

GOOD MORNING

WEATHER



Today: Sunshine early then increasing clouds. High 34, low 23.

Page A2

MAGIC VALLEY



Doggone hero: Man jumps into icy lake to save co-worker's Shih Tzus.

Page B1

Grazing flap: Conservationist takes on BLM's proposed rule changes.

Page B1

MONEY

Taxes 2004: Learn how tax cuts can benefit you this filing season.

Page D1

FAMILY LIFE

Found writer: A Blaine County author has produced a second round of inspirational dog-eared tales.

Page E1

CENTENNIAL

Proving up: Early Twin Falls settlers did 30 days in the sagebrush.

Page E6

SPORTS



Swim Stars: About 200 swimmers from around the state converged on the YMCA City Pool Saturday for the Igloo Pentathlon.

Page C1

OPINION

Merging operations: Combining Departments of Labor and Commerce will boost Idaho's economy, today's editorial says.

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TEST TRANSFORMATION



Storme Jansson, left, Dallas Armstrong and Alexis Spence, all third-graders at Lincoln Elementary School, play a reading comprehension board game called 'Context Clues' Friday in Twin Falls. The exercise is designed to teach skills needed for the Idaho Standards Achievement Test.

ISAT drives significant changes in Idaho classrooms

By Karin Kowalski Times-News writer

TWIN FALLS—Robert Cuellar brought new meaning to the word concentration as he read aloud with his head bent over and his pencil following every word.

Friday morning's text described 4.5-foot-wide giant clams—their size of the table where Robert sat with two other third-graders and Kathie Pinther, a teacher aide. Third-graders at Lincoln Elementary School are split into small groups when they work on different skills in reading and math. Pinther's group was spending two days on the Read Naturally program, which helps them learn to read out loud smoothly and remember what they read. Students are divided into groups by ability and rotated through different reading exercises on about a 10-day cycle.

The linchpin of this strategy is standardized tests, such as the Idaho Standards Achievement Test, which enable teachers to group students and directly address what they need to know to pass the tests.

The ISAT, administered statewide for the first time last year, and other tests have significantly changed what's happening in Idaho public school classrooms, educators say. While not everyone agrees those changes are for the

better, many schools are making serious efforts to raise test scores by focusing instruction on skills students need to perform well on the ISAT. And some educators say the test results are a valuable tool to shape teaching based upon individual student performance.

Students in Twin Falls took the optional winter round of ISAT last week, while other districts will wait until they are required to administer it at the end of the year. Spring ISAT scores will help determine whether schools are considered to be making enough progress in increasing student performance as required by the federal No Child Left Behind Act. And by 2006, if the Idaho State Board of Education has its way, high school students will have to pass the test in order to graduate.

Many schools are making serious efforts to raise test scores by focusing instruction on skills students need to perform well on the ISAT.

Teaching for the test

Pinther said the Read Naturally program of timed readings helps the students do well on the ISAT and the Idaho Reading Indicator, which includes oral reading.

Dianna Cullinan, who teaches third grade, said her students don't mind breaking up into groups and don't always know what the others are doing. When a student does well with a skill, she moves them on to something else.

Please see ISAT, Page A7

School board: ISAT isn't yet reliable enough for graduation rule

The Times-News

TWIN FALLS—It's not yet time for the Idaho Standards Achievement Test to become a requirement for high school graduation, the Twin Falls School Board says.

The School Board signed a position statement at its meeting last week affirming that although the district supports standards, it does not believe the ISAT is yet reliable enough to be used as a statewide graduation test. An independent study by the Northwest Regional Educational Laboratory found the ISAT to poorly match Idaho's standards in many areas.

Interim Superintendent Wiley Dobbs said the test has to mature by being further aligned with state standards.

"We're confident that at some point this test will be a valid and reliable instrument," Dobbs said.

If it is implemented as a graduation requirement too soon, Dobbs said, the district could be sued by people unhappy about not being allowed to graduate. Dobbs said the district does not support the Legislature approving the ISAT as a graduation test for 2006, as has been recommended by the Idaho State Board of Education.

Budget has its potholes

Kemphorne plan requires three more years of pain

By Bob Flick Associated Press writer

BOISE—Evidence that Idaho's economy is on the mend may be increasing, but there are still years of hard political choices ahead for state government and the taxpayers supporting it.

The choices don't appear to be higher taxes don't budget cuts or going away.

"It looks to me like you build yourself into a box," House Speaker Bruce Newcomb of Burley said, but agreed with others that Gov. Dirk Kemphorne did just about the only thing he could.

Kemphorne took advantage of the credibility he gained engineering last year's budget-cutting sales tax increase to chart a course he says would get the state back to full economic recovery.

A Kemphorne adds the plan would do it without another round of politically-wrenching spending cuts or tax increases.

But the more people recover the governor's road to recovery, the larger the political potholes appear.

"I'm not going to say it's impossible, but it's very, very difficult," said Senate Finance Chairman Dean Cameron of Rupert. "The thing I have to give Kemphorne credit for is at least he's looking ahead—even if it doesn't make that much sense. That's something we don't do too often."

Some believe Kemphorne is too optimistic about revenue growth over the next 18 months. They fear it cannot sustain even the hold-the-line spending plan he proposed.

Others complain that he is just too stingy with education and other key programs, especially in an election year.

Giving in to either view could easily turn Kemphorne's

Please see BUDGET, Page A2



Gov. Dirk Kemphorne



U.S. death toll in Iraq hits 500

Knight Ridder News Service

BAGHDAD, Iraq—The 500th U.S. soldier to die in Iraq since the war began was killed Saturday.

Will Bush feel the heat? — A3

In all, three U.S. soldiers and two Iraqi civil defense workers were killed by the blast, and two other U.S. soldiers were wounded.



That brought the total number of U.S. soldiers who've died since the beginning of the war to 500, whom 346 died from hostile

Please see IRAQ, Page A2

Special security force faces task of guarding pipelines

The Washington Post

BAGHDAD, Iraq—Until a few weeks ago, the only line of defense at a water-pumping station on an oil pipeline near the northern city of Kirkuk was a burly man named Mohammad, who kept his semi-automatic rifle in a metal safe near the cot where he slept. He had no telephone or radio, and when strangers came by he would shout in Arabic: "Shoo, shoo, go away. Go to Kirkuk."

Dozens of guards now patrol the grounds there, and the shack

where Mohammad had been isolated is equipped with the latest communications gear. The security upgrade is part of the new Iraq Force Protection Service, specifically charged with safeguarding the pipelines and refineries that are the circulatory system of the country's financial lifeblood.

This northern pipeline and other oil facilities around the country have been the targets of repeated attacks of sabotage during the U.S. occupation, slowing the one key source of revenue for the country and resulting in

Please see OIL, Page A2

7 days, 7 reasons to read

Living with Parkinson's
It is possible to live something like a normal life with disease.
Monday

Wonder windows
They can even turn into computer monitors.
Tuesday

Blended cultures
Cook likes Mexican food, with a sprinkling of Italian.
Wednesday

Sliding away
Snow in the hills means sledding season.
Thursday

Feeling a loss
Woman mourns sale of childhood home.
Friday

'On Holy Ground'
Woman pens an inside look at the history of St. Edward's church.
Saturday

A turn for the verse
Elko's Cowboy Poetry Gathering turns 20.
Sunday

TWIN FALLS FORECAST

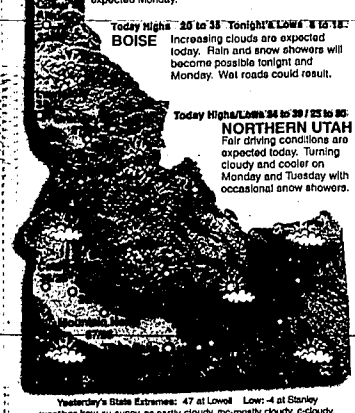
Today: Mostly sunny early with clouds increasing from the west. Highs in the middle 30s.
Tonight: Mostly cloudy skies and calm winds. Lows in the lower to middle 20s.
Tomorrow: Periods of clouds and occasional snow showers. Highs in the middle 30s.

BURLEY/RUPERT FORECAST

Today: Dry with increasing clouds by late in the day. Highs in the middle 30s.
Tonight: Turning mostly cloudy. Lows in the lower 20s.
Tomorrow: Cloudy with isolated snow showers. Highs in the middle 30s.

IDAHO'S FORECAST

SUN VALLEY, SURROUNDING MTS. Periods of clouds and seasonal temperatures are expected over the next few days. Snow showers are expected Monday.



Yesterday's State Extremes: 47 at Lowell. Low: -4 at Stanley.
Weather key: s=sunny, p=partly cloudy, m=mostly cloudy, c=cloudy, th=thunderstorms, sh=snow showers, r=rain, s=snow, B=bursts, w=wind, M=missing

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TWIN FALLS FIVE-DAY FORECAST

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

ALMANAC - TWIN FALLS

Table with 2 columns: Temperature, Precipitation, Humidity, Barometric Pressure, Sunrise and Sunset.

Moon Phases table with columns for Jan 21, Jan 29, Feb 6, Feb 13.

REGIONAL FORECAST

Table listing forecasts for various Idaho cities including Boise, Pocatello, and Idaho Falls.

Yesterday's Weather

Table listing weather for various cities including Boise, Burley, and Pocatello.

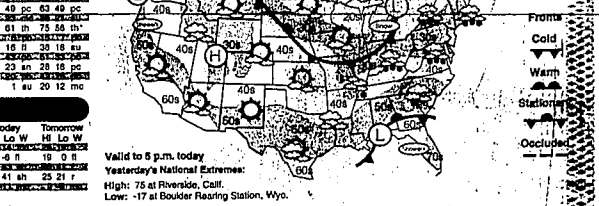
NATIONAL FORECAST

Table listing forecasts for major US cities like New York, Los Angeles, and Chicago.

WORLD FORECAST

Table listing forecasts for international cities like London, Tokyo, and Sydney.

TODAY'S NATIONAL MAP



CANADIAN FORECAST

Table listing forecasts for Canadian cities like Toronto and Vancouver.

Budget

Continued from A1. extremely difficult task into an impossible one of balancing the budget for three more years while losing \$185 million in annual revenue in mid-2005 when the penny sales tax hike expires.

Northwest Air gave government data on passengers

The Washington Post. WASHINGTON - Northwest Airlines provided information on millions of passengers for a secret U.S. government air-security project soon after the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks, raising more concerns among some privacy advocates about the airlines' use of confidential customer data.

Iraq

Continued from A1. actions and 154 from non-hostile causes, according to the Defense Department. Most deaths have occurred since President Bush declared an end to major combat on May 1.

Oil

Continued from A1. fuel shortages that have deepened anger toward and suspicion of the interim government here. "The vast pipeline network was a vulnerable target," said U.S. Army Col. Tom O'Donnell, who is in charge of setting up the oil police.

IDAHO LOTTERY

IDAHO LOTTERY advertisement for Saturday, January 17, 2004, featuring game numbers and prizes.

Circulation information for Daniel Walock, circulation director, including phone numbers and subscription rates.

Mail information for The Times-News, including address, phone number, and subscription rates.

The Times-News Information Line 735-3350. Ski, Lottery and Weather Information are just a phone call away!

IDAHO LOTTERY advertisement for Saturday, January 17, 2004, featuring game numbers and prizes.

NATION

FDA says U.S. generics beat out Canadian drugs

WASHINGTON (AP) — Americans who buy drugs in Canada in hopes of saving money could pay significantly more for purchased generic versions at home, according to new research by the Food and Drug Administration.

Canadian price controls mean that brand-name drugs there can cost as little as half the U.S. price. Those potential savings are enticing increasingly more people to import drugs from Canada even though the practice is illegal and the FDA calls it unsafe.

Generic versions cost much less than their brand-name counter-

parts, however, and the U.S. generic market is considered the world's most competitive. So FDA Commissioner Mark McClellan argues that for many people, buying more homegrown generics is a risk-free alternative to imports that could lower their drug costs.

"There are a lot of opportunities to save money while still making sure patients get the drugs they need," he said in an interview this month with The Associated Press.

To back that contention, the FDA analyzed price data collected by the medical research company IMS Health. Included were seven drugs whose generic versions are top-selling treatments for chronic

diseases: the anti-depressant Prozac; blood pressure medicines Lopressor, Prinivil and Vasotec; Xanax for anxiety; Klonopin for seizures; and Glucophage for diabetes.

Comparing both brand-name and generic versions in Canada, the U.S. generics proved significantly cheaper for all but the diabetes drug, the study concluded.

The study measured average price per milligram, not what the patient pays per bottle, which can vary in dose and pill number.

Among the findings — Xanax had the highest disparity. The Canadian brand was roughly nine times the price, per mil-

ligram, of the U.S. generic. Next was Vasotec, five times the price of the U.S. generic.

—Canada's generics ranged from fluoxetine, or Prozac, at 1.3 times the U.S. price to alprazolam, or Xanax, at four times the U.S. price. One generic, the version of Vasotec called enalapril, is not sold in Canada.

—Glucophage was the exception. The U.S. generic actually cost 39 percent more per milligram than Canada's brand-name version.

The study used the price that pharmacies paid for each drug in 2002, the latest full year that prices from both countries were available from IMS Health.

"I think consumers think everything's cheaper in Canada. It's just not the case," the FDA's pharmacy affairs chief, Tom McGinnis, said in a recent interview.

He described a recent visit to a U.S. Customs facility in New York where inspectors were examining 10,000 packages of imported pharmaceuticals. McGinnis said he spotted a bottle of generic water pills for high blood pressure that cost a few cents a tablet in U.S. pharmacies.

Adding the shipping cost, whoever ordered that bottle from Canada spent about a third more than he would have at a local drug store, McGinnis said.

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*See American Council on Depositing on www.aac.com
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IS IT SPRING YET?



Others housed at the Cape May County Zoo peek out from their hay-filled den into the freezing temperatures in Cape May Court House, N.J. Veterinarians say animals need special attention when the temperature drops to prevent them from freezing.

Bush's space goals confuse experts

The Orlando Sentinel

WASHINGTON — President Bush's vision for the space program is "admitted" as stirring inspiration among Americans. But some, in the wake of his speech last week, are asking a more mundane but pressing question: Why?

Many experts say there are practical benefits to a moon mission, from offering a better spot for telescopes to scan the universe to providing a "base camp" for a manned trip to Mars, a destination that holds the most tantalizing possibility of discovering life away from Earth.

And, as Bush noted, there are sure to be technological advances from such an endeavor that trickle down into the everyday life of Americans.

But fundamentally, experts and space advocates say, the true reward is the trip itself.

"We don't really know what we might find on other planets, they say — but that is the lure of exploration, the draw that has hooked those who have ached to see what lies over the horizon for as long as human beings have existed.

"The question — why — is a good one," said Bruce Murray, a professor of planetary science and geology at the California Institute of Technology. "The answer 'practical benefits' is not."

Much of that answer "depends on what you see as the future of humans in space," said Michael Griffin, a former chief engineer and associate administrator for exploration at the National Aeronautics and Space Administration. "If there is no future for humans in space, or even machines in space, and no interest in the kinds of scientific research that can be done on the moon, there are no practical reasons."

Griffin, now president and chief operating officer at In-Q-Tel, a business incubator for technology companies, drew a comparison between space exploration and the trips by European explorers to travel to the Americas. Primarily, he said, they were looking for gold, but the overarching rationale was simply to discover what else was out there.

Bush could feel heat with 500 dead

BAGHDAD, Iraq (AP) — With 500 Americans dead in the Iraq conflict, the mounting casualty toll that has made this the deadliest U.S. war since Vietnam could intensify criticism of the U.S. occupation and provide ammunition to Democrats seeking to take on President Bush in November.

The 500 figure is mostly symbolic, yet it adds to the urgency of Bush administration efforts to seek U.N. help in sharing the burden for stabilizing and rebuilding Iraq and to extricate American troops from a deepening military and political quagmire, analysts say.

"I think that the significance of the number 500 is arbitrary to everybody except the poor guy who wrote the 500th," said Michael Donovan of the Center for Defense Information in Washington. "That being said, I think there's an awareness in the administration that sustaining these kinds of casualties indefinitely is not possible if they're going to sustain support for the war."

The number of U.S. service members who have died in Iraq since the

war began last March reached 500 on Saturday after a roadside bomb exploded north of Baghdad, killing three U.S. soldiers. Two Iraqi civil defense troopers also died in the attack, which occurred when a Bradley Fighting Vehicle struck an explosive device on a road near Taji, about 20 miles north of the Iraqi capital.

The U.S. death toll so far from the Iraq conflict exceeds American losses in many regional conflicts of the past several decades: Lebanon, Somalia, Panama, Grenada, Kosovo, Afghanistan and the first Gulf War. Most of the Iraq-related deaths — both combat and non-combat — have occurred since Bush declared an end to major fighting on May 1.

In the first Gulf War of 1991, 315 Americans died in the operation to drive Saddam Hussein's forces from Kuwait.

Still, the latest war toll is small compared with the horrific bloodletting of some of America's past conflicts.

About 19,000 U.S. soldiers died in one month alone in the Battle of the Bulge in World War II, whose

total U.S. toll was 290,000. About 620,000 Americans died in the Civil War and more than 58,000 in Vietnam.

Although Americans are widely perceived to have little stomach for bloody wars in distant lands, analysts said 500 was in Iraq are not yet significant enough to trigger a popular backlash against U.S. involvement here.

Lawrence J. Korb, vice president of the Council on Foreign Relations, said 500 was a symbolic threshold.

"Maybe a lot of attention in recent weeks... will say, 'I thought that we were in much better shape than this' and, 'What's going on?' I don't think it will lead to demands for withdrawal or anything like that," he said in a telephone interview.

Donovan agreed, noting that a majority of Americans still appear to believe their compatriots are dying in Iraq for a worthwhile cause.

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- "Winter Soup Warm-Up" With Scott Wampler of the Sun Valley Lodge Tues., Feb. 3 - 7:00pm-\$35
- "Dutch Oven Cookin' Yakovines Day" Wed., Feb. 11 - 7:00pm-\$30
- "Cheese 101" With Leslie Jewell Tues., Feb. 17 - 7:00pm-\$30
- "Heart Healthy South Beach Low Carb Cooking" With Fiqui Whaley Chef of the Garden Cafe Tues., Feb. 24 - 7:00pm-\$30
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- "Let Them Eat Cake!" With Taylor Chef Susan Entwistle Tues., Mar. 23 - 7:00pm-\$35
- "Tastes of Spain" With Felix Gonzalez of Felix's Restaurant Wed., Mar. 31 - 7:00pm-\$35
- "New Easter Brunch" Tues., Apr. 6 - 7:00pm-\$35
- "Crab" With Keri Martin of the Snake River Grill Wed., Apr. 7 - 7:00pm-\$35
- "Garden Cafe Spring Herb and Berry Menu" With Fiqui Whaley Chef of the Garden Cafe Wed., Apr. 21 - 7:00pm-\$35

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The Times-News



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Charlie Crason - Rupert
President and General Manager of Project Mutual Telephone, since 1992. President of Spring Networks, LLC. B.S. in Business and a J.D. in Law from the University of Idaho. Attorney for 14 years prior to joining Project Mutual Telephone. Prosecuting Attorney for Minidoka County, serving for eight years. General Counsel for Project Mutual for 12 years. Serves on the Board of Telecom Insurance Group and the Advisory Council of the Idaho Small Business Development Center. He lives just outside of Rupert and is active in many community activities.



Judy Felton - Buhl
Judy Felton is a former Twin Falls County Commissioner and past-President of the Idaho Commissioners and Clerks Assoc. She is the author of "NEVER A DULL MOMENT... Behind the Scenes at the Editor". She presently serves as Chairman of the Custody Review Board for the Idaho Department of Juvenile Corrections.



Otto Florence - Twin Falls
Former President and General Manager of Independent Meat Co. - "Falls Brand". Director and Chairman of First Federal Savings & Loan Association, and Director of Twin Falls Public Library Foundation. Served on boards of Idaho Cattlemen's Assn., Twin Falls Chamber of Commerce, Twin Falls District. Former Chairman of Western States Meat Assn. and served on advisory boards for the U.S. Dept. of Agriculture and National Livestock & Meat Board.



Mary Fort - First Federal
Graduate of Filer High School, College of Southern Idaho and Twin Falls Chamber Leadership. Past president of Saint Magic board member of Valley Vista Village. Current member of the Twin Falls Lions Club and P.E.O. Vice President of First Federal Savings Bank.



Debbie Hetherington - Twin Falls
Debbie Hetherington is an owner/partner in Premier Insurance Group. She is a Certified Employee Benefits Specialist and manages the Employee Benefits Division. She and her husband, Jack, have lived in Twin Falls for 17 years and have two grown children. Debbie is active in the community as a member of Rotary and serves on a number of boards, follows: Chamber of Commerce Business Plus II, Walker Center, Magic Valley Regional Medical Center Foundation and Southern Idaho Association of Insurance and Financial Advisors.



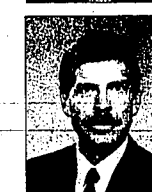
Brenda Holmes - First Federal
Graduate of Haysen High School, Advisory Council Member of Freddie Mac and America's Community Banker's. Past Board Member of the American Red Cross and Member of the Greater Twin Falls Board of Realtors. Vice President and Real Estate Loan Administrator for First Federal Savings Bank.



Kevin Moss - Jerome
Kevin and his wife, Dana are third generation owners of Moss Greenhouses, Inc. in Jerome and they have two teenagers, Jenny 17 and Dewey 15. Kevin is a graduate of Univ. of Idaho, BSME, and active with the Northside Soil Conservation District (treasurer), Jerome Rotary Club, Local Advisory Board member for Farm Credit Services.



James N. Thompson - First Federal
Graduate of St. Cloud State University, member of South Central United Way board, member Twin Falls Optimist Club, member of College of Southern Idaho Community Education Advisory board. Past board member Optimist Club and chamber ambassador. Vice President, senior Commercial Loan Officer, First Federal Savings Bank.



Stephen Westfall - First Federal
Director, Burley Graduate of Burley High School and University of Idaho. Past President, Burley Chamber of Commerce. Current Chairman of Board of Cassia Regional Medical Center, Member, Mini Cassia Chamber Ambassador, Director, Idaho Regatta Committee, Inc. Partner, Westfall & Westfall, CPAs. Member, ACPA, Idaho Society of CPAs.

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ASSETS:	12/31/2003	12/31/2002
Cash & Due from Banks	\$8,455,000	\$11,444,000
Mortgage, Commercial & Consumer Loans	261,119,000	228,905,000
Investment Securities	39,876,000	52,099,000
Office Buildings & Equipment	8,099,000	8,185,000
Other Assets	4,456,000	4,330,000
Total Assets	\$322,005,000	\$304,963,000

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LIABILITIES AND NET WORTH:

Deposit Accounts	\$274,507,000	\$268,130,000
Borrowings	16,167,000	7,326,000
Other Liabilities	3,294,000	3,986,000
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NATION

Dean's backers differ from Bush's

The Washington Post

WASHINGTON — They are young. They propel urban gentrification. They shop at Banana Republic, read Vanity Fair, like "Friends." The \$54,117 median family income of these well-educated, Internet-savvy professionals is relatively low in part because so many are single and live alone.

The people who meet these criteria tend to live in Zip codes that Claritas Inc., the demographics research firm, has classified as the nation's "Bohemian Mix."

They stand out in one other respect: They contribute to the presidential campaign of Democratic former Vermont governor Howard Dean.

Another strong Dean donor group is made up of what Claritas has called "Up and Comers" — upwardly mobile, college-educated young singles who are heavy Internet users, shop at Ann Taylor and watch MTV.

The pattern of contributions to Dean shows how he has been able to tap into one of the fastest growing Democratic constituencies: well-educated, socially liberal and relatively affluent voters.

In the upscale suburbs, there is another constituency with a median household income of \$92,163. Its members drive a disproportionate number of Porsches and like scuba diving. They rank number one in the percentage of business owners, and are close to that in the proportion of corporate executives.



Howard Dean

They are in the "Movers and Shakers" Zip codes, according to the Claritas model.

These neighborhoods have proven to be a gold mine for the Bush-Cheney '04 re-election committee.

The Washington Post compiled a list of the Zip codes providing the most campaign contributions to each presidential candidate and Claritas used the Zip codes into its classification system, providing a window into the type of donors drawn to President Bush, Dean, Kerry, Rep. Dick Gephardt, D-Mo., Sen. Joseph Lieberman, D-Conn., and Sen. John Edwards, D-N.C.

The number of contributions was too small to provide a reliable analysis for each of the other candidates, including retired Army Gen. Wesley Clark, who had been in the race only two weeks at the end of the most recent reporting period.

Although donors are wealthier than the voting public as a whole, the Claritas categories distinguish between the young, intellectual Democratic supporters and the wealthy executives who give to Bush.

As a reflection of the growing Democratic strength in the old-line, established suburbs surrounding such cities as Boston, New York and Philadelphia, Kerry and Lieberman each received a higher proportion of contributions than Bush did from sections dubbed "Blue Blood Estates" and "Upper Crust," neighborhoods with the most wealth of all the Claritas classifications.

The residents of these communities drive Lexus ES300 sedans or Acura SUVs, read Fortune and Architectural Digest, and live in million-dollar homes.

While Bush did well in the "Blue Blood Estates" and "Upper Crust," the type of community where he stands apart from all the Democratic candidates has been named "Winner's Circle" by Claritas.

The youngest of the wealthy suburban Zip code classifications, Winner's Circle neighborhoods are dominated by "25-to 34-year-old couples with large families in new-money subdivisions." They ski, read Parents magazine, watch the Cartoon Network and drive Chrysler Town & Country minivans.

Bush received a disproportionately high percentage of his contributions from these folks, while all the Democrats fared relatively poorly.

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Iowans prepare for caucus, discount gossip

Los Angeles Times

DES MOINES, Iowa — As a die-hard Democrat who's been managing presidential caucuses in Iowa since the Kennedy administration, Donald Rowen loathes the idea of even quoting a Republican.

But the 74-year-old retired lobbyist draws the line when it comes to the rumors about how this young army of Howard Dean supporters who have streamed into the state may try to invade his caucus meeting Monday night, hoping to steal the contest for their candidate from right under his nose.

That's when Rowen parrots the ultimate Republican, George W. Bush: "Bring 'em on."

"I don't think any of these kids are foolish enough to try such a thing," said Rowen, who runs the proceedings at Precinct 54 in central Des Moines.

"But even if they did, it's not going to happen — not on my watch."

The campaign to carry Dean to the White House this fall has turned into a full-fledged crusade in Iowa, as an estimated 3,500 volunteers have converged here from all across America. They're canvassing in communities statewide, appealing to the state's 530,000 registered Democrats in counties with names such as Pocahontas, Winnebago, Pottawattamie and Cherokee.

But recently, the campaigns for Rep. Dick Gephardt of Missouri and Sen. John E. Kerry of Massachusetts have pointed to some potential weeds in such grass-roots politicking — accusing the Dean camp of using "dirty tricks" to win supporters.

Volunteers at the former Vermont governor have been accused of using aliases to try to infiltrate Kerry and Gephardt campaign offices.

And there are suggestions that overzealous Dean supporters, armed with cell phones and handheld computers, could sneak into

caucuses and cast votes for their candidate.

Joe Trippi, Dean's national campaign manager, thinks somebody has been watching too many made-for-TV spy thrillers. This kind of gossip, he said, is often circulated in the final days before a vote in the hopes of swaying public opinion.

"You can throw these rumors in the same garbage bin with all the others," he said.

Gephardt's national campaign manager, Steve Murphy, insists there's still "a real possibility of mischief." "These caucuses are for Iowans and Iowans only."

In an era where candidates can use sophisticated technology to track caucus-night voting in a way never before possible, Iowa Democratic Party officials are confident they have taken effective measures to prevent wrongdoing.

For starters, they say, it's illegal to use an alias to vote in Iowa, a crime punishable by up to a maximum of five years in prison.

Supporters for each candidate gather at assigned meeting places, from neighborhood living rooms to high school gymnasiums, and publicly horse-trade for votes in a homespun process that eventually brings a winner.

However, those who show up at any of the state's 1,993 caucus sites aren't required to show identification — either a driver's license, voter registration card or any other proof of residency — a fact that has drawn criticism from many who point to the possibility of fraud. In another quirk, even registered Republicans can switch parties — if only for the day — to participate.

Gordon Fischer, state Democratic Party chairman, said the caucuses are open to all who wish simply to observe. But participants must sign an affidavit under penalty of law that they have supplied their real identities. Their names must also appear on the local voter registration list before they can take part.

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Hispanics, Indians still trail white students

BOISE (AP) - Hispanic and African Indian students continue trailing the state's white public school majority in last fall's expanded administration of the soon-to-be-mandatory Idaho Standards Achievement test.

Results from the fall test, released by the State Board of Education on Friday, showed the gap between Hispanic and white students in all three test areas widened as the grades progressed. That gap between Indians and white students was more stable through the grades except for mathematics, where it widened for the years just as it does for reviewing this information, students can receive the extra help they may need to move for-

On the Net
State Board of Education fall 2003 test scores:
<http://www.sbe.state.id.us/admin/lsat/fall04/>

ward on the skills they have mastered," state board academic officer Randy Thompson said. The fall test in mathematics, reading and language usage marked the third time the achievement test has been administered and the first time it was given to students in every grade from two through 10. About 177,000 students took the test. Unlike the results of the spring 2003 test released last fall, the state Board of Education did not

provide information on how many students scored at or above the proficient level. Board officials said only that the statewide averages for language usage in grades four through 10 were at the proficiency mark as were the statewide averages in reading for grades five through 10.

The spring 2003 results found up to 30 percent of the high school sophomores failed the test that the state Board late last year voted to make mandatory for graduation from high school beginning in 2008.

More than half the Hispanic students failed the test last spring.

In the fall round, the board information showed reading scores of Hispanic students were

nine points behind white students in the second grade and dropped to 14 points behind by the 10th.

In math, the gap was six points in the second grade, widening to 14 points in the 10th, and in language usage it ran from eight points behind in the 2nd grade to 11 points in the 10th grade.

For Indians, reading scores were seven to eight points behind white students across all the grades. Language usage scores were six to seven points behind and math scores ran from four points below in second grade to 10 points in 10th grade.

The average scores for white students were a point or two higher than the overall average in all subjects at all grades.

Study finds segregation hits levels last seen in 1969

The Washington Post

Half a century after the Supreme Court ordered the desegregation of American education, schools are almost as segregated as they were when Martin Luther King was assassinated, according to a new report released by Harvard University researchers.

The study by the Harvard Civil Rights Project, shows that progress toward school desegregation peaked in the late 1980s as courts concluded that the goals of the landmark 1954 Supreme Court decision Brown vs. Board of Education had largely been achieved.

Over the past 15 years, the trend has been in the opposite direction, and most white students now have "little contact" with minority students in many areas of the country, according to the report.

"We are celebrating a victory over segregation at a time when schools across the nation are becoming increasingly segregated," noted the report, which was issued on the eve of the holiday celebrating Martin Luther King's birthday.

Triggered by a civil rights case in Topeka, Kan., the Brown decision marked the start of three

decades of intensive efforts by the federal government to integrate public schools, first through court orders that opened white schools to minority students and later through busing. Its most dramatic impact was in southern states, where the percentage of blacks attending predominantly white schools increased from zero in 1954 to 43 percent in 1988.

By 2001, according to the Harvard data, the figure had fallen to 30 percent, or about the level in 1969, the year after King's assassination.

"We are losing many of the gains of desegregation," said Harvard professor Gary Orfield, the primary author of the report. "We are not back to where we were before Brown, but we are back to when King was assassinated."

The Harvard study suggests that Hispanic students are even more segregated than African American students, while Asian Americans are the most integrated ethnic group in the country. The increase in Latino segregation has been particularly marked in western states, where more than 80 percent of Latinos attend predominantly minority schools, compared with 42 percent in 1968.

ISAT

Continued from A1

"What's the point of being bored?" Cullinan said.

Cullinan's goal is for all her students to reach the advanced level according to the ISAT learning continuum, which outlines skills in specific subjects for every grade.

"We don't give up our old tried and true methods, we just add to them," Cullinan said.

Friday morning, the method consisted of cooperative learning for one room full of students. They played reading-themed board games with names such as the Main Idea.

"Some of Cullinan's students don't enjoy taking the ISAT. You read a bunch of stories and you get all tired," said Storme Jansson, 8, who prefers math to reading.

She said her teacher does a good job of reminding the class that certain information might be on the ISAT.

Kennedy Bell, 8, gets frustrated when she has to guess answers to ISAT questions when she doesn't know the words.

"It's stressful," Kennedy said. The optional winter ISAT allows district officials to check student progress midway. Brett Gies, the district's director of data analysis and program improvement, said the computerized version of the ISAT enables teachers to know their students' scores as soon as tests are done and teach them accordingly.

Cullinan teaches with the ISAT in mind. She makes sure her students know synonyms that will appear in test questions, such as "multiply" for "times" and "equation" for "problem."

"It's a continuous process," Cullinan said. "I keep learning, and they keep learning."

The pressure to pass
Tim Cobble, Jerome's superin-

tendent, described his district's approach toward helping students succeed.

"It comes down to almost a medical analogy," Cobble said. "We're doing more diagnostic and prescriptive teaching."

Jerome High School Principal Patti O'Dell said another advantage of the computerized ISAT is that the test can adjust to a student's skill level by raising the difficulty when a student gets a question right and lowering it when he gets a question wrong. This constant adjustment keeps the test at the level of the student.

O'Dell said the school has aligned its curriculum with the state standards, which are aligned with the ISAT. Jerome High School is not administering the ISAT in winter; instead, it will monitor student progress by their performance on end-of-semester exams in each class.

The pressure is on for students to pass the 10th grade version of the test, which could become mandatory for graduation if the Legislature approves it.

To help students prepare, the school offers an after-school program and an ISAT prep class during the school day that just started this trimester. These classes review concepts on the test and present questions in a similar format.

Connie Horgan and Rebecca Willis team teach 28 students in the class during the school day. They often break students into small groups to work on specific skills.

Sara Teel has taught math in Jerome for more than three years. She said the ISAT standards affected how the school rewrote the curriculum last year. The process took the whole school year and into the summer, and adjustments will continue.

Jerome's math curriculum requires algebra in ninth grade and geometry in 10th, but Teel said teachers found that the ISAT required some basic geometry concepts earlier than even some algebra II concepts. Teel said there is a desire at the school to increase the graduation requirements to include algebra II.

"Our curriculum is very broad, but not very deep," Teel said.

Parent and student views

Several parents and students have beefs with the test. "I feel sorry for the teachers," said Kim Woodbury, a parent of two Jerome students. "I think it is making them really come to grips with what they're teaching."

Debbie Falconburg, a parent of one student there, said the test cannot be completely accurate because each student is different. For instance, some perform better in the morning, while others do better in the afternoon, but a test cannot capture that.

Test anxiety is also a factor, said Tina Gonzalez, a parent with one child at the school. She has found that ISAT scores don't always correspond with classroom grades.

"Add the word 'test' on there, and automatically they freeze up," Gonzalez said.

Leslie Bingham, a junior at Jerome High School, said some teachers have a bigger deal about the test than others. She has been taking it since her freshman year, but it will not count toward her graduation. To her, it's no different than any other test, except the scoring is more confusing.

"I don't like it," said Krystal Waters, a sophomore who may be required to pass the 10th grade ISAT to graduate. "They have too many tests, and they expect too much."

Waters said most students don't

have the classes they need to pass the ISAT, and when she has taken it, she has seen the computer mess up and increase the difficulty of questions when it should not.

Changes in instruction

In spite of some lingering concerns about the ISAT, educators acknowledge the test is here to stay. Some have embraced the change.

Cathie Hopper teaches freshman English at Jerome High School. She said the advent of the ISAT has affected how she teaches.

"It makes a world of difference," Hopper said. The emphasis in her classes is shifting from specific works of literature to techniques of writing and analysis. Her students may read shorter novels or only read part of "Romeo and Juliet" out loud so that they have more time to do other things.

Hopper said even her end-of-course tests are set up to be similar in format to the ISAT. She said the new standards are improving instruction because teaching is data-driven.

Horgan, who teaches math, said her teaching has changed a little in regular classes because she emphasizes the state's seven math standards and tries to help students with their areas of weakness. But because the ISAT is so new, the impact is still developing.

"I'm trying to keep an open mind," Horgan said.

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Diet turns toxic for Greenland's Inuit

By Maria Cons
Los Angeles Times

QAANAQAQ, Greenland — Pitching a makeshift tent on the sea ice, where the Arctic Ocean meets the North Atlantic, brothers Mamarut and Gedlon Kristiansen are ready to savor their favorite meal.

Nearby lies the carcass of a narwhal, a reclusive beast with an ivory tusk like a unicorn's. Mamarut slices off a piece of mukruk, the whale's raw pink blubber and mottled gray skin, as a snack. "Peppermint," he says—in Greenlandic. Healthy food.

Mamarut's wife, Tukummed Peary, a descendant of famed North Pole explorer Adm. Robert E. Peary, is boiling the main entree on a camp stove. The family dips hunting knives into the kettle, pulling out steaming ribs of freshly killed ringed seal and devouring the hearty meat with some hot black tea.

Living closer to the North Pole than to any city, factory or farm, the Kristiansens appear unscathed by any industrial-age ills. They live much as their ancestors did, relying on foods harvested from the sea and skills honed by generations of Inuit.

But as northbound winds carry toxic remnants of faraway lands to their hunting grounds in extraordinary amounts, their close connection to the environment and their ancestral diet of marine mammals have left the Arctic's indigenous people vulnerable to the pollutants of modern society. About 200 hazardous compounds, which migrate from industrialized regions and accumulate in ocean-dwelling animals, have been detected in the inhabitants of the far north.

The bodies of Arctic people, particularly Greenland's Inuit, contain the highest human concentrations of industrial chemicals and pesticides found anywhere on Earth—levels so extreme that the breast milk and tissues of some Greenlanders could be classified as hazardous waste.

Nearly all Inuit tested in Greenland and more than half in Canada have levels of PCBs and mercury exceeding international health guidelines.

The tragedy for the Inuit is that they have few, if any, ways to protect themselves. Many Arctic



L.A. Times photo

natives say that abandoning their traditional foods would destroy a 4,000-year-old society rooted in hunting.

In this hostile and isolated expanse of glacier-carved bedrock and frozen sea, survival means that people live as marine mammals live, hunting as they do, wearing their skins. No factory-engineered fleece compares with the warmth of a seal-skin parka, mittens and boots. No motorboat sneaks up on a whale like a handmade kayak latched together with rope. No snowmobile fleeces with the ice like a dog-pulled sledge crafted of driftwood. And no imported food nourishes their bodies, warms their spirit and strengthens their hearts—like the flesh they slice from the flanks of a whale or seal.

"Our foods do more than nourish our bodies. They feed our souls," said the late Ingmar Eggede, a Greenlandic educator who promoted the rights of indigenous peoples. "When many things in our lives are changing, our foods remain the same. They make us feel the same as they have for generations."



U.S. Times photo

Above, Gedlon Kristiansen hunts in a fjord off Qaanaaq, a village in Greenland. The Inuit are reluctant to give up their native food, saying it strengthens their bodies, warming them from within like a fire glowing inside a lantern. When they eat anything else, instead of fire inside, they feel ice. "We are living in a place that is very cold, and it's not by accident we eat what we do. We are not able to survive on other food," Lars Rasmussen, a 52-year-old hunter from Narsarsuaq, the capital of Greenland, said through a translator.

Most Inuit have not altered their diet in response to the contamination, according to dietary surveys in Canada. In Arctic cultures, people rely on the traditional knowledge of hunters and elders, and with no visible signs of pollution or people dying, many are skeptical that the chemicals exist. Some even suspect talk about chemicals

is a ploy to strip them of their traditions.

"People say when whale and seal are polluted, but they are still healthy foods to us," said Ujuaunguaq Heinrich, a milked whale and seal hunter in Narsarsuaq.

U.S. warns of terrorist activity in Philippines

WASHINGTON (AP)—The government has issued an updated warning to Americans about terror in the Philippines, urging U.S. travelers to "exercise great caution" there.

The State Department announcement renewed an announcement issued in July. The agency said terrorist activity in the Philippines remains high, including several bombings in Mindanao, the largest island in the southern Philippines. The department singled out two terror groups, the communist New People's Army, which operates throughout the country, and the

southern Abu Sayyaf Muslim extremist group, which the Philippine government says is loosely aligned with the al-Qaida network.

Both groups, the State Department said, are responsible for killings and hostage takings. "In view of a number of security-related incidents and the possibility of future terrorism and other violence or criminal activity, Americans traveling to or residing in the Philippines are urged to exercise great caution and maintain heightened security awareness," the department said.

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WORLD

U.S. officials report some progress with China

BEIJING - American officials say calling Gen. Richard Myers' visit to China a sign that military relations between the two countries are recovering. But joint maneuvers by their combat forces are not expected anytime soon because Washington and Beijing remain far too wary of the other.

Military ties, severely curtailed three years ago after a Chinese fighter collided with an American spy plane off the Chinese coast, are regarded as a vital part of U.S. diplomacy with the world's most populous nation.

Myers, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, met Wednesday and Thursday with Chinese officials in Beijing. He was the highest-ranking U.S. military official to visit China since 1997.

World in brief "We're making some good progress in our military-to-military relationship," Myers said at the end of his visit.

Myers and his entourage became the first foreign delegation allowed access to the mission control facility for China's new manned space program.

Still, the visit was one with few immediately tangible results: no new agreements, no sweeping new statements of U.S. or Chinese policy.

China confirms two more patients have SARS

BEIJING - China confirmed two more cases of SARS on Saturday, the country's most hectic travel weekend before the start of the Lunar New Year. The World Health Organization urged further testing to ensure the diagnosis was correct.

Previously identified as suspected patients, the new cases were a 35-year-old businessman and a 20-year-old waitress, the official Xinhua News Agency reported. The waitress had worked at a restaurant in the southern Chinese city of Guangzhou that served civet cat, a regional delicacy and a suspected source of the disease.

The total number of severe acute respiratory syndrome this year now stands at three. The season's first confirmed case, a 32-year-old television producer, was released from the hospital last week after recovering from what health officials said may be a milder strain of the virus.

The government of the southern province Guangdong, where the disease emerged last year, said in a statement that SARS experts confirmed the two new diagnoses.

Hackers challenge Musharraf during speech

ISLAMABAD, Pakistan - President Gen. Pervez Musharraf recently faced two assassination attempts and launched a historic peace process with nuclear-armed rival India, but opposition lawmakers offered no praise Saturday during his first-ever speech to Parliament, heckling him as a military dictator and demanding he resign.

The noisy disruption highlighted deep-seated resentment at the military's persistent involvement in politics and blunted Musharraf's efforts to portray himself as a legitimate ruler since seizing power in a bloodless coup in 1999.

Opposition members chanted "go Musharraf, go Musharraf" and "friends of dictators are traitors" throughout his 40-minute, nationally televised speech. Musharraf supporters countered by thumping tables in applause at times making it difficult to hear him.

— compiled from wire reports

Official: U.S. warns lack of progress in bombing probe may disrupt aid

JERUSALEM (AP) - U.S. officials are pressing the Palestinians to find those behind a deadly bomb attack on a U.S. diplomatic convoy three months ago, and warn that lack of progress may harm American aid programs in the West Bank and Gaza Strip, a Palestinian Cabinet minister said Saturday.

A senior Palestinian security official involved in the investigation said no substantial leads

have emerged.

A U.S. Embassy official, however, said "we're not entirely satisfied with Palestinian cooperation" with the probe into the Oct. 15 roadside blast that ripped apart a diplomatic car in the Gaza Strip and killed three American security guards. The official, speaking on condition of anonymity, said there has been some progress, "but we want to see more."

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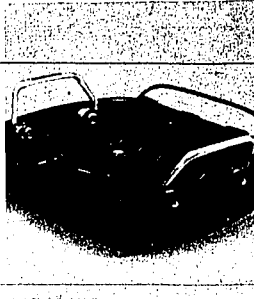
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WORLD

Muslims protest head scarf ban

PARIS (AP) - Waving the French flag or wearing it as a head scarf, thousands of Muslim women marched Saturday through Paris, the center of a worldwide protest against France's plan to ban veils from public schools.



Muslim protesters Sufia Alnoor, left, Imanabu Sharakh, center, and Gazala Anzari gather in front of the French embassy Saturday to protest the French government's plan to ban Muslim head scarves in schools.

From Baghdad and Beirut to London and Stockholm, protesters condemned the law as an attack on religious freedom. Even in the West Bank city of Nablus and in the summer capital of Indian-controlled Kashmir, Srinagar, women came out to support French Muslims.

"Where is France? Where is tolerance?" the crowd chanted during the four-hour march through Paris. "The veil is my choice." The protesters want to scrap a bill that will go before French lawmakers next month forbidding "conspicuous" religious signs, from Islamic head scarves to Jewish skull caps and large Christian crosses, in public schools. Easy passage is expected, and the law is to become applicable with the new school year in September.

Police said up to 10,000 people took part in the peaceful march in the French capital, while several thousand others protested in a half-dozen cities around the country.

Critics of the law claim it will stigmatize France's Muslims. French authorities contend the principle of secularism is meant to make everybody equal.

"I think it will make things worse," Kods Meiry, 18, said of the headscarf ban. "There will be no more integration." Her blue, white and red scarf matching the French flag was meant "to show that we are French and Muslim and proud of it."

"Lots of girls will leave school. Others will take their scarves off," said Myriam Diaou, of the Union of Muslims of Trappes, southwest of Paris. "It will reinforce the

sense of exclusion." In London, 2,400 people demonstrated near the French Embassy in the upscale Knightsbridge area. Waving placards, they chanted, "If this is democracy, we say 'No, merci!'"

"The government is isolating Muslims and setting a dangerous precedent," said Ithasam Hibatullah, spokesman for the Muslim Association of Britain. Nearby, a small rival group of about 30 demonstrators expressed support for the French ban.

Britain's Foreign Office Minister Mike O'Brien said the British government supports the right to display religious symbols. "In Britain, we are comfortable with the expression of religion, seen in the wearing of the hijab, crucifixes or the kippa," O'Brien said in a statement. "Integration does not require assimilation."

Submarine retrieves plane's black box

CAIRO, EGYPT (AP) - A small submarine has retrieved one of the flight data recorders of an Egyptian jet that crashed this month at a Red Sea resort, an official said Saturday.

The chief of the search team, Shaker Qilada, said the recorder, commonly known as a black box, contained the technical data of the plane's performance before it crashed Jan. 3, minutes after taking off from the Egyptian resort of Sharm el-Sheikh. The black box, which was located Friday on the sea bed, appeared to be in good condition after it was treated with chemicals to remove salt, Qilada said.

Egyptian and French investigators hope the black box will reveal what caused the plane to crash, killing all 148 people on board - including 134 French tourists who were flying to Paris. Officials have said it was caused by a technical problem and ruled out terrorism. The box was retrieved at dawn by the small submarine Scorpio 2000, which has been lent to the

search team by France Telecom. Egyptian civil aviation authorities have said they will lead the analysis of the box's contents. But French and U.S. officials are assisting the investigation.

Another remote controlled submarine is pursuing the second black box, which is believed to be lying more than 3,300 yards below

the surface, Qilada said. All planes carry two boxes - one containing the cockpit's vocal recordings and the other technical data.

France has sent ships, divers and technicians to assist the search operation, including a ship that arrived Wednesday to scan the sea bed and produce detailed maps of the sea floor.

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Indian middle class spurs ties with U.S.

NEW DELHI (AP) - In the northern city of Chandigarh, a father mourned the death of his only son, a U.S. soldier who was the first Indian to die in combat in Iraq.

All of India mourned along with the United States over the death of Indian-born astronaut Kalpana Chawla in the Columbia space shuttle disaster last year.

Indians today are linked to the United States in ways unimaginable only a few years ago. The two cultures are learning to interact more closely, particularly in the war on terrorism.

years ago, India's lone television channel, state-run Doordarshan, would have included a brief statement in its daily news program, wedged between broadcasts of old Bollywood movies and reruns of "I Love Lucy."

Today, news leapt quickly from mobile phone to mobile phone. Dismayed relatives logged on to Web sites. People sat at local tea-houses, gazes fixed on televised images beamed straight from Baton Rouge.

India sided with the Soviet Union during the Cold War, and only recently turned from socialist-style central economic planning. New Delhi found common ground with Washington on ending the Taliban regime in Afghanistan, though most Indians oppose the invasion of Iraq.

The expanded cooperation launched today is an important milestone in transforming the relationship between the United States and India, Bush said in a statement.

But the ties run deeper than economic and military connections.

In Maler Kotla, 90 miles from New Delhi, townspeople anxiously awaited the results of an election in a state few have heard of, in a country most have never visited.

This fall, U.S. and Indian wars ships took part in anti-terrorism

exercises off the southwest coast of India, and commands from both armies trained together in the Indian Himalayas. Most recently, President Bush pledged increased dialogue with India on missile defense and high-tech trade.

One of the state's favorite sons, Bobby Jindal, was locked in a November race for Louisiana governor, which he lost by 4 percentage points.

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EDITORIAL

Consolidating agencies can boost Idaho's growth

Rebounding from a slow economy has been no picnic for Idahoans. But the situation does have its positive aspects.

Ever since state revenue started to slide back in 2001, Gov. Dirk Kempthorne and state officials have been forced to make state government more efficient. That means less waste, tighter controls on spending, and merging state services whenever possible.

Kempthorne's latest attempt to streamline agencies in the name of efficiency could be the biggest success of all. The proposal is to merge the Department of Labor with the Department of Commerce makes sense from an organizational standpoint. It also could energize the state's ability to recruit economic development and improve the work force. In his State of the State address on Tuesday, Kempthorne noted that he has relied on both agencies during negotiations with potential Idaho employers. He said the common goals of business development and work force development have created a synergy that works to the state's benefit.

"I believe that by merging these departments we can maximize our resources, eliminate any redundant functions, while continuing to recruit and retain businesses and create jobs for hard-working Idahoans," Kempthorne said. Kempthorne's move would be a sensible step by itself. But it's an even better move under

the capable leadership of Commerce Director Roger Madsen. Madsen has led the Department of Labor since 1995, but he also has served as commerce chief since December, when LaMoyné Hyde resigned the post. Madsen has worn both hats without any problems — because, despite separate missions, the two offices have strong ties.

Our view: Idaho will benefit with the proposed merger of state Labor and Commerce departments.

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

As a former legislator, Madsen will work well with lawmakers and the governor's staff to enhance labor-and-business opportunities that attract industries into Idaho.

Some may be skeptical about the merger and how the agency can fulfill two missions. Commerce has traditionally plugged business interests, industry and tourism, while Labor has focused on rules and regulations in the work force.

But Madsen, who is well-respected by leaders and state workers, is well-positioned to smooth out any conflict between those agencies. Furthermore, any economic development recruiter in the country will tell you a key factor in attracting high-paying jobs is an educated and dedicated work force. Good employers want to go where the loyal, talented and hard-working workers are.

Idaho's ability to land jobs that pay well and fuel economic growth relies on labor, capital and state resources. Consolidating these two departments will strengthen Idaho's efforts.

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Shooting range gives new handle on gun control laws

Guns are bad. All my life, it's been that simple. At my son's preschool, if a child pointed a banana and said "bang," he was admonished to "use the banana in a happier way." As far as I was concerned, the Second Amendment gave us the right to protect ourselves against invading armies, not the right to buy a gun and keep it under our beds.

So what would make someone like me change my mind? I met this gun enthusiast. As research for my new novel, I asked him many questions, all the while voicing my disgust. My character might use a gun, but I never would. "Come to the range," the gun guy said. "I'll teach you to shoot."

I expected a dungeon full of men missing teeth and wearing T-shirts decorated with Confederate flags. Instead, I found a sunny, wood-paneled lobby and guys who looked like

DIANA WAGMAN
lawyers on their lunch break. The man behind the counter was as pleasant as a grandfather from Central Casting. "What would it take for me to buy a gun?" I asked him. He explained the California laws, some of the most stringent in the United States. I would have to wait 10 days — the "cooling off" period. There would be federal and local background checks. I'd have to take a safety class. I'd have to buy a childproof lock. I couldn't purchase an assault weapon. I couldn't buy more than one handgun per month. Of course, he said, if I didn't want to wait, I could drive 10 minutes and buy an Uz illegally out of someone's car.

When my guide arrived, he gave me a choice of handguns. I went with the .357 magnum — I

recognized the name — and a traditional target with a red bull's-eye. I couldn't imagine shooting at one shaped like a man.

First lesson, respect your firearm. I got a little talk about how powerful it was. I learned how to hold it, to load it. And finally to fire it. It was terrifying. The gun was so heavy, I couldn't keep it steady. It took both index fingers to pull the trigger, and then there was a flash of flame, a loud crack, a substantial kick. It was much harder than it looked in the movies. I occasionally hit the target, but I also managed to obliterate the metal hanger that held it.

I have to admit: I loved it. I had a fantastic time. The power of that gun for me, a 5-foot-3 woman, was immediately shockingly seductive. The thrill when I hit the bull's-eye (once) was as great as making a perfect tennis shot. I felt like I was playing a careful game of darts in a small,

alcohol-free bar.

Later, I was surprised to discover that some of my closest friends owned guns. People I never would have suspected confessed that their guns made them feel protected. Still, most of my friends thought handguns should be outlawed, completely, in every circumstance.

I no longer was so sure. I did some research — there are countless testimonials about guns saving someone's life. I looked into shooting as a sport. I spoke to a woman who had found a wounded deer and shot it, ending its agony. I changed my mind: Guns aren't bad.

Which leaves gun violence. At least in California, we don't need more laws — we just need to enforce the ones we have. What else?

The answer has to be education: teaching people to deal with anger, to solve problems, offering them brighter futures, but also

Gun 101. Maybe if teenagers were given computer-generated pictures of their own bodies, post-gunshot wounds, it would help them understand the enormity of firing a weapon. Maybe if everyone spent an afternoon at the shooting range, forced to follow the rules, they would respect the power of a gun.

I confess, I don't know exactly how to solve the problem, but at least now I know I don't know. Firing guns as a sport is great fun. Having a gun because it makes you feel safer seems understandable. Changing the way people behave? If you thought gun control was a distant dream — it could take centuries.

Meanwhile, my 15-year-old has asked me to take him shooting. And I've agreed.

Novelist and screenwriter Diana Wagman is the author of "Bump" and "Skin Deep."

Leaders take another bad turn on Anderson plan

It appears our elected officials are getting ready to punt it to us again. The county commissioners have now set up an ambulance tax without our say or vote. They are also trying to buy the Anderson

Lumber property without a vote by the people who will pay for it. If we keep sitting around on our comfortable behinds, the next thing will be to turn the Magic Valley Regional Medical Center into a private nonprofit organization and then they can do as they want without our having any input.

Our elected officials have proven many times they can override our concerns and votes. Case in point was the term limits vote which was voted in. Whether a person voted for this or not is not the point. It was voted in and the skulls in Boise voted against the majority and allowed no term limits to take

effect. The Times-News has warned us to organize or we will lose a lot more of our control of our government and our elected officials.

I also noticed one of the county buildings was named for a past Hupleman commissioner (the Marvin Hupleman Building). We also have the "Billy" house. It makes

me wonder if the Anderson Lumber building will be named the "Grindstaff Building." How about the other commissions? Will the name of the hospital be changed to reflect his service to this "Magic Valley"?

I do not write this letter out of anger but for my concern of the way our local, state and national government is run and changing it. I am very few people will stand up and do anything. Do you wonder why so many people do not vote? Just maybe they do not feel their vote counts.

LARRY B. MCKAY
Twin Falls

LETTERS

Same-sex bonds contradict marriage's purpose

This is a response to Danielle and Pamela concerning homosexuality. It was first stated that the Bible should not be used as the source of authority for right or wrong in cases of homosexual marriage and that no one should have the right to deny same-sex marriages. There were also some comments about the whys, wherefores and reasons for the institution of marriage and also a declaration that everyone has different morals, implying that it's OK to do what seems right in one's own eyes and that there are no absolutes or definite standards of right and wrong.

First of all, it is important to understand that regardless of our personal standards or our viewpoint of God, his standards and his authority do not change, nor have they changed from the beginning. He made man and woman in his own image, in a very particular way, each designed for a particular purpose in his plan and method of operation. God also invented marriage and family for this man and woman.

For man to accept a same-sex marriage policy is to adapt the design to a role for which it was never intended.

Who is hurt in this type of living arrangement? I must point to society as a whole. Children who grow up in a world of conflicting standards are a train wreck sure to happen. Confusion is at the forefront, followed by frustration and then anger, which reveals itself in defiance of authority which results in doing what is right in their own eyes. Consequently, they enter adulthood with no good foundation for personal conduct and are carrying the necessary mountain of emotional baggage they are not equipped to deal with.

It is these individuals who will lead our country on all social, economic and political levels. If our country is to heal its deep wounds and successfully address the myriad of problems it faces, it must start with the inside out. First the home, then the city and then up and out from there we must go. We cannot repair ourselves from the top down. Repairs must come from the bottom up.

Concerning a judgmental attitude, I would refer to the biblical position which is to declare guilt or innocence and then hand down sentence. This is for God only.

Judgment differs from discrimination, which compares a situation to a standard allowing a personal determination for or against the situation.

BOB JONES
Twin Falls

King holiday deserves wider observance

Martin Luther King Day is an observed national holiday. A day when people were supposed to honor the day that civil rights were given to them.

Most federal, state and local governments honor this holiday. Your local banks are closed, but there are some agencies that do not close for the holiday. Excluding police, fire, ambulance and dispatchers who work 24/7, there are some schools as well as highway districts that do not close to observe the holiday.

This is a day in our history, a day in the history books and a day that should be observed in the same manner by all people. What kind of message are we sending the leaders of tomorrow? What kind of message are the workers today that observe the holiday with a day away from work? They all have rights and deserve the same right as those that get the day off from school or the day away from work.

Civil Rights Day — a day for all to celebrate.
SHANNON MALONE
Murtaugh



Gore bogs down on global warming

It is richly ironic that former Vice President Al Gore would choose MoveOn.org as the venue for a speech blasting the Bush administration over the environment, for this is one subject about which the left won't ever "move on."

Earth to Gore: No one is listening. To the amazement of environmentalists and the media, Bush's approval ratings on his handling of the environment have stayed near or even above 50 percent throughout his presidency, despite the mountain of adverse headlines in the media, the non-stop fury of the political environmental groups, and the huge generic party advantage Democrats have over Republicans as the party best able to protect the environment.

At no point in Bush's presidency has his "disapprove" rating on his handling of the environment exceeded his approval ratings. The most recent Newsweek poll, taken last week, found 44 percent approving Bush on the environment, with 40 percent disapproving and the rest undecided. This is exactly where his ratings stood when he took office three years ago. In fact, Bush's environmental poll numbers are very close to President Bill Clinton's poll numbers for the comparable point in his first term, which must drive Gore out of his mind.

It would be difficult for Gore and his environmental allies to turn up the rhetoric any higher. Robert F. Kennedy Jr. has said "George W. Bush will go down in history as America's worst environmental president." This will certainly come as a relief to Ronald Reagan, the previous undisputed champ of environmentalism in the 1980s.

In fact, there is nothing said

STEVEN F. HAYWARD

about Bush today that wasn't said about Reagan in the 1980s, and nearly all of it turned out to be wrong. For instance, air pollution fell fastest in the 1980s. Maybe this is one reason people have stopped listening.

Gore's complaints that "the problem is that our world is now confronting a five-alarm fire that calls for bold moral and political leadership from the United States of America. With such leadership, there is no doubt that we could solve the problem of global warming. After all, we brought down communism, won wars in the Pacific and Europe simultaneously, enacted the Marshall Plan, found a cure for polio and put man on the moon. The trouble is that the Clinton administration itself estimated that the cost of the Kyoto Protocol to the American economy for just one year would be more than twice the total cost of the moon project and the Marshall Plan put together. This is the reason President Clinton did not submit the Kyoto Protocol to the Senate for ratification, or lift a finger to implement it.

This is why in 1998 the National Environmental Trust blasted the Clinton administration for its "intransigence," for "abandoning the core principles" of the Kyoto global warming treaty and for "abandoning any pretense of living up to its rhetoric about curbing global warming pollution."

And in a speech in April 2002, Eileen Claussen of the Pew Center on Global Climate Change, one of the leading advocacy groups for urgent action on the issue, had harsh words for the

Clinton administration: "Finally, I'd like to accept a special posthumous award to the Clinton administration. For talking big about climate change on the international stage but doing next to nothing about it at home, I present the Clinton White House with the award for best costumes."

Gore and MoveOn.org are hoping that everyone will forget this inconvenient fact about the Clinton-Gore record.

The distinguished economist Thomas Schelling wrote last year that while Bush may not have made the best choice in rejecting Kyoto outright, but given the political and economic realities "Bush at least avoided hypocrisy." As Eileen Claussen's comments suggest, that's one thing that we can't say about Clinton-Gore.

Meanwhile, there are signs environmentalists might not be all that happy with a prospective Los Angeles Times reported in a recent headline that "A Pragmatic Streak Colors Dean's Green Credentials."

"Dean's 11-year record as governor," Times reporter Eric Slater wrote, "suggests he is much more a pragmatist on environmental issues than an ideologue, a centrist who often catered to business interests first, addressing the accompanying environmental concerns later."

Uh-oh: better keep those hysterical press releases ready for President Dean. Lucky for them Dean's name has the same number of letters as Bush, making it a simple matter to switch them.

Steven F. Hayward is resident scholar at the American Enterprise Institute, a conservative Washington think tank, and the author of the annual Index of Leading Environmental Indicators.

LETTER

OPINION

Howard needs the other 'Dr. Dean' - his wife

I really want to like Dr. Judith Steinberg Dean. She's the anti-political wife. This is no cookie-baking, tea-pouring, stay-at-home helpmate, looking nice for the cameras and always going along. No Mrs. Truman or Mamie Eisenhower or Laura Bush, reflexively burying her own ambitions so her husband can devote himself to his. She's a modern American woman, a busy physician, a mother of two, navigating the rush of competing demands - her patients' emergencies, her son's hockey games, the twice-a-month meetings of her mystery-book club.

She says, "My career is just as important as my husband's career" - and she really seems to mean it. Far be it from me to begrudge her passions or her privacy or her dreams.

How could I? Most of the married couples I know have two working spouses. Neither one can afford to quit. How could I? My own wife works at least as hard I do, and she actually helps people every day, with a whole lot more than I can say.

And yet... And yet... As Howard Dean is the front-running Democrat for president, his life is undergoing a whole new level of scrutiny. His whole life - including his family life - and the person you expect to be the staunchest supporter of the former governor of Vermont is nowhere to be seen.

Standing at his side for precisely one campaign appearance. Sitting for a grand total of zero television interviews. Showing up one night to watch the candidates debate, wearing bluejeans and an oversized pair of sneakers.



Is her schedule really that busy? Is she really that shy? Do her patients really demand that much from her? Or is Dr. Judith Steinberg Dean trying to say something here? "I don't keep his clippings," she told The Boston Globe last summer by way of explanation. "And we don't have cable, so I don't see him on the news very much."

Independence, I admire. Wifely ambition is great. But isn't there something between Nancy Reagan's slavish devotion - and this? You don't have to pine for the bad-old image-conscious days to ask: Couldn't the woman have found a pair of wool pants? And what comes next? If Howard Dean is elected president, his wife says, she'll keep practicing medicine like she did through his nearly 12 years as governor. What worked in Montpelier, she says, can work in Washington. America will get its

first first lady with her own real career. That, of course, was something even Hillary Rodham Clinton never achieved. She always saw herself as a full political partner. She practiced law in Little Rock. (Remember the expression "Rose Law Firm billing records?") But when Bill got elected president, Hillary contented herself with trying to revise national health policy and other similar tasks.

Some people do seem worried about the implications of a doctor/first lady. Decorum. Security. Questions such as: Could a first lady be left alone with a patient in an examining room? But all that can be worked out. Let it be said by a guy who loves headstrong, independent women, who's been around them all his life: There's something odd about this particular example, impressive as the woman seems. Her background offers hints, although it doesn't explain everything.

ELLIS HENICAN

Judith Steinberg was raised upper-middle-class in Roslyn on New York's Long Island, the daughter of two physicians, the second of four girls. Her mother was an especially strong role model, it seems. A native of Manitoba, she graduated from medical school in Canada, served in that country's military and moved to New York for a pediatric residency.

Not only did daughter Judy follow her mom into the medical field. She also married a fellow-doctor-in-training. For a governor's wife, she has lived an extraordinarily quiet life. The clips say she canoes and hikes and rides a clunker bike around Lake Champlain. She bought one new suit - a red one - for her husband's presidential campaign.

When asked about his wife last week in Iowa, Dean responded with his usual bristle - and what has now become known on the Dean campaign as "the prop quote": "I do not intend to drag her around because I think I need her as a prop on the campaign trail," he said. "If she wanted to do it, it'd be great. But she doesn't want to do it, and therefore I she does do it, it won't be great. Just think she should do what she needs to do for her own happiness and satisfaction."

Who knows? Given her busy schedule and all the other demands, she might even find time to vote for him.

Ellis Henican is a *Newsday* columnist.

LETTER

Editor's weekly column offers great insight. To Clark Walworth: I have been meaning to write for months and am finally doing it. I just wanted to let you know how much I enjoy your Between

the Lines column. It is one of my favorites, and I look forward to reading it every week. It is interesting to find out more about how a newspaper works. Thanks and keep up the good work! SUSAN COX Twin Falls

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Democratic candidates surge all over Iowa

DES MOINES, Iowa - I caught up with surging front-runner Howard Dean here at the Iowa State Fairgrounds, near a gas-station-mini-mart named (I swear) the "Kum & Go."

Outside the building where Dean spoke were two people - at least I assume they were people - one dressed as a giant carrot and one as a giant ear of corn. A representative of People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals handed out literature stating that the carrot is "Chris P. Carrot," and he's running for president on the platform of "teaching American families and their children about healthy vegan diets."

This case several insiders or special interest groups. Every last contender swears he's going to stomp these people like ants. Yet, incredibly, Washington remains infested with them. Whereas your presidential contenders Kum & Go.

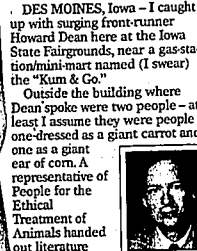
Anyway, Dean got a great response from his supporters, including Iowa Sen. Tom Harkin, who is married to a lobbyist and has been in Congress since 1974, but apparently is not an insider

has a long and distinguished record of pretending to be president on TV. But the biggest applause came when Howard Dean, the feisty little Surgeleader himself, surged into the room and fired up the crowd by biting the head off a live puppy.

Not really! I'm making a little joke about Dean's reputation for having a temper. In fact, it was a squirrel. Ha ha! But seriously, Dean did express anger at George W. Bush, as well as Washington insiders and special interest groups. In covering five national campaigns, I have yet to hear a presidential contender say a single kind word about Washington

yet. The evening ended with everybody shouting DEAN! DEAN! DEAN! for a while, after which it was time to surge back out into the cold Iowa night. Chris P. Carrot was gone. I surged off to dinner with some veteran political journalists. We had steak.

Dave Barry is a humor columnist for the *Miami Herald*. Write to him *in the Miami Herald*, One Herald Plaza, Miami FL 33132.



DAVE BARRY

Politics, politics

Humorist Dave Barry is offering his take on the race for the Democratic presidential nomination in daily dispatches from the campaign trail. Barry will report from Iowa through Jan. 19, and from New Hampshire Jan. 23 through Jan. 26.

insiders or special interest groups. Every last contender swears he's going to stomp these people like ants. Yet, incredibly, Washington remains infested with them. Whereas your presidential contenders Kum & Go.

Anyway, Dean got a great response from his supporters, including Iowa Sen. Tom Harkin, who is married to a lobbyist and has been in Congress since 1974, but apparently is not an insider

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Milk Quality is Number One Priority at Glanbia

It's not all that uncommon to see quantity and quality as opposing forces in the competitive world of food processing. There may be times when attention to quality becomes less of a factor as company executives feel the pressure to focus more on the bottom line. Thankfully, that's never been an issue at Glanbia Foods, Inc.

acceptable bacterial counts are 80,000 or fewer milligrams per liter. Glanbia's requirements are much stringent with milk registering 10,000 or less. The same rigorous standards are used for somatic cell counts. The PMO places acceptable somatic cell counts, which are white blood



Glanbia several years ago established a bonus program that rewards dairy farmers for their efforts in producing only the best milk. Along with having to meet the criteria for low bacterial and somatic cell counts, Glanbia reviews the farms operation from how the animals are treated to milking procedures to the cow sanitation system. Not only does this help Idaho's dairy farmers consistently

Food safety and quality has always been a primary focus at Glanbia, which is one reason why this international food company is one of the fastest growing and most successful dairy companies in the United States. But in order for Glanbia to produce high quality dairy products, it has to start with high quality raw milk.

"Milk that doesn't meet our strict quality standards will never make its way into Glanbia's system," Kruger explains. "That means that only the highest quality products make it to our consumer's dinner tables."

cells, at 750,000 milligrams per liter, three times higher than Glanbia's requirements of 250,000 or less milligrams per liter. Once the milk leaves the farm, more testing is conducted upon arrival at Glanbia's plant. There each tanker goes through a series of tests including one for residual antibiotics. If anything is detected, the milk is rejected and disposed of accordingly.

generate great tasting, and superior cheese-making milk but it helps the farmer develop and implement excellent dairy management skills and procedures. At the close of each year, Glanbia hosts a banquet to honor its patrons and award those that met or exceeded Glanbia's milk quality requirements during the year. And each year, the dairy farm that takes home top honors is treated to an all-expense paid week-long trip to Ireland, home to Glanbia's headquarters. So start off the new year with a cold glass of milk and a slice of cheese — because those at Glanbia want only the best products for its consumers.

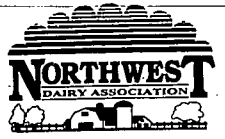
"That's where the dairy farmers come in," said Barney Krueger, Glanbia's vice president of technical services. "The dairy farmers are our partners and they consistently provide Glanbia with the highest quality milk so in turn, we can produce quality cheese and whey products."

Quality assurance starts right on the dairy farm, where regular testing is conducted to check for bacterial and somatic cell counts. A standard plate count is used to test for bacteria. The federal guidelines set up by the pasteurized milk ordinance states that

"Milk that doesn't meet our strict quality standards will never make its way into Glanbia's system," Krueger explains. "That means that only the highest quality products make it to our consumer's dinner tables" As an added incentive to keep Glanbia's dairy patrons focused on producing quality milk,

Information provided by the United Dairymen of Idaho and the National Dairy Council.

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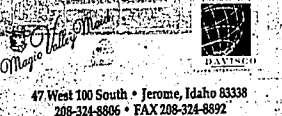
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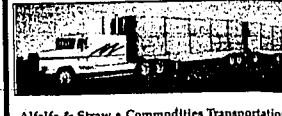
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Symbol of a city: Our Lady of the Rockies represents Butte, Mont. Page B4

MAGIC VALLEY

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

The Times-News

Sunday, January 18, 2004

Section B

It's time we put a damper on Idaho

When this green and pleasant land was settled a century ago, everybody had a potbellied stove — but nobody had any wood. So they burned agavebrush, which sent the temperature inside a two-room lava-rock house soaring to about 350 degrees for roughly five minutes until subsiding again to sub-freezing.

It was inefficient, but it was damned exciting. And nobody had to chop wood.

I'm here this morning to argue that a consummation devoutly to be wished. Wood-burning fireplaces are trouble, yet we can't get enough of them. Can I get a witness? **Steve Crump**

Saturday afternoon, the electricity went out at my house. So I went out to the back yard to chop enough wood to keep a fire going long enough to prevent the pipes from freezing. I was taking my fourth or fifth whack at a 50-pound log when my lower back seized up like a used car on the day after the warranty expires. Walked around for a week like Groucho Marx in "Duck Soup."

That same evening, my friend Victoria — who lives in Boise — tossed another log on to her fireplace and sat down to read a good book.

The fireplace doors — made of tempered glass — exploded, sending red-hot shards flying across her living room. She was unhurt, but her sofa will never be the same.

See, a fireplace is God's way of telling you that you don't own enough Idaho Power stock. I had a co-worker some years ago — a city boy keen on country ways. He moved into a house in Kimberly with a fireplace, and every summer he'd dutifully troop down to the Forest Service office and buy a firewood permit, borrow a trailer and a chainsaw, and head for the South Hills.

He was working on some dead-fall timber one August day when the chainsaw slipped and laid open a 14-inch gash on his thigh. He didn't have a lot of blood left by the time he reached the emergency room.

And yet that very next summer, he was back at it, sawing and stacking logs.

Why? Let Pess Parker explain. Parker was a Texas-born actor cast as Daniel Boone in a '60s TV series about the Kentucky backwoodsman. In one episode, Boone explains to his son, "Bein' independent means doin' for yourself, even if it means doin' with less."

Seems to me that pretty much summarizes the philosophy of fireplaces: In exchange for back-breaking work and no small expense, you get a little heat that is quickly overwhelmed by the sheer volume of cold air rushing down the chimney.

Blame Abe Lincoln. Every American grows up learning that young Mr. Lincoln did his homework by fireshine. It's impossible to think about enterprise and gumption and native intelligence in this country without the specter of the

Please see FIRE, Page B7

Lincoln schools look to share

By Karin Kovalski Times-News writer

RICHFIELD — With two of three school superintendents in Lincoln County retiring at the end of this school year, the time could be ripe for the districts to have "only one and save money."

"The way they continue to cut funding, us smaller districts, we struggle," said Brenda Farnworth, Richfield School Board chairwoman.

Although there hasn't been a merger of school districts in Idaho for seven years, many small school

districts around the state are finding ways to cooperate and share staff, according to state Department of Education spokeswoman Allison Westfall.

In Lincoln County, a Monday meeting is set to be a discussion of possibilities for the Shoshone, Richfield and Dietrich districts to cooperate.

"I would hope that they at least have an honest and open discussion of the pros and cons,"

Hocklander said they would not consider creating one district, but he has high hopes for cost-sharing measures.

The Richfield School Board discussed it informally, with the idea of finding ways to cut costs.

Hocklander suggested a variety of positions that could be shared among the three districts: superintendents, clerks, transportation, speech therapists, occupational therapists, curriculum directors and Title I directors.

Hocklander said they would not consider creating one district, but he has high hopes for cost-sharing measures.

"I would hope that they at least have an honest and open discussion of the pros and cons,"

Hocklander said.

By consolidating superintendents, but not districts, Lincoln County could have one person answering to three school boards.

The Meadows Valley and McCall-Donnelly school districts in central Idaho already share a single superintendent, but are not consolidated.

'Little steps'

Meanwhile, the Kimberly and Hansen school districts are in the process of consolidating operations in their transportation departments. Although the dis-

tricts will not share ownership of buses, they are looking to share a mechanic and centralize buying gas, parts, supplies and maybe buses.

"Little steps are where we need to start," Kimberly Superintendent John Garner said. "We walk a fine line" between being more efficient and maintaining local control.

Garner said there was talk about 15 years ago to consolidate the Kimberly, Hansen and Murtaugh districts, but the idea was rejected.

Garner said he did not know Please see SCHOOLS, Page B7

Christmas bonfire



K.C. McDonald, 8, balances his roasting stick while cooking a hot dog over flames coming from a pile of Christmas trees in Paul Saturday. The West End Fire Department holds the annual tree burn and hot dog roast for city residents.

Annual tree burn marks end of holiday season

By Rebecca Meany Times-News writer

PAUL — Her eyes all aglow, Alicia Braden watched as her family Christmas tree went up in flames.

"I think they need to go," reasoned the nine-year-old Paul resident.

Grandmother Judy Braden looked at the pile.

"It's in there somewhere," she said of her tree.

Behind them members of the West End Fire Department set out hot chocolate and hot dogs as Paul's annual Christmas tree burn got under way Saturday in City Park.

There would be no hot dogs for Judy's grandson, Chris, however.

"Hate 'em," he said. "I guess you could've brought your own chicken leg and thrown it on," Judy said.

Last year, the tree burn was held at the new fire station. This year, firefighters say, the event might not have happened.

"They wanted to abandon it," said Daryl Scott, assistant chief and 17-year volunteer with the fire department. "I'm not sure if it was lack of interest or what."

But members just couldn't let go of the near half-century tradition.

"We decided Paul needed it," he said.

Their duties for the holidays began back in November, he said, when firemen went around town putting up Christmas decorations. This month, they made the rounds again, dismantling rather

than admiring. "We take them down when we do our wiener roast to coordinate it on one Saturday," Scott said.

Among their duties was traveling the alleysways of Paul, picking up Christmas trees that residents left for them.

Of the all-volunteer department, few have put in as much time as Otto Riedlinger, 73, who recently marked his 50th year as a member.

He's watched the event grow, decline and grow again.

"They wanted us to combine it with Rupert's," he said of the neighboring town's tree bonfire. "But we decided to keep it right here."

As the crowd began to gather — some lugging their own trees — the fire crew sprinkled the heap

of trees with gasoline. "Boy Scout starter fluid," joked Bill Sibbett of the fire department.

At first, the trees were resistant and volunteers had to splash more gasoline onto the pile.

"I guess we're not in the business of building fires," other firemen said from the sidelines, laughing.

Then, snap, crackle and pop. The dry branches and pine needles caught fire and a plume of smoke reached into the air, taking with it the last vestiges of the holiday season.

Times-News writer Rebecca Meany can be reached at 735-3259 or by e-mail at rmeany@magicvalley.com.

The Times-News and The Associated Press

Cassia, T.F. rank highest in welfare

The Times-News and The Associated Press

BOISE — Cassia and Twin Falls counties receive more money per capita from Idaho Department of Health and Welfare programs than other counties in south-central Idaho.

In fact, Magic Valley's two most populous counties both rank in the top 10 of Idaho's 44 counties when it comes to per capita distribution of the more than \$1 billion spent each year for people in need in the state.

The statewide average investment of state and federal dollars amounts to \$608 for every person in Idaho.

"Even if you don't directly use a department service, you benefit from the department's investment," Health and Welfare Director Karl Kurtz said. "Additional payments made to hospitals, for example, allow the facility to buy diagnostic equipment that may be used for all hospital clients, not just those who are Medicaid-eligible."

In the Magic Valley, Cassia County ranked seventh among the 44 counties with a per-capita investment of \$1,010. Twin Falls County was right behind at \$1,001 per person. Camas County ranked 44th, the lowest on the list, with a per-capita investment of \$692 per person.

The cash funneled to communities in 2003 came through Medicaid, food stamps, additional payments to hospitals, the Idaho Child Care Program, Women, Infants and Children nutritional program and the Home Energy program, among others.

Twin Falls County parents received \$1.4 million in child care subsidy payments last year. The payments help low-income working parents and parents looking for work. The program also provides a big boost for the county's 206 child care providers who participate in the Idaho Child Care Program.

Little Gems Child Care Center in Twin Falls serves 60 children and 54 families, 13 of them in the

Please see WELFARE, Page B7

Snowpack levels

Watershed	% of Avg.	% season pack **
Upper Snake Basin	104%	55%
Salmon Falls	117%	59%
Salmon	96%	49%
Cadley	112%	53%
Big Wood	104%	65%
Little Wood	118%	60%
Hanley Fork/Teton	118%	62%
Big Lost	111%	55%
Little Lost	90%	47%

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

Conservationist fights proposed grazing rules

By Brandon Flala Times-News writer

BURLEY — Local ranchers could benefit from proposed grazing regulations but critics say everyone else loses out.

The Bureau of Land Management wants to change how it manages public lands ranching.

The agency has developed proposals that include a provision allowing ranchers to share ownership of land improvements such as fences, wells or pipelines.

However many conservationists doubt the public's ability to shape the proposed regulations, saying the regulations themselves are designed to limit public involvement. One

provision aims to "improve efficiency ... by reducing the occasions in which the (BLM) is mandated to involve the interested public," according to a BLM news release fact sheet.

"We'll comment on it, but we don't anticipate it will have much effect," said Jon Marvel, executive director of the Western Watersheds Project. That group works to protect and restore western watersheds and wildlife.

"It cuts out public involvement — that's the worst part," Marvel said. "These are public lands and ranchers are

proposed grazing changes

A public meeting to discuss the draft environmental impact statement on a proposed Bureau of Land Management grazing rule is set for 1 to 5 p.m. Jan. 31 at the Doubletree Riverside Hotel, 2900 W. Center N. Chinden Blvd., Boise. Public comment on the draft will be accepted by the BLM until March 2. BLM officials plan to publish the official proposed changes this summer.

Please see GRAZING, Page B7

Man plunges into ice-covered lake to save dogs

By Sandra Wisecaver Times-News correspondent

BUHL — A Buhl woman watched in horror as her two dogs fell through the ice on a small lake near her home Friday.

Patti Sheen was getting ready to go back to work at the nearby greenhouse at 1:45 p.m. She had intended to put her two Shih Tzus back in the house, but just minutes earlier they had taken off on a romp after Hobo, Sheen's great Pyrenees lab.

Hobo had apparently turned back right away when he reached a nearby lake, but the small dogs had continued on, running out into the center of the ice-covered water.

Sheen helplessly watched as Lexi, the mother dog, fell into the icy water followed by her pup, Nelli.

Sheen immediately called fellow employee Ray Gill at the greenhouse for help. Then she went out the door and down the hill.

The warm thermal water in the area — located near the Snake River — typically keeps the small lakes on the property



Ray Gill holds dogs Nelli and Lexi, who he rescued from an ice-covered lake Friday, as owner Patti Sheen looks on. "It made me feel bad because I felt like I had asked him to risk his life for my dogs," says Sheen. "But I couldn't reach them and I thank God he saved them."

from freezing over. Friday's cold temperatures covered the surface with a thin crust of ice. Although it was too thin to support a human's weight, it was strong enough to support the dogs until they were far away from the safety of the shore.

Sheen ran into the water and soon found herself emerged up her chest, with her feet stuck in the mud on the bottom of the lake. In the meantime, Gill had run Please see DOGS, Page B7

MAGIC VALLEY

Study: Breaching dams would cost little

BOISE (AP) — Upgrading railroads and grain elevators to accommodate grain shipments of the four lower Snake River dams were breached could cost the same as one year of maintaining those dams, conservationists contend.

Many fish biologists believe removing the four dams is the most certain way to recover endangered salmon. Breaching them would restore 140 miles of free-flowing river, but end barge traffic on the lower Snake River.

All the retrofitting on the railroads and other facilities could cost as little as \$43.8 million,

report American Rivers, Idaho Rivers United and the National Wildlife Federation.

"Considered in context, the costs identified here are very modest," said Rob Masonis, regional director for American Rivers. "An updated rail system would offer farmers an affordable and effective way to ship grain to market, protect existing businesses in southeastern Washington, and improve the prospects for attracting new business."

The groups said river conditions have only worsened since the adoption of an "aggressive

non-breach" salmon recovery plan in 2000. U.S. District Judge James Redden rejected that plan last May and told the federal government to develop a plan that complies with the law.

The groups commissioned transportation economists BST Associates to examine what infrastructure improvements would be necessary to provide a comparable transportation system for Northwest farmers shipping their goods to market in Portland.

The end of bargaining would result in about 1.2 extra 52-car trains headed up and down the

Columbia River Gorge each day during the height of the grain shipping season, BST found.

Upgrading the rail system to accommodate that would likely require an investment of between \$43.8 million and \$420 million in rail improvements, grain elevator capacity upgrades, and possibly new railcars.

BST's low-cost scenario of \$43.8 million is in the ball park of one year's federal spending on operating and maintaining the lower Snake River dams at \$36.5 million.

DEATH NOTICES

Alice K. Harkness
BURLEY — Alice K. Harkness, 87, of Burley, died Saturday, Jan. 17, 2004, at her home.

Arrangements will be announced by Payne Mortuary, 221 W. Main in Burley.

Twila Bingham
JEROME — Twila Bingham, 81, of Jerome, died Friday, Jan. 16, 2004, at the Sunbridge Care Center in Twin Falls.

The funeral will be held at 11 a.m. Friday, Jan. 23, 2004, at the Jerome LDS Stake Center with Bishop Alan Leavitt officiating. Arrangements are under the direction of Hove-

Robertson Funeral Chapel in Jerome.

Anna V. Hyatt
FAIRFIELD — Anna V. Hyatt, 88, of Fairfield, died Saturday, Jan. 17, 2004, in Winter Park, Fla.

Arrangements will be announced by Demaray Funeral Chapel in Gooding.

Dean Hendrickson
JEROME — Dean Hendrickson, 75, of Jerome, died Friday, Jan. 16, 2004.

Arrangements will be announced by Farnsworth Mortuary, 1343 S. Lincoln in Jerome.

Dorothy Windsor
JEROME — Dorothy Windsor, 71, of Terome, died Friday, Jan. 16, 2004.

Arrangements will be announced by Farnsworth Mortuary, 1343 S. Lincoln in Jerome.

Ken Caldwell
HELENA, Mont. — Ken Caldwell, 44, of Helena, Mont., and formerly of Twin Falls, died Friday, Jan. 16, 2004, at his home.

Arrangements will be announced by Retz Funeral Home in Helena, Mont.

Officer becomes city's first female chief

COEUR D'ALENE (AP) — Officials have hired the first woman police chief in city history, a 26-year veteran of the department.

Wendy Carpenter has been interim chief since Sept. 4, 2003. She replaced Tom Cronin, who agreed to resign after a certification scandal erupted in late August.

Perhaps you sent a lovely card,
Or sat quietly in a chair.
Perhaps you sent a funeral spray,
If so we saw it there.
Perhaps you spoke the kindest words,
As any friend could say.
Perhaps you were not there at all,
Just thought of us that day.
Whatever you did to console our hearts,
We thank you so much whatever the part.
A very special thank you to
Dorcas Funeral Home, First Christian Church of Twin Falls, Cahany Chapel of Buhl, the staff at Bridgeview and Dr. Cole Johnson. You all touched our hearts so deeply.

The family of
Wanda McKinney
R. D. McKinney
Doug & Diane Welch & family

In grateful appreciation for the kindness and sympathy shown us during our recent bereavement, the family of Frances Callen Sheneberger thanks everyone whose messages, cards and flowers helped lighten our sorrow. Special thank you to Thursday Sage Riders, 20th Century Club and a special thanks to Reynolds Funeral Chapel.

Guy & Meryl Callen
Diane Callen
Janet & Kelly Dennis, John & Kaylin Allen & Merrilee Stevenson & Skylar

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Eva Louise Winnett - Burley

Eva Louise Winnett, 68, of Burley, was reunited with her sweetheart on Friday, Jan. 16, 2004.

She was born Nov. 13, 1935, in Elba, Idaho, the daughter of Louis and Eva Winder Wickel. She received her education in Albion and Malta, graduating from Raft River High School in 1953.

She married Sidney Robert Winnett on April 7, 1953, in Burley. Louise worked for the Ida Foods in Burley for many years and later worked at the Cal-Ranch Store. She then was employed at King's Department Store, where she worked until retirement.

She was a member of the Royal Neighbors of America and the Burley First Christian Church.

She loved her family and enjoyed spending quality time with her children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren. She liked to go fishing and hunting.



and also enjoyed crocheting and gardening.

She is survived by her children, Cindy Louise (Eugene) Bridges of Moore, Idaho, Sidney Louise (Anna) Winnett of Hazelton, Richard Scott (Janet) Winnett of Heyburn, Laurie Ann Nye of Emmett, Idaho, and David Wallace Winnett of

Burley; one stepson, Fred (Rosie) Davis of Thousand Oaks, Calif.; her siblings, Wincee (Ratty) Wickel of Coeur d'Alene, Idaho, Evah Arbon of Phoenix, Ariz., Audrey Durfee Heyne of Burley, Loretta (DeVon) Adams of Gooding and Harvey Wickel of Boise; 17 grandchildren; and 12 great-grandchildren.

She was preceded in death by her parents; her husband, Sidney Robert Winnett; her son, Michael Winnett; a stepson, Dallas Winnett; and one brother, Henry Lemon Wickel.

The funeral will be held at 11 a.m. Tuesday, Jan. 20, 2004, at the Burley First Christian Church, 1401 Oakley Ave., with the Rev. Herb C. Whitaker officiating. Burial will be in Riverside Cemetery in Heyburn.

Friends may call from 6 to 8 p.m. Monday at Rasmussen Funeral Home, 1350 E. 16th St. in Burley, and from 10 to 10:45 a.m. Tuesday at the church.

"It was not a tough choice. We've been watching her since she took the job as interim chief ... it was pretty obvious she will be a great chief."

— Sandi Bloem, mayor of Coeur d'Alene

"It was not a tough choice," Mayor Sandi Bloem said Friday. "We've been watching her since she took the job as interim chief and with her leadership, it was pretty obvious she will be a great chief."

Carpenter, took the news of her new job in stride.

"It was a nice surprise," said the graduate of Coeur d'Alene High School and North Idaho College. "I have a great department."

Carpenter, 46, could retire in 3.5 years.

"We'll cross that bridge when we get to it," the Spokane native said.

Carpenter joined the Coeur d'Alene department as a dispatcher and reserve officer in 1977. She worked for five years in charge of the downtown parking patrol. She became a patrol officer in 1987, was promoted to sergeant in 1991 and ran the undercover Drug Task Force for six years.

Agnes Kraus - Paul

Agnes Kraus went to be with her Lord and Savior on Jan. 16, 2004, at the age of 85 at Highland Estates surrounded by her family.

Agnes was born on May 6, 1918, in McIntosh, S.D., to August and Rosina Greger Vilhauer. She moved to Idaho in June of 1937 and married Dave Kraus on Dec. 27, 1938. They farmed south of Rupert until they retired in 1978 and moved to Paul. Dave died in 1995 after 57 years of marriage. In 1999, she moved to Burley.

She loved to fish, and she and Dave spent many happy hours on the banks of Magic Reservoir in the Oregon Coast deep-sea fishing and various other fishing spots. She was a wonderful cook and the family enjoyed many delicious meals and good times with Mom and Dad on the family farm.

In later years, she was very active at the Burley Senior Center, where she loved to play



Bingo and Dominos. She also enjoyed crafts and was always knitting or crocheting for others.

She was a member of the First Baptist Church of Paul for over 50 years, Women's Missionary Fellowship, Paul Planner's Home Extension Club and the Mt. Harrison Quilters.

She is survived by four daughters, Marie (Jerry) Barksdale of Las Vegas, Helen (Robert) Slatner of Twin Falls, Judy (Gary) Ulrich of Paul and Teresa Sue German of Bel Air, Md.; eight grandchildren; 10 great-grandchildren; one brother, Herman (Ruth) Vilhauer; and two sisters, Irene (Don) Blaney and Darlene (Milbert) Moser.

She was preceded in death by one daughter, Grace (Kenneth) Bell; her parents; two brothers, Alvin and Clifford; three sisters, Hulda, Helen and Frieda; and one granddaughter, Julie Ulrich.

A memorial service will be held at 2 p.m. Tuesday, Jan. 20, 2004, at the First Baptist Church of Paul, Idaho.

Arrangements are under the direction of the Hansen Mortuary-Rupert Chapel. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the First Baptist Church of Paul or the Gideons International.

Genevieve Emma King-Kane - Shoshone

Genevieve Emma King Kane, 89, died Wednesday, Jan. 7, 2004, at DeSano Place in Shoshone, Idaho.

Genevieve was born in Billings, Mont., on June 6, 1914, the daughter of Robert and Anna Rogers King in Billings, Mont.

She was a resident of DeSano Place in Shoshone, Idaho, for almost three years. In 1940, the family migrated to Shoshone, Idaho, from Wyoming, later moving to Richfield, Idaho. She also lived in Elko, Nev., for some years and in 1988 returned to Shoshone, Idaho.

She was a good mother and grandmother. One of her greatest joys was to see and hold her

first great-grandchild, Rachael, who became the fifth generation in 2001. We will miss mother and grandmother. But one day we will see you again in heaven.

Our warmest thank you to the staff of DeSano Place for all their wonderful love and care. We deeply appreciate all you have done.

She was preceded in death by a brother, Donald R. King of Billings, Mont.; a nephew, Gerald King of Billings, Mont.; and a grandson, Ronald Engman of Shoshone, Idaho.

Surviving are two daughters, Bonnie (Benjamin) Shown of Glenns Ferry, Idaho, and Jean McKay of Shoshone, Idaho; one

son, Edward (Darlene) Mock of Golden Valley, Ariz.; grandchildren, Daniel (Joan) Shown of Arvada, Calif., Merle (Annette) Shown of Apache Junction, Ariz., Pastor Steve (JoLynn) Shown of Monte Vista, Colo., Brad (Sally) Baugh of Buhl, Idaho, Rusty Hoyle and wife of Kentucky, Juli a granddaughter of California, Shawn Mock of Boise, Idaho, Edward "Buck" Mock of Bullhead City, Ariz., and Jeny a granddaughter of Boise, Idaho; 31 great-grandchildren; two great-great-grandchildren and one expected soon.

At Genevieve's request, cremation was performed by Demaray's Funeral Service and there were no formal services.

SERVICES

Aden Theodore "Ted" Sturgill of Kimberly, service at 11 a.m. Monday at Parke's Magic Valley Funeral Home, 2551 Kimberly Road, Twin Falls; burial will follow at 2 p.m. at Sunset Memorial Park in Twin Falls; family will greet friends from 10 to 10:45 a.m. Monday at the funeral home.

Perhaps you sent a lovely card,
Or sat quietly in a chair.
Perhaps you sent a floral piece,
If so we saw it there.
Perhaps you spoke the kindest words as any friend could say.
Perhaps you were not there at all,
Just thought of us that day.
What ever you did to console our hearts we thank you so much what ever the part.
Every prayer, every word of encouragement, telephone call, visit and, above all, love shown by all, such consolation is greatly appreciated and heartfelt healing.

The family of
Dave Machacek

The family of Ted Smith wishes to thank all of our many friends and neighbors for the kind and thoughtful expressions of comfort and support that were extended to us at the loss of our loved one.

Leann
David & Staci
Steven & Dawn
Brent & Kristi
Tyler & Jolynne
DeVon, Dorothy & Family

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Number of local flights decreases

Large air carrier service flights gain popularity

By Pat Murphy
Times-News correspondent

HAILEY - Smaller airports in the Northwest are showing up as well as down in their operations, aeronautically as well as statistically.

To provide a perspective on how Friedman Memorial Airport is doing, Airport Manager Rick Baird and his staff studied statistics from nine similar-sized airfields in the region, including Friedman.

Some are so-called resort airports, others not. The study, derived from statistics provided by airport control towers through the Federal Aviation Administration, listed air carrier and air taxi operations and general aviation.

What Baird found, as he reported last week to the airport's governing board, is that only three of the fields showed an increase in 2003 air carrier operations over 2002 - Friedman (up 24.7 percent from 994 operations to 1,320), Jackson Hole, Wyo. (up 42.2 percent, from 1,982 operations to 3,429 flights), and Kalispell, Mont. (up 7.25 percent, from 3,555 to 3,833 flights).

Each takeoff and landing is counted as a separate flight operation.

While Hailey is served by two commercial air services, four air taxis operate into Kalispell and five serve Jackson Hole.

Air carriers losses year-over-year were reported in Aspen, Colo. (down 18.96 percent); Reno, Nev. (down 28.95 percent); Eagle (down 23.9 percent); and Idaho Falls (down 76.04 percent); Missoula, Mont. (down 28.82 percent); and Redmond, Ore. (down 61.29 percent).

Baird explained that the increases in Hailey's air carrier operations were caused by the new Horizon Airlines daily air service to Los Angeles and, beginning this winter, to Oakland, Calif., between mid-December and March 28.

But when air taxi service is combined with air carrier service, Friedman Memorial Airport showed an 18.15 percent drop in 2003 (from 16,082 to 13,612 flights).

Air taxi includes SkyWest Airlines, which flies a smaller 30-passenger turboprop than Horizon's 70-passenger Dellavland Q400, and corporate-type jets operated for charter.

In the general aviation category, only Kalispell (up 29.37 percent) and Idaho Falls (up 29.37 percent) showed increases in traffic of privately owned aircraft, ranging from small prop aircraft to jets.

The Idaho Transportation Department ranks Friedman as the second busiest commercial airport in Idaho, second only to Boise.

The economy and the fallout effects of the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks, Baird said, has caused some of the shrinkage.

But he's confident the airport remains a strong and vital part of the south central Idaho economy and will grow because of the area's two-season resort business. As the economy improves, Baird said he wouldn't be surprised to see another air carrier showing interest in inaugurating service here.

United Express, a connection service of United Airlines, also flies small turboprop that could use Friedman.

Thus far, SkyWest Airlines has decided to operate its 50-passenger Canadair regional jets out of Hailey, explaining passenger loads would have to be reduced because of aircraft takeoff limits created by the airport's altitude of 5,267 feet above sea level.

Idaho man sues power company over summer fire

LEWISTON (AP) - A Viola man blames Clearwater Power Co. for a wildfire that started on his property last summer and caused an estimated \$1.9 million in damage. The blaze took only nine hours to char 190 acres on the north face of Moscow Mountain.

It engulfed five houses and numerous outbuildings and vehicles on July 30. Officials said they suspected

faulty wiring caused the Flannigan Creek Fire, however they never released an official cause.

Stephen Sampson filed a lawsuit Monday in Lewiston's 2nd District Court seeking unspecified damages from the power company.

The lawsuit accuses the Lewiston-based power company of hooking electricity to an inade-

quate box, which sparked the blaze.

In January 1999, Clearwater Power placed a service pole near Flannigan Creek Road to supply electricity to Sampson's cabin, according to the lawsuit. Sampson claims the power company did not have permission.

He protested the action and refused to sign an easement allowing the power company to

run transmission lines over his property, according to the lawsuit.

The lawsuit claims Clearwater Power refused to supply electrical service directly to Sampson's new, shop building, where there was a new service box, unless he signed the easement.

"We certainly don't feel we have any liability in that fire," said Clearwater Power General Manager Sandra S. Huling.

Hispanics want Howard to run language program

BOISE (AP) - Members of the Idaho's Hispanic community want State Schools Superintendent Marilyn Howard to take on the State Board of Education, which has control of a federal program for grants we've been talking about.

A power struggle between the State Board of Education and Howard's Department of Education is hurting students who need the help, Council on Hispanic Education member Sam Byrd said Friday.

"This kind of tug-of-war that's going on with the board and the department has been undermining the person who has oversight of the very kinds of programs we've been talking about," said the former Idaho Migrant Center director.

Byrd said the program is critical to Hispanic and Indian students, who have scored far lower than other students on the state's standardized tests.

"The position of administrator of the limited-English program has been vacant for seven months. 'There's no sense of urgency,' Byrd said. 'With all due respect, superintendent, you still have to be the leader and light the fire.'"

Howard is the only Democrat in statewide elective office, while the rest of the board has been appointed by Republican Gov. Dirk Kempthorne.

Last year, the GOP-controlled Legislature gave the state board control over federal programs, which had been administered by the department for 35 years.

That included \$2 million in federal programs for the 16,000 Idaho students with limited English skills, said the board's academic officer, Randy Thompson.

Thompson's department knew the state board was planning to hire someone for the programs in June, and she hired Maria Delgado in September, anyway.

Howard said she avoided having to fire Delgado by moving her to a state-funded position not related to limited-English programs.

She said her department believed it had verbal permission to hire for the position from Thompson, but he later said it did not.

"We are saying to the State Board of Education, if you want the position, for pity's sake, find someone who's qualified to do that job."

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She said her department believed it had verbal permission to hire for the position from Thompson, but he later said it did not.

"We are saying to the State Board of Education, if you want the position, for pity's sake find someone who's qualified to do that job," Howard said, "so out in the field it will not look like a step backward. And if the board doesn't want to do that, then give us the job back."

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Schools offer to settle funding suit

BOISE (AP) - School districts that have been embroiled in a 13-year lawsuit with the state over school safety have offered in a letter to Idaho legislators to settle their lawsuit.

The districts offered two alternatives. The first is to revive the settlement proposal developed by a task force last winter appointed by Gov. Dirk Kempthorne and Superintendent of Schools Marilyn Howard, which lawmakers refused to consider.

The second option is to pay for 30 percent of all past and future bond payments for school districts, and lower the superintendent's pay for passing school construction bonds from two-thirds to 60 percent.

The bond subsidy would cost the state about \$25 million a year. The voting change would require an amendment to the Idaho Constitution.

"It is impossible to disagree with the fact that an equitable system, which provides safe and conducive-to-learning facilities, is not now being provided," wrote Stan Kress, Cottonwood school superintendent and leader of the districts in the lawsuit.

"If a group of legislators would be willing to sit down with a representative group of school superintendents to discuss a way out of this mess, we stand ready," Kress wrote.

There was no immediate response from lawmakers. Fourth District Judge Deborah Bail of Boise - three years ago declared the state's system for financing school construction and repairs unconstitutional, because it leaves poor school districts

unable to afford to provide safe schools.

The state Constitution says the Legislature is responsible for providing for schools.

Last year, the Legislature passed a law to end the legal battle by essentially dismissing the long-running lawsuit and giving the attorney general authority to sue districts to force repairs of unsafe buildings. If the districts cannot afford to pay for the repairs, the local district judge must impose a property tax increase to cover the bill.

The state then sued seven school districts. Midvale settled, but Bail later ruled the law unconstitutional. A second district

judge reached the same conclusion in the state's lawsuit against the Cottonwood schools. A third postponed a decision until the Idaho Supreme Court takes up the state's appeal of Bail's decision declaring the latest law unconstitutional.

"Last year we encountered, in my little district, \$2,000 in legal fees in order to protect ourselves from a lawsuit from the attorney general," Kress wrote in the letter. "That money could have been spent fixing schools, he said."

"The lawsuit exists for a reason," he wrote. "There are real differences in the abilities of school districts to take care of their problems."



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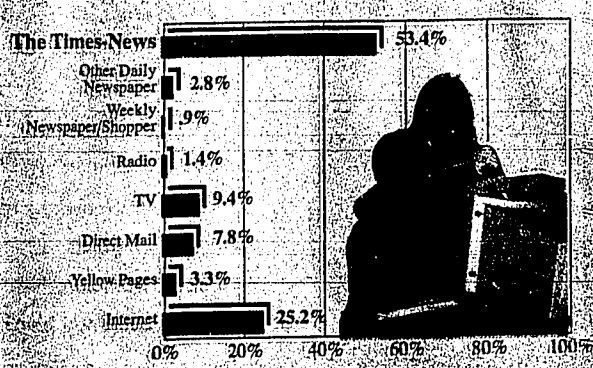
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IDAHO/WEST

FAA considers privatizing services; Boise employees worry

BOISE (AP) - Although the accident rate for light private and commercial aircraft has increased dramatically in the past few years, the Federal Aviation Administration is considering a move that could reduce or even eliminate Idaho's only remaining weather and flight safety office.

The move is being criticized by some employees who work in Boise's FAA office, whose jobs could be transferred to another

station or even removed from federal service to accommodate the move.

But the agency contends the step is needed to make the service more efficient by either changing over to contractors or forcing the existing offices to submit a "best value" bid, which would likely include downsizing and reduced services.

Pilots call the FAA flight service stations before they take off to

get weather forecasts for their specific routes.

Aircraft already in the air can also radio the center for navigational help around storms, weather fronts or other obstructions, such as a national security restriction.

The affected stations are located in 58 locations across the country, including Puerto Rico and Hawaii. Only Alaskan services are not affected by the change.

Boise is Idaho's only remaining station, operating with 29 employees from an outdated building at the Boise airport. Some of their computer and communications equipment uses technology that dates back to the 1970s.

Yet, air traffic control specialists like Greg Deveraux say they are able to provide pilots detailed and, more importantly, interpreted weather reports that help

them decide their flight routes or even whether to leave the ground.

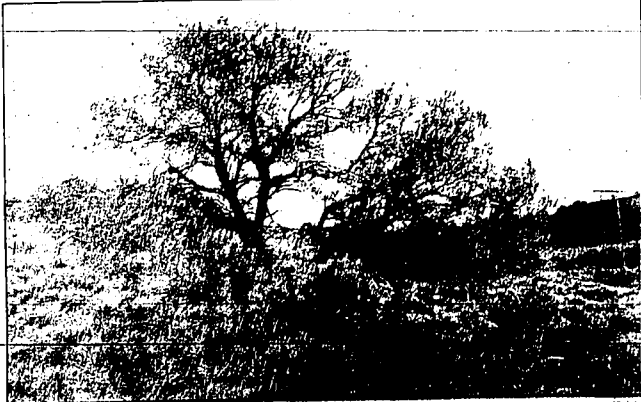
Most of the Boise office personnel have been there for years, building up irreplaceable expertise, Deveraux said.

"We have an intimate knowledge of the state - there's nobody else who can do what we do," Deveraux said. "But all this reorganization is going on and our users don't even know about it."

Last year, 63 aircraft crashed in

Idaho, according to information compiled by the Boise FAA office and the National Transportation Safety Board. Eleven of those crashes were fatal, resulting in 21 deaths.

Of the 63 crashes, 53 pilots opted not to call the FAA service office for weather briefings or to file a flight plan before taking off, said support specialist Robert Shields of the Boise office.



A dying pinon pine tree stands on the Pinenut Range in Carson City, Nev.

Dying pinon pines in Nevada indicate 'beyond dry' conditions

CARSON CITY, Nev. (AP) - For thousands of years, American Indians carefully tended stands of pinon pines in Nevada. The Washoe people would gather nuts in the Pine Nut Mountains and use them throughout the year to toast and make powder, stews and salves.

Surviving climate changes, stands of the odd-looking trees with twisting branches and stiff needles spread through the West. But a recent phenomenon has scientists concerned.

A few years ago, researchers in several Western states started noticing shorter needles on the pines and black-powdery substances around them.

Then the trees started dying.

"When you see those start dying, they're beyond just dry," said Kelly Redmond, climatologist with the Western Regional Climate Center in Reno.

"They belong here. They're adapted to dry conditions. When they start showing stress, they're telling you there's more stress than usual."

Tree experts are trying to determine what is killing off hundreds of pinons, the state tree of Nevada.

"People are starting to very

much watch these patterns of mortality," said Connie Millar, research geneticist at the Institute of Forest Genetics for the U.S. Forest Service's Pacific Southwest Research Station. "We're looking at a regionwide phenomenon."

In one grove south of Gardnerville along U.S. 395, as many as 20 percent of the trees have died in the past few years.

Scientists investigating the tree deaths are focusing on the effects of a four-year drought that has gripped northern Nevada and neighboring states.

With a decent snowpack and recent wet storms, the area could finally see some relief this year, experts say.

"We're off to a good start here," said Douglas LeComte, drought specialist with the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration Climate Prediction Center in Washington, D.C. "If it continues, it will make a significant difference."

Snow water-content readings in the mountains around the Carson-Walker watersheds are showing 125 percent to 150 percent of normal, LeComte said. The area could still take a turn and end up like the

past four years, though, with warmer weather and below-normal precipitation predicted for the next few weeks.

The region has seen the same pattern in the past few years with decent storms causing the drought, only to be thwarted by the heat and dryness of late spring and summer.

The pinon pine population also has fluctuated because of human and climatic conditions.

Scientists can track the tree's presence in central Nevada as far back as 5,000 years. Research indicates it reached its northernmost limit at Pyramid Lake only 200 years ago.

Ideal climate conditions of summer moisture and warmer winters allowed the climate-sensitive pinons to flourish in the dry, rocky soils of the northern parts of the state for 200 years. Eighty-five percent of the trees in this area began growing from 1825 to 1850, researchers in Reno estimate.

Scientists with the U.S. Forest Service in Reno will monitor pinons south of Gardnerville to determine the long-term effects of changes in climate on tree mortality of both single-needle pinon and Utah junipers.

"Brides" 2004

Brides 2004, an expanded section of Family Life will publish Sunday, February 1st. Brides will feature local and national information about weddings. Included will be information about bridal showers, local weddings of interest, where to locate your wedding, new dresses for 2004, hair and beauty tips, what's new for wedding gifts, what to plan for food or refreshments, and much more. This edition is also handed out to all couples who bring in their engagement announcement throughout the year!



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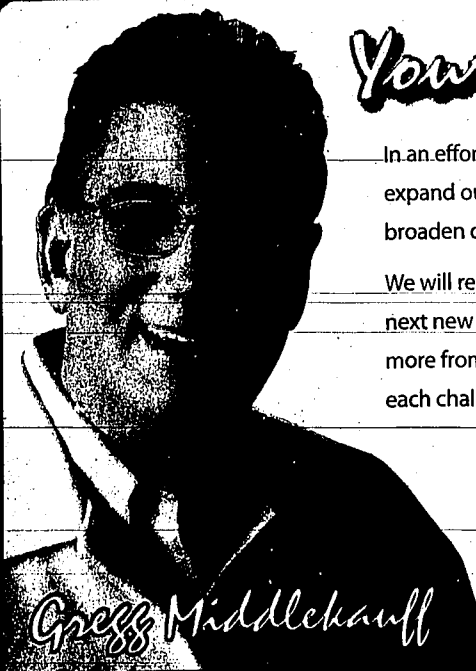
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TWIN FALLS COUNTY COURTS

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

Driving under the influence sentencing

Robert Moore, Jr., 426 E. 4500 N., third driving under the influence, under age 21; pleaded guilty; \$400 fine with \$400 suspended; \$78.50 court costs; driving privileges suspended for 90 days; 12 months probation; \$15 per month probation fee; attend 10 AA meetings; Magistrate Judge Randy J. Stoker.

Misdemeanor sentences

Heidie R. Hylce, 21, 1809 Poplar, Buhl, lewd conduct with a minor under 16, felony; amended to battery; fourth guilty; 12 days in jail, credit for time served; \$240 restitution; District Judge John C. Hohnhorst.



Steven Keith Simpkins, 18, 528 Second Ave. E., Twin Falls, possession of drug paraphernalia; 15 days in jail with intent to sell; pleaded guilty; \$100 fine; \$64.50 court costs; 25 public defender fee; five days in jail with four suspended; credit for one day served; 12 months probation; prosecutor, William R. Hohnhorst; Magistrate Judge Randy J. Stoker.

Thomas Aaron Perrin, 54, 217 13th Ave. N., Buhl, possession of drug paraphernalia with intent to use; pleaded guilty; \$100 fine with \$100 suspended; \$63.50 court costs; 40 days in jail with four suspended; 24 months probation; \$15 per month probation fee; submit to alcohol/drug testing; Magistrate Judge Randy J. Stoker.

Misdemeanor dismissals

Gerardo Marin Contreras, 21, Double A Dairy, Jerome; malicious injury to property; dismissed by prosecutor, pending further investigation; Magistrate Judge Howard Simpson.

Felony sentences

Jimmy Dean Paszusi, 28, homeless, Twin Falls, criminal possession of a financial transaction card; pleaded guilty; four years probation, two years determinate, two years indeterminate; judge granted retained jurisdiction, sentenced to 180 days to be served at the Idaho State Board of Corrections; \$1,000 fine with \$1,000 suspended; \$88.50 court costs; \$250 public defender fee; \$250 for costs of prosecution; District Judge G. Richard Bean.

Kane Daniel Huttsel, 27, 715 Center St. E., No. 8, Kimberly; grand theft; pleaded guilty; five years probation, three years determinate, two years indeterminate; judge granted retained jurisdiction, sentenced to 180 days to be served at the Idaho State Board of Corrections; \$1,000 fine with \$250 suspended; \$88.50 court costs; \$250 public defender fee; \$250 for costs of prosecution; \$2,780.00 restitution; District Judge G. Richard Bean.

Urban Silver Armendariz Jr., 29, 1423 Seventh Ave. E., Twin Falls; malicious assault; pleaded guilty; five years probation, two and one-half years determinate, two and one-half years indeterminate; judge granted retained jurisdiction, sentenced to 180 days to be served at the Idaho State Board of Corrections; \$1,000 fine with \$250 suspended; \$88.50 court costs; \$250 public defender fee; \$250 for costs of prosecution; per count; to maintain employment or be enrolled in school; shall not possess or consume any alcoholic beverages or frequent any establishment where alcohol is the main source of income; submit to alcohol/drug testing; 90 days discretionary jail time; \$40 per month probation fee; \$1,742.30 restitution; District Judge John C. Hohnhorst.

Felony dismissals

James M. Lopez, 28, 555 N.W. Paris Road, with Blaine Grand, One, two counts grand theft; dismissed by prosecutor; unable to locate state's key witness;

Magistrate Judge Kevin P. Cassidy. Nathan O. Miles, 27, 485 Addison Ave. W., Twin Falls; burglary; dismissed by court; Magistrate Judge Howard Simpson.

Juvenile arraignments

Devlin J. Guardiola, 12, 544 Blue Lakes Blvd., Twin Falls; one count inexcusable and one count battery; public defender appointed; pretrial hearing Jan. 23; Magistrate Judge John Varin.

Juvenile sentences

Estateen Hernandez, 17, 1122 Washington St. S., No. 3, Twin Falls; one count driving under the influence; amended to one count under the influence of drugs; pleaded guilty; informal adjustment fee; \$10 (informal adjustment fee); 20 hours community service; Magistrate Judge John Varin.

Cody J. Griffin, 11, 171 Blue Lakes Blvd. S., unit A2, Twin Falls; unlawful entry; informal adjustment granted with formal conditions; 90 days detention, 10 days discretionary; 80 days suspended; four months probation; 20 hours community service; complete any treatment/counseling ordered by probation officer; submit to search and seizure; abide by curfew; possess no weapon, shall not possess or use any alcohol, tobacco or illegal drugs; submit to alcohol/drug testing; apologize to victim; \$20 court costs; \$30 per month probation fee; Magistrate Judge John Varin.

Civil filings

Joe Koch and Karma Koch, husband and wife vs. Washington Mutual Bank, a Washington corporation; Seeking a monetary judgment against the defendant in an amount to be proven at trial, but in excess of \$1,000; attorneys' fees and costs; other relief as the court deems just. Plaintiff state that they entered into a contract with the defendant for a loan that was a revolving line of credit. Plaintiff alleges that they made a request for an advance under the loan to pay for their farming business and that defendant refused to allow advances under the loan and therefore was in breach of contract. Plaintiff state that they were suffered lost profits and damage to their credit as a result of said breach of contract. Plaintiff demand jury trial.

State of Idaho, Industrial Commission vs. Vic Brito, doing business as Bangles. Seeking judgment against the defendant for damage in the amount of penalty authorized by law in the amount of \$6,275, plus any additional penalty if applicable; defendant be enjoined from operating a business with employees while any default exists; attorney's fees and costs; other relief as the court deems just. Plaintiff alleges that defendant failed to provide workers' compensation insurance for their employees.

State of Idaho, Industrial Commission vs. Dennis Suprenant and Bonnie Kumba, husband and wife vs. Mike Burkbank. Seeking judgment against the defendants for special damages including past and future medical expenses, economic loss, general damages including pain, suffering, dignity, and lost enjoyment of life for Dennis Kumba's loss of consortium; amounts to be proven at trial; attorney's fees and costs. Plaintiff state they they went to the defendant's store to purchase a potential purchase of a horse. Plaintiff's allege that while attempting to load the horse defendant's dog caused plaintiff, Bonnie Kumba, to fall and fracture her wrist. Plaintiff's demand jury trial.

Christine Hernandez and Lupo Hernandez, husband and wife vs. Joel Miller, an individual. Seeking judgment against the defendant for compensatory, general and special damages in amount to be proven at trial; attorney's fees and costs; other relief as the court deems just. Plaintiff's seeking reimbursement for injuries sustained by plaintiff, Christine Hernandez, in a vehicle accident.

Idaho Power Company vs. Alish M. Allen and Jim W. Rogers Jr. Seeking judgment against the defendant for \$1,200; attorney's fees and costs. Plaintiff alleges that defendant, Jim W. Rogers Jr., operated a vehicle in a careless and negligent fashion in which the car left the road causing damage to the power pole owned by plaintiff.

Child support cases

State of Idaho, Department of Health and Welfare, Child Support Services vs. Christine E. Hays. Seeking establishment of paternity; \$220 monthly support plus 50 percent of medical expenses not covered by insurance; provide medical insurance; \$360 for support for a prior period; \$383 attorney's fees and costs.

State of Idaho, Department of Health and Welfare, Child Support Services vs. Justin Dwayne Suhl. Seeking determination of paternity; birth certificate change to reflect defendant as father; provide medical insurance; \$330

attorney's fees and costs. State of Idaho, Department of Health and Welfare vs. Jerrod Nive. Seeking establishment of paternity; \$220 monthly support plus 50 percent of medical expenses not covered by insurance; provide medical insurance; \$330 attorney's fees and costs.

State of Idaho, Department of Health and Welfare, Child Support Services vs. James Arthur. Seeking establishment of paternity; birth certificate changed to reflect defendant as father; \$170 monthly support plus 57 percent of medical expenses not covered by insurance; provide medical insurance; \$1,418 for costs of birth; \$130 attorney's fees and costs.

State of Idaho, Department of Health and Welfare, Child Support Services vs. Shandra Lee Witherspoon. Seeking establishment of paternity; \$228 monthly support plus 60 percent of medical expenses not covered by insurance; provide medical insurance; \$363 attorney's fees and costs.

Divorces filed

Vivian Kathleen Merrill and Fred Lee Merrill. Martha Fernandez vs. Roberto Fernandez.

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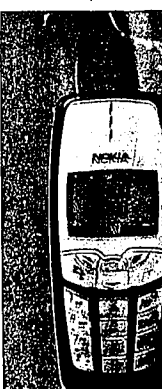
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Bear population grows closer to people

BOISE (AP) — Hans Peterson wasn't concerned when the 2-year-old grizzly bear wandered into the yard of his home in Teton, on the Wyoming border, in September. Even after the bear turned into a regular visitor, ignoring his barking dogs, Peterson didn't rattle. But when the 150-pound sub-adult sow refused to leave his garage after his wife honked the car horn, Peterson lost his patience with his new neighbor.

The bear was trapped and moved by federal authorities last month, a scene that is expected to become a regular occurrence in eastern Idaho as the grizzly population continues to expand out of Yellowstone National Park.

Peterson's nonviolent resolution of his encounter with the bear is a sign of the success of the Endangered Species Act, signed into law 30 years ago today by President Richard Nixon.

"We're finding bears in places

we haven't seen them in 15 years," said Jerry Reese, Caribou-Targhee National Forest supervisor in Idaho Falls.

Grizzly bears were listed as a threatened species in the lower 48 states in 1975. In the region around Yellowstone National Park, their numbers had dropped to below 200.

Today, biologists estimate the bear population in and around Yellowstone has risen to more than 600. The population is spreading out beyond the core park and wilderness areas southeast as far as Pinedale, Wyo., and west into Idaho's Centennial Mountains north of Dubois.

The Bush administration expects to propose removing Yellowstone's grizzlies—from the threatened species list in 2005.

But challenges remain, especially in Idaho. Federal authorities base their plan to delist grizzlies on the security of the population within its core habitat in Yellowstone and Grand Teton national parks and the national forests surrounding them.

But a new study conducted by the Greater Yellowstone Coalition, an environmental group that opposes delisting, suggests the bears are not as safe in Idaho's Caribou-Targhee National Forest as officials

say they are.

And in the communities like Teton, that surround the wilderness where the bears live, sanitation programs that keep garbage and human food away from bears have not yet been put into place.

This means more bears may be lured out of the wild by easy food, prompting encounters with humans that often turn deadly for the bear and dangerous for people.

Federal and Idaho officials also differ on who will be responsible for the bears, once they are removed from the threatened list, when they wander out of the Yellowstone area and west into central Idaho.

Idaho would take over management of the bears in the Idaho part of the Yellowstone ecosystem. But once the bears cross a yet-undrawn line, federal officials say they will once again be protected under the Endangered Species Act and managed by federal authorities.



The Our Lady of the Rockies statue stands east of Butte, Mont. Travelers on Interstate 90 between Glacier and Yellowstone National Parks have for years seen the shining beacon above the mining city of Butte. But Our Lady of the Rockies, a giant statue of the Virgin Mary, is not a tourist attraction. Like Seattle's Space Needle, the statue is a symbol of what the people of Butte feel about themselves, according to a University of Idaho sociologist.

Our Lady of the Rockies symbolizes Butte's identity

BUTTE, Mont. (AP) — Travelers on Interstate 90 between Glacier and Yellowstone national parks have for years gazed at a shining beacon on the mountains above the mining city of Butte.

But "Our Lady of the Rockies," a 90-foot statue of the Virgin Mary, was not built as a tourist attraction. Like the pyramids of Egypt, the Statue of Liberty and even Seattle's Space Needle, the statue is a symbol of what the people of Butte feel about themselves, according to a University of Idaho sociologist.

In the case of Butte, the statue was a response to both the decline of the mining industry that fueled the economy, and the spectacularly denuded landscape that mining left behind, said John Mihelich, who spent several years studying the relationship between the community and the statue and recently presented his findings at Harvard University.

"There is a lot more to Butte than destroying the environment. The statue represents that," said Mihelich, 39.

The statue celebrates the uncommonly strong sense of community and religious faith that have long defined Butte, he said. The \$3 million project also provided a new sense of purpose for people who had been laid off in the mines, but still wanted to work with their hands, he said.

"Our Lady held physical and psychological healing powers for individual women and men involved personally, and for the community, for a sense that all was not lost," Mihelich said.

Butte has long been one of the West's unique cities. In the early 1900s it was one of the biggest and richest cities in the region, with 20,000 miners extracting copper and other valuable metals from "The Richest Hill on Earth."

Butte had a rich ethnic mixture—heavy on Irish and Eastern European immigrants—a stubborn history of union activism, and an industrial economy distinct from the typical Montana cow town. Along with its 13 Roman Catholic

parishes, Butte harbored 24-hour bars, casino gambling, and a regulated red-light district.

In the 1970s, cheaper foreign copper began taking a toll on mining jobs. By 1983 large-scale mining had ended in the Mining City, and the population dropped as people left to find work.

In the face of the negative news, locals in 1979 proposed to build the white statue on a ledge blasted out of the Continental Divide, 8,510 feet above sea level. The statue, with upturned hands, overlooks the junction of Interstates 90 and 15, and was dedicated to all women, especially mothers.

Volunteers carved a road six miles to the top of East Ridge, sometimes making only 10 feet of progress a day.

"It was an expression of everything they had done in their lives," Mihelich said. "Working on the Lady was like going down to work in the mines."

The base of the statue was poured with 400 tons of concrete in September, 1985. Then a Nevada Air National Guard helicopter lifted the statue in four sections, with the head section placed on Dec. 20, 1985. Floodlights make the statue visible for miles at night.

A society's symbols are complex expressions, Mihelich said. The pyramids were monuments to Egypt's political elite. The Statue of Liberty symbolized a political agreement between the United States and France. Seattle's Space Needle, built in 1962 for the World's Fair, presaged that city's high tech future.

"The Lady wasn't that. It was an expression of everyday working-class Butte people," Mihelich said. "Grass-roots symbols of this scale are rare."

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NATION

Budget chief hears complaints

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Bush's budget director, Joshua Bolten, said he is hearing complaints from House Republicans that his spending plans are too extravagant and may not be approved by the GOP-run Congress this year.

The White House budget director, Joshua Bolten, met privately Friday with House GOP leaders in St. Michaels, Md. One of them, Budget Committee Chairman Jim Nussle, R-Iowa, said he told Bolten he is worried Bush's forthcoming budget will have too high a price tag — a common concern among conservatives.

"I'm also suspicious that there are too many instances where proposals are being made for increases in spending in items that we can't afford right now, or should be built into a budget after we've gone through and eliminated some of the wasteful spending," Nussle said in an interview.

Nussle said Bush's plan for manned missions to the moon and Mars — which could cost hundreds of billions of dollars over several decades — was an example of a program that should be paid for by cutting "lower priority programs."

Bolten's reception from House leaders, described by several people familiar with the session, underlined the problems Bush's election-year fiscal priorities face in Congress, especially from conservatives.

Bush will send lawmakers his \$2.3 trillion budget on Feb. 2. Congressional aides have said the blueprint would limit most federal programs to total growth of less than 4 percent, while halving record deficits in five years. The deficit is expected to exceed \$450 billion this year.

"We recognize this will be a difficult year," said Chad Kolton, spokesman for the White House budget office. "The president is committed to maintaining fiscal restraint."

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Sierra Club election invokes discussion of racism

Los Angeles Times
An unusual alliance of anti-immigration advocates and animal-rights activists is attempting to take over the leadership of the Sierra Club, America's oldest national environmental group, in what is emerging as a bitter fight over the future of the 112-year-old organization founded by Scottish immigrant John Muir.

Some of the insurgent candidates vying for the five available seats on the governing board only recently joined the Sierra Club. Members will vote in the board elections in March, with the results tallied in April.

The election has attracted the interest of extremist groups, which are encouraging their members to join the club to help elect the anti-immigration candidates.

Some of the insurgent candidates vying for the five available seats on the governing board only recently joined the Sierra Club. Members will vote in the board elections in March, with the results tallied in April.

strand of misanthropy that says human beings are a problem."
Pope noted that 18 percent of Sierra Club members like to fish or hunt, and he worried they could be driven out by the new agenda from animal-rights advocates.

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SPORTS

Sunday, January 18, 2004

Section C

Coming Monday

Let the Super Bowl hype begin.

MORNING LINE

SPORTSQUOTE

If it comes down to me, we're going to win the game.

— Indianapolis Colts kicker Mike Vanderjagt

TRIVIA

Robert L. Shoop's new book, "Down to the Wire: The Lives of the Triple Crown Champions," profiles the 11 horses that have won the Triple Crown. How many can you name?
...answer below

IN BRIEF

Bliss' Erkins wins state Heisman

BLISS — Bliss High school senior Chase Erkins was one of two Idaho students to win the state award in the Wendell High School Heisman competition. The award honors male and female athletes who are leaders in athletics, the classroom and the community. Erkins is the first Bliss student to win this award. Jacqueline Carter of Boise's Bishop Kelly High School was the state's female winner.

Minico H.S. hoops hosts chili dinner

RUPERT — The Minico High School boys basketball team will be sponsoring a dinner in the Minico Lunchroom (back gym) prior to the Burley/Minico Basketball game on Wednesday, Jan. 28 from 5-7 p.m. The menu will include homemade chili, baked potato and toppings, cinnamon rolls and the Costco \$5.55 per person or \$3 for a child under eight years old. Advance tickets may be purchased from any boy on the Spartans basketball team or at the door. For more information, call Alice Schenk at 438-5562.

Idaho Youth ranch plans hoops tournaments

TWIN FALLS — The Idaho Youth Ranch announced the dates for its 24th annual basketball tournaments. The girls grades 5-6 tournament is Feb. 12-14 while the girls grades 7-8 play Feb. 19-21. The boys grades 5-6 follow Feb. 26-28 while the 7-8 boys go March 11-13. To enroll a team, call Bobby Lopez at 532-4117, ext. 1332.

Volleyball tournament set for Feb. 7

GOODING — Gooding High School will host a coed volleyball tournament starting at 8:30 a.m. Saturday, Feb. 7. Players must sign up by Thursday, Jan. 29. The entry fee is \$75. There will be A, B, C divisions. For more information, call Jolene Toone at 934-4831 weekdays and 934-5771 evenings or Jenny Koski at 934-4941 weekdays or 934-8516 evenings.

T.F. legion baseball meeting set

TWIN FALLS — A Twin Falls American Legion Baseball informational meeting will take place at 7 p.m. Monday, Jan. 19 in Room G-6 at Twin Falls High School. Any interested parents and players are invited. For more information, call Laird Stone at 733-2721.

T.F. YMCA will host junior tennis tournament

TWIN FALLS — The Twin Falls YMCA will host a "B" level tennis tournament for ages 10-18 on Jan. 30 and 31. The entry cost is \$12 for both singles and doubles play. For entry forms, please stop by the YMCA at 1751 Elizabeth Blvd. For more information call 733-4384.

TRIVIA ANSWER:

Sir Barton, 1919; Gallant Fox, 1930; Omaha, 1935; War Admiral, 1937; Whirlaway, 1941; Count Fleet, 1943; Assault, 1946; Citation, 1948; Secretariat, 1973; Seattle Slew, 1977; Affirmed, 1978.

Machala shines at Pentathlon meet



Eleven-year-old Magic Valley Marlins swimmer Kori Milley swims in the 50-yard freestyle during the Igloo Pentathlon at City Pool Saturday. Milley placed sixth out of 45 swimmers with a time of 33.83 seconds.

By Dustin Lapyra
Times-News writer

TWIN FALLS — Twin Falls swimmer Michael Machala is happy he chose swimming even if his competitors at the Igloo Pentathlon weren't. Machala won the 17 year-old boys group by having the best time in all five swimming races in which he competed. Machala is in training for regionals and the state tournament. "Swimming keeps me skinny," Machala said. "I don't get tired doing things around the house and it makes my body feel really good all the time."

More than 200 swimmers from across the state competed in the 2004 YMCA Igloo Pentathlon at the YMCA City Pool Saturday. The Pentathlon consists of five races: the butterfly, the backstroke, the breast-stroke, freestyle and the individual medley. The

competition was broken down into 10 age divisions, creating a total of 50 events for the meet.

Amanda Blastock took first place in the 17 year-old female group by winning all but the individual medley for her age group.

"I swim for the social interaction as well as the physical activity," Blastock said. "It's a fun thing to do after school." Michael Shea O'Donnell won the butterfly and backstroke races and placed second in the other three heats to take second in the 11 year-old division.

"It's really fun to go out there and do the best you can," said O'Donnell. "I just really like swimming. Your team always supports you, even when you're not doing that great."

Wes Walton finished first in the 10 year-old division. The Magic Valley YMCA will also host The Snake River

Summer Championships in July.

"We've increased numbers dramatically," coach Marlin coach John Twiss said. "We want to get more kids swimming and involved in the program. It's not just for swimming, but also to help the youth of the community learn valuable life lessons."

YMCA Swim teams from Boise, Sun Valley, Idaho Falls, and others entered the meet, including Twin Falls' own Magic Valley Marlins.

"I think the important thing for us is to measure success by how much they enjoy what they are doing," Twiss said. "They're learning a life-time, healthy sport. They also learn about setting goals and how to set those goals and some of the things you have to do to prepare yourself for success."

Please see SWIM, Page C2

Mini-Cassia clash!

Minico downs Burley, 74-61

By Eric Larsen
Times-News writer

BURLEY — Green on the right, Red on the left, and pandemonium in the middle. That was the scene Saturday night at Bobcat Gymnasium during the Minico Spartans' 74-61 road win over rival Burley. In a heated, foul-filled fourth quarter, Minico's (4-8) ability to hit on 15-of-19 free throws closed the door on the Bobcats (3-6). "I was really proud of how Michael Rawson and Stafford Gillette stepped up in the fourth quarter and knocked their free-throws down," said Spartan coach Mike Graefe.

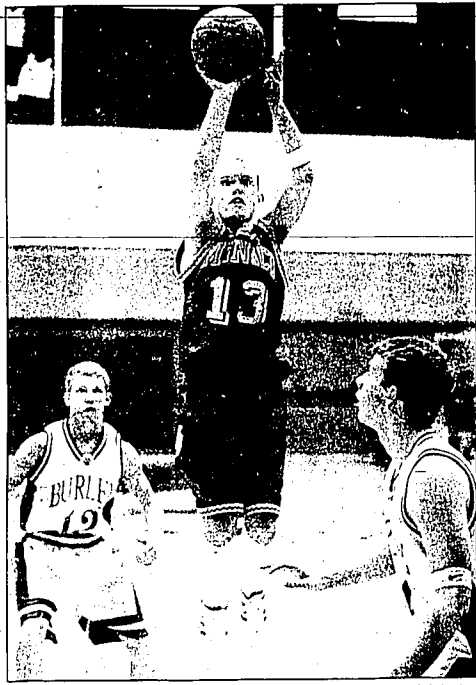
The reserve guard Rawson hit all six of his free-throw attempts and added two buckets to finish with 10 of Minico's 23 fourth-quarter points. Rawson's heady backcourt play was huge for Minico after senior guard Travis Noble fouled out in the final quarter. With Noble and junior post Kevin Bingham on the bench at the end of the game, Minico's reserves came in and led their team to victory. "I've been playing with

Michael my whole life," said Bingham. "When the time comes, he knows what to do and he can get it done."

Despite being outscored 24-23 in the final quarter, Minico was able to come out the victor (thanks to hot shooting the rest of the game). The Spartans started the game with a 15-7 first-quarter and outscored Burley in all but the final period.

The Bobcats were led with 17 points from senior guard Wes Hadden, but had trouble finding any shots near the hoop. A swarming Spartan defense held star Bobcat center Scott Randklev to only eight points for the game. "That was our focus," said Graefe. "We had to limit him and take him out of his game."

Noble led the balanced Spartan attack with 15 points, while Rawson finished with 14 and Bingham netted 12. Gillette scored all his points from the charity stripe, converting on 11-of-12 free-throw attempts. While the mood on the court was very serious, Graefe wanted to make sure his players could soak in the electric atmosphere. Please see BASKETBALL, Page C2



Burley's Kegan McCoy and Wes Hadden land on as Minico's Travis Noble sinks two of his 15 points in Minico's 74-61 Saturday night win at Burley High School.

NFL CHAMPIONSHIP GAMES

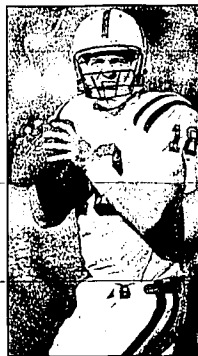
Colts and Patriots: Home field came down to one play

By Dave Goldberg
Associated Press writer

FOXBORO, Mass. — Edgerrin James slushed off tackle on fourth-and-goal from the 1 with 14 seconds left. Willie McGinest dumped him, and Peyton Manning slipped the turf at the RCA Dome in disgust.

Who says one play can't impact a season? Especially when that play gave the Patriots a 38-34 win over the Colts on Nov. 30, setting up Sunday's AFC championship game in windy Foxboro instead of indoors at the RCA Dome.

"It was good that we stopped them and that we won, but it could have gone either way," McGinest said. "They've been on five since then. It's a new season and they've been on top of the world. We've got a lot of other stuff to concentrate on than just that play!" True, the Colts are hot — they



Peyton Manning

have not punted in two playoff games leading up to this one and have scored 41 and 38 points in the two. But playing the Colts in Foxboro, where Manning is 0-4 in his career, is certainly more preferable for the Patriots than playing them in Indy, which might have been the case had McGinest not made his play.

Please see AFC, Page C5

Eagles look for R-E-S-P-E-C-T

By Barry Wilner
Associated Press writer

PHILADELPHIA — Somehow, with a 13-4 record and on the verge of their third straight NFC championship game, the Philadelphia Eagles are not getting enough respect.

Yes, the team with the NFL's best record this decade feels underappreciated. Disrespected. Dissed.

Sounds like a defensive mechanism, or a means of motivation for Sunday's meeting with the surprising Carolina Panthers (13-5). Regardless, the Eagles don't feel their defensive due credit, particularly from their opponent.

"I think it started first off from the head coach," cornerback Bobby Taylor said of Panthers coach John Fox, "when he said Green Bay is going to beat us and they are going to be hosting the NFC championship. He was wrong about that." Actually, Taylor is a little off on his facts, but no matter. Fox said after the Panthers' 29-23 double-overtime victory at St. Louis that a



Donovan McNabb

Packers win against the Eagles would benefit Carolina by allowing it to stay home for the conference title game.

"There have been some other things that have been said," added Taylor. "I don't necessarily want to bring it up right now, but we know all about that. We don't need that as far as fuel to our fire because I, me personally, I already had a certain anger as far as the way I want.

Please see NFC, Page C5

CSI BASKETBALL

Complete sweep

Women control series with Dixie

The Times-News

ST. GEORGE, Utah — The College of Southern Idaho women's basketball team overcame a sluggish start and opened up a close game at halftime on the way to a 61-55 scenic West Athletic Conference win over Dixie State College Saturday night.

The 18th-ranked Golden Eagles (16-4 overall, 12-2 conference) led just 31-29 at the break and 41-39 early in the second half. But CSI went on an inside move on CSI's Deonta Swanson. But it was as close as the Rebels would come the rest of the way.

The Eagles' Andrea Sivakova, who finished with 13 points and also made a 3-pointer in the first half, hit a long ball with under 5:30 left to play to give CSI a 55-43 tie to that point. "Andie's been struggling a little bit with her shooting," CSI head coach Randy Rogers told KEZJ Radio. "But when she hit those 3s, they seemed like real momentum changes for us."

No Dixie State player scored in double figures. Talita Aguiar and Camille Gardner each finished with nine points. Part of the Eagles' success defensively came by forcing 27 Rebel turnovers. Dixie was also held to 1-of-12 shooting from 3-point range.

The Eagles grabbed their largest lead before the intermission at 31-26 on Delicia Jernigan's second 3-pointer, but Dixie's Lindsay Hennrichsen hit a 3-pointer of her own at the buzzer to bring the Rebels to within two points.

CSI received a scare in the first half when Jernigan, who returned to the Eagles' lineup after missing more than a month with an injured foot, left the game after twisting her ankle. However, she returned to the floor after getting her foot and ankle taped.

Men

CSI, sparked by the return of four players from a one-game suspension, jumped out early on Dixie State and never looked back in a 58-35 win.

The Eagles (13-6 overall, 8-6 SWAC) trailed just once, at 3-2, in a game that saw the return of Yusuf Baker, Jason McGriff, Jason McKinney and Dante Sawyer to the CSI lineup after they sat out Friday's loss to the Rebels. After missing more than a season for Dixie (15-5, 9-5), which was held to 25 percent shooting from the floor. The Eagles also limited Vincent Grier, who came in averaging about 17 points per game, to just four.

Please see CSI, Page C2

SCORES AND STATS

SPORTS IN BRIEF

BASKETBALL

NBA EASTERN CONFERENCE

Table with columns for team, W, L, PCT, GB, and games played. Includes teams like New Jersey, Boston, Philadelphia, etc.

WESTERN CONFERENCE

Table with columns for team, W, L, PCT, GB, and games played. Includes teams like Minnesota, Sacramento, San Antonio, etc.

WHAT'S ON T.V.

Auto Racing

Dakar Rally, end of race, SPEED, 5:30 p.m.

Basketball

Spurs at Celtics, ABC, 10:30 a.m. Women, Houston at TCU, ESPN2, 1 p.m.

Bowling

PBA, Medford, ESPN, 11 a.m.

Football

AFC championship, Indianapolis at New England, CBS, 1 p.m.

NFC championship, Carolina at Philadelphia, 4:30 p.m., Fox

Golf

European PGA Tour, South African Always Open, final round, TGC, 7 a.m.

Soccer

Men's national teams, U.S. vs. Denmark, ESPN, 1:30 p.m.

Speed skating

World Sprint Speed Skating Championships, ABC, 1 p.m.

Tennis

Australian Open, early round, ESPN2, 9 p.m.

Area ski report

Boyer Basin - Set 12/24 had packed 52... 57 base 51 of 51... 7 of 100%... 100% open... 100% open... 100% open...

High School basketball

Boys basketball: Blaine 54, Caldwell 48... Girls basketball: Blaine 54, Caldwell 48...

College basketball scores

Arizona 81, UCLA 64... Kentucky 77, Duke 62... Wake Forest 77, Duke 62...

Football NFL Playoffs

Tennessee 20, New York Jets 17... Carolina 20, Denver 17... Indianapolis 17, Oakland 17...

Hockey NHL Playoffs

Philadelphia 2, Pittsburgh 1... Carolina 2, Tampa Bay 1... Carolina 2, Tampa Bay 1...

GOLF

PGA TOUR: Tiger Woods 1, Ernie Els 2... PGA TOUR: Tiger Woods 1, Ernie Els 2...

Record Pick Six payout - overshadows stakes wins

NEW YORK - A record payout of more than \$2.2 million in the Pick Six overshadows stakes victories by Seattle Fitz and Austin's Mum at Aqueduct on Saturday.

Two bettors collected \$1,120,287, the largest payoff for any type of racing wager ever made in New York. The previous high also came on a Pick Six, a \$767,998 payout in April 1990.

Seattle's Fitz - beat Evening Artificer by a nose in the Aqueduct Handicap... Austin's Mum staged a strong stretch run and beat Golden Damsel by 5.5 lengths in the Grade III, \$109,600 Affectionately Handicap for fillies and mares 3 years and older.

Austin's Mum, ridden by Pablo Fragoso, covered 1 1/16 miles in 1:44 and paid \$25, \$10,40 and \$8.30.

Patriots starting linemen to miss AFC championship FOXBORO, Mass. - New England Patriots offensive lineman Damien Woody was placed on injured reserve Saturday because of a knee injury and will miss the AFC championship game Sunday.

Woody was replaced on the roster by receiver J.J. Stokes, spokesman Steve James said. Woody tore the medial collateral ligament in his right knee on the first play in New England's 17-14 victory over the Tennessee Titans last week, but still played intermittently.

Stevens confirms he has post-concussion syndrome EAST RUTHERFORD, N.J. - New Jersey Devils captain Steve Stevens confirmed Saturday he has post-concussion syndrome and will be sidelined indefinitely.

Stevens missed his fifth straight game Saturday when the Devils faced the Washington Capitals.

The Devils initially reported that Stevens had the flu, but published reports suggested the problem was more serious.

Honored before the game as the all-time leader among defensemen in games played, Stevens told reporters between the first and second periods that he visited Dr. Karen Johnston, a noted concussion expert in Montreal on Thursday.

"It seems like that is what I'm suffering from, post-concussion syndrome," Stevens said.

The 49-year-old Stevens hasn't played since Jan. 7.

Before this stretch, the Devils captain hadn't missed a regular-season game due to injury or illness since the 1999-00 season, when he also was out with the flu.

Red Sox, Williamson agree to contract terms BOSTON - The Boston Red Sox and right-handed reliever Scott Williamson agreed to terms on a one-year contract Saturday, avoiding arbitration.

The Red Sox acquired Williamson from Cincinnati in July. He went 0-1 with a 6.20 ERA in 24 relief appearances following the trade. He played a key role in the playoffs, going 2-0 with three saves and a 1.12 ERA in eight appearances, striking out 11 batters.

The 27-year-old Williamson appeared in all five games of the AL division series against the Oakland Athletics and won the third and fourth games.

He earned saves in all three of Boston's wins over the New York Yankees in the AL championship series, allowing a run on one hit and striking out six in three innings.

Williamson, who earned \$1.6 million last season, is 25-23 with 54 saves and a 3.13 ERA in 241 career appearances.

Cavalliers down Jazz in OT with 102-96 victory SALT LAKE CITY - Carlos Boozer scored 10 of his 32 points in overtime off LeBron James left with an ankle injury in the second quarter. Cavalliers rallied Saturday night for a 102-96 win over the Jazz, Cleveland's first victory in Utah in more than 14 years.

James scored 29 points before spraining his right ankle during a scramble for a loose ball in the second quarter, holding his right leg off of the floor with 12.1 seconds remaining. By regulation and the Cavaliers' win after a slow first half.

Germany's Anni Friesinger won the women's 1,000-meter race Saturday in 1:17.02, Jennifer Rodriguez of the United States was second in 1:17.02 while Timmer was third in 1:17.19.

Denmark's Hansen leads South African Open SOMERSET WEST, South Africa - Denmark's Anders Hansen shot a 4-under-par 68 in strong wind Saturday to share a one-stroke lead with South Africa's Craig Lile after three rounds of the South African Open.

van Rensburg, who shared the second-round lead with Lile, played poorly in the wind. Alastair shot a 74 and van Rensburg a 75.

Steve Webster of England had a 67, leaving him at 208. Defending champion Trevor Letenham of South Africa repeated his second-round 69 and was at 209 with Raphael Jacquelin of France (71).

The day's best round belonged to South Africa's Charl Schwartzel, who avoided the worst of the wind and shot a 65.

Expos resign pitcher Rocky Biddle, avoid arbitration MONTREAL - The Montreal Expos agreed to terms with right-handed pitcher Rocky Biddle on Saturday, avoiding arbitration.

Biddle led the Expos in saves (34) and appearances (73) last season and went 5-8 with a 4.65 ERA.

Acquired from the Chicago White Sox as part of a three-team trade in January 2003, the 27-year-old Biddle had five hits in 11 games in saves, converting 34 of 41 chances.

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Denmark's Hansen leads South African Open SOMERSET WEST, South Africa - Denmark's Anders Hansen shot a 4-under-par 68 in strong wind Saturday to share a one-stroke lead with South Africa's Craig Lile after three rounds of the South African Open.

Hansen and Lile (70) were at 9-under 207. Scotland's Alastair Forsythe and South Africa's Nico

Compiled from wire reports

SPORTS

Venus gets a chance to end drought at Aussie Open

SYDNEY, Australia (AP) - Only one title, Zero Grand Slams: Several months on the sidelines with an abdominal strain. Those were just a few of the disappointments that plagued Venus Williams in 2003, a year in which she slid out of the top 10 rankings for the first time since 1997. She also lost her half-sister, who was shot to death in a Los Angeles suburb near where the Williams family once lived.

So it came as little surprise when, after arriving in Melbourne for the Australian Open, she went straight to the practice courts. There was no talking about fashion or complaining—about overloaded tour schedules like she has before previous Australian Opens.

"When punches are thrown at you, you'll have to get up," said Williams, her resolve sure to be tested more than ever this season.

Things are looking up already. In an unusual move, Williams was seeded third for the Australian Open—eight spots higher than her current world ranking. The seeding took into account Williams' record before her injury.

With Williams' younger sister Serena still recovering from knee surgery and other former champions Jennifer Capriati, Mary Pierce and Monica Seles also sidelined with injuries, this could be Venus' best shot in Melbourne. There's also doubt over the fitness of No. 2 Kim Clijsters of Belgium and fifth-seeded Lindsay Davenport.

"I'm sure she's looking to come back very strong and we'll have to be careful," Justine Henin-Hardenne, who finished 2003 ranked at No. 1 after capturing the French and U.S. Opens, said about Venus.

The men's draw is almost at full strength, and No. 1 Andy Roddick knows the competition is wide open.

Roddick, the U.S. Open champion, No. 2 Roger Federer (Melbourne) and No. 3 Juan Carlos Ferrero (French Open) all won their first majors last season, the first time since 1977 that three male players earned their maiden Grand Slam titles in one season. Their average age is 22.

This will be the first time Roddick, 21, has entered a major with the top seeding.

Just before coming to Australia, Venus Williams won an exhibition tournament in Hong Kong. Still, she hasn't played a major tournament since July and hasn't won a Grand Slam title since the U.S.



American tennis player Venus Williams practices for the Australian Open Tennis Tournament in Melbourne, Australia, Wednesday. The tournament starts on Sunday evening.

Open in 2001, when she completed a back-to-back Wimbledon-U.S. Open double with a 6-2, 6-4 win over Serena.

Serena has dominated their big encounters since then, winning the last five all-Williams finals at majors, including the 2003 Australian Open.

The only one of the top five female contenders not carrying some kind of injury concern into Melbourne is No. 4 Amelie Mauresmo, who lost the 1999 Australian Open final to Martina Hingis.

Clijsters, 20, hasn't played in almost two weeks since injuring her left ankle at the Hopman Cup and said she wouldn't risk her career if playing one tournament meant long-term damage.

Davenport, coming back from foot surgery last October, strained a chest muscle at the Adidas International. She didn't

think it would hurt her chances next week.

Henin-Hardenne, 21, has developed her serve and forehand, and now thinks they're bigger weapons than her backhand. She's confident of adding to her two Grand Slam titles. The Belgian had a slight ankle sprain in Sydney and needed treatment for blisters, but doesn't believe it will trouble her in Melbourne.

On the men's side, defending champion Andre Agassi is more than capable of running the younger players out of the tournament. In May, at 33 years and 13 days, he became the oldest man to hold No. 1 in the ATP's entry rankings and remained there for 14 weeks.

Agassi hasn't lost a match at the Australian Open in this millennium, winning his second and third titles in 2000

and 2001, skipping 2002 with a wrist problem, and dropping just one set en route to his championship win over Rainer Schuster in 2003.

He breezed into the final of this week's unteup tournament at Kooyong for the fifth consecutive year and said his preparation for the Australian Open.

"I think it proves to me that the pieces are in place - this gives you the reassurance that you're ready to get the tournament started," he said. "I feel like I can step on the court and do it from start to finish and make somebody play a good match to beat me, and that's what you need to feel out there."

The only other former champion in the men's draw is Sweden's Thomas Johansson (2002), who was sidelined all last season with a left knee injury.

Freshmen energize Texas teams

AUSTIN, Texas (AP) - The script for Texas' men's and women's basketball teams was nearly identical when the season started. Fresh off Final Four appearances, both returned deep and talented lineups.

Yet it's the newcomers, freshmen P.J. Tucker and Tiffany Jackson, who are starting for Texas, pushing the veterans to get better and spurring the Longhorns to big wins.

Tucker is the sleeper from North Carolina who left Tobacco Road for No. 18 Texas (10-2) where he's emerged as a fan favorite on the men's team.

Jackson's arrival with the women was highly anticipated after a stellar high school career in the Dallas area. Her size and athleticism has already elevated her; among the No. 3 Longhorns' (14-2) best players.

"Freshman can come in today and because of what they've been exposed to make a quick impact," men's coach Rick Barnes said. "I don't know Tiffany that well, but I know she's got mental toughness and I'm sure she does too or she wouldn't be where she is."



P.J. Tucker

Tucker is a small but british 6-foot-5 power forward who forced his way into the starting lineup by outscoring and out-rebounding experienced teammates. He averages 15.4 points, 7.5 rebounds and is shooting 65 percent from the floor with an uncanny ability to finish shots in heavy traffic under the basket.

The team that used to rely on tiny T.J. Ford at point guard now gets the ball to a power forward who finds more success ducking under defenders than going over them.

"He's relentless," senior guard Royal Ivey said. "He's 6-5 and plays like he's 6-9. He's got heart."

Tucker provided the highlight of Texas' season so far with his game-winning shot in a 79-77 overtime victory over Florida.

"The floor opened up," Tucker said. "I was wide open." "It was calling timeout, they just didn't see it," Barnes said. "Players have to make plays."

Andre Burton had 15 points for Evansville (2-12, 1-5), which lost its ninth straight on the road.

No. 24 Creighton 72, Evansville 53

OMAHA, Neb. - Brody Deren scored 15 points, and Creighton extended its school-record home winning streak to 26 games.

Andre Burton had 15 points for Evansville (2-12, 1-5), which lost its ninth straight on the road.

No. 25 Illinois 88, Iowa 82

CHAMPAIGN, Ill. - Roger Powell scored 20 points and Doran Williams keyed a second-half rally to lead Illinois.

The win snapped a two-game losing streak for the Illini (11-4, 2-2 Big Ten). Williams scored 17 points, including five in a row to put Illinois up 67-63.

Pierre Pierce scored 26 points and Brady Boyd added 20 for the Hawkeyes (9-5, 2-2), who led 43-38 at halftime.

Boise St. 79, Nevada 75

BOISE - Senior forward Aaron Haynes scored 23 points and senior guard Bryan Defares added 19, including five free throws in the last two minutes, as Boise State held off a late Nevada surge to record a 79-75 victory Saturday.

Boise State led 62-44 with 11:09 left, but the Wolfpack chipped at the Bronco lead until guard Garry Hill-Thomas hit a field goal and free throw to bring the Wolfpack to eight down with 3:09 left. But the five free throws by Defares and two by guard Joe Skiffer in the remaining time helped assure the Boise State victory.

It was Boise State's first victory against Nevada (9-6, 3-3) in their last seven meetings.

The win also broke a three-game Bronco conference losing streak.

Boise State (10-5, 2-3) held Nevada's Kirk Snyder, the Western Athletic Conference's leading scorer, in check, much of the game.

Utah 60, Wyoming 49

SALT LAKE CITY - Andrew Bogut scored a season-high 20 points and grabbed 16 rebounds, helping Utah outlast Wyoming 60-49 Saturday for its eighth straight victory.

Bogut blocked five shots and hit 8-of-13 from the floor, but converted just 4 of 12 free throws and didn't score in the last 14:50 of the game.

As the Cowboy defense began focusing on Bogut, Nick Jacobson found his range. Jacobson scored 13 of his 17 points in the final 13:16, including four free throws in the final minute, to keep Utah (14-3, 2-0 MWC) unbeaten at home this season.

Mory Correa scored 14 points and Jay 1 (MWC), who scored just three points after cutting Utah's lead to 47-46 with 4:47 to play.

No. 9 North Carolina ties record in win over UConn

CHAPEL HILL, N.C. (AP) - North Carolina added another notch to its No. 1 victory belt.

Joshua McCants hit a 3-pointer with 6.2 seconds to play to give the ninth-ranked Tar Heels an 86-83 victory over No. 1 Connecticut on Saturday.

It was North Carolina's 10th win over a top-ranked team, tying the Tar Heels with UCLA for the most in college basketball history.

The latest one was final when Ben Gordon's 3-point attempt to tie bounced off the rim, setting off a wild celebration as it seemed most of the 21,750 in attendance in the Smith Center headed onto the court.

In an ironic twist, North Carolina's win will likely move its archrival, Duke, into the No. 1 spot in The Associated Press poll.

McCants finished with 27 points for the Tar Heels (11-3), who led by 16 points early in the second half only to see the Huskies (14-2) take an 83-80 lead with 1:30 to play.

McCants tied the game with a 3 with 1:15 left. Connecticut, which had an 11-game winning streak snapped and lost on the road as a No. 1 team for the first in 12 games, missed two shots. North Carolina ran the clock down from 30 seconds and Raymond Felton started his move with 10 seconds left and found McCants on the left side for the game-winner.

Gordon took the ball down the left side, made one spin and missed the 3 that could have tied it.

Jawad Williams had 18 points for North Carolina, while Melvin Scott added 11. Sean May, limited to 22 minutes by foul trouble, had seven points and 11 rebounds.

Emeka Okafor had 29 points, 13 rebounds and six blocked shots for the Huskies, while Rashad Anderson had 16 points. Gordon had 10 points on 3-for-14 shooting, seven rebounds and 10 assists.

No. 2 Duke 84, No. 4 Wake Forest 72

DURHAM, N.C. - J.J. Redick scored 23 points, and Shemar Williams had 16 points, 14 rebounds and eight blocked shots to lift No. 2 Duke past No. 4 Wake Forest 84-72 Saturday.

Chris Duhon added eight points and 14 assists for the Blue Devils (14-1, 4-0 Atlantic Coast Conference), who have won 11 straight overall and 36 in a row at home.

Justin Gray scored 18 points for the Demon Deacons (12-2, 2-1), who have lost seven straight—at Duke. Eric Williams scored just six points.

Georgia 65, No. 5 Kentucky 57

LEXINGTON, Ky. - Rashad Wright scored 20 points to help Georgia end Kentucky's 19-game Southeastern Conference regular-season winning streak.

Georgia (9-5, 1-2 SEC) beat a top-five opponent for the second time this month.

Missouri 79, No. 11 Oklahoma 75

NORMAN, Okla. - Ricky Paulding

scored nine of his 23 points in overtime and Arthur Johnson added 16 points and 11 rebounds for Missouri.

The Tigers (7-6, 2-1 Big 12) scored seven straight points in overtime, and shot 7-for-8 from the line down the stretch.

Freshman Lawrence McKenzie had 16 points for Oklahoma (10-3, 0-2).

No. 13 Pittsburgh 59, Rutgers 49

PITTSBURGH - Jaron Brown scored 19 points and hit Pittsburgh's only two 3-pointers to key a late-game comeback.

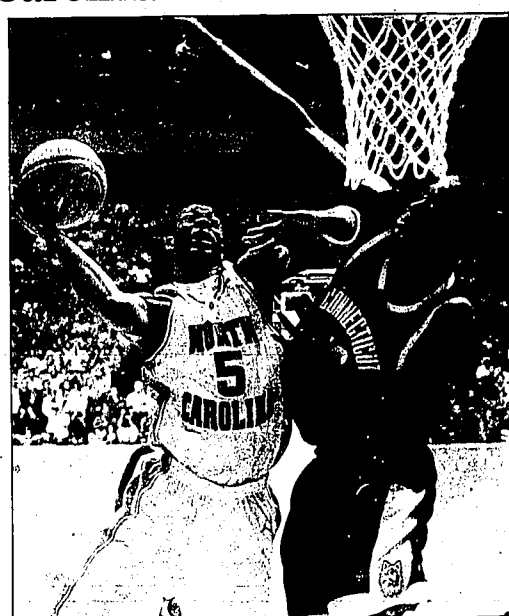
Pittsburgh (18-0, 4-0 Big East) closed with a 16-2 run after the Scarlet Knights (9-5, 1-3 Big East) lead by as many as six points in the second half.

Chris Tate had 17 points and 12 rebounds and teamed with Brown to lead the final spur.

No. 18 Texas 63, Nebraska 61

AUSTIN, Texas - Royal Ivey hit a jump shot with 2.4 seconds left to lift Texas.

Ivey and Kenny Taylor each scored 13



North Carolina's Jackie Manuel drives to the basket against Connecticut's Emeka Okafor Saturday at the Smith Center in Chapel Hill, N.C. Okafor recorded 13 rebounds, six blocks and a game-high 29 points but No. 1 Connecticut lost 86-83.

The Bulldogs lost their first two SEC games by more than 20 points each.

Damien Wilkins added 11 points and 13 rebounds for the Bulldogs, who trailed Kentucky (11-2, 2-1) only once.

Eric Daniels scored 15 points, six below his average, to lead Kentucky.

No. 6 St. Joseph's 81, Xavier 73

CINCINNATI - Delonte West made every shot he took - 12 from the field, six from the line - for 33 points, and St. Joseph's extended the best start in school history.

Jameer Nelson added 28 points in a two-guard attack that rallied the Hawks (15-0, 5-0 Atlantic 10) from a rare second-half deficit.

Xavier (9-6, 1-2) led 41-35, the Hawks' biggest halftime deficit of the season.

Lionel Chalmers scored 23 points for the Musketeers, who hadn't lost at home to St. Joseph's since Feb. 17, 1973.

SPORTS

The Big Wiesy made it look easy at the Sony Open



Michelle Wie reacts after making a birdie putt on the 18th green of Waialae Country Club during the second round of the Sony Open in Honolulu Friday. At left is playing partner Kevin Hayashi of Hilo, Hawaii.

Little buzz, lots of birdies for Frazar

HONOLULU (AP) - Michelle Wie was still the talk of the Sony Open, at least in the locker room and on the range.

But on the golf course Saturday, the show belonged to Harrison Frazar.

Without in 160 previous starts on the PGA Tour, Frazar birdied his final three holes for a 3-under 66 and a one-shot lead over Ernie Els going into the final round at Waialae Country Club.

Frazar was at 14-under 196, although 11 players were within five shots of the lead.

Els wasted a chance to join Frazar in the lead when his drive went into the right rough on the par-5 18th hole, and his pitch from 50 yards came up just short of the green. He had to settle for a par and a 66.

Dave Love III holed a bunker shot for eagle and scrambled for some good pars for a 63, leaving him two strokes behind with Frank Lickliter (65).

Paul Azinger, whose only victory in the last 10 years came at Waialae four years ago, birdied his final two holes, and was among those at 11-under 199.

The gallery lost some of its energy without a 14-year-old girl to chase around.

Wie wowed them all on Friday with a 2-under 68 - the best score ever by a female competing against the men - to miss the cut by one shot.



Harrison Frazar Loads the Sony Open

Players were still trying to soak in the feat when they arrived to the course Saturday.

"It was the talk in the locker room - guys that got out here, guys that got heat," Love said. "It's an incredible story."

Wie returned to Waialae as a walking analyst for ESPN. Such a move is normally for players closing in on retirement, not those in the ninth grade.

She saw some great golf, and so did a large gallery that was more spread out across the course.

Love made the best move of the day and is in good position to start the year strong again. He faced a tough bunker shot on the par-5 ninth, but it hopped twice and disappeared into the cup for eagle.

Then on the 13th, he hit a tree

with his tee shot and had to pitch out to the fairway. Love saved par by hitting a 7-iron shot to 5 feet to save par.

"I had some good things happen," Love said.

Still, he noticed a difference from the first two days.

"It seemed boring out there today," Love said. "Not a whole lot of excitement."

The highlight was Vijay Singh finding a creative way to play the par-5 18th. For the second straight day, the big Fijian hit his drive well left down the adjacent 10th fairway, taking trouble out of the equation. He hit his approach into about 10 feet and closed with an eagle.

Els had dinner with Singh and heard about his new trick, but figured the tees were too far up to risk the shot, so he went the conventional route - and had to settle for par.

Still, the Big Easy is in great shape to become the first back-to-back winner of the Sony Open since Corey Pavin in 1987.

By Doug Ferguson
Associated Press writer

HONOLULU - The consolation prize for 14-year-old Michelle Wie was bending over the back of a computer terminal to follow along as her father scrolled down the list of guys she beat at the Sony Open.

The ninth-grader really thought she was going to make the cut. She was, like, totally bummed out when she learned late Friday afternoon that despite two birdies on the final three holes for a 2-under 68, she came up one shot short.

"Just one more shot and I would have made it," Wie said. "It's killing me."

Her two-day total of 140 was only enough to tie U.S. Open champion Jim Furyk and British Open champion Ben Curtis. It was one shot better than John Cook and Scott Hoch, two better than Steve Flesch, three ahead of Adam Scott.

And while she didn't get her way at Waialae, it was a performance that was simply stunning.

"She's 14 years old and she beat a lot of guys," said Craig Bowden, 35, who has been a professional one year longer than Wie has been on earth. "She's got an incredible future ahead of her."

At times, Wie looks as if the future is now.

"The LPGA has got to be chomping at the bit," Tom Lehman said Saturday morning. "She's got star power. She holds her head high. She walks like Seve (Ballesteros) used to, when he was like, 'Watch this next shot. It's going to be the greatest you ever saw.'"

Wie displayed a full range of shots during her two days at Waialae, starting with her drives that put her in the top two-thirds of the field in driving distance. Three of them were longer than 300 yards.

Between clubs on the par-3 fourth, where the pin was all the way back, she went with a knock-down 3-iron to control the flight and distance, and finished pin-high, 40 feet away. When the cut was in range and the pressure at its peak late in the second round, she hit crisp, punch shots to gain more control.

Her 68 was the lowest score by a female competing against the men.

Annika Sorenstam had rounds of 71-74 at the Colonial, when she missed the cut by four shots. Suzy Whaley, the Connecticut club pro who qualified for the Greater Hartford Open playing a shorter

set of tees, went 75-78 and missed the cut by 13 shots.

Three other women played on international tours, and Se Ri Pak is the only one who made the cut. She closed with a 69-71 at the SBS Super Tournament on the Korean PGA Tour and tied for 10th.

Still, the most important number at the Sony Open was Wie's age - 14.

"It's an amazing story," Lehman said. "It's the story of the Witeeek."

Lehman chuckled at his play on words. The former British Open champion is the one who nicknamed her the "Big Wiesy" two years ago during the Pro-Junior Challenge at the Sony Open, saying the swing reminded him of Ernie Els.

Two years later, Lehman is still shaking his head.

"I was talking to Jonathan Byrd last night and asked him what he was doing at 14," Lehman said. "He said, 'Snap hooking it and getting into trouble' - just like the rest of us. She has really matured. She is strong, poised and motivated. And she's obviously incredibly talented."

Where it leads is anyone's guess.

Wie returns to school Tuesday at Punahou School, where she is

on the honor roll. Her next tournament - is - the Safeway International (March 18-21) outside Phoenix, which traditionally attracts one of the strongest fields on the LPGA Tour. A week later, she plays in the first LPGA major, the Kraft Nabisco Championship.

The Sony Open will give her invaluable experience and confidence.

"I think it helps me on the LPGA, because since I played on the PGA, I think the LPGA will be easy, too," she said. "The courses are going to be a little shorter, so I'm going to have more wedges."

She still has 3.5 years of high school and plans to go to college. Her father met the president of Stanford over the holidays on Maui.

After that, she sees no reason why she can't play on both tours.

"I struggled and I fought," Wie said. "I made a couple of really good putts. I made two birdies out of the last three holes. I think I did pretty good."

"I think I can play out here one day."

Such a comment from someone so young would have sounded outrageous. After two days in the Sony Open, a 14- and 14-year-old girl shot even par and tied for 80th, all bets are off.



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Barley bust: Slowdown in
beer sales apparently leads
to lagging crop purchase.

BRIEFLY IN MONEY

Business center holds Quick Books classes

TWIN FALLS - The Idaho Small Business Development Center at the College of Southern Idaho will hold three sessions of Quick Books classes during the spring semester.

Quick Books Pro 2003 is an accounting and inventory tracking software that helps small-business operators set up a company, handle accounts receivable and payable, track and age merchandise, and do payroll, reconciling and reporting. Students need to be computer literate and familiar with accounting principles.

Each session consists of two classes to be held from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. in Room C93 of the Evergreen Building, Dennis Tilley, a certified public accountant, will instruct. Cost is \$100 per session.

Participants can choose one of three sessions:

- Jan. 31 and Feb. 7
- March 13 and 20
- April 17 and 24

For information or to register, contact Sherry Rust, the center's training coordinator, at 732-6455 or rust@csi.edu.

Course aims at building skills in business

TWIN FALLS - A 12-week evening course for entrepreneurs and small-business operators will begin this week at the Idaho Small Business Development Center at the College of Southern Idaho.

The N3 Level Entrepreneurial Business Planning course will be held from 6:30 to 9:30 p.m. Thursdays, Jan. 22 through April 22, in Room 181 of the Aspen Building.

The course is designed for business people who want to expand an existing business and need the skills to make it grow. Mike McClaymond, marketing and management professor, will help participants develop comprehensive business plans that will act as road maps to their business futures, organizers said. The fee is \$295 per person. A company may register for an additional \$50, plus \$70 for an extra set of books. Prepayment and preregistration are required.

For information, contact Sherry Rust at 732-6455 or rust@csi.edu.

Two-session class offers help in buying first house

TWIN FALLS - A Finally Home homebuyer class will be held from 6 to 10 p.m. Thursdays, Jan. 22 and 29, at the College of Southern Idaho.

Penny Johnson, who manages the program at CSI, said the class includes choosing a first home, applying for credit, making down payments, choosing a Realtor, making an offer, obtaining title searches and more.

The program is sponsored by CSI and Idaho Partners for Home Buyer Education Inc. Funding is provided by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development. Those who complete the program may be eligible for closing cost assistance, zero down payment and other benefits.

Students are asked to pay \$25 for the two classes. The entire amount will be refunded when the student completes the second class. For information, call Johnson at 732-6287.

Group plans to discuss long-term care insurance

TWIN FALLS - The January meeting of the Southern Idaho Association of Insurance and Financial Advisors is set for Tuesday.

The meeting will feature a roundtable discussion on long-term care insurance from 9 a.m. to noon, with a lunch buffet following, at Loong King Restaurant, 1719 Kimberly Road in Twin Falls.

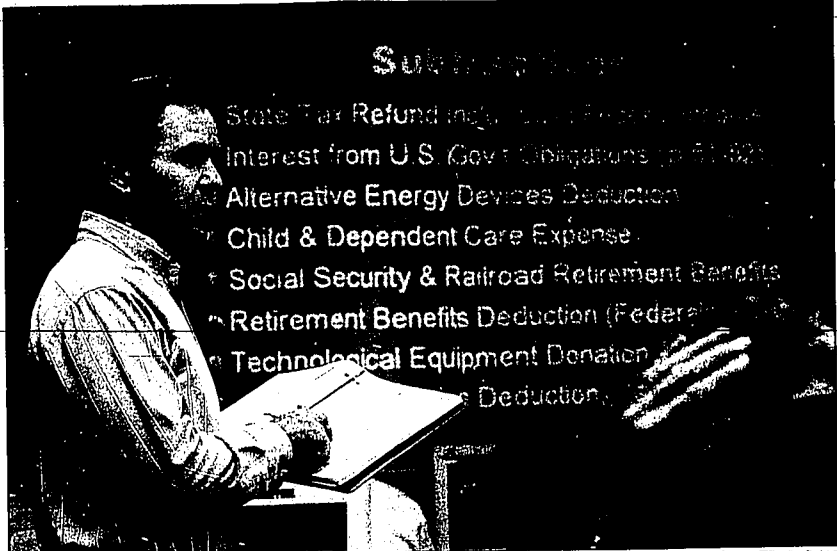
All professionals are invited to attend and hear presentations by Dennis Voorhes, an elder-estate attorney; Debbie Dale and Sheryl Hartman, long-term care agents; and Lori Bentzler, a representative of a local long-term care facility.

Cost is \$25 for association members and \$35 for nonmembers; lunch is included. Three continuing education credits are available.

For information, call Bill Hall at 324-0044.

Compiled from staff reports

Good tax news



Val Clements, a tax auditor with the Idaho State Tax Commission, teaches a group of volunteers the finer points of state tax code during a training session last year for the AARP Tax-Aide program. Volunteers are trained to prepare taxes for low- and middle-income taxpayers. This year, AARP Tax-Aide volunteers will operate 17 south-central Idaho counseling sites from about Feb. 1 through April 15, but the organization hasn't yet announced its schedule specifics.

Bigger refunds, smaller bills await many taxpayers this year

By Mary Dalrymple
Associated Press writer

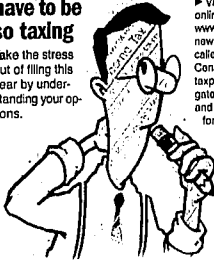
WASHINGTON - Tax rates dropped last January, but most taxpayers have received only half of the cuts coming to them. That means many of them can expect a bigger refund or a smaller tax bill when they figure their 2003 tax return.

The tax law enacted last May dropped tax rates across the board and removed some of the "marriage penalty" built into the structure of marginal tax rates, which can cause married couples to pay more tax than they would as two singles.

Nearly everyone benefited from an expansion of the lowest, 10 percent bracket to \$7,000 for single people and \$14,000 for married couples. The law also expanded the 15 percent bracket for married couples to twice that of singles. Married couples now pay

It doesn't have to be so taxing

Take the stress out of filing this year by understanding your options.



SOURCE: Associated Press

the same amount of tax on income within the bottom two rates as two singles.

The law also lowered the higher marginal rates ahead of schedule and made the change effective Jan. 1, 2003. The higher rates are now 25 percent, 28 percent, 33 percent and 35 percent.

All of these changes were

Help for those who need it:

- ▶ Visit the IRS online at www.irs.gov. A new feature called 1040 Central helps taxpayers navigate the site and find the information, instructions and forms they need.
- ▶ Get IRS Publication 17. The publication, called "Your Federal Income Tax," is the single best source for help with common questions. Download it from the IRS Web site or order it by calling the IRS at 1-800-829-3970 (1-800-829-3970) on weekdays.
- ▶ The IRS offers recorded message help through its TeleTax service at 1-800-829-4477. You can get more personalized help by calling the IRS at 1-800-829-1040 on weekdays.
- ▶ Ask a Volunteer. Check your newspaper or call the IRS individual help line at 1-800-829-1040 to find locations for an extension over the phone by calling 1-888-799-1074 or through IRS e-file.
- ▶ Ask the IRS for an automatic four-month extension to file your return by filing on Form 4888. Taxpayers can also request an extension over the phone by calling 1-888-799-1074 or through IRS e-file.

*All times local, except Pacific Time for Alaska and Hawaii.

reflected in taxpayers' paychecks beginning in July, when employers were instructed to change their withholding tables to reflect the new rates. Because the change started midway, most taxpayers paid too much tax during the first half of 2003 and can expect to recoup that money through a bigger refund or a

smaller tax bill. Tax advisers at Petz Enterprises Inc., which runs the online tax preparation service TaxBrain, said they expect 10 million households run by married couples whose incomes range from \$47,000 to \$65,000 to be among the biggest winners. The combination of new tax rates and tax

More inside

Tax laws offer dizzying array of credits D3
Higher standard deductions may mean it's time to say goodbye to itemizing D3
Families can now claim the rest of their child credits D3

cuts targeted at married couples will move many of those households from the 27 percent bracket down to the 15 percent bracket.

"Because the tax law changes took effect midway, many of these households will find they have been overwithheld, and tax refunds will be much higher than expected," said Eric Hayes, a senior tax analyst at TaxBrain.

IRS officials say tax refunds have been steadily rising, on average, for about 20 years. This year's jump may be higher due to lower tax rates, an average, for about 20 years. This year's jump may be higher due to lower tax rates, an average, for about 20 years. This year's jump may be higher due to lower tax rates, an average, for about 20 years.

Please see REFUNDS, Page D2

Those who have to pay don't need to panic

By Mary Dalrymple
Associated Press writer

WASHINGTON - Is your tax bill more than you can handle right now? The IRS offers a broad array of options for those who can't immediately pay the balance of taxes owed.

• **Electronic Withdrawal.** Taxpayers who complete their tax returns early but need their tax can file the return electronically and arrange for an electronic withdrawal later. Taxpayers can specify the date of the funds transfer, which means they can file their tax return and wait until as late as April 15 to pay the bill.

• **Credit Card.** Taxpayers can pay taxes due by credit card for a small fee charged by the credit card payment service provider. The payment would appear on your credit card statement as, "United States Treasury Tax Payment." The convenience fee is billed separately. Your credit card statement, along with a confirmation number, provides proof of payment.

Taxpayers who want to pay by credit card should visit the Electronic Payment Options section of the IRS Web site. They can pay through a variety of tax preparation software and professional tax services or by calling one of the credit card payment service providers: LINK2GOV Corp. at 1 (888) PAY1040 or OFFICIAL Payments Corp. at 1 (800) 2PAY-TAX. The payment would be subject to the same

Options for paying your tax bill

Have a tax bill that'll break your budget? The IRS offers a few options that can make life easier.



• **Electronic withdrawal.** If you want to pay by credit card, visit the Electronic Payment Options section of the IRS Web site or call one of the credit card payment service providers: LINK2GOV Corp. at 1-888-PAY1040 or OFFICIAL Payments Corp. at 1-800-2PAY-TAX. This payment will be subject to the same interest rates and fees that generally apply to purchases on your credit card. Compare the total cost of paying by credit card, including interest rates, with the current IRS rates and penalties for installment payments.

• **For a small fee, use your credit card for your taxes.** Which appear on your statement as, "United States Treasury Tax Payment." If you want to pay by credit card, visit the Electronic Payment Options section of the IRS Web site or call one of the credit card payment service providers: LINK2GOV Corp. at 1-888-PAY1040 or OFFICIAL Payments Corp. at 1-800-2PAY-TAX. This payment will be subject to the same interest rates and fees that generally apply to purchases on your credit card. Compare the total cost of paying by credit card, including interest rates, with the current IRS rates and penalties for installment payments.

• **Installment Agreement.** Installment agreements allow taxpayers to pay their taxes in monthly amounts that fit their budgets. The IRS will charge interest and penalties, as well as a one-time \$43 fee to set up the installment account. Form 9465 is used to request an installment payment plan. For most taxpayers who owe \$25,000 or less in tax, an installment agreement is automatic.

• **People with large unpaid tax bills and no means to pay the full amount can make an offer in compromise and ask the IRS to accept an offer to pay a lesser amount.** Form 656 is used to make such an offer and requires a \$150 application fee. If you default on a negotiated payment plan, the entire original tax liability will be reinstated, plus interest and penalties. Taxpayers who can't pay are nevertheless urged to file their returns by the April 15 deadline. Taxpayers can face steep fines for failing to file, on top of the penalties and interest charged for late payment.

• **Offer in Compromise.** Taxpayers with large unpaid tax bills and no means to pay the full amount can make an offer in compromise, in which they ask the IRS to accept an offer to pay a lesser amount. Form 656 is used to make such an offer and requires a \$150 application fee. If a taxpayer defaults on a negotiated payment plan for an offer in compromise, the entire original tax liability will be reinstated, plus interest and penalties. Important: Taxpayers who can't pay are nevertheless urged to file their returns by the April 15 deadline. They can face steep fines for failing to file, on top of the penalties and interest charged for late payment.

Homeowners who know law benefit most

By Mary Dalrymple
Associated Press writer

WASHINGTON - Energized by the lowest mortgage interest rates in more than 40 years, home sales and refinanced loans moved at a record pace last year. The bustling mortgage activity means more taxpayers must master the complex rules that help homeowners win big tax advantages.

"It's tax-favored in a number of different ways," said Bernard Kent, a personal financial services partner at PricewaterhouseCoopers.

The benefits of home ownership stem from tax deductions for home expenses like mortgage interest and real estate taxes. When the total of those costs and other deductible items amounts to more than the standard deduction, it can mean a big tax bonus.

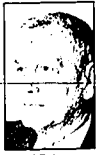
Please see HOMEOWNERS, Page D3



YOUR BUSINESS

CAREER MOVES

Carl Peterson
TWIN FALLS - Need & Associates welcomed Carl Peterson to its firm.



Carl Peterson

Peterson has 30 years of experience working in finance and has been involved in many aspects of management, including accounting, production and marketing. His experience ranges from a two-person operation to a multi-outlet subsidiary of a national corporation.

Twayne Buhler
TWIN FALLS - Twayne O. Buhler of the Buhler Agency attended the Circle of Wealth College 2004 at the Hotel Monteleone in New Orleans, where he received training in financial concepts to better serve clients.

MoneyTax inc. is the company behind the Circle of Wealth system used by more than 2,000 advisers in the financial services industry.

Buhler began in the insurance and investment business in 1971 in Twin Falls. He is a general agent for Midland National Life Insurance Co. and owner of Buhler Agency, founded in 1965 by his father, Jay O. Buhler.

Sheryl Harris

BURLEY - Sheryl Harris is a newly appointed board member of the Mini-Cassia Chamber of Commerce.

Harris will finish the term of Jason Walker, who resigned after his appointment as Minidoka County prosecuting attorney. Harris is the office/shop manager at Dalry Electric Inc., 624 Oneida in Rupert. She and her husband, Kevin Harris, have two daughters and one grandson.

Ron Kerr

TWIN FALLS - Gem State



Ron Kerr

Paper and Supply presented its top sales award for 2003 to Ron Kerr. The new Salesman of the Year competed against 17 other sales people. His sales territory includes Jerome, Twin Falls, and Jackpot, Nev. Kerr and his wife will go on a vacation with the award.

Realtors

TWIN FALLS - The Greater Twin Falls Association of Realtors installed new officers and directors during its monthly general membership meeting Jan. 6.

New officers and directors for 2004 are President-elect Jeff Bilbeck of Westera Real Estate Group; two-year directors Tami Gooding and Vicki Surber, both of Gem State Realty; one-year directors Mike Erickson of Prudential Idaho Homes & Properties and Ross Deahl and Jill Stone, both of Irwin Realty; sponsors/affiliates Quinn Stutts/beam-of-First-American Title and Todd McQueen of Wells Fargo Bank; estate director Nathan Kyda of Gateway Realty; past president/director Wanda Foster of The Home Co.; and Multiple Listing Service Chairman Willis Stone of Irwin Realty.

Gretchen Clelland

TWIN FALLS - Gretchen W. Clelland, the Jerome investment representative for financial services firm Edward Jones, was one of 40 representatives honored at a business management forum Jan. 5-7 in St. Louis.

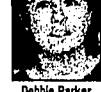
Clelland was recognized for her business management skills. In addition, Clelland met with other Edward Jones investment representatives to share ideas for increasing office efficiency, improving cus-

tomers service, increasing investment knowledge and expanding her knowledge in estate planning.

The class was sponsored by American Funds.

Debbie Parker

BUIL - Debbie Parker, owner of Grundstads Sports Grill, received the Buhl Chamber of Commerce Extra Mile award.



Debbie Parker

Parker was nominated by the Theta Chapter of Beta Sigma Phi Sorority for her assistance in community projects such as Sagebrush Days and the holiday activities for children.

She is always there with a smile and a helping hand. Parker has assisted the sorority each year with shirt sales during Sagebrush Days, and her facility is usually available for meetings.

Mayor Barbara Gietzen presented Parker with a plaque, flowers, gifts and gift certificates from local merchants.

Terry Uhling

BOISE - Terry Uhling, formerly of Twin Falls, was named senior vice president, corporate secretary and general counsel of J.R. Simplot Co.



Terry Uhling

Uhling, who joined Simplot in 1989 as an assistant general counsel assigned to the company's AgriBusiness Group, will continue to be responsible for corporate environmental, security, regulatory and health and safety affairs, in addition to his duties as general counsel.

Uhling, whose office is at Simplot corporate headquarters in Boise, earned his law degree at the University of Nebraska in 1980. Before joining Simplot, he was a partner in the law firm of Nelson, Rosholt, Robertson,

Tolman and Tucker in Twin Falls. He was appointed in 1996 by Gov. Phil Batt to serve on the Idaho Water Resources Board and currently is vice chairman.

Jill Sherman

KIMBERLY - Jill Sherman, a recent graduate and now a certified macrobiotic counselor from the Strengthening Health Institute in Philadelphia, relocated to Magic Valley and will teach adult education classes at the College of Southern Idaho starting Feb. 5.

Sherman said she studied and worked for the institute and its founder and director, Denny Waxman, who gained recognition for guiding Dr. Anthony Sattilare, then president of Methodist Hospital in Philadelphia, to a recovery from prostate cancer using macrobiotics.

The first class Sherman will teach is "Improve Your Health Without Going Into The Kitchen," 7:8-30 p.m. Feb. 5, about good nutrition and eating habits.

She'll teach "Intro to Asian Diagnosis" 7:8-30 p.m. Feb. 25, and "Eat Your Veggies - But First Learn To Cook Them" 7-9 p.m. March 3.

Sherman can be reached at 732-5677. To register for her classes, call CSI at 732-6288 or 732-6290.

John V. Evans III

BOISE - Burley native John V. Evans III of D.L. Evans Bank in Boise was elected to the board of the Independent Community Bankers of America in Washington, D.C., a community bank trade group. Evans is vice president-of the \$344-million-asset D.L. Evans Bank.

Evans' duties with ICBA include membership recruitment and retention and acting as liaison between independent community bankers in Idaho and ICBA staff and leaders in Washington, D.C.

The national trade association promotes the interests of community banks and thrifts, which are locally owned and operated financial institutions. It has nearly 5,000 members. For more information, visit www.icba.org.

MILESTONES

Glanbia begins construction of cheese, whey facility

TWIN FALLS - Glanbia plc announced commencement of construction of a new-cheese and whey products facility in New Mexico following the recent creation of Southwest Cheese Co. LLC, a joint venture between Glanbia, Dairy Farmers of America Inc., Select Milk Producers Inc. and the other dairy cooperative members of the Greater Southwest Agency Inc.

The venture is 50 percent owned by Glanbia.

At the \$190 million cheese and whey manufacturing facility in Clovis, N.M., commissioning is expected in the fourth quarter of 2005. Once fully operational, Glanbia expects the new facility to generate sales in the region of \$350 million per year and employ about 220 people.

Glanbia Foods Inc., based in Twin Falls, will provide operational management for the facility in addition to handling all cheese sales, while Glanbia Nutritional, out of its United States office based in Monroe, Wis., will market the nutritional ingredients derived from the whey stream.

Jerome business offers medical billing service

JEROME - CARE Billing Service, a new business operated by Virginia Crundall, Gail Peterson and Gay Park, opened for business Aug. 1.

CARE Billing Service's owners said they have over 30 years of experience in the medical field. Their billing and management experience covers a broad spectrum of the medical field.

CARE Billing Service is locally owned and operated in Jerome and is available to serve the professional medical community of Magic Valley. It performs all services related to medical billing. The business is at 137 W. 400 S. in Jerome and can be reached at 324-2550; fax 324-2560; or e-mail care@cablone.net.

Buhl women open handyman business

BUIL - Judith Heidel and Cathy Walters say no job is too small for them.

If I Had A Hammer is the name of their new company in Buhl, where you can find the women doing drywall, tile, plumbing,

electrical, painting, carpentry, house cleaning and general repairs.

Senior citizen discounts are available, as well as free estimates, and all work is guaranteed. They can be reached at 490-1200.

Shoshone dell serves up goodies

SHOSHONE - Mama Mia's Deli is now open in Shoshone at 114 W. Rail St. N. Dian Gaches is serving up her specialty of baked goodies and lunch specials, soup and sandwiches daily except Sundays.

There is take-out service, and the facility seats 10. Hours are 7 a.m. to 2 p.m. Monday through Friday, and 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday. The business can be reached at 544-7750.

Mama Mia's also has catering services, large or small.

Shoshone bed and breakfast opens facility to groups

SHOSHONE - Governor's Mansion, a bed and breakfast inn at 315 South Greenwood in Shoshone, recently started opening its facility to groups who want to schedule dinners and other events.

Edie Collins and Marge Clark are hosts for the mansion, which was built by Frank R. Gooding, governor in 1901-05.

The five bedrooms are decorated to depict that era, as is the rest of the mansion.

Rates range from \$30 for a single, to \$55 to \$65 for doubles for an overnight stay. The mansion is open year round, and full breakfasts are served. The mansion offers free pick-up and return from Shoshone's Amtrak station or the Twin Falls airport.

Call 886-2858 for information. Reservations are encouraged but not required.

Managers said the mansion now can host small dinner meetings or parties in a comfortable home atmosphere with the food and drink catered by other businesses.

Buhl holiday lighting contest results in a tie

BUIL - The Buhl Chamber of Commerce awarded a tie in its Holiday Lighting Contest for residential contestants to Shaun and Sharisse Cramer and to Debbie and Mark Williams. The judges said their decision was difficult as there were many good entries.

Siesta Motel won the business category. Joseph and Tonya Taylor are managers.

CONTRIBUTIONS

■ During the Greater Twin Falls Association of Realtors' "Feed the Hungry" campaign, more than \$1,200 was donated and presented to The Salvation Army.

At the association's Christmas party, Realtors and sponsor/affiliates donated more than 200 coats to the "Coats for Kids" project.

And 215 toys were donated for South Central Community Action Partnership to distribute to local children who might not otherwise have had gifts under the tree.

■ A BeautiControl 2004 Success Rally was held at the Bridgeview center Jan. 10. Dianne

Watts, WHO chairman of the company's Eckert Unit of consultants, said donations collected were sent to the WHO Foundation in Dallas.

The foundation is Women Helping Others, established in 1993 by BeautiControl Chairwoman Ginger Heath. It supports grass-roots charities serving the overlooked needs of women and children, encourages women to help others through local community service, supports organizations dedicated to

women and children and educates individuals about health and education issues. Each year the WHO Foundation Board reviews grant requests from charities across the nation, Watts said.

Since 1993, the WHO Foundation has awarded over \$1.1 million to more than 80 charities in 27 states, she said. Recipients have used the grants to comfort victims of sexual assault; provide health and dental care for uninsured women and children; provide shelter for victims of domestic violence; fight against osteoporosis, breast cancer and blindness; and help build new shelters, camps and playgrounds for chil-

dren in crisis.

■ The Salvation Army is getting back into the doughnut business with its Famous Doughnut and the help of retail partner Fred Meyer.

The original Famous Doughnut was served by Salvation Army Lasses to American soldiers on the front lines of World War I. Boxes of Famous Doughnuts are available now at Fred Meyer stores in Washington, Idaho, Alaska and Oregon. Proceeds from the sale of each box will go towards supporting local Salvation Army social service programs.

Farm Bureaus slate Wednesday marketing seminar

The Times-News

BURLEY - Cassia County and Minidoka County Farm Bureaus and the Commodity Division of the Idaho Farm Bureau will conduct a marketing seminar at 9 a.m. Wednesday at the Cassia-Minidoka Farm Bureau office, 444 E. Fifth N. in Burley, next to Century Cinema.

The seminar will finish early that afternoon, and lunch will be provided.

This is the fourth year that Farm Bureau has conducted these seminars around Idaho. The seminars in the past have provided marketing ideas for attendees to apply in their own operations. This week's seminar will provide information on federal crop

insurance programs and an update on the current Farm Bill. It will also include historical marketing trends and explain what makes the markets move up and down, organizers said. The seminar will discuss the importance of individual marketing plans and an introduction to developing a personalized marketing plan. There will be a discussion on

grain contracts that are available for the coming year.

Cost is \$10 for advance registration or \$20 at the door for Farm Bureau members; cost is \$50 for nonmembers, either in advance or at the door. For registration and information, call the Farm Bureau office at 678-0431, Peg at 239-4228 or Gary at 239-4206.

Refund

Continued from D1 increased child tax credit and other tax cuts.

If your family was among those who got an advance child tax credit payment last summer, you will need to reduce the credit you claim on your return by an equal amount. A family with one child who qualified for the entire \$1,000 child tax credit probably received \$400 last summer and can claim the remaining \$600 when filing a 2003 tax return.

Married couples this year can claim a \$9,500 standard deduction. Couples whose itemized deductions total less than that might be better off not itemizing them.

Investors may be able to take advantage of lower rates on dividends and capital gains but will

On the Web
Internal Revenue Service - <http://www.irs.gov>

spend more time on tax paperwork. Because the new capital gains rates took effect May 6, multiple rates apply, depending on when an asset was sold. Some dividends previously taxed at an investor's normal income tax rate also qualify for the same lower capital gains rates. The lower dividend rates, however, are for the entire year.

Taxpayers who routinely get large refunds may want to consider adjusting the amount withheld from their paychecks, converting the end-of-year refund into more take-home pay all year

long. Taxpayers can request a W-4 form from their employers to make that change.

Taxpayers who might have changed their withholding in the middle of 2003 to adjust for the changed tax rates may have to re-adjust that withholding to avoid owing taxes at the end of 2004. "Those people should consider filing a new W-4 in January to have their withholding increased and put on track," said Bob Scharin, a senior tax analyst at RIA, a New York tax information provider.

Employees who experienced a major change that might affect their taxes - those who got married or divorced, bought a home or had a child - also might want to consider adjusting the amount automatically withheld from their paychecks.

Get into the outdoors

Every Thursday in the Outdoors section, The Times-News guides Magic Valley residents to recreational opportunities.

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TELL US YOUR BUSINESS

Your business is a weekly feature that highlights commercial activity in the Magic Valley. If you have information about any of the following, The Times-News wants to hear about it:

- Promotions and staff changes.
- New certifications.
- Seminars and workshops.
- Awards and achievements.
- Charitable business activities.
- Other business news.

Please e-mail items to Business Editor Virginia S. Hutchins at virginia@magvalley.com

Or contact her at:
The Times-News
P.O. Box 548
Twin Falls, Idaho
83436
733-0931, Ext. 242
Fax: 677-4543 or 734-5358

Seeing into the future
Company's new windows double as speakers and computer monitors.
Tuesday in The Times-News

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Tax law offers plentiful credits

Families can now claim the rest of their child credits

WASHINGTON (AP) - Saving for retirement? Sending a child to college? Paying steep medical bills? Tax laws offer an almost dizzying array of tax-advantaged accounts and credits that can help you meet those goals.

Each account and credit comes with restrictions and requirements that taxpayers should know before using them. Tax-advantaged accounts typically eliminate taxes on money either as it is deposited or withdrawn from the accounts. Credits reduce a taxpayer's tax liability dollar for dollar.

Here's a list of common accounts and credits available for retirement, education, child care and other sometimes costly endeavors.

- Taxes 2003**

Tax-advantaged accounts:
- **Individual Retirement Arrangements, or IRAs.** Traditional IRAs let taxpayers put untaxed money aside and invest it for retirement. The money is taxed when taken out of the account. Alternatively, taxpayers can contribute after-tax dollars to a Roth IRA and avoid taxes on earnings and withdrawals.
 - **Simplified Employee Pension IRAs and SIMPLE IRAs.** These retirement arrangements let employees of small businesses and self-employed taxpayers save for retirement.
 - **401(k)s.** Named for their place in the U.S. Tax Code, these retirement accounts allow employees to save for retirement through accounts established by their employers. The accounts are funded with pretax money drawn from the employee's paycheck.
 - **Coverdell Education Savings Accounts.** Parents can set aside

\$2,000 per child each year into an ESA and avoid taxes on the account's earnings. Withdrawals are tax free as long as the money pays for a child's education.

• **Medical Savings Accounts.** Recently expanded, MSAs allow those with high-deductible insurance plans to set aside money to pay medical expenses. Contributions and investment earnings are never taxed as long as the money is used to pay qualified medical expenses.

• **Flexible Spending Accounts.** Employees whose employers offer the accounts, sometimes as part of so-called cafeteria plans, can set aside pretax dollars to pay for medical expenses and/or child care. Specific rules and limits apply to each type of FSA. Any money left at the end of the year must be forfeited.

Tax Credits:

- **Child and Dependent Care Credit.** Working parents with one or more children in day care may qualify for a tax credit worth 20 percent to 35 percent of child care costs, up to specific limits. The credit is available to parents of children under 13 and to those with a spouse or dependent who is physically or mentally incapable of self-care.
- **Child Tax Credit.** Parents can claim a credit worth up to \$1,000 per child under age 17. Lower income families, along with wealthier married couples, may not qualify for the full credit.
- **Hope Credit.** Parents of a student in a degree program may be able to claim this credit during the student's first two years of study. The credit covers up to \$1,500 of qualified tuition expenses.
- **Lifetime Learning Credit.** This credit is worth 20 percent of the first \$10,000 in tuition and related expenses for a taxpayer, spouse or

WASHINGTON (AP) - Gathering up the paperwork to start working on your tax return? Make sure you find last summer's letter from the Internal Revenue Service if your family was among those who got an advance child tax credit payment.

Last summer's checks went to families who, based on their 2002 tax returns, had children under age 17 and were expected to qualify for the child tax credit in 2003. Under normal circumstances, families would have filed for the credit when they filed their 2003 tax returns in early 2004.

Lawmakers instead decided to send some extra money to qualified families as quickly as possible and instructed the IRS to send checks in late summer. Those checks gave families up to \$400 per child. That figure represented the difference between the old and the new maximum credit amount, which rose from \$600 to \$1,000.

Now, it's time to claim the rest of the credit. While working through the 2003 tax return, families who qualify for the \$1,000-per-child tax credit must reduce it by the

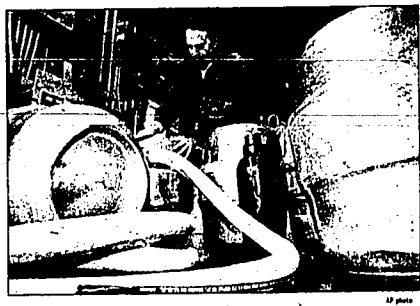
- **Adoption Credit.** Taxpayers who adopt a child may qualify for a credit of up to \$10,160 for qualifying adoption expenses.
- **Retirement Saving Contributions Credit.** Refunds 10 percent to 50 percent of a contribution to a qualified retirement plan, up to \$1,000. Recipients must meet income requirements.

amount they received last summer. A family with one child who qualified for the entire \$1,000 child tax credit probably received \$400 last summer and can claim the remaining \$600 when filing a 2003 tax return.

Your tax preparation software or a worksheet on the Form 1040 or Form 1040A instruction booklet will walk you through the calculation.

Families might not qualify for the entire \$1,000 credit, depending on their income and tax liability.


All is not lost if you can't find the IRS letter and can't remember how much money you got last summer. The IRS has a form on its Web site that will retrieve the information for you. Select "Individuals" on the IRS home page, and then click on "Your 2003 Advance Child Tax Credit." A form will ask you to enter your Social Security number, filing status and the number of exemptions claimed on your return. The result will tell you how much you received last summer.



Bret Cooper/Idaho fills bags with beer at the Ukiah Brewing Co. in Ukiah, Calif. While the organic brew pub is making news as headquarters for a campaign to ban genetically modified organisms in Mendocino County, Southern Idaho malt barley growers are getting the news that flat beer sales could mean

Barley buyers blame beer bust

POCATELLO - Malting barley buyers in southern Idaho may curtail their purchases this year because of flattening beer sales, Advanced Idaho Grain Marketing Workshop participants learned.



Farmbeat
 Highlights of this week's Ag Weekly, The Times-News' weekly report on agriculture.

Representatives of Coors Brewing Company, Burley; Busch Agricultural Resources Inc., Idaho Falls; Great Western Malting, Pocatello; Gmodelo Agriculture Inc., Idaho Falls, and General Mills, Blackfoot, outlined their purchasing plans during a panel presentation at the Red Lion here last week.

The workshop attended by about 40 growers was hosted by the Idaho barley and wheat commissions and other sponsors.

Paul Krumm, Coors marketing rep in Buhl, said his Colorado-based brewing company plans to cut its purchases by between 10 percent and 20 percent this year. Coors bought a lot of barley from 2000 to 2003, but this year plans to add no new growers, he said.

"Beer sales are relatively flat as a whole in the industry," Krumm said. All Coors malting barley purchases in Idaho end up in Burley, where about nine million bushels are stored for a year before they are shipped off by rail to Golden, Colo., Krumm said. Coors contracts with barley growers in Colorado, Wyoming, Montana and Idaho.

annual meetings the week of Jan. 12.

Cuban trade trip will include bean representative

BOISE - The Idaho Bean Commission voted Thursday to have commissioner Leonard Andrews attend a trade trip to Cuba being organized by Idaho Republicans Sen. Larry Craig and Rep. C.L. "Butch" Otter.

"We're hopeful we might sell a few beans to Cuba from the state of Idaho and foster relationships down there," Andrews said on Thursday.

Commission Chairman Doug Carlquist said that a long time ago Idaho sold quite a few beans to Cuba. But it hasn't done so in years because of trade restrictions.

The trip to Cuba is tentatively scheduled for five days in early February, said Will Hart, a spokesman for Craig. It will include representatives from producer groups and agriculture businesses.

"We're trying to make sure Idaho agriculture products are on their radar screen," Hart said.

Canal company, conservation districts hand out honors

The Twin Falls Canal Co. and conservation districts also work cooperatively to recognize individuals who have been involved in improving water quality for many years with the Pioneer in Water Quality Award.

Shawn Gould was recognized for his family's long-term commitment to improving soil fertility and reducing irrigation-induced erosion.

His grandfather homesteaded his Buhl-area farm about 1908. The family has raised beef cattle over the decades and uses the cattle manure on their own fields. Decades of building up the soil fertility have improved water infiltration into their fields.

Converting to sprinkler irrigation systems has also reduced erosion problems. To reduce the chances of runoff from the pivot entering either the Loucoule or Cedar Draw, Gould uses a reservoir tillage under the pivots.

Water outlook gives irrigators cautious optimism

TWIN FALLS - Snowpacks above normal are making winter recreationalists happy but irrigators are still holding their breath. That's because only half the snow accumulation period is gone and without more new snow, those above normal snowpacks can fall back to normal very quickly. Take the Upper Snake River basin which is losing a 2 percentage points of snow with each clear day.

The basin will be back to "normal" by the end of January unless the high pressure weakens and more storms roll through, said Ron Abramovich, hydrologist with the USDA-Natural Resources Conservation Service.

He likens this winter to a baseball game.

"We're in the fourth inning of a nine-inning baseball game. Things could change for the better or the worse," he told irrigators at their annual meeting. Abramovich was in the Magic Valley to talk at the Salmon River, Twin Falls and North Side canal companies' members to 10.

Continental Airlines chief plans early retirement

Knight Ridder News Service

Controversial financier David Bonderman, president of Texas Pacific Group, will be among the directors who will leave.

Gordon Bethune, chairman and chief executive of Continental Airlines, will retire at the end of 2004, more than a year earlier than he had initially planned, the company said Friday in a surprise announcement.

The company said Bethune, credited with the twice-bankrupt airline's revival over his decade as CEO, gave no reason for the retirement, effective Dec. 31.

Larry Kollner, president and chief operating officer, will assume both of Bethune's titles, the company said in the statement. Houston-based Continental - which employs 42,000 people, including about 11,000 at Newark Liberty International Airport, where it has a hub - also said it will reduce the size of its board from 14

It may be time to leave itemizing behind

WASHINGTON (AP) - Married couples accustomed to itemizing their tax deductions every year might want to take a second look at their 2003 tax returns. A higher standard deduction may mean it's more beneficial to leave behind itemizing.

Tax laws allow taxpayers to claim their taxable income by taking a deduction, either a standard amount or the sum of an itemized list. Deductible items like mortgage interest, real estate taxes, state or local income taxes and charitable contributions can quickly add up to more than the standard deduction.

Lawmakers acted last year to increase the standard deduction for married couples to twice the amount for single individuals. In 2003, married couples can claim a \$3,500 standard deduction. The change was made to eliminate one aspect of the "marriage penalty," which can cause married couples to pay more tax than they would if they were two single people.

The big new couples claim is the higher standard deduction for married, filing jointly, people, said Jackie Perlman, senior tax research analyst at H&R Block.

Perlman said the change particularly helps couples whose itemized deductions total about \$8,000 and \$9,500. In the past, those taxpayers got the biggest advantage from itemizing their

What can you deduct?

- Taxpayers can reduce their taxable income by using a standard deduction or taking advantage of the dozens of itemized deductions permitted by law. Many taxpayers know the common ones, like the deduction for mortgage interest paid during the year. Many aren't so obvious.
- Here are some commonly overlooked deductions, as compiled by tax advisers at TurboTax (not all taxpayers qualify to take these itemized deductions):
- Personal property taxes on cars and boats.
 - Points paid on home mortgage or refinancing loans.
 - Job-related magazines, newspapers and professional journals.
 - Cellular phones required for business.

- Union dues.
- Work uniforms.
- Fees for tax preparation or advice.
- Some gambling losses.
- Medical aids such as crutches, canes and orthopedic shoes.
- Hearing aids, eyeglasses and contact lenses.
- The cost of some stop-smoking treatments.
- Mileage incurred for medical transportation and charitable activities.
- Cost of a safe deposit box for investments or business.
- Job-seeking expenses.
- Worthless stock or securities.

deductions. Now, they can take an even larger deduction by using the new standard deduction.

Couples who aren't sure whether they will benefit most by itemizing or using the standard deduction will have to tally their itemized deductions and see how it compares to the standard amount.

Those couples might "take the trouble to fill out the form and then find they didn't need it," said Bob Scharin, a senior tax analyst at RIA, a New York tax information and software company.

The higher standard deduction may also help higher income couples who lose a portion of their

itemized deductions. In 2003, married couples with more than \$139,500 of income lose a portion of some itemized deductions. Certain itemized deductions are reduced by three percent of the amount above that threshold. Tax experts at PricewaterhouseCoopers estimate that the rule can cause some to lose as much as 80 percent of affected deductions. Deductions for medical expenses, investment interest and casualty losses aren't affected.

The overall limitation on itemized deductions is scheduled to shrink beginning in 2006 and disappear completely by 2010, only to reappear the next year. Limitations on personal exemptions claimed by high income taxpayers are scheduled for the same phaseout and return.

Once taxpayers choose to itemize their deductions, tax professionals recommend they minimize their taxes by using every deduction they can legally claim. Somewhat sizable deductions can be taken for mortgage interest, taxes and some legal fees.

Tax laws also permit a miscellaneous deduction for a variety of smaller expenses to the extent the total exceeds 2 percent of the taxpayer's adjusted gross income. Often the largest deduction in this category is unreimbursed employee business expenses, but medical weight loss programs, professional journals and magazines, union dues and hearing aids also can qualify.

Tax advisers urge taxpayers exceeding that threshold to itemize their deductions to familiarize themselves with the list and save any record or receipt that might document a qualified deduction.

Medical expenses can be deducted to the extent they total more than 7.5 percent of the taxpayer's adjusted gross income. That total cannot include any costs covered by an insurance plan. It can include copayments, insurance deductibles, prescription medications, eyeglasses and other expenses.

associated with the home improvement that year, spreading out the remainder over the life of the loan.

Other loans. The equity loan secured by a taxpayer's primary home are deductible in most cases. That includes home equity loans used for personal consumption, such as a new car, college costs and even credit card debt. But taxpayers with income above \$139,500 may face limits on their itemized deductions, including their mortgage or home equity interest.

Mortgage interest on a vacation home is generally deductible, but the situation gets more complicated if the home is rented out more than 14 days during the year. Taxpayers then need to look closely at the rules for vacation property and rental property.

An entrepreneur or telecommuter may be able to deduct the costs of a home office if a portion of the home is used regularly and exclusively for business. The expenses typically include a portion of rent, depreciation, repairs and utilities. The rules are complicated, and a separate form must be filed to claim home office deductions.

Some fees paid when purchasing a home can be recouped by adding them to the basis - the starting point for figuring gain or loss when selling the home.

Any long-term gain exceeding the tax-exempt limits would be taxed at a maximum rate of 20 percent if the house was sold before May 6, 2003. Lawmakers lowered the top capital gains rate to 15 percent as of May 6, 2003.

Refinancing. Homeowners who refinanced their mortgages to take advantage of lower interest rates should keep in mind that their tax advantage might shrink along with their monthly payment.

Unlike many home buyers, homeowners who refinanced their home loans cannot immediately deduct points paid. The interest rates should keep in mind that their tax advantage might shrink along with their monthly payment.

Unlike many home buyers, homeowners who refinanced their home loans cannot immediately deduct points paid. The interest rates should keep in mind that their tax advantage might shrink along with their monthly payment.

Homeowners

Continued from D1

for homeowners. If taxpayers find their deductions exceed the standard amount, they should itemize them on Schedule A. The standard deduction for 2003 is \$4,750 for single people and \$9,500 for married couples.

In most cases, the biggest tax advantage of home ownership is the mortgage interest deduction. Taxpayers can also deduct some of the many costs of buying, owning and selling a home. Vacation homes, home equity loans and home-based businesses come with their own sets of complex rules.

Home buying. Buying a home means taxpayers start to capitalize on mortgage interest and real estate tax deductions. The closing statement prepared for the purchase includes most of the information new homeowners need. Many of the costs paid at closing aren't deductible, including fees for an appraisal, notary services and preparation of the mortgage note or deed.

The points, or fees a bank or lender charges a borrower, might be immediately deductible. The points must meet certain requirements, and they must not be charged in place of the fees and

taxes typically due at closing.

Some taxpayers might qualify for a tax credit that covers a portion of mortgage interest. Low-income taxpayers should contact their state or local government to find out if they qualify and secure a "mortgage credit certificate" before obtaining a mortgage.

Home owning. Homeowners can expect to get a statement from their lenders showing deductible interest paid during the year. That interest represents the biggest benefit available to most homeowners.

What many don't know is that other mortgage costs can also be deducted, including late payment charges and early payment penalties. Interest paid in advance is not immediately deductible.

Real estate or property taxes also paid during the year are also deductible. Charges for city services such as water and garbage pickup do not count as deductible taxes, nor do homeowner dues.

Home selling. Individuals selling their homes can keep up to \$250,000 of capital gains tax-free if they owned and lived in the home as their principal residence for two of the five years before the sale. That amount is doubled to

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110 HOME/HEALTH CARE SERVICES. CARE TAKER Live-in care taker for elderly woman...

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200 EMPLOYMENT. AGRICULTURE. The Hutterite branch of Landflow Fertilizer has an opening for Fertilizer plant operator...

AIRCRAFT Ground Support Trainers. Limited openings in paid training program. Includes excellent benefits and paid room & board...

ASKING QUESTIONS? Conduct public opinion polls over the telephone. ABSOLUTELY NO SALES!!!

ATTENTION CLASSIFIED ADVERTISERS. Please check your ad on the first day. If you find an error we will correct it...

PERSONALS. SINGLE 45 yr. old male, divorced, Hispanic female. Write to 1043 Yale Ave. Burley ID 83318...

SPECIAL NOTICES. ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS. 208-733-8900 & 721-0555

FAX YOUR AD. TIMES-NEWS CLASSIFIED DEPARTMENT. 208-734-5538

REMEMBER. This birthday ad you placed in our newspaper is in the Times-News? Now it's your time to come pick up your pictures...

PROFESSIONAL SERVICES. A BANKRUPTCY? Free info: Chapters 7 & 13. Free personal consultation...

PROFESSIONAL SERVICES. A BANKRUPTCY? Competitive rates on Chapter 7 bankruptcies. Jill Sliker at 734-8452

PROFESSIONAL SERVICES. A BANKRUPTCY? Inexpensive Chapter 7. Free info: 736-6893

PROFESSIONAL SERVICES. A BANKRUPTCY? Affordable payment plan. Accidents, divorce & child support...

CLERICAL. Full-time office position, must have data entry, 10 key, photo copy, MS word & general computer skills...

CLERICAL. The City of Twin Falls is accepting applications for a DEPARTMENT SPECIALIST at the Twin Falls Municipal Airport...

DRIVER. Lead Delivery Driver. clean driving record, heavy lifting, customer driven, good appearance...

DRIVER/Warehouse. We have an opening for a warehouse person at our Twin Falls, Idaho Branch...

CONSTRUCTION. Construction workers looking for work under close supervision performing work of stonemason helper...

DRIVERS. Local milk haulers needed. Health insurance, 401k, California 12 also offered. Apply at Rich Thompson Trucking, Inc.

DRIVERS. Professional Truck Drivers - Idaho Best Haulers. Would you like to be part of the Transystems family of drivers?

DRIVERS. CONSTRUCTION. Looking for an exp. roofer. (at least 3 yrs.). Must be able to do shingles & metal...

CUSTOMER SERVICE. MGMT. GET TRAINING \$10.50 Base. Want neat clean professional people...

DRIVERS. Flatbeds, w/ at least 1 yr. OTR exp. Operate in 11 west states. Exp. pay & benefits. Some regularity. 800-453-2227

DRIVERS. EXTRA MONEY!!! Regional Career. Weekly Home Time. Starting pay 30c/mile

DRIVER. LOCAL FUEL TRANSPORT. Nights, 20-25 hrs/week, 2 yrs experience req. Send resume to: United Oil

DRIVER. KNIGHT TRANSPORTATION. EXTRA MONEY!!! Regional Career. Weekly Home Time. Starting pay 30c/mile

DRIVER. LOCAL FUEL TRANSPORT. Nights, 20-25 hrs/week, 2 yrs experience req. Send resume to: United Oil

DRIVER. LOCAL FUEL TRANSPORT. Nights, 20-25 hrs/week, 2 yrs experience req. Send resume to: United Oil

DRIVERS. 11 Western States. Salary position, need for local company. 2 yrs exp. req. Benefits & bonus program avail.

DRIVERS. Experienced & Inexperienced. SS MOBILE CASHES. At the End of the Day! NEW PAY PLAN, FLATBED, AUTOHAUL

DRIVERS. *Hiring Event* Wed, 12 Jan, 9am-11am. Red Lion Hotel, 1350 E. Laurel Blvd. Twin Falls, ID

DRIVERS. Full-time/Retired. 4 Western states & Alberta. Home weekly, rider program, health & safety bonus.

DRIVERS. HOW FAR THE DISTANCE FOR OUR DRIVERS TODAY & TOMORROW? *Benefits including 401k, health insurance, PTO, Paid Vacation, etc.

DRIVERS. Coach Operators. Twin Falls based for the haul & charter. FT, PT & part time avail. Great pay/benefits.

DRIVERS. CONSTRUCTION. Looking for an exp. roofer. (at least 3 yrs.). Must be able to do shingles & metal...

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TARGET EXECUTIVE TEAM LEADER. Target is looking for a career oriented leader for our stores in all areas. Excellent benefits package including 401k in retail. Salary is based on your college degree.

Are you looking for a great opportunity to work for a great place? PARKE VIEW CARE & REHABILITATION CENTER is now hiring for Central Supply

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gem state Transportation. Let's Go Trucking! We have the miles if you have the motivation. Vans, Reefers, 48 States. Walking floors 20 states. Health insurance, vacation pay & safety bonus all available. Solo, Team, Relief. Call 734-9062 between 8am-5pm

DRIVERS B&T Truck Driving School Class A CDL 3-4 & 6 wks. classes. Job placement. \$30,000-\$40,000/yr. 208-737-9272

FOOD PRODUCTION Need long term employees for food production plant. Light duties, fast pace. Nice working conditions. Day & Swing shifts avail. Single to a plus. Apply in person Gem State Staffing 735-5999 870 Bellevue Blvd. N. Se Habla Espanol!

GAMING Local casino seeking dependable person with current Nevada gaming card. Apply in person at American Staffing 1025 Shoshone St. N. #3 GENERAL Domestic engineer needed for domestic violence cases. Duties to include shopping, cooking, etc. For application process, call or go directly to: 632 Lake Lakes Blvd. N.

LABORERS Laborers needed for concrete work in Kelchum, ID 04-15-04 to 11-01-04. \$7,000/40 hrs/week. Duties include load & unload trucks with trees, such as sod, dirt, fire, shims, rocks, cement, mortar, blocks, sawmills, rakes, picks, lawnmowers, weedators, etc. Must be able to tie & materials to respective areas that the landscaper designates & under the direction of the landscaper they dig, shovel, rake, pile rocks, etc. Must be able to lay walls & sidewalks. No minimum education or exp. necessary. Contact Idaho Job Service Office, reference Sun Valley QJ 01081337.

MECHANIC Service Techs needed for heavy duty truck. 2000. Day & night shift available. Minimum 5 yrs. exp. Full benefits, salary DOE. Call 224-8285 or 1-800-875-8887

MEDICAL MEDICAL RADIAL THERAPIST Mountain States Tumor Institute in Twin Falls. Full-time position. Mon.-Fri., day shift, rotating on call, full benefits, etc. For additional information on this position & other positions available visit our website at www.atlucosonline.org

RECEPTIONIST Part-time needed for busy medical office. Experience preferred. Send resume to Box 91864, c/o The Times-News, P.O. Box 849, Twin Falls, ID 83301.

SALES PROFESSIONAL Heartland Payment Systems is rapidly growing national company (53 on Inc. Magazine's Top 500 list) we are looking for top notch sales professionals with bank card, payroll and/or merchant services background. Join our winning team and call on retail, hotel and retail merchants in Twin Falls, Idaho. Superior earning potential, generous benefits, pre-PO ownership. In addition to Bank Card sales experience, must have impeccable integrity and a burning desire to build long-term wealth. Visit our website at www.hostammatos.com. Fax your resume to: 440-788-2006.

RESTAURANT Molly's Bagel Bakery Part time counter position, mornings, lunch & pm. 1229 Polaris Rd., Wendell, ID

DRIVERS Professional Truck Driving School Earn \$30,000/year. Get your class A CDL. See Habla Espanol! Call 208-734-0585

GENERAL EMPLOYMENT HELP WANTED Interviews Now being Accepted On A First come First Served Basis Growing Company Needs 20 People to Fill IMMEDIATE OPENINGS NO STRIKES NO LAIFFES

LANDSCAPE Seasonal Landscapers needed in Kelchum, ID 04-15-04 to 11-01-04. \$7,000/40 hrs/week. Duties include load & unload trucks with trees, such as sod, dirt, fire, shims, rocks, cement, mortar, blocks, sawmills, rakes, picks, lawnmowers, weedators, etc. Must be able to tie & materials to respective areas that the landscaper designates & under the direction of the landscaper they dig, shovel, rake, pile rocks, etc. Must be able to lay walls & sidewalks. No minimum education or exp. necessary. Contact Idaho Job Service Office, reference Sun Valley QJ 01081337.

MECHANIC Heavy equip./Ag field service position. 5 a.m. & 6 a.m. req. Pay DOE. 539-1600

MEDICAL TWIN FALLS Care Center Full or Part Time - Days and Evenings. We offer: Paid Vacation Health/Vision/Dental and Disability Insurance 401K Employee Referral Programs Don't miss out! Join our professional team! Please apply in person at: Twin Falls Care Center 874 Eastland Dr. Contact person: Melodie

MEDICAL The Department of Health & Welfare is seeking applicants for the classification of Clinician to work in our Twin Falls Developmental Disabilities Program. This position will provide assessment to families and children in the Inland Tender Program. This individual will also provide consultation regarding clinical mental health issues to staff and contractors. The available position is full-time days. Applications are to be completed through the Idaho Division of Human Resources website www.dir.state.id.us. Questions regarding the application process may be directed to Stan Foric, HR Specialist at 735-2018. Questions concerning the position should be directed to Annette Wilkinson, HR Specialist in the Twin Falls Developmental Disabilities Center (735-2182). The State of Idaho is an Equal Opportunity Employer. In addition, preference may be given to veterans who qualify under state and federal laws and regulations.

ROUTE MANAGERS YOU CAN DO BETTER WITH SCHWAN'S FOOD SERVICES At Schwans our people receive excellent opportunities for career advancement, very good benefit programs and training. Once fully trained, subsequent wages can greatly exceed the general market and will be dependent upon job performance & sales. Qualified candidates must be at least 21 years old, have a verifiable and good driving & work record, a minimum background check, physical examination & drug screen. NOW INTERVIEWING For Appointment Call 1-800-3-EMPLYER (1-800-338-7569) www.schwans.com Equal Opportunity Employer M/F/M/V/D

SALES EXPERIENCED PEOPLE \$36,000-\$45,000/yr. Olan Mills Directory Division If you like to meet new people and have the freedom to travel overnight during the week as needed. Join Olan Mills Directory Division as a Portrait Sales Consultant and be part of a 3 person Sales Team traveling to various districts. Paid Training Salary + Commission Paid Expenses Advanced opportunity. Reliable Transportation Contact our District Manager at 800-851-2510 ext 1519

RECEPTIONIST Minimum 2 years experience good pay, an outgoing personality a must. Please call 208-734-2900

DRIVERS R&A Truck Driving School Earn up to \$30,000, come get your Class A CDL 208-736-5026

GENERAL EMPLOYMENT HELP WANTED Expanding Distribution Center has openings in several departments from display to management. You can do our work easily. No experience necessary as we will provide training that can lead to a very secure position with a high starting salary. \$1500 to start. Call for interview 734-2693

LANDSCAPE 97 YEAR OLD LANDSCAPE COMPANY looking for bright, ambitious, talented team member in Landscape Design. Must be a graduate of AutoCAD, or have a minimum 2 yrs. in landscape design & sales. Only apply if you are well-organized, maintain a neat disposition & desire to build a satisfying career with a growing company! Kimberly Nurlan, INC. ATTN: Sheryl 2822 Addison Ave. E. Twin Falls, ID 83301 PH (208) 733-2717 Fax (208) 733-0043 Website: www.kimberlynurlan.com

MEDICAL Direct care staff. All shifts. Call 208-734-4344

MEDICAL Blaine Manor Immediate opening Evening SHN Care Nurse for 12, 24, 36 hrs. work. Nursing home experience preferred. Competitive salary with excellent benefits. Director of Nursing Elaine Mays PO Box 827 Helayne, ID 83333 208-578-9438 Blaine Manor is an Equal Opportunity Employer

MEDICAL Direct care staff, working with individuals who have disabilities. Openings 2pm-10pm shift 32-40 hrs per week, weekends off. Also working on call status in Wendell. Call Teresa 538-2004

MICRO-BIOLOGIST Buy water quality lab testing microbiologist duties to include, microbiological testing of drinking water, wastewater & related products. Experience preferred but not required. Salary DOE. Send resume to: Magic Valley Labs PO 1867 Twin Falls, ID 83301. Email: Ron@rthomson.net No Phone Calls please!

MISCELLANEOUS Magic Valley Mall is now accepting applications for customer service and maintenance positions. Apply in person at customer service.

PLUMBER Pipefitters & plumbers 326-4126 brook@netcom.com

Resident Care Manager FULL-TIME \$2,000 Hire-On Bonus (loses 1.31.04) As you go, so do we! Do you possess strong interpersonal skills? Do you yearn for the opportunity to provide direct patient care and lead assisted resident life? If so, you are the one we're looking for! Resident Care Manager will assess resident health condition, interact with physician regarding resident status and receive orders, as well as direct LPN and CNA care giving staff. Requires current Idaho RN license and rotating weekend shifts as an on-call manager. Long-term care & staff management experience is preferred. We offer an excellent salary and benefits package. Please call Teri Miller, RN, MS at (208) 734-8645 for more information. EOE. SunBridge Healthcare www.sunh.com

HAIRSTYLIST Perfect Look Employee owned salon chain is seeking licensed hairstylists for growing salons in Twin Falls. Great benefits, including paid vacations, paid dental and more. Stylist guarantee we commission. Check out our website at www.perfectlooksalons.com Call 208-733-9562

KENNEL WORKER Approx. 12-15 hrs/wk. Tues-Thurs, afternoons & weekends/holidays. Apply at Magic Valley Vet at 1199 S. Main Ave. S., Twin Falls. Pondering the purchase of a pet? Check out classified at Call 733-0931

LAW ENFORCEMENT The City of Gooding is seeking a Chief of Police. Salary DOE. Interested applicants should submit resume to City of Gooding 318 5th Ave. N. Gooding ID 83330. City Clerk at 208-928-2669. Completed application deadline is Feb. 13, 2004

LAWN CARE ENJOY THE GREAT OUTDOORS WHILE GARDENING TOP GREEN! Are you looking for individuals to help service our lawn care customers in the Twin Falls area. If you can supply the enthusiasm and drive we can supply the training and proper work environment for you to be successful. We offer a competitive base salary, performance-based incentives, advancement opportunities and a winning benefits package. Immediate openings for experienced Idaho State Licensed Technicians. Apply at 305 Hopkins Rd. or call our automated phone application system at 1-888-825-4041 24 hours a day. Any questions call Jeni at 1-800-559-1569 EOE/AA/FF/VD Drug Free Workplace

MEDICAL Licensed Social Worker or Registered Nurse to oversee out-patient mental health clinic. Must be able to do group therapy. Call Bill or Pam 208-676-5300 or 208-322-6281 w. msp.

MEDICAL Radiologist, Full-time, Mon-Fri., 7:00 am-5:00 pm ARRT required, acquire ARRT Mammography with one year. For additional information on this position or other positions available visit our website at www.atlucosonline.org Apply at St. Luke's Human Resources, 148 E. Jefferson, Boise, 250 S. Main Road, Meridian, Fax 208-381-4649 or 208-381-5241. Call 208-381-1147 or 208-706-5280. EOE AA/M/F/V/D

MOUNTAIN VIEW Care Center Full or Part Time - Days and Evenings. We offer: Paid Vacation Health/Vision/Dental and Disability Insurance 401K Employee Referral Programs Don't miss out! Join our professional team! Please apply in person at: Mountain View Care Center 874 Eastland Dr. Contact person: Melodie

ST. BENEDICT'S Family Medical Center St. Benedict's is a mission-driven health care organization providing patient-focused care. We are looking for caring professionals who want to work for a top quality health care provider. 709 North Lincoln Avenue Jerome, Idaho 83301 (208) 324-8338 Fax (208) 324-3878

- Radiology Technician (RT) Ultrasound and mammography experience preferred. Avg. 24 hours week, benefits offered.
- Medical Lab Tech (FT) Current certification. Ability to function independently; evening or varied shifts.

Competitive Wages/Excellent Benefits

- Group Health/Dental
- Personal Leave/Vacation
- Retirement/401k and/or Hospital Sponsored
- EAP
- Shift Differential Bonus
- 20 Hr Week Benefits Avail.
- Tuition Reimbursement
- Short Term Disability
- Life Ins./AD&D

"The Right Care is Right Here"

POSITIONS AVAILABLE FOR...

- RN's - Float Team, ICU, Surgical, Operating Room, Medical. Ask us about our 15% bonus program.
- RESPIRATORY THERAPIST - Full-time, 36 hours per week. Varied shifts. Idaho licensure and BLS preferred. CRT, RRT or board eligible preferred. ACLS, NRP and PALS required.
- PHYSICAL THERAPIST - Full-time and part-time positions. Must current Idaho licensure.
- OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY - Days, with rotating weekends. 40 hours per week. You must have a current licensure in the State of Idaho. Previous experience preferred.
- CERTIFIED SURGICAL TECHNICIANS - Full-time and part-time positions, Days and Evenings. You must be a graduate of an accredited surgical technology program. Certification must follow within 6 months of employment.
- TEAM LEADER, PLANT ENGINEERING - Full-time days position. HS diploma or equivalent required. Knowledge of building maintenance, state and JCAHO code requirements required. Must also have knowledge in reading and maintaining blueprints. Supervisory experience required.
- PAT COUNSELOR - Part-time, minimum of 20 hours per week. Evening/Nights with rotating weekends. RN, CMC or Master's level Health Counselor/Therapist and good communication skills required. Preferred inpatient psychiatric experience preferred.
- TEAM LEADER, CLINICAL ENGINEERING - Full-time days position. Associate degree in Clinical/Biomedical engineering or comparable field required. Extensive knowledge of JCAHO requirements, state, physiology and medical terminology required. Management experience required.
- ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICE AIDE (HOUSEKEEPING) - Three part-time day positions. HS diploma or equivalent and previous experience preferred.

We Offer Competitive Salaries & an Excellent Benefits Package for any Position 20+ Hours/Week. Bilingual Candidates Encouraged to Apply.

Magic Valley Regional Medical Center Human Resources P.O. Box 409, Twin Falls, ID 83303-0409 (208) 737-2113 / 737-2170 or FAX (208) 737-2741 Employment Line: (208) 737-2775

jaimel@mvmc.com - Jaimie OR joych@mvmc.com - Joyce Website: mvmc.com

MAGIC VALLEY REGIONAL MEDICAL CENTER Drug-free workplace

MANAGER Manager of operations at Oasis Food and Spirits. Salary and profit sharing. Must have exp. Send resume to: 1017 S. 1150 E. Edon Idaho 83325. One call - we'll do it all! Classified: 733-0931 ext. 2

Now Hiring: ● RN or LPN Full Time Graveyard Shift 6pm-6am BRIDGEVIEW OFFERS: ● Two Week Paid Vacation ● Sick and Holiday Pay ● Paid Comp Days for Good Attendance ● 401K Retirement Plan ● Health, Dental, and Optical Insurance ● College Tuition Assistance (Scholarship) To become part of our team apply in person at Bridgeview Estates 1828 Bridgeview Blvd Twin Falls, ID 83301 or call 208-736-3933 Contact Person: Wanda Holt

DO YOU WANT TO MAKE CHANGES IN YOUR FUTURE? Come see it at... EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER EOE Teleperformance USA If you have EXCELLENT reading and communication skills plus basic computer skills... Then STOP IN TODAY to Pick Up or Fill out an application! 1999 Fillmore - Suite 502 (Across from the Post Office) Full and Part Time Shifts \$7.00 Per Hour Starting Wage Insurance After 30 Days BONUSES, BONUSES, BONUSES Pick up an Application TODAY! (208) 732-5259

PROFESSIONAL Risk Retention Consultant ANNU2004-01 STATE INSURANCE FUND Twin Falls Office Professional position with the Idaho State Insurance Fund; providing loss prevention services to Twin Falls Companies Insurance policyholders, Starting salary \$35,660 per year. Completed SIF application with resume must be received by January 30, 2004. Position available at State Insurance Fund 1215 S. Main, Boise, Idaho Job Service ID# 108-2133 www.state.id.us/idisf

PROGRAM SPECIALIST Needed to work with adults with developmental disabilities in home and community based settings. Must have at least one year experience working with people with developmental disabilities. Benefits-Salary DOE. Please submit resume demonstrating degree in Social Work, Special Education, Nursing, Recreation, Psychology, or related field to: Inclusion South, Inc. 450 Falls Ave., #100 Twin Falls, Idaho 83301

Home of the Five Star Service Guarantee At US Bank, we are committed to providing our customers with outstanding service every day. We offer an extensive product line and the most convenient access to our services. We are proud to be the Five Star Service Guarantee because that's what we deliver on the performance standards our customers expect. We work hard to ensure quality, accuracy, responsiveness, accessibility and availability. We place attributes embody the caring environment you desire. Please read about the exciting opportunities with our company at our website located: SALES & SERVICE MANAGER In this capacity, the ideal candidate will partner with the Branch Manager in the management of the branch. The primary focus of this position is to provide on-going daily customer service and sales, including all aspects of personal banking, ensuring exceptional customer service and sales. Responsibilities will also include consumer loan origination and servicing, account opening, safe deposit transactions, and branch operations/branching procedures. Minimum requirements include a Bachelor's degree or equivalent work experience, analytical skills necessary to solve customer and employee-related issues, demonstrated supervisory ability, strong understanding of branch operations and sales activities, and good written and oral communication skills. US Bank is committed to diversity and maintaining a workplace that reflects the diversity of the communities we serve. We are an equal opportunity employer. All qualified applicants are encouraged to apply. For immediate consideration, please send your resume, including reference code HR23-5763 to: Jeni Jeni, Branch Manager, 191 Sun Valley Road, Ketchikan, AK 99901. Phone: 208-726-1172; email: donna.biedrich@usbank.com

US Bank For Your Service Government We are an Equal Opportunity Employer. Minorities and women are encouraged to apply. Website: www.usbank.com

MAGIC VALLEY REGIONAL MEDICAL CENTER Drug-free workplace

WATCH YOUR INCOME RISE EVERY MORNING! Business Opportunities The Times-News has always dedicated itself to enhancing our delivery service for our customers. If you are very organized, self motivated, and enjoy working unsupervised, then we have the perfect business opportunity for you. We invite individuals who reflect our commitment to customer service and circulation growth to apply. Papers are early morning delivery. The Times-News has independent contractor opportunities in many areas throughout the Magic Valley. Call Jeni at 208-733-0931 ext. 302.

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Fast Close!
Twin Falls Area, Call
736-4645/rlc.



GREAT LOCATION
A 3 bedroom, 1 bath, 1 car garage. Newly refurbished inside-out. Paint, new carpets, vinyls, water heater, windows and cabinets. Located at 710 Ash St. S Kimberly, ID
Appraised Value: \$76,000
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HOLLISTER Own your own home now! 3 bedroom, 2 bath, 1 1/2 double wide car over 1/3 acre. Owner will finance. Use your tax refund or may take a 1st or 2nd mortgage payment. Only \$476-18 monthly with 10% down. Call 208-737-9189.

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702 East Ave. H. 2050 sq. ft. home, fireplace, hot tub, must see for only \$78,000! Hadden Realty 208-888-2289.

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KIMBERLY great neighborhood 3 bdrm., 2 bath, 2 car garage, water softener, big yard, built-in, \$112,000. Call 208-423-8474 leave a message.

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PAUL 3 bdrm., 1 bath, exc. cond. \$74,900. Corner lot in Meadowbrook subdivision. 208-458-7055.

THINKING OF BUILDING?
Call The Rasmussen Team at Gem State Realty. We are the exclusive representatives of TKO Homes, "The Affordable Builders". Complete home and lot packages starting at \$99,900. Call Lynn Rasmussen, President at The Rasmussen Team at 707-2900 or call phone 410-2807.

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Mercy Housing Idaho is now accepting applications for the Magic Valley Self-Help Housing Program.
Homes are 3 or 4 bedrooms, 2 baths and double car garage!
Low monthly payments are adjusted to your income.
There is NO down payment!
Funded by USDA Rural Development
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VERY NICE 3 bedroom 2 bath home with 2 fireplaces, 2 car garage, fenced back yard, and much more! MLS# 109061 \$125,000
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See Us On The Internet: www.irwinrealty.com E-mail: info@irwinrealty.com

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GREAT COUNTRY PROPERTY WITH FINISHED, HEATED SHOP! Home has newly remodeled kitchen, new appliances including refrigerator. Home has steel siding and fresh paint on the eaves.
A REAL STEAL AT ONLY \$81,000.
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4 bedroom, 2 bath
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4 bedroom, 2 bath on fenced and landscaped acre in Windmill Heights. Beautiful \$219,900 includes landscape allowance.
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3 bedroom, 2 bath in Windmill Heights. Beautiful \$219,900 includes landscape allowance.
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TWIN FALLS New 3 bdrm, 2 1/2 bath home by builder, unique design, spacious: rooms and many upgrades. Reduced \$219,000. 208-735-2422.

TWIN FALLS \$124,900 - 3 bedroom, 2 bath home on 5 acres with water.
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TWIN FALLS 2 bdrm., 1 bath w/bam. Newly remodeled. Call 208-737-9189.

TWIN FALLS 3 bedroom, 2 bath, w/den, 2800 sq. ft., older home, remodeled, custom cabinets, hardwood floors, fenced yard w/lock. Walking distance to HS, and Sivatooth. Below appraised \$112,900. 208-898-0328.

TWIN FALLS 865 Mae Drive. 3,829 sq. ft., 4 bdrms., 3 baths, 14 x22 master bdrm. suite, formal dining room, den, huge play room, and 2 fireplaces. Fenced back yard, 500 sq. ft. dock, spa, separate patio, and automatic sprinklers. \$195,000-734-7637 or www.885mae.com

TWIN FALLS Beautiful 4 bdrm. 2 bath, luxurious, 2280 sq. ft. home, fireplace, family room, entertainment center, near golf course. \$119,500 or \$1000 down, \$775 mo. OAC. Call Ken 734-4321.

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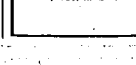
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 ● \$71,000 ● Wendell ● MLS#108075 ● 3 bedrooms, 1 bath Nice home with extensive remodeling Brenda Carter 410-5747 Louisa Harris 280-0822	 ● \$74,900 ● Twin Falls ● MLS#108090 ● 3 bedrooms, 1 bath Large yard, 3 car garage, large master Nichole Webb 539-7355	 ● \$79,900 ● Jerome ● MLS#108442 ● 4 bedrooms, 1.5 baths Great home for the first time home buyer! Alex Castañeda 539-5758 Fil Miranda 420-8729	 ● \$82,000 ● Jerome ● MLS#108021 ● 3 bedrooms, 2 baths 1736 sq. ft. Water shares TheRealTeam.com Web 737-3939 Tam 737-3940	 ● \$84,500 ● Wendell ● MLS#108449 ● 3 bedrooms, 1.5 baths 20x25 shop, fenced, family room Kay & Ernie Kendrick 948-9400 or 948-9401
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 ● \$155,000 ● Filer ● MLS#107766 ● 4 bedrooms, 2 baths Large corner lot, formal entry, large kitchen Tom Lloyd 308-4177 Vicki Seber 280-0404	 ● \$157,900 ● Twin Falls ● MLS#108497 ● 3 bedrooms, 3 baths 3264 sq. ft., great area, 3 family rooms Nora Kent 737-3962/731-6332	 ● \$178,500 ● Kimberly ● MLS#108350 ● 4 bedrooms, 3 baths 1.7 acres 2208 sq. ft. TheRealTeam.com Web 737-3939 Tam 737-3940	 ● \$249,000 ● Filer ● MLS#109041/109114 Extra quality brick home on 23 acres with water Karl Schaefer 212-9111 or Randy Lawrence 212-2229	 ● \$270,000 ● Heyboera Area ● MLS#107899 47 acre over front property. Great potential for development. Fil Miranda 737-3926 Alex Castañeda 737-3907
 ● \$182,900 ● Twin Falls ● MLS#107746 ● 4 bedrooms, 2 baths 1872 sq. ft., elegant, upgraded, 3 car garage Tom Lloyd 737-3934 or 308-0117	 ● \$197,500 ● Twin Falls ● MLS#107486 ● 4 bedrooms, 2.5 baths RV parking, great landscaping and deck Kathy Partridge 737-3920 Ron Freeman 737-3915	 ● \$198,500 ● Kimberly ● MLS#108350 ● 4 bedrooms, 3 baths 1.7 acres 2208 sq. ft. TheRealTeam.com Web 737-3939 Tam 737-3940	 ● \$249,000 ● Filer ● MLS#109041/109114 Extra quality brick home on 23 acres with water Karl Schaefer 212-9111 or Randy Lawrence 212-2229	 ● \$270,000 ● Heyboera Area ● MLS#107899 47 acre over front property. Great potential for development. Fil Miranda 737-3926 Alex Castañeda 737-3907
 ● \$275,000 ● Hagerman ● MLS#106104 ● 2 bedrooms, 2 baths Pool, many amenities, 8 acres Juanita Myers 731-3625	 ● \$375,000 ● Idaville ● MLS#105505 ● 3 bedrooms, 2 baths 2001 sq. ft. home on 17 acres, shop and more Louisa Harris 280-0822	 ● \$425,000 ● Jerome ● MLS#109137 ● 4 bedrooms, 2.5 baths Hardwood floors, Granite counter tops. Carolyn Cutler 420-3081 CarolynCutler.com	 ● \$430,000 ● Wendell ● MLS#108685 ● 5 bedrooms, 2 baths Profitable dairy on 23 acres with home. Lorretta Thompson 731-1779	 ● \$395,000 ● Jerome ● MLS#109106 ● 4 bedrooms, 4 baths Incredible home, 3,000 sq. ft., 6 car garage Carolyn Cutler 420-3081 CarolynCutler.com

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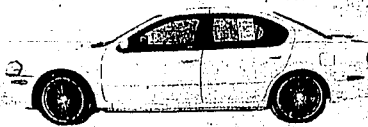
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And as for the church ladies in the basement....

Old Joe, the village lush, appeared before the judge, who said, "You've been brought here for drinking." Joe replied, "OK, let's get started." Or, "The agnostic died. Did he go to the great perhaps?"

Those are two of the "World's Seven Worst Puns," from the Pun America Club.

Humor, thought-provoking and stress-relieving, is a big part of life in today's world.

Even at church. Arizona newspapers are reporting interest in a group of new billboards in the state. Their theme is "God Speaks," and they combine humor with a message.

Here's a sampling:

- Let's meet at my house Sunday before the game.
- What part of "thou shalt not" don't you understand?
- "That love thy neighbor" thing? I meant it.

Joseph Mitchell, author of "Humor, Play and Laughter," instructs people to use humor to counter the stress of parenting. On the lecture circuit, "lighten up and laugh with your kids." He says the average toddler laughs 400 times a day.

And psychologist Hendrie Weisinger says if your daily laugh total is less than the average - 15 laughs a day, including three belly laughs for adults - you are "under-laughed." Which could be detrimental to both your emotional and your physical health.

If you think you might be "under-laughed," Weisinger has some suggestions for improvement: Know what makes you laugh, and compile a library of favorite jokes and cartoons. Start thinking about something funny when you need a break from a tense part of your day. Or just be more playful with words and images.

Harvey Mindess, who created the "Antioch Humor Test," even devised a quiz to help you better understand yourself and improve your life by figuring out what makes you laugh. For example, you are asked to rate this joke as very funny, mildly funny, or not funny at all: "One way to help balance the national budget is to elect our first woman president; we'd only have to pay her half the salary."

"That joke is from a group labeled 'nonsense or social satire,'" and people who prefer those jokes are said to be intellectual types.

Similarly, those who prefer hostile or sexual jokes tend to be earthy and outspoken. And liking mildly sick jokes means you are free enough to laugh at a funny image.

Enjoyment of self-directed humor is considered a sign of good mental health.

Some of us laugh at strangely constructed newspaper headlines, like the one that read, "Typhoon rips through cemetery, hundreds dead."

Others laugh at bloopers in church bulletins: "The ladies of the church have cast off clothing of every kind, and they may be seen in the church basement Friday."

A large number of people prefer the slapstick antics of The Three Stooges.

Many adults find kid humor somewhat baffling.

"My friend Jean told me about a kid staying over at her house who was putting crayons up his nose and walking around being a walrus - and the other kids in attendance at the slumber party were rolling on the floor laughing. When Jean told 'the walrus' to stop putting crayons up his nose, he said, 'I wonder whatever happened to that red bead I stuck up my nose yesterday.'"

The children then behaved as if they ranked the walrus child's trip to the emergency room among the top 10 jokes of all time.

Now, since everything turned out OK, Jean can recall the memory of the experience and join in the laughter. Sort of.

She says she supposes it's never too late for a good laugh.

Sometimes, it just takes a while.

Denise Turner is assistant features editor at The Times-News.

More dog-eared tales



One of our favorite stories from 'Second Chances' is about a Samoyed found on the side of a road in New York. 'Bobby Blue' was so gentle that he became a therapy dog. New Bobby visits sick children in hospitals, with his new owner, photographer Peter Howe.

'Second Chances' is first in show

The Washington Post

"You've probably heard the expression 'A dog is man's best friend.' But sometimes dogs need people to be their friends, too."

"Second Chances" is a wonderful book full of stories about people helping dogs (and surprise, surprise, people discovering that dogs help them). All of the dogs in this book, which features short stories by Elise Lufkin and beautiful black-and-white photographs by Diana Walker, were abandoned in one way or another—they were left for dead or put in pounds, but then were rescued and given a second chance.

There are almost 100 dog stories in this book, which includes some really useful information if you're thinking about getting a dog. There are tales of big dogs and little dogs, yippy ones and brave ones.

It was difficult, but we picked a few of our favorites to share here:

Bobby Blue

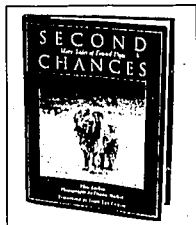
This Samoyed was very young when he was found on the side of a road in New York. He was so gentle that a trainer at a shelter suggested that Bobby Blue be taught to be a "therapy dog." Now Bobby visits sick children in hospitals, with his new owner, photographer Peter Howe. The book says that Samoyeds were originally bred in Siberia and that one of their jobs was protecting children. That seems to be just what Bobby Blue does.

Lumpy Bear

Lumpy Bear's story is one of a dog that was loved too much. The couple who owned him got a divorce and neither was willing to let the other have the St. Bernard. So Lumpy Bear wound up in a St. Bernard Rescue League. Maurice and Joan Jolin and their daughter, Alexis, adopted Lumpy. Maurice says: "Lumpy Bear's voice shakes our kitchen.... Buckets of slobber festoon ceilings and walls. No matter how big the car, he takes up most of it.... He is a wonderful creature."

Please see CHANCES, Page E2

Stray hounds inspire Ketchum writer



'Second Chances' is full of stories about people helping dogs (and people discovering that dogs help them).

By Steve Crump
Times-News writer

HAILEY - Seven years ago, Elise Lufkin - a transplanted New Englander who moved here in 1999 to ski - thought it would be fun to write a book about stray dogs.

But stray dogs come in pairs. "I set up a Web site and started collecting stories," said Lufkin, a freelance writer by trade. "And I got great stories."

So a sequel, "Second Chances: More Tales of Found Dogs," has just been published by The Lyons Press, featuring the pound hounds of the anonymous and the famous, photographed - as was the first batch - by Time Magazine's Diana Walker.

Like Lufkin and Walker's "Found Dogs," which was released in 1997, "Second Chances" is about rescued dogs and how, in ways little and large, they've transformed their new owners' lives.

Jamie Lee Curtis, former Health and Welfare secretary Donna Shalala, dancer Mikhail Baryshnikov and designer Oscar de la Renta and their dogs are in "Second Chances" but so are barbers, ranchers, students, teachers and Realtors, some of whom live in the Wood River Valley.

"This is very much a dog-friendly community," Lufkin says.

The Hailey-based Animal Shelter of the Wood River Valley

has had a no-kill policy since 1999, and a reputation for placing even last-chance pets.

"You don't have to look hard in the Wood River Valley to find examples of rescued dogs," said Lufkin, who volunteers at the shelter. "It's a small community, and they're everywhere."

Lufkin writes about Harry, an adopted stray whose owner calls him her "sobriety dog." She was at her side through her 12-step recovery program, inspiring her to get out of the house and stay sober so she could take care of him.

And Emmalee, a puppy whose mother was thrown from a car onto a highway before giving

Please see DOGS, Page E2

Bush girls linger too long in adolescence

By Ann Gerhart
The Washington Post

The armored black limousine glides to a stop near a U.S. military jet at Andrews Air Force Base early one morning in May 2002. Laura Bush is about to embark on her first solo trip as first lady, a 10-day visit to three European nations, where she will speak out for Afghan women's rights.

An aide opens the door, and Mrs. Bush slides her legs carefully out and steps onto the tarmac. She knows her part well: Pause to smile, wave and let the photographers dutifully record the image. The small press corps knows its part, too, and watches with no expectations. Suddenly, one leg in worn corduroy, then the other, swings off the limo seat. Jenna Bush stands up to follow her mother into the plane. Her hand is on her hip. Her legs are on alert. It's the roddy twin, the one who has been busted twice in four weeks for underage drinking, who has run her Secret Service detail ragged, who was captured in the National Enquirer falling down, cigarette in hand.

The corduroy jeans are ratty at the knees, and Jenna is wearing a short black T-shirt, and her exposed tummy pooches out over the low-riding waistband. Flip-flops are on her feet. Her blond hair is being pinned up carelessly. Sunglasses cover her eyes. Hoisting a backpack, she clomps up the plane stairs and disappears.

She hardly looks appropriately presidential daughterly, but she has time to get herself together before Paris, when French and American officials will greet Mrs. Bush and hand her flowers. The girl is hardly flying coach: Her mother has a hairdresser and makeup artist aboard, and there's a lovely wide bed and full shower. But upon arrival 7 1/2 hours



Barbara and Jenna leave the stage, their parents behind them, at one of the inaugural balls, Jan. 20, 2001.

later, Jenna appears at the plane door looking exactly the same. Suddenly she darts back inside. The twin has spied the telephoto lenses of several French photographers far away. After a few moments, the limousine trunk floats open by electronic remote.

A White House valet retrieves one of Mrs. Bush's Neiman Marcus garment bags and carries it up the plane's steps. The reporters watch in wonder. While he holds it aloft, Jenna slips behind it, and he walks back down the stairs, shielding the first daughter from the media's prying eyes. Only the top of her blond head, bobbing up and down, and those flip-flops are visible.

Jenna is hiding, literally, behind her mother's skirts. There are only two possible explanations. Either A) Laura Bush has asked her 20-year-old to

please make herself more presentable, more fitting as a representative of the United States using taxpayer dollars, on an official visit, and her daughter has adamantly refused, or B) Laura hasn't even bothered to ask.

There is plenty the Bushes don't ask their daughters to do, that much is clear. They are college seniors now, 22, Jenna an English major at the University of Texas in Austin, and Barbara majoring in humanities at Yale. Both are considering graduate school, their parents say, but not before working first.

Jenna and Barbara have not campaigned or reined in their adolescent rebellions. They have not appeared engaged in any of the pressing issues their generation will inherit, nor shown empathy for the struggles facing their mother and their father, the

Please see GIRLS, Page E2

How to fall in love online

Here is author Lorraine Dageford's system for success at Internet matchmaking:

■ Set your standards - "Before I set standards, I wasted a lot of my time - maybe as many as 20 dates - meeting with men I could never develop a relationship with."

■ What kind of a man is Dageford seeking? Someone who is "romantic, grounded, successful, outgoing adventurer. Travel is a must, as well as companionship and friends. If you love life, have a great attitude, are taking care of your body and your health, you should talk!"

Here are her standards:

- College degree.
- Evidence of career success. It doesn't matter what type of success but few men talk about careers in their profile, she says.
- No lines about "walks on the beach." That's a ploy to interest women.
- Good command of the language, which includes spelling, grammar, vocabulary and creativity in writing.

At least 5 feet 10 inches tall because Dageford likes to wear high heels, and "I have hair." She says, "If a man is shorter, it never seems to work."

■ Professional appearance. Photo should not be a snapshot.

■ Write a good profile - Be specific about your interests, and give concrete examples. Not "I like to dance," but "I cut a mean rug on the swing dance floor every Tuesday night." Give examples of your interests in sports, the arts, whatever.

Say positive, upbeat things about yourself.

Make sure your picture is attractive. Men scan profiles and stop at the prettiest woman. Don't give the appearance that you are sitting at home waiting

for someone to rescue you, no matter what your age.

■ Spend a couple paragraphs talking about yourself, as in, "In my home you will be welcomed by a provocatively dressed, attractive lady who will provide you with an evening of attention and hospitality. However, it's up to you to provide a first date that will create my desire to invite you to my place."

■ Update your file daily - even if you change just a word or two - so that it doesn't fall to the bottom of the list.

■ Pick the right matchmaking site - Pick a Web site that will send you possible matches every day or at intervals you select. Some will send 10 to 15 with photos plus additional profiles without photos.

■ Select a site that is easy to navigate with one or two clicks of a button. Make sure you can browse profiles at will when you put in criteria you are looking for.

Cost should be about \$25 a month.

■ Learn to read between the lines - Men make mistakes in their profiles, that presage date disasters. Lorraine Dageford calls them "red flags." Among them:

- Profiles that sound like they were copied from a book - as in "I love long hair and drives on the coast" - indicate lack of creativity.
- Overly sexy language flags a guy looking for fun rather than a serious relationship.
- Vague description of marital status means he's married.
- If he's too young, he's looking for a mother, money or sex.

-Source: Orange County Register

FAMILY LIFE

Dogs

Continued from E1

birth to a litter of five. Emmalee's owner was diagnosed with breast cancer soon after adopting her, and the two of them bonded as the owner recuperated and the puppy grew up.

Lufkin, who found most of the stories for "Found Dogs" by word of mouth, had no shortage of tales to choose from for the second book. She interviewed hundreds of pet owners and animal shelter workers for "Second Chances."

"I didn't want to give the impression that a dog from an animal shelter is for everyone," Lufkin said. "Like any dog, they're a commitment, but I think anyone who is serious about getting a dog should at least consider it."

One of the great charms of rescued dogs, Lufkin says, is that they quickly become bosom buddies, like her 11-year-old terrier, Poo. "There are still 3 million dogs and puppies down in the animal-control facilities in this country every year, and countless others die from accidents, disease and abuse," Lufkin said. "The point of the book is that when homeless animals receive the affection and attention they deserve, they give back love and loyalty, often more than their owners can imagine."

•••
"Second Chances: More Tales of Found Dogs" is published by The Lyons Press and sells for \$19.95. It's available at Blaine County bookstores or online at amazon.com. Lufkin's Web site is <http://www.founddogs.com>.

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

Adopting a dog

If you are thinking about adopting a dog, here are several important steps that can help make this important endeavor successful, both for you and for the dog you choose.

1 Talk with the people caring for the animals (vets with adoptable dogs, shelter personnel, etc.). Explain what you are looking for. Ask about the dog's history and temperament. Remember the importance of making a good match, and don't adopt simply because you feel sorry for a homeless animal.

2 If you are interested in a specific breed, inquire at dog shelters. Purebreds do turn up there.

3 Consider adopting an adult dog, even an older adult. Older adults have usually settled down, and that's a nice feature. With an adult dog, you may get a better sense of how he

or she will turn out, allowing, of course, for temporary adjustment to a new home.

4 Check the Internet, searching key words such as dog adoption, animal shelters, etc.

5 Don't bring ones, especially young children, with you to help choose a dog. It's a sure route to an impulse choice that you may regret later. Wait until you have a good idea of the dog you want, then bring the children along to see how the dog and the children interact.

6 Visit the dog several times before making a decision. Take him or her for walks if possible. Notice how the dog responds to other dogs and to people, including you.

7 If you feel at all unsure, go to other shelters and look at other dogs. Take your time. Think about it. Sleep on it.

—Source: Elise Lufkin

Chances

Continued from E1

Rudolph

This big dog, part Rottweiler, was at a shelter after being taken from a home where he was being starved. When he was taken, he couldn't even stand up. He was named Rudolph because he was found around Christmas time. Rita Goddard adopted the dog and took him home to her husband, Rudy, who was sick. The two Rudys became good friends. The human Rudolph is the first thing that dog took as my name; the second thing

he took was my sofa in the family-room." Rita says he's also taken their hearts.

Smokey

Smokey was only a few weeks old when Shalott Hazzard, a special education teacher, saw him on the side of the road. His tongue hangs out because it's partly paralyzed, but he loves to lick people. Hazzard thinks Smokey is part pit bull, part English bulldog. "He looks as if he's wearing a jacket with sleeves a little too short."

Girls

Continued from E1

president of the United States. They have not treated with respect their Secret Service details, those highly trained men and women who literally would take a bullet for them. They've shown little inclination to embrace the life of public service mandated by their parents and grandparents.

They are girls blessed with intelligence, good looks, trust funds, loving parents, boundless opportunities, and freedom from many of life's daily vexing challenges. Yet they persist in seeing themselves as victims of daddy's job, subtly encouraged by their mother. Laura Bush would never permit herself to feel victimized by her husband's decisions. She stands herself as a full partner who embraced his ambitions because she wanted for him what he wanted for himself. No, any victimization she might have felt has all been transferred onto her girls.

Once George sought political office when his girls were 12, Laura's guiding principle in reality became "they didn't really ask for this."

"They just want to do like every other teenager does," she has insisted often. This declaration is dead opposite to what her parents insist, which is, of course, "I don't care what the other kids' do. You are not other kids."

By the time the twins were born in 1981, Laura was 35. The couple hadn't been sure they would have children of their own, and then Laura nearly lost the babies late in her pregnancy, so she and George felt doubly blessed. Their gratitude was so deep and persistent that over time, it seems to have turned into indulgence.

In many ways, the twins were excellent candidates to make a good transition to life as children of a political figure. It was the family business, after all, and the twins' parents entered it only after they had addressed their concerns about what it would mean for family life, they told the Dallas Morning News in 1995.

hair is so stiff it would stay put in a hurricane."

As the family began to discuss whether George should run for president, the girls were asked for their opinions. It was clear to Jenna and Barbara that their emancipation from the strictures of living at home would coincide exactly with the arrival of a Secret Service detail to their college dormitories.

When inauguration day arrived, Jenna and Barbara dressed to be noticed in expensive outfits by Texas-born designer Lela Rose and sexy stiletto-heeled Jimmy Choo boots. When the moment came for the swearing-in, the 19-year-old girls fidgeted, then stood up. How should they behave. It fell to President Clinton, who gave each a gentle nudge toward their parents, and still they stood there, shoulders slumped, looking at their toes. Finally, their grandmother, Barbara Bush, seated behind them, had seen enough. Swiftly she reached forward to her granddaughters, first one, then the other. She put her thumbs between their shoulder blades and used her fingers to pull their shoulders up and back. The message was clear: Stand up straight! Remember who you are! We are Bushes, and Bushes stand up straight.

The mainstream press honored the administration's request to not pry into the girls' lives, but the tabloids had become interested. Jenna and Barbara, people quickly surmised, were not like the preceding first daughter.

Rather than fleeing political life, Chelsea Clinton had seized it. She called her father's secretary and asked for a ticket to his State of the Union address. When her mother embarked on a tour of the most disadvantaged spots in India and Africa, she wanted to go. Chelsea went to parties and drank and had boyfriends, but she had a gift for keeping her misdeeds out of the public eye. She cultivated the support of other adults in the White House, and she treated her Secret Service agents with respect. Accordingly, they were more inclined to protect her when she got herself in jams.

The twins seemed to have decided that their agents were their enemies—and their chauffeurs, bellhops and valets.

It took only a month after the inauguration for Jenna to land in the headlines, with news that she had used her Secret Service detail to spring a friend from a Texas jail after he was arrested for public intoxication. Within weeks, the National Enquirer had printed a photo of Jenna laughing and holding a cigarette, crashing to the floor atop a giggling male friend. And Barbara, according to the Yale magazine Rumpus, had given the slip to her Secret Service detail as she and some fellow students drove to a World Wrestling Federation match.

Laura seemed unwilling to correct the twins' agents were told to back off. The press was

blamed for the reports. The unofficial position was that the twins were singled out for unfair attention, even after Jenna was busted for underage drinking twice in four weeks. That summer of 2001, Jenna tried to sweet-talk a bartender into serving her, but when he saw the guys with the earpieces he asked her to leave. Jenna, according to an account in U.S. News & World Report, was furious. She yelled at her agents, then fled. When they caught up with her, the magazine said, she taunted them: "You know if anything happens to me, my dad would have your ass."

When she complained to her father, he sided with her agents. Not so her mother. Laura didn't want her girls to feel constrained, and the agents were ordered to pull back from traditional methods of coverage, according to the magazine. A few months later, when the Secret Service scrambled to grab all presidential relatives on Sept. 11, 2001, the agents couldn't find Jenna for hours.

In Austin, in May/2001, Jenna was cited for underage drinking; she was fined and given community service. A few weeks later at Austin's Chuy's restaurant, she and Barbara—and three friends—ordered tequila shots and margaritas.

Both twins were charged with misdemeanors. Barbara, charged with being a minor in possession of alcohol, got the eight-hour community service and an order to attend alcohol-awareness class. Jenna, booked with misrepresenting her age to buy booze, faced far stiffer penalties for the second offense, under Texas' zero-tolerance policy, which her father had signed into law in 1997. She was fined \$600, lost her driver's license for 30 days, had to do more community service and attend alcohol-awareness class.

Again the White House refused to comment. Aides breathed a huge sigh of relief when the twins finally turned 21 on Nov. 25, 2002.

In 2002, while on that European trip, Laura Bush was asked if her girls had gotten more used to the limelight. "No," she said, "I would have to say not. They're going to be juniors in college. They just want to do like other teen-agers do."

When she talks about her girls at all publicly, the first lady is given to making bland, nonspecific declarations of support. "I think they're a lot of fun to be with," she said. "I guess I would say that I'm engaged by them, with their personalities. ... I think, like every parent, if your children are happy, then parents are happy."

President Bush is slightly more revealing. "I love them a lot. I am impatient with them. I wanted them to be normal when they were teen-agers, and I wanted them to be working ladies," he told Ladies Home Journal. "I've got to slow down. I've got to allow them to become the bright young ladies that they're becoming at their own pace, and not at mine."

Cure your kitty's hair loss

Nobody likes finding a cigar-shaped mass of wet cat hair anywhere but in the litter box. Veterinarians call them trichobezoars, which is the scientific name for what the pet public calls hairballs, but whatever they're called, we all think they are disgusting.

As anyone who has cats will attest, there's nothing quite like waking up in the morning, sleep still in your eyes and stepping on the cold slippery pile of recycled cat hair that your cat has noisily deposited on the bed/bathroom floor or yikes, occasionally on us.

Sadly, one of the trials and tribulations of cat ownership is watching/listening to Puss Puss hurl up hairballs, retching and hacking, vomiting his old college buddies who drank too much and found themselves, "laughing at the ground."

Although some people claim that hairballs are harmless, I counter: Yourself was the last time you got the dry heaves, retched, and thought to your cat, "That felt good. I can't wait until I do it again!"?

While hairballs aren't life threatening, a recent survey of cat owners found that almost 96 percent thought hairballs were a serious health problem, wanted to reduce them and, if possible, find a way to stop them altogether. Fred Metzger, a board certified veterinarian in State College Pennsylvania, says: "Hairballs are common and rarely cause signs (symptoms) other than vomiting. Pet owners won't always see hair in the vomit because hairballs can be tightly packed in the stomach."

Hairballs are formed because when cats act as their own hair-dresser and use their Velcro-sticky tongues as a combination comb and brush, shed fur sticks to the tongue and is swallowed. Not surprisingly, hairballs are worse in longer haired breeds such as Persians, Himalayans and Maine Coons.

The reason why cats need to groom their hair is that, unless it is clean and fluffy, it can't adequately insulate them. It is a biological necessity for cats, not a sign of vanity. As you know, if our beloved cats aren't sleeping, basking in the sun or dining on gourmet meals, they are grooming and cleaning their luxurious fur. Worse than a teenage girl, who only spends about 11 hours a day doing her hair—cats can easily consume a significant part of



THE BOND Bearty

their day caring for their coats. While the result is a glowingly beautiful lion's mane of hair—the downside is that the swallowed fur can form into large masses in the stomach, where it remains until it is violently ejected. No cat lover enjoys watching their baby retch and gag on these horrific hairballs. Worse yet, sometimes the impaction can become so severe (kitty equivalent of a plugged drain) that the hairball becomes wedged in the intestinal tract and can't pass in either direction. That can result in constipation. In fact, according to "Complete Kitten Care" by Amy Shojai, 50 percent of all constipation in cats is due to impaction from hairballs.

As a veterinarian and proud cat owner, and happy to know there are several new dietary solutions, one such is Hill's Science Diet Hairball Control Diet. This product not only prevents the formation of hairballs, it also helps cats pass their stools and without fañtair in the stool. Available for most lifestyles, these new foods contain a natural vegetable fiber, which safely, gently and effectively acts like an intestinal Roto-Rooter or kitty Drano. Your cat's raspy little tongue will still auger in a lot of loose hair, but it will simply pass right through and out the other end undetected.

Finally, we have a hairball solution with a taste that cats really love. No more retching reveille in the morning, no more hair-bunnies lurking on the floor, and no more World Wrestling Federation administration-of-hairball-goop. Just a delicious, well-balanced diet that cats crave, with hair today that's gone tomorrow.

Alternatives? While these foods are great, the very best hairball preventive is to comb or brush your cat regularly so that you remove most of the loose hair before Kitty grooms herself and swallows it. Mineral oil or petroleum jelly-based hairball control products are traditionally administered by having somewhere around four family members, weighing a collective 400

Rabbits make terrific pets but unless you are careful, you may have a lot more of them than you want. Yes, there's a reason the saying "breeding like rabbits" continues to be in the vernacular. In the classic Star Trek episode, "Trouble with Tribbles," the Enterprise gets taken over by cute, furry critters that multiply like crazy. Rabbits aren't "born pregnant" like the fictitious Tribbles, but they do have some fertile advantages.

Rabbits reach sexual maturity around six months and have a one month gestation, so can have 4 or more litters a year. Litter sizes vary according to the size of the breed. Smaller breeds do have smaller litters, averaging 5-6 bunnies. Larger rabbit breed litters can have up to 12 bunnies. Rabbits are reflex ovulators. They don't have a breeding season where a female comes into heat — once they are mature, they can be bred any time by the male rabbit (buck) and will ovulate and conceive in response to a single breeding.

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Former-Twin-Falls-veterinarian Marty Becker is the author of the new book "Chicken Soup For The Horse Lover's Soul" and a popular veterinary contributor for ABC's "Good Morning America." Write to him in care of Knight Ridder/Tribune News Service, 790 National Press Building, Washington, D.C. 20045.

Quick – finish reading the paper and get to the mall. It's time for the Winter Sidewalk Sale Friday-Monday. (Sale ends 1/19/04) Only at Magic Valley Mall

P.S. Hundreds of choices up to 90% off!

Sunday Crossword Edited by Wayne Robert Williams

AN EAR FOR FRENCH By Robert H. Wolfe, North Woodmere, New York

Crossword puzzle grid with clues for Across and Down sections.

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Word search grid with a list of words to find.

Name-calling chases boy out of school, into home

DEAR ABBY: I have a friend I'll call "George." He is a good person, smart and fun to be with...



DEAR ABBY Jeanne Phillips

Write to Abby Send letters to Deat Abby, P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, Calif. 90069, or via her Web site at http://www.DeatAbby.com

DEAR UPSET: You will not save your marriage by remaining silent. Confront your husband with the fact that you found the photo and have seen him with the woman...

He recently dropped out of school and is now being home-schooled. When he told me why, it shocked me. Won't you explain to your readers not to judge people until you have walked a mile in their shoes?

DEAR CONCERNED FRIEND: I don't have to tell people that it's not OK to ridicule others. You have done a good job of that in your letter. But I'll tell you a secret. People who make derogatory comments about the sexuality of others often have doubts about their own.

married woman. One night I walked into our bedroom and caught my husband looking at something. When he saw me, he struck it between the pages of a magazine and began shuffling business papers.

A few nights later he said he was going to hang out with some friends, so I decided to take myself too to dinner. When I walked into the restaurant, I saw my husband having dinner with the woman in the photo.

DEAR ABBY: Three weeks ago my boyfriend, "Jeremy," proposed, and I am overjoyed. My problem is I hate the engagement ring he chose. I also hate the matching wedding band. I'm afraid if I mention trading them for something that I like, he'll be hurt.

DEAR UPSET: THE RING IS TRUE now because if you wait, it will probably slip out later at an inopportune time.

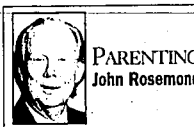
THE LESSON here is that the bride-to-be should be part of the selection process. It's not a difficult thing to arrange. All it takes is for the man to ask the salesperson to show his fiancée a selection of rings - or stones - that's within his price range. It's done all the time.

DEAR ABBY: I am a 37-year-old

IN LONGMEADOW, MASS.

Keep an eye on daughter's eyeliner

Q: Our 14-year-old daughter is in her first year of high school. Eyeliner seems very common among her peers, but she is wearing too much of it for our tastes.



PARENTING John Rosemond

like I was evil, so I gathered my daughter up and left. This is creating a lot of tension for me. What do you suggest?

As it seems to me that this problem can be solved by not allowing your daughter to take a toy to the park. Your daughter hasn't learned to share, and 2-year-olds are incapable of sharing, so the solution is to eliminate the source of the problem - the object to be shared.

Furthermore, instead of waiting until the proverbial iron is hot before you try teaching your daughter the finer points of sharing, role-play sharing situations with her at home. You play the role of another child and help her develop the skills she needs to play with other children in a give-and-take fashion.

As a parent, I agree that this is unfortunate, but in child-rearing, as in every other area of life, it is sometimes necessary to make compromises. Remember, in winning a battle, one may well insure that she loses the war.

that you arrange an appointment for your daughter with a beauty consultant who can teach her how to use makeup in a sparing, attractive manner. This situation cries out for discipline, but mentoring.

Q: The park in the center of our neighborhood is full of parents and children of all ages every afternoon. My 3-year-old daughter is having a problem with a much smaller 2-year-old. Often my daughter will bring along a doll or other toy to play with, but she usually loses interest after a while. At that point, the toddler will start playing with it. Suddenly, my daughter wants it back. If I tell her that she needs to share, she begins a tantrum and we have to leave. Last week, she was better about sharing, but when I told the toddler that it was time for her to give the toy back to my daughter, the other mother looked at me

As long as all is well otherwise - and it obviously is - I'd back off on the eyeliner issue. Sometimes, giving a child an inch, or even several, will prevent full-blown rebellion. Continue, however, to look for signs that she is on a slippery slope and be prepared to set some limits.

ENGAGEMENT

attending Utah Valley State College. He is employed at 4-Life Research.

They served missions for The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints in Argentina and Australia.



Keith Roberts and Tionna Norman

The wedding is planned for Thursday, Feb. 5, in the Beautiful LDS Temple in Bountiful, Utah. A reception will be held from 7 to 9 p.m. Feb. 5 in Salt Lake City, Utah. A second reception will be held from 7 to 9 p.m. Feb. 6 at the Dietrich Ward Chapel.

The couple will reside in Orem, Utah.

NORMAN-ROBERTS

DIETRICH - Scott and Kitty Norman of Dietrich announce the engagement of their daughter, Tionna Norman, to Keith Roberts, son of Jewelle Roberts of Salt Lake City, Utah, and Karl Roberts of Oregon.

Tionna is a graduate of Dietrich High School and received her associate's degree from the College of Southern Idaho. She is employed as a manager at Heritage Schools Inc. in Provo.

Roberts is a graduate of Brighton High School and is

Taurus: Don't speak out of turn

IF JANUARY 18 IS YOUR BIRTHDAY... you are a very public person who can't imagine not participating in the larger world. You are willing to take in the thoughts and feelings of persons quite different from yourself.

HOROSCOPE Jeraldine Saunders

the forefront of your mind for several more days at least. Duty also calls, and career frustrations mount. This is not a good time to try to work through issues in that area.

ARIES (Mar. 21-Apr. 19): You continue to be spurred toward expanding your knowledge of the world. How could this be a bad idea? Mars continuing in your sign makes you rise to any provocation more quickly than usual.

TAURUS (Apr. 20-May 20): Don't let intense feelings force you to speak out of turn. Spending too much time "thinking things through" would probably be unproductive now - even though it is especially unwise unless resentments you have need to be actively released in a constructive manner.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): It's never a dull moment these days. Both career and love are changing. It's a great night for an especially passionate encounter, just don't bring up the subject of money.

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Relationships continue to occupy

your values is worthwhile now. What really, really matters to you personally, all else aside? You also need to learn to develop freedom from financial fear.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): The moon in your sign makes you feel fancy-free today. Do watch your "foot-in-mouth disease," though. Frankness can be wonderful, but only to the extent of your listener's ability to handle it.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): You are uncomfortable with your give and take today and might prefer to be left alone - or at least be allowed to spend some quiet time. With the sun, Chiron and Mercury in Capricorn now, you are discovering the depths of your charisma.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): You have just a few more days of relative obscurity before you emerge into the spotlight. Use them well. Fun with friends is definitely on your agenda, even if there is also a lot to do.

PISCES (Feb. 19-Mar. 20): You are to feel connected to a group that is larger than yourself today, especially one that does tangible good works. On an opposing note, there's an inner whisper that says, "I want to be free!"

Decimate? You don't know the tenth of it; get in the spirit of duende

DEAR EDITOR: I am interested in the word "decimate." Where does it come from?

-C.S., HILLSDALE, MICH. DEAR C.S.: "Decimate" has its roots in a particularly nasty practice - one that the Roman army, any Roman soldier who pondered mutiny had good reason to think twice. A technique to keep murderous units in line was to select one-tenth of the men by lot and execute them, thereby encouraging the remaining nine-tenths to follow orders. The Latin verb for this presumably effective punishment was "decimare," literally "to take the tenth of."

The old Roman practice has not continued into modern times, of course, but its memorable ferocity has given us the verb "decimate," which has been used in English since 1690.

"Decimate" was originally used in historical reference to the Roman disciplinary procedure,

WORDWATCH Merriam-Webster

Word-up This column was prepared by the editors of Merriam-Webster's Collegiate Dictionary, Tenth Edition. Readers may send questions to Merriam-Webster's Wordwatch, P.O. Box 281, 47 Federal St., Springfield, Mass. 01102.

but it soon came to be used more broadly in what is now its usual sense, "to destroy a large part of," as in "the bombing decimated the city" or "the plague decimated the population." Although it carries no suggestion of "one-tenth" (despite the insistence of a few commentators that it should), the

modern "decimate" does: retain clearly the overtones of extreme violence and terror associated with the original sense.

DEAR EDITOR: Recently I encountered the word "duende" in my reading. The author used it to refer to a kind of charm given off by a performer. What's the back-story behind this word?

-S.H., RENO, NEV. DEAR S.H.: The word "duende" comes from Spanish, where it translates literally as "ghost" or "goblin," and is believed to derive from the phrase "dueno de casa," which means "owner of a house." The term was originally used in flamenco music and other art forms to refer to an often elusive mystical or powerful force given off by a performer. A person who is performing with duende is able to captivate his or her audience with a seemingly magical spirit that infects the music and leaves those

in the performer's presence mesmerized.

The Spanish poet Federico Garcia Lorca wrote in his essay "Teoria y Juego del Duende" ("Play and Theory of the Duende") that "duende" is a power and not a behavior - a gift and not a concept.

A Boston Globe columnist named George Frazier is often credited with introducing the word into English in the 1960s. The term has expanded in usage since that time, and nowadays appears in a wide range of contexts to refer to any kind of unspoken charm or allure (such as that given off by an athlete or public speaker).

DEAR EDITOR: My grandmother used to serve a sweet custard-like dessert that she called "junket." Is this word related to the trip or journey kind of "junket"?

DEAR S.C.: "Junket" has been part of the English language since the 15th century, and has evolved in the centuries it's been in use. The meanings you cite are indeed related.

"Junket" comes from the word "juncus," the Latin word for a rush, a marsh plant whose stems and leaves are useful for making mats and baskets.

Long ago a type of cream cheese was prepared in baskets made of rushes or reeds, and the cheese took its name from its container. In Italy in the Middle Ages this cream cheese was called "guincata," a derivative of Latin "juncus."

It was probably from this Italian source that Middle English borrowed "joncete," which later became "junket." The English word was first used for cream cheese but later became the name of a dessert made of its long, narrow leaves to those of rushes.

early modern period of English, "junket" was a popular term for any sweet dish. William Adlington's 16th-century translation of "The Golden Ass of Apuleius" (1566) lists a few: "Broad pasties, tartes, custardes and other delicate ionkettes dipped in honie." From this sense of "junket" developed the extended sense "a feast or banquet."

COMMUNITY

Community Editor: Pat Marcantonio - 735-3288

Page E-4

Sunday, January 18, 2004

The Times-News



Photo courtesy of MARION WOODRUFF

Young people and adults of the Rupert United Methodist Church who traveled on a mission to Denver, Colo., were, from left, front: Norma Murphy, Vallann Hess and Irene Williams; back: Stephanie Grant, Becky Joosten, Brian Williams, Jane Joosten, Robbie Newman and Anthony Barlinga.

Rupert group helps homeless

RUPERT - Six members of the Rupert United Methodist Church youth group and four adults traveled to Denver, Colo., on a mission recently.

Denver Urban Ministries arranged for the group to spend four days in Denver, learning about homeless people and the issues dealing with them. The group worked with Volunteers of America in a Head Start program teaching and working with low-

income and homeless children.

One day was spent working in the Christ Bodies Ministries, which provides clothing and food for needy and homeless people. The group cleaned and served food while visiting with people using the facility.

Another day was spent working in the Food Bank of the Rockies, a large food distribution center providing an economical means to feed low-income people through-

out the Denver area.

One evening also was spent learning about homeless teenagers and why there are so many of them in the Denver area. This was followed by a discussion of the Mural project, depicting several issues they deal with.

The week was all about serving others, with participants learning more about themselves, as well, organizers say.

STORK REPORT

Magic Valley Regional Medical Center

Nickole Latanya Ayala, daughter of Martha Elena and Juan Manuel Ayala of Jerome, was born Thursday, Jan. 8, 2004.

Nikolas Mitchell Aloyo, son of Stephanie Terri and Mitchell Enrique Garcia Aloyo of Twin Falls, was born Thursday, Jan. 8, 2004.

Brannekah Joy Lammers, daughter of Rebecca Joy and Brandon Paul Lammers of Kimberly, was born Thursday, Jan. 8, 2004.

Maxx Gonzales, son of Lusinda Vanette Wallace and Herbert Gonzales of Twin Falls, was born Thursday, Jan. 8, 2004.

Quinton Alan Walker, son of Melissa Marie and Wesley Alan Walker of Gooding, was born Saturday, Jan. 10, 2004.

Carson Rose Haze, daughter of Marjane Mae and Larry Kirk Hazem of Twin Falls, was born Saturday, Jan. 10, 2004.

Nathan Michael Power, son of Amber Loren and Michael Patrick Power of Jerome, was born Saturday, Jan. 10, 2004.

Cassia Regional Medical Center

Brianna Rae Bonella Anderson, daughter of Brian Anderson and Ra Nae Bonella of Burley, was born Wednesday, Dec. 31, 2003.

To announce a birth Send a copy of the birth certificate to: Jami Whitto The Community Page The Times-News P.O. Box 549 Twin Falls, ID 83303 OR/fax to: 735-5538 Deadline: noon Tuesday for Sunday's paper; and noon Friday for Tuesday's paper. More information? Call Jami at 735-3278

Caitlin Nicole Weber, daughter of DeVon and Sara Weber of Burley, was born Monday, Jan. 5, 2004.

Bethel 56 installs honored queen

TWIN FALLS - Nicole Patrick, daughter of Lee and Kathy Crump, will be installed as Honored Queen of Bethel 56, International Order of Job's Daughters at 1 p.m. Saturday at the Masonic Temple, 883 Blue Lakes Blvd. N. in Twin Falls.

Other elected officers are Shiann Johns, senior princess; Jessie Jensen, junior princess; Timi Craig, guide; and Jonny Smith, marshal. Appointed officers are Andrea Carr, chaplain; Jennifer Bemis, recorder; Katie Carr, treasurer; Hailey Everton, librarian; Tara McClymonds, musician; Kirsten Wright, first messenger; Haylee Crump, second messenger; Ashlee Jenkins,



Nicole Patrick Myers and Kristie Johnson, choir. Retiring Honored Queen Hailey Beida will serve as the installing officer. She will be assisted by Jennifer Bemis, Donna Braxce, Juinda Conrad, Gretchen-Manker, Robyn-Mason,

third messenger; Brianna Hanson, fifth messenger; Jessica Patrick, senior custodian; Corey Mason, junior custodian; Robyn N. Everton, outer guard; Jessica Myers and Kristie Johnson, choir. Retiring Honored Queen Hailey Beida will serve as the installing officer. She will be assisted by Jennifer Bemis, Donna Braxce, Juinda Conrad, Gretchen-Manker, Robyn-Mason, Cathy Talkington, Sara Jane Talkington, Sara Webster and Kirsten Wright.

"The Magic of Prayer" ceremony will be narrated by Peggy Kroll.

The Talkington family is the host family.

Melissa Sandoval will attend at the guest book, and Jason Keller will hand out programs.

The Honored Queen's project is the Humane Society.

The public is invited to the installation and reception.

For more information on joining Job's Daughters, call Peg Hamby, Bethel guardian, at 655-4287 or Kathy Crump, guardian secretary-735-1670.

Veterans of Foreign Wars essay winners are, from left to right, Larry Moore, Britni Brown, Erica Hoover and Jamie Van Patten.



Photo courtesy of MARY LUI POTTS

Buhl VFW recognizes essay winners

BUHL - Each year the Veterans of Foreign Wars sponsors an essay contest for students throughout the state.

The Patriot Pen category is for middle-school students and Voice for the Future is for the high school students.

The 3604th Buhl VFW Post recognized the students from Buhl, Castleford and Filer in both categories. The contestants start competition at the local level and can move to the district contest and, if chosen at district level, compete at state competition.

This year, Jamie Van Patten, a

freshman from Buhl High School, and Larry Moore, a junior from Filer High School, were declared winners. There were no entries from Castleford.

Both students' essays were sent to district where Moore won and is waiting results from the state competition.

"My Commitment to America's Future" was the theme this year, and Larry wrote his essay about the commitment that students make everyday in school by pledging allegiance to the flag, obeying the laws of the land and upholding the Constitution of the United States. Jamie based her essay on

education, being able to volunteer service to the community and trying to become an asset to the country to strengthen the future.

Britni Brown, a Filer seventh-grader, and Erica Hoover, a seventh-grader from Buhl, based their essays on the theme, "Dreams of America." Both students wrote about better environmental solutions, clean air, saving wildlife and better health for the nation as their dreams.

All four students received \$100 for their efforts and a chance to read their essays to friends and families at Lincoln Courts in Buhl.

STUDENTS HELPING OTHERS



For the fourth year in a row, the students at Jerome Middle School participated in a Christmas Community Project for the Northside Head Start center in Jerome.

Advisory classes collected money, and through the generosity of its students, Jerome Middle School purchased two commercial-grade tricycles. On Dec. 17, the Head Start students attended an assembly at the Jerome Middle School. They joined the student body in singing Christmas carols, received individual gift sacks and were presented the tricycles. The philosophy behind this annual project is to teach students the importance of giving back to their community, school officials report.

Photos courtesy of Jerome Middle School

SERVICE NEWS

Burley Marine's deployment includes assignment in Iraq

Marine Corps Lance Cpl. Andy De La Rosa Jr., son of Dianne and Andy De La Rosa of Burley, is on deployment while assigned to the 13th Marine Expeditionary Unit (MEU), home based in Camp Pendleton, Calif.

Members of De La Rosa unit recently completed operations in Iraq. The MEU conducted more than 300 patrols in southern Iraq, including 50 by the MEU's boat company. De La Rosa's unit also trained local police in the setup of security checkpoints, confiscated weapons and destroyed more than 2,000 rounds of ordnance,

much of which was found near villages and playgrounds. MEUs are composed of more than 2,000 personnel and are divided into an infantry battalion, aircraft squadron, support group and command element.

De La Rosa is a 2001 graduate of Burley High School and joined the Marine Corps in June 2001.

COMMUNITY EVENTS

German sausage supper is served in Paul

PAUL - The 41st annual German sausage supper will be held from 5-8 p.m. Tuesday at the Paul Congregational Church, 121 N. Second W. Paul.

The dinner will be served family style and all you can eat. A freewill offering will be taken at the door. German sausage will also be for sale by the pound.

The public is invited. For more information, call 438-5657.

Girl Scout cookies go on sale in the Magic Valley

TWIN FALLS - Magic Valley Girl Scouts cookies are on sale. The Girl Scouts took pre-orders for cookies earlier this month. Club members will start their door-to-door sales later this month, and in February, troops

will set up sale booths at participating businesses. This year's cookie selection will include favorites such as the Thin Mint and Samoa along with two new items, the Double Dutch Chocolate and the low-fat Lemon Cooler.

The annual cookie sale is the club's main fund-raiser with proceeds helping local troops with the purchase of badges, travel costs and event expenses. On the national front, cookie sales help fund programs and members who can't afford to pay club dues.

For more information, call 733-9623.

Wild game feed benefits peace officers

TWIN FALLS - The James Moulson Wild Game Feed will start with a no-host bar opening at

2:30 p.m. and dinner from 4:30 to 8 p.m. on Jan. 25 at the Rock Creek Restaurant in Twin Falls. Proceeds from this event will benefit law enforcement scholarships at the College of Southern Idaho and needs for peace officers.

Some of the wild game items to be served include Cantonese duck and pheasant, elk finger steaks, moose and deer sausage sausage, buffalo meatballs, fried rice and salad.

A silent auction and raffle will be held with tickets available for \$1 each. Dinner tickets are \$15 per person and must be purchased in advance at CSI, Dick's Pharmacy, Kelley Garden Center or the Rock Creek.

For more information on the dinner, call Bob Moulson at 732-6296, Carol Thomas at 733-3799, Stan Thomas at 734-4154 or

Shirley Noble at 734-8518.

CSI offers Japanese language, culture class

TWIN FALLS - The Community Education Center at the College of Southern Idaho is offering a zero-credit Japanese class, "Japan E-2" from 6:30-7:30 p.m. on Tuesdays, Jan. 27 to March 16 in the Shields building, room 107 on the CSI Campus. The instructor is Sandra Bosteder and the cost is \$75.

Students will experience the Japanese language and culture with an entertaining approach to learning. They will learn to read, write and say common phrases, introductions, numbers and some idioms.

For more information or to register, call 732-6290 or 732-6288.

CSI offers independent piano course this month

TWIN FALLS - The Community Education Center at the College of Southern Idaho is offering a new independent course, "Keyboards Kool n' Kwick (The Secrets of Quick Start Piano)," Feb. 2-26.

The cost is \$49 plus a \$30 materials fee for a workbook, audio CD and QuickStart video paid to instructor Patrick Hardman. Students will learn how to read music and play the piano, organ and synthesizer in a self-paced, distance-learning workshop. Little or no prior keyboard knowledge is required.

Topics covered will be keyboard geography, note reading of treble and bass clef, perfect rhythm, transposition and how to begin playing "by ear." Students will

have ongoing online or telephone contact with instructor during the course.

For more information, or to register, call 732-6290 or 732-6288.

Magic Valley square dancers hold potluck

TWIN FALLS - Magic Valley Square Dancers will have a potluck dinner at 7 p.m. on Tuesday at the American Legion Hall in Jerome. Square dancing will follow.

All square dancers are invited and asked to bring a potluck dish or dessert to share. A meat dish, rolls, coffee and table service are provided.

For the Jan. 27 dance, dancers with the last name beginning with A through G are to bring finger food and help with set-up and clean up.

SENIOR CALENDAR

Twin Falls Senior Center

530 Shoshone St. W.
Dinner served from noon to 12:30 p.m. Suggested donation is \$3.50 for seniors. The cost is \$5 for non-seniors under 60 and \$2.50 for children under 12.
Pool room open Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Lounge room available for television, puzzles and reading. Bargain Center will be open Mondays through Fridays, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Menus:
Monday: Pork with noodles, fried potatoes, cottage cheese with fruit, vegetables, rolls, pie
Tuesday: Baked potato bar
Wednesday: Fried chicken, mashed potatoes and gravy, mixed vegetables, pasta salad, bread, dessert
Thursday: Lasagna, green beans, tossed green salad, french bread, strawberry shortcake
Friday: Ham with beans, fried potatoes, vegetables, dish of fruit, cornbread, dessert

Activities:
Today: Dance, 2-5 p.m.
Monday: Quilting
Tuesday: Blood-pressure checks, 10 a.m. and 11:45 a.m.
Line dancing, 7 p.m.
Quilting
Wednesday: Quilting, Foot clinic
Elks card club
Board meeting, 1 p.m.
Thursday: Pinochle, 1 p.m.
Friday: Blood-pressure checks, 10:30-11:45 a.m.
Super bingo, 1 p.m.
Lunch bingo,
Quilting, 9 a.m. and 2:30 p.m.

West End Senior Citizens Inc.

1010 Main St., Buhl
Menus:
Today: Roast-pork dinner (all you can eat, \$4; \$4.50 for those under 60), 1 p.m.
Monday: Closed for Martin Luther King Day
Tuesday: Chicken-fried steak, mashed potatoes, carrots, salad, rolls, dessert
Wednesday: Chicken and rice, vegetables, salad, bread, dessert
Thursday: Meatloaf, au gratin potatoes, California-blend salad, muffins dessert

Activities:
Monday: Exercise, 10 a.m.
Cards, 6-9 p.m.
Tuesday: Quilting, 8 a.m.-3 p.m.
Crafts, 1-4 p.m.
Bingo, 7-9 p.m.
Wednesday: Exercise, 10 a.m.
Thursday: Quilting, 8 a.m.-3 p.m.
Friday: Exercise, 10 a.m.

Filer Senior Haven

222 Main St.
Diners served at noon on Tuesdays and Thursdays. Suggested donation: \$3 for seniors. Home-delivered meals are available each mealtime.

Menus:
Tuesday: Salisbury steak
Thursday: Roast beef

Jerome Senior Center

212 First Ave. E.
All dinners served at noon. Suggested donation is \$3.

Menus:
Monday: Beef stew, biscuits, tossed salad, fruit, cookies
Tuesday: Roast beef, mashed potatoes and gravy, spinach, fruit medley, zucchini bars
Wednesday: Chicken strips, macaroni and cheese, scalloped tomatoes, pickled beets, pineapple upside-down cake
Thursday: Swedish meatballs over rice, Italian vegetables, Jell-O with fruit, brownies
Friday: Barbecue ribs, baked beans, mixed vegetables, fruit salad, cake and ice cream

Activities:
Monday: Aerobics, 11 a.m.
Tuesday: Gem State Fiddlers, noon

Pinochle, 1 p.m.
Snack bar, 6 p.m.
Early-bird bingo, 6:45 p.m.
Bingo, 7 p.m.
Wednesday: Aerobics, 11 a.m.
Pinochle, 7 p.m.
Friday: Aerobics, 11 a.m.
Pinochle, 1 p.m.

Ageless Senior Citizens, Inc.

310 Main St. N., Kimberly
Menus:
Monday: Chicken patties, parley potatoes, peas, tossed green salad, biscuit, apple cobbler, coffee, milk
Wednesday: Taco salad, chips, salsa, fruit salad, cookies, pudding, coffee, milk
Friday: Oven-fried chicken, mashed potatoes and gravy, mashed potatoes, tossed green salad, rolls, cake, ice cream, coffee, milk

Gooding County Senior Citizens

308 Senior Ave.
All dinners are at noon. Suggested donation \$3 for seniors.

Menus:
Monday: Beef stew, cottage cheese with Jell-O, cornbread, cinnamon rolls
Tuesday: Farnesan casserole, noodles, green beans, salad, garlic bread, cake
Wednesday: Hamburger steaks, mashed potatoes and gravy, coleslaw, corn, bread, pudding
Thursday: Pit ham, scalloped potatoes, peas with pearl onions, rolls, oatmeal cake

Activities:
Monday: Pool, 9:30 a.m.
Pinochle, 12:30 p.m.
Tuesday: Pool, 9:30 a.m.
Pool, 1 p.m.
Bridge, 6:30 p.m.
Wednesday: Pool, 9:30 a.m.
Messages, 10:40 a.m.
Shuffleboard, 9 p.m.
Thursday: Quilting and sewing, 9 a.m.
Pool, 9:30 a.m.
Blood-pressure checks, 11 a.m.
TOPS, 4 p.m.
Pinochle, 7 p.m.
Friday: Bridge, 1 p.m.
Hand/foot clinic, 1 p.m.
Bowling, 1:30 p.m.
Bingo, 6 p.m.

Hagerman Senior Center

140 E. Lake
Open 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays. Lunch is served at noon and Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays. Suggested donation is \$3, non-seniors \$4 and children under 12, \$2.

Menus:
Monday: Baked potato bar
Tuesday: Potato roast, mashed potatoes and gravy
Friday: Cook's choice

Silver and Gold Senior Center

Eden
Suggested donations for seniors is \$3. All meals include salad, dessert, fruit, milk and coffee. Mondays are cookie and bread bake days and Wednesdays are cinnamon roll and maple bar bake days. Closed Monday for Martin Luther King Day.

Shoshone Senior Center

218 N. Rail St. W.
Menus:
Tuesday: Orange juice, liver and onions, fried potatoes, five-way mixed-vegetables, pear salad, cookies, milk, coffee
Wednesday: Orange juice, taco soup, deviled eggs, cornbread, cinnamon rolls
Friday: Orange juice, lasagna, tossed green salad, garlic sticks, pineapple upside-down cake, milk, coffee

Richfield Senior Center

Menus:
Monday: Orange juice, ham and beans, fried potatoes, rolls, tossed green salad, spice cake, milk, coffee
Thursday: Orange juice, cream of broccoli soup, tuna sandwiches, banana cream pie, milk, coffee

Blaine County Senior Center

721 Third Ave. S., Halley
Menus:
Tuesday: Lasagna, spinach salad, Italian green beans, but-

tereded garlic bread, white cake with chocolate sauce
Wednesday: Baked potato bar with chili, salad bar, hot rolls, peaches, banana pudding
Friday: Fried chicken with gravy, mashed potatoes, broccoli, cauliflower and carrots with cheese sauce, tossed green salad, biscuits, apple pie, ice cream

Activities:
Monday: Trip to Wal-Mart in Jerome, 9 a.m.
Tuesday: Reflexology, 10 a.m.
Exercise, 1:30 p.m.
Wednesday: CSI 60-and-over fitness class, old Wood River High School building, 9 a.m.-2 p.m.
Poetry group, 12:30 p.m.
Thursday: Exercise, 1:30 p.m.
Saturday: CSI 60-and-over fitness class, 9 a.m.

Three Island Senior Center

492 E. Cleveland Ave., Glenns Ferry
Meals served at noon Monday, Tuesday and Thursday, beverages with meals. Rides are available by phone to the center at 366-2051. Suggested donation is \$3 for seniors, \$5 for non-seniors under 60, and \$2.50 for children under 12.

Menus:
Monday: Potluck (6 p.m.)
Tuesday: Crispy fish, potato wedges, spinach, apples, yams
Thursday: Baked chicken, mashed potatoes and gravy, California-mixed vegetables, carrot/raisin salad, cake and ice cream
Saturday: Pancake breakfast (7:30-10 a.m.), with breakfast meats, hashbrowns, eggs, pancakes, biscuits and gravy and beverages (\$3)

Activities:
Tuesday: Crafts, 5-8 p.m.
Friday: TOPS, 9 a.m.

Camas County Senior Center

127 E. Willow, Fairfield
Noon meals are served Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Fridays. The center is open from 9-2 on meal days. The cost of the meal for non-seniors is \$3.50; children under 10 are \$2.00. The suggested donation for those 60 years of age and older is \$2.50.

Menus:
Tuesday: Beef stew, biscuits, tossed green salad, fruit, pudding
Wednesday: Sausage gravy on noodles, peas, carrots, salad, Jell-O
Friday: Meatloaf, mashed potatoes, zucchini, tossed green salad, birthday cake

Activities:
Monday: Art class, 9 a.m.
Weight-loss group, 7 p.m.
Tuesday: Pool 10:30 a.m.-2 p.m.
Quilting, 9 a.m.-2 p.m.
Wednesday: Pool, 10:30 a.m.-2 p.m.
Quilting, 9 a.m.-2 p.m.
Thursday: Quilting, 1-3 p.m.
Friday: Pool, 10:30 a.m.-2 p.m.
Quilting, 9 a.m.-2 p.m.

Minidoka County Senior Citizens Center

702 11th St., Rupert
Meals are served at noon and home delivered upon request.

Juice and assorted beverages are served every day with meals. Gift shop hours are Monday through Friday, 9 a.m.-3 p.m.

Menus:
Monday: Assorted salad, cheeseburgers, french fries, cobbler
Tuesday: Meatloaf, mashed potatoes, vegetables, biscuits, cherry pie
Wednesday: Birthday, anniversary dinner
Thursday: Cottage cheese, taco salad, Texas toast, mousse
Friday: Smorgasbord

Activities:
Today: Trip to Jackpot, 10 a.m. (\$10 per person)
Monday: Quilting, 9 a.m.-3 p.m.
Pool, 9 a.m.-3 p.m.
Pinochle, 1 p.m.
Tuesday: Quilting, 9 a.m.-3 p.m.

Pool, 9 a.m.-3 p.m.
Wednesday: Quilting, 9 a.m.-3 p.m.
Pool, 9 a.m.-3 p.m.
Pinochle, 1 p.m.
Thursday: Quilting, 9 a.m.-3 p.m.
Pool, 9 a.m.-3 p.m.
SHIBA assistance, 10 a.m.-4 p.m.
Friday: Quilting, 9 a.m.-3 p.m.
Pool, 9 a.m.-3 p.m.
Pinochle, 1 p.m.
Bingo, 7 p.m.

Golden Heritage Senior Center

2421 Overland Ave., Burley
Menus:
Monday: Closed for Martin Luther King Day
Tuesday: Barbecue-rib sandwiches, potato soup, fruit salad, mocha bars
Wednesday: Sweet 'n sour chicken, rice, broccoli, Clara's

salad, rolls, apple pie
Thursday: Spaghetti, Jell-O, rolls, beans, apricot crisp
Friday: Meatloaf, baked potatoes, green beans, dinner rolls, salad, cherry cheesecake.)

Activities:
Monday: Closed for Martin Luther Day
Tuesday: All-play pool, 10 a.m.
Exercise, 11:15 a.m.
Dinner, 10 a.m.
Computer class
Bingo, 7 p.m.
Wednesday: All-play pool, 10 a.m.
Exercise, 11:15 a.m.
Pinochle, 1 p.m.
Thursday: All-play pool, 10 a.m.
Exercise, 11:15 a.m.
Organ lessons
Night pinochle, 7 p.m.
Friday: All-play pool, 10 a.m.
Exercise, 11:15 a.m.
Pinochle, 1 p.m.
Bingo, 1 p.m.



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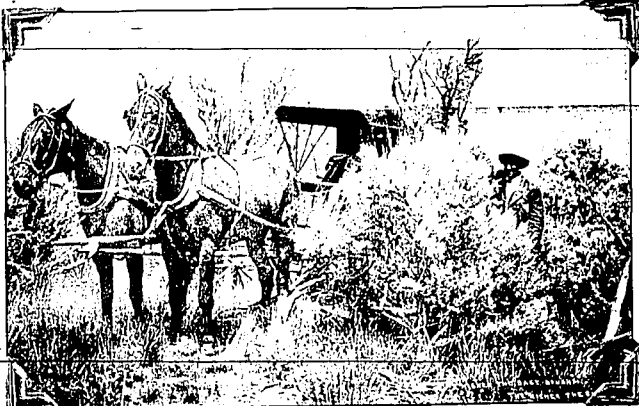
The Times-News

Page B-6

Early settlers had to 'prove up'

Rosalia Bohrer, who lived with a family "proving up" near Buhl in 1905, wrote the following to a friend:

"I am sitting on a bag of alfalfa seed in an unpainted cabin 12 x 14 feet, in the midst of a sun-baked plain covered by low sagebrushes, the inhabitants of which are a few jackrabbits, a temporary plover, horned toads, coyotes, an occasional rattlesnake, and some of the finest prairie from various parts of the United States that it has ever been my good fortune to meet. ... The country is covered with hundreds of temporary shanties in the sagebrush. Gradually the face of the landscape changes and the magic touch of water enables one to look across a country as green as ... Wisconsin ... and much more productive."



Paul Bickel amidst some cute little Idaho 'trees.'

Photo courtesy of Twin Falls Public Library



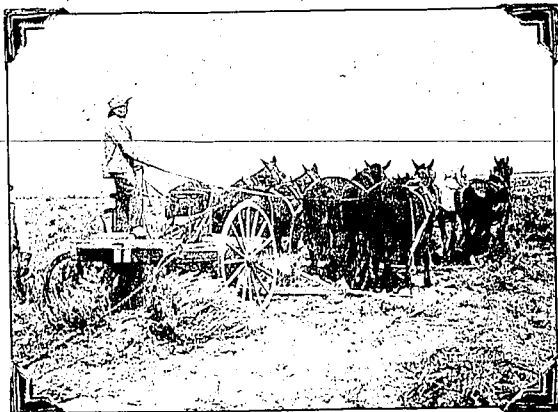
TALES OF THE TRACT James Varley

The Carey Act, under whose provisions the Twin Falls tract came into being, required the settler to establish residence on their land within six months of being notified that water was ready for delivery. Within a year of such notice, a 16th of the parcel had to be cleared and cultivated. And, within three years, an eighth had to be cultivated and "final proof" made.

This final step required the entryman to do "30 days in the sagebrush" - live on the land with his family for a month - and then to publish declarations, in the newspaper, of having met the law's requirements. After this, the state applied to the settler's patent to the land.

Proving up was no picnic. At the time, the area was covered with sagebrush, mostly from 1 to 5 feet in height. A young Philadelphia woman, while crossing on a train just before the tract opened, is said to have remarked: "I think Idaho is perfectly lovely - the whole country is covered with the cutest little trees. ... Won't it look grand when they all grow up?"

Unfortunately for the settlers, these "trees" had to be removed, or "grubbed off," before the land could be leveled and a crop planted. Using a grub hoe, a man could clear about half an acre a day. A horse-drawn plow, with its moldboards removed, could clear



Grubbing sagebrush on the Twin Falls Tract.

6 to 12 acres. Those with the money could buy a grubbing machine, which cut the sagebrush roots beneath the surface of the soil.

There were also professionals, such as the Johnson Grubber Co., who would do the job for about \$4.50 per acre. Ira Perrine and H.L. Hollister owned a contract grubbing rig pulled by a steam traction engine that burned sagebrush to fire its boiler. Their outfit could clear about 40 acres a day.

After grubbing, the brush was raked into long rows about 20 feet apart. Some people kept the fast-burning material for heating and cooking - if there were enough children in the family to keep the fire going. But most set the rows afire, generally in the evening, when the glow of the many brazes could be seen in all directions across the plain.

The entryman's prove-up home was supposed to be a fit habitation for a family, but the rule was not strictly enforced. Usually

these "houses" were merely tents, lean-tos or shacks. Only half jokingly, the story was told of a young bachelor who was afraid to sleep in or near his prove-up hut, for fear it might collapse.

Occasionally the shacks were stolen. And, in a number of cases, they were found to be situated on someone else's property and had to be dragged to where they belonged. In one instance, a train was stopped by a farmer who, in moving his house, had gotten it stuck on the tracks,

Coming to Idaho - 'The colonies'
In most cases, the man of a family arrived on the tract first, built a temporary home and then went back to his old home for the women and children. Usually, the family would arrive with its livestock, household goods and implements loaded in one or more "emigrant" railroad cars. Before the railroad came to Twin Falls, all the family's possessions then had to be hauled in wagons from the rail terminals at Shoshone or Hinama. Bids of a feather tended to flock together. The most notable example was in the Filer area, originally known as "Sucker Flat" because so many new residents there were from Illinois, the Sucker State. John H. Crocker, a grain dealer from Macon, Ill., was treasurer of the Twin Falls Investment Co., and it was he who first induced others from Illinois to come to Sucker Flat, beginning in September 1904. Before long, the town of Filer, as well as a school district and small community called Mesoa, came into being. Near Buhl, another group from Illinois formed the "Ottawa Colony," named for their old hometown. Many new settlers from northern Idaho congregated on what was dubbed "Coeur d'Alene Ridge," northwest of Filer and just east of Cedar Rav. The principal men involved in drawing this cluster of families were A.D. McKinlay and Alfred Page. Many of the northern Idaho men were former miners and, reportedly, one of the first things they did upon arriving was to check for mineral-bearing rocks on their lands.

Proving up was no picnic. At the time, the area was covered with sagebrush, mostly from 1 to 5 feet in height. A young Philadelphia woman, while crossing on a train just before the tract opened, is said to have remarked: "I think Idaho is perfectly lovely - the whole country is covered with the cutest little trees. ... Won't it look grand when they all grow up?"

despite having three teams tugging at the lead.

Living conditions on those first farms were tough. There were rattlesakes up to 5 feet long to contend with. One pioneer woman came across one with "about steen rattles on his tail," which were singing in a "high minor key." The rattler struck at the lady, but she kept a safe distance, got a revolver and killed the serpent with three shots.

Then there was the ever-present dust from all the land clearing. Though dishes and implements were stored upside down, dirt was said to be on the bill of fare at every meal. It didn't help that water was hard to obtain.

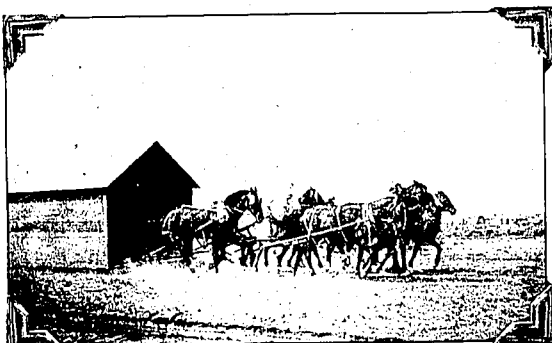
For the first several years, there were no wells on the tract, except a few shallow ones dug along the banks of Crook Creek. Many entrymen had to haul their water in barrels for miles, from the creek or the river. Later, most farm families took their domestic water directly out of canal lat-

erals, filtered it through a trough of fine gravel and stored it in cone-shaped cisterns. A typical cistern was about 10 feet deep and 8 feet in diameter, and had its interior plastered with sand and cement, or lined with brick or lava rock.

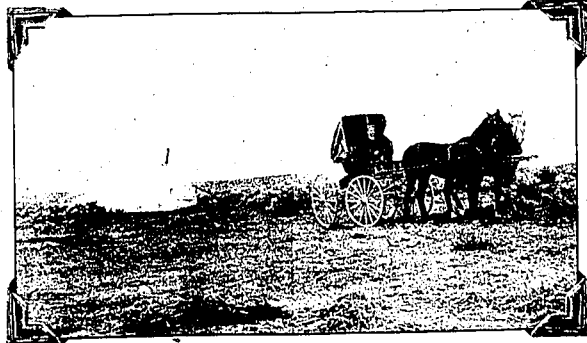
Despite all the hardships, these early settlers were optimistic about the future, as shown by this little verse that appeared in the newspaper, about the time water first came on the tract:

*For genital showers you need not wait
You only have to hoist the gate,
And let the waters overflow
Our valleys rich in Idaho.*

James Varley's newspaper columns will be collected in a book titled "Tales of the Tract: The Beginnings of Twin Falls, Idaho and the Magic Valley." The release date was moved up to Feb. 1. The Twin Falls Public Library Foundation will sell Varley's book at the library, for \$19.95.



Far left, moving a prove-up shack.



Left, a prove-up tent on recently grubbed land.

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