

GOOD MORNING

WEATHER



Today: Mostly cloudy with slight chance of snow today and tonight,

high 28, low 16.

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MAGIC VALLEY

Deadly stats: Fatalities on Idaho's roads in 2003 are likely to hit a 20-year-high.

Page B1

WEST

Around Yellowstone: Resorts adjust to the new federal snowmobile mandates.

Page B4

WEEKEND



War is golden: There may be a real war on, but that hasn't stopped Hollywood from panning for gold with martial epics.

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SPORTS



Horsin' around: USC proves worthy of No. 1 ranking in 28-14 Rose Bowl romp over Michigan.

Page D1

OPINION

Stumping for spuds: Idaho potato growers should defend the dietary benefits of potatoes, today's editorial says.

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COMING UP

Women ministers

Meet the women who stand tall in Magic Valley pulpits.

Saturday In The Times-News

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CHILLED FOR CHARITY

Donations were down slightly for yearly fund-raiser

By Rebecca Meany Times-News writer

TWIN FALLS — Luke Brown put on a pair of snow skis and squatted into position on the dock.

"I saw this in a movie," said the 22-year-old Twin Falls resident. "I was thinking about doing it all summer!" Dressed in snow pants, windbreaker, life-preserver and a helmet, Brown prepared himself for the feat.

"I think it's the perfect time to do it, in the winter," he said. "They were trying to get me to wear a wetsuit, but I said 'If I'm going down, I'm going down like a snow skier.'"

Randy Cox, of Pinetree Sports, maneuvered his Malibu Response boat to drench the dock with water, hoping the slick wood would give lift off to Brown's heavy skis.

Cox straightened out the boat and let it fly. Brown's launch was smooth and he skidded over the water for more than a minute before letting go.

"That was cold water," he said as people pulled him from the river.

And with that, the annual "Freeze on Skis" fund-raiser, held New Year's Day on — and sometimes in — the icy waters of the Snake River at Shoshone Falls, celebrated its 17th year Thursday with an expanded meaning.

The pledge total was \$10,475, down from last year's take of more than \$12,500.

Part of the proceeds this year will go to the animal shelter fund, said John Pohlman, one of the organizers. An emergency medical fund will receive money as well.

"I used to double my pledges every year," said participant Scott Trappen, who raised \$1,002.

"I was going to break the \$1,000 mark," he said. "I was still working it this morning. My brother and sister-in-law put me over the top."

Getting money from his usual contributors proved more difficult, he said.

"A lot of my regular people didn't give this year," he said. "They cringe when they see me come in with my little tan packet. But I just keep at it."

Participant numbers, too, were down from last year, Pohlman said, estimating the number at 15.

"We're going to have to go out there and do a little recruiting," he said.

The spirit and derring-do of the water-skiers, however, was as high as ever.

Cupp Trevino, 18, of Rupert, performed acrobatics on a wake board.

"I like to do crazy things," he said, adding that he donated \$50 to the event.

The sheer spectacle of it all was enough to bring some people out of

Please see FREEZE, Page A2



ASHLEY SMITH/The Times-News



Above, Cupp Trevino, 18, of Rupert, catches air while wake boarding on the Snake River above Shoshone Falls Thursday. Trevino was participating in the Freeze on Skis fund-raiser, an annual event on New Year's Day, which raised \$10,475 this year.

At left, John Pohlman, right, one of the event organizers, and Scott Trappen warm up in a hot tub after skiing in the winter water of the Snake River.

Scientists report oldest evidence yet of humans near Bering land bridge

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — A people who may have been ancestors of the first Americans lived in Arctic Siberia, enduring one of the most unforgiving environments on Earth at the height of the Ice Age, according to researchers who discovered the oldest evidence yet of humans living near the frigid gateway to the New World.

Russian scientists uncovered a

30,000-year-old site where ancient hunters lived on the Yana River in Siberia, some 300 miles north of the Arctic Circle and not far from the Bering land bridge that then connected Asia with North America.

"Although a direct connection remains tenuous, the Yana ... site indicates that humans extended deep into the Arctic during colder (Ice Age) times," the authors wrote in a study appearing this

week in the journal Science.

The researchers found stone tools, ivory weapons and the butchered bones of mammoths, bison, bear, reindeer and hare, all animals that would have been available to hunters during that Ice Age period.

Using a dating technique that measures the ratios of carbon, the researchers determined the arti-

Please see HUMANS, Page A2

Storm slams valley, cutting power, closing highways

By Rebecca Meany Times-News writer

TWIN FALLS — The relative calm of New Year's Day was broken by an evening storm that dumped as much as two feet of snow in some parts of Southern Idaho, causing power outages and dangerous road conditions.

More than 24,000 Idaho Power customers in Southern Idaho were affected by the storm, said Anne

Alenskis, spokeswoman for Idaho Power.

"As the storm rolled across the state, we experienced increased power outages," she said.

Just before 6 p.m., 900 Twin Falls residents were without power, she said. Two hours later, the number reached 4,700. By 9 p.m., 6,300 were without power.

In Gooding, 5,500 people were

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Earth-bound NASA gets ready for Martian jet lag

Red Planet's day adds about 40 minutes to 24-hour routine

By Michael Stroh The Baltimore Sun

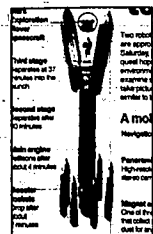
The scientists whose rovers will explore the surface of Mars in January won't be leaving home themselves. But they'll have to get used to a hassle that no jet-lagged Earth traveler has ever faced: living on Martian time.

Starting Saturday, when the first of two National Aeronautics and Space Administration Mars buggies is scheduled to touch down, more than 200 NASA per-

Please see MARS, Page A2



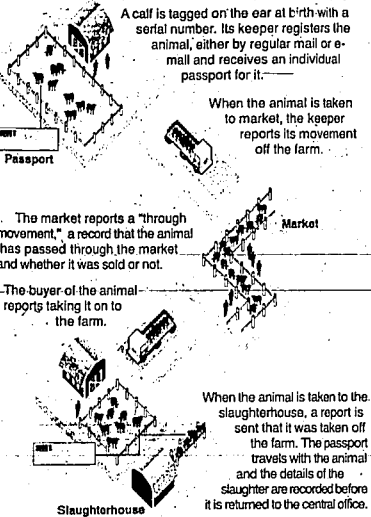
Spacecraft operators Stan Thompson, right, and Sejik Zadorian at work at NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory in Pasadena, Calif.



For a color graphic explaining the Martian mission, and a story on another craft set to fly through a comet's tail, please see page D6.

British beef meets big brother

Cattle industry representatives are advocating a tracking system for cows in the United States. A similar system has been in place in England since 1996. Called the Cattle Tracing System, it involves reporting every animal's movements, from birth to slaughter, to a central database.



SOURCE: National Audit Office of the British House of Commons AP

Senators: Blocking terror funds stalls

WASHINGTON (AP) — The top senators on the powerful Senate Finance Committee are openly questioning a key federal agency's ability to block terrorist money, citing examples in which U.S. officials failed to freeze the money of people identified as terrorist financiers by American allies.

"Other nations rightly look to the United States for leadership and information in the war on terrorism. We should not be playing catch-up," Sens. Charles Grassley, R-Iowa, and Max Baucus, D-Mont., wrote the Treasury Department's

Office of Foreign Assets Control in a letter just before Christmas.

Grassley, the committee chairman, and Baucus, its senior Democrat, cited numerous concerns about OFAC's performance, including evidence of sloppy record keeping, failure to provide required information to Congress and reliance on voluntary compliance by banks to impose sanctions against suspected terrorists.

Though an internal investigation in 2002 recommended OFAC make changes to ensure it has the legal authority to test banks' com-

pliance with sanctions, the agency hasn't taken steps to do so, according to the letter obtained by The Associated Press.

"This leaves OFAC in a position of not knowing what it does not know," the two senators wrote. "While many financial institutions report their own violations when they are detected, we do not have the luxury of assuming that all financial institutions do this."

"The dangers of terrorism financing operating unhindered are too great to take a passive approach," the letter said.

Treasury Department spokeswoman Tara Bradshaw said Wednesday she was unfamiliar with the lawmakers' complaint, and OFAC Director Richard Newcomb was out of town and unavailable for comment.

OFAC is an obscure office that plays a key role in the war on terrorism. It is charged with freezing the bank accounts and other financial assets of countries, companies and individuals who are deemed enemies of the United States — everyone from Saddam Hussein to Osama bin Laden.

Annual parades escort in New Year; others dive into 'polar' swim tradition

The New Year marched in with Mummies in Philadelphia — including paraders dressed as Saddam Hussein and Martha Stewart — while a huge crowd gathered for the Rose Parade marveled at petal-petal spectacles including water-squirting elephants and a bubble-blowing octopus.

Others marched to their own drummers and took part in a different New Year's Day tradition: jumping into bone-chillingly cold water for a quick "polar bear" swim.



A Merry Maker comic struts his stuff as he marches up Broad Street Thursday during the 103rd annual New Year's Day Mummies Parade in Philadelphia. Below, 'Sush!' portrayed by female impersonator Gary Marion of Key West, Fla., sits in an oversized high-heeled shoe after it was lowered early Thursday outside the Bourbon Street Pub in Key West.

But some people had to put their celebrations on hold as a snowstorm hit the West Coast, shutting down a 90-mile stretch of Interstate 5 in Northern California and knocking out power for thousands of people.

About 12,000 elaborately costumed men and women strutted through Philadelphia in the annual Mummies Parade, where many of the string bands strum "Oh Dem Golden Slippers."



This year's party along Broad Street featured people dressed like Philadelphia Flyers hockey players and a shackled Saddam. Stewart, and the FBI bug found in Philadelphia's Mayor John Street's office during the last election campaign, also came in for spoofs from the parasol-waving participants.

"The crowd was very welcoming to us and it felt great," said Peter Broomall, head of the Broomall String Band.

About 800,000 spectators gathered on the streets of Pasadena, Calif., to cheer marching bands and fantastical floats during the 115th annual Tournament of Roses parade.

"I've never been to a big parade before, so it's kind of exciting," said 12-year-old Sydney Brouillette of Lafayette, Ind. Her favorite float was a sunken ship covered with sea animals, including the giant octopus that waved its arms and blew bubbles.

The Grand Marshal's trophy went to the "Springtime Symphony" float, which had eight waterfalls and giant animated woodpeckers, owls and other creatures.

But the most thunderous applause went to military bands and patriotic floats, including one that featured a massive Statue of Liberty and another carrying a statue of Abraham Lincoln made from rice, sesame seed and shredded coconut.

The 23 marching bands, 49 floats and 25 equestrian groups were led by grand marshal John Williams, the conductor who composed the music for "Star Wars" and many other popular films.

The new ban also gave a lift to animal rights activists and consumer groups who had been assigned to the fringes of the mad cow debate. "We've been pushing this for years," said Wayne Pacelle, senior vice president of the Humane Society of the United States.

A "downer" or non-ambulatory cow is any animal unable to stand. Some break legs or injure themselves either on farms or on the way to slaughter, but others may be sick or paralyzed. Bovine spongiform encephalopathy — mad cow disease — turns brain tissue spongy and causes animals to stagger and fall. There is no known cure.

Sen. Dick Durbin, D-Ill., in 2000 and 2002 asked the General Accounting Office, Congress's investigative arm, to check feed company compliance with a Food and Drug Administration regulation prohibiting protein pellets made from the remains of cattle and other ruminants from being fed to cattle. Twice GAO found serious lapses.

In 1997 the Center for Science in the Public Interest began calling for stronger controls to prevent brain and spinal chord tissue from contaminated meat separated from beef bones through a decade-old technology called "advanced meat recovery." The Agriculture Department's own survey this year found that 35 percent of product samples tested in 2002 contained "unacceptable nervous tissues." Tuesday Veneman announced further restrictions on the tissues that can be included in AMR products.

Democrats said the recent failure to enact a ban against slaughtering of downer animals highlighted the tight linkages between the Bush administration, congressional Republicans and the meat lobby. In 2000, the livestock industry contributed \$4.7 million to political campaigns, of which 79 percent went to Republicans.

"Every time you talk about something the government could do, you had opposition," Durbin said. "First the group being regulated was opposed, then the lobbyists and congressional committees and agencies in the federal government. Anything I tried to do was blocked."

The congressional committees overseeing agriculture programs and meat inspection are also dominated by lawmakers from cattle states such as Texas, Nebraska, Kansas and Oklahoma.

Justice criticizes new federal sentencing process

WASHINGTON — Chief Justice William H. Rehnquist blasted Congress in his annual assessment of the courts this week, saying it passed a law that governs the federal sentencing process without consulting any judges.

In his report, Rehnquist said the Protect Act, passed in April to crack down on child-sex crimes, also required federal agencies to track how often judges met out lighter sentences than guidelines suggested.

The law passed "without any consideration of the views of the judiciary," Rehnquist wrote. The

often judges give light sentences, he wrote, could "appear to be an unwarranted and ill-considered effort to intimidate individual judges in the performance of their judicial duties."

Federal judges, he wrote, "are not to be removed from office for their judicial acts."

Rehnquist's comments are the latest salvo in an ongoing battle of words over the role of judges in sentencing. As a way to cut crime, Congress and the Bush administration have been pushing for

tougher sentences while working to temper judges' ability to reduce those sentences as they see fit. The judiciary rambles over constraints on its freedom to sentence.

Rep. James Sensenbrenner, R-Wis., who chairs the House Judiciary Committee, said Congress didn't ignore the judiciary when it passed the Protect Act. He said the amendment that addressed more lenient sentences was "the subject of much debate before and during the conference committee with the Senate as members heard

Dubious distinction: Chicago tops nation in murders in '03

CHICAGO (AP) — Despite a sharp drop in homicides, Chicago has regained a title it didn't want: America's murder capital.

The city finished 2003 with 599 homicides, police said Thursday. That was down from 648 a year earlier and the first time since 1967 that the total dipped below 600.

Still, the nation's third-largest city outpaced all others for the second time in three years. New York, with about three times the population, ended the year with 596 homicides. Los Angeles, which had the most murders in 2002 at 658, wound up 2003 with an estimated total just under 500.

Chicago's new police superintendent, Philip J. Cline, joined colleagues elsewhere in blaming

homicides largely on a volatile mix of gangs, guns and drugs.

But officials pointed to a new system established in June, partly inspired by New York's computerized crime analysis unit, that contributed to an 18 percent drop in Chicago murders in the second half of 2003 compared with a year earlier.

In New York, the unofficial mur-

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der tally of 596 compared with 584 in 2002. That was a 2 percent jump but still made 2003 the city's second straight year below 600 — dramatically less than the 2,245 homicides recorded in 1990.

St. Louis logged its lowest murder total in more than four decades, a showing that police credited to aggressive efforts to track down violent offenders.

WASHINGTON (AP) — After separating from the pack, as the only Democratic presidential candidate to give Howard Dean a late-year run for the money, Wesley Clark is mapping his final sprint to become the Democrats' alternative to Dean.

"It's now clear that I'm one of only two candidates in a position to win the nomination," Clark, a retired general, said in a statement issued Thursday.

"And I'm the only candidate positioned to actually win the election because I am the candidate best able to stand up to George W. Bush and win the debate about who will best be able to make our country secure over the next four years."

President Bush had a 67 percent to 21 percent lead over Dean on who people trust more to handle national security, according to a mid-December ABC-Washington Post poll.

Dean's campaign aides say his strength in a general election campaign is his unique ability to mobilize new voters and his ability to raise money beyond the limits required by taking federal matching funds.

Dean spokesman Jay Carson said the former Vermont governor was the one candidate "who had the good judgment to oppose the war in Iraq when that was not politically popular." Carson said Clark and other candidates taking matching funds will be "flat broke" after the primary campaign and sitting ducks for President Bush.

The president's re-election campaign has already raised more than \$115 million.

South Euclid, Ohio (AP) — Someone who buys lottery tickets in this Cleveland suburb is going to have a prosperous new year. Ditto for ticket buyers in Pennsylvania and South Carolina.

A winning Mega Millions ticket worth \$162 million was sold at a convenience store here, Ohio Lottery spokeswoman said. It was the only ticket in the 11-state jackpot that matched all the numbers in Tuesday night's drawing. The winning numbers were 12, 18, 21, 32 and 46. The Mega Ball number was 49.

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Judiciary Committee considered those views — as articulated in a letter Rehnquist wrote in April — and rejected them, Sensenbrenner said.

Rehnquist's criticism of Congress was the most pointed part of his report, the 18th he submitted since becoming chief justice in 1986. The report details the past year of activity at the Supreme Court and the nation's other federal courts, as well as recapping the year for the administrative and research-based parts of the judiciary, which Rehnquist oversees.

NATION

Bush charts own course throughout his presidency

President initiates number of policies to alter direction of U.S.

By Ron Hutcheon
Knight Ridder News Service



President Bush walks off Air Force One, with his dog Barney, after arriving last week at Texas State Technical College airport in Waco. Bush and his family are spending the New Year's holiday at their Crawford ranch.

WASHINGTON — George W. Bush came to office without a majority of voters behind him, fueling widespread expectations that he would seek to forge a bipartisan coalition and govern cautiously from the center.

Instead he rules as though he had won the White House in a landslide.

He has stamped his mark on America and the world with a big, bold and, in some ways, even radical presidency. Emboldened by self-confidence — critics call it arrogance — Bush has made striking departures from American and Republican traditions.

He's trying to forge a new definition of "conservative," said Lee Edwards, an expert on political philosophy at the Heritage Foundation, a conservative think tank. "Just as Clinton was trying to be a 'new' Democrat, maybe Bush is trying to be a 'new' Republican."

He certainly has charted his own course on foreign policy. Bush scrapped Cold War arms-control agreements, abandoned the global-warming treaty, asserted a doctrine of pre-emptive war against threats that are only potential, not imminent, and defied global opinion to invade Iraq in search of weapons of mass destruction that no one can find.

The "humble" foreign policy that he talked about during the last presidential campaign was replaced by an us-versus-them style that alienated some traditional allies, led by France and Germany, and called into question America's will to work in partnership with others. Around the world, polls show that many fear he's trying to run the world from Washington. He says he's simply providing the leadership the world needs to confront urgent problems that others prefer to duck.

At home, he slashed taxes while watching the \$236 billion federal budget surplus he inherited turn into a \$400 billion annual deficit. Faced with a tough choice between guns and butter — military or domestic spending — Bush chose

both, along with big tax cuts. Overall government spending is up by 16 percent since he took office, due in large part to the war on terrorism and the invasion of Iraq. But even non-defense domestic spending is up 11 percent, according to a recent analysis by the Heritage Foundation.

"This is a different orientation, that government is not necessarily

“ This is a guy who really wants to bring about major change. ”

— George Edwards, Texas A&M University

both, along with big tax cuts. Overall government spending is up by 16 percent since he took office, due in large part to the war on terrorism and the invasion of Iraq. But even non-defense domestic spending is up 11 percent, according to a recent analysis by the Heritage Foundation.

“ said George Edwards III, director of the Center for Presidential Studies at Texas A&M University. “He wants to use government in a conservative way for liberal ends.”

In a move that alarmed fiscal conservatives of every party, Bush expanded Lyndon Johnson's Great Society legacy by adding a big new entitlement — prescription drug coverage — to Medicare. Despite efforts to hold down costs, the change is expected to cost at least \$400 billion over the next 10 years, and many independent experts believe that estimate is dramatically low.

Bush also greatly expanded the federal government's role in education, a remarkable turnaround from Ronald Reagan's call to abolish the Education Department. That was still a GOP crusade less than 10 years ago, when Newt Gingrich led Republicans to cap-

will send federal spending on Social Security and Medicare soaring for decades, making it much harder to avoid deepening government debt.

Forced by the Sept. 11, 2001, terror attacks to put the government on a war footing, Bush also created a Cabinet-level Homeland Security Department in the biggest reorganization of the federal government since World War II.

And, with bipartisan support from Congress in enacting the Patriot Act, Bush's Justice Department is testing the limits of constitutional protections for individual liberties in its zealous pursuit of potential terrorists.

Recent court rulings have overturned the administration's efforts to detain terror suspects without filing charges or giving them access to lawyers. And two federal appellate courts issued separate rulings challenging the administration's treatment of U.S. citizens suspected of terrorism, as well as 600 detainees at the U.S. military base in Guantanamo Bay, Cuba.

Bush has other big plans in the works.

He has served notice that he will continue to push for a producer-friendly federal energy policy, an overhaul of the legal system to discourage lawsuits and legislation to make his tax cuts permanent. Bush is also expected to announce plans to revive the manned spaceflight program with trips to the moon or Mars.

His proposal to privatize Social Security by letting workers invest in the stock market is at the top of his to-do list for a second White House term.

Bush's foreign policy agenda is even more ambitious.

Some influential national-security advisers to Bush's civilian Pentagon leaders, such as Richard Perle, call for U.S. pressure to force regime change in Syria and Iran in addition to the war on terrorism and the reconstruction of Iraq. Bush wants his legacy to include peace between Israelis and Palestinians and the spread of democracy throughout the Middle East.

“ This is a guy who really wants to bring about major change. He's thinking big and bold,” said Edwards, the Texas A&M professor. “ He has squeezed about as much out of the system as you can. He keeps pushing.”

Firms give warming plan chilly response

The Washington Post

WASHINGTON — Two years after President Bush declared he could combat global warming without mandatory controls, the administration has launched a broad array of initiatives and research, yet it has had little success in recruiting companies to voluntarily curb greenhouse gas emissions, according to documents, reports and interviews.

At the heart of the president's strategy is “Climate Leaders,” a program that recruits the nation's industrial polluters to voluntarily devise ways to curb their emissions by 10 percent or more in the coming decade. Scientists believe these greenhouse gas emissions, which include carbon dioxide, methane and nitrous oxide, are contributing to a troubling rise in the earth's temperature that could disrupt weather patterns and cause flooding.

Only a tiny fraction of the thousands of U.S. companies with pollution problems — 50 in all — have joined Climate Leaders.

Industry groups, meanwhile, have crafted their own programs under a Bush administration initiative called “Climate VISION,” but none of the programs requires individual companies to either enlist in the program or set goals for emission reductions.

“ Many of the firms with the worst pollution records have shunned the voluntary programs because even a voluntary commitment would necessitate costly cleanups or possibly could set the stage for future government regulation,” according to industry insiders.

Most of what the administration hopes to accomplish in terms of reduced emissions will not become apparent for many decades to come, experts agree. The president's more immediate goal, announced on Valentine's Day 2002, is to reduce greenhouse gas intensity — the amount of gas put into the atmosphere per unit of economy — by 18 percent over the next 10 years. Congress's research arm, the General Accounting Office, concluded in October that Bush's plan would reduce overall emissions only 2 percentage points below what the nation would achieve with no federal program whatsoever.

EPA led policy shift to ease mercury restrictions on plants

By Eric Plavin
The Washington Post



Jeffrey Holmstead

WASHINGTON — For nearly 21 months, a government task force steadily moved toward recommending rules that within three years would force every coal-fired power plant in the country to reduce emissions of mercury, which can cause neurological and developmental damage to humans. The Environmental Protection Agency-sponsored working group had a well-regarded mix of utility industry representatives, state air quality officials and environmentalists. Without settling on specific emission reductions, the panel agreed that all 1,100 of the nation's coal- and oil-fired power plants must use the “maximum achievable control technology” (MACT) to reduce mercury and other hazardous pollutants.

But in April, the EPA abruptly dismantled the panel. John A. Paul, its co-chairman, said members were given no clue why their work was halted — that is, until late last month, when the Bush administration revealed it was taking an entirely different approach, using a more flexible version of the Clean Air Act.

The new approach would still cost the industry billions of dollars to meet long-term goals. But it was far cheaper and less onerous than the MACT approach that most experts had assumed the EPA was developing to meet a court-imposed deadline of Dec. 15.

The administration's alternative plan would technically downgrade the danger of mercury pollution; grant utility companies 10 more years to develop and install new anti-pollution equipment; and launch a cap-and-trade system that would allow utilities to buy emissions “credits” from lesser-polluting companies to meet an overall industry target, a cap, without having to install new scrubbers or anti-pollution equipment on every plant.

The proposed rule mirrored President Bush's “Clear Skies” legislation, which was stalled in Congress, and would regulate mercury pollution along with two less

toxic air pollutants, sulfur dioxide and nitrogen oxide. Mike Leavitt, the new EPA administrator, said the approach would provide “the largest air pollution reductions of any kind not specifically mandated by the Congress.” But some task force members were shocked and angered.

“ It is as though the working group never existed,” said Paul, supervisor of Ohio's Regional Air Pollution Control Agency. “ Just when we think we have a process in action to control mercury from every power plant, they walk away from it.”

“ It was a huge decision that demonstrated that (the EPA's) desire wasn't to regulate mercury in the way that Congress and a federal advisory committee and other stakeholders had anticipated,” added panel member S. William Becker, executive director of a bipartisan association of state air quality officials.

EPA and White House officials say their approach is actually “greener” than the one prescribed by Congress and considered by the working group. In the long run, they say, it will encourage development of mercury-removal technologies beyond existing techniques envisioned under MACT, offer utilities economic incentives to continuously reduce mercury emissions, and cover emissions from plants to be built, although new facilities are likely to use clean-burning natural gas, not coal.

But critics accuse the White House and its allies in the utility industry of subverting a process involving one of the most toxic chemicals known, which once airborne can pollute rivers, lakes and oceans and penetrate the food chain. John Stanton of the National Environmental Trust, a member of the working group, said the administration's decision

marks “really a fundamental shift in the recognition of the threat posed by mercury to the very most susceptible,” including the fetuses of pregnant women who eat mercury-tainted fish.

Stanton and other environmentalists charge that by shifting the regulations from the rigorous Section 112 of the Clean Air Act, crafted by Congress to deal with the most hazardous pollutants, to the more permissive Section 111, the administration will excuse the utility industry from controlling more than 60 other toxins associated with the burning of coal and allow power plants to continue polluting for another decade. “ This is a case of politics polluting science,” Stanton said.

Some critics blamed White House political adviser Karl Rove, Office of Management and Budget regulatory experts or Vice President Cheney's office for dictating the new policy. In fact, the regulatory turnaround was engineered by Jeffrey R. Holmstead, the EPA senior air quality official and a former industry lawyer, who is little known outside a circle of government regulators and utility industry executives.

Holmstead had been a scholar with a libertarian group that advocated market solutions to environmental problems and a partner at the Washington law firm Latham & Watkins, which has represented electric power companies and other industries before Congress. He was associate counsel to President George H.W. Bush, with primary focus on environmental issues.

Neither Leavitt nor Christine Todd Whitman, when she was EPA administrator, played a significant role in developing the mercury rule, backed by Holmstead, although Leavitt became a strong advocate of the overall cap-and-trade approach during last-minute high-level meetings, said a Leavitt aide.

“ I was the one who started talking about (the approach) about a year ago. Holmstead confirmed it in a recent interview. “ I can assure you that no one on the industry side ever spoke about it.”

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Coming soon: The gigabytes of politics

At least since Joe McGinnis' classic book "The Selling of the President" about the 1968 presidential campaign, it has been a staple of conventional wisdom that political campaigns and consultants borrow the best techniques of Madison Avenue.

But with the rise of paid advertising on the Internet, there has been for some time now a conspicuous gap between the political world and the corporate world. Even though online advertising has become a settled part of the media strategy of mainstream companies and advertising agencies, it has remained a relatively isolated phenomenon in politics.

That is about to change dramatically. All indications are that as the 2004 presidential race gets under way in earnest in the months ahead we will see an explosion of paid political advertising online.

The Supreme Court's recent ruling on campaign finance may be the spark that ignites the fire of online political advertising. The McCain-Feingold law bans corporations, unions and interest groups from using certain funds on behalf of a political candidate in the period shortly before an election, but the ban applies only to TV and radio. The court upheld this ban and rejected claims that it impermissibly favors the Internet. But even without this advantage, the case for online political advertising would be extremely strong.

In 2003, we witnessed the unprecedented use of the Internet as an effective tool for political organizing and fund raising, particularly by the Howard Dean campaign. It's only a matter of time before campaigns realize it will do the same for advertising.

The facts about corporate adoption of online advertising are overwhelming. Despite the boom and bust of the Internet bubble, total online advertising in 2003 exceeded \$6 billion. Online advertising at leading media sites has jumped almost 40 percent this year. During the heat of the Internet craze, fly-by-night Internet companies were spending heavily on Web advertising. Now, the big spenders are hotels, car companies, insurance companies, airlines, retailers and on and on through the largest sectors of the economy.

The reasons are simple and straightforward. More than 140 million Americans are online. Many use the Internet at work. Daytime is prime time for the Internet. Internet advertising allows the advertiser to reach people at an important time of day on a scale that no other

CLIFF SLOAN

medium can match. Online advertising also offers unique opportunities. In an age of fragmented television audiences and increasing use of commercial zappers such as TiVo, online advertising reaches a user who is on-task at his or her computer screen. Many sites gather enough demographic information about their viewers for ads to be precisely targeted by ZIP Code, age and gender. There is no waste in parts of the market that are not the target.

I predict that in the coming election season, viewers will be regularly seeing political ads on the Internet. When you go to any high-quality news and information site, chances are you will see a large, colorful political ad integrated into the page you're viewing or perhaps even a video ad that is the same high quality as a TV ad. And the ad probably will be far more targeted at your personal interests than a typical TV or radio ad — aimed at your community, or at young parents, or at working women.

Imagine the benefit of this for the Bush campaign or the Democratic nominee. Concerned about 10 key states? Target a flood of online ads on the ZIP Codes and demographic groups that may tip the balance there. Facing a gender gap? Target online ads directly on the gender you're trying to reach.

Online ads will be especially appealing to the political community because they can be put up quickly and changed on the fly, even allowing a response in real time to breaking news or an opposing candidate's charges.

Notably, studies have shown that Internet users overwhelmingly vote, contribute and get involved in campaigns.

Despite all these advantages, there is some resistance to online advertising. Consultants are comfortable with the way they have done campaigns and are not eager to try something new. Corporate advertisers and their agencies similarly were skeptical two years ago. But in the end, they did not want to lose the advantage to their competitors. That's why, as with the use of other media, the gap between the political world and the corporate world will close in the months ahead. There's no other choice.

Cliff Sloan is general counsel and a vice president of WashingtonPost.Newsweek Interactive.

Letter was an unnecessary swipe at Sen. Clinton

Mike Simmons, your Christmas letter was cruel and uncalled for. Look to yourself, Mike; you may not like what you see. AFTON SCOFIELD Twin Falls

Politicians betray the voters on Immigration

The most evil thing on planet earth is government. The second most evil thing on planet earth is the American politician! A good example is illegal immigration!

According to the General Accounting Office, politicians have allowed 21 million illegal immigrants into the United States in the last 20 years. The American voter voted these people into office to protect our border from illegal immigrants, but instead they have allowed them to invade our country.

In my opinion as a veteran of World War II, these politicians should be tried for treason! I have been a GOP voter since 1948! I'll not vote Republican

LETTERS

Write to us

The Times-News welcomes letters from readers on subjects of public interest. Because of space constraints, please limit letters to 400 words. Include your signature, mailing address and telephone number. Writers who sign letters with

false names will be permanently barred from publication. Letters may be brought to our Twin Falls or Burley office; mailed to P.O. Box 548, Twin Falls, ID 83303; faxed to (208) 734-5538; or e-mailed to letters@mgj-valley.com.

again ever! I will vote third party or stay home. WAYNE WHITTEKIEND Wendell

Seniors appreciate CSI fitness courses

Older folks can thank the College of Southern Idaho for its Over 60 and Getting Fit exceptional exercise program. Besides the usual flexibility and resistance training, the class meets the specific needs of seniors.

We exercise our insides through laughter, improve memory with listening skills and add that extra touch with back rubs. Stress diminishes with a dose of tai-chi. Three times a week, fun, perky instructors bring out the

youth in us. Our social circle widens and quality of life improves.

I urge everyone eligible to take advantage of this no-cost class sponsored by CSI, the Idaho Office of Aging, Buhl and Shoshone School districts and the Jerome and Rupert Recreation departments. Thanks. We need this. CATHY WILSON Buhl

Try a flat tax, and get rid of property taxes

Reference: Article on flat taxes First, I agree with eliminating the IRS and the elimination of tax forms and tax filing by the American citizens. These things are too time consuming, expen-

sive and complicated. I like to think of using the sales tax as the collection method. A flat rate that applies evenly to everyone. No tax on necessities (air, water, food or medicine). No dual collection by federal, state and local governments.

Each state would collect the percentage required to run local, state and federal governments. The states would take their share and forward the others their shares.

People who have the most spend the most. People who spend the most would pay the most.

I believe that property tax is unfair too. I have read too many horror stories concerning this tax. It is the most costly to collect. Eliminate it, too!

Accordingly, schools should be funded evenly by a "per student" rate. Buildings, grounds and whatever should be uniform. The federal department of education should advise and assist as necessary.

Much simpler. Less costly. RAY L. MANLEY Buhl



New Year's Revolution!

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With new 2-yr. agreement per phone. While supplies last. Shipping supplies apply.

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Get one FREE!



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Grand Teton Mall
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Bernard Crossroads
1402 N. Eagle Rd.
Corner of Fairview & Eagle
208-895-0103

TWIN FALLS
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New Barnes & Noble
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Promos and prices vary by retailer.



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Rising sense of risk gives us a sense of community

Some people may be more than lightly disturbed by all the violence that surrounds us, either a result of natural catastrophe or the workings of the human mind. Old Mother Nature is always ready to suddenly snuff out thousands in, say, an earthquake or sweep of war. If not that way, then through a disease like AIDS.

Then there is humankind, which has been competing with nature to see how well our species can measure up or exceed natural phenomena when it comes to killing. At least since World War I, the bodies have been stacking up in larger and larger numbers, going over the 50 million mark during World War II but stacking off in its wake because nuclear weapons have held us in check, forcing expressions of animosity to be financed through small conflicts (some of which blow up in our faces) rather than global warfare.

We now see armed camps all over the world in which children kill with no compunction, sometimes firing off weapons that seem too big for them to hold. The financing of small or large conflicts, the business of weapons sales, or the tribes between ideologies or struggles have created international death squads of both right- and left-wing persuasions.

The dead play the same role that they have always played in these dramas. They give numbers to the nature of specific threats in particular locales. This spreads to the tourist agencies, which have the worst people that they place or that has become of limits to travelers due to a murder rate that has gotten out of hand.

Of course, we seem to have

STANLEY CROUCH

developed in our midst a type of criminal who is not new to the world but now appears as normal as poisonous snakes are to certain rivers: the serial killer. Once the profile for such a person was white male, blah, blah, blah, but I recently saw a black man on New Orleans television who had been linked by DNA to the murders of about five women. And, of course, there was the D.C. sniper team of John Muhammad and Lee Malvo. Integration is all.

We've now got mad cow and the red or orange terrorist alerts. Some meat might do you in, or you might be the victim of an Islamic fundamentalist nut, who is a cousin in brutality to the type represented so well by Timothy McVeigh.

But when we follow the international chain of corpses destroyed by nature — or far more often by other people — I have to say, finally, life is a tragic affair in which we wage war against pain and death. That is the story of civilization.

It is only because we have the idea of universal humanity so firmly in place that we are so disturbed by the deaths of others that we hear reported on a daily basis. No longer are they merely numbers, digits of corpses from another culture. It no longer matters. We know that they are human beings.

And that, my friends, is a bitter-sweet victory to build upon.

Stanley Crouch is a columnist for the New York Daily News, 450 West 33rd Street, New York, N.Y. 10001; e-mail:

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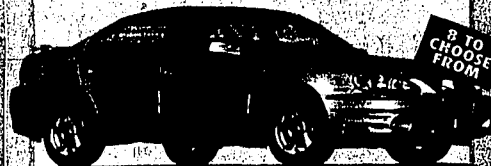
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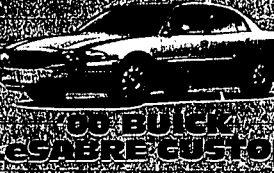
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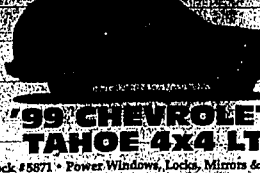
'03 FORD RANGER QUAD CAB 4X4

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Smart Buy **\$17595**



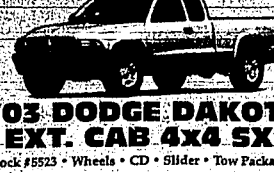
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MAGIC VALLEY

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

The Times-News

Friday, January 2, 2004

Section B

AROUND THE VALLEY

Fairfield forest ranger retires today

FAIRFIELD - Fairfield Forest Ranger Gary Fullmer is retiring today after a 36-year career in public service.

Fullmer's federal career has spanned five national forests in four states. He worked for four years with the Bureau of Land Management in Burley and for the BLM in Arizona. Fullmer also served three years in the U.S. Army. Fullmer, 63, has been the Fairfield District ranger for the Sawtooth National Forest since July 1994 after returning to Idaho from Arizona. He was the Middle Fork District ranger on the Challis National Forest in the 1980s. Among his accomplishments in Fairfield: participating with other agencies in procuring federal funds to establish a health clinic; road maintenance achievements through an agreement with Camas County; working through tough situations with ranchers and regulatory agencies over bull trout; restoring the Baumgartner Campground to a safe and enjoyable family camping area; and working with the Idaho Department of Fish and Game to resolve elk feeding conflicts.

Fullmer's successor has not been selected. Forest Supervisor Ruth Monahan said an acting ranger will be appointed in January.

Most offices, businesses will be open today

TWIN FALLS - Most offices, agencies and places of business will be open today. Here's a list of what's open:

- Most city, county, state and federal offices will be open.
- Banks will be open.
- The Twin Falls Public Library will be open from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.
- The YMCA/Twin Falls Municipal Swimming Pool will be open for scheduled lap swimming and from 1 to 4 p.m. and 6 to 8 p.m. for open swim.
- The U.S. Post Office will be open.
- The Magic Valley Mall will be open.
- Major grocery stores, including Albertsons, Smith's, Swenmart and Swensen's, will be open.

Forest Service seeks job applicants

TWIN FALLS - Applications are now available for people who are interested in firefighting and other seasonal jobs with the Sawtooth National Forest.

The Forest Service will fill a number of firefighting posts for the 2004 season, the forest office announced. Engine crews, Hot Shots and helicopter crews are needed. Other seasonal jobs include timber marking, trail maintenance, wildlife habitat surveys and recreation and range jobs.

The forest generally hires between 20 and 30 seasonal employees. The number varies depending on how many seasonal employees return.

The forest will have an informational booth open from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. Monday and Tuesday at the Magic Valley Mall near the food court. Applications will be available.

An open house will be held from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Jan. 10 at the forest headquarters at 2647 Kimberly Road E. in Twin Falls. Personnel will be on hand to provide information.

More information is available online at www.fs.fed.us/4/sawtooth or by calling 737-3320.

Compiled from staff reports

Snowpack levels

Watershed	% of Avg.	% season
Upper Snake River	710%	44%
Salmon Falls	127%	45%
Balmon	104%	40%
Oakley	131%	45%
Big Wood	106%	41%
Little Wood	117%	43%
Heavy Fork/Teton	130%	49%
Big Lost	109%	41%
Little Lost	82%	37%

As of Jan. 1

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

Fatality count looks grim

Final numbers for 2003 won't come in for a few months

By Pat Murphy
Times-News correspondent

HAILEY - The really bad news about Idaho's traffic accidents in 2003 ironically won't be fully known until well into 2004, when a mountain of statistics flowing into the state Transportation Department from local and state agencies are finally compiled and

analyzed. But the news already was grim: By New Year's Eve, fatalities on state roads and highways are believed to have surpassed the decade's high of 278 set in 2000. Idaho State Police spokesperson Rick Olshman said that two new confirmed fatalities in recent days have brought the total to 280, and a child critically injured in an accident may become a statistic in the fatality column. Moreover, he said, the state can count any 2003-accident victim who dies in the first 30 days of 2004 as a 2003 statistic.

The eight counties in the Magic Valley area recorded 25 fatality accidents investigated by Idaho State Police in 2003 - some of which could involve several fatalities in a single accident. But those 25 do not include accidents investigated by sheriff's departments or local city police, whose statistics were not immediately available. In 2002, there were 43 fatality accidents in the eight counties resulting in 54 deaths. One of the worst 2003-records was in Blaine County, where Sheriff Walt Fleming reported 14

road deaths for 2003 compared to only three in 2002. Idaho's worst year for traffic fatalities was 1981, when 293 died on state roads. Olshman pointed out, however, that the rate of road fatalities in Idaho - that is, the number of deaths per 100 million miles driven - has been higher than the national average. Nationally, 1.5 persons died per 100 million miles in 2002, while in Idaho the rate was 1.8 persons. That rate could go even higher

Please see FATALITIES, Page B3

Elk require haven

Officials close areas to protect wintering animals

The Times-News

KETCHUM - The Sawtooth National Forest is closing areas in the Warm Springs Creek drainage above Ketchum to protect wintering elk.

Cross-country skiers, snowmachiners and snowshoers are asked to stay off the south-facing slopes in the Warm Springs area, a Forest Service news release said.

"Deep snow is forcing elk down into the drainage bottoms in search of food and shelter. The presence of people in these areas causes the animals to move, expending energy and strength that they need to conserve to survive the winter," Ketchum District Ranger Kurt Nelson said.

The closure includes National Forest Lands from Dollar and Penny lakes east into Ketchum. Signs will be posted at the closure area. Idaho Department of Fish and Game and Forest Service personnel will continue to monitor the situation. If needed, the closure may be extended west from the Dollar and Penny lakes to the West Fork of Warm Springs.

The closure will remain in effect until the snow melts and elk have more areas free of snow that are away from roads and canyon bottoms.

- Here are a few tips from the Fish and Game Department on living with wildlife:
- Store feed, hay and grain in a shed or building.
 - Wrap shrubs with burlap, or fence around them, to prevent wildlife from feeding on them.
 - Report large herds of congregated wildlife to Fish and Game.
 - Do not feed wildlife, even just a few, for more will be sure to follow.
 - Drive with caution and watch for wildlife.
 - Keep dogs kenneled or chained.
 - Keep a safe distance from wildlife. If they move, you're too close.
 - Small critters also can cause problems. Here are additional tips:
 - Place garbage in covered containers.
 - Don't feed pets outside at night. When night comes, bring food dishes inside.
 - Place bird feeders on metal poles.
 - Clean up wood, brush and garbage piles near the home.
- For more information on living with wildlife, contact Fish and Game at 324-4359.



Dave Utley, left, and his wife, Marcy, embrace as confetti falls down at midnight during The Centennial New Year's Gala at the Magic Valley Mall.

Centennial year begins on right foot

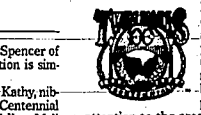
By Megan Hinds
Times-News writer

TWIN FALLS - Steve and Kathy Spencer of Jerome say their new year's resolution is simple.

"We're never moving again," said Kathy, nibbling on an hors d'oeuvre at the Centennial New Year's Gala at the Magic Valley Mall Wednesday night.

The Spencers relocated to Jerome from Sacramento, Calif., in August, and say they now consider the Magic Valley their home. They chose to attend the gala to learn more about the history of their new surroundings.

"The history here is amazing," Steve said. "I really didn't know how important the Snake River was to this area. I don't think lots of people realize it."



happen like this in many communities," Kathy added, gesturing to the people making their way to the mall's center court to nab a piece of centennial birthday cake. "A lot of places, people don't pay attention to the area's history. This is neat."

Sharon Thomas and Fran Best of Twin Falls sat at a table nearby, waiting for the unveiling of the statue of L.B. Ferrine. The women said they came to the gala to people-watch. On any other New Year's Eve, Thomas said, she'd just as soon stay home.

"We thought this would be different than the usual activities," Thomas said. "It's just nice to know that there are lots of people who want to come out to something like this."

The event that culminated at midnight kicked off the beginning of a 12-month celebration of Twin Falls' centennial year. And then there were resolutions.

Thomas' New Year's resolution was "to live a good, healthy life in the next year." But Best was more pessimistic - or perhaps more realistic.

"I don't make resolutions," Best said. "Resolutions are made to be broken."

Bonnie Lezamis, executive



John Wiseman, 7, shown in the foreground, holds his head up while listening to Alton Patrick tell stories of the early days in Twin Falls.

Gary Wright, left, and his wife, Catherine, dance to the music of the Twin Falls Centennial Orchestra.

New Year's babies arrive in 2004

The Times-News

TWIN FALLS - Magic Valley welcomed two of its newest citizens Thursday.

The first birth of the new year was reported at Magic Valley Regional Medical Center at 5:27 a.m. No information was available Thursday from hospital staff on the baby or the baby's family.

The little one received a bundle of gifts from the hospital and area businesses.

Cassia Regional Medical Center welcomed Harley Ann Terrell into the world at 6:13 a.m. on Jan. 1. Harley was born to Billy and Jennifer Terrell of Paul and weighed in at 6 pounds, 1 ounce.



Harley Ann Terrell, born 6:13 a.m. Jan. 1, is pictured with parents Billy and Jennifer Terrell, of Paul, and big sister Alesha.

Neither St. Benedict's Family Medical Center nor Gooding County Memorial Hospital had any deliveries as of Thursday evening.

No information was available from St. Luke's Wood-River Medical Center.

Rupert system upgrade requires brief power outage

By Shelley Ridenour
Times-News writer

RUPERT - The electric supply to about 200 homes and businesses in Rupert is scheduled to be turned off for about three hours immediately after midnight Sunday.

Electricity should be back on no later than 3 a.m. Sunday, the city's electric department operations superintendent said.

The outage will affect all properties south of Oneida and the area between A and C streets north of Oneida up to and including 10th Street, electric department Operations Superintendent Jim Bowers said.

United Electric customers west of Rupert between 100 West and 400 West will be affected by the outage.

City employees are going door-to-door to notify business that will be affected, Bowers said.

The outage is necessary so that the Haymill electric substation can be upgraded, Bowers said. That substation is owned by the city of Rupert and United Electric. The Sunday morning work will be done by a private company - Caribou Construction of Jerome.

Workers will de-energize the substation, ground out the power lines and then remove some parts, Bowers said. The lights can be turned back on them, and work can continue on the de-energized lines.

The work site will be lit with spotlights from the city and United's truck fleets.

The project might take less than the full three hours, but that's no way to know that in advance, he said.

Once the substation is upgraded, it will have adequate capacity.

Please see POWER, Page B3

If people aren't sure if their home or business will be affected, they may call City Hall at 436-9600 or United Electric at 679-2222 to find out.

Relatives of crash victims hold conference

SALT LAKE CITY (AP) — Relatives of six people killed in a motorhome accident in Utah held a news conference with surviving family members and thanked all those who have shown support and compassion.

Joel Hill, the family's spokesman, told the news conference Wednesday at LDS Hospital that his family has felt the love and prayers of everyone, from the hospital staff to a Utah motorist who passed the scene of the accident and sent one of the survivors an e-mail of support.

"Salt Lake City has been absolutely tremendous to us," he said, adding that Utah people were mourning with the family. "Absolutely every single one of you are breaking down."

Mark and Margerie Mattila of

West Richland, Wash., and their four youngest children were killed Sunday when their rented motorhome went off an Interstate 15 overpass near Draper, a Salt Lake suburb, and smashed into an embankment.

Investigators do not know what caused the vehicle driven by the father to go off the highway, but have speculated wind may have been a factor.

The family was returning home after a holiday vacation in Arizona. Killed in addition to Mark Mattila 41, and Margerie, 35, a native of Rindge, N.H., were their children Max, 7; Katie, 6; Marci, 4; and Adam, 5 months. Survivors were Brent, 12, who remained in critical condition at Primary Children's Medical Center; Misty, 18; Jordan, 14; and Shane, 9.

One other child, Curt, 17, had remained in Washington to play basketball in a church league.

The news conference was attended by four of the children, including Curt. He and several friends and relatives were flown by a chartered plane to Salt Lake City.

They comforted the children as they cried during the news conference. Shane was taken from the press conference shortly after it started because he was crying uncontrollably.

"We just can't understand why," said Hill, a brother of Margerie. "We cried. We mourned. We hurt."

The Hills will assume guardianship of the underage Mattilas, he said.

He thanked paramedics for their fast response, personnel at all the hospitals, the motorist who e-

mailed Misty, motel employees for helping the family and friends find somewhere to stay, news organizations who have told the family's story without invading their privacy and Utah people for their continued prayers.

He told of one nurse who searched repeatedly until she could replace Misty's glasses, which were lost in the accident.

Now, the family plans to move on with their lives, he said. Jordan will go to a hockey tournament this weekend, Shane will take hockey lessons and the family will continue to support Curt at his basketball games.

Funeral services will be held in Vancouver, Wash., on Jan. 8. A fund has been established for the survivors at U.S. Bank.

Weather may cause teams to halt search for bodies

SALT LAKE CITY (AP) — Search teams may have to wait until spring to recover the bodies of two snowboarders swept up a week ago by a series of avalanches in Provo Canyon.

High winds and more snowfall kept searchers off the mountain for a fourth day on Thursday, and a sheriff's deputy said the bodies may not be found for months.

The body of one snowboarder, Mike Hebert, 19, of Orem, was recovered on Sunday, but harsh weather has kept rescue teams from returning to look for the two others.

Another three feet of snow has fallen since all three were swept up by four slides on Friday in a major avalanche path that funnels down 11,000-foot Elk's Peak.

More snow was forecast overnight Thursday and high winds were loading ridgetop cornices, "making the avalanche danger even more extreme for rescuers," sheriff's deputy Dennis Harris told The Associated Press. "The weather forecast doesn't look good for the next several days."

Rod Newbury, 20, Pleasant Grove, and Adam Merz, 18, Orem, are presumed buried and dead under as many as 35 feet of snow and layers of almost impenetrable ice caused by the friction of the slides.

Searchers have broken metal shovels and aluminum poles looking for the snowboarders.

The prospects for recovery are diminishing with each snowfall, Harris said. "We're feeling very bad for the families. We can't imagine the difficulties they must be going through now."

Although the bodies may not be recovered until spring, Harris said rescue teams will return to the mountain when it's safe, if only for "training purposes."

Bad weather also has kept helicopters from dropping explosive snow and make it safer for rescue teams.

The snowboarders were not carrying shovels or avalanche beacons despite traveling in what one expert called one of the Wasatch Mountains' most dangerous avalanche chutes.

Hebert was the second confirmed avalanche fatality in Utah in 2003. The statewide total for avalanche-related deaths since 1951 will reach 73 if Merz and Newberry are added.

An estimated 10,000 avalanches occur in Utah each year, with about 100 of those unintentionally triggered by humans.

About 20 people are caught in avalanches every year.

WRONG WAY



Idaho Department of Transportation technicians Scott Christenson, left, and Elaine Newsom fix a fallen road sign Thursday at an entrance to Interstate 86 in Chubbuck. I-89 was closed from Chubbuck to Raft River and Interstate 15 was closed from the Pocatello Creek entrance to Blackfoot due to gusting winds and heavy snowfall Thursday afternoon.

Resident says de-icer pollutes lake

TWIN LAKES (AP) — Bill Morris has watched piles of road snow get pushed into the lower Twin Lake for the past four years.

Snow is pushed off the roads down to the boat dock and into the water.

"Every year about two weeks after the thaw, you can see a thick oil film on top of the lake," said Bill Morris, a Twin Lakes resident. "We have a lot of kids swimming and taking fish out of this lake every summer. This is something that they don't even allow to happen in Alaska near the Arctic Ocean, and that's a lot bigger than our little Twin Lakes."

Morris, after calling various county and state officials, turned to the Idaho Department of Environmental Quality. The

department could start looking into the matter next month.

A site visit will be made and then the office can make a decision on the next step, said June Bergquist, regional water quality compliance officer with the department.

The department allows certain areas of the Silver Valley to dispose of snow into the river.

"It's basically an education issue and you don't typically see it except in the Silver Valley," Bergquist said. "Even in the Silver Valley, they're only allowed to dispose of clean snow into the river. Nothing that has litter, road debris or de-icing substances."

Bergquist said highway crews shouldn't contaminate surface water with dirty snow.

The Lakes Highway District —

the agency responsible for snow removal in the area — did not return calls.

A former Alaska resident, Morris said many states prohibit snow disposal in ground water sources.

A 1990 study done by the South Dakota Department of Water and Natural Resources found that roadway snow can despoil lakes and streams and aquatic life.

But Dave Jones, a member of the Pacific Northwest Snowfighters and an operations manager with the Idaho Transportation Department, said that when large amounts of snow are piled in an area, dilution occurs and any impact is benign.

"Only testing will find out what is going on after the snow is gone," Jones said.

Non-profit groups assist public schools

NAMPA (AP) — Private foundations in Caldwell and Nampa are picking up where state funding leaves off for local public schools.

The nonprofit organizations administer scholarships and fund classroom programs, but leaders of both groups say they would like to do more.

Bill Gigray III, president of the Caldwell Foundation for Educational Opportunity, said the foundation has set aside funds for programs including fine arts, teacher assistance, transportation, athletics, parenting help for students who have their own children, and special equipment for students with disabilities.

But the foundation has several other interests and many remain unfunded.

"It's very, very broad and intently so," Gigray said. "Things come up that you can help with."

The foundation's transportation fund — started by Caldwell Transportation Co. — helps pay for special trips for the high school choir and other school groups.

"I'm amazed with a \$300,000 federal grant, Ada County is starting to work on preserving part of the Oregon Trail between Idaho 21 near Columbia Village subdivision and Bonneville Point. Development and misuse of the land in the area threatens to wipe out what remains of the settlers' exodus to Oregon."

Grant will help Ada County preserve Oregon Trail

BOISE (AP) — Just a few steps from an unmarked parking lot in Boise, a remnant of American history remains.

The ruins of the Oregon Trail mark the journeys of settlers who followed the path by foot and wagon more than 150 years ago.

But sections of the trail, which are listed in the National Register of Historic Places, have been torn up by four-wheelers and other vehicles. A home has been built on one portion of the trail.

Armed with a \$300,000 federal grant, Ada County is starting to work on preserving part of the Oregon Trail between Idaho 21 near Columbia Village subdivision and Bonneville Point.

Development and misuse of the land in the area threatens to wipe out what remains of the settlers' exodus to Oregon.

Much of the trail is already on public land. But with the grant money, the county will try to buy about 1.5 miles of trail that crosses private land.

"It's some of the best preserved Oregon Trail near an urban center in the country," said Suzi Neitzel, deputy historic preservation officer.

But being close to a growing city could be the bane of the ruins, as well. A place on the Register of Historic Places does not guarantee protection. Private landowners may do as they please as long as there is no federal involvement in the project.

"As development creeps out there," Neitzel said, "we're not going to have any trail left."

The county's effort has the support of the Idaho State Historical Society and Oregon Trail history buffs.

TV newsmen faces molestation charges

SEATTLE (AP) — A television news reporter has been arrested by King County sheriff's deputies on a charge of lewd conduct with a minor in Latah County, Idaho.

Eric Cannavaro, 36, has been suspended by pay by KIRO-TV of Seattle while the case pending.

KIRO-TV news director Helen Swenson said Cannavaro formerly worked for KXLY-TV in Spokane.

Cannavaro was arrested by U.S. marshals Tuesday evening at his home in Seattle's Lower Queen Anne neighborhood, after

the Latah County Sheriff's Department issued a warrant for his arrest. He appeared Wednesday before a judge who set bail at \$5,000.

A boy, 14, from Genesee, Idaho, told police that Cannavaro fondled him several times during a four-year period, beginning when he was 9.

According to Latah County court records, the boy told police the incidents occurred when Cannavaro, a family friend, was "staying at his home and sleeping in the same room."

Leona Wood, KXLY-TV's news director, said Cannavaro left KXLY in the winter of 2002.

Cannavaro is a graduate of Brigham Young University, received a master's degree in political science from the University of Idaho and spent seven years working at KXLY.

Latah County Prosecuting Attorney Bill Thompson said the charges against Cannavaro stem from an investigation that began in July 2003, after the boy and his father went to police.

Gala

Continued from B1

director of the Twin Falls Centennial Commission and lead gala planner, spent a good portion of the evening barefoot.

Lezanz had carefully constructed a shimmering black ensemble for the evening's festivities. However, in a last-minute shopping rush to prepare for the event, she ended up with two tight shoes.

"I wore them for a while, even though they were killing me," Lezanz explained. "But I went ahead and took them off."

As the clock ticked away the minutes to midnight, a crowd of about 1,000 gathered at the mall's center court. Kent just, the executive director of the Twin Falls Area Chamber of Commerce, led the crowd in the final countdown. At the stroke of midnight, cannons exploded confetti into the air as the Twin Falls Centennial Dance Orchestra played "Auld Lang Syne" to a crowded dance floor.

Director Brian Farnon had words of advice for the dissipating crowd.

"Be very careful driving home tonight, ladies and gentlemen," Farnon joked, "because the band's walking."



Magic Valley Mall manager Brent White removes chairs from the center court floor of Center Court during clean-up after the gala.

Magic Valley New Year's Resolutions

"I just hope I can improve my time management." — Twin Falls Mayor Lance Clow

"To travel more this year." — Terry Barnes, Burley

"To get into shape and ride horses as much as possible." — Gloria Bastian, Twin Falls

"To be more organized." — Tom Barnes, Burley

"The only thing I want is peace throughout the world." — Betty Shriver, Twin Falls

Fatalities

Continued from B1

if the numbers of deaths increase but fewer miles are driven.

Ohsman as well as Transportation Department spokesperson Darla Christiansen said the most tragic element in road fatalities is that as many as two-thirds of the victims weren't

wearing seat belts and might've survived had they buckled up.

"All the high-tech safety designed into cars is all-for naught," Ohsman said, "if a person is ejected."

Ohsman has a motto drivers should heed, he said: "People who stay in the car (wearing safety belts) live; people who don't, die."

A driver education program being conducted in Coeur d'Alene in northern Idaho is being watched with interest, Ohsman said.

Accidents that are fatalities are down since the voluntary program began. He said a new session this weekend has 65 drivers already registered.

Power

Continued from B1

to handle all the city's electric needs, Bowers said. That way if there's ever a problem at the city's other substations, customers won't be affected because one single substation will be able to handle the entire city.

"It will be advantageous to our customers to expand that substation," Bowers said. "It will be a great shot for our customers."

The work will occur Sunday, no

matter what the weather conditions are, Bowers said. As long as the proper precautions are taken in advance, rain or snow won't affect the project.

The midnight to 3 a.m. time frame was chosen to disrupt as few customers as possible, Bowers and United Electric General Manager, Ralph Williams said.

Bowers cautioned that the outage may affect some people or

businesses and he urges people who rely on special medical equipment or other such life-support systems to make back-up power arrangements or possibly stay somewhere that electricity is assured.

Bowers and Williams suggest people in the affected areas turn off their computer systems during the outage or back up their systems prior to Sunday morning to prevent the loss of any data.

Schwarzenegger plans cuts in California budget

SACRAMENTO, Calif. (AP) — Saddled with a shortfall of at least \$14 billion and a promise not to raise taxes, Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger is likely to release a budget next week with few surprises — it will contain cuts, announced reductions that reach While the administration has released no details of the 2004-2005 spending plan, lawmakers and lobbyists engaged in budget negotiations with the governor say they expect to see a painful list of spending reductions that reach every corner of the state bureaucracy.

Topping the list will likely be public health and welfare programs — especially Medi-Cal, the state's health insurance for the poor and disabled that costs more than \$10 billion a year.

Education is also expected to share the burden, despite Schwarzenegger's campaign promise to protect school funding.

He is likely to renew his pledge to get a bigger share of Indian gambling profits, and his call for new concessions from labor unions. And there are hints of reforms and reorganizations aimed at making the state more efficient and cost-conscious — including changes in parole and inmate supervision.

The new governor's finance director, Donna Arduin, is known for cutting billions in social services in Florida as budget director for Gov. Jeb Bush.

Tempering all the bad news, however, the governor is expected to paint a rosy economic outlook where billions of dollars in unanticipated tax revenue over the next year will let him sidestep some of the most difficult funding choices.

And there are no expectations of any new taxes.

"I think the governor has been fairly clear about that," said H.D. Palmer, spokesman for the general

nor's Finance Department, although there have been no similar promises when it comes to raising fees. "The plan is to control spending."

Still riding a wave of popularity since winning office in October's historic recall election, Schwarzenegger takes over at a critical time.

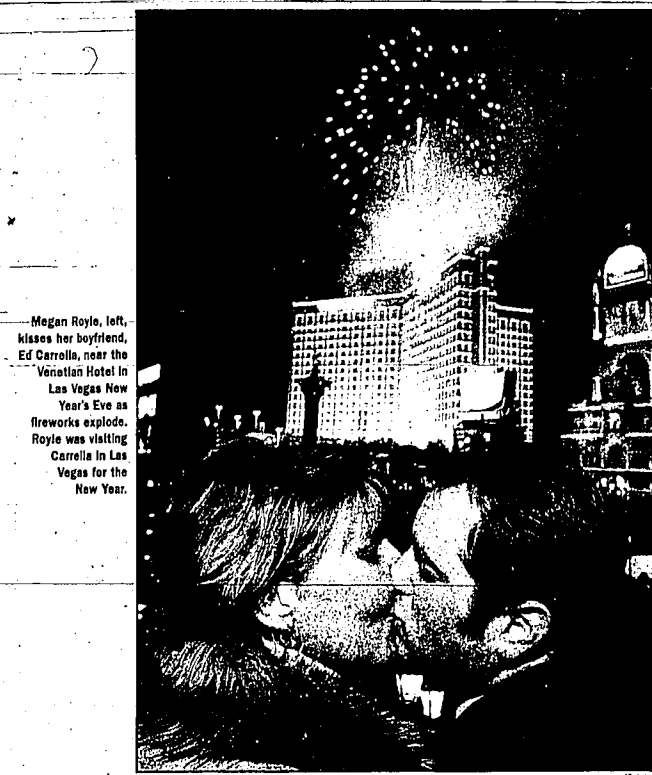
While former Gov. Gray Davis and the Legislature took some steps last year to solve the state's financial problems, spending remains badly out of balance with income.

Last summer's budget agreement used a long list of one-time savings, accounting gimmicks and borrowing to make ends meet. The one-time savings and many of the gimmicks expire at the end of this fiscal year, and analysts say a new deficit will begin growing almost immediately that will exceed \$10 billion by June 2005.

MAGIC VALLEY WEST

KISSIN' IN 2004

JEROME COUNTY COURTS



Megan Royle, left, kisses her boyfriend, Ed Carrola, near the Venetian Hotel in Las Vegas New Year's Eve as fireworks explode. Royle was visiting Carrola in Las Vegas for the New Year.

JEROME Recent activity in 5th District Court in Jerome County included the following:

Misdemeanor arraignments
Lissa K. Burlington, 18; fraud - insufficient funds check; pretrial conference Jan. 8; Magistrate Judge Thomas H. Berresen.
Victor Manuel Cervantes, 41; driving under the influence; pretrial conference Jan. 12; Magistrate Judge Thomas H. Berresen.
Victoria Ruthe Cervantes, 40; driving under the influence; pretrial conference Jan. 12; Magistrate Judge Thomas H. Berresen.
Howard Dean Jensen, 31; fraud - insufficient funds check; pretrial conference Jan. 12; Magistrate Judge Thomas H. Berresen.

Juvenile misdemeanor arraignments
Maria E. Delgado, 14; providing false information to an officer regarding criminal activity; pretrial conference Jan. 12; Magistrate Judge Thomas H. Berresen.

Misdemeanor sentencing
Nancy A. Mayo, 52; failure to purchase/sell driver's license; \$675.00 court costs; Magistrate Judge Thomas H. Berresen.
Mark Phillip Graves Jr., 18; use or possession of drug paraphernalia with intent to use; \$300 fine, \$300 suspended; 60-day probation; 60 months supervised probation; completion of 12 hours of substance abuse counseling; 90 days in jail, 88 suspended; 10 days eligible for work program; Magistrate Judge Thomas H. Berresen.

primary, credit for three days served; 180-day driver's license suspension; driving without privileges; dismissed by prosecutor; Magistrate Judge Thomas H. Berresen.
Veronica S. Ombrey, 63; driving under the influence amended to inattentive/careless driving; \$300 fine, \$200 suspended; \$675.00 court costs one year supervised probation; 90 days in jail, 88 suspended; Magistrate Judge Thomas H. Berresen.

Misdemeanor dismissals
Jason Edward Koorn, 28; committing cruelty to animals; dismissed by prosecutor; Magistrate Judge Thomas H. Berresen.
Nada Tays Kimrough, 69; malicious injury to property; dismissed by prosecutor; Magistrate Judge Thomas H. Berresen.

Felony withheld judgments
Adam Charles Peterson, 36; two counts grand theft; sentencing Jan. 27; District Judge John K. Butler.

Resorts adjust to snowmobile ruling

CODY, Wyo. (AP) - Each of the past 25 winters, Pahaska Tepee lodge has opened for snowmobilers eager to take a ride into Yellowstone National Park. But in the two weeks since a federal judge ruled against the Bush administration's new snowmobile plan and imposed a Clinton phase-out, lodge owner Bob Coe has had second thoughts about keeping his business open through the winter. "It's just not a chill on the entire business," he said Wednesday.

493 imposed by the court ruling. At the worst entrance, the busiest gate during the winter, the highest daily total was 263 on Dec. 29, still below the daily limit of 278. "Things could certainly change, but we haven't hit (the daily allotments)," said Stacy Valle, a Park Service spokeswoman. Meanwhile, nearly 2,000 people rode 256 snowcoaches into the park between Dec. 21 and Dec. 28. In the future, snowcoaches may be the only motorized means of travel for winter visitors to Yellowstone, depending on final resolution of the court case. The state of Wyoming and snowmobile manufacturers have appealed Judge Emmet Sullivan's ruling, but it likely will be several months before a decision is issued.

would be full. "Now, they're just not there," Costello said more people in town are starting to talk about other ways to market West Yellowstone in the winter, including an extra emphasis on the continuation of snowcoach service. The problem is that it takes time and money to conduct research and then go after that market, she said. As for the drop-off in the number of snowmobiles coming through Yellowstone's west entrance, Costello cited a number of probable factors, including cancellations after the Sullivan decision, continued confusion, foul weather for travelers and good snow conditions that keep visitors enjoying winter recreation closer to home. "We're not really seeing the Utah, Idaho and Wyoming plates," Costello said. But at the south entrance, the snowmobile tour business has been brisk. "I could be pushing 30 people a day into the park, no question," said Jeff Goghlyghy, manager of Togwotee Snowmobile Adventures in Jackson. "Instead I'm capped at 12 guests, so that means for every one person I take in, I'm turning away one and a half people."

Nampa couple died of stab wounds

NAMPA (AP) - Bob and Idella Young died of stab wounds, Police Chief Curtis Homer said Thursday. The elderly couple was bound and killed in their Nampa home sometime between Saturday and Monday, police said. Bob Young died of two stab wounds and his wife one, according to the autopsy. Evidence suggested that Bob Young struggled with his attacker, Homer said. Their bodies were discovered by police Monday after a friend said he had been unable to reach them. Because there was no sign of forced entry, police believe the killer was an acquaintance or someone the couple might have invited into their home on business, Homer said. The Youngs operated a real estate company out of their home. The home had been ransacked but there was no indication anything was taken, police said. Funeral plans are pending, but family members said a service could be held late next week.

Yellowstone airport on hold

CODY, Wyo. (AP) - United Airlines' financial troubles have made it doubtful any service agreement for Yellowstone Regional Airport will be secured in the near future. State Sen. Hank Coe of Cody, chairman of the Cody Yellowstone Air Service Organization, said the airline is too busy with other issues right now. But Coe said the organization is ready to reach an agreement when

United does have time for it. Coe originally expected an agreement to be finalized in November. Then he thought a deal would be wrapped up by the end of December. "It's hard to sign it when we don't have it," he said. Coe said he has kept in touch with the Wyoming Business Council and local leaders about securing a revenue guarantee for United.

GOODING COUNTY COURTS

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

Misdemeanor arraignments
Michael Christensen, 38; malicious injury to property; trial Jan. 15; Magistrate Judge Kevin P. Cassidy.
Yigal Lee Hansen, 22; use or possession of drug paraphernalia with intent to use; failed to appear; Magistrate Judge Kevin P. Cassidy.
Jeffery Lester Johns, 29; driving without privileges, status hearing Jan. 8; Magistrate Judge Kevin P. Cassidy.
Brandon James Naklike, 24; battery-domestic violence; court trial Jan. 22; Magistrate Judge Kevin P. Cassidy.

Misdemeanor sentencing
Mack Lee Jaker, 44; driving under the influence; \$500 driver's license suspension; \$200 fine; 15 months suspended probation; 180 days in jail, 170 suspended; Magistrate Judge Kevin P. Cassidy.
Sandra Flores, 18; failure to purchase/sell driver's license; 200 fine, \$200 suspended; 60-day probation; 60 months supervised probation; 60 days in jail, 88 suspended; 10 days eligible for work program; Magistrate Judge Thomas H. Berresen.

felony withheld judgment; \$200 fine, \$200 suspended; 60-day probation; 60 months supervised probation; 60 days in jail, 88 suspended; 10 days eligible for work program; Magistrate Judge Thomas H. Berresen.
David Russell Selrign, 33; driving without privileges; \$150 fine, \$75.00 court costs, \$45 probation fee; one year supervised probation; 90 days in jail, 88 suspended; credit for one day served; 180-day driver's license suspension; Magistrate Judge Thomas H. Berresen.
Lynn Marie Benton, 20; battery - domestic violence amended to diverting the peace; \$300 fine, \$200 suspended; \$675.00 court costs; \$40 public defender fee; one year supervised probation; 90 days in jail, 45 suspended; 45 days eligible for work program; Magistrate Judge Thomas H. Berresen.
Ronnie L. Martinez-Ayza, 26; driving under the influence; amended to inattentive/careless driving; \$300 fine, \$200 suspended; \$675.00 court costs; \$40 public defender fee; one year supervised probation; 90 days in jail, 88 suspended; Magistrate Judge Thomas H. Berresen.
Joe H. Mauritz-Ayza, 26; driving under the influence; amended to inattentive/careless driving; \$300 fine, \$200 suspended; \$675.00 court costs; \$40 public defender fee; one year supervised probation; 90 days in jail, 88 suspended; Magistrate Judge Thomas H. Berresen.

felony withheld judgment; \$200 fine, \$200 suspended; 60-day probation; 60 months supervised probation; 60 days in jail, 88 suspended; 10 days eligible for work program; Magistrate Judge Thomas H. Berresen.
Lynn Marie Benton, 20; battery - domestic violence amended to diverting the peace; \$300 fine, \$200 suspended; \$675.00 court costs; \$40 public defender fee; one year supervised probation; 90 days in jail, 45 suspended; 45 days eligible for work program; Magistrate Judge Thomas H. Berresen.
Ronnie L. Martinez-Ayza, 26; driving under the influence; amended to inattentive/careless driving; \$300 fine, \$200 suspended; \$675.00 court costs; \$40 public defender fee; one year supervised probation; 90 days in jail, 88 suspended; Magistrate Judge Thomas H. Berresen.

Felony withheld judgments

Rogelio Salazar-Garcia, 22; rape; amended to compelling a felony; three years unsupervised probation; District Judge John K. Butler.

Felony sentencing

Nicole L. Dewalt, 21; burglary amended to grand theft; three years supervised probation; probationary time suspended, one year determinate, four indeterminate; District Judge John K. Butler.
Jerry L. Dewalt, 51; delivery of a controlled substance amended to possession of more than three ounces of marijuana; 588.50 court costs; probationary time suspended, two years determinate, three indeterminate. Separate case proceeding/indicting a witness from writing; dismissed by prosecutor; District Judge John K. Butler.

Child support cases

State of Idaho Health and Welfare vs. Scott Leroy Norris, Seeking \$914 monthly child support; Amber Renee Norris, Christopher S. Norris, Kimberly N. Norris, Brian Anthony Norris, Elizabeth Marie Norris and William S. Norris 77 percent of children's medical expenses; \$363 attorney fees.
State of Idaho Health and Welfare vs. Leslie A. Adams, Seeking \$185 monthly support for Ryan L. Schiffette and Chastity Adams; plus 64 percent of children's medical expenses; \$363 attorney fees.

Divorces

Donnie J. Bradford vs. Orel M. Bradford; Kim Stanley Reed vs. Annette Sue Bradford.
Risk Management Alternatives vs. Jimmy L. Lange, Seeking \$12,414.60, plus interest; \$425 attorney fees. Plaintiff alleges that defendant owes for accounts assigned to the plaintiff for collection.

Advertisement for 'Extraordinary Summer Jobs' featuring a firefighter from South Central Idaho BLM. The ad includes the text 'There's still time to apply to be a firefighter with South Central Idaho BLM' and mentions 'Informational Job Fair' on Wednesday, January 7, 3 to 5 pm.

Advertisement for 'Divorce Hurts' featuring 'DivorceCare' as a 13-week seminar and support group for people who are separated or divorced. The ad includes contact information: 'DivorceCare group meets every Wednesday evening 6:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m. beginning Jan 7 at Twin Falls Nazarene Church (west of CSI campus), 1231 Washington St. N. Childcare is provided. For more information, call 733-6610. Cost \$10.00.'

COMICS

Classic Peanuts

By Charles M. Schulz



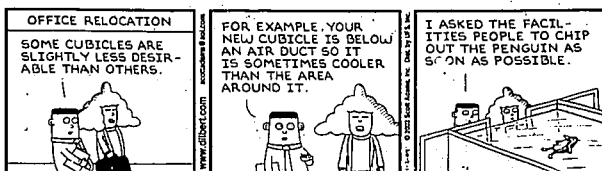
For Better or For Worse

By Lynn Johnston



Dilbert

By Scott Adams



Blondie

By Dean Young & Stain Drake



B.C.

By Johnny Hart



Pickles

By Brian Crane



Garfield

By Jim Davis

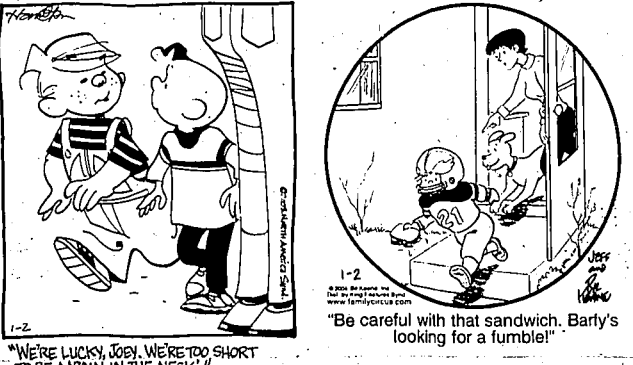


Dennis the Menace

By Hank Ketcham

The Family Circus

By Bil Keane



Hi and Lois

By Chance Browne



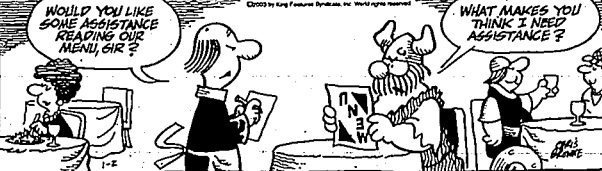
The Wizard of Id

By Brant Parker & Johnny Hart



Hagar the Horrible

By Chris Browne



Beetle Bailey

By Mort Walker



Frank and Ernest

By Bob Thaves



The Born Loser

By Art Sansom & Chip



Rose la Rose

By Pat Brady



Zits

By Jim Borgman and Jerry Scott



Luan

By Greg Evans

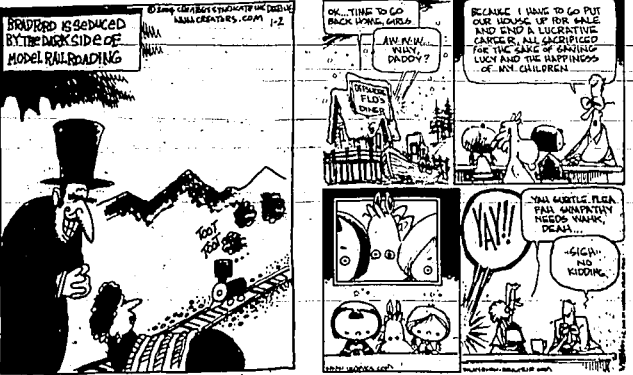


Strange Brew

By John Deering

Non Sequitur

By Wiley



IDAHO/WEST

PANHANDLE PLUNGE

Utah takes custody of tot found wandering in snow

SALT LAKE CITY (AP) - The state has taken protective custody of an 18-month-old Midvale boy found wandering in the snow wearing only a diaper.

Both parents were involved in the neglect situations, he said. No charges have been filed, but Midvale police said they were investigating allegations of neglect and abuse.

Judge sets \$1M bail in abuse case

COEUR D'ALENE (AP) - A man being held in the Kootenai County jail in lieu of \$1 million bail was accused of sexually and physically abusing five children, including two of his own.

Franklin David Towner, 36, will face a preliminary hearing in mid-January on 31 charges that could bring him life in prison. The alleged abuse dates back to 2001.

Former Caldwell bus aide faces molestation charges

CALDWELL (AP) - A former school bus aide who admitted fondling a 5-year-old passenger is accused of violating his probation by contacting the victim and failing to notify police he was moving.



Hundreds of New Year's revelers brave the frigid 39-degree water of Lake Coeur d'Alene Thursday during the 28th annual Polar Bear Plunge in Coeur d'Alene.



FRIDAY & SATURDAY 10AM-9PM

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Best of 2003: Larry David will be back on HBO for season four. Page C8

WEEKEND

INSIDE

Movies C2
Morning break C7

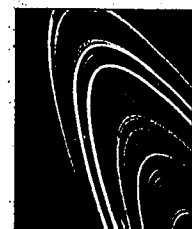
Features Editor: Steve Crump - 733-0931, Ext. 223

The Times-News

Friday, January 2, 2004

Section C

best bets in entertainment



Lord of the Rings

"Ring World," a new multimedia show about NASA's Cassini/Huygens mission to Saturn and its moon, Titan, opens tonight at the Faulkner Planetarium at the Herrett Center for the Arts and Sciences on the campus of the College of Southern Idaho in Twin Falls. It continues Saturday afternoon and evening and Tuesday night.



Roar and dance

Dragon Tales Live, a stage show based on the PBS kids' series, will play Boise's Bank of America Center Thursday night and Jan. 9-11.

They're baaaack

The Sun Valley Company's production of Stuart Ross' tongue-in-cheek "Forever Plaid," featuring Wally Huffman, Gordon Fiske, Eric J. Larson and Paul Sproops, returns to the Boiler Room for the for the sixth season, on Sunday nights through the end of March.

Stand on your man

The Vuarnets, the Wood River Valley's outrageous send-up of Girl Groups, is back in the Boiler Room at the Sun Valley Resort on Wednesday nights through the end of March.

Celebrate Jan. 2

"First Friday at Rudy's," the monthly Friday downtown Twin Falls musicfest, returns on the night after New Year's Day with the Chapter Two Jazz Quarter, featuring Jeff Fox, Brian Crider, Steve Cox and Aaron Miller. Rudy's, a Cook's Paradise, is located on Main Avenue.

For times, places and details, see Events Spotlight on Page C5.

War is Good



Russell Crowe aims a gun in 'Master and Commander: The Far Side of the World.'

Despite world affairs, battle movies continue to draw an audience

Los Angeles Times

HOLLYWOOD - In the just-concluded holiday movie season, the hills - and the oceans - are alive with the sound of battle. In films as seemingly diverse as "Cold Mountain," "The Lord of the Rings: The Return of the King," "The Last Samurai," "The Missing" and "Master and Commander: The Far Side of the World," men and the occasional woman are at furious war, sometimes against their own deepest selves.

Given that the United States has launched two wars in a little over two years, it's tempting to see some connection between the headlines and the outbreak of war at the multiplex. The zeitgeist movie is one of most cherished fictions of the Sunday newspaper commentator, but one contradicted by the realities of Hollywood business. Most of the epic-scaled features currently in theaters were a glimmer in some producer's eye long before the World Trade Center fell and U.S. bombs began falling on Afghanistan and Iraq. Director Anthony Minghella, for one, signed on to "Cold Mountain" in 1997, the year Charles Frazier's novel was published, and shooting on "The Return of the King" ended

in 2000.

Whatever else you want to say about them, movie executives do not have the gift of prophecy. The studio suits could not have known that Russell Crowe's heroic poise in "Master and Commander" would find an echo in the image of an American president who likes to deliver speeches on aircraft carriers. What the executives did know, though, is that war, heroes and lavish productions are catnip to popular audiences and tastemakers alike, especially if packaged without politics and obvious ideological taint, and set in some distant past. While these movies - which represent great financial investment and equally great aesthetic aspirations - fail to shed direct light on this country's wars, they nonetheless say a great deal about the people who made them.

What's really pushing the big studio guns onto the battlefield - among those heading the call to arms this year are mega-star Tom Cruise and director-darling Peter Weir - is a trend ignited by "Titanic" in 1997 and ratified a few years later by "Gladiator." Namely, Hollywood's steady retreat from the rec-

ognizably real world - the place where people work, pay taxes, raise families and struggle along without Viking stoves and BMWs - into false worlds. The retreat takes many forms and cuts across genres, and this season it's expressed through period violence and warfare. It is, it appears, easier and more attractive to sell simplified dollhouse worlds, whether they're set in an idyllic feudal Japan or the 19th century American West, than to deal with contemporary life.

In the late 1990s, James Cameron's "Titanic" didn't just become the highest-grossing movie in history, it kick-started a studio rage for period spectacle unseen since the 1950s, when biblical, Roman and western epics filled the wide-

Please see MOVIES, Page C6



Ian McKellen performs as Gandalf in the New Line epic film 'The Lord of the Rings: The Return of the King,' the third film in a hugely successful trilogy.

Last weekend's top-grossing movies:

1. "The Lord of the Rings: The Return of the King," New Line.
2. "Cheaper by the Dozen," Fox.
3. "Cold Mountain," Miramax.
4. "Something's Gotta Give," Sony.
5. "Paycheck," Paramount.

- Source: Exhibitor Relations

Nicole Kidman and Judo Law are shown in character in the Civil War epic film 'Cold Mountain.'



AP photo

Once more, with less feeling

By Jami Bernard
New York Daily News

You don't mess with perfection. That is the main reason why "The Singing Detective," a virtual remake of the brilliant BBC-TV series of the 80s, falls flat on its psoriatic face. The 6 1/2-hour original was an astringent, delusory blend of melodrama, musical and potboiler, starring Michael Gambon in a performance for the ages as a crime novelist hospitalized with a howling skin condition. The story, swayed by the patient's delirium, moved back and forth between the reality of

'The Singing Detective'

- Who's in it? Robert Downey Jr., Mel Gibson, Katie Holmes.
- What's it rated? R.
- Where's it playing? Lamphouse Theater, Twin Falls.
- Should you go? This movie has more bells and whistles than the BBC series, but comparisons are inevitable - and it can't compare.

the hospital and the pulp mystery novel the patient writes in his head. It also moved like a fever

dream among genres, so that a routine bedside exam could turn on a dime into a nightmarish musical revue.

This version does more or less the same thing. It stars Robert Downey Jr., who must have looked perfect for this part on paper. Having gone through his own hell in revolving-door drug rehab, Downey could draw on his experience of being locked inside himself, furious at a world that sees him as a

hopeless case. Please see DETECTIVE, Page C6



Robert Downey Jr., Mel Gibson and Katie Holmes star in 'The Singing Detective.'

WEEKEND

'Cold Mountain,' 'Cheaper by the Dozen' continue holiday run

New to the valley

- "The Singing Detective" - In Keith Gordon's awkward condensation of Dennis Potter's 1986 miniseries, Robert Downey Jr. is excellent as the hospital-bound patient, a pulp novelist whose delirium conflates personal fact with paranoid fiction. With Mel Gibson and Robin Wright Penn. R (sexual candor, medical candor, violence, profanity).

Continuing

- "Bad Santa" - Directed by Terry Zwigoff, who did such great work with the teen misfits of 2000's "Ghost World," this bleak comedy has moments of inspired impertinence, but the unpleasantness of its title character (Billy Bob Thornton) spills over to the film as a whole. R (pervasive language, strong sexual content, some violence)
- "Brother Bear" - With top-notch (traditional) cartooning talent and a script laced with jokes that parents and guardians can chuckle at, Disney's "Brother Bear" is a solid entry in the family film fare category—a generally upend and engaging tale of friendship and understanding. G (mild violence)



Tom Baker (Steve Martin) is hot on trail of a renegade frog, in Twentieth Century Fox's 'Cheaper by the Dozen.'

Ferrell in yellow tights as he leaves Santa's workshop at the North Pole to go looking for his biological father (John Cunniff) in New York - braving the Candy Cane Forest, the Sugar Plum Valley and the Lincoln Tunnel to get there. PG (profanity, cartoon violence)

- "Cheaper by the Dozen" - As synthetic as a plastic Christmas tree, this shiny new reworking of the autobiographical Frank Bunker Gibson Jr. and Ernestine Gibson Carey book means to send a family-is-everything message, but by largely unfunny default instead makes it clear that having it all is virtually impossible for a father of 12 and his seriously out-of-control wife, Steve Martin and Bonnie Hunt star as the parents, but the picture is stolen by an unbillied Ashton Kutcher as their eldest daughter's hilariously self-loving, aspiring-aerobics boyfriend. Amid clunky knockabout comedy sequences, Kutcher contributes the film's sole notes of humor and humanity. It's better to try to rent the charming and very different 1950 version starring Clifton Webb and Myrna Loy. (1.38. PG, for language and some thematic elements)

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

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

- "Honey" - A hip-hop "Flashdance" with a dash of social conscience, "Honey" stars the snake-hipped Jessica Alba, lately of television's "Dark Angel." By no means is this a good movie, but it's warmed by the solar energy of its star, who surely deserves better than this formula empowerment flick. PG-13 (drugs, sexual candor)

- "Cold Mountain" - Atwag with mountain music and actors stretching their vocals in leaping cadences, this romantic odyssey set during the Civil War is the equivalent of comfort food: old-fashioned, earthy (lots of root vegetables), satisfying. Jude Law and Nicole Kidman star as lovers separated by conflict, carnage and hundreds of hundreds of miles. R (violence, profanity, nudity, adult themes)

- "The Last Samurai" - Tom Cruise is a harditten Civil War vet who goes to Japan to teach the military a thing or two, and learns a bit himself when he is captured by the samurai while in the ways of the warrior. Epic battle scenes and great costumes, but a hollow movie star and stereotyping screenplay are at its core. R (violence, adult themes)

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

- "The Lord of the Rings: Return of the King" - It took one ring to rule them all, and now there's one film to end it all, to bring to a close the cinematic epic of our time, the one by which all others will be judged.

- "Elf" - An enjoyably goofy Yuletide tale. "Elf" follows Will

Tolkien fans celebrate - finally, it's OK to speak Elvish in public

By Mary McNamara
Los Angeles Times

It hasn't always been this easy to be a Tolkien fan. For most of my young-adult and adult life, people tended to look at me sidelong should I happen to mention that I had read "The Lord of the Rings" several times - OK, pretty much once a year since I got my first copies when I was in the fifth grade. Boyfriends especially would grow suddenly still, their eyes widely scanning the walls for the nearest exit should I suddenly whip out my faux hobbit feet or start speaking in Elvish.

To the uninformed, Tolkien fans occupied the vaguely sinister and decidedly weird regions shared by Dungeons & Dragons players, members of creative anachronistic societies and women who collected flower fairies and unicorn figurines.

Science fiction was a more acceptable obsession: It was masculine, based on science and reason. There were rocket ships and time machines and things that were possible. Fantasy, on the other hand, was just out to lunch. Elves and wizards were girthy, hobbits and dwarfs were fey.

It was useless to protest that "The Lord of the Rings" was an epic masterpiece in an age-old scholarly and literary tradition, useless to point out its roots in myth and language. At best, the trilogy was associated with the drug culture of the '60s, granted a certain camp credibility like cine-dope and bong. But for most non-

people conversant in the ways of Middle-earth. Galadriel, Gimli, Saruman, Theoden, Eowyn, Samwise, Treebeard - not four years ago you took your chances when uttering these names in public. Sure, you might find a fellow fan amid the blank looks, but you'd have to take your business outside the pale - the park at midnight, certain bars and dark-curtailed rooms.

Now, every Tolkien fan I know has come out of the closet, proudly displaying their long-concealed obsession if only to help first-timers understand the director's work.

fans, it was considered a big waste of reading time.

Now, of course, all that has changed. Now Viggo Mortenson is on the cover of Vanity Fair for playing Aragorn, son of Arathorn, heir of Isildur, last king of Gondor - and nobody thinks he's fey or girly. Now teenage girls in Hello Kitty T-shirts swoon over magazine stories about Orlando Bloom - "Legolas is my favorite," one sighed at a checkout counter in Target. "I like him even better than Frodo."

Watching her, all I could think of was how at her age I would have said the word "Legolas" and risked eternal social alienation.

But Peter Jackson and his crew have made literally millions of

Powerfully imagined two times over, first by the madcap fantasy mind of J.R.R. Tolkien and then by the bravura filmmaking of director Peter Jackson, this is a fitting climax to a story about the quest to rescue the world from evil. Like anything restlessly and eagerly anticipated, the film will inevitably be quibbled with. It is both formidably long and unsure where it ought to end. Its critical human moments include some of the strongest of the trilogy, but because the film by definition has to showcase battles that will literally end all battles, the brevity of those character beats at times threatens the critical human thread with unraveling. With Elijah Wood, Sean Astin, Ian McKellen and Viggo Mortensen. (3.20. PG-13, for intense epic battle sequences and frightening images)

- "Love Don't Cost a Thing" - A deft remake of the appealing 1987 "Can't Buy Me Love" finds a fiery high school student (Nick Cannon) maneuvering the most popular girl in school (Christina Milian) into posing as his girl friend for two weeks so he can be popular. As he gets carried away she grows introspective and disapproving, and the result is a film that is frequently mordant and uproarious but also has considerable depth. With Steve Harvey, hilarious as Cannon's father, intent on instructing his embarrassed son on the art of love-making and safe sex. (1.41. PG-13, for sexual content/humor)
- "Master and Commander" - Directed by Peter Weir from script he co-wrote with John Collee, the film intends to be an intelligent epic, but it's the epic qualities more than the intelligence that holds us. While Russell Crowe is the rare heroic actor who can handle any kind of psy-

chologically complex role, he's not really called on to do that here, playing an 1805 British sea captain. That the film succeeds despite a relative lack of depth and emotional involvement shows how powerfully effective it is in doing what it does best, recreating an extended nautical duel between Aubrey's HMS Surprise and the French (changed from the American in the original novel) privateer Achéron. Based on two of the 20 novels written by Patrick O'Brian in a series called the Aubrey-Maturin novels after the captain and his best friend and shipmate Dr. Stephen Maturin (played by Paul Bettany). (2.05. PG-13 for intense battle sequences, related images and brief language)

- "The Missing" - Cate Blanchett and Tommy Lee Jones play an estranged daughter and father in this compelling, and visually stunning, western with mystical overtones about the hunt for a missing girl in the Southwest's rugged mesa country. R (violence, profanity, adult themes)
- "Mona-Lisa Smile" - Julia Roberts as an art-history professor who brings 2003 feminist consciousness to Wellesley College, circa 1953. Strictly a paint-by-number affair. Excellent performances by Maggie Gyllenhaal, Marcia Gay Harden, Juliet Stevenson and Julia Stiles. PG-13 (sexual candor, mature themes)
- "Paycheck" - Directed without personal feeling and evident interest by John Woo and written by Dean Geogaris from a short story by the most talented science-fiction writer in Hollywood, the late Philip K. Dick, the film stars Ben Affleck as a hotshot engineer who steals ideas on behalf of whomever is writing the check, then has his memory of it

Now playing

Twin Falls	Jerome
Twin Cinema	Jerome Cinema
"Bad Santa"	"Cheaper by the Dozen"
"Brother Bear"	"Lord of the Rings: The Return of the King"
"Cheaper by the Dozen"	"Mona Lisa Smile"
"Cold Mountain"	"Peter Pan"
"Dr. Seuss' Cat in the Hat"	"Something's Got to Give"
"Elf"	"Something's Got to Give"
"The Haunted Mansion"	Burley Theater
"Honey"	"School of Rock"
"Lord of the Rings: The Return of the King"	"Master and Commander"
"Something's Got to Give"	"The Station Agent"
"Snuck on You"	
Odyssey Theater	
"Gothika"	
"The Last Samurai"	
"Looney Tunes: Back in Action"	
"Love Don't Cost a Thing"	
"The Missing"	
"Paycheck"	
"Peter Pan"	
Lamphouse Theater	
"The Singing Detective"	
"The Station Agent"	
The Orpheum	
"Mona Lisa Smile"	
Burley	
Century Cinema	

erased. Although the promised Moo movie never emerges, it furnishes some low-level cheap entertainment for about an hour. Affleck and his chin are in fine form, bursting through doors and down corridors with impressive energy, but after the first hour the film rapidly devolves into an overextended generic chase, complete with the usual car crashes and fireballs of death. This is the sort of noisy nonsense that Woo's earlier action movies made irrelevant, but alas not extinct. With Aaron Eckhart, Paul Giamatti and Uma Thurman. (1.59. PG-13, for intense action violence and brief language)

- "Peter Pan" - The latest adaptation of the J.M. Barrie play, directed and co-written by P.J. Hogan, is the first to star an actual boy (Jeremy Sumpter) in the title role. And though this is the first live-action theatrical feature version since 1924 and being magical is very much its intention, it never manages to cross the threshold that makes that happen in our hearts. Even the existence of oodles of special effects and fairy dust for flying can't make the fantasy flourish on more than a sporadic basis. This is by no means a bad film, just one that's not as successful as we'd wish. With Jason Isaacs, Olivia Williams, Rachel Hurd-Wood and Ludivine Sagnier. (1.53. PG, for adventure action sequences and peril)
- "School of Rock" - With a force that can only be described as Belushiesque (as in John), Jack

Black throws his considerable heft into "School of Rock" - an engagingly screwball comic vehicle in which the actor and Tenacious D frontman goes, through an inventory of heavy metal moves and makes a mockery of them at the same time. PG-13 (profanity, drug references)

- "Something's Got to Give"
- Nancy Meyers' bedroom farce teams Jack Nicholson and Diane Keaton as an unlikely twosome dealing with conflicting issues of commitment, vulnerability and attraction to much younger members of the opposite sex. With Amanda Peet and Keanu Reeves. PG-13 (sex, nudity, profanity, adult themes)
- "The Station Agent" - A quiet, beautiful little film about friendship, family, loneliness and trains, this New Jersey-made indie stars a true star, Peter Dinklage, as a rail buff who inherits a long-unused train depot. Like the best sort of short story, the quiet, oddball pic captures lives in fleeting, but telling, moments. R (profanity, adult themes)
- "Snuck on You" - A movie about togetherness and separation, about partnership versus individuality, about best buddies and following one's dream, the Farrelly Brothers' "Snuck On You," despite its penchant for the crude and low, is going in ways that have nothing to do with body fluids. PG-13 (crude humor, adult themes)

- Source: Knight Ridder News Service, Los Angeles Times



Cam Schroyer, left, 18, of New Market, Md., and his sister Corry Schroyer, 22, of Pikeville, Md., wait with about 800 others outside Baltimore's Senator Theatre to see all three 'Lord of the Rings' movies in succession.

stream stars speaking your language.

Or actually, not quite. As awesome a work as Jackson's "The Lord of the Rings" is, it remains, as he has said since the beginning, exactly that: Jackson's "The Lord of the Rings," not Tolkien's. So it's hard sometimes not to interrupt a movie fan's rhapsodies with bits of crucial background (one reason Denethor disliked Faramir was because of Faramir's admiration for Gandalf) or to point out the (many) places in which the film diverges from the books.

This is no doubt annoying to those who are more than satisfied with Jackson's vision and have no desire to mull the possibility of other choices. They look at us long-standing Tolkien fans with smiles half irritated, half sympathetic. But like people who wore Burberry before it got hot again, we need to stake our claim, to make sure that people know we appreciated the greatness of the work way before New Line even existed.

It's not that we're obsessive, it's just if you're going to talk about it,

you should know...

One friend who asked a few questions about certain characters gave me a queer look when I finished answering. "Well, thanks," he said. "I get it now. And by the way, you need professional help."

See, that's more like it.

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Wife doesn't want this 'spice' in marriage

DEAR ABBY: "Burt" and I have been married 14 years. We have two beautiful children—a boy and a girl—ages 8 and 11. Burt works in sales. I am a designer and run my business out of our home, so that I can be here when the children come home from school.

For the last couple of years, Burt has complained that the "spice" has gone out of our marriage. He did some Internet research and found a swingers group in our community. At first, he only did some chatting online, but now he wants to take one of their parties. I told him I'm against it, but he insists.

The idea of exposing myself to strangers is mortifying. But the more I tell him no, the more insistent he becomes.

Should I agree to it to save our marriage?

—**WAVERING IN VIRGINIA**

DEAR WAVERING: No. If you do, the dynamics of your marriage will change forever—and not for the better.



DEAR ABBY
Abigail VanBuren

Great sex is all about great communication. If a dish isn't spicy enough, I see nothing to be gained by diluting it. To do something that makes you uncomfortable or is morally repugnant will not only not save your marriage, it could also be the straw that breaks the camel's back. A healthier solution for what ails your marriage would be to consult a sex therapist or a marriage counselor.

DEAR ABBY: My husband has Parkinson's disease with dementia. I have good friends who ask me to coffee or lunch to get me out of the house, but what I'd really like is if they'd ask my HUSBAND out to coffee or lunch.

Every hour I'm away, I worry

about him. Plus, I have not been by myself in this house for eight years.

Please pass on a message to your readers. If you really want to help, offer to take out the ill person, and give the caregiver some quiet time.

—**NEEDING A BREAK**

DEAR NEEDING: To expect someone not trained in caring for a patient with dementia to take the person out into unfamiliar surroundings is asking a lot. It may be too much responsibility for your friends to assume.

A better solution would be to arrange for respite care for your husband. You could have your quiet time, or time alone in the house, by asking your husband's doctor which senior centers in your vicinity are equipped to provide safe activities for him on a regular basis. Either that, or contact Faith in Action at www.FaithInAction.org or (877) 324-8411. It's a national program that helps establish community

programs providing volunteer care to neighbors with long-term health needs.

DEAR ABBY: I just returned from visiting my 26-year-old daughter, her 27-year-old live-in fiancé, and their 4-month-old twins. They live in Kansas, where they own their home, and both have good jobs.

During dinner Saturday night, my daughter asked me if I plan to pay for their wedding next June. Am I obligated to help them financially?

—**THEY LIVE IN KANSAS**

DEAR KANSAS: No, you are not. A wedding is a gift from the parent or parents. It is not, and should not be considered an obligation. Your daughter and her fiancé are self-supporting and can pay for their own wedding. If you wish to contribute money toward their wedding, it would be a generous gift. But under no circumstances should you feel put on the spot to do so.

ACROSS

- 1 Tibetan monk
- 5 "Crazy" singer
- 10 March
- Madness org.
- 14 Astorut Shepard
- 15 Pay tribute to
- 19 Luchas
- 21 Christmas plant
- 19 Hubbubs
- 20 Walking gauges
- 21 Express longing
- 22 Informed about
- 23 Exudes slowly
- 24 Overhead
- 28 Overindulge
- 31 Actor Lugosi
- 32 Go-ahead
- 33 Displaced person
- 39 Alpine country
- 40 Tire-shaped candies
- 42 Senior citizens' grp.
- 43 Succinct
- 44 South
- 45 American range
- 46 Player
- 48 Rent posts
- 51 Flub
- 52 Kiddie lit.
- 53 Favorit
- 59 Official exponents of a belief
- 60 Baby shower gift
- 61 James or Jackson
- 62 Aid in wrongdoing
- 63 Otherwise
- 64 Bury
- 65 Jed of 'The Chris Isaak Show'

DOWN

- 1 Arctic native
- 2 -vora
- 3 In employee
- 4 Part of A.D.
- 5 Nestling's cry
- 6 Numbers game
- 7 Deeply felt
- 8 Burgundy block
- 9 Periods
- 10 Three-flavored ice cream
- 11 Spanish port
- 12 Expletive
- 13 Dunderheads
- 14 Spoil particle
- 15 Picasso
- 16 Originals
- 17 First victim
- 18 Jacob's third son
- 19 Norwegian saint
- 20 In person
- 21 Base or Bartlett
- 23 Fatful burdon
- 24 Equipment
- 25 Upt the RPMs
- 26 Alum
- 27 Increase staff
- 28 Spolts
- 29 Conqumer
- 30 Most uncanny
- 34 Regarding
- 35 Type size
- 36 Roof builder
- 37 Labors
- 38 Got up
- 39 10th U.S. president
- 40 Vijay Singh's homeland
- 43 Arabian gulf
- 44 Lab gup
- 45 Auto maintenance operation
- 46 Extra-wide photo size
- 47 Concordia, for example

Thursday's Puzzle Solved
1/2/04

Virginia town deals with dead rats in toilets

FRONT ROYAL, Va. (AP)—Two residents discovered dead rats in their toilets—and town officials say a nest in the sewer line could be the problem.

On Monday, Lyndon Flood found a dead rat she described as "half the size of a cat" in her toilet.

"I went in there to use the toilet... I can hardly talk about it," she said. "Could you imagine having a rat in your toilet while you're getting ready to go to the bathroom?"

Betty Lamb said her daughter-in-law found a dead rat in the toilet last Wednesday. "She thought it was a joke we pulled on her," she said.

George Shadman, Front Royal's director of public works, said sewer rats appear occasionally in the system.

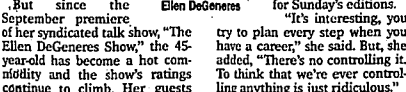
But two complaints from people living in the same neighborhood within a week made Shadman realize there might be a nest. The town was planning to have the sewer line flushed with water on Tuesday, using a high-pressure machine, he said.

DeGeneres feels good about career after slide in late '90s

NEW YORK (AP)—Ellen DeGeneres actually thought her career was over.

She became a hero to gays in 1997, following the most highly publicized coming-out in modern history. But she soon lost her NBC sitcom, "Ellen," and her girlfriend, actress Anne Heche. A second sitcom, "The Ellen Show" came and went in 2001.

But since the September premiere of her syndicated talk show, "The Ellen DeGeneres Show," the 45-year-old has become a hot commodity and the show's ratings continue to climb. Her guests



Ellen DeGeneres



1941 St. Paul Winter Carnival Ice Palace is shown in St. Paul, Minn., in this postcard provided by Hazel Wallace. The ice palace was the last one available to walk through.

Walk-through ice palace returns to Minnesota winter carnival

ST. PAUL, Minn. (AP)—Covering palaces of ice, those glistening symbols of northern spirit have enchanted winter festgoers for generations, have been noticeably absent from the busy landscape here for more than a decade.

The annual St. Paul Winter Carnival, a popular embrace of all things frozen, hasn't built a palace since 1992, when costs soared, leaving the project with a \$600,000 deficit and the festival without its ethereal centerpiece.

But it's been even longer—62 years, to be exact—since awestruck visitors could not only regard the icebound fortresses, but stroll through their rooms and corridors as well.

It will take 27,000 blocks of ice—each one 500 pounds and roughly the size of a bathtub—to build the castle.

But for it to be ready for the carnival's Jan. 22 opening, construc-

Expect workplace changes, Gemini

IF JANUARY 2 IS YOUR BIRTHDAY—you are an especially gentle Capricorn; you show great loyalty to your family. You love taking care of others and frequently occupy a parental role with those around you. You prefer company to being alone and have high ideals. Your sweetness conjoined with your resilience make you loved and respected.

ARIES (Mar. 21-Apr. 19): New insights may arise in regard to your financial destiny. Try not to come down too hard on others or squelch their dreams. Allow a few days for the stars to realign before trying to reconnect.

TAURUS (Apr. 20-May 20): It's a non-nonsense day, and you arrange matters practically. With the moon traveling through your sign, you enjoy simple pleasures. Communication may still be strained.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Surprising changes may begin in the workplace. Make sure to keep your focus; you could be easily distracted. Authority issues could arise.

HOROSCOPE

Jeraldine Saunders

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21):

You can begin to think of reaching out to others again now, though unconventional ideas may still not be well-received. Look for income from unusual sources.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): High-magnitude emotions are a possibility, but don't use them as an excuse to be over-critical. Things are still a little touchy.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Spend some time dating (and learning from) children. Single Caps find their dating universe expanding. At home, things are still prone to being troublesome.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Home is probably the still and quiet eye of the storm. Release frustrations by writing a letter, then burn it. Don't confront yet—you won't be understood.

PISCES (Feb. 19-Mar. 20): Career is strong and will still be strong long after the current financial frustrations are resolved. Don't sabotage this by venting inappropriately. Time may be the best problem solver.

Nobody comes close.

And that's a fact.

Adults in our market turn to THE TIMES-NEWS more than any other source when looking for major household appliances.

The Times-News	66.6%
Other Daily Newspaper	4.8%
Weekly Newspaper/Shopper	1.9%
Radio	1.9%
TV	1.0%
Direct Mail	11.6%
Yellow Pages	3.8%
Internet	5.3%

Sources: Magic Valley Market Survey conducted by Belden Associates, October 2003. Men and women, age 18 or older in the Twin Falls Newspaper Designated Market, which includes Twin Falls, Camas, Cassia, Gooding, Jerome, Lincoln and Minidoka counties.

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FEATURE

Tube's fresh cable ideas beat the networks' crud



Larry David and Cheryl Hines of HBO's 'Curb Your Enthusiasm' are back for a fourth season Sunday evenings.

Those stretching the boundaries produce best fare

By Mike Duffy
Knight Ridder News Service

Let's just call it the year of viewing dangerously.
You could lose a lot of brain cells in 2003 just by inadvertently gazing upon such "disturbing things" as "Joe Millionaire," Britney kissing Madonna, "Coupling," Trista and Ryan's wedding, or the feeding frenzy of cable news coverage of Kobe, Laci Peterson and Wacko Jacko.
And let's not forget the bizarre

world of President George W. Bush landing on that aircraft carrier. Schlock and guffaw.
Meanwhile, the real carnage, death and anguish of the war in Iraq was initially lost last spring amid the gee whiz, techno-dazzle immediacy of embedded reporters and boom-boom video game visuals from the combat zone. The very genuine human suffering on both sides was too often shoved to the background as news anchors with flag pins in their lapels made like home team

sports announcers. Appalling.
Back in the prime-time entertainment combat zone, the commercial networks continued to flounder as more nimble, adventurous cable channels like FX ("Nip/Tuck," "The Shield"), Bravo ("Queer Eye for the Straight Guy") and HBO ("Angels in America") refused to play it safe. Cable took chances, generated buzz, got viewers excited.
And the major networks? They remain infatuated with cheap, largely cheesy reality programs,

stale dramatic formulas and exceedingly trite laugh-track sitcoms. Same old, same mold. The latest fall season produced zero new breakout hits. And ratings for popular old series from "Friends" to "NYPD Blue" fell off as mass viewer apathy increased. The Big Ho-Hum.
The amazing thing? It could be worse.
Challenging, imaginative television still gets made. Amazing but true. Let's just hope there's more in 2004.

- TV's top 10**
- "Angels in America" (HBO). Al Pacino and Meryl Streep brought their unforgettable "A" games to this mesmerizing adaptation of Tony Kushner's epic Pulitzer Prize-winning play. A thrilling, uncompromising work of television artistry. Quite simply a classic.
 - "The Daily Show with Jon Stewart" (Comedy Central). From the Iraq War to Wacko Jacko, the wickedly inspired newscast satire delivered a smart, hilarious weeknightly shout of comic sanity.
 - "Joan of Arcadia" (CBS). The fall season's most interesting new network drama is a minor miracle — a refreshingly witty, emotionally absorbing and blessedly non-sanctioned contemplation of faith and spirituality.
 - "Curb Your Enthusiasm" (HBO). Larry David's outrageously entertaining edginess of curdled Hollywood manners remains an improvisational comic masterpiece.
 - "24" (Fox). The amazing thrill ride hasn't blown a gasket yet as Kiefer Sutherland races to save the world for a third time in the supercharged, cliffhanger-crazy suspense drama.
 - "Boomtown" (NBC). An innovative crime drama, blessed with fine writing and a riveting performance by Neal McDonough as tormented District Attorney David McNaris, was unceremoniously shot dead this fall by NBC after only two episodes of its second season. That's a real crime.
 - "The Office" (BBC America). A British comic tour de force of passive-aggressive workplace behavior, punctuated by writer-creator Ricky Gervais' snarlingly outrageous performance as unufferable middle manager David Brent.
 - "Alias" (ABC). Fabulous spy girl fun. Series creator J.J. Jacobs has concocted television's most enticingly stylish and entertaining espionage caper. Biff, bam, pow! Jennifer Garner rocks!
- Honorable mention**
- "Arrested Development" (Fox)
 - "The Shield" (FX)
 - "Without a Trace" (CBS)
 - "The O.C." (Fox)
 - "ER" (NBC)
 - "Sex and the City" (HBO)
 - "Mock" (USA Network)
 - "Cold Case" (CBS)
 - "Karen Sisco" (ABC)
 - "The Guardian" (CBS)
 - "The West Wing" (NBC)
 - "Ango" (WB)
 - "The Caspella Show" (Comedy Central)
 - "Do All G Show" (HBO)
 - "The Mulets" (UPN)
 - "Primetime Live" (Comedy Central)
 - "Virgin" (NBC)
 - "Line of Fire" (ABC)
 - "Playmakers" (ESPN)
 - "The Wire" (HBO).
- Other notables**
- Sidest Farwells: John Ritter, Fred Rogers (FX)
- Best Reality TV: "The Joe Schmo Show" (Spike TV), "Queen Eye for the Straight Guy" (Bravo), "The Simple Life" (Fox).
- Favorite High Quality Hall of Fame: "The Simpsons" (Fox).
- Rock 'N' Roll Paradise: The White Stripes ripping it up four straight nights in April on "Late Night with Conan O'Brien."
- Cooking Acting Addition To An Old Show: James Spader, "The Practice."
- Really Bad TV Live Five: "Coupling" (NBC), "K Street" (HBO), "Fear Factor" (NBC), "Joe Millionaire" (Fox), "Hope & Faith" (ABC).
- Much Ado About Nothing: "The Reagans" (CBS/Showtime).
- Best Good/Bad Gully Quizzes: "Nip/Tuck" (FX).

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Coming Saturday

Kansas State and Ohio State tangle in the Fiesta Bowl.

SPORTS

INSIDE

NHL .02
Varsity .04
NFL .05

Sports Editor: Joe Paisley, 735-3239 (Hours: 2-11 p.m.)

The Times-News

January 2, 2004

Section D

MORNING LINE

SPORTSQUOTE

Why do the Vikings envy the Portland Trail Blazers? The Blazers have a better record on grass.

-Dwight Perry of The Seattle Times, on the Minnesota Vikings' recent struggles and the history of players on the Blazers being caught with marijuana

TRIVIA

QUESTION: What does last year's Rose Bowl game involving Oklahoma and Washington State have in common with UCLA's regular-season meeting against Oklahoma in 1990?

...answer below

TODAY'S SCHEDULE

- College basketball
Women, CSI at Eastern Utah, 6 p.m.
Men, CSI at Eastern Utah, 8 p.m.
High school girls basketball
Richfield at Lighthouse Christian, 6 p.m.
Valley at Shoshone, 6 p.m.
Declo at Kimberly, 6 p.m.
Jerome at Vallivue, 6:15 p.m.
High school boys basketball
American Falls at Declo, 4:15 p.m.
Eller at Jerome, 6 p.m.
M.V. Christian at Raft River, 6 p.m.
Kimberly at Buhl, 6 p.m.
Burley at Bonneville, 6 p.m.
Castelford at Hansen, 6 p.m.
Richfield at Lighthouse Christian, 7:30 p.m.
High school wrestling
Kimberly, Eller, Glenns Ferry at Oakley Invitational

I.F. Rec offers ski packages for Pomerelle

TWIN FALLS - The City of Twin Falls Parks and Recreation Department is offering four-day skiing/snowboarding packages to Pomerelle Mountain Resort on Jan. 25, Feb. 8, Feb. 22 and March 7.
The package includes a one-hour skiing/snowboarding lesson and lift tickets for all four days. The cost is \$50. Rental equipment is available from Pomerelle for an extra \$10-15. The package does not include transportation, which is available directly from the Northside Bus Company for \$8.
Children ages 7 to 11 must be accompanied by a parent. Children 12 and up may travel alone.
The registration deadline is Jan. 19. Register at 136 Maxwell Ave. in Twin Falls, or call 736-2655.

Free cross country rentals set for Jan. 10

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.

TRIVIA ANSWER: The score, Oklahoma won both games 34-14.

USC 28 MICHIGAN 14

USC makes its case



Above, USC head coach Pete Carroll holds up the Rose Bowl trophy as he celebrates his team's 28-14 defeat of Michigan with Keary Colbert (83), left, and game MVP quarterback Matt Leinart (12).



Left, USC wide receiver Keary Colbert (83) heads for the end zone to score early in the third quarter as Michigan's Jeremy LeSueur hangs on during Thursday's game.

By Josh Dubow Associated Press writer

PASADENA, Calif. - Point made. Top-ranked Southern California laid out its case for the national championship the best way it knew how - by dominating No. 4 Michigan with a 28-14 victory Thursday in the Rose Bowl.
Matt Leinart threw three touchdown passes and caught another to lead the Trojans past the Wolverines with a performance that should be enough to persuade voters to leave USC atop the poll.

The Associated Press' No. 1 team has never dropped in the rankings after winning its bowl, and it doesn't look as though it will happen this time, either.
"I think we just won the national championship," jubilarious USC coach Pete Carroll said.
While the Trojans are primed to win their first title in 25 years, they would have to share it. Voters for the USA Today/ESPN coaches' poll are obligated to crown the winner of Sunday's Sugar Bowl between No. 2 LSU and No. 3 Oklahoma, playing in the BCS championship game.
The Trojans were left out of the

Bowl Championship Series title game because of a weaker schedule, but they felt right at home in front of a sellout crowd of 93,849.
Leinart, the game's MVP, shredded the nation's sixth-ranked pass defense for 327 yards, and the Trojans (12-1) had a season-high nine sacks and even blocked a field goal by Michigan (10-3).
The signature play came late in the third quarter when Mike Williams took a reverse handoff from Hershel Dennis and flicked an easy pass to Leinart, who jogged in for a 15-yard score that made it 28-7.
With the big lead, all the

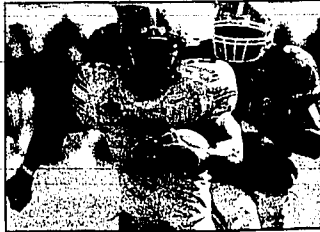
Trojans needed to do was run out the clock - and start waiting for the final AP poll early Monday morning.
The victory caps USC's return to prominence after years of mediocrity. The Trojans went 31-29 in the five years before Carroll brought his youthful enthusiasm to one of college football's traditional powers.
The Wolverines allowed only five touchdown passes all year before running into USC. Keary Colbert had six catches for 149 yards and two touchdowns, and LenDale White had the other score.
Please see USC, Page D2

Hawkeyes pound Gators in Outback Bowl

By Fred Goodall Associated Press writer

TAMPA, Fla. - Kirk Ferentz can rest a little easier.
Iowa's 45-year drought in January bowl games is over, the Hawkeyes have consecutive 10-win seasons for the first time, and Ferentz and his players can finally stop thinking about last year's flop in the Orange Bowl.
Iowa's 37-17 rout of Florida on Thursday in the Outback Bowl ensured all that.
"This is very gratifying and

very rewarding. This is one more hurdle for us to climb," Ferentz said. "None of us had a good taste in our mouths after the game last January. It stunk with us."
With Fred Russell running for 150 yards and one touchdown, the 13th-ranked Hawkeyes answered critics who felt Ferentz needed to win a New Year's Day Bowl to truly re-establish Iowa as one of the nation's top programs.
Nathan Chandler threw for one TD and ran for another. Nate Kneding kicked three field goals



Iowa's Fred Russell (2) outruns Florida's Daryl Dixon (34) Thursday during Iowa's 37-17 win in the Outback Bowl.

Please see OUTBACK, Page D2

Vermell will stay with K.C. fourth year

By Doug Tucker Associated Press writer

KANSAS CITY, Mo. - The NFL's oldest coach figures staying around young people is the best way to stay spry.
"It's true," said 67-year-old Dick Vermell. "My football team energizes me."
So Vermell will be back next year with the playoff-bound Kansas City Chiefs, a decision he made after thinking how much he regretted leaving St. Louis shortly after the Rams won the 2000 Super Bowl.
Chiefs general manager Carl Peterson, one of Vermell's closest friends, talked him out of retirement in 2001 and gave him a three-year, \$10 million contract. Calling Vermell "the best coach in the National Football League," Peterson has said



Kansas City Chiefs coach Dick Vermell, right, celebrates with Dante Hall (82) during a recent game.

repeatedly that as long as he is general manager of the Chiefs, Vermell is welcome to be head coach.
After going 6-10 in 2001 and 8-8 last year, Vermell guided the 2003 Chiefs to a 13-3 regular-season record and the No. 2 seed in the

AFC playoffs. He took Philadelphia to the Super Bowl following the 1980 season and guided the Rams to the NFL Championship in the 1999 season; he could be the first coach to take three different teams to the Super Bowl.

Top-ranked Huskies can set home win mark

By Donna Tommelleo Associated Press writer

HARTFORD, Conn. - The plan is simple and the results beyond question.
"Our approach is we're not going to lose at home," Connecticut coach Geno Auriemma said.
Top-ranked Connecticut stays true to its word, and has a chance to again rewrite the record books of women's college basketball.
The four-time national champion Huskies (9-0) already own the record for longest win streak at 70 games set last year. A victory at Hartford Civic Center against No. 4 Duke on Saturday would be their 70th straight home win,

breaking the mark they share with Tennessee.
The nationally televised game also features a marquee matchup of two of the game's best players - UConn's Diana Taurasi and Duke's Alana Beard.
"We don't cross (the wins) out on the chalkboard," Taurasi said. "You just play the game and it's a little added bonus. Coach always says if you get a chance to put your name in the record books, you should take advantage of it."
Taurasi, a senior All-American, has not lost at home and hardly at all anywhere else for that matter. The Huskies are 117-4 in the Taurasi era, winning back-to-back national titles along the way.

CSI faces CEU on the road

Eagles will have just nine players in tonight's game

By Kevin Colbert Times-News writer

TWIN FALLS - No matter how many presents College of Southern Idaho men's basketball head coach Gib Arnold may have had under his tree on Christmas Day, one has to wonder if he was hoping Santa could bring him a little bit more.
After a rash of injuries, violations of team rules and visa problems in recent weeks, Arnold is left with just nine players - who are certain to be in uniform when the Golden Eagles (10-3 overall, 5-3 Scenic West Athletic Conference) travel south for games tonight and Saturday at 8 p.m. with the College of Eastern Utah (10-6-4).



The CSI women will meet CEU at 6 p.m. both nights.
Arnold could be without as many as four players - four guards - who opened the season for CSI.
David Sills was dismissed from the team for a violation of team rules in December.
Clint "Boo" Gallely was also dismissed earlier in the season for poor academic standing.
Nurudeen Adepoju was sent home to Nigeria by the United States Embassy in order to get his visa renewed. He will be away from the team indefinitely.
Cliff Schaefer, Jackson, who severely sprained his ankle in a practice prior to CSI's Dec. 16 contest against Treasure Valley Community College, is questionable for this weekend's games. Jackson was able to put weight on his foot earlier in the week for the first time since the injury.
Arnold has, however, been able to add several walk-ons to the team that are only allowed to participate in a practice capacity, in accordance with NJCAA rules.
Eastern Utah, a guard-oriented team, will likely look to take advantage of CSI's depleted guard corps, now anchored by Aking Eling, Jason McKinney and Dani Harut.
"They are a scrappy team and their guard line is very quick," Arnold said of CEU. "They don't have great size but they're quick. They look to take you off the dribble, drive and penetrate."
Casey Iverson, a 6-foot-11 sophomomore guard, leads a balanced CEU attack at 12.5 points per game. He also heads the team in 3-point shooting, connecting on 35 of his 74 tries from outside the arc, good for 47 percent.
Byronne Shepherd, a 6-3 sophomore, and Steve Williams (6-4, sophomore) are solid weapons from the wing. Shepherd averages 11.5 ppg. Williams is at 9.7.
Jeremy Atwater, a 6-6 forward, is CEU's best weapon in the post. He is scoring 9.5 ppg and grabbing 4.0 rebounds per contest.
Please see CSI, Page D2

Denver's Shannon Sharpe never holds anything back

He plays every game as if it's his last one

By John Marshall
Associated Press writer

DENVER — Denver's Shannon Sharpe has treated every game as if it were the last of his career.

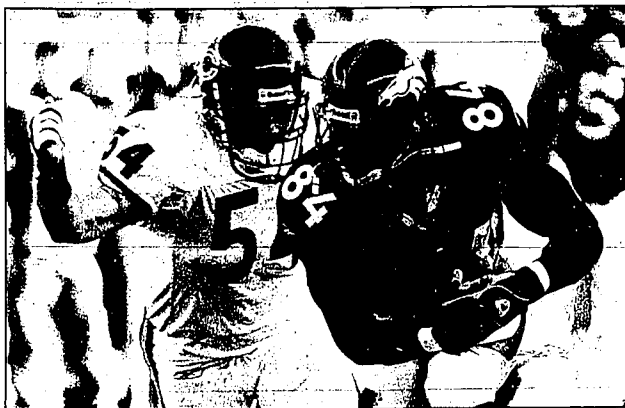
It's one of the reasons he's the top pass-catching tight end in league history. It's also why he's not treating Sunday's playoff game against Indianapolis any differently, even though it really could be his final one.

"I've thought about that," Sharpe said of possibly playing his last game. "It's always in the back of my mind because you never know. And saying that, I tell you once I touch that field, that will be the last thing on my mind."

Sharpe took his time deciding whether to return for a 14th season and has hinted he won't be back one or over. He'll take plenty of memories with him.

Sharpe started his career in 1990 as little more than a blocker and special teams player. He developed into so much more.

Taking the advice of teammates, Sharpe traded the blocking sled for catching passes. Maybe his blocking suffered in the process,



Denver Broncos tight end Shannon Sharpe (84) pulls in a first-down pass as Chicago Bears linebacker Brian Urlacher (54) moves in to make the tackle Nov. 23 in the first quarter in Denver. Sharpe has treated every game as if it were the last of his career. It's one of the reasons he likely go down as the best pass-catching tight end in league history.

but there was no doubt Sharpe could catch a football like no other tight end before.

At 6-foot-2, 228 pounds, he looked more like a big receiver than some of the offensive line-

men who called themselves tight ends. Sharpe played like a wideout, too, using his speed to blow past linebackers and his size to fend off safeties.

The results have been impres-

sive.

Sharpe is the league's all-time leader in receptions (815) and yards (10,060) for a tight end, and this season he passed Jerry Smith for most touchdowns at his pos-

tion with 62.

A seven-time Pro Bowler, Sharpe also has won three Super Bowls — two with Denver, another with Baltimore — and was part of an NFL-record 12 straight playoff wins from 1997-2001.

"They can put him in so many different places and look for the matchups, and try to get him the ball in a lot of different spaces that you don't see normal tight ends in," Indianapolis coach Tony Dungy said.

And he doesn't seem to be slowing down.

Sharpe caught 12 passes for a league-record 214 yards against Kansas City last season, and this year he caught 62 passes for 770 yards and eight touchdowns at age 35 — second only to Kansas City's Tony Gonzalez in the AFC.

"Shannon can still play," Indianapolis defensive tackle Montae Reagar said. "He's got a lot of athletic ability, and as long as he can play, he's going to play.

He keeps in great shape."

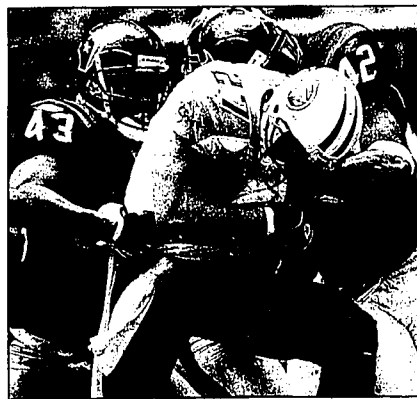
There's no doubting that. One of the reasons Sharpe considered retirement in the offseason was because of the effort he

puts in to stay in shape. He's built like a bodybuilder and maintains his physique with early-morning workouts and his own personal cook.

Sharpe's impact runs much deeper than just catching footballs. With a quick wit and insight few players have — or are willing to articulate — Sharpe became the kind of leader most coaches dream of. He's not afraid to chew out a teammate for missing an assignment, but he's also the first to pat him on the back.

And when it comes to inspiration, a few match-

ups, a few huddles. "I've just seen him grow tremendously since he's been here, both as a player and a leader," Broncos coach Mike Shanahan said. "He knows the mistakes he made as a young player and can share those with the players."



Tennessee's Eddie George (27) carries Houston Texans' Kenny Wright (43) and Marcus Coleman (42) as he rushes Dec. 24 Houston. The Titans will play the defensive-minded Baltimore Ravens on Saturday.

Wild-card matchups could go down to wire

By Dave Goldberg
Associated Press writer

The Tennessee Titans are 56-24 since 1999, tied with St. Louis for the NFL's best record during that time.

But when the Titans open the playoffs in Baltimore on Saturday, they face these daunting numbers: The Ravens have won five straight games and six of the past seven in the series.

"They've been a thorn-in-our-sides, and sometimes to move on in the future, you have to be present with the past," Tennessee's Eddie George says. "Maybe this is one of those times."

George has played a role in the Titans' troubles.

In a playoff game at Nashville during Baltimore's run to the 2001 Super Bowl, Ray Lewis wrestled a pass from George and ran 50 yards for the clinching score in the Ravens' 24-10 victory. Baltimore won despite only 134 yards of offense.

These are two lower-seeded teams that the higher seeds do not want to face because they are so physical.

Baltimore's defense is better, and it's playing at home, which is why it's a point favorite. But if Steve McNair's leg injuries have cleared up, he can beat any defense.

Let's assume that.

TTITANS, 20-16

Dallas (plus 3) at Carolina

The Cowboys beat the Panthers 24-20 in Dallas, one of just two games in which Tony Stewart's troops defeated a team that finished with a winning record.

But Carolina is favored by three points in the Saturday night game. That's for being at home and because Dallas' offense has been inept on the road, scoring 10 points or fewer in four of eight away games.

This might turn on the performance of the two inexperienced

quarterbacks, Jake Delhomme for the Panthers and Quincy Carter for the Cowboys. Give the edge to Delhomme, because a rested Stephen Davis is more of a running threat than Troy Hambrick.

PANTHERS, 14-9

Seattle (plus 7) at Green Bay

The Packers lost their first home playoff game ever to Atlanta at this stage a year ago.

Don't look for it to happen again. The Packers beat the Seahawks 35-13 at Lambeau Field on Oct. 5. That loss made Mike Holmgren 1-1 in Green Bay since leaving as Packers coach after the 1998 season.

Green Bay also is coming into the postseason playing very well. It's won four straight games and six of seven, and Brett Favre is playing as well as he has for a while.

Favre over Holmgren.

PACKERS, 31-23

Denver (plus 3) at Indianapolis

Another rematch, this one just two weeks old.

That first game went to Denver, 31-17. Clinton Portis was out, but Quentin Griffin and Mike Anderson combined for 192 yards rushing as the Broncos controlled the ball for nearly 45 minutes.

Conventional wisdom says it's hard for one team to beat another twice in one season, especially when the games are so close together. History says so, too — as recently as three years ago, St. Louis trampled New Orleans on the final day of the season, then went back to the Superdome and lost a first-round playoff game.

Still, the Broncos match up very well against the Colts and the RCA Dome is not as intimidating as a lot of indoor arenas.

BRONCOS, 24-20

LAST WEEK: 10-6 (spread); 10-6 (straight up)

REGULAR SEASON: 143-108-5 (spread); 162-94 (straight up)

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NFL PLAYOFF GAMES

Mark which team you think will win each game and bring it in to any Mr. Gas by 6:00 pm Friday, Jan. 2, 2004

- | Saturday, Jan. 3rd Games | | Sunday, Jan. 4th Games | |
|------------------------------------|---------|------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Dallas |at | <input type="checkbox"/> Carolina | <input type="checkbox"/> Seattle |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Tennessee |at | <input type="checkbox"/> Baltimore | <input type="checkbox"/> Denver |
| | | <input type="checkbox"/> Green Bay | <input type="checkbox"/> Indianapolis |

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<p>18 Pack Cans or 20 Pack Bottles.</p> <p>COORS & COORSLIGHT \$11.99</p>	<p>18 Pack Bottles or Cans</p> <p>BUD & BUDLIGHT \$11.99</p>	<p>Cartons</p> <p>GP CLASSIC \$16.89</p>
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NATION

A long journey

The two rovers have traveled 311 million and 305 million miles respectively since their June 10 and July 7 launches in Delta II rockets.

Mars Exploration Rover spacecraft

Third stage
Separates at 37 minutes into the launch

Second stage
Separates after 30 minutes

Main engine
Jettisons after about 4 minutes

Booster rockets
Drop after about 2 minutes

Mars Exploration Rover spacecraft

Craft — 8.7 feet — size:
5.2 feet

Heat shield
Entry heat expected to reach 2,637° F

Back shell
Holds the rover

Cruise stage
Separates 21 minutes before touchdown

Back to Mars

Two robotic rovers — Spirit and Opportunity — are approaching Mars, with the first arriving Saturday, the second Jan. 24. The \$820 million quest hopes to discover if water ever made the environment conducive to life. The rovers will examine soil, rock and dust particles and also take pictures of the landscape. The mission is similar to the Mars Pathfinder's Sojourner rover.

A mobile laboratory

Navigational cameras

Panoramic cameras
High-resolution color stereo cameras

Magnet array
One of three arrays that collect magnetic dust for analysis

Microscopic imager
Provides a close-up view of rock texture

X-ray spectrometer
Analyzes the elemental makeup of Mars surface

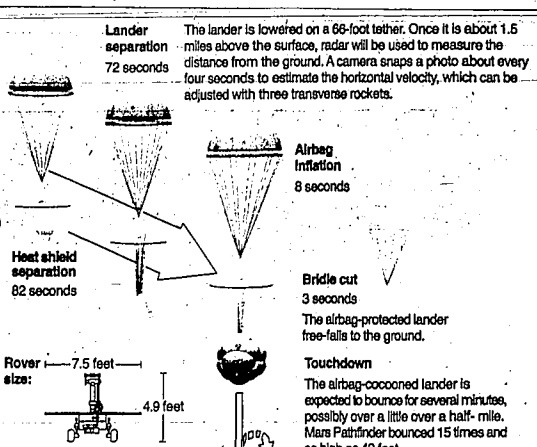
Rock abrasion tool
Exposes rock for analysis

The descent

Enters atmosphere
Altitude: 80 miles
Speed: 12,000 mph

Parachute deployment
102 seconds to touchdown
Altitude: 6.3 miles

Mini-thermal emission spectrometer (At rest)
Uses infrared radiation to determine mineral composition of distant landscape features



Rover size:
7.5 feet
4.9 feet

The lander is lowered on a 66-foot tether. Once it is about 1.5 miles above the surface, radar will be used to measure the distance from the ground. A camera snaps a photo about every four seconds to estimate the horizontal velocity, which can be adjusted with three transverse rockets.

Airbag inflation
8 seconds

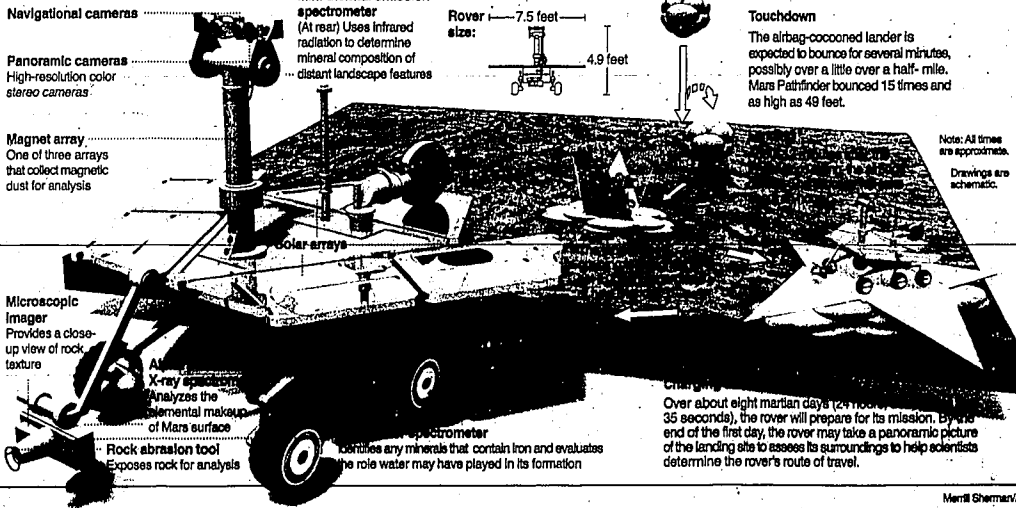
Bridle cut
3 seconds

The airbag-protected lander free-falls to the ground.

Touchdown

The airbag-cooned lander is expected to bounce for several minutes, possibly over a little over a half-mile. Mars Pathfinder bounced 15 times and as high as 49 feet.

Note: All times are approximate. Drawings are schematic.



Charging
Over about eight martian days (24 hours), the rover will charge its batteries. By the end of the first day, the rover will prepare for its mission. By the end of the first day, the rover may take a panoramic picture of the landing site to assess its surroundings to help scientists determine the rover's route of travel.

SOURCE: NASA

Merill Sherman/AP

Spacecraft prepares to 'scoop' up matter from early universe

PASADENA, Calif. (AP) — A spacecraft is on track to fly through the tail of a comet today, collecting hundreds of specks of the primitive material from which the sun, the planets and all living creatures are made, NASA said.

The National Aeronautics and Space Administration's Stardust spacecraft is expected to pass within 186 miles of the comet Wild 2 as it catches the shimmering gas and dust cloud that envelops the dirty ball of ice and rock.

The unmanned probe should make its closest approach at 12:40 p.m. MST, when the comet and probe will be 242 million miles from Earth, mission members said Tuesday at NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory.

During the flyby, Stardust should capture hundreds if not thousands of particles of dust ripped from Wild 2 (pronounced Wild-2) by streams of gases boiled from the comet's surface by the warming rays of the sun.

NASA also expects the spacecraft to take 72 black-and-white pictures of the comet's 3.3-mile-diameter nucleus. The first of those images could be received on Earth as early as this afternoon.

Scientists are eager to study the particles since they represent pristine examples — preserved for 4.6 billion years by the cold of space — of the material that coalesced to form our solar system and everything in it. Stardust should sweep up much less than a thumbful of the material.

The scientists believe the dust contains many of the organic compounds necessary for life. Comets that pelted the Earth long ago could have delivered those molecules.

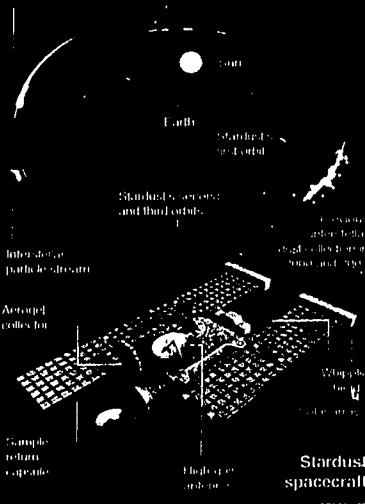
"They are museums that contain the building blocks of our solar system, our planet and from which even our lives were formed," said Donald Brownlee, a University of Washington astronomer and the \$200 million mission's main scientist.

If successful, Stardust should become only the third spacecraft to capture a close-up view of the

Stardust to catch comet's tail

The Stardust spacecraft is expected to fly through the tail of the comet Wild 2 this week to capture dust particles and take photographs. The dust may contain primitive examples of the organic compounds that were the building blocks of our solar system.

Comet Wild 2 Launch: Feb. 7, 1999 Return to Earth: Jan. 15, 2004
Comet encounter Jan. 2, 2004



SOURCE: NASA

N. Rapp, G. New/AP

dark heart of a comet, normally obscured by a bright veil of dust and gas.

Stardust has protective bumpers designed to shield the unmanned spacecraft as it plows through the comet's veil, or coma, at 13,650 mph. A tennis racket-shaped mitt will snag particles during the flyby.

The mitt has already swept up bits of interstellar dust since the

spacecraft's 1999 launch.

In 2006, Stardust will jettison a canister containing the mitt during a flyby of Earth. The canister and its extraterrestrial cargo should plummet down on Utah, and scientists then hope to analyze the particles; Stardust will continue orbiting the sun.

Wild 2 is named after Swiss astronomer Paul Wild, who discovered the comet in 1978.

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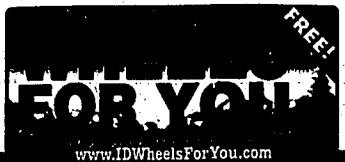


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600 REAL ESTATE RENTALS

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700 FARM EQUIPMENT

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708 Seed & Fertilizer
709 Hay, Grain & Feed
710 Crops/Product
711 Custom Farming Services
712 Farms For Rent
713 Pastures For Rent
714 Pastures Wanted
715 Farm Auctions
716 AG Business & Service Directory

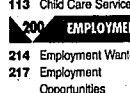
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- 810 Furniture/Carpet
811 Heating & Air Conditioning
812 Auctions/Auctioneers
813 Jewelry
814 Lawn & Garden
815 Exercise Equipment
816 Miscellaneous
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818 Office Equip./Supplies
819 Bicycles
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821 Variety Food/Svcs.
822 Wanted To Buy
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824 Guns & Rifles
825 Camping & Hunting Equipment
826 Sporting Equipment
827 Garage Sales
828 Flea Markets

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904 Motor Homes & RVs
905 Snow Vehicles
906 Travel Trailers
907 Utility Trailers

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302 Money to Loan
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702 Dairy Cattle & Supplies
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704 Pets & Pet Supplies

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802 Bazaars & Crafts
803 Building Materials
804 Electronics
805 Hot Tubs & Pools
806 Clothing & Furs
807 Computers
808 Firewood

900 RECREATION

- 901 ATVs & Motorcycles
902 Boats & Accessories

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR Bureau of Land Management Notice of Realty Action, Recreation and Public Purposes (R&PP) Act Classification; Idaho

ADVERTISMENT FOR SALE OF TENANTS PERSONAL PROPERTY Maggot Valley Storage 1532 Elm Street N. Twin Falls, Idaho, will sell to AUGUSTION SERVICE on January 8, 2004 the contents belonging to: BILL AUSTIN (M-338) Address: 1940 Elizabeth Blvd #19, Twin Falls, ID. Contents: CB radio, skis, TV, air compressor, misc. boxes.

NOTICE The Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation) announces requests of reopening for a pilot water leasing program for 2004. Reclamation will issue water rights for flow augmentation from qualified applicants who are willing to place their Snake River water rights or a portion of their water rights into the Idaho State Water Supply Bank. Proposals must be received in writing by January 16, 2004. Under this program, land appurtenant to the leased water right will be listed. Only water rights with a priority dates of 12/28/78 or earlier are eligible. For more information, call application contact Ruth Page of Reclamation's Pacific Northwest Regional Office at 208-378-5322.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that Twin Falls School District #411, Twin Falls, Idaho will receive sealed bids for supplying food, meat and non-food items until Friday, January 16, 2004, at the Twin Falls School District #411 Administration Office, 201 Main Avenue West, Twin Falls, Idaho 83301.

NOTICE OF BID Application Comments: Interested parties may submit comments regarding the specific use proposed in the application and plan of development, whether the BLM followed proper administrative procedures in reaching the decision, or any other factors not directly related to the suitability of the land for recreation.

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THE TIMES-NEWS Classified Department Office hours are 8:00 am to 5:30 pm Monday thru Friday.

602 UNFURNISHED HOUSES BUHL 2 bdrm, 1 1/2 bath, no pets. Small yard. Rent + deposit. 208-543-8287.

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2003 FORD RANGER XL 2004 FORD RANGER X-CAB XLT 2003 FORD RANGER X-CAB XLT 2004 FORD ESCAPE XLT 2004 FORD EXPLORER XLS 4x4

<p>2.8L Engine Air Conditioning 4th/AM/ABS AM/FM/CD Tachometer</p> <p>MSRP \$16,940 Invoice \$15,000 Rebate \$3,000 College Grad \$500 FDIC Cash \$500 Military \$500 Military \$500</p> <p>\$8,753 \$149 PER MO.</p>	<p>3.0L V6 Engine Air Conditioning AM/FM/CD 4th/AM/ABS</p> <p>MSRP \$16,440 Invoice \$15,000 Rebate \$3,200 College Grad \$500 Military \$500</p> <p>\$13,395 \$216 PER MO.</p>	<p>4.0L V6 Engine FX4 Off-Road Package Remote Entry Air Conditioning Power Windows Power Door Locks Tilt-Steering Cruise Control</p> <p>MSRP \$24,979 Invoice \$22,000 Rebate Cash \$3,000 College Grad \$500 Military \$500</p> <p>\$17,072 \$275 PER MO.</p>	<p>4.0L V6 Engine AM/FM/CD Step Bar Rear Spoiler Automatic Transmission Power Seat</p> <p>MSRP \$24,450 Invoice \$22,999 Rebate \$3,000 College Grad \$500</p> <p>\$20,999 \$338 PER MO.</p>	<p>4.0L V6 Engine AM/FM/CD Step Bar Air Conditioning Power Windows Power Door Safety Coney</p> <p>MSRP \$26,935 Invoice \$25,000 Rebate \$3,000 College Grad \$500 Military \$500</p> <p>\$22,796 \$367 PER MO.</p>
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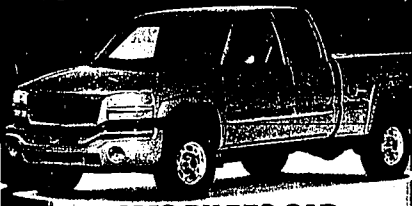
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Rob's Price \$5,900



2003 DODGE CARAVAN
Rob's Price \$16,100



2002 FORD WINDSTAR
Rob's Price \$13,337



1999 CHEVROLET SUBURBAN
Rob's Price \$13,657



1998 CHEVROLET LUMINA
Rob's Price \$5,400



2003 OLDS ALERO
Rob's Price \$9,624



2000 JEEP GRAND CHEROKEE
Rob's Price \$16,160



1998 FORD MUSTANG
Rob's Price \$9,998



2001 CHEVROLET METRO
Rob's Price \$4,998



2003 FORD EXPEDITION
Rob's Price \$26,640



1999 FORD EXPEDITION
Rob's Price \$15,440



2003 DODGE STRATUS
Rob's Price \$12,130



1999 CHEVROLET SUBURBAN
Rob's Price \$15,100



2003 CHEVROLET CAVALIER
Rob's Price \$8,928



2003 CHRYSLER PT CRUISER
Rob's Price \$14,698



1999 GMC 1500 REG CAB
Rob's Price \$11,349



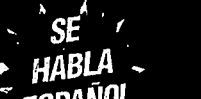
1998 CHEVROLET 3500 CREW
Rob's Price \$12,798



2003 CHEVY IMPALA
Rob's Price \$13,950



2003 CHEVY MALIBU
Rob's Price \$9,648



1999 FORD F-350 CREW CAB
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1995 FORD EXPLORER Stock #G176. Was \$9584. SAVE \$2576	\$6988
1996 CHEVY BLAZER Stock #G217. Was \$10234. SAVE \$2248	\$7988
1997 FORD EXPLORER Stock #G164. Was \$11230. SAVE \$2242	\$8988
1998 DODGE DURANGO Stock #F126. Was \$13587. SAVE \$2599	\$10988
2000 GMC JIMMY Stock #F521. Was \$15643. SAVE \$3655	\$11988
2002 CHEVY TRACKER Stock #G155. Was \$15420. SAVE \$2432	\$12988
2000 JEEP GR. CHEROKEE 2 TO CHOOSE. Was \$18432. SAVE \$2444	\$13988
2000 JEEP GR. CHEROKEE Stock #G161. Was \$18220. SAVE \$2232	\$13988
1999 GMC YUKON Stock #E700. Was \$17895. SAVE \$2907	\$14988
2000 DODGE DURANGO Stock #G165. Was \$17854. SAVE \$2868	\$14988
2000 NISSAN XTERRA Stock #F951. Was \$18854. SAVE \$2868	\$15988
2002 FORD EXPLORER Stock #G120. Was \$21471. SAVE \$2483	\$18988

1999 FORD WINDSTAR 3 TO CHOOSE. Was \$10257. SAVE \$2289	\$7988
1999 FORD WINDSTAR Stock #E936. Was \$11224. SAVE \$2236	\$8988
2000 PLYMOUTH VOYAGER Stock #F131. Was \$11774. SAVE \$2788	\$8988
2001 CHEVY ASTRO Stock #F632. Was \$11245. SAVE \$2257	\$8988
1999 DODGE GR. CARAVAN 2 TO CHOOSE. Was \$12586. SAVE \$2578	\$9988
1999 GMC SAFARI Stock #E431. Was \$12453. SAVE \$2465	\$9988
2001 PONTIAC MONTANA Stock #G164. Was \$13552. SAVE \$2564	\$10988
2000 DODGE GR. CARAVAN 3 TO CHOOSE. Was \$14578. SAVE \$2590	\$11988
2000 OLDS SILHOUETTE Stock #E881. Was \$14566. SAVE \$2578	\$11988
2001 DODGE GR. CARAVAN Stock #F908. Was \$14589. SAVE \$2581	\$11988
2000 HONDA ODYSSEY Stock #F228. Was \$15843. SAVE \$2855	\$12988

1999 PONTIAC GRAND AM Stock #F719. Was \$9854. SAVE \$2866	\$6988
1999 FORD TAURUS Stock #2205. Was \$9855. SAVE \$2887	\$6988
1999 FORD TAURUS Stock #F114. Was \$9114. SAVE \$2126	\$6988
1999 DODGE STRATUS 2 TO CHOOSE. Was \$9665. SAVE \$2677	\$6988
1999 DODGE INTREPID Stock #2305. Was \$9125. SAVE \$2137	\$6988
1999 PONTIAC GRAND AM Stock #F715. Was \$9300. SAVE \$2312	\$6988
2000 DODGE STRATUS 5 TO CHOOSE. Was \$9451. SAVE \$2483	\$6988
1999 OLDS 88 LSD Stock #707N. Was \$10336. SAVE \$2349	\$7988
2000 PONTIAC GRAND AM 2 TO CHOOSE. Was \$10224. SAVE \$2236	\$7988
2001 FORD TAURUS Stock #275T. Was \$10226. SAVE \$2238	\$7988
2000 CHEVY LUMINA Stock #588P. Was \$11654. SAVE \$2566	\$8988
2000 DODGE INTREPID 5 TO CHOOSE. Was \$11589. SAVE \$2581	\$8988
2000 FORD FOCUS Stock #236T. Was \$11288. SAVE \$2300	\$8988
2000 CHRYSLER SEBRING Stock #304S. Was \$12574. SAVE \$2588	\$9988
2000 PONTIAC GRAND PRIX Stock #775T. Was \$12012. SAVE \$2024	\$9988
2001 CHRYSLER SEBRING Stock #205T. Was \$12440. SAVE \$2452	\$9988
2003 CHEVY CAVALIER Stock #141T. Was \$12557. SAVE \$2569	\$9988
1999 PONTIAC GRAND PRIX Stock #790S. Was \$13587. SAVE \$2599	\$10988
2000 VW JETTA Stock #A00S. Was \$13574. SAVE \$2586	\$10988
2000 PONTIAC GRAND PRIX Stock #226S. Was \$13574. SAVE \$2586	\$10988
2001 DODGE STRATUS Stock #334T. Was \$14587. SAVE \$2599	\$11988
2002 DODGE INTREPID Stock #281T. Was \$14552. SAVE \$2564	\$11988
2003 CHEVY MALIBU Stock #143T. Was \$14557. SAVE \$2569	\$11988
2000 PONTIAC BONNEVILLE Stock #810S. Was \$15687. SAVE \$2879	\$12988
2000 VW JETTA Stock #288T. Was \$15643. SAVE \$2855	\$12988
2001 CHEVY CAMARO Stock #227T. Was \$15643. SAVE \$2855	\$12988
2000 CHRYSLER 300M Stock #991S. Was \$16420. SAVE \$2432	\$13988

TRUCKS

1998 DODGE DAKOTA Stock #G224. Was \$8552. SAVE \$2564	\$5988
1997 FORD F150 Stock #G199. Was \$11256. SAVE \$2288	\$8988
1997 FORD F150 Stock #G180. Was \$11236. SAVE \$2248	\$8988
2001 DODGE DAKOTA Stock #G216. Was \$12200. SAVE \$2212	\$9988
1998 DODGE 2500 Stock #F890. Was \$13547. SAVE \$2559	\$10988
2000 DODGE 1500 Stock #8840. Was \$13542. SAVE \$2554	\$10988
1999 DODGE DAKOTA Stock #G107. Was \$15230. SAVE \$2242	\$12988
2000 DODGE 1500 2 TO CHOOSE. Was \$19857. SAVE \$2868	\$16988
2001 DODGE DAKOTA Stock #G111. Was \$18533. SAVE \$2545	\$16988

CARS

1998 PLYMOUTH NEON Stock #102T. Was \$7543. SAVE \$2555	\$4988
2001 CHEVY METRO Stock #289T. Was \$7665. SAVE \$2677	\$4988
1998 NISSAN ALTIMA Stock #311T. Was \$8549. SAVE \$2581	\$5988
1999 CHEVY MALIBU Stock #998S. Was \$8566. SAVE \$2578	\$5988
2000 BUICK CENTURY Stock #911S. Was \$8547. SAVE \$2559	\$5988

2000 DODGE INTREPID 5 TO CHOOSE. Was \$11589. SAVE \$2581	\$8988
2000 FORD FOCUS Stock #236T. Was \$11288. SAVE \$2300	\$8988
2000 CHRYSLER SEBRING Stock #304S. Was \$12574. SAVE \$2588	\$9988
2000 PONTIAC GRAND PRIX Stock #775T. Was \$12012. SAVE \$2024	\$9988
2001 CHRYSLER SEBRING Stock #205T. Was \$12440. SAVE \$2452	\$9988
2003 CHEVY CAVALIER Stock #141T. Was \$12557. SAVE \$2569	\$9988
1999 PONTIAC GRAND PRIX Stock #790S. Was \$13587. SAVE \$2599	\$10988
2000 VW JETTA Stock #A00S. Was \$13574. SAVE \$2586	\$10988
2000 PONTIAC GRAND PRIX Stock #226S. Was \$13574. SAVE \$2586	\$10988
2001 DODGE STRATUS Stock #334T. Was \$14587. SAVE \$2599	\$11988
2002 DODGE INTREPID Stock #281T. Was \$14552. SAVE \$2564	\$11988
2003 CHEVY MALIBU Stock #143T. Was \$14557. SAVE \$2569	\$11988
2000 PONTIAC BONNEVILLE Stock #810S. Was \$15687. SAVE \$2879	\$12988
2000 VW JETTA Stock #288T. Was \$15643. SAVE \$2855	\$12988
2001 CHEVY CAMARO Stock #227T. Was \$15643. SAVE \$2855	\$12988
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1997 DODGE GR. CARAVAN Stock #F516. Was \$9452. SAVE \$2484	\$5988
1998 PLYMOUTH GR. VOYAGER Stock #F458. Was \$9865. SAVE \$2677	\$6988

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