

GOOD MORNING

WEATHER

Today: Partly cloudy. Tonight: mostly cloudy. High of 45, low of 28. Page A2

MAGIC VALLEY



Donated food: Charitable organizations specialize in Christmas baskets. Page B1

SCHOOL DAYS

Ag Days: Castledford students go to FFA event. Page A5

IMAGE



Breathless: The holidays can be miserable for folks with asthma. Page C1

SPORTS



Round 'em up: National Finals Rodeo concludes in Las Vegas. Page D1

OPINION

State security: Larger states are a bigger target for terror than smaller Western states, says today's Western Views. Page A6

COMING UP

Sticker shock
Sunglasses-turned-digital music player come with a high price tag.
Tuesday in the Times-News

INDEX

- ClassifiedC38
- ComicsD4
- CrosswordA8
- Dear AbbyA8
- HoroscopeA8
- ImageC1
- Magic ValleyB1
- MoviesB4
- NationA3
- ObituariesB2
- OpinionA6
- Random factsA8
- School DaysA5
- SportsD1
- WeatherA2
- WestB2-3
- WorldA4

Want a flu shot?



Registered nurse Randy Kortness prepares to inject a patient with a flu vaccine at a flu shot clinic hosted by a grocery store in Seattle Tuesday.

Supply grows but demand withers

The Associated Press

SEATTLE — Rod Watson had to cancel 1,000 flu-shot clinics in four states when the national vaccine shortage cut off his supply two months ago.

Now Watson has flu shots aplenty — and he can't give them away.

"My biggest fear is I'm going to end up with a lot of serum, and there's a national shortage," said Watson, president of Prevention MD, a medical screening and immunization company. He offers \$20 flu shots Monday through Friday at his Seattle-area office.

Public health officials in California, Colorado and other states have voiced similar fears. Some are relaxing the rules to offer shots to more people.

In October and November

people stood in line for hours to get one of the precious few flu shots. And now that more vaccine is available — with a few million more doses expected from British and German suppliers — demand is dwindling.

"It's one of these things like Beanie Babies or something," said Doug McBride, spokesman for the Texas Department of State Health Services. "If you can't get something, you've got more people wanting them."

Supply exceeds demand in some areas, the federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention acknowledges. In other areas, people are still desperate for the vaccine. The best way to find a flu shot is to call your local health department, the CDC advises.

The CDC says 80 million people need the vaccine this

winter. About 65 million doses will be available in the United States, including a nasal vaccine that's safe only for healthy people.

Public health officials say they hope demand is dwindling because they've reached the people who need flu vaccine the most: babies, the aged and the infirm. But they acknowledge that other factors — from frustration and apathy to simple human nature — might be at work too.

When something is scarce, people naturally want it more. Being told they can't get a desired immunization is an unfamiliar and unwelcome sensation for most Americans.

"Anytime a commodity is scarce, and it is a desired item, demand will increase," Dr. Louis Manzi, psychology pro-

fessor at Lebanon Valley College in Pennsylvania, said in an e-mail.

Some people probably gave up after trying unsuccessfully to get a flu shot, said Mary Selecky, director of the Washington State Health Department and member of a national advisory group on flu vaccine distribution. Recent reports on this flu season's mild start may have convinced others that getting a flu shot wasn't worth the trouble — an impression Selecky is trying to erase.

"It's a mild flu season up to now, but next week could be another story," Selecky said. "As a society we're driven by what's in front of us ... We're having to work a little bit harder so people know that getting a flu vaccine in December and January is still very effective."

Trial date remains uncertain year after Saddam's capture

The Associated Press

BAGHDAD, Iraq — In the year since he was captured and hustled away to a secret location, Saddam Hussein has taken up gardening, undergone a hairpin operation and written poetry that one visitor describes as "rubbishy."

What he has not done is meet with any of the 20 lawyers claiming to represent him. And with the country in the grips of an insurgency, predicting when Iraq's most famous prisoner will be tried is no easier now than it was on the day he was pulled from his hiding spot in a spider hole near his hometown of Tikrit.

When Saddam first appeared before an Iraqi court in July, some officials predicted a swift trial. Ever since, they have said October, November or December. Now, they expect it no earlier than the beginning of 2006, Iraq's National Security Adviser

"This is going to be probably the trial of the century and we have to get it right. We can't suddenly try him and sentence him to either life in prison or whatever, execute him 100 times as some people want to do."

Mouwafak al-Rubaleh told The Associated Press.

"This is going to be probably the trial of the century and we have to get it right," al-Rubaleh said. "We can't suddenly try him and sentence him to either life in prison or whatever, execute him 100 times as some people want to do."

Officials say the work of gathering evidence — documents, mass grave sites, testimony from victims — continues away from the public eye and beyond the reach of the insurgents. They insist it is being done meticulously and legitimately.

American officials with the Department of Justice's Regime



Saddam Hussein

Captured a year ago today

Crimes Liaison Office are advising the Iraqi Special Tribunal on the process of bringing Saddam to trial. The Americans paid the tribunal's budget of \$75 million from 2004-2005.

But with elections approaching Jan. 30, the Iraqi government is in flux and likely to stay that way for another year until a new constitution is drafted and another round of elections is held in December 2005.

Trainers also face a dearth of qualified Iraqi prosecutors. Please see SADDAM, Page A2

Ticket or driver's education?

Police want to offer four-hour course in lieu of citations

By Julie Pence Times-News writer

TWIN FALLS — A left turn anywhere except at a stoplight on Blue Lakes Boulevard North during the rush hours will cause your breathing and heart rate to speed up as you stomp on the accelerator and shove through the first opening in sight.

Those left-hand turns on Blue lakes are one of the biggest causes of crashes on one of Idaho's busiest streets.

Twenty percent of the accidents in Twin Falls occur on Blue Lakes, said Sgt. John Wilson of the Twin Falls Police Department. During the first 11 months of 2003, there were 469 crashes on Blue Lakes; during the same time frame in 2004, there were 471.

The other main causes for car wrecks on Blue Lakes were 55,000 cars zoom up and down every day as drivers following too closely, speeding and pulling onto the boulevard from parking lots without yielding properly, Wilson said.

So, police are zeroing in on strategies to improve Please see CLASS, Page A2

Karzai says bin Laden is in region

The Associated Press

KABUL, Afghanistan — Afghan President Hamid Karzai said bin Laden's whereabouts are "definitely" in the region and eventually will be caught, even though American and Pakistani generals admit the trail is cold.

Speculation on bin Laden's whereabouts has long focused on the mountains along the border between Afghanistan and Pakistan, where the al-Qaida leader slipped away from U.S. forces three years ago.

"It's very difficult to say where he is hiding. He cannot be away from this region. He's definitely in this region," Karzai told CNN's "Late Edition."

"We will get him sooner or later, trust me on that."

Pakistan's army has mounted a series of bloody offensives against foreign fighters near the border this year and American forces launched a winter-long operation last week against Taliban rebels on the Afghan side.

But there has been no indication they are close to seizing the suspected hideout of the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks in the United States, which prompted President Bush to launch Operation Enduring Freedom with an assault on Afghanistan.

Present in the CNN interview, recorded Sunday in the Afghan capital, Karzai declined to say whether bin Laden could be in Afghanistan, or in Pakistan.

"But we can definitely say he's around this region and he can't run forever," Karzai said.



Hamid Karzai

Thefts of rare plant grow

The Associated Press

COSTA MESA, Calif. — The thieves struck at night and knew just what they were after. In minutes, they ripped two plants from the lavish landscaping at a home in Los Angeles suburb, then fled when the homeowner woke up and turned on a porch light.

Total haul: \$4,500.

The thieves were after cycads, palmlike plants so prized that a rare specimen can fetch \$20,000 or more on the international black market. Some species have been around since the time of the dinosaurs but are now close to extinction.

The plants have been targeted in a wave of thefts in California and Florida, provoking

anger and a little paranoia among collectors and staff at botanical gardens.

Some nurseries and gardens have added security, but homes are vulnerable. The thieves who struck in the Orange County city of Costa Mesa only had to enter the front yard to get the pair of cycads from a collection of some 50 species on the property.

One, valued at \$2,000, was an obvious target: a 4-foot-tall cycad (pronounced "sigh-cad") from southern Mexico.

The owner doesn't want his name disclosed because he fears thieves will return for an African specimen he hopes will finance a year of college for one of his kids.

"If someone found out I had it here they'd do anything to get it," he said.



Jason Kubrock, lead gardener at the Quail Botanical Gardens in Encinitas, Calif., explains the technique for telling the age of a rare South African cycad, seen at right, in a secured growing area at the facility. Dec. 2, AP photo

TWIN FALLS FORECAST

Today: Partly cloudy. High in the mid 40s.
Tonight: Partly cloudy. Low in the mid 30s.
Tomorrow: Mostly cloudy and mild. High, mid and upper 40s.

TWIN FALLS FIVE-DAY FORECAST

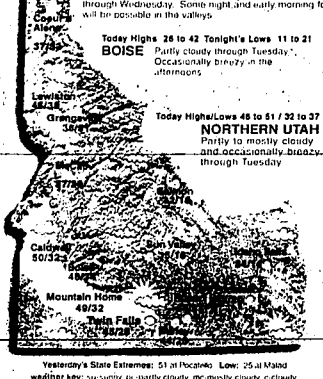
Table with 5 columns: Today, Tonight, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday. Includes weather icons and temperature ranges (High 45, Low 28).

BURLEV/RUPERT FORECAST

Today: Partly cloudy. High in the mid 40s.
Tonight: Partly cloudy. Low in the mid 30s.
Tomorrow: Mostly cloudy and breezy at times. High, middle 40s.

IDAHO'S FORECAST

SUN VALLEY, SURROUNDING MTS.
High and snow showers will be a possibility right through Wednesday. Some light and early morning fog will be possible in the valleys.



ALMANAC - TWIN FALLS

Table with columns: Temperature, Precipitation, Humidity, Barometric Pressure, Sunrise, Sunset, Moonrise, Moonset.

REGIONAL FORECAST

Table with columns: City, Today, Tomorrow, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday.

NATIONAL FORECAST

Table with columns: City, Today, Tomorrow, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday.

meineke car care center advertisement with address and phone number.

CANADIAN FORECAST table with columns for various Canadian cities.

meineke car care center advertisement with address and phone number.

80-year-old man survives more than 18 hours in Atlantic Ocean

MIAMI (AP) — An 80-year-old diver spent 18 hours holding on to a buoy in the cold, rough waters of the Atlantic Ocean before a relative found him Sunday, ending an exhaustive search off the Florida Keys.

Class

Continued from A1
...We've been asking ourselves what can we do to knock down the accidents on Blue Lakes Boulevard," Wilson said.

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Kerry lawyer asks for visual inspection of Ohio ballots

COLUMBUS, Ohio (AP) — Democrat John Kerry is asking county elections officials to allow his witnesses to inspect the 92,000 ballots cast in Ohio in which no vote for president was recorded, a Kerry lawyer said Sunday night.

Saddam

Continued from A1
defense lawyers and judges. If proper attorneys are found, they assume a new kind of risk — threats from the guerrillas, believed to be mostly Sunni Muslims like Saddam, or others trying to stymie the trial.

have continued exacting a bloody toll against U.S. troops and their allies.
The United States is increasing troop levels to 150,000, higher than they were when the war began, in hopes of providing safety for next month's elections.

recognition, which includes exercising and tending plants, said the man who visited him three months ago.
Saddam also had a hernia operation and his blood pressure varies, a U.S. official said.

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NATION

People who speak out get sued in growing trend

Chicago Tribune

OAKVILLE, Mo. — With a meticulous eye to detail, Tom Diehl did his homework. He immersed himself in the regulatory minutiae of trash. He pored over environmental studies. And after publicly stating his case against a proposed garbage holding pen in his suburban St. Louis community, he won.

What Tom Diehl did not anticipate was getting sued for his civic activism — a \$5 million libel and slander suit filed by the trash company, claiming Diehl's and the opponents' characterization of the firm as "trash terrorists" suggests the company has killed Americans and is bent on killing more.

In a nation of sometimes-outrageous talk, where nothing is more American than speaking out at a public hearing, attorneys who follow defamation suits say the number of defamation claims against individuals who do speak out is growing. Claiming a variety of offenses, politicians are suing citizens as well as other politicians. Large and small businesses seeking approval of development projects are suing people who oppose them.

Attorneys who follow the suits say the trend resembles Goliath pummeling David: People with the means to sue are filing suit against individuals who don't keep attorneys on retainer.

While most cases are eventually dismissed or dropped, the financial liability implications from these lawsuits are making people think twice before they testify at hearings or otherwise get involved in public debates.

"We've seen a run-up in these cases, often by fairly powerful businesses seeking to muffle or stifle public participation," said Howard Larson, executive director of the Environmental Law & Policy Center in Chicago. "If you're a big company it doesn't cost a lot of money to file a lawsuit and it sends a message, and that is 'Don't get involved.'"



In this photo released by NASA, NASA Administrator Sean O'Keefe, right, welcomes China National Space Administrator Sun Lajuan, to NASA Headquarters in Washington, Dec. 2 during a courtesy visit.

NASA administrator will resign, says official

WASHINGTON (AP) — NASA Administrator Sean O'Keefe will resign this week, a government official said Sunday, and a spokesman for Louisiana State University said O'Keefe is a leading candidate to become a chancellor there.

The committee looking for someone to fill the \$500,000-a-year job running the campus in Baton Rouge, La., meets Thursday, and O'Keefe will make his case for the job, search committee chairman Joel Tohlme said.

O'Keefe has led the space agency for almost three years, a tumultuous period marred by the loss of the shuttle Columbia and its seven astronauts as well as budget battles and debates over the future of American space travel.

The administrator plans to resign this week, said the government official, who refused to be quoted because the procedures for O'Keefe's departure

still are not certain.

"The White House still has to decide how it wants to announce his departure," the official said.

Despite O'Keefe's appointment with the search committee on Thursday, the official said his resignation is not linked with an offer from LSU. The official said the resignation probably will come earlier than the scheduled meeting in Louisiana.

White House spokeswoman Suzy DelFrancis had no comment on O'Keefe's future.

NASA spokesman Bob Jacobs said, "When the administrator is prepared to announce his future plans, he will tell us and the public."

Another government official who spoke on condition of anonymity said the news of O'Keefe's impending departure came as a shock — including to those at NASA — even with all the longtime speculation that

he might move up in the Bush administration.

But John Logsdon, director of George Washington University's space policy institute and a member of the Columbia Accident Investigation Board, said the sense in the Washington space community, at least, was that O'Keefe had been eager to leave NASA.

"The general thought was that he was hoping for a different job in the second administration, probably back in the national security field, kind of his natural home, and that hasn't happened," Logsdon said in a telephone interview late Sunday afternoon. "But he, Sean, has always said that he likes the academic life."

Logsdon noted that O'Keefe's departure needs to be put in context: "Over half the cabinet agencies are changing heads. It is a time of transition, and so I don't think it's particularly traumatic."

Southern exposure
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Serial killings probe targets police, media in DNA sweeps

WICHITA, Kan. (AP) — Hurst Laviana had just finished covering a routine police briefing for The Wichita Eagle when a detective pulled him aside and said, "You've got a suspect in the BTK serial killings."

Like some other reporters in the Wichita area, Laviana allowed a DNA swab.

"Most of us thought it wasn't a big deal," Laviana said. "It's almost like joining a fraternity. You want to get a T-shirt that says, 'I'm not BTK.'"

Since the serial killer resurfaced in March with letters to media and police, investigators have been looking at reporters and within their own ranks for suspects.

The Kansas Bureau of Investigation confirmed it has done hundreds of DNA swabs in connection with the BTK investigation, but did not offer specifics. No arrests have been made.

BTK — a self-coined nickname that stands for "Bind-Torture-Kill" — claimed responsibility for eight unsolved killings from 1974 through 1986 in letters to The Wichita Eagle and local television station KAKE.

The missives cast suspicion on those receiving the letters.

"Because BTK has always communicated with the media, it doesn't surprise me we continue to be part of the story — whether we like it or not," said Eagle editor Sherry Chisenhall.

Media lawyer Mike Merriam said police could not take DNA from a reporter without a search warrant or the individual's consent — and he doubted police could show enough probable

cause to get a warrant.

"It sounds like civic thing to do, but it seems the potential for abuse is so great I wouldn't cooperate with them if they asked me," Merriam said.

The reporters say they were told that police were following up on tips made to a hot line.

Sill, with investigators getting thousands of calls, former reporter Randy Brown said the tips don't carry much weight.

"We have these hot lines where people come in and link on a name," said Brown, a senior fellow at Wichita State University's Elliott School of Journalism.

"When your name shows up three times, they start swabbing you. Any fool can call up and mention your name three times," he said.

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McCain's stance on steroids stirs talk of presidential bid

WASHINGTON (AP) — Sen. John McCain, the straight-talking Republican who challenges the GOP establishment, has taken on a headline-grabbing issue — steroids in baseball — and generated talk of a presidential bid in 2008.

McCain's revelations about baseball's biggest names, McCain has threatened to push legislation early next year if Major League Baseball and the players do not clean up their act. McCain long has advocated

harsher penalties for athletes caught using performance-enhancing drugs.

The three-term senator from Arizona has earned a reputation as a go-to lawmaker, tackling campaign finance, the war on Iraq, federal spending and climate change.

It's little wonder that his foray into the baseball scandal has revived Republican speculation about McCain and the 2008 presidential race.

Even though President Bush has yet to take the oath of office

for a second term, other names that have surfaced as possible GOP candidates in 2008 include Senate Majority Leader Bill Frist of Tennessee; Sens. Chuck Hagel of Nebraska, George Allen of Virginia and Rick Santorum of Pennsylvania; former New York Mayor Rudolph Giuliani, and Govs. Mitt Romney of Massachusetts and George Pataki of New York.

"The big question is: Can McCain get any hotter?" said Scott Reed, a Republican consultant.

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Stephen Hartgen



Brad Hurd

WORLD

'MANMADE BEAUTIES'

China will hold pageant for recipients of plastic surgery

BEIJING (AP) - Her hair is jet black and curly, her figure trim, her face free of wrinkles, Liu Yuan looks at least a decade younger than her 62 years...

Liu is one of 19 finalists in China's first beauty pageant for women who have undergone plastic surgery...

The government says the country's last-gonding cosmetic surgery industry takes in \$2.4 billion a year as patients rush to go under the knife to widen eyes, narrow faces and fill out lips...

"Before I could imagine that it was possible to have places where the old could become young and the ugly could become beautiful..."

Wearing a formidating emerald Mandarin-collared dress with silver beading, she joined contestants Sunday as they walked and posed for reporters...



Liu Yuan, 62, the oldest contestant in China's first ever beauty pageant for women who have undergone plastic surgery, poses for photographers in Beijing, China, Sunday. Liu is one of 19 contestants from around China who will take part in the final Dec. 18 pageant.

and her society have a complete understanding of every aspect. More than 300 people from other countries applied, including women from the United States and Japan...

"The idea for the competition took shape shortly after an 18-year-old woman was disqualified from a Chinese beauty pageant earlier this year because she had plastic surgery...

made beauty. They need to understand it.

The quest for beauty has been part of Chinese culture for centuries. But after the 1949 Communist takeover, and especially during Mao's 1966-76 Cultural Revolution, the norm changed.

In the 1980s, as China engaged the international community, Hong Kong and Japan - and later, the United States - provided inspiration for women's body images.

China has also hosted the Miss World beauty pageant two years in a row and will take on the role again next year.

Liu Xiaoling, a 21-year-old from the northeastern city of Harbin, was a man three years ago but doesn't feel that undermines her chances in the contest.

"Becoming beautiful is everyone's wish," said Liu, who was wearing a strapless turquoise dress. "I am now legally a woman, and this contest is my first formal step toward womanhood."

Liu didn't tell organizers she was a transsexual, and they didn't ask. On Sunday, she revealed in front of reporters that she was a transsexual.

"If they disqualify me, I will use legal means to seek fairness," said Liu, who has also had work done on her eyebrows, nose, chin and facial shape.

Liu, the retiree from northern Hebei province, said winning wasn't her goal. Instead, she wanted to draw attention to herself-much as she wanted to.

"I want to show my attitude of my heart, my self-confidence," she said, tapping her chest. "I'm fantastic!"

15 die in blast in crowded market

MANILA, Philippines - A bomb exploded in a market packed with Christmas shoppers Sunday, killing at least 15 people, injuring 58 others and shattering a monthslong lull in terror attacks in the volatile southern Philippines...

World in brief organization. Despite the gravity of the charges, he is a free man, walking alone from his home to the century-old courthouse each morning, unguarded.

President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo said there was no way to justify "this heinous deed."

No one claimed responsibility, but whether terrorist groups were involved, Muslim and communist groups both operate in areas around General Santos.

The city had been largely tranquil since a bomb killed 11 people in a shopping mall in 2002. Authorities blamed the Muslim extremist group Abu Sayyaf and a larger separatist group, the Moro Islamic Liberation Front.

Sayyaf and a larger separatist group, the Moro Islamic Liberation Front, were arrested after being tried on multiple murder charges.

Germany prepares to expel 9-11 cell members HAMBURG, Germany - After three years of failing to hold anyone accountable for the attacks of Sept. 11, 2001, Germany is preparing to expel accused members of the Hamburg-based cell that led the hijackings to countries with more aggressive records of prosecuting terrorism.

Although two criminal trials are still pending, German officials, legal experts and lawyers involved in the cases said the massive investigation into the al-Qaida cell has been stymied by this country's lax anti-terrorism laws, unfavorable judicial rulings and a lack of evidence.

The state of affairs is apparent at the judicial complex in Hamburg, where one defendant, Amour Morassut, is being tried on more than 4,000 counts of accessory to murder and membership in a terrorist

Palestinian militants killed five Israeli soldiers. JERUSALEM - Palestinian militants tunneled under an Israeli army post at a border crossing between the Gaza Strip and Egypt and set off explosives Sunday, killing five soldiers and wounding five others.

It was the biggest attack since Yasser Arafat's death last month raised hopes of new movement toward peace.

The powerful blast, which was followed by a mortar barrage and gunfire, demolished the post and wrecked several structures in an adjacent base, burying at least one soldier under the debris, army officials said.

It was a very large and very well-coordinated attack," said Capt. Jacob Hallal, an army spokesman.

There had been a relative lull in violence since Arafat died Nov. 11, as all parties to the Middle East conflict reassessed their positions and the Palestinians prepared to elect a new leader next month.

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Ukraine reopens probe of candidate's poisoning

Los Angeles Times

KIEV, Ukraine - The Ukrainian prosecutor-general's office announced Sunday it had reopened an investigation into allegations that presidential candidate Viktor Yushchenko was poisoned after doctors had confirmed dioxin poisoning.

Returning to Kiev after checking out of a clinic in Vienna, Austria, Yushchenko said he was sure that authorities were responsible for the dioxin poisoning that had disfigured his face and caused other symptoms.

"I am convinced that this is the work of the authorities, absolutely convinced," Yushchenko told reporters at Kiev airport.

The pro-Western reformer is engaged in a bitter presidential contest with Prime Minister Viktor Yanukovich and has alleged since suddenly falling ill in September that he was poisoned in an assassination attempt.

Yushchenko fell sick Sept. 6, a day after having late-night food and drinks with then-Smehko, the head of the Security Service of Ukraine, and others.

The prosecutor-general's office dropped its initial investigation of the allegation in late October. Serhiy Rudenko, a spokesman, said that no poisoning agents had been found in forensic medical tests and that there

was no data to prove deliberate poisoning or the use of biological weapons against Yushchenko.

Speaking to reporters Sunday at the private Rodoliforhaus clinic in Vienna, where doctors announced Saturday that they had confirmed dioxin poisoning, Yushchenko said a full-scale investigation should wait until after Dec. 26, when he faces Yanukovich in a repeat election.

The Supreme Court set the revote after ruling that the Nov. 21 balloting, narrowly won by Yanukovich according to the official count, was invalid due to fraud.

"I don't want this factor to influence the election in some way - either as a plus or a minus," Yushchenko said.

"This question will require a great deal of time and serious investigation. Let us do it after the election - today is not the moment."

Yushchenko said massive street protests in central Kiev helped prompt parliament to enact electoral reforms aimed at preventing fraud in the revote, had brought historic change to Ukraine.

"I think that the heart of Ukraine moved to Independence Square in Kiev over the last three weeks, and old people, young people, everyone, were defending not Yushchenko but they were defending their choice for the type of Ukraine they want to see in the future," he said, as his U.S.-born wife, Kateryna Chumachenko, translated.

Palestinian leader tours Mideast to mend fences

KUWAIT CITY (AP) - Palestinian leader Mahmoud Abbas apologized to Kuwaitis on Sunday for Palestinian support of Saddam Hussein during the 1990-91 Gulf War, his latest gesture to mend fences with Arab nations offended by the late Yasser Arafat over the years.

Kuwaitis had mixed feelings ahead of Abbas' visit, with many holding a grudge against the Palestinians for supporting Saddam during the war. On his arrival Sunday, Abbas provided a long-awaited apology in response to a question.

"Yes, we apologize for what we have done," he said.

Kuwait's prime minister, Sheikh Sabrah Al Ahmed Al Sabah, had said an apology was not needed and the matter of the Palestinian leadership's support for Saddam "has been closed."

Muhammad al-Sagoff, who heads Parliament's foreign affairs panel, praised the apology, saying a "new page in relations was now being opened."

However, a group of lawmakers said in a statement Sunday they rejected the visit before the Palestine Liberation Organization offers an official apology to the Kuwaiti people for its sin it committed against Kuwait.

One of the lawmakers, Musallam al-Barak, said Sunday the apology was too brief and "simple."

"We want an official apology in an official statement," he said.

ian leadership in Kuwait" even as PLO leader, Arafat supported it in the 1990s during this oil-rich country and opposed the subsequent U.S.-led war that liberated it. He never visited Kuwait afterward.

Iraqi, Muhi al-Abadi, leader of the pro-Western branch of the Iraqi Nation, welcomed Abbas' overture to Kuwait but argued that Iraqis deserved an apology of their own.

"This is an incomplete apology because I failed to mention the Iraqi side," he said in a statement.

He argued that Palestinian support for Saddam and his "whims" had contributed to the suffering of Iraqi people.

Abbas made a low-key visit to Kuwait in May to attend a conference on the Middle East. His visit did not attract much attention.

However, when the late Faisal al-Husseini, then PLO chief of Jerusalem, came here in May 2001 for a conference, lawmakers slammed the visit as premature.

Last year, Abbas - then the prime minister - condemned the Iraq invasion of Kuwait in an interview with the state-owned Kuwait News Agency and called the Palestinian leadership's position "incorrect."

Keep track of your investments with the Times-News Money pages

Christmas Clearance Many Items at or Below Cost (limited to stock on hand) Buy Now At Clearance Prices and Enjoy this Year! ACE Hardware

The Magic Valley Relay for Life Committee cordially invites you to join us for the 14th Annual Relay for Life 2005 Kickoff Rally Thursday, January 6th - 6 p.m. Bridgeview Estates, Great Room Twin Falls, Idaho

SCHOOL DAYS

Community Editor: Pat Marantonia - 735-3288

Castleford FFA event takes them places

CASTLEFORD — The Castleford FFA has been busy this fall with a variety of activities sending them from the mountains to farm fields.

Students traveled to Diamond Field Jacks in the South Hills earlier this fall to compete at the District Forestry Career Development Event where the team placed third.

Students had to identify tree and shrub species, various forestry tools and map symbols; find locations on maps; determine the amount of timber in logs and trees; and traverse a course using a compass and pacing.

The team consisted of Travis Henson, Lauren Klinge, Angie Gorterman, Anna Lopez and Jessica Elsner. The alternate team of Tim Frey, Nathan Graybeal, Greg Sanchez, Jared Welch, Zach Klinge, Bethel Rodgers and Miranda Berater competed for the experience to carry on the team in the upcoming years, reported adviser roger Wells.

Another Castleford FFA team placed third at the District Soil Conservation Event Oct. 6 in Jerome, sponsored by the Idaho Soil Conservation Districts.

Students evaluated a field for its ability to be used for agriculture production or establishing



Ag Days participants from Castleford included, from left, back: Gabrielle Machado, Rikki Wiggins, Amanda Elsner and Samantha Guinn; front: Calvin Kennison, Clayton Bishop, Raul Hurtado and Tyler Connell.

a home site. They identified texture, measured slope, calculated erosion loss, determined depth of the soil and more before making their final decisions.

The team consisted of Angie Gorterman, who placed ninth high individual; Jessica Bohannan, who placed 10th high individual; and Lisa Eastman and Lindsay Wiggins.

Castleford students also attended the annual Ag Days Oct. 6-10 at the University of Idaho campus in Moscow. Eighty graders in Wells' Introduction

to Agriculture class applied and were interviewed by a panel of judges who picked eight students to attend.

There, they participated in a softball tournament, toured the campus, judged animals and attended a football game.

"This trip is quick, but it is a lot of fun and great way for students to get exposed to agriculture education, the University of Idaho and the FFA before getting into high school," Wells said.

In livestock judging, the boys team consisting of Raul Hurta-

do, Calvin Kennison, Tyler Connell and Clayton Bishop placed 10th. The girls team of Gabrielle Machado, Rikki Wiggins, Amanda Elsner and Samantha Guinn placed 11th. Elsner placed 14th high individual.

In dairy judging, the boys won first place. Individually, Hurtado won first place; Kennison, fourth; Bishop, sixth; and Connell, seventh. The girls team placed fourth.

Wells won "second" place in the adviser's dairy judging contest.



Chrissy Alves places a tulip bulb in a hole dug by Dusty Henson during this year's Red Ribbon Week project by Buhl Middle School students.

Elementary school focuses on character traits

Oakley school gets funding from department to focus on character

OAKLEY — This year, Oakley Elementary School received funds from the State Department of Education to implement character education.

Last spring, community members, students and parents picked nine traits they felt were important to focus on for the school year.

Each month, students focus on a trait with a lesson, the students, teachers and community residents look for students who show outstanding character, the school reported.

During "daily" morning announcements, a short story or quote is presented that ties in

with the trait of the month. Students were also given planners containing quotes about people of character.

At the end of the month, an assembly focuses on the trait and discusses who showed outstanding character.

Teachers met in the summer and integrated character education with the curriculum, the school reported.

For example, if a teacher is doing a lesson in mathematics and it is a difficult topic, the teacher might share an example of Alexander Graham Bell and how he had to use perseverance to finish what he started.



Oakley Elementary School student Braxton Sagars was caught doing something that showed character. He picked up trash in front of the school without anyone asking him. The school is emphasizing character-building traits.

MVHS gets into the spirit of giving this season

MAGIE VALLEY High School got into the spirit of giving this season by collecting and donating food, toys and clothing needed by area children.

In addition, several students have started a candy bar fundraiser to earn money for some of the larger items on the list. There is a class competition for the most items donated with a pizza party for a prize.

This week's mystery staff person was counselor June Bels. Last week's was Annette Nelson, para-professional.

Student Superstars submitted by teachers this week are Chava Martinez and Nick Price.

State drama was successful for Nikki Watis and Hope Long. Both advanced to semi-finals in their divisions.

Forty-one schools competed statewide, with a total of 825 students participating. The

MVHS MOMENTS

Jennifer Miller

girls wish to thank Twin Falls High School drama for allowing them to travel and compete as part of their team.

A Meet-Up club has been formed to promote school diversity and awareness. It held its first meeting recently.

The drama club attended the THS production of "The Visit" on Friday, and is beginning preparations for a full-length play to be started after Christmas break.

Jennifer Miller is the English and speech teacher at Magic Valley High School in Twin Falls.



Seniors Jazmin Huerta, middle and Clayton Eames, right, graduated recently. With them is student teacher, Gerry Hildreth, who was part of the graduation ceremony to recognize his time spent with students at Magic Valley High School.

SCHOOL NEWS

Local schools present Christmas programs

Several area schools are presenting Christmas programs this week.

O'Leary Junior High's eighth- and ninth-grade jazz band will perform a Christmas concert at 7 p.m. today at the school, 2350 Elizabeth Blvd.

The seventh-grade band will perform a Christmas concert for parents during the seventh-grade period on Thursday, for more information, call 733-2155.

Wendell Elementary's second- and third-grade annual Christmas program "Melton the Warm-hearted Snowman" will be held at 7 p.m. today at the Wendell High School Auditorium, 750 E. Main. Admission is \$1 for children, \$2 for adults and \$5 for a family. Call Lana Lamm at 536-6611, ext. 120.

Big Valley Elementary School fifth-graders will present a Christmas program at 2 and 7 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 15, at the school, 202 18th St., Rupert. The fifth-grade will be performing.

Dietrich Schools, 406 N. Park, will present a Christmas program at 6:30 p.m. Wednesday.

Heyburn Elementary School third-graders will present a Christmas program at 7 p.m. Thursday at the school, 1431 17th St.

East Minico Middle School bands and orchestras will hold a combined holiday concert at 7:30 p.m. Thursday in the Minico High School auditorium, 292 W. 100 S., Rupert. Admission is free, and the event is open to the public.

West Minico Middle School Concert Bands will perform in concert at 7 p.m. Friday in the West Minico gymnasium, 150 S. W. 600 W., Paul. The Beginning Band and the combined seventh and eighth-grade concert band will perform. There will be no admission charge.

Kimberly High School FFA announces drive

KIMBERLY — Members of the Kimberly High School Future Farmers of America are holding their annual blood

drive from 2 to 6 p.m. Tuesday in the Kimberly Middle School gymnasium, 550 Main.

Donors must be age 17 or older, at least 110 pounds, in good health, not taking antibiotics and not have donated in the last 56 days. Only 75 donors will be taken.

For more information, call Heather Hopkins at 423-4170, ext. 3324.

Shoshone Elementary School releases roll

SHOSHONE — Shoshone Elementary School has released its upper elementary honor roll students.

Fourth grade All As: Caleb Aoi, Hannah Belloli, Keegan Conrath, Sabrina Chitwood, Devon Davis, Jessica Escobar, Garrett Sant, D.J. Stanhope, Diana Vaughn and Morgan Weber.

All As and Bs: Paige Anderson, Josh Armstrong, Jordan Bailey, Amanda Bidwell, Caulen Bryant, Kody Crocker, Henry Garcia, Louis Kyes, Steve McClure, Cassidy Stevens, Jessica Simonsen, Tyler Taylor, Cody

Tolland and Nick Wallace.

Fifth grade All As: Ozario Avalos, Bryan Bollar, Sandra Enriquez, Julio Garcia, Joe McMullin, Rebekah Merrick, Gage Roberts, Lupe Rutil, Mariah Schoolcraft, Chantise Trujillo, Matt Walsh and Kendra Wright.

All As and B's: Juan Anyaya, Dakota Brown, Brittnee Eberhard, Marisa Grissom, Kellee Hutchins, Jordan Pederson, Taylor Perkins, Mark Russell, Billy Tanner, Crista Torres, Maim Torres, Pedro Vega and Quiana Welborn.

For more information, call Jennifer Schott at 543-8292.

Dietrich FFA will sell poinsettias for \$7

DIETRICH — The Dietrich School Future Farmers of America group is selling poinsettias for \$7.

For more information, call Jeff Gerard at 514-2158.

Richfield Schools releases honor roll list

RICHFIELD — Richfield

Schools have named honor roll students.

All As: Seventh grade, Cristina Kent; eighth grade, Hailey Faulkner, Valary Fenelon, Michelle Kent and Brody Norman; ninth grade, Morgan Hubbsmith; 10th grade, Megan Faulkner and Angela Kent; and 12th grade, Darcy Hlatt, Brooke Norman and Steven Ward.

All As and B's: Seventh grade, Stevy Begley, and Taylor Twitchell; eighth grade, Danielle Schmidt; and 11th grade, Lia Rathbun, Shasta Twitchell and Iyeon Ju Won.

Honorable mention: Seventh grade, Matthew Ellis.

Brittany Johnson, Michael Lezaniz, Jose Rios and Tucker Smith; eighth grade, Miranda Hall, Chelsey Jones, Levi Kent and Lukas Wood; ninth grade, Huisen Exon, Almee Legamineche and Matthew Lezaniz; 10th grade, Kayla Anderson and Crystal Johnson; 11th grade, Britney Brockman, Yukiko Pukaman, Vallyn Kent, Wes Naylor, Jirayut Phathararangsang and Max Piper; and 12th grade, Vincent

Dietrich announces students of the month

DIETRICH — Dietrich School has announced the November students of the month.

Kelli Fenelon, Christine Telford, Jeramie Helsey, Jurek Wagon, Cassidy Whitaker and Caitlin Dill.

Ninth-grade class officers are Tyrell Forter, president; Anthony Pinnan, vice president; and Derek Higginbotham, secretary-treasurer.

Christmas is just around the corner at Buhl High

Christmas is just around the corner with decorations and lights going up all over.

Our Key Club threw a tannenbaum party this last Friday and decorated a beautiful tree for the holiday season and the classrooms travel expenses.

Look quick festive.

Tonight, the Buhl High School music department will present its Holiday Concert at 7 p.m. in the Topplewell Elementary Gym. The cost is \$2 for adults, \$1 for students and senior citizens, \$5 for a family, and children under age 5 and students with BHIS activity cards are free.

This performance includes the Symphonic Band, Concert Choir, Young Women's Choir, Jazz Choir and Select Choir. There will also be a silent auction going on during the concert.

The money collected will help with instrument repair and purchase and for jazz and Select Choir travel expenses.

The drama department held the annual Pigstock Dance at the middle school auditorium. "The Christmas Year" was "The 60's." Once again this year, it was a hit.

Key Club is working on the Christmas for Kids project to help less fortunate kids in the community have a better Christmas.

Our Ecology club raised 30 million in Times-News million-aire bucks and were able to buy six 550 Gallons of Southern Idaho Community Education gift certificates, which will be raffled. Proceeds will be used to buy more landscaping for the new high school.

Have a great week.

Alyssa Welch is Buhl High School student body president.



BUHL BEAT Alyssa Welch

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Western views

A weekly roundup of editorial viewpoints from newspapers around the West.

Large states deserve bulk of security funds

The Daily Herald (Provo, Utah)

Do people in Utah deserve more security from terrorism than those in New York? If you look at how state grants for homeland security are divided, that's what it looks like.

Under the Department of Homeland Security's program, Utah is getting \$0.77 per person for anti-terrorist efforts. New York, which has been a terror target twice in 1993 and again in 2001, is only getting \$4.07 per person. The big per-capita winner is Wyoming, with \$28.22 per person for security. The grants are used to provide equipment, training and other assistance to police, fire departments and other emergency responders.

Granted, New York was allocated more actual dollars than Utah or Wyoming — \$77.1 million

compared to \$204 million for Utah and \$13.9 million for Wyoming. In defense of the formula, there must be economies of scale — in other words, it may be possible for some security measures to protect many people per dollar in New York simply because of population density.

Having said that, however, we judge the risk to New York as being far greater than the risk to Wyoming or Utah. Not just from the five fires greater, as the folks suggest, but perhaps 10, 50 or 100 times greater. Laramie just doesn't strike us as a terror target.

Security money should be doled out solely on the basis of potential risk. By giving small, non-target states a disproportionate share, Congress may in fact be undermining the goal of making our nation secure against terror attacks.

Vaccine may defuse wildlife issue

The Bozeman Daily Chronicle

Montana Department of Livestock's plan to vaccinate captured Yellowstone National Park bison against the disease brucellosis will not cost much and so is probably worth a try. But it's not likely to change things much in the overall bison debate any time soon.

DOL announced a proposal to vaccinate young bison captured in its facility west of the park with a vaccine of questionable effectiveness. The vaccine, dubbed B161, is characterized as "somewhat effective in protecting vaccinated bison from infection" in the environmental analysis accompanying the proposal. But the vaccine has at least been determined to be safe for the bison, and it only costs a little more than \$7 per animal to administer.

Vaccinating those few captured bison with an only

partially effective vaccine is certainly not going to eliminate the problem, but any reduction in the rate of infection among park bison could help defuse this controversial issue. The problem, however, goes beyond bison. Elk are suspected of carrying the disease in significant numbers and, unless the vaccination program becomes permanent, bison herds will probably become reinfected to current levels in short order through exposure to elk.

This much is certain: It may never be possible to eliminate brucellosis from Rocky Mountain wildlife. But the development of a 100 percent effective vaccine for livestock could render the issue moot.

If vaccinating a few park bison costs little, doesn't harm the bison and advances the search for that vaccine, then what harm can it do?

Mixed signals on salmon

Tri-City Herald (Pasco, Wash.)

Federal agencies administered doses of common sense and nonsense to Northwest salmon recovery last week.

NOAA Fisheries issued a salmon recovery plan that excludes the option of breaching the low lower Snake River dams since federal agencies involved in the Army Corps of Engineers, the Bonneville Power Administration and the Bureau of Reclamation — cannot order the dams' destruction.

That is a practical move that keeps talk of dam breaching from distracting the region from its focus on recovery measures that can be accomplished.

Unfortunately, the federal government didn't stop there. The same day NOAA Fisheries announced plans to cut about 80 percent of the area it had

considered critical habitat for troubled salmon and steelhead runs. The new approach would safeguard only those areas currently occupied by endangered fish, rather than areas where they historically lived.

You don't have to be a skeptic to notice the apparent inconsistency. It's as if the federal government is saying, "recovery is troubled fish runs is possible, but we shouldn't hold our breath."

How else should the region view two competing policies that would have taxpayers spend millions on bringing fish closer to their historical abundance while allowing the destruction of habitat where those healthier runs might live?

Fish runs never will occupy all the habitat they once did. But a reasonable approach would plan for fish runs to inhabit some of their historical area.

Keeping a coach pays off

The Idaho Statesman

Tuesday was an exciting though expensive day for Boise State sports: Football Coach Don Hawkins said he will sign a five-year, \$2.6 million contract running through 2009.

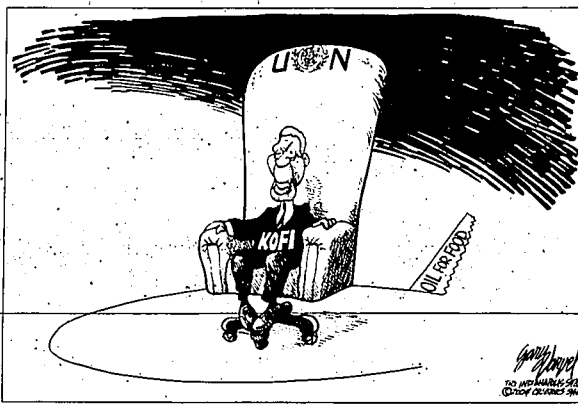
If you celebrate the successes of BSU football, as we do, you cannot begrudge the cost.

And yes, this success is costly. Hawkins will get a base salary of \$325,000 a year, with \$160,000 coming from state funds; under his old five-year contract, Hawkins received \$141,750 in base salary from the state.

Having committed to Hawkins, BSU also wants to

find money to spruce up facilities that don't stack up with bigger programs. Donors have already given more than \$3 million for an indoor training facility. BSU President Bob Kustra said last Tuesday. A feasibility study is due Dec. 15 on adding luxury suites, club seating and an expanded press box at Bronco Stadium (costing \$40 million) and expanded stadium seating (costing \$20 million).

Study or no, Kustra says he couldn't think of selling luxury boxes without Hawkins in the fold. BSU would have been forced to win under a "new contract" before it could even approach corporate donors.



U.N. remains mired in own defects

MAX BOOT

I imagine if U.S. troops were accused of sexually exploiting children in impoverished nations, imagine if a U.S. Cabinet secretary were accused of groping a female subordinate, whose complaint was then swatted aside by the president, imagine if the head of a U.S. government agency and the president's own offspring stood accused of complicity in the biggest embezzlement racket in history.

Those would be pretty big stories, no? Above-the-fold, top-of-the-news stories. Yet the United Nations has been mired in all these scandals and until just recently hardly anybody outside the right-wing blogosphere has noticed.

Even now, if you're not an inveterate U.N. watcher, you probably don't know that Rued Lahlbers, the U.N. high commissioner for refugees, was accused of sexually harassing a subordinate, only to have the charges dismissed by Secretary-General Kofi Annan, despite an internal investigation that supported the woman's complaint. Or that U.N. peacekeepers have been accused of a variety of sexual offenses involving children for more than a decade, most recently in Congo. Or even that Annan's son, Kofi, and Benon Sevan, the head of the U.N. "oil for food" program in Iraq, are said to have benefited financially while Saddam Hussein stole \$21 billion.

Where's the outrage? It's easy to find among conservatives. But then they never liked the United Nations to begin with.

Why didn't the mainstream media and the Democrats (parrot the redundancy), not to mention various European governments, devote more attention to these scandals? Far from demanding high-level resignations, they are circling the wagons.

The United Nations' friends are doing their favorite international institution no favors with

would probably make U.N. paralysis worse, not better, because it would mean having to get the agreement of even more states before taking action. Other steps, such as retiring useless bureaucrats, may be good ideas, but they are unlikely to cure an ailing institution.

All of the reformists' efforts founder on the rocks of apathy and inertia. The reality is that 191 of the United Nations' 191-member states, to say nothing of its 49,000 employees, aren't terribly interested in making it work better. They usually have other priorities.

Even the Bush administration isn't making much of a stink over the oil-for-food scandal because it needs U.N. support in Iraq and elsewhere.

Many member states don't want to rock the boat because they have cozy deals with the current U.N. regime. A French bank, for instance, was the prime repository of the oil-for-food billions. Others are afraid that a stronger United Nations would interfere in their affairs.

Russia doesn't want the United Nations meddling in Chechnya, China doesn't want it in Tibet, India doesn't want it in Kashmir, and so on.

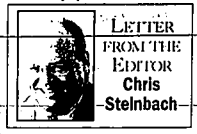
Blamed as it is, the United Nations does some useful things, ranging from providing cover for the decision to launch the 1991 Persian Gulf War to issuing an influential 2003 report on the fallings of the Arab world. The United States should try to make use of it when possible. Leaving the United Nations, as some on the right suggest, is unrealistic. But it will never live up to the grandiose expectations of its starry-eyed supporters unless they get mad enough to demand reform. So far, there's no sign of that happening.

Max Boot is a senior fellow at the Council on Foreign Relations.

Talking about news makes our day

Being the editor of a newspaper means I spend most of my days sitting in meetings, talking on the telephone or reading and sending e-mail. Sometimes I even get to assign, write or edit a story, which is the fun part of the job.

After nearly two months as editor of The Times-News, I'm still learning a lot about the Magic Valley and meeting people on a daily basis. Since I can't meet all of you at once, writing this column seemed like a good way to introduce myself. Over time, I hope this column will be a way we can communicate with each other — to answer your questions and explain why we do things the way we do them, to let you know how news is truly good and bad — finds its way into the newspaper.



That's something my predecessor, Clark Walworth, did with a column that ran each week in the space I will try to occupy. It set him apart, because newspaper editors often times are not particularly good communicators. We make decisions every day, sometimes about important and sensitive topics — without explaining ourselves to our newsmen or readers.

And it's the readers who are really invested in The Times-News. You're a big reason it has been here for 100 years. In order to make sure there is a Times-News for a century from now, it's important that we listen and learn from what you have to say about us and the work we do.

My goal is to write columns that stimulate the conversation between the newspaper and its readers. Let me know when you have questions, concerns, criticism or maybe even a compliment. My telephone number and e-mail address will be published at the end of each column. Be forewarned: I like to talk about the newspaper.

I'm anxious to get to know the people who read The Times-News and for them to become better acquainted with me and the rest of our staff. I've had the good fortune to be put in charge of a talented and dedicated team of reporters, editors and photographers. They produce a newspaper that is crammed full each day with news about the Magic Valley.

No one is perfect. We make mistakes. But The Times-News is a good newspaper with the potential to become even better because of the caliber of the people who work hard to write and edit stories, sell and design ads, take photos, design and print pages and deliver it all to your home, school or office.

The past few months have been a time of change for The Times-News. More changes in the content of the newspaper are likely in the future. I hope to use this column to keep you abreast of the changes as they happen.

My goal is to work with everyone else at The Times-News to make changes in the newspaper that will make it more useful and appealing to an even larger audience. Your readers' input will help us achieve that goal, and I'm looking forward to hearing from you.

Chris Steinbach is editor of The Times-News. He can be reached at csteinbach@magicvalley.com or at (208) 735-3255.

Doonesbury



By Garry Trudeau



Mallard Fillmore



By Bruce Tinsley



And the High Definition and Surround Sound are so great that, when you watch a game...



It feels like the players are leaving the court coming into your living room and beating you up.



European women still light up

JOHN C. BERSIA

NICE, France — The downtown streets of this Mediterranean city, habitually crowded, appeared more packed than ever — possibly because of ripped-up roads and related construction for a new mass-transportation system.

In such close quarters, particularly in a country where a third of adult men and about one-fourth of adult women smoke, one expects regular public encounters with human fumigation.

But what particularly dismayed me was the prevalence of young smokers, notably teenage girls, who seemed to puff in greater percentages than the adults. They were also the ones who tended to blow their second-hand smoke aggressively into the faces of passers-by, defiantly light up in places where signs clearly prohibit smoking and more frequently try to bum cigarettes.

That experience inspired me to dredge up some statistics, and, sure enough, according to one study, 15-year-old French females smoke at a rate approaching 27 percent.

Moreover, they have surpassed their male counterparts, who smoke at a slightly lower percentage.

Some days later, I picked up a copy of one of my favorite global newspapers, the International Herald Tribune, and my eyes immediately turned to a front-page headline announcing, "Across Europe, women are lighting up."

The article told the story of a younger Berliner who matter-of-factly discussed how every woman she knows smokes. It went on to indicate that even as smoking rates have dropped among European males, they have inclined sharply upward among young women.

European women are not alone in their folly, however. Male smokers may continue to dominate on a global basis — outnumbering females by 1 billion to 250 million — but women are gaining. As well, in far too many countries, the percentages of young women smoking exceed those of adult women. Women should not pride themselves on closing those gender and generational gaps.

Young women may associate

smoking with liberation, glamour, modernity, power, freshness, sex appeal, sophistication and style — repeating the mistakes that they with my own generation made, including me for a short time — but in the end the results for many habitual, long-term smokers will be the same: respiratory illnesses, chronic coughs, cancers, heart disease, strokes and prematurely wrinkled skin. Along the way, they will subject themselves and those around them to a perennial foul odor and liberal, daily sprinklings of cigarette residue.

Should one then write off this matter to the inexperience and the self-hatred of the irresponsibility of youth? Hardly, because education and awareness-building, combined with greater limitations on the makers of cigarettes and other tobacco products, can still prevail.

Consider the approach used by David Byrne, the recently retired European Union commissioner for health and one of my heroes in the struggle against smoking. Byrne terms smoking "the biggest single cause of preventable health problems in the European Union," and worked assiduously as health commissioner to restrict cigarette advertising and smoking in public places. He laments, though, that he did not manage to persuade enough young people, "particularly girls, that smoking is a loser's choice."

That will happen in time. In fact, the global smoking epidemic cries out for a bolder campaign. I would advocate bigger, unmistakable health warnings, with color photos of possible consequences, on all tobacco products, sweeping limits on advertising and more widespread restrictions on smoking in public places, on the job and aboard public transit.

Sound strict? Perhaps, but smokers still would have some options to indulge their noxious habit in their cars — with the windows closed, of course — and at home.

John C. Bersia is the special assistant to the president for global perspectives and a professor at the University of Central Florida.

Jerome's franchise fee sure sounds like a tax

The Jerome City Council will consider granting a franchise agreement to Idaho Power Co. at its next regularly scheduled meeting on Dec. 21 that will allow Idaho Power to become a tax collector for the city of Jerome.

Idaho Power is holding out a carrot of \$40,000 that it will pay to the city if allowed a 10-year exclusive franchise agreement to supply electricity service to the residents of Jerome. Where does the line begin for suppliers that want to provide electricity to the city and why does Idaho Power need an exclusive agreement? Would a potential competitor of Idaho Power be able to supply electricity at a reduced rate to the city's residents?

The city will tell you that they need the franchise agreement because Idaho Power uses city property to supply electricity inside the city limits. The property Idaho Power uses belongs to the residents of the city and so with this agreement, customers of Idaho Power will see a franchise fee change on their monthly bills of 1 percent that will be forwarded to the city. Taking money from citizens and giving it to a government, even the city of Jerome, sounds like a tax to me.

In January 2004, I paid a municipal franchise fee of \$3.05 to Intermountain Gas Co. and 78 cents to CableOne for cable services. That is not a lot of money per month, but in a year's time, it adds up to a significant hidden tax that residents are required to pay. Along comes Idaho Power

with its plan for an exclusive franchise agreement request that the City Council appears to support that will only add to the tax burden for city residents.

Some patrons of the Jerome School District are searching for ways to improve much-needed facilities but have not had much success in the past and the biggest hurdle, in some minds, is that taxes are already too high in Jerome.

With "tongue in cheek," I would suggest the Jerome School District administration contact the City Council for an exclusive franchise agreement that would fund the needed improvements for our young students. If the council would support such a hidden tax, there would be no need for a vote and city residents could pay and pay without anyone noticing their taxes went up. To use a popular phrase: "A win-win for all."

DENNIS MOORE
Jerome
(Editor's note: Dennis Moore is a former city councilman and mayor for Jerome.)

Criticism of retailer fails to recognize good assets

I am writing this letter in response to Mr. Bill Lehman's letter on Friday, Dec. 3. I am fed-up with the Wal-Mart bashing that takes place in this area. I have worked for the Burley Wal-Mart for two years, and it is a very good place to work. It's not perfect, but what company is?

It is true that when you start at Wal-Mart, you make minimum wage, but that is also true in most any job. If you have what I call "the work ethic," it doesn't take long to

move up in the company. Is Wal-Mart responsible for the life choices that people make which put them in difficult situations? I don't think so! When you have worked for six months, full-time, you qualify for Blue Cross insurance benefits. If you want them, it is very affordable and is also available to associates who have worked part-time for two years. How many places do you know of that offer insurance benefits to part-time workers?

I have had some health challenges this past year and the insurance has been very good about paying my medical bills. And the store has been very good to work with me as I have had to go through treatments. I couldn't ask for a better place to work!

I do not approve of all Wal-Mart's business practices, but I don't think they are that much different from any other large retailer. Is all of their inventory made in America? Not if they want to keep their costs

"in line." And finally, in the year 2003, Wal-Mart donated more than \$28,000 to the community. It is in through school grants, Retay for Life, Shop with a Cop and other programs that are in effect. The store donates prizes to parent-teacher association carnivals, school functions, charities or anything else involving prizes. How many other businesses in the area do as much?

The people who work at Wal-Mart re-spend their money in the community they live in. Yes, some of it goes to corporate headquarters in Bentonville, but it is the same with any other business. So please, let's stop looking for all the negatives and appreciate all the good things that the company does.

I really don't expect to see this in your paper because it is something positive, but I feel better for having written it!
LINDA SHERBLOM
Oakley

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Southern exposure

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Wednesday in Food & Home

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MORNING BREAK

BEST AVAILABLE COPY

Bad blood between guests jeopardizes holiday cheer



DEAR ABBY
Jeanne Phillips

DEAR ABBY: I'm throwing a holiday party. About six weeks ago, I told my friend "Shirley" about the party and that I was inviting her ex-husband, "Tom." She replied that if Tom would be there, she would not.

I sent invitations to both of them. Tom RSVP'd that he and his new girlfriend (the one that came between him and Shirley) would attend. I then informed Shirley that "you know who" was coming. She is now very upset with me and accuses me of choosing him over her. She's questioning my friendship and says I'm purposely tormenting her.

I understand Shirley is upset. But don't you agree that she needs to understand my position? My husband is close friends with Tom, and wants him to attend. Shirley knew I was inviting him. Now, less than a week before party time, she has called me five times to cry and make me feel bad. I want everyone to enjoy the party, but there's bad blood between these two and I'm afraid no one will enjoy anything if they're in the same room.

**—TORN IN TWO
IN SOUTH CAROLINA**
DEAR TORN IN TWO: Shirley should not dictate who is to be invited to and/or excluded from your party. Remind her, what she said when you first told her that both she and her ex would be invited. Your husband has a

right to include anyone he wishes. Tell Shirley that you'd love to have her there, but if it's too painful for her to see Tom and his new love interest, you'll invite her to another source. The choice is hers.

DEAR ABBY: I was recently engaged to "Dannyy," the man of my dreams. He is everything I have prayed for all my life. The problem is his mother. She constantly barge into our relationship. She was even there when he proposed to me — so close I could hear her crying.

Because "Dannyy" is in the military, our time together is limited. I have been planning a trip to visit him for an awards ceremony. It was booked and paid for three months ago. This will be the first time we have been alone together since we got engaged.

I just learned that "Dannyy's" mother plans to "surprise" him by attending the awards ceremony and staying all weekend. Once again, here she is. I understand that she wants to

support her son, but is this the way your marriage is going to be — her always wanting to share in the moment — **SURROUNDED BY HIS MOTHER**

DEAR SURROUNDED:

Dannyy may be "your man," but he is also her little boy. This is the way your marriage will be, until the two of you are able to loosen the apron strings. Perhaps his mother would love so much if her son wasn't in the military and therefore in jeopardy.

Please cut her some slack. Also, how "Dannyy" reacts to his mother's surprise visit should give you insight into what lies ahead for you.

DEAR ABBY: I am 13 and in seventh grade and I have a big problem. I don't know my multiplication table. I'm afraid if I tell my teacher, she'll get mad. What should I do?

—AFRAID IN COACHELLA, CALIF.

DEAR AFRAID: Tell your teacher now, before you fall further behind. Explain that you need extra tutoring, and that you sincerely want to master the problem. The teacher will get the grade — and your teacher won't be angry.

Teachers are there to help you learn, including extra help when you have difficulty with a subject.

Aries: Fend off a spending spree

IF DECEMBER 13 IS YOUR BIRTHDAY ... When you're hot, you're hot. As Pluto — the cold, late planet that carries a big wallop — travels through your part of the zodiac this year, there will be more swagger in your walk and more intensity in your talk. No matter whether your passion leads you — business, money, or sex — you will have the stamina to go after that secret obsession and make it yours. Look for extra assistance from the universe in June and July to make your dreams come true.

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Fend off the spending urge for a few more days unless you find a sales item too good to pass up. Powerful opinions broadcast in the outer world can persuade you to take important steps that you may not please those in your home circle.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Hold off on that Christmas shopping spree unless you are bargain hunting. Avoid credit purchases and hide that gold card until celestial conditions improve. Others could have secret agendas, so wait to make decisions.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Avoid participation in power plays that could possibly create long-term hostilities. You could come face-to-face with an invisible force, so try not to make waves. The "Steady Freddy" who walks the middle ground will win.

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Your boundless enthusiasm can breathe life into humdrum routines, but don't get too carried away if faced with important decisions. It is a poor time to start new projects or spend large amounts of money.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): The yen to make a big splash in the business world and gamble with resources can put breathtaking skills in jeopardy. Temper your passion with common sense, as this is not the time to take risks or bypass important rules.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): You may change your mind later, so don't be too eager to jump on strategic handsgames. Powerful and ambitious ideas put into motion today could run into endless red tape. Sit on your ideas until the time is ripe for success.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Pay cash if possible. A desire to keep up with the Joneses may coax you to bite off more obligations than you can safely chew. Being conservative with both money and love will get you further along in the game of life.

HOROSCOPE
Jeraldine Saunders

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Ambitions could prod you to make important financial decisions today, but avoid making contracts that will bind you over a long term. Credit purchases could prove costly and difficult to pay off. Be a penny-pinchers.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): That carefree feeling of utter confidence that things will work out "in the end" may mislead you today. Avoid long-term credit purchases or business deals that could experience critical setbacks from rules and regulations.

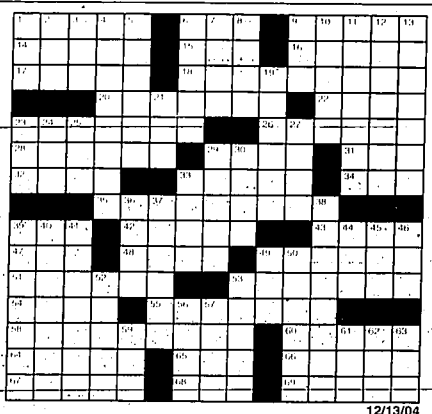
CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Be like a squirrel and tuck away your pennies for a rainy day. Our fully-tailed backyard buddies know a thing or two about storing valuables until needed.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Temptations too powerful to resist may be changed before you by others, but caution is the key word today.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Big business ambitions might hit major frustrations if important new projects are begun now. Keep your money in your pocket and don't let those credit card deals entice you into taking on further obligations.

ACROSS
1 Trunk tire
2 Picnic
9 Informal vocabulary
14 Resides
15 for profit
16 Less common
17 Leavening-agent
18 Joint ventures
20 Of a certain speech sound
22 Performer's engagements
23 Elfin beings
26 Long periods
28 Spoke
 pomposity
29 Mystery pointer
31 Trevino of golf
32 Marrow container
33 Smoky deposits
34 Messa and McCain
35 Get a business going
39 Naval noncom
42 Small roads
43 mater
47 Crescent
48 Mr. Bunny
49 Consented
51 Seesaw
53 Water passage
54 Cicalrix
55 Large-indefinite number
58 Iberia or Florida, e.g.
60 Pentateuch
64 So-long
 Solange
65 Segment of a journey
66 MacDonald's refrain
67 Has on
68 In the Spanish
69 Soup scooper

DOWN
1 Slightly shy
2 Chart shape
3 Ms. Gardner
4 Breathers
5 Heir's inheritance
6 Andes people
7 Cheer
8 Volcano near Messina
9 B way theater sign
10 News-story
12 Whinnied
13 Sorghum and millet
19 Hercule Poirot, e.g.
21 Was in front
23 Weep audibly
24 PGA member
25 Dashed
27 Cozumel cash
29 Contents
30 successfully
31 Profit's antonym
33 Warbled
36 Hamburg's river
37 Zodiac sign
38 Persecution delusion



12/13/04

Saturday's Puzzle Solved

DAWNNESS CPU ADLIB
ABOILARK REATA
ZOOKEEPER CAMEL
EVE WARM PHRAISE
SERB TAIPEI
UMS SORESPOT
METROAREA TIME
ADULATE CREATED
REBA BOHEMIANS
SNAPPIER DJUN
ENLIST SAPS
GASBAG GOAT GAT
ADHOC MARGARINE
BEECH AMT TILDE
SNAKY CIA SMEAR

- 39 Dupe
40 Happen earlier
41 South Pacific area
44 Ring of flowers
45 Encountered
46 Want
49 Wolfed down
50 Fairy-tale girl
52 Attempster
53 Doe woovers
56 Corrie, Martin
57 Appeal
59 Greek letters
61 Primary color
62 Be il
63 Soil Turner

Doctor removed first ovarian tumor in medical history on this date in 1809

This day in history: On Dec. 13, 1809, Dr. Ephraim McDowell successfully removed an ovarian tumor for the first time in medical history. The patient, late 'Lodd Crawford, 45, thought she was pregnant, but McDowell found a 22-pound tumor instead. After the operation, performed without anesthesia, Ms. Crawford lived another 33 years, and Dr. McDowell became famous in the medical world as "The Father of Ovariotomy."



RANDOM KINSHIP FACTINESS
Jack Mingo
Erin Barrett

who wrote: "Not only does this wretched drug do no good, but it causes great pain to the stomach, gives foul-smelling breath, and brings on serious vomiting..."

Perhaps imitating the sound cats make, the early Egyptian name for cat was "miau."

Bonobos, humanity's closest living relative, weren't even discovered until 1929. Unlike other non-human primates, they walk on two feet, hunched over like early humans. Local natives along the Zaire River, where bonobos live, have created stories in which bonobos and humans were once brothers.

Jupiter is the biggest planet in our solar system. Pluto's the smallest.

A reader asks why pencils are usually six-sided. It's not because the hexagonal shape makes them easier to grip — it's because they're less likely to roll off your desk.

Do you want to know what that exotic meat is going to taste like? According to certain epicures, wombat, crocodile and beaver taste like pork; hippo and zebra taste like beef; bats taste like prairiedogs; toads and boa constrictors taste like wal-monkey, fox and armadillo taste like rabbit; and baby wasps taste like scrambled eggs.

Perhaps "laser" should be spelled in capital letters, because it's an acronym. Its letters stand for Light Amplification by Stimulated Emission of Radiation.

— Erin Barrett and Jack Mingo can be reached at weebathnoncompanion.com

Christie's hopes copy of Hawthorne's 'The Scarlet Letter' will fetch more than \$250,000

NATICK, Mass. (AP) — The town's historical society hopes to make more than \$250,000 this week by auctioning the oldest known copy of Nathaniel Hawthorne's "The Scarlet Letter" — not bad for a manuscript that spent more than a century in a drawer before someone recognized its significance.

A relative of Hawthorne donated the corrected page proofs in 1886 to the organization that became the Natick Historical Society. The pages are covered with more than 700 proofreading corrections and comments,

many believed to be in Hawthorne's own hand.

The gift spent the next 118 years in a drawer, until trustee Roger Casavant came across the manuscript earlier this year while cataloging the society's collections and identified it as the oldest existing copy of "The Scarlet Letter."

"This is unique. No other proof pages of any of Hawthorne's novels or stories survive," said Chris Coover, senior specialist in rare books and manuscripts at Christie's in New York, which will auction it Thursday along with 17 other

rare documents belonging to the historical society.

"People are quite astonished this exists at all. It was unknown to scholars," Coover told The Mirror's Daily News of Framingham. Hawthorne's original manuscript is thought to have been destroyed after the book's publication in 1850.

The society's board voted unanimously to auction the Hawthorne proof "strictly because it's outside our field of collection" as an institution devoted to Natick's history, said Anne K. Scheller, who directs the society's museum.

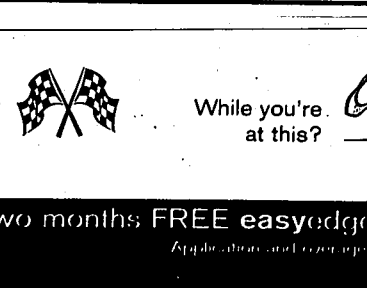
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While you're at this?

Get live NASCAR.COM updates and race results on the go. We make it easy with easyedgeSM. U.S. Cellular. We connect with you.

Two months FREE easyedgeSM access on select plans.

Apply offers and cover up charges. All apply.

AROUND THE VALLEY

Police find Richfield girl

RICHFIELD — A 15-year-old Richfield girl who went missing in November was found Saturday in Mountain Home after police got an anonymous tip. Authorities say Angela Nicole Reid, who they believe ran away from her home last month, is now back with her family. They've arrested 21-year-old John J.T. Marcum, who could face kidnapping charges because of the girl's age. Officials in Lincoln County say they found Reid after receiving a tip from an anonymous caller who recognized Marcum from a television news report.

Gooding P&Z holds hearing on expansion

GOODING — A special-use permit for Glanbia Foods Inc. and a Confined Animal Feeding Operation enlargement permit being sought by Scarrow Dairy will be discussed tonight during a public hearing of the Gooding County Planning and Zoning Commission. The hearings will be held at 7 p.m. in the planning and zoning meeting room located at 145 Seventh Ave. E. in Gooding. Glanbia is seeking a permit that will allow it to land apply wastewater from its cheese plant. As a condition of the permit, Glanbia will be required to install a pretreatment plant for the wastewater prior to November of 2005. Additionally, Glanbia has had to reach an agreement with its neighbors who border the land where wastewater will be applied and apply a Department of Environmental Quality permit for the application. Jim Scarrow of Scarrow Dairy is seeking an additional 3,197 animal units at the dairy located at 2134 E. 3200 S. in Wendell. Scarrow has added 313 acres to the dairy which has allowed him to request an enlargement permit. The increase, if approved, will permit Scarrow a total of 4,560 milking and dry cows and 730 calves.

QUESTION OF INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY

CSI looks at policy for handling of copyright issues

By Karin Kowalski Times-News writer

TWIN FALLS — The College of Southern Idaho Board will meet at 5:30 tonight in room 258 of the Taylor Building. The meeting is open to the public. Szanto said the reason for developing the policy is that the college does not have one and most other colleges do. She said some institutions let employees keep all the copyrights to materials they produce and others do the opposite. The proposal that Szanto and Momy Atzossa, director of human resources, are presenting is middle of the road, she said. For cases where the college hires a person to do something specific, the copyright would belong to the college. For many other cases, the copyright would belong to the person who created the work in question. The proposal is a balance between using public funds correctly and honoring creative intellectual work, Szanto said. Other items on the agenda include: Facility funding — The board will consider transferring about \$2.5 million in funds to avoid using a bond to help pay for the new student recreation center. The estimated total cost of the addition to the gymnasium is \$4,455,000. Student Center — The board will consider a \$28,800 bid for a human simulator used in medical classes. Herrett acquisitions — The

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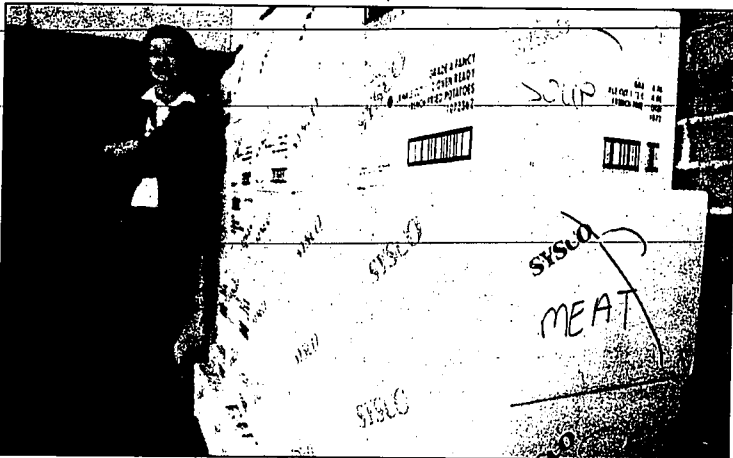
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Times-News writer Karin Kowalski can be reached at kowalski@magicvalley.com or 735-3231.

Boxed for delivery



Maj. Ann Patterson, of the Salvation Army, stands next to boxes of donated food at the organization's facility in Twin Falls. The Salvation Army is preparing Christmas boxes that consist of food and toys for needy families in the Magic Valley.

Charitable organizations specialize in Christmas baskets

By Jami Whitelid Times-News writer

TWIN FALLS — Whether it's the chill in the bells ringing at department stores or the sight of people hurriedly exchanging clothes, Christmas time seems to bring out the giving side of Magic Valley residents.

Several local organizations collect items for the needy and have a common goal: Help as many low-income families as possible. Some find the best means to this end through Christmas baskets.

The Bull West End Ministerial Association is one such organization that takes donations of food, money, clothes and toys to help local families wherever they can.

"The response is very positive," said Mike Graybeal, pastor of Castleford First Baptist Church, which is an association member.

Castleford and Bull pastors assemble and deliver Christmas food boxes to the needy around the valley. In the last seven years, the project has grown from helping about 100 families in the beginning to 155 last year, Graybeal said. The average value of the boxes last year was \$80, and 282 children received gifts collected from the Bull High School Key Club.

Two years ago, the association began cooperating with the Key Club and incorporating toys in the baskets.

The association will continue the effort by collecting food and toys for needy families in the Bull community. This year, it is also requiring an application and a statement from the applicant about why the family needs a box.

Usually, it's health-related problems that prevents them from working," Graybeal said.

The pastor also says the association aims at providing a traditional Christmas meal but is moving to providing more general food items that they can use.

The Salvation Army is another organization that has been gathering for the

Want to help the Christmas basket effort?

- The Bull West End Ministerial Association will accept donations through Wednesday and needs volunteers to help sort and distribute items starting at 8 a.m. on Friday at the Bull First Christian Church, 1005 Poplar. For more information, call Mike Graybeal at 537-6912 or 308-6825. • The Wendell Christmas Basket Committee and Wendell High School Student Council will collect donations between 8 a.m. and 2 p.m. this week until Friday at the high school, 750 E. Main. For more information or to help wrap gifts and organize, call Ethel German or Rebecca Ashmead at 536-2100. • The Salvation Army, located at 348 Fourth Ave. N., accepts donations of canned goods for distribution all year. Nonperishable food and toy donations will be taken until distribution on Dec.

- 22. There will be a general distribution for families that have required information on Dec. 23 and donations will be taken that day as well. For more information, call 733-8720. • The East End Providers collect donations all year. Distribution will be Dec. 22 in Hansen and Murrugh and Dec. 23 in Kimberly. Applications to receive a box are taken until Dec. 24. Proof of income, such as a W-2, must be submitted with the application. For more information, call 423-4466. • The Valley Community Helpers will collect donations through Dec. 18 at the U.S. Bank, 225 Main in Hazelton, or at the Silver and Gold Senior Center, 210 E. Wilson, in Eden. Distribution will be Dec. 18 at the senior center. For more information, call Diane at 829-5441.

needy for 36 years. It especially helps underprivileged children in the Magic Valley by listing their names and Christmas wishes on "angel counts and hanging them on Christmas tree ornaments set up in Magic Valley Mall. People can purchase something from the child's list, and the unwrapped gift will be put in their family's box. Parents can then go home, wrap the gift and put it under their tree.

"We want to make sure there's not one child in the Magic Valley that doesn't have Christmas," Maj. Ann Patterson said.

Families and businesses can also adopt a needy family by telling the Salvation Army what kind of family they want — a single mom or large family, for example. Patterson said the Salvation Army has received almost 200 applications so far this year, and she expects to have about 300 before boxes are distributed.

The Salvation Army has a senior citizens tree set up at the Magic Valley Mall, as well.

"You'd be amazed at what seniors can live on," Patterson said. "We had one senior who asked for dog treats for her little dog, one who just wants a warm sweater to wear around the house because she keeps her heat low and another who likes reading Western books in large print. They don't ask for much."

Civic organizations and churches aren't the only ones involved in gathering items for low-income families. Wendell schools have gathered items for the needy for more than 15 years.

"All three schools participate by having canned food contests," said Rebecca Ashmead of Wendell High School. Organizers try to provide one week's worth of food for destitute families in their area. "We always give out 100 applications. Please see BASKETS, Page B3

M.V. hospital board will meet tonight

TWIN FALLS — Magic Valley Regional Medical Center's Hospital Board tonight will consider a request from the Finance Committee to establish two new subcommittees — one to concentrate on the hospital's annual audit and another to focus on the hospital's investments. The meeting will begin at 6 tonight in the hospital's conference room located in the old Norco building just east of the hospital's main campus on Addison Avenue. Tonight's agenda also includes reports from the board's subcommittees on quality, community relations and medical executive committees. The meeting is open to the public.

Paul Elementary closes for sewer repair

PAUL — Pupils at Paul Elementary will get an extra long weekend today because of a problem with a sewer line, said Principal Colleen Johnson. The problem started Friday afternoon and repairs continued Saturday, although they're still waiting for a part, Johnson said there was no damage inside the school. Pupils will be out today and classes will resume Tuesday, Johnson said.

Snowpack levels

Table with 2 columns: Watershed and % of Avg. Season peak. Rows include Salmon Falls, Big Wood, Little Wood, Big Lost, Little Lost, Henry Fork/Teton, Upper Snake Basin, Oakley, and Salmon Falls.

*A comparison of basin snowpack on this day, with a 30-year average. **An indicator of basin snowpack for the year. ***A measure of the snowpack's water content.

Residents and local businesses chip in for Castleford deputy

By Sandra Wisecaver Times-News correspondent

CASTLEFORD — Residents here have chipped in more than \$3,300 to keep the presence of a Twin Falls County sheriff's deputy in their community for another year.

An anonymous donor recently pledged \$1,000 on the condition that others also con-

tribute. The Blikk Seed Co. chipped in \$1,000 and Peterson Trucking added another \$1,000 to the pot. Coin jacks placed around the community have collected another \$327. "I think it's important to have a deputy in Castleford, and we are willing to support that to the best of our ability," said Gary Blikk, the owner of Blikk Seed.

For the past several years, the city and Castleford School District have split a \$20,000 bill for the presence of a deputy based at the sheriff's department's Castleford substation. The \$20,000 represented half of his salary and benefits. The sheriff's department picked up the other half.

The position, which is now held by Deputy Rich Pendleton, serves the city and

surrounding rural area. Pendleton also is a resource officer at the school. The city shifted money in its \$167,594 budget to come up with \$10,000 to pay for Pendleton's salary for the first six months of this fiscal year. Now, with the recent donations, another \$6,700 needs to be raised to keep the deputy on duty for the second half of 2004-05.

"We have been told that an item may be designated for the deputy fund at the annual Men's Club auction in January," Mayor Rita Ruffing said. "We still need to raise over \$6,500 and hope the people will continue to help us."

City officials also are hopeful the school will be able to come up with some additional dollars for the deputy.

Library asks for custodial assistance

By Chip Thompson Times-News writer

RUPERT — The DeMary Memorial Library Board says it can no longer maintain the interior of the library and wants the city to take over its upkeep.

Representatives of the board plan to meet on Dec. 14 with the City Council, Dec. 21 asking that the city's streets and park maintenance department step in to perform routine maintenance of the library's interior. "We have a lot of electrical problems because of older fixtures so we were hoping they'd be able to help us on that," said Librarian Tessie Fowler.

The 50-year-old buildings including problems and outdated fluorescent light fixtures pose major concerns. A 1997 lease agreement between the city and the library board stipulated that the city would maintain the outside of the building and the board would be responsible for the inside. The lease expired in 2002 and the library is on a "month-to-month" agreement under the same conditions. Prior to the lease, the city maintained all of the building and the board requested that a new lease agreement be drawn up assigning interior maintenance to the city.

"Before the city tried to help us with everything," Fowler said. The library has \$1,000 in its budget for building maintenance, which is proving to be too little when faced with replacing light fixtures or doing major plumbing work. One section in the middle of the library has no lighting at all because ballasts for the fixture cannot be found. "If the city's budget is stretched to the limit, according to documents submitted to the council by City Administrator Roger Bagley, the city's maintenance department budget includes \$2,000 for maintenance of the outside of the building. Additional funds would need to be made available if the department were to take over the interior," Bagley said. Bagley recommended that the council allow city crews to do minor maintenance inside the building using library funds for supplies and that, if major repairs are needed, the library would be willing to partially cover the costs. The council is scheduled to hear from board members and discuss a new lease agreement during its Dec. 21 meeting.

Times-News reporter Chip Thompson can be reached at the newspaper's Miss Cassia Bureau at 677-4042, Ext. 638, or by e-mail at chipthompson@magicvalley.com.

ON THE AGENDA

THIS WEEK AT CSI

Today
 Blaine County commissioners, 8:45 a.m., courthouse, 206 First Ave. S., Halley.
 Buhl City Council, 7 p.m., council chambers, 203 Broadway, N.
 Camas County commissioners, 9 a.m., courthouse, 501 Soldier Road, Fairfield.
 Camas County School Board, 7 p.m., high school, 610 Soldier Road, Fairfield.
 Cassia County commissioners, 9 a.m., courthouse, 1459 Overland Ave.
 College of Southern Idaho Board, 5:30 p.m., Room 250, Taylor Administration Building, 415 Park Ave., Twin Falls.
 Elmore County commissioners, 9 a.m., courthouse, 150 S. Fourth E., Mountain Home.
 Gooding County commissioners, 9 a.m., courthouse, 624 Main.
 Hagerman School Board, 7 p.m., elementary school, 321 Second Ave. N.
 Halley City Council, 6 p.m., courthouse, 206 First Ave. S., Halley.
 Hansen City Council, 7 p.m., City Hall, 388 Main.
 Hazelton City Council, 7 p.m., city office, 246 Main.
 Hollister City Council, 7 p.m., City Hall, 2392 Main.
 Jerome County commissioners, 9 a.m., courthouse, 300 N. Lincoln.
 Ketchum Planning and Zoning Commission, 5:30 p.m., City Hall, 400 E. Ave. N.
 Lincoln County commissioners, 8:30 a.m., courthouse, 111 W. B. Shoshone.
 Magic Valley Regional Medical Center board, 6 p.m., Education Center, 598 Addison Ave. W., Twin Falls.
 Malia City Council, 5 p.m., Hall River Elementary Co-op conference room, 155 N. Main.
 Minidoka County commissioners, 9 a.m., courthouse, 715 G St., Rupert.
 Richfield City Council, 7 p.m., city office, 190 W. Lincoln.
 Shoshone School Board, 7:30 p.m., district office, 409 N. Apple.
 Twin Falls City Council, 5 p.m., council chambers, 305 Third Ave. E.
 Twin Falls County commissioners, 8:30 a.m., courthouse, 425 Shoshone St. N.
 Twin Falls County Parks and Waterways Advisory Board, 7 p.m., 450 Sixth Ave. W.
 Twin Falls School Board, 7 p.m., administration office, 201 Main Ave. W.
 Twin Falls Urban Renewal Agency, noon, Twin Falls City Hall, 321 Second Ave. E.
 Valley School Board (Eden-Hazelton), 7 p.m., media center, 802 Valley Blvd. S.

Tuesday
 Cassia County School Board, 7 p.m., central office, 237 19th St., Burley.
 Dietrich School Board, 7:30 p.m., school's business room, 406 S. Park.
 Glenn Ferry City Council, 7 p.m., City Hall, 119 E. Second.
 Gooding School Board, 7 p.m., district administration office, 507 Idaho St.
 Jerome City Planning and Zoning Commission, 7 p.m., council chambers, 100 E. Ave. A.
 Kimberly City Council, 7 p.m., community center, 120 Madison W.
 Sun Valley Planning and Zoning Commission, 9 a.m., City Hall, 81 Elmwood Blvd.
 Twin Falls City Planning and Zoning Commission, 7 p.m., 305 Third Ave. E.
 Twin Falls County commissioners, 8:30 a.m., courthouse, 425 Shoshone St. N.

Wednesday
 Bliss City Council, 7 p.m., City Hall, 140 Buckley St.
 Filer School Board, 7 p.m., elementary school library, 700 Stevens.

Thursday
 Bellevue Planning and Zoning Commission, 7 p.m., City Hall, 115 E. Poplar.
 Kimberly School Board, 7 p.m., intermediate school B-D, 241 Center St. W.
 Minidoka County Planning and Zoning Commission, 4 p.m., courthouse, 715 G St., Rupert.
 Twin Falls County commissioners, 8:30 a.m., courthouse, 425 Shoshone St. N.
 Weidell City Council, 7 p.m., City Hall, 300 Main St.

Friday
 Jerome County commissioners, 9 a.m., courthouse, 300 N. Lincoln.
 Twin Falls County commissioners, 8:30 a.m., courthouse, 425 Shoshone St. N.

Today
 ACT college entrance exam, 7:30 a.m., Shields building.
 CSI Golden Eagle Boosters luncheon, noon, Taylor 277.
 Students with disabilities club meeting, 1 p.m., Student Union 217.
 CSI Board of Trustees monthly meeting, 5:30 p.m., Taylor 250.
 Snake River Association for Education of Young Children monthly meeting, 6:30 p.m., Aspen 131.
 TaVa-i children's choir concert, 7 p.m., Fine Arts Auditorium.
 CSI Boxing Club practice, 9 p.m., Physical Education 236.

Tuesday
 CSI Facility Art Show, Herrert Center for Arts and Science, Jean B. King gallery through Jan. 15.
 Alcohol and traffic safety school, 5 p.m., Shields 109.
 Idaho State University graduation celebration, 5 p.m., Taylor 276 and 277.
 "The Christmas Star," 7 p.m., Faulkner Planetarium.
 "The Nutcracker" ballet, 7:30 p.m., Fine Arts Auditorium (for tickets, call 732-6200).
 "Steamrolling Through the Holidays," 8:15 p.m., Faulkner Planetarium.

Wednesday
 Advanced Regional Technical Education Coalition board meeting, 6:45 a.m., Taylor 250.
 Regional—superintendents meeting, all day, Taylor 277.
 FFA food and agronomy contest, 4 p.m., Evergreen building.
 Department of Agriculture and Dairy Bureau milk haulers evaluation, 6:30 p.m., Taylor 277.
 Styx, Narcotics Anonymous meeting, 7 p.m., Desert 113.
 CSI Boxing Club practice, 9 p.m., Physical Education 236.

Thursday
 National Traffic Safety Association and Twin Falls Police Department training for local police on traffic stops, all day, Taylor 277.
 Latinos Unidos Christmas party, 10:30 a.m., Taylor 276.
 Information technology advisory committee meeting, noon, Taylor 256.
 St. Luke's Magic Valley board of directors meeting, noon.

Friday
 CSI Golden Eagle men's basketball vs. Phoenix College, 6:30 p.m., Scottsdale, Ariz.
 CSI Golden Eagle men's basketball vs. Phoenix College, 6:30 p.m., Scottsdale, Ariz.
 CSI Golden Eagle men's basketball vs. Phoenix College, 6:30 p.m., Scottsdale, Ariz.
 CSI Golden Eagle men's basketball vs. Phoenix College, 6:30 p.m., Scottsdale, Ariz.

SERVICES

Edith Pauline Brooks of Twin Falls, funeral at 10 a.m. today at the Hagerman First United Methodist Church (Parks's Magic Valley Funeral Home, Twin Falls).

Bradford B. Jones of Burley, funeral at 11 a.m. today at the Unity 1st and 2nd Ward Chapel of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints 275 S. 250 E., Burley. Friends may call from 10 to 10:45 a.m. today at the church (Hassmusen Funeral Home, Burley).

Lucinda "Cindy" Kay Hanson of Filer, funeral at 11 a.m. today at the Twin Falls First Church of the Nazarene (White Mortuary, Twin Falls).

Truman Franklin Clark of Buhl, funeral at noon today at Brock Creek Community Church/Twin Falls Seventh Day Adventist Church on Grandview Drive in Twin Falls; viewing will be one hour before the service at the church (Serenity Funeral Chapel, Twin Falls).

David W. Preckel of Twin Falls, celebration of life at 1 p.m. today at Parks's Magic Valley Funeral Home, 2551 Kimberly Road, Twin Falls.

Ronald Edward Hobday Darling of Twin Falls, funeral at 2 p.m. today at Demaray's Gooding Chapel.

DEATH NOTICES

Donald C. Olson
 ALBION — Donald Clifford Olson, an 89-year-old Albion resident died Saturday, Dec. 11, 2004, at his home in Albion. Arrangements will be announced by Payne Mortuary, 221 W. Main St. in Burley.

Margaret Switzer
 TWIN FALLS — Margaret Switzer, 93, of Twin Falls, passed away Saturday, Dec. 11, 2004, at Willowbrook Assisted Living Facility. Arrangements will be announced by White Mortuary in Twin Falls.

Floyd A. Harral
 TWIN FALLS — Floyd A. Harral, 69, of Twin Falls, passed away Sunday, Dec. 12, 2004, at his home. Arrangements will be announced by White Mortuary in Twin Falls.

Nelda Marie Schiffer of Lakewood, Colo., and formerly of Twin Falls, graveside service at 2 p.m. Wednesday at the Twin Falls Cemetery in Twin Falls.

Lila Pearl Driver
 BOISE — Lila Pearl Driver, of Boise, and formerly of Twin Falls, died Sunday, Dec. 12, 2004, at St. Alphonsus Regional Medical Center in Boise. A service of remembrance will be held Monday, Dec. 13, 2004, at the Maple Grove Garden Hall, 11692 President Street, Boise. Friends may call at Parks's Magic Valley Funeral Home, 2551 Kimberly Road, Twin Falls, from 5-7 p.m. Tuesday, Dec. 14, 2004, and funeral services for Lila will be held Thursday, Dec. 16, 2004, at 2 p.m. at the Salmon LDS Stake Center in Salmon with interment following in the Salmon City Cemetery in Salmon. All services and arrangements are under the direction of the Parks's Magic Valley Funeral Home of Twin Falls.

SCHOOL PUTS PARENTS IN CLASSROOM WITH KIDS

WILDER (AP) — The Wilder School District is getting parents back into the classroom to help narrow the learning gap between poor Hispanic students and their white counterparts. About 95 percent of Wilder's students come from Latino families. To help combat the learning gap, the Family Learning Center came up with a simple strategy: provide a place, in this case a portable classroom next to Wilder's sole elementary school, where parents can come to class along with their kids for the academic benefit of both. Putting parents in the classroom is one of a number of experiments in Idaho as the state looks for a successful way to help Hispanic students who lag behind in classes and on standardized tests — a requirement of federal No Child Left Behind legislation. "It's hard to even comprehend that I have this opportunity," said Amalia Pachilla, a parent in the district who studies computers and English at the center. She hasn't been to school since she was a child in Mexico, but has kept working for the first time and has laughed about getting the hang of the "ratoncho" or computer mouse. A 2002 study by the Southwest Educational Laboratory found that regardless of economic background, students whose parents are involved in their schools learn better and are more likely to stay in school and go on to college.

OBITUARIES

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

Lonnie M. Horton - Twin Falls
 Lonnie M. Horton, age 82, of Twin Falls, passed away Friday, Dec. 10, 2004, at Sunrise Care and Rehabilitation Center. He was born March 9, 1922, at Calera, Ala., the son of Carl and Sissan Miller Horton. In 1942 he entered the United States Navy, serving in both World War II and the Korean Conflict, spending the next 20 years and retiring in 1962 after faithfully serving his country. On Sept. 14, 1944, at Calera, Ala., he married Letha Sexton who survives. The couple has made their home in the Magic Valley since 1967. Lonnie enjoyed gardening, raising fruits and vegetables, fishing, horse racing and visiting Jackpot, Nev. He was a member of Fleet Reserve and the American Legion Post #19 at Fairfield, Idaho. In addition to his wife, Letha Horton of Twin Falls, he is survived by his three children: Linda Muir, Lori McKinney and her husband Tony — all three of Lancaster, Calif.; George Ann and her husband Michael Renfrow of Henderson, Nev.; two sisters; Mildred Tidwell of Calera, Ala. and Melissa Nelson of Abilene, Ala.; one brother, Howard and his wife Trudie; eleven grandchildren, of which Charity Lockwood was raised by Grandpa; 15 great-grandchildren and one great-great grandchild. He was preceded in death by his parents, three sisters and two brothers. At his request no public services are to be held. Should friends desire, contributions can be made to St. Luke's Cancer Center for Research, Southern Idaho Regional Cancer Center, 656 Addison Ave. W., Twin Falls, Idaho 83301. Cremation arrangements are under the direction of White Mortuary in Twin Falls.

Nelda Marie Schiffer - Lakewood, Colo.
 Nelda Marie Schiffer, of Lakewood, Colo., and formerly of Twin Falls, Idaho, died Dec. 2, 2004. She was born in Twin Falls, Idaho, to Enos and Arlene (Holt) Schiffer. She was home schooled until her mother and Mildred Floyd started a school in the Lincoln School football field dressing room. Nelda typed her daily lessons faithfully, then spent hours working at her art — drawing, painting, cutting and pasting to create beautiful works of art which she bestowed on her family and friends. She lived on Pierce Street until moving to Lakewood, Colo., to live with her sister Myrna Ann Adkins in 1998. An active social and learning scheduler of ball games, art lessons, lunch at the community center and exercise classes kept Nelda and the city's bus drivers busy. Nelda's sparkling blue eyes and infectious laughter will be deeply missed. Her generous, loving spirit will be honored constantly in the thoughts of those she leaves behind to carry on the great work she did of spreading joy to all. She will be buried with her mother and father in Twin Falls Cemetery on Wednesday, Dec. 15, 2004 at 2 p.m., and afterward there will be an open house celebration of Nelda's life in the Fireside Room at the Twin Falls Presbyterian Church. We hope family and friends will all come to share memories and to honor her with a few rounds of applause.

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Why we aren't talking to each other

I thought that, in today's column, I would heal the nation. The nation suffered a wound during the recent presidential election as a result of the rift between the red states — defined as "states where foreign cuisine pretty much means Pizza Hut" — and the blue states, defined as "states that believe they are smarter than the red states, despite the fact that it takes the average blue-state resident 15 minutes to order a single cup of coffee."



DAVE BARRY

But as Americans, we must ask ourselves: Are we really so different? Must we stereotype those who disagree with us? Do we truly believe that all red-state residents are ignorant racist fascist knuckle-dragging-NASCAR-obsessed cousin-marrying roadkill-eating tobacco-juice-dribbling gun-fondling religious fanatic rednecks; or that all blue-state residents are goddess-omniparitic pierced-nose Volvo-driving France-loving left-wing communist latte-sucking tofu-chomping holistic-wacko neurotic vegan weed smokers?

Yes, this is called "diversity," and it is why we are such a great nation — a nation that has given the world both nuclear weapons and Spongolob SquarePants. And so today I am calling upon both sides in the red-blue rift to reach out. Maybe we could have a cultural-exchange program between red and blue states. For example, a delegation of Texas could go to California and show the Californians how to do some traditional Texas thing such as castrate a bull using only your teeth, and then the Californians could show the Texans how to do some traditional California thing in accordance with the principles of "feng shui" (for openness, both goals should be at the west end of the field). Or maybe New York and Kentucky could have a college-style "miser" featuring special "crossover" hors d'oeuvres such as bagels topped with squirrel paws.

We must always remember that, as Americans, we all have a common enemy — an enemy that is dangerous, powerful and relentless: I refer, of course, to the federal government.

I speak from personal experience. For the past year, I have been hounded by an organization calling itself "The United States Department of Commerce." Well, apparently it's linked to the federal government. Every few weeks, the "Department of Commerce" sends me a threatening letter, demanding that I fill out "the 2002 Survey of Business Owners and Self-Employed Persons" (form SBO-1 or SBO-2). This is a questionnaire that asks, among other things, whether I am a Samoan. The "Department of Commerce" claims that I owe them to fill it out because of something that was in my federal tax return.

Well listen up, "Department of Commerce," and listen good: I have no idea what was in my federal tax return. Like 93 percent of all U.S. taxpayers, I just sign it and send it in.

You will never find out whether or not I am a Samoan, unless there is a generous federal program that pays millions of dollars to Samoans, in which case I will send it as Samoan.

— But this is not about me. No matter where we live — be it in a red state, or a blue state, or a Samoan state — we are all Americans inside. If we cut ourselves, we will all bleed the same color; and then, as Americans, we will sue somebody.

Dave Barry is a humor columnist for the Miami Herald. Write to him at The Miami Herald, One Herald Plaza, Miami, Fla. 33132.

Waiting to exhale

The holidays can be miserable for folks with asthma

The Times-News

TWIN FALLS — The Christmas season can be just breathtaking, especially if you have asthma.

Adults and children with asthma have "triggers" that cause them to have attacks, and the holiday season is full of them.

People rush to buy gifts, plan parties and attend functions so they tend to be more stressed than usual, says Elyia Caldera, health education specialist and asthma program coordinator with the South Central District Health Department.

"We all have stress in our lives, but it seems that during this time of year it's worse and for asthmatics it could become one of the many stressors or triggers that can cause an asthma attack," Caldera said. "During stressful situations, people with asthma can become extremely short of breath, even though their airways are not blocked, due to changes in the body that lead to tightening of the muscles around the air passages in the lungs and make it difficult to breathe."

According to the Center for Disease Control and Prevention, in 2001, 20.3 million Americans had asthma and 4.8 million of those were children. Asthma is the fourth-most common reason for pediatric physician office visits, and is one of the leading causes of school absenteeism.

In Idaho, according to data from the ZIVA Idaho Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System, one adult in 12 reports having been told that he or she has asthma.

The best way to avoid letting stress get the best of adults and children with asthma is to closely follow the action plan designed for each person and take the medications when they are scheduled to be taken, Caldera says. Plan ahead, allow plenty of time to finish necessary tasks, and concentrate on activities that are being done in the present moment, rather than worrying about what has to be done next.

But stress is not the only trigger for asthma. In fact, Jean Woodward, asthma coordinator with the Idaho Asthma Prevention and Control Project, offers a list of additional factors that both adults and children should



Heidi Ophelm says she has more asthma attacks around the holidays because of the colder weather and the dust from Christmas trees.

be aware of during the holiday season:

- **Living Christmas trees** — Remove pollen from living Christmas trees before bringing them indoors. This can be done by spraying the tree with water from a garden hose and letting it dry while keeping the tree stump in water.
- **Artificial Christmas trees, lights and ornaments** — These items can gather molds and dust while in storage. Before using the tree, lights, and ornaments, wipe them down with a damp cloth.
- **Candles, potpourri, perfumes and other scented products** all can cause an asthma attack. They shouldn't be used in the home if an asthma sufferer is present.
- **Smoke** — Folks who smoke should smoke outside and make sure that those with asthma, especially children, are not exposed to the smoke. Indoor air and outdoor air will improve if a wood-burning fireplace is used less.
- **Exposure to cold and flu viruses** — If your child has asthma, make sure he or she gets a flu shot.
- **Listen to the doctor** — It's important to follow the asthma management plan developed for the person with asthma. Anyone with asthma should get proper rest, and maintain a proper diet.
- **Changes in weather** — Stormy weather and cold can trigger asthma attacks. People with asthma should use their medication before exercising in the cold; a loose-fitting mask or scarf should be used to cover the mouth and nose so that warm air can enter the airways. If the weather is very cold and there is a lot of pollution, people with asthma should stay indoors.

"I enjoy the holidays and I certainly take the proper measures to make sure that I don't have problems," said Heidi Ophelm of Twin Falls, who has asthma. "I try to keep the holidays as normal as possible. Just because I have asthma, it doesn't mean that everybody else

How to cope

- Take deep breaths and relax as much as possible.
- Develop strong social support networks.
- Be realistic about expectations about family functions.
- Try a little humor therapy. Laughing can boost the immune system. But keep it under control; hysterical laughter can cause an asthma episode.
- Avoid stressful situations.
- Practice effective time-management skills.
- Set priorities and don't take on more than you can handle.
- Pace yourself and set limits to help manage your time.
- Practice relaxation techniques.
- Take time out to relax.
- Practice relaxation techniques such as yoga or meditation.
- Practice deep breathing exercises.
- Learn to release and relieve muscle tension and clear your mind of negative thoughts.
- Exercise. It's an excellent way to burn off the accumulated effects of stress. It allows you to relax tense muscles, build stamina, and helps you get a good night's sleep.
- Eat well-balanced, nutritious meals.
- Drink plenty of water.
- Try to avoid caffeine, alcohol and nicotine.
- Get plenty of sleep. If you're not sleeping well, you will have less energy and fewer resources for coping with stress.

Source: Asthma Academy of Allergy, Asthma & Immunology

around me has to change things so that I don't have problems; I take my medications and follow the proper precautions to avoid

an asthma attack." "People with asthma can have just as much fun as other holiday revelers," Caldera said.

Some guys make use of handbags

The Baltimore Sun

Some call it "the man bag." Others call it a purse. As proof that he was on fashion's cutting edge, Jerry Seinfeld tried to call it a "European carry-all," but in the end, he had to admit the truth.

It's a purse. A man purse. Whatever you call it, if a man carries one, he's bound to raise an eyebrow or two.

That's why, for so long, it's taken a brave, brave man to proudly walk around with a trendy tote on his shoulder, a fashionable clutch in his hand, or a sleek leather satchel slung across his body.

Robert M. Bell, chief judge of the Maryland Court of Appeals, carries several different ones.

Attitude — Coach bags, Bruno Magli — and has for more than 20 years. And none of this "man bag" business for him. His Honor just calls them purses.

"I've been carrying the thing so long, it's a part of me," Bell says. "You'll not see me without my purse."

And lately, more and more men are joining the ranks — denying the widespread notion that carrying a handbag makes a man less of a man. These fashion-forward men say there's no reason they should be forced to carry their belongings in overstuffed pants or coat pockets. It's just easier to



Robert M. Bell, chief judge of the Maryland Court of Appeals, displays his Coach bag.

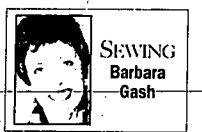
for a day is all in one very stylish and chic carrying case," he says. "The man bag is the modern-day briefcase. Our dads carried briefcases. We carry man bags." Does just any old carry-all qualify as a man bag? Experts say no.

To be truly called a man purse, the bag can't be placed in a briefcase, backpack, gym bag, laptop carrier or overnight bag category. Some of the grappings-in-popularity messenger bags count, but generally, a man bag is a bit smaller than a messenger bag. A man can carry it in his hand, dangle it on his wrist, strap it to his belt, or hook it over his shoulder.

And here's the telltale sign: A man bag is toted around even

Sewing gift books can get imagination going

For sewing enthusiasts on your gift list, books are always welcome. Here are son-2 to consider: *Felling* is a hot trend in fiber arts circles. "Simply Felt" by Margaret Docherty and Jayne Emerson (Interweave Press, \$24.95) is an inspired collection of 20 contemporary designs made from felted fabric. (Wool is purposely agitated and shrunk to produce a durable fabric that doesn't fray.) The authors promise that these projects are quick to make, and the process is fun. The book has a clear format, with photos and illustrations enhancing the step-by-step instructions.



SEWING Barbara Cash

"All About Machine Arts: Decorative Techniques from A to Z" (C&T Publishing, \$29.95) is a must-have reference guide to decorative machine sewing. It's a comprehensive, up-to-date resource, compiled by the editors of *Sew News* and *Creative Machine Embroidery* magazines. Even if you're experienced, you'll find new ways to use your sewing machine and serger. Included are inspiring photos, a section on supplies, an alphabetical list of techniques, a stitch dictionary and cross-references to make it all easy to use.

An updated sewing reference for all skill levels is "More Fabric Savvy" (Taunton Press, \$24.95) by expert Sandra Betzina. Over

80 fabrics are described concisely, with advice on layouts, stitching, seam finishing, pressing and care. The book is spiral-bound to lie flat, but has a hard cover for durability. General sewing tips are generously sprinkled throughout.

In "Cultural Accents" by Ronke Luke-Boone (Krause, \$21.99), ethnic influence meets contemporary design. This book offers 60 projects for fashioning and home decor, using motifs and symbols from various cultures around the world. Techniques include stenciling, stamping, embroidery, and more. Patterns are included, along with clear, easy directions.

All of these books can be found in local stores, or ordered online.

Barbara Cash writes about sewing for the Detroit Free Press. Write to her at the Free Press, P.O. Box 828, Detroit, Mich. 48231, or send e-mail to compuser@owl.com. Letters cannot be answered personally.

IMAGE

Group offers prepared childbirth classes

Prepared childbirth classes will be offered from 6:30 to 9 p.m. Wednesdays, beginning Wednesday through Jan. 12, in the lobby at Magic Valley Regional Medical Center's Downtown Campus, 660 Shoshone St. E., Twin Falls.

The class will include classroom instruction on wellness of the mother, labor and delivery process with relaxation and breathing techniques, care of the postpartum mother and newborn, including breastfeeding and bottle-feeding. Participants also will be given a tour of the Women's and Infant Center.

Cost is \$50. Pre-registration is required. To register, call 732-3148.

Baby and Me

St. Benedict's Family Medical Center will offer "Baby and Me" classes from 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Tuesdays at the Health Education Center, 115 14th Ave. W., Jerome. This week's topic will be "Infant Massage."

The session is for parents of infants from infancy through toddler years.

The class is free. For more information, call 324-7262.

Alzheimer's support

SunBridge Care Center and Rehabilitation will hold an Alzheimer's Support Group meeting at 10:30 a.m. Wednesdays at SunBridge, 610 Filer Ave. W., Twin Falls.

The support group is open to Twin Falls area residents who have family members with Alzheimer's.

To do for you

For more information, call Steve Jones or Dawn McCoy at 734-4645.

First aid, CPR classes

The South Central District of the American Red Cross will offer first aid and adult, infant and child cardiopulmonary resuscitation courses in December and January in Twin Falls and Ketchum. Participants must register in advance.

In Twin Falls, the classes will be held at the Red Cross office, 1139 Falls Ave. E., Suite B, and will include:

- First aid, adult CPR, infant and child CPR reviews, 6 to 10 p.m., Thursday and Jan. 13 and Jan. 27.
- First aid, adult CPR, infant and child CPR, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., Saturday and Jan. 8 and Jan. 20.
- Introduction to Disaster Services (program for volunteers), 9 a.m. to 1 p.m., Jan. 15.
- Introduction to Mass Care (program for volunteers), 1 to 5 p.m., Jan. 15.

In Ketchum, the classes will be held at the American Legion Hall, 240 Greenwood, and will include:

- First aid and adult CPR, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m., Jan. 22.
- Introduction to Disaster Services (program for volunteers), 10 a.m. to noon, Jan. 29.
- Introduction to Mass Care (program for volunteers), noon to 2 p.m., Jan. 29.

No classes are scheduled for

December or January in Burley. If a class is needed, call the American Red Cross office.

For more information on the cost or to register for a class, call the Red Cross office at 733-6464, ext. 300 or (800) 453-2570, ext. 300.

Learn CPR

Cardiopulmonary resuscitation class will be offered from 8 a.m. to noon Saturday in the Sage Room at Magic Valley Regional Medical Center's Education Center, 599 Addison Ave. W., Twin Falls.

The class will include emergency procedures for mouth-to-mouth resuscitation, chest compressions and choking for adults and infants. The program includes classroom instruction and hands-on practice.

Cost is \$25. Pre-registration is required. To register, call 737-2007.

CPR for babies

Infant safety and cardiopulmonary resuscitation class will be offered from 6:30 to 9 p.m. Dec. 21 in the lobby at Magic Valley Regional Medical Center's Downtown Campus, 660 Shoshone St. E., Twin Falls.

The program is offered as part of the prepared childbirth course.

New parents, grandparents and children are encouraged to attend to learn about infant CPR, choking, child safety and prevention of injury.

The class is free and pre-registration is not required.

For more information, call

737-2900.

Refresher course

Childbirth refresher course will be offered from 6:30 to 9 p.m. Dec. 22 in the lobby at Magic Valley Regional Medical Center's Downtown Campus, 660 Shoshone St. E., Twin Falls.

The class is for those who have previously taken childbirth classes.

Childbirth preparation and procedures will be reviewed, and will include a tour of the Women's and Infant Center.

Cost is \$20.

Pre-registration is required. Call 737-2900.

To do for you is a calendar listing of health-related activities, events and education information should be submitted by Thursday for publication in the following Monday's Health & Fashion. Mail notices to: The Times-News, P.O. Box 548, Twin Falls, ID 83403, or deliver to our office at 132 Fairfield St. W.

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Elder Law Forum
Straight-Talk-on-Elder-Law-and-Estate-Planning

THE TIE THAT BINDS!

QUESTION: Why is there often so much quibbling and incivility among adult children at the death of their last surviving parent?

Parental love and guidance play a powerful role in maintaining at least superficial family harmony. The death of a parent cuts loose this binding force.

Regrettably, in the absence of parental influence, long-simmering sibling dissensions take full form. Much of this wrangling can be avoided with two simple measures; communication and direction.

First, communication: most parents are aware of the resentments their children harbor. Honesty remains the best policy. Children may be told that although they are entitled to their opinions, parental decisions were made with the best of intentions, and hindsight will always be 20-20.

Second, direction: a stitch in time saves nine. Where disagreement looms on the horizon, take great care that your estate plan - either by will or trust - contains clear and conflict-avoiding directions.

Then take heart: you've done your very best!

Voorhees LaMure LLP
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Certified Elder Law Attorney by the National Elder Law Foundation
Certified Estate Planning Law Specialist by the Estate Law Specialist Board, Inc.

Consumer Reports compares drugs

WASHINGTON (AP)—Nexium and other brand-name medicines are no better for most heartburn sufferers than a drug that can be bought for much less and without a prescription. Consumer Reports said Thursday as it added prescription medicines to the products it reviews.

Among prescription drugs, Prilosec OTC can be bought for a fifth the cost of the next cheapest drug in its category. Consumer Reports said.

It launched its Consumer Reports Best Buy Drugs Web site with comparisons of three kinds of widely used medicines: proton pump inhibitors for heartburn and acid reflux disease, cholesterol-reducing statins and nonsteroidal anti-inflammatory drugs for pain.

The review singled out Lipitor, Pfizer's top-selling cholesterol drug, for people who have had a heart attack or need to reduce their cholesterol by 40 percent or more, but for patients with less serious conditions, generic lovastatin drugs as well as Lipitor at a third its cost, Consumer Reports said.

Among the pain relievers, generic medicines ibuprofen and salicylate are much cheaper than brand-name counterparts Celebrex and Bextra, and work as well, it said.

The service, giving consumers the same type of analysis now provided on such items as refrigerators and cars, is available for free.

"We're doing this because we really see drug treatment and the price of prescription drugs as a major consumer issue,"

said Joel Gurin, executive vice president of Consumers Union, which publishes Consumer Reports.

Dr. Mark McClellan, the Medicare chief, praised the effort in a meeting with the consumer organization this week. Medicare spokesman Gary Karr said. Medicare's Web site tells patients of lower-priced alternatives when they enter information about their prescriptions.

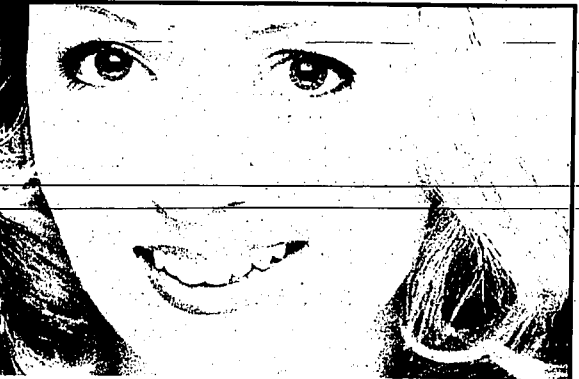
"Anytime consumers can get information from a wide variety of sources, that's a good thing," Karr said.

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ENGAGEMENTS

PIPER-CLAYTON

BURLEY — Art and Nancy Piner of Rockford, Ill. announce the engagement of their daughter, Shauna Irene Piper, to Curtis Dan Clayton, son of Dan and Mary Ann Clayton of Burley. Piper is a graduate of Harlem High School. She is currently attending Brigham Young University, majoring in microbiology. Clayton is a 1999 graduate of Burley High School. He served an LDS mission in the Philippines Quezon Mission. He is currently attending Utah Valley State College. The wedding is planned for Friday, Dec. 17, in the Logan LDS Temple. A reception to honor the couple will be held from 7 to 9 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 18, in the View LDS Church, 550 S. 500 E., Burley. They will reside in Provo, Utah.



Curtis Clayton and Shauna Piper

EVANS-STOWELL

BURLEY — Ed and Terry Evans of Burley announce the engagement of their daughter, Rachel Evans, to Jared Stowell, son of Todd and Karen Stowell of Rigby. Evans is a graduate of Burley High School.



Jared Stowell and Rachel Evans

VANTASSELL-VOGEL

HEYBURN — Tiffany Lee Vantassell and Joseph Andrew Vogel announce their engagement. Vantassell is the daughter of Chad and Gina Vantassell of Heyburn. Vogel is the son of Charles and Sandy Vogel of Springville, Utah. Vantassell is a graduate of Mexico High School and is attending Utah Valley State College, where she is working on her bachelor's degree in English. She is employed by Meier and Frank Co. in the University Mall



Joseph Vogel and Tiffany Vantassell

in Orem, Utah. Vogel graduated from Springville High School and spent a summer in London as a

study-abroad student. He served a full-time LDS mission to Micronesia. He will be graduating with his bachelor's degree from Utah Valley State College in Orem and will continue with his master's program.

The wedding is planned for Thursday, Dec. 16, in the Salt Lake LDS Temple. A reception to honor the couple will be held from 7 to 9 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 16, at Camco Special Event Center. A reception also will be held from 6 to 8 p.m. Friday, Dec. 17, at the Huntington Valley LDS Church, in Huntington, Utah. The couple will reside in Orem, Utah; while they continue their education.

ANNIVERSARY

THE LARSONS

BURLEY — Mr. and Mrs. Floyd Larson celebrated their 65th wedding anniversary on Nov. 22. Larson and Fae Smith were married Nov. 22, 1939, in the Logan Utah LDS Temple. They formed for 17 years after their marriage.



Fae Smith



Floyd Larson

After moving from the farm to their present home, he went into the heating and cooling business. He serviced furnaces and cooling systems as well as appliances for many years. He also worked with the Cub Scout program for years.

She worked in the Cassia County school lunch program for several years. She has also worked in the Relief Society and ladies organizations throughout her life. They have enjoyed gardening and canning together. They also enjoy making quilts for their grandchildren.

They had eight children, Patricia Bodily, Lynn (Linda) Larson, Evelyn (Jan) Dayley, Louise (Vern) Martindale and Irene Thomas, all of Utah, Larry (Phyllis) Larson of Burley, Neal (DeAnn) Larson of Paul and Jan (Harvyn) Frandsen of Florida. They also had three foster daughters.

They have 35 grandchildren, 55 great-grandchildren and two great-great-grandchildren.



Floyd and Fae Larson

Dressing for success with security

The Washington Post

Rolf Reiligies always got in trouble at the airport security checkpoint because of his suspenders.

Whenever the Wisconsin businessman flew out of Minneapolis, Milwaukee or Madison, Wis., the metal in his suspenders set off the magnetometer.

Then, six weeks ago, he discovered BuzzNot, a brand of suspenders with plastic clasps. "Works like a charm," Reiligies

said of the \$19.99 pair he found on SuspenderStore.com. Now when he takes off on trips to sell his milking equipment, Reiligies glides right through security. "It's a nuisance if I wear regular suspenders."

In this era of tightened airport security, retailers are coming to the aid of the aggravated traveler, offering new products—such as bras and shoes—designed to get passengers through the checkpoints without the indignity of a pat-down.

Shoemakers Johnston & Murphy, Hirschfeld and Rockport sell dozens of styles without metal shanks in the soles and market them to frequent fliers. Hirschfeld identifies the styles with tags that look like passports, labeled "airport friendly" inside the shoebox. "We had requests, mainly from airline pilots, asking which shoes were airplane friendly," said Thomas W. Hirschfeld Jr., chief executive of AVOYO Group Inc., the Milwaukee parent company of Hirschfeld.

They're easily forgotten, some men say, left behind in cabs or at restaurants.

If you have more than one man purse, and switch them often to leave something crucial—like lip balm or business cards—in the other bag.

And take heed, guys, some women give men with man purses a hard time. Maybe it's just that purses were women's domain for so long, they're not ready to give them up to men.

Bags

Continued from C2 — or in some cases, mainly — during non-work hours. At night and on weekends, 70 percent of the man purse or on runways.

"It goes hand-in-hand with the idea of the metrosexual — the guy who's well-dressed, who's well-groomed, who knows what it means to take care of himself," Blecher says. "These days, men wear jewelry and get manicures. They're using hair products, and scrubbing their faces with Clinique exfoliators."

"The lines between what's feminine and what's masculine

ing Gucci, Roberto Cavalli, Prada, Paul Smith, Miù Miù and John Varvatos — showed versions of the man purse on the runways.

have really blurred over the last five years," says Calie Stackleford, co-owner of Love Handles, a fashion bag company. "Men have just gotten a lot funkier and a lot more fun, and they take a lot more risks. I think it's really become not only practical, but sort of a fashion statement for them. I think it shows a sense of security in their manhood. It doesn't intimidate them just because traditionally they've been called purses."

As the baggy hip-hop look for men is going the way of Vanilla Ice, and men's fashions are

becoming more tailored, the man bag has become an attractive, alternative to bulging satchels.

If it's so practical, better-looking, and it's a powerful, masculine fashion statement, then why is the man purse just now becoming mainstream? Sorta.

"I think the manly men are a little bit nervous about being seen as girly men," says Cordelia Jochim, founder and designer of Thickskin, a New York-based company that specializes in bags for men. Old-fashioned gender rules die hard, Jochim says she understands

the hang-up many men feel about carrying a handbag. That's why her men purses are "cool, tough-looking" bags, many made with hyper-masculine details.

Lard-rocker Tommy Lee even carries one of her specialty man bags, Jochim says. It has camouflage on the inner flap. "We still want our men to be the man," she says. "We don't want anything to be fluff and light. We definitely want them to be rugged."

But like a woman's purse, men who favored the man bag does have drawbacks that

take some getting used to. They're easily forgotten, some men say, left behind in cabs or at restaurants.

If you have more than one man purse, and switch them often to leave something crucial—like lip balm or business cards—in the other bag.

And take heed, guys, some women give men with man purses a hard time. Maybe it's just that purses were women's domain for so long, they're not ready to give them up to men.

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Monday, Dec. 13, 2004

THE ACES ON BRIDGE

Bobby Wolff

If you must choose, Between the chances, choose the odd. Read 'The New Yorker,' trust in God. And take short views.

— W. H. Auden

When North invites to game, the sixth spade and extra distribution justify South's four-spade bid. As soon as the 10-card fit in spades comes to light, the chances of being able to ruff one of South's Aces in dummy goes up considerably. Unfortunately for South, dummy does not come through with the hoped-for values. On the lead of the diamond 10, South has to take his chances in the right order if he is going to give himself the best shot to make the hand. The first thing to do is to test diamonds. South puts up the diamond jack, but one diamond queen appears, that is one chance gone. The second chance is to play on hearts; but a heart to the king loses to East's ace, and the second chance vanishes. Back comes a second diamond, and South is reduced to his final hope, that East has the club queen. South takes the second diamond in dummy and leads the club jack, finessing when East plays low. Finally, something works for South, and he can dispose of dummy's diamond loser on the top clubs.

Notice that if declarer plays on trump at once, he cannot combine all his chances efficiently. As a general rule, you should never draw trump without working out if you have enough winners. Plan the play at trick one and look for an alternative to drawing trump if you can see that it may not bring home the goods.

Bridge score table showing North and South hands with cards and tricks.

Vulnerable: Both. Dealer: South.

The bidding: South West North East 1♠ Pass 3♠ Pass 4♠ All pass

Opening lead: Diamond 10

LEAD WITH THE ACES

Bridge score table showing South's lead and tricks.

ANSWER: Lead the club ace. Since partner is never going to get the lead for a club play, you need to try to cash out the clubs, using your diamond ace as a re-entrancy. Lead the club ace so that you can continue the suit either by let the king or to try to pin a doubleton club jack, depending on what you see in dummy.

If you would like to contact Bobby Wolff, e-mail him at http://www.bobbywolff.com. Copyright 2004, United Feature Syndicate, Inc.

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NFL Scores and Stats . . . D2
Comics . . . D4

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

The Times-News

Monday, December 13, 2004

Section D

MORNING LINE

SPORTSQUOTE

They'll be up for it. It's a great chance for them to drink some beer on a weekday.

Titans right tackle Fred Miller, on one of the reasons Nashville loves to appear on Monday Night Football

TRIVIA

QUESTION: What Heisman Trophy winner was a son who stars in a television show that airs on CBS?
ANSWER: Below

TODAY'S SCHEDULE

- HS Boys Basketball: Gooding at Hagerman, 6 p.m.; Glenns Ferry at Parma, 6 p.m.; Lighthouse Christian at Richfield, 6 p.m.; Castleford at Twin Falls JV, 6 p.m.
HS Wrestling: Burley/Madison at Rigby, 4 p.m.

IN BRIEF

- CSI booster luncheon is today: TWIN FALLS - The College of Southern Idaho booster club luncheon will be held at noon today in the Taylor Administration Building's Room 277 on campus. Fans and boosters are welcome to attend. Coaches will discuss their teams.
Fans and boosters can go through the food line in the cafeteria, buy their food and bring it to Room 277.
Willingham will coach at Washington: SEATTLE - Tyrone Willingham agreed to become Washington's third football coach in four seasons Sunday, just two weeks after being fired by Notre Dame.
Willingham was 21-15 in three seasons at Notre Dame; after an 8-0 start in 2002, the Irish went 13-15.
The Huskies are coming off a school-worst 1-10 season.
Stanford hires new football coach: STANFORD, Calif. - Pittsburgh's Walt Harris was hired as Stanford's new football coach Sunday, giving the Cardinal the offensive-minded leader they sought to replace "Buddy Teevens."
Stanford spokesman Gary Migdol said the school planned an official announcement for Monday.
Harris, 58, reportedly was meeting with his team Sunday and is expected to coach the 19th-ranked Panthers in the Fiesta Bowl against Utah.
Sprint boat racer dies in crash: OGDEN, Utah - Sprint boat driver Garth "Gas" Schuda died Friday, Nov. 26 from injuries sustained in a boating accident in Parker, Ariz. The 58-year-old Schuda participated in the 2004 Idaho Regatta in Burley, racing in the Super Stock division.
Schuda's death came two years after sprint boat legend Lance Faulkner died in a 2002 boating accident in Parker.

Compiled from staff and wire reports

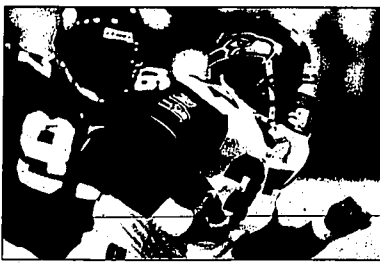
TRIVIA ANSWER: Tom Harmon, the University of Michigan running back who won the Heisman Trophy in 1940. His son, Mark, stars in the CBS series "Navy NCIS: Naval Criminal Investigative Service," playing the role of Special Agent Leroy Jethro Gibbs. In fact, Mark Harmon played quarterback for UCLA in 1972-73 and graduated cum laude in 1974.

Late interception lifts Seahawks

By Dave Campbell Associated Press writer

MINNEAPOLIS - The Seattle Seahawks finally figured out how to finish a game. Michael Boulware intercepted an ill-advised pass by Randy Moss in the end zone just before the 2-minute warning, allowing the Seahawks to hang on for a wild 27-23 victory over the Minnesota Vikings on Sunday.

Matt Lasselbeck's three first-half touchdown passes proved to be enough for Seattle (7-6), which came away with a crucial win - just its fourth in the last 10 games - for its playoff chances in the diluted NFL. Meanwhile, Minnesota (7-6) lost for the fifth time in seven games - and watched its own playoff plans take a hit. Moss, who caught four passes for 104 yards and a touchdown, rolled right in the closing minutes after a handoff from Daunte Culpepper. Near the sideline



Seattle Seahawks running back Shaun Alexander, right, leaves behind Minnesota Vikings defensive tackle Spencer Johnson, left, as he heads for a touchdown on a 12-yard pass from quarterback Matt Hasselbeck during the second quarter in Minneapolis, Sunday. The Seahawks won 27-23.

with a defender closing in, Moss fled into the back of the end zone, where Marcus Robinson was covered by two Seahawks. After the interception, Minnesota managed to force a punt and get the ball back at its 10 and 44-seconds left and no timeouts. A 36-year pass to Moss and a missed call on Seattle while Culpepper spiked the ball gave the Vikings possession

at the Seahawks 28 for one last try with 4 seconds on the clock. Culpepper scrambled right and appeared to be sacked by Antonio Cochran, but the play wasn't stopped, and a heave into the end zone was nearly caught by Jermaine Wiggins as the game ended. Shaun Alexander ran 27 times for 112 yards to go with a touchdown reception for the Seahawks, who wasted a double-digit fourth-quarter lead in a loss to Dallas last week and did the same in an overtime defeat to St. Louis on Oct. 10. Seattle defensive end Grant Wistrom hurt his left leg late in the fourth quarter and had to be helped off the field. There was no immediate word on his condition. Lasselbeck finished with 334 yards passing, but threw two interceptions that led to 10 Minnesota points and made a handful of inaccurate throws on crucial plays. Culpepper wasn't great, either, especially after Baltimore. He finished with 270 yards and no interceptions.

Manning misses record in Colts' win

By Joel Anderson Associated Press writer

HOUSTON - Dan Marino's record in touchdown passes in a season has stood for 20 years. So what's another week? Indianapolis' quarterback Peyton Manning came up short in his bid to tie Marino's NFL record of 48 touchdown passes in a season, throwing only two Sunday to push his total to 46 in the Colts' 23-14 win over the Houston Texans. Manning will have three more games to break the mark, though the task figures to get much tougher. The Colts will face Baltimore, San Diego and Denver - three of the NFL's top 11 defenses - to close out the regular season. "I know how hard it is to throw touchdowns," Manning said. "They don't come easy." They certainly didn't on Sunday. Manning threw two in the first quarter, but the Colts were kept out of the end zone for the rest of the game by one of the league's worst defenses. For the first time in nine games, he had fewer than three TD passes. Whether it was unexpectedly tough defense by the Texans or a rare off-day by Manning, the Colts simply came up short on big plays that they usually make. Brandon Stokley just missed coming up with a diving catch in the end zone in the third quarter, and the Colts were forced to settle for a 30-yard field goal. Manning later missed on two wide-open throws that could have gone for scores, one to Marvin Harrison in the third and another that sailed just over Reggie Wayne's fingertips in the fourth. Manning "wasn't that crisp on the catch," he admitted. "Colts' coach Tony Dungy said, 'A throw here and there like he normally gets it would have made it a little bit easier of a game.' But despite becoming increasingly prickly in the face of media scrutiny over the past few weeks, Manning put on a happy face when questions about the record came up - repeatedly - in the locker room. "I'm really enjoying the ride," he said, wearing a brand new black AFC South championship cap after his twenty-first. "Would you throw a touchdown, you give yourself a little applause." Dungy said he wished the record had fallen in Houston. "Honestly, I was hoping against hope that we'd get it down here, so very excited with it," he said. "Well, just have to deal with it."

NATIONAL FINALS RODEO

Buckled up

Williams, Skelton take home eighth straight team roping crown

The Associated Press

LAS VEGAS - Speed Williams and Rich Skelton won their record eighth straight world team roping title Sunday, finishing the National Finals Rodeo with a season total of \$150,426 each - including \$70,392 in the 10-round finale. "It's pretty amazing," said Skelton, the heeler. "No one in the world has ever done what we have done. It is still hard to believe." They finished 13th in the round and were fourth in the aggregate standings with a time of 81.4 seconds for nine runs. "We knew that if he (Skelton) could get a leg, we could still place (earn a check as one of the top eight finishers) in the average," said Williams, the header. Clay Troman of Billings, Mont., and Michael Jones of Stephenville, Texas, won the aggregate title with a time of 77.80 for 10 runs. They also earned \$85,101 each in the NFR, which is a record for the event. Chad Masters of Adams, Tenn., and Digan Kelly of Paso Robles, Calif., split first place in the final round in 4.0 with Jake Barnes of Scottsdale, Ariz., and Allen Bach of Westford, Texas. Dustin Elliott of Tecumseh, Neb., won his first bull riding world title with \$193,778, including \$50,530 in the NFR. Paulo Granber of Halton City, Texas, won the aggregate with 500.5 points for six rides, narrowly edging Cody Buller of Glendive, Mont., who had 500 points. In saddle bronc, Billy Ebbauer of Edmond, Okla., won his fifth world title, taking the final round with a 9.9-point ride. Rod Warren of Canada won his



Luke Branquhino of Los Alamos, Calif., competes in a steer wrestling Sunday at the Thomas & Mack Center in Las Vegas during final go-round of the National Finals Rodeo. Branquhino won the world title in the event.

third NFR aggregate title with a score of 757.5 points for 10 rides, while Ebbauer, who earned \$225,501 in season earnings and a record \$117,745 in the NFR, was second at 688.5 for eight rides. "It's a big honor and a tough job," said Warren about winning the aggregate title. "I don't ever come here planning to win the average." Kelly Timberman of Mills, Wyo., took the bareback title during his first NFR, finishing with a record \$225,180 - \$97,961 in the NFR. He won the aggregate championship with 836.5 points for the 10 go-rounds, just missing the record of \$39 set by Jason Ieter in 2002 and matched by Cody Lessee in 2003. Jason Havens of Bend, Ore., won the final round with an 87.5-point ride. In steer wrestling, Ronnie Fields of Oklahoma City won the aggregate title championship at 43.2 seconds. Rope Myers of Van, Texas, and Trevor Knowles of Mount Vernon, Ore., tied for first in the final round at 4.2. Luke Branquhino of Los Alamos, Calif., who wrapped up the world championship Saturday,

Indiana repeats as champ

The Associated Press

CARSON, Calif. - Jay Nolly saved two penalty kicks and Indiana won its second straight NCAA Men's College Cup title Sunday, beating UC Santa Barbara in a penalty kick shootout. The teams were tied 1-1 after regulation and two 10-minute overtime periods, forcing the shootout. The second-seeded Hoosiers won for the 10th time in 11 games and earned their seventh NCAA title, the first under coach Mike Freitag. Each team converted two penalty kicks before Indiana's Mike Ambersley slipped a shot under the crossbar to put the Hoosiers ahead. "Nate Boyden tried to fake Nolly out of position on Santa Barbara's final kick, but Nolly dove to his left and deflected the shot," Freitag said. John Michael Hayden and



Indiana players celebrate after defeating UC Santa Barbara on penalty kicks to win the 2004 NCAA Division I Men's College Cup, Sunday, in Carson, Calif. The game was tied 1-1 after regulation and two overtime periods. Greg Badger also converted for the Hoosiers. Drew Mackay tied the game in the 82nd minute with his third goal of the Men's College Cup and his 18th of the season. Jacob Peterson gave Indiana a 1-0 lead in the 27th minute.

Weis signs six-year deal at Notre Dame

By Tom Coyne Associated Press writer

SOUTH BEND, Ind. - New England Patriots offensive coordinator Charlie Weis signed a six-year contract to coach Notre Dame, the school said Sunday night. Weis, 48, returns to the school he graduated from in 1978. He arrived at Notre Dame on Sunday night with athletic director Kevin White just hours after the Patriots beat the Cincinnati Bengals. He spent 30 minutes at the Joyce Athletic Center, where the sports administration offices are located, before going to meet with the Irish players. Weis wouldn't answer any questions, but said, "Here's what we have to do. I believe that there is a proper protocol, and

right now, the most important thing is that I go talk to the players.

"So, tomorrow we'll have a press conference at 11 o'clock tomorrow. Let's do it tomorrow." Weis, a former Notre Dame player who was with the New York Giants while Weis was on the staff, said he would be taking the job at Notre Dame. "He was excited, but he was much more concerned about the Cincinnati game today," what we have to do. I believe that there is a proper protocol, and



Charlie Weis

SPORTS

Sunday's NFL leaders



Matt Hasselbeck



Willis McGahee

Passing
Matt Hasselbeck, Seahawks
 • went 23-of-34 for 334 yards passing and three touchdowns in a 27-23 win over Minnesota.

Kyle Boller, Ravens
 • threw for a career-high four touchdowns and 219 yards in a 37-14 rout of the Giants.

Receiving
Donte Stallworth, Saints
 • had 113 yards on five catches, in a 27-13 win over Dallas.

Darrell Jackson, Seahawks
 • had 10 receptions for 135 yards and a touchdown in a 27-23 win over the Vikings after learning in the morning his father had died of cancer.

Rushing
Domanick Davis, Texans
 • had 201 total yards for Houston. He had 23 carries for 128 yards and a touchdown, and caught six passes for 73 yards.

Willis McGahee, Bills
 • had 105 yards and scored twice in a 37-7 win over Cleveland. It was McGahee's sixth 100-yard game in eight starts, and the Bills have won all six times.

Patriots take AFC East

FOXBORO, Mass. (AP) — Tom Brady threw two touchdown passes and the New England defense held off Cincinnati as the Patriots clinched the AFC East with a 35-20 win over the Bengals.

The victory was the 27th in 28 games for the Super Bowl champions (12-1). Asunt Samuel had a 34-yard interception return for a touchdown for New England, which forced three turnovers for the day.

Carson Palmer threw two touchdown passes for the Bengals (6-7), before leaving with a sprained knee in the third quarter.

Broncos 20, Dolphins 17
 DENVER — Backup Pat Ryan ran for 123 yards and Jason Elam kicked a 50-yard field goal with 2:50 left in a strange victory.

Bell replaced fumble-prone Reuben Droughidas early in the game and ran for two scores, but left shortly after with a sprained shoulder that could end his season. That forced Droughidas back into the backfield after he fumbled twice — losing one — on his first four carries.

Mike Plummer threw for 219 yards and had two interceptions as the Broncos (8-5) kept pace with Baltimore for the AFC's final wild-card spot. Miami fell to 2-11.

Falcons 35, Raiders 10
 ATLANTA — The Falcons clinched just their third division title in franchise history as T.J. Duckett set a team record by rushing for four touchdowns.

Atlanta (10-3), which last won a division title in 1999 on the way to its only Super Bowl, flopped badly in its first chance to win the NFC South, getting beaten 27-7 in Tampa last week, but they had their way at home against the hapless Raiders, taking control with a 21-point second quarter. Oakland (4-9) had three turnovers.

49ers 31, Cardinals 28, OT
 TEMPE, Ariz. — The 49ers blew a 25-point lead, but Todd Peterson's 31-yard field goal in overtime gave them their second win of the season.

It was the exact same score as in the teams' first meeting on Oct. 10, when Arizona blew a 16-point lead late in regulation and lost in overtime on Peterson's 32-yarder. Maurice Hicks, who had 139 yards rushing, set up the winner for San Francisco (2-11) with runs of 7 and 17 yards.

Josh McCown, back at quarterback for Arizona (4-9) after being benched for three games, directed three second-half touchdown drives, then Neil Rackers' 22-yard field goal with 59 seconds to go sent the game into overtime.

Steelers 17, Jets 6
 PITTSBURGH — Jerome Bettis and Curtis Martin went over 13,000 yards rushing, but Bettis will be remembered most for a 16-yard touchdown pass that helped the Steelers clinch the AFC North.

Bettis completed the throw to Jerome Tuman three plays after surpassing the 13,000-yard barrier early in the fourth quarter to break a 3-3 tie. Bettis also ran for a late touchdown — his career-high 12th this season — after Ben Roethlisberger's 46-yard completion to Lee Mays.

The Jets (6-9) lead the AFC wild-card race.

Chargers 31, Buccaneers 24
 SAN DIEGO — Ronnie Edwards intercepted Brian Griese's pass and returned it 30 yards for the go-ahead touchdown with

NFL Statistics — D3

409 left as the Chargers won for the seventh straight time.

San Diego (10-3) moved closer to its first playoff berth in nine seasons. The Chargers have won 11 games for the first time since their 1994 Super Bowl season.

The Buccaneers (5-8) are guaranteed their second non-winning season since winning the Super Bowl here against Oakland on Jan. 26, 2003.

Packers 16, Lions 13
 GREEN BAY, Wis. — Ryan Longwell's 23-yard field goal lifted the Packers (8-5) into first place in the NFC North over Minnesota. The Packers led for just two seconds — the time left after Longwell's kick as the Lions (5-9) blew a 13-0 halftime lead.

Longwell's third game-winning field goal in five weeks capped a 10-play, 37-yard drive after the Packers got the ball back at the Detroit 42 with 2:27 left and the wind at their backs.

Panthers 20, Rams 7
 CHARLOTTE, N.C. — Playing like it did during their trip to the Super Bowl last season, Carolina pulled into the thick of the NFC wild-card hunt.

It was the fifth consecutive win for the Panthers (6-7) and moved them into a tie for the final NFC wild-card berth — an unimagineable after they opened 1-7 and lost starter A.J. Green to season-ending injuries.

Playing behind a defense that set a franchise record with six interceptions, the Panthers got touchdowns from Muthis Muhammad and Nick Collins and two field goals from John Kasay.

Jaguars 22, Bears 3
 JACKSONVILLE, Fla. — Byron Leftwich threw two touchdown passes and the Jacksonville defense constantly harassed Chad Hutchinson and the injury-depleted Bears.

The Jaguars (7-6) ended a three-game losing streak and remained a game back in the crowded AFC wild-card race.

The Bears (5-8), which yet another poor offensive outing, were all but eliminated from the muddled NFC postseason picture.

Leftwich finished 25-of-45 for 242 yards. Jimmy Smith caught six passes for 85 yards, and Reggie Williams had his most productive game with four receptions for 62 yards.

Saints 27, Cowboys 13
 IRVING, Texas — Duane McAllister ran for two touchdowns. John Carney kicked two field goals and Joe Horn added a 31-yard touchdown catch as the Saints seriously dampened the Cowboys' wild-card chances.

Dallas (5-8) had won consecutive games, including a thrilling 33-29 victory over Seattle on Monday night, but got little offense after leading 10-0 after the first quarter.

The Saints (5-8) wound up with their first road win over the Cowboys in 10 tries.

Ravens 37, Giants 14
 BALTIMORE — Kyle Boller threw a career-high four touchdowns passes, and the Ravens forced six turnovers from the Giants and a battered Eli Manning to stay in the thick of the AFC wild-card race.

After two straight losses in which they allowed a combined 39 fourth-quarter points, the Ravens' defense held New York's offense scoreless until late in the

game, when the decision was no longer in doubt.

Baltimore (7-5) converted four of the turnovers into 20 points. Manning went 4-for-10 for 27 yards and two interceptions — a 6.0 quarterback rating — before being replaced in the fourth quarter by Kurt Warner as the Giants (5-9) lost their sixth straight.

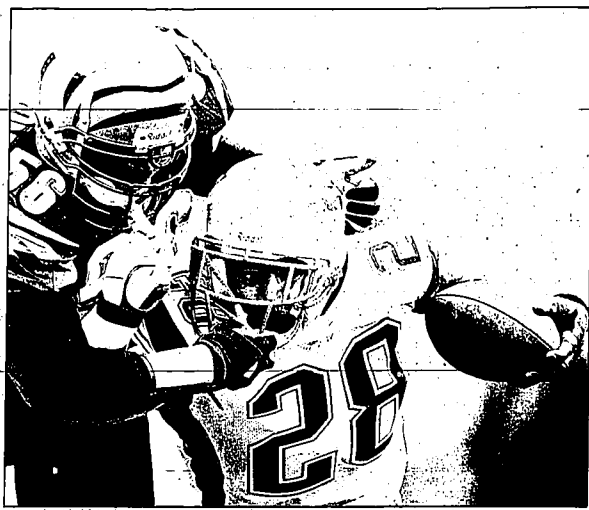
Bills 37, Browns 7
 ORCHARD PARK, N.Y. — Playing for the first time in two months, Troy Vincent had an interception, fumble recovery and sack as the Bills won their fourth straight game and six in their last seven.

Buffalo (7-6) held the blundering Browns to 17 yards on 46 plays, forcing five turnovers and adding eight sacks. Cleveland (3-10) had 2 yards with 9:34 left in the game, hitting with the NFL record of minus-7 yards, set by Seattle in 1979, but managed 15 yards on its final series.

Eagles 17, Redskins 14
 LANDOVER, Md. — The Eagles won their fifth straight and Andy Reid moved past Redskins coach Joe Gibbs into first place in winning percentage among active coaches.

A 10-point third quarter, capped by Dorsey Levens' 1-yard touchdown run, gave the Eagles (12-1) a 17-7 lead and just enough cushion to withstand a fourth-quarter, Redskins comeback.

Washington (4-9) converted an interception from Donovan McNabb into a 2-yard TD run from Clinton Portis with 12:04 remaining, and the Redskins drove to the Eagles 27 in the final two minutes. But Brian Dawkins intercepted Patrick Ramsey's pass in the back corner of the end zone with 1:46 to play.



Cincinnati Bengals linebacker Brian Simmons (56) grabs the face mask of New England Patriots running back Corey Dillon during the first quarter at Gillette Stadium in Foxboro, Mass., Sunday. The Patriots won 35-28.

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 Every Thursday in the Outdoors section, The Times-News guides Magic Valley residents to recreational opportunities.

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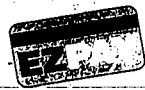
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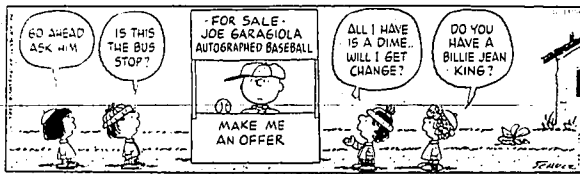
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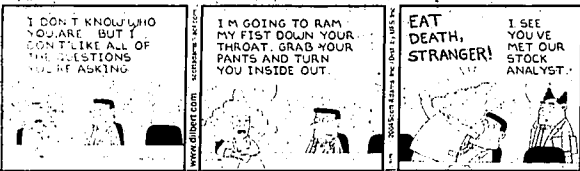
For Better or For Worse

By Lynn Johnston



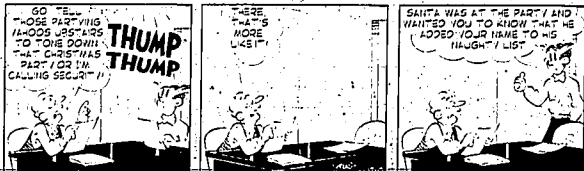
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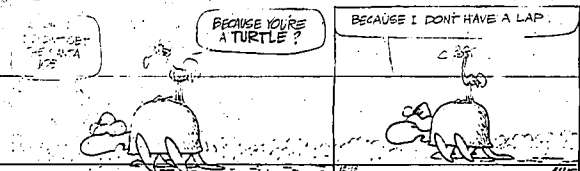
Blondie

By Dean Young & Stan Drake



B.C.

By Johnny Hart



Pickles

By Brian Crane



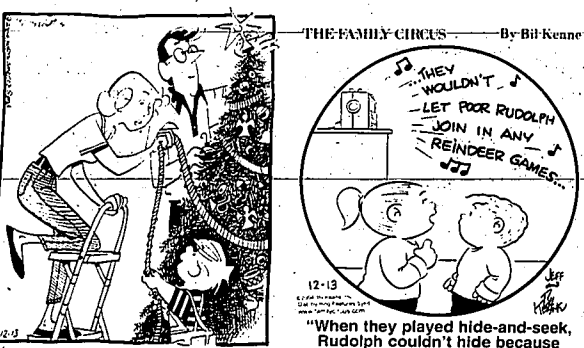
Garfield

By Jim Davis



Dennis the Menace

By Hank Ketcham



Hi and Lois

By Chance Browne



The Wizard of Id

By Brant Parker & Johnny Hart



Rose is Rose

By Pat Brady



Hagar the Horrible

By Chris Browne



Zits

By Jim Borgman & Jerry Scott



Beetle Bailey

By Mort Walker



Luann

By Greg Evans



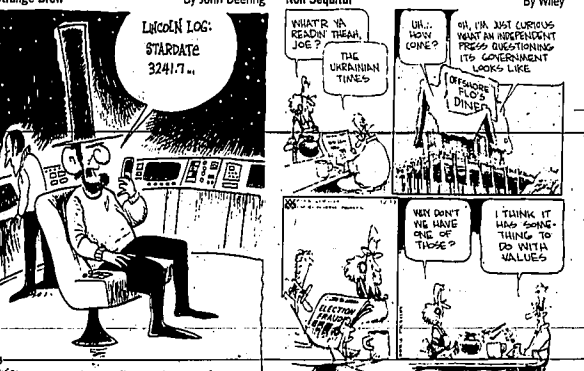
Frank and Ernest

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Strange Brew

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The Born Loser

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