lane Harper January 3rd
Dayna Powell & Stephen Blauer January 3rd

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Jerome 324-2486

JEWELRY
Boyer Jewelry
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Slips, Veils, Shoes & Slippers
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Gooding 934-4374

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Bridal Registry

Dayna Powell & Stephen Blauer January 3rd
Jennifer Runyon & Bradley Street January 10th

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Centennial

Page E-6

Sunday, December 28, 2003

The Times-News

How to get involved

Here are a few of the ways for Magic Valley residents to get involved in Twin Falls' centennial celebration:

Listen in

Need help learning Twin Falls' centennial song?

The Times-News is offering two ways for you to hear a recording of "Just Add Water," composed by Donna Scott:

- Log on to www.magicvalley.com/specialsections/centennial and click on the "Centennial Song" link. Internet users with an MP3 player can use this service.
- Call 735-3350 and follow the recorded directions.

Local arts leaders are using that recording - which the newspaper is using by permission - as a teaching tool.

Get to the gala

The Twin Falls Centennial Commission's gala for all ages runs from 7 p.m. to midnight on New Year's Eve, at Magic Valley Mall.

- Prices: Tickets sold in advance cost \$12 for adults; \$10 for students and seniors; or \$35 for a family of up to five. Tickets at the door cost \$15 per person.

- Advance outlets: Buy tickets at any Magic Valley branch of First Federal Savings Bank; Twin Falls Wells Fargo Bank locations; A Happy Camper in the Magic Valley Mall; C/O Office Supply in downtown Twin Falls; Everybody's Business in the Shops at the Mall; the CSI Bookstore at College of Southern Idaho; Rosebuds in Jerome; Bill Printers in Twin Falls; or for information: Call the Centennial Office at 735-0800.

Share a recipe

Does your family have a special tradition that centers around food? The Times-News hopes you'll share your memories and open your recipe box for its special look at the Magic Valley's heritage recipes - recipes from the families that helped settle the land and made this valley grow.

If your family has traditions here and you have a traditional family recipe to share, contact writer Karma Fitzgerald.

- Call: 735-3353
- Send e-mail: karmawrites@velocities.net

Check the attic

The Times-News is looking for old photographs depicting people and scenes from Magic Valley before 1900.

We'd love to share with our readers that treasured print that spent decades in your trunk or scrapbook. Maybe it's Grandfather at the homestead, or Grandmother visiting the falls.

Step by the newspaper office at 132 Third St. W. in Twin Falls to drop off your photograph and tell us what you know about the people in it. We'll scan the photograph while you wait and return it immediately.

Buy a medallion

The Centennial Commission is selling official Twin Falls medallions. The medallions are one Troy ounce of fine silver about the size of an old-fashioned silver dollar. They come specially packaged and plated in 24-karat gold, struck by the Northwest Territorial Mint in Auburn, Wash.

- Cost: \$55 each.
- Available: At Twin Falls branches of First Federal, Wells Fargo, D.L. Evans Bank, Farmers National Bank, Washington Federal Savings Bank, Magic Valley Bank, U.S. Bank and Zions Bank.

T.F. pilot planted trout by air

By Thelma Anne Dean

The first official mountain-lake fish-planting by airplane in Idaho that was known about at the time, 1941, was done by my late husband, Lionel Dean.

Fishing is now, the same as years ago, a grand sport for those who enjoy it. One of the people who thoroughly enjoyed fishing was the late Jack Tingey, owner of the Snake River Trout Farm Fish Hatchery. Mr. Tingey had fished all the streams close by Salmon

Dam, the Snake River, Magic Reservoir, Silver Creek, the Wood River, and had branched out to the lakes in the

Flight in the Magic Valley

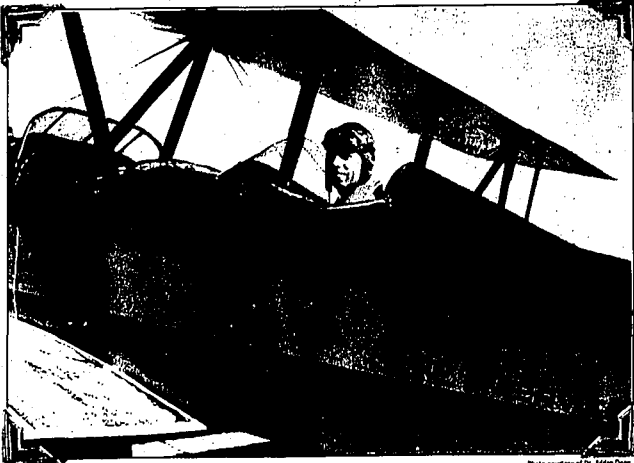
Sawtooth Mountains. Such lakes as Little Redfish, Big Redfish, Stanley, Alturas and Pettit lakes were all good fishing places.

But for the fisherman who wanted to get off the beaten path, who wanted to go horseback riding or hike up to the higher lakes and fish more in private and solitude, Mr. Tingey found the fishing not so good.

Being in the trout fish-hatchery business, Mr. Tingey tried to put small fingerling trout in 10-gallon cans with water, tie the cans on the back of a pack horse and pack them to the upper lakes in the Sawtooth Mountain ranges. He found that the fish were in the cans several hours from the base of preparation before they arrived at the lakes where they were placed. The result was that two-thirds of the fish died in the cans before they ever reached their destination due to lack of oxygen.

In 1938, Mr. Tingey brought his problem to my husband. Since neither Lionel nor Mr. Tingey knew anything about transplanting fish by plane, since no local persons seemed to have had any previous experience in the field, the two men started out to obtain such information elsewhere. They could not find anyone in Idaho or the neighboring states who had any knowledge along this line. Therefore, they had to find out for themselves if the fish could survive the free-fall from the plane to the water.

They decided to do a little experimenting. In August 1938, Mr. Tingey had the 5-gallon fingerlings each in approximately 250 fingerlings each and the balance water. Lionel asked another pilot, (Twin Falls newspaper editor) Gus Kelker, to fly along with him to Clear Lake where the Tingey Trout Farm was located. This



Lionel Dean at the controls of an open-cockpit biplane bearing the name of his Twin Falls auto repair shop in the late 1920s or early 1930s.

farm-hatchery was at the bottom of the wide, deep Snake River Canyon a few miles north of Buhl. In a certain section of this canyon, many clear, cold springs erupt, bubbling out of the lava-rock walls and sandy soil. This water forms several lakes. On this Clear Lake site is where the Snake River Trout Hatchery was located and where the testing of planting fish by plane was to be tried.

Mr. Tingey had 11 boats, with several people in each boat, row out into the shallow portion of one of the lakes and form a 200-foot-diameter circle. Lionel and Gus were to drop the fish from the plane into this circle. The men in the boats were to check the fish after the drop. With Lionel at the plane controls and Gus lifting and pouring the fish out of the 5-gallon cans, they made three passes over the water surrounded by the boats.

One can was emptied at 100 feet altitude, one can was emptied at 200 feet altitude and the third can at 500 feet. At this close range, the men in the boats could see the fish fall very clearly. The water turned to a thin mist, leaving the fish to fall free. However, they did not fall free and straight down into the lake, but flaked back and forth like a falling leaf. The men saw the fish land in the

lake and quickly start swimming away. To everyone's surprise, not a fish was killed.

Among the people in the boats were several state Fish and Game officials, including the department's director at the time, Owen W. Morris. Mr. Morris was very impressed with the experiment and decided to try some airplane fish-planting in some of the Sawtooth Mountain lakes for the Fish and Game department. He asked Lionel if he could make some kind of permanent device in his plane that would carry water and the fish, dump them at the proper time and place and keep them alive in the meantime.

Where to start, how to do it, what kind of material to use, how to make the trip at the bottom of the tank and an opening in the bottom of the plane to coincide? All these things and dozens more faced Lionel. He got together several fellows and Mr. Tingey for jam sessions and when it became too cold to work in the hangar at the airport, he took the back of one side of our garage and started in.

The plane was an open-cockpit Eaglerock biplane with a Wright Whirlwind motor. It was decided to put a tank in the plane with a water pump and fan to aerate the water to give the crowded fish

plenty of air and oxygen. The tank had a large 8-inch dump valve in the bottom that could discharge 5,000 fish and water in five seconds. The tank was made of galvanized tin and was located in front of the pilot in the compartment that was normally used for passengers. After several dry runs, everything seemed ready to go.

In early July 1941, Lionel had a call from Mr. Morris of the Fish and Game department asking if the plane was ready to plant fish. He suggested that Lionel ask another pilot to help who was an exceptionally good pilot, who had nerves of steel, who could and would fly his load of fish over the high mountains, dip down between tall peaks, drop his load in the lovely lake nestled in between, then pull up fast and furious above the rugged terrain and get out before he hit one of the peaks with a wing of the plane. Lionel said he knew only one such pilot, and that was Lamoine Stevens.

In July 1941, Lionel and Lamoine met one morning at 4 o'clock in the Stanley Basin with some Fish and Game conservation officers, fish culturist Burton Perrine, and several other men. At the time there was no regular airstrip in the Stanley Basin. However, J. Paul of New York City

About the author

Thelma Anne Dean was married to Lionel Dean, a pilot who owned the first airplane in Twin Falls (in 1928) and developed the first airport (in 1930). She wrote this piece for an anthology on the history of aviation in Idaho compiled by Wayne White in 1977, with the help of a grant from Boise State University. White ran BSU's aviation management program at the time.

More M.V. flight - A1

owned and operated the Rocky Mountain Dude Ranch a few miles south of the town of Stanley. Out in the valley, Mr. Paul had cleared enough sagebrush to make a landing strip for his own personal use. The strip was only 2,000 feet long and at the altitude of 6,500 feet it was a far from ideal airstrip to operate from. But it was the best in the Stanley Basin and Mr. Paul was kind enough to ask the fish-planting operation to use his field.

For several mornings, as soon as it was light enough to fly, the men would all gather around and load the plane with fish and water and one of the pilots would take off to plant lakes on all sides of the Stanley Basin. By 9:30 a.m., the air was too light and did not have enough lift power, so the operation had to be canceled for the balance of the day. Several mornings, the moon was across the valley on the west side of the Stanley Basin just about ready to go behind the tall mountain peaks when the fellows started loading fish about 4 or 4:30.

Planting fish by airplane in some of those mountain lakes was quite a feat. A lake would be nestled down in a crater-like hole, with mountains on three sides, thereby causing the pilot to fly in from the open side, dump his fish while making a right-about-face turn to fly out through the same entrance that he came in. Other lakes had to be entered from the high mountain side by side-slipping the plane down to within 200 feet of the water, dropping the fish and flying out the lower side of the lake. You can readily see that pilots had to be exceptionally good to do such work.

At that date, July 1941, the Fish and Game department had Lionel and the crew plant 80,000 fingerlings in 38 different lakes.

- from "A History of Aviation in Idaho, 1920-1960" compiled by Wayne E. White (Boise State University)

Strafing varmints: The art of aerial coyote hunting in M.V.

The Times-News

TWIN FALLS - Sheep were still big business in south-central Idaho during the Great Depression, but the big sheep outfits were operating with little margin for error.

And the difference between surviving financially or foundering often came down to how many sheep the local coyotes managed to carry off.

Enter Lamoine Stevens, a Twin Falls boy, and his partner, Grant Kilbourne. Stevens was a barn-stormer turned respectable.

Hired by Jerome, Minidoka, Lincoln and Blaine counties, Stevens and Kilbourne flew five hours a day in a Taylor Cub, shooting coyotes from the air.

They also worked in Twin Falls and Owyhee counties, where individual shepherds paid for their services.

As described by Wayne White in his 1977 anthology "A History of Aviation in Idaho," Stevens and Kilbourne borrowed a 175-horsepower Curtiss Robin Cabin Monoplane.

In 1929, they spent 232 hours in the air, flying from bases in Hailey, Gooding, Twin Falls, Glenns Ferry and Burley. They were so successful that the counties stopped hiring coyote trappers.

Stevens began hunting coyotes on his own after his passenger and student training business dried up during the winter months, flying a low-powered Curtiss pusher biplane and firing

engine, only a little more powerful than that which first lifted the Wright Brothers off the ground in 1903.

So when they had to hunt the high country with its thin air, Stevens and Kilbourne borrowed a 175-horsepower Curtiss Robin Cabin Monoplane.

In 1929, they spent 232 hours in the air, flying from bases in Hailey, Gooding, Twin Falls, Glenns Ferry and Burley. They were so successful that the counties stopped hiring coyote trappers.

Stevens began hunting coyotes on his own after his passenger and student training business dried up during the winter months, flying a low-powered Curtiss pusher biplane and firing

a 12-gauge shotgun.

One day, he shot 14 coyotes and a bobcat in 39 minutes in the air.

To mark a kill, Stevens would toss a 4-foot white parachute out of the plane so he could find the carcasses. L.L. Langdon, a Twin Falls hide buyer, paid him more than \$5 per pel.

The Curtiss pusher was ideal for the job because it didn't use much gas, allowing Stevens to make a profit. In 1937, he tried to round up wild horses by aircraft, but that proved too dangerous.

Stevens came by his derring-do honestly. He had never flown a powered airplane when he bought his first, an American Eagle biplane, in Ogden, Utah, in 1929. After he paid for the plane, he climbed inside and flew it to

Twin Falls, ground-looping when he tried to land here.

But the Eagle survived intact, and Stevens went on to log more than 11,000 hours in the air - and eventually got his pilot's license. Despite his own lack of instruction, Stevens taught hundreds of people to fly during the 1930s and '40s.

Stevens later became manager of the Twin Falls airport, and since the airport was the closest to Sun Valley, he got to know a string of celebrities who passed through.

They included the inscrutable Howard Hughes - another unconventional pilot - who returned to the Magic Valley from time to time to go hunting with Stevens. On the ground.

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