

The Times-News

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Twin Falls, Idaho/99th year, No. 349

Tuesday, December 14, 2004

50 cents

GOOD MORNING

WEATHER

Today: Increasing clouds with stiff breeze developing.
High 45, low 30.
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MAGIC VALLEY

Who gets what? CSI approves copyright plan.
Page B1

MONEY

Money, faster: Twin Falls Urban Renewal Agency approves new incentive guidelines.
Page D4

COMPUTERS

Sticker shock: Sunglasses-turned-digital music player come with a high price tag.
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SPORTS



All-American boys: Leinart heads The Associated Press' All-America team.
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NATION

It's official: Electoral College gives election to Bush, but groups protest Ohio results.
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OPINION

Armored defense: Response Secretary's blunt defense to Guard questions falls reason, today's editorial says.
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COMING UP



Be a holiday hero
Everyday meals don't have to suffer just because it's the Christmas season.
Wednesday in The Times-News

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Gas ordinance gets another look

Some council members express second thoughts on pre-pay rule

By Julie Pence
Times-News writer

TWIN FALLS — City Council members began back-pedaling Monday on a pre-pay gasoline ordinance they passed last month.

Members unanimously voted to revisit the ordinance in a public hearing probably in January. They said since they unanimously approved the or-

dinance on Nov. 9, some questions have surfaced.

The ordinance requires self-service gas stations to require all customers who pay cash to pay-the-usher-before-filling up. Twin Falls is the only city in the state with such an ordinance. Enforcement would come in the form of charging fines of up to \$300 to retailers who don't obey the ordinance.

Councilman Chris Talkington apologized outright for his earlier vote.



Chris Talkington

"I made a big mistake by meddling in the affairs of private business," Talkington said, explaining he's worried the ordinance is driving customers out of town to stations without prepay policies.

He said he now believes the ordinance is superfluous.

"These merchants don't

News Tracker

- **Last we knew:** The Twin Falls City Council passed an ordinance last month requiring service stations to enforce a prepay gasoline policy for all cash-paying customers.
- **The latest:** Council members voted Monday to revisit the policy at an upcoming meeting.
- **What's next:** Retailers and members of the Twin Falls Police Department will present more information on the policy at a public hearing to most likely be held in January.

need an ordinance. They already have the ability to enforce a prepay policy themselves," Talkington said. He had initially gone along

with the proposal put forth by some local retailers and a member of the police department.

Please see GAS, Page A2

WORLD BEYOND A WINDOW



Don Williams, 85, drinks a cup of coffee at the Manhattan Cafe in Shoshone Monday. Williams says he has been visiting the cafe since the late 1930s when he moved to the area.

Cafe customers see bits of city pass by

By Virginia S. Hutchins
Times-News writer

TWIN FALLS — Glancing up from the cash register, Manhattan Cafe waitress Bev Chappell watches the black-and-white dog sniff its way along the railroad tracks.

"My dog has lost him again," Chappell remarks to a departing diner.

The dog, Bubba, ought to get off the tracks. Trains roll through Shoshone with rapid regularity. Bubba's owner, a morning-coffee customer of the Manhattan, works at Shoshone's sale yard and plays cards at the Iron Horse Saloon, across the tracks from the Manhattan. Usually, Bubba is aware of his owner's every step.

"The dog knows his routine, but sometimes the dog loses him," Chappell says.

The waitress knows Bubba's troubles. At Shoshone's landmark cafe — where some of today's regulars have been coming for 60 years or more — windows cover the front wall. They look out on the railroad tracks, the rails' rock-covered shoulders, the road flanking each side, the occasional-wandering-dog-and-other bits and pieces of small-town life.

On this Monday afternoon, precious little stars along the opposite row of bars and businesses, across the expanse of pavement, rails and rock. But don't discount the allure of the scene from the Manhattan windows. For now, only one customer, occupies a stool at the cafe-counter. Don Williams, an 85-year-old, overall-clad resident of Shoshone, leans over a coffee mug. As he does most days.

"I sit here a lot of times and look out the window. Mostly I watch the trucks and see what they're hauling," Williams says. "It's something to watch for, I guess."

Loads of farm crops are interesting enough. But what Williams is really watching for is heavy equipment. Two or three days ago he was rewarded with the sight of extraordinarily wide truck beds heading, he surmises, for Nevada mines. That equipment is strictly off-road stuff, he says.

A more common sight from the Manhattan today, however, are semi-trucks and trailers piled high with hay. Truck after hay-laden truck approaches Shoshone's central intersection from the east on U.S. Highway 93. Most turn south.

That's hay from eastern Idaho's Mud Lake area, bound

for dairies around Wendell and Jerome, explains Larry Kindall of Jerome, which lurching on Manhattan fare with buddies from Bliss and Shoshone.

Waitress Sherry Byrd is more likely to look past roads and rails to the historic Metell Hotel. "Back in its day it must have been a real beauty," Byrd says, pausing between tables and speaking quietly.

Now and then, she daydreams about old-fashioned clothing and the music that once may have wafted from the old building. She wouldn't mind swirling around in an 1800s gown at a fancy hotel.

"As long as you didn't have to wear corsets," Byrd says, a smile animating her features. "They say they were pretty painful."

But the principal points of interest, of course, are the trains.

Please see WINDOW, Page A2

Jury: Peterson deserves death

The Associated Press

REDWOOD CITY, Calif. — Repelled by Scott Peterson's seeming lack of sorrow and remorse, jurors Tuesday said they deserve the death penalty for murdering his pregnant wife, Laci, almost two years ago to the date.

A cheer went up inside the courtroom as the jury announced its decision after 11.5 hours of deliberations over three days. Inside court, Peterson reacted with the same tight-jawed look that some jurors said turned them off after seeing little emotion out of Peterson since his wife's disappearance two years ago.

"I still would have liked to see, I don't know if remorse is the right word," juror Steve Cardosi said at a news conference following the sentence. "He lost his wife and his child — it didn't seem to faze him. While that was going on ... he is remaining unaffected."

A crowd of several hundred gathered outside the courthouse for the verdict — a scene reminiscent of when about 1,000 people swarmed last month to hear the conviction. The San Francisco Examiner came out with a special edition within minutes of the sentence, with the giant headline "DEATH."

Laci Peterson's mother, Sharon, since his wife's disappearance, has been a constant presence at the verdict, defense attorney Mark Geraghty said he was "very disappointed." "Obviously, we plan on pursuing every and

Please see PETERSON, Page A2



Scott Peterson

HOLIDAY HEFT

Americans fight weight gains

The Associated Press

It's just a pound or two, right? Cut a few carbs, hit the gym and they'll be gone by February.

Keep dreaming. Though most Americans who gain weight at the holidays add little more than a pound, the only thing that's slim in the new year is the chance that the weight will ever go away.

Researchers have found that few people who gain a Christmas bulge manage to lose it in the new year. Call it the slow creep of holiday heft, and it can add up to serious weight problems over the years.

"Fifty-nine million people every year resolve to lose weight," says Amy O'Connor, deputy editor of Prevention magazine. "I don't have any statistics on how many lose weight by August. I suspect it's statistically insignificant."

Happy holidays and heavier, too

On a normal day the average American overeats by about 200 calories. During the holidays, consider the consequences before indulging in copious amounts of treats.

Seasonal weight change

July September — early March

Preholiday pounds

0.40

Holiday

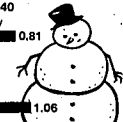
0.81

Post-holiday

-0.15

Total

1.06



SOURCE: New England Journal of Medicine

Heavy figures

Women and older adults should eat about 1,600 calories a day; children and men about 2,000

On Thanksgiving and Christmas, 25 percent more calories are consumed than usual

On the weekend, the average American eats about 300 extra calories

in the New England Journal of Medicine four years ago

Please see WEIGHT, Page A2

Vaccine supply doesn't exceed area demand

By Sandy Miller
Times-News writer

TWIN FALLS — While the Centers for Disease Control says the supply of flu vaccine now exceeds demand in some areas, the Magic Valley isn't suffering from "flu apathy" just yet.

In October, half of the nation's anticipated influenza vaccine supply was pulled from distribution due to manufacturing problems at vaccine-maker Chiron's plant in England. The CDC set new criteria limiting the available vaccine to people considered "high risk" for complications from the flu. The high-risk population includes the elderly, especially those living in nursing homes and assisted living facilities, young children and people with chronic medical conditions, such as congestive heart failure, asthma or diabetes.

People across the U.S. stood in line for hours to get the precious vaccine. But health officials in some states, including Washington, California and Colorado are seeing supply exceeding demand and are relaxing the rules to offer shots to more people, according to The Associated Press.

"In a brief news conference after the verdict, defense attorney Mark Geraghty said he was 'very disappointed.' 'Obviously, we plan on pursuing every and

When the flu vaccine shortage hit, the agency and local hospitals and health providers banded together to make sure

Please see VACCINE, Page A2

TWIN FALLS FORECAST

Today: Mild with increasing clouds and a soft breeze... Tonight: Heavy with a chance of rain and snow showers...

TWIN FALLS FIVE-DAY FORECAST

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

Yesterday's Weather

Table with 2 columns: City, High/Low. Lists temperatures for Boise, Burley, etc.

BURLEY/RUPERT FORECAST

Today: Mostly cloudy with a growing chance of snow... Tomorrow: Light showers possible, then drying and clearing.

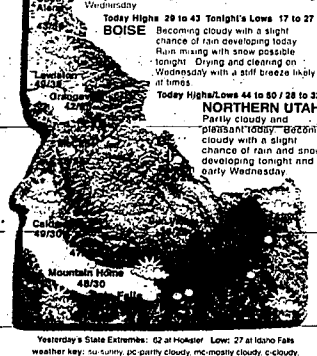
ALMANAC - TWIN FALLS

Table with 2 columns: Temperature, Precipitation, Humidity, Barometric Pressure. Includes monthly and yearly statistics.

Table with 2 columns: Sunrise and Sunset, Moonrise and Moonset. Includes times for today and the month.

IDAHO'S FORECAST

SUN VALLEY, SURROUNDING MTS. Increasingly cloudy with a growing chance of rain and snow showers...



Yesterday's State Extremes: 62 at Hooper, Low: 27 at Idaho Falls...

CREDIT EXPRESS logo and contact information.

REGIONAL FORECAST

Table with 2 columns: Today, Tomorrow. Lists forecasts for Boise, Salt Lake City, etc.

NATIONAL FORECAST

Table with 2 columns: Today, Tomorrow. Lists forecasts for various US cities.

WORLD FORECAST

Table with 2 columns: Today, Tomorrow. Lists forecasts for various world cities.

Vaccine

Continued from A1. high-risk individuals in the Magic Valley get vaccinated. 'We have given over 7,000 doses since early October.'

Avoiding catching and spreading flu

- Use proper hand washing techniques, especially before eating or after being in the public. Stay home from work or school if you are sick.

helped get the vaccine out to the people who really needed it.

'We worked together for the community's best benefit,' Health said. Magic Valley Regional also expects to receive more flu vaccine but will turn it over to South Central District Health.

Peterson

Continued from A1. all appeals, motions for a new trial and everything else,' he said. The jury had two options in deciding the 32-year-old former fertilizer salesman's fate: life in prison without parole or death by injection.

The tale of adultery and murder quickly set off a tabloid frenzy as suspicion began to swirl around Scott-Peterson...

The remains of Lael and the fetus washed ashore about four months later, just a few miles from where Peterson said he was fishing in the San Francisco Bay. The case made more People magazine covers than any murder investigation in the published history of the trial.

Gas

Continued from A1. ment because it appeared the agency workload would be reduced when police were spared the extra gas reports, Balkington said.

each year that they recouped by passing on to paying customers.

City Councilwoman Elaine Steele complained that gas station clerks and retailers are putting the blame on the council for the ordinance instead of putting it on the retailers who passed it on.

enforced the policy.

Also Monday, the council approved for a later agenda to consider a driver's education program in which drivers pulled over for citations in Twin Falls could agree to attend a four-hour class in lieu of a ticket.

Window

Continued from A1. themselves. Perhaps a dozen might fly through town during a restaurant shift, clattering and whistling.

stop with historical buildings lining its main street.

'We like these little linkings,' Lonny Berg says. 'At this time of year, cafe diners see Shoshone through the sunny stick-on Christmas artwork adorning the Manhattan windows.'

Weight

Continued from A1. cated most Americans gain slightly more than a pound over the winter holidays. Year after year, that adds up.

First, some basics. Health experts say women and older adults should eat about 1,600 calories a day.

On Thanksgiving and Christmas, the typical American eats about 25 percent more calories than on a normal day, says Harry Balzer, vice president of consumer research firm NPD Group.

you'll be giving thanks for them that day.

Now factor in that on normal days the average American already overeats by about 200 calories and a typical man could be looking at close to 3,000 calories for a holiday.

Circulation

Table with 2 columns: Name, Circulation. Lists Daniel Walock, Daniel Walock, etc.

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The Times-News NEW Information Line

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NATION

Bush nominates Leavitt to HHS

Ex-Utah governor may need to cut Medicare, Medicaid

PROFILE

Leavitt nominated for Cabinet



President Bush nominated Environmental Protection Agency chief Michael Leavitt to be secretary of Health and Human Services.

Age - 53; Feb. 11, 1951
 Education - B.A., economics and business, Southern Utah University, Cedar City.
 Experience - Administrator of the EPA, November 2003-present; Governor of Utah, 1993-2003; president and CEO of The Leavitt Group, a regional insurance firm; chairman of the Southern Utah University Board of Trustees, 1985-89.

WASHINGTON (AP) — Michael Leavitt, President Bush's choice to be secretary of Health and Human Services, may have to cut billions of dollars from the government's mammoth health programs for the elderly, poor and disabled to pare the budget deficit.

The Medicare and Medicaid programs, consuming nearly \$500 billion a year and growing quickly, could be vulnerable in the context of last year's \$413 billion budget deficit, the ongoing war in Iraq, costly domestic security commitments and administration plans to revamp Social Security without raising taxes.

Bush selected Leavitt, the Environmental Protection Agency chief, on Monday, filling one of the last two openings in his second-term Cabinet. Bush picked Leavitt as a "fine executive" and "a man of great compassion — an ideal choice to lead one of the largest departments of the United States government."

Leavitt, Utah's governor for 11 years before joining the administration in late 2003, would succeed Tommy Thompson if confirmed by the Senate.

Before becoming governor, he was chief operating officer of the Leavitt Group, a family insurance firm in which he maintains an investment worth between \$5 million and \$25 million, according to a financial disclosure report he filed in 2003.

"He himself said he should have brought it to our attention sooner," said White House spokesman Scott McClellan. "Commissioner Kerik pointed out that this was a mistake."

After failing to disclose the name problem during an initial screening, Kerik acknowledged it during a subsequent vetting phase as he filed out a clearance form, McClellan said.

"Among the names mentioned as possible candidates for the post are Asa Hutchinson, the department's undersecretary for transportation and border security; White House 'homeland' security adviser Fran Townsend; White House deputy chief of staff for operations Joseph Hagin, and Robert Butler, commissioner of U.S. Customs and Border Protection.

Potential successors to Leavitt at EPA include Idaho Gov. Dirk Kempthorne, who was a leading candidate before Leavitt's appointment.

"I have never had a discussion with him on any of those topics and I don't anticipate having one," Dune Leavitt said. "White House officials did not immediately comment on Leavitt's investments."

Meanwhile, John Walters, the national drug policy director, will stay in his post, White House officials said.

Bush still must name a new head of the Homeland Security Department to take the place of Bernard Kerik, who abruptly resigned Friday night, citing immigration problems with a family housekeeper.

Kerik may have had other problems

NEW YORK (AP) — Bernard Kerik's name problem might have proved the least of his troubles if he had pressed ahead with his bid to become homeland security secretary.

The past few days have seen news reports about a rash of possible personal and professional improprieties on the part of the former New York City police commissioner. Including big stock-option windfalls, connections with people suspected of doing business with the mob, and, on Monday, allegations he had simultaneous extramarital affairs with two women.

Going unidentified sources, the New York Daily News said Kerik had overlapping affairs with Judith Regan, the publisher of his recent memoir, and a city correction officer. He used the same New York City apartment for liaisons with the women during his 18-month tenure as head of the nation's largest police department, ending in 2001, the paper said. Kerik, 45, who married his current wife in 1998 and has two children with her, apparently grew close to Regan while writing his book, "The Lost Son," in which he described being abandoned by his prostitute mother.

The relationship first drew scrutiny in 2001 after Kerik reportedly dispatched detectives to question people the publisher had accused of stealing her cell phone. In 2002, Kerik was ordered to pay a conflict-of-interest fine for using three police officers to do research about his mother for the book.

Electors make it official

But groups protest results of Ohio vote

COLUMBUS, Ohio (AP) — The Ohio delegation to the Electoral College met for President Bush on Monday, hours after dissident groups asked the state Supreme Court to review the outcome of the state's presidential race.

As members of the Electoral College met across the nation to affirm the results of last month's election, the 20 GOP voters in Ohio voted unanimously for Bush and Vice President Dick Cheney.

"The vast majority of people understand this election is over," said Gov. Bob Taft, who was at the electors' voting session in the state Senate chamber.

The challengers who went to the Supreme Court question whether Bush won the key swing state by 118,000 votes guaranteeing his victory over Democrat John Kerry.

The court did not act on their request before the electors cast their ballots.

The Rev. Jesse Jackson and attorney Cliff Arnsbeck of the Massachusetts-based Alliance for Democracy accused President Bush's campaign of "high-tech vote stealing."

Jackson said the challengers noticed Bush generally received more votes in counties that use optical-scan voting machines and questioned whether the machines were calibrated to record votes for Bush.

The dissidents claim there were disparities in vote totals for Democrats, too few voting machines in Democrat-leaning precincts, organized campaigns directing voters to the wrong polling place and confusion over the counting of provisional ballots by voters whose names did not appear in the records at polling places.

The challengers allege unlawful ballots were added to the total and legally cast ballots were altered. Without listing specific evidence, the complaint alleges 130,656 votes for Kerry and John Edwards in 35 counties were altered and switched to count for the Bush-Cheney ticket.

The complaint also cites several reports of Election Day problems.

Murder rate drops by nearly 6 percent

WASHINGTON (AP) — Murders in the United States dropped by nearly 6 percent in 2003, the lowest rate in four straight years, the FBI reported Monday. Almost all other crimes declined, too.

Overall, violent crime was down 2 percent in the first six months of the year compared with the same period of 2003, according to preliminary figures provided to the FBI by more than 10,700 state and local police agencies. Violent crime includes murder, rape, robbery and aggravated assault.

Property crimes — burglary, larceny and motor vehicle theft — also declined about 2 percent, and arson fell by nearly 7 percent. The only crime that increased was rape, which was up 1.4 percent nationwide and 6.5 percent in cities with populations of 1 million or more.

Experts aren't sure why crime is falling. James Lynch, professor at American University's Department of Justice, Law and Society, said it could be because of increased focus on homeland security.

"You're after terrorists, but you're picking up other things," Lynch said. "That's the only thing I can think of because the economy certainly isn't robust." James Alan Fox, a criminal justice professor at Northeastern University, said while the news overall is good, it's too early to know if the recent trend for murders has been reversed since the latest report only covers the first six months of 2004. He said killings tend to spike during the months when young people are out of school, so they could be higher in the second half of the year.

Man convicted of killing banker

RIVERHEAD, N.Y. (AP) — A Long Island electrician was convicted Monday of bludgeoning to death his girlfriend's estranged millionaire husband while he slept in his \$10 million mansion.

Capping an eight-week trial filled with tales of adultery and family betrayal, a jury found 41-year-old Daniel Pelosi guilty of murdering investment banker Theodore Ammon in East Hampton in 2001. Ammon was beaten more than 30 times in the head.

Pelosi married Ammon's widow, Generosa, three months after the slaying, although they later split. He received \$2 million in a postjudgment agreement but spent every penny on his defense. Generosa Ammon died of cancer last year.

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McCain on Rumsfeld: 'No confidence'

PHOENIX (AP) — U.S. Sen. John McCain said Monday that he has "no confidence" in Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld, citing Rumsfeld's handling of the war in Iraq and the failure to send more troops.

President Bush "can have the team that he wants around him." "I have strenuously argued for larger troop numbers in Iraq, including the right kind of troops — linguists, special forces, civil affairs, etc.," said McCain. In Arizona, there are very strong differences of opinion between myself and Secretary Rumsfeld on that issue."

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NATION/WORLD

Suicide bomber claims 13 in Baghdad

BAGHDAD, Iraq (AP) — An al-Qaida-linked suicide bomber blew up his vehicle Monday near cars waiting to enter the Green Zone, home to the U.S. Embassy and Iraq's interim government, killing 13 Iraqis on the anniversary of Saddam Hussein's capture.

As insurgents continued to step up attacks against U.S. and Iraqi forces ahead of next month's elections, the country's interim president said

Washington was wrong for dismantling Iraq's security forces, including its 350,000-strong army, after last year's invasion.

"Definitely dissolving the Ministry of Defense and the Ministry of Interior was a big mistake," Ghazi al-Yaneri told British Broadcasting Corp. radio, saying it would have been more effective to screen out former regime loyalists than to rebuild from scratch.

He added: "As soon as we have efficient security forces that we can depend on we can see the beginning of the withdrawal of forces from our friends and partners and I think it doesn't take years, it will take months."

U.S. military commanders, however, say American forces will be in Iraq for several years and that troop numbers will rise from 138,000 to 150,000 before the Jan. 30 national elec-

tions, which many Iraqis fear could be targeted by militants opposed to the occupation and bent on derailing the political process.

American and Iraqi leaders had hoped the ouster of Saddam — who was captured one year ago Monday off a farm near his hometown of Tikrit — and the detention or death of most of his top aides would deal the insurgency a knockout blow.

Military says eight prisoners have died in U.S. custody

WASHINGTON (AP) — Military officials said Monday that eight prisoner deaths in Afghanistan have been investigated since mid-2002, a higher number than previously reported. Human Rights Watch said slow-paced investigations had "spawned a culture of impunity" that may have fueled prisoner abuse in Iraq.

"It's time for the United States to come clean about crimes committed by U.S. forces in Afghanistan," said Brad Adams, the group's Asia division director.

Failure to prosecute incidents in Afghanistan has allowed abusive interrogation techniques to spread to Iraq, Adams said. "The U.S. government is dragging its feet on these investigations," he said.

A Pentagon spokesman, Lt. Col. John Skinner, said commanders go to "enormous lengths to investigate any credible allegations of detainee abuse." Many death investigations have determined that detainees died due to natural causes or because of injuries suffered before their capture, he said.

He added that the military has examined its entire system of keeping enemy prisoners. "We've looked at detention operations from A to Z," he said.

New York-based Human Rights Watch, in an open letter to Secretary of Defense Donald H. Rumsfeld, reported two cases of detainee deaths it said were previously unacknowledged, one of which it said was investigated as a murder.

The U.S. Army's Criminal Investigation Command, later Monday, released a list of eight deaths that had been investigated.

Of those, five were previously acknowledged by military officials to The Associated Press. The circumstances of two more seemed to match the descriptions by Human Rights Watch as new. It was unclear whether the eighth has been reported previously.

Ex-dictator faces human rights charges

SANTIAGO, Chile (AP) — Former dictator Gen. Augusto Pinochet was indicted and placed under house arrest Monday for the kidnapping of nine dissidents and the killing of one of them during his 1973-90 military regime.

The indictment marked the third attempt to try Pinochet in Chile for abuses from his 17-year dictatorship, none so far successful.

Judge Iuan Guzman said he decided to try the 89-year-old retired general — reversing a previous court decision to exempt Pinochet from trial on health grounds — after questioning him and examining reports from court-appointed doctors.

"Gen. Pinochet has been declared mentally competent to face a criminal trial in Chile," Guzman ruled.

The defense team immediately announced an appeal, saying Pinochet suffers from worsening dementia, and legal proceedings could take months.



Augusto Pinochet

for abuses from his 17-year dictatorship, none so far successful.

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"Gen. Pinochet has been declared mentally competent to face a criminal trial in Chile," Guzman ruled.

The defense team immediately announced an appeal, saying Pinochet suffers from worsening dementia, and legal proceedings could take months.

Southern exposure
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Wednesday in Food & Home

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COMPUTERS AND TECHNOLOGY

STICKER SHOCK

Sunglasses-turned-digital music player come with a high price tag

The Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — It seems like a cool idea — sunglasses with a built-in digital music player and speakers.

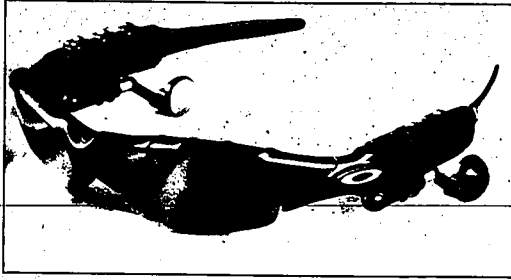
No headphone cables to untangle as with most portable players. Music actually riding on your ears. Zero retinal damage from ultraviolet radiation.

And if Oakley's new breed of eyewear, dubbed Thump, retails for about \$100, it might be a tempting alternative to some of the rudimentary flash memory card music players on the market.

But these superhits cost \$395 for a pair with 128 megabytes of memory and \$495 for the 256-megabyte version, which sports polarized lenses. With typical audio compression rates, that means the larger version holds roughly 64 four-minute songs.

By comparison, the smallest of Apple Computer Inc.'s stylish iPod music players has 4 megabytes of memory and retails for about \$249. And flash-memory players of comparable memory size, such as the Creative Nomad or the Rio Call, come with loads of features to arrange playlists and tweak sound settings, and typically go for less than \$130.

Still, for music fans looking to rid of tangled earphone cables and arm or waist-riding players, Thump at least deliv-



Oakley sunglasses with integrated headphones and music player. The suggested retail price for the new brand of eyewear is between \$395 — for a pair with 128 megabytes of memory — and \$495, for the 256 megabyte version that also has polarized lenses.

ers a solid playback — as long as you can keep the earbuds in place.

Oakley mounted the digital player's hardware on the frames — temples, including a sliding and pivoting feature to help adjust the speakers to the wearer's ears.

But slight head or neck movements often result in the speaker buds separating from the ear, diminishing the sound quality. Jogging or exercising only makes this worse. And if you can't drown out the unwanted music blaring from the gym speakers or the sound of traffic when working out outdoors, what's the point?

The contoured frames with dark flip-up lenses, which come in colors including "Red Camo" (that's camouflage if you're unhip)

and Tortoise, are stylized in true Oakley fashion, with design touches meant to appeal to the extreme sports set.

The frames feel no different from other sports sunglasses, even with the five tiny rubber buttons to set volume, turn the device on or off, play and cycle through the tracks. Thump weighs less than 1.8 ounces.

Loading the eyeglasses with music is pretty simple.

Target customers for the Thump are active, athletic people who make at least \$60,000 a year, says Oakley. Sounds similar to the iPod target market.

But I also have to wonder about practicality here: When was the last time you wore sunglasses to the gym?

Amazon launches DVD rentals in U.K.

CBS MarketWatch

It's been widely speculated that e-tail giant Amazon would one day set its sights on Netflix's business, and on Thursday it confirmed that prediction, launching a DVD rental service in the United Kingdom.

The Amazon.co.uk movie rental subscription service costs 9.99 about \$19.40 per month for three DVDs at one time.

Amazon's monthly price is higher than Netflix's \$7.99 subscription, noted Daniel Ernst of independent research firm Hudson Square Research.

Even adjusting for postal rates, the Netflix deal is "still less expensive," wrote Ernst, whose research is distributed by Soletel in U.S. dollars, he said. First-class mail in the U.K. is 54 cents, compared with 37

Computers in brief

cents in the United States. Assuming six DVDs shipped per month, the maximum allowed by the Amazon U.K. service — Netflix has no limit — not revenue to Amazon would be \$16 per month vs. \$15.27 for Netflix, Ernst calculated.

What that means, according to Ernst's analysis, is that Amazon is "not likely to enter the U.S. market with a price war in mind — a significant risk posed by the market for Netflix."

To this end, Ernst believes Netflix is a "buy." He said, Shares of Netflix were up nearly 3 percent to \$11.73 in Thursday afternoon trades. Amazon.com had gained nearly 2 percent.

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Here are gift ideas for the gadget addict on your list

Knight Ridder News Service

Consider yourself lucky if there are gadget-addicted people on your list. There are lots of gift possibilities.

The Laptop Desk
Lapworks, \$19.95 to \$49.95.
Anyone who travels with a laptop knows the discomfort of having the PC heat up his thighs while working where there is no table or desk available.

Positioned between the computer and the legs, the Laptop Desk makes the heat go away. www.laptopdesk.net

The Complete Home Journal
Innovative Software.
Windows, \$39.95.

People who have been at the receiving end of the holiday gift madness — and — have — been —

through a lot of personal holidays probably need help keeping track of their possessions.

The Complete Home Journal program gives them an easy way to do that. They can also use it to inventory everything else in the house and augment it with photographs, notes and warranty information. www.thehomejournal.com

KidzMouse Keys
KidzMouse, Windows 98SE and higher, Mac OS 9.1 and OS X, \$29.95.

The standard computer keyboard is too wide, too deep and too dull for children. KidzMouse has fewer keys, a more-streamlined form perfect for little fingers, and has bright colors and cute illustrations to boot.

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\$8.95 TO \$9.94	\$5.87	\$5.37	\$4.87	\$4.37
\$13.95 TO \$14.94	\$8.87	\$8.57	\$8.27	\$7.87
\$25.95 TO \$27.94	\$17.87	\$16.87	\$14.87	\$12.87
\$36.95 TO \$44.94	\$28.87	\$26.87	\$24.87	\$22.87
\$54.95 TO \$64.94	\$37.87	\$34.87	\$31.87	\$28.87
\$84.95 TO \$89.94	\$63.87	\$58.87	\$53.87	\$48.87
\$110.95 TO \$118.94	\$78.87	\$73.87	\$63.87	\$53.87
\$149.95 TO \$168.94	\$108.87	\$103.87	\$98.87	\$88.87
\$189.95 TO \$208.94	\$148.87	\$138.87	\$128.87	\$118.87
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EDITORIAL

Rumsfeld's answers not exactly ironclad support

Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld may need to hone up on his public relations before starting a second term in the Bush administration.

If he can't speak honestly and tactfully with fighting soldiers in the field, he's definitely in for a long, hard slog of this with the American public.

Meeting last Wednesday with 2,300 National Guardsmen in Kuwait - including members of the Idaho National Guard's 16th Armored Cavalry Brigade - Rumsfeld expected a pep rally but wandered into a flurry of soldier questions about equipment shortages.

When a Tennessee National Guard scout asked why soldiers must dig through local landfills for scrap metal to reinforce armored vehicles, many soldiers erupted in cheers. Rumsfeld's reply was the shortage "isn't a matter of money, it isn't a matter of the part of the Army of desire. It's a matter of production and capability of doing it."

"As you know, you go to war with the Army you have, not the Army you might want or wish to have at a later time."

Later, when a member of the Idaho National Guard asked what the Army was doing "to address shortages and antiquated equipment" used by soldiers going into Iraq, Rumsfeld hesitated. After soldiers began murmuring, Rumsfeld reacted. "Now, settle down, settle down. Hell, I'm an old man. It's early in the morning and I'm gathering my thoughts here."

Maybe Rumsfeld needs an extra cup of fress ball coffee, and a wake-up call to the concerns of many Guard members, who apparently

think they are getting older, less-efficient equipment than active-duty troops.

As for the need of more armored vehicles, military spokesman said the Pentagon was brokering armored Humvee production to 450 a month, compared to just 15 a month in the fall of 2003. This obviously shows the administration didn't sufficiently

prepare for insurgencies once Iraq would be occupied. The ramp-up of a more diverse production is good news for U.S. troops, but the Army still must outfit more armor on heavy fuel trucks and equipment transporters that send supplies to the front.

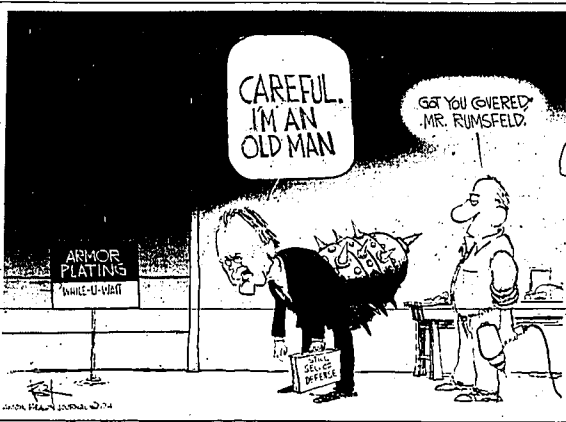
If Rumsfeld wants to boost morale, he should take note of their concerns and tell soldiers more equipment is on the way, while praising their ingenuity to make do with what they have. He should use that blunt "Humvee" charm to honestly say the mission was miscalculated and that the Pentagon will stop at nothing to meet their current needs.

Instead, he offered this limp reassurance. "You can have all the armor in the world on a tank and it can be blown up. And you can have an up-armed Humvee and it can be blown up." Hardly news to any fighting soldier in Iraq.

This administration was re-elected due in large part to strong support from the military. Based on the questions, more should be done to pay them back. Rumsfeld sure has, a peculiar way of showing it.

Correction

Saturday's Cheers and Jeers column misstated the name of Dawn Rowe, wife of fallen U.S. Marine Capt. Alan Rowe. The Times-News regrets the error.



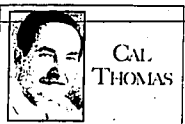
Taking back Christmas cheer

In Charles Dickens' "A Christmas Carol," Ebenezer Scrooge is surrounded by merriment and acts of charity. None of it, not even the long-suffering kindness of his nephews, has the slightest influence on his hard heart. It is only when the angel prototypes - the "ghosts" of Christmas Past, Present and Future - confront him with what might be called his "sin" that Scrooge comes to his senses, repents and is "converted."

That message of conversion - indeed the "original intent" of the Christmas message - is obscured not only in the boisterous celebration of something that has nothing to do with the "reason for the season," but now also involves lawyers and complaining liberals and conservative activists who either demand that people not celebrate Christmas or want everyone to celebrate it as they do.

The battles of Christmas 2004 include protesters in Denver who marched and sang carols along an official parade route because they had been denied entry by "Parade of Lights" sponsors. Buses written by event sponsors prohibit floats and other expressions with a Christmas or religious theme. Officials did allow the "Two Spirits" Indian group to participate. The group considers homosexuality to be "holy."

In New Jersey, the school district of South Orange and Maplewood has decreed that school bands will be limited to secular songs, such as "Frosty the Snowman" and "Winter Wonderland." The school district policy also bans instrumental "religious" songs, perhaps because some non-Christian might be reminded of Jesus, get offended and file a lawsuit.



Cal Thomas

In malls everywhere, store clerks are instructed to say "Happy Holidays" to customers. You never know when a Kwanzaa shopper, a Hanukkah observer or an atheist might hear a greeting that does not reflect the sentiments of their "holiday."

Among the problems of trying to have it both ways - Christmas and "holidays" - is having it neither way. The message of "O Holy Night" cannot co-exist with "Sleigh Ride" and "Chestnuts Roasting on an Open Fire." Equating or synthesizing the two has diminished the One who defines Christmas.

The culture has shoplifted a most glorious event - God becoming Man - and appropriated it for the sole purpose of providing people to buy stuff they can't afford for people who don't need it. Culture increasingly prohibits any discussion or expression in public places of the meaning of Christmas, lest that message inhibit the promotion of commerce.

Even Thanksgiving is being transformed from an event in which pilgrims thanked God for His blessing into a meal of Super Bowl proportions and football. Children's textbooks teach the fiction that the Pilgrims thanked the Indians, not God, for their bounty.

Easter long ago ceased being about resurrection, but bunnies, eggs and chocolate. Santa has become a God-substitute,

who gives but requires nothing more than a child's "nice" and even that is negotiable.

Christmas observers should end this charade. People who take the central meaning of Christmas seriously should not lend their credibility to those who obscure and subordinate that meaning to drunken office parties and shopping mall visits where they buy gifts for everyone except the One whose birthday is supposedly being observed.

The Christmas celebrant has become too fixated on the secular culture and desires to go along in order to get along. What would happen if increasing numbers of Christmas believers declined to participate in the orgy of consumption and instead asked the baby who became a man - and much more - what He would like for His birthday?

He gave us plenty of instructions, beginning with "feed the hungry, clothe the naked, visit those in prison" and "care for widows and orphans," not to mention "love your enemies" and "pray for those who persecute you." That last one is especially tough, so we file lawsuits and complain that we get no respect.

The secularists can still have their days off and they can protest those days, including Dec. 25, as they wish. Let them display on public or private property whatever they like, or nothing.

Let those of us for whom Christmas has a historic and cultural meaning celebrate in our hearts, our lives and our relationships as never before. You never know when an Ebenezer Scrooge might take notice and be converted.

Cal Thomas is a nationally syndicated columnist.

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E-mail messages can be sent via Sen. Crapo's home page at www.senate.gov/~crapo

Rep. Mike Simpson
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In Washington:
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Phone: (202) 225-5531
Fax: (202) 225-8216
Access Simpson's e-mail through his website: http://www.house.gov/simpson

Sen. Larry Craig
In Twin Falls, call or write: Mike Mathers, regional director
560 Filer Ave., Suite A

Legislators ignore the pleas of dairy neighbors

"Tears fill my eyes every time I see the 'Support Our Troops' stickers. I am so grateful that there are people who do care about our young men and women who put their lives on the line to defend what this country stands for: freedom, democracy and citizens' rights. Most of our young people choose to serve in the armed forces because they believe in noble causes and are willing to sacrifice their lives for their country. I wonder how many of our powerful politicians and government officials' children or grandchildren are putting their lives on the line right now in Iraq or have been killed or wounded in this war?"

I here in Twin Falls County. Filer citizens are still suffering from the dairy odors south of Filer. How many phone calls, letters and e-mails to our legislators and government officials asking for help have been

made? Yet, as of today (Dec. 8), and this is winter, the odor is as strong as ever - not one bit of the time. It isn't as bad as previous years, but it is not pleasant to be outside when one has to walk the dog. We haven't gotten our lives back yet, and it seems like the noble politicians and citizens' rights declared in our Constitution is used by politicians only for political campaigns to appeal to the ears of citizens but have no substance in their actions.

Many people in the Magic Valley have lost their right to live and enjoy their homes, the freedom to open windows for fresh air has been taken away, and their most basic human right to breathe God's given clean air has been violated. Yet, for the past five years, Sen. Larry Craig has ignored the issue despite citizens' letters and phone calls. However, when the confined animal feeding operation dairy industry doesn't like the law that is supposed to regulate pollutants in the air, the industry contacted the

senator and he dutifully tried to change the long-existing law to exempt them - not one but twice within days.

The moral is this: Suffering ordinary citizens (who probably cannot afford financial contributions to the senator) receive no concern from him, however, when the big money dairy industry told the senator to jump, he asked, how high? As long as Sen. Craig is our legislator, pray that God, who sees and knows all things, has mercy on us, the ordinary citizens.

PHUONG SMITH
Filer

Write to us

The Times-News welcomes letters from readers on subjects of public interest. Letters may be brought to our Twin Falls or Boise offices; mailed to P.O. Box 548; Twin Falls, ID 83303; faxed to (208) 734-5538; or e-mailed to letters@magvalley.com.

Try, try again for line-item veto

As the curtain rises on his second term, President Bush doesn't lack for opportunities to secure an enduring legacy. In addition to prosecuting the war on terrorism, the president has indicated that he wants to reform Social Security, simplify the nation's tax code, and institute health savings accounts—all noble yet formidable challenges.

For one additional item for that legacy portfolio: a bow to fiscal conservatism by restoring presidential line-item veto authority. In June 1998, only two years after Republican Congress and a Democratic president agreed that line-item vetoing was a necessary means to curb Washington's spending appetite, the Supreme Court struck down the president's ability to remove individual projects from congressionally approved legislation. Instead, the president can sign or veto spending and tax bills only in their entirety.

BILL WHALEN

Not surprisingly, Congress has taken full advantage of the situation. Congress and the budget watchdog Citizens Against Government Waste, Congress this past year approved more than 10,600 "pork" items totaling nearly \$25 billion—a 13 percent increase over the previous year at a time when the federal deficit surpassed \$422 billion and the national debt topped \$7.5 trillion.

With Washington drowning in a sea of red ink, the timing is right to restore line-item authority. The only question is how to proceed.

Here are three options:
1. Constitutional Amendment. Separate bills currently before the House and Senate would restore line-item authority by amending the Constitution. Although the proposal is steeper (a two-thirds vote in both chambers of Congress, plus 38 states' approval), it improves the chances of new law surviving an all-but-certain veto challenge by line-item opponents.

2. Impoundment. Up to 1974, presidents enjoyed a power known as impoundment: If a president decides that an appropriation was appropriate, he didn't spend the earmarked money. But amid Watergate and his various intragovernmental power struggles, Congress restricted impoundment. Three decades later, Congress should right that wrong and give the president the ability not to spend money allocated by Congress if that spending is deemed unnecessary.

3. Enhanced Rescission. The president does have one option: he can rescind "pork" items and send an extra spending bill back to Congress for reconsideration. However, Congress holds the trump card: If it doesn't act, the president's rescission is automatically rejected. A simple rescission for this would be "on-the-books" authority whereby Congress would be forced to vote on the president's rescission within forty-five to sixty days, thus forcing members to go on the record as for or against fiscal conservatism.

Will these reforms dramatically reverse the rising deficit tide? Probably not. In the 18 months that he enjoyed line-item veto authority, President Clinton targeted only 82 programs, 38 of which were restored by Congress for an overall savings of a mere \$2 billion—a drop in the federal bucket.

Nevertheless, it would send a positive message to a cynical public: if Washington can't halt runaway spending, at least it is willing to hand over the reins to the president and let him try to slow down the horses.

Bill Whalen is a research fellow at the Hoover Institution and serves as a media consultant for California political hopefuls and aspiring policy leaders.

Doonesbury



By Garry Trudeau



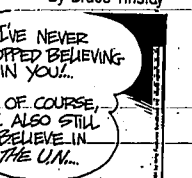
Mallard Fillmore



By Bruce Tinsley



By Bruce Tinsley

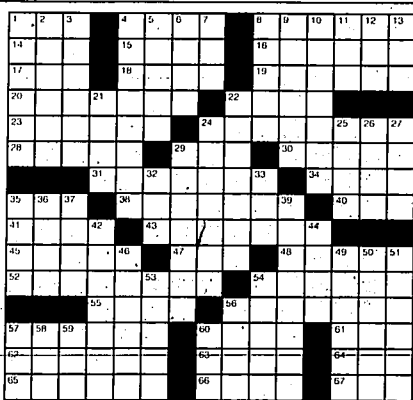


MORNING BREAK

You'll find Dear Abby on Page C-2

ACROSS

- 1 Affectedly shy
- 4 Ebb or neap
- 8 Prayer book
- 14 Historical period
- 15 Burden
- 16 Breathe in
- 17 Butt
- 18 Automobile pioneer
- 19 Created a genetic duplicate
- 20 Makes possible
- 22 Ill-mannered child
- 23 Appalled
- 24 Laggard
- 28 Dog's lead
- 29 Audit pro
- 30 More certain
- 31 Earshot
- 34 Swarm
- 35 Silent
- 38 Frequently intoxicated
- 40 Mineral spring
- 41 God of love
- 43 Type of energy
- 45 Leers at
- 47 Tennis match unit
- 48 Judge's aide
- 52 Restaurant host
- 54 Without animation
- 55 Wide-mouthed pitcher
- 56 Open framework
- 57 Black suit
- 60 Sound system
- 61 Feathery scarf
- 62 Spuds
- 63 Prophetic sign
- 64 Cover
- 65 Stylishly elegant
- 66 Existed
- 67 Golder Ernie



12/14/04

Monday's Puzzle Solved

SPARE FIRE SLANG
LIVES NOT RARE
YEAST CONSORTIA
PALATAL GIGGS
SPRITES EPOCHS
ORATED CLUE LEE
BONE SOOTS EDS
SETUPSHOP
CPO LANES ALMA
ARC BUGS AGREED
TEETER STRAITS
SCAR UMPTEEN
PENINSULA TORAH
ADIEU LEG EIEIO
WEARS LAS LADLE

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- 4 Equipment building
- 5 Narrow coastal opening
- 6 Lead balloons
- 7 Double curve
- 8 Small-scale
- 9 Relatives by marriage
- 10 Track and field event
- 11 Antonio
- 12 Pub quaff
- 13 Guided
- 21 Criticize harshly
- 22 Cover with a thick-layer
- 24 Rotator
- 25 Bauxite and galeana
- 26 Retain
- 27 Columnist
- 28 Bombeck
- 29 Police car
- 32 Noah's craft
- 33 Obtain
- 35 Kitty's comment
- 36 Compulsion

- 37 Gangster's gal
- 39 Addictive substance
- 42 Withdraws formally
- 44 Clump together
- 46 Seed scatterers
- 49 Fit to eat
- 50 Shrink back
- 51 Works dough
- 53 Unfloy
- 54 Thin, crisp cake
- 56 Margatta garnish
- 57 Part of CST
- 58 Golf score
- 59 Had a meal
- 60 In what manner

DOWN

- 1 Breakfast food
- 2 South African river
- 3 Piano maker

Superman caused teens agony

Superman was created by a couple of teenage nerds, Jerry Siegel and Joe Schuster, as a sort of fantasy wish fulfillment. They sold the rights to DC Comics for a pittance, and then spent the next 40 years trying to win them back in court.

This day in history: All day Dec. 14, 1799, doctors repeatedly drained blood from George Washington hoping it would help relieve his symptoms of strep throat. For some reason, the former president got progressively weaker instead. At about 10 p.m., Washington whispered some last instructions to his secretary, fell for his own pulse and died.

How many pyramids are there in Egypt? There are at least 70 still standing and another 88 that archaeologists know about but that no longer exist. Not a hard record, considering they were built between 2700 and 1000 B.C.

Boiling water won't kill everything. There are organisms that live in volcanic vents and hot springs that consider boiling to be just the right temperature.

In "diner-speak," "axle grease" is butter.

Worldwide, 264 cans of Spam are eaten every minute of every day.

The pyramids of Egypt were designed to last forever, and many have. Unfortunately, the



RANDOM KINDNESS FACINESS
Jack Mingo
Erin Barrett

3,000 years ago. The most complete, least pillared pyramid stands at Saqqara, near Cairo. Make your reservations now before it starts disappearing piece by piece.

Early Portuguese settlers in Africa, like all good Catholics of the time, were allowed to eat fish during Lent but were not allowed to eat meat. So it's strange that they were allowed to eat hippes. The reasoning was simple: Since the mammoth animal spends so much in the water, it could be technically classified as a fish.

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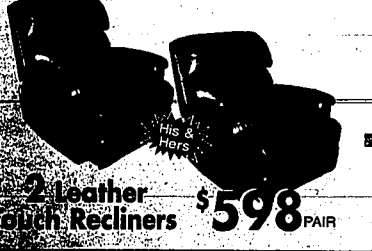
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NATION

Europeans cool toward Americans, says poll

WASHINGTON (AP) — International resentment of the United States has spread to include bad feelings for the American people, too — at least in three European countries that opposed U.S. policies in Iraq.

People in France, Germany and Spain are more likely to have an unfavorable than favorable view of Americans, Associated Press polling found. Last year, half in France and Germany said they viewed Americans unfavorably. Almost half in Spain felt that way, while a third of Spaniards viewed Americans favorably.

The U.S. rift with longtime allies France and Germany is the most serious in polls, and relations with Spain have been particularly frosty since Prime Minister Jose Luis Rodriguez Zapatero withdrew Spanish troops from Iraq last April.

President Bush pledged soon after his reelection victory on Nov. 2 that he would work to "deepen our trans-Atlantic ties with the nations of Europe." He plans a trip to Europe in February.

But the president, and Americans generally, have plenty of work to do to win over Europeans, according to international AP-Ipsos polls.

The polling suggests an increasing lack of European understanding of Americans rather than a surge of anti-Americanism, said Gilles Cormier, the director of public affairs for Ipsos-Ipsos of Belgium.

Polling in the United States as well as Australia, Britain, Canada, France, Germany, Italy and Spain was done for the AP by Ipsos, an international polling company.

A majority in each of the four European countries polled, including close U.S. ally Britain, said they were disappointed in the Bush re-election.

Laptop-use may affect male fertility

The Washington Post

Laptop computers may cause young men to lose some ability to produce sperm when the machines are placed for long periods on their laps. The potential loss of fertility comes from an increase in the temperature of the scrotum, which has been associated with decreased ability to produce sperm.

In a study of 29 healthy men ages 21 to 35, researchers at the State University of New York at Stony Brook found that one hour of laptop use on the lap caused an increase of 1.4 to 5 degrees in scrotal temperature. Lead researcher Yehim Sheynkin said that previous studies found that an increase in temperature of that magnitude can lead to significant reductions in sperm production.

Sheynkin said researchers do not know how often and for how long a man has to use his laptop to produce significant effects. But he said that long-term lap use of portable computers "may cause irreversible or partially reversible changes in male reproductive function."

The study, published in the journal Human Reproduction, said laptops can reach internal operating temperatures of more than 150 degrees. When men use the machines on their laps, they generally press their thighs together, which also increases the temperature inside the scrotum.

Sheynkin said his group was not yet determined what period of time constituted safe use.

Pet of the Week



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AROUND
THE VALLEY

Still no decision in Santistevan trial

HALLBY - After a day-and-a-half of discussion, a 12-member jury has yet to reach a decision on the fate of a Bellevue man accused of attempted murder.

The trial for David Leroy Santistevan, 37, came to a close Friday at midday, and the jury began deliberations that afternoon.

At 5 p.m. Monday, jurors told 5th District Judge Robert Elger they needed more time. They will reconvene today at 9 a.m.

Santistevan is charged with two counts of attempted second-degree murder in connection with the shooting of Bellevue teens Fyrel Peak and John Marshall Itonen in March.

Hospital Board

OKs appointments

TWIN FALLS - Lisa Donnelly, an accountant and partner with the local firm of Lofgren, Braga and Donnelly, could become the newest member of Magic Valley Regional Medical Center's Hospital Board.

The board Monday voted to recommend her to Twin Falls County commissioners, who must give their nod of approval to all potential members.

Also Monday, the board voted to keep Dr. Bob Lohb as board chairman for the upcoming year. Jeff Harris will be the vice-chairman and Cindy Collins will be the board secretary.

In other action Monday, the board presented a plaque to board member Carl Snow for his service on the board from 1999 to 2002.

"You did a great job," Lohb said.

The board also presented a plaque to outgoing Chief of Staff Dr. James Retmier.

"I appreciate having been able to serve," Retmier said.

Dr. John Gray, a local pathologist, will become the hospital's new chief of staff.

Dollar Mountain Lodge hosts open-house

SUN VALLEY - An open house gala for the new Carol's Dollar Mountain Lodge will be held from 6 to 8 p.m. Monday, Dec. 20.

The 26,000-square-foot, two-story lodge incorporates a state-of-the-art children's ski and snowboard center on the main level with direct and separate access to the Dollar Mountain-teaching areas according to a news release.

The Ski School Center will be equipped with all the amenities including child-sized ski boots, dryers, a kitchenette, television and game area.

A new ski and snowboard center upstairs will provide rental, repair, storage and retail. A lounge will be an new restaurant where guests may dine, taking in expansive views of Dollar and Baldy mountains.

The interior decor will be carefully detailed with children in mind in an Austrian mountain motif, incorporating fine woodwork, stone and selected metal finishes. Food, refreshments and live champagne will be served.

M.C. Democrats will meet Wednesday

ALBION - The Mini-Cassia District Democrats meeting will be a no-host dinner at 6 p.m. Wednesday at the Albion Cafe.

Those planning to attend are asked to RSVP to Teresa Mayes at 678-2124.

For more information about car pooling, call Don Allen at 678-1281.

Snowpack levels

Watershed	% of Avg*	% of Season**
Selmon	91%	26%
Big Wood	101%	28%
Little Wood	97%	27%
Big Lost	100%	27%
Little Lost	92%	26%
Honey Fork/Teton	87%	25%
Upper Snake Basin	87%	25%
Oakley	131%	33%
Selmon Falls	117%	31%

*A comparison of 30-year average on this day, with a 30-year average.
**An indicator of being snowpack for the entire season based on past years.

T.F. County unveils new fees

Commissioners: Proposals will help cover costs

By Sandy Miller Times-News writer

TWIN FALLS - People are just dying to see him.

Business is booming for Twin Falls County Coroner Dennis Chambers, so much so he has three on-call people to help handle the load.

Chambers said his office has seen an increase of 20 to 25 cases a year. Chambers wanted to make sure the people helping him were well-trained.

"They have to understand what's going on in law enforcement," Chambers said.

They also have to know how to deal with hazardous biological material when handling people who've died from communicable diseases.

All of that costs money, and it's more than the coroner's \$87,000 annual budget can handle. So Twin Falls County would like to charge a new \$40 fee per call for coroner's services to cover the

costs of responding to a scene, the signing of a death or a body examination before cremation.

The county also wants to charge mortuaries \$100 when they can't pick up a body and the coroner has to go instead.

The two new fees will help supplement the coroner's budget, which is stretched pretty thin. That \$87,000 a year already has to cover the part-time coroner's salary, a secretary's salary, money paid to on-call people for their services, training, safety equipment such as shoe protection and respirators, office equipment, travel expenses and autopsies.

And autopsies, which are performed by a forensic pathologist in Boise, aren't cheap. An average autopsy costs \$800 plus another \$110 for morgue fees and another \$100 for toxicology testing.

Chambers said an autopsy can cost anywhere from \$1,200 to more than \$2,000 depending on what is done.

By law, the coroner must respond to

Please see FEES, Page B3

Public hearing on proposed county fees

Twin Falls County commissioners will hold a public hearing on proposed new fees and fee increases at 10 a.m. Wednesday at the county courthouse at 425 Shoshone St. N.

Service	Current fee	Proposed fee or increase	Total new fee
Coroner service	\$40	\$40	\$40
Decedent removal fee	\$100	\$100	\$100
Anger management classes	\$15 per class	\$15 per class	\$15 per class
Moral/recreation therapy	\$27 per class	\$27 per class	\$27 per class
Cognitive skill change	\$15 per class	\$15 per class	\$15 per class
Plant locations	\$75 plus mailing costs	\$75 plus mailing costs	\$75 plus mailing costs
Buhl transaction fee	\$10	\$10	\$10
Electronic monitoring	\$35 hook-up fee plus \$10 per day	\$35 hook-up fee plus \$10 per day	\$35 hook-up fee plus \$10 per day
Modified house arrest	\$5 per day	\$5 per day	\$5 per day
Drug testing	Lab test-\$15 Field test-\$7 Breathalyzer-\$3	Lab test-\$15 Field test-\$7 Breathalyzer-\$3	Lab test-\$15 Field test-\$7 Breathalyzer-\$3
Pool book printed lists	\$30 per page	\$30 per page	\$30 per page
Voters lists on CD	Twin Falls-\$15 Other cities-\$10	Twin Falls-\$15 Other cities-\$10	Twin Falls-\$15 Other cities-\$10
Election mailing labels	\$145	\$145	\$145
Printing precinct lists on CD	\$3 per precinct	\$3 per precinct	\$3 per precinct

BLOWING SNOW AWAY



Shawn Wobb of the Idaho Transportation Department clears a walkway of 6 inches of snow on Monday at the Timmerman Hill Rest Area, which is located at the junction of U.S. Highway 20 and Idaho Highway 75. Rain and snow showers will be a possibility through Wednesday in Sun Valley, while the Magic Valley area will see mostly cloudy conditions today with highs in the upper 40s.

Paul Elementary will reopen today

By Chip Thompson Times-News writer

PAUL - Workers cleared a clogged sewer line Monday, allowing classes to resume at Paul Elementary School today.

The problem caused the school to cancel classes Monday because the clogged line serves the kitchen, making it impossible to provide meal service, said Theo Schut, interim director for the district.

Schut and a crew of district and city workers began work to locate the line where it intersects with another sewer pipe from the school that joins the main line for the city system.

"We fought it all day Saturday but couldn't get parts," Schut said.

The clog was likely caused by someone trying to flush a large number of paper towels, or something similar, which presented a significant obstacle, Schut said.

"There was no way to clean it without digging it out," he said.

Schut's crew was able to locate the line where it intersects with another sewer pipe from the school that joins the main line for the city system.

The line was cleared, and around 9:30 a.m. Monday workers ran a test flush in the school and were able to see wastewater flowing freely into the city system.

"We're doing everything we can to get school back in session tomorrow," Schut said. "That's our goal."

Schut said a number of holes needed to be dug in order to locate the clogged line. The warmer weekend temperatures kept workers from having to use jack-hammers to locate the line in frozen ground, he said.

There appeared to be no damage inside the school building, Schut said.

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

T.F. school board discusses financial binds

Superintendent: Lawmakers say next two years will be tough

By Karln Kowalski Times-News writer

TWIN FALLS - The Twin Falls School District is looking at programs cuts in anticipation of not getting enough money from the state this year.

Superintendent Willy Dobbs said district administrators would start discussing possible cuts next week, although no particular items were mentioned at Monday's School Board meeting.

Certified Public Accountant Raymond Ware found the district's financial controls to be sufficient, although improvements could be made to the way school activity budgets are handled. He recommended the district hire a staff member to oversee those budgets.

The programs delineated in the plans call for a myriad of strategies to help students, some using grant money and others using money the district is already spending. New money required would be about \$75,950 for reading and \$50,950 for math. Brett Glen, the district's data analysis and program improvement director

said earlier in the day that the district had yet to address where the money would be coming from.

In the district as a whole, the total funds are up by about \$45,000 from the year before, but much of that is dedicated to specific purposes, Ware said.

The district's general fund actually went down \$36,712 from last year. Right now the district's carryover is about \$2,800,000, which is a little bit more than one month's operating expenses.

Other items discussed Monday evening:

- **Former Senior Center** - The board told Operations Director John Miller to take bids for a 4,000-5,000-square-foot mobile classroom building to be used at O'Leary Junior High. Miller said the building could be used there and be moved later to the site of the former Twin Falls Senior Center and former KMYT

building across the street. The KMYT building is in the process of being donated to the district, pending an appraisal. Miller said it would cost too much to renovate the senior center building, but that the site could be used for a middle grades level alternative school to succeed the Bridge Academy.

- **Bickel Title 1** - The board approved Bickel Principal Kelly Schroeder's schools revamped schoolwide Title 1 program, which is meant to provide extra help in math and reading for disadvantaged pupils.
- **Weapons policy** - The board approved a change to the students' rights and responsibilities policy to prohibit weapon replicas, air guns and projectile-launching devices, bringing it in line with city code. The policy already prohibits firearms, knives - except for multi-use pocket knives - and explosives.

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

College approves copyright policy

By Michelle Dunlop Times-News writer

TWIN FALLS - Keep away from the College of Southern Idaho's intellectual property.

The CSI board voted to adopt a copyright and intellectual property policy at its monthly meeting Monday evening. The policy protects research conducted by faculty and students and establishes guidelines for using copyrighted materials.

"This has been a long journey," said Edith Szanto, director of the library and instructional technology center. "I think it is a very positive step."

Szanto has been involved in developing the policy during the past several years. Most other colleges and universities already have copyright policies, Szanto said.

The policy outlines the types of material that belong to the university as well as the types of material that belong to the individual who created it. Students, staff and faculty have to comply with the college's copyright policy.

It promotes campuswide compliance," Szanto said.

The college will offer a course in order to help staff and students alike understand how the copyright and intellectual property policy applies to them. The course will be worth one credit, Szanto said.

The college received an equal amount of feedback from instructors and students on the copyright policy, said Monty A. Stansbury.

Please see COLLEGE, Page B3

Other business

- **Funding** - Congress approved \$980,000 for CSI when passing its omnibus spending bill last month. CSI President Jerry Meyerheffer reported the college will use approximately \$530,000 of the funding for student safety, including renovations to the main entrance. The para education program will receive funds as will the Latino Initiative.
- **SlamMan** - Board members voted to fund the SlamMan program, which can be used in medical classes.
- **Rec center** - In order to pay for the new student recreation center, the board decided to transfer about \$2.5 million from other campus funds to avoid using a bond to pay for the facility.
- **Acquisitions** - The board approved the Herret Center's list of acquisitions - including 115 paintings by John Killmaster and 12 paintings and five sculptures by Lavar Steel.

OBITUARIES

For obituary rates and information, call 735-3278 Monday through Saturday. Deadline is 4 p.m. for next-day publication. The obituary rates for obituaries in this publication are \$100 per line per week. 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.magicalvalley.com and click on "Obituaries."

Margaret C. Switzer

Margaret C. Switzer, an area resident for 55 years, passed away peacefully last Saturday evening, Dec. 11, 2004, at the age of 93 and in the comfort of the love of her children and friends.

Margaret Caroline (Johnson) Switzer was born Oct. 17, 1911, in Jewell County, Kan., as the second daughter of the six children born of the union of Clara (Winters) Johnson to immigrant John W. Johnson of Veneta, Ore. She graduated as 1929 valedictorian of Sinclair High School in Lovewell, Kan., and maintained her normal teaching certificate attending Cedar Falls in Hayes, Kan. She taught for several years the one-room Hawthorn School of Grant Township, Jewell County, Kan., and survived a School District No. 42 contract challenge for having been secretly married by a Concordia Institute of the Peace to Melvin H. Switzer on Aug. 2, 1930. Their cover story about attending a Ringling Bros. Circus in Tulsa Superior, Okla., was blown by the prevalent habit of eavesdropping on the rural Kansas telephone party line.

In May of 1934, Margaret and Mel Switzer packed everything they owned in a Ford Model A roadster and, with a \$100 poke, drove to Stockton, Calif., where her cousin, Leon West, helped her to become employed by R. L. LeTourneau Manufacturing, by the fall her twin brothers, Floyd and Lloyd Johnson, visited after the close of the 1934 Idaho harvest season. Their tales of cheap watermelon and bumper yields, to be found in the Magic Valley Tired Margaret and Melvin to follow the twin back to the 1935 Idaho harvest. In July, 1935, Margie Brock hired Mel as a farm hand and subsequently retired the Switzer family his Addison Avenue farm for about 10 years. Of that time, she wrote:



Grant that day lost. Whose low descending sun viewed from their land. No worthy action done.

Just before Christmas of 1938, Margaret and Mel returned in 1933 to deliver son, John Brent, and visited again in 1945 to deliver her youngest son, Melvin Junior.

Just before Christmas of 1948, Margaret and Mel returned in 1933 to deliver son, John Brent, and visited again in 1945 to deliver her youngest son, Melvin Junior.

Margaret had been active in the Excelsior Club, was awarded a Rotary Foundation Paul Harris fellow in 1974 and was a major contributor to the Twin Falls Rotary Park. In her later years she enjoyed playing Club 93 quarter slots and bingo games at the Kimberly Senior Citizens Center.

Husband/friend/farmer Melvin passed away in January of 1986 and her siblings, Raymond, Floyd, Lloyd, Gladys and Herbert Johnson preceded her in death. She is survived by daughter, Mitzi Kay and Ken Marnoch (Semi Valley, Calif.); son, John Brent and Melvin Switzer (Sibola Harbor, Wash.); and son, Mel and Camilla Switzer (Sonoma, Calif.); grandchildren Pamela Ann (Marionette) and Dave Edmiston (Valencia, Calif.); Kenneth Scott and

Cindy Marnoch (Canyon County, Calif.); Eric Poulton and Michelle Marnoch (Poulsbo, Calif.); Margaret Caroline (Switzer) by Solomon (Kirkland, Wash.); Martha Meaghan (Switzer) and Doug Hengehold (Sonoma Valley, Calif.); and Brian Inghly and Sue Switzer (Twin Falls, Idaho); great-grandchildren Margaret Edmiston, Heather Edmiston, Malcolm Edmiston, Alex Marnoch, Gillian Marnoch, Emily Hengehold, Ryan James Hengehold and Kolby Dale Solomon.

The family extends gratitude to Melody Gamble of Willowbrook ME and special thanks to her staff of wonderful caregivers for helping Margaret make the transition to "assisted independence." We are particularly appreciative of the frequent visits of her friends over the past decade and over a deep debt of gratitude for the comfortable and fun friendships of Dorothy Roske (Hermes), Diane Wilcox, George and Mary Norman and E.G. and June Miller (Kimberly).

A funeral will be held at 11 a.m. on Friday, Dec. 17th, at Switzer Mortuary, 330 North Main St., following the service, a reception/wake is being arranged at the home of Brian Sue Switzer. In lieu of flowers, the family suggests remembrances be made to the Senior Citizens Center of Kimberly, c/o Diane Wilcox, 610 Irene, Kimberly, ID 83341.

About Our Mother
She gave. She loved. She served. She loved. She created. She dissented. She entertained. She saw. She grew. She sweated. She changed. She learned. She laughed. She conversed. She gambled. She shed her skin. She bled on the pages of her days. She walked through walls. She lived with intention. She will be missed.
—J.B. Switzer

Martha Fowler

Martha Fowler, 85, died at Plantation Place, her assisted living residence in Boise, Idaho, on Friday, Dec. 10, 2004. A celebration of life memorial will be held at 1:30 p.m. on Wednesday, Dec. 15, at Plantation Place, 3921 Kessinger Lane, phone (208) 853-7300. In lieu of a floral arrangement, Paul, Idaho, arrangements are under the direction of Cloverdale Funeral Home.

Martha was born in Nampa, Idaho, on Aug. 6, 1919, the daughter of William Katherine Klausner.

She married William Fowler of Rockford, Illinois, in April 1939, and moved to the southern Idaho area where they farmed for several years.

Surviving Martha are her daughter, Barbara Fowler of Seattle; her son, Jerry Fowler and his wife, Sue, of Boise; two granddaughters, Amber Koford and Elizabeth Fowler; two grandsons, Ray and Jeff Fowler; three sisters, Eldine Kidd, Irene Simons and Ruby Fairchild; two great grandsons, Kevin and Logan Fowler.

She is preceded in death by her parents, husband, a daughter, Deborah Hayden and Tammy Martin, and 12 stepgrandchildren. He also leaves six great-grandchildren as well as many nieces and nephews.

We will miss his wit, humor and a staid manner which in all we will treasure hearing his numerous stories from World War II and his life experiences forever. He was a kind, loving and considerate father, grandfather and husband and will be sorely missed.

Martha was preceded in death by her parents, husband, a daughter, Deborah Hayden

and Tammy Martin, and 12 stepgrandchildren. He also leaves six great-grandchildren as well as many nieces and nephews.

Charles Francis Perry

Charles Francis Perry, 84, passed away peacefully on Friday, Dec. 11, 2004, at the Twin Falls Care Center. He was born Nov. 9, 1920, in Mitchell, Neb., to Lodeana and William Perry. His parents moved to Wheatland, Wyo., where he grew up and graduated from Wheatland High School in 1938. He joined the U.S. Army shortly after graduation and spent two years in the Aleutian Islands, one of the early battlefields in World War II. He rose from the rank of private to eventually retire as a Major. During his 23 years in the U.S. Army, he was Army Air Force teaching navigator and bombardier training. He finished his military service with the Reserves in Wyoming and Idaho. He was a building contractor and owner of Perry Plumbing in Twin Falls for 30 years.

He married Violet Jean Kiefe in 1943. To this union, two children, Violet Darlene and Charles were born. Their only son, died in 1990. He then married Pat Thompson Christensen in 1992.

He is survived by his wife, Pat; children, Darlene (Harry) Thorstad, Charles (Kat) Perry; a sister, Genevieve (Laurel) Smith; and three grandchildren, Melanie McMillan (Neil) Whitley, Dennis (Liz) McGilivray and Debra Thorstad (Randy) Holliday. Also surviving are three stepchildren, Tim and Therese Thompson, Terry Thompson

two grandsons, Nick and Matthew Hayden; two sisters, Emma Weber and Lillian Starr; and two brothers, Edward and Charles Klausner.

Martha will be missed by all who knew her. Her family extends a special thanks to the staff, friends and her special friend, Eselle, at the Noble Grand and held her in the care of the hospice for their comforting support and care.

Martha's family suggests that memorials in lieu of flowers be given to Special Olympics-Idaho, 4426 Fairview Ave., Boise, ID 83704.

Larry Dennis Hudelson Jr. beloved son of Larry and Sarah Hudelson was stillborn on Sunday, Dec. 12, 2004, at Magic Valley Regional Medical Center.

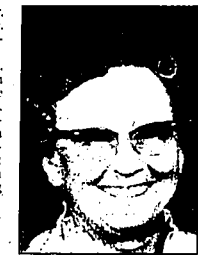
Larry is survived by his parents, Larry and Sara; three brothers, Bobbi, Walter and Brady; grandmothers, Terry and (Becky) Hunter of Twin Falls, Bob and Pene Hudelson of Kimberly and Becky Sismacker of Salt Lake City, Utah.

He was preceded in death by his great-grandparents.

A graveside service will be conducted at 2 p.m. Thursday.

OBITUARIES

Hazel Clara Young Barber



Hazel Clara Young Barber, age 85, died on Thursday, Dec. 9, 2004, at Twin Falls Care Center of natural causes.

She was born April 25, 1919, to May and Frank in the Sawtooth Valley, the child of Robert Bruce and Clara Belle Palmer Young. Hazel was raised in the Sawtooth Valley at the Champion Creek Homestead. She attended school in Hailey and spent some of her childhood to a fence post by her baby-sitting older brothers.

Hazel married Laurel Gordon Barber on Dec. 21, 1945, in Hailey, Idaho. She has lived in Washington D.C., Philadelphia, Renton, Wash., Hailey, Hazelton and Twin Falls. She enjoyed her job as Blaine County clerk of the district court, deputy county recorder and being the treasurer for the Community Baptist Church. She was a member of the Rebekah's Lodge of Hailey, the Community Baptist Church and the Wood River Canal Company. Hazel was the Noble Grand and held other offices of the Rebekah's Lodge.

Hazel truly enjoyed spending time outdoors. She loved to fish, camp hike, and hunt along with needlework and growing flowers. She enjoyed

Survivors include her two sons, Lawrence "Red" (Joyce) Barber with children, Candace and James, of Twin Falls and Randall Gordon (Patricia) Barber with daughter, Codi, of Kimberly; her daughter, Susan (Willburn Gale) Chipman with daughter, Wendy, of Twin Falls; her stepdaughter, Patricia (Gerrard) Baker with children, Trevor and Joshua, of Nampa; her sister, Cora (Mariah) (Ray) Hoessler with children, Paul, Robbin and Linda June, of Gooding; her two brothers, William Wallace (Rayona) Young with children, Tammy and Wally Scott, of Hailey and Robert Clayton (Fern) Young with children, Roger, Brenda, Sherry, Carol, Sharon and David, of Renton, Wash.

Those preceding her in death were her parents and two brothers, Lawrence and Martin.

A memorial service will be at 1 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 18, 2004, at the Community Baptist Church with Pastor Everett Berry officiating. Interment will follow in the Hailey Cemetery. Memorial contributions are suggested to the Community Baptist Church, P.O. Box 1596, Hailey, ID 83333. Arrangements are under the care of Wood River Chapel of Hailey, Idaho.

Donald Clifford Olson

Donald Clifford Olson, an 80-year-old Albion resident, died Saturday, Dec. 11, 2004, in his home in Albion.

He was born Feb. 18, 1924, in Genesee, Idaho, the son of Clifford Lawrence and Rosalia Hasturher Olson.

Donald worked in real estate in California from 1955 to 1972. He moved to Idaho in 1973, where he was a cattle buyer out of Albion.

He was a resident of Albion for 31 years. Donald was a lifetime member of the Elks Lodge. He was an avid fisherman and hunter and loved his family.

Survivors include his wife of 34 years, Eva of Albion; a son, Larry Olson of Marinette, Calif.; a daughter, Rosann Gilbert; and a son-in-law, Lloyd Gilbert, both of Laredo, Texas; four grandchildren; and five great grandchildren.

He is preceded in death by his parents, one sister and one brother.

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State may take over county byway

By Chip Thompson
Times-News writer

BURLEY — The responsibility of maintaining the City of Rocks Back County Byway may soon be lifted from Cassia County's shoulders.

During their annual report to commissioners Monday, members of the county's road and bridge department said they are encouraged by recent progress toward designating the road a state highway.

The move would remove the burden from the county of repairing and maintaining the long stretch of road that serves as the primary access to City of Rocks National Reserve and Castle Rock State Park, Idaho's newest state park.

City of Rocks Superintendent Wallace Keck said there are only two other state parks — Priest Lake and Dworshak — not accessible to state-maintained roads.

"The state came in and made a park there, and it's not fair for the people of Cassia County to have to maintain the road with increased traffic," Commissioner Dennis Crane said.

Commissioner Chip Handy said after the county rebuffs the road, then the time will be right to push for the state to take over maintenance.

Roads department President Gary Jones thanked commissioners for supporting the effort.

"We have more transportation than we have money, but we appreciate what the commission does for us," Jones said.

In other business, Jack Funk, chairman of the Fair Board, said that not only was this year's fair a good one for those who attended, but that it was also a financial success.

"We made money on the concert, rodeo and races," Funk said, adding the carnival showed a profit also.

Board members reported that changes made to the live-

stock sale allowing several animals to be displayed at the same time has made the sale move more quickly and has resulted in a better event, Crane and Commissioner Paul Christensen agreed.

There was some concern about the success of the Blackhawk concert Aug. 17 due to heavy rains, but board members said a large number of decks were sold the day of the event.

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

Jerome rec district reschedules meeting

Jerome — The Jerome Recreation District's monthly board meeting scheduled for Wednesday has been postponed. The meeting will be held at 7 a.m. Tuesday, Dec. 21, in the conference room at the Jerome Recreation Center, 2032 S. Lincoln.

For more information, call supervisor Tom Kuntz or recreation director Gary Warr at 324-3389.

Magic Valley in brief

The board meets at the district office, 237 E. 19th St. and the meeting is open to the public.

Santa Claus visits Paul on Saturday

PAUL — Santa Claus will arrive at about 1 p.m. Saturday in Paul. He will travel throughout town on a fire truck, giving out candy to everyone.

Santa's appearance is sponsored by the West End Fire and Rescue squad.

Bridges will be closed until further notice

RUPERT — The Minidoka County Highway District will begin replacing the bridge at 200 W. and 10 N. Wednesday morning.

The bridge at 400 W. and 200 S. will be replaced beginning the week of Dec. 20.

Both bridges will be closed to all traffic until further notice. For more information, call 336-6112 from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.

— compiled from staff reports

Suitcase leads to evacuation of Wal-Mart

By Chip Thompson
Times-News writer

The bomb robot

Twin Falls Police Department bomb squad members used a robot to inspect and open the suspicious suitcase left outside the Burley Wal-Mart Friday evening.

The robot, which is roughly 6 feet long, 2 feet wide and 4 feet tall, is operated by remote control and contains several cameras so officers can inspect object from various angles.

A high-pressure water system also is installed on the robot to allow it to blast open or destroy suspicious packages.

ed at 8:15 p.m. and only took about three and a half minutes.

"We started in the back of the store, asking people to leave," Cordell Higley said. "It was very organized. The customers left in a very orderly way. Nobody panicked, and it was really nice and calm."

An announcement of "code blue" was made over the store's intercom system alerting employees to evacuate the store.

Cordell Higley said. The store reopened at 11:15 p.m. before closing again at the usual mid-night time.

Using a robot to inspect the suitcase, the bomb squad deter-

mined at about 10 p.m. there was no bomb inside, the report said.

Cassia County Sheriff Jim Higgins said the suitcase was then demolished by the robot's high-pressure water system.

"It just tore it apart," Higgins said. "I couldn't believe it."

The suitcase was found to contain clothing, phone books from the Portland and Seattle areas, a coffee cup and a pornographic magazine. All of the items were taken to the sheriff's office as evidence.

In all, 13 local law enforcement officers and an ambulance were dispatched to the scene. Higgins said the incident represented a large cost in manpower but was necessary due to heightened security concerns.

"Five years ago we would have just gone over and opened the thing up," Higgins said Monday. "But now we can't be too cautious."

Employees of the store went to a fast food restaurant across the parking lot while they waited for updates on the situation from police, Cordell Higley said. Some employees were allowed to go home for the night.

"It cost us quite a little bit in business, but I couldn't give a cost estimate on that," Cordell Higley said.

Public relations officials for

Wal-Mart could not be contacted by press time for an estimated cost to the business.

Higgins said additional officers were called in to patrol the city and the graveyard shift was asked to start early.

"We were concerned about a number of different things," Higgins said. "One being a possible diversion."

Store surveillance tapes and witnesses were able to provide police with the car's license plate number and good descriptions of the men in the car, who made purchases at the store using food stamps.

But Higgins said that because no specific bomb threat was made there's little chance the men will be prosecuted.

"About the best we're going to get them on is littering," Higgins said. "There's certain things we can't do because it's only a misdemeanor charge."

Higgins said it's possible the men picked up a hitch-hiker, left him at the store and then dumped his suitcase outside.

"I guess it turned out to be a good exercise for us," Higgins said.

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

School district will null abstinence program

BURLEY — Cassia Joint School District board members are scheduled to discuss an abstinence program during their regular meeting at 7 tonight.

The Peers Encouraging Abstinence program, or PEAs, involves trained high school mentors under the direction of adult facilitators teaching an abstinence curriculum to junior high and middle school students.

Other agenda items include State Board of Education honors, school improvement plans and a review of a policy on drug, tobacco and alcohol use.

Freighter spill may not be as large as feared

ANCHORAGE, Alaska (AP) — Coast Guard officials Monday said an oil and fuel spill from a freighter that broke in two when it ran aground off Alaska's coast probably amounted to thousands of gallons less than had been feared.

The federal government's incident commander, Capt. Ron Harris, said just 41,138 gallons of bunker fuel were inside the tank directly breached when the Malaysian soybean freighter Selendang Ayu split in two Wednesday on an Unalaska Island.

Coast Guard officials last week said they thought the 140,000-gallon tank had been full.

Determining which tanks remain intact is a key part of developing a plan to offload remaining oil, and eventually remove the freighter's bow and stern sections.

The ship was carrying 483,000 gallons of heavy bunker oil and about 21,000 gallons of diesel fuel when it ran aground.

Officials said a tank with 104,448 gallons of bunker oil had apparently also been breached, but that no large-scale leak was believed to be occurring there.

Virtually no oil has been recovered.

The vessel Redeemer attempted skimming operations with equipment geared to heavy oil, said Gary Foley, the state's on-scene coordinator. "They have been encountering heavy sheen and fat balls but no recoverable oil," he said.

200 fat balls are heavy oil blobs mixed with rock, dirt or sediment.

"It's not easy to recover with a traditional skimmer," Foley said.

Recovery officials have detected few animals affected by the spill. Two dead cormorants were spotted last week. Five dead waterfowl, three more cormorants and two other seabirds were spotted Sunday, Morris said.

State appellate court overturns aggravated battery conviction

BOISE (AP) — The Idaho Court of Appeals has overturned the felony aggravated battery conviction of a Boise man because the prosecutor improperly referred to the man's use of his M-16-style rifle as evidence for the purpose of inferring guilt.

The appellate court unanimously agreed that during the trial the prosecutor should not have questioned a detective about defendant Jose Lopez's failure to give his version of events during a jail interview.

"The defendant's decision to exercise his or her right to remain silent either before or after his or her arrest cannot later be used in the state's case-in-chief for the purpose of inferring guilt," Chief Judge Darrrell Perry wrote for the three-judge panel.

Lopez was arrested in mid-April after he spotted his missing pickup truck outside of a house in north Boise, according to court records. It got in an altercation with a resident of the house, and as a result, the resident was shot. Lopez pleaded innocent to second degree attempted murder and the case went to trial.

At trial, the victim testified that Lopez came to his home, attacked him and shot him before running away, according to court documents. But Lopez claimed he was the one who had been assaulted, and that the victim's gun went off while they were wrestling outside.

During cross-examination, the prosecutor questioned Lopez about his failure to tell police his side of the story while he was first arrested. The prosecutor also asked a detective about the matter.

"If the story is as he said, he would have told the officers his first opportunity if it had been the victim of this shooting," the prosecutor said in his plea.

Idaho's electoral votes go to President Bush

Casting them proved to be complicated, though

BOISE (AP) — It was a forgone conclusion that Idaho's electoral votes would go to President George W. Bush.

The only surprise in Gov. Dirk Kempthorne's office Monday afternoon, then, was who would be casting the votes.

One member of Idaho's electoral college, Sandra Patano, vacated her post days before the election amid worries that her husband, then U.S. Senator Larry Craig, could not get the results in question.

In a letter dated Dec. 7 to Idaho Secretary of State Ben Ysursa, Patano wrote that she had not realized the U.S. Constitution prohibits people who hold "an office of Trust or Profit under the United States" from acting as electors.

"While I am unsure that this

Only 10 times has Idaho sent Democratic candidates the electoral college votes.

Governor's chambers for the vote.

With all the seats filled and under the watchful eyes of Kempthorne and Ysursa, the four cast their ballots for Bush.

"Let the record reflect, Governor, that Idaho's electors cast four votes for George W. Bush for president," Ysursa ceremoniously said. "May the record reflect that Idaho's electors have cast four votes for Dick Cheney for vice president."

Idaho has taken part in 29 presidential elections, Ysursa said, with all electoral votes

since 1952 going to the Republican candidate except for 1964, when Idaho voted for Lyndon Johnson.

Only 10 times has Idaho sent Democratic candidates the electoral college votes. And in 1892, the college voted for the Populist candidate.

"That was a gentleman by the name of James Weaver. I think Pete knew him," Ysursa cracked.

Conrassa, meanwhile, dropped a quick hint for the future.

"I've met every president since Truman with the exception of George W. Bush," the 86-year-old said.

Kempthorne thanked the electors for taking part in the vote, and thanked Patano for what he said was a gracious decision.

"It's the first time that he had heard of an elector dropping out in Idaho, Ysursa said. Idaho's Constitution provided for such an occasion, stating that the remaining electors would vote in a new person to fill the role.

Fees

Continued from B1

any unattended death where a physician is unwilling to sign a death certificate, including accidental deaths, suicides and homicides, and even when a physician does sign off on a death certificate. Chambers — who retired from the Twin Falls Police Department in June 2001 after more than 30 years, many of them as a detective and crime lab supervisor — is not comfortable with signing a cremation certificate without doing an examination that includes a body exam and photographs, especially in a world where elderly abuse is not uncommon.

"I don't like destroying somebody. I don't know anything about it," Chambers said.

"I sign off on a person dies at home and the doctor signs a death certificate, but the doctor might not have been there when the death occurred. And doctors, he said, sometimes aren't trained to see the subtle signs of abuse. So Chambers goes to the mortuary to identify the person, do an exam and to take photographs before he signs a cremation certificate.

have their way, those in trouble with the law will have to help foot the bill for therapy to help them change their ways. If the angry person wasn't angry enough, he might be even angrier when he finds out he'll have to fork out \$15 for each of his anger management classes.

Meanwhile, young people receiving school "cognitive therapy" to help get them off that path to prison will have to pay \$27 per class. And people enrolled in "cognitive self-change" groups to help them change their negative thinking patterns and develop pro-social behavior will develop \$15.

The goal of the classes is to help minor offenders change their ways before it's too late.

"It's our effort to help young people not go down the wrong road," said Commissioner Tom Mikeseff. "We want to get young people the help they need before they step outside of the law."

Mikeseff said the classes are geared for young people who have committed minor infractions, such as smoking or skipping school. The money generated by the fees would help pay people who teach the classes.

"We have to pay the facilitators to be there," Mikeseff said. Meanwhile, people in trouble

with the law who have been issued ankle bracelets would have to help pay for the service.

Commissioners want to charge a \$35 hook-up fee plus \$10 per day for electronic monitoring. Mikeseff said such monitoring will save the county money in the long run.

"It's much less expensive to have a person on modified house arrest than to send them to jail," Mikeseff said. "They're home working instead of sitting in jail and their families aren't on welfare."

Other proposed fees include a \$5 fee for being on modified house arrest and fees ranging from \$3 to \$15 to test someone for alcohol or drug use.

Mikeseff said those in trouble with the law should help foot the bills.

"A person on probation should pay for their services," Mikeseff said. "It's not fair to charge everyone for someone who made a stupid mistake."

someone else's plat vacation," Mikeseff said. "I can't ask the citizens of Twin Falls County to pay for an individual who may or may not profit from a zoning issue."

Commissioners are also proposing raising the Buhl transaction fee from 10 cents to 25 cents to help cover the costs of generating the county office in Buhl.

"We pay rent to be in Buhl and we have to pay a person to be in Buhl," Mikeseff said. "We think it's a great convenience for people on that end of the county."

Mikeseff said that people who actually use the service should be the ones helping to foot the bill instead of everyone in the county.

People wanting to get a printed list of the county's poll book would pay 30 cents a page if county commissioners approve new fees. Other proposed fees include a \$15 fee for electronic mailing labels, a \$3 fee for a precinct list and a \$10 to \$15 fee for voters lists on CD.

Mikeseff said money generated by the fees would help cover manpower costs.

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

College

Continued from B1

rossa, director of human resources.

"All the responses we received were very positive," Arrossa said.

The first version of the policy will be available online and in the college library, Szanto said.

The board also heard a presentation in commemoration of the Center for New Directions 25th anniversary. The center, said Director Scott Scholes, was established as the initial displaced Homemaker Program in the state. With additional funding, the center expanded its programs to include career and educational planning.

"There's been a lot made of how we've evolved over the years," Scholes said. However, Scholes considers the number of people served and the breadth of people served to be among the most significant changes the center has made.

Today, the center offers a va-

riety of services including personal and professional enhancement workshops, individual counseling and a nontraditional occupations program that encourages students to pursue careers in fields traditionally occupied by members of the opposite sex.

"When you hire an employee, you're looking for hard skills and you're looking for soft skills," Scholes said.

The center strives to complement the "hard" skills students learn through their courses with programs that teach "soft" skills. Scholes said.

An open house will be held from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Jan. 12, 2005, to celebrate the center's 25th anniversary.

Times-News reporter Alchelle Dunlap can be reached at 735-3237 or by e-mail at adunlap@magicvalley.com.

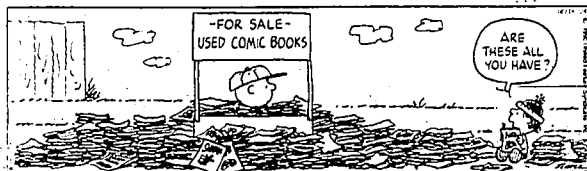
Prevention instead of detention

If county commissioners

COMICS

Classic Peanuts

By Charles M. Schulz



Dilbert

By Scott Adams



B.C.

By Johnny Hart



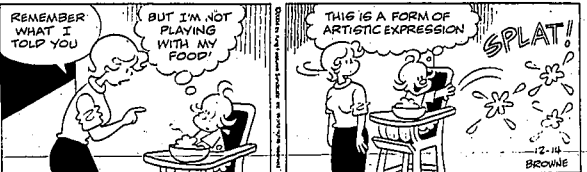
Garfield

By Jim Davis



Hi and Lois

By Chance Browne



The Wizard of Id

By Brant Parker & Johnny Hart



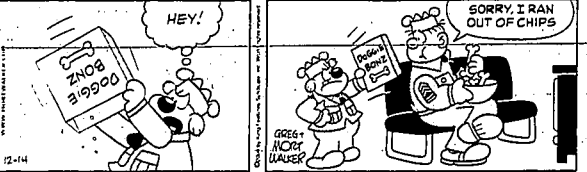
Hagar the Horrible

By Chris Browne



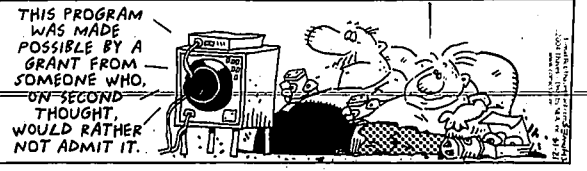
Beetle Bailey

By Mort Walker



Frank and Ernest

By Bob Thaves



The Born Loser

By Art Sansom & Chip



For Better or For Worse

By Lynn Johnston



Blondie

By Dean Young & Stan Drake



Pickles

By Brian Crane



Dennis the Menace

By Hank Ketcham



THE FAMILY CIRCUS

By Bil Keane



Rose Is Rose

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OBITUARIES

Lila Pearl Barnett Driver

Lila Pearl Barnett Driver, 83, of Boise, formerly of Twin Falls and Salmon, passed away Dec. 12, 2004, at St. Alphonsus Hospital in Boise.

She was born June 28, 1921, in Leadona, Idaho, the daughter of Glenn and Lora Cork Stroud. In 1940, she married Herbert Barnett. To this union was born three daughters. Herby passed away in 1976 and shortly after she moved to Twin Falls. She worked as bookkeeper for the Kimberly Senior Citizens Center for over 20 years.

Lila enjoyed photography, genealogy, and had a deep love of people. She was always gadding about and visiting with her friends. Even in her later years her family often had trouble keeping up with her meandering. She will be deeply



missed by all who knew and loved her.

Surviving are her three daughters, Wendy (Sam) Warren of Mt. Pleasant, S.C.,

Die (Steven) Jenkins of Boise and Darlene (Don) Nelson of Richland, Wash.; a brother, Marion Stroud of Salmon; nine grandchildren; and 17 great-grandchildren.

Her parents, her husband, Herb Barnett; brother, Delbert Stroud; and companion, Lloyd Jones preceded her in death.

A visitation will be held from 5 to 7 p.m. Tuesday, Dec. 14, 2004, at Park's Magic Valley Funeral Home, 2551 Kimberly Road, Twin Falls, Idaho.

A funeral will be held at 2 p.m. on Thursday, Dec. 16, 2004, at the Salmon LDS Stake Center in Salmon, Idaho. Burial will follow at the Salmon Cemetery. Services and arrangements are under the direction of Park's Magic Valley Funeral Home of Twin Falls.

Mild heart attack hospitalizes U of I pres

MOSCOW (AP) — University of Idaho President Tim White was resting comfortably and undergoing tests Monday after suffering a mild heart attack, university spokeswoman Kathy Barnard said.

White, 55, was in stable condition after being taken to Grifman Medical Center in Moscow following the

attack Sunday.

White complained of mild chest pains Saturday, but attended Idaho midyear commencement activities. The pains worsened Sunday, Barnard said.

Tests were scheduled over the next several days. It was not immediately clear when he would be released from

the hospital. The former Oregon State University provost underwent quintuple bypass surgery in May, which delayed for a month his scheduled July 1 installation as Idaho president.

Subscribe. 733-0931

Ruth Dorothy Moore

Ruth Dorothy Moore, 96, of Buhl, passed away Dec. 11, 2004, at the Twin Falls Care Center, Twin Falls, Idaho.

Ruth was born May 18, 1908, in Salt Lake City, Utah, to Thomas and Maude Snowball Hodder. Ruth saw a lot of changes in her lifetime. As a child, the family moved to Idaho to one of the best fish farms in the Snake River Canyon, located at Crystal Springs. There was no access road out of the canyon there, so a boat was kept to carry them to the south side of the river. They kept a Model T Ford car, which they drove or pushed up the Crystal Springs grade to go to town. She and her

brother, Kenneth, spent countless hours playing in that boat on the river. They then moved to early day Twin Falls and Ruth told of accompanying her mother to lunch at the home of Lucy Stricker of the Stricker Ranch. She was an avid bridge player "all her life" and played with a group of ladies until her health began to fail.

Ruth married Saul Moore of Buhl in 1935. They farmed until their retirement, moving to a home in Buhl. She was active on the farm, cooking for large harvest crews and also large gatherings of family and friends. Surviving is a nephew Brent (Tudy) Hodder of Spotsylvania,

Va., and countless other family and friends. She titled herself their "other mother" to niece and nephew, Bud and Barbara Denkins, who cared for her in her final years.

She was preceded in death by her husband, parents and three brothers.

A graveside service will be held at 2 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 15, 2004, at Sunset Memorial Park, Twin Falls. At her request, no public viewing will be held. In lieu of flowers, donations may be given to a charity of your choice.

Funeral arrangements are under the direction of the Farmers Funeral Chapel, Buhl.

MALL WIDE

Late Night Sale

Saturday, December 18

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Mall Stores	11-6	10-9	10-9	10-9	10-9	10-9	10-11
Santa (Center Court)	12-6	2:30-6	2:30-7:30	2:30-7:30	2:30-7:30	2:30-7:30	11-7:30

Stay on top of your investments with the Money pages.

DEATH NOTICES

James A. Bass
BURLEY — James Adren Bass, a 67-year-old resident of Burley, died Friday, Dec. 10, 2004, at Cassia Regional Medical Center.
Arrangements and cremation are under the direction of Rasmussen Funeral Home, 1350 E. 16th St., Burley.

Evalynn Langley
TWIN FALLS — Evalynn Langley, 89, of Twin Falls, formerly of Buhl, died Dec. 13, 2004, at Sunbridge Care Center in Twin Falls.
Arrangements will be made by Farmer Funeral Chapel of Buhl.

Clara Van Houten
TWIN FALLS — Clara Van Houten, 86, of Twin Falls, died Monday, Dec. 13, 2004, at Magic Valley Regional Medical Center in Twin Falls, Idaho.
Arrangements will be made by Park's Magic Valley Funeral Home of Twin Falls, Idaho.

Leon Maxell Mathis
TWIN FALLS — Leon Maxell Mathis, 81, of Twin Falls, died Saturday, Dec. 11, 2004, at the Gooding Rehabilitation Living Center.
A graveside service will be held at 1 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 16, 2004, in the Weiser Cemetery, Weiser, Idaho, under the direction of White Mortuary, "Chapel by the Park."

David L. Livingston
KIMBERLY — David L. Livingston, 68, of Kimberly, died Saturday, Dec. 11, 2004, at a Boise hospital.
Arrangements will be made by Serenity Funeral Chapel in Twin Falls, Idaho.

Janice Pearl Hoffman
NAMPA — Janice Pearl Hoffman, 64, of Nampa, Idaho, since 1995 and formerly at Garden Grove, Calif., died Dec. 10, 2004, at St. Alphonsus Regional Medical Center of Boise, Idaho.
A holy Mass of the resurrection will be held at 11 a.m. Thursday, Dec. 16, 2004, at St. Paul's Catholic Church of Nampa. Graveside rites will follow at Mt. Calvary Cemetery. A rosary and vigil service will be at 7 p.m. on Wednesday evening at Alspj & Persons Funeral Chapel.

Ronald L. Archibald
OAKLEY — Ronald L. Archibald, a 62-year-old Oakley resident, died Sunday, Dec. 12, 2004, at Cassia Regional Medical Center.
Arrangements will be made by Payne Mortuary, 221 W. Main St., Burley.

Charles Lee Johnson Sr.
NAMPA — Charles Lee Johnson Sr., 100, of Nampa, formerly of Twin Falls, died Sunday, Dec. 12, 2004, at a Nampa care center.
A memorial service for Charles and his late wife, Ruth Johnson, will be held at noon Wednesday, Dec. 22, 2004, at the Brethren Church, 131 Grandview, Twin Falls. Remembrance is under the direction of Flahiff Funeral Chapel, Caldwell.

Jack Martin
BOISE — Jack Martin, 83, a resident of Boise and former in of Hagerman, died Monday, Dec. 13, 2004, at his home in Boise.
Arrangements will be made by Demaray's Gooding Chapel.

Charles Lee Johnson Sr.
NAMPA — Charles Lee Johnson Sr., 100, of Nampa, formerly of Twin Falls, died Sunday, Dec. 12, 2004, at a Nampa care center.
A memorial service for Charles and his late wife, Ruth Johnson, will be held at noon Wednesday, Dec. 22, 2004, at the Brethren Church, 131 Grandview, Twin Falls. Remembrance is under the direction of Flahiff Funeral Chapel, Caldwell.

Margie VanderPol
CASTLEFORD — Margie VanderPol of Castleford, died Sunday, Dec. 12, 2004, at her home in Castleford.
Arrangements will be made by White Mortuary, "Chapel by the Park."

Genevieve Alice Harper
TWIN FALLS — Genevieve Alice Harper, 84, of Twin Falls, Idaho, died Saturday, Dec. 11, 2004, at the Bridgeway Estates in Twin Falls.
A private family service will be held and cremation was under the care of Wood River Chapel of Halley, Idaho.

Movies Dec 13 - 16

Orpheum 163 Main Twin Falls

Blade: Trinity 7:00 - 9:20

Odyssey 6 10:30 - 1:00

After the Sunset 11:20 - 1:15

The Grudge 12:00 - 1:15

SpongeBob Movie 1:30 - 1:45

Alexander 1:30 - 1:45

Bridget Jones 2:00 - 2:30

Jerome 4 2:00 - 2:15

Polar Express 10:10 - 1:20

Xmas with Kranks 11:10 - 1:20

Ocean's 12 11:20 - 1:30

National Treasure 12:00 - 1:30

Twin 12

Shall We Dance 11:15 - 1:45

Ladder 49 11:25 - 1:55

Incredibles 1:00 - 1:45

Polar Express 1:00 - 1:15

Friday Night Lights 11:45

National Treasure 1:00 - 1:15

Ocean's 12 11:20 - 1:30

Shark Tale 1:30

Xmas with the Kranks 1:00 - 1:15

Napoleon Dynamite 1:00 - 1:15

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IDAHO/WEST

Gay marriage amendment may not have enough votes

IDAHO FALLS (AP) — A group working on a constitutional amendment to ban gay marriage in Idaho may not have as much support as it thinks.

The Post-Register has identified 12 state senators who at least partly oppose the amendment — enough to kill the effort in the Idaho Senate.

Some of the senators oppose the amendment and are willing to say so on record, the Idaho Falls paper reported. Others declined to go on the record, saying they wanted to see how the amendment is worded before making

a final decision.

"I believe gay marriage is a wedge issue promoted by the far right to tear apart the Republican Party," said Sen. John Coe, R-Coeur d'Alene. "I don't think this exercise is worth a bill of beans."

The House is a different story. Last year, an amendment defining marriage as the union of a man and a woman easily passed the House and is expected to do so again. And amendment supporters say they don't expect any problems in the Senate, either.

"I believe we've got the 24 votes (in the Idaho Senate) needed to get the job done," said Meridian Republican Gerry Sweet, who along with Nampa Republican Curt McKenzie is working with conservative groups from Idaho and around the country to make gay-marriage bans the law of the land.

In the Senate, eastern Idaho's representatives support Sweet's efforts. Four of eastern Idaho's six senators — Mel Richardson of Idaho Falls, Don Burtenshaw of Terrellton, Stan Williams of Pingree and Brent Hill of Redburg —

co-sponsored last year's gay-marriage amendment. Senate Pro Tem Robert Geddes of Soda Springs and Majority Leader Bart Davis of Idaho Falls also support an amendment.

"If it hits the board, it's got my vote," Davis said.

But the two other members of Senate Republican leadership — Joe Stegner of Lewiston and Brad Little of Emmett — oppose the amendment.

Little says Idaho's Defense of Marriage Act, the state statute banning gay marriage, already covers the matter.

The only way for gay marriage to be foisted upon Idaho, Little said, is for a state judge to say the Defense of Marriage Act violates the state constitution. Or, Little said, the U.S. Supreme Court could uphold November 2003 ruling in Massachusetts that said it was unconstitutional to bar same-sex couples from civil marriage. Then it wouldn't matter what Idaho did, he said.

Thirty states passed constitutional amendments this year banning gay marriage: 11 in November, one in September and one in August.

Searchers find body of second snowshoer

SALT LAKE CITY (AP) — Rescue crews have found the body of the second of two snowshoers buried in an avalanche in Big Cottonwood Canyon.

The recovery brought the death toll to four from weekend avalanches in Utah's backcountry.

Searchers found the body of 39-year-old Bruce Quint on Monday morning after nearly an hour and a half of searching. Salt Lake County Sheriff's spokeswoman Sgt. Rosie Rivera said.

He and Melvin Denis, 32, of Salt Lake City, were snowshoers near the Mineral Park area Saturday and reported missing by family members worried when the two didn't come home.

Searchers found Denis' body Sunday about 3.5 miles from where he and Quint had parked.

The same search dog that found Denis' body also discovered Quint's this next day — located 80-100 feet away and buried under 8 feet of snow, Rivera said.

"That was a huge avalanche that came down," Rivera said. "Quint was just further up the trail than I (Denis)."

The U.S. Forest Service's Utah Avalanche Center issued an advisory Sunday, warning of "dangerous conditions in the backcountry."

A skier was killed Friday when he was swept up in a snow slide above Brighton and Solitude.

On Saturday, a man who was snowmobiling in Wasatch County was buried in a feet of snow for an hour before rescuers could get to him. He was flown to Utah Valley Regional Medical Center, where he was pronounced dead on arrival.

Trial begins for shooting suspect

IDAHO FALLS — The trial for a man accused of shooting off a police officer's shoe is set to begin today.

James L. Rauch of Pahrump, Nev., faces five felony charges, including battery, removal of an officer's weapon and unlawful use of a firearm.

Idaho in brief Prosecution claims Rauch pulled a pistol from Officer Brent Guyton's holster and shot him in the left hand as he tried to intervene in a dispute Rauch was having with another person, Sgt. Pat C. Guyton's lawyer said.

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Martin Luther King's son will appear in Boise

BOISE — The son of slain human rights leader Martin Luther King Jr. will appear in Boise as part of the holiday that celebrates his father's life and legacy.

Martin Luther King III will give a special public lecture as part of Boise State University's annual Martin Luther King Jr. Human Rights Celebration in January.

Martin Luther King III is the oldest of four children of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. and Coretta Scott King, and now serves as President of the King Center in Atlanta, Ga.

His address on Jan. 21 will cap a week of activities sponsored by Boise State University, ranging from a rally at the State Capitol to films, workshops and a student poetry contest, all centered on the theme "Higher Learning."

The presentation will be interpreted in Spanish and American Sign Language.

— compiled from wire reports

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MORNING BREAK

Long in-law visits bring too much togetherness

DEAR ABBY: My husband, "Jay," parents have informed us they are coming for Christmas and will be staying for six weeks. They need at least three weeks, because they're having dental work done by another family member, and it must be staggered.



DEAR ABBY
Jeanne Phillips

Long visits are acceptable in their culture, but it usually applies to people visiting from another country — not another state. The last time they came, they stayed three weeks, fit as a stretch for me, but I bit my tongue. I work from home and

was with them 24/7 because they don't like to drive. It's hard on me because they get bored and expect me to entertain them. Also, I don't get along well with my father-in-law, and neither of them likes my cooking.

Jay knows six weeks is long, but for him the time goes fast because he works long hours. Jay says he'll talk to his parents about this, but he's miserable at the prospect. Speaking up will cause problems for him, and they'll assume it came from the anyway. They'll be livid.

Please tell me what to do. I'm on the verge of tears when I think about what's coming.

—DREADING CHRISTMAS IN CALIFORNIA
DEAR DREADING: Be a gracious hostess for three weeks. After that, schedule a break.

Go visit relatives or, if that's not feasible, check into a motel. You may find that having had a breather, you'll be in a better frame of mind to deal with the in-laws upon your return. You may also find that when the entire burden of entertaining his parents falls upon your husband, he'll encourage them to make shorter visits or other living arrangements in subsequent visits.

P.S. Since they don't like your cooking, have your mother-in-law do it. It will lighten the burden for you and give her something to do.

Boy offers alternative gift idea

WEST COVINA, Calif. (AP) — Always wanted to leave a lump of coal in some Scrooges' Christmas stockings? Then Alec Nystrom has a deal for you.

The 11-year-old boy is selling lumps of coal for 50 cents each in front of his West Covina home in this suburb 20 miles east of Los Angeles. So far, he says, he's raked in about \$100.

Alec got the idea after his father, Roy, told him how his parents always wanted him he'd

receive a lump in his Christmas stocking if he wasn't good. Turns out his father also knows a little something about coal. He is an artist who often uses it in his work, so Alec had a ready supply to sell.

As he worked at his stand Saturday, Alec said he hopes to sell enough lumps of coal this holiday season to buy a dirt bike.

"One person actually got 20 cause they are having a Christmas party," he said.

Your ideas are absolutely spellbinding, Gemini

IF DECEMBER 14 IS YOUR BIRTHDAY — Your happy-go-lucky attitude could fall under the spell of a new obsession in the year ahead as powerful Pluto crosses your celestial path. Maybe you will become intrigued by the secrets of the universe or hunger for success in the business world. No matter what deep passion takes control, you will possess the stamina and determination to see it through. Take care of responsibilities between now and the end of January so you are free to explore new enthusiasms. Expect generosity from others to open lucrative doors next August.

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Keep a lid on your enthusiasms for a few days as key players may be tired out and weary and unable to match your dynamic resourcefulness. The surge of energy and determination to make helpful changes needs to simmer a while longer.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): It could be a case of tit-for-tat when romance is at stake, so be

HOROSCOPE

Jeraldine Saunders

prepared to pay your own way or go "Dutch treat." Pull your own weight and demonstrate your willingness to stay carefully within the bounds of decorum.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Your imaginative ideas hold others spellbound. You know how to spin a fascinating yarn or write a glamorous business proposal. Keep focused on making a secure future a reality and avoid backstabbing people who lurk in the background.

CANCER (June 21-July 22): You are truly quick on the uptake today, easily absorbing information and making astute observations about others. File these away for future reference. Maintain perfect manners when dealing with the public to take advantage of today's stars.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): You could be so absorbed by your

own private passions that you miss out on helpful ideas right on your doorstep. Others close by may be making worthwhile changes that improve joint assets. Be innovative and welcome liberal attitudes.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): It is time to sit down with your significant other and review plans for prosperity. You have the vision and scope to act on far-reaching leaps of faith. Anything you can imagine can become a reality.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): A lack of warmth from others means you must carefully follow the rules of etiquette to avoid giving offense. Use your skillful powers of tact and diplomacy to get your way in the business world.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Tread softly with others as your businesslike manner may make others think you don't care. Rigid adherence to the rules leaves little room for acts of kindness, so make room. Buy someone lunch and share your pennies.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec.

21): Put your head together with someone you trust and brainstorm problems. Harmonious solutions to pressing problems can be developed. Add a healthy dose of upbeat optimism to resourceful ideas to solve financial woes.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Those pre-holiday business functions may mean lots of meetings to attend, so make room in your appointment book. Shrewdly keep your face in front of the public by making brief appearances wherever required.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Maintain key contacts even if it means attending dull banquets and monotonous formal luncheons. Show your community spirit and you will be rewarded with a helpful network of new friends.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Private conversations with cronies can bring valuable advice and uplifting tales that invigorate your thinking processes. If you can't afford to donate money, then donate time to a good cause.

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A.P.N. RPT401000062, Notice is hereby given that, Fidelity National Title Insurance Company the duly appointed Successor Trustee, will on 2/7/2005 10:00 (clockwise local time), at the main entrance to Alliance Title & Escrow, 311 Second Street North, Twin Falls, Idaho, will sell at public auction to the highest bidder, for cash, in lawful money of the United States, payable in one lump sum, the following described real property and personal property, situated in the County of Twin Falls, State of Idaho and described as follows:
64 of Buena Vista Addition according to the Official Plat thereof, filed in Book 2 of Plats of Page 23, Official Records of Twin Falls County, Idaho. The Trustee has no knowledge of a more particular description of the above referenced real property, but for purposes of compliance with Section 60-113 Idaho Code, the Trustee is informed that the address sometimes associated with said real property is: 250 Blue Lakes Blvd South Twin Falls, ID 83301. Said sale may be made without covenant or warranty regarding title, possession or encumbrances to satisfy the obligation secured by and pursuant to the power of sale conferred in the deed of Trust executed by Kamra Haynes, an unmarried woman, as grantor, to Alliance Title & Escrow, Corp. as Trustee, for the benefit and behoof of "MERIDIAN" records of Twin Falls County Systems, Inc., solely as nominee for lender GMAC Mortgage Corporation, as Beneficiary, dated 6/5/2003, recorded 6/17/2003, as Instrument No. 2003-015615 records of Twin Falls County, Idaho, the beneficial interest in which is presently held by Mortgage Electronic Registration System, Inc. The trustee Grants, informs that to comply with section 45-1506(A), Idaho Code. No representation is made that they are, or are not, presently responsible for this obligation. The default for which this sale is to be made is the failure to pay when due, under Deed of Trust and Note dated 6/5/2003. The monthly installments for principal, interest and insurance (if applicable), of \$384.26, due per month on 5/1/2004 through 2/7/2005, and all subsequent payments until the date of sale or relinquishment. The principal balance owing as of this date on the obligation secured by said Deed of Trust is \$46,195.93, plus accruing interest at the rate of 5.2500% per annum from 4/30/04, plus late charges, delinquency charges, together with accruing late charges, and interest, unpaid and accruing taxes, assessments, liens, fees, advertising charges, and attorney's fees advanced to protect the security associated with this foreclosure. The Beneficiary elects to sell or cause the trust property to be sold to satisfy said obligation. Dated December 08, 2004 Fidelity National Title Insurance Company by Executive Trustee Services Inc., its agent Candy Herzog, Twin Falls, Idaho and its office at 230 E. Main, 8208, Mission Hills, CA 91345 Phone: (818) 837-2300 Sales Line: (818) 361-6998 ASAP#13683

IN THE DISTRICT COURT FOR THE FIFTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT OF THE STATE OF IDAHO AND FOR THE COUNTY OF TWIN FALLS
CASE NO. 04-0611
NOTICE OF HEARING
In re: RICARDO REYES THOMPSON
04.05. Nov. 1983
A Petition by Ricardo Reyes Thompson, born on November 22, 1988 in Las Vegas, Nevada, now residing at 221 Jefferson, Twin Falls, Idaho, filed in the above captioned court, and a Public Notice of this change in name being filed by Ricardo Reyes Thompson's father is being given.

PUBLISHED: December 14, 21, 28, 2004 and January 4, 2005
NOTICE
Annual Stockholders Meeting - Meeting of the Salmon River Canal Company, Ltd.
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Annual Meeting of the Stockholders of the Salmon River Canal Company, Ltd. will be held at 1:30 o'clock p.m. on Tuesday, January 18, 2005 at the office of the Idaho Transportation Department, 3311 West State Street, Boise, Idaho 83702.

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FOUND Dog, Pointer, male, near Albion, Call to identify 312-0127.
FOUND Husky cross, male, not eared, brown, has collar. Heyburn, Emerson Ave. 208-676-6772.
FOUND Lab cross, female, on the corner of Wendell and North College. Call 733-2930.
FOUND Labs, black male and female near Harrison Elementary and will be at the City Animal Shelter, Call 208-738-2299.
FOUND pit bull in the vicinity of 4000 N. 2000 E. Call to identify. Call 208-539-1839.
LOST Dog, brown and white with curly white tail. Buhl area. 3150 road. 208-734-8452.
LOST Great Pyrenees, dog, white male, 3 yrs. 120 pounds, answers to "Ginger". Call 208-678-0805 or 208-438-0998 oves +1.
LOST Border Collie, female, black & white, has collar. Hagerman area by-Sigras. Call 208-734-3367.
LOST Cat-Big gray white markings neutered male. Sam's de-cleaved in front. Fire area. Phone call 326-5037 or 208-539-1292. Reward!

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empty trucks left. Call and claim yours today. Must be at least 25 yrs of age with 2 yrs variable OTR experience. Call Cole at 208-324-5053 or apply online cole@agltruck.com

NOTICE OF LETTING
Sealed proposals will be received by the IDAHO TRANSPORTATION DEPARTMENT, 3311 WEST STATE STREET, BOISE, IDAHO 83702, until two o'clock p.m., on the 11th day of January, 2005, for the work of replacing the bridge over the Salmon River Creek, Canal on U.S. 93, 25.883; Salmon Falls Cr. Br., Twin Falls Co., known as Idaho Federal Aid Project No. NH-8R-29028 in Twin Falls County, Idaho, under the authority of Idaho Department of Transportation, Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, as amended.

NOTICE OF LETTING
Sealed proposals will be received by the IDAHO TRANSPORTATION DEPARTMENT, 3311 WEST STATE STREET, BOISE, IDAHO 83702, until two o'clock p.m., on the 11th day of January, 2005, for the work of reconstructing 1.13 mile of State Route 29, including the existing Bridge; Airport Rd., Twin Falls, Sig 1, known as Idaho Federal Aid Project No. STP-2731-010, in Blaine, Blaine, Idaho, under the authority of Idaho Department of Transportation, Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, as amended.

106 SPECIAL NOTICES
All advertising in this paper is subject to the standards of acceptance. The Times-News reserves the right to edit, abbreviate, decline or discontinue any advertising copy that does not constitute final acceptance by the advertiser and to assume full responsibility for the truthful content of their advertiser's message.

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Holiday Photos


Share your favorite holiday photos in our 'Special Christmas Day' section of The Times-News on Christmas Day.

Christmas...past and present. From adorable to humorous to just down right cute! Surprise someone with that special photo and a holiday greeting - only \$15 per photo.

Name(s) in photo:
Greeting:

Bring in, mail or email your payment, photo and greeting to:
The Times-News
132 Fairfield Street North
Twin Falls, Idaho 83301
twinad@magicvalley.com

Ab Deadline is
Wednesday, Dec. 22nd
at Noon



Damien Green
Merry Christmas
Hugs & Kisses from
Gramma & Grampa

Any questions? Call 733-0931 ext. 2

EMPLOYMENT
DRIVER
Truck driver from
Bodie Mountain, NV
...
Call 775-931-0128.

DRIVERS
Triple ELL Transport, Inc.
...
Call 800-797-9760.

FARM
2 positions Feeder &
Experienced Pen
...
Call 432-5472.

MEDICAL
Psychic-social rehab
specialists. BA in
Social Science
...
Call 208-878-3550.

SALES
We want career minded
people to work hard in
a professional environment.
...
Call 208-734-5538.

FAX YOUR AD
TIMES CLASSIFIED
DEPARTMENT
...
Call 208-734-5538.

DRACO INVESTMENT CORP.
CASH for
Deeds of Trust,
Mortgages and
Real Estate Contracts.
...
Call 208-733-3211.

EDUCATION
Dec
Orate
Your Ad
for the Holidays!
...
Call 733-0931 ext. 2.

BURLY 5 Bdrm.
3 bath, stunning
canyon views, 5+
acres, guest house
with bath & kitchen.
...
Call 208-543-9239.

DRIVERS
Triple ELL Transport, Inc.
...
Call 800-797-9760.

JANITORIAL
Shoshone School District
...
Call 208-733-7300.

MEDICAL
Experienced qualified
personnel needed
...
Call 208-733-7300.

MEDICAL
Experienced qualified
personnel needed
...
Call 208-733-7300.

SECRETARIAL
Office help needed in
our department
...
Call 208-734-5538.

ALTERNATE DELIVERY
The Times-News is
looking for individuals
...
Call 208-734-5538.

NEWSPAPER
Earn extra \$5 in
rounding a year
...
Call 208-734-5538.

REAL ESTATE FOR SALE
Dietrich 1 bedroom,
1 bath house. Large
living room & small
detached garage.
...
Call 208-543-9239.

REAL ESTATE FOR SALE
Dietrich 1 bedroom,
1 bath house. Large
living room & small
detached garage.
...
Call 208-543-9239.

DRIVERS
Team
Generations Team
Drivers positions
available
...
Call 208-734-5538.

PERSONNEL PLUS
111 Fossil Ave. #303
733 Overland 678-4040

RESTAURANT
Managers, and
Assistant managers,
...
Call 208-734-5538.

RETAIL
Part-time clerks.
Apply in person at
...
Call 208-734-5538.

WELDER
Barclay Mechanical
in Paul, ID is
hiring experienced
...
Call 208-734-5538.

ROUTES AVAILABLE
The Times-News is
currently looking for
Independent Route
...
Call 208-734-5538.

GOODING
Route 500
300-900 7th Ave. W.
...
Call 208-734-5538.

301 BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES
Cooper Norman
Business Brokers
& Advisors
...
Call 208-734-5538.

217 EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES
Federal employment
information is free.
...
Call 208-734-5538.

DRIVERS
TOP GUN
TRUCK DRIVING ACADEMY
...
Call 208-734-5538.

MARKET RESEARCH
DISCOVERY
...
Call 208-734-5538.

NEED A PART TIME JOB?
Keep your civilian job,
or stay a full-time student,
...
Call 208-734-5538.

SALES
Toyota sales are
great with a superb
new model lineup.
...
Call 208-734-5538.

WILLS TOYOTA
236 Shoshone St. W.
Twin Falls, ID
...
Call 208-734-5538.

305 CONTRACTS/MORTGAGES
\$5 SELL DIRECT\$5
...
Call 208-734-5538.

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Call 208-734-5538.

ELECTRICIAN
A progressive Polish
Mining Company
looking for a
Welder
...
Call 208-734-5538.

WANTED
Experienced OTR
drivers with clean
driving record. OTR
driver's average
\$42,000 per year.
...
Call 208-734-5538.

NEWSPAPER CIRCULATION
The Times-News is
accepting applications
for a full-time
District Manager
...
Call 208-734-5538.

SALES
Advertising
Representative
Position Open Ag
Weekly/Farm Times
...
Call 208-734-5538.

217 EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES
Federal employment
information is free.
...
Call 208-734-5538.

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Call 208-734-5538.

305 CONTRACTS/MORTGAGES
\$5 SELL DIRECT\$5
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Call 208-734-5538.

FEEDLOT
Cows Full-time
position riding pens,
doctoring and processing
and receiving
...
Call 208-734-5538.

GOVERNMENT CONTRACTING
Mechanic Job
\$10 - \$16/hour DOE
...
Call 208-734-5538.

NEWSPAPER DELIVERY
Would you like to earn
extra cash delivering
The Times-News,
...
Call 208-734-5538.

SALES
Fast pace company,
looking for strong
rep. must have exc.
...
Call 208-734-5538.

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GENERAL COMPANY EXPANSION HELP
Intensive Now Being
Wanted On A First
Come First Served
Basis
...
Call 208-734-5538.

GOVERNMENT CONTRACTING
Mechanic Job
\$10 - \$16/hour DOE
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Call 208-734-5538.

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\$5 SELL DIRECT\$5
...
Call 208-734-5538.

502 HOMES FOR SALE
HEYBURN 4 acres, 2 bdrms, 550,000, Newly remodeled. For sale or rent. 208-436-6058.

512 FARMS/RANCHES/DORIES
BURLY SW 700 acre Possible dairy site. Call 778-2886 or 778-2887.

602 UNFURNISHED HOUSES
BUHL 2 bdrm, 1 bath, no pets, references. Call 208-543-8097.

TWIN FALLS Nice studio house, apply \$375. IDHA ok. 736-0515.
TWIN FALLS 1 or 2 bdrms, 731-9112.

TWIN FALLS RENT TO OWN Newly remodeled clean 3 bdrms. New DW, HAAC, lg floor, carpet, appls. Ave W \$650. Call Nathan 734-6230.

JEROME 2 bdrms, 1 1/2 bath, includes all appls. \$495 + dep. Call 208-335-1377.
JEROME 2 bdrms, 1 bath all units, including kitchen & w/separator.

TWIN FALLS 2 bdrms. \$425. 331 3rd Ave. E. #2. Call 731-7700.
TWIN FALLS Duplex 2 bdrms., 1 bath, appls. Call 208-335-1377.

TWIN FALLS New 3 bdrms, 2 bath, DW, 208-316-2767 or evenings 208-337-0004.
TWIN FALLS newly remodeled, clean 3 bdrms., 1 bath, 1 car garage, new heat/AC. Call 208-335-1377.

608 COMMERCIAL
LARGE WAREHOUSE Food grade, rail siding. Apex Warehouse. Call 208-335-1022.

HOME INSPECTIONS
JEROME 2 bdrms, 1 bath, 2 car garage, remodeled \$48,000. 324-3206.

GOODING 120 Acres dry land, 5x miles north of Gooding, west of Hwy 200. \$70,000. Call 208-731-1502.

PAUL N. W. Dairy site for 10,000 plus cows, 1,164 acres, 8975,000. Dairy permit guaranteed. Haddon Rly 312-1135.

BUHL Close to high school, 2 bdrms, gas heat, W/D hook-up, no appliances, storage. \$375 month. TWIN FALLS South location, 3 bdrms, trailer, fenced yard, appls. \$550 month.

TWIN FALLS 2 bdrms, 2nd bedroom attached to first, shower bath, room, 1a undry, living/dining, entry, shady, 1500, 131, last, and deposit. Call 208-788-3939.
TWIN FALLS 3 bdrms, 2 1/2 bath, 1926 Bldg. Inc. Call 731-9763.

JEROME Just in Time for Christmas Time for Christmas Time for Christmas. All appliances. \$590 month + deposit. No smoking/pets. Applications being taken. Under New Management. Call 208-731-6589.

TWIN FALLS 1 bdrm, 1 bath, 2nd floor, \$435 + \$200 dep. No pets. 453 6th Ave. East. Call 208-733-5411.

TWIN FALLS South location, 3 bdrms, 2 bath units in duplex. No pets, appls. possible. \$500 mo. + dep. SPACIOUS 1 bdrm, new carpet/vinyl, appls, water included. \$375 + deposit. Call 208-335-1377.

616 ROOMMATES WANTED
BUHL, private bath, DW, central heat, No smoking. \$48-782. KIMBERLY Male roommate wanted lg, private bath, No smoking. \$300/mo. Includes utilities and high speed internet for college student, room for investment. Call 778-2886.

RUPERT 6 bdrms, 2 bath, unfinished lg. room, potential for 2 bath, shop, corrals, bird pens, Owner financing, \$139,000. Call 208-318-1151.

SMALLER FARMS
93 ACRES - Nice farm, 2 bdrms, 2 bath home, outbuildings, corrals, Filer. 93 ACRES - Farm land at 2000 ft. alt. - good. Potential for development. 98 ACRES - Home, barn, sheds, wheel lines, District. 29 ACRES - home, corrals, former 300 head dairy, Bliss. 39 ACRES - Section 4, 160 acres, 181 ponds, big home, great views, Buhl. 26 ACRES - Land, water shares, 2 mobile homes, Oakley. DAIRY - Double 4, 2000 sq. ft., good improvement, Paul.

PAUL JONES REALTY 733-0404
513 ACREAGE AND LOTS
HEYBURN 4 bdrms, 1 1/2 bath, 2 car garage, call 208-678-6779.

TWIN FALLS 3 bdrms, 2 1/2 bath, 1926 Bldg. Inc. Call 731-9763.
TWIN FALLS 2 bdrms, 2 bath home on 2nd Ave. E. \$600 per mo. + dep. No smoking/pets. Attached 104 sq. ft. garage and carport. 217 Sidney 3 bdrms 2 bath home on 2nd Ave. E. \$600 per mo. + dep. No smoking/pets. 217 Sidney 3 bdrms 2 bath home on 2nd Ave. E. \$600 per mo. + dep. No smoking/pets. TWIN FALLS 3 bdrms, 2 1/2 bath, all brick home in 3rd ward School District, fireplace, fenced back yard, 2 car garage, \$925 mo. Avail Dec. 15th, 1407 Fremont. Call 208-308-5343.

604 UNFURNISHED APPTS/DUPLEXES
BUHL 2 bdrm, apt. Rent based on income. Please call 734-4123 Equal Housing Opportunity.

BURLEY Clean 1 bedroom, \$275, 2 bedroom, \$300. No pets. EPC 208-778-7838.
BURLEY 2 bdrm, 1 bath, 1 1/2 bath, 2 car garage, \$375/mo. No smoking, no pets. 678-1319 or 201-205-734-6800.

TWIN FALLS 2 bdrms, 1 bath, 2nd floor, \$435 + \$200 dep. No pets. 453 6th Ave. East. Call 208-733-5411.
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TWIN FALLS 2 bdrms, 1 bath, 2nd floor, \$435 + \$200 dep. No pets. 453 6th Ave. East. Call 208-733-5411.

605 ROOMS FOR RENT
JEROME lg, furnished 4 bdrms, 2 bath, ref, range, cable, Utilities. \$425 or 208-644-1282 or 326-4092.

GEM STATE REALTY, INC. 208-734-0400
TWIN FALLS
Country acreage 5 of TF, 3 bdrms, 2 bath, woodstove, heat pump & AC, new landscaping, beautiful view. Attached dbl. garage, on .25 acres. Nice shop, horse shed, fenced area. Call 539-1877, 5129900.

518 MOBILE HOMES
HANSEN Exc. condition, 83 Fleetwood, 14'x66', NW Estates, 3 bdrms, 2 bath, kitchen appls., window and floor covering, new roof & siding, 2 car garage. See-Contact Park Mgr. at 208-734-8004.

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511 OUT-OF-STATE PROPERTY
LAS VEGAS
Home for the holidays in Las Vegas. Call 208-734-0400.

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LAS VEGAS
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Available Immediately RETAIL OR OFFICE SPACE AVAILABLE
Sub Leasing
6,000 Square Feet
Newly Remodeled
Kitchenette
Available Immediately
Contact Dan at 1.208.735.3252

Twin Falls and Minico battle in boys hoops.

Local sportsD2
Scores and statsD3
MoneyD46

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

MORNING LINE

SPORTSQUOTE

No, I was a fat kid and cross-eyed and had glasses about an inch thick. I use to get made fun of. It's been a long time since those days.

Helsman Trophy winner Matt Leinart

TRIVIA

QUESTION: What was the first NFL team to have two 1,000-yard rushers in the same season?

...answer below

TODAY'S SCHEDULE

HS Boys Basketball
Twin Falls at Minico, 6 p.m.
Burley at Pocatello, 6 p.m.
Buhl at Wood River, 6 p.m.
Camas County at Dietrich, 6 p.m.
Jacks Ferry at Melba, 6 p.m.
Leinart, Nev. at Twin Falls Christian Academy, 7:30 p.m.
Hull River at Rockland, 7:30 p.m.
HS Girls Basketball
Buhl at Declo, 6 p.m.
Valley at Kimberly, 6 p.m.
Hansen at Castelford, 6 p.m.
Camas County at Dietrich, 6 p.m.
Carey at Richfield, 6 p.m.
Hansen at Castelford, 6 p.m.
Jackpot, Nev. at Twin Falls Christian Academy, 6 p.m.
Bliss at ISDB, 6 p.m.
Murrough at Oakley, 6 p.m.
Groffing at Wendell, 7:30 p.m.
Lighthouse Christian at Hagerman, 7:30 p.m.
HS Wrestling
Kimberly/Aberdeen at Valley, 5:30 p.m.
Wood River at Twin Falls, 6 p.m.
Declo at Burley, 6 p.m.

IN BRIEF

Huskies hire Willingham

SHAWNEE — Just two weeks after being fired by Notre Dame, Tyrone Willingham was introduced Monday as the new coach of the football team at Washington.

The Huskies believe Willingham can restore the school's waning football program to a national prominence and clean up a mess left by the schools ugly divorce with Dick Neuhseid.

Willingham has a five-year deal worth up to \$1.6 million a year, the university said.

The base pay is \$125,000, with broadcast and marketing contracts pushing it over \$1 million. Additional incentives could add another \$600,000.

Willingham was 21-15 in three seasons at Notre Dame — but after an 8-0 start in 2002, the Irish went 13-15.

Willingham knows the Pac-10, going 44-36-1 with a Rose Bowl berth for Stanford from 1995-01.

TFHS will honor state championship teams

TWIN FALLS — Members of the 2004 Twin Falls High School football state championship team will be honored before the junior varsity and varsity girls basketball games on Wednesday, Dec. 15 between the Bruins and Jerome. Appropriate time for the ceremony is 7 p.m.

TFHS would also like to honor any members of the 1951 Big 6 state championship team. Members will be admitted free of charge to the games.

Compiled from staff reports

TRIVIA ANSWER:

Larry Csonka gained 1,117 yards and Mercury Morris had 1,000 yards for the 1972 Miami Dolphins.

On top of his game
USC's Leinart tabbed AP All-American

By Ralph D. Russo
Associated Press writer

NEW YORK — Heisman Trophy winner Matt Leinart and three of his Southern California teammates made The Associated Press All-American team announced Monday.

Tailback Reggie Bush, defensive lineman Shaun Cody and linebacker Matt Grothe joined their quarterback on the first team. Bush, a Heisman finalist, was picked as the all-purpose player.

Leinart has passed for 2,990 yards and 28 touchdowns this season, leading the top-ranked Trojans (12-0) to a perfect regular season and becoming USC's sixth Heisman trophy winner.

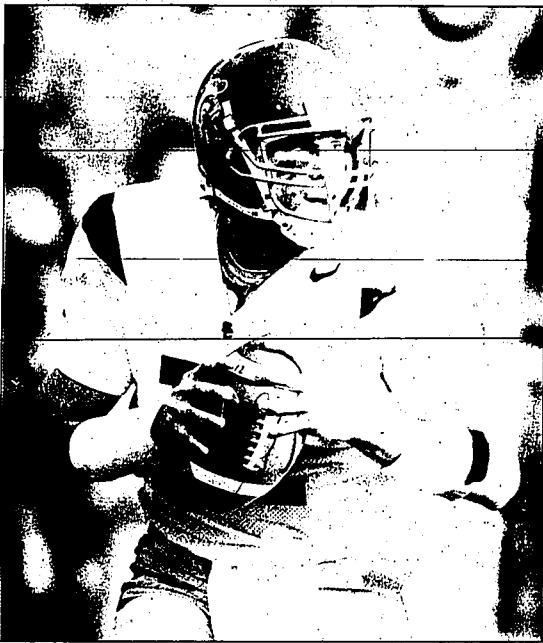
Oklahoma tailback Adrian Peterson, the Heisman runner-up who has run for 1,343 yards and 15 TDs, is the first freshman AP All-American since North Carolina cornerback De'Blynn 1996. Peterson was joined on the first team by Sooners tackle Jamall Brown.

Michigan matched USC for the most first-team All-Americans with four: wide receiver Braylon Edwards, center David Bas and defensive backs Marlin Jackson and Bruce Blazer.

"It was exceptionally fun," said Edwards, who caught 87 passes for 1,221 yards. "I believe this whole season has definitely paid off for me."

Ocas linebacker Derrick Johnson and Florida State tackle Alex Barron both returned to school after being All-Americans last season and

Please see HONORS, Page D2



University of Southern California quarterback Matt Leinart gets set to pass during the first half against UCLA, in this, Dec. 4 photo in Pasadena, Calif.

Setting goals



Charlie Weis
New Notre Dame football coach

Weis: Winning is bottom line at Notre Dame

By Tom Coyne
Associated Press writer

SOUTH BEND, Ind. — Charlie Weis says his job as Notre Dame's new football coach is to raise expectations and win games. It's as simple as that.

"That's the bottom line in this business," he said Monday at his first news conference since he was hired to replace the fired Tyrone Willingham. "Graduating kids is the first and foremost thing. ... Bringing in character kids is important. But it's all about winning games. That's why there's a coaching change."

Weis signed a six-year contract that will reportedly pay him \$2 million annually with the Irish Sunday night, 12 days after Willingham was fired and eight days after Notre Dame officials returned eye-handled after flying to Utah to meet with Utes coach Urban Meyer. Meyer signed with Florida instead.

Weis, the offensive coordinator for the NFL's New England Patriots and a 1978 Notre Dame graduate, is the first alum to coach the football team since Hugh Devore was interim coach in 1963.

"This is obviously a high-profile job, but one that at a long, long time ago I thought, 'Wouldn't that be something?'" said Weis, who did not play college football.

Athletic director Kevin White said the school's search committee had five formal interviews and spoke with two candidates about specific details. He said Weis was the only one formally offered the position.

The 48-year-old Weis arrived at the school Sunday night, just hours after the Patriots beat Cincinnati in Foxboro, Mass. Within an hour, he met with the players.

"As I told the team, one of the problems is because expectations were not met," Weis said Monday. "You are what you are. And right now that's not good enough for me. If you think they hired me to go 500, you've got the wrong guy."

Weis said the players will be around as much as possible, but would be staying with the Patriots over the playoffs.

"It is what it is. We'll deal with it," New England coach Bill Belichick said. "We have a good plan of how we want to deal with it. We might have to divide things up a little differently."

Weis has seen his stock rise with New England's success, but the Patriots' long playoff runs have hindered his attempt at a promotion. An NFL rule prohibits assistants from being hired while their teams are in the playoffs.

Weis nearly died in the summer of 2002 from complications of gastric bypass surgery, commonly known as stomach stapling. He was forced to see around on a motorized chair, but has since returned to full duty.

A losing team could make NFC playoffs

By Dave Goldberg
Associated Press writer

In 1982, the NFL season was shortened to nine games by a strike, and the playoffs were expanded to 16 teams, including a pair that went 4-5.

"That is the only time a losing team made the postseason, although given the sorry state of the NFC, there's a possibility it will happen for the first time in a full season. In fact, if the playoffs started now, the Carolina Panthers (6-7) would be the

final wild-card team. At least they would be somewhat deserving."

The Panthers were the conference champion last season and have won five straight games after a 1-7 start. Tight end who might just be the NFC's second-best team behind Philadelphia after adjusting to the loss of wide receiver Steve Smith, defensive tackle Kris Jenkins and running backs Stephen Davis and DeShaun Foster.

Brett Favre summed up the NFC perfectly after Green Bay struggled to beat Detroit Sunday to take the lead in the North.

"We should feel good about this win," he said, "but we're not good enough to feel that good."

Although New England, Pittsburgh, Indianapolis, Philadelphia and Atlanta have clinched divisions, the jury is still out on everyone else.

Right now, the first wild card in the NFC would be Minnesota, which is 7-6 despite losing five of seven to fall a game behind the Packers. The way the Vikings usually finish — they were 3-7 after a 6-0 start last season — nothing is guaranteed.

The strangest disparity, the NFL had was in 1985, when Cleveland won the AFC Central at 8-8.

In those days, there were two

wild-card teams from each conference, and Denver (11-5) missed the playoffs in a three-way tiebreaker with the Jets and Patriots.

Broncos linebacker Tom Jackson summed that up 20 years ago with the bluntness that has served him well in his television career.

"The situation with us points up how unfair the system is now," he said then. "I don't think there's any way that you can have a team be in double figures in victories and lose one of the best records in the conference and yet be at home when the playoffs start."

Please see LOSING, Page D2

Chiefs win slugfest with Titans, 49-38

By Barry Wilner
Associated Press writer

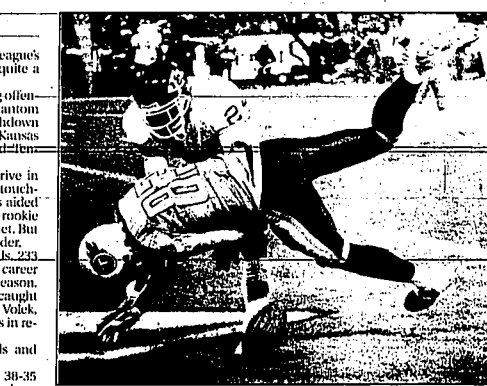
NASHVILLE, Tenn. — Two of the league's most disappointing teams put on quite a show in prime time.

And after all the wild plays and big offensive numbers Sunday night, a play-off penalty, followed by a 9-yard touchdown catch by Eddie Kennison, lifted the Kansas City Chiefs past the undermanned Tennessee Titans 49-38.

Trent Fave capped a 64-yard drive in just over a minute with his third touchdown pass. One play earlier, he was aided immensely by a personal foul on rookie Travis Lolley for a hit to Green's helmet. But Lolley clearly hit Green on the shoulder.

The teams combined for 325 yards, 233 by Chiefs receiver Drew Bennett, a career high and the most in the league this season. Bennett, a converted quarterback, caught three touchdown passes from Billy Volek, who threw for a career high 426 yards in replacing the injured Steve McNair.

Tennessee (4-9) gained 512 yards and lost. But the Titans had gone ahead 30-35 when rookie Randy Starks pounced on Tony Richardson's bobble, hand-off at the Kansas City 17, and Gary Anderson kicked a 27-yard field goal with 1:39 remaining. Then the Chiefs (5-8), who got two long



Touchdown runs from Larry Johnson, sarged back. They completed the scoring on Kawika Mitchell's 39-yard return of a fumble as the Titans nipped up a lateral play with 8 seconds remaining.

Jerome's Thibault earns preseason All-America honor

The Times-News

SPOKANE, Wash. — The accolades keep coming in for former Jerome baseball standout Jerome Thibault.

The Gonzaga University junior catcher earned two preseason baseball honors after being named to the 2005 Wallace Watch List for College

Baseball Player of the Year and as a first-team preseason All-America selection by The National Collegiate Baseball Writers Association.

Thibault is the reigning West Coast Conference Player of the Year after hitting .324 with 11 doubles and 35 RBI during the 2004 season. He filled with the single-season school record of

448 set in 1977 by Larry Patter-

son before leveling off during the final weekend.

As a sophomore, Thibault was a semifinalist for the Johnny Bench Award for the nation's top collegiate catcher and an honorable mention All-America selection by CollegeBaseballinsider.com. The Wallace Watch list com-

prised 50 players and will be trimmed to 12 semifinalists by May 24, 2005. The three finalists will be announced in Omaha, Neb. at the College World Series.

Thibault is the top returning hitter on the first team and is one of 11 juniors listed on the first-team of the 2005 Preseason NCBAWA All-America

team. The full list of honorees follows:

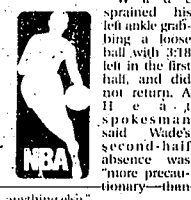
Position Players — ...
Pitchers — ...
Catchers — ...
Infielders — ...
Outfielders — ...

SPORTS

Heat hammer Wizards

By The Associated Press

MIAMI — Shaquille O'Neal scored a season-high 40 points, and the Miami Heat overcame the loss of leading scorer Dwyane Wade to beat the Washington Wizards 106-83 Monday night for their fifth straight win.



Wade sprained his left ankle grabbing a loose ball with 3:18 left in the first half and did not return. A Heat spokesman said Wade's second-half absence was "more precautionary—than anything else."

O'Neal, who had 34 points against Toronto last month, added 12 rebounds and five blocks as Miami beat Washington for the seventh consecutive time.

Gilbert Arenas scored 14 points for Washington, which lost for only the third time in 12 games.

Miami's Rasual Butler had 16 points and tied his career high with seven rebounds. Eddie Jones added 14 points and Ramon Sells had 12 points and nine assists.

Kwame Brown added 16 points for the Wizards, who averaged 102.1 points per game and were held below 83 for just the third time this season.

Miami led 71-62 after three quarters, and Washington got within seven with 10:23 remaining. Then the Heat went on a 26-11 run — with O'Neal scoring 12 of his 15 fourth-quarter points — to open a 102-80 cushion with 2:35 left.

The Wizards scored just 32 points — their lowest half-time total of the season — and trailed by 11 at the break. Antonio Daniels (1-of-7), Larry Hughes (2-of-11) and Arenas (2-of-9) contributed to 33-percent shooting.

O'Neal had 15 points, seven rebounds and four blocks in the first half. He scored 10 points to help Miami take a 20-16 lead after one quarter.

Cavaliers 92, Grizzlies 86 — MEMPHIS, Tenn. — LeBron James punctuated a 31-point performance with a slam in the



Miami Heat's Shaquille O'Neal (32) prepares to shoot over Washington Wizards' Brendan Haywood in the first quarter Monday in Miami, Fla.

closing seconds and finished with eight assists and seven steals.

Jeff McInnis added 18 points, and Zydrunas Ilgauskas finished with 11 points and 11 rebounds for the Cavaliers. Dony Gordon finished with 11 points.

Pau Gasol led the Grizzlies with 19 points, and Lorenzen Wright added 16 points and 10 rebounds.

Suns 121, Magic 100 — PHOENIX — Leandro Barbosa scored 19 points in relief of the franchise's 37-year history, Phoenix set a team-record for best start to a season.

The Suns improved to an NBA-best 18-3, their finest start in the franchise's 37-year history. Phoenix has won 14 of 15 for the first time in eight seasons.

Quentin Richardson scored 28 points to lead the NBA's highest-scoring team to its fourth

road winning streak to 10 for the team, his with the win over New Orleans.

No. 20 Mississippi St. 74, New Orleans 59 — NEW ORLEANS — Shane Power scored 17 points and Mississippi State extended its

playoffs.

Right now, the Jets (9-4) would be one AFC wild-card team, with Baltimore and Denver (8-5) battling for the other spot, and Jacksonville and Buffalo (7-6) on the outside.

The Bills, who held Cleveland, to just 17 yards Sunday (15 of that in garbage time) have won four straight games and

six of seven since Willis McGahee became the starting running back.

"We're in the other conference, I'd have some hope, but we got a little behind the field in our conference," Bills owner Ralph Wilson said.

In the NFC, even 5-8 doesn't eliminate a team. And inconsistency is the norm.

Hagerman boys hoops pulls away from Gooding, 66-53

HAGERMAN — Hagerman defeated Gooding 66-53 at home in nonconference boys basketball Monday night.

Despite a 26-point outing from Senator Brad Allison that included seven 3-pointers, the Pirates were able to pull away with a 23-point third quarter.

"We forced them to shoot from the outside," said Hagerman coach Kevin Cato.

Tim Jay led the Pirates with 18 points while Lucas Mills put up 15.

Hagerman (4-0) visits Wendell on Thursday. Gooding (1-3) hosts Kimberly on Friday.

Local sports

Richfield 78, Lighthouse Christian 48 — RICHFIELD — Richfield dominated in the first half on the way to a 78-48 win over Lighthouse Christian.

Victor Vazquez led Richfield with 19 points while Shayne Buckner added 18. Tate Exon chipped in with 13 points, nine of which came via shots from 3-point range.

Buckner led the Tigers with seven rebounds.

Richfield led 21-5 after the first quarter and 43-22 at halftime. "It was just high intensity and execution," Richfield coach Garr Ward said.

Richfield (4-0) travels to Shoshone on Wednesday.

Girls Bowling — FILER — Nine girls bowling teams from the area competed in the girls kickoff event Monday at Cedar Lakes in Filer.

Minico took home first-place honors, grabbing seven wins with a total pin count of 1,261.

Gooding was second with seven wins and a pin count of 1,052. Kimberly finished third, netting six wins and a 946 pin count.

A Baker system was used, with five girls from each team alternating frames hauled.

The boys kickoff event will be held Wednesday at Jerome Bowl in Jerome.

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Honors

Continued from D1

ended up repeating. Georgia defensive end David Pollack, LSU defensive end Marcus Spears, Miami cornerback Antrell Rolle and Auburn cornerback Carlos Rogers all considered bypassing their final years of eligibility and went on to become All-Americans.

California running back J.J. Arrington, second in the nation in rushing at 167.7 yards per game, and Purdue wide receiver Taylor Stubbfield, who caught 82 passes in 1,014 yards and 15 touchdowns, made the AP first team.

Virginia and Ohio State joined Oklahoma as teams with two first-team All-Americans. Guard Elton Brown and tight end Heath Miller made it from the Cavaliers, and linebacker A.J. Hawk and kicker Mike Nugent were picked from the Buckeyes.

Tennessee's Michael Munoz made the first team, outdoing his first. Anthony Munoz never an AP All-American when he was a star offensive lineman for USC from 1976-79.

Wisconsin defensive end Erasmus James and Michigan State punter Brandon Fields completed the first team.

2004 AP All-America Team. Ohio. Spears — Miami (Fla.) Southern California senior

Pedro picks Mets over Red Sox, sides try to close

By Ronald Blum Associated Press writer

ANAHEIM, Calif. — Pedro Martinez closed in on a four-year deal with the New York Mets, and the Boston Red Sox manager turned Monday to losing the three-time Cy Young Award winner.

"It was a great member of the Red Sox team for seven years, and a certain Hall of Famer," Red Sox president Larry Lucchino told The Associated Press in an e-mail. "It will be missed, and we are disappointed to have lost him to the Mets and the National League."

Martinez's agent, Fernando Cuiza, told the Mets he would attempt to work out a deal with them after New York guaran-

teed a fourth year, a person involved in the talks said on condition of anonymity.

Mets general manager Omar Minaya expressed confidence about the negotiations with Martinez, but wouldn't detail the discussions.

"The good news is that we're still in dialogue," Minaya said. "Every day that goes by and we are having dialogue is a good day."

Minaya then left baseball's winter meetings and returned to New York, and the sides will work by telephone to finalize the contract language.

Martinez, 33, helped pitch Boston to its first World Series title since 1918, but Red Sox general manager Theo Epstein said he refused to increase the team's offer in the past two

days.

Martinez, 33, also must pass a physical before the Mets complete the deal.

New York initially offered a \$37.5 million, three-year contract with a \$12.5 million team option for 2008.

Boston's floor proposal was a \$30.5 million, three-year deal that contained a club option for 2008, a baseball official said, also on condition of anonymity.

The Seattle Mariners tried to close a deal with Ichiro Suzuki while the Baltimore Orioles also pursued the free-agent pitcher.

A Seattle executive told an agent that the Mariners thought they were close to agreement on a three-year contract with Seaso-

An official of another team that had sought the first baseman said the club would have averaged about \$11 million.

Season's agent, Casey Close, said that Seattle and Baltimore were still competing for Seaso-

"Nothing is conclusive at this moment," Close said. "We have to see what this thing goes the next 24, 48 hours." Close said, "It's all speculative as to what people's perspectives are."

With the meetings wrapping up Monday, teams appeared more concerned about setting up the groundwork for future deals than actually finalizing swaps and contracts.

The late Saturday night "Toronto Blue Jays and free-agent pitcher and baseman Corey Koskie reached preliminary agreement on a \$17 million, three-year contract.

SPORTS IN BRIEF

Tri-Cities boys hoops signs end Wednesday

RUPERT — The Tri-Cities boys basketball program will conclude its registration period on Wednesday, Dec. 15. Those interested in signing up may do so today and Wednesday at Rupert City Hall from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

BYU promotes Mendenthal to coach

PROVO, Utah — Defensive Coordinator Brent Mendenthal was hired Monday as the head football coach at Brigham Young.

Mendenthal, 38, replaces Gary Crowton, who stepped down two weeks ago after his third losing season.

Mendenthal and longtime BYU assistant Lance Reynolds, who has been interim coach since Crowton's resignation, will take over for Crowton. Reynolds will remain on staff.

Oregon coordinator will take Utah job

ETHEL, Ore. — Oregon offensive coordinator Andy Ludwig has been named offensive coordinator at Utah, launching a search for a replacement for the Ducks who will become the third man to hold the job in five seasons.

Ludwig, 40, told the Oregonian that he wasn't forced out and hadn't thought about leaving Oregon until he received a phone call from Utah coach Kyle Whittingham a week ago.

Ludwig, an Ogdon native, also coached at Fresno State, tutoring Bulldog quarterback Duane Toles in the NFL draft in 2002. In 2001, he took over Oregon's offense in 2002 and the Ducks averaged 32.1 points per game.

In addition to Idaho State, Ludwig also has coached at Cal Poly-San Luis Obispo, Portland State and Boise State.

BASKETBALL

Table with columns for NBA, WNBA, and various league standings and scores.

WHAT'S ON T.V.

Table listing TV programs, times, and channels for Basketball and Football.

Area ski report

Table providing ski conditions, snow depth, and lift status for various ski resorts.

TRANSACCIONS

Table listing real estate transactions, including property addresses, sale prices, and agents.

SOFTBALL

Table listing softball game results and scores.

FOOTBALL

NFL

Table listing NFL game results and scores.

AMERICAN FOOTBALL

Table listing American football game results and scores.

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BRIEFLY IN MONEY

Taxpayer service has new numbers

TWIN FALLS — Idaho's Taxpayer Advocate Service, an independent system for taxpayers whose tax problems have not been resolved through normal channels, has two new contact numbers for taxpayers to reach the service.

The service works to ensure tax problems are promptly and fairly handled. IAS operates independently of any other IRS office and reports directly to Congress through the national taxpayer advocate. In Idaho, the IAS advocate is Merry Trudeau.

Advocates cannot change tax laws or make technical tax decisions, but they can examine difficult problems and cut through red tape to help solve problems quickly.

The new telephone number for the service is 800-829-2827. The new fax number is 208-735-2821.

Sonic Corp. named to annual Forbes list

TWIN FALLS — Fast-food restaurant company Sonic Corp., which has 488 Valley restaurants, has placed 68th on the Forbes 200 Best Small Companies list for 2004.

Sonic said it has the longest-standing tenure of any company on the list.

"This recognition is a testament to the efforts of Sonic franchisees, drive-in managers and crew members, and the dedication of Sonic Corp. employees," said Cliff Hudson, Sonic's chairman, president and chief executive.

Tuesday Morning lowers 2004 guidance

DALLAS — Home accessories and gift retailer Tuesday Morning Corp. lowered its 2004 earnings guidance and forecast fourth-quarter results, below Wall Street expectations on fewer-than-expected seasonal sales.

Tuesday Morning, which has a Twin Falls store, said it expects fourth-quarter earnings to be flat at about 83 cents per share. The company posted earnings of 83 cents per share in the year-earlier period, including a 6-cent charge for early debt retirement.

Analysts surveyed by Thomson First Call have expected the company to earn \$1.05 per share, up from 89 cents per share last year, excluding items.

Shippers predict strong holiday volume

DECATUR, Ga. — Major shipping firms UPS Inc. and FedEx Corp. are predicting strong peak holiday volume despite a lackluster start to the season in sales from small, specialty retailers.

They attribute their projections to a spurt in online and direct-to-consumer shipping from small, specialty retailers. They also note that many shoppers may be waiting until the last minute to buy their gifts, which could skew the early season numbers.

Memphis-based FedEx expected to deliver 7.7 million packages on Monday, its peak holiday shipping day. Atlanta-based UPS expects to deliver 20 million packages on its peak day, which is Dec. 21.

Oracle raises bid, takes over PeopleSoft

SAN FRANCISCO — Ending 18 months of bad blood, Oracle Corp. raised its takeover bid for bitter rival PeopleSoft Inc. by 10 percent to set a \$10.3 billion deal that will create the world's second-largest maker of business-applications software.

The agreement caps a ramorous Silicon Valley feud marked by lurid exchanges between the companies' management teams and colorful courtroom battles.

By picking up 12,750 PeopleSoft customers and nearly \$3 billion in annual revenue, Oracle hopes to mount a more serious challenge to German software maker SAP's leadership in business applications software — the computer coding that automates a wide range of administrative tasks.

— compiled from staff and wire reports

Agency approves guidelines

Urban Renewal aims to streamline grant incentive process

By Megan Hinds
Times-News writer

TWIN FALLS — The city's Urban Renewal Agency approved Monday a set of new guidelines that allows the agency to grant incentive money to eligible businesses sooner, and Janet Goringe's downtown storefront renovation project was the first business under consideration.

Goringe, who owns and operates a home decor store with three distinct storefronts at 125 Main Ave. W., came before Urban Renewal in September to ask about incentive funding for the store's remodeling project.

At that point, Goringe said she already had spent nearly \$50,000 to uncover and restore the building's original brick facade and planned to spend about \$200,000 more. The business opened last month.

Following its own precedent, Urban Renewal would have funded up to 10 percent of Goringe's new property-taxable investment

in the city's urban-renewal area. But Urban Renewal couldn't grant that money until the project's value showed up on the tax rolls — a process that can take up to two years, according to the agency's board.

So after months of debate in an agency committee, Urban Renewal on Monday passed a new set of guidelines that allows the agency to speed up the process by giving 80 percent of that 10 percent commitment to the project — \$16,000 in Goringe's case — when the developer has proved he or she has already invested 20 percent of the entire project's cost.

The agency will grant the remaining 20 percent of its 10 percent commitment — \$4,000 for Goringe — when the project's taxable value is reflected on the tax rolls.

"The new guidelines are only recommendations for the board to follow when considering business incentives," said Dave McAlindin, the city's economic development director.

Industrial projects — like Jayco Inc.'s planned expansion to Twin Falls — are exempt from the guidelines. The agency can look at each project that comes before the board on a case-by-case basis and take into consideration the number and quality of jobs being created and the impact a project may have on the community.

In other Urban Renewal business:

The agency gave an update on the Jayco project. The deal to purchase the former Norco Windows building on South Washington Street in order to lease the building to the Indiana-based travel trailer manufacturer closed Monday.

The city already has in hand the company's first lease agreement, as well as \$5,000 to reimburse the city for the building's appraisal, said Gary Evans, the city's finance director. The company also is talking with Twin Falls-based K & T Steel

about farming out some of Jayco's trailer chassis work, McAlindin said.

The agency voted to give a city-owned house to the United Way for use as an office. The house, at 421 Second Ave. N., has been vacant since 2002, when the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development sold it to the city for \$1. The property was transferred to Urban Renewal because the agency has more latitude than the city itself to give away property, said Fanz Wunderlich, city attorney.

The agency voted to refund its 1998 Series A Tax Incremental Bonds. The move will allow Urban Renewal to change the interest rate of the bonds from a variable interest rate to a fixed interest rate.

"It seems like the conservative, safe thing to do to protect ourselves from rising rates," said agency member Jeff Clapworth.

Times-News business writer Megan Hinds can be reached at 735-3238 or m.hinds@timesnews.net.

China will impose duties on clothing exports

The Washington Post

WASHINGTON — China has decided to impose duties on its exports of textiles and apparel, a move that could ease worldwide fears that Chinese clothing makers will soon dominate the global market after its liberalization on Jan. 1, according to a report in an authoritative Chinese newspaper.

The export duties may avert moves by the United States and other rich countries to impose new limits on imports of Chinese clothing. Bush administration officials have exhorted China to restrain its export surpluses in the non-disclosed late Sunday is a victory for the administration.

The report in China Daily, an English-language newspaper that often reports government announcements, did not specify how high the export duties would be, other than to say that they would be aimed at encouraging "high-end" textile production. If the duties are deemed by U.S. officials to be too low to have much of an effect on exports, Washington might still follow through on its threats to cap the inflow of Chinese clothing.

The Chinese move comes less than three weeks before the end of a 30-year-old system restricting international trade in textiles and apparel. Starting Jan. 1, the quota system that has governed the trade since the mid-1970s will expire, eliminating rules that capped the amount of trousers, shirts, sweaters, towels and other such items that each developing country was allowed to ship to the United States, the European Union and Canada.

China, with its low costs and enormous labor supply, has been widely forecast to capture the lion's share of the world market when the quota system is terminated and countries are free to ship as much as they can sell. That prospect has aroused considerable alarm in the U.S. textile industry and in many developing countries, as well because the manufacture of clothing is typically the first rung on the ladder of industrialization for poor nations.

The U.S. industry determined to fend off the Chinese export juggernaut has filed petitions with the U.S. government seeking the imposition of "safeguards" — caps on imports that the United States and other governments may put on Chinese textile or apparel items if those items are flooding their markets. Beijing agreed to allow such safeguards until 2008 under the terms of its entry into the World Trade Organization.

Chinese government and industry officials have evidently concluded that restraining exports, a process they can control, is preferable to the uncertainty of tariffs that would be imposed by foreign governments. The China Daily report said that at a closed-door meeting in October, 70 to 80 percent of 400 textile company representatives raised their hands when asked whether they "would support stricter industry management after quotas are lifted."

IN THE SPIRIT OF GIVING

Gift cards increase in popularity, but can carry hidden costs

The Associated Press

NEW YORK — Publicist Scott Black started looking at purchasing gift cards a couple of years ago, when he realized how much it cost to ship holiday presents to customers and family.

"Whether for a client or my mother-in-law, it seemed silly to spend \$50 on a gift and then \$20 to ship it," said Black, 30, president of the TimePlace Public Relations agency in Dallas.

It's become a big fan of gift cards, which are prepaid cards that look like credit or debit cards that recipients can use to purchase goods or services. Black even sends them to his mother, who is an avid reader.

I get gift cards to the book stores near her," he said. "For her, the hunt for a new book is as exciting as getting the gift."

The most popular gift cards are sold by retailers, including department stores, restaurants and music shops, for use in their own outlets. Others are available through financial institutions and generally carry the logos of Visa, MasterCard, American Express or Discover. These can be used wherever the branded credit cards are accepted.

Although increasingly popular with American consumers, gift cards are not without their drawbacks.

A study done by the Division of Consumer Affairs in Montgomery County, Md., found that some gift card issuers do not offer replacement cards if the originals are lost or stolen.

Many card "inactivity" or "dormancy" fees if a card isn't used within a year or other set period of time, reducing the value of the card by as much as \$2 a month. Some gift cards, especially bank-issued cards, cost \$3.95 to \$11.95 to buy and expire after a year or 18 months, the study found.

"Consumers should understand a gift cards' policies before they buy," the Maryland agency said.

Despite potential problems, the cards are gaining increasing consumer acceptance because they help make gift-giving easy, said Tara Weiner, national managing partner of consulting firm Deloitte & Touche USA's consumer business industries practice.

"Gift cards are convenient for the giver



Publicist executive Scott Black holds a Barnes & Noble and Cheesecake Factory gift card that he will be giving to friends and family as gifts over the Christmas holidays. Wednesday in Dallas. Black started looking seriously at purchasing gift cards a couple of years ago when he realized how much it was costing to ship presents to customers and family for the holidays.

and convenient for the recipient, who can choose a gift they truly want," Weiner said.

A survey conducted by Deloitte & Touche found that 64 percent of consumers intend to buy gift cards this holiday season, up from 60 percent in 2003. About a half said they would purchase cards for stores or products, some 34 percent intend to buy cards for restaurants and 27 percent expect to buy cards for services.

"But the Deloitte & Touche survey also found that more than a quarter of the people who received gift cards during the 2003 holiday season hadn't fully redeemed all of their gift cards a year later.

"You want the gift cards to be fully taken advantage of," Weiner said. "That suggests there's an opportunity for retailers to consider promotions around gift cards after the holidays."

Ruth Furman, 36, of Las Vegas, used to avoid gift cards because she felt they were impersonal. Now she considers them the best way to make sure her eight nieces and nephews get exactly the gifts they want.

"I go out of my way to find out what they like, where they shop," Furman said. "I want the kids to get something they're

Please see CARDS, Page D5

Ask about fees before buying gift cards

The Treasury's Office of the Comptroller of the Currency and a number of state consumer agencies suggest consumers look into the terms and conditions on gift cards before they buy. Some things to look out for:

- Is there a charge for purchase of the card?
- Are gift cards issued by retailers generally don't have upfront costs, but bank cards that carry the logo of companies such as Visa, MasterCard, American Express and Visa can cost \$3.95 to \$11.95 to buy.
- Does the card have an expiration date?
- Are "inactivity" or "dormancy" fees deducted from the value of the gift card if it isn't used in a set period of time?
- Are replacement cards available if a gift card is lost or stolen? Is there a charge for the replacement?
- Exactly where can the cards be used? Can they be used on the Internet, or only for in-store purchases?
- Can the cards be swapped for cash?

Spreading holiday cheer: Retail sales rise by 0.1 percent in November

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — American shoppers showed a bit of cheer at the cash registers in November, boosting sales at the nation's retailers by 0.1 percent.

The newest snapshot of consumers' buying appetite, issued by the Commerce Department on Monday, turned out to be somewhat brighter than the flat showing in sales that economists were expecting.

To be sure, consumers were more selective in their purchases in November, compared with October. Retail sales increased by 0.8 percent in October from the previous month, according to revised figures. That was much stronger than the 0.2 percent increase first estimated. Economists closely watch

consumers' behavior because their spending accounts for roughly two-thirds of all economic activity in the United States.

"Christmas has been saved," declared Anthony Chan, senior economist at JPMorgan Fleming Asset Management. "It's not going to be a blockbuster Christmas. But it will not be as some feared — that Christmas is not going to happen this year."

Shoppers in November spent on electronics and appliances, building materials and garden supplies, groceries and other items. They boosted sales at bars and restaurants. But they cut back on purchases of cars, clothes and sporting goods, books and music.

Excluding sales of automobiles, which can swing widely

from month to month, sales at all other merchants in November rose by a solid 0.5 percent, exceeding some analysts' forecasts for a more moderate 0.3 percent gain. In October, sales for this category excluding automobiles, went up by a brisk 1.1 percent.

In other economic news, businesses keeping a close eye on customer demand boosted inventories by 0.2 percent in October after holding them steady in September, the Commerce Department said in a second report. Businesses sales, meanwhile, rose by a strong 1.2 percent in October, up from a 0.3 percent increase.

On the retail sales front, concerns about high energy prices and the availability of jobs are



Trace Anderson of West Sayville, N.Y., walks along New York's Sixth Ave. with holiday purchases Sunday. With 13 days left until Christmas, the nation's malls and stores stepped up discounts over the weekend, but business appeared to be mixed, according to analysts.

MONEY

NEW YORK STOCK EXCHANGE

Table with columns: Name, Div, Last, Chg. Lists various stocks like AAPL, AMZN, MSFT, etc. with their respective prices and changes.

MARKET SUMMARY

Summary table for NYSE, AMEX, and NASDAQ with columns: Name, Div, Last, Chg.

NYSE Most Active (11 on work) table listing top trading stocks.

AMEX Most Active (11 on work) table listing top trading stocks.

NASDAQ Most Active (11 on work) table listing top trading stocks.

NYSE Gainers (12 on work) table listing top performing stocks.

AMEX Gainers (12 on work) table listing top performing stocks.

NASDAQ Gainers (12 on work) table listing top performing stocks.

NYSE Losers (12 on work) table listing top declining stocks.

AMEX Losers (12 on work) table listing top declining stocks.

NASDAQ Losers (12 on work) table listing top declining stocks.

NYSE Diary table listing various market indicators.

AMEX Diary table listing various market indicators.

NASDAQ Diary table listing various market indicators.

NYSE Indexes table listing major market indices.

AMEX Indexes table listing major market indices.

NASDAQ Indexes table listing major market indices.

NYSE Stocks of Local Interest table listing local market news.

AMEX Stocks of Local Interest table listing local market news.

NASDAQ Stocks of Local Interest table listing local market news.

NASDAQ NATIONAL MARKET

Large table listing NASDAQ National Market data, including various stock prices and market indicators.

INDEXES

Table listing various market indices like S&P 500, Dow Jones, etc.

STOCKS OF LOCAL INTEREST

Table listing local market news and stock prices.

AMERICAN STOCK EXCHANGE

Table listing American Stock Exchange data.

HOW TO READ THE MARKET REPORT

Here are the 225 most active stocks on the New York Stock Exchange, the 400 most active on the NASDAQ National Market and 100 most active on American Stock Exchange.

Names: Stocks are listed alphabetically by the company's full name (not its abbreviation).

Div: Current annual dividend rate paid on stock, based on latest quarterly or semiannual declaration, unless otherwise footnoted.

YTD: Price stock was trading at when exchange closed for the day.

Chg: Loss or gain for the day. No change indicated by a dash.

Fund: Name of mutual fund and family.

Sett: Net asset value, or price at which fund could be sold.

Chg: Daily net change in the NAV.

Stock Footnote: C - PE greater than 90; d - Loss in last 12 mos; e - New 52-week low during trading day; f - Dividend (cash or stock); g - Stock on NYSE; h - New issue in past 12 mos; i - Closes-end month sale; j - PE calculated as 1 - 1/2 times the price of 25¢ or more in last 52 wks. Div begins with date of or stock dividend; k - Also sets off or extra; l - Also sets off or extra; m - Without warrants; n - Warrants; o - Without warrants; p - Without warrants; q - Without warrants; r - Without warrants; s - Without warrants; t - Without warrants; u - Without warrants; v - Without warrants; w - Without warrants; x - Without warrants; y - Without warrants; z - Without warrants.

Dividend Footnote: a - Also sets off or extra; b - Also sets off or extra; c - Also sets off or extra; d - Also sets off or extra; e - Also sets off or extra; f - Also sets off or extra; g - Also sets off or extra; h - Also sets off or extra; i - Also sets off or extra; j - Also sets off or extra; k - Also sets off or extra; l - Also sets off or extra; m - Also sets off or extra; n - Also sets off or extra; o - Also sets off or extra; p - Also sets off or extra; q - Also sets off or extra; r - Also sets off or extra; s - Also sets off or extra; t - Also sets off or extra; u - Also sets off or extra; v - Also sets off or extra; w - Also sets off or extra; x - Also sets off or extra; y - Also sets off or extra; z - Also sets off or extra.

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HOME HEALTH PROFESSIONALS

First Choice Home Care & Hospice

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Home Health Professionals

Home Health Professionals

Home Health Professionals

HOME HEALTH PROFESSIONALS

First Choice Home Care & Hospice

Home Health Professionals

Home Health Professionals

Home Health Professionals

Home Health Professionals

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Home Health Professionals

Home Health Professionals

Home Health Professionals

HOME HEALTH PROFESSIONALS

First Choice Home Care & Hospice

Home Health Professionals

Home Health Professionals

Home Health Professionals

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Advertisement for Home Health Professionals, featuring contact information and services.

Advertisement for Home Health Professionals, featuring contact information and services.

Advertisement for Jorgensen Fabric Products, featuring contact information and services.

CLOSING FEATURES

Table with columns: Commodity, High, Low, Close, Change. Includes sections for SOYBEANS, WHEAT, and GRAINS.

MARKETS

Table with columns: Commodity, High, Low, Close, Change. Includes sections for SOYBEANS, WHEAT, and GRAINS.

LIVESTOCK

Table with columns: Commodity, High, Low, Close, Change. Includes sections for CATTLE, HOGS, and PIGS.

POCKET LIST

Table with columns: Commodity, High, Low, Close, Change. Includes sections for GOLD, SILVER, and OIL.

NEW YORK (AP) - Spot market

Table with columns: Commodity, High, Low, Close, Change. Includes sections for SOYBEANS, WHEAT, and GRAINS.

NEW YORK (AP) - Investors

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NEW YORK (AP) - Futures trading

Table with columns: Commodity, High, Low, Close, Change. Includes sections for SOYBEANS, WHEAT, and GRAINS.

NEW YORK (AP) - Key currency exchange

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BEANS

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GRAINS

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CHEESE

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POTATOES

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NEW YORK (AP) - Sugar

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NEW YORK (AP) - Soybean

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NEW YORK (AP) - Wheat

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NEW YORK (AP) - Corn

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MUTUAL FUNDS

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