

The Times-News

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Twin Falls, Idaho/99th year, No. 337

Thursday, December 2, 2004

50 cents

GOOD MORNING

WEATHER

Today: Early fog and light wind throughout the day. High 30, low 15.

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MAGIC VALLEY



Taking the edge off: Thanks to a couple of local women, military wives and moms got some much needed pampering Wednesday night.

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MONEY

Big groups: More travelers vacation with multiple generations, families.

Page E1

OUTDOORS



Wide open spaces: Buffalo and other beasts roam freely for the hunt on Wyoming ranch.

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SPORTS

Up and down: Hansen runs The Community School ragged.

Page B1

OPINION

Smoking haze: If Idaho wants a smoking ban, it should truly try to eliminate public smoking, today's editorial says.

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COMING UP

Comfort and joy

"The Messiah" is coming to Jerome and Twin Falls.

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III SATURDAY

DECEMBER 4

9:30 AM

AT THE ATMANAUA

'A matter of honor'

If lawmakers don't retire penny tax, Newcomb says the public will never trust Legislature again

The Associated Press

BOISE — For the past 18 months, Idaho residents and visitors have paid an extra penny in sales tax to help balance the state budget.

Although many taxpayers have barely noticed they are paying six cents instead of five on every dollar they spend on merchandise, legislative leaders are determined to retire the penny increase as scheduled June 30, 2005.

"Allowing the one cent sales

tax to sunset is a matter of honor as far as the Legislature is concerned," House Speaker Bruce Newcomb said Wednesday.

"If we don't, the people of Idaho will never trust the Legislature again."

The Burley Republican made his remarks at a lunchtime gathering of hundreds of state and local politicians, lobbyists and business leaders attending the 58th Annual Associated Taxpayers of Idaho Conference.

The meeting is the unofficial

kickoff of every legislative session, which begins meeting full time next month.

Lawmakers tend to overemphasize how harshly ordinary people view the temporary tax hike, said Boise State University political scientist Jim Weatherly, who also attended the conference.

According to the university's Idaho public policy poll last year, 64 percent of respondents said they thought the amount of sales tax they pay was "about right."



Rep. Bruce Newcomb

Lami Lezha, a 52-year-old Albanian immigrant who cleans office buildings in downtown Boise, said she doesn't object to keeping the sales tax at six cents as long as the revenue is dedicated for programs like Medicaid, the government health plan for the poor.

"Six cents is not very much. It's no big deal, and people need their health," Lezha said. Health and welfare programs.

Please see TAX, Page A2.

AG will not help group with request

By Michelle Dunlop Times-News writer

BOISE — Despite the pleas from a group of downwinders, Idaho Attorney General Lawrence Wasden said Wednesday that he will not step into their fight with the federal government over nuclear fallout compensation.

"I think lawrence is very sympathetic to downwinders' cause," said Bob Cooper, a spokesman for attorney general. "He doesn't have the authority of law by which to act, even if he did, the federal government has sovereign immunity."

Cooper's statement, echoed the two major arguments for not complying with the group's request: "Let out" by Wasden's staff in a letter addressed to downwinders.

First, the attorney general doesn't represent private individuals, the letter said. Instead, the attorney general can file lawsuits against private corporations that benefit individuals when those corporations violate consumer protection laws.

"Folks think that public officials have more discretion than they do," Cooper said.

According to the letter, even if the attorney general had the authority to represent individuals, the case would likely be dropped due to legislation protecting the federal government from such suits.

Filing a suit would simply be "an exercise in futility," Cooper said.

At least one person in the group who requested the attorney general's help expressed disappointment over Wasden's response. Long-time advocate of nuclear fallout victims, Dr. Peter Beckards, found Wasden's letter "inexcusable."

"I did expect the attorney general to direct Beckards' said. "The key omission was his refusal to propose a legislative way or constitutional amendment to prevent the federal government from stalling nuclear fallout at its own expense."

The attorney general could draft legislation to get around Please see DOWNWINDERS, Page A2

GETTING REACQUAINTED



Two California bighorn sheep break toward Thunder Mountain near Albion Wednesday as they were reintroduced by Idaho Fish and Game to an area the species once inhabited. Eleven sheep were released Wednesday, with 26 more expected during the next two weeks.

Bighorns storm up Thunder Mountain

By Michelle Dunlop Times-News writer

ALMO — Fog and a light sprinkling of snow cover Thunder Mountain in a veil of tranquility.

However, the creaking of a grey horse-trailer door grumbling open again breaks the quiet of the early Wednesday morning. Positioned on top of the trailer, Mark Drew, a veterinarian for Idaho Fish and Game, hastily raises a dark brown tarp.

Brokaw says farewell to his 'NBC Nightly News' viewers

NEW YORK (AP) — After bringing viewers the news for nearly 23 years, NBC anchor Tom Brokaw signed off Wednesday expressing gratitude for what he got in return.

"Thanks for all that I have learned from you," he said at the end of his final "Nightly News" broadcast, his voice wavering just a bit. "That's been my richest reward."

Brokaw reminded his audience how "we've been through a lot together, through dark days and nights, and seasons of hope and joy."

"Whatever the story, I had only one objective: to get it right," he said, adding he was "always mindful that your patience and attention didn't come with a lifetime warranty."

"Making good on an exit plan announced in May 2002, Brokaw, 64, is stepping away from daily journalism to pursue his varied other interests, including more time on his Montana ranch.

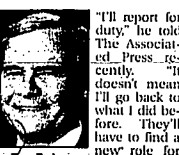
But his NBC association will continue under an agreement to host at least three documentaries a year.

Bighorn Sheep reintroductions in south-central Idaho

- 2000: Idaho Fish and Game relocated 30 California bighorn sheep to the Jim Sage mountain range.
- 2001: Another 15 animals were released in the Jim Sage.
- 2003: The Albion mountain range became home to 13 California bighorn sheep.
- 2004: A total of 37 sheep will be reintroduced to the Albion range.

"Ten seconds stretch on, for what feels like an eternity. Where are they? Before the question can be

Brokaw says farewell to his 'NBC Nightly News' viewers



Tom Brokaw

"I'll report for duty," he told The Associated Press recently. "It doesn't mean I'll go back to what I did before. They'll have to find a new role for me."

While Brokaw was saying his good-byes, Peter Jennings was praising him on ABC as "a competitor in the best sense, which in our trade means, when he beats us on a story, it is usually the result of enterprise."

Over on CBS, Dan Rather said, "For more than 30 years, I have known Tom as friend, and competitor who has earned the respect of his audience, and his colleagues, myself included."

Then to Brian Williams, Rather added, "Welcome to the neighborhood."

Williams, long groomed as Brokaw's successor, takes over "Nightly News" with Thursday's broadcast.

He begins at the top of the ratings, where "Nightly News" has reigned since 1997.

Campaigners spotlight need to protect women, girls from AIDS

GENEVA (AP) — From Armenia to Zambia, thousands of activists turned out to sing in mighty cathedrals, light candles in city squares and march and hold dance-athons on World AIDS Day as the United Nations focused on protecting women and girls, often sidelined in the fight against the disease.

Nearly half the 39.4 million people infected with HIV worldwide are female, U.N. Secretary-General Kofi Annan said in three-quarters of all HIV-positive women live in sub-Saharan Africa. About 57 percent of the adults with HIV are women, he said.

"The number of women living with HIV is on the rise in every region. Today the face of AIDS is increasingly young and female," said Peter Piot, head of UNAIDS.

"Prevention methods such as

Infection rates unchanged in U.S.

See page A3

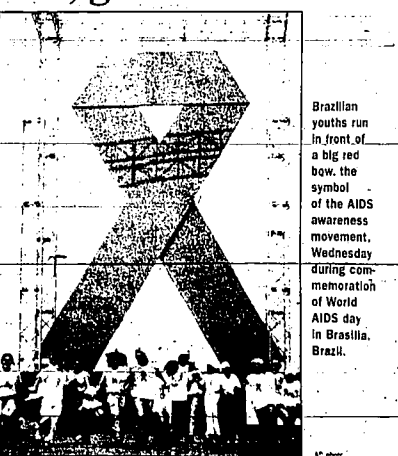
creature's eyes as it frantically calculates its next move.

Spectators and Fish and Game officials form a human blockade to the sheep's right.

To the left, the snowy, rocky slopes of Thunder Mountain beckon.

The bighorn makes a wise decision and heads for its new home in the Albion mountain range. Within 30 seconds the last of the sheep jumps out of the trailer and follows its companions into the mountains.

Please see SHEEP, Page A2



Braslian youths run in front of a big red bow, the symbol of the AIDS awareness movement, Wednesday during commemoration of World AIDS day in Brasilia, Brazil.

Prevention methods such as

Please see AIDS, Page A2

TWIN FALLS FORECAST

Today: Early fog followed by low fog... Tonight: Mostly clear... Tomorrow: Light and lake areas of fog...

BURLEY/RUPERT FORECAST

Today: Light fog followed by low fog... Tonight: Mostly clear... Tomorrow: Light and lake areas of fog...

IDAHO'S FORECAST

SUN VALLEY SURROUNDING MTS. There will be a low mountain snow shower...



Yesterday's State Extremes: 34 in Lewiston, Low: 9 in McCall...

TWIN FALLS FIVE-DAY FORECAST

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

ALMANAC - TWIN FALLS

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

REGIONAL FORECAST

NATIONAL FORECAST

Large table with multiple columns for regional and national forecasts, including city names and weather conditions.

CANADIAN FORECAST

TODAY'S NATIONAL MAP



CREDIT EXPRESS logo and contact information: We can help you! (208) 736-0599 or 404-1701.

Interior assistant who oversaw water policy in West resigns

Benjamin Bailey, architect of the Bush administration's western water policies for the past three years, Wednesday announced he was leaving his job as assistant secretary of interior-water and science.

Downwinders

The federal government's immunity from lawsuits, Rickards said, more importantly, it is the federal government from repeating another fallout situation.

Jury is selected for actor's trial

Los Angeles Times. LOS ANGELES — An air-conditioning technician, retired librarian and postal worker were among those selected Wednesday to decide whether actor Robert Blake is guilty of killing his wife.

AIDS

Continued from A1. The ABC approach — Abstinence, Be faithful and use Condoms — has not been enough to protect women where gender inequality is pervasive.

Tax

Continued from A1. And Medicaid in particular, are the state budget's fastest growing expenses, Medicaid is funded with state and federal tax dollars.

Sheep

Continued from A1. While the release of the 11 highborns — two rams, eight ewes and one lamb — took less than a couple minutes, the effort behind their reintroduction consumed a vast quantity of time and involved numerous government agencies, special interest groups, and private individuals.

Circulation information for Times-News, including contact details for Daniel Walock, Director of Circulation.

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

IDAHO LOTTERY advertisement with details on ticket prices and prizes.

Former Bush official indicted in phone-jamming

CONCORD, N.H. (AP) — President Bush's former New England campaign chairman was indicted Thursday on charges he took part in the jamming of the Democrats' get-out-the-vote phone lines on Election Day 2002.

James John, 41, stepped down Oct. 15 after the Democrats accused him of involvement. At the time, he called the allegations "without merit."

In 2002, six phone lines run by the Democrats and the Manchester Indignities union were tied up for 2.5 hours by 800 computer-generated hang-up calls.

Federal prosecutors said John and other Republicans hired a company to make the calls to disrupt the organizations' get-out-the-vote efforts.

John was charged with conspiracy to commit telephone

harassment and aiding and abetting of telephone harassment. He could get up to five years in prison.

Calls to John's lawyer and representatives of both parties were not immediately returned.

At the time of the jamming, John was Northeast political director for the Republican Senatorial Committee, the party operation working to elect Republicans to the Senate.

Spice up your life with the Food & Home section, every Wednesday in The Times-News

Magic Valley Mall Holiday Hours 11/28 thru 12/4

	SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
Mall Stores	11-6	10-9	10-9	10-9	10-9	10-9	10-10
Santa (Center Court)	12-6	2:30-7:30	2:30-7:30	2:30-7:30	2:30-7:30	2:30-7:30	11-7

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The Times-News

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EDITORIAL

Legislators need to come clean on a real smoke ban

One year after passing the state's first smoking ban, members of the Idaho Legislature say they have some clearing up to do.

The Idaho Clean Indoor Act that went into effect last July prohibits smoking in all public places. Well, almost all public places. For some odd reasons, the law, introduced by Sen. Brent Hill, R-Exburg, included some exceptions. Among them were:

- A loophole to allow smoking in bowling alleys, but not in pool halls.
- A ban on smoke in all restaurants and cafes, but no ban for smoking in bars and taverns.

• An exemption that allows smoking in "buildings owned and operated by social, fraternal or religious organizations."

It's that last exemption that's been abused freely by some bars that serve food. These bar-restaurants get around the ban by turning the establishment into a private club. Members pay a minimal fee for the chance to eat, drink and light up, while the club keeps its liquor license and its niche as a haven for smokers.

But now, Hill and other legislators say those loopholes need to be closed. And for the most part, we have to agree. If Idaho wants a smoking ban, it should quit parsing the meaning of "public place" and just ban all indoor smoking.

That means no smoking in any establishment that serves food or drink — regardless of its club status. It also means dropping the ridiculous notion that a

bowling alley should cater to smokers. When you consider all the teenagers and young kids who enjoy bowling these days, it's puzzling why the loophole existed in the first place.

But even with these new steps, Hill and other legislators are still thinking up exceptions to the ban. Veterans' groups opposed the inclusion of veterans' homes in the smoking ban. Their reasoning is that government shouldn't take away vets' smoking habit, when it was the government that introduced cigarettes to soldiers in their ration kits during World War II and the Korean War.

Hill says he's welcome to making that exemption for veterans, which is a genuine gesture to that group. But again, it proves just how messy a smoking ban can be when you make exceptions.

Furthermore, if you ask Twin Falls Dr. David McCusky, a major supporter who helped pass the smoking ban last year, trying to amend the smoking ban could mean jeopardizing it.

"If bowling alleys and vets' homes are brought up again, you risk losing the whole bill," McCusky said in a Department of Health and Welfare hearing in August. "It's the tobacco industry's plan to slip these little things in to kill this bill. The tobacco industry is the evil one, not this bill."

It's all tricky politics, to be sure. But if the Legislature truly wants to ban smoking in public, it should quit making exemptions that cloud the intent. Otherwise its efforts are going to get burned.



The economy of anti-Americanism

Major foreign policy differences, especially regarding the wars in Afghanistan and Iraq, have contributed to the deterioration of relationships between the United States and our traditional allies in Western Europe.

There can be no doubt that since European leaders renounced the Bush administration on Iraq in order to provide lateral support to the Kerry campaign, with the Bush victory, however, Europe may choose the wiser path of mending fences with Washington.

Yet an anti-American spirit has been unleashed in the European streets and it will be difficult to tame, not only because of foreign policy but also because of economics. Poor economic performance in Europe feeds a politics of resentment, and the scapegoat has been the United States.

In 2000, the European Union launched the ambitious Lisbon process, a reform agenda enabling the EU to become "the most competitive and dynamic, knowledge-based economy in the world, capable of sustainable economic growth, creating more and better jobs and greater social cohesion" by the year 2010.

Lisbon was also a declaration of competition with the United States for global economic primacy. A high-level commission

headed by former Dutch Prime Minister Wim Kok recently determined, however, that European economic performance was deeply disappointing. The gap with the United States has been growing larger, and the Lisbon goals are further away than ever.

Third-quarter growth in the United States was reported at 3.7 percent, a figure eliciting disappointment because it was lower than some had expected. Compare this, however, with the euro economies, where growth in 2004 may only reach 1.8 percent and is predicted to climb at most to a breathtaking 1.9 percent in 2005.

Why is growth so slow? The Koks report blames politicians for failing to carry out necessary reforms.

The inability to reform — in the labor market, in impediments to trade, and in the social welfare network — is precisely where the problem of anti-Americanism enters.

Efforts to deregulate and liberalize the economy are easily tagged with negative labels: "French pundits denounce them as 'Anglo-Saxon'; German politicians shun them as the feared 'American

conditions." Although Europe urgently needs structural reform, it hides behind the smoke screen of anti-Americanism, which is really anti-capitalism. Rejecting America because of capitalism, however, means repressing the European tradition of free market, that stems from Adam Smith to Friedrich von Hayek.

Many Europeans believe that their slow economy is the price they must pay for their elaborate welfare state. This, however, turns out to be an illusion.

A recent study by the Austrian Labor Council shows that the portion of GDP devoted to the social safety net is greater in the United States than it is in Europe; although European states generously pay out more in welfare benefits, they take much more back through higher tax rates.

At the end of the day, anti-Americanism as a block to economic reform inhibits European prosperity. The more Europeans demonstrate, the farther they fall behind. Goodbye to Lisbon.

Russell A. Bernan is a senior fellow at the Hoover Institution and the Walter A. Haas Professor in the Humanities at Stanford University. He is the author of "Anti-Americanism in Europe: A Cultural Problem" (2004).

The ethical decision with re-gifting

This week, "Scinfeld" fans eagerly greeted the re-lease on DVD of the first three seasons of their beloved show. Among the episodes not making their digital bow is "The Label Maker" from Season Six, which gave us a lesson in the concept of giving to another person a gift we had just received: re-gifting. This episode is proof, if we needed it, that the show is not about nothing, as Jerry Seinfeld once put it, but about something quite significant: the ethics of friendship.

BRUCE WEINSTEIN

As the busiest gift-giving time of the year approaches, and many of us wonder what to do with the unwanted presents we get, it is worth considering the moral question raised by this episode: Is it right to re-gift?

A gift is a symbol of what a relationship means to us. The most meaningful gifts meet the needs or satisfy the desires of the recipient. A gift should be about pleasing the other person, not showing off the taste, wealth or power of the giver. We should give with the other person, not ourselves, in mind.

Still, a friend, colleague or even family member who knows us well on occasion might buy us something that is the last thing we'd buy for ourselves. People in long-term relationships can be surprised by the choices in clothes, music or gadgets that their beloved makes.

Re-gifting presents an apparent ethical dilemma because we have a duty not to hurt the feelings of the gift giver. But we also rightly feel that it's wasteful not to use something that might benefit someone else. After all, some people like orange and red sweaters, or the complete recorded works of Wayne Newton, or fruitcake.

The best solution to this dilemma is to fulfill all of the responsibilities before we give. Re-gifting avoids waste and repays a debt of gratitude we owe to someone else, but it presents the risk that the original giver will be hurt if she or he discovers what we did.

If we prepare the following guidelines for re-gifting:

- Don't use the gift.
- Re-gift soon, so that you don't risk re-gifting to the original giver.
- Ensure that the new recipient doesn't know the original giver or is unlikely to run into him or her.

If there is a possibility that the original giver could learn about the re-gifting or if he or she expects to see you wearing the gift, consider asking for permission first, after letting him or her know how much you appreciate the thought behind the present. The person who understands that a gift is intended to be pleasing will understand. Only someone with a fragile sense of self will be offended by such a request. If this describes the giver, either exercise extreme caution in re-gifting or wear the gift yourself once or twice.

As long as the person who bestowed the unwelcome gift doesn't mind or won't find out, you can re-gift with a clear conscience, knowing that you have fulfilled your responsibilities as a friend and as a decent human being. Besides, you can bet that at least one of the gifts you'll soon receive was intended for someone else — not that there's anything wrong with that.

Bruce Weinstein is an ethics analyst for CNN.

The Times-News

Brad Hurd... Publisher Chris Steinbach... Editor
The members of the editorial board and writers of editorials are Brad Hurd, Chris Steinbach, Steve Crump and David Cooper.

Getting in touch

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

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

Rep. Mike Simpson
In Twin Falls, call or write: Charlie Barnes, agriculture field director
1201 Falls Ave. E., suite 25
Twin Falls, ID 83301
734-7219; Fax 734-7244
In Washington: 1339 Longworth Building
Washington, D.C. 20515
Phone: (202) 225-5531
Fax: (202) 225-8216
Access Simpson's e-mail through his Webpage: <http://www.house.gov/simpson>

Sen. Larry Craig
In Twin Falls, call or write: Mike Matthews, regional director
560 Filer Ave., Suite A
Twin Falls, ID 83301
734-6280; Fax 734-3905
In Washington: 520 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510
(202) 224-2752
e-mail: http://craig.senate.gov/email

Public should know where Wal-Mart builds

I've been reading the recent Times-News articles about a possible Twin Falls Wal-Mart with great interest. I am a planning and zoning commissioner in a Utah city, and I thought I had seen it all, but this takes the cake.

I understand that a Realtor would want to disclose a possible sale of a valuable piece of land, but since the news is out that Wal-Mart is the buyer, the Realtor should, in good faith, reveal the location. If the Realtor did not leak the Wal-Mart information, I apologize. However, since the news is out, citizens should have a right to know. If the citizens want a Wal-Mart, then that's great; if not, then Wal-Mart can move on without purchasing a piece of property that it may never be able to develop.

If Wal-Mart and the Realtor truly care about Twin Falls rather than the bottom line, then they should seek the public's opinion. After all, the likelihood of good city planning and zoning efforts is public input. People have the right to develop their property but not at the expense of the greater public good.

DEREK BYRNE
Lehi, Utah
(Editor's note: The disclosure that Wal-Mart is searching for land to purchase in Twin Falls came from a Times-News re-

LETTERS

porter's question to a local Realtor)

America must recognize immigrant contributions

I am writing about the complaints regarding Hispanics getting all these free benefits.

What has happened to the people of Magic Valley? Why does it matter whether some of those people are illegal? They're human too, and we need to see them as such! I have forgotten that the United States is made up of immigrants, that it would not be the great country it is today if it wasn't for all their hard work? We are so used to slitting back and resping the benefits; we have such an easy life.

None of us today work anywhere near as hard as the early pioneers. I was born in Mexico, but I became a citizen in 1987. I'm grateful to my parents who came to this country and worked jobs that no one else would do. I think it's time that we started appreciating people from other countries and quit complaining.

LINDA LYDAY
Buhl

Beware of religion's influence on government

From JFK's famous speech about religion and politics, "I believe in an America where separations of church and state

is absolute, where no Catholic prelate would tell the president (should he be Catholic) how to act, and no Protestant minister would tell his parishioners for whom to vote, where no church or church-school is granted any public funds or political preference... I believe in an America that is officially neither Catholic, nor Protestant nor Jewish, where no public official either requests accepts instructions on public policy from the Pope, the National Council of Churches or any other ecclesiastical source, where no religious body seeks to impose its will directly or indirectly upon the general populace or the public acts of its officials."

God did not assign us to any religious denomination. He gave us a brain that we cannot fill. The more we learn, the easier it is to learn more. He is not a baby sitter. We are expected to act responsibly. When the government controls the wealth and destiny of our nation, it is because the masses allow it. If we do not accept or responsibility to act responsibly, we are doomed to the will of the rich.

They manage the government so that they do not have to pay their fair share to live and prosper in this nation. Get involved! Demand that our country is a government of the people and for the people as it was meant to be and not beholden to anyone but the people.

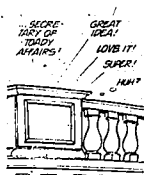
MATT SMITH
Twin Falls

Doonesbury

By Garry Trudeau

Mallard Fillmore

By Bruce Tinsley



OPINION

Florida Dem sides with Boy Scouts over ACLU

In their collective group-therapy sessions, Democrats would pay attention to how their only major officeholder in the nation's key battleground state is trying to survive politically.

Sen. Bill Nelson, the sole statewide-elected Democrat in Florida, has decided that one way to get re-elected in 2006 is to side with the Boy Scouts against gays and the American Civil Liberties Union.

Seems an obvious choice to me, but one assumes in Democratic circles it has caused much angst. However, Nelson is just learning from the master: William Jefferson Clinton, who had the genius to confront Democratic interest groups when they stood between him and the middle class — and victory at the polls.

There are many of the folks who fret about the Bush economy and worry about the war in Iraq or think the country is on the wrong track, but don't think Democrats share their values. That's why George W. Bush is in the White House and the Republicans control Congress.

Nelson understands that millions of Americans think the Democrats often hang with the wrong crowd and that, in the inevitable political caustic, the party has made poor choices because of those friendships.

He realizes the best way to dis-entangle voters of that notion, at least in his case, is to publicly embrace a sworn enemy of those very same interest groups. That's why Nelson is trying to help the Scouts resist efforts by the loony left to restrict the groups' ability to function.

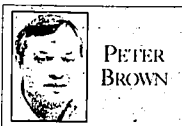
And let's not be overly cynical here. The political benefits to Nelson are apparent to anyone with a brain, but he deserves credit, too, for defying the Scouts' good works make them worth championing.

The U.S. Supreme Court has told the ACLU it can't make Scouts accept homosexual members and that, in the inevitable political caustic, the party has made poor choices because of those friendships.

Earlier this month, the Pentagon agreed to warn its military bases not to directly sponsor Scout troops. The military did it to settle an allegation that the government was engaging in religious discrimination because Scouts must acknowledge the existence of a (nonsectarian) supreme being.

In the ACLU worldview, that is a gross violation of the rights of atheists, and, perhaps more important, it symbolizes a mentality the group would like to see banished from our shores.

At times, Nelson has not always been the sharpest crayon in the box. But he gets an A for understanding his constituents — the same folks Democrats need to win national elections. He is aware, for instance, that when the United Way dropped the Scouts, its donations suffered. But, most of all, he instinctively understands who Joe and Jill Six-pack see as the good guys in this argument.



PETER BROWN

Nelson says that if the resolution doesn't work, he'll get the support enacted into law. Nelson is taking a page from the gospel of winning elections in the South laid down by Clinton.

In 1992, Clinton picked a fight with Jesse Jackson to demonstrate his independence from black leaders who historically have been strong Democratic supporters, but whose politics and personalities have often alienated the much larger number of white voters.

Nelson knows that when he comes up for re-election in two years, the Republicans will paint a bull's-eye on his forehead and try to make unanimous their control over every statewide elected position in Florida.

Well see if Democratic activists hold Nelson's cozing up to the Scouts against him. If they do, the Republicans will be thrilled to see even more Democratic political correctness. As they say in treatment, the first step toward rehabilitation is admitting the problem.

Peter A. Brown is an editorial page columnist for the Orlando Sentinel. Readers may write to him at pabrown@orlandosentinel.com.

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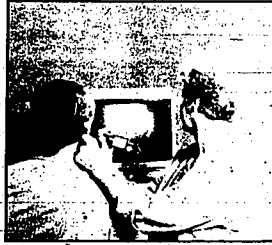
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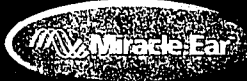


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Pet of the Week

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WORLD

Powell condemns violence in Haiti

PORT AU PRINCE, Haiti — Heavy gunfire rained over Haiti's presidential palace Wednesday as Secretary of State Colin Powell prepared to meet with the country's interim leaders. He denounced the violence as the work of thugs.

"Powell said international peacekeeping troops need to come down hard on street toughs and those who carry out political violence in Haiti."

"They have to forcefully take on those armed individuals of the kind who were firing this morning," Powell said, after meetings at the National Palace with President Boniface Alexandre, Prime Minister Gerard Latortue and other political leaders.

Haiti is still beset with violence and political infighting as the one-year anniversary of former President Jean-Bertrand Aristides' ouster

World in brief

approaches in February. The country's caretaker government has pledged open elections next fall, and Powell said Haiti can meet with outside help.

"The only outcome that will satisfy the U.S. is an election next year that is free and fair... that is not fraudulent and stolen," Powell said later in his one-day trip to shore up democratic efforts in the desperately poor country.

The United States, and Powell in particular, have been instrumental in Haiti's chaotic power shifts over the past decade. Powell was once an Aristide supporter but helped arrange Aristide's exile this year.

Mexico posts soldiers outside offices in Cancun

CANCUN, Mexico — Moving to halt a bloody drug war that has moved south, Mexico was investigating the federal prosecutor's office in this beach resort town for possible involvement in the killings of nine people, including three federal agents.

Soldiers seized the Cancun Attorney General's office in the center of the probe on Tuesday, and Mexico's top drug and organized crime prosecutor said all federal employees there were under suspicion.

Prosecutor Jose Luis Santiago Vasconcelos said rival traffickers working for fugitive drug lord Joaquin "El Chapo" Guzman and imprisoned capo Osiel Cardenas are suspected in the Cancun killings, which appeared aimed at returning the Caribbean coast region to the dark days of the 1990s when it was a major drug corridor.

"We could be witnessing a sort of territorial struggle between these two gangs," Santiago Vasconcelos said. "Remember that the coasts of Quintana Roo were for many years an ideal shipping point for drug shipments. We can't allow that to happen again."

Father of Dutch queen Beatrix dies at 93

AMSTERDAM, Netherlands — Prince Bernhard, the German-born father of the Netherlands' Queen Beatrix whose service as a pilot for the Allies earned him the respect of his adopted country, died Wednesday. He was 93.

Bernhard was diagnosed with cancer in mid-November, and last week the Royal House said tumors had spread to his stomach and lungs, raising difficulty breathing. He was moved Wednesday to Utrecht University Medical Hospital, where he later died.

The prince was living at the royal palace in Soesdijk, which he shared for six decades with his wife, the former Queen Juliana, who died in March at the age of 91.

Bernhard, one of the most popular figures in the royal family, received a stream of family visitors in recent days. Prime Minister Jan Peter Balkenende, who addressed the nation later Wednesday, said the "whole country sympathized" with him in his illness.

Bernhard gained respect from the Dutch with his service as a pilot for the Allies in World War II and his help in rebuilding the Netherlands, devastated by Nazi occupation. But his image was tarnished by a bribery scandal late in his wife's reign and by his openly rocky marriage and affairs.

— compiled from wire reports

Israeli parliament votes against budget, triggers crisis

Action could collapse Sharon's government, stall Gaza withdrawal

TEL AVIV, AP — Israel's parliament voted against the state budget Wednesday, triggering a political crisis that could topple Prime Minister Ariel Sharon's government and stall his plan to pull out of Gaza and part of the West Bank next year.

Shortly after the vote, Sharon dismissed Shimi, his main coalition partner from the gov-

ernment for voting against the budget. At the parliament, Shimi ministers showed reporters their one-sentence dismissal notices. They take effect Saturday evening.

Sharon himself brought the situation to a head, calling the first of three votes on the budget, knowing it would fail — giving him a chance to reshuffle his

shaky minority coalition. But it was a risky move, possibly leading to a general election, which would stall or kill the pullout.

With his government in tatters because of internal opposition to the pullout plan, Sharon was unable to garner a majority in favor of the budget, losing 68-43.

The Shimiti Party, which pushes for secular rights, voted

against to protest Sharon's pledge of hundreds of millions of dollars in allocations to Shimiti, such it was the Orthodox Jewish parties to win their support.

After dismissing Shimi from his government, Sharon planned to invite the moderate Labor Party and at least one ultra-Orthodox Jewish party to replace it. That would give Sharon a

parliamentary majority of about 66 of the 120 seats for the first time since the summer, when pro-sectarian parties quit the government to protest the pullout plan.

Since then, Sharon has needed the backing from the opposition of Labor, his natural rival, which has backed far-reaching territorial concessions, for years and strongly supports the "unilateral disengagement" plan.

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SPORTSQUOTE

Ron Artest is running himself so ragged pitching his new CD. We hear that he's already asked for a month off to work on his basketball.

- Dwight Perry of The Seattle Times

TRIVIA QUESTION:

What was the winning team in the first college football game?

ANSWER below.

TODAY'S SCHEDULE

HS Boys Basketball
Twin Falls at Burley, 6 p.m.
Wood River at Minico, 6 p.m.
Jerome at Mountain Home, 6 p.m.
Valley at Gooding, 6 p.m.
Parna at Glenns Ferry, 6 p.m.
Lighthouse at Magic Valley Christian, 7:30 p.m.
Twin Falls Christian Academy at Dierich, 7:30 p.m.

HS Girls Basketball

Filer at Buhl, 4:15 p.m.
Declo at Snake River, 6 p.m.
Filer at Buhl, 6 p.m.
Gooding at Kimberly, 6 p.m.
Hagerman at Oakley, 6 p.m.
Hansen at Murfough, 6 p.m.
Richfield at Carey, 6 p.m.
Community School at Bliss, 6 p.m.
Conas County at Shoshone, 7:30 p.m.
Castelford at Raft River, 7:30 p.m.

IN BRIEF

Filer basketball signups for Friday

FILER - The Filer Youth Basketball program will hold signups for boys and girls in grades 5-6 from 4:30-6:30 p.m. on Friday, Dec. 3 in the Filer Middle School gymnasium. The cost is \$20.

A parent or guardian must be present at signups. For more information, call Kent Knigge at (208) 326-4252.

Toyz for Kids tourney set for Saturday

TWIN FALLS - The 8th Annual Toyz for Kids Coed Volleyball Tournament will be held on Saturday, Dec. 4th at the Twin Falls High School gymnasium.

The entry fee will be \$75 per team plus one new toy from each team member. Teams will be divided into A, B, C and D divisions.

For more information, call Pam Pereira at (208) 324-0354 or (208) 404-6014.

Bishop Kelly will host pitching clinic

BOISE - The Bishop Kelly Softball Pitching Clinic will be held Dec. 4-5 at Bishop Kelly High School in Boise.

Head coach Wes Worrell will instruct pitchers in the fundamentals of pitching mechanics and techniques of spin. The clinic is open to grades 3-12, with beginner and advanced sessions available.

For more information, contact Wes Worrell at wworrell@bk.org or (208) 484-9471.

Vierstra named to all-star rodeo team

DENVÉR - Cassie Vierstra of Filer has been named to the Wrangler High School All-Star Rodeo team by the National High School Rodeo Association. Criteria for selection includes leadership qualities, academic eligibility and athletic achievement.

Compiled from staff reports

TRIVIA ANSWER:

Rutgers defeated Princeton, 6-1, on Nov. 6, 1869. At that time, scores were not called touchdowns; they were called goals - thus six goals to four.

CLASS 5A BOYS PREVIEW

Bruins harbor high hopes

By Joe Paisley Times-News writer
TWIN FALLS - Fresh off a state football championship season, it's easy to understand why there's high hopes for a successful boys' basketball season at Twin Falls High.

When you look at the talent returning, it becomes even clearer. This group could make an already-special school year into a great one.

"After taking third last year, I can't see why we can't make a run at (a state title)," said third-year head coach Matt Harr. "A lot of people are excited, I'm excited."

"It's the most talented group I've coached in terms of physical talent. We're much deeper."

Leading the group are the Smith twins, Mike and Mitch, senior point guard Tazekhar and Todd Cook. Jesse Irie will

Boys basketball season previews

Today: 5A
Friday: 1A, 3A

assist along with Tyson Tekler and junior Brett Vriesman.

A strong junior class makes this team able to go 12 deep ... without much of a drop-off," Harr said.

Those juniors include 6-foot-5 Brady Jordin, 6-3 Blake Nielsen and Brandon Stokes, who is resting due to a shoulder injury sustained during football. Junior power forward Blake Harding showed he's ready to step up with his play in last Saturday's jamboree.

In regional play, Highland, a young team with four sophomores on varsity last year, could be a challenge along

with Idaho Falls. The Tigers still have the potent inside-outside combination of guard Matt Collette and 6-foot junior post Mitch Scammon.

Harr expects Borah and Centennial to be the top teams out of the Boise area. Twin Falls plays an improved Boise High and Timberline this season.

The team will have to avoid emotional pitfalls, such as worrying about individual statistics. Instead of the team goals, Harr doesn't expect it to be a problem.

For now, it's a matter of getting the football players into basketball shape in time for Tuesday's season opener at Burley.

After three years in the program, the juniors and seniors are familiar with Harr's systems and what he expects.

"We're going to start out a little rusty," Harr said. "We saw



Twin Falls High School's Mitch Smith preparing to take a shot during a game against Minico last season. Smith is expected to be a key performer for the Bruins in 2004-05.

Hansen senior Kyle King, 23, shoots over the Community School defender Christian Calmross during the second quarter of the host Huskies' 56-48 win Wednesday night in Hansen.

Hansen runs past Cutthroats 56-48

By Eric Larsen Times-News writer

HANSEN - The Hansen Huskies boys basketball team cranked up the tempo for a 26-point third quarter to earn a come-from-behind 56-48 win over the visiting Community School Cutthroats Wednesday night in Hansen.

Senior guards Kyle King and Matt Freestone sliced through the Cutthroats defense like fillet knives in the third to force five turnovers and got the 1-0 Huskies into transition for easy baskets. Through his team had trailed the whole first half, it was Freestone who darted to the hoop for a layup with seven minutes left in the third to give Hansen its first lead, 23-22. King took it from there, scoring seven third-quarter points on his way for a game-high 19 on the night.

"We started actually running through our offense," King said. "Defense was big, forcing turnovers."

The 1-1 Cutthroats from Ketchum shot out of the gates on fire, connecting on four first-quarter 3-pointers to gain a 16-9 lead. Senior post A.J. Blesley hit two of those 3s on his way to a 12-point, eight-rebound night.

"We couldn't match up quickness on four of the five positions," Wade said. "I really showed up in the second half. Hansen always wants to run and they look good doing it."

Huskies senior post Mark Pearson banged his way to 17 points and eight rebounds, while junior fan Denny dropped in four points, grabbed 10 rebounds, and dished out four assists.

"Denny is the tallest kid we have and he did real well in JV last year," Huskies coach Mike Pfeifer said. "I think he's going to get the job done. He said he was scared before the game, but he'll keep improving."

Cutthroats' senior post Hunter Smith scored 14 points and grabbed 10 rebounds to lead his team in both categories, complementing his team's outside touch.

"I wouldn't say we're a strong



Hansen senior Kyle King, 23, shoots over the Community School defender Christian Calmross during the second quarter of the host Huskies' 56-48 win Wednesday night in Hansen.

3-point shooting team," Wade said. "I was really excited and surprised to see that."

Hansen heads to Carey to play in its holiday tournament Friday and Saturday while the Cutthroats head to Glenns Ferry to battle the Pilots Friday.

Hansen 56, Community School 48
Community School
25-13 (14-4)
9:25-11:40
COMMUNITY SCHOOL, JR.
9:25-11:40
HANSEN, JR.

Twin Falls overwhelms Century at home 68-54

By Nathaniel Garrabrاندt Times-News writer

TWIN FALLS - The Twin Falls girls basketball team remained perfect on the season Wednesday night, improving to 6-0 with a decisive 68-54 victory over Century at home.

Despite the sizable 14-point differential at the end of the night, the game wasn't as competitive as the score might indicate. Especially not when one considers the 22-0 run with which the Bruins starters opened the game.

"Twin Falls is a very good team," said Diamondbacks coach Brian Fehringer. "They've got good shooters and they're very aggressive. And I think help with that 22-point run they opened on us."

For the entire first half, Century seemed poorly equipped to deal with a very tight zone defense from the Bruins that limited the Diamondbacks to mostly narrow shots from the baseline. Century made just one first-quarter field goal, and that was when Century managed to make it the length of the floor.

"That first quarter, they really had trouble handling our press," said Twin Falls coach Joe D. Shepard.

Indeed, the Diamondbacks' transition game seemed unable to reach second gear, as evidenced by six first-half steals by the Bruins, with two each from Carla Marin, Janie Edwards and Emma Heidenreich.

It wasn't until the fifth minute that Century found net with a five-foot jumper by Katelyn Reichland to get on the board.

In sharp contrast to the Diamondbacks' offensive woes, Twin Falls was able to take care business on the inside, dishing the ball to Heidenreich with un-

Please see TWIN FALLS, Page B2

More than the Willingham era is over at Notre Dame

Every fading dynasty gets more desperate the further the memories recede, and at Notre Dame is no different.

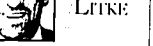
So Ty Willingham was informed Tuesday, with three years left on the biggest contract in school history and three less-than-satisfying seasons behind him, that he wouldn't be around to see his first recruiting class graduate.

The decision to fire Willingham was made by the university's higher-ups, after what was reported to be an emergency meeting of the university's board of trustees.

That meeting the "emergency" was remains a matter of some speculation. But it fell to athletic director Kevin White to explain why, for the first time in school history, Notre Dame chose not to honor a commitment to its football coach.

"From Sunday through Friday our football program has exceeded all expectations, in every way," White said at a news conference. "But on Saturday, we were struggled. We've been up and down and sideways a little bit."

If you're searching for a post-mortem to the Willingham era, you won't find a more succinct one. Off the field, he was nearly flawless. On it, the "up" was a stunning 8-0 run Willingham produced at the start of his stay in South Bend; the "down and sideways" covered just about everything since.



JIM LITKE

His teams went 21-15 and lost big games by lopsided margins. Please see LITKE, Page B2

Illinois men crush top-ranked Wake Forest

By Nancy Armour Associated Press writer

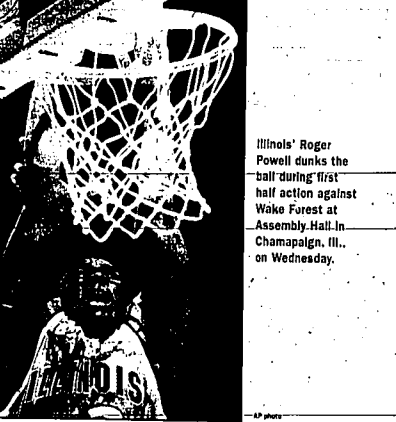
CHAMPAIGN, Ill. - Top-ranked teams might want to think twice about visiting Assembly Hall.

Roger Powell Jr. scored 19 points, Dee Brown and Luther Head added 16 each and No. 5 Illinois made No. 1 Wake Forest look more like a non-conference passy-in-

College hoops roundup Wednesday night, The Illinois-led by double-digits for the last 20-plus minutes of the game, and were up by as much as 32 in the second half.

With 6:34 still to play, the "Orange Crush" student section broke into chants of "OVER-BAVED!" In the final minutes of the game, there were chants of "WIFE! No. 1."

The Illini have now beaten Wake Forest 10 times in 11 meetings. Please see ILLINOIS, Page B4



Illinois' Roger Powell dunks the ball during first half action against Wake Forest at Assembly Hall in Champaign, Ill., on Wednesday.

SPORTS

Dietrich opens conference season with win

The Times-News
DIETRICH - Dietrich used a strong third quarter to bust open what was a close game at halftime on the way to a 48-25 win over visiting Valley on Wednesday night.
Dietrich (5-1) overall, 1-0 Magic Valley Northwest Conference turned up the defensive pressure after halftime to pull away.

Local sports
night in the Spartans' 50-28 loss to the Panthers.
Spartans coach Clint Strouman said, "Megan Boettcher finally came out of her shell a little bit and scored nine of our 10 first quarter points.
Boettcher also grabbed nine rebounds, which came down with 10 to go out.

"You play your best, but you never know what's going to happen. But Oakley is a good ballplayer. They'll be a force to be reckoned with in the South-side."
Carey is back in action Friday, hosting its two-day holiday tournament.

Dietrich 48, Valley 25
Dietrich 48 Valley 25
Dietrich 48 Valley 25

Rimrock 51, Glenns Ferry 40
RIMROCK - No further report.

Declo 58, American Falls 44
DECLO - Declo senior Bjorn Christiansen held American Falls Beavers top gun Tyler Driscoll to only 10 points to help propel the Hornets to a 58-44 non-conference home win Wednesday night in Declo.

Jerome 43, Mountain Home 40
JEROME - The Jerome Tigers improved to 4-1 on the season with a 43-40 non-conference home victory over the Mountain Home Tigers Wednesday night in Jerome.

Boys
Raft River 65, Rockland 41
MALJA - Four players scored in double figures for Raft River as the balanced Trojans' attack overpowered Rockland.

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Blackfoot 48, Wood River 18
WOOD RIVER - No further report.

Oakley 60, Carey 44
CAREY - The Oakley Hornets made the long trip out of Cassia County to Carey and "convinced us with 60 non-conference wins over the Panthers Wednesday night. Senior Evan McBride dropped in 14 points while Bryce Adams added 13 to help the Hornets win their first game of the season.

ISDB 39, Bliss 28
BLISS - Led by senior Byron Jensen, Idaho School for the Deaf and Blind opened the boys basketball season on a winning note with a 39-28 victory over the host Bliss Wednesday night.

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Minico 50, Pocatello 28
RUPERT - Senior forward Meghan Boettcher scored nine of Minico's 10 first-quarter points on her way to 15 for the

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Crowton agrees to resign from BYU

By Doug Alden
Associated Press writer
PROVO, Utah - Gary Crowton's tenure at BYU began with tremendous promise and ended with the Cougars' worst struggles in 40 years.

to Skyline on Friday for the first conference game of the season.

to Skyline on Friday for the first conference game of the season.

Twin Falls

Continued from B1
minity. The 6-foot post finished with 16 points and seven rebounds. Nine of those points came in the first quarter.

to Skyline on Friday for the first conference game of the season.

to Skyline on Friday for the first conference game of the season.



Oklahoma running back Adrian Peterson (28) evades tackles by Baylor defenders in the second half in Waco, Texas, in this Nov. 20 photo. Peterson had 32 carries for 240 yards for three touchdowns in the 35-0 shutout over Baylor.

Undecided Herschel would give a freshman his Heisman vote

By Jaime Aron
Associated Press writer
DALLAS - Like many Heisman Trophy voters, Herschel Walker is waiting until after this weekend to fill out his ballot.

guys so why in the world should you not be able to win it just because you're young?
Peterson and several other top Heisman challengers have one last chance Saturday to try swaying the 923 voters, including Walker and the other 51 living winners.

White. He said this week his choices are "coming down to the wire," although he's indicated he'll go with Peterson.

Walker is the best this year, not who has played the longest," Walker said. "Adrian Peterson is as qualified as anyone else."

Walker has narrowed his choices to Peterson and his OU teammate, senior quarterback Jason White, last year's Heisman winner; Southern Cal junior quarterback Matt Leinart and sophomore running back Reggie Bush; and Texas senior running back Cedric Benson.

Freshmen were ineligible to play from 1958-72, helping fuel the pay-your-dues philosophy. Then Walker suited up for Georgia eight years later and began changing attitudes.

Walker has narrowed his choices to Peterson and his OU teammate, senior quarterback Jason White, last year's Heisman winner; Southern Cal junior quarterback Matt Leinart and sophomore running back Reggie Bush; and Texas senior running back Cedric Benson.

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Rogers, who led the nation with 165 more yards than Walker. While Walker considers Rogers a worthy winner, he's still ranked about as finishing behind Pittsburgh defensive lineman Hugh Green.

Litke

Continued from B1
scores, the kind of record that would have drawn a pink slip at more than a few traditional football powerhouses, much the same way Nebraska ditched Frank Solich last season and Florida canned Ron Zook with a few games left in this one.

The only part he got right was that last one. And even that didn't count for much when rivals like Bob Stoops at Oklahoma and Pete Carroll at Southern California were recruiting circles around Willingham and returning their programs to national prominence in less time, all the while steering clear of trouble. They weren't hampered by the tough academic standards that apply at Notre Dame, but Willingham arrived there fresh from a stint at Stanford, where the standards are tougher still.

Even a freshman.

Notre Dame used to pride itself on not being part of that crowd. The Irish made a point of keeping underwhelming Gerry Faust and overmatched Bob Davie for all five years of their contracts. Now, there's no pretending otherwise.

For all that, there is still no tougher job in the game than the one Willingham had until Tuesday. The Irish are the only team in college football with a few million unpaid consultants and their own network TV deal. When he showed up on campus, the program was still reeling from the embarrassment caused by George O'Leary's padded resume.

Based on Notre Dame's history, and despite the alumni who began nipping at his heels once the magical 6-0 start yielded a 2-3 finish in his first season, Willingham had every reason to believe he'd have more time. Enough time, at least, to put his recruits, his West Coast offense and his philosophy in place. That was before the board of trustees

Called an emergency session, the emergency apparently caused by reports that the game's hottest young coach, Utah's Urban Meyer, was being seriously courted by Florida.

Meyer is former Irish assistant and a bona fide offensive genius, a qualification that, at the higher-ups at Notre Dame, apparently believe will get him into the living rooms of all those skilled passers and catchers who crossed Notre Dame off their recruiting lists years ago. Of course, they believe the same thing about Willingham just three years ago.

Meyer, whose Utes are 11-0 and ranked No. 5 in his second season, thinks he knows what he's getting himself into. "He has a clause in his current deal that allows him to leave for Notre Dame without a buyout. I have great respect for that university. That's the reason it's my contract," Meyer said after practice Tuesday. "I think a lot of people look into it more than what it is."

Jim Litke is a national sports columnist for The Associated Press. Write to him at litke@ap.org

Final Saturday filled with big games, BCS implications

By Ralph D. Russo
Associated Press writer

Going into the final week of the regular season, only one team is set for a specific spot in the Bowl Championship Series...

College football picks

are in first place in the BCS standings and have locked up a BCS berth with the 10-champs. With a win they'll earn a trip to Miami and a chance to make it back-to-back, national titles...

and Colorado get going in the Big 12 title game in Kansas City, Mo. The Sooners appear to control their destiny - win and they're off to Miami to play for a national title for the second straight season.

The picks

Thursday
Mid-American championship, Toledo (plus 2) at Miami (Ohio)
Red Hawks have prospered even without Ben Roethlisberger...

No. 3 Auburn (minus 13) vs. No. 15 Tennessee ... Much like first meeting ... AUBURN 30-13.
No. 4 California (minus 23) at Southern Miss
Roses are red but the Rose Bowl will be mostly blue this year...

SPORTS IN BRIEF

TFHS will honor state championship teams

TWIN FALLS - Members of the 2004 Twin Falls High School football state championship team will be honored at a luncheon...

involvement in last month's brawl during an NBA game. John Green and Charlie Haddad have been sent letters informing them of the ban...

Yankees tell D'backs they're out of talks

NEW YORK - The New York Yankees pulled out of trade talks for Randy Johnson on Wednesday, telling the Diamondbacks that their proposals for deals involving the five-time Cy Young Award winner were unreasonable...

Yankees tell D'backs they're out of talks

NEW YORK - The New York Yankees pulled out of trade talks for Randy Johnson on Wednesday, telling the Diamondbacks that their proposals for deals involving the five-time Cy Young Award winner were unreasonable...

SCORES AND STATS

BASKETBALL
NBA
Women, Duke at Tennessee, ESPN2, 8:30 p.m.
Rockets at Mavericks, TNT, 8 p.m.

WHAT'S ON T.V.
Basketball
Toledo vs. Miami (Ohio), ESPN, 8:30 p.m.
Golf
Nebadk Golf Challenge, first round (tape), TOC, 4 a.m.

Area-ski report
Wednesday, Dec. 22
Toledo vs. Miami (Ohio), ESPN, 8:30 p.m.

Football
MAC championship game, Michigan vs. Ohio State, ESPN2, 8:30 p.m.

College Basketball Scores
SACRAMENTO VALLEY
Sacramento Valley 81, Oregon State 77
Sacramento Valley 77, Oregon State 77

FOOTBALL
NFL
San Diego 27, New York Jets 17
San Diego 27, New York Jets 17

NBA Boxes
San Antonio Spurs 108, Phoenix Suns 98
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NFL
San Diego 27, New York Jets 17
San Diego 27, New York Jets 17

While talks appear dead, they might not be over for good. But for now, the Yankees find Arizona's current asking price too high.

Irish will play in bowl game under Baer
SOUTH BEND, Ind. - Notre Dame football players voted Wednesday to play in the Insight Bowl...

Grizzlies continue talks with Fratello
NEW YORK - Lionel Hollins remained the denial of Grizzlies again Wednesday night, uncertain if it would be his final game at the helm.

College Football Schedule
All-Time NFL
San Antonio Spurs 108, Phoenix Suns 98

College Football Schedule
All-Time NFL
San Antonio Spurs 108, Phoenix Suns 98

College Football Schedule
All-Time NFL
San Antonio Spurs 108, Phoenix Suns 98

Mississippi fires Cutcliffe after 4-7 year
MEMPHIS, Miss. - David Cutcliffe served as the head coach at Memphis and refused to make major changes after his first losing season in six years as coach of Mississippi.

Indiana fires DiNardo as football coach
BLOOMINGTON, Ind. - Indiana football coach Gerry DiNardo was fired Wednesday, five days after the Hoosiers ended a 38-season win with a 63-24 loss to in-state rival Purdue.

Grizzlies continue talks with Fratello
NEW YORK - Lionel Hollins remained the denial of Grizzlies again Wednesday night, uncertain if it would be his final game at the helm.

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SPORTS

Gonzaga knocks off No. 14 Washington

SPokane, Wash. (AP) — Adam Morrison scored a career high 26 points and Ronny Turiaf had 23 points and 13 rebounds as Gonzaga (4-1) won its seventh straight over Washington, 99-87 Wednesday night in Spokane, Wash.

Nate Robinson led Washington 14-17 with 22 points, including four 3-pointers.

Gonzaga led from the opening tip and pulled away from a 59-all tie with 13 minutes remaining. Three-pointers by Derek Ravier and Morrison helped Gonzaga build a 92-82 lead with 2:25 to play.

No. 3 Syracuse 91, St. Bonaventure 67

SYRACUSE, N.Y. — Hakim Warrick had 18 points and 11 rebounds and Josh Pace added 14 points and 10 rebounds to lead the Orange.

It marked the 30th straight victory for Syracuse (6-0) over teams from New York state and sent the Bonnies (0-4) to their 21st straight road loss.

Gerry McNamara had 17 points and Darryl Watkins had 12 for Syracuse, and Billy Edlin (four points, three assists) returned to the lineup after leaving the team in the middle of last season for personal reasons.

Wade Dunston led the Bonnies with 17 points.

No. 9 North Carolina 70, Indiana 63

BLOOMINGTON, Ind. — Rashad McCants scored 19 points and Raymond Felton added 18 points to lead the Tar Heels (5-1) to their fifth straight win.

Indiana (2-7) was led by Bracey Wright with 18 points and Robert Vaden with 16 points and nine rebounds.

Illinois

Continued from B1

both No. 1 teams that visited Assembly Hall. They beat No. 1 Michigan State 57-55 in 1929 — though if it's any consolation to the Demon Deacons, the Spartans still went on to win the national championship that year.

College hoops

No. 13 Pittsburgh 65, St. Francis, Pa. 41

PITTSBURGH — Chevon Troutman led a decisive 17-2 run late in the first half and scored 22 points as Pittsburgh improved to 28-0 in games against St. Francis.

Troutman made four free throws and Antonio Graves, Carl Krauser and Ronald Ramon hit 3-pointers during the run, which pushed Pitt from a 17-all tie into a 34-19 lead. The Panthers (4-0) coasted after that.

No. 22 Alabama 114, East Tennessee St. 77

TUSCALOOSA, Ala. — Earnest Shelton scored 24 points and Ronald Steele had a school-record 11 assists for Alabama.

Shelton was 6-of-11 from 3-point range, and the Crimson Tide (5-1) shot 19-of-41 from behind the arc — breaking the school's single-game record of 16 set in 1996 against Morehead.

Kennedy Winston added 21 points and 10 rebounds. Steele broke the school single-game record of 16, and Alabama's 30 total assists were also a school record.

No. 24 Virginia 48, Northwestern 44

EVANSTON, Ill. — Elton Brown had 15 points and 12 rebounds to lead Virginia.

Brown scored the first eight points of the game for the Cavaliers (5-0), who held their fifth straight opponent to 60 points or less.

Northwestern (1-5) is off to its worst start since 1999-2000, when it opened with the same record.

Suns stay hot, top Cavs 120-101

PHOENIX (AP) — Amare Stoudemire, Steve Nash and Quentin Richardson each scored 21 points, and the Phoenix Suns — off to their best start in 24 years — won their ninth in a row with a 120-101 victory over the Cleveland Cavaliers Wednesday night.

Joe Johnson scored 18 points and held LeBron James to 6-for-19 shooting for 15 points — 11 under his average — Saturday. Johnson scored 13 on 6-for-6 shooting in the decisive third quarter, and Nash sat out the fourth while his backup Leandro Barbosa scored 13 of his 15 points.

The victory streak matched the sixth-longest in Suns history and averaged one of Phoenix's two losses this season. The Suns' NBA-best record of 13-2 is their best start since they went 14-2 in 1990-91.

Jeff Melinsin scored 26 and Zydrunas Ilgauskas 22 for Cleveland, 0-2 on a three-game trip to the West.



Phoenix Suns' guard Quentin Richardson drives past a Cleveland Cavaliers defender during the fourth quarter Wednesday at America West Arena in Phoenix.

Magic 129, Raptors 108

ORLANDO, Fla. — Steve Francis scored 23 points. Grant Hill added 17 and the Orlando Magic posted the NBA's highest-scoring game of the season with a thrashing of the Toronto Raptors.

Eight Orlando players scored in double figures as the Magic shot 57.3 percent (51-for-89) and held rebounding advantage of 61-32. Only three players didn't make at least half their shots.

Even Cuttino Mobley, sidelined the previous nine games with a groin strain, scored 16. Dwight Howard had 15 points and a season-high 20 rebounds for his third straight double-double.

Vince Carter scored 21 points for Toronto in the Raptors' biggest loss of the season.

Celtics 101, Bucks 100

BOSTON — Paul Pierce had a brief argument with Boston coach Doc Rivers when he was lifted from the game, but re-

turned and made a key 3-pointer that helped the Celtics beat Milwaukee.

Pierce, who led Boston with 23 points, was lifted with just over 4.5 minutes to play and the Celtics holding a 92-91 lead. The star forward appeared agitated when Ric Weiland came in for him. After a chat in the huddle between Pierce and Rivers during a timeout, Pierce returned and hit his 3-pointer on Boston's last possession, giving the Celtics a 97-93 lead with 2:40 to go.

Michael Redd scored 23 points for Milwaukee, which fell to 0-7 on the road — its worst stretch since losing 12 straight during the 1976-77 season.

Knicks 90, Grizzlies 82

NEW YORK — Stephen Marbury made five 3-pointers in the second quarter to help put the Knicks ahead for good, and New York received a fourth-quarter boost from Jerome Williams.

The loss was the fifth straight

for Memphis, and the fourth since the unexpected resignation of coach Hubie Brown.

Marbury scored 26 points, 17 coming in the second quarter for New York, which has won five of six.

Williams scored New York's first seven points of the fourth quarter, and his basket from inside with 6:01 left made it a 6-0 Grizzlies run and ended it 83-73.

Bonzi Wells led Memphis with 16 points.

Wizards 95, Nets 68

WASHINGTON — The Washington Wizards welcomed coach Eddie Jordan back with a victory over his former team and sending the Nets to their sixth consecutive road loss.

Gilbert Arenas had a season-high 30 points, seven rebounds and five assists to lead the Wizards to their fifth victory in six games. Antawn Jamison added 18 points and nine rebounds as Washington posted its largest winning margin of the season.

Eric Williams led New Jersey

with 17 points, and Travis Best added 16.

Bulls 92, Lakers 84

CHICAGO — Rookies Luol Deng and Ben Gordon rescued Chicago in the fourth quarter and the Bulls held off a late charge by Kobe Bryant and the Los Angeles Lakers.

Deng scored nine points and Gordon eight in the fourth quarter as Chicago got just its second win in 12 games. Deng and Eddy Curry led the Bulls, returning home after a seven-game road trip, with 18 points apiece.

Bryant scored 26, including 14 in the final quarter, and also had 10 assists. Chuck Atkins added 19 for the Lakers.

Spurs 105, 76ers 72

SAN ANTONIO — Tim Duncan scored 24 points, including 17 straight in the second quarter, leading the Spurs past the Philadelphia 76ers.

Duncan, who sat out the fourth quarter, also had 12 rebounds and six blocks in 25 minutes for the 41st double-double of his career.

The victory was the 20th in a row for the Spurs at the SBC Center and tied the franchise's best start after 16 games at 13-3.

Marc Jackson led Philadelphia with 18 points, and Allen Iverson added 14.

Kings 94, Hornets 81

NEW ORLEANS — Brad Miller's 24 points and some clutch outside shooting by Bobby Jackson and Peja Stojakovic lifted the Sacramento Kings and kept the Hornets winless at home.

The Hornets had a 20-point deficit trimmed to nine after Lec Nallion's one-handed follow of a missed 3-pointer with a little more than nine minutes to go. But 3-pointers on three straight Kings possessions — two by Jackson and one by Stojakovic — made the score 83-67 and all but ended any realistic chance of a 11-Hornets (1-13) notching their first home victory in seven games.

The Kings (10-5) have won four straight on the road. Stojakovic finished with 20 points, while Jackson, who hit his first six shots, had 19.

David Westey scored 18 to lead New Orleans.

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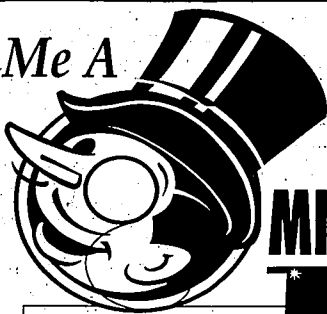
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ET1001CH	No spray	31.40													
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CR 15	15 amp	1.49													
CR 20	20 amp	2.10													
<p>TABLE TOP PORTABLE HEATER</p> <p>HFC 1500 750/1500 dual wattage Compact and quiet. This heater is the perfect choice for boilers and campers.</p> <p>34.95</p>	<p>125 AMP BRANCH PANEL</p> <p>EQ818M1125FCU. Holds 6 full-size or 16 half-size breakers. Copper bus bar. Includes fuse or surface cover. (Breakers not included).</p> <p>26.71</p>	<p>TUB AND SHOWER</p> <p>368282A LW WHT. More quality, really. No more money if you will use the ultimate owner of the construction you're looking for, consider AcrylicGlas. White. 60"x36"x36", 2" light or no-drain. (Fittings not included).</p> <p>218.98</p>	<p>200 AMP MAIN BREAKER PANEL WITH BREAKERS</p> <p>EQ240B1200CP. Includes 8 breakers — 6 120-volt and 2 240-volt. 200 amp main breaker and combination cover. Indoor panel.</p> <p>98.00</p>												
<p>LARGE ECONOMY FAN WALL HEATER</p> <p>Compact. Permanent speed motor. White 240 volt Hi-Limit switch. White 240 V (Thermostat included).</p> <table border="1"> <tr> <td>EFW 2430 T</td> <td>3000 W</td> <td>164.94</td> </tr> <tr> <td>EFW 2440 T</td> <td>4000 W</td> <td>187.70</td> </tr> <tr> <td>EFW 2448 T</td> <td>4800 W</td> <td>193.48</td> </tr> </table>	EFW 2430 T	3000 W	164.94	EFW 2440 T	4000 W	187.70	EFW 2448 T	4800 W	193.48	<p>ACRYLIC JETTED TUBS</p> <p>6882818C-WHT. Deluxe quality at a budget unit price. 60" x 36" x 21" 3/4 tub pump. Free white. (Fittings not included).</p> <p>499.95</p>	<p>200 AMP MOBILE HOME PANEL</p> <p>MC0218M1200P. Equipped with all solid copper bussing and provides eight branch circuits. UL listed. Weatherproof interior. 18" deep.</p> <p>119.00</p>	<p>PIC-A-WATT WALL HEATER</p> <p>LPW2445T. Eight wattages. 220 to 4500. 240 volt commercial duty quality element. Oil sealed motor. Five year warranty. Hydraulic thermostat. 18" deep.</p> <p>247.14</p>			
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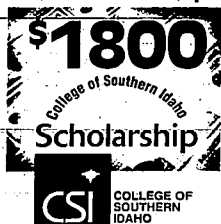
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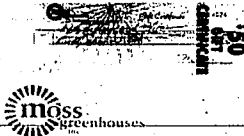
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SPORTS

Broncos face suddenly supercharged opponent

By Eddie Pells
Associated Press writer

DENVER What in the name of Dan Fouts is going on here?

The Denver Broncos head into December facing a key game against a tough division opponent. That's nothing new.

The opponent is the San Diego Chargers. That certainly is.

The Chargers are hot, at 8-3 and on a five-game winning streak, and the Broncos are the next team that's going to have to deal with it.

Denver coach Mike Shanahan tickled a question about the last time he faced San Diego this late in the season with this much on the line. After a long pause, he smiled.

"This is a set up, isn't it?" he said.

But really, this is no joke.

The Chargers have the league's second-highest scoring offense, a formidable challenge for a Denver defense that looked shaky last week. The Chargers have Drew Brees, the league's third-rated passer, and he's doing a lot more than when Denver beat San Diego 23-13 in September. The Chargers have coach Marty Schottenheimer, and even that doesn't seem like such an edge for the Broncos ever since Jim Frawley retired.

Anyone doubting San



San Diego Chargers tight end Antonio Gates breaks away from Oakland Raider defender Phillip Buchanan during their game Oct. 31 in San Diego.

Diego's legitimacy should take a quick walk through the Denver locker room.

"Of course, all players make the next opponent sound great, no matter what their record. But with first place in the division—and possibly Denver's playoff survival on the line, and with what the Broncos just endured—an embarrassing 25-24 loss to the Oakland Raiders that dropped them to 7-4—

there's little doubt they'll take the Chargers seriously.

"It's a big game," Jake Plummer said. "You can't make it bigger than that is. It's not a playoff game, but could have a lot of playoff implications."

In Southern California, they're touting this as the biggest game since the Chargers went to the 1994 Super Bowl and lost to San Francisco. Maybe, it was Plummer,

though, who summed up the oddness of the situation when he talked about the consequences and disappointment of last week's loss to the archrival Raiders.

"We lost that game and we didn't want to," he said. "But we knew, either way, we were going to have to beat the Chargers."

It's been a long time since anyone in Denver has said that.

MLB gets new schedule maker for 2005 season

By Charles Sheehan
Associated Press writer

PITTSBURGH — One of baseball's longest streaks comes to an end in January when Major League Baseball puts the finishing touches on the 2005 schedule.

A small company outside Pittsburgh, the Sports Scheduling Group, was selected last month to complete the 2005 schedule, unseating the husband-and-wife team of Henry and Holly Stephenson, who have been doing it for 24 years.

Each year, MLB accepts competing scheduling proposals from outside groups. The Sports Scheduling Group won the contract in part because it did a better job of avoiding "semi-repeaters," in which the same teams play back-to-back series at home and then away, said Katy Fenney, MLB senior vice president of scheduling.

Baseball has been outsourcing the job for decades. Holly Stephenson, who at one time worked in the commissioner's office, used to make the schedules each year, mostly by hand. It became such an extensive task that Stephenson eventually left the office and devoted himself almost entirely to scheduling.

"As the number of games and the number of teams changed, it became more and more complicated," Fenney said.

After Stephenson's departure, the Stephensons were hired in 1981. They use computers, which have made the job easier, but have not entirely eliminated the human element.

"I think each team looks at the schedule from its own perspective and there is without exception a lot of points of view," Stephenson said. "There will never be a day when everyone sits down and says, 'This is great.'"

Baseball officials would not discuss the criteria of a winning proposal but said the process has become increasingly complex, with new divisions, interleague play, extended playoffs and more demands from cities with scheduling conflicts.

The Times-News:
Your guide to Magic Valley

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Fresno State will take on No. 18 Virginia in MPC Computers Bowl

BOISE (AP) — The 18th-ranked Virginia Cavaliers will take on the Fresno State Bulldogs in the MPC Computers Bowl on Dec. 27.

It will be the first meeting between the two teams, which both have impressive bowl pasts.

The Bulldogs (8-3, 5-3), who finished third in the Western Athletic Conference, are making their sixth straight bowl appearance, riding a two-bowl winning streak with victories over Georgia Tech in 2002 and UCLA last year. They averaged

over 40 points a game while holding opponents to under 20 points.

Virginia (8-3, 5-3), which was fourth in the Atlantic Coast Conference, is making its third straight bowl appearance, working on victories over West Virginia and Pittsburgh the past two post-seasons. The Cavaliers' only losses this year came to Top 20 teams — Florida State, Miami and Virginia Tech.

Kirkoff is slated for noon at Bronco Stadium in Boise. The game is being televised by ESPN.

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Gallery won't have
Christmas show.
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MAGIC VALLEY

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Assistant City Editor: Tony Foster, 735-3344

The Times-News

Thursday, December 2, 2004

Section C

AROUND THE VALLEY

Freak accident destroys home

HAZELTON — In a bizarre series of events, an overheated heating of a truck ended up burning down a Hazelton home Sunday.

West End Fire District Chief Randy Sutton said a semi-truck traveling west on Interstate 84 lost its right front wheel when the bearing failed and it over-heated.

The wheel rolled across the frontage road, hit the curb in front of the house, burst through a wall next to the front door and bounced down the stairs before coming to rest in the basement and igniting the fire, Sutton said.

The driver of the truck Wesley Rankin, told police he went to search for the wheel and noticed smoke coming from a home at 2804 E. 390 S., according to a police report.

Rankin said his assistant, the resident, Charisse Stevenson, in running a hose into the house and that's when he spotted his wheel lying in the driveway.

Stevenson and the children were able to escape the home unharmed but it took 18 firefighters about three hours to extinguish the blaze, Sutton said. The burning fire caused extensive smoke damage and the family currently is staying with relatives nearby.

Commissioners name new public defender

TWIN FALLS — County commissioners Wednesday named Marilyn B. Paul as the new county public defender.

Paul replaces John Hansen who resigned to move out-of-state, according to news release from the commissioners' office.

Paul has experience as both a prosecutor and public defender and is one of three attorneys in the 5th Judicial District certified as public defenders in death penalty cases, the news release said.

Twin-Falls Festival of Trees begins today

TWIN FALLS — Parts of Christmas decor and Magic Valley history are on display at the 20th annual Festival of Trees, a "Centennial Christmas Celebration," opens today for the general public.

The exhibition at the former Anderson Lumber building at 960 Eastland Drive includes contiguous entertainment and displays of full-size and miniature Christmas trees, wreaths, quilts, antique, displays and classic cars.

Many of the displays have themes relating to the city's centennial.

Today also is Seniors Day, which runs from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., and includes free, hors d'oeuvres, free admission and free souvenir photographs for seniors age 60 and older.

Admission is \$4 for adults and \$1 for children age 12 and under. Wednesday night was the gala opening and auction. The Ladies' Night Out event is 7 p.m. and tickets are \$10.

The event benefits the Magic Valley Regional Medical Center Foundation and continues through Sunday.

Are you cutting your own Christmas tree?

TWIN FALLS — The Times-News is looking for family that is planning an "outing" to the mountains to cut a Christmas tree. We would like to accompany you to learn why you cut your own instead of buying one.

If you're up for the adventure, please call Julie Pence at 735-3241 or e-mail her at jpence@magicvalley.com.

— compiled from staff reports

Snowpack levels

Watershed	% of Avg. Season Peak
Salmon	65% 13%
Big Wood	53% 11%
Little Wood	58% 11%
Big Lost	75% 15%
Little Lost	84% 19%
Henry's Fork/Teton	82% 16%
Upper Snake Basin	78% 17%
Oakley	85% 17%
Salmon Falls	67% 17%

As of Dec. 1

*A comparison of basin snowpack on this date with a 30-year average. See the forecast of snowpack on page C2.

Jerome group discusses facilities

By Karin Kowalski
Times-News writer

JEROME — With the rumble of footsteps overhead, Jerome Middle School's cafeteria had the atmosphere of a cheerily decorated bunker and visitors were visibly uncomfortable Wednesday evening.

"What you hear now" is the city re-district, Jerome Superintendent Jim Cobble told the

crowd of about 50 people who gathered to discuss possible facility improvements. The cafeteria is directly under the middle school's gymnasium and the feet of city league basketball players.

The meeting was meant to gather community feedback on the district's needs for buildings, which could be addressed with a bond issue. The district's tentative timeline is to create a

master plan by June 2005 and seek a bond issue in October 2005. In recent years, the district has had moderate success in passing supplemental levies, but at least five larger bond issues have failed, sometimes by very narrow margins.

Jerome High School Principal Partti O'Dell said the district chose the location for the meeting to give people an idea of what some of the buildings are

really like.

The middle school building, which dates to the late 1940s, leaves a lot to be desired, as do many of the district's buildings, district officials say.

Some of the major items on the wish list include demolishing and replacing the aging Central Elementary School, repairing and expanding the middle school and adding a second gym at the high school.

The meeting included an information session led by district officials and Latham, Krohn and Ocker Architects. Visitors then filled out questionnaires and discussed them.

Connie Gardner, a parent with children at Florion and Central elementaries said she's willing to have a bond issue to replace crowding and improve the buildings.

Please see **SCHOOL** Page C3

A NIGHT OUT



Tamara Harmon, right, jokes with Maxine Schroeder, Sharon Harmon and Meta Woody while applying makeup at the Twin Falls National Guard Armory on Wednesday night. The skin care class was part of an early Christmas party for family members of soldiers of the 2-116th Brigade Combat Team.

Soldiers' wives, moms get well-deserved pampering

By Sandy Miller
Times-News writer

TWIN FALLS — If anyone deserved a little pampering, it was these ladies.

Last weekend was one of the longest in their lives as they waited for their soldier husbands and sons to make that first call home from Kuwait.

For Angela Hadden, that phone call came Saturday morning as she was doing staff around the house.

"I was ecstatic," Hadden said about hearing her husband Sgt. 1st Class Guy Hadden's voice on the other end. "I didn't think

Resources for National Guard families

Do you have a loved one in the military? You don't have to go it alone.

There are a number of resources to help spouses and families of local servicemen and women, including coordinators to help answer questions about military pay, insurance and other issues, and support and activity groups for spouses and children. Here are some contact numbers:

Family Assistance Center—Coordinator Sonya Nowland: 733-2404, Ext. 7039.

Unit Family Readiness Center—Coordinator Gina Poltaro: 733-2404.

Idaho National Guard Youth Program—Boise: 208-422-4387.

would be able to phone so quickly."

Phases carrying her husband and other soldiers of the 2-116th Brigade Combat Team took off for Kuwait early Friday morning from England Air Base in Alexandria, La. Phones at home began ringing Saturday.

"I was really happy to hear from him," said Nancy Codner of her son Spc. Daniel Codner's

call home.

Local barber and Mary Kay consultant Pam Maughan and Mary Kay consultant Tina England decided the women needed a little extra TLC so they treated them to a skin care class as part of an early Christmas party Wednesday evening at the local National Guard armory.

"We wanted to help these ladies feel good about themselves," Maughan said.

Maughan and England solicited donations of services and goods and more than 40 local businesses responded.

"People have just been incredible," she said.

Please see **PAMPER**, Page C3

Former Albion councilman will be missed by residents

By Chip Thompson
Times-News writer

ALBION — The city of Albion lost one of its most active and dedicated residents this week.

Former City Councilman Len Marris passed away Monday at the age of 65, but he leaves behind several reminders of his service to the community.

"Len was instrumental in the children's playground at the city park, with the reworking of our city streets and a variety of other projects like the water system and the law enforcement plan," Mayor Don Danner said.

Marris began operating PIC Reclamation, which helps to reclaim land damaged by mining operations, out of his Albion home shortly after it was established in 1995. His engineering and business background proved invaluable during his two years on the council.

"Len brought to that office a wealth of experience, managerial and organizational skills that really helps a small community like Albion a great deal," Danner said.

City Attorney Kerry McMurray said Marris was not the type to shrink from a task.

"We'll miss Len. His background and approach to getting things done made him a real valuable asset," McMurray said. "We would have spent a lot of



time and money on outside engineers that Len saved us with his experience."

Marris' wife, Barbara, passed away Nov. 12 after a long illness.

Tom Digrizia, a close friend, said he believes Marris, who suffered from cancer, hung on for the sake of his wife.

"He was a wonderful human being who cared very much about his family and friends and loved the community," Digrizia said. "He certainly was a tough guy and he lived his life accordingly. I was proud to be his friend."

McMurray said Marris' dedication to his family was unique.

"I really admired the fact that he put his wife before anything else and looked out for her interest above all others," McMurray said. "You don't see that much in this day and age."

Marris stepped down from the council in June after serving two and a half years.

Digrizia said it was Marris' lifelong dream to live in Albion and that PIC, which has offices in five states, enjoyed great success while Marris ran the company in

seni-retirement. Prior to his involvement with the City Council, Marris worked with the city's planning council and was a tireless promoter of community events and fund-raising activities, Danner said.

"It was very concerned about the community and all the people here," City Clerk Mary McMurphy said.

"He wanted the best for them. He was a wonderful person who will be very much missed."

Marris' work in obtaining grant money for the children's playground is one of his most lasting legacies, McMurphy said. Others said Marris' impact on the community could not be measured because of the sheer number of projects in which he was involved.

McMurray said Marris' dedication stemmed from a genuine desire to improve the community. "I think his reward was seeing things get better for folks that live in the city," he said.

Services for Marris are scheduled for 11 a.m. Saturday at the Albion Ward Chapel of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints under the direction of the Rev. Kenneth Fein.

Times-News reporter Chip Thompson can be reached at the newspaper's Altus-Cassidy bureau at 677-4642, Ext. 636, or by e-mail at cthompson@magicvalley.com.

MOVING FORWARD



Workers for Lundahl Building Systems and Triple C Concrete pour footings for the Gossner Foods Inc. cheese factory at the Burley-Heyburn Industrial Park on Wednesday. Despite recent snow and daytime temperatures in the low 20s, Project Manager Scott Robinson said the construction is progressing on schedule. The plant is expected to begin operations by October 2005.

Feds propose changing Delta water marks

SACRAMENTO, Calif. (AP) — A proposed change in how the federal government measures water for fish in the Sacramento-San Joaquin river delta has environmental groups alarmed and California officials concerned about potential harm to wildlife habitat.

A coalition of 22 environmental groups said Wednesday the plan would shift some of the federal water burden — and potentially more than \$20 million in expenses in some years — onto the state-controlled water supply. In some years, hundreds of thousands of acre-feet of water might not be available for wildlife, the groups said.

Federal spokesmen said the plan would protect the environmental water allotment while balancing the needs of farmers and urban residents.

At issue are agreements, federal law and a federal court decision that requires the government to guarantee 800,000 acre-feet of federally controlled water goes to Delta fisheries each year. That's roughly enough water to supply 800,000 households for a year.

"This is a big, thorny issue of water in California," said Diana

Jacobs, deputy director of the state Department of Fish and Game.

It all goes back to too many demands on too little water needed by fish, farmers and 22 million residents as far south as Los Angeles and San Diego. "We fish and all these things together," sometimes the federal contractors have to get curtailed. They feel like that's not fair," said Jacobs, referring to water districts that get their supplies through the federal system of dams, pumps and canals.

The San Luis and Delta-Mendota Water Authority, which represents San Joaquin Valley farmers and includes the Westlands Water District, the nation's largest irrigation district, sued and won a federal court decision last year that helped prompt the proposed changes.

"From our perspective, the 800,000 acre-feet allocation magically took a million, a million-two acre-feet of water from the agricultural community" by the time all the environmental agreements were inked, said water authority spokesman Tupper Iffitt. The proposed changes are "encour-

aging, from what we've seen."

The proposal is designed to make sure the water allocation doesn't exceed 800,000 acre-feet, while guaranteeing fisheries receive that required amount, the Interior Department's Bureau of Reclamation and Fish and Wildlife Service said in a letter first sent to their two state counterparts.

Their proposal would merge two water accounts in cooperation with state agencies, and court was allocated under an earlier agreement toward the 800,000 acre-feet. It also would shift, the accounting year by three months so early winter rains that refill empty reservoirs could be counted toward water reserved for wildlife.

The environmental coalition alleged the changes would violate the federal court order and the government's own plan to manage the delta.

"If, for some reason, you have an Enron-style accounting games, you can rip off water from the environment," said Barry Nelson, a senior policy analyst with the Natural Resources Defense Council. "The accounting rules are complicated, but the effect is simple: they're ripping off fish and wildlife to benefit their

usual friends."

Not so, said Reclamation spokesman Jeff Cracker.

"It doesn't take any water away from the environment. It will provide the 800,000 as required by law, and as we've always done," Cracker said.

"It shifts the use of timing, but it doesn't shift the use of water," Fish and Game's Jacobs said. It's too early to tell, until the state plugs the proposed changes into its model of how the state's complicated, over-taxed plumbing system operates.

"We're concerned we don't go backwards for fish, and we can still do all the fish restoration actions we used to do," she said.

Katherine Kelly, chief of the Bay-Delta Office of the state Department of Water Resources, couldn't comment on the merits of the proposal, but said federal officials need to use a pending public comment period "to make the case that this is an improvement," as it is intended.

California Farm Bureau Federation spokesman Dave Krutz said his organization hadn't had a chance to review the proposal and couldn't comment.

Club raffles off prizes to raise some money

TWIN FALLS — Electronics students at the College of Southern Idaho are raffling prizes to raise money for their club, Electro Tech Skills USA.

Prizes include a 27-inch television, a Sony surround sound system, a 300-power, 60-mm telescope, gift certificates from a variety of businesses and restaurants; cookware; and toys.

Tickets are \$1 each, six for \$5, 13 for \$10 or 30 for \$20.

They can be purchased from any CSI electronics student, club adviser Ben Bartlett at 732-6324, or at the CSI vs. Treasure Valley basketball game Tuesday in the CSI gym.

The drawing will be held during break time of the game Tuesday.

Winners need not be present to claim their prizes.

Shoshone hosts a legislative reception

SITKONONE — A Legisla-

Magic Valley in brief

reception will be held at 6:30 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 8, at the Shoshone Media Center located at the Shoshone High School, State Sen. Clint Stennett, D-Ketchikan, and Idaho Rep. Wendell Anderson, D-Ketchikan, will be in attendance. School administrators, school board members, and the general public are encouraged to attend.

A discussion will be held about issues that have been agreed to by the Idaho Education Association and school administrators. A general discussion also will be held.

The meeting should last about one hour and 30 minutes. Refreshments will be furnished. The sponsors of the meeting are the Idaho Education Association and Shoshone School District.

— compiled from staff reports

Court battle begins over Hanford initiative

YAKIMA, Wash. (AP) — Some cleanup at the Hanford nuclear reservation will be halted unless Congress passes a temporary restraining order to keep a new state initiative from becoming law, the federal government warned in court documents Wednesday.

Initiative 297 prohibits the U.S. Department of Energy from sending more out-of-state radioactive waste to south-central Washington's Hanford nuclear site until all existing waste at the site is cleaned up. Washington state voters overwhelmingly approved the measure this fall.

The initiative was scheduled to take effect Thursday, but the Justice Department filed court documents Wednesday seeking to invalidate the measure on grounds that it violates federal laws governing interstate commerce and nuclear waste. Hanford, a federal site, is immune from state regulation, the government argues.

The federal government also sought a temporary restraining order to prevent the measure

from becoming law. A federal judge in Yakima scheduled a hearing for Thursday morning on the restraining order request. In court documents, the federal government argued that some cleanup projects at the site will come to a halt because they lack permits not required under current law, but that may be required under the initiative. Hundreds of workers will be idled and cleanup schedules at Hanford will be "delayed," the court documents said.

All this will result in harm to health and the environment," the documents said. "Moreover, efforts to comply with the draconian provisions of I-297 will cost millions of dollars — which will not be recoverable if, and despite, I-297 is ultimately determined to be unconstitutional."

David Mears, senior assistant attorney general for Washington state, said the state will vigorously defend the initiative. State officials are working with lawyers for the initiative's sponsor and other supporters. Mears said.

An attorney for Hanford watchdog group Hear of America Northwest, sponsor of the initiative, reserved comment until after Thursday's hearing.

At issue are the federal government's plans for disposing of waste from World War II and Cold War-era nuclear weapons production nationwide. The Energy Department chose Hanford to dispose of some mildly radioactive waste and mixed low-level waste, which is laced with chemicals.

The site also would serve as a pack of some transuranic waste before it is shipped elsewhere for long-term disposal. Transuranic waste is highly radioactive and can take thousands of years to decay to safe levels.

In 2003, Washington state filed suit to block transuranic waste from entering the state, fearing Hanford would become a radioactive waste dump.

The Energy department voluntarily suspended the shipments after the lawsuit was filed, but the case remains in

federal court.

While those shipments remain on hold, Initiative 297 also places other restrictions on cleanup.

In the request for a restraining order, the federal government seeks to continue cleanup under existing requirements and schedules until the courts rule on its claims.

"DOE is not at this time seeking any relief that would allow it to import mixed waste generated at other facilities," the documents said.

"It remains the most contaminated site in the nation, with cleanup costs expected to total \$50 billion to \$60 billion."

Republican U.S. Rep. Doc Hastings, whose district covers Hanford, urged state and federal officials to continue cleanup and keep workers on the job until legal questions are resolved.

Ada Commissioners want out of Les Bois lease

GARDEN CITY (AP) — Ada County Commissioners are asking a judge to let them evict Lariat Production Inc. from Les Bois Park.

Commissioners claim that the company has allowed the publicly owned horse track to fall into disrepair in violation of the lease agreement.

"This is the public's facility and unfortunately Lariat had not acted within the conditions of the lease to maintain the facility."

Commission Chairwoman Judy Peavey-Derr said.

"We have a responsibility as the landlord to make sure this facility is being properly main-

tained by the tenant. Ada County and our constituents expect a safe environment for horses, jockeys and patrons at Les Bois."

Officials with Lariat Production could not immediately be reached for comment.

The commissioners unanimously voted to ask a court to

consider whether the terms of the lease have been violated. The commissioners claim Lariat failed to repair roofs on the horse stables and other buildings, failed to repair the race track, failed to control irrigation drain and allowed garbage, manure and other waste to pile up at the park.

SALMON, Idaho (AP) — A disbarred wildlife grov supervisor blamed for the deaths of two young Idaho firefighters last year has been placed on 18 months probation under an agreement with the U.S. attorney.

Alan Hackett, who was fired by the Salmon-Challis National Forest on Nov. 13, is the first Forest Service employee since 1965 to be disbarred as a result of the criminal conviction of the July 2003 Crater fire that claimed the lives of firefighters Irl Allen, 24, of Salmon, and Shaun Leach, 22, of Melba.

U.S. Attorney Tom Moss said Hackett could still face criminal charges if the full county grand jury returns an indictment.

"I can only hope the accepted under the pretrial diversionary agreement, Hackett's attorney said a charge of involuntary manslaughter against the former wildlife manager was considered."

A government inquiry into the Crater fire found that poor judgment by Hackett and other fire managers contributed to the deaths of Allen and Leach. Moss said.

"The Forest Service said other officials have been disciplined, but refused to provide details."

Hackett's attorney, Aaron Thompson, said a criminal charge would be unjustified considering that other wildfire managers received far less severe disciplinary action.

"It was unfair that criminal action was pursued or at least considered against Mr. Hackett at all," Thompson said Wednesday.

"My heart goes out to the families of the two young men who lost their lives," Moss said. "I can only hope that the accountability provided by this resolution will bring them some closure."

Assistant U.S. Attorney George Breishamer said a review of others working on the Crater fire found no criminal liability.

"We focused on who placed these two individuals at risk, who made the decisions that caused their fatalities," Breishamer said. "Really, the only person who had that responsibility was Alan Hackett."

The two firefighters died on July 22, 2003, after being over-run by flames while trying to clear a helicopter landing spot. They had twice radioed for help, but the helicopter that was sent in was late, and by the time it arrived, the smoke was too thick to locate the two.

day. "We did not believe the prosecution could present a case that would have found him guilty."

"I don't believe beyond a reasonable doubt, I think they would acknowledge that they had a tough case."

Moss said Hackett was "negligent in providing proper supervision and safety to the two firefighters who lost their lives."

He blamed Hackett based on an investigation by the inspector general of the U.S. Department of Agriculture, which oversees the Forest Service.

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DEATH NOTICES

Violet Bower

BIRTH — Violet Bower, of Buhl, died Wednesday, Dec. 1, 2004, at Country Assisted Living of Buhl.

A full obituary and service announcement will appear in a later edition. Arrangements are under the direction of Farmer Funeral Chapel, Buhl.

John W. Crowley

CASTLEFORD — John W. Crowley, 61, of Castleford, died Tuesday, Nov. 30, 2004, at Magic Valley Regional Medical Center in Twin Falls.

At his request no services will be held. Arrangements are under the direction of Farmer

Funeral Chapel, Buhl.

Douglas James Robbins

BURLEY — Douglas James Robbins, a 45-year-old Burley resident, died Dec. 1, 2004, at Cassia Regional Medical Center.

A funeral will be held at 11 a.m. Saturday, Dec. 4, 2004, at the Hansen Mortuary Burley Chapel, with Pastor John Zilukowski officiating. Friends may call from 6 to 8 p.m. Friday and one hour before the service on Saturday at the chapel. Burial will follow at the Paul Cemetery.

"I got to know them, their families and their kids," Maughan said.

While moms were enjoying some time to themselves at the army, their children were having a Christmas party of their own next-door at the Boys and Girls Club where Santa Claus put in an early appearance. "It was like to life as usual," the wives and moms of the 2-14th Brigade Combat Team, and back to waiting for the next call home.

"The praying he remembers everything I taught him," said Teddi Schwabedissen, mother of Sgt. Jack Schwabedissen. "And that I didn't forget anything."

Times-News writer Sandy Miller can be reached at 735-3264 or by e-mail at smiller@magicvalley.com

Utah contractor charged with sales-tax fraud

SALT LAKE CITY (AP) — A general contractor was charged with falsely claiming a sales tax exemption on hundreds of thousands of dollars of building materials.

James Wallace McBride, 36, faces ten tax-related felony charges, a single count of communications fraud and another charge of racketeering.

The Utah attorney general's office said McBride, owner of A.M.A. Construction, avoided sales tax with every purchase

of building materials he made from May 2000 to June 2004. Using a defunct business' expired tax exemption certificate.

"Our prosecutors and investigators for the Utah Tax Commission are keeping a close eye on people who are literally pickpocketing Utah taxpayers," Attorney General Mark Shurtleff said Wednesday in a statement.

"Anyone who abuses the tax exempt status is putting the entire program in jeopardy."

McBride is accused of evading at least \$12,000 in sales tax. He could be forced to pay back \$200,000 including interest and penalties.

McBride refused comment on the particulars of the allegations when reached Wednesday by The Associated Press.

"The only thing I can say is it's a bunch of garbage. I got the best attorneys in Salt Lake working on it," said McBride. His attorney, Earl Fain of Ron Yonighe's law firm, didn't re-

turn a call from the AP.

"You should see the stuff they charged me with. It's a laundry list of stuff," McBride said.

"My attorneys are saying they're just piling it on. It's a sad day. When they first contacted me, I answered every question they had, and all of sudden two months later here come the charges. You got to be kidding me."

The felony charges are punishable by as many as 130 years in prison.

But he did note that he did not consider last year's election very heavily at all.

For instance, he is seeking compensation for lost income and benefits, mental and emotional distress, deprivation of his constitutional rights. He's also seeking compensatory damages, punitive damages, court costs and fees.

Kershaw said the defendants

have 20 days from receipt of the complaint to respond, then it will take a while for the case to go to trial.

"It might be moved to the federal level if the defendants request it, Kershaw said."

Times-News writer Karin Kowalski can be reached at kkwalski@magicvalley.com or 735-3231.

Suit

Continued from C1

Kershaw said Robinson had experienced pressure to vote for "the right person" at that election and the previous one.

Kershaw said the district's stated reasons for terminating Robinson were that he was bad for morale because he talked about the election frequently and tried to persuade his fellow employees to vote a

certain way.

Kershaw said the district said Robinson failed to obey instructions on at least two occasions and graded pavement in the wrong place.

"We'll see what the evidence shows," Kershaw said.

When contacted by The Times-News, Osterkamp declined to comment on the civil case.

School

Continued from C1

"I think they need to do something," Gardner said.

Enrollment is a large motivating factor in the district's quest to improve its buildings. District Business Manager Mike Gibson presented enrollment projections, which are expected to increase to 3,200 students by the 2009-2010 school year. This year the district has 3,200 students.

Possible plans include build-

ing at least one new school.

In addition to the existing school properties, the district also owns 40 acres of ground on North Lincoln Street and 10th Avenue, 30 acres on 100 South Road and several acres adjacent to the high school, where new schools could be built.

Roundtable participants filled out questionnaires about their desires for ideal buildings, school sizes, grade configurations and locations, among

other priorities, before discussing them as a group.

For instance, there was a lot of discussion on small versus larger schools.

Clark Muscat, the school improvement coordinator and an assistant principal at the high school, said large schools have the problem of students slipping through the cracks.

Chris Barber, the district's facilities improvement committee chairman, said it

doesn't matter how large a school is as long as the class sizes can be small enough.

Committee Member Bryan Craig said the meeting might be preaching to the choir. He said the district might be able to garner more feedback by mailing out surveys.

Times-News writer Karin Kowalski can be reached at kkwalski@magicvalley.com or 735-3231.

Pamper

Continued from C1

credibly wonderful," Maughan said.

After enjoying an evening of Christmas music from Rachel Williams and plenty of laughter, the women went home with gifts and certificates for haircuts, facials, massages and manicures.

"I think this is wonderful," Codner said as she massaged some lotion-into-her-skin. "It's something we really needed. It's been hard dealing with this deployment. My boys are my whole life."

About 30 of the soldiers now in Kuwait were on Maughan's client list at the barber shop. When they got activated last spring, they still include a year in Iraq. Maughan had to say good-bye to people she'd come to know well.

WEST

New legislation may undermine Oregon's land-use regulations

SALEM, Ore. (AP) — For years, Dorothy English, 92, has wanted to subdivide and perhaps sell off the 19 acres she owns in the scenic hills 20 minutes from downtown Portland. But some of the strictest zoning restrictions in America prevented her from doing so.



Dorothy English, 92, stands on the porch of her home in the north-west hills of Portland, Ore.

Now, she and thousands of Oregon property owners like her could see their way when a new voter-passed state law takes effect on Thursday.

Oregon in 1973 adopted land-use policies that are often regarded as a model for protecting America's farmland and other open space. The combination of local, county and state regulations has confined most new housing to already built-up areas.

But a revolt by property owners at the ballot box on Nov. 2 could literally change the Oregon landscape.

The new law, called Measure 37, stipulates that if land-use regulations lower the value of someone's property, that person must be paid compensation or the regulation must be waived.

Of the group 1000 Friends of Oregon, has visions of strip malls and housing developments being built on farmland and "big box" stores opening up whenever retailers please.

"We could have scattered development in the countryside and harmful, unexpected development in neighborhoods," he said.

English said she intends to bring the first in line Thursday to apply for either compensation for diminished property value or a waiver allowing her to

subdivide her land, which she and her husband bought three decades ago.

No one is sure how many people will apply. But some local governments and counties, still hurting from the recession, may not have the money to pay compensation. That could force them to waive land-use regulations.

Whatever happens, the new law is certain to create a legal morass that could take the Legislature and the courts months, if not years, to sort out.

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St. Helens reawakens as new top polluter

SEATTLE (AP) — Washington state's top polluter isn't a pulp mill, a power plant or refinery. It's the newly awakened Mount St. Helens.

Since the volcano began erupting in early October, it has been pumping out 50 to 250 tons a day of sulfur dioxide, the lung-stinging gas that causes acid rain and contributes to haze.

Those emissions are so high that if the volcano were a new factory, it probably couldn't get a permit, Clint Boyman, an atmospheric physicist for the Washington Department of Ecology, told the Seattle Times.

All of the state's industries combined produce about 120 tons a day of the noxious gas. Normally, the state's No. 1 polluter is a coal-fired power plant near Centralia owned by the Canadian firm TransAlta. The plant churned out 200 tons a day of sulfur dioxide until regulators demanded \$250 million worth of renovations, bringing the level down to 27 tons a day.

Tough to get those kind of results from a volcano.

"You can't put a cork in it," said Greg Nohstein of the Washington Energy Policy Office.

Because the area around St. Helens is so sparsely populated, officials say they haven't heard complaints about respiratory problems linked to the emissions. But persons with sensitive breathing ailments probably would feel the effects if they lived close to it, said Bob Elliott, executive director of the Southwest Clean Air Agency in Vancouver.

"We are very fortunate, in terms of the impact on human health, about Mount St. Helens erupting," Elliott said.

Italy's Mount Etna can produce 100 times more sulfur dioxide than Mount St. Helens, and it sits in the middle of a heavily populated area. The volcano spouts acid rain and a type of bluish smog that volcanologists call vog, which can affect large swaths of Taupo, said Terry Gerlach, a U.S. Geological Survey scientist.

Kilauea Volcano on Hawaii's Big Island churns out 2,000 tons a day of sulfur dioxide when it's erupting, creating an acid fog that damages local crops.

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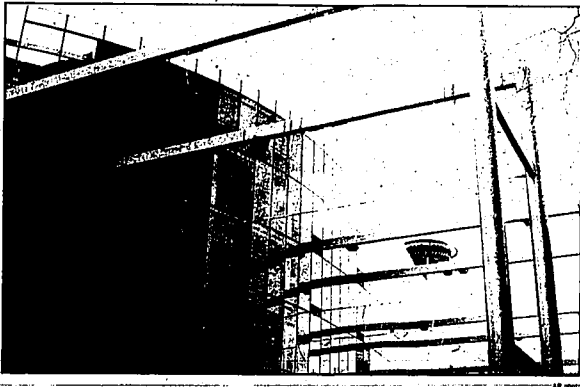
Money woes prompt panic at Seattle opera, ballet

SEATTLE (AP) — With Seattle awash in dot-com and aerospace money a few years ago, the city built an airy, \$172-million performance hall for the Seattle Opera and the Pacific Northwest Ballet. But high culture has since become a low priority at City Hall and beyond.

Because of the recent downturn in the Northwest economy, the politicians want the opera and the ballet to shoulder more of the hall's leftover construction costs — a move the two arts organizations fear could ruin them.

The dispute has touched off something of a class debate over whether taxpayers should be subsidizing the tuxedo-and-jewels set.

At issue is the glass-fronted McCaw Hall, the newest addition to Seattle Center, a 76-acre complex that includes the Space Needle and the NBA Seattle SuperSonics' Key Arena.



The Marlon Oliver McCaw Hall being built in Seattle, is shown in this April 17, 2003 file photo.

City voters approved \$38 million for the hall in 1999. Private donors — led by cell-phone magnate Greg McCaw — kicked in \$72 million. Optimistic planners expected King County and the state to contribute, too.

But things changed before the hall even opened its doors a year and a half ago. The dot-coms went bust. The Sept. 11 attacks crippled the regions' aerospace industry, anchored by Boeing Co. And the ranks of the unemployed swelled.

Since then, the state and the county have provided only about \$5.5 million of the \$17 million that the owners of the hall had hoped for to help cover long-term construction costs.

And the city, which has been paying most of the interest on the building up to now, has de-

clined to cover only half those costs for the next two years. After that, Mayor Greg Nickels wants to make the opera and the ballet responsible for all interest and principal, which total \$900,000 a year.

The mayor has suggested the arts organizations handle the added expenses by raising ticket prices or increasing the rent for users of the hall.

But in a recent eight-page news release, the ballet and the opera warned that those suggestions threaten their long-term future. They said, "raising ticket prices would keep the less affluent out, and the higher expenses will require them to cut performances, jobs or community programs."

A Seattle Times editorial

ridged the opera-ballet news release as an "ill-advised hessy-fit." And the squabble prompted cranky letters to the editor from citizens who consider opera and ballet pastimes of the rich.

"While the venue is a public building, it is dishonest to suggest that it serves anything other than a mostly private purpose for its wealthy patrons," David Keenan of Seattle wrote in a letter published Nov. 15. "Considering the \$25 million budget gap our municipality is facing, I suspect that the city's opera patrons could — and should, pay an extra dollar or two the next time they attend 'Das Rheingold.'"

Virginia Anderson, Seattle Center's director, responded to such complaints by noting that

more than 80,000 people — many of them children — attend the ballet's annual holiday performances of "The Nutcracker Suite."

"One of the things I feel worst about is perpetuation of the stereotype of the arts as elitist," said Mayoral spokeswoman Marianne Bichsel said the city has gone above and beyond its initial commitment to the hall and cannot afford to do more. She said it is time for the arts groups to shoulder the burden — something they knew was coming two years ago.

"The citizens of Seattle voted to tax themselves to contribute \$30 million. In addition, we've paid two years of their debt service," she said. "I would say that's a pretty big commitment."

Bush signs largest designation of Nevada wilderness in history

RENO, Nev. (AP) — President Bush has signed into law a measure conservationists say is the single largest designation of federally protected wilderness in Nevada history — a total of about 1,200 square miles north and east of Las Vegas.

The legislation is billed as a compromise between environmentalists who want permanent protection of intact wild lands and developers who want more water for Clark County.

The new law creates 14 new wilderness areas protecting wildlife habitat, rugged mountain peaks, limestone cliffs, fragile caves and archaeological resources across a total of 760,000 acres, an area about half the size of the state of Delaware.

It directs the Bureau of Land Management to auction up to 90,000 acres of federal land in the rural county north of Las Vegas.

It also establishes a utility corridor that would allow the Southern Nevada Water Authority to build a pipeline to tap into groundwater in eastern Nevada and draw as much as 200,000 acre-feet of water per year — enough for more than half a million households.

Nevada's entire congressional

delegation supported the measure, which Bush signed Tuesday night. The wilderness areas include habitat for the desert tortoise, bighorn sheep, golden eagles, goshawks and deer.

"A lot of people with varying interests and priorities came together to forge a compromise that will benefit the people of Lincoln County for generations," said Sen. John Ensign, R-Nev.

"We've created a boost for Lincoln County's economy while protecting environmentally sensitive areas and allowing for the development of new water resources," he said.

Sen. Harry Reid, D-Nev., said it's a good example of what we can accomplish when we work together in a bipartisan manner.

"It is a good compromise that ensures that our public lands will be used for the public good," he said.

Rep. Jim Gibbons, R-Nev., agreed.

"This bill was the epitome of compromise and responsible public lands policy," he said.

J.C. Davis, a spokesman for the Southern Nevada Water Authority, said the new law is critical to the proposed pipeline but that construction is still a long way off.

"From our agency's perspective,

the key is that we have now identified the corridor so we can move forward with the environmental impact study," Davis said from Las Vegas. "But this is just about the pipeline. It doesn't fill the pipeline with any water."

"The EIS will analyze the potential impacts on the withdrawal of groundwater. The state water engineer also must rule on applications for groundwater and make sure it would not harm existing water rights," Davis said.

"It is a very protective process. It is several years at the minimum before construction would begin," he said.

Lee Barrett, president of the Greater Las Vegas Association of Realtors, said the new law is good news for the region. He said construction of the pipeline "would be a very positive thing for southern Nevada."

"We are definitely interested in the consensus Board of Water and the development of new water resources for southern Nevada," Barrett said.

Judge approves land, water buyout plan on Pecos River

SANTA FE, N.M. (AP) — State District Judge David Bonem has dismissed challenges to the state's plan to buy land and associated water rights along the Pecos River to ensure water flows downstream to Texas.

Bonem granted requests Tuesday from the state and from irrigation districts along the river to dismiss challenges by Louise and Francis Traces of Garfield and the Hopi Community Ditch Association. They contended the

state's plan to spend \$70 million to purchase land and water rights along the river would violate state law, the state constitution and the Pecos River Compact.

Attorney Paul Bloom, representing the Traces and the ditch association, said the Traces have instructed him to appeal Bonem's ruling. He had no other comment.

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VEHICLES
1951 Ford 1/2 ton pickup with 4-cylinder V8 engine, 4-speed transmission. Pickup has been completely rebuilt including new glass, just needs paint. It is all original except it has been converted to a 4-cylinder engine. Extra doors, windows, 4-speed transmission, and other parts. 1989 Mitsubishi pickup with 5-speed manual transmission. It has been wrecked but engine runs good. 1983 Ford Tempo with 2-cylinder and auto transmission. Runs. 1951 Pontiac light car with 6-cylinder engine and 4-speed transmission. Runs good and complete. 1980 Chevrolet Van 3500. Body only although the engine is in parts in pickup box. 1978 Datsun 510 car with 4-speed manual. Car has new tires plus extra set of tires and runs good. 1971 Datsun 1600 pickup with 4-speed transmission. Recently overhauled and runs good.

FARM EQUIPMENT COLLECTIBLES
1941 New Holland "Chinaman head" baler with Wisconsin 4-cylinder gas engine. It runs and works and has been stored inside all of the time - big horse drawn has mower on metal wheels - Ford running gear 4 wheel wagon in good condition - running gear 4 wheel wagon - 16" Model A running gear 4 wheel wagon - lots of old wagon wheels and wagon parts - Model A and Model B spoke wire wheels - assorted metal wheels off of old mowers, rakes, etc. - old deer, in good condition

FARM EQUIPMENT
John Deere 122 hand-pushed wheelbarrow with seat - draw bar and 4 section 4 metal harrows - side elevator with loader - 7 metal mounds corrugators - 4C model 374 plow, 4 bottom with 1/2" ball moldboards - hay baler - 4 bar cutter bar with 4-point lift - 4 row roller plow with 4 point - 14" Miskin all metal bed with all the hay baling attachments. The bed is mounted on a 1951 Chevrolet truck that ran when it was parked a few years ago.

HORSE & CATTLE EQUIPMENT & SUPPLIES
Severe 14" saddle - Baker stock 15" saddle - company made 15" saddle - 2 pack saddle - 4 canvas pack bags - leather pack bags - canvas pack bag that fits over saddle horn - aluminum pack bag - numerous single trees and cinchas - cinch leathers - horse bells - stirrups - calf bottles and nipples - delimeter - 1/2" spigee chain with front eye, rope controls - eight 16x32" metal tank panels - eight 10x52" metal tank panels - 4 hole metal hog feeder - metal chicken feeder - over 1000 lb metal feed - over 80 metal feed - over 2000 lb metal feed - over 700 railroad ties - over 400 feet of used wire - lots of used barbed wire

HOUSEHOLD & COLLECTIBLES
Whirlpool 30" Frost refrigerator - 1960s or older Westinghouse oven that works good - Deaaron propane heater that could be converted to gas - 12" black and white TV - bed springs - bed frames - old Graybar electric sewing machine in cabinet - 1950s or older oil-burning mangle - mink sweater - Fred Pickering beds - other peculiar vintage wood burning stove

MISCELLANEOUS
Columbian 1000 bushel grain bin - 2 wheel trailer frame - 2 sheep-bender stoves complete with chimneys - 2 wheel trailer with floor - miscellaneous tires and rims - 1H1 pickup tires - belted truck for Ford or Ferguson tractor - assorted electric motors - chrome rims - deer horn - 2 1/2 hp push lawn mower - better sprayer - two sets - old hand saws - scythe - fuel barrel hand pump - portable air tank - McCall 20" chain saw with case - platform scale on wheels for weighing grain sacks etc. - small scale - food box - chicken waterer - chicken feeders - heat lamps - 100 lb scale - 100 lb scale - 2 wheel trailer on wood frame - 2 pickup bin in stock racks - pickup bin trailer with canopy - pickup bin trailer with extra long frame - 2 1/2" diameter cement chucks with eyes - lots of 8" diameter 4112" cement chucks with ties - lots of old corrugator lumber for firewood - corrugated galvanized tin - ten 18" blue tin siding panels - 2 1/2" heavy and Ford 8.25X20 rims and tires - 4 sheep water troughs - 1000 gallon ethox water tank - Chaffin 1/2 hp generator that runs off of propane; only 20 hours on complete overhaul

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You are invited to a Scoping Meeting for the Proposed Consolidation of Nuclear Operations Related to Production of Radioisotope Power Systems Environmental Impact Statement (Consolidation EIS)

December 6, 2004 6-8:30pm
Shilo Inn
Idaho Falls Room
780 Broadway Boulevard
Idaho Falls, Idaho
(208) 523-0088

December 7, 2004 7-9:30pm
Jackson Hole Middle School
Commons Room •
1230 South Park Loop Road
Jackson, Wyoming
(307) 733-2334

December 8, 2004 7-9:30pm
Fort Hall Tribal Business Center
Tribal Council Chamber
Pima Drive, Fort Hall Town Site
Fort Hall, Idaho
(208) 478-3999

December 9, 2004 7-9:30pm
Shilo Inn
Idaho Falls Room
1586 Blue Lakes Blvd. North
Twin Falls, Idaho
(208) 733-7545

The Department of Energy (DOE) plans to hold public scoping meetings for the consolidation EIS. On November 16, 2004, DOE announced in the *Federal Register* (69 FR) 7150 to solicit public input to prepare the EIS. Public meetings are scheduled for the scope of the EIS, including those responsible alternatives and environmental issues to be addressed. The registration desk and the exhibits will be open at 7pm (11:00 a.m. Idaho Falls). The meeting will begin with the opportunity for informal discussions with project personnel. Following DOE presentation, elected officials, organizations, and individuals are invited to offer comments on the scope of the EIS following the presentation.

Comments may also be submitted by writing to Mr. Timothy A. Frazier, Document Manager, NE-20/Germantown Blvd., Office of Nuclear Energy, Science and Technology, U.S. Department of Energy, 1200 Independence Avenue, S.W., Washington, DC 20585-1200, by telephone (800-919-3706), by fax (800-919-3765), or by electronic mail (consolidationEIS@nuclear.energy.gov). The scoping comment period is through January 31, 2005. Comments received after the period will be considered at the discretion of DOE. For additional information or if you require special accommodations or need a translator at the meeting, please call the toll-free number listed above.

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Comunidad editor: Pat Matamoros - 735-3288

Latino artists release albums

By Agustín Gurza
Los Angeles Times

María Gomez — "Cantos de Agua Dulce"
This young artist did not discover the music of her native Colombia until she moved to Boston to study jazz at the Berklee College of Music. That immigrant irony has made the work a remarkable new talent that was made in the United States, but inspired by all of the Americas.

Gomez, who won composing awards and graduated with honors from the prestigious college, started her performing career by singing on the streets of Harvard Square and peddling her first, self-published CD from 2001. Last year, she opened in Boston for acts as varied as Bonnie Raitt and Mercedes Sosa, the Argentine folk singer she calls her idol.

Backed by Argentine musicians she met at the school five years ago, Gomez developed a scintillating style that applies subtle jazz skills to interpret the popular, folkloric music of Latin America. The result is a mix but not a fusion. The tracks on the new album (whose title means "Sweetwater Songs" in English) remain true to native rhythms with poetically percussive names — "fandango," "cumbia" and "son."

Gomez, who started singing as a child in a church choir in Cali, Colombia, has a sublime voice as pure and clear as Andean mountain air.

Her lyrics gleam with a simple beauty, exploring traditional themes of family and friends, the love of nature and the yearning for a lost homeland. She also

shows good taste in selecting two songs for the CD by other writers, Spain's musical poet Raimon Mammol Serra and Venezuelan folk legend Simon Diaz, author of the much-covered classic "Caballo Viejo."

Anybody who comes here to make music this beautiful should automatically be given citizenship for making our country, and the world, a better place.

Luis Miguel — "Mexico en la Piel"

"Mexico" fan-boned heart-throb enjoyed a tremendous run of hits during the '90s with his cosmopolitan versions of Latin American standards. But the classy crooner has cooled off recently as a wave of all-Latino upstarts, led by Juanes and Shakira, crashed into the Latin pop charts.

Luis Miguel's last studio album, "33," passed almost unnoticed both in sales and at the Latin Grammys, where it got just one nomination and won nothing. Quite a plunge from 2000, when the singer's "Amaré es mi Placer" was named album of the year.

A cynic could say this new collection of "ranchera" standards, complete with Mexican flag on the back cover, is simply a marketing fallback strategy. When in trouble, appeal to the loyal Mexican buyer, the bulk of the business.

Many of the 13 songs on "Mexico Under the Skin" are timeless chestnuts of the genre, many originally popularized by mariachi greats, such as Vicente Fernández ("Que Pasa Manera te Olvidé") and Jose Alfredo Jimenez ("Un Mundo Barro.")

Here, under the musical direction of veteran Armando Manzanero, the songs are dressed up by busy orchestral arrangements that replace crummy grittiness with urban pretensions.

Even the famed Mariachi Vargas de Tecuilatlan, providing backup, can't muster much mariachi spirit. In the end, the effort seems soulless. Instead of reaching again for nostalgia, Luis Miguel needs to find a new path to put his ample vocal talents and charisma to good use.

Roberto Poveda — "San Electrico"

This Cuban singer, songwriter and guitarist makes his solo album debut after 25 years as a backup musician, traveling minstrel and successful soap operator, first in Havana, then in Bogota, now in Miami.

Poveda's musical roots lie in Cuba's "trova" tradition, a blend of folkloric ballads and poetic political statements. Here, he expands the genre stylistically to include muted jazzy horns, lounge grooves and electric guitars with bluesy and Afro-pop overtones, all on gently loping Cuban rhythms. With that mix, Poveda distills a cool new coffeehouse sound that's part Tom Waits and part Pablo Milanés.

Now in his early 40s, Poveda writes songs of love, loss and melancholy, delivered in a rumi-soaked, raspy voice with the detached resignation of a wounded romantic. That world-weary attitude is somewhat new to trova, which tends to be more earnest, uplifting and lyrical. In stripping the style of its florid idealism, Poveda makes it more modern and more American.



Working on scholarship forms are senior leaders of Organizing Castledford Hispanic Opportunities, from left, front: Daniela Maya, Laura Zavala and Luis Hernandez; back: ESL teacher Ruth Wells, and Silvia Graybeal, club facilitator.

Club expands opportunities

By Sandra Wisecaver
The Times-News correspondent

CASTLEFORD — A school-based organization at Castledford strives to broaden opportunities for students.

Membership in Organizing Castledford Hispanic Opportunities is open to all students. Benji Graybeal, a graduate of Castledford High School, helped pave the way for the club. Two years ago, he recruited his mother, Silvia's assistance to organize English classes for Hispanic adults in the community.

Earlier this fall, another Castledford High graduate, Evis Medina, encouraged students work to make the group an active organization in the school.

There are no officers. Instead the club is led by senior members Luis Hernandez, Daniela Maya, Erica Reinhold and Laura Zavala. Assisted by club facilitator, Sil-

via Graybeal, and English second language instructor Ruth Wells, they help underclassmen get started on college and scholarship searches and organize community service projects.

"We help them keep track of everything they are doing," Laura said. "From our experience, it is important to keep track of community service hours, keep up our grades and be involved in the community and school activities."

The primary focus is on secondary level students, but organization members also buddy up with elementary students for lunch and other activities.

Benji and Evis saw a need for this type of organization, Laura said. The organization holds fundraisers during the school year. Members are currently selling tamales to help fund educational celebrations for all Hispanic

holidays, Luis Hernandez said. "And someday maybe we will have enough money to help a student with a scholarship or books," Wells said.

In December, members will celebrate Las Posadas, which commemorates Joseph and Mary's search for shelter. Posada means inn, or lodging, in Spanish.

"Many of us were born here or have lived here most our lives, so it helps us learn more about our own heritage and educate others as well," Daniela Maya said.

There are about 20 members, many of them volunteers for the English classes offered to adults in the community Wednesday evenings at the school. The classes teach the basics of vocabulary, reading and writing.

"It's good for me," Laura Zavala said. "I've lived here all my life so I speak English better than Spanish. I want to improve my Spanish."

Program to save lives starts slow

By Karen Brooks
Knight Ridder Newspapers

FORT WORTH, Texas — A massive operation on the Arizona border expected to save the lives of immigrants crossing the scorching desert this summer has begun with a whimper instead of the anticipated roar.

Trumpeted in March by Homeland Security Undersecretary Asa Hutchinson, the \$10 million Arizona Border Control Initiative was to add 200 Border Patrol agents, 60 search-and-rescue and tactical agents, two unmanned spy planes, known as "drones," six prosecutors for the U.S. attorney, and several temporary detention tents by June 1.

But so far, the plan to secure the Arizona desert, where 15 immigrants have died since October, looks a lot different from the original concept.

The program has barely gotten off the ground, the detention tents have been dropped and the project will likely be over budget, officials said.

The new prosecutors are still being recruited, and the drones have yet to fly — although they're likely to be in the sky by Friday, officials said.

IN DEMAND



Actress Salma Hayek arrives for the world premiere of her new movie 'After the Sunset' in New York. Hayek apologized for missing the opening of a theater in her hometown, saying she was late because of delays during the shooting of a movie elsewhere in Mexico.

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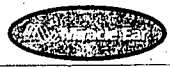
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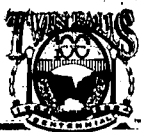
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Gallery cancels Christmas show

But holiday parade with centennial theme rolls on

By Virginia S. Hutchins
Times-News writer

TWIN FALLS — Tuesday's pipe burst flood in a downtown office building washed away a bit of Christmas cheer.

With its offices still soggy and striking on Wednesday, Historic Old Towne's business improvement district canceled plans for a display of holiday-themed historical photographs from Twin Falls early days.

"I'm not going to have one. My whole gallery was destroyed yesterday, all of my pictures," said Karla Williams, executive director of Historic Old Towne.

The business district's temporary gallery, in Main Street Plaza, has displayed a rotation of local historical photographs in recent months to capitalize on centennial-year interest in anything that's old.

The business improvement district had a collection of old Christmas photographs, was already set up in the room. And it was scheduled to open Friday in conjunction with an opening reception for the Magic Valley Arts Council's final show of centennial-themed artworks.

“

The smell is what's so bad right now.

”

— Karla Williams, executive director of Historic Old Towne

The arts council — another tenant of the damaged Main Street Plaza — found a location across the street to hold the Friday reception for its “Twin Falls in Miniature” art. Quick work during Tuesday's flood saved the artwork from damage.

But Williams won't attempt to recreate her destroyed collection of old photos. Fortunately, they weren't original images — rather, festively matted copies of photographs owned by the Twin Falls County Historical Museum and others.

When the pipe burst in Main Street Plaza's ceiling Tuesday afternoon, Historic Old Towne's gallery also contained some borrowed historical originals and a print of a local artist's painting.

Williams and her colleagues moved those out of danger quickly, along with a huge fake cake decorated for Twin Falls' 100th birthday.

“I had to save everybody else's stuff,” Williams said. Williams has digital copies of many of the old Christmas images, and she said she'll be glad to make copies for anyone who's interested. But not just yet. Her office's computers, which were sitting on the floor when water drenched the carpet, are still drying out and can't be turned on.

Several callers Wednesday morning inquired about the historical Christmas pictures, hoping for a chance to see them, said Jan Peters, an employee of the business improvement district. She had to disappoint the callers.

But Christmas cheer is still evident downtown.

Gum ball machines have replaced some parking meters, and more will appear today atop meter posts.

The meters that remain are already covered by red bags to remind shoppers that downtown parking is free during the holidays.

Peters and co-worker Tracy Wilson on Wednesday hung 54 wreaths on Main Avenue lampposts. Strings of lights multiplied along Main sidewalks.

And downtown's 12th Annual Festival of Lights Parade will roll on.

Set to begin at 6:30 p.m. Friday, this year's parade has a theme celebrating 100 years in downtown — the city's original 1904 route.

Williams on Wednesday worked from home on parade organization to avoid her office's wet carpet and walls.

“The smell is what's so bad right now,” she said.



Tony Wilson of Twin Falls' Historic Old Towne places one of 54 wreaths on lampposts along Main Avenue on Wednesday. With its display of historical Christmas photos destroyed by a flood, the business district will concentrate its Christmas cheer and its centennial observance in Friday's parade.

Friday reception will introduce centennial art

By Virginia S. Hutchins
Times-News writer

TWIN FALLS — This show will go on. After a broken water pipe purges its own office and galleries into chaos, the Magic Valley Arts Council late Wednesday lined up a new location for its Friday art exhibit opening.

“Twin Falls in Miniature” is the arts council's last in a series of four centennial-themed shows this year. It will open for the first public viewing with a 7 to 10 p.m. reception Friday at 143 Main Ave. E., a vacant storefront across the street from the arts council's office.

“Considering everything that's happened to us in the last couple of days, we're really fortunate to have found a location to have our last centennial opening and to finish this off nicely,” said Stacy Madden, the arts council's executive director.

Though the exhibit will be open for viewing through Jan. 29, the location is a temporary one.

“I hope in a week or two we'll be back in our regular offices and gallery,” Madden said.

The arts council's normal gallery is at 132 Main Ave. S., inside the Main Street Plaza.

Seven artists produced works for “Twin Falls in Miniature.” Some pieces interpret “miniature” as small art. Others play on Twin Falls' small place on a

In miniature

The Magic Valley Arts Council's show “Twin Falls in Miniature” will be on display Friday through Jan. 29, beginning its run in a vacant storefront at 143 Main Ave. E.

An opening reception for the exhibit is set for 7 to 10 p.m. Friday. The reception is open to anyone, and free. It's a casual social affair with light hors d'oeuvres. And the reception is an open house, so come anytime during those three hours.

Admission to the gallery is always free, and the public is invited.

big player. An example of the former is a snow globe enclosing tiny Twin Falls photos with the water-and-flores. One-of-the-latter is a piece that uses a local historical photograph along with newspaper clippings about events elsewhere in the world.

In addition, courtesy of the Twin Falls County Historical Museum, the “Twin Falls in Miniature” exhibit will include a couple of miniature landscape paintings by early Twin Falls artists.

The Magic Valley Arts Council respect only minimal damage to any artwork in its offices during Tuesday's flood — and no damage to pieces that will appear in the centennial show. “We're very lucky,” Madden said.

Arts documentary will air on Jan. 5

By Virginia S. Hutchins
Times-News writer

TWIN FALLS — Proud of Magic Valley's home-grown art and music? If so, make note of this date.

Four Magic Valley recipients of the 2004 Governor's Awards in the Arts — actor Bruce Willis (a part-time Blaine County resident), former College of Southern Idaho Art Department chairman Larry Steel, Jolley's Company of Toole's theater troupe and the Twin Falls Municipal Band — will be featured with other award winners from around the state in a documentary to air next month on Idaho Public Television.

Holly Gilchrist, receptionist for the Idaho Commission on the Arts, said the hour-long documentary is set to air at 7 p.m. Jan. 5 on PBS.

That's “a good prime-time spot” on a Wednesday night, she said.

“The attention comes at a nice time for the municipal band, an institution that is preparing for its centennial and pushing for grants to renovate the band shell in City Park.”

On Aug. 12, the final night of the municipal band's 99th season, videographers taped interviews with some key players and captured performance footage.

The Idaho Commission on the Arts and Idaho Public Television collaborated to create the documentary — using interview footage of all of the arts award winners and shots from an October awards ceremony — as an attempt to inspire support for the arts statewide.

“Legislators will likely receive copies of the documentary in early 2005,” Gilchrist said earlier.

“The commission hopes it will serve as a ‘momentum booster’ for support of the arts with legislators,” she said.

Paper solicits historical New Year's and Christmas photos

The Times-News

TWIN FALLS — We're still looking for privately owned historical photographs that show Magic Valley's early residents celebrating Christmases or the beginnings of new years.

In hopes of giving our “Magic Valley scrapbooks” feature a holiday flair, we've reopened our invitation for readers to submit old photos — but only ones which depict Christmas or New Year's themes.

If we get a sufficient response, we'd like to publish a page of Christmas pictures on the Dec. 23 Centennial page, and New Year's photos on Dec. 30.

• What to submit: We're looking for privately owned photos taken anywhere in Magic Valley before 1910, depicting Christmas and New Year's activities.

• Where to bring them: The newspaper office is at 132 Fairfield St. W. in Twin Falls.

• When: We'll accept the photos between 10 a.m. and 5 p.m. on Mondays through Fridays for the next couple of weeks.

• Ask for: Three news clerks are available to scan the photos while you wait and return them to you immediately.

They are Ellen Thomason, at 735-3266; Ramona Jones, at 735-3262; and Jani Whitehead, at 735-3278. Appointments are not necessary, but please come when you have time to wait for a clerk to finish the scanning.

• Permission form: For each photo submitted, you'll be asked to sign a form giving the newspaper permission to reproduce the picture in its printed and online editions. We'll give you credit as the photograph's owner.



Mount Snow:
Ski together,
stay together.

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OUTDOORS

INSIDE

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Comics D4
Community D5

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

The Times-News

Thursday, December 2, 2004

Section 1D

What Idaho gives, I will freely take

"Good news from the mail, honey," my wife serenaded during her daily afternoon phone call. "You got a notice from the state."

Quickly my mind raced through a fog of recent memories. What speeding tickets or state taxes did I forget to pay off?

"It's from the state Parks and Rec," she added. "They're giving you a free state parks pass."



CROSSING THE DIVIDE
David Cooper

Well, say no more. My attention has been sparked. The three words that will warm the heart of most any Idaho recreationist—elk, steelhead and free. The first two have always evaded me. But the third—free state—is an area I have mastered. And just like the song says, "The best things in life are free."

Later on I perused the state voucher and its simple purpose. The Idaho Department of Parks and Recreation wants residents input on outdoor recreation in the state. By taking a few minutes to respond, I'd qualify for a free state parks pass to use next year.

After logging on and rolling through the Web survey, it's apparent that the state has gone extra lengths to include every activity under the banner of outdoors recreation. There are questions about winter sports, summer sports, water sports (including swimming in the canals) and team sports. It asks about fishing in lakes and ponds, streams and rivers. There's bird hunting, bird watching, and even badminton "birdies," golf, Frisbee, and even Frisbee golf.

The survey even goes to lengths to ask about mushroom picking, firewood gathering and lawn bowling. That last activity is rather confusing, but not wanting to miss out on the free pass, I reply "am willing to learn."

One especially interesting nugget of research included the following line:

"Check the box corresponding to each activity you participated in, and do the same for each activity your children and in some cases your dog participated in during the past 12 months."

"Wow!" I think to myself. Not only does the state care about my journeys into nature, but it also has concerns for my dog's wild side. Or perhaps the state wants to see if my dog is swimming in the canals, or doing her business on the snow trails.

Either way, it's nice to know that the state is interested in my dog. The state will be sure to find out if they enjoy lawn bowling.

The entire survey revealed quite effectively how broad and important outdoors activity is, and should be, for Idaho residents. Even if you aren't climbing Mt. Borah on the weekends, common activities that most of us take for granted do, qualify as authentic outdoors opportunities. And anything that makes you aware of your surroundings, rather than yourself, is more than good living, it's a good way of life.

Maybe other states go to lengths to find out how residents think kids and their parents spend their outdoor recreational time. But I can't think of many. This reminds me of a ski trip to a neighboring state a few years ago. While riding the lift with a tourist from New Jersey, I informed him I was from Idaho. This admission, however, evoked some callow lines about white supremacists and potatoes.

My second response (the first was to push him off) was to tell him about sunrise mornings on Henrys Lake, white-water rapids on the Snake River, endless hikes at City of Rocks, and snowshoeing at night at Alturas Lake. But I refrained and wished him a good day.

Perhaps one day his own state will ask about his outdoors likes and dislikes. But his dog's? **Fuggedaboutit!**

David Cooper is the Outdoors page editor for the Times-News and receives reader e-mail at dcooper@hugobuvalley.com, including those in New Jersey.

Ready —on the— range



A herd of buffalo roam on the prairie of the Twin Pine Ranch.



Bob Penney of Twin Falls with a cow and a buffalo shot on the 14,000-acre Twin Pine Ranch of Wyoming.

Photos by STU MURRELL, The Times-News

Wyoming ranch provides abundant wildlife and hunting

By Stu Murrell
Times-News correspondent

Interested in the hunt?

To inquire about hunting packages at Twin Pine Ranch, contact Larry and Peggy Gerke at (307) 322-2485 or by e-mail at tplarrypeg@net-commander.com.

How about hunting for buffalo on a 14,000-acre ranch located in the Laramie Mountains northwest of Wheatland, Wyo.? Bob Penney of Twin Falls and myself made the decision to explore the opportunity this past summer. We both had taken a cow buffalo in Nebraska two years ago and found the meat great eating, so we were ready to bolster the leader again.

The ranch we chose was Twin Pine Ranch, owned and operated by Larry and Peggy Gerke. Their son, Dennis, was to be our guide.

I called Peggy to pick a date in November. She was a fund of information with details on the hunt and a good map to their ranch. She also presented each of us with a buffalo cookbook titled "The Taste of the Dakotas."

We stayed at a reasonable motel in Wheatland, and the ranch is about 75 miles northwest of the town. As we turned off I-25 to the ranch, big game was immediately visible with herds of antelope along the road. We took our time on the good gravel road with picture taking along the way; it was a picturesque drive with the ranch along the edge of the mountains in the background.

As soon as we entered the

ranch, herds of buffalo were evident and showed up its black beasts on the yellow prairie ground—more reasons for picture taking!

The ranch itself was a pleasant surprise—the house flanked by monstrous cottonwoods with obvious neat surroundings, no old machinery, etc. It lies along Cottonwood Creek, and as we were standing outside talking to Larry Gerke, four whitetail deer wandered through the buildings. It's indicated as many as 50 wild turkeys could sometimes be seen in their yard.

Larry was a great historian about the area and also went into excellent detail on the difference of raising cattle vs. buffalo.

He told us the Sioux, Cheyenne, Arapaho and Crow Indians regularly camped where they now have their ranch and fought over the area because of the large herds of buffalo that roamed the prairie. There were numerous teepee rings at their camps and evidence of their stay in many locations.

Larry indicated he had origi-

nally started the ranch with cattle and a much larger acreage. Cattle demanded constant attention and he was rarely home with his ranch duties.

Once he started with buffalo, they were much more adapted to the area and utilized the native forage readily. For example, they rarely needed winter feeding. He learned to leave the meadows along the creek for winter forage and respite from the storms. They have yellow fat stored and utilize it for winter survival.

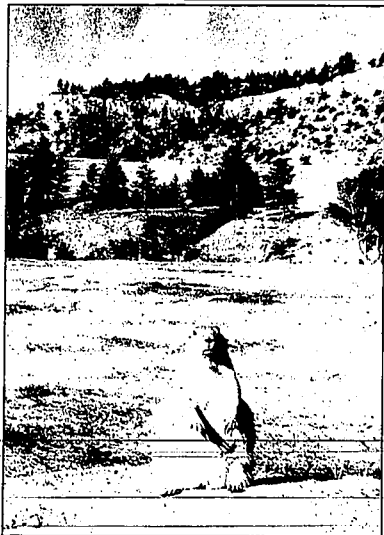
Larry stated that "buffalo would do anything that they wanted, and a cowboy needed patience in dealing with these creatures of the prairie."

Dennis arrived to take us out on the ranch and further discussed the life history of the buffalo. He warned us about the herd bulls that could be very contentious if approached closely. They weigh up to 2,500 pounds, are boss of the area and will remain after they have changed, pounding the person into little pieces. Nice though, and antelope at lower elevations. At one point, we walked through a prairie dog town which caused them to whistle at us. A bald eagle flew over us on one stalk and coyotes yipped in the distance. It was like tales of the Old West.

Bob and I had arranged to take one cow heifer buffalo each for the hunt. Dennis said he would point out the correct animal to shoot in the large herds of 50 or more animals.

We spotted a nice herd in a grassy area below some boulder fields that would make a good area for the stalk. Bob had the first shot and got his animal out of that herd.

Another two years of good eating for our families.



A single prairie dog on the town.

There were definitely free-roaming buffalo on that 14,000-acre ranch! The shot was taken at close range with my 308 Remington Model 700 carbine. Dennis was quite curious about the 10.5-inch barrel, and I told him it was right from the factory.

Larry Gerke had fixed up a deuce and a half (old Army truck) with a heavy duty hoist to handle the large animals in the field. It was amazing how quickly the two of them field dressed those 700-pound heifers.

The next step was transporting the two animals to a processor in Wheatland. He skinned and cooled them for our trip home in Bob's truck. They were in wonderful shape with layers of yellow fat on their backs despite the four years of drought they had been suffering in southeast Wyoming.

Another two years of good eating for our families.



Antelope are just one more species that roam freely at the Twin Pine Ranch.

OUTDOORS

Trout endure grueling Idaho to ocean run

SALMON RIVER (AP) — It's called "The Jug," and steelhead anglers wait a long time to feel it.

Greg Pearson tries not to think about how many casts he'll make to catch a steelhead. Instead, he spends his time in the river appreciating what the fish have gone through to reach the end of his line.

"It is magical, really. To think that steelhead all the way to the ocean and come back and happened to cross your path at that specific time," said Pearson, a Salt Lake City angler who spends an average of 45 days each year chasing steelhead.

"They say they are the fish of a thousand casts and it probably averages out to something like that. One day you will catch five and the next zero. I once went 17 days without a tug or even a splash."

The mystique of this migrating fish is only enhanced by the fact that anglers find them one of the most exciting species to hook.

"They jump fantastically. I hooked a 6- or 7-pounder the other day and it jumped 3 or 4 feet out of the water six or seven times," Pearson said. "I almost got it in and it took off on an angle. Then it came back to the top of the steelhead. It really messes you up once you get that addiction."

Pearson isn't the only Utahn with steelhead fever. More than 1,000 Utah residents hold permits to fish for steelhead in Idaho in 2003.

Austin Legler of South Jordan is one of them. He makes several trips to central Idaho and other steelhead fisheries in the Northwest each fall.

"There is a whole cultural mystical kind of thing going on with steelhead," Legler said. "It starts long before I make the long drive to the river. It starts when I'm tying flies and trying to figure out what I'm going to try to seduce these fish with. The real magic comes when you have gone through the ritual of buying the fish, holding it in your hand and then release it unharmed."

It is magical, really. To think they swam all the way to the ocean and came back and happened to cross your path at that specific time.

Greg Pearson, a Salt Lake City angler who spends an average of 45 days each fall chasing steelhead

Utah anglers are more familiar with steelhead than they realize. Steelhead and rainbows belong to the same genus and species (Salmo gairdneri and Salmo gairdneri) with the only distinct difference being that steelhead are anadromous, meaning they hatch in fresh water, migrate to salt water where they grow to sexual maturity, and then return to fresh water to spawn.

Even though they come from the same scientific family, anglers know steelhead are unique.

"Some people think they are salmon and others know they are trout, but to me they are steelhead," Legler said after a long fall day on the river. "They are just so different from those other fish; they deserve their own name."

Some time after the end of the last ice age, rainbow trout in western North America ventured away from their hatching area to find food.

"There was a lot of ice and a short growing season. It was a pretty infertile environment for young fish," said Bill Horton, anadromous fisheries coordinator for Idaho Fish and Game. "They tried to stay in the area; they were born in through a couple of winters, but they did not do very well."

At some point, the juvenile fish caught the spring melt and didn't stay to spawn or reached the ocean. Once in salt water the steelhead quickly made up for the sterile environment of Idaho and gorged on the bounty in the ocean.

But the pull of home waters is strong. "They always keep their nose pointed towards Idaho. They never turn and swim downstream," Horton said. "Their instinct told them to let them be flushed along with the spring flows."

Steelhead remain in salt water until sexual maturity triggers a need to go home. No one is sure how fish find the river mouth from which they entered the ocean, but it is believed they use scent to find their way back once in fresh water.

For approximately 10,000 years, the fish survived natural predators and other hazards. Then, came white settlers. The initial human impact came in the form of commercial anglers overharvesting all anadromous species. But the modern-day impact on steelhead, and other sea-run fish, were the dams that were built on the river systems of western North America.

Idaho fish heading to the Pacific Ocean face eight dams on their way to and from salt water. Fish ladders help adult fish get over the dams while a juvenile fish transportation system is used to help young steelhead get past the dams (see graphic).

The issue is getting the fish to the ocean in a timely manner. "It is a critical time in their life stage," Horton said. "The switch they make to stay in the ocean to utilize salt water rather than fresh water is monumental. There is a certain time frame built in, and if they don't hit the ocean at the right time, it doesn't happen."

Fish raised in hatcheries seem to handle transport by barge and tanker trucks better than wild fish, which are barely holding on.

To boost numbers of steelhead, Idaho releases an average of 11 million hatchery fish each year. The goal is to get between 2 percent and 6 percent of those back from the ocean. In past few years, the average has been about 3 percent; before that, an average of only 1.4 percent returned. Wild fish make up between 15 percent and 20 percent of the fish that return annually to Idaho.

Even with that low return, some groups claim steelhead fishing is worth \$90 million annually to Idaho.

Wild steelhead caught by anglers in Idaho must be released. They are identified by their intact adipose fin (a small fin on the back between the larger dorsal fin and the tail). Biologists trim the adipose fin from fish raised in any of eight hatcheries.

Steelhead in Idaho begin the journey back to their birthplace in the fall. The fish make it as far as they can before cold water forces them to find a hole in which to winter. Come spring, they will have lost about 50 percent of their body weight. Despite that loss, steelhead return to the place they were born to spawn.

Unlike salmon, all steelhead do not die after spawning. Many perish from the rigors of the journey, but the surviving fish will remain in the area or head back to the ocean. Steelhead populations closer to the ocean frequently include fish that spawn more than once, but the length of the journey and the obstacles on that path prevent most Idaho fish from returning more than once.

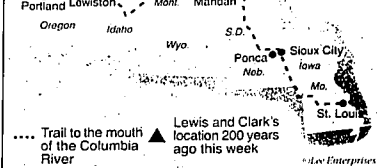
"I'm amazed at the resiliency of steelhead. We have done so many things that could have wiped these critters out," Horton said. "It is just amazing that they continue to persist. I'm glad we are doing things to give them a chance to rebound."

'Killing the Buffalows'

The members of the Lewis and Clark Expedition were not the only visitors to the Knife River Indian villages. Also visiting were a number of fur traders from the furs along the Assiniboine River, about 300 miles as the crow flies to the northeast.

It was time to stock the expedition's pantry with wild game; that meant a buffalo hunt with the Indians.

During this time, the low temperatures dipped well below zero, and there was enough snow on the ground that the Indians began to haul meat and goods on small dog-drawn sleighs.



Trail to the mouth of the Columbia River. Lewis and Clark's location 200 years ago this week.

December 6, 1804 — Capt. Clark was hunting the Buffalo this day with 16 Men, several of the men frosted.

December 7, 1804 — Lewis and Clark, weather remains. Lewis and Clark, weather remains. Lewis and Clark, weather remains.

(Journal excerpts of the Lewis and Clark Expedition, edited by Gary E. Moulton, will appear each Thursday. Copyright Lee Enterprises.)

From dirt bikes to trout books, find the right gift

By Mark Yuasa The Seattle Times

The shopping days are dwindling down toward Christmas, but don't panic. The holiday gift bag is full of goodies for the outdoor fan on your shopping list.

The Novara-Dirt-Rider-SB 20-inch (\$139) is available exclusively at REI stores, and the single speed beginning off-road bike allows young cyclists (ages 6 to 10) to keep focused on the path ahead rather than which gear to use.

Portable GPS navigation devices are more affordable, and they're the perfect stocking stuffer for the outdoor buff who doesn't want to get lost in the woods or on the water.

Philes has introduced the all-new Magellan Explorer series hand-held navigation devices, the Explorer 100 (\$99), 200 (\$149) and 300 (\$199), which have all the bells and whistles needed in a GPS.

Magic Valley Fly Fishers host Christmas party

The Times-News

The Magic Valley Fly Fishers will be having their annual Christmas Party on Friday, Dec. 10 at the Anderson Camp. Dinner will be served at 5 p.m. and a social hour will begin at 6 p.m. The time for the party event, so please bring a dish to pass as well as your own table settings. Drinks will be available for purchase, or feel free to bring your own. This year's theme is fishing, and the party will feature a presentation on dry fly fishing and outdoor photography.

Brian O'Keefe is a renowned angling and outdoor photographer, and his work has appeared in numerous publications. His photos have been featured on the cover of such periodicals as Fly Fisherman, Outdoor Life, Fly Rod and Reel, Field & Stream, Fly Fishing Salt Waters, Fish & Fly Magazine, and Outside Magazine.

In addition, Brian works as a fly fishing tackle representative in the Pacific Northwest, where he lives with his wife. Brian has traveled to the corners of the world, fishing and taking photos of some of the most incredible locations.

His travels include the Bahamas, Belize, Costa Rica, Nicaragua, Venezuela, Chile, New Zealand, Christmas Island, Kenya, Cuba, and the Seychelles. Brian can be contacted through his web site: www.bri-

Outdoors in brief

For more information regarding the NMFS Christmas Party, please contact Dave Anderson at 678-2191, or Chad Chorney at 420-4096.

Ski Patrol recruits new members

If you enjoy skiing or snowboarding, enjoy the fellowship and comradery of belonging to a organization, want to learn new and challenging skills, and have a desire to serve and assist others, then the Soldier Mountain Ski Patrol needs you.

The Soldier Mountain Ski Patrol is currently looking for interested skiers and snowboarders to become members of their patrol. New candidate training will start in early December. For more information please contact Steve Wyatt at 534-8152, Phil Dixon at 481-2267 or Gary Champlin at 736-0359. The Soldier Mountain Ski Patrol is a registered Patrol with the National Ski Patrol System.

Idaho photographer gives presentation

TWIN FALLS — Renowned Idaho photographer, helicopter ski guide and river runner Matt Leidcker of Ketchum will show his latest presentation, "16 Days and 41 Lakes: Exploring the Mountains of Central Idaho," at 7 p.m. Dec. 6 at the Herrick Cen-

ter for Arts and Science on the College of Southern Idaho campus.

Leidcker is considered an expert on Idaho's backcountry. "I'm inspired by ridge lines," he says. "They offer great climbing challenges and the best perspective for photographing the mountain landscape."

This latest presentation takes the viewer on a photographic adventure through Idaho's Sawtooth, Boulder, White Clouds, Smokey, Pioneer and Lost River mountain ranges.

Leidcker has done several presentations at the Herrick Center, including one on his book, "Impassable Canyon: Journey Down the Middle Fork of the Salmon River," and "After the Fires," a sobering look at the devastation to hundreds of thousands of acres of Idaho's wilderness during the fires of 2000.

Admission is free. Donations to the Herrick Center will be accepted.

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Invest in your future. Read the Money pages in The Times-News. Taylor's Convenience & Sporting Goods. Quality Shell Fuel. Now selling Benelli & Franchi Shotguns at VERY competitive prices! We have a truckload of steel shot at BLOWOUT PRICES!

Put a Free Turkey on Your Table! Act Now!! Join our EZ Pay program before January 1, 2005 and receive your certificate for a FREE JENNIE O TURKEY* from Smith's FOOD & DRUG STORES. Enjoy receiving The Times-News every day while paying for your paper the simple, convenient way with EZ Pay Service and receive a free turkey for your table!

The Times-News. The Times-News, 132 Fairfield St. West, PO Box 548, Twin Falls, ID - 733-0931

OUTDOORS

MOUNT SNOW

A family that skis together stays together

WEST DOVER, Vt. (AP) — A four-generation ski trip to a picturesque and pastoral Vermont village seemed like the ideal family vacation. It had something for everyone: sports, hiking, great restaurants — many of them with children's menus, ambient fireplaces and plenty of baby sitters, which to the mother of a 6-week-old baby might have been the most appealing of all.

What we didn't realize until we got to the two-week vacation at Mount Snow was that a vacation that had something for everyone meant bringing something for everyone — about 100 bags of gear.

In addition to the ski gear for 10 — it was decided ahead of time that 91-year-old Great-grandma and Baby were probably better suited for lodge life — there was the national permit books, board games, laptops, computer, cell phones, videos, air supplies, sunscreen, decks, shampoo and even a size 10 boot of laundry detergent that would sustain us for two weeks. And that's not including the three large dogs and their supplies. Needless to say, we didn't take our car to the "road," small, fenced house just two miles from the slopes. It took two SUVs and two cars, all piled to the point that the rear seats were unusable.

Even a family that has been going to Mount Snow for years. My parents, now married 36 years, had met there and we had second home in nearby Wilmington, growing up, so the mountain had long been like a comfortable parka that provides warmth and comfort. Seeing that restaurants such as the Mount Snow Valley, which specializes mostly over West Dover, Vermont and Washington, also had things to do for non-skiers or just to enjoy the days. In the Mount Snow Park, there is a "multiple" better described as a movie house with a few small



In this undated publicity photo provided by Mount Snow Ski Resort, tubers enjoy a run down a slope at Mount Snow in West Dover, Vt.

viewing rooms and even smaller screens. There are many art galleries and antique craft shops in indoor petting zoo at Adams Farm, which also offers sleigh rides and nature walks; and the designer outlets in Manchester, less than an hour away.

The facts, though, is on skiing with all abilities and personalities, and my family runs the gamut. Despite skiing for more than three decades, my mom seeks to the bunny trails — her favorite green-dot slope is the long, gently winding Deer Run. Since it starts at the summit, a 3,600-foot elevation, she can do the run twice and then call it a day. I like the ski only because the best of us do and because she likes the apres-ski life, eating sharp Vermont cheddar and grilled kielbasa in front of the roaring fire with a glass of red wine in her hand.

My father is a strong skier who can get down just about any trail, even Mount Snow's steep North Face but since he still adores my mother after all these years, he's usually on the easiest trails, maybe taking his last run of the day with my sister and me, who are middle-of-the-road skiers.

We're neither fast nor slow, no hot-doggers nor scared-cats. You'll find us on intermediate trails such as the broad Snowdrift or the narrow Upper Canyon, which is more challenging but less crowded. It's these Main Mountain trails bordering the North Face that represent Northeast skiing at its best. The snow-covered evergreen trees are tall, creating a barrier to the outside world. These runs are quiet, peaceful, because they don't face the sun, quite cold in the late afternoon.

My husband is more daring, and when he has a friend to ski with, he'll go down any black-diamond that's in front of him. (He agrees that its generally not a good idea to go alone on the most difficult trails, which are often the most deserted.)

Mount Snow's learn-to-ski program has grown considerably over the years, and there is a full-time day-care center, a playground and a mini skiers-only slope. My then 3-year-old daughter was enrolled in the Bears Den program.

Several times an hour, messages are broadcast over the public-address system, which can be heard in and around the main lodges and in the main lift lines. My guess is only parents with kids at the child-care center

pay attention to the announcements, since this is how they'll find out if their little skier took a spill — either on the slopes or with a cup of very hot chocolate.

The problem is that you're out of range for the public-address system if you are on a lift or actually skiing, thus requiring yet another piece of gear: two-way radios. This way, even if you are out of earshot, a friend or relative who is nearby can contact you. Whether you're at the summit, at the bar or in the restroom in the lodge, those radios are ringing, followed by a static-filled bark that says something like, "Mom ... think ... calling ... you ... junior ... crying."

The radios also are helpful if you want to meet up with friends and family while at the mountain, though with their limited reception you might find yourself finishing lunch in a designated spot as the rest of the group arrives.

You might be better served starting a family tradition that will last for years: Start the day doing your own thing — ski, eat, shop, watch passers-by (that's what Great-grandma and Baby were doing most of the time) — but come together at sundown in front of the giant fireplace at the Main Base Lodge to warm your toes and your heart. It's what we do.

SCENES FROM THE HUNT



Above, Annie, a chocolate lab owned by Brad Hodges of Twin Falls, looks into a camera as she awaits a chance to fetch some fowl.

Below, Brad Hodges (left) and Sam Hodges celebrate a successful shooting of a duck at an undisclosed spot along the Snake River, as their chocolate lab Annie swims out to retrieve it.



Dog sledding in Maine becomes a winter wilderness adventure

NAHAVY, Maine (AP) — Twelve sleds, Yukon Huskies — arctic-bred dogs — and a team of five people are frantically barking and jumping up and down and sideways, their horn-to-run bodies eager to pull the dog sleds that are hitched behind them.

moose Range from to the east. Coyotes, foxes, deer, mink and otters might show themselves on any given day. If a day isn't long enough, Mahonny-Guide Service in Newry also has overnight trips where customers camp in shelters in the woods. For the hard core, Polly Mahonny and Kevin Slater, who own the guide company, will take people on mushing adventures of up to 11 days in northern Quebec with Cree Indian guides. Mushers may conjure up images of Alaska's Iditarod sled-dog race, or Robert Peary minus eight toes lost to frostbite from an earlier trip — crossing the Arctic to reach the North Pole. These days, however, mushing is as much for the tourist as it is for the racer or adventurer. Dog sled tourism has risen as an industry all its own, offering getaways for those looking for a change from the usual winter sports such as downhill or cross-country skiing, snowshoeing or snowmobiling.

CSI offers Goose Calling 101 in December

TWIN FALLS — The Community Center at the College of Southern Idaho is offering one more section of the well-known class "Goose Calling 101" from 7 to 9 p.m. on Wednesday, Dec. 8 through 29, in room 112.

Outdoors in brief

shout will be held Sunday, Dec. 19 starting at 10 a.m. at the Jerome Co. Rod and Gun Club range. Head north on Highway 93 to Shoshone and turn at mile marker 64. The cost is \$20 for members for 100 targets, \$23 for nonmembers, juniors ages 17 and under are \$14.

Goodman will speak at High Desert meeting

TWIN FALLS — Mark Goodman of Twin Falls will describe his adventures and misadventures during a climbing expedition to Mount McKinley in Alaska when the High Desert Nordic Association meets Wednesday, Dec. 8.

In addition to Goodman's presentation, Forster said plans will be reviewed for three coming events. One is a scheduled ski to the HDNA shelter in the South Hills on Saturday, Dec. 11; snow conditions permitting. The other

ers are the annual Free Ski Day at Magic Mountain Ski Area on Saturday, Jan. 8 and a three-night trip to Harriman State Park in the Island Park area of eastern Idaho a week later.

Further information about the HDNA and its activities may be obtained by calling Valdon Hancock at 734-6935 or by e-mail at valdmoh@yahoo.com.

Murrell will teach personal protection

TWIN FALLS — Stu Murrell will

teach a personal protection course from 6:30 to 10 p.m., Dec. 6, 7 and 9 at the Twin Falls Rifle and Pistol club, 253 Fifth Ave. W.

Murrell is a certified National Rifle Association instructor.

The class consists of developing handgun skills and the laws pertaining to their legal use. Completion of the course qualifies an individual to apply for a concealed weapons permit from the sheriff's office.

Cost is \$50 per person. To register or for more information, call 324-5900.

Jerome club schedules

December events

The Jerome Rod and Gun Club's monthly meeting will be at the Jerome Hills Building on Highway 93, Wednesday, Dec. 8, 7 to 9 p.m.

Starting Clay and Trap

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COMICS

Classic Peanuts



For Better or For Worse



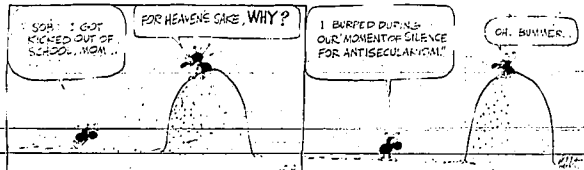
Dilbert



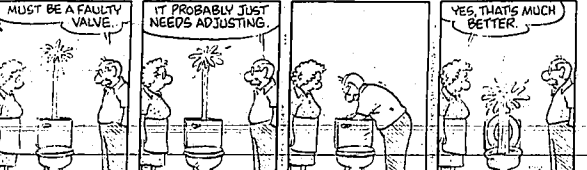
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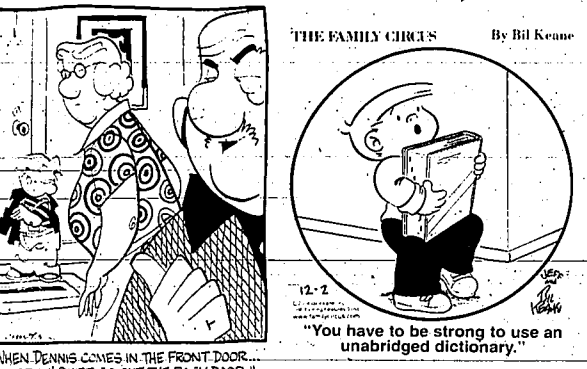
Pickles



Garfield



Dennis the Menace



Hi and Lois



The Wizard of Id



Rose Is Rose



Hagar the Horrible



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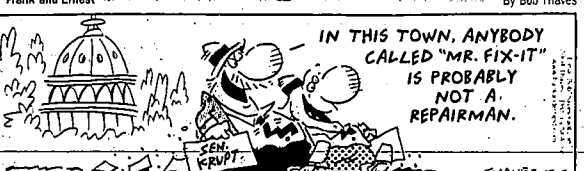
Beetle Bailey



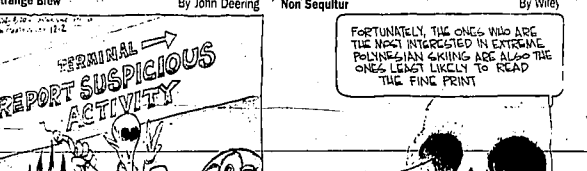
Luann



Frank and Ernest



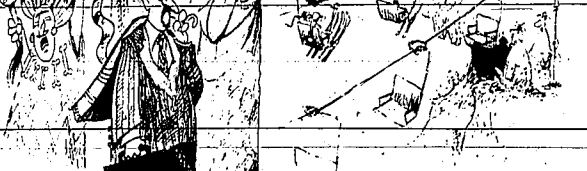
Strange Brew



The Born Loser



Non Sequitur



COMMUNITY

Community Editor: Pat Marantoni — 735-3288

COMMUNITY EVENTS

Basque Association holds first Friday dinner

GOODING — The Gooding Basque Association will hold its first Friday dinner on Monday, Dec. 13, from 6-9 p.m. Friday at the Basque Cultural Center at the intersection of Highway 26 and Highway 46.

The menu will include lamb, fish, chicken, Basque rice, Basque bread, green beans, chicken soup, salad bar and desserts.

The cost is \$16 for adults, \$14 for seniors and \$7 for children.

Pottery store hosts parents night event

TWIN FALLS — The Hands On pottery studio, 147 Shoshone St. N., will host a Parents' Night Out from 6-8 p.m. Friday.

Parents can enjoy the downtown Twin Falls First Friday festivities while children ages 7 to 12 can enjoy painting food and entertainment.

The cost is \$20. Call 735-4175 for more information.

Minidoka County fair appreciates volunteers

RUIPERT — The Minidoka County Fair Board is holding its annual appreciation dinner for those who helped at the county fair.

The dinner will be held at 7 p.m. Friday at the McGeehan Building, 85 E. Baseline Road. Guests are asked to bring a salad or dessert.

Legion Post is grateful for Food Convoy

American Legion Post 19 in Fairfield wishes to thank everyone that contributed to the annual Food Convoy to the Boise State Veterans Home.

Tony's Meza, Rangens, Walcott, Bert Hubbard Motor, Reed Grain & Bean Co. Inc., Frank's Outlaws & Angels, J Brothers Dairy, Skinny Pig, Johnny's Country Store, Columbia Lounge, Wal-Mart, Wyon's Cafe, Shoshone Veterinary Clinic, Sawtooth Food Town, Steve's Quick-Stop, Suto, Inc., Valley Country Store, Bliss Country Store, Big D's, Simerly's, Davenport, Glanbia, Market Fresh, Farmers Bank, Nick Sabala, Bunn, Clear Springs Foods, Rita Stuff Foods, Magic Valley Bank, Ellen Hean, Edna Gill, Sandra Tollard, Mildred Schwenson, Wayne Bogger, Frank Ervin, Glenda Hobbs, Art and Karen Lickly, Brenda Silman, Chuck and Arlene Paulin, Craig Olson, Leroy and Glennis Pickman, Chuck Steen, Nancy Tonne and Rod Holthorst and Toole.

GENE BEHUNIN
Adjutant, Post 19
Gooding

Bliss resident is grateful for support

I would like to thank everyone involved in the fund-raiser on Nov. 13 in Bliss to help pay for the procedure I will undergo in January. It was most successful. You all have motivated me and the support the community has shown is overwhelming.

The results from the surgery, which Dr. Huang will perform in Beijing, China, will not only help me but many others down the line with spinal cord injuries, brain trauma, Parkinson's disease and many others. My progress will be posted on www.curemeandopen.com.

Again, I would like to thank you and say that I am proud to call Bliss, Idaho, and the Magic Valley my home.

CHRIS PRUETT
Bliss

Students donate stuffed animals to children

CARES (Children At Risk Evaluation and Service) would like to say thank you to Lindsey

The fair board will meet at 6 p.m. Friday in the office.

For more information, call 436-9748.

Model railroad group holds open house

FILEL — The Magic Valley Model Railroad Group will hold its 16th annual model railroad open house from noon to 5 p.m. Saturday at the Twin Falls County Fairgrounds.

The event is open to the public. For more information, call 733-2382.

Burley graduate works on college production

MOORE, Okla. — Burley High School graduate Maria Garcia has been named producer for the Hillside Free Will Baptist Church Production of Larry Shue's "The Nerd" in Moore, Okla.

The play time is 7 p.m. Saturday in Mabee Hall in the Barber Center at 3701 S. Interstate 35.

Holiday-home tour benefits camp

TWIN FALLS — The Junior Club of Magic Valley presents the 17th annual Holiday Home Tour to benefit Camp Rainbow Gold from 1-6 p.m. Sunday.

Tickets are \$7 and available at Kelley Garden Center, Kimberly Nurseries, "Everybody's" Business, Elmore's Custom Skin & Body Care, Li, Duke & Sun, Kurt's Haircut, Snipe Hair Salon, Simpler Times Village,

Country Gift Garden and from any Junior Club member.

For more information, call 734-9545.

Turkey shoot benefits Christmas for Kids

TWIN FALLS — The Twin Falls Gun Club will host a turkey fun shoot at 10:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. Sunday at the north end of Washington Street in Twin Falls.

Proceeds will benefit KMYT's Christmas for Kids program. Turkey's, ham and gift certificates will be awarded. Shotgun cards and guarantee cards will be available.

The event is designed for all age groups and abilities.

For more information call the gun club at 734-0639.

Store offers Greek, European food courses

TWIN FALLS — Iudy's, 147 Main Ave. W., is offering two cooking courses. Each course costs \$35 and starts in 6 p.m. "Greek-Specialties" will be held Wednesday. The menu will include tiropita (cheese pie), Greek salad, pastitsio (meat and macaroni one-dish) and baklava.

Instructor Mary Lou Panapoulos began learning Greek cuisine in 1983.

"European Holiday Breads and Treats" will be held Dec. 15. The menu will include Finnish pulla wreath bread, balled fruit cake, Scottish shortbread, English mince pies, Christmas pudding, Italian "panettone,"

French chocolate truffle tart, English marmalade and lemon curd and a selection of breads.

Instructors Mick and Jeanne Grant own the Market Garden in Gooding.

For more information, call 733-5477.

St. Jerome Church holds annual bazaar

JEROME — St. Jerome's Catholic Church, 216 Second Ave. E., will hold its annual bazaar from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. Friday and 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday at the church.

There will be a baked potato bar, cookies and pop for \$3 on Friday and Ham, scalloped potatoes, green beans, salad, pig, pop and coffee for \$5 on Saturday.

Floor prizes and basement bingo will also be available.

Genealogists residents will hold crafts sale

TWIN FALLS — The residents of the Genealogies Apartments will have a Christmas-crafts-and-white-ephemeral sale from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Friday and Saturday at 1846 Harrison St. N., (between Costco and Ace Hardware)

Santa visit, Christmas caroling at business

MURTAUGH — Santa will visit The Hough Street Deli from 5-7 p.m. Friday.

There also will be hot apple cider, hot dogs and Christmas caroling.

Jerome woman earns preservation award

JEROME — Virginia Ricketts of Jerome was honored by the Idaho State Historical Society for her efforts in preserving Idaho state history.

She was awarded the 2004 Esto Perpetua Award Oct. 21 in Boise "because of her undiminished interest and support of the history throughout the south central and Magic Valley areas of Idaho," the Historical Society reported.



Photo courtesy of Idaho State Historical Society

"I am truly honored with this, but I also want to salute everyone who has worked and does work to preserve the history of our great state," Ricketts said. "I honor each of you. Thank you so much."

Idaho State Historical Society Board Chairman Max Pavacic presents the 2004 Esto Perpetua Award to Virginia Ricketts with Steve Garber at the microphone.

Ricketts books include "Then and Now in Southern Idaho," filled with articles about the late 1800s and early 1900s printed in the North Side News in Jerome and The Times-News in Twin Falls.

A former clerk of the District Court of Jerome County, she used her knowledge about accessibility of historic records and her love of research to bring others the unique history of southern Idaho and its role in the development of the state and the nation, the Historical Society reported. Ricketts also helped organize and has served as an officer of the Jerome County Historical Society, and Idaho chapter of the Oregon Trails Association and the Friends of Stricker Ranch. Her efforts have been supported by husband, Clair.

She is a charter member of

the national Oregon-California Trails Association.

As a member of the Jerome County Historical Society, her efforts helped establish its museum where she serves as a curator, the state Historical Society reported. She was also instrumental in starting the Idaho Farm and Ranch Museum in Jerome.

Ricketts has led several historical tours of south central Idaho, including for the College of Southern Idaho, and organized four bus loads of enthusiasts for the national meeting of the Oregon-California Trails Association.

Ricketts served for two terms as a trustee for the Idaho State Historical Society and was chairman for seven years.

LETTERS OF THANKS

The Letters of Thanks column will publish letters of up to 150 words from:

- Organizations thanking contributors or supporters.
- Individuals thanking public agencies and businesses for extraordinary services.

For more information, call 733-0931, Ext. 288.

To express gratitude of a personal rather than public nature, call The Times-News Classified department at 733-0931, Ext. 270.

Brown, Heidi Reisman, Karri Gambrel, members of the Twin Falls High School student council and their adviser, Mike Frederico, for the donation of stuffed animals.

The student council organized the donation of 350 stuffed animals from 140 fellow high school students. Some of the stuffed animals will be included in bags containing clothing and personal items given to children in the Burley, Burley area where the children are removed from homes because of exposure to methamphetamines. The rest of the stuffed animals will be given to children who have appointments at the CARES offices, both in Twin Falls and in Burley.

"Thank you to all the students who made a donation.

HEIDI KOONZ
CARES Program Coordinator
Twin Falls

Good Samaritan helps woman after fall

I want to thank the man that stopped and helped me on Nov. 17. I was taking my dog for a walk and at Shop and Fillmore, I caught my foot and fell. Two cars went by but a man in a blue van-type vehicle stopped and helped me. I did not get his name, but he took me home on Pierce Street.

I hope he reads this and knows I send a special thank you to the school staff for their help in the kitchen.

DIANE GREENE
Secretary, PTO
Hollister Elementary School
Hollister

Turkey shoot proceeds benefit youth projects

We would like to give thanks to the following businesses and organizations for helping the Twin Falls Optimist Club with

the 19th Annual Wayne Kinney Memorial Turkey Shoot — the Twin Falls Gun Club in its generous help and support every year and for Red's Trading Post in the donations of the guns for the raffle.

We would also like to thank all the people for attending the event in Nov. 14. The money raised from this event will help the Optimist Club in its various youth projects, including the Childhood Cancer Campaign, Coats for Kids, Respect for Lav Week, Youth Appreciation Week, Easter Egg Hunt and the Youth Support Services helping any youth that is in need.

JOHN HEAD
DENNIS BOWYER
Co-Chairmen
Wayne Kinney Memorial Turkey Shoot
Twin Falls

Hollister Elementary party enjoys support

The Hollister Elementary School Parent Teacher Organization is very grateful to the following businesses which donated food or prizes in support of our 11th Annual Party Fund-raiser: Albertson's Supermarkets, Brico of Idaho, BS & R Designs and Supplies, Claude Brown Home Furnishings, Cedar Lakes, Country Livens General Store, Don's Thriftway, Furniture and Appliance Outlet, Glanbia Foods Inc., Logan's Market, Meadow Gold Dairy Products, Music Company, Otis Mills Portrait Studios, Randy's Jewelry, S&G Produce Co., Smith's Home Delivery Dairy, Taylor's Texaco, U.S. Bank and Valley Country Store.

We also want to express our appreciation to the parents who donated food and prizes, brought baked goods for the silent auction, organized a book fair and worked so hard to make this event successful.

Finally we send a special thank you to the school staff for their help in the kitchen.

DIANE GREENE
Secretary, PTO
Hollister Elementary School
Hollister

Collected books go into food baskets for needy

Idaho Reads! VISTA would like to thank who supported the St. Nicholas School "Dinner

and Book" book drive. More than 1,000 books were collected and the books will be put in food baskets for the needy at Thanksgiving and Christmas.

A special thanks to the organizations and businesses who donated money to purchase books: St. Nicholas Knights of Columbus, St. Nicholas Women's Club, Workman Pontiac and Forever Friends. Thank you all for making a positive difference in a child's life.

DIANE BRUMLEY
Rupert

Family happy to have name on event

I would like to thank the Twin Falls Optimist Club and especially, Dennis Bowyer, for the hard work that they've continued to do every year for the Wayne Kinney Memorial Turkey Shoot. It is an honor to my family that they have continued to put on this event in my grandfather's name. The Optimist Club is a dedicated organization that continues to benefit this community. I would encourage others to show your support for this community by showing support to the Twin Falls Optimist Club.

RYAN HORSLEY
Marketing Director
Red's Trading Post
Twin Falls

Hazelton family is grateful for help

To Mini-Cassia Search and Rescue:

On behalf of Randy and Debbie Ferriati, Dustin Steaker and Brock, we would like to thank the Mini-Cassia Search and Rescue and the New Beginnings Church for the time and effort that was put forth to help find us in the desert north of Beartrap Cave in Minidoka County. Many people searched most of the night and well into the day of Nov. 22, where we were finally discovered sometime around 2 p.m.

We were very cold but were able to survive the freezing temperature by building a fire and wrapping up in a fleece blanket and some sandbags.

We would also like to thank Valley School for its concern and understanding.

RANDY AND DEBBIE
FERIATI
Hazelton

ANNUAL BAZAAR



Photo courtesy of CLARA LINLEY

The Little Flower Catholic Church Altar Society annual bazaar will be held from 11 a.m. to 8 p.m. Saturday at the church at 16th Street and Oakley Avenue in Burley. There will be home-made goods and candy, crafts, a raffle and more. Cinnamon rolls, potato bar, chili, chili dogs, pie and pie mode will be served all day. Raffle items include two Utah Jazz tickets, blue-ribbon winning afghan, framed quilt with certificate of authenticity, a hand-loomed denim rug, ted quilt, gift certificate, an outdoor decoration and two 50-pound boxes of potatoes. A turkey will be the door prize. The event is open to the public.

TOP STUDENTS



Photo courtesy of MIKE MCKELT

Students at Bickel Elementary School in Twin Falls were recognized as Students of the Month for October for their positive behavior. They are, from left, front: Alan Jarez; middle: Luclnda Subbrook, Stephanie Aguilera, Bayley Shirley, Blanca Vega and Colton Herzog; back: Zakere Buss, Christina Garcia, Brianna Johanson and Matt Thrall.

Festival of MisFit trees looks for wild trees

SHOSHONE — Shoshone's annual Festival of MisFit Trees is set for 1 to 8 p.m. Dec. 11 at the south end of Shoshone.

Businesses, churches, schools and community groups are encouraged to submit a silly, wacky or wild tree entry.

"You can pretty much decorate anything except a traditional Christmas tree," event planner Karina Fitzgerald

said. "We encourage artists to use recycled and found objects and to celebrate their inner silliness."

Last year's event featured several decorated sagesbrush, a crank shaft and a tree made out an old fire hose.

"We were really encouraged by the entries," Fitzgerald said. "In the rush of the holiday season, we think it's important to take time out to do something

besides "be serious and stressed."

There will be judged in several categories. Artists can keep their trees, sell them at event or donate them to be sold. A portion of each sale will go into the event fund.

Community organizations are also encouraged to sponsor fund-raising tables offering holiday food and drink and activities such as Christmas

cookie and gingerbread house decorating, ornament making or photos with Santa.

Local artists and crafters with holiday wares to sell are also welcomed.

To pre-register a MisFit tree, contact Fitzgerald at 308-3185 or goodkarma@volocitus.net.

To sign up for a fund-raising booth contact Julie Oxarango-Ingaram at 886-2466 or juliengram@volocitus.net.

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NATION

AARP will mark Home Depot products with seal of approval

ATLANTA (AP) — AARP, the nation's largest organization of senior citizens, is testing out a plan to put its seal of approval on hardware products such as bathrooms and electrical fixtures that can help older people live at home more independently.

AARP is joining forces with The Home Depot, the nation's biggest chain of hardware stores, which said it plans to start rolling out the seal of approval from its 1,837 stores by next year.

The criteria and types of products that will get the seal are still being determined, but some being considered include both

The chain also will begin offering clinics to teach senior citizens home improvement skills.

and electrical fixtures. The chain also will begin offering clinics to teach senior citizens home improvement skills.

AARP chief executive William Novelli said older Americans want things like grab bars in

bathrooms, ramps and wide doorways. He said more senior citizens want to live independently and home improvement projects will help them do that.

"They don't want to go into nursing homes. They don't want to go live with their children. They want to live at home," Novelli said.

Home Depot, in turn, is hoping the program will allow it to tap into the growing number of older customers.

"They are very home-oriented with significant disposable income," merchandising chief John Castello said.



Long-time AARP member Charles Pugh, 73, from Smyrna, Ga., saws a piece of molding at a self-service station at the Home Depot retail store in Winings, Ga., on Wednesday. Bath and electrical fixtures may soon be under higher scrutiny by the nation's largest senior group.

Habitat for Humanity founder gets pushed aside

AMERICUS, Ga. (AP) — In a characteristic act of frugality, Habitat for Humanity founder Millard Fuller hitched a ride to the Atlanta airport with a female staff member to save the organization a \$75 shuttle ride.

That ride ended up costing more — and Habitat — a great deal more.

Allegations of "inappropriate conduct" during that drive last year led to Fuller's temporary banishment from the headquarters of the Christian home-building organization he and his wife, Linda, founded 28 years ago.

Fuller says the board of directors was on the verge of firing him before he asked former President Jimmy Carter, Habitat's most visible volunteer to intervene.

While the board eventually found there was "insufficient evidence" to substantiate the charges, Fuller says he agreed to step aside as chief executive officer to avoid an "internal battle, in a compromise, he retained the largely ceremonial title of "founder and president."

With his 70th birthday approaching in January, Fuller knew the time was coming when he would have to make way for new leadership.

But Linda Fuller worries that the attempt to oust her husband is a symptom of a "culture change" in Habitat from a hopeful religious mission to a bottom-line bureaucracy.

In the end, Fuller says he and the board were barely creative in overcoming certain "philosophical differences." Sipping sweet tea in the grand dining room of a 19th century hotel across from the headquarters, Fuller says the biggest difference is that many on the board want Habitat to "put the brakes on."

"I'm an expansionist ... and I don't want to slow down," he says. "We're only in half the countries on Earth. I want to go into the other half."

Newly named interim CEO Paul Leonard — a Presbyterian minister and former executive with housing giant Centex — says it's more complex than that. He says the board was simply trying to more efficiently manage Habitat's explosive growth.

"Millard often refers to Habitat for Humanity as a movement," he says. "But if you've been around movements, they, by nature, are chaotic."

He suggests there are ways of streamlining the organization to build more houses for the money, and a financial review last year uncovered a "material waste assessment opportunity."

"It's not a huge thing," he says, but "we're being required by the outside world to be sure that we have our house be totally in order."

Leonard says it takes more than just a charismatic leader to run an organization the size of Habitat.

"You have to have the enthusiasm that a Millard Fuller brings," he says. "But right alongside of it you have to be organizing and putting in place the people that you need to carry things forward."

It is that last part that most worries the Fullers.

One of Habitat's founding principles was that neither Fuller nor his staff would "get rich off the poor."

For years, the Fullers and their four children lived in a house with no air conditioning, and Linda Fuller mowed all the family's lawns. During the first 14 years of the ministry, Fuller's salary was just \$15,000; his wife worked 10 years for free.



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BRIEFLY IN MONEY

Fairfield: Sewer test succeeds

FAIRFIELD — The Mill Park industrial site in Fairfield completed a test run this week for a sewer lift station that will support already completed improvements in the city water and sewer system.

The successful test caps an 18-month project that will encompass sewer site development and the locating of new business in the community, USDA Rural Development said in a statement.

Completion of this portion of the industrial site will significantly lower site development costs to businesses seeking to locate there.

"This industrial park is the future lifeblood of this city," Mayor David Hanks said.

Hanks, Rex Harding of JUB Engineering, Richard Merritt of USDA Rural Development and representatives from Challenger Companies Inc. were on hand for the test.

USDA Rural Development provided two grants for a total of \$4,000 to complete the infrastructure improvements, thereby increasing job opportunities in Fairfield.

The agency said it will continue to assist Fairfield and prospective businesses as the industrial park takes shape.

CSI offers free career planning workshop

TWIN FALLS — The Center for New Directions at the College of Southern Idaho is offering a free "Career Planning Workshop" for people who are considering training, trying to decide on a program or thinking about a career change.

The workshop will help participants learn about the labor market, training programs and wage potential. Identify their interests, investigate careers and make a plan for success.

The center will offer the free workshop in two parts — 3-5 p.m. Dec. 13 and 3-5 p.m. Dec. 15.

Career tests are also free.

To sign up, call 732-6680 or 1-800-680-0274, ext. 6680. Registration deadline is Dec. 12.

NASD fines Edward Jones for late data

ST. LOUIS — Edward Jones has been fined \$300,000 by the National Association of Securities Dealers for failing to meet deadlines for disclosing information about its brokers.

The NASD, a private-sector regulator of the investment industry, cited Edward Jones for late reporting of broker information 200 times from January 2002 to March 2004.

The NASD announced the fine this week as part of a crackdown on investment brokerages that led to fines totaling \$9.2 million.

In all, 29 firms were penalized between \$1.6 million and \$100,000.

After a firm hires a broker it must provide information about that person to the NASD's Central Registration Depository.

The depository is available to the public for inspection.

Brokers may not update a broker's information whenever significant events occur, those include regulatory actions taken against the broker, customer complaints or criminal charges.

Generally, the updates must occur within 30 days.

But the NASD said a large number of brokerages repeatedly failed to update the information within the time period.

Edward Jones network-includes offices in Magic Valley, filed late 27 percent of the time.

Edward Jones agreed to conduct internal audits to evaluate its reporting system.

"Our firm takes our filing requirements seriously," said Edward Jones spokesman John Boyd.

"We have added staff and implemented new procedures to address this issue."

Boise Cascade cuts jobs

Minnesota workers don't know who will stay and who will go

The Times-News and The Associated Press

INTERNATIONAL FALLS, Minn. — Some of the 189 salaried workers at Boise Cascade LLC's paper mill in northern Minnesota will lose their jobs before the end of the year, and a review of 700 hourly jobs is under way, a company spokesman said.

An unspecified number of management workers were told this week that their jobs will be eliminated, spokesman Bob Anderson said.

"At this point it's very much internal," Anderson told The Daily Journal in International Falls.

"We're de-layering the organization where it makes sense," Anderson said.

Ralph Boone, Boise Cascade LLC spokesman, said Wednesday he "couldn't possibly speculate" whether workers at the company's corrugated-container plant in Burley would be affected by his cuts.

In northern Minnesota, some salaried employees may be offered an early retirement option, which could create openings for other workers.

Also, some jobs will be created in the management structure, Anderson said.

The net loss is uncertain because the number of people who will take early retirement is not known and new jobs have not been identified, he said.

"It will help us determine the operating plans, the organization we will need to execute it and milestones to mark our progress," corporate spokesman Ralph Boone said.

The paper industry has grown more competitive due to cheap labor and wood from other countries. To compete, domestic paper companies must keep their costs as low as possible while increasing productivity, which means doing more with fewer workers, said Steve Cherover, a paper and forest products company analyst for D.A. Davidson & Co. in Portland, Ore.

"The industry is in big trouble in America so you've got to do something," Cherover said.

Timex-News Business writer Megan Hinds contributed to this report.

State guards unclaimed property

The Times-News

TWIN FALLS — The state is safeguarding unclaimed property for hundreds of people and businesses whose last known addresses are in Magic Valley. The Idaho State Tax Commission is looking for those folks and hoping they'll call to claim the property.

It's stuff for which Idaho businesses have been unable to find the rightful owners, such as payroll checks, contents of safe deposit boxes, tax refunds, stock dividends, workers' compensation benefits and the like.



The Idaho Legislature in 1997 changed state law governing unclaimed property.

Now after property that's safeguarded by the tax commission remains unclaimed for 10 years, it will transfer to state ownership and be deposited in Idaho's general fund.

The first time that will happen is in 2007. Before then 1997 law, the tax commission held unclaimed property for its rightful owners in perpetuity.

The Times-News on Thursdays prints names of a sampling of unclaimed-property owners whose last known addresses are in Magic Valley communities.

Today's list is from Albion, Bellevue, Rogerson and Twin Falls.

The tax commission said each person or business listed today — or the person's heir — owns unclaimed property worth more than \$100.

Watch for other towns in coming weeks.

Albion Edith C. Dennis, Lesling Hill, Carl M. Dewell, Ellen Danney, Mary Dransy, Lillian Diamond, Wendy Fisher, Harumi Tabaja, Enoch-Hannah, Luella Hawkins, John Hohnsther, Amber Holt.

Bellevue Joe Arangeno, Jennifer, Sam Myers, Holmes, Mark Patterson, Connie Holmes, Boyd Ruskon, Kyle Holmes, Marion Stuart, Taty S. Jacobs, Adrian Thomas, Donald Jensen, Mary Jensen.

Rogerson Robert Barkley, Jones, Alfonso, Bradley Jones, Malagon, Tony A. Kirk, Sheelagh, Richard Kemp, Gerald Kokko, Emerald Marin, Mewes, Eduardo Marin, Cindy L. Marshall.

Twin Falls David Allen, Lori L. Miller, Marie T. Aranda, Spencer Moore II, Annuhally, Pablo Padilla, Ammanullah, Angela A. Parks, Edith Baish, Alan G. Phillips, Lynn G. Britz, Ross Prather, Glynis A., Susan Raymond, Elyse Raymond, Elyse Raymond, James A., Roberts, Gary Robinson, Patrick Brown, Annie Rodriguez, Enrique Camarillo, David Rohan, Resa Ruiz, Glynis A., Central Electronics, Simon Sanchez, Tanya Choh, Ann Seelheid, Jacky, Judy Stone, Creative Home, Faraj E. Tari, Inc. The Surgery Center, Dennis Trapp, Charlene B., Ashlee Williams, Davis.

What to do

See your name on Idaho's unclaimed-property owners list? To claim your property, do one of these:

- Call 1-800-972-7660, ext. 7623 or ext. 7627.
- Write to the Idaho State Tax Commission, Unclaimed Property Section, PO-Base, Boise, ID 83722-0410.
- Send e-mail to lostand-found@tax.state.idaho.gov.
- Log on to www.tax.idaho.gov and click on "Unclaimed Property" for instructions and claim forms that can be printed and mailed to the commission. The site also provides a search option for other names and a link to other states' unclaimed-property listings.

TRAVELING TOGETHER

More people vacation across generations and families

The Associated Press

The first time her family embarked on a long trip, Leslie Meison recalls, she was a testy 13-year-old crammed into the back seat of a station wagon with three worried brothers she could just barely tolerate.

"You want to talk about not getting along," Meison says, laughing. "They were awful." But a lot has changed in 37 years. So this past July, Meison, her parents, her brothers and their families — 20 people from five years old to 76 — chartered a luxury coach and spent two weeks exploring the Canadian Rockies and Northwest U.S. Along the way, she says, they rediscovered each other.

More Americans are embarking on such multi-generational family vacations. The trend in vacationing that has captured the attention and marketing efforts of the travel industry.

The number of people taking or planning group vacations is rising, according to a survey by the Travel Industry Association, a trade group. Such intergenerational travel has increased steadily since 2000.

"Multi-generational travel is one of the more powerful phenomena that we're seeing today in the travel industry," said Allen Kay, a spokesman for the TIA, which surveyed about 1,300 travelers last October. "The baby boomers love to hit the road, and they love to take their adult children and grandchildren with them."

In a separate survey last fall,



Members of the Meison and Long family pose together Nov. 24 in Dallas. From left to right: front row, John Meison, William Long, Leslie Meison, second row, Jed Meison, Jim Meison, Ann Meison (black top), Ellen Meison (blue top), third row, David Long, Terri Long and Ryan Long (pink top). They joined with other family members and rented a luxury coach to tour the Canadian Rockies.

77 percent of travelers said they had taken a trip with extended family, other families or friends during the past five years. A quarter of those who had taken such trips said their groups included eight or more people.

"I think in times of turmoil, essentially people turn to family for comfort and solace and that now is really manifested in their travel behavior," said Peter Yessavich of Yessavich, Pepperridge, Brown & Russell, an Orlando, Fla., tourism consulting firm that conducted the survey of 1,700 travelers.

Yessavich says travel in large groups is a strong contrast with the trends through most of the 1990s. Many people, focused more on making money than on family, saw travel as a chance to unplug from a hectic lifestyle — usually as a couple or alone, without the kids or anyone else, he said.

But he and others in the industry say they started to notice

a change late in the 1990s. Executives at The Wald Disney Co. took notice of the change soon after the company launched its cruise line in 1998, said Linda Warren, executive vice president of brand management for the company's parks and resorts. The business was aimed at family travelers, but the company was surprised by the number of customers calling its reservations center who asked to book seven or eight rooms together.

"That signaled not just that people happened to be traveling at the same time, but that they were intent on spending time together and doing so in large groups, she said.

"Maybe people were doing it in the past, but it wasn't the primary reason for making the trip," Warren said.

Of travelers surveyed by Yessavich's firm, 69 percent now cite spending time with family as very or extremely important

in planning a vacation, up from 57 percent in 2000.

Meison, who lives in Dallas, says her family's trips together have offered a chance to see spectacular places. In 2001, they followed a circuit through several national parks in the western U.S., retracing the journey she and her siblings made as children. This year, they worked their way from Canada's Banff National Park to Seattle.

When she tells some people about the trip, they express disbelief that all those relatives could get along over so many miles. But Meison said the trips offered chances to spend time with each other that a day or two together would never have allowed.

"My Dad was able to tell the kids, without interruption, about his growing up on a horse farm in Kentucky and ... it was a stolen moment," she said. "It was just magic for that to happen."

Blockbuster may raise offer for Hollywood Entertainment

The Associated Press

DALLAS — Blockbuster Inc. is locked in a bidding war for Hollywood Entertainment Corp., announced Wednesday that it may raise its offer for the rival video renter.

Dallas-based Blockbuster, the leader in the movie rental industry, said in a statement it was willing to go above the \$1.5-billion-per-share offer made Nov. 11 to No. 2 Hollywood Entertainment, whose chain includes a Twin Falls store. Blockbuster — whose outlets include stores in Twin Falls, Jerome and the Wood River Valley — did not specify how far above its initial per-share offer it would go.

The initial offer had been valued at \$750 million.

But Blockbuster said Hollywood would have to deliver what it called "confirmatory information" requested from its rival. A Blockbuster statement said Hollywood is refusing to provide the information without an agreement to tender an offer directly to Hollywood shareholders.

Hollywood Entertainment is already in a deal to let its chairman and chief executive and Los Angeles buyout firm Leonard Green & Partners to take the company private. In August, the firm offered to buy Hollywood's roughly 60 million shares for \$10.25 each. The deal, however, allowed Hollywood to solicit other bids, and the CEO said he welcomed Blockbuster's offer.

On Nov. 19, No. 3 video renter Movie Gallery Inc. said it had offered an undisclosed amount for Hollywood.

"And Billionaire takeover specialist Carl Icahn's firms also have bought \$1.1 million Hollywood shares in the last two weeks, representing an 8.4 percent stake in the video chain. According to papers filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission.

The move has fueled rumors that Icahn could be poised to enter the bidding war.

Blockbuster already has 9,000 outlets worldwide. Hollywood Video has more than 1,920 Hollywood Video stores and 600 Game Crazy specialty stores.

Eight top Sears executives cash in millions in stock

Knight Ridder News Service

CHICAGO — When Kmart Holding Corp. announced plans to buy his company last month, Sears, Roebuck and Co. Chief Executive Officer Alan Lacy told employees that the deal was "one of the great mergers in corporate history."

At least eight high-level Sears executives also believe it's a great time to cash in some stock. And they haven't been increasing their stakes in the retailer since the deal was announced earlier.

Since a merger of the two struggling retailers with Magic Valley stores was announced Nov. 17, Sears' chief financial officer, its general counsel and its top personnel executive were among those who have sold \$15.7 million in company stock, according to Thomson Financial. Total profits realized: \$5.5 million.

In contrast, before the proposed deal, top Sears executives had dumped only \$2.58 million in stock in 2004.

Meanwhile, no Sears insiders

have made open-market purchases of the Hoffman Estates, Ill.-based retailer since Kmart Chairman Edward Lampert announced the merger. Although insiders might sell shares for reasons ranging from estate planning to portfolio diversification, experts view purchases as a vote of confidence about a company's prospects.

Lan Gerber, who tracks insider transactions at Thomson Financial, said it's not unusual to see such stock trades as mergers play out and as employees vote "to stay or to cash out."

But it's a fairly decent size group, for sure, Gerber said of Sears' contingent. "The size of the trades are bigger than what you normally see there."

For its part, Sears said terms of the merger require all stock options held by its employees to be cashed out when the deal closes. The deal is expected to close in March. All sales for Sears workers — of which there are about 17,000 — are eligible for options.

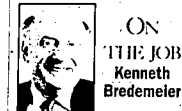
Please see SEARS, Page E3

MONEY

Dealing with personal comments

The Washington Post

Dealing with unwanted personal comments in the office can be tricky because one person's welcomed compliment can be deemed harassment by another.



ON THE JOB Kenneth Bredemeyer

thing, and these incidents have occurred perhaps a dozen times in the past few years.

I am usually very assertive, but this is a very laid-back workplace.

How do I handle this the next time he says something? I don't want to be seen as a "problem employee."

Answer: Rebecca Hastings, who answers employment questions for the Society for Human Resource Management in Alexandria, Va., said the key thing to remember in situations like this is that "harassment is in the eye of the beholder," and

but just because some women may not be offended by this coworker's comments, it doesn't mean that all women appreciate them.

Hastings said that the next time this occurs, the woman can gently let the guy know how she feels. She said, "I remember when you asked if your comments were harassment? Well, I'd hate for it to go to that, but sometimes the way you talk to me makes me uncomfortable."

"That way you're not putting me on notice with an honest, sincere statement," she said. "There's a right way and a wrong way to get a point across."

Hastings said that if the man persists, she then can "gently remind him that we're not going to make such comments" and that if it occurs beyond that "to be more firm. Women are not there for the visual attractions. They're there to work."

Shareholders will get third of Molson Coors votes

WASHINGTON (AP) —

Adolph Coors Co. said Wednesday that holders of Molson Inc.'s voting shares will represent about 32.9 percent of the votes of the combined company after Molson and Coors complete their merger next year.

Coors, the third-largest U.S. brewer, and Molson, the venerable Canadian brewer, are expected to close their merger in January, creating the world's fifth-largest brewer, with annual revenue of about \$6 billion.

Coors' voting business has cleared and research operations in Magic Valley and buys

barley from local growers. The 32.9 percent figure for voting power does not include Portland Securities Inc., an investment vehicle of the Molson family. Coors said in a filing with the Securities and Exchange Commission.

Under the previously announced terms of the deal, holders of Molson Class B voting shares get 0.126 of a voting share and 0.234 of a nonvoting share of Molson Coors, while Molson Class A nonvoting shares will convert into 480 nonvoting shares of Molson Coors.

Separately, Coors said its chief marketing officer, Ron Askey, will be stepping down Dec. 14.

Askey has been Coors' marketing chief since 2001. Prior to that, he was chief executive officer of the Integer Group, a marketing services company he founded in 1993 that handled much of Coors' marketing for the past 11 years. A search is under way for Askey's replacement.

Montreal-based Molson controls about 45 percent of the Canadian beer market, putting it neck-and-neck with rival Labatt. Molson also controls 20 percent of the storied Montreal Canadiens hockey team.

Drop in oil prices sends stocks higher

NEW YORK (AP) — A steep drop in oil prices gave Wall Street a big rally Wednesday, propelling the Dow Jones industrial up more than 160 points and giving the S&P 500 its best day of 2004.

The buying took off immediately after the Energy Department reported an increase in distillate reserves — heating oil and kerosene — to 2.3 billion barrels, far higher than Wall Street expected.

Gasoline and crude inventories also rose substantially, but triggered the largest single-day decline in crude oil futures in more than three years. The price of a barrel of light crude plummeted \$3.64 to settle at \$45.49, its lowest level since Sept. 16, as the New York Mercantile Exchange.

Stocks climbed steadily through the session as oil prices tumbled.

"Oil futures go down, stocks go up. I think that'll be a pattern for a long time, and the good news is that if we keep getting inventory reports like this, oil prices will be ready for a big correction downward," said Brian Belski, market strategist at Piper Jaffray.

The Dow Jones industrial average closed at 10,620.20, or 1.56 percent higher than its previous close. The S&P 500 index gained 1.34 percent, and the Dow's best close since March 5.

Broader stock indicators also made major gains. The Standard & Poor's 500 index rose up 17.55, or 1.56 percent, at 1,191.37, its best close since Aug. 7, 2001. The Nasdaq composite index gained 41.42, or 1.38 percent, to 2,138.23, for its best closing since Jan. 26.

The general news on oil powered the rally that started with positive economic data issued before the session. The Commerce Department reported an 0.7 percent rise in consumer spending in October.

Analysts expected a strong, but welcome, news after a mediocre start to the holiday shopping season. Consumer incomes, considered a key barometer of future spending, also rose 0.6 percent for the month.

Wall Street also welcomed the latest reading of the Institute for Supply Management's manufacturing index for November, which measures the nation's industrial activity.

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NEW YORK STOCK EXCHANGE MARKET SUMMARY NASDAQ NATIONAL MARKET

Table with columns: Name, Div, Last, Chg, %Chg, 1314, 129. Lists various stocks and their performance.

MARKET SUMMARY

Table with columns: Name, Vol, (00), Last, Chg, %Chg. Includes sections for AMEX, NASDAQ, MOST ACTIVE, GAINERS, and LOSERS.

NASDAQ NATIONAL MARKET

Table with columns: Name, Div, Last, Chg, %Chg, D-E-F. Lists various stocks and their performance.

DIARY

Table with columns: Name, Div, Last, Chg, %Chg, YTD. Lists dairy products and their performance.

INDEXES

Table with columns: Index Name, Last, Net, %Chg, YTD. Lists various market indices.

STOCKS OF LOCAL INTEREST

Table with columns: Name, Div, PE, Last, Chg, YTD. Lists local stocks and their performance.

HOW TO READ THE MARKET REPORT

Here are the 525 most active stocks on the New York Stock Exchange, the 400 most active on the Nasdaq National Markets and 100 most active on American Stock Exchange. Annual funds are listed alphabetically by the company's full name (not its abbreviation). Company names made up of initials appear at the beginning of each letter's list.

Large table listing 525 most active stocks on the New York Stock Exchange, 400 most active on Nasdaq, and 100 most active on American Stock Exchange. Includes columns for Name, Div, Last, Chg, YTD.

MARKETS

CLOSING FUTURES

Table with columns for Market, High, Low, Close, Change. Includes sections for Non-Commodity, Soybeans, Corn, Wheat, and Cattle.

Open, High, Low, Settle, Chg

Table with columns for Open, High, Low, Settle, Chg. Includes sections for Cattle, Hogs, and Pigs.

Open, High, Low, Settle, Chg

Table with columns for Open, High, Low, Settle, Chg. Includes sections for Gold, Silver, and Platinum.

Open, High, Low, Settle, Chg

Table with columns for Open, High, Low, Settle, Chg. Includes sections for Natural Gas, Heating Oil, and Diesel.

Open, High, Low, Settle, Chg

Table with columns for Open, High, Low, Settle, Chg. Includes sections for Wheat, Corn, and Soybeans.

Open, High, Low, Settle, Chg

Table with columns for Open, High, Low, Settle, Chg. Includes sections for Soybeans, Corn, and Wheat.

BEANS

Table with columns for Market, High, Low, Close, Change. Includes sections for Soybeans and Beans.

BEANS

Table with columns for Market, High, Low, Close, Change. Includes sections for Soybeans and Beans.

CHEESE

Table with columns for Market, High, Low, Close, Change. Includes sections for Cheddar and Swiss.

METALS/MONEY

Table with columns for Market, High, Low, Close, Change. Includes sections for Gold, Silver, and Platinum.

HEATING OIL

Table with columns for Market, High, Low, Close, Change. Includes sections for Heating Oil and Diesel.

NATURAL GAS

Table with columns for Market, High, Low, Close, Change. Includes sections for Natural Gas and Propane.

GRAINS

Table with columns for Market, High, Low, Close, Change. Includes sections for Wheat, Corn, and Soybeans.

GRAINS

Table with columns for Market, High, Low, Close, Change. Includes sections for Wheat, Corn, and Soybeans.

POTATOES

Table with columns for Market, High, Low, Close, Change. Includes sections for Idaho and Washington.

SOYBEANS

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Missouri casino faces fine for computer glitch

The games is at stake. A no-limit poker patron denied a jackpot that was displayed on a screen. But they weren't playing for what they should have been playing for.

The Missouri Gaming Commission said the problem in St. Charles, discovered earlier this year, affected about 200 of the casino's estimated 400 progressive machines.

"We are being fined for not having a secondary audit system in place for which there is no rule requiring us to have it," Streeming said.

"I don't care if it's a nickel or a million dollars," said commission spokesman Steve Johnson.

Sears

Continued from E1. "Like my other eligible employees, these executives can exercise their rights to sell their stock and do so for a variety of reasons based purely on personal financial decisions.

"As recently as Oct. 21, Sears' stock traded at \$33, down from \$55 last December. Today, Sears' stock is in the \$50 range.

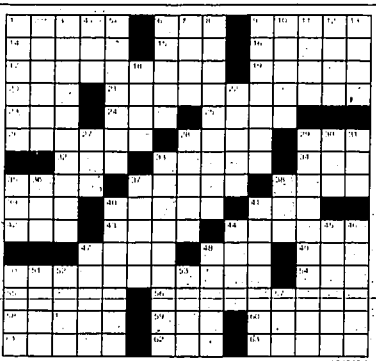
Something missing?

Who are missing? Please call Ramona Jones at 733-4621, ext. 262, with your suggestions.

MUTUAL FUNDS

Large table listing various mutual funds with columns for Name, \$/Share, and other financial metrics.

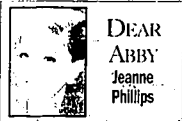
MORNING BREAK



ACROSS 1. Finish line 47. Lug along 12. Catch one's 38. Periodical breath 40. Guadalupe and... 13. Cornbar 40. Guadalupe and... 14. Conductor 49. Blood n... 15. Pop's captor 50. ... 16. Paramour 54. Plamur 17. Storage facility 55. Pleasant s... 18. Erudite 56. Beng 19. BPOE 58. Governm... 20. member 59. Well-sung 21. ... 22. ... 23. ... 24. ... 25. ... 26. ... 27. ... 28. ... 29. ... 30. ... 31. ... 32. ... 33. ... 34. ... 35. ... 36. ... 37. ... 38. ... 39. ... 40. ... 41. ... 42. ... 43. ... 44. ... 45. ... 46. ... 47. ... 48. ... 49. ... 50. ... 51. ... 52. ... 53. ... 54. ... 55. ... 56. ... 57. ... 58. ... 59. ... 60. ...

Woman entitled to share of assets

DEAR ABBY: You missed the mark with your advice to "Sad in the South," the woman who said she was miserable in her 35-year marriage to "Tomer." She said she was afraid her "small pension" was insufficient to support her if she divorced him. You advised her to get a volunteer job that might turn into a paying position. Abby, after 35 years of marriage, that woman is entitled to a significant portion of her husband's "very nice retirement" assets and any other benefits he will receive. She should consult a lawyer—specializing in family law about her rights, if she's as miserable as she says she is, and then divorce him. Life is too short. She has already missed 35 years of it by staying with a man who made her so unhappy.



DEAR ABBY: You should have advised "Sad in the South," who is married to "the most manipulative, cunning, cynical man ever" to see an attorney about her rights to some of his assets if she should decide to leave. She may also need counseling to regain enough self-esteem to leave, and it would be better than staying in the situation she's in. I hope she gets out while she still has some enjoyable years left.

DEAR FRIEND: She calls her husband cunning, clever and manipulative. Although those traits are obnoxious, nowhere did she say he mistreated her. Instead of divorcing her husband, I'd rather she saw a counselor and learned how to stand her ground. She said at first she gave in because she loved him, then she did it to avoid an argument, and now she does it out of habit. Instead of just walking away, wouldn't it be better if she first gave him a chance to change?

to enjoy things I never would have experienced with my husband. She could contact a retirement village where I pay according to my income, and I'm enjoying the new friends I've made here. I was granted half my husband's pension, half the savings and stocks, and all of the household items. After his death a few months ago, my Social Security increased, so I went on a cruise with friends to celebrate. Everyone says my happiness is what killed my husband, who died of an angry and bitter man.

Aries: Play fair even when feathers ruffled

IF DECEMBER 2 IS YOUR BIRTHDAY, although the strains of the past year may still require patience, you will have ample opportunities to break free of limitations in 2005. In April, May and June you will find that what is most important to you shifts, and that matters closest to your heart take on a new meaning. The moment you stop clinging to the past, exciting new doors will open that can create permanent benefits and long-term joy.

HOROSCOPE

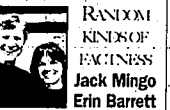
Jeraldine Saunders GEMINI (May 21-June 20): You are sharp as a tack but you may find your point too harshly and offend others. Speaking without forethought can cause dissension and misunderstandings. CANCER (June 21-July 22): If faults or problems are pointed out, you are likely to come up with an ingenious solution. Beligent crossfire in the business or career sector could require prudence and common sense as you utilize your abundance.

DEAR ABBY: That woman needs to educate herself about how laws governing pension plans and Social Security, and the best way to do it is to see a lawyer. Then, like me, she may learn she has more coming to her than she thinks. As I not only have enough money to get by, I have enough

avoiding confrontations. Keep your attention focused on future changes and new ways of achieving your aims. CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): A tendency to be analytical can erect a wall between you and loved ones. Your future financial success depends upon support from others, so walk cautiously. Don't burn any important bridges now. AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Money could evaporate if you invest under these stars. What seems delightfully mysterious and glamorous may become merely confuse others.

Navy bombed U.S. city

Boise City, Okla., was the site of an actual World War II bombing raid. Not by enemy planes, mind you. The U.S. Navy bombed the town by accident. This is in history on Dec. 2, 1859, abolitionist preacher John Brown was hanged for treason in Charleston, Va., after leading an uprising of slaves against their masters, inspiring the Civil War. John Brown's body lies "amouldering in the grave, but his soul goes marching on."



RANXOM KINDS OF FACTINESS Jack Mingo, Erin Barrett Ambrose Pare is considered the father of modern surgery. He invented the butterfly bandage and all sorts of methods to deal with ruptures and hernias. Yet, he was scorned and mocked by his peers for having no formal academic training and not knowing Latin, the language of medicine at the time.

Maybe you already knew that "Pare" is another name for underwear. In a poll, about half of all Oreo consumers say they twist the cookies apart before eating them. Three times as many women as men engage in this twisted practice.

The most recent study by the Centers for Disease Control counted 4.7 million reported dog bites in a year with 800,000 serious enough to require a hospital visit. More than half of the victims were children. Blame the fad of adopting more dangerous breeds: in the last decade, dog ownership increased 20 percent, but the number of serious bites increased 37 percent.

High heels were born when a man - King Louis XIV of France, paranoid about his short stature, had heels made for his boots. His courtiers thought it was a nifty fashion and began imitating his style. Old King Louis raised his heels even higher - the one-upmanship continued on until injury, pain and boredom with the style took over.

Never miss the action.

The Times-News

Republican Party plants its flag on new voting frontier

WASHINGTON - The center of the Republican presidential coalition is moving toward the distant edges of suburbia. In this month's election, President Bush carried 97 of the nation's 100 fastest-growing counties, most of them "exurban" communities that are rapidly transforming farmland into subdivisions and shopping malls on the periphery of major metropolitan areas.

These exurban counties are the new Republican areas, and they will become increasingly important to Republican candidates, said Terry Nelson, the political director for Bush's re-election campaign. "This is where a lot of our vote is."

These growing areas, filled largely with younger families fleeing urban centers in search of affordable homes, are providing the GOP a foothold in blue Democratic-leaning states and solidifying the party's control over red Republican-leaning states. They also represent a compounding asset whose value for the Republican Party has increased with each election. Bush's edge in these 100 counties was almost four times greater than the advantage they provided Bob Dole, the Republican presidential nominee eight years ago.

2000 and July 2003, the latest date for which figures were available. Stretched across 30 states, they have grown cumulatively over that period by more than 16 percent, reaching a total population of 15.9 million. These are places defined more by aspiration than by actual population. They are filled more with families starting out than with those that have reached their earnings peak.

They include Union County, N.C., 25 miles southeast of Charlotte, where poultry farms are being converted into new developments so quickly that nearly one-seventh of the population is employed in construction. In Douglas County, Colo., about 20 miles south of Denver, so many young families have relocated that the budget for the local Little League is estimated at \$500,000 a year.

Delaware County, Ohio's fastest-growing area, is absorbing a torrent of families leaving apartments and townhouses in Columbus for big kitchens and their first backyards. New homes are sprouting on land that grew so cheap and went that long ago.

"The fastest-growing segment of our population is 2 and under," Delaware County GOP leader Ted Morgan said. "In this month's election, Bush romped across this terrain, the Times analysis showed. Of these 100 fast-growing counties, Kerry carried three: Clark County, N.Y., which includes heavily unionized Ives Valley, near N.C., near Chapel Hill, where Kerry is holding a five-vote lead pending a recount; and tiny Nantucket, Mass., which made the fast list because it doubled its population of 9,520 by about one-eighth."

Red shift

Table with 3 columns: Median household income, Home ownership, White, non-Hispanic, College educated. Values: \$41,994, 66.2%, 69.1%, 24.4%.

This year, Bush increased that cumulative lead by more than 60 percent. "We were overwhelmed by the lines in the voting places," said Tom Grossman, co-chairman of the Republican Party in Warren County, Ohio, one of those on the list. "We had lines lasting until 10:30 that night. It was a staggering number of people."

The change is even more dramatic when compared to 1996. In that campaign, Bob Dole won 74 of what today are the 100 fastest-growing counties. His margin of victory over President Clinton in the 100 counties was 450,000 votes, compared to Bush's significantly larger margin this year of more than 1.7 million votes.

"The enormous gains in just eight years underscore the potential value to these communities to the GOP. Almost all demographers believe these 'edge' counties will continue to grow rapidly, which means they will pose a growing threat to Democrats if the party cannot improve its standing there."

dictate a political attitude that was already in transition," Lang notes.

But many observers agree that these high-growth communities, as in much of the South, identification with the GOP has become a kind of cultural and social statement that also carries along voters who might have been open to Democrats in a less conservative environment.

"It's possible that the nature of these places changes people," said Mellman, the Kerry pollster. "But in an area like Montgomery County (Maryland), you are talking to other Democrats, your friends and family. Then all of a sudden you move to Loudon County, Va., and your social networks are dominated by Republicans."

The Bush campaign believes these counties created new Republican votes in another respect: by concentrating large numbers of sympathetic voters for voter registration and turnout efforts. The campaign placed these high-growth exurban counties at the top of its list for such organizational efforts.

"We focused very heavily on these exurban areas," said Ken Mellman, the campaign manager for Bush who has been tapped to lead the Republican National Committee. "While in some cases you are seeing people who have moved and were already Republicans, in other cases you are seeing a lot of people who are new voters and represent an addition."

al message. This year, Kerry held almost all of these counties and even captured the Democratic advantage in some. For instance, he became the first Democrat since Lyndon Johnson in 1964 to win Virginia's affluent Fairfax County.

Politically and socially, these inner-ring suburbs have become "an extension of the cities" they surround, said Lang. Increasing concentrations of ethnic minorities, generally liberal attitudes on social questions and a mix of urban and suburban, a greater presence of singles in high-rise and condominium developments and a receptivity to arguments for environmental protection and planned growth have all made them increasingly valuable terrain for Democrats.

Analysts in both parties also don't rule out the possibility that the Democratic hold on the suburbs is fading because many conservative whites that used to live there have left for the fast-growing outer suburbs. In Virginia, said Congressman Davis, "I go out to the suburbs and see a lot of Republican support. I'm a member when you used to be my supervisor in Fairfax."

"The problem for Democrats is that in almost all metropolitan areas, the distant Republican stronghold is growing much faster than either the cities or the inner suburbs. Big Democratic-leaning suburbs like Oak Creek in Michigan, Montgomery and Delaware counties in Pennsylvania and Fairfax in Virginia all grew by about 3 percent or less from 2000 through 2003, according to the Census Bureau. Big urban counties such as Wayne (Detroit), Cuyahoga (Cleveland) and Philadelphia all lost population over that period.

But all of the 100 counties that the Census Bureau lists as fastest-growing increased their population by at least 12 percent during that same time. "With each election," they are gaining more votes to offset Democratic advantages in the cities and inner suburbs. Bush's popularity in the high-growth counties propelled his victory in Florida, brought him close to winning in Minnesota and largely thwarted Kerry's hopes of competing in Colorado, North Carolina and Virginia, despite solid Democratic performances in more urban areas.

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LEGALS

IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF THE FIFTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT OF THE STATE OF IDAHO, IN AND FOR THE COUNTY OF JEROME MAGISTRATE DIVISION Case No. CV-1997-000813 SUMMONS MICHAEL F. TAYLOR, Plaintiff versus AMY E. NEWLAN aka AMY E. ADDY, Respondent. You have been sued by MICHAEL F. TAYLOR, the Plaintiff, in the District Court in and for Jerome County, Idaho, Case No. CV-1997-000813.

LEGALS

Case No. CV-04-5466 NOTICE TO CREDITORS In the Matter of the Estate of: MILDRED FERN MILBACH, Deceased. NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that Everett (Carl) Grinetted has been appointed personal representative of the estate of the above-named decedent. All persons having claims against the decedent or the estate are required to present their claims within four months after the date of the first publication of this Notice or said claims will be forever barred.

LEGALS

Case No. CV-04-5640 In the Matter of the Application of ALEXIS BORN POLATIS, do b 03/31/2001, a Minor Child for Change of Name. A Petition by CLAY BINGHAM and JERRI BINGHAM, now residing in Buhl, Idaho, State of Idaho, has been filed in the above entitled Court, proposing a change of name for ALEXIS ANNE POLATIS, Born March 31, 2001 to LEWIS ANNE BINGHAM. The reason for the change of name being the Petitioners believe it would be in the best interest of the minor child if her last name was changed for education and legal matters.

LEGALS

MAGISTRATE DIVISION Probate No. CV-04-5765 Case No. CV-04-5765 In the Matter of the Estate of EUGENE MILBACH, Deceased. NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the undersigned have been appointed Co-Administrators of the above-named estate. All persons having claims against the decedent are required to present their claims within four months after the date of the first publication of this notice or said claims will be forever barred.

LEGALS

IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF THE FIFTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT OF THE STATE OF IDAHO, IN AND FOR THE COUNTY OF LINCOLN MAGISTRATE DIVISION Case No. CV-04-5646 NOTICE TO CREDITORS In the Matter of the Estate of: MILDRED FERN MILBACH, Deceased. NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that Everett (Carl) Grinetted has been appointed personal representative of the estate of the above-named decedent. All persons having claims against the decedent or the estate are required to present their claims within four months after the date of the first publication of this Notice or said claims will be forever barred.

LEGALS

INVITATION TO BID The Board of Trustees reserves the right to accept or reject any and all bids. No bidder may withdraw his bid after the hour set for the opening thereof, or before the award of the Contract, unless award is delayed for a period exceeding thirty days.

LEGALS

INVITATION TO BID The Board of Trustees reserves the right to accept or reject any and all bids. No bidder may withdraw his bid after the hour set for the opening thereof, or before the award of the Contract, unless award is delayed for a period exceeding thirty days.

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SUPERIOR COURT OF WASHINGTON COUNTY OF BENTON

SUMMONS BY PUBLICATION (SMFPB) re the Marriage of: TONY HOWARD ZAHN, Plaintiff and LEISA J. ZAHN, Respondent. TO THE RESPONDENT: LEISA J. ZAHN The petitioner has started an action in the above court requesting that your marriage be dissolved. The petition also requests that the Court grant the following relief: Change name of wife to ROBERTS. You must respond to this summons by serving a copy of your written response on the person signing this summons and filing the original with the clerk of the court.

LEGALS

IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF THE FIFTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT OF THE STATE OF IDAHO, IN AND FOR THE COUNTY OF LINCOLN MAGISTRATE DIVISION Case No. CV-04-5646 NOTICE TO CREDITORS In the Matter of the Estate of: MILDRED FERN MILBACH, Deceased. NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that Everett (Carl) Grinetted has been appointed personal representative of the estate of the above-named decedent. All persons having claims against the decedent or the estate are required to present their claims within four months after the date of the first publication of this Notice or said claims will be forever barred.

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Will do Manicures, Pedicures & Acrylic Nails

110 ROMANCEHEALTH
DENTAL
Dentist/Hygienist needed 3 1/2 days per week

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Variety of services, references. Call 208-731-1207

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PARTY? Lynx band any day, time/place 208-423-6292

SAWA FOR HIRE
Available Days & Evenings

113 CHILD CARE SERVICES
SCOOTERS
Now accepting applications all ages.

EMPLOYMENT
ACCOUNTANT
CPA wanted for Idaho ID office in Southeast Idaho

ASKING QUESTIONS
Contact public opinion polls over the telephone.

ASSISTANT
Advertising Sales Assistant
The ideal candidate will have good organizational and people skills.

ANALYST
Laboratory analyst.
Immunology position for FT/PT microbiology lab tech wages proportionate to lab experience & prior education.

DRIVE
Propane Delivery Driver
We are looking for a self-starter able to work under little supervision.

DRIVER
Truck driver from Battle Mountain, NV to Sacramento, CA.

DRIVERS
Flatbeds, with at least 1 year OTR exp.

DRIVERS
Looking outside worker.
Lower experience. Cow leader experience.

DRIVERS
Medical Assistant needed 3 1/2 days per week.

DRIVERS
D&D Transportation Services
OTR available for CDL A drivers.

DRIVER
Giltner Milk Transportation
OTR/Truck Driver 35 per mile, full-time.

DRIVER
Now hiring for driver.
Full-time, benefits, Class A CDL, public endorsements.

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Now hiring for driver.
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Full-time, benefits, Class A CDL, public endorsements.

CONSTRUCTION
Framers, no experience.
Must have CDL.
Good salary & medical benefits.

FOOD SERVICE
Thomas Cuisine
Management is now recruiting for a Cook position.

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Want a career that will last long after?

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Dues Mechanic. Pay starts at 17hr.
Call Kelly at 736-1780

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SHOSHONE
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MAGIC VALLEY REALTORS ONLINE

PUBLIC SERVICE MESSAGE
Selling property? Don't pay any fees until it's sold. For free information about avoiding timeshare and real estate scams...

502 HOMES FOR SALE
BUHL \$915,000 Buy this 2 bdrm with a newer kitchen and modern bathroom...

BARKER REALTY
BUHL 4 bdrm, 3 bath, dining room views, 5+ acres, guest house with bath & hot tub...

INVESTOR pays cash for houses, 208-543-9239
Decide Your Ad for the Holidays! Add a graphic for only \$2.00 more.

KIMBERLY REALTY
TWIN FALLS 2 bdrm, 2 bath, 2 car garage, built in 2000, many upgrades...

518 MOBILE HOMES
PAUL 12 miles north Dalway for sale on owner 960 acres, 945 water rights...

518 MOBILE HOMES
Country acreage 5 of TF, 3 bdrm, 2 bath, woodstove, heat pump & AC...

TWIN FALLS
Charming home ready for owners, 2 bdrm, 1 1/2 bath, hardwood flrs, large open living and dining areas...

TWIN FALLS
2 bdrm, 2 car garage, beautifully landscaped, elec heat, AC, appls, gas fireplace, walk in closet in master bdrm...

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Charming home ready for owners, 2 bdrm, 1 1/2 bath, hardwood flrs, large open living and dining areas...

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Charming home ready for owners, 2 bdrm, 1 1/2 bath, hardwood flrs, large open living and dining areas...

BURLEY 5 bdrm, 2 bath, 566,600. Listings 800-366-9783. 879-8
GOODING large beautiful home 6 acre, 1 1/2 miles from town and 1 1/2 miles from school...

TWIN FALLS 4 bdrm, 2 bath, gas heat & AC, RV parking, shed, S134,500, 735-0206. Open House Saturdays 1-3 pm 888 Capri Drive

TWIN FALLS FORECLOSURES
FIXER UPPER For more information www.TwinFallsForeclosures.com

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What's Your Home Worth? Free Home Values www.MagicValleyHomeValues.com

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HOME INSPECTIONS
2000 + since 1993. Bill Baker, 208-326-5115.
TWIN FALLS 3 bdrm, 1 bath, 1,300 sq ft, central heat and AC, new painted interior, \$82,500, 736-7656.

BURLEY Riverside Tr. Park, 2 & 3 bdrm, \$300-\$450, 736-0322
GOODING 3 bdrm, \$500 + dep, 423 Marylana, 4 plex, 736-0322

HAGERMAN 1 bdrm, cottage style home, \$450. Available December 1st, 866-782-7007 or 867-780-8880.

JEROME
Newer 3 bedroom, 2 bath mobile home, built mobile home, 3-5-00 to 3-5-5-00 deposit, Call 208-543-8342.

JEROME 1 bdrm, apt. \$250, 1 bdrm, house, \$300, 2 bdrm, house, \$500, 400 E. 5th, 2 bdrm, 300 E. 4th, 3 bdrm, 300 E. 4th, 3 bdrm, 300 E. 4th, Call 208-324-3427.

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BUHL 4 bedroom, 2 1/2 bath nice country home, \$675 month + deposit. Call 208-543-8927 or 208-330-9700.
BUHL Nico's 3 bdrm, 1 1/2 bath, No Smoking or pets, \$600/month + \$200 dep. Call 208-543-0950, 404-525 after hour or 736-9409 from 8am-9pm only. Call 208-543-8927.

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TWIN FALLS 2 bdrm, 1 bath, pets OK, \$450 + \$300 dep. 212-1678
TWIN FALLS 3 bdrm 1 bath, \$700 + \$300 dep. 212-1678 or 404-5330
TWIN FALLS Attractive 2 bedroom, one bath home on presidential street. Large lot. No smoking or pets. \$560 per month. Call 208-464-6575.

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Spacious 1 & 2
bdrms, apartments
from \$395.
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TWIN FALL



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For items under or adding up to \$1000 (Maximum of 4 items) \$2 each additional line. Private Party only. Merchandise & pets only.

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COAL Stoker & Lump Delivered by hand... MOORE'S FIREWOOD Seasoned...

FULL mattress set

Ompedic, \$39. Brand new, 42x63.50. SOFA sage green coat...

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Really nice, sturdy. \$350. Good office desk, 5-drawer, \$299...

WANTED gear box for

Stokermatic coal furnace. Call 208-934-5688.

HONDA '96 XR100

great cond., 100 hrs. must sell. \$1300/offer. 208-336-7376.

WINNEBAGO '95

Class A, 28 ft. 27K. like new. \$23,000. Call 208-308-6012.

YAMAHA 803 (2)

machines, reverse, long track, w/airbrake. \$1,900. Call 853-1019.

FOLIAGE TRAILER

1 ft. chain floor, good condition \$9,500. Call 430-6010 or 543-5224.

810 FURNITURE & CARPETS

BEDROOM SET Queen size 5 piece, great cond. \$600 or best offer. 430-5222/6671.

THE WOOD WORM

Ridged w/wood floor clock. 1996. Exc cond., 87 in., beveled glass, mirrors, lighted case...

OVERHEAD GARAGE DOOR

4'x16' 208-324-8500 or 339-3655.

WANTED quality wood

working tools and equipment. Call 208-404-9491.

ARCTIC '95 (2)

Cougar 550 S1500 each. 1987 Arctic Cougar 500 700. 15 ft. snow env. trlr. \$800. 308-3497.

ARCTIC CATS '01

Mountain Cat 800, low miles exc. cond. \$3,900. '00 Powder Special 700, low miles, exc. cond. \$3,000. 431-3278.

ROADRUNNER 70

28 foot. S 800. Call 208-349-9617.

6000 TRUCKS

CHEVY '04, white, 2500. Overland U.S. crew cab, 13K. Duramax. Allison auto, running good. \$39,900/offer. 537-6579.

811 HEATING & AC

ELECTRIC HEATERS base board, 8 various sizes, all for \$150. Call 208-837-6060.

TWIN BUNK BEDS

complete, \$150/offer. Super size twin water bed, \$150/offer. Call 208-736-1901.

SNOW BLOWER

824 rotary, 8 hp, electric start & reverse. \$200. Call 733-5538.

WANTED US coins

single coins or whole collections. Top dollar paid. 208-431-3109.

MINI-CHOPPER new

49cc. exc. start, adult or child. Retail \$650. \$400. Call 733-5538.

SUSUKI '03

RM125, 2000. Call 877-4394 or 312-2217.

YAMAHA '01 YZ125

with cover, excellent condition, desert tank and stock tank. \$2,100. Call 208-283-0774 or 208-324-4595 evenings.

JUST CALL

With just one quick call, you can reach thousands of potential buyers for whatever you have to sell!

812 AUCTIONS & AUCTIONEERS

CHRISTMAS AT THE VILLAGE! Deck of 4 halls, the walls and the floor. Simpler Times Village, 840 Addison Ave. Twin Falls, ID.

BILL DOWNS AUCTION SERVICE

(208) 467-1712 www.billdowns.com Committed to Excellence!

813 JEWELRY

BRACELD Tennis, diamond, 2.0 to 1.1 carat. With matching earrings. Appraised at \$2,600. Will sacrifice for \$1,900. 733-3865.

814 GUNS AND RIFLES

REMINGTON SP70 as new, \$800/offer. Call 208-539-4577.

815 MEDICAL SUPPLIES

CHAIR Men's illi style like new. \$300. Will sell for \$700/offer. Call 208-733-5601.

816 SPORTING EQUIPMENT

BOAT 14ft inflatable, quick-silver, 4 seats, 25 hp. Motor, anchor, rope and gear. \$3,000. Call 324-2586 or 213-2562.

817 MUSICAL INSTRUMENTS

ELECTRIC PIANO Technics, like new, excellent condition. \$1,000. 208-536-6647.

818 TOOLS AND MACHINERY

IRON MIKE pitching machine, works great. \$1,000. 6" shuffle board table \$500. Call 208-733-8523.

819 EXERCISE EQUIPMENT

IRON CANOPY, black, w/100 LB BEN MATRESS AND BOX. New still in plastic. List \$799, sacrifice \$239. Can deliver. 420-6350.

820 TOOLS AND MACHINERY

KEYBOARD Roland E-10, 61 keys, keyboard with stand & piano stool, \$429. PIANO lovely dark 1 1/2 right, exc. cond. For lessons or Christmas gift. \$400. 530-9289.

821 VARIETY FOODS

PIANO nice Rosewood W/leaved glass stool, tuned. Call 733-3905. Call 208-734-4749.

822 WANTED TO BUY

POOL TABLE 8ft, reasonably priced. Call 208-308-2176.

823 GARAGE SALES

FILER Indoor Filer File Market, Christmas Shoppers at TF Fairgrounds, Dec 4th & Dec 5th. Everything from antiquiques to garage sale items.

824 CANPERS & SHELLS

"USED SHELLS" - "Fits most trucks." - "Soldier's Quality." - "Low Prices." 208-312-1525.

825 RECREATIONAL

WANTED Heavy Duty Elliptical Trainer or TREADMILL in good condition. Also, looking for home use hydromassage (HYDRO LAMP). 208-737-9240 or 208-410-0309.

826 MOTORHOMES & RV'S

HOLIDAY RAMBLER 31, Class A, Ford 460 31 foot, 88K, \$19,000. Call 208-308-7878.

827 HOME COMPUTER

IRON CANOPY, black, w/100 LB BEN MATRESS AND BOX. New still in plastic. List \$799, sacrifice \$239. Can deliver. 420-6350.

828 CHECK THE SERVICE DIRECTORY

DAILY and local business can help you to Advertise in the Service Directory Call 733-0931 ext. 2.

829 WANTED

WANTED Old gas pumps or gas station items. Top money paid. Tony 208-866-0274.

830 HARBLY-DAVIDSON

'03 FLHRCI Road King Classic, Black and silver, 100 ton and anniversary edition. \$18,650/offer. Contact Chuck at 731-9313.

831 WANTED

WANTED Colonic gas range, old model, 4 parts. 208-837-4766.

832 WANTED

WANTED For fill dirt. You haul or we will have it hauled. Easy access to dump. Call 208-2-34-0223 or 208-320-1972.

833 WANTED

Wanted to find a good used automobile? One that is classified for the largest selection available in your area today. 733-0931 ext. 2. 800-658-3883 ext. 2.

834 WANTED

Wanted to find a good used automobile? One that is classified for the largest selection available in your area today. 733-0931 ext. 2. 800-658-3883 ext. 2.

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836 MISC

POOL TABLE 8ft, reasonably priced. Call 208-308-2176.

837 WANTED

Wanted to find a good used automobile? One that is classified for the largest selection available in your area today. 733-0931 ext. 2. 800-658-3883 ext. 2.

838 WANTED

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839 WANTED

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 When purchasing a vehicle, make sure you are getting the name of the seller. Under Idaho motor vehicle laws, the vehicle cannot be sold unless the title is in the name of the seller (providing Idaho licensed dealer). The seller shall provide the new purchaser a signed bill of sale showing the following information: name of the vehicle, vehicle identification numbers, VIN, license paid and name(s) and address of the new purchaser. The bill of sale must be signed, dated and show actual mileage. ALL CARS. Call Dale 208-733-3158.

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 Please check your ad for accuracy on the first day it runs. The Times-News will only be responsible for errors reported on the first day of publication. Please call: Twin Falls 233-0931 ext. 2 or Burley 677-4042. Thank You.

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CADILLAC '72 El Dorado, great transportation, 150K, exc. cond. \$5,600 firm. Call 734-1670.

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HONDA '97 Accord SE 4 door sedan, dark purple, sunroof, alloy wheels, very good condition. \$4,349. \$5600. 208-733-7690.

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Vehicles will be available at both Middlekauff locations, Downtown and Blue Lakes. All dealers, wholesalers and auto brokers welcome. This sale is open to the public. Middlekauff reserves the right to send these vehicles to the Salt Lake auto auction without notice or end of sale notification, so hurry!

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