

The Times-News

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Twin Falls, Idaho/99th year, No. 352

Friday, December 17, 2004

50 cents

GOOD MORNING

WEATHER

Today: Partly cloudy with morning fog possible. High 43, low 25.

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MAGIC VALLEY

Stolen Identity: Burglar makes off with Cop's gun, badge.

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NATION

Making changes: Snow supports Bush's Social Security plan.

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MONEY

Mortgage misdeeds: SEC finds Fannie Mae violated accounting rules, calls for earnings restatement.

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WEEKEND



Holiday movies: Can Leonardo DiCaprio pass for Howard Hughes?

Page C1

SPORTS



Regional showdown: The first-place Twin Falls girls hosted second-place Highland Thursday night.

Page D1

OPINION

Butch out front: Congressman's swift jump into gubernatorial race was purely a timing tactic, today's editorial says.

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COMING UP

Reason for the season

Take an introspective look at Christmas.

Saturday In

The Times-News

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Bush mulls spending freeze

The Associated Press

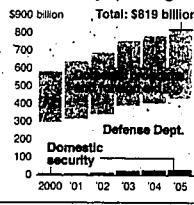
WASHINGTON — The White House is telling federal agencies to expect lean budgets next year, with congressional aides and lobbyists saying President Bush appears ready to propose freezing or even slightly cutting overall domestic spending.

and interest on the federal debt. Bush's stringent approach comes as record federal deficits hit \$413 billion last year, hindering his ability to pay for overhauling Social Security and extending his tax cuts. He also has tied the budget shortfalls to the weakening dollar, and pledged to reduce red ink to help prop up the currency.

Spending more

Discretionary spending must be approved by Congress and the president each year and covers about two-thirds of the federal budget. The rest is automatically spent benefits and payments like Social Security and interest on the federal debt.

Discretionary spending



NOTE: Graphic excludes emergency spending bills, including the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan. 2005 figure omits spending request for Iraq and Afghanistan. President Bush is expected to send Congress for \$75 billion or more.

SOURCE: White House Office of Management and Budget

Please see BUSH, Page A2

CLOWNING FOR CHARITY



East Milgro Junior High School teacher Jim Watkins kisses a pig during the Gift of Green assembly at the school Thursday. Watkins' stunt was to reward the students, who raised \$1,500 to help bring Christmas to underprivileged families.

Students, teachers own up to their bets

By Lorraine Cavener
Times-News correspondent

RUPERT — Eighth-grade history teacher Jim Watkins has no qualms about kissing a pig. And in order to prove it to three cheerleaders who were reluctant to swap slobber with a small swine on Thursday, he laid a big smooch on a pig's snout.

dignity along with other staff and students at East Milgro Junior High School to raise money. They spent Thursday afternoon paying up on promises to do such things as pig kissing, hair cutting and worm eating. The were raising money for a program called the Gift of Green.

student Tegan Nevarez, who lost collar-length hair to the clippers as "too cheering" and screaming students egged him on. Teacher Julie Kraus asked Nevarez how he felt as piles of locks fell to the floor. "This sucks," Nevarez said. "Then she asked him what he was thinking when he volunteered to have his head shaved if the school could raise \$1,000. "I wasn't thinking," Nevarez answered.

from their mistakes," she said. Kylie Fisher, another student, ate three earthworms. Math teacher Karyn Amen, who had hair down to the middle of her back, also got a haircut. "She has a scissors and she knows how to use them," Kraus said as Leslie O'Donnell, a licensed beautician, snipped off 10 inches to donate to Locks of Love.

EBay boosts sales of old school buses

By Karin Kowalski
Times-News writer

RUPERT — The Minidoka County School District has found a creative way to get rid of its used school buses and get a little more cash to boot. It's that growing online phenomenon known as eBay. The district is in its second year of using the online auction site to collect bids. The district still advertises for buses in local newspapers, but bidders will have to go online for a shot at three old buses that were posted Thursday, said Michele DeLuna, the district's business manager. DeLuna said Minidoka put buses on eBay for the first time last year after the traditional bids were about \$1,100. "We're not getting enough out of these buses," DeLuna said she thought at the time. A new school bus costs about \$56,000, but loses most of its value through heavy use. After the Minidoka district put the buses online the bids rose to about \$3,400. "We had a little bit better luck on eBay," DeLuna said.

The dual method is a way to both advertise to local agencies that buy buses and the rest of the world. Last year's buyers were from Twin Falls, northern Idaho, Canada and Alaska. This year the district is selling two 1987 Ward 1100 65-passenger buses that were appraised at \$2,900 each and a 1991 Ward/111 1800 65-passenger bus that was appraised at \$3,500. DeLuna said the district got the idea from the Meridian School District, which sells buses through a company that sells live and online auctions. Money from Minidoka's online auctions goes back into the plant facilities fund that helps purchase buses, DeLuna said. The district is buying three new ones this year. The Minidoka district doesn't have a lot of surplus property to sell. DeLuna said many things have to be nearby junk before a district can sell them. Things like old textbooks typically go home with students, but with buses, it's a waste to have old ones sitting around, DeLuna said.

Police: Soldier arranged wound

Los Angeles Times

PHILADELPHIA — A U.S. Army combat veteran on leave from a unit headed back to Iraq arranged for a friend to shoot him in the leg in an attempt to avoid returning to the war zone, Philadelphia police said Thursday. Specialist Marquise Roberts, 23, first told police that he had been shot Tuesday afternoon as he walked past two men who were arguing on a north Philadelphia street. But police said their investigation found that Roberts actually was shot once in the leg by a friend as part of a scheme to avoid returning to Iraq. Roberts, who served seven months in Iraq during the U.S. invasion in 2003, was due to report back to Fort Stewart, Ga., on Wednesday, police said. He is a supply specialist with the 3rd Infantry Division (Mechanized), according to commanders at Fort Stewart. They said Roberts, who has been in the army since 2001, was on a two-week holiday leave to his home in Philadelphia. The division, which helped topple the Saddam Hussein regime in Baghdad in April 2003, has been ordered to

begin heading back to Iraq next month, Roberts returned from Iraq in mid-summer. Philadelphia Police Inspector William Calarulo said Roberts was shot by his wife's cousin, Roland Fuller, 28, in north Philadelphia Tuesday afternoon. Officials at a nearby hospital called police after Roberts sought medical treatment — standard policy for gunshot

Police say man tried to run down T.F. teacher

The Times-News

TWIN FALLS — A man who police say was trying to run down a teacher is facing a felony charge of aggravated assault. William J. Holland, 31, of Twin Falls, is scheduled for a preliminary hearing today in 5th District Magistrate Court to be formally charged in connection with the Dec. 8 incident. An affidavit written by Officer Jason Fair of the Twin Falls Police Department describes the events leading up to the arrest. Police were called to Magic Valley High School for a report of an assault.

The suspect was taken to the Twin Falls County Jail, where he allegedly told an officer that he wanted to kill "that woman at the school" and then kill himself.

Alleged victim Kellen Chapman, a teacher at the school, said she was in her vehicle leaving the school when she saw a car following closely behind her. She stopped to get out and talk to the driver because she thought it was a student of hers. Instead, the driver, later identified as Holland, pulled in front of her and cut her off. When she rolled down her window and asked if he needed anything, he replied that "she was the one he has chosen" and she should call police or he would run her off the road. Chapman said the driver then circled the school's parking lot, turning around to make a high-speed, head-on pass at her vehicle. Just before impact, he swerved away, she said. Chapman ran into the school and called police. Officers saw a vehicle matching the description given by Chapman and attempted to stop it. Police say Holland swerved around their patrol cars to elude them, but then drove to the school's parking lot where he stopped. The suspect declined, however, to open his door, even when ordered to do so at gunpoint. One officer used a baton to break the car's window in order to apprehend Holland. Holland was taken to the Twin Falls County Jail, where he allegedly told an officer that he wanted to kill "that woman at the school" and then kill himself.

TWIN FALLS FORECAST

Today: Cloud to sunny morning fog early. Windy, clear by 11:00 a.m. High: 43 to 46.
Tonight: Mostly clear with light fog developing. Low: 35 to 37.
Tomorrow: Mostly fog clearing way to mostly sunny skies. High: 48 to 51.

TWIN FALLS FIVE-DAY FORECAST

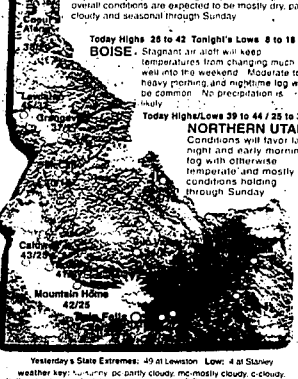
Table with 7 columns: Today, Tonight, Saturday, Sunday, Monday, Tuesday, Yesterday's Weather. Includes temperature ranges and weather icons.

BURLEY/RUPERT FORECAST

Today: Areas of morning fog possible, then partly cloudy. High: 46 to 49.
Tonight: Fog for most of the night. Some fog possible after midnight. Low: from 25 to 27.
Tomorrow: Mostly fog and dry despite some areas of morning fog developing. High: from 39 to 45.

IDAHO'S FORECAST

SUN VALLEY, SURROUNDING MTS.
Dispersible morning and late night fog developing in areas where small condensation is expected to be mostly dry, partly cloudy and seasonal through Sunday.



ALMANAC - TWIN FALLS

Table with columns: Temperature, Precipitation, Humidity, Barometric Pressure, Sunrise and Sunset, Moonrise and Moonset, U.V. INDEX, and Pollen.

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REGIONAL FORECAST

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

NATIONAL FORECAST

Table with columns: City, Today, Tomorrow, Sunday. Lists forecasts for Atlanta, Baltimore, Boston, etc.

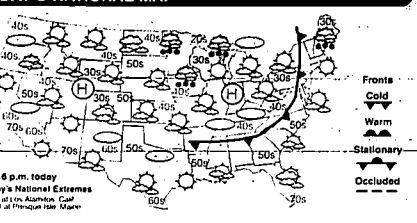
WORLD FORECAST

Table with columns: City, Today, Tomorrow, Sunday. Lists forecasts for London, Moscow, Tokyo, etc.

CANADIAN FORECAST

Table with columns: City, Today, Tomorrow, Sunday. Lists forecasts for Calgary, Edmonton, Vancouver, etc.

TODAY'S NATIONAL MAP



Bush

Continued from A1. "What I'm saying is we're going to submit a tough budget," he said. "And I look forward to working with Congress on the tough budget."
The president is still making final decisions on the \$2.3 trillion budget for 2005, which he proposes in February. But House and Senate aides, speaking on condition of anonymity, said cuts appeared destined for such programs as housing, grants for community development, purchases of new equipment for the Federal Aviation Administration, and Army Corps of Engineers water projects.
Even the National Aeronautics and Space Administration, an administration favorite, was facing an increase of just 1 percent, pending appeals to the White House by outgoing NASA Administrator Sean O'Keefe, a lobbyist said.
The zero-sum game that is federal budgeting means that if spending for next year is held flat for every dollar increase that administration-favorites like education or veterans receive, another dollar must be cut elsewhere.
Even a program receiving the same as this year would lose purchasing power due to inflation, now running about 3 percent annually.
Bush's spending blueprint would be among the toughest for domestic programs since President Reagan's budgets of the 1980s. Overall domestic spending has grown every year but three since 1987 — in 1995 and 1998, when Republicans first recaptured Congress, and in 2000, immediately after a one-time influx of U.S. aid to help poor and debate countries.
Even as domestic spending growth has slowed, overall expenditures, including defense and domestic security contin-

In Iraq, war is a break from the real fight

The walls are papered with images of scantily clad women, a collection of magazine pinups that include dozens of celebrities and supermodels from the pages of For Him Magazine. Bush's Madison. Because pornography is banned on these deployments, it's all PG-13.
Two beds, two stand-alone chairs, two folding camp cots and a makeshift coffee table are about all the room can handle, but four or more people regularly cram inside to complete the gaming rituals. A tiny Christmas tree adorned with golden ornaments is displayed by the television set, which rests atop a white mini-fridge.
Individual barracks rooms are in trailers that cover the base in long, straight lines, their porch lights a guide to night-vision helicopters. Enlisted soldiers live in pairs and do what they can to make their quarters feel like home.
Pfc. David Usry, 25, of Tampa, is Girardin's roommate, a stocky, cocky "with a neatly shaved head and the oldest member of this social club. Sitting on his bed, just a few hours before having to go back on duty, Usry smiles after muttating a foe in the game Mortal Kombat. "I play every chance I get," he says, the clock passing 1:30 a.m. "I should be asleep now. Oh well."
Sitting next to him is Spec. Robert McKinney, 23, of Brooklyn, N.Y., whose eyes are wide when he shoots at an enemy in Halo. "Don't beg, don't beg," McKinney chimes in. "Everyone gets to die."
We sort of zone out and know we can all survive and kill each other, and no one gets hurt," McKinney says later. "Everyone comes out alive."



Spec. Criss Sanders, left, trounces Spec. Robert McKinney and Pfc. David Usry in a game of Halo in a trailer at Camp Liberty, on the outskirts of Baghdad.

least temporarily hides the real war outside.
"I don't like to leave the room, if possible," Girardin said, only partially in jest. He spends his days in a large tent as an administrator with the headquarters company of the 2nd Brigade, 10th Mountain Division. "You forget where you are when you're in this room. Then you step outside and the reality hits you. You're in the desert. You're in Iraq. I try not to leave."
The smells of incense and cheap cigarettes floated into the darkness as the only door to the trailer, section 304, opened. Inside, it's not unlike many college dorm rooms or fraternity house bedrooms.
In addition, two of the families will receive a Christmas tree and one family will get three new beds and a pillow bed, which Everton Mattress Factory donated at cost.
They didn't have anything to sleep on, Watkins said.
Times-News correspondent Lorraine Cawver can be reached at 438-8446 or lew@tntimes.com.

Bets

Continued from A1.
Because of people like Watkins, Nevarez, Fisher and Amen, each recipient family of the Gift of Green program will receive between \$100 to \$200 for an electric bill, a \$100 gift certificate to Billy's Food and Drug, a food donation, a card for gas at a local gas station and Christmas presents for the children.
In addition, two of the families will receive a Christmas tree and one family will get three new beds and a pillow bed, which Everton Mattress Factory donated at cost.
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Times-News correspondent Lorraine Cawver can be reached at 438-8446 or lew@tntimes.com.

Rescuer in Sept. 11 attacks is denied workers' comp

ALBANY, N.Y. (AP) — A court Thursday denied workers' compensation benefits for a World Trade Center official who rescued 9/11 survivors on Sept. 11, 2001, to help rescue victims of the terrorist attack, saying he was ineligible because he hadn't been ordered to the scene.
The Appellate Division of the Supreme Court ruled against Christopher Duff's workers' compensation claims for psychological injuries.
The man was the property manager for the World Trade Center, said one of Duff's attorneys, Robert Grey. "We don't understand the finding that he was not in the course of his employment," Grey said he may appeal, but added that the ruling preserves the former state worker's claim to federal compensation for respiratory and psychological problems as a volunteer.
Jon Sullivan, a spokesman for the Workers' Compensation Board, said the board will work with Duff to help him obtain the federal benefits.

Corrections

City lift station will move drinking water
An article Tuesday concerning an allocation of money for a lift station improvement project by the city of Twin Falls incorrectly identified the purpose for which the station is to be used.
The lift station will be used to move drinking water.
The Times-News regrets the error.

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NATION

Snow supports plan for Social Security

Los Angeles Times

WASHINGTON — As opponents of the idea mobilized, Treasury Secretary John W. Snow predicted Thursday that Congress would approve President Bush's skillfully plan to let workers shift some of their Social Security payroll tax payments into private retirement accounts that they would invest, with what he said would be little risk to themselves.

"They're all prudent vehicles," Snow said. "That is, this isn't going and taking your money and putting it on a slot machine in Las Vegas. These are all, based, diversified investments, which of course reduces risk. Diversification reduces risk. And I'm confident that any personal account would be structured around highly diversified — portfolios, which reduce risks."



John W. Snow

In an interview with the Los Angeles Times, Snow acknowledged that workers would incur investment risk if they bought stocks, as expected, in the proposed Social Security retirement accounts.

"Equities have a higher return as you know, than the risk-free, government paper reflecting in part a risk," he said, referring to government bonds. "And somewhat higher risks (are associated with) somewhat higher returns — the risk-reward ratio."

Critics of private accounts have said that putting Social Security funds in the stock market is too risky.

But Snow said the investment risk could be managed. One way, he said, would be to have the Thrift Savings Plan offered to federal employees, which offers a limited selection of five investment funds for workers saving for retirement. Two are bond funds, and three are stock funds.

"I don't see any inordinate risk in the federal employees thrift plan," he said.

Snow spoke shortly after President Bush concluded a two-day White House Conference on the Economy with a call not only for an overhaul of Social Security but also for tax reform, regulatory relief and limits on "trivolous" lawsuits.

At the same time, a coalition of organizations announced its opposition to replacing any part of Social Security with private investment accounts. The groups included the AFL-CIO, the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, the National Organization for Women, the Alliance for Retired Americans and the Consortium for Citizens with Disabilities.

Studies: Girls are drinking more

Newsday

The percentage of teenage girls who drink alcoholic beverages is rising faster than that of boys, and on average, the girls take their first drink at age 13, the American Medical Association said Thursday in reporting the findings of two surveys.

The AMA contends that a class of beverages informally known as "alcopops" is partly to blame, and it is warning doctors to educate teenagers about the dangers of such sweet drinks.

The polls indicate that teenage girls are most vulnerable to the marketing of the beverages, which contain 5 percent to 7 percent alcohol and have names like Rick's Spiked

Lemonade, Doc Oit's Hard Lemon Flavored Malt Beverage, Mike's Hard Lemonade, and Hooper's Hooch Lemon Brew. The fruit flavored drinks come in colorful packaging and are also called "girly drinks," malt beverages, RTDs (ready to drink) or FABs (flavored alcoholic beverages).

"We're alarmed and concerned with these findings," said American Medical Association's president-elect Dr. J. Edward Hill, a family doctor in Tupelo,

Miss. "Any alcohol is a drug with side effects. Alcopops are anything but fun and harmless."

The AMA wants to establish a dialogue between doctors, parents and teenagers," he said. "Kids are smart. They need to hear that there are significant medical and behavioral consequences to drinking alcopops."

The AMA has created a poster about the dangers of alcopops and will be asking physicians to place them in their waiting rooms or exam rooms.

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Killer nurse admits to murder of judge in 1988

NEWARK, N.J. (AP) — A former nurse who claims to have killed more than 40 patients at hospitals in New Jersey and Pennsylvania pleaded guilty Thursday to murdering a Jersey City judge in 1988.

Charles Cullen, 44, admitted he killed Municipal Judge John W. Yengo by putting lidocaine, a local anesthetic and heart medication, in the judge's IV. The drug made his heart stop.

The plea agreement calls for a sentence of life in prison without parole for 30 years, to be served on top of Cullen's other sentence. Prosecutor Paula Dow said it ensured Cullen would spend "the rest of his life behind bars."

Cullen agreed to help investigators identify his victims in exchange for a promise they would not seek the death penalty.

The admission makes the judge Cullen's earliest known victim. Yengo died at St. Barnabas Hospital in Livingston a year after Cullen graduated from nursing school. Cullen worked at the hospital nearly five years.

Cullen has now pleaded guilty to killing 24 patients and trying to kill five others, mostly by injecting them with heart drugs. His lawyer said Cullen believed that his victims were terminally ill and that it was dehumanizing to prolong people's lives by artificial means.

Saddam meets with his lawyer

BAGHDAD, Iraq (AP) — Saddam Hussein met for the first time since his capture a year ago with a defense lawyer Thursday, two days after Iraq announced it will soon bring top figures of the fallen regime to court.

A U.S. military official familiar with the case confirmed that Saddam met with a lawyer in his cell and that the visit was the first by an attorney to the former Iraqi dictator.

The official speaking on condition of anonymity, provided no further details.

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WORLD

Concerns over drug threaten South Africa AIDS program

JOHANNESBURG (AP) — South Africa (AP) — Charmaine and her husband tried for over a year to have a child. The day she found out she was pregnant, a doctor told her she was HIV-positive.



Charmaine, left, who gave only one name, has blood samples taken for testing in Johannesburg, South Africa, Dec. 6.

Devastated, Charmaine considered abortion, but opted instead to try an AIDS drug called nevirapine to protect her newborn girl — now a healthy 1-year-old "miracle," she says.

Researchers now warn that taking a single dose of nevirapine during pregnancy can make mothers resistant to later treatment with the drug. The finding is threatening a program that's saved thousands of infants here from HIV transmission in the world's most HIV-infected country, where 600 people die each day from AIDS-related complications.

In July, South Africa's Medicines Control Council recommended hospitals give up the single-dose nevirapine regimen in light of resistance concerns, saying mothers should take more effective — and expensive — "cocktails" of anti-retroviral drugs available in the United States and other wealthy countries.

But that would put protection out of reach for mothers like Charmaine, who gave only one name because of the stigma still associated with AIDS. South African doctors say until better options become available here they'll continue giving nevirapine to AIDS-sickened mothers.

"You can't apply a standard here in Africa that says until we can get the better drugs of treatment, let's not do anything," said Dr. Ashraf Coovadia, head of the pediatric HIV clinic at Johannesburg's Coronation Mother and Child Hospital. "If we just pull the plug on nevirapine ... many, many more babies

would die."

South African regulators started asking questions about nevirapine when manufacturer Boehringer-Ingelheim withdrew its 2002 application with the U.S. Food and Drug Administration to market the drug in America to protect babies during birth.

The company noted serious irregularities in a key study conducted in Uganda. Top U.S. officials were warned of the problems weeks before President Bush announced a \$500 million initiative in June 2002 to spread nevirapine in Africa. The Associated Press revealed this week.

Subsequent studies, however, confirmed the safety and efficacy of nevirapine, including one at Coronation hospital that found a single dose cut HIV transmission to 8.9 percent.

Nevirapine can cause severe rashes, liver toxicity and even death in some patients who use the drug on a daily basis to treat HIV, the virus that causes AIDS. But no serious reactions have been reported after a single

dose, researchers say.

The main concern is that taking nevirapine during pregnancy can cause resistance to the drug, compromising the mother's future treatment. One study conducted here found that 39 percent of HIV-infected women who get a single dose go on to harbor virus that is resistant to the drug.

Tape attributed to bin Laden praises attack

CAIRO (AP) — A man identified as Osama bin Laden, speaking on an audiotape posted on an Islamic Web site Thursday, praised the men who attacked a U.S. consulate in Saudi Arabia earlier this month and called on militants to stop the flow of oil to the West.

The voice sounded like the al-Qaida terror chief's, and the tape, which was more than an hour, was posted on a site known as a clearinghouse for militant Islamic comment. The identity of the voice, however, could not be independently confirmed. The tape appeared the same day another dissident had called for anti-monarchy protests in the kingdom.

In Washington, Secretary of State Colin Powell said U.S. intelligence officials were analyzing the tape, and "it appears to be" the voice of bin Laden.

When asked whether he thought bin Laden was trying to taunt the United States and Saudi Arabia, Powell replied, "It's a terrorist. That's what terrorists do. ... we're going to continue to hunt for him."

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Yushchenko reveals time of his poisoning

KIEV, Ukraine (AP) — Opposition leader Viktor Yushchenko starkly accused the government Thursday of poisoning him in a "political murder" to knock him out of the presidential race, saying his massive dioxin dose probably came from a dinner three months ago with Ukraine's security chief.

In an interview with The Associated Press, Yushchenko laid the blame unequivocally on the government of President Leonid Kuchma and Prime Minister Viktor Yanukovich, his opponent in the contest to be decided in a Dec. 26 repeat of their fluid-marred runoff.

For the first time, he also pinpointed the time and place the poisoning likely took place: a Sept. 3 dinner with the head of the Ukrainian Security Service, Ihor Smeshko, and his deputy, Volodymyr Satsyuk.

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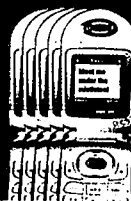
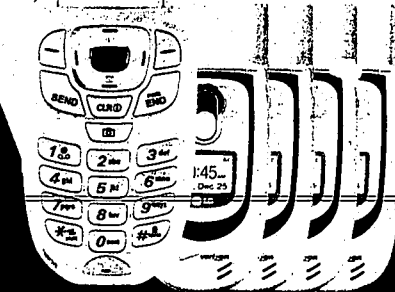


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WORLD

Ceremonies mark anniversary of Battle of the Bulge beginning

BASTOGNE, Belgium (AP)—U.S. veterans laid wreaths at ceremonies across southern Belgium and Luxembourg on Thursday, marking the 60th anniversary of the start of the Battle of the Bulge, in which U.S. forces defeated Nazi Germany's last bid to reverse the rapid advance of allied forces toward Berlin.

The commemorations marking World War II's largest land battle in which U.S. troops participated were held at memorials and cemeteries across a wide swath of the hilly and wooded Ardennes region which formed the battlefield that bitterly cold winter of 1944.

In the battle, more than a million troops — 600,000 Germans, 500,000 Americans and 55,000 Britons — fought in the snow from Dec. 16, 1944 to Jan. 25, 1945.

Night vigils were held at several places along the serpentine front and there was also a brief memorial service at the Mardasson Memorial near Bastogne, the town that was surrounded by Germans whose offensive created a "bulge" around the town and threatened to cut it off.

Erected in 1950, the memorial is a vast star-shaped monument that stands 40 feet tall and honors the memory of the killed and wounded American soldiers or those who disappeared during the Ardennes offensive.



A Luxembourg and U.S. flag are placed at a U.S. WW II grave during the national commemoration at the Luxembourg-American cemetery of Hamm, Luxembourg, on Thursday.

On Saturday it will be the venue of the main commemoration ceremony attended by King Albert II of Belgium and Dennis Hastert, the speaker of the U.S. House of Representatives.

Ahead of the event, U.S. Ambassador Tom Korozyak said the Battle of the Ardennes represented a "living message."

"It is as relevant for our youth as for the veterans who fought. That message is that freedom must be continually defended against forces that seek to subvert it," he added.

"Whether against a totalitarian state in 1944 that sought to

destroy democracy in the name of a repugnant philosophy, or against global terrorism today that seeks to destroy Western ideas."

The Mardasson memorial bears the names of U.S. Army units that participated in the action as well as the names of the then 48 U.S. States in bronze letters.

Bastogne is central to the commemoration events in the days ahead.

Several roads converged at the town in 1944, making it critical to blocking the German advance.

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EDITORIAL

Otter takes early lead on Risch while he can

The horse race for Idaho's gubernatorial seat unofficially began on Wednesday, and Idaho's congressman Butch Otter has taken the early lead before other candidates have even left the stable.

Less than six weeks after the 2004 election, most Idaho voters are either just recovering from the presidential election fatigue, or trying to figure out who's still in the state Legislature. The gubernatorial election of '06 is the farthest thing from their minds.

So we can't blame those who consider early politics as appetizing as rotten egg nog.

But that said, Otter's jump Wednesday to create a campaign committee is a strategic move that fits in the broad picture of the crucial 2006 GOP primary. Looking ahead to that showdown, the congressman knows he'll need every advantage he can get.

Idaho political observers know Otter has pinned to be governor for decades. He lost his first governor's race in 1978 to Democrat John Evans. But after years of service as state legislator, lieutenant governor, and three terms in Congress, his gubernatorial ambitions are now within grasp.

The same can be said for Otter's anticipated rival — Republican Lt. Gov. Jim Risch. Risch, a veteran Boise politician and former Senate leader, decided in 2002 to

run for lieutenant governor. Risch's motivation was clearly to prepare for a gubernatorial run in 2006, enough so that he spent \$250,000 of his own cash for a job that pays \$26,750 a year.

Even Risch hinted that his chance to be governor could come sooner than expected. In the 2002 campaign, he told

Our view: Rep. Butch Otter's early jump for the governor's seat was a matter of timing rather than hasty politics.

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

The Times-News editorial board that Gov. Dirk Kempthorne could be nominated for a Cabinet position. Risch argued he was the best candidate to step in to finish his term if necessary.

Now fast forward to this Tuesday when *The New York Times* reported Kempthorne was a possible candidate to replace Mike Leavitt as EPA administrator. Suddenly, the old speculation of Kempthorne bolting and Risch rising convinced Otter to saddle up.

Voters may not be thrilled to be discussing 2006 politics in late 2004. When candidates chase donor contributions from one campaign right into the next, it doesn't boost confidence in effective representative democracy.

But in politics, you don't use alarm clocks with snooze buttons. Otter's tactical jump on Wednesday even took Risch by surprise, which is no small feat. Consider it a first step in the horse race that will feel more like a marathon than a sprint.

Idahoans may wince at the early gun. But with two political stallions like Otter and Risch, they'll be itching to go along for the ride.

The Times-News

Brad Hurd... Publisher Chris Steinbach... Editor

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

LETTER

Let all believers show their own trust in God

I am a mother of two small children with a 45-hour per week job. I do make a point of trying to read as much as possible. I had to write because too many letters have been written regarding religious ideals that need nooses, and they seem to feel we should all have those same ideals.

I consider myself a Christian woman but do not go to a four-walled church every Sunday. I graduated from college but never used my degree. I do, however, realize that to force me — or anyone else for that matter — to adhere to Catholic, Jewish or any other religious ideals will be like turning the United States into the exact kind of place we are battling in Iraq. How can people honestly believe that religion and politics go hand-in-hand?

"In God We Trust" means my god, your god and any god

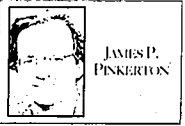
that the individual would like to worship. If we start to legislate according to a religious group, then we will surely see more signs of insurgency in our country. What everyone needs to do is calm down and accept the fact that there will not be any laws to make abortions illegal or laws to prohibit religious clothing in schools or even laws to say that marriage is for one woman and one man.

We are supposed to be accepting and good to all people and abide by the rules of the commandments. Do they specify where you should worship? No. Do they say you shall not kill? Yes. So at this time, let's all start the new year with the notion that we will do unto others only what we would want them to do to us. Smile and move your feet to places you wish to go and leave religion to the religious leaders and politics to the politicians.

SHERI THOMAS Halley

Kerik flap hurts Giuliani's chances

OK, so Bernard Kerik is history. But how about a man who is thought to have a future — a presidential future — Rudy Giuliani? Giuliani, "America's mayor," has been leading in 2008 opinion polls, both for the Republican nomination and for the general election. But the Kerik implosion has turned into a character issue for Giuliani. After all, it was Rudy who fired Bernie from bodyguard to police commissioner, and then tried to install him as a cabinet secretary.



JAMES P. PINKERTON

What additional light do those actions shed on Giuliani's professional life? And what does it say about the potential president's judgment in people-picking?

Some conservative pundits say no damage from the revelations about Kerik's "nannygate" problem and the 1998 arrest warrant filed against him. John Podreuz, writing in the *New York Post*, asserts that for all the difficulties Giuliani will face on his hoped-for path to the White House, "the Kerik fiasco isn't even a blimp on the road." But perhaps Podreuz's whose column appeared on Sunday, wrote too soon.

That same day, the *Daily News* printed a messy litany of allegations. Kerik had been "deeply entangled with a New Jersey construction company long under fire for its alleged mob ties." In addition, Kerik "accepted thousands of dollars in cash and gifts without making proper public disclosures," including, for example, a



\$2,000 jeweled police badge from Tiffany. Inquiring minds want to know — did Kerik pay income taxes on any fees?

For good measure, on Monday the *News* reported that Kerik had been cheating on his wife with two other women. And don't be surprised if a lot more sewage comes spilling out. As it does, it will spatter Giuliani further. People will recall, for example, that in December 2001, Giuliani renamed the Manhattan Detention Complex as the Bernard B. Kerik Complex.

The close association continued into the private sector. Giuliani and Kerik went into profitable business together until, according to *The Washington Post*, Giuliani made an "impassioned personal plea" to the White House to secure for Kerik the Homeland Security post. After Bush picked Kerik, Giuliani then cheer-led for his protege, praising him as "smart... effective and sophisticated." Well, if Kerik is so

smart, how did he let himself get into this pickle?

OK, we'll make mistakes. The real test is whether we learn from them. Yet now, in the wake of Kerik's withdrawal from Washington, *Newsday* reports that the ex-top cop will be returning to his job at Giuliani Partners, including, one source says, a side gig: Giuliani-Kerik LLC. Does that suggest that maybe Giuliani has a blind spot when it comes to Kerik? And if so, what else is Rudy blind about?

A look at the Giuliani Partners Web site reveals some buzz words that are said to be guiding the company. The first of these words is "Integrity." Underneath we read that "People of integrity are not inflexible, but their decisions are made in the context of strongly held values. Principled leaders must not only set a moral compass, but also effectively communicate a code of conduct to those they lead. So it's fair to ask: How's Giu-

liani doing on that score? Does Kerik fit Giuliani's vision of integrity, not to mention effective homeland security, including the enforcement of our immigration laws?

One can be sure that reporters — and opposition researchers working for rival '08 Republicans — are going to be looking more closely at the Kerik-Kerik LLC. Does that suggest that maybe Giuliani has a blind spot when it comes to Kerik? And if so, what else is Rudy blind about?

Giuliani was a great mayor. His hand was a great mayor. He will undo his success in reducing crime or restoring morale after 9/11. But, if Giuliani wants to rise higher in public life, he will have to raise the standards he imposes on his colleagues — and improve his own judgment about what will play on the national stage.

James Pinkerton is a *Newsday* columnist.

LETTERS

Secular theories no match for divine truth

Once again the misinformation flows from several sources. John Walsh, in a recent letter, opts for the intellectual version of the sin burden by pointing out that "truth is and therefore cannot be (weakened around by using semantics (big words or high-sounding phrases). God set things as they are, whether John believes that or not. It is a fact that the whole process of life was designed and there is tons of scientific evidence that backs up proof that God designed everything; not so for the evolutionists.

Not one shred of scientific evidence supports evolution. Now the popular theory, among evolutionists is that aliens deposited sperm on earth as the beginning of life. Propose that! Just like the first evolutionist! John, my friend, better research and more reliance on fact will truly enlighten you. "Truth is, with all your might and brain power you cannot change what is real. God is real! His truth is always real! One day you will have to deal with that fact face-to-face."

I like you, John. I'm glad I met you and that you are getting better in body. Your opinions, however, have some needs.

Now, the false teachings of the United Church of Christ, written by Madison Shrockley of Carlsbad, Calif., in her commentary on Dec. 8, shows how wrong-headed people can get when they start rearranging the word of God to fit their beliefs. Practicing homosexuality is sin. Pure and simple. The true Christian church in America does not shun homosexuals but leads them

out of their life of sin. Focus on the Family has an extremely powerful program called "Loving Won Out." Literally thousands of people who were caught in the trap of homosexuality have been freed of this heavy sin burden by people who were just like them but have been changed by the power of Christ. What a wonderful Christmas present that is!

Check this on yourself: the form you write some position letter to me) at www.family.org or call (800) 232-6459. Its version of Christ is some liberal viewpoint and not in line with God's word.

JERRY HUGHEN Declo

P.O. box prejudice needs to be solved

Many small communities do not have mail delivery service. They must rely on the use of their post office box. More and more businesses and agencies are refusing to use the P.O. box due to some recent scary notices. These non-delivery P.O. box users are not getting all their mail.

I have contacted the postal inspector and Postal Service Consumer Affairs with this issue. They refer to it as "Post Office Box Discrimination." They just keep stepping around the problem and tell me to mail to a home address. To be a legal address. At the same time, they have yet to produce a regulation that says it is a legal address. I did ask for it. They also recommended to use the dual line address format. I would not be writing this letter now if that cured the problem. They were indeed informed that the dual line address format does not work

all the time. The P.O. box line will be rejected and removed. These non-delivery P.O. box users are no longer eligible for mail-in rebates as these rebate centers now have a "no P.O. box" policy. What's this? In order to get this rebate, I have to mail to a P.O. box. What am I supposed to do, have them send it to my sister-in-law?

I have lost bank statements, someone in the bank deleted the P.O. box in the dual line address and then wait for them to send the bills to the wrong address.

I pick up a credit card application; what's this, "no P.O. boxes"? Now if I could just get it approved, then wait for them to send the bills to the wrong address.

They try shopping online; that's lots of fun. They have done nabbed my credit card number, now I have a product that is paid for, what's next? Oh yes, here is the screen where I fill out the shipping label. I put in the dual line address so they can't miss. Then, the next screen pops up to show the dual line confirmation. What happened to the P.O. box? It's gone.

This "Post Office Box Discrimination" problem continues to grow more worse as more and more businesses and agencies are refusing to deal with a so-called legal P.O. box address. You would think that if anybody would be concerned with this problem, it would be our United States Postal Service.

FRED MAVER Glenns Ferry

Predator birds take a heavy toll on grouse

The editorial is mostly correct that was in the paper Dec. 8.

It overlooked the main factor, however, in the loss of sage grouse. It is the large birds of prey that have caused the most damage to their numbers — hawks, eagles and owls! These large birds will eat all other birds and small animals.

The proof is plain — the decrease in bird populations and the great number of rabbits that no longer exist.

LARRY BÜHLER Corvallis, Mont.

Christmas gets bucked for the holidays

I would like to submit the following entries for the "Ultimate Criminal Award": Lily-livered public schools across the country who, by capitulating to the "political correctness crowd" and to pressures by the Anti-Christian Liberal Union (ACLU), have denied students and their parents their First Amendment rights to free exercise of religion and to free speech in the removal of Christmas greetings, songs and carols from school activities and programs, and public officials who have denied the placing of nativity scenes in public parks.

I would also like to nominate for the "Bah, Humbug! Scrooge Award," Target Corp. and any others who have denied the Salvation Army kettles and bell-ringers access to the area near their store fronts.

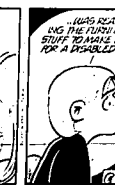
And to all who have caved in to the fat and fluffy "Happy Holidays," may I wish you all a very joyous and "Merry Christmas." After all, it is "this bird day" we are celebrating.

DON PUDEW Twin Falls

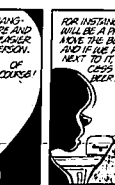
Doonesbury



By Garry Trudeau



Mallard Fillmore



By Bruce Tinsley



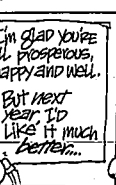
By Garry Trudeau



By Bruce Tinsley



By Garry Trudeau



By Bruce Tinsley



By Garry Trudeau



By Bruce Tinsley



OPINION

Our dependence on illegal foreign labor

The new litmus test for applicants of top federal positions:

"No, I did not hire an illegal immigrant nanny, landscaper, housekeeper, pool cleaner, gardener, roofer (fill in the blank for the lifestyle most befitting the applicant).

President George Bush's short-lived first choice for heading the Department of Homeland Security failed this test.

Bernard B. Kerik, a former New York City police commissioner, withdrew from consideration a scant seven days after his nomination was announced.

Further problems with Kerik's background continue. Kerik admitted not paying taxes on the housekeeper's salary. And, he acknowledged the housekeeper was likely in the country illegally.

The housekeeper's identity has not been revealed, although she apparently has left the United States.

Funny how the spotlight of a high-security clearance within

MARY SANCHEZ

the president's Cabinet can force sudden reassessments. Taxes? Illegal? The housekeeper?

America's unacknowledged dependence on illegal foreign labor is the elephant in the room.

Kerik admitted hiring the elephant.

As head of Homeland Security, one of Kerik's top priorities would have been immigration reform, including finding a solution for America's illegal immigration problems.

All of which begs pondering the situation: The hiring of illegal labor is so common today that even some of the top choices for government posts have tripped into the practice.

So why does the nation continue to spend so much time with useless diatribes about "rewiring" illegal behavior by making it easier for the undocumented workers to remain in the country.

America regularly doles out the biggest reward a capitalist country can offer: a paycheck.

Rather, we should focus on the country's needs, today and in the future.

Which jobs truly need foreign workers?

What industries really have become dependent on illegal labor? Is that a good thing?

The last of the baby boomers are turning 40. Can America attend to the needs of this large chunk of the population as it ages?

Are the foreign worker's productivity rates higher and why?

Yes, America is a super power militarily, but are we in brain power?

Should we allow foreign labor to do many low wage jobs, and put more effort toward building a more highly trained work force to keep America globally competitive?

Not the anti-immigrant lobby that often consists of one person with a whole lot of e-mail addresses.

Economists and demographers should largely lead this conversation.

Not the anti-immigrant lobby that often consists of one person with a whole lot of e-mail addresses.

Not the lobbyists for corporations on the hunt for cheap labor to churn higher profits for profit only, not investment.

Nor, unfortunately, should the sentiment of many Americans lead the decision-making.

Americans, in general, are woefully uninformed about the complexities of immigration and the economy. For too many years they have been misled by propaganda from both sides of the equation.

Which is why it is a good thing the issue of illegal labor is highlighted now, with a little distance from the next general election.

Congress will soon be asked to make tough decisions on re-vamping immigration policy. Too often in the past, decisions have been made that amounted to an increased number of illegal people here, not less.

The job of sorting out the American workplace will call for difficult, honest assessments.

Kind of like what Kerik was forced to do in his household.

Mary Sanchez is an opinion-page columnist for The Kansas City Star.

Marked man
94-year-old gets first tattoo.
See page E-6

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NASA's in need of a strong leader

When National Aeronautics and Space Administration Administrator Sean O'Keefe leaves in a few months, his successor will find the space agency in a tenuous state. O'Keefe inherited a NASA in 2001 that had endured a decade of cutbacks, disintegrating infrastructure, chaotic budgets, bombastic promises and a deeply dysfunctional culture that suppressed critical judgment and undermined engineering integrity.

On his watch, O'Keefe made some reforms to the budget, but he also endured the Columbia disaster in 2003, in which seven space shuttle astronauts died, and was beset by problems aboard the International Space Station. He cobbled together a controversial presidential plan for long-term exploration of space and may be on the brink of canceling NASA's most successful science project, the Hubble Space Telescope.

Worse, the arrogant, defensive, know-it-all NASA culture that it blamed for the Columbia disaster by the panel that investigated the calamity has not been changed or reformed by O'Keefe — inviting speculation that trouble lies ahead. More than at any time in its history, NASA needs some tough love. President Bush will need to appoint a no-nonsense NASA administrator who has the technical background to understand space systems and

ALCESTIS C. OBERG

the implications of his decisions — something O'Keefe lacked with his narrow, bean-counting background.

Furthermore, the new NASA leader will have to do what O'Keefe never had the stomach to do: the honest re-evaluation of NASA management, including wholesale replacement of top position-holders in space-flight operations, policy and even public affairs.

NASA's greatest problem now is neither technical nor budgetary — it's first and foremost a people problem.

The bottom line is that NASA — having suffered the Columbia disaster and the explosion of the space shuttle Challenger in 1986 — has killed 14 people, destroyed two spacecraft and set the space program back over the last 18 years through what the investigation into the Challenger accident described as a "flawed decision-making process" that agency leaders have refused to honestly and courageously confront and deal with.

In both the Challenger and Columbia disasters, few of the people responsible for these avoidable catastrophes lost their jobs or experienced any career-altering consequences, whereas conscientious engineers and workers who did try

to sound warnings about safety lapses say they have suffered the destruction of their careers. NASA's problems cannot be solved with a simple management reorganization, as was taken a job from the Challenger disaster. Whether NASA survives the next decade as a serious government entity depends largely on whether its next administrator embraces the notion of radical change.

Alcestis C. Oberg, an author and science and technology writer, has covered NASA for 25 years.

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WORLD

Despite Bush's opposition, states discuss carbon rules

BUENOS AIRES, Argentina (AP) — Two sets of Americans have come here to talk global warming: the United States opposed to controls on carbon emissions, and a bloc of united states, from Maine to Delaware, that plan to impose them.

"It's not an in-your-face thing," Kenneth Colburn, a spokesman for those northeastern states, said of the seeming defiance of the Bush administration. "They're doing what they think needs to be done."

That may seem like flanking up with the Europeans in a backdoor trading scheme on emissions — although a key Re-

publican says that would meet a "lot of skepticism" in Congress.

The American by-play is taking place at the annual U.N. conference on climate change, where delegates from scores of nations are filling in last-minute details on the Kyoto Protocol, the 1997 pact that takes effect Feb. 16 requiring 30 industrial nations to reduce, by 2012, emissions of "greenhouse gases" that scientists blame for global warming.

The biggest pollutant is carbon dioxide, byproduct of fossil fuel burning by automobile engines, power plants and other industrial operations.

Holiday Photos

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River running: Park Service proposes increase in rafters. Page B5

MAGIC VALLEY

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Assistant City Editor: Troy Foster, 735-3204

The Times-News

Friday, December 17, 2004

Section B

AROUND THE VALLEY

No injuries reported in bus crashes

TWIN FALLS — Thursday morning was a bad time for school buses. In two separate incidents, school buses were involved in crashes. At about 11 a.m., a bus from the Kimberly School District collided with a sedan at the intersection of 1st and 2nd North and Shoshone Street. Both were only occupied by drivers and no one was injured, a Twin Falls Police dispatcher said. At about 11:45 a.m., a Western States Bus collided with a van at a minor crash on Blue Lakes Boulevard near Cheney Drive. The van had one occupant and the bus had three, counting the driver. No students were on board and no one was injured, a police dispatcher said.

Suspect remains in psychiatric hospital

TWIN FALLS — A judge ordered that a "Tianan" man accused of injury to a child can remain committed for another six months before appearing in court. George Houston Crider, 42, was charged with the felony count in connection with the allegation that he left a loaded pistol under the seat of his car while a minor was present. Crider is at Idaho State Hospital South, a psychiatric hospital in Blackfoot. In March, an armed man walked into the Buhl Oasis Stop 'N' Go store, stood by an ATM and asked store clerks if he could have \$40, according to an affidavit written by Detective Karen Trent of the Buhl Police Department. The suspect told them he was God, but they declined his request. Later, Buhl police and a Twin Falls County sheriff's deputy arrested Crider near Buhl. Police found a loaded pistol and a cut-down .22-caliber rifle in Crider's car, according to the affidavit. Five children were in his car. After a status hearing on Dec. 10, 5th District Magistrate Judge Mark Ingram signed an order to extend the defendant's commitment for a maximum of 180 days. Another status hearing was scheduled for June 12.

Thief steals pink checks from firm

TWIN FALLS — Checks belonging to Red Door Realty have been reported stolen from any business that receives one is asked to hold onto it and call police. The checks are pink with the heading "Trust account for Red Door Realty." They were stolen when the business was burglarized Wednesday night. Anyone with information about the burglary or the checks is asked to call Twin Falls police at 735-4357 or 311.

Status hearing set in robbery case

TWIN FALLS — A status hearing has been set for the man accused of robbing two convenience stores last year. Gregory Daniel Stender, 32, of Salt Lake City is charged with two counts of robbery in connection with incidents at a Twin Falls Sunkin Station and Oasis Stop 'N' Go on Nov. 15, 2003. Stender was arraigned in 5th District Court last week. His attorney, Jonathan Brody, said Stender would enter pleas of innocent to the charges. Judge John Hohnhorst set a status hearing for Jan. 3.

Snowpack levels

Table with 3 columns: Watershed, % of Avg., % below. Rows include Salmon, Big Wood, Little Wood, Little Lost, Henry Fork/Teton, Upper Snake Basin, Oakley, and Puffer Falls.

*A comparison of basin snowpack, on this day, with a 30-year average. **An indicator of basin snowpack for the winter.

Burglar steals cop's badge, gun

By Rebecca Meany Times-News writer
TWIN FALLS — A burglar broke into a police officer's home this week, making off with a Twin Falls Police Department-issued gun and badge, as well as approximately \$500 worth of personal items. No one was home at the time of the theft, said Staff Sgt. Matt Hicks, adding that he wasn't sure if the burglar knew whose house he or she was breaking into. "They rooted through the entertainment center, the bedroom closet," Hicks said. "The officer had a little safe with his weapon and his shield. They took the whole safe."

Hicks declined to release the name of the officer whose home was burglarized, nor his address. He said only that the home is located in the southeast section of Twin Falls. "The victim here is the police department," Hicks said. "We're very concerned we have one of our weapons out there and that someone could use that shield to portray themselves as a police officer." Authorities are hoping a tip will lead them to a suspect. "We think that someone having a police officer's gun and badge will spread like wildfire throughout the community, and hopefully that will get back to us," Hicks said. Uniforms were hanging in the

officer's closet, but the thief did not take them. Duffel bags with street clothes, along with CDs and DVDs were stolen, however. No marked vehicles were parked outside, the officer's home, nor was there anything to identify the home as belonging to an officer, Hicks said. There were no other reports of burglaries in the area around that time. "Residential burglaries are usually crimes of opportunity," Hicks said. "We very rarely see residential burglaries at night while occupants are home." "We feel pretty confident they knew he was not home," he added. Police detectives processed

Stolen from a Twin Falls Police officer's home: Police are looking for a stolen 40-caliber Glock 22 pistol, serial number FMH 814, and a gold and silver police badge, oval in shape with the State of Idaho seal in the middle. The word "Detective" is written on the top and the number "29" is inscribed on the bottom banner. Anyone with information on this crime is asked to call the Twin Falls Police at 735-4357 or 311. The last time an officer's home was broken into was about five or six years ago, Hicks said, but he doesn't believe any police-related items were taken. "Just because he's a cop doesn't mean we will treat it any differently," Hicks said. The value of the 40-caliber Glock 22 is estimated to be \$500. The badge is valued at \$100.

District OKs student program

By Karin Kowalski Times-News writer
WENDELL — Changes are afoot at Wendell High School. At its meeting this week, the Wendell School Board approved the High Schools That Work model to help improve student performance. In August, the school received a federal Comprehensive School Reform Grant of \$300,000 for three years to implement the program, said Katie Cutler, the grant project director. "It helps you focus," Cutler said. Instead of just doing random professional development, school staff can all work toward the same 10 key practices in the model. High Schools That Work is meant to improve academic rigor and professional and technical offerings at schools. There are more than 1,000 participants in 31 states. The Twin Falls School District just finished working on the program. It is also used by several Magic Valley districts including Filer, Gooding and Glenn Ferry. Superintendent Greg Lowe said the program has already provided some great training. Principal Don Fowler said the motivation for seeking the grant was the increased emphasis on testing and accountability. The school has already set up advisory groups to help students. Teachers have also been able to attend High Schools That Work conferences and workshops to sharpen their skills. School officials are also working on setting up extra help for struggling students.

WINTER WONDER



Ice grips to the cut hay and wheel line in a field north of Rupert on Thursday afternoon.

Court denies appeal of tax relief

County must now refund some of firm's 2002 taxes. By Rose Marie Parsons South Idaho Press writer
RUPERT — Minidoka County will have to refund a portion of Amalgamated Sugar Co.'s 2002 taxes. The Idaho Court of Appeals ruled recently that Minidoka County was too slow in challenging an Idaho Board of Tax Appeals decision. After Minidoka, Canyon and Twin Falls counties increased the sugar company's 2002 property valuation, Amalgamated protested to the board of equalization in each county. When the boards denied relief, Amalgamated took its case to the Idaho Board of Tax Appeals and the state board ruled in favor of the company. Minidoka County petitioned for judicial review in 5th District Court on May 29, 2003, arguing that the board's decision did not reflect fair market value for Amalgamated's property. But Amalgamated asked the court to dismiss Minidoka County's case on the grounds the county filed its appeal too late. The tax appeals board issued Please see APPEAL, Page B3

County forms land-planning committee

The Times-News
SHOSHONE — The Lincoln County Commission is looking for people to join a committee to re-evaluate and make recommendations to the commissioners about the county's comprehensive plan and planning and zoning ordinances. Changing land uses and growing population demands that the commissioners re-visit the county's land-use planning, they say. The commissioners are encouraging those who would be directly affected by changes in land uses to submit an application to the county clerk's office at 111-W-B-St. in Shoshone by 5 p.m. Dec. 31. The committee will be comprised of nine people, with three from the Richfield area, three from the Dietrich area and three from the Shoshone area. There will be one representative from each city with two outside each city. The committee will meet twice a month for six months before reporting to the county commissioners.

NewsTracker
Last we knew: Litigation between Minidoka County and Amalgamated Sugar Co. was working its way through several courts.
The latest: The Court of Appeals of the State of Idaho recently ruled Minidoka County's appeal of an Idaho Board of Tax Appeals decision was not timely.
What's next: Minidoka County will have to refund an undetermined amount of taxes paid by Amalgamated Sugar.

Educators tell board more teachers will be required

By Chip Thompson Times-News writer
RUPERT — The Minidoka County School Board Thursday learned Thursday that in order to raise test scores the district might have to hire additional teachers. West Minico Junior High School Principal Sandra Miller told the board improvement plans focus on providing more class time in core academic subjects to students who lack required proficiency in reading, writing or math. "There's a problem, though. A teacher hired to lead elective courses isn't necessarily qualified to teach reading, writing or math, Miller said. "It doesn't do any good to put students in with somebody who's not qualified," Miller said. "If we can't make it work with the staff we have, we may have to bring in somebody who is qualified." Some students given more class time under the plan are those with limited English proficiency, or LEP. But Miller cautioned that LEP students aren't the sole focus of the plan. "We can't simply target LEP because we have other sub-populations that aren't proficient," Miller said. When one class is reduced in size in order to provide more individualized instruction, another class must grow in size. And the balancing act required to provide quality education to all students can be a scheduling nightmare, Miller said. A possible solution to finding enough qualified teachers for core subjects is to allow classified employees with qualifications in the subjects to teach the courses under the direction of a certified teacher who may not be qualified in that arena, Miller said. Minico High School Principal Dan Rogers presented a similar improvement plan to the board that focused only on math proficiency. Nearly half of the school's ninth grade students are below the standard set for math proficiency and Rogers said that a large number of students in all grades would be required to take math classes in all three trimesters under the plan. The high school has 334 students classified as low income or LEP, Rogers said. Only eight LEP students do not fit the low income criteria as well. The board approved the plan for all three schools for the 2005-2006 school year subject to funding and staffing requirements. Two schools earned awards for academic improvement and achievement that were announced during the board meeting. Paul Elementary School was awarded the 2004 Distinguished Schools Reading Award for being in the top five percent in achievement. "The school is one of six in the state to receive the honor." Principal Colleen Johnson said she was pleased to accept the award on behalf of the students and made a point of crediting the school's reading coach, Marilyn Moncur, for her work. Acquia Elementary School earned the 2004 Additional Yearly Growth Award for reading and math, which was accepted by Principal Suzanne Miller. The award represents an increase in the number of proficient and advanced students in each subject at the school.

MAGIC VALLEY/IDAHO

Commissioners: Charter school that uses Bible cannot expand

BOISE, AP — A charter school that allows students to use the Bible as their "core book" in all studies will not be allowed to build a second school, state officials decided. The Idaho Leadership Academy in Pinedale asked the state's charter school commission for permission to build a new school in Idaho Falls and expand its Internet-based virtual school.

Achievement Test show that just 45 percent of the charter high school's 10th-graders were proficient or better at math, compared to more than 71 percent throughout the district and 76 percent in the state. A commission Chairman James Hammond said charter school laws are meant to help students reach a higher level of achievement and the school's scores are not up to par. Dan Wallace, chairman of the academy's board, said all of the school's graduates are either at college or serving church missions.

That may be," Hammond said, "but it's still not something that's quantifiable at this point." The existing school serves about 90 students at the Pinedale facility and about 50 more over the Internet. It's based on a "great books" method, which urges each student to pick one major "core book" through which to guide his or her entire academic experience. For instance, the book could be the Bible, Koran, Talmud or the complete works of William Shakespeare, said Leadership Academy President Troy Henke. On the school's Web site, founding President Steven Adams reaches out to Idaho families that homeschool their children because public schools don't share their values; "It is your child's right to select a religious text if he or she core book if they so desire and to openly discuss the ideas of that book in relation to every other text studied."

OBITUARIES

For obituary rates and information, call 733-3278 Monday through Saturday. Deadline is 4 p.m. for next-day publication. The e-mail address for obituaries is obits@magicvalley.com. Death notices are a free service and can be placed until 4 p.m. every day. To view or submit obituaries online, or to place a message in an individual online guestbook, go to www.magicvalley.com and click on "Obituaries."

Anna Tucker Woodson

Anna Tucker Woodson, age 84 years, of Germantown, Wis., formerly of Twin Falls, Idaho, was born to, and died in, Twin Falls, Dec. 15, 2004.

Her mother, Mrs. William Woodson, and her father, Dr. B. Tucker (Shelley) Woodson, both of Twin Falls, Idaho, preceded her in death. She is survived by her son, Dr. B. Tucker Woodson, and his wife, Mrs. Dora Woodson, both of Twin Falls, Idaho.

A burial service will be held at Evergreen Burial Park, Ruanok, Va. Arrangements are in the care of Schmidt and Barkel, Funeral Home, (262) 251-3630.

William L. Barrie

William L. Barrie, a 71-year-old resident of Rupert, passed away Wednesday, Dec. 15, 2004, at his home, surrounded by his family.



He was born Sept. 10, 1933, in Idaho Falls, Idaho, the only child of William and Nina Lee Swangell Barrie. He received his education in Union, graduating from Union High School. He married Dora Barrie on Jan. 23, 1959, in Idaho Falls.

He and Dora lived in various places prior to moving to Rupert, in September of 1978, where he had since resided.

He was a true outdoors man! He loved fishing, hunting, boating and camping. He never met a stranger and was a true friend to all he met.

He survived by his wife, Dora of Rupert; three children, Thayne (Berl) Barrie of Boise, Idaho, Tad (Kema) Barrie of Rupert and Robyn (Michael) Morola of Barnegat, N.J.; and nine grandchildren.

He was preceded in death by his parents and a daughter, Wendt Loraine Barrie Morrison.

The funeral will be held at 11 a.m. Monday, Dec. 20, 2004, at the Rupert United Methodist Church, 605 11th St., with the Rev. Keith B. Wise officiating. Burial will be in Rupert Cemetery. Friends may call from 6 until 8 p.m. Sunday at Rasmussen Family Home, 1350 E. 16th St., Burley, and one hour prior to the funeral on Monday at the church.

Genevieve Harper

Genevieve Harper, age 84, died on Saturday, Dec. 11, 2004, at the Bridgeway Estates at Twin Falls of natural causes.



She was born Jan. 23, 1920, in Meridian, Idaho, the child of Kenneth and Nora Burke Sedgewick. Genevieve graduated from Rupert High School. She married Murray Harper in Rupert.

She was a member of the American Legion Auxiliary and the Wood River Ladies Golf Association.

Survivors include her son, Butch (Penny) Harper of Ketchum; her grandson Jim Harper of Boise and Patrick Harper of Ketchum; and her great-grandchildren, Harrison and Henry.

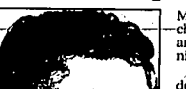
She also worked for Scott USA and enjoyed being a homemaker. Genevieve truly enjoyed the pleasures of reading and walking with her "Blue." Her favorite thing to do was spending time with her grandsons, Jim and Patrick, and great-grandsons, Harrison and Henry.

Genevieve was a very independent lady who always let

those preceding her in death were her husband, Murray, and her daughter, Karla. A private family service will be held and cremation preceded the service. Memorial contributions are suggested to the Hospice of the Wood River Valley, P.O. Box 4320, Ketchum, ID 83340. Arrangements are under the care of Wood River Chapel of Halley, Idaho.

Charles E. Young

Charles E. Young, age 73, died on Wednesday, Dec. 15, 2004, at St. Luke's Wood River Medical Center in Ketchum after a sudden illness.



He was born Jan. 20, 1931, in Gannett, Idaho, the child of Joseph and Emily Jane Barker Young. "Charlie" was born and raised in Blaine, Idaho.

He attended cannot grade school and graduated from Halley High School in 1949. "Charlie" married Anna Lee on June 8, 1957, at St. Charles Catholic Church in Halley. He was a lifelong farmer and rancher. He took pride in his agriculture endeavors.

Those preceding him in death were his father, Joseph Young; his brother, Joseph (Ray) Young; and his sister, Ethel Jane Beck.

"Charlie" was a proud father, husband and his grandchildren were his pride and joy. There were a lot of children in the Wood River Valley that looked at "Charlie" as their "grandfather." One of his favorite passions was coaching and watching little league baseball. He served in the U.S. Army and was later called

home for family emergencies. "Charlie" enjoyed having his morning coffee at Jess's with all of his buddies. Survivors include his wife, Anna Lee Young of Bellevue; his son, Tim Young of Bellevue; his daughter, Kelly Lynn Young of Halley; his mother, Emily Jane Barker Young Summerfield of Shoshone; his sister, Bonnie Jean (Harri) Purje of

Meritt, BC Canada; his grandchildren, Aaron, Adam, Logan and Luke; and many aunts, nieces and nephews. There will be a vigil at 7 p.m. today, Friday, Dec. 17, 2004, at the St. Charles Catholic Church in Halley. A funeral will be at 10 a.m. Saturday, Dec. 18, 2004, at the St. Charles Catholic Church with Father John Morgan officiating. Interment will follow in the Bellevue Cemetery. Memorial contributions are suggested to Blaine Manor, PO Box 927, Halley, ID 83333, the Hospice of the Wood River Valley, P.O. Box 4320, Ketchum, ID 83340 or the Shoshone Rehab and Living Center, 511 E. Fourth, Shoshone, ID 83352. Arrangements are under the care of Wood River Chapel of Halley, Idaho.

SERVICES

Margaret C. Switzer, funeral at 11 a.m. Friday at Lighthouse Christian Fellowship. Following the service, a reception/break will be held at the home of Brian Sue Switzer (White Mortuary).

Wayne Crane of Belen, N.M., service at 11 a.m. Saturday at the French Mortuary, University Blvd., Chapel. Friends may visit one hour before service at French Mortuary, 111 University Blvd., N.E., Albuquerque, N.M.

Eula Vern Shook Zimmerman of Dallas, funeral at 1:30 p.m. Saturday in the Bollman Funeral Home.

Max Gillette of Burley, funeral at 11 a.m. Friday at The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, Burley West Stake Center, 2420 Parke Ave. Friends may call from 10 to 10:45 a.m. before the funeral on Friday at the church (Payne Mortuary).

Charles Francis Perry, memorial service at 1 p.m. Saturday at the Twin Falls First United Methodist Church (White Mortuary).

David Lee "Dave" Livingston of Kimberly, funeral at 1 p.m. Monday at Serenity Funeral Chapel, 2158 Fourth Ave. E. Burial will follow at Rock Creek Cemetery, Hansen, with military honors. Friends may call from 2 until 6 p.m. Sunday at the chapel.

Evalynn M. Langley of Twin Falls, funeral at 11 a.m. Friday at Farmer Funeral Chapel, 130 N. Ninth Ave., Burley.

Hazel Clara Young Barber, memorial service at 1 p.m. Saturday at the Community

Charles L. Johnson, memorial service at noon Wednesday at the Rock Creek Community Church, 131 Grandview (Fladiff Funeral Chapel).

Ronald L. Archibald of Oakley, funeral Mass at 10 a.m. Saturday at the Little Flower Catholic Church; friends may call from 5:30 p.m. until the time of the rosary Friday at Payne Mortuary and following the rosary from 7 until 9 p.m. and one hour before Mass at the church.

LeRoy Gene Slater, service at 1 p.m. Saturday at Hansen Mortuary Rupert Chapel;

Ethel Mae Starkey MOUNTAIN HOME — Ethel Mae Starkey, age 90, of Mountain Home, died Thursday, Dec. 16, 2004, at a local care center.

Arrangements will be made by White Mortuary.

Arrangements will be made by White Mortuary.

Arrangements are under the direction of Rost Funeral Home, Mountain Home.

DEATH NOTICES

Crews recover Blue Angels jet

Idaho pilot remains grounded pending aviation review board

PENSACOLA, Fla. (AP) — A Blue Angels jet that crashed while on a familiarization flight by a new member of the Navy's precision flying team has been recovered from the Gulf of Mexico.

The pilot, Lt. Ted Steelman, 32, of Star, Idaho, ejected safely Dec. 1 before his aircraft crashed off Perdido Key, a barrier island on the Florida-Alabama border.

Pensacola Naval Air Station, home of the Blue Angels. It was taken from the ship Thursday to a secure location on the base, where it will be examined by the review board and legal and safety investigators, said Lt. Garrett Kasper, a Blue Angels spokesman.

Steelman returned to duty the next day, but remains grounded pending an aviation review board decision on his flight status. The rest of the six-member team has resumed flying.

A Navy diving and salvage unit from Little Creek, Va., and the crew of the Coast Guard buoy tender Cypress, based in Mobile, Ala., recovered the F-18 Hornet from 40 feet of water Wednesday. The Cypress took the jet to

The plane was mostly intact, which is unusual in these operations," said Chief Warrant Officer Jeff Anson, of Madison, Ind., diving officer for the recovery.

Coeur d'Alene Mines sees future in historic Bolivian mining district

COEUR D'ALENE (AP) — Coeur d'Alene Mines Corporation's newest silver project has found a home in a historic Bolivian mining district.

The company will build a \$135 million open-pit mine at the base of Cerro Rico, the "rich hill" that was the site of a 1545 Spanish colonial settlement of Potosi, a mining center high in the Andes Mountains.

"It will create a ripple effect on the region," said Tony Ebersole, director of investor relations for Coeur d'Alene Mines.

The San Bartolome Mine is expected to open in 2006. Coeur d'Alene Mines' board of directors voted this week to move ahead with the project.

The miners will extract silver ore from gravels washed down from the top of Cerro Rico.

Each job at the mine will create up to four additional jobs in the community, he said. The company will also set up a foundation to help develop

"This is the first modern silver project in Bolivia and a major boon to the country's local and national economies," said company chairman Dennis Wheeler in a statement.

about 500 people will work to build the new mine, with 37 full-time workers once it is completed, officials said.

The mine will raise the company's profiles as a silver producer and could increase Coeur d'Alene Mines' annual silver output by more than 40 percent.

Workers could see a drop in benefits

BLACKFOOT — City employees may see their benefits get reduced.

City council members are considering a plan to restructure benefits for Blackfoot's 93 employees. The plan would have employees top out in the level of benefits after 10 years on the job instead of 15.

hard to recruit retirees or people coming out of one profession into a second career as a teacher, she said.

Council president Cherie Clawson says the move is meant to protect the city from big payouts to long-term workers who retire, not punish dedicated workers.

Schools can't really control negative impacts that things like poverty, inadequate parenting or too much TV can have a child's test scores, Becky Ford told parents, legislators and other educators at the gathering.

But the assistant superintendent from Post Falls said there are some definite ways Idaho schools can help students achieve more — with the support of legislators.

Seventy percent of the employees have worked for Blackfoot five years or more. The council will vote on the plan next week.

One way is to help students to help schools find and retain the best teachers, she said. Idaho's salary index makes it

— compiled from wire reports

Idaho In brief

at a reception held by Supporters of Public Education and Kids.

Schools can't really control negative impacts that things like poverty, inadequate parenting or too much TV can have a child's test scores, Becky Ford told parents, legislators and other educators at the gathering.

But the assistant superintendent from Post Falls said there are some definite ways Idaho schools can help students achieve more — with the support of legislators.

One way is to help students to help schools find and retain the best teachers, she said. Idaho's salary index makes it

The Family of Carol Ann Williams (formerly Sillmore) would like to express their appreciation for the food, flowers, condolences and support during her long illness and recent passing. Special Thanks to First Choice Hospice, Home Health Professionals, Dr. Cambreni & Staff, Dr. Lisa Burchett & Dick's Pharmacy.

Call 733-0931 to subscribe to The Times-News.

MAGIC VALLEY/WEST

GOODING COUNTY COURTS

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

Misdemeanor arraignments

Arrest from third-male injury to property status hearing Dec. 20. Magistrate Judge Casey Robinson. **Arrest** from third-male injury to property status hearing Dec. 20. Magistrate Judge Casey Robinson. **Arrest** from third-male injury to property status hearing Dec. 20. Magistrate Judge Casey Robinson.

Misdemeanor sentencing

Arrest from third-male injury to property status hearing Dec. 20. Magistrate Judge Casey Robinson. **Arrest** from third-male injury to property status hearing Dec. 20. Magistrate Judge Casey Robinson. **Arrest** from third-male injury to property status hearing Dec. 20. Magistrate Judge Casey Robinson.

21 days served. Magistrate Judge Casey Robinson. **Arrest** from third-male injury to property status hearing Dec. 20. Magistrate Judge Casey Robinson.

Arrest from third-male injury to property status hearing Dec. 20. Magistrate Judge Casey Robinson. **Arrest** from third-male injury to property status hearing Dec. 20. Magistrate Judge Casey Robinson.

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days in jail, 10 suspended. Magistrate Judge Casey Robinson. **Arrest** from third-male injury to property status hearing Dec. 20. Magistrate Judge Casey Robinson.

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attorney fees. Plaintiff alleges that defendant owes for accounts assigned to the plaintiff for collection. **Arrest** from third-male injury to property status hearing Dec. 20. Magistrate Judge Casey Robinson.

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Wildfire advisory committee says more money, collaboration needed

By Angie Wagner, Associated Press Writer

Three years after Western governors and the Bush administration agreed on a plan to reduce wildfire danger, money is still lacking and the partnership between the federal government and state and local agencies isn't working well. A report by the Western Governors' Association advisory committee was sent to the secretaries of agriculture and interior Thursday, outlining how the 10-year wildfire plan is going. "The central message of the report is that the federal government talks the talk on collaboration, but doesn't walk the walk," said Neil Lawrence, director of the Natural Resources Defense Council's forestry project and a member of the panel that wrote the report. The plan, approved in 2001, called for improved fire prevention and suppression, fuels reduction, a long-term strategy for restoring wildlife habitat and community involvement.

While 75 percent of the plan's goals have been met or are close to it, emphasis on fuels reduction and fire prevention has come at the expense of restoration and getting help from communities, the report said. "But collaboration between the federal government and local and state agencies is the recurring theme in the report." "Collaboration is still a challenge, with many feeling that the cooperative nature ... is beginning to fray," the report said. Lawrence said that to the federal government, collaboration has meant consulting with other federal agencies, or holding meetings with predetermined outcomes. "I think they would rather have been able to set all the priorities themselves," said Greg Aplet, senior forest scientist with the Wilderness Society and a committee member. Walter Dunn, forest restoration program coordinator for the U.S. Forest Service in New Mexico, acknowledged that the process has been difficult in some states.

"The resources are not always there to collaborate," said Dunn, also a committee member. "The framework for collaboration ... describes a very different kind of process really that the agencies haven't used before. It's a new thing." Jim Casswell, committee co-chairman, said most of the problems stem from how local or state representatives perceive comments from government officials. "It's kind of that thing about 'I'm the feds and you're not, so we're going to do it my way,'" said Casswell, administrator for the Idaho governor's Office of Species Conservation. The report also said fire should be promoted more as a management tool and forest restoration should be better defined. "There needs to be some focus put on restoration," Casswell said. "There is not currently a definition that you can apply from both the agency level, down to what this means to somebody in a local community."

Man dies in apartment fire

AVENIDOVER, Utah (AP) — A 62-year-old Woodrow-man was killed Thursday when fire engulfed his apartment. Patrick Sawyer died after being overcome by smoke after the fire started about 6:30 a.m. at the Bonneville Garden Apartments, fire officials said. He lived alone, and there were no other injuries. Authorities said the blaze was started by a cigarette on a bed in Sawyer's apartment. Other units in the complex received smoke and water damage.

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WEST

Park Service proposes allowing more river runners to raft Colorado River

PHOENIX (AP) — More river runners may soon be challenging the rapids of the Colorado River through the depths of the Grand Canyon, under a proposal by the National Park Service.

The agency wants to increase the total yearly passengers by 3,856 — from 22,461 to 26,317 — as part of a revised Colorado River management plan.

A panel of scientists, geologists, professors and consultants is considering increasing the passenger totals, while reducing the number and length of trips, as well as group sizes for some areas.

Some launches also may be shifted into nonpeak seasons. The number of months that nonmotor boats use the river could increase from three to six months.

"People will still have plenty of opportunities to go down the river, but there will be some changes in the way the system operates," said Rick Ernenwein, who is heading up the plan.

The public has until Jan. 7 to comment on 13 alternative plans for the 277-mile of Colorado River from Lees Ferry, south of Lake Powell, through the Grand Canyon to the edge of Lake Mead. A group of experts will then analyze the comments before submitting a final environmental impact statement.

A final environmental statement could be completed by spring, Ernenwein said.

Once the regional director of



A group of visitors ride a pontoon raft through rapids in Grand Canyon National Park in Arizona Aug. 31, 2002. More recreational and commercial river runners may soon be journeying through a 250-mile corridor of the Colorado River that slices through the Grand Canyon.

the Park Service approves a plan, some parts could be implemented immediately, Ernenwein said. Others could take a year or longer.

Eight alternatives are being considered for the river from Lees Ferry to Diamond Creek, through the heart of Grand Canyon National Park. This is the section where the majority of river trips are conducted.

On another section of the river stretching from Diamond Creek to Lake Mead, the Park

Service wants to lower pontoon boat use and cap the number of passengers at 150 daily.

The park wants to increase the overall operations in this area while reducing the group sizes. It would also like to eliminate peak use by spreading trips out. Five alternatives are being studied.

Experts began discussing in January 2003 on whether to alter the number of recreational and commercial river runners allowed to use the

Grand Canyon. A panel of experts then came up with suggestions about how to better manage the corridor.

The main purpose of the 10-year plan is to protect the natural and cultural resources, while allowing as many people as possible to enjoy the area, Ernenwein said.

"If we don't protect the resources in the river corridor, it will change the type of experience people have," Ernenwein said.

Montana OKs bison hunting

Event will resume on small scale

HELENA, Mont. (AP) — The hunting of bison that wander from Yellowstone National Park in search of winter forage will resume next month, more than a decade after the practice was canceled amid a barrage of protests from around the country.

The Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks Commission approved a limited hunting season for the animals Thursday. The vote authorized 10 bison hunting licenses to be issued for hunting between Jan. 15 and Feb. 15 in an area north of the park where migration is most likely as snow deepens in the park.

Critics told commissioners it is the wrong time to resume hunting of bison and suggested more study.

Stephany Sway, a member of the Buffalo Field Campaign, a group that opposes the hunt, said Yellowstone bison are so acclimated to tourists that they do not offer a "fair-chase hunt" and likened the hunt to shooting a car.

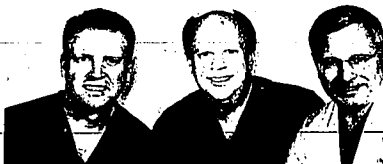
Josh Osher, another member of the bison-protection group, said society is not ready to support resumption of a hunt outside Yellowstone. He urged delaying action until Gov.-elect Brian Schweitzer takes office next month and appoints three new members of the five-member commission.

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NATION

Restrictions lead to glut of vaccines

ATLANTA — Two months after the government recommended that scarce flu shots be reserved for people most at risk, health officials are now worried that tens of thousands of doses could go to waste, and they are considering easing the restrictions.

Nation in brief — The demand for flu shots has turned out to be lower than expected because the flu season has been mild so far. Also, it turns out that more than half of all elderly or chronically ill adults have not even tried to get vaccinated because they figured no shots would be available. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention said Thursday.

The CDC's Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices plans to hold an emergency conference call today to discuss whether to amend its earlier response to the vaccine shortage and recommend that more people be allowed to get shots.

"Many of us are now concerned we will not use vaccine supplies. The only sin this season is to leave vaccine on the shelf," said Dr. William Schaffner, an influenza vaccine expert and head of preventive medicine at Vanderbilt University Medical Center in Nashville, Tenn.

The problem is that a flu shot is only good for the flu season it is made for. Any excess must be disposed of at the end of the season.

Task force: NASA needs method for fixing shuttle
CAPE CANAVERAL, Fla. — NASA needs to supply astronauts with a "reasonable, double and practicable" way to plug space shuttle holes in orbit before resuming launches, an advisory group said Thursday.

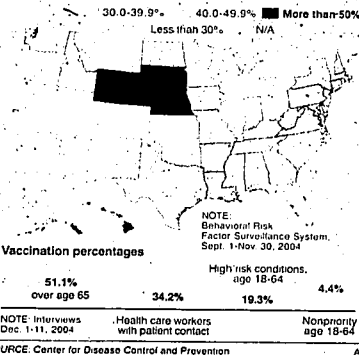
The task force's position could lead to a showdown next spring between the group and NASA.

NASA has been unable to come up with a good repair method despite nearly two years of engineering effort. And while the space agency has not given up, it contends it does not have to develop a reliable technique before shuttle flights can

Restrictions cause flu shot excess

Health officials are considering easing flu shot restrictions with warns that ten of thousands of doses may go to waste. Flu season typically begins as early as October and lasts through April.

Flu shots received by adults in priority groups



resume as planned in May or June.

But James Adamson, one of six former astronauts on the 26-member advisory panel set up by NASA's outgoing chief, said Thursday that a workable repair technique is, indeed, one of the requirements outlined by the Columbia Accident Investigation Board for resuming flights.

While the method does not need to be fully tested and certified before shuttle flights resume, "it has to be reasonable, double and practicable, and I think NASA's going to have that," Adamson said.

Judge consolidates civil suits over nightclub fire

PROVIDENCE, R.I. — A judge ruled Thursday that several civil suits stemming from a nightclub fire that killed 100 people last year will be consolidated under one complaint expanded to include 240 plaintiffs.

U.S. District Judge Ronald Laganus said the decision will allow the suits to move more quickly through the courts. In

addition to the master complaint, at least five other lawsuits have been filed by victims, families and those injured in the blaze.

Gerald DeMaria, an attorney representing two foam manufacturers named in the complaint, argued that consolidating the lawsuits was an attempt by prosecutors to avoid allowing some of the defendants to be dismissed.

Foot Locker reaches discrimination settlement

COLUMBIA, S.C. — Foot Locker has agreed to change its policy governing workplace harassment to settle a case involving a former gay employee who said he was humiliated by supervisors and co-workers, an advocacy group said Thursday.

Foot Locker will train its managers and employees and companywide on harassment issues and about support and services for workers who feel they have been harassed.

The company also will provide a monetary settlement to

former employee Kevin Dunbar, according to New York-based Lambda Legal, which reached the settlement on Dunbar's behalf. The group would not disclose the amount.

Several telephone messages left by The Associated Press for Foot Locker spokesman Peter Brown were not immediately returned.

Judge: College can proceed with plans to enroll men

AUBURN, N.Y. — A judge Thursday refused to block Wells College's plans to allow men to enroll next year for the first time in its 136-year history, saying the survival of the institution was at stake.

Two students had challenged the school's decision to go ahead on several grounds, including fraud and breach of contract, but Acting State Supreme Court Justice Peter Corning said they failed to prove their arguments in seeking an injunction.

Corning said he saw the case as "balancing the inconvenience of two students against the annihilation of the college."

Source: Arrest made in Maryland subdivision fires

BALTIMORE — A security guard who worked at an development where a series of fires burned several homes has been arrested and charged in the case, a source close to the investigation said Thursday.

Aaron Speed, 21, was to appear Friday in federal court, the source said. The exact charges and alleged motive were not immediately known.

Speed is an employee of Security Services of America, a company hired to guard the upscale development outside the nation's capital. Fires broke out there early Dec. 6, doing \$10 million in damage.

No one was hurt, but a total of 26 houses were damaged, 10 of them severely, in what authorities described as the largest residential arson case in Maryland history. Investigators said there was evidence that whoever was behind the arson tried to set 10 more blazes at the subdivision in the town of Indian Head, 35 miles south of Washington.

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WEST

Professor steps down over writings on American Indian students

DURANGO, Colo. (AP) — A professor whose article on teaching American Indians sparked accusations of racism will give up teaching and step down as head of the Fort Lewis College Center of Southwest Studies.

Andrew Gulliford will step down April 1, after five years as center director, college President Brad Bartel said Wednesday.

"There is a sacred trust between faculty and students in the classroom," Bartel said. "Faculty cannot disrespect the dignity and privacy of students."

School officials said he will take a non-teaching position doing fund-raising and outreach work in the Office of Community Services. Gulliford was not available for comment.

His article, "The Kokopelli Conundrum: Lessons Learned from Teaching Native American Students," was published in the October edition of American Studies International. Several Indian students said it exhibited racism, stereotypes and was a violation of student privacy.

In the article, Gulliford said teaching native students has brought me some of the most meaningful and satisfying professional experience in a 25-year teaching career. I am so grateful for the opportunity to live and learn here, but for an Anglo or nonnative, teaching native stu-

dents, especially about Indian issues, can be both difficult and rewarding. There are frequently cross-cultural complications and conundrums.

He also says Indian students are "quiet, well-groomed" or "impeccably polite" — statements students said seemed to assume they would be otherwise. They were also unhappy with a quote from an unidentified student who says, "My parents didn't teach me anything because they were frequently drunk with their cat in a ditch."

Gulliford apologized, but a school investigation concluded

the article violated student privacy under federal law because it included testimony and statements from students without their permission.

The college, where 18 percent of the 4,400 students are Indian, reported the alleged violations to federal education authorities, college spokesman Dave Eplich said. Potential penalties were unclear.

"I think in looking at the bigger picture, this has been a success for students," said Patrick Kincaid, a Southern Cheyenne Indian and a member of the Student Alliance for Appropriate Representation.

Student arrested for alleged incendiary device

EVANSTON, Wyo. (AP) — An Evanston High School student was arrested for allegedly bringing an incendiary device to school.

The student, 17, allegedly brought the device to school Wednesday morning.

Administrators had already been alerted by school technicians that the teenager had been on a bomb-making Web site.

to the administration that he had the device, we started the investigation at that time," Dennis Wilson, superintendent of Evanston schools, told KUTV-TV in Salt Lake City.

An incendiary device spews flames. It does not explode like a bomb.

staff," Wilson said. He said that aside from the recent incidents, the student has had a clean record.

Evanston Police Chief John Harris said it is unknown if threats were made or the student intended to use the device.

"He did bring the device to school and he was apprehended with the device," he said.

The device was taken to a remote area and destroyed.

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Before Christmas! Savings and Values Start Friday

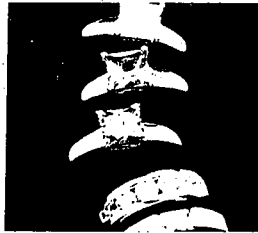
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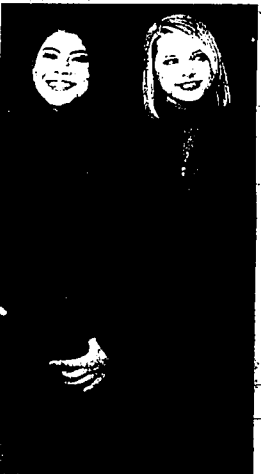
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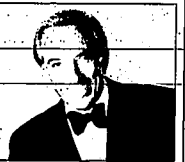
The Langroise Trio, a string trio based at Albertson College of Idaho in Caldwell, will entertain at the annual Christmas dinner tonight sponsored by the Eighth Street Center in Buhl.

Songs of the season

Company of Fools will present its holiday music revue, "Fools Songbook," tonight and Saturday night and Sunday afternoon at the Liberty Theater in Hailey.

Community sing

Rick Strickland will conduct Gooding residents in a Christmas Cantata tonight, Saturday and Sunday afternoon at the Schubert Theater.



Voice from the past

Andy Williams will perform a Christmas concert in Salt Lake City's Abravanel Hall Monday night.

One last chance

"The Soroptimists of Twin Falls will sponsor their Procrastinators Christmas Craft Show all days Saturday at the Old Fellows Hall in Filer.

Caroling, caroling

The Magic Valley Carolers, under the direction of Roger Vincent, will perform the fourth and final Advent-season Christmas in City Park Sunday afternoon in Twin Falls City Park. Mark Cohen will read "Twas the Night Before Christmas" and Santa Claus will distribute candy. It's free.

For times, dates and details, see Events Spotlight on Pages C2 and C4

Holiday MOVIES

Can DiCaprio pass for Howard Hughes?

Los Angeles Times

Perhaps it's the nature of our media-obsessed times that one of the most famous men of the '30s and '40s — Howard Hughes — is being played by one of the most famous men of our day, Leonardo DiCaprio. In the two decades covered by "The Aviator," Hughes produced scads of films, directed the most expensive movie of his day, set aviation records for the fastest trip across the country and fastest trip around the world, launched Hughes Aircraft (now part of Raytheon Co.), built the airline TWA and battled a Senate investigation into his role as a spy contractor.

He was Bill Gates, Buzz Aldrin and Jerry Bruckheimer rolled into one, with the sexual voraciousness of Wilt Chamberlain. It's Hughes' carnal appetite that makes DiCaprio sound a little giddy. In his prime, the mogul, who died a bedsores-ridden, codeine-addicted recluse, romanced — seemingly — every pretty girl in Hollywood, including Katharine Hepburn, Ava Gardner and Rita Hayworth.

That was one facet of his character that DiCaprio wanted to make sure got into the biopic of Hughes' life, directed by the revered Martin Scorsese. DiCaprio even added an improvised scene in which Hughes picks up a cigarette girl at a nightclub with the kind of cool, but not uncharming, "droit du seigneur" taken by the young, the handsome and the exceedingly rich.

"I wanted to make it abundantly clear that he was not just a ladies' man, but the fearless ladies' man. He was the Casanova, the swashbuckler of the 20th century, unmatched, unrivaled. Girl, you know it's true!" DiCaprio says, laughing. He's been picking desultorily at a chopped salad at Dan Fina's, the uppity-pretentious Italian joint that happens to be a Hollywood stalwart. When he suddenly perks up, there are people that are in his category, but not reaching up to Howard Hughes. It's the quality of the women — and the quantity.

He sounds almost awestruck. "It aces any man," he clarifies. "He had girls stashed away in hangars in Bel-Air. He had every gorgeous starlet, and if he wasn't with her, he'd probably rejected her." He leans back to theatrically dispense a can-you-believe-it-but-it's-true across his forehead. "The rumor was that he rejected Marilyn Monroe. Didn't like her feet."

Of course, DiCaprio, who happens to be the young, handsome, actually extending ribbons knows nothing — nothing about chasing beautiful women. This reporter once observed DiCaprio and other luminaries such as Jack Nicholson cutting a swath through a party thrown by the Ford modeling agency, obviously there to enjoy the conversation.

'The Aviator'

- Who's in it? Leonardo DiCaprio, Cate Blanchett, Kate Beckinsale
- Where's it playing? Magic Lantern of Ketchum
- What's it rated? PG-13
- Should you go? It's a gorgeous-looking movie, but it doesn't really explain Howard Hughes.

DiCaprio acknowledges there are parallels to today's Hollywood, that magnetic pull between powerful men and the model-actress-whatevers.

Still, it's something to be interested, another, to be pathological. "I would never dream of doing something like that myself," he says, (it's been off-and-on dating the Brazilian supermodel Gisele Bündchen for the last five years.) "He could be relentless with women. He committed a huge portion of his life to bedding as many beautiful women as he could. His perseverance! He wouldn't let up, just like he wouldn't give up with his planes or movies or anything. A man obsessed."

He pauses, thinks. He likes how it sounds. That's a great thing that I'm going to keep saying. "DiCaprio is beginning the kickoff of a global publicity blitz to promote "The Aviator," which opens this week, and is making mental notes about the part of his rap that he can reuse. "They're going to ask me about him, and I'm going to say quite simply, 'a man obsessed.' It simplifies things."

DiCaprio certainly didn't have to research Hughes' ambivalence toward the limelight.

"Hughes' attitude was 'Look at me! Look at me! Don't look at me! Don't look at me!'" DiCaprio says, speaking in breathy bursts to convey the conflict between the need for attention and the need for privacy. "I'm just kidding," he heads almost reflexively. Actually he's not, but he's suddenly self-conscious about sounding too-on-point about his own celebrity.

"I'm sure he loved all its advantages and detested all the disadvantages. He was very shrewd in knowing that the less he gave about himself the more people would want to know." "Look at me sitting here," says DiCaprio. "Hughes would never sit into an interview like this. Which any Hughes footage or any interview. It's him talking about airplanes. He would not discuss anything else."

Part of DiCaprio's job is to sell movies, by offering a choice glimpse of himself. Still, he believes in not revealing too much, not for the usual celebrity-proffered reasons of privacy, etc., but because of a higher purpose. He explains, "It's fundamental need to say I want people to believe me playing different characters."



In this undated promotional photo, actor Leonardo DiCaprio portrays Howard Hughes in a scene from Martin Scorsese's "The Aviator."

Jim Carrey's comic villainy could challenge the Harry Potter juggernaut

By Mike Szymanski
Zap2it.com

Jim Carrey loves scaring kids. He's played the Grinch in "Dr. Seuss's How the Grinch Stole Christmas," the fiddler in "Batman Forever," the nuptial superhero in "The Mask" — and now he's the sinister Count Olaf in "Lemony Snicket's Series of Unfortunate Events."

"I remember when I was a kid just loving creepy movies that scared me and at the same time were funny," says Carrey. "I remember 'Chitty Chitty Bang Bang' with that ... Children Catcher, who was trying to entice kids out with candy and kidnap them. There were crazy characters that were really scary. Bill Sykes in 'Oliver!' that's not a funny movie, but I love those characters."

Now he's rearing the nemesis of three orphaned children from a series of books that made "Harry Potter" a popularity. In the "Lemony Snicket" series, Olaf takes custody of the children and tries to kill them in order to inherit their parents' fortune.

Carrey says in a press conference that he modeled the character after a little bit of Orson Welles, a bit of the cartoon cereal box character Count Chocula, and bit like a



In this photo Jim Carrey plays Count Olaf. Liam Aiken plays Klaus, Kara and Shelby Hoffman play Sunny and Emily Browning plays Violet in "Lemony Snicket's Series of Unfortunate Events."

'Lemony Snicket's Series of Unfortunate Events'

- Who's in it? Jim Carrey, Jude Law, Mary Steep
- Where's it playing? Twin Cinema, Century Cinema in Burley, SKTime Cinemas and Jerome Cinema
- What's it rated? PG
- Should you go? It's fantasy with a Hollywood budget, and it's something to see.

bird of prey. Physically, however, he turned out a bit more familiar.

"I turned out looking like my dad — actually, which is really freaky," he says, pointing out that his family also noticed the resemblance of the older bald sharp-nosed Olaf. "It's kind of like the funny uncle who gets a

little drunk at Christmastime and then turns in the middle of the night. I wanted the danger to be real.

Carrey, playing dress-up as like Christmas every day, "I love transforming — it's like Christmas morning to me," he says, wearing an uncharacteristic Please see CARREY, Page C5

Burley LDS choir joins Magic Philharmonic for Yule concert

By Steve Crump
Times-News writer

BURLEY — Longtime Magic Philharmonic tuba player Alan Hale has a full plan for the orchestra's annual Christmas concert on Tuesday.

He's directing the 56-member orchestra and he wrote the feature solo, actually an arrangement of the traditional carol "What Child Is This?" to be performed — by soloist Steve Floyd, who's the band director at Burley High School.

"I'm kind of proud of it," Hale said. The 60-voice Burley LDS Stake Choir will sing the "Hallelujah" chorus from Handel's "Messiah" and an arrangement of "Joy to the World" that was written by Mormon Tabernacle Choir associate director Mack Wilberg.

"It's not the first time we've had a choir perform with the orchestra, but it's probably the biggest choir we've worked with," Hale said. "We had about two-thirds of them at our re-

If you go ...

- What: The Magic Philharmonic Orchestra will present its annual Christmas concert.
- Where: King Fine Arts Center, Burley.
- When: Tuesday, 7:30 p.m.
- How much: Tickets, which are \$3 for adults, \$2 for seniors, \$1 for students and \$15 for families, are available at the door.

Meet the band

Members of the Magic Philharmonic

heard the other night, and it still sounded pretty impressive." The program will also include "The Christmas Song," "Winter Wonderland," "Sleigh Ride" and "Christmas Festival" and a medley of Christmas favorites, as well as Chip Davis arrangements of "Christmas Wally" and "Stille Nacht." The concert will include a Christmas sing-a-long, an appearance by The Overtones, an eight-member local vocal

Orchestra includes:

- Violinists — Nancy Aky, Carol Badger, Carla Carson, Eliza Christensen, Heather Davis, Matthew Dobb, Mary Greener, Pat Haderlie, Megan Harris, Rue Hinchley, Audrey Hobson, Jolene Hobson, Dana Matschie, Elizabeth Hadden, Shyana Price, Marie Putnam, Lee Ann Turner, Lindsey Turner and Emily Woodland.
- Violists — Djana Baker, Bob Dean, Dwayne Halverson, Brianna Hansen, Marika Holbrook and Anna Saury.
- Trumpeters — Bob Dayley and Susan Nelbaur.

Wait Graham.

- Percussionists — Bonnie Bair, Daxson Hale and Lynette Hae.
- French horn players — Roger Turner, Jason Tilly, Tom Garner, Sam Christensen and Melinda Barboza.
- Flutists — Amy Christopherson and Colleen McCall.
- Basses — Jo Dayley.
- Clarinetists — Linda Studer and Debbie Hale.
- Oboists — Carolyn Firth and Susan Nelbaur.

Trombonists — Ross Spack-

- man, Tom Pierce and Wayne Hurst.
- Cellists — Jennifer Cosman, Troy Halverson, Nicole Hieb, Leslie Nelbaur and Janice Pilling.
- Bass clarinetist — Julie Shedard.
- Bassoonists — Pat Nordstrom and Darlyn Moss.
- Tuba player — Alan Hale.
- String bassist — George Jensen.
- Pianist — Joy Hurst.

group, and a visit by Santa Claus.

Hale has been active in music circles in the Mini-Cassia area for many years, serving as choral director at Minier High School for 17 years before teaching computer science at Burley Junior High School for eight years, before coming to Rupert to teach in Pocatello and American Falls.

He has been music director for Mount Harrison Heritage

Foundation productions of "Oliver," "Man of La Mancha" and "My Fair Lady," and will direct this year's production of "Carmelot."

Floyd, who has been the band director at Burley High since 1980, has taught music in Idaho and Washington since 1972. He graduated with a degree in music education from Sam Washington University in 1972. In 1997, he received his master of arts in education

from Lesley University in Cumm-bridge, Mass.

Floyd has performed in many plays and musicals and has played the lead in "The King and I," "Carmelot," "The Music Man" and "South Pacific." He's currently the director of the King Center.

Times-News writer Steve Crump can be reached at 733-3223, or write to him at scrump@magicvalley.com.

WEEKEND

Planetarium presents two shows tonight

T O D A Y
Planetarium/Twin Falls
 The Faulkner Planetarium at the Herrett Center for Arts and Science on the campus of the College of Southern Idaho will present "Steamrolling Through the Holidays" at 8:15 p.m., preceded by "The Christmas Star" at 7 p.m. Tickets are \$4 for adults, \$3 for senior citizens, \$2 for students and \$9 for families. No one under 4 is admitted.

Classical/Buhl
 The Langrise Trio will perform at the Eighth Street Center tonight, preceded by a holiday dinner prepared by local chefs. Doors open at 6:30 p.m. and tickets are \$25. For reservations, call 543-2888. The Eighth Street Center is located at 200 N. Eighth St.

Holidays/Halley
 Company of Fools will present their Fools Holiday Songbook, an evening of holiday music, at 7 p.m. in the Liberty Theater. Tickets, which are \$12, can be reserved by phoning (800) 965-4827, online at <http://www.ticketweb.com>, or at Atkinson's Market in Ketchum.

Holidays/Gooding
 The Christmas Cantata, featuring Gooding residents, will be sung at 8 p.m. at the Schubert Theater. Admission is by donation at the door.

Rock/Buhl
 Jam Side Down will play from 9 p.m. to 1 a.m. at TJ's Lounge, located at 112 Broadway Ave. S.

Variety/Gooding
 Bob Norm Band will play from 9 p.m. to 1:30 a.m. at Topo's. No cover charge. Topo's is located at 413 Main.

Variety/Burley
 Mixed Emotions will play from 8 p.m. to midnight at George K's East Restaurant. No cover charge. George K's is located at 325 E. Third St.

Rock/Twin Falls
 Robbie and the Blue Tones will play from 9 p.m. to 1 a.m. at The Oasis. No cover charge. The Oasis is located at 1007 Blue

Lakes Blvd. N.
Country/Rock/Jerome
 Timeline will play from 9 p.m. to 1 a.m. at Mr. Bill's. No cover charge. Mr. Bill's is located at 101 N. Alder.

Dance/Jerome
 Snake River Elks Lodge No. 2897 will hold its annual charity ball and open house, along with a steak fry, at 6 p.m. at the lodge. Cost is \$20 per couple and includes dinner and dancing. The Snake River Elks Lodge is located 6 miles north of the Perrine Bridge at 412 E. 200 S.

Dance/Twin Falls
 The Disabled American Veterans Auxiliary will hold a public dance at 8 p.m. at the DAV Hall. The Idaho Old Time Fiddlers will provide the music. The DAV Hall is located at 459 Shoup Ave.

Country/Twin Falls
 Country Classics will play from 8:30 p.m. to 12:30 a.m. at Montana Steakhouse. No cover charge. Montana Steakhouse is located at 1826 Canyon Crest Drive.

Country/Declo
 The Fugitives will play from 9 p.m. to 1 a.m. at Shakers. No cover charge. Shakers is located at 826 Highway 81.

Karaoke/Twin Falls
 Karaoke with Lone Star Entertainment will be featured from 8:30 p.m. to 12:30 a.m. at the Pioneer Club. No cover charge. The Pioneer Club is located at 1519 Kimberly Road.

Karaoke/Twin Falls
 Karaoke will be featured from 8 p.m. to 1 a.m. at the Klover Klub Lounge. The Klover Klub is located at 402 Main N.

Karaoke/Buhl
 Karaoke will be featured from 8:30 p.m. to 12:30 a.m. at Garibaldi's. No cover charge. Garibaldi's is located at 113 Broadway Ave. S.

Karaoke/Rupert
 Krakers Karaoke will be featured from 9 p.m. to 1 a.m. at the Melody. The Melody is located at 502 Sixth St.

Karaoke/Burley
 Krakers Karaoke will be featured from 9 p.m. to 1 a.m. at CBBers. Cheers is located at 163 West U.S. Highway 30.

Karaoke/Rupert
 Moonlight Madness Karaoke will be featured from 9 p.m. to 1 a.m. at the Blue Room. No cover charge. The Blue Room is located at 613 Fremont Ave.

Dance/Utah
 Ballet West will dance Tchaikovsky's "The Nutcracker" at 7 p.m. in Salt Lake City's Capitol Theater. Tickets, which range from \$10 to \$60, can be reserved by phoning (801) 355-2787. The Capitol Theater is located at 50 West 200 South.

Latin/Utah
 Mariachi Cobre will perform with Utah Symphony at Abravanel Hall in Salt Lake City at 8 p.m. Tickets, which range from \$20 to \$45, can be reserved by phoning (801) 355-2787. Abravanel Hall is located at 123 West South Temple.

SATURDAY

Holidays/Halley
 Company of Fools will present their Fools Holiday Songbook, an evening of holiday music, at 7 p.m. in the Liberty Theater. Tickets, which are \$12, can be reserved by phoning (800) 965-4827, online at <http://www.ticketweb.com>, or at Atkinson's Market in Ketchum.

Holidays/Filer
 Sonoplist of Twin Falls will sponsor Procrastinators Christmas Craft Show from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. at the Independent Order of Odd Fellows Hall next to the Filer Public Library. Call Kim Cohen at 736-3900 or Hillary Walker at 734-0721.

Holidays/Gooding
 The Christmas Cantata, featuring Gooding residents, will be sung at 8 p.m. at the Schubert Theater. Admission is by donation at the door.

Country/Kimberly
 Pure Country will play from 9 p.m. to 1 a.m. at Mixers. No cover charge. Mixers is located at 105 Main St.

Rock/Buhl
 Jam Side Down will play from 9 p.m. to 1 a.m. for the Christmas Party at TJ's Lounge. No cover charge. TJ's Lounge is located at 112 Broadway Ave. S.

Rock/Twin Falls
 Robbie and the Blue Tones will play from 9 p.m. to 1 a.m. at The Oasis. No cover charge. The Oasis is located at 1007 Blue Lakes Blvd. N.

Country/Twin Falls
 Country Classics will play from 8:30 p.m. to 12:30 a.m. at Montana Steakhouse. No cover charge. Montana Steakhouse is located at 1826 Canyon Crest Drive.

Variety/Burley
 Mixed Emotions will play from 8 p.m. to midnight at George K's East Restaurant. No cover charge. George K's is located at 325 E. Third St.

Country/Declo
 The Fugitives will play from 9 p.m. to 1 a.m. at Shakers. No cover charge. Shakers is located at 826 Highway 81.

Karaoke/Twin Falls
 Karaoke with Lone Star Entertainment will be featured from 8:30 p.m. to 12:30 a.m. at the Pioneer Club. No cover charge. The Pioneer Club is located at 1519 Kimberly Road.

Karaoke/Twin Falls
 Karaoke will be featured from 8 p.m. to 1 a.m. at the Klover Klub Lounge. The Klover Klub is located at 402 Main N.

Karaoke/Burley
 Karaoke will be featured from 8 p.m. to midnight at the 610 Club. The 610 Club is located at 1054 Overland Ave.

Karaoke/Burley
 Krakers Karaoke will be featured from 9 p.m. to 1 a.m. at the Riverside. No cover charge. The Riverside is located at 197 Highway 81. Please see EVENTS, Page C4

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Adam Sandler stars in 'Spanglish'

New to the valley 'Spanglish'

Cultures clash when a beautiful Mexican woman becomes the housekeeper for an upscale L.A. family. Written and directed by James L. Brooks, Adam Sandler, Tea Leoni, Paz Vega and Cloris Leachman star PG-13 for some sexual content and brief language.

'The Aviator'

Leonardo DiCaprio stars as the billionaire Howard Hughes who makes movies and tests his innovative aircraft while romancing starlets. Directed by Martin Scorsese. With Cate Blanchett, John C. Reilly, Kate Beckinsale and Jude Law. PG-13 for thematic elements, sexual content, nudity, language and a crash sequence.

'Closer'

Despite involved acting from Julia Roberts, Jude Law, Natalie Portman and Clive Owen and Mike Nichols' impeccable professionalism as a director, this adaptation of Patrick Marber's acclaimed play is, to quote one of the characters, "a bunch of sad strangers photographed beautifully." The difficulties start with the nature of the material adapted by Marber himself. Set in contemporary London, it gives us two men and two women who compulsively lust after each other's partners. It's not the sex they want, but the chance to manipulate and betray another human being. Though the film lingers for its characters to be taken seriously, their emotional connections are too carefully distanced-to-be-involving. The performer who comes closest to porting all this permafrost is Portman, complexly involved in the role of a youthful exotic dancer. (1.38) R for sequences of

Now playing

Twin Falls

- Twin Cinema
- 'Christmas with the Kranks'
- 'Flight of the Phoenix'
- 'The Incredibles'
- 'Ladder 49'
- 'Lemony Snicket's Series of Unfortunate Events'
- 'Napoleon Dynamite'
- 'National Treasure'
- 'Ocean's Twelve'
- 'The Polar Express'
- 'Shall We Dance?'
- 'Shark Tale'

Odyssey Theater

- 'Alexander'
- 'Bridget Jones and the Edge of Reason'
- 'Closer'
- 'Finding Neverland'
- 'Spanglish'
- 'The Song/Boyz SquarePants Movie'

Lamphouse Theater

- 'Missing Julia'
- 'What the Bleep Do We Know?'

The Orpheum

- 'Blade Trinity'

Halley/Ketchum/Sun Valley

- 'Magic Lantern'
- 'The Aviator'
- 'Finding Neverland'

- 'The Motorcycle Diaries'
- 'Ocean's Twelve'
- 'Spanglish'

SkiTime Cinemas

- 'Closer'
- 'Lemony Snicket's Series of Unfortunate Events'

Sun Valley Opera House

- 'National Treasure'
- 'The Polar Express'

Burley

- Century Cinemas
- 'Christmas with the Kranks'
- 'Flight of the Phoenix'
- 'Lemony Snicket's Series of Unfortunate Events'
- 'National Treasure'
- 'Ocean's Twelve'

Burley Theater

- 'Shark Tales'

Jerome

- Jerome Cinema
- 'Lemony Snicket's Series of Unfortunate Events'
- 'Meet the Fockers' (starts Wednesday)
- 'National Treasure'
- 'Ocean's Twelve'
- 'The Polar Express'

Gooding

- 'Finding Neverland'
- 'The Incredibles'

graphic sexual dialogue, nudity.

'Flight of the Phoenix'

This fairly literal, remake dumbs down characters and relationships...to...fit...today's superficial standards in adventure-films-blinding-the-tension and nuance of the 1965 original about a group that survives a desert crash and builds a new plane from the wreckage of the old. Dennis Quaid stars in the

role originated by James Stewart, as a jaded pilot who thinks the makeshift contraption designed by one of his passengers (Giovanni Ribisi) will never get them off the ground. Director John Moore's remake piles on action-flick-bombast, from overblown visual effects to carpingling music. Tyrese Gibson and Miranda Otto co-star. PG-13 for some language, action and violence. 112 min.

'Lemony Snicket's Series of Unfortunate Events'

The not-to-be-trusted Count Olaf goes to great lengths to get his hands on the Beaudelaire orphans' inheritance. Jim Carrey stars, with Liam Aiken, Emily Browning, Timothy Spall, Catherine O'Hara, Cedric the Entertainer, Meryl Streep and the voice of Jude Law. Directed by Brad Silberling. PG for thematic elements, scary situations and brief language.

'Meet the Fockers'

Ben Stiller's parents, played by Barbra Streisand and Dustin Hoffman, come to visit Robert De Niro and Blythe Danner, and things may never be the same. PG-13.

Continuing

'Alexander'

The real Alexander, a pre-Christian prototype of the "live fast, die young, leave a gorgeous-looking corpse" lifestyle, conquered huge chunks of the known world by the time he died just shy of his 33rd birthday. When you throw in a pan-sexual lifestyle and loads of exotic locales, this could have

been a film worth remembering. What we get is an indifferent epic that tells us more about the inside of writer-director Oliver Stone's head than we really want to know. This is not a knock on star Colin Farrell, who throws himself into the part of the charismatic leader and actually comes off as someone men might follow into battle. But Stone never convinces us why we should care. With Angelina Jolie, Val Kilmer and Anthony Hopkins. R for violence and some sexuality/nudity.

Please see MOVIES, Page C6

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WEEKEND

Events

Continued from C2
way MW.

Karaoke/Declo

Kroakers Karaoke will be featured from 9 p.m. to 1 a.m. at the Big Salubria. No cover charge. The Big Salubria is located at 91 E. Main.

Karaoke/Rupert

Moonlight Madness Karaoke will be featured from 9 p.m. to 1 a.m. at the Blue Room. No cover charge. The Blue Room is located at 614 E. 1st Street Ave.

Dance/Utah

Ballet West will dance Tchankovsky's "The Nutcracker" at 2 and 7 p.m. in Salt Lake City's Capitol Theater. Tickets, which range from \$10 to \$60, can be reserved by phoning (801) 355-2787. The Capitol Theater is located at 50 West 200 South.

Latin/Utah

Murachi Cubre will perform with Utah Symphony at Abravanel Hall in Salt Lake City at 8 p.m. Tickets, which range from \$20 to \$45, can be reserved by phoning (801) 355-2787. Abravanel Hall is located at 123 West South temple.

Planetarium/Twin Falls

The Faulkner Planetarium at the Herrett Center for Arts and Science on the campus of the College of Southern Idaho will present "Steamrolling Through the Holidays" at 2:45 p.m., preceded by "The Christmas Star" at 2 and 7 p.m., and "The Greatest Wonders of the Universe" at 4 p.m. Tickets are \$4 for adults, \$3 for senior citizens, \$2 for students and \$0 for families. No one under 4 is admitted.

SUNDAY

Holidays/Halley

Company of Fools will present their Fools Holiday Songbook, an afternoon of holiday music, at 3 p.m. in the Liberty Theater. Tickets, which are \$12, can be reserved by phoning (800) 965-4027, online at <http://www.ticketweb.com>, or at Atkinson's Market in Ketchum.

Holidays/Gooding

The Christmas Cantata, featuring Gooding residents, will be sung at 4 p.m. at the Schubert Theater. Admission is by donation at the door.

Holidays/Twin Falls

The Magic Valley Carolers, under the direction of Roger Vincent, will perform at the fourth and final Advent-season Christmas in City Park at 5 p.m. Mark Cohen will read "Twas the Night Before Christmas" and Santa Claus will distribute candy. It's free.

Dance/Twin Falls

Twin Falls Senior Citizens Center will hold a dance from 2 to 5 p.m. at the senior center. The Melody Masters will provide the music. Cost is \$5 per person. The Twin Falls Senior Center is located at 330 Shoshone St. W.

Karaoke/Twin Falls

Karaoke will be featured from 8 p.m. to 1 a.m. at the Kroyer Klub Lounge. The Kroyer Klub is located at 402 Main St.

Dance/Utah

Ballet West will dance Tchankovsky's "The Nutcracker" at 2 and 7 p.m. in Salt Lake City's Capitol Theater. Tickets, which range from \$10 to \$60, can be reserved by phoning (801) 355-2787. The Capitol Theater is located at 50 West 200 South.

MONDAY

Karaoke/Burley

Kroakers Karaoke will be featured from 9 p.m. to 1 a.m. at the Rendezvous Lounge. No cover charge. The Rendezvous Lounge is located at 109 E. Main St.

Holiday/Utah

Andy Williams will play Abravanel Hall in Salt Lake City at 8 p.m. Tickets, which are \$19.50 and \$39.50, can be reserved by phoning ARTICK at (801) 355-2787. Abravanel Hall is located at 123 West South temple.

TUESDAY

Holidays/Burley

The Magic Philharmonic Orchestra will present its Christmas concert at 7:30 p.m. at the King Fine Arts Center, 2100 Parke Ave. Admission is \$3 for adults, \$2 for seniors, \$1 for students and \$15 for families.

Holidays/Halley

Company of Fools will present their Fools Holiday Songbook, an evening of holiday music, at 7 p.m. in the Liberty Theater. Tickets, which are \$12, can be reserved by phoning (800) 965-4027, online at <http://www.ticketweb.com>, or at

Atkinson's Market in Ketchum.

Karaoke/Burley

Kroakers Karaoke will be featured from 9 p.m. to 1 a.m. at the Rendezvous Lounge. No cover charge. The Rendezvous Lounge is located at 109 E. Main St.

Dance/Utah

Ballet West will dance Tchankovsky's "The Nutcracker" at 7 p.m. in Salt Lake City's Capitol Theater. Tickets, which range from \$10 to \$60, can be reserved by phoning (801) 355-2787. The Capitol Theater is located at 50 West 200 South.

Planetarium/Twin Falls

The Faulkner Planetarium at the Herrett Center for Arts and Science on the campus of the College of Southern Idaho will present "Steamrolling Through the Holidays" at 8:15 p.m., preceded by "The Christmas Star" at 7 p.m. Tickets are \$4 for adults, \$3 for senior citizens, \$2 for students and \$0 for families. No one under 4 is admitted.

WEDNESDAY

Holidays/Halley

Company of Fools will present

their Fools Holiday Songbook, an evening of holiday music, in the Liberty Theater. Tickets, which are \$12, can be reserved by phoning (800) 965-4027, online at <http://www.ticketweb.com>, or at Atkinson's Market in Ketchum.

Variety/Twin Falls

Bob Nora Band will play from 8 p.m. to midnight at The Oasis. No cover charge. The Oasis is located at 1007 Blue Lakes Blvd. N.

Karaoke/Twin Falls

P & D Karaoke will be featured from 9 p.m. to 1 a.m. at Montana Steakhouse. No cover charge. Montana Steakhouse is located at 1026 Canyon Crest Drive.

Karaoke/Paul

Kroakers Karaoke will be featured from 9 p.m. to 1 a.m. at the Office Lounge. The Office Lounge is located at 118 E. Idaho St.

Dance/Utah

Ballet West will dance Tchankovsky's "The Nutcracker" at 7 p.m. in Salt Lake City's Capitol Theater. Tickets, which range from \$10 to \$60, can be reserved by phoning (801) 355-2787. The Capitol Theater is located at 50 West 200 South.

THURSDAY

Holidays/Halley

Company of Fools will present their Fools Holiday Songbook, an evening of holiday music, in the Liberty Theater. Tickets, which are \$12, can be reserved by phoning (800) 965-4027, online at <http://www.ticketweb.com>, or

at Atkinson's Market in Ketchum.

Variety/Twin Falls

Open microphone night will be featured from 7 to 9 p.m. at Java. No cover charge. Java is located at 220 Blue Lakes Blvd. N.

Karaoke/Twin Falls

P & D Karaoke will be featured

from 9 p.m. to 1 a.m. at Montana Steakhouse. No cover charge. Montana Steakhouse is located at 1026 Canyon Crest Drive.

Karaoke/Burley

Karaoke will be featured from 8 p.m. to midnight at the 610 Club. The 610 Club is located at 1054 Overland Ave.

LAURA'S CHOCOLATE-TOFFEE BARS

<p>1/2 cup butter or margarine, melted</p> <p>1 3/4 cups crushed teddy bear-shaped chocolate graham cracker cookies</p> <p>1 1/4 cups almond briclé chips</p> <p>6 (1.4-ounce) English toffee candy bars, crushed</p>	<p>1 cup (6 ounces) semisweet chocolate morsels</p> <p>1/2 cup chopped pecans</p> <p>1 (14-ounce) can sweetened condensed milk</p>	
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Line a 13" x 9" pan with aluminum foil, allowing foil to extend over ends of pan. Pour melted butter into pan. Sprinkle chocolate crumbs in bottom of pan; press firmly, and bake at 325° for 5 minutes.

Layer almond briclé chips and next 4 ingredients over crust in pan. Press layer down firmly. Pour condensed milk evenly over top.

Bake at 325° for 30 minutes or until edges are lightly browned. Cool completely in pan. Lift foil out of pan. Cut into bars. Yield: 2 dozen.

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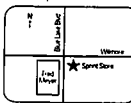
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WEEKEND

Carrey

Continued from C1
 die back suit with a blue striped shirt. (He says he's going somewhere important after the interview.)
 "You get into the make-up trailer and you start playing around with things and throwing pieces together. At one point we had a Don King on backwards strapped to the back of my head and I look like a ... hood ornament from a Chevy, it was weird. But we experimented, we came up with 30 different characters that didn't get into the movie. The whole process is exciting. It's such a fun thing to masquerade, period."

Joining his masquerade in the film are Jude Law, Meryl Streep, Timothy Spall, Jennifer Coolidge, Cedric the Entertain-

er and British comedian Billy Connolly, who plays another distant relative who's a snake expert and always has a big huge python around his neck.

"Jim would always try to improvise something," Connolly recalls, remembering how in one scene Carrey picked up a snake wrangling stick and potted around a piece of paper using live turtles as obstacles, as if on a miniature golf course. "It was just lovely to see his mind work that way and we all would collapse into laughter."

The children were played by "Road to Perdition's" Liam Aiken, "Ned Kelly's" Emily Browning and 2-year-old twins Kara and Shelby Hoffman, who alternated as the youngest child, Sunny.

Browning says Carrey ate sar-

dines and made his breath disgusting on purpose before shooting scenes with them.

"He always tried to crack us up, and scare us too," Browning says. "Gosh, if they put all the outtakes together on the DVD there'd be seven more hours of the movie."

Coming up, he's signed to do a big-screen version of "The Six Million Dollar Man," a remake of "Fun With Dick and Jane" and "The Secret Life of Walter Mitty." His wide variety of character ranges represent two sides of himself.

"I think the two me's are definitely meeting in the middle in some respects. I seem to have tripped into a time in my career where I have such a diversity of roles, so I feel incredibly lucky."

Sharon Stone
 sues for libel

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Actress Sharon Stone claims a Beverly Hills doctor slandered and libeled her by allegedly telling magazines that he performed cosmetic surgery on her face.

The lawsuit cites articles in Us Weekly and In Touch magazines that raise the question of whether Stone had a face-lift and suggest it was done by plastic surgeon Dr. Renato Calabria.

"The 'Basic Instinct' star maintains that such allegations damaged her reputation and hurt her ability to find work. She seeks unspecified damages in the lawsuit, filed Monday in Superior Court. Neither of the articles cites Calabria as saying he performed the surgery.

Arturi Barenas, a lawyer for Calabria, called the lawsuit "not well thought out," and said, "Dr. Calabria has never told anyone that he has performed surgery on Sharon Stone."

Stone alleges it was Calabria or his associates who contacted the magazines and that such statements tended to expose her "to shame and ridicule, and discourage others in the film industry from association ... or dealing with (her)."

The 46-year-old actress also accuses Calabria of putting the articles on his Web site to "boast" of his purported professional relationship with her.

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WEEKEND

Movies

Continued from C3

"Being Julia"

Annette Bening beaches in this diversion about the later queen who rules the West End stage as Victoria did her Empire. With Jeremy Irons and Bruce Campbell, it's a sexual situation, profanity

"Blade: Trinity"

Wesley Snipes is back as Blade, the half-human, half-vampire nemesis of all full-fledged blood-suckers, which this trilogy insists on looking everywhere and poised to take over the universe. The third installment pits Blade against one other than Dracula (Dominic Purcell), who has risen from the grave yet again, dug up by anti-heroic vampire hunter Danica Jolob (Parker Posey, amusingly deadpan) and her henchmen. The film looks great and Snipes is commanding, but this entry, long on action but short on the reflective qualities that gave its predecessors resonance, suggests that a sense of repetitiveness has set in. It might be a good time for Blade to retire. (2.5) With Kris Kristofferson, Dominic Purcell, Jessica Biel, Ryan Reynolds, Parker Posey. R for strong pervasive violence and language, and some sexual content

"Bridget Jones: The Edge of Reason"

Exactly what you'd expect sequel to the hit adaptation of a well-checked book about a wee-bit chubby, esteem-challenged single gal, her calamitous love life, and wardrobe choices. Plucky Yank Renée Zellweger once again stars as the plucky heroine. With Colin Hanks and Hugh Grant, 1 hr. 46 R (profanity, sex, adult themes)

"Finding Neverland"

Marc Forster's unabashedly loving — and largely fictionalized — take on playwright J.M. Barrie's relationship with the Havellynn Davies family, who inspired "Peter Pan," his most famous work, sees the world through the eyes of both a child and an inner child. Despite his education to youth, Johnny Depp's Barrie is no anti-munchkin. Instead, he portrays that rare adult who can relate to kids without pandering or condescending. Sentimental as it is, and do pack a haul — the film is closer in spirit to the dark meditation on the passage of time and the compromises of adulthood that's at the heart of "Peter Pan" than to the cult of immaturity that's usually attributed to the play. With Kate Winslet, Julie Christie and Dustin Hoffman. (1:22) PG for mild thematic elements and brief language.

"The Incredibles"

A movie with the over-saturation of "Toy Story" and the boisterous spirit of "Spy Kids," Brad Bird's eye-popping cartoon boasts a pro-family, pro-tort-reform agenda and a witty, anti-modernist style. It resembles the way the future looked circa 1963, if pop art's Roy Lichtenstein had designed rocketships for NASA and ranchers for suburban developers. PG-13 for violence, suspense, suitable for children 1 and older

"Ladder 49"

This heartfelt tribute to firefighters falls as a drama but serves as a "Wagon" that happens to good times. Directed by John Dahl, with Joaquin Phoenix and John Travolta. PG-13 (intense fire and rescue scenes, profanity)

"The Motorcycle Diaries"

Though it links future charismatic revolutionary Ernesto "Che" Guevara, criminally attractive Mexican actor Gael Garcia Bernal and a Norton 500 motorcycle, this might be the quietest, most meditative motorcycle movie ever made. Brazil's Walter Salles directs from a script by Jose Rivera, based on books written by Guevara and his friend Alberto Granado, who were charged by the eight months they spent in 1952 going 8,000 South American miles, but not in the way they expected. Because Bernal has the sense and skill not to play Guevara like the great man in training, we get to see an individual learn and expand from experience, to tag along as purpose gradually reveals its inexorable hand to him. In Spanish with English subtitles. (2:36) R for language.

"National Treasure"

It is even possible to make a Jerry Bruckheimer movie with a straight face anymore? Technically, yes, as Disney demonstrates with its high-octane tear through the wildly unsubstantiated side of American history. But it has all the soul, wit and originality of a

major co-branding campaign. Nicolas Cage ironically plays Benjamin Franklin Gates, a fifth-generation treasure hunter searching for a massive treasure stash hidden, forgotten and rediscovered by the crusading medieval knights who eventually spawned the Freemasons. The film hits every action-adventure beat. Zinger and emotional nose-right on cue — although it is as doggedly loopy and riddled-headed as a Disney film. With Harvey Keitel, Tom Voughn, Diane Kruger, Sean Bean, Justin

Barba and Christopher Plummer. Directed by Jon Turteltaub. (2:11) PG for action violence and some scary images.

"The Polar Express"

Tom Hanks provides the voice and movements for five characters, including the boy hero, in this visually lavish computer animated adaptation of the Chris Van Allsburg picture book. It's about a boy in the throes of a Santa credibility crisis, who takes a magical train ride on

Christmas Eve. And it feels just a wee bit padded. G (vertiginous train ride)

"Ocean's Twelve"

This attempt by director Steven Soderbergh and an all-star cast to duplicate the deserved success of their suave "Ocean's Eleven" isn't good and isn't bad, it just isn't. A legerdemaine would-be entertainment as well as a dispiriting vanity project, it is such a misfire it makes it hard to remember what was special

about its predecessor. The story picks up three years after the original film's Vegas heist, with Danny Ocean (George Clooney) and his gang being tracked down by the man they robbed (Andy Garcia), who gives them two weeks to pay back his \$160 million plus interest. None of the criminal set pieces (Ocean and his team including Brad Pitt, Matt Damon, Don Cheadle, Bernie Mac and Julia Roberts) take a flac or are as involving as they should be and even Soderbergh seems bored

from time to time. (2:00) PG-13 for language.

"Shall We Dance?"

American remake of the capricious 1996 Japanese film about the depressed businessman with two lead feet who walks into a dance academy and then waltzes out of his middle funk. With Richard Gere, Susan Sarandon and Jennifer Lopez. PG-13 Sources: Knight Ridder News Service, Los Angeles Times/Associated Press

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WEEKEND

'Fools' celebrate holidays in song and stories

By Karen Bossick
The Wood River Journal

HAILY — "The Company of Fools" Holiday Songbook is sort of like the presents you find under the Christmas tree.

You've got a good idea you're going to get a new tie or Barbie doll, but you don't know exactly what form the various gifts will take.

In the case of the Holiday Songbook, you can be sure you're going to get an evening of Christmas favorites from the hauntingly beautiful "Wonder As I Wander" to a medley featuring "Sleigh Ride," "Silver Bells," "Walking in a Winter Wonderland" and other familiar songs.

But they'll be unlike any rendition you've ever heard before, given the gifted touch of Fools Musical Director R.L. Rowsey who adapted them to the seven singers who will join him on stage.

"This is the busiest time of the year for me — I've got 42 parties in 2 1/2 weeks," said singer Judith McQueen, who owns a catering business. "But doing this is like giving myself a Christmas present. It's such a completely different energy."

The hour-long program, which runs through Thursday at the Liberty Theater, is designed for one and all, from tiny tots to those with as many years under their belt as Ol' St. Nick.

For the kids, there's a medley of children's favorites, including "I Saw Mommy Kissing Santa Claus," "The Grinch," "All I Want for Christmas is My Two Front Teeth" and "I'm Getting Nuttin' for Christmas."

And those who thrive on holi-

If you go ...

- **What:** Company of Fools will present the "Fools Holiday Songbook," a holiday music revue.
- **Where:** Liberty Theater, Haily.
- **When:** Tonight, Saturday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday at 7 p.m. and Sunday at 3 p.m.
- **How much:** Tickets are \$12, with 10 front-row seats offered each night for \$10 on a first-come first-served basis the night of the show. Tickets are available at 578-9122 or www.ticketweb.com

day trivia will find it in some rarely sung lyrics, such as this one to "Santa Claus is Coming to Town".

"He doesn't care if you're rich or poor. He loves you just the same. Santa knows that we're all children. That makes everything right. Fill your heart with Christmas cheer 'cause Santa Claus is coming to town."

Between songs the cast will interject short Christmas stories culled from Wood River Valley Christmases past to touching stories Rowsey has collected from around the world.

And there'll be a few wows thrown in for good measure. Like a hysterical holiday recipe from a 1952 "Better Homes and Garden" magazine. Or such jokes as "Do you know what would have happened if there had been Three Wise Women instead of Three Wise Men?"

Performers will be dressed in red and black around a white

baby grand piano. And Fools member John Glenn has decked the halls with three large red Christmas ornaments 30 inches in diameter that hang from the ceiling over a backdrop of musical notes for "Silent Night."

The singers include a broad cross-section of the Wood River Valley from seventh-grader Everett Frazer Ford, who sang the coveted soprano solo at last year's "Messiah," to Dawson Howard, who seems to pop up in everything from "The Nutcracker" to "Jesus Christ Superstar."

Also singing: Andrew Burgess, who teaches acting and improv; Katherine Edison, head of the voice department for the Sun Valley Summer Symphony Music Conservatory; Sam Bradshaw Gorby, who teaches preschool and theater, and Courtney Ransom, a newcomer to the Wood River Valley who recently graduated from the University of Idaho with a Master of Fine Art degree in theater performance.

This is a complete turnaround for Edison, who usually appears as a soprano soloist for operatic highlight programs and choral works, such as the Caritas Choral's upcoming "Stabat Mater." But she's having a ball.

"This is taking me back to the mangle of the holidays," she said. Rowsey concurred. "How can we not have fun when we're singing 'Frosty the Snowman'?"

and "All I Want for Christmas is My Two Front Teeth?"

Fools Unplugged — dessert, coffee and a conversation with the artists — will follow Sunday's performance.

This story originally appeared in The Wood River Journal, a Haily newspaper affiliated with The Times-News. The Journal is distributed each Wednesday in the Wood River Valley.

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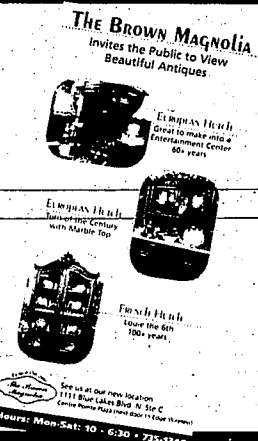


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The Times-News

ENGAGEMENT

HANSEN-GREEN

RUPERT — Dr. and Mrs. Richard D. Hansen of Rupert announce the engagement of their daughter, Chantal Doree Hansen, to Adam Walter Green, son of Mr. and Mrs. Michael W. Green of Boise.

Hansen is a 2002 valedictorian graduate of Minico High School. She is currently attending Brigham Young University studying political science. She has performed two years with the BYU International Folk Dance Team.

Green served two years in the Teton Korea Mission for The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. He is currently studying computer science at BYU.



Adam Green and Chantal Hansen

The wedding is planned for Friday, Dec. 17, in the Salt Lake LDS Temple. A reception to honor the couple will be held from 6 to 8:30 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 18, at the Hansen residence in Rupert.

The couple will reside in Provo, Utah.

Police discover drugs in caskets

SALLISAW, Okla. (AP) — Oklahoma Highway Patrol troopers found 610 pounds of marijuana hidden in caskets being hauled in a truck stopped near this eastern Oklahoma town.

The driver, Timothy G. Hynd, 26, and his passenger, Robert Dean Harper, told a trooper they were working for a Tucson, Ariz., casket company and their destination was Atlanta.

They were pulled over Friday for going 6 mph over the speed limit.

Both men said they had no idea marijuana was their cargo. "Hynd is 26 and has never been in any kind of trouble," said his attorney, Dean Baker. "He was just delivering caskets for a living. He didn't check inside the caskets—for drugs would you?"

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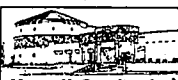


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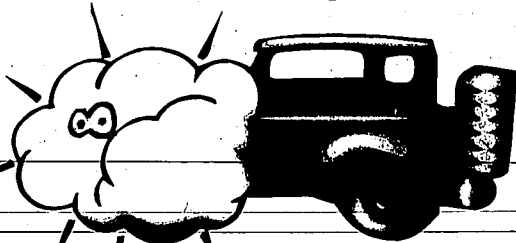
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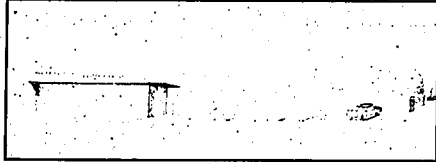
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MORNING LINE

SPORTSQUOTE

I've got to eat where Jennifer Aniston eats. I got to find these salad places.

New USC basketball coach Rick Majerus

TRIVIA

QUESTION: Who was the umpire that Pete Rose was suspended for bumping in 1988?
ANSWER: ...answer below

TODAY'S SCHEDULE

- HS Boys Basketball
Filer at Buhl, 6 p.m.
Kimberly at Gooding, 6 p.m.
Boise at Twin Falls, 6 p.m.
Lighthouse Christian at Caspary, 6 p.m.
Richfield at Bliss, 6 p.m.
Dietrich at Shoshone, 6 p.m.
Hansen at Oakley, 6 p.m.
Declo at Snake River, 6 p.m.
The Community School at Carey, 7:30 p.m.
North Gem at Twin Falls Christian Academy, 6:30 p.m.
Hagerman at Raft River, 7:30 p.m.
Magic Valley Christian at Murtaugh, 7:30 p.m.
HS Girls Basketball
Filer at Glens Ferry, 6 p.m.
Jerome at Minico, 6 p.m.
Wood River at Burley, 6 p.m.
The Community School at Carey, 6 p.m.
HS Wrestling
Bearcat Invitational, Twin Falls, 3:30 p.m.
Raft River/Oakley at Declo (duals) 4 p.m.
College Men's Basketball
CSI at Phoenix College, 6:30 p.m. MST

IN BRIEF

T.F. Muni holds Play Day tourney

TWIN FALLS - The Community Play Day golf tournament has been rescheduled for Saturday, Dec. 18 at the Twin Falls Municipal Golf Course. It is a 25-team scramble limited to four players. The entry fee, which includes greens fees and a cart, is either two turkeys, two hams, or one turkey and one ham. All food will be donated to the Community Action Agency for Christmas. Please call 733-3326 to confirm if your team is still playing in the event.

AAU hoops tourney offered Jan. 8

JEROME - The Jerome Recreation District is co-sponsoring a seventh grade and under basketball tournament on Saturday, Jan. 8. Entry fee is \$75 per team, with all school and AAU teams accepted. The deadline to sign up is Jan. 4. For more information, contact Rick Geist at 320-2349 or 324-9437.

Jerome Rec. needs youth hoops coaches

JEROME - The Jerome Recreation District is in need of coaches for all levels for its youth basketball program, which begins in January. If interested, please call 324-3389.

Elks Hoop Shoot planned for Saturday

TWIN FALLS - The Snake River Elks will hold the annual Elks Lodge Hoop Shoot free throw competition on Saturday, Dec. 18 at the CSI gym. The contest is open to all children ages 13 and under from the Twin Falls and Jerome areas. Participants will be divided into three age groups: 8-9, 10-11, and 12-13. Boys and girls shoot separately. Registration begins at 9 a.m. with competition beginning at 10. For more information, contact hoop shoot chairman Dennis Cogswell at 733-6637.

Compiled from staff reports
TRIVIA ANSWER: Dave Pallone.

Bruins fall to Highland

By Nathaniel Garrabrاند
Times-News writer

TWIN FALLS - Perfect no longer. The Twin Falls Bruins girls basketball team suffered their first loss of the season Thursday night, falling 45-41 to Region Four-Five-Six rival Highland Thursday night at Baun Gymnasium, the victims of an improbable Rams comeback.

"That was huge, absolutely huge," said Highland coach Scott Hansen, whose team moved to 10-2 (3-0) with the victory and took over first place in the conference.

With Twin Falls (10-1) up comfortably at the half, 32-18, a blow-out seemed well in the works. The visitors didn't see things that way.

Holding the Bruins to just 1-for-18 shooting in the second half, the Rams utilized a strong press and aggressive play in the key to limit Twin Falls to nine total points in the final two periods.

"Highland pressured us pretty hard in the second half and I think we panicked a bit," said Twin Falls coach Joe D. Shepard.

The Bruins started the third quarter where they'd left off, with a quick bucket from Amy Bravold to make it 34-18. Three minutes later, it was apparent that something had gone awry as the Rams uncorked a 9-0 run to claw back to 34-27.

"I never questioned their heart and toughness," said Hansen. "At halftime, I did. At the end, I said 'That was foolish of me.'"

As the third quarter wound to a close, the Bruins still led 37-33, but Highland had become the crisper team, picking off Bruin passes with startling frequency, enabling guard Corey Price and forward Koley Mickelsen to capitalize on fast-break opportunities.

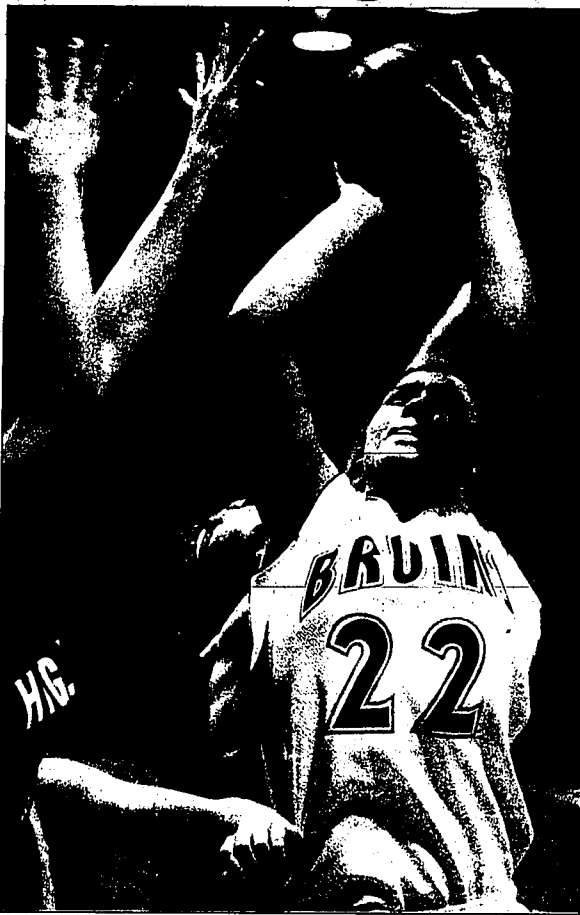
"Defense definitely saved us," said Hansen.

Price finished with 11 points and five rebounds, Mickelsen with 12 points, six of those in the final quarter.

It was the duo's fourth quarter composure that proved the tipping point.

With 429 remaining in the fourth, Mickelsen drained a free throw to complete a 3-point play to pull the game to 41-40. One minute and another Bruin miss later, Price pitched the rebound to Mickelsen for an easy layup. "I don't know which they wouldn't relinquish."

With the Rams playing sharp



Twin Falls High senior point guard Jamie Edwards fires up a shot between two Highland defenders Thursday in Baun Gymnasium. Edwards scored and drew the foul on the play.

possession-basketball. Twin Falls managed only two more opportunities, both of which went off the rim. At the 42-second mark, Price found herself at the line and calmly drained both shots to make it 45-41 and secure the win.

"A lot of credit to Highland," said Shepard. "They really played a great game." Please see BRUINS, Page D2

Shoshone slips past Dietrich

By Eric Larsen
Times-News writer

DIETRICH - The Aurora Borealis could have paid a trip to Lincoln County Thursday and still go unnoticed.

Drawn by the Magic Valley Northwest Conference showdown between the state's top Class 1A girls basketball team - the Shoshone Indians - and the host Dietrich Blue Devils, large contingents from both schools emptied their cities' streets and filled Blue Devil Gymnasium.

In the end, the Shoshone fans went home with a smile after their team improved to 10-0 (4-0) with a 48-39 victory. Trailing 33-32 after three quarters, the Indians worked the game into a 37-all tie with 4:30 left in the game. Soon thereafter a Dietrich foul sent junior Kyll Astle to the line for a one-and-one opportunity. Astle sank both shots, which catapulted the Indians into a 11-2 game-ending run.

"It was a one or two-point game most of the way," Dietrich coach Gene Shaw said. "There was just that minute and a half stretch where we had a defensive breakdown. At the end of the game, we had to start fouling and they shot their free throws well."

Indians junior Haley Harris connected on two free throws, then stole the ball on the Dietrich end of the court with 37 seconds left in the game to seal the win for Shoshone. While the outcome isn't what the 9-5 Blue Devils (3-1 Northwest) had hoped for, Shaw is encouraged by the way his



Shoshone Junior Kyll Astle battles Dietrich Junior Caitlin Dill for a rebound during the Indians' 48-39 win Thursday night in Dietrich. Astle finished with 12 points to help the Indians improve to 10-0 on the season. team battled Shoshone. Please see SHOSHONE, Page D2

Selig finally hears what 'chin-music' sounds like

Linda Cropp just became my favorite baseball player.



JIM LITKE

The chair of Washington, D.C. city council doesn't own a uniform, won't ever set foot inside a batter's box, and probably couldn't break an egg if she had to throw it off a mound.

But make no mistake: She is a player. One threatening to kill the one-sided deal that would have landed a franchise in her backyard. Cropp let Bud Selig and Co. know they're not the only ones who know how to play hardball.

Some 10 weeks ago, when Mayor Anthony Williams triumphantly announced a deal to bring major-league baseball back to Washington, most people were too busy celebrating to confront the enormous responsibilities lurking in the details. But that's exactly what Cropp did late Tuesday night, orchestrating a rebellion of the city council to amend the deal and require private money for financing at least 50 percent of the cost of a new stadium.

Cropp's parliamentary coup Please see LITKE, Page D7

Student focuses on running track instead of running wild

By Joel Mills
Lewiston Tribune writer

MOSCOW - When he was told not to run, Isaac Jimenez ran anyway. And he turned out to be pretty good.

Good enough to medal in track at Vallivue High School in Caldwell; good enough to earn a position on the University of Idaho track team. And according to his coach, one of few who are good enough and stubborn enough to re-earn a spot on the team after getting cut.

But while Jimenez was running headlong into a promising future, he also was escaping from a possibly fatal life among the gangs, drugs and crime that plague his hometown.

"I didn't grow up or see the light I could still be with them," says the 22-year-old 800-meter specialist of the gang members he ran with in junior high and early high school.

Jimenez graduated Saturday from the UI with a degree in sports science.

Drugs, fighting and dodging bullets were the recreational activities in those earlier years, says Jimenez. "But then, 'I found the track.' It's older-brother-Jordan Zamora, 24, was the family track star when Jimenez was a junior. Not happy with the way his life was going, he decided to give track a go.

"I didn't like the way people were looking at me." But he was going through a tough time with his family, and things didn't get better when he told his parents, Elisa and Ramiro; he wanted to run track.

"They told me not to bother, because my brother was the track star and I was going to fail. But I did it, and I turned out



Track athlete Isaac Jimenez stands on the track at the University of Idaho, Dec. 8, in Moscow. While Jimenez was running headlong into a promising future, he also was escaping from a possibly fatal life among the gangs, drugs and crime that plague his hometown of Caldwell, Idaho. He graduates Saturday from the UI with a degree in sports science. being the better track person than he was." He dropped the gang life, and his grades got better. His high school counselors asked him to Please see WILD, Page D2

CSI Men Road Trip

Scottdale Community College Classic, Scottdale, Ariz. All Times MST
Saturday
CSI at Phoenix College, 6:30 p.m.
Saturday
CSI at Scottdale CC, 8:30 p.m.
Monday
CSI at Mesa (Ariz.) Community College, 8 p.m.

SPORTS

Pistons shut down LeBron

MIRREB HILLIS, Mide CAP1 Richard Hamilton scored 21 points and the Detroit Pistons held Cleveland to a six-point lead in the third quarter and almost held LeBron James...

finished with 12 after an eight-point first quarter. The Central Division-leading Cavaliers are 9-1 at home, but just 1-4 on the road. Detroit outscored the Cavaliers 21-6 in the third to take a five-point lead and it led by double digits for much of the final quarter.

CSI

Continued from D1 In a 5-1 point win over homecoming Treasurer Valley Community College (Dre) on Saturday...

Bruins

Continued from D1 Hedi-Brosnan was the bright spot for the Bruins, leading all scorers with 16 points. In retrospect, the Bruins seemed to have finished what they started with a 20-minute first period...

Wild

Continued from D1 proved enough to set a personal record, rank in the top five in the 800 meters in the Big West Conference and earn a \$2,000 athletic scholarship. "I'm someone else I couldn't do," something Jimenez says. "He tells me better than anyone could have expected."

Scottsdale Community College

The Arthekes (6-4) will be one of the more pallid teams CSI sees this season. "They'll push in transition if they have the opportunity of free throws and that sort of thing," CSI assistant coach Steve Hint said.

Wendell 67, Hagerman 35

WENDELL - Matt Myers scored 13 points to pace a balanced Wendell offense past Hagerman 67-35 Thursday night in nonconference play. Kelly Rosborough pulled down 10 rebounds for the 5-0 Trojans.

Carey 56, Camas County 51

FAIRFIELD - Tyler Cook pumped in 22 points while Tadd Hansen, "Twin Falls is a great team though, and they'll be there at the end as the team to beat." The Bruins visit Minico on Tuesday.

The Times-News

POCATELLO - Blake Nielson scored 16 points to pace 6-0 Twin Falls past host and defending 4A state champion Century, 52-42, Thursday night. The Bruins host Boise tonight and Timberlake Saturday.

Twin Falls 52, Century 42

Twin Falls 52, Century 42. Blake Nielson scored 16 points to pace 6-0 Twin Falls past host and defending 4A state champion Century, 52-42, Thursday night.

Skyline 56, Wood River 43

HAILEY - Skyline's Garrett Jones kicked the twins with 6- or 9- three-point shooting en route to a game-high 23 points as the visiting Grizzlies defeated the Wood River Wolverines 56-43.

Wendell 67, Hagerman 35

WENDELL - Matt Myers scored 13 points to pace a balanced Wendell offense past Hagerman 67-35 Thursday night in nonconference play. Kelly Rosborough pulled down 10 rebounds for the 5-0 Trojans.

Carey 56, Camas County 51

FAIRFIELD - Tyler Cook pumped in 22 points while Tadd Hansen, "Twin Falls is a great team though, and they'll be there at the end as the team to beat." The Bruins visit Minico on Tuesday.

Local sports

Green added 10 to lead Carey past Camas County for a 56-51 road win Thursday. "The Mushers were led by Tony Green, Kyle Menck and Mark Wilson with 10 points each."

Carey 56, Camas County 51

Carey 56, Camas County 51. Green added 10 to lead Carey past Camas County for a 56-51 road win Thursday.

Richfield JV 84, ISDB 56

RICHFIELD - Jacob Brauburger pumped in 25 points to lead Richfield junior varsity past The Idaho School for the Deaf and Blind ISDB's Bryan Jensen scored a game-high 28 points while Jeremy Castileja added 19.

Richfield JV 84, ISDB 56

RICHFIELD - Jacob Brauburger pumped in 25 points to lead Richfield junior varsity past The Idaho School for the Deaf and Blind ISDB's Bryan Jensen scored a game-high 28 points while Jeremy Castileja added 19.

Girls basketball

Glenns Ferry 43, Declo 41

DECLO - Glenns Ferry escaped with a 43-41 road win Thursday night at Declo behind 19 points from Mieke Barroso and from Alisha Crano.

Glenns Ferry 43, Declo 41

DECLO - Glenns Ferry escaped with a 43-41 road win Thursday night at Declo behind 19 points from Mieke Barroso and from Alisha Crano.

Oakley 54, Lighthouse Christian 18

TWIN FALLS - Behind 24 points from junior Jenna Peterson, Oakley defeated Lighthouse Christian 54-18 in a Magic Valley Southside Conference game Thursday night.

Oakley 54, Lighthouse 18

Oakley 54, Lighthouse 18. Jenna Peterson scored 24 points to lead Oakley past Lighthouse Christian 54-18 Thursday night.

LIGHTHOUSE 18. Jenna Peterson scored 24 points to lead Oakley past Lighthouse Christian 54-18 Thursday night.

Hagerman 38, Hansen 24

HANSEN - Behind 16 points from senior Shannel Klink, Hagerman posted a 38-24 Magic Valley Southside Conference win over Hansen Thursday night.

Hagerman 38, Hansen 24

Hagerman 38, Hansen 24. Shannel Klink scored 16 points to lead Hagerman past Hansen 38-24 Thursday night.

Hagerman 38, Hansen 24

Hagerman 38, Hansen 24. Shannel Klink scored 16 points to lead Hagerman past Hansen 38-24 Thursday night.

Raft River 41, Murtaugh 40

MURTAUGH - Raft River defeated Murtaugh in a Magic Valley Southside Conference game 41-40 Thursday night. Junior Hallie Ramsey paced the Lady Trojans with 10 points in a game that had several lead changes.

Raft River 41, Murtaugh 40

MURTAUGH - Raft River defeated Murtaugh in a Magic Valley Southside Conference game 41-40 Thursday night.

Raft River 41, Murtaugh 40

MURTAUGH - Raft River defeated Murtaugh in a Magic Valley Southside Conference game 41-40 Thursday night.

Kimberly 44, Buhl 34

KIMBERLY - Stacy Walters scored 11 and Whitney Funk 10 to lift Kimberly to its first win, 44-34 over Buhl, Thursday night in Sawtooth Central Idaho Conference play.

Kimberly 44, Buhl 34

KIMBERLY - Stacy Walters scored 11 and Whitney Funk 10 to lift Kimberly to its first win, 44-34 over Buhl, Thursday night.

Carey 61, Camas County 38

FAIRFIELD - Four Carey players scored in double figures to down host Camas County 61-38 Thursday night. Melissa Puck

scored 13 points. Amy Olsen and Brenna Silva 12 apiece and Whitney Puck 10 to pace the Panthers.

Carey 61, Camas County 38

Carey 61, Camas County 38. Amy Olsen scored 13 points to lead Carey past Camas County 61-38 Thursday night.

Wrestling

Minico 42, Jerome 30

JEROME - Minico defeated host Jerome 42-30 in a Thursday night dual meet. Jerome (1-1) hosts the Bearcat Invitational Friday-Saturday.

Minico 42, Jerome 30

Minico 42, Jerome 30. Minico defeated host Jerome 42-30 in a Thursday night dual meet.

Late Wednesday

Girls basketball

Burley 55, Preston 39

BURLEY - Sophomore forward McKel Baker pumped in 24 points to lead Burley past Preston 55-39 Wednesday night. Juniors Kandace Dalton added 12 points.

Burley 55, Preston 39

Burley 55, Preston 39. McKel Baker scored 24 points to lead Burley past Preston 55-39 Wednesday night.

Boys basketball

Century 61, Jerome 51

JEROME - Jerome fell to Century 61-51 at home Wednesday night in non-conference play. Rebounds and free throws proved key as the Diamondbacks finished with 29-19 advantage of the glass and outshot the Tigers from the line 84 percent to 66 percent.

Century 61, Jerome 51

JEROME - Jerome fell to Century 61-51 at home Wednesday night in non-conference play.

Century 61, Jerome 51

Century 61, Jerome 51. Jerome fell to Century 61-51 at home Wednesday night.

Big Unit on verge of joining Yanks, Hudson to Braves

NEW YORK (AP) - On a day of big movement in baseball, the New York Yankees are on the verge of claiming the biggest prize of all. The Yankees closed in on completing a blockbuster three-team trade that would send Randy Johnson to New York, Javier Vazquez to Los Angeles Dodgers and Shawn Green to the Arizona Diamondbacks, a source told The Associated Press.

who finished 51-11. Johnson has 246 career wins and is third all-time with 4,161 career strikeouts. Fox Sports and Newsday reported on their Websites that the other players involved in the deal are Yankees prospects catcher Dioner Navaro and third baseman Eric Duncan, who are going to Los Angeles, and Dodgers pitchers Brad Penny and Yency Brazoban, who would be sent to Arizona.

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the last two seasons. He batted .266 with 28 homers and 86 RBIs in 2004. Vazquez, 28, struggled in his first season in New York, going 14-10 with a 4.31 ERA. He is owed \$3.5 million over the next three years. Penny, acquired in the middle of last season from Florida, was shut-down by a shoulder injury down the stretch for the Dodgers. The 26-year-old right-hander has a 49-44 career record. Brazoban, 24, went 6-2 with a 2.48 ERA in 31 games for Los Angeles last season.

Shoshone

Continued from D1 "I hope we see that kind of game in the sub-district tournament," Shaw said. "Hopefully we'll get a bit better and give them another game."

After blowing a 3-0 lead in the AL championship series to Boston last season, the Yankees set out in the offseason to upgrade their starting pitching. They are close to finalizing contracts with free-agent pitchers Carl Pavano and Jaret Wright, but the Big Unit is the player they coveted most to match up against the Red Sox and his former teammate, Curt Schilling.

Green, who is also owed \$16 million in the final year of his contract, his 91 homers in 2001-02 but dropped to just 47 over

Earlier Thursday, the Braves swooped in and acquired Hudson for outfielder Charles Thomas and pitchers Juan Cruz and Dan Meyer. The Braves have won 13 straight division titles. Last Saturday, they got "All-Star" closer Dan Kolb from Milwaukee - a move that allowed them to move John Smoltz back into the rotation.

SPORTS

SPORTS IN BRIEF

BYU begins search for new athletic director

PROVO, Utah — Now that Brigham Young has a new football coach, administrators can start looking for his boss. BYU Advanced Services president Fred Skousen said the search for a new athletic director began officially Thursday...

Police arrest Panthers punter for DWI

CHARLOTTE, N.C. — Carolina Panthers punter Todd Sauerbrun was arrested and charged with driving while impaired...

Source: New search warrants for race-tracks

ALBANY, N.Y. — Authorities are investigating whether bettors at New York's top thoroughbred tracks were properly informed when jockeys were overpaid at races...

Doctors clear Majerus to return to coaching

LOS ANGELES — Rick Majerus' new basketball coaching job comes with a doctor's permission slip. Given the OK to return to the high-stress late-night on-

Season isn't his fault

NEW YORK — Ricky Williams insists the Miami Dolphins' dismal season isn't his fault. "That's their problem... It's not my problem anymore," Williams told 60 Minutes.

Area sports report

High School Basketball: Yesterday's scores... Friday, Dec. 17... Saturday, Dec. 18... High School Football: Yesterday's scores...

Bowl Game

At Times Report: Yesterday's scores... Saturday, Dec. 18... Sunday, Dec. 19...

High School

Yesterday's scores: Basketball... Football... Soccer... Swimming...

Transactions

BASEBALL: Los Angeles: Los Angeles traded... Football: Seattle traded... Soccer: Seattle traded...

SCORES AND STATS

WHAT'S ON T.V.

Basketball and Football schedules. Includes NBA, NFL, NHL, and college sports. Columns for Time, Network, and Game details.

NBA Playoff Scenarios

New England has clinched division title. Philadelphia has clinched division title. Indianapolis has clinched division title.

Thursday's College Basketball Scores

East: Cornell 94, Wake Forest 77. Midwest: Michigan State 78, Minnesota 67. South: Florida State 76, Wake Forest 74.

NFL Injury Report

WASHINGTON REDSKINS (44) AT PITTSBURGH PATRIOTS (11): RB Clinton Portis (knee) - Questionable...

NCAA Division IAA Football Playoffs

At Times Report: Saturday, Dec. 18... Sunday, Dec. 19... Monday, Dec. 20...

NCAA Division III Football Playoffs

At Times Report: Saturday, Dec. 18... Sunday, Dec. 19... Monday, Dec. 20...

BASKETBALL

NBA All Time Best Eastern Conference and Western Conference. Lists top players and their statistics.

NBA Boxes. Box scores for Cleveland Cavaliers vs Boston Celtics, Toronto Raptors vs New York Knicks, and Philadelphia 76ers vs Dallas Mavericks.

Thursday's College Basketball Scores

East: Cornell 94, Wake Forest 77. Midwest: Michigan State 78, Minnesota 67. South: Florida State 76, Wake Forest 74.

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NCAA Division III Football Playoffs

At Times Report: Saturday, Dec. 18... Sunday, Dec. 19... Monday, Dec. 20...

National Football League

AFL, AFC, and NFC standings and game results. Includes AFC West, AFC Central, AFC South, AFC North, AFC East, AFC South West, AFC West, AFC Central, AFC South, AFC North, AFC East, AFC South West.

SPORTS

Edwards makes playoff push with Chargers

SAN DIEGO (AP) — Donnie Edwards has never lacked motivation.

He was too poor or too small or too whatever, he kept hearing, as he made his way from a challenging childhood in a lower-middle class suburb of San Diego to playing linebacker at UCLA and then in the NFL.

He eagerly signed with his hometown Chargers as a free agent three seasons ago, re-joining Marty Schottenheimer even though the coach is a disciplinarian. Again, motivation. Edwards missed most of training camp — when the Chargers were installing a new 3-4 defense — after severely cutting his leg in an accident at home.

But based on his career-long consistency, it's no surprise Edwards is having a Pro Bowl-caliber year while helping lead the team he once idolized toward the playoffs.

"It's truly exciting," Edwards said. "Here's a young boy from National City who grew up watching the Chargers."

I mean, playing Pop Warner, I played defensive line and I had all Chargers players numbers. I had 14, which is Dan Fouts, playing defensive line, which is unheard-of. I had 18, Charlie Joiner. I had 49 (Wes Chandler). I had 40 (Ken Winslow). I just tried to emulate all my heroes when I was a kid.

"It's a dream come true, because not very many people have an opportunity to grow up watching a home team and play for that team."

And helping lead it to the brink of the playoffs, where the Chargers (10-3) haven't been since 1995, when Edwards was a starting cornerback at UCLA.

Edwards intercepted Brian Griese twice last Sunday, returning the second one 30 yards for the go-ahead touchdown in the closing minutes of a 31-24 win over Tampa Bay, the Chargers' seventh straight victory.

Two weeks earlier, his fourth-quarter interception against his old team, Kansas City, set up a winning field goal.

"It's not a long drive from where we live to the stadium, just south of downtown San Diego, to Qualcomm Stadium. But it took a lot of work for him to get to the NFL and help from a lot of people along the way. That's why Edwards has given away the balls from his 20 career interceptions.

After both interceptions Sunday, he ran over to the stands and gave the balls to family members.



San Diego Chargers' Donnie Edwards celebrates as he enters the endzone with a 30-yard interception return that gave the Chargers the lead with four minutes to play in their 31-24 victory over the Tampa Bay Buccaneers, last Sunday, in San Diego.

An aunt got the touchdown ball and a younger brother got the ball from his first-quarter pickoff. The ball from his Kansas City interception went to his stepfather.

"It wasn't just one person that was like always there for me, it was a whole bunch of people," said Edwards, who's also given balls to college friends and old coaches.

"I don't forget that because I didn't make it this far by myself and I want to recognize the people who gave me help along the way," he said.

"No one gets to pick the family you're born into or the economic status of where you are when you're young," he said. "But you can do something about it when you start

setting goals for yourself and you're motivated and determined to go after it, what you want out of life."

Edwards' goal was to earn a college scholarship, so he focused on school and athletics. He switched high schools to avoid gangbros and other distractions.

"This was my ticket out to college," he said. "My fallback was joining the Marines, because I could get the GI bill. No matter what, I was going to go to college. I wanted out. I grew up with enough negative surroundings. I used that as negative motivation to go out and change the way it is for so many generations."

Edwards weighed only 175 pounds as a freshman at UCLA. He was a fourth-round draft pick of the Kansas City Chiefs.

"He always felt that he should have been a higher draft pick than a fourth-round pick," said

Schottenheimer, who coached Edwards for three seasons in Kansas City. "I think he uses that as a motivating tool, to prove that he's a better player than a lot of people gave him credit for, including the Chiefs. He's a playmaker."

Edwards, who at 227 pounds is undersized by NFL standards, said he's always played with a chip on his shoulder.

"I expect to be the best. I'm my biggest critic. I expect to make every tackle, and I get mad when I don't make every tackle. But that's my attitude."

Edwards leads the Chargers with 129 tackles, 90 of them solo.

Jets, Seahawks both need wins for playoff consideration

By Dave Goldberg
Associated Press writer

If the New York Jets were in the NFC, they would probably have a playoff spot already. Instead, they still have a fight on their hands as they play host Sunday to Seattle, which has won two fewer games, but leads the NFL West.

As the benefit of the difference between the conferences, the Jets are favored by six points even though Chad Pennington is playing with an injured throwing shoulder. It showed last week in Pittsburgh, when he threw three interceptions in what might have been his worst game since he became a starter.

The Jets are 9-4 and lead the wild-card chase in the AFC. But they've lost to the best teams they've played: New England, Baltimore and Pittsburgh, as well as to stinking Buffalo.

"Against good teams we don't do anything," running back Lamon Jordan said. "People around here might not like me saying that, but that's just the truth. Against good teams, against winning teams, against good defenses we haven't done a thing."

Is Seattle good? Its defense is certainly spotty, although Michael Boulware intercepted a pass in the end zone to help seal a 27-23 win in Minnesota last week. The Seahawks got lucky on that one — the pass was thrown by wide receiver Randy Moss, not quarterback Daunte Culpepper.

They could get lucky again. Giants Stadium is usually windy at this time of year, which could accentuate Pennington's shoulder problems.

On conference difference ... JETS, 24-20. Baltimore (plus 8) at Indianapolis.

Tony Dungy wants Peyton Manning to get the TD pass record out of the way so the Colts can concentrate on the playoffs. Not that easy against the Ravens ... COLTS, 27-23.

Carolina (plus 3.5) at Atlanta (Saturday night). The Panthers, have won five straight to put themselves in position for an AFC wild-card spot. They are 1-8 at the Georgia Dome, but streaks end ... PATRIOTS, 20-19.

New England (minus 9.5) at Miami (Monday night). Only two of the Dolphins' 11 losses are by more than 10

NFL Picks

points, one of them by 14 in Foxboro. Make it three ... PATRIOTS, 20-7. Minnesota (minus 3) at Detroit. The only thing predictable about the Vikings is that they lose late in the season ... LIONS, 22-20.

Jacksonville (plus 3.5) at Green Bay. "We should feel good about this win, but we're not good enough to feel that good," Brett Favre said after the Packers edged Detroit last week. They're good enough for Jacksonville, though ... PACKERS, 16-14.

Pittsburgh (minus 10) at New York Giants (Saturday). The fans are all over the Giants for trading draft picks for Eli when Ben was available ... STEELERS, 27-2.

Dallas (plus 12.5) at Philadelphia. The Eagles clinch home-field advantage in the NFC playoffs ... EAGLES, 33-17.

San Diego (minus 10) at Cleveland. The streak goes on ... CHARGERS, 31-10.

Buffalo (minus 1.5) at Cincinnati.

Jon Kitna is a more than capable stand-in for Carson Palmer. But the Bills are hot and can run ... BILLS, 31-23.

St. Louis (minus 3) at Arizona. Chris Chandler won't throw six interceptions, but ... CARDINALS, 20-17.

Washington (minus 4) at San Francisco.

The Redskins aren't the Cardinals ... REDSKINS, 20-3.

Denver (plus 1) at Kansas City. With the Chiefs' offense, one Jake Plummer mistake could kill Denver's playoff hopes. He'll make at least two ... CHIEFS, 27-24.

New Orleans (plus 7.5) at Tampa Bay. Both teams should be out of the playoffs. But only the loser is ... BUCCANERS, 28-23.

Houston (plus 1) at Chicago. The AFC factor again ... TEXANS, 18-15.

Tennessee (plus 2.5) at Oakland. Billy Volek isn't bad ... RAIDERS, 31-30.

LAST WEEK: 5-11 (spread), 12-4 (straight up). SEASON: 97-107-4 (spread), 137-71 (straight up).

In Fox they trust

Panthers lean on coach to turn around 1-7 start

CHARLOTTE, N.C. (AP) — His team was 1-7 and his list of injured players seemed a mile long. Carolina coach John Fox changed nothing, sticking with his style of cutesy little clichés to pull the Panthers through and prevent them from quitting on him.



John Fox's Carolina Panthers were 1-7 and his list of injured players seemed a mile long. Fox changed nothing, sticking with his style of cutesy little clichés to pull the Panthers through and prevent them from quitting on him.

"Tough times don't last, tough people do," Fox reminded them. "No one is coming to rescue us, we can win with the guys we have," he coached.

After three weeks of hearing Fox explain every situation as "it is what it is," the Panthers could have tuned him out. Instead, they chose to believe.

"He says that stuff religiously, and at first it seems kind of cheesy, but it starts to wear on you and it takes hold," tackle Jordan Gross said. "And it's true, because if he didn't really believe it and preach it to us, we wouldn't believe it, we probably wouldn't be where we're at."

Where the Panthers (6-7) are is on the verge of becoming the first team under the current playoff format to start 1-7 and still make the postseason. Carolina currently holds the final NFC wild-card position, with three games to play, all against NFC South rivals.

Sometimes or another, Fox has prevented the Panthers from tanking in their follow-up to last season's Super Bowl run.

"You just stay the course," Fox said. "I preach all the time about being the same guy, so I can't be different. Otherwise, they won't listen."

It would have been so easy to quit as player after player — 14 in all — went on injured reserve. Five were star players, including the top three offensive threats and their All-Pro defensive tackle.

And, to put it mildly, Fox's choices of replacements players aren't exactly Pro Bowlers. The Panthers now start sixth-

stringer Nick Goings at running back, undersized Kindal Moore, head "defensive" tackle and Todd Fordham, who joined the team in a trade nine days before the season opener, at right tackle. Fox assured his team it didn't matter.

"I remember vividly him saying we can win with the guys that we've got here," said defensive end Mike Rucker. "Are they the guys we started out with? No. Are we capable of winning with these guys? Yes."

"That comes from a coach that's been around a long time and seen a lot of different things."



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SPORTS



Linfield College quarterback Brett Elliott throws during practice, Dec. 9, at Linfield College in McMinnville, Ore.

Breaking records makes Elliot an All-American

By Ralph D. Russo
Associated Press writer

Brett Elliott's record-breaking season made him an All-American. The Linfield College quarterback with an NCAA single-season record 59 touchdowns, passes leads The Associated Press Little All-American team for the best players in Division II, III and NAIA that was announced Thursday.

Elliott, who transferred from Utah to the tiny Division III school in Oregon after losing his job to Heisman finalist Alex Smith, was joined on the first-team by Fort Valley State's Derrick Winbush. The senior running back ran for 1,840 yards and was a finalist for the Harlon Hill Trophy given to the top player in Division III.

Colorado School of Mines quarterback Chad Friedrich won the Harlon Hill last week after throwing 4,616 yards and 39 touchdowns to lead the Miners to their first playoff win and a 12-1 record. But he had to settle for second-team Little All-American because of Elliott.

The junior from Lake Oswego, Ore., has passed for 4,313 yards with just nine interceptions, guiding Linfield (12-0) to an appearance in the Amos Alonzo Stagg Bowl in Salem, Va. The Wildcats play Mary Hardin-Baylor (13-1) for the D-III national title Saturday.

"Individual records are a reflection on the team," Elliott said. "We have one more game, and then after that all the records I can tell my kids about or something."

Last week, Elliott broke the all-division record of 56 TD passes, set by Mississippi Valley State's Willie Totten, in 1994, when he tossed three TD passes in semifinals against Rowan.

"It's the best quarterback we've played this year by far," Rowan safety Eric Bailey said. "His accuracy and his arm are really amazing."

Mary Hardin-Baylor placed two players on the three AP All-American teams - offensive lineman Jeff Oliver was selected to the second team and his line-mate, Matt Bush, is a third-teamer.

Wooster running back Tony Sutton, who leads Division III with 2,240 yards rushing and 31

touchdowns, made the first team for the second straight season as did Ferris State line-backer Kevin Myers.

Pittsburg State offensive lineman Nathan Baker leads the first-team offensive line. He's joined by Nick Dekker of Concordia-Moorhead; Scott Blum of Rowan; Joe Berger of Michigan Tech; and Todd Herremans of Saginaw Valley State.

The receivers are Winona State's Chris Samp and Bentley's Dallas Hill, and Leonard Weaver of Carson-Newman is the All-American tight end.

Jamieca Rector, a receiver from Northwest Missouri State, was selected to the first team as an all-purpose player. Kicker Will Ihldy from Valdosta State was one of two players selected from the Division II champions. The other was offensive lineman Torrey Howard, who made the third-team.

The Blazers beat Pittsburg State in last week's D-II title game. The Gorillas had one player on each of the three All-American teams, with Baker on the first, running back Germaine Rice on the second team and defensive lineman Ryan Meyerlath on the third team.

Joining Myers on the first-team defense are in-trench Kendrick Triplett of North Alabama; Keyonta Marshall of Grand Valley State; Justin Brown of East Central; and Jason Trunkus of Ohio Northern.

Charles Roberts of Fayetteville State (N.C.) and Isaac Sieling of Gustavus Adolphus are the other linemen.

"The defensive backs are Frank Pilato of Washington & Jefferson; Matt Crispell of East Stroudsburg; Walt Williams of Fayetteville State; and Martell Foster of Northwood."

Jeff Williams of Adams State is the punter after averaging 48 yards, best in the nation.

A full list follows:

AP Little All-American Team

FIRST TEAM
OFFENSE
 Quarterback - Brett Elliott, Linfield (Or.) senior
 Running back - Derrick Winbush, Fort Valley State (Ga.) senior
 Tony Sutton, Wooster (Ohio) senior
 Wide receiver - Chris Samp, Winona State (Minn.) senior
 Dallas Hill, Bentley (W.V.) senior
 Tight end - Nathan Weaver, Carson-Newman (Tenn.) senior
 Linebacker - Kevin Myers, Ferris State (Mich.) senior
 Linebacker - Nathan Baker, Pittsburg State (Kan.) senior
 Nick Dekker, Concordia-Moorhead (Iowa) senior
 Scott Blum, Rowan (Pa.) senior
 Joe Berger, Michigan Tech (Mich.) senior
 Todd Herremans, Saginaw Valley State (Mich.) senior
 Adamson, Lamar State (Tenn.) senior
 Kicker - Will Ihldy, Valdosta State (Ga.) senior

DEFENSE
 Linebacker - Kendrick Triplett, North Alabama (Ala.) senior
 Linebacker - Keyonta Marshall, Grand Valley State (Mich.) senior
 Justin Brown, East Central (Tenn.) senior
 Jason Trunkus, Ohio Northern (Ohio) senior
 Charles Roberts, Fayetteville State (N.C.) senior
 Isaac Sieling, Gustavus Adolphus (Minn.) senior
 Defensive back - Frank Pilato, Washington & Jefferson (Wash.) senior
 Matt Crispell, East Stroudsburg (Pa.) senior
 Walt Williams, Fayetteville State (N.C.) senior
 Martell Foster, Northwood (N.D.) senior
 Punter - Dan Eggenstetter, Northwood (N.D.) senior

SECOND TEAM
OFFENSE
 Quarterback - Craig Feneal, Concordia (Wisc.) senior
 Running back - Tony Sutton, Wooster (Ohio) senior
 Wide receiver - Charles Roberts, Fayetteville State (N.C.) senior
 Dallas Hill, Bentley (W.V.) senior
 Tight end - Nathan Weaver, Carson-Newman (Tenn.) senior
 Linebacker - Kevin Myers, Ferris State (Mich.) senior
 Linebacker - Nathan Baker, Pittsburg State (Kan.) senior
 Nick Dekker, Concordia-Moorhead (Iowa) senior
 Scott Blum, Rowan (Pa.) senior
 Joe Berger, Michigan Tech (Mich.) senior
 Todd Herremans, Saginaw Valley State (Mich.) senior
 Adamson, Lamar State (Tenn.) senior
 Kicker - Will Ihldy, Valdosta State (Ga.) senior

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 Jason Trunkus, Ohio Northern (Ohio) senior
 Charles Roberts, Fayetteville State (N.C.) senior
 Isaac Sieling, Gustavus Adolphus (Minn.) senior
 Defensive back - Frank Pilato, Washington & Jefferson (Wash.) senior
 Matt Crispell, East Stroudsburg (Pa.) senior
 Walt Williams, Fayetteville State (N.C.) senior
 Martell Foster, Northwood (N.D.) senior
 Punter - Dan Eggenstetter, Northwood (N.D.) senior

THIRD TEAM
OFFENSE
 Quarterback - Brett Elliott, Linfield (Or.) senior
 Running back - Derrick Winbush, Fort Valley State (Ga.) senior
 Tony Sutton, Wooster (Ohio) senior
 Wide receiver - Chris Samp, Winona State (Minn.) senior
 Dallas Hill, Bentley (W.V.) senior
 Tight end - Nathan Weaver, Carson-Newman (Tenn.) senior
 Linebacker - Kevin Myers, Ferris State (Mich.) senior
 Linebacker - Nathan Baker, Pittsburg State (Kan.) senior
 Nick Dekker, Concordia-Moorhead (Iowa) senior
 Scott Blum, Rowan (Pa.) senior
 Joe Berger, Michigan Tech (Mich.) senior
 Todd Herremans, Saginaw Valley State (Mich.) senior
 Adamson, Lamar State (Tenn.) senior
 Kicker - Will Ihldy, Valdosta State (Ga.) senior

DEFENSE
 Linebacker - Kendrick Triplett, North Alabama (Ala.) senior
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 Justin Brown, East Central (Tenn.) senior
 Jason Trunkus, Ohio Northern (Ohio) senior
 Charles Roberts, Fayetteville State (N.C.) senior
 Isaac Sieling, Gustavus Adolphus (Minn.) senior
 Defensive back - Frank Pilato, Washington & Jefferson (Wash.) senior
 Matt Crispell, East Stroudsburg (Pa.) senior
 Walt Williams, Fayetteville State (N.C.) senior
 Martell Foster, Northwood (N.D.) senior
 Punter - Dan Eggenstetter, Northwood (N.D.) senior

Ochs leads Montana in fifth national title game appearance

CHATTANOOGA, Tenn. (AP) - Craig Ochs is one game away from the perfect ending to his collegiate career.

Ochs, who transferred to Montana from Colorado in January 2003, leads the Grizzlies (12-2) against James Madison (12-2) in the Division I-AA championship game on Friday night.

"It's been awesome," Ochs said Thursday. "As a senior, this is the way you want to end - a Storybook ending."

Ochs, Colorado's starting quarterback in 2002, has had a fabulous senior season. He ranked fifth in I-AA in passing efficiency with 158.65; threw for 3,436 yards with 30 touchdowns and only seven interceptions and has the Grizzlies in the championship game for the fifth time in school history, looking for their third title.

Ochs started his college career in Colorado but transferred to Montana on the advice of his high school coach. He was looking for a different situation after several concussions cost him playing time and he had some differences with Buffaloes coach Gary Barnett.

"I've always believed in myself as an athlete or competitor, believe in yourself. You go through adversity sometimes, but it strengthens your resolve," Ochs said. "It's all been worth it for this year."

Montana coach Bobby Hasek couldn't believe his luck when he was hired in December 2002 to replace Joe Glenn, who led the Grizzlies to their last title in 2001, and found Ochs wanted to transfer in.

Montana is playing on the road for the first time since Oct. 30, having won three playoff games at home to reach the championship.

Meanwhile, the Dukes made history in their bid for the school's first title. James Madison is the first team to win all its playoff games on the road.

"We've traveled the rough road," James Madison coach Mickey Matthews said. "The Dukes led the nation with 16 sacks this season, and they have blocked seven kicks."

NCAA Division I-AA Championship
TV: ESPN2, 6 p.m.

James Madison's leading tackler is a freshman, free safety Tony LeZotte, who also was recruited by some Southeastern Conference and Atlantic Coast Conference schools. Matthews came to James

Madison in 1999 after being a defensive assistant coach at Georgia. He was the defensive coordinator for Marshall and coached the Thundering Herd in four I-AA championship games, winning in 1992.

This year he helped the Dukes, 6-6 last season, make the playoffs for the first time since 1999.

"I'm surprised at our success," LeZotte said. "It's just crazy, but it is a great feeling."

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Coming Saturday

Heyburn's Jed Thomas prepares for Saturday's NAIA football title game.

Plushenko, Slutskaya are favored in Grand Prix Final

BEIJING (AP) — Evgenii Plushenko and Irina Slutskaya weren't even expected to compete in the Grand Prix Finals. Now, the Russians are the favorites.

Both skaters had different reasons for thinking they would not be at the season finale of the six-event International Skating Union series that begins Friday.

Plushenko wanted to skip it, preferring to rest for the major championships and skating tours. He skated just one competition, the Cup of Russia, but surprisingly made the field as an alternate when series leader Johnny Weir of the United States dropped out with a foot injury.

Slutskaya, after a season of illness and an injury, was unsure of herself when she skated in her first Grand Prix meet in two seasons at the start of October—the Cup of China in the same Capital Gymnasium where this weekend's event is being held.

Yet both are here to face the rest of the top six scorers in the men's, women's, pairs and ice

dance events.

Some other big names aren't. In addition to Weir, the U.S. champion and winner of two meets on the circuit, Michelle Kwan, the five-time world champion, and Sasha Cohen, the world silver medalist this season, are absent.

Kwan bypassed the series after first being entered into Skate America and Skate Canada. Cohen, who won the Grand Prix final in 2003, had a back injury and withdrew from

her competitions.

However, Slutskaya beat both of them at a pro-am event earlier this month after wins at the Cup of China and Cup of Russia. Plushenko also beat Weir at the Cup of Russia.

Yet, despite three previous GP Finals titles, along with three world championships and the Olympic silver medal, Plushenko would rather be somewhere else.

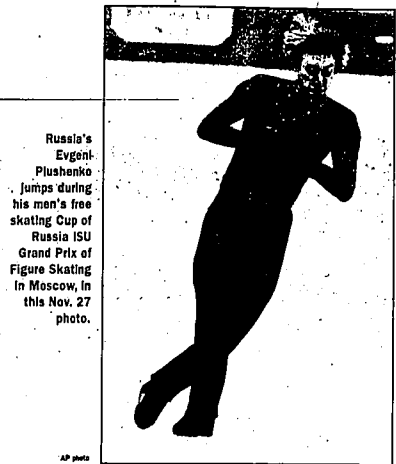
"I thought this season was going to be different,"

Plushenko said. "We planned it different. But I will skate here and I will try my best."

He said this title is not the major victory the ISU first planned it to be.

"When I started skating, the first time, the Grand Prix Finals was kind of like a world championship," Plushenko said. "This year I think: 'OK, it is not a big title for me.'"

"Still it is six people, the best people, and I am going to be prepared, for sure."



Russia's Evgenii Plushenko jumps during his men's free skating Cup of Russia ISU Grand Prix of Figure Skating in Moscow, in this Nov. 27 photo.

Litke

Continued from D1

created a firestorm, and for good reason. In business, a deal is supposed to be a deal, even if it's made with the devil who runs baseball. Naturally, they fired back with the usual threats.

"The legislation is inconsistent with our carefully negotiated agreement and is wholly unacceptable," said Bob Piny, baseball's chief operating officer.

Then, just to prove how serious baseball's central office was, season-ticket sales were shut off, and the 16,000 fans who made \$300 deposits were told they could ask for a refund. The stadium store, which had sold more than \$100,000 in caps and other merchandise over 3.5 weeks, was shuttered, too, a hiring freeze was implemented and the unveiling of uniforms with the team's new name, the Washington Nationals, was postponed indefinitely.

Scared yet?

Yeah, well, neither was Cropp. She knows that if you take all the money lost by those moves and multiply by a hundred, it still wouldn't come close to filling up the hole that D.C. agreed to dig for baseball.

The deal obligates the city to come up with public funding to build a stadium for the new owners as well as refurbish RFK Stadium as the team's temporary home.

The original estimate of \$435 million was scoffed at and here's how she knows the critics struck a nerve: The proposal that passed the council just two weeks ago called for Washington to issue up to \$531 million in bonds to cover the costs. But even that likely won't settle the final tab.

The funny thing is that Cropp's amendment is modest by any measure, including baseball's, especially in a municipality that is struggling to keep its schools open and the buses running. After losing one referendum after another for

public funds to build a ballpark for the Giants, owner Peter Magowan put one in San Francisco using private money — to the benefit of his ballclub and the city. In St. Louis, the Cardinals are kicking in better than two-thirds of the construction funds for their new stadium.

Cropp's amendment didn't do that far, it left the city on the hook for the cost of site-acquisition, infrastructure improvements and the RFK renovations and called on the new owners to pay just half of the actual construction costs — about \$140 million.

But "baseball" reacted — with shock and awe and it's easy to understand why. Anybody who buys the team the way the deal is constructed now would have to reach into his wallet for that sum. That means there will be a lot less left to hand baseball's central office when it's time to pay for the team.

Never mind that new stadiums rarely produce the economic windfalls their backers promise. Stanford economist Roger Noll has characterized such efforts as welfare programs for the rich. As he warned in the Washington Post at the time of the original deal, "It's taxing ordinary people for a stadium attended by upper income people, and then the income generated goes to even higher income people, namely players and owners."

Baseball has found a handful of municipalities willing to sign on the same dotted line over the last decade. It could still make good on the threat to wait until Dec. 31 for the political winds to shift again in Washington and, if not, start looking for other towns to fleece.

It could do the right thing, of course, and decide to take less money for what remains of the Montreal Expos — a franchise that baseball was ready to fold not so long ago — and let the new owners demonstrate a commitment to Washington by putting some money into

the stadium.


Instead, Selig & Co. will sit back and keep threatening to pull their circus out of town, hoping to achieve through intimidation what they could secure just as easily with good will. And they'll probably get exactly what they want by the deadline.

Cropp likely won't be able to hold her coalition together for very long, but she deserves some props just for trying. Like everybody else who plays the game, the lords of baseball should be reminded occasionally what it feels like to get hit with a purpose pitch.


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

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SPORTS

Rebels introduce Orgeron as coach

OXFORD, Miss. (AP) — Ed Orgeron's recruiting success at Southern California helped him land the job as Mississippi's football coach Thursday.

"We are going to teach our young men to compete," Orgeron said at a news conference. "We're going to compete from the time we get up in the morning until the time we go to bed."

The Rebels hope the 43-year-old Louisiana native can use his ties to the Deep South to lure talented recruits to Oxford and reinvigorate the Ole Miss program with the tough, punishing defense that became a Southern Cal staple.

Orgeron was USC's defensive line coach, an assistant head coach for two years and the closest thing the school had to a defensive coordinator — head coach Pete Carroll is in charge of the Trojans' offense.

He also was Southern Cal's recruiting coordinator for four years.

This is the beginning of the Orgeron era at Ole Miss, and it's going to be a successful one, chancellor Robert Khayat said.

Orgeron's hiring capped the Rebels' two-week search for a replacement for David Cutcliffe, who was fired Dec. 1 after his first losing season at Ole Miss.

Governors wage a friendly bet over teams

SALT LAKE CITY — Governor Olene Walker has a bet of confidence in the University of Utah's football team.

Walker has made a friendly bet with Pennsylvania Governor Ed Rendell on the Fiesta Bowl. If Utah beats Pittsburgh, Walker wins a trip to Philadelphia for a historic tour. If the Panthers beat the Utes, Rendell gets a ski trip in Utah. The game is January 1 in Tempe, Ariz.

Exiting Utah assistants won't coach in Fiesta

SALT LAKE CITY — Utah's coaching lineup for the Fiesta Bowl is starting to clear up.

Departing offensive coordinator Mike Sanford, who has been hired as coach at UNLV, and two assistants he's taking with him will not be part of the Utah staff when the Utes play Pittsburgh in the Fiesta Bowl on Jan. 1.

Utah athletic director Chris Hill consulted with coach Urban Meyer, who was hired by Florida but will coach the fifth-ranked Utes, before deciding Sanford and linebackers coach Kurt Barber and tight ends coach Keith Uperesa won't be with the Utes.

Hill believes "it's in the best interest of the current and future teams that we go with the staff that's been selected," spokeswoman Liz Abel said Thursday.

Last week, the Utes weren't quite sure who would be coaching them when they became the first team from a mid-major conference to play in a Bowl Championship Series game.

Meyer had been told he would still be coach before taking over the Gators, but Sanford and Barber had already departed and the lineup of assistants seemed to be shrinking almost

College football

daily. It stabilized after Kyle Whittingham was promoted Wednesday from defensive coordinator to head coach.

The three assistants Meyer is taking with him to Florida — receivers coach Billy Gonzales, quarterbacks coach Dan Mullen and offensive line coach John Hevesy — will get one final game with the Utes.

Wannstedt is no longer candidate for Pitt job

PITTSBURGH — Former Miami Dolphins and Chicago Bears coach Dave Wannstedt decided Thursday not to seek the coaching job at Pitt, the school where he played and once was an assistant coach.

Wannstedt, who resigned as the Dolphins' coach Nov. 9 after a 1-8 start, was believed to be the front-runner to succeed Walt Harris at Pitt. But Wannstedt called Pittsburgh athletic director Jeff Long on Thursday morning and pulled his name out of consideration.

"As much as I appreciate everything that Jeff and Mark (Nordenberg, Pitt's chancellor) are doing and the opportunity there — everybody knows how I believe in Pitt and love the city — the timing just wasn't right," Wannstedt told The Associated Press in a telephone interview.

Pitt wants to hire a coach as soon as possible to replace Harris, and Wannstedt wasn't prepared to make a decision so quickly. The key weeks of the recruiting season follow the holidays, and Pitt wants a coach in place by then.

Wannstedt said that despite reports he wants to take a year off from football, he has not decided against coaching next fall, but isn't ready to accept a job right now.

"I'm not ruling anything out, and my mind-set has not changed. It's the timing," said Wannstedt, who will work at least two games as a Fox NFL analyst. "I'm going to keep my football options open, NFL or college. I'm really not closing the door on anything."

Ohio picks former Nebraska coach Solich

ATHENS, Ohio — Former Nebraska coach Frank Solich was introduced as Ohio's new football coach Thursday, returning to the state where he grew up and promising to rebuild a program that has gone 11-35 over the past four seasons.

"It's great to be back in the game at Ohio University," said Solich, who has been out of football since being fired at Nebraska a year ago.

Solich had replaced Tom Osborne, who retired from Nebraska in 1997 after winning three national championships in four seasons. Osborne, now a U.S. congressman, was 49-2 in that span, but four seasons leaving Solich with an almost impossible task of maintaining that success.

Solich, an assistant under Osborne from 1979-97, led the Cornhuskers to the national championship game in the

2002 Rose Bowl, where they lost 37-14 to Miami.

Nebraska was only 7-7 the next year, the school's first non-winning season since 1961. Solich was dismissed the next season despite going 9-1. Assistant Bo Pelini then coached the Cornhuskers to a 17-3 win over Michigan State in "the Alamo Bowl."

Solich takes over a program, that went 11-4 in 1-7 this year, under coach Brian Knorr, who was fired Nov. 18. The Bobcats have had only two winning seasons since 1992.

UCLA QB signs letter of intent with Beavers

CORVALLIS, Ore. — Former UCLA quarterback Matt Moore has signed a letter of intent to play for the Oregon State Beavers, the team announced Thursday.

Moore started for the Bruins five times, and appeared in 13 total games between 2002 and 2003. His first year he started against Stanford, becoming the first true freshman to start for UCLA since 1995.

He opened the 2003 season as a starter, but was sidelined by a hand injury.

For his career at UCLA, the 6-foot-4 quarterback completed 105 of 165 passes for 967 yards and four touchdowns.

Moore went to the College of the Canyons in Santa Clarita, Calif., last fall, but did not play football.

A highly touted prep player out of Hart High School in Newhall, Calif., Moore will have two years of eligibility at Oregon State. He is expected to start classes on Jan. 3.



Ed Orgeron pumps his fist in the air as he is introduced as the new head football coach at the University of Mississippi in Oxford, Miss. Thursday.



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\$8495 to \$8994	\$6387	\$5887	\$5387	\$4887
\$1109 to \$118	\$7887	\$7487	\$6387	\$5387
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Rite Aid sees profits plummet

TWIN FALLS — Drug store chain Rite Aid Corp. on Thursday saw its profit plummet 93 percent in its third quarter, which the store attributed to an auto union's change in its prescription drug plan and a weaker flu season, as well as special financing and tax issues.

Camp Hill, Penn.-based Rite Aid operates Twin Falls and Burley stores.

Rite Aids loss attributable to common shareholders was 1 cent per share, compared with a 12-cent per-share gain during the same period last year.

"This was a difficult quarter as we continued to feel the negative impact of the United Auto Workers mandatory mail program on our sales and faced tougher year-over-year comparisons because of the significant business we gained last year from the Southern California grocery strike. A slow start to the flu season, which began in earnest mid-November last year, also hurt our sales," said Mary Sammons, Rite Aid's president and chief executive.

Revenues of \$4.1 billion for the quarter were flat compared to a year earlier. Same-store sales increased 0.2 percent.

Grain marketing workshop planned

POCAHELLO — The 2005 Grain Marketing and Risk Management Workshop will be held Jan. 6 and 7 at the Idaho Farm Bureau Federation headquarters, 275 Tierra Vista Drive in Pocatello.

Speakers include Dick Wittman of Wittman Consulting in Cullasaca; Bill Mendenhall, representatives from the Farm Bureau and Idaho Wheat Commission; and Darrell Holaday from Advanced Management Concepts in Manhattan, Kan.

Topics will include financial management, new wheat marketing opportunities and alternative wheat markets.

Events begin at 8:30 a.m. on Jan. 6, with lunch at noon and dinner at 5:30 p.m. On Jan. 7, continental breakfast will be served while local insurance agencies discuss crop insurance. Following by breakout sessions on precision ag and marketing simulation.

Registration is \$45-per-person. Contact Pam Moffet at the Idaho Farm Bureau Commission at 334-2080 or pmoffet@farmbureau.org.

Primary sponsors are the Idaho Farm Bureau Commission, Idaho Wheat Commission, Idaho Grain Producers Association and Idaho Farm Bureau Federation. Other sponsors include Busch Agricultural Resources Inc., Great Western Milling Co., Coors Brewing Co., AgriSource Inc., General Mills, District IV Extension, Cereals, Evans Farm Credit Services, D.L. Evans Bank, The One Insurance LLC, Farmers' Crop Insurance Alliance Inc., Premier Insurance and Pendleton Flour Mills.

Gillette introduces two new razors

BOSTON — Gillette Co. said Thursday it will introduce two additions to its Venus line of women's razors, including a model with the vibrating blade technology used in the men's M3Power razor launched last spring.

The Boston-based maker of personal care products and Duracell batteries is promoting that razor, the Venus Vibrance, as the first power wet shaving system for women. The battery-powered razor, which will be sold in North America early next spring, delivers gentle pulses to the shaving cartridge — a feature Gillette says gives a closer, smoother shave.

The product, including a refillable razor, one cartridge, a storage container and an AAA battery, will be offered at a retail price of \$8.99 to \$11.99.

The other addition to the Venus line is the Venus Disposable, available in soft spring with no skin irritants. Formulated at a retail price of \$6.49 to \$7.99 for a three-razor package.

— compiled from staff and wire reports

Initiative may benefit food processors

Grant provides training in 'lean manufacturing' techniques

By Megan Hinds
Times-News writer

TWIN FALLS — Magic Valley food processors could reap the benefits of a federal grant designed to provide training in "lean manufacturing" techniques.

"TechHelp" Idaho, the state's manufacturing extension center based at Boise State University, secured more than \$700,000 that will be used to train workers at companies across the state. The grant is part of the U.S. Department of Labor's \$2.4 billion advanced manufacturing initiative, said TechHelp spokesman Bill Mullane.

"Lean manufacturing, a program for reducing waste and increasing productivity in manufacturing, hasn't been used, much in Idaho's food processing industry," Mullane said.

According to TechHelp, lean manufacturing can increase productivity by 30 percent and improve quality by 50 percent. It can also reduce lead time and work-in-process by 90 percent and floor space utilization by 50 percent.

"It's about waste reduction — anything that takes away from value," said Gary Thompson, TechHelp executive director.

The implementation of lean manufacturing techniques is supposed to make Idaho's food processors and workers more efficient and competitive. The industry's employment numbers are projected to increase by 0.2 percent in 2005 and about 1 percent annually in 2006 and 2007, Thompson said.

"Worldwide competition is continually growing in every industry," he said.

The grant will allow TechHelp to incorporate an English as a

Second Language component to its lean manufacturing training, Mullane said. As workers with limited English skills make up a large portion of the food-processing industry's work force, it's crucial for those employees to know English in order to fully understand the lean manufacturing principles, he said.

The ESL component "gives them additional skills and makes them more employable," Mullane said.

TechHelp held a seminar on lean manufacturing for Magic Valley food processors in August. The federal grant will allow TechHelp to establish an office in Twin Falls and hire a regional manufacturing specialist to help roll out the program to area manufacturers in January.

Workplace assessments will be done free of charge. Mul-



Manufacturing workers learn lean manufacturing techniques at a TechHelp seminar in Boise Wednesday. Magic Valley food processors will have the chance to learn those techniques from TechHelp, thanks to a newly awarded federal grant.

lane said. He wasn't ready to specify costs for participating in other components of the program.

Times-News business writer Megan Hinds can be reached at 735-3238 or mghinds@evnet.net.

HIGH-END SPLURGE

Holiday cheer mostly limited to upscale stores

The Associated Press

NEW YORK — This holiday season, Vincent Cassanetti, 60, a wealthy retired business owner, is helping to keep luxury sales booming.

The Palm Beach, Fla., resident has spent \$50,000 on gifts for his wife and children, including \$600 shoes from Jimmy Choo and Chanel, as well as designer handbags, jewelry and clothing. That's up from about \$35,000 a year ago.

"This is a really good Christmas," he said.

But that's less the case for Eileen Brosko, 70, a retiree who has seen her stock portfolio dwindle to a quarter of its value a few years ago.

"At my age, I am not doing too much buying. I don't feel secure," said the Parsippany, N.J., resident, who was visiting Manhattan on a recent Saturday. She, her husband and their family exchanged names and are limiting the price of gifts to no more than \$50 each. For her grandchildren, she bought tickets to a show at Radio City Music Hall.

Those contrasting approaches help show why the holiday 2004 season for retailers is turning out to be sharply divided between the haves and have nots.

Luxury stores like Neiman Marcus, Nordstrom, Saks Fifth Avenue and small designer boutiques are enjoying robust sales of such items as \$1,000 mink ponchos, \$1,000 snakeskin handbags, \$200 crystal-studded jeans and \$25,000 bejeweled bangles as "melted" well-heeled shoppers have benefited from a recovering economy.

An influx of foreign tourists taking advantage of the weaker U.S. dollar also has helped boost sales at high-end stores — as has a fixation among some consumers, no matter what income, that they need products — with status labels, even if it's a box of \$30 French



Vincent Cassanetti, 60, a wealthy retired business owner, sits on the edge of his BMW outside the Anushka Spa Wednesday in Palm Beach Gardens, Fla. Cassanetti has spent \$50,000 on holiday gifts for his wife and children.

chocolates from Bergdorf Goodman.

"There is this quest of who is going to have the shiniest, boldest and brightest status symbols," said Gerald Calvete, director of Trends Research Institute, in Rutherford, N.Y.

Contrast that with the results of discounters like Wal-Mart Stores Inc. and mid-level stores such as Sears, Roebuck and Co. and Macy Department Stores Co. Inc., all of which have been struggling with tepid sales. Many are fighting hard with early bird specials on Saturdays, free gift cards and special coupons.

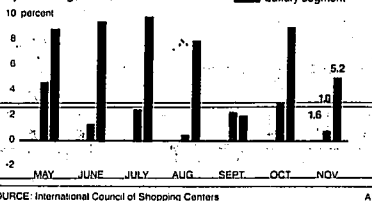
"This holiday season is a real struggle for a broad range of retailers, other than the high end, and that struggle has a lot to do with the economy," said Michael P. Nicolina, chief economist at the International Council of Shopping Centers.

Please see SPLURGE, Page E3

Splurging shoppers

Sales growth for luxury stores has well outpaced discount and department stores in recent months, according to statistics released by a retail trade group.

Change in sales over the same month of last year
By retail segment



SEC review finds Fannie Mae violated accounting rules

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — A review by the Securities and Exchange Commission has found that Fannie Mae violated accounting rules, amplifying the prospect of an earnings restatement and a possible ouster of top executives at the mortgage giant.

SEC Chief Accountant Donald Nicolaisen disclosed the findings of the agency's review and he had told the government-sponsored company to restate its earnings. Nicolaisen, in a statement, said Fannie Mae's accounting for 2001 through mid-2004 "did not comply in material respects" with accounting rules for derivatives, financial instruments used to hedge against interest-rate swings, and for "non-transactions" related to loans.

Fannie Mae, the biggest financier of home mortgages in

the country, said last month that if the SEC found that it had improperly accounted for derivatives, it would show an estimated net loss of \$9 billion.

A restatement could involve at least that much in overpaid earnings, depending on the movement of interest rates, analysts said Thursday.

The developments could force both Tim Howard and Frank Raines — the company's chief financial officer and chairman, respectively, out of their jobs, suggested Edwin Groshaus of investment banking firm Fox-Pitt, Keltner.

Otherwise, he said, "They're just going to be a lightning rod." Raines and Howard defended the company's accounting in sworn testimony at a congressional hearing in October and rejected allegations by the Office of Federal Housing Enterprise Oversight of re-neutrizing and other accounting irregularities and

management misdeeds going back to the late 1990s.

Raines said at the hearing that if the SEC found accounting violations, he would be held accountable by the company's board and shareholders and would himself take responsibility.

The SEC and the Justice Department, in a separate criminal probe, have been investigating the accounting of Washington-based Fannie Mae — the second-largest financial institution in the country behind Citigroup.

Warren Rudman, the attorney and former senator who is acting as independent counsel to a special committee of Fannie Mae's board, declined to comment Thursday on possible next moves.

"We continue with our internal investigation," he said by telephone, describing the case. Please see FANNIE MAE, Page E2

Snapshot of mortgage giant Fannie Mae

Fannie Mae is one of the world's largest financial firms and the nation's leading source of home mortgages, involved in about one out of every five mortgages. The company is publicly traded and government-sponsored and posted revenue of \$53.8 billion in 2003.

Mortgages for more people Fannie Mae purchases mortgages from lenders and resells them, transferring risk away from the lenders.

This allows for the participation of low- and middle-income buyers who otherwise might not be eligible.

Unique status as a federal charter The company gets government loans at low rates and exemptions on certain taxes. It has taken criticism for its federal charter status from those who claim the company has an unfair advantage.

SOURCES: The company; Hoover's Online

MONEY

Accounting board rules companies must expense options

NEW YORK (AP) — The nation's accounting rulemaker decided Thursday that companies will have to begin deducting the value of stock options from their profits next year, removing a cheap way to compensate workers that had been abused by executives and clouded earnings.

SEC action calls for public companies to start expensing options beginning with their first annual reporting period after June 15, 2005.

FASB chairman Robert H. Herz said the new rules will "provide investors and other users of financial statements with more complete and unbiased financial information."

Stock options are perks given to employees, against some highly influential officials who advocate expensing options, including Federal Reserve Chairman Alan Greenspan, Securities and Exchange Commission Chairman Christopher M. Cox, and Warren Buffett and the Big Four accounting firms.

The new rules will instead force companies to subtract the option-expense-from-earnings, which could dramatically knock down profits at some companies.

passed through the U.S. House of Representatives last summer but would require companies to only expense the options granted to their five top executives, though that piece of legislation is currently stalled in the Senate.

Program

Continued from E1
Mason said most employers follow one of two paths — offering comprehensive coverage at a higher cost or offering a scaled-back plan at a lower cost. Jack in the Box offers three lower-cost plans with different limits on coverage.

counted rate. Prescription drugs, outpatient surgery and hospital stays are included at a discount or covered to a ceiling amount depending on the plan.

Jack in the Box thinks the program will help it compete for employees. Competitively speaking we have just not matched up with companies that perform very well.

Jack in the Box thinks the program will help it compete for employees. Competitively speaking we have just not matched up with companies that perform very well.

Fannie Mae

Continued from E1
Fannie Mae spokesman Chuck Greener, in a statement issued Wednesday night, said "Fannie Mae is committed to being a safe and sound manager."

the unusual step of making public the findings of the staff review before the SEC had completed its investigation because Fannie Mae had asked the agency for its report.

NEW YORK STOCK EXCHANGE

Table with columns: Name, Div, Last, Chg, %Chg, Type, Bid, Ask, Volume, High, Low, Open, Close, Net Chg, %Chg. Includes sub-sections for Most Active, Gainers, Losers, and Mkt Ind.

MARKET SUMMARY

Table with columns: Name, Div, Last, Chg, %Chg, Type, Bid, Ask, Volume, High, Low, Open, Close, Net Chg, %Chg. Includes sub-sections for Most Active, Gainers, Losers, and Mkt Ind.

NASDAQ NATIONAL MARKET

Table with columns: Name, Div, Last, Chg, %Chg, Type, Bid, Ask, Volume, High, Low, Open, Close, Net Chg, %Chg. Includes sub-sections for Most Active, Gainers, Losers, and Mkt Ind.

DIARY

Table with columns: Name, Div, Last, Chg, %Chg, Type, Bid, Ask, Volume, High, Low, Open, Close, Net Chg, %Chg.

DIARY

Table with columns: Name, Div, Last, Chg, %Chg, Type, Bid, Ask, Volume, High, Low, Open, Close, Net Chg, %Chg.

DIARY

Table with columns: Name, Div, Last, Chg, %Chg, Type, Bid, Ask, Volume, High, Low, Open, Close, Net Chg, %Chg.

INDEXES

Table with columns: Index Name, Div, Last, Chg, %Chg, Type, Bid, Ask, Volume, High, Low, Open, Close, Net Chg, %Chg.

INDEXES

Table with columns: Index Name, Div, Last, Chg, %Chg, Type, Bid, Ask, Volume, High, Low, Open, Close, Net Chg, %Chg.

INDEXES

Table with columns: Index Name, Div, Last, Chg, %Chg, Type, Bid, Ask, Volume, High, Low, Open, Close, Net Chg, %Chg.

STOCKS OF LOCAL INTEREST

Table with columns: Name, Div, PE, Last, Chg, %Chg, Type, Bid, Ask, Volume, High, Low, Open, Close, Net Chg, %Chg.

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Table with columns: Name, Div, PE, Last, Chg, %Chg, Type, Bid, Ask, Volume, High, Low, Open, Close, Net Chg, %Chg.

HOW TO READ THE MARKET REPORT

Here are the 525 most active stocks on the New York Stock Exchange, the 400 most active on the Nasdaq National Market and 100 most active on the American Stock Exchange. Mutual funds are 1,115 listed. Stocks in bold changed 5 percent or more in price.

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AMERICAN STOCK EXCHANGE

Table with columns: Name, Div, Last, Chg, %Chg, Type, Bid, Ask, Volume, High, Low, Open, Close, Net Chg, %Chg.

MARKETS

CLOSING FUTURES

Table with columns: Mon Commodity, High, Low, Close, Change. Lists various commodities like Soybean, Corn, Wheat, etc.

Table with columns: Dec, Jan, Feb, Mar, Apr, May, Jun, Jul, Aug, Sep, Oct, Nov, Dec. Lists futures prices for various months.

Table with columns: High, Low, Settle, Chg. Lists market data for various commodities.

Lawmakers lobby to save UP's Pocatello jobs

POCATELLO (AP) — Idaho's congressional delegation hopes to convince Union Pacific Railroad to keep 65 jobs in Idaho instead of transferring them out of state.

Table with columns: Dec, Jan, Feb, Mar, Apr, May, Jun, Jul, Aug, Sep, Oct, Nov, Dec. Lists futures prices for various months.

Table with columns: High, Low, Settle, Chg. Lists market data for various commodities.

Table with columns: High, Low, Settle, Chg. Lists market data for various commodities.

FOSSIL FUELS NEW YORK (AP) — Futures trading on the Chicago Board of Trade for heating oil and natural gas.

BEANS

Table with columns: High, Low, Close, Change. Lists bean market data.

CHEESE

Table with columns: High, Low, Close, Change. Lists cheese market data.

POTATOES

Table with columns: High, Low, Close, Change. Lists potato market data.

METALS/MONEY

Table with columns: High, Low, Close, Change. Lists metals and money market data.

Splurge

Continued from E1 Chief among the woes has been this year's surge in energy prices. While today's average pump price of \$1.94 is down nearly 20 cents from October, gasoline still costs 26 percent more now than it did a year ago.

GRAINS

Table with columns: High, Low, Close, Change. Lists grain market data.

SUGAR

Table with columns: High, Low, Close, Change. Lists sugar market data.

Table with columns: High, Low, Close, Change. Lists market data for various commodities.

Table with columns: High, Low, Close, Change. Lists market data for various commodities.

The spending gap was again apparent in retailers' November sales. Among luxury retailers, Neiman Marcus Group Inc. had its November sales percent had a record increase in stores opened last year.

LIVESTOCK

Table with columns: High, Low, Close, Change. Lists livestock market data.

MUTUAL FUNDS

Table with columns: High, Low, Close, Change. Lists mutual fund market data.

Table with columns: High, Low, Close, Change. Lists market data for various commodities.

Table with columns: High, Low, Close, Change. Lists market data for various commodities.

To place a classified ad, call 733-9331

Large table listing various mutual funds with columns for fund name, share price, and other details.

COMICS

Classic Peanuts

By Charles M. Schulz



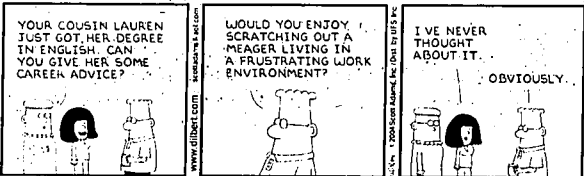
For Better or For Worse

By Lynn Johnston



Dilbert

By Scott Adams



Blondie

By Dean Young & Stan Drake



B.C.

By Johnny Hart



Pickles

By Brian Crane



Garfield

By Jim Davis



Dennis the Menace

By Hank Ketcham



THE FAMILY CIRCUS

By Bil Keane



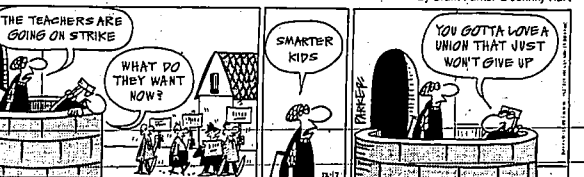
Hi and Lois

By Chance Browne



The Wizard of Id

By Brant Parker & Johnny Hart



Rose Is Rose

By Pat Brady



Hagar the Horrible

By Chris Browne



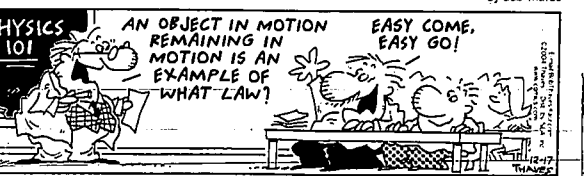
Beetle Bailey

By Mort Walker



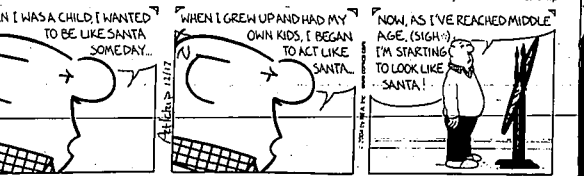
Frank and Ernest

By Bob Thaves



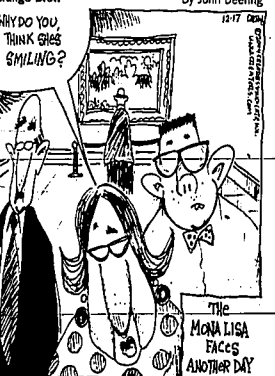
The Born Loser

By Art Sansom & Chip



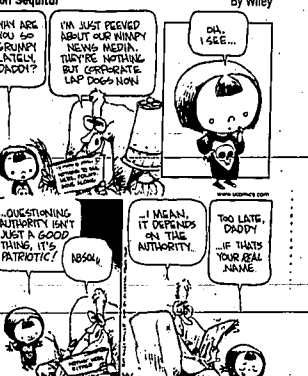
Strange Brew

By John Deering



Non Sequitur

By Wiley



From left to right, comedian Blake Clark, U.S. model Leann Tweeden, comedian Robin Williams, and former Denver Broncos quarterback John Elway, laugh as they make a joke at the main U.S. base at Bagram, north of Kabul, Afghanistan, Thursday.



Celebrities visit U.S. troops

BAGRAM, Afghanistan (AP) — As head of the joint chiefs of staff, Gen. Richard Myers usually doesn't have to take a back seat to anyone — except when U.S. troops make up the audience and comedian Robin Williams is on stage.

American forces serving at Bagram air base got a little early Christmas cheer Thursday as Myers and Williams — along with football star John Elway, model/sports commentator Leann Tweeden and comedian Blake Clark — stopped by on a tour of American servicemen serving far from home.

The activities got off to a somber start with a ground-breaking ceremony for a coffee

shop to be named after Pat Tillman, who quit the NFL to be an Army Ranger and died in a friendly-fire incident April 22.

All except Williams wore white hard hats and fatigues as they jointly shoveled handfuls of dirt with about 100 soldiers taking pictures.

Tillman gave up a million-dollar contract and his position as a starting safety for the Arizona Cardinals to enlist after the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks.

Elway said he didn't know Tillman, but told the troops: "It had to be a huge thing for Pat to walk away to come over here and join forces with you. I'm totally humbled by the work that you

do.

"In my mind he's a hero. You're all heroes."

Myers said people who claimed that the Afghan people would want American forces to leave quickly had been proven wrong, citing President Hamid Karzai's commitment to a long-term "strategic partnership."

"The coffee shop" will probably be here some time, even though we may not be here in large numbers.

On the walk over to a tent for the day's entertainment, troops sought autographs on paper, hats, dollar bills — anything that would hold ink — and photos taken with the visiting celebrities.

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The new animal shelter is open at 420 Victory Avenue. Our hours are 10am to 5:30pm Monday through Friday and 10am to 2pm Saturday. We are closed on Sundays and all holidays. Come celebrate our Grand Opening Saturday, December 18th from 12:00pm to 4:00pm. We are closed for normal business during our Grand Opening!

We are now located next to the Coca-Cola plant on Victory Ln., behind the Sweet Heart store on Washington! Or you can call for directions.

Cooler weather is upon us. Preferably your pets get to stay indoors and remember your pets need adequate food, water, and shelter or heat lamps if they stay outdoors.

Proper identification insures that your pet will find a safe return home if it becomes lost. A license, rabies tag, name tag and phone number, or microchip are forms of proper identification. Report lost or found pets to the nearest animal shelter, place flyers-up in your neighborhood, and place a lost or found ad in your local newspaper to help increase the chance of animals finding their way home.

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"Dixie" a spayed female Aussie Lab X 12 week old pup that is the last of the litter and the best

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"Ginger" a female Boxer X, about 1 year old, who has raised her family and ready to move into a home for the holidays.

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"Roper" a young male Hound/Heeler X 4 month pup who wants to catch a family that he can be home with for life.

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Fax 208-733-8628
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Twin Falls



"Shilo" a spayed female Tortoise Shell young adult that slept in and missed her trip.

Russ Lively Architect Chartered

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FAX (208) 734-4368



"Biscuit" a spayed female long hair calico adult who is quiet, gentle, and beautiful.

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"Smokey" 2-year-old male gray cat. Lovin' is what he does best.

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"Muffin" 9-week-old female Himalayan-Mix. Black frost color, sweet & very playful.

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"Diva" 7 week old F. Border Collie short hair. Diva has a sister with longer hair, both need a home for Christmas.

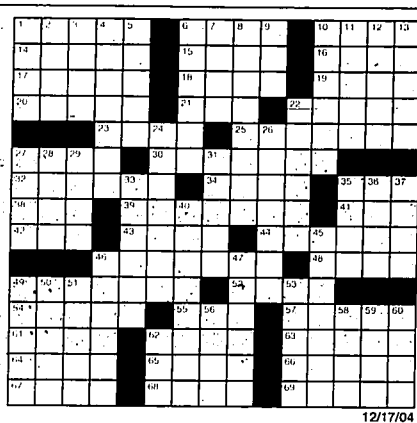
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MORNING BREAK

- ACROSS
1 Purple shade
6 Ninth mo.
10 Shell game, e.g.
14 Cries out
15 Manioba tribe
16 Striped candy
17 May honoree
18 Ferris wheel, e.g.
19 Sets up
20 Blushy gray
21 Drink cooler
22 Trees with cones
23 Quiz
25 Curvaceous
27 Distinctive air
30 Pushy newcomer
32 Clusters
34 Like redwoods
35 Deuce
38 Unmatched
39 The Moor of Venice
41 Carnival city
42 Astronaut
43 Crissom
44 Equal
44 Ghostly apparition
46 Gallery porch
48 Veilily flora
49 Wealthy
52 Sacred song
54 Isolated
55 Juliette Lowell's org.
57 Creepy
61 At rest
62 Scorch
63 Brief digression
64 Tiny bit
65 Conceal in the hand
66 Slander in print
67 Tarot interpreter
68 Zone
69 Fresh
DOWN
1 Athletic facilities
2 Genuine
3 _ mater



12/17/04

Thursday's Puzzle Solved

Grid of solved crossword puzzle words including: LANAI, MORPH, ALARM, OPERA, PUN, PINK, PANTHER, ONO, PITA, RID, ESP, LIT, LORRIES, SLOVE, KIROV, ILLUSIONS, INIMICAL, RUT, AKA, SENORES, OSS, GEL, GASPEDAL, FIGURES, IN, ELEGY, ICON, SICKENS, LEE, ATE, LAD, EVA, LAIS, MISDI, RECTED, EGO, OATEN, ROUTE, TEN, SLANG, SWISS.

12/17/04

Friends and family urge man to haul his fiancée to court

DEAR ABBY: My fiancée, "Monique," has put me into financial ruin. It's all because of this girl she has been hanging around with. "Tracy." Monique's friends have warned her to stay away from Tracy because she's bad news.



DEAR ABBY Jeannie Phillips

Abby, the two of them have been killing money. Monique has also forged my name on my own checks, and sold my personal items - things left to me by my grandparents. For years, people have urged me to press charges.

Monique and I have two children, 3 and 2. I spoke to a lawyer and I will have no problem getting full custody. Monique is on one year's probation and has to pay restitution because she stole from her employer. She is American; we live in Canada. With all the stuff that's happening, Monique may have to leave the country.

Monique's parents have told me I should press charges. She has abandoned our kids while I was at work. Children's Aid got involved, and I didn't know the kids had been taken from us until I got home from work. Luckily, they got them back.

Monique wasn't like this until she met Tracy. Should I press charges, or should I just say goodbye, take the kids and go my way? A mutual friend says Monique told her that if I do that, she will forget the kids, and...

find a new guy and have kids with him.

DEAR STRESSED OUT IN CANADA: DEAR STRESSED OUT: I'm glad you wrote and I'm pleased to help end your ambivalence. Listen to your common sense as well as to what Monique's parents are urging you to do. Protect yourself and the kids. Press charges. Tracy is not responsible for your fiancée's behavior. Your fiancée appears to have no conscience. Full time work help mend her ways, but it will slow her down and make it more difficult for her to take advantage of her next victim.

DEAR ABBY: Last week, we invited a couple for dinner this week. Two days before the party, I called to confirm the time and they said they'd be here.

On the evening of the dinner, they showed up two hours late without even a phone call. They said the husband had to work late. Neither of them offered an apology. We had tried twice to contact them before we finally decided to go ahead and eat.

They seemed offended that we did.

Were we wrong to assume they weren't coming? If you haven't heard otherwise, how long should you wait for guests before eating without them?

-TIRED OF WAITING

IN VIRGINIA: DEAR TIRED OF WAITING: You were not wrong to assume that your guests were no-shows and to have eaten dinner. That they failed to call and inform you that they had been delayed was rude. Thirty minutes is long enough to wait for tardy guests - or less if there's danger the meal will be overcooked.

DEAR ABBY: My beautiful wife, "Doreen," turned 41 a couple of months ago. Since then she has had extra piercings in her ears and has taken to wearing thumb rings, toe rings and ankle bracelets. Yesterday she pierced her navel. I am embarrassed for her. We have a 13-year-old daughter who is also embarrassed for her. How do I tell Doreen she looks silly?

-NOT SO HIP IN

CALIFORNIA: DEAR NOT SO HIP: Your wife's fetish brings new meaning to the term "heavy metal." It shouldn't be necessary to give her a lecture. Just walk in carrying a powerful magnet. That should send a message.

Take advantage of romance, Aquarius

IF DECEMBER 17 IS YOUR BIRTHDAY... You may enjoy a jiggling act right now, trying to please those who admire you just as you are and others who are critical. Maybe home and career are pulling you two ways at once. Know you are surrounded by loved ones on this birthday and expect that 2005 will teach you healthy work patterns and how to organize your time to fit romance and family time into a busy schedule. Enjoy being responsible and precise because next September and October extremely presidential opportunities will appear to reward you for your dependability and loyalty.

HOROSCOPE: Jeraldine Saunders

about - because ripples of trouble could have far-reaching effects. Slow down and take it easy.

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Taking care of necessities while spreading your own private brand of joy and good cheer may be the best way to proceed. Beware of misunderstandings with loved ones and don't push your luck with the boss.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): The general mood might be harsh and unforgiving even though holiday cheer is in the wind. Harmless flirtations with the wrong people at the wrong time could cause misunderstandings or jealous criticism.

Virgo (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Plan your day carefully so you aren't stuck with a last minute sprint to finish projects or need to deal with rush hour traffic. Avoid words that wound and be considerate of others to derive the most benefit from today's stars.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): A tendency to spend money unwisely or exercise poor taste indicates you should avoid major purchases today. Do not ask for commitments or press for promises from loved ones as the stars spell romance held in

precarious balance. SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Others could be affectionate but deliberately push the wrong buttons. Romance is in the air but is easily spoiled. Avoid confrontations about romance or finance and use diplomatic tactics to get your way.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): A hint of love fills the air but pressing business matters must be taken care of before you can party. Drive defensively if you must travel tonight and remember to be polite - let the other person go first.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Having your scientific honed to perfection means you are ready to rock 'n' roll as soon as the job is completed. Tonight is perfect for party time with friends or family - but keep an eye out for those who forget their manners.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): A forgiving attitude makes it easy to overlook back-seat drivers and social blunders. Romance is waiting through the air, so delight your special honey with your rollicking good humor.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): A brief period of turbulence could set relationships spinning unless you are careful to sidestep misunderstandings. It is a good night for parties if you take care of business loose ends before you do your dancing shoes.

Chimpanzees and bonobos are humankind's closest relatives

Chimps and bonobos are humans' closest relatives, sharing 98.4 percent of our genes. This day in history, Wedding bells were in the news on Dec. 17, 1969. With Johnny Carson as a witness, ukulele-strumming singer Tiny Tim married his beloved Miss Vicki live on TV's "Tonight Show."



RANDOM KINSHIP FACT: Miss Vicki Erin Barrett

True, it's dangerous to be shot out of a cannon, but it's not quite what it appears to be in circus whites. Compressed air is what shoots the person out the barrel - the bang and explosion you see and hear is just a theatrical firecracker set off for effect.

It means sense that "warm a pig" makes ham in old-time diner lingo. But "Noah's boy" means the same thing. How come? Well, in the Bible, Noah of the ark had three sons: Japheth, Shem and Ham.

If the Big Bang theory is correct, scientists figure that a momentous explosion took

place about 15 billion years ago. Before 1760, male cats were called rams or bats. However, in that year, an anonymous writer published a book titled "The Life and Adventures of a Cat." It's main character was a male cat named Tom. After the book attained widespread popularity, male cats became known as Tom cats, and then tomcats.

The jaws of certain large tropical ants won't release their tight grip, even if killed. Very early medical practitioners used them as sutures. Assistants would hold the wound shut

while the doctor bandaged a big ant over its edges. When the ant bit, the doctor quickly decapitated it and went on to the next ant until the wound was sealed.

Stop the wine presses! The latest archeological finds indicate that the Chinese made alcoholic beverages about 9,000 years ago. If being tied up gives you the willies, you suffer from merinthophobia. Reader Eric C. asks: "Who invented the aerosol can, and when?" Norwigton Eric Holtheim patented the aerosol can in 1931. It didn't get significant use until World War II, when the U.S. military found it did the trick for providing a mist of bug spray for soldiers.

Fewer than half of all lawsuits end up in court. Erin Barrett and Jack Mingo can be reached at erin@earthlink.net or jacking@compuserve.com

94-year-old man gets his first tattoo

DUBOIS, Pa. (AP) - Ralph Bonebreak was born to be wild - in 1910.

The 94-year-old man recently got his first tattoo at the Tainted Flesh Tattoo and Piercing Studio in his hometown. Bonebreak emerged from under the needle with a locomotive on his right arm and an eagle on his left.

Tattooing an older person is a bit more difficult because

their skin is different and sometimes it comes away from the muscle a little," said Bob MacCready, a tattoo artist at Tainted Flesh.

A lot of men who went into the military got tattoos, but Bonebreak's 30-year career with the railroad kept him out of the service, said his friend, Eve Camuso.

"He's always wanted a tattoo, but back then the only place

you could get one was at the county fair," Camuso said this week. "They weren't very clean."

Bonebreak selected a train to commemorate his time with the railroad. A belt buckle inspired his eagle design.

Bonebreak might have been nervous, but he didn't show it when he hopped in the chair.

"It's a new experience, so I'd say I was a little anxious," Bonebreak said.

Coming Sunday... Faux or fir Face the Christmas tree dilemma. Family Life in The Times-News

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50 LEGALS

50 LEGALS

50 LEGALS

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Filed with the above designated court within twenty (20) days after service of this Summons on you...

of the separate allegations of the complaint and other defenses you may claim.

authorize construction of a Recreational Vehicle (RV) assembly manufacturing Plant located at 621 Washington Street...

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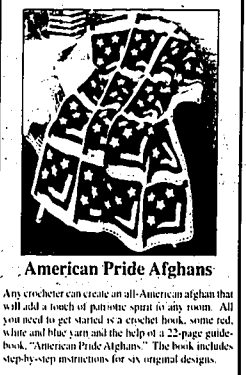
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The Times-News is looking for freelance correspondents to cover news throughout Magic Valley.

Anyone in the Magic Valley may apply, but we're especially eager to find writers in Glenns Ferry, Gooding, Shoshone, Holister, Murgh and Twin Falls.

Please send resumes to: Troy Foster, Interim City Editor, The Times-News, P.O. Box 548, Twin Falls, ID 83303-0548.

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NOTICE

Hearing to close PICABO DESERT ROAD DEC. 20th 4:00PM Blaine County Commission 206 1st St. Suite 300 Hailey, Idaho

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Jayco, Inc. has applied to the Idaho Department of Environmental Quality (IDEQ) for issuance of an Air Permit which would

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FOUND CAT, long black & white hair, 2nd Ave. West. No collar. Call 208-734-7672.

FOUND CD carrier, possibly for a vehicle. EAST Twin Falls. Call to identify 734-3500.

FOUND dog, Pointer, male, near Albion, Call 208-734-4438.

FOUND Husky cross male, neutered, brown, has collar. Home on 2nd & 3rd. Call 208-678-5722.

FOUND Lab cross, female, black & white, collar, 2nd & 3rd area by Silvers. Call 208-539-1483.

LOST Cat-Big grey white markings neutered male. Sam's declared in front. Filir area. Please call 208-734-9127. Reward!

LOST Empress snowboard between Twin Falls and Pomona in pink and grey Burton bag on 12/12. Reward! Call 208-734-8272.

LOST puppy, Lab/Reddish in color with black collar. About 15 weeks old. Located in N. College and Wendell St. Call Matt or Anna 208-736-8777.

LOST Shih-Tzu, tan with black face, needs medication for eyes. 10 months old. Call at 52 Heights Andrea Lann on December 13. Please call 208-726-5163 or 800-482-8845 or 208-325-6501.

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COMPUTERIZED BIDDING DISKETTES ARE AVAILABLE UPON REQUEST

The right is reserved to reject all proposals, or to accept the proposal or proposals deemed best for the State of Idaho.

No proposal will be considered unless accompanied by an acceptable proposal guaranty. This guaranty must be in the form of a Certified Check or a Cashier's Check drawn on an Idaho bank in the amount of five percent of the total amount bid.

Bidders shall obtain a license from the Idaho Public Works Contractors State License Board (800) 356-6895 before award will be made, as provided in Subsection 103.02 and 107.03 of the Idaho Standard Specifications.

The Contractor will be required to pay not less than the minimum wage rates of the general wage decision for the project as set forth in the bid proposal. Such rates will be made a part of the contract covering the project.

It is the purpose of the Idaho Transportation Board to build the improvement in the shortest time consistent with good construction. Necessary equipment and an effective organization will be installed upon.

Dated December 7, 2004 JIMMY D. ROSS, P.E., Chief Engineer

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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.

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Esmeralda DeLaRosa & Isabelle Yezip

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SHOSHONE North,

2 brm, 1 bath, 1000 sq. ft., 1200 sq. ft. lot. Call 208-866-9845.

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BURLEY SW 700 acres

Possibly 600 acres. Call 878-2886 or 678-3302.

PAUL two acres, A & B irrigation, no buildings. \$119,000. Call 208-532-4157 or 413-6682.

PAUL 12 miles north

Dan, 2 1/2 acres, 18 water 960 acs, 945 water rights with good priority dates. Sale price \$119,000. Call 208-329-0998 for info.

PAUL N. W. Dairy lot,

1164 acs, 5875,000. Dairy permit guaranteed. Madson/Riley 312-1135.

513 ACREAGE AND LOTS

HEVBYRN

2400 sq. ft. 3 brdm, 2 bath, 6.9 acres. Call 208-678-8779.

SHOSHONE North

6.5 areas with irrigation, 10000 sq. ft. Home will finance with 10% down. Call 731-0130.

TWIN FALLS 5 brdm,

home on 2.5 acres, 114x200 ft. lot. Call 208-436-3631.

HANSEN E.C. condition,

183' floodwood, 14x14 windows, 55 paces, 55 Kitchon appl's, window and floor covering, new roof & storage shed. To see: Contact Pam Meltzer at 208-734-8804.

RUPERT 6 brdm, 2 bath, unfinished log, bath, shop, corral, bird pens. Owner financing, \$139,000. Call 208-436-3631.

SHOSHONE North,

2 brm, 1 bath, 1000 sq. ft., 1200 sq. ft. lot. Call 208-866-9845.

TWIN FALLS

Country acreage S of Tr. 3rd. 2 bath, woodstove, heat pump & AC, new paint, new flooring, beautiful view. Attached dbl. garage, on 1.25 acres. Nice shop, horse shed, fenced area. Call 539-7877, \$129,900.

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604 UNFINISHED APTS/DUPLEXES

BURLEY Clean 1 bedroom, \$275. 2 bedroom, \$300. No pets. EHO 208-678-7438.

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\$275. 2 bedroom, \$300. No pets. EHO 208-678-7438.

Century 21

Call 208-734-5538

604 UNFURNISHED DUPLEXES

TWIN FALLS 207 Ridgeway-2 bdrm, 1 bath \$500 + deposit. 1620 Sheop East-3 bedroom 2 bath, \$600 - deposit.

520 Hazelbald #2- 1 bdrm, 1 bath, \$325 + deposit.

757 Honey Locust-2 bdrm, 1 bath, \$450 + deposit.

BRAWLEY REALTY 734-5858.

TWIN FALLS 3 bdrms, 2 bath duplex, utilities incl., \$700. Also 4 bdrm, 2 bath duplex, \$650. No sm or c. ing pets. Call 208-736-0412 or 404-9987.

TWIN FALLS 2 bdrm. Extra nice 4-pkx, \$885 + dep. 734-9182.

TWIN FALLS Clean 2 bdrm, 1 bath, lots of extras. No smoking/pets. \$495 incl. up. Call 208-735-0473.

TWIN FALLS Cozy 2 bedroom, 1 bath apartment above office. \$500. Heat included. No pets/smoking. Call 208-733-1433.

TWIN FALLS cozy clean 1 bdrm, .351 2nd Ave. W #1, some utls pd. \$365 + dep. Call Naiman 734-6230.

TWIN FALLS duplex, most utls. \$450, 736-1773.

TWIN FALLS duplex, 2 bdrms, 2 bath. \$475 mo. No pets. 324-7833 or 319-2341.

TWIN FALLS duplex downstairs 4 plex, 2 bdrm, \$475 mo. No pets. 324-7833 or 319-2341.

TWIN FALLS Spacious 1 & 2 bdrms Gated underground parking, 357 Blue Lakes Blvd N. Call 208-544-2432.

TWIN FALLS, a studio, appx, no pets, \$275 + dep. 208-733-6169.

TWIN FALLS Holiday Motel Winter special, best rate in town, w/ly rates starting at \$110, \$28/night, single. Only 3 rooms, so HURRY! Microwave, refrig, coffee. Call 733-4330.

TWIN FALLS Motel Daily and weekly rates. Quiet, clean, affordable. 733-8620.

TWIN FALLS Motel Rent by wk. Microwave & refrig incl. Call 208-736-1988.

606 MOBILE HOMES

KETCHUM Tired of commuting to work in Haley or Ketchum? Consider renting our cozy mobile home in The Meadows, 2 bedrooms plus office, 1 1/2 baths, completely furnished, W/D. Only 3 miles from Ketchum. On May 30th, 2005. \$600 month + gas & electric. Call 208-725-5862 or 949-463-6717 cell.

607 OFFICE & RETAIL RENTALS

TWIN FALLS Professional or Retail space available. All new inside and out, 1,150 sq. ft. \$650 mo. Blue Lakes Blvd. 208-280-1609.

TWIN FALLS Shop/Warehouse/Office 2000-4000 sq.ft. Holloway Property Mgmt. 734-4334 twinfallsrentals.com

TWIN FALLS Two professional office spaces available. Recently remodeled. GREAT for an independent agent. Call 208-733-1433.

701 LIVESTOCK & POULTRY

CONNECT WITH CUSTOMERS WHO NEED YOUR SERVICE

Advertise in the Service Directory! 733-0931 ext. 2

DAIRY CALVES weaned, Good feeders calved. 208-316-1900.

703 HORSES & TACK

I sold my tack items with my ad in the Times-News. Camille C., Twin Falls.

Classified... works! Call us today 733-0931 ext. 2 800-658-3883 ext. 2

4 FOOT SPOERING Accepting new clients! Will trim miniature & teach horses to pick up feet. Schedule now for the season. Travis 539-2612 or Val at 539-1027.

EQUINE VETERINARIAN Patricia Pence DVM Call 208-312-1790 250 West 300 South Burley, ID 83318.

HORSE BOARDING Outdoor pens and arena. Call 734-8930.

TWIN FALLS 314 Madrona Street #3, lg 3 bdrm, 2 bath 378 Lenore Street #2, 3 bdrm, 2 bath, 1 car garage. All apts incl. W/D hook-ups, refrig, dishwasher and AC starting at \$685 mo plus dep. 736-2999.

TWIN FALLS Large 1 bdrm, duplex, most utls. \$450, 736-1773.

TWIN FALLS Large 2 bdrm, duplex, partial utls. \$650, 736-1773.

TWIN FALLS Large 2 bdrm, duplex, partial utls. \$650, 736-1773.

AC, UV, W/D hook-ups, 1 car garage. MUST SEE! \$525 + dep. 612 Idaho St Call for holiday rent special. Naiman 734-6230.

TWIN FALLS small 1 bdrm, appx, \$300 mo. + \$300 dep. Smoke free. 208-431-7387.

RETAIL OR OFFICE SPACE AVAILABLE



- Available Immediately
- Sub Leasing
- Downtown Burley
- 6,000 Square Feet
- Newly Remodeled
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Contact Dan at 1.208.735.3252

508 COMMERCIAL RENTALS

LARGE WAREHOUSE Food grade/ rail siding Apex Warehousing. Call 208-733-1022.

616 ROOMMATES WANTED

BUHL private/bath, daylight bsmt. No smoking. 543-4782.

TWIN FALLS Looking for one roommate to share large 3 bdrm, three bath condo near canyon rim. \$350 mo. all utls including satellite and high speed internet. Washer/dryer, p o'd kitchen. Call 404-9155.

TWIN FALLS Roommate wanted. \$250/ mo. utls. pd. 733-0973.

BURLEY BUYING STATION competitive prices All classes of cull cows and bulls. Accepting cattle any time Mon-Sat. Call 208-312-1790 250 West 300 South Burley, ID 83318.

Decorate Your Ad for the Holidays!

Add a graphic for only \$2.00 more.

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Try to find a good used automobile? Check out the classifieds for the largest selection available in your area today 733-0931.

REMEMBER That birthday ad you placed some time ago in the Times-News? Now is the time to come back as you prepare. Stop by the Customer Service Dept today!

TWIN FALLS A Great Place to Live at Saratoga Apartments Come see the luxury that awaits you! 1, 2 & 3 bedroom apartment homes * Washer/dryer * Central heat & air * Swimming pool * Fitness center * Business center * Enclosed garages 651 Saratoga Dr. Call or Visit today! 208-735-1600

TWIN FALLS Large 1 bdrm, duplex, most utls. \$450, 736-1773.

TWIN FALLS Large 2 bdrm, duplex, partial utls. \$650, 736-1773.

TWIN FALLS Large 2 bdrm, duplex, partial utls. \$650, 736-1773.

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NEW '05 TACOMA

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Get Low Financing or Cash Back on the Best Value and Selection

NEW 2005 COROLLA LE \$15,880

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CHECK OUT OUR SELECTION OF USED - ALL PRICED TO SELL!

1996 FORD WINDSTAR GL VAN 7 PASSENGER - REAR AIR & 6BK MILES = VERY NICE! \$5,880	2000 DODGE STRATUS SE 4DR AUTO - 4 CYLINDER + PWR WINDOWS \$6,880	1997 CHEVY BLAZER LS 4WD - 4 REAL NICE ONE! \$6,880	1997 OLDSMOBILE 88 LLS HIGH END MODEL - LEATHER - CLIMATE CONTROL \$6,980	1999 FORD TAURUS SE 24 VALVE V-6 - LOADED - 70K MILES \$6,980	2001 OLDS ALERO 4DR AUTO - AIR + ALLOYS + PWR WINDOWS \$7,980	1994 CHEVY SUBURBAN 4X4 LS - 5.7L V8 + ALLOYS + CD + SHAPI \$7,980
2000 TOYOTA COROLLA CE AUTO - AIR - CRUISE + PWR WINDOWS \$8,880	1991 TOYOTA LAND CRUISER SUNROOF + 8 PASSENGER + ALLOY WHEELS \$8,980	1996 GMC 1500 X CAB 4X4 SLE - 5.7L VORTEC - ALLOYS \$9,880	2000 PONTIAC GRAND AM SE 4DR - 4 CYLINDER - AUTO + PWR WINDOWS \$9,980	1996 GMC SUBURBAN 2500 4X4 SLE - 7.4 VORTEC - LOADED! \$10,880	1999 TOYOTA SOLARA SE V-6 ABS - CD + ALLOYS + KEYLESS ENTRY \$11,980	2001 PONTIAC MONTANA VAN 2.4 V-6 + ABS - CD + KEYLESS ENTRY + REAR AIR \$12,880
2001 OLDSMOBILE AURORA PWR + TRACTION CONTROL - LEATHER - V-6 \$12,980	2000 TOYOTA SIENNA VAN KEYLESS ENTRY + CD + ALLOYS \$13,980	2000 HONDA V-6 ACCORD EX MODEL WITH SUNROOF AND LEATHER \$14,980	2004 TOYOTA COROLLA LE AUTO - CD - KEYLESS ENTRY - PWR WINDOWS - CRUISE \$14,980	2000 HONDA ACCORD EX V-6 LEATHER - MOONROOF \$14,980	2002 VOLVOVAGEN BUG TOP TURBO DIESEL - 31K MILES + 4DR \$15,780	2003 DODGE CARAVAN SPORT BEAUTIFUL WITH NICKEL TRIMMPUPPEN \$15,880
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2004 TOYOTA SIENNA VAN NEW BODY STYLE - 100K MILE WARRANTY \$24,980	2004 TOYOTA HIGHLANDER AWD V-6 + 3RD SEAT + ALLOYS + CD \$25,880	2004 TOYOTA 4RUNNER SR5 CHOOSE FROM 71 BOOTH W/LE EQUIPPED \$26,880	2004 HONDA PILOT 4X4 3RD SEAT - 12K MILES - ALLOYS - CD \$26,980	2002 FORD F-250 CHEVY CAB 4X4 SUPERDUTY + PWR STROKE DIESEL - 6-170 - LOADED! \$30,980	2001 TOYOTA LANDCRUISER SHAPI TOYOTA'S ULTIMATE FOUR UTILITY \$34,980	2004 TOYOTA SEQUOIA SR5 4X4 V-8 + PASSENGER - ONLY 15K MILES \$35,980

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MORAB mare 1 year old, \$1,000. Cointer 7 year old registered Quarter Horse Palomino \$2,100. Mare 4 year old Arabian, \$800. Also available \$400. Has saddle, \$150. Call 208-219-0481.

Now accepting a limited number of horses for lifting, training, showing and sales. Any aspect from starting to finishing or turning up for upcoming season. 20 yrs exp. Boarding & lessons also avail. 208-326-4661 or 208-731-4660

Professional Farrier Butch Shields 20 yrs experience. Accepting new clients. Performance horses. Handout accounts. Flier 208-731-9768

SADDLES (3) new, 15 in., 16 in., 13 in., \$450 each or best offer. Call 208-543-6894 or 208-280-0636.

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I sold my puppy in one day. Thanks to the Times-News Classifieds! Maria M. Jerome

Classified...it worked! Call us today 733-0931 ext. 2. 800-658-3883 ext. 2

I sold my puppies fast thanks to the Times-News Classifieds! Sherri A. Jerome

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I sold my pups the first day they came out in the Times-News Classifieds! Gladys M. Jerome

Classified...it worked! Call us today 733-0931 ext. 2. 800-658-3883 ext. 2

ALASKAN HUSKY puppies for sale. Call 208-829-5785

AMERICAN STAFFER BULLDOGS 4 males. 1 female. Ready 12-22. Call 322-6647

AUSTRALIAN SHEPHERD Reg. 5 mo. male, black/white, great w/ kids and animals. Shots, smart, great pedigree. \$175. Call 208-423-4818.

BORDER COLLIE Christmas puppies, 7 weeks, \$50. Call 208-326-3732

BORDER COLLIE puppies, ready to go now for Christmas. Call 208-324-2092

BORDER COLLIE pups, \$25 each. Call 208-544-2867

BOXER Puppies: Fawns, males, \$300 and 1 female, \$350. Call 208-308-4925

BULL TERRIER Red, Nose 4 months old, female, purebred, \$150. Call 224-4227, 538-1076 or 538-1074

BUNNIES 10 weeks old. Huge variety of colors and breeds, \$10 each. 280-1044

CHIHUAHUA AKC registered, Brindle females, 1 yr, old, Fawn female, 7 1/2 mo. Both are smooth coat. \$300 for each. Call 208-536-1611 or 208-404-6676

CHIHUAHUA 2 long hair, black and tan, 4 mo, old, \$350. 1 blendo Pomeranian female, 8 mo, old, \$250. 532-4619 or 431-4537

CHIHUAHUA puppies, 15 wks old, 2 male, white w/ brown, \$300 each. Call 208-543-6585

CHINESE PUG puppy, male, 12 weeks old, 1st shots, \$300. Call 208-324-5683

DACHSHUND purebred puppies. Ready before Christmas. 1 female, \$250. 934-5118

DOG HOUSEIGHT style, new, exc. cond., up to a 100 lbs., \$45. Call Kathy 423-0876

DOG Needs Rehab. We are looking for someone who would like us to use their pool or hot tub to rehab our recently paralyzed Coonhound, "Ray". Perhaps there is a dog lover out there who would be willing to help. Contact on or Gabe O'lynn at 208-734-2610

ENGLISH BULLDOG 7 weeks old, AKC Reg. male, 208-984-3667

ENGLISH BULLDOG AKC, born 11/12, 2 females, \$2,500. 2 males \$2,000. Lots of wirkies, great Christmas gift call 442-2964

ENGLISH BULLDOG puppies, AKC, 4 males, 1 female, blood lines. Ready 12/25 \$1,800 each. Call 209-324-9664

FINGERS Zebra, pairs or singles, males and females, \$10 each. Call 208-324-6205

FISH TANK 75 gallon, with all accessories, fish & turtles. \$500. Call 208-734-2041

FREE (2) cats males. Black & white, neutered & declawed. We need good homes! Call 208-404-1531

FREE Aussie Shepherd, Heeler & Cattlehua X, stock dog puppies, Bobbed tails, blue eyes. 934-5743

FREE Australian Shepherd, female, 2 1/2 years old, spayed, 1st shots. Looking for a good home in the county 208-934-4122

FREE cats -- male, neutered, \$500. Female (spayed), inside/outside. To good homes. Call 208-734-0283 or 208-404-6198

FREE Lab, black, puppies, 6 weeks old. Great for Christmas presents. 678-8859

FREE Lab, female, spayed, 1st shot, 6 years old to a good home. Call 423-4858

GERMAN SHEPHERD purebred puppies, silver, black or white. 1st shots, wormed and micro chipped. \$350-500. Call 208-7272-6283 or 208-404-6198

GERMAN SHEPHERD purebred puppies, silver, black or white. 1st shots, wormed and micro chipped. \$350-500. Call 208-7272-6283 or 208-404-6198

FREE Red Heeler & Australian cross pups. Ready for Christmas. Call 208-432-2787

GERMAN SHORT HAIR puppies, ready to go, 5 females at \$24.00, 2 males at \$200.00. Call 436-0665 or 670-1101

GERMAN SHORT HAIR puppies, 9 wks, old. Males & females. Mom & Dad on site. \$35 each. Call 208-434-545 after 5pm

GERMAN WIRE HAIR POINTER puppies. AKC ready to go, 2 females & 1 male, \$400. Call 208-423-9752 or 208-280-1569

GOLDEN RETRIEVER AKC pups. A golden gift to last a lifetime. Healthy happy puppies ready to join your family. Will hold for Christmas. \$275. Call 436-5827 or 431-4868

I sold my puppies very quickly with my ad. Thanks to the Times-News Classifieds! Anne M. Jerome

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JACK RUSSELL TERRIERS stocking stuffers, ready. Purebred, papered, champion bloodlines. Black/white \$350. Call 208-539-1960

Merri Christmas JACK RUSSELL puppies AKC, females. Ready to go \$330. Call 208-645-2254 or 431-4868

Kramer K-9 Grooming (Karen) of Jerome will be accepting new clients for small dogs after December 28th. Call 208-324-4648 leave message

LAB black pups 2 females \$100, 1 male \$75, dewclaws, 1 shot, 537-9960/6pm

LAB black pups Karri's kennel, top blood line, no papers, 3 hit, \$200. Call 208-308-3389

LAB chocolate, registered, born 7/15/2004, yellowish, black dam. He was pick of litter. Fetches, sits and comes to name. Will be big. Call Joe at 208-732-5990

LAB Christmas puppies: Chocolate and black, AKC Registered, first shots. \$250-\$350. Born November 2, call after 6 pm 436-4768. Will hold until Christmas

LAB puppies, AKC reg, black & ivory, all males. First shots. Great hunting background. \$150. Call 205-2264 or 948-0517 or 208-733-6977 ask for Michael

LABS Golden AKC, puppies, all females, 11 weeks, shots & dewclaws. Ready to go \$150.00. Call 208-733-5068

MINI DACHSHUND purebred puppies, black and red. 208-676-5330 or 670-4496

MINI SCHNAUZER puppies, reg: 1 male, 1 female, \$350. Great Christmas gift. Call 208-544-2519

MINI SCHNAUZER AKC, 1st shots, tails & dewclaws docked, 1 tri female \$650, 4 sable females \$475, 1 sable male \$459. Parents on site. Ready to go on Christmas eve and will hold for Christmas day. 934-8833

MINI SCHNAUZER AKC, 1st shots, tails & dewclaws docked, 1 tri female \$650, 4 sable females \$475, 1 sable male \$459. Parents on site. Ready to go on Christmas eve and will hold for Christmas day. 934-8833

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Friday, Dec. 17, 2004

THE ACES ON BRIDGE®

Bobby Wolff

"Never send to know for whom the bell tolls; it tolls for thee."
—John Donne

One of the elements that make bridge so interesting (and devilishly difficult) is that no one rings a bell when a problem comes along that requires you to think especially hard. All too often one only works out after the event that a "kill-point" on a deal had been reached, where a false step would lead to disaster instead of triumph.

Of course, now that you know that today's deal has just such a moment, you won't miss the point — will you?

Against four hearts, West leads the spade queen, followed by the king and ace. An unthinking declarer will ruff. East will overruff and return a diamond, locking declarer in dummy. Declarer cannot escape without losing a further club: down one, and no joy in Mudville.

The key to the deal is to preserve dummy's trump as the entry back to the South hand, allowing declarer to draw trumps and then to take his diamond winners once trumps have been eliminated. What South had to do was to discard either a low club or diamond from dummy on the third round of spades. If he makes that play, there is nothing the defense can do, since declarer will be able to ruff the next spade in hand and draw trumps. Alternatively, if West shifts to clubs, South wins the lead in dummy and has a trump left to cross back to his hand so that he can draw trump and then run the diamonds.

NORTH 12-17-A
 ♠ 8
 ♥ 7
 ♦ AKQ653
 ♣ A1032

EAST
 ♠ 95
 ♥ 10843
 ♦ 82
 ♣ KQ976

SOUTH
 ♠ J73
 ♥ AKQJ92
 ♦ 107
 ♣ 54

Vulnerable: Both
Dealer: North

The bidding:

	South	West	North	East	
1♥	2♠	1♦	3♥	Pass	
4♥	All pass				

Opening lead: Spade king

BID WITH THE ACES

South holds:

♠ 9 5
 ♥ 10 8 4 3
 ♦ 8 2
 ♣ K Q 9 7 6

South West North East
 Pass 1♥ 2♠ 3♥ 3♦ Pass

ANSWER: Bid four clubs. As a passed hand, you can't be going to the four-level with just clubs — you would have opened already. This action by a passed hand shows club values and a heart fit. Indeed, it makes sense for all jumps and new suits at a high level by a passed hand also to guarantee a fit for partner.

If you would like to contact Bobby Wolff, e-mail him at http://www.acesonbridge.com
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WANTED Duck & Goose leg bands. Will pay \$10 each. I will pick up. Call 208-934-5323, message.

WANTED gear box for Stokermatic coal furnace. Call 208-934-5688.

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WANTED Old pottery, pictures, ligths, quilts, toys, furniture, jewelry. Indian items and estates. Call 208-324-4721 or 208-539-4721.

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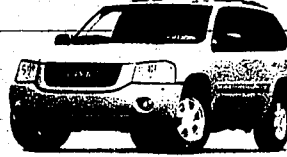
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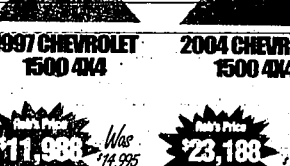
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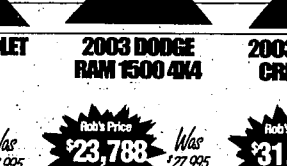
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\$13400



'05 TOYOTA COROLLA CE
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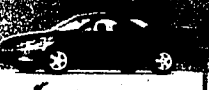
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 #P22T WAS \$17680
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