

TWIN FALLS FORECAST

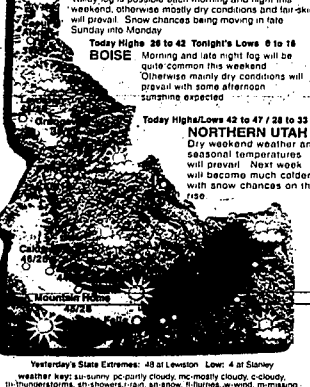
Today: Morning fog turning off to reveal mostly sunny skies... Tonight: Nightly fog returning, otherwise partly cloudy... Tomorrow: More morning fog and afternoon sunshine expected.

BURLEY/RUPERT FORECAST

Today: Patchy morning fog possible, otherwise partly cloudy... Tonight: Partly cloudy with late night fog possible... Tomorrow: Fair despite some patchy morning fog.

IDAHO'S FORECAST

SUN VALLEY, SURROUNDING MTS. Valley fog is possible each morning and night... BOISE Morning and late night fog will be quite common this weekend.



Weather key: sun/sunny; pc/partly cloudy; m/mostly cloudy; c/cloudy; th/thunderstorm; sh/snow; r/rain; a/snow, r/turns, w/wind, m/misgiving

Every Thursday in the Times-News Call Today 733-0931 or 677-4042

TWIN FALLS FIVE-DAY FORECAST

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

ALMANAC - TWIN FALLS

Table with 2 columns: Temperature, Precipitation, Humidity, Barometric Pressure. Includes historical and current data.

MOON PHASES

Table showing moon phases for Dec 18, 26, Jan 3, Jan 10. Includes Full Moon, Last Day, New Moon.

REGIONAL FORECAST

Large table with columns for City, Today, Tomorrow, Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday. Lists various Idaho cities and their weather forecasts.

Yesterday's Weather

Table with 2 columns: City, Hi Lo Precip. Lists weather for Boise, Burley, Chaffee, etc.

U.V. INDEX

Table with 2 columns: Low, Moderate, High. Includes a note about sun protection.

DayWeather, Inc.

The higher the index the more sun protection needed

NATIONAL FORECAST

Table with columns for City, Today, Tomorrow, Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday. Lists major US cities and their weather forecasts.

TODAY'S NATIONAL MAP



Valid to 6 p.m. today. Yesterday's National Extremes: High: 81 at Los Alamos, Calif. Low: 22 at Elmendorf, Alaska.

Senators defend Rumsfeld, under Republican criticism

WASHINGTON — The Senate's top two Republicans voiced support for Donald Rumsfeld on Friday as allies of the defense secretary sought to outflank increasingly vocal GOP critics in and out of Congress.

Comfort

Continued from A1. "I'm not a fan of Secretary Rumsfeld," said Sen. Trent Lott in remarks to the Bloxi, Miss. Chamber of Commerce this week.

AIDS

Continued from A1. In which case we would be the first to want them held accountable, said Zackie Achmat, head of the Treatment Action Campaign.

Fines

Continued from A1. Cheryle said she remembers paying that fine, too. Then she got her license renewed.

No proof

Even the IRS says you only need to hold on to records for seven years. So why does Twin Falls County assume people would keep receipts from more than a decade ago?

Activists in South Africa

Continued from A1. The van had one occupant and the bus had three, counting the driver. No one was injured, a police dispatcher said.

New law

Last year, the Idaho Legislature passed a new law that allows counties to contract with collection agencies to collect on outstanding debts.

Records

New Huff finds herself stuck between a rock and a hard place. "I'm frustrated," Huff said. "I feel I'm being forced to pay something I know I paid. But the burden of proof is on me and I don't pay it, it will be a warrant out for my arrest."

Van-hit school bus on Blue Lakes Boulevard

An article in Friday's newspaper contained an incorrect information about an accident on Blue Lakes Boulevard near Cheney Drive.

Circulation

Daniel Walock, director. Circulation phone lines are open between 7 and 10 a.m. only if you do not receive your paper by 7 a.m., call the number for your area.

Weather Information

Lottery and Weather Information are just a phone call away!

Subscription rates

Home delivery: daily and Sunday, \$4.35 per week. Saturday and Sunday only, \$2.50 per week.

Mail information

The Times-News (UPS #61-080) is published daily at 132 Fairfield St., Twin Falls, by Lee Publications Inc., a subsidiary of Lee Enterprises.

Lottery Information

Joanna Stumpf admits she was going through a rough patch 12 years ago when she was arrested for driving under the influence.

Norma Talamantes was born in Texas

An article published Thursday about Norma Talamantes contained incorrect information. The Cassin County sheriff's deputy was born in Texas.

Times-News telephone directory

- Circulation (Daniel Walock, Circulation Director) 733-0931, Ext. 1
Classified Advertising (Deby Johnson, Manager) Ext. 2
News Ext. 3
Retail Advertising (Mike Smith, Advertising Director) Ext. 4
Weekly (Lynn Griffin, General Manager) Ext. 5
Publisher Brad Hurd Ext. 449
Editor Chris Steinbach Ext. 735-3255

The Times-News NEW Information Line

735-3350. Lottery and Weather Information are just a phone call away! Includes icons for Lottery and Weather information.

Waste management

We print on recycled paper. Please recycle it again. Includes a recycling symbol.

CORRECTIONS

Van-hit school bus on Blue Lakes Boulevard. An article in Friday's newspaper contained an incorrect information about an accident on Blue Lakes Boulevard near Cheney Drive.

Bush signs bill overhauling intelligence system, hopes to improve spy network

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Bush on Friday signed into law the largest overhaul of U.S. intelligence gathering in 50 years, hoping to improve the spy network that failed to prevent the Sept. 11 attacks.

"Our vast intelligence enterprise will become more unified, coordinated and effective," Bush said. "It will enable us to better do our duty, which is to protect the American people."

The 563-page bill, which endured a thorny path to congressional passage, also aims to tighten borders and aviation security. It creates a federal counterterrorism center and a new intelligence director, but Bush did not announce a candidate for that post at Friday's ceremony.

"A key lesson of Sept. 11 is that America's intelligence agencies must work together as a single, unified enterprise," the president said.

Bush was joined at the signing ceremony by CIA Director Porter Goss, FBI Director Robert Mueller, members of Congress, leaders of the Sept. 11 commission and relatives of people killed on Sept. 11, 2001.

"Those charged with protecting America must have the best

possible intelligence information and that information must be closely integrated to form the best possible picture of the threats to our country," the president said.

The new position of national

intelligence director was one of the bill's most controversial aspects. Although the legislation gives the new director strong budget authority, there could be continued debate over the exact extent of the director's power.

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61												

Friday's Puzzle Solved

GRAPE	SEPT	SCAM										
YELLS	CREE	CANE										
MAMAS	RIDE	RIGS										
SILATE	LICE	PINES										
E	X	A	M	S	H	A	P	E	L	E	L	E
AURA	UP	START										
GROUPS	TALL	TWO										
ODD	OTHELLO	RIO										
GUS	FEER	WRAITH										
VERANDA	MOSS											
MONEYED	HYMN											
A	L	O	N	E	G	S	A	E	E	R	T	E
IDLE	SEAR	ASIDE										
MITE	PALM	LIBEL										
SEER	AREA	SASSY										

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3 Laundry problem	38 Skyrrocket	43 Identical	38 Striped equines	48 Form a secret merger?
4 Barracks bed	39 A-Team guy	13 Poetic form	40 Poker-pot	49 Torus-shaped treat
5 Prepared	40 Boxers' boundaries	24 Winery cask	41 Increases	50 High point
6 One who works at a trade	41 Yo-Yo Ma's instrument	26 Sounds good to me	42 Signal	51 Kind of sock
7 German one	42 Went up and down	28 Used the VCR	43 Barber at times	52 Wheels' connection
8 Mementos	44 Bath place	29 Chemical compound	44 Idiot boxes	53 Banns word
9 Marching band member	45 Calf fronts	30 "Finding..."	46 Rose essence	
10 Bout sites	46 Warded off	31 Jacket parts	47 Harmonic chord	
11 Poisonous fungus	47 Play the role of	32 Tackle box item		
12 VIP in Kuwait	52 Fedoras	33 Without a will		
13 Long for	54 One Guthrie	34 Racing publication		
14 Identical	55 Long for	35 Duck feathers		
15 Poetic form	56 Type of ladder			
16 Winery cask	57 Pecan, e.g.			
17 Sounds good to me	58 Make happy			
18 Used the VCR	59 Kwik-E-Mart merchant			
19 Chemical compound	60 Water pitchers			
20 Jacket parts	61 Succinct			
21 Tackle box item	62 Mil. unit			
22 Without a will				
23 Racing publication				
24 Duck feathers				

- ACROSS**
- 1 Fuel efficiency fig.
 - 4 "R.U.R." playwright
 - 9 Noggins
 - 14 "the land..."
 - 15 Stan's partner
 - 16 Coffee allure
 - 17 Dieter's concern
 - 19 Prepare to shoot again
 - 20 Ticklish doll
 - 21 Drain slowly
 - 22 Conductor Previn
 - 23 Come back in
 - 25 Soft drinks
 - 27 Pecan, e.g.
 - 28 Relaxes for a time
 - 31 Foreigner
 - 34 Capital of Senegal
 - 35 Solid yellow pool ball
 - 36 ___ of the litter
 - 37 Disney dwarf
 - 38 Skyrrocket
 - 39 A-Team guy
 - 40 Boxers' boundaries
 - 41 Yo-Yo Ma's instrument
 - 42 Went up and down
 - 44 Bath place
 - 45 Calf fronts
 - 46 Warded off
 - 50 Play the role of
 - 52 Fedoras
 - 54 One Guthrie
 - 55 Long for
 - 56 Type of ladder
 - 57 Pecan, e.g.
 - 58 Make happy
 - 60 Kwik-E-Mart merchant
 - 61 Water pitchers
 - 62 Succinct
 - 63 Mil. unit
- DOWN**
- 1 Lawn cutter
 - 2 "The Power of Positive Thinking" writer
 - 3 Laundry problem
 - 4 Barracks bed
 - 5 Prepared
 - 6 One who works at a trade
 - 7 German one
 - 8 Mementos
 - 9 Marching band member
 - 10 Bout sites
 - 11 Poisonous fungus
 - 12 VIP in Kuwait
 - 13 Long for
 - 14 Identical
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 - 56 Type of ladder
 - 57 Pecan, e.g.
 - 58 Make happy
 - 60 Water pitchers
 - 61 Succinct
 - 63 Mil. unit

Be careful with love, Pisces

You'll find your horoscope on page C4.

Karpation
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NATION

Eastern states fail EPA tests

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Environmental Protection Agency announced Friday that 225 counties in 20 states and the District of Columbia failed federal air standards because of microscopic soot from diesel-burning trucks, power plants and other sources.

All the states are east of the Mississippi — five except California and Montana. The counties have until 2010 to come into compliance, but before then may have to take steps to meet the government standard, such as modifying transportation plans or requiring new pollution controls when factories expand.

Outgoing EPA Administrator Mike Leavitt announced the list, which included 19 fewer counties than the agency identified in a preliminary report in June.

"This is not a story about the air getting dirtier," Leavitt said. "This is about tough standards and cleaner air."

The EPA in 1997 issued tougher standards for soot, for the first time regulating particles as small as 2.5 microns. But because of lengthy litigation it had yet to officially designate what areas violated the standard.

The states with counties in violation are Alabama, California, Connecticut, Delaware, Georgia, Illinois, Indiana, Kentucky, Maryland, Michigan, Missouri, Montana, New Jersey, New York, North Carolina, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Tennessee, Virginia and West Virginia.

Gay bishop puts forth concession

The Associated Press

As Anglicans around the world try to resolve their deep rift over homosexuality, the gay American bishop at the center of the fight is offering a concession to his critics.

New Hampshire Episcopal Bishop V. Gene Robinson said Friday that he has volunteered to reduce his role in one of the most important meetings of Anglican Communion leaders if it would mollify conservatives who believe his consecration violated Scripture.

The communion is the world-wide association of churches that trace their roots back to the church or "Angland," the Episcopal Church is the U.S. branch.

"I understand that my election and consecration has caused problems around the communion and I'm trying to be as sensitive to that reality as I can," Robinson said.

The meeting is a once-a-decade gathering called the Lambeth Conference, which brings together Anglican bishops from around the world. Many conservatives from Africa, Asia and elsewhere have said they would boycott the meeting if Robinson attended.

Arson-suspect was upset at employer

GREENBELT, Md. (AP) — A security guard accused of burning down homes at the suburban Washington housing development where he worked told investigators he was upset his employer did not show enough sympathy after his infant son died this year.

Aaron L. Speed, 21, who worked for Security Services of America, told police he left his job from August to December because of NSA's "indifference to the death of his infant son," according to court papers released Friday.

When asked by investigators what might have motivated him, Speed said: "Someone who works at the site and recently experienced a great loss."

A relative said Speed lost an infant son earlier this year.

Speed had been hired to protect the Hunters Brooke development, where a string of fires Dec. 6 destroyed 10 houses and damaged 16 others. Authorities said it was the biggest residential arson case in Maryland history, with damage at \$10 million. No one was hurt in the fires; many of the houses were under construction.



Berean Baptist Church
Christmas Eve Candelight Service
 7:30 PM
 Pastor Paul Kroeger
 175 2nd Ave. W. Wendell
 (behind the Masons) 536-5769

Grace Baptist Church
 798 Eastland Dr. N. Twin Falls, ID
 DEC. 19th 9:30AM
 Children's Sunday School Program
 6:30PM
 Christmas Drama "Goodwill To Men"
 DEC. 20th 7:00PM
 TFCA Winter Concert
 DEC. 21st 6:30PM
 Adult Caroling
 DEC. 24th 6:30PM
 Candelight Christmas Eve Service

Calvary Chapel of Buhl
 invites you to
"Country Candelight Christmas"
Christmas Eve Services
December 24 at 8:00 pm
 1004 Burley Ave. (old Ridley Bldg.)
 for more information call 543-9959

"Meet Me at the Manger"
 Children's Musical and Drama
 Sunday, Dec 5, 9:00am & 10:45am
 Bring singing and decoration ideas to help at Lighthouse Mission, we learn what it means to give up our wants and serve others.

Carols by Candlelight
 Sunday, Dec. 19, 7:00pm
 Celebrate the Christmas Season with an evening of traditional carols, vocal and instrumental specials, and a Christmas devotional.

Christmas Worship Service
 Sunday, Dec. 26, 9:00am & 10:45am
 Celebrate the Christmas Season in worship. Join your voice with our choir and orchestra as we add our "Hosannas" with the rest of the heavenly hosts! Find yourself encountering the newborn King and Pastor Jerry's special Christmas message.

Christmas Eve Communion Service
 Friday, Dec 24, 10:00pm
 Celebrate the meaning of the Christmas Season with family and friends as we take the opportunity to reflect on the birth of Jesus and share in communion.

Twin Falls Nazarene Church
 (west of CSI)
 1231 Washington Street North 733-6610

LIGHTHOUSE CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP
 PRESENTS...
Christmas Eve @ THE ROPER
 7:00 pm
 THE COMMUNITY IS INVITED!
 WORSHIP SERVICE & BIBLE STUDY @ The Roper 10:00 am Sunday, December 26th
 and don't miss...
ACOUSTIC CHRISTMAS
 Sunday, December 19th
 8:00, 9:30, 11:00 am
 259 Main Ave E.
 For more information call 208.737.4667

DECEMBER 19, 10:00 A.M.
Christmas Worship Service: "What Does Christmas Mean?"
 Special Music

DECEMBER 24, 9:00 P.M.
Christmas Eve Services ~ Candelight Communion Service with Carols

First Presbyterian Church
 209 Fifth Avenue N., Twin Falls (Behind the Courthouse) 733-7023

Crossroads United Methodist Church

Dec. 4 9 a.m. Annual Christmas brunch and Church adornment
 Dec. 5 10:30 a.m. Advent Worship
 Dec. 12 10:30 a.m. Advent Worship
 Special Music - Susan Brown Quartet
 Dec. 19 10:30 a.m. Advent Worship
 Special Children's program: The Nativity Story with Puppets
 "Mary Could Have Said 'No'" special play
 Special Music: Crossroads Praise Singers
 Dec. 24 6 p.m. Christmas Eve Service - Murtough Community Hall
 8 p.m. Christmas Candelight Service with Communion at Crossroads UMC in Kimberly.
 Dec. 25 Merry Christmas!!!
 Dec. 26 10:30 a.m. Christmas Worship
 Special Music: Burt Huth
 7:30 p.m. Veggie Service at Mt. View Care Center
 205 Madison St. E., Kimberly, ID 423-4311

Evening in December
 Dec 15-18
 with special guest... David Smith Nashville, TN
Call for ticket information: (208) 736-0727

Christmas Eve Candlelight Service
 December 24 6-7p.m.
AMAZING GRACE FELLOWSHIP
 1961 Eastland Dr. N. Twin Falls
 email: agf@ong.org

Advent & Christmas at First United Methodist Church
 "A place to Belong, Believe, and Grow"
 Pastor: Greg Lindsay • 360 Shoshone Street East • 733-5872 • Twin Falls, Idaho

December 19 ~ 3:00 PM Christmas Concert
 December 24
 7:00 PM Family Christmas Eve Services
 9:00 PM Candlelight Christmas Eve Service
 Sunday Services:
 Contemporary Worship Service 8:30 AM
 Sunday School 9:45 AM
 Traditional Worship with the Chancel Choir 11:00 AM

FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH
 601 Shoshone St. N. • Twin Falls • 733-2209

Christian Worship
 December 19th - 10:30 a.m.
Christian Soup & Chili Lunch
 December 19th - 12:30 p.m.
Living Nativity
 December 22, 23 & 24 - 6:30 p.m. - 9 p.m.
A Christmas Eve Candlelight Service & Children's Program
 December 24 - 7:30 p.m.

Valley Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)
 1708 Heyburn Ave. E. • Twin Falls, ID 83301
 733-3222 • Pastor John E. Babb

The Public is Warmly Invited to Share...

9:30 a.m. Bible Study each Sunday
Advent Services
 11:00 a.m. Sunday, Dec. 5, 12 & 19

Christmas Service
 Sunday, Dec. 26 11 a.m.
 Friday, Dec. 24 7 p.m.

Rock Creek Community Church
 Worshipping at 131 Grandview in Twin Falls
 In the shared facility of the Seventh Day Adventist Church on the hill, across from the hospital.

Dale R. Metzger - Pastor • 734-5268
Sunday School for all ages - 9 a.m. - Worship 10 a.m.

December 5th... Special Music - Heidi Schneidermann - Matthew Franz
 Communion Message - "They Presented Him Gifts"

December 12th... Special Music - Don Richards
 Pastor's Message - "Competing for Christ"
 Annual Caroling Party - Bus Leaves 2p.m. - return for small supper. Bus departs again at 6:30 pm. to view the Christmas lights.

December 19th... Special Music - The Maria Garret Trio
 R.C.C.C. Choir - Don Richards.
 Director Brady Jester
 Sunday School Christmas Presentation
 Pastor's Message "Immanuel"

December 24th... 7 pm. Traditional Christmas Eve Candlelight Service; a combined service with Twin Falls Seventh Day Adventist Church
 Lots of special music including the R.C.C.C. Choir
 Special Message by Pastor Dwayne Kluebsky - new pastor of the Seventh Day Adventist Church

NATION

Conductor kills himself at church

GARDEN GROVE, Calif. (AP) — The longtime conductor of the Crystal Cathedral Orchestra, a composer and arranger who worked with Celine Dion and John Tesh, shot himself to death at the soaring glass-and-steel church Friday after a nine-hour standoff that started just before a Christmas pageant was to begin.

Johnnie Carl, 57, got into an argument Thursday evening with another employee, went back to his office and fired four shots, then barricaded himself in a bathroom and committed suicide as police officers tried to talk to him, authorities said.

Carl, conductor at the cathedral for nearly 30 years, had grappled with depression. The 128-foot-high church, designed in part by the architect Philip Johnson and completed in 1980, is home to the Rev. Robert Schuller's Crystal Cathedral Ministries and claims a congregation of more than 10,000. Carl directed the music on Schuller's internationally televised "Hour of Power" broadcast from the cathedral.

Carl also arranged or recorded music for such artists as Dion, Tesh, Michael Crawford, the London Symphony and Lee Greenwood. He was an arranger and orchestrator on Tesh's "Live from Red Rocks" and was an arranger on Dion's Christmas special "These Are Special Times." Schuller spokesman—Michael—Nason said.

The 78-year-old Schuller came to the police command post set up near the cathedral late Thursday and taped a message for Carl, but police did not have the chance to play it to him.

Johnnie was a beloved member of our church family and close personal friend," Schuller said in a statement. "He was a creative genius whose beautiful arrangements and superb conducting set new levels of excellence for sacred music."

Nason said Carl had spoken about his depression in the past. Nason said Carl, a married father of three, had last talked to him about his troubles about a year ago — "just a sense of personal pressures, job, and things around him, dealing with people around him."

The first shots were fired less than two hours before the scheduled start of the cathedral's annual "Glory of Christmas" holiday show, for which Carl had arranged the pre-recorded music. Some 100 cast members were preparing for the first of Thursday's two programs, which include the cathedral's world-renowned pipe organ and a Nativity scene featuring live animals.

The programs were canceled Thursday but were scheduled to go on Friday. After the gunfire broke out, children in a day care center on the grounds were rushed to safety, while staff members and others were slowly evacuated.

David Hoffman, 52, of Front Royal, Va., was among hundreds of people from around the country who had come to see the show. He decided to fly out to California after watching Carl on the "Hour of Power."

Baby girl who was cut from womb is found

SKIDMORE, Mo. (AP) — A baby girl who apparently was cut from her mother's womb was found in good health Friday, a day after the slaying, and two people were in custody, authorities said.

Sheriff Ben Espy said authorities were awaiting DNA testing to confirm the newborn is the child of Bobbi Jo Simeett, 25, an eight-month pregnant factory worker found slain in her Missouri home Thursday. The child was found in neighboring eastern Kansas, state Bureau of Investigation spokesman—Kyle Smith said.

Missouri State Highway Patrol Sgt. Sheldon Lyon said authorities were questioning a man and a woman who were in the same place as where the baby was found. A red Honda hatchback matching a description offered earlier by police was in the driveway of the home.

Espy believes Simeett was likely strangled and resisted the attack. Authorities hoped that strands of hair found in the dead man's hands will help find the killers.

Beware of future retiree entitlements

CHEERS: To charitable organizations' Christmas efforts... The Christmas season would be as empty as a Sing-Sing stocking if it weren't for the efforts to give, feed, clothe and assist those less fortunate for any number of circumstances.

a problem for the private sector to solve - not local government. Maybe talking noticed how the "invisible hand" of market economics was pointing city gas customers the way out of town. Rather than be forced to prepay for their gas, many drivers have driven to Filer or Jerome to get their fuel. Just because one local gas station wants to mandate prepayment, doesn't mean they all should be required to do the same.



Cheers and Joers is a light-hearted weekly potluck of compliments and quibbles from the weekly headlines. Do you see an individual, group or organization worthy of some praise? Do you think some healthy criticism is warranted elsewhere? Send your suggestion for a cheer or a jeer to The Times-News at dcooper@magvalley.com and we'll throw it into the mix for our weekly feature.

Timmy Thompson announced his resignation as the day secretary of health and human services and, in the process, gave us a quick tutorial on why we can't solve the problem of exploding federal spending for retirement benefits - the nation's No. 1 budget problem.

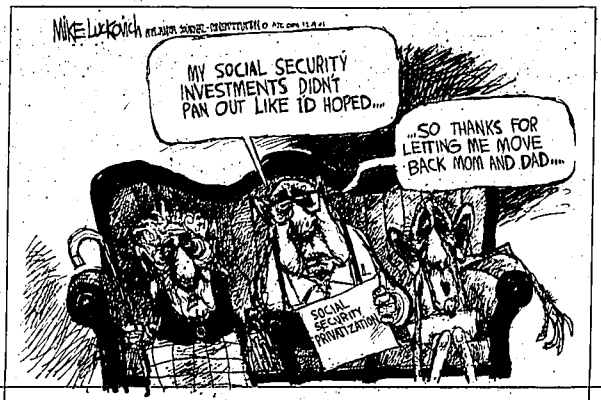


ROBERT SAMUELSON

We have a generation of politicians, of both parties and of whom Thompson is symbolic, who want to say "yes" to voters; yes, you can have what you want, and you can have it now. The solution to the problem requires leaders to say "no" to voters; no, you cannot have all the retirement benefits you've been promised or desired, because we can't afford that message, and our leaders don't dare deliver it.

The result is political double-speak that, on an abstract level, acknowledges the terrible problem of "entitlements" but, on a practical level, does nothing about it - or even makes it worse. At his news conference, Thompson was asked about his greatest accomplishment. "You got to put the complete overhaul of Medicare pretty much at the top of the list," he said. That would be the new Medicare drug benefit. Here is thunderous double-speak far from a triumph, the Medicare drug benefit is one of the worst pieces of social legislation in decades.

Let's see. Even before the drug benefit, the combined costs of Social Security, Medicare and Medicaid were projected to grow by about 80 percent, as a share of national income, by 2030. This implies huge tax increases, immense budget deficits or dramatic cuts in other government programs. The drug benefit merely adds to the costs. In 2006, Medicare will spend an average of \$2,069 on drug bills for each recipient, say Medicare's actuaries. By



2013, that reaches \$3,367... As baby boomers retire, Medicare drug spending rises rapidly. By 2030, it equals almost 2 percent of national income (gross domestic product), say the actuaries. That's more than \$200 billion annually in today's dollars for drugs alone.

Well, if the cost is staggering, at least the need must be overwhelming. Actually, it isn't. True, drug costs are rising the elderly pay more. But there's scant evidence that most Medicare recipients can't get the drugs they need.

Consider. Three-quarters of Americans over 65 already have some insurance for drugs. Medicaid often covers the poorest of the poor. For many elderly, drug costs aren't oppressive. About 10 percent have no drug costs at all, estimates the Congressional Budget Office. Another 29 percent have annual costs less than \$1,000. Only 28 percent have costs exceeding \$3,000. Those figures represent total costs, including what insurance pays. As for out-of-pocket drug spending, it averaged \$663 for people over 65 in 2000. In opinion surveys, only about 3 percent of Medicare beneficiaries say they can't get the drugs

prescribed for them - for economic or other reasons. Let it be said that there is a case for Medicare drug benefit covering truly catastrophic costs. But that benefit should have been a carrot for basic reforms, raising the eligibility age and slowly shifting more overall costs to retirees. No one attempted that bargain. The main result is to allow the elderly to spend more of their money on things they want by shifting the cost of drugs onto younger taxpayers.

What motivated this legislative atrocity? Here's Thompson's answer: "Seniors from Alaska to Florida demanded that we provide them a prescription drug benefit... we have delivered." One narrow lesson: be suspicious of the Bush administration's forthcoming proposals for Social Security "personal accounts." If the drug benefit is any guide, the motives are mainly political.

The larger lesson is that Americans are living in a self-created culture of delusion. The central truth about retirement "entitlements" is this: the only guaranteed way to cut spending growth is to cut benefits. But this truth is unspeakable, and so no one speaks it. In this

climate, Thompson's self-serving boast passes as a plausible claim when it's actually an absurdity.

There's a compartmentalization of thought and conversation. Rapid spending growth is considered "bad," but anything that might cut that growth can't be discussed. By and large, the news media abide by this protocol of deception. Not surprisingly, news coverage of the Medicare drug debate was abysmally one-sided. Hardly anyone mentioned who would pay the long-term costs or asked whether the benefit was justified. Meanwhile, a drumbeat of other stories deplored present and future budget deficits. The inconsistency was glaring. In wealthy democracies, welfare states all - individual benefits once conferred are considered sacrosanct, but when their total costs threaten for excessive growth, they must somehow be controlled. There's the paralyzing contradiction. The politics of "yes" must ultimately yield to the politics of "no" - and the longer it's delayed, the more painful it will be.

Robert Samuelson is a columnist for Newsweek.

Numerous other groups join in the merry tidings of charity as well.

The Bad West End Ministerial Association takes donations of food, money, clothes and toys to help local families across the county. The East End Providers seek similar families in the Hansen, Murtaugh and Kinley areas. The Valley Community Helpers find ways to distribute goods in Jerome County.

And school children across the Magic Valley all pitch in with canned food drives that are used by the Idaho Food Bank and other organizations to feed the hungry, not just for Christmas, but all year long. Those are just a few of the many elves who are making the most of good tidings and cheer.

JEERS: To the rash of holiday thieves. Earlier this month Twin Falls police received a flood of news tips about a single case of purse snatching that occurred in a local grocery store. The suspect later called police to confess, and was charged with one count of burglary.

On the holidays are a busy time for other shoplifters, burglars, and other thieves. In recent years, police have even been notified of petty pilferers cracking open mailboxes, to pinch loose checks or cash commonly sent during the holidays.

Perhaps one way to give to those around you is to lend your eyes and ears during the Christmas celebration. In addition to protecting your own wallet, checkbook or credit cards, be on the lookout for those stealing away goods in stores or neighborhoods. Otherwise, we all pay at the cashier.

headed for greener pastures on Dec. 31, as they put a No. 10 national ranking and an undebated season on the line against No. 7 Louisville in the Memphis, Tenn. Liberty Bowl. Many fans had lofty expectations for a "birth in the prestigious, and very prestigious, Bowl Championship Series. But BSU's climb upward is nonetheless an impressive success story. Coach Dan Hawkins has taken the program to new levels of success with an 11-0 record and one of the most exciting offenses in the game.

The Gem State has much to boast of with this crew of players. It puts our state and capital city on the map in a positive fashion. And representing the Magic Valley is Bronco starting linebacker Corey Hall, a former standout at Glenn Ferry. A Bronco victory on New Year's Eve would be a huge step forward for the state and BSU's program.

JEERS: To bureaucratic delays in the animal ID system. One year after a case of mad cow disease brought the domestic beef industry to collective hooves, progress on a national ID system for animals in the American food system has only crept along. Lawmakers and producers were understandably hesitant to move forward on the ID proposals last year. Implementing a system of bar codes for ear tags, or even microchips, would carry an extremely high cost that is passed on to the consumer.

National groups, including members of the National Cattlemen's Beef Association, have plugged a private sector animal ID system, which they say would be more responsive to a federal regulatory program. But the campaign for identifying animals is bogging down. In spite of millions of dollars spent on pilot projects here.

The private sector and the U.S. Department of Agriculture, the campaign has suffered. Consumers will certainly approve of a system that quickly identifies a sick animal's origin in a matter of days, not weeks. Ultimately, that's good for the cattle industry's profits as well.

White House reverses tough stance on U.N.

The recently re-elected administration broke faith with its supporters last week by seeking re-approval of Kofi Annan as U.N. secretary general. Voters who believed that President Bush shared their core values have discovered that he has joined such radical leftists as Rep. Dennis Kucinich, D-Ohio, in declaring the Annan shield in office. The most recent revelations regarding the U.N. "oil for food" program suggest corruption and payoffs leading through Annan's son directly back to the secretary general's doorstep. Keeping Annan in office is like putting Michael Jackson in charge of a children's day care.

Despite the administration's go-it-alone bluster regarding invading Iraq, we shouldn't lose sight of the fact that it continues to declare that it was done to enforce existing U.N. resolutions. The administration also has pressed unceasingly for ratification of the Central American Free Trade Agreement and the Free Trade Area of the Americas. These treaties, together with the infamous North American Free Trade Agreement treaty (locally referred to as SHAFIA) form a triad of agreements which are misdescribed as dealing with matters of free international trade. In reality, they contain tight regulations on trade, creating special international courts to decide trade issues. Their jurisdictions are

made superior to and actually displace the jurisdictions of American courts in certain kinds of cases. The treaties also provide for formalizing open borders, allowing unrestrained migration. They provide other compromises in national sovereignty.

NAFTA is responsible for the overseas flight of jobs and manufacturing and our burgeoning trade deficit (nearly \$55 billion last month alone). The CAFTA and FTA agreements are NAFTA on steroids.

Despite the headline stories of the U.N.'s record of graft, fraud, duplicity, neglect and arrogance, the triad of agreements contain language placing them under the U.N. Charter. Yet, the administration seeks CAFTA and FTA ratification.

Sadly, members of Idaho's congressional delegation have taken leadership positions in support of legislation granting amnesty to illegal aliens. The bill is an integral part of the U.N. package. The United Nations and its regional agreements are to American interests what Scott Peterson is to family life. We need to get out of the international organization.

GEORGE DETWEILER Twin Falls Good work on crossword, and Shoshone story. Kudos to the new, larger format on the crossword puzzles. I'm sure the crossword puzzle fans will appreciate this change. Congratulations to Virginia Hutchins on the excellent

human interest story on Shoshone. Idaho. It would be nice if a similar article could be done on other small southern Idaho towns.

Please continue to wish your friends "Merry Christmas," even if it isn't politically correct. Why should we be asked to change the way we live and what we say?

JESSE POSEY Kimberly

'Whining' will continue against faulty leaders

So, Ms. Rooney, you find insulting people "amusing." You find it "amusing" to label people as "whiners" when they disagree with you. You find it "amusing" that this country is divided and that there is no need to compromise. I wish I could find this amusing.

Being a "whiner" myself, I see nothing wrong with people speaking about their concerns as to how the administration is conducting business. If the Democrats had won the election, I have no doubt, Ms. Rooney, you would be one of our "whiners."

If it is facts that you want, read the study by the Program on International Policy Attitudes. It shows that a large majority of Bush supporters (72 percent) held the belief that Iraq had weapons of mass destruction, which, according to the 9/11 Commission, was not true. Also, read the report by Charles Diefel, the administration's hand-picked weapons inspector. It concluded that Iraq did not produce or possess any

weapons of mass destruction for more than a decade before the war. This administration took us into a war under false pretenses. Pure and simple.

I did not vote for George Bush for many reasons. If he would take a deep breath and admit that mistakes were made, maybe I could conjure up some respect for him. He takes the moralistic high ground on the right to life, but lives are lost daily. He also has no tolerance of individual choices while claiming to be a Christian. There is no tolerance of people in his own administration if their opinions differ from his. We are witnessing that he surrounds himself with "yes" people - people who would never question his decisions. The list goes on.

Then there is Vice President Cheney. He's the same Dick Cheney who voted against the Equal Rights Amendment. Voted against funding for the Head Start program. Voted against funding for abortion - even in cases of rape and incest. Again, the list goes on.

I'm happy for you, Ms. Rooney; that you are content with your president. I wish I could feel the same so you couldn't label me a "whiner," but I will keep on "whining" as long as I feel it is necessary. I hope that you would do the same if you had any misgivings. Just remember, it's easy to be smug when you are on the winning side, but it's not all that becoming. SHIRLEY G. BINGHAM Dietrich

The Times-News

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

Doonesbury

By Gary Trudeau

Mallard Fillmore

By Bruce Tinsley



WORLD

Leader says Sharon could disrupt talks

JERUSALEM — Palestinian leader Mahmoud Abbas, the leading contender to succeed Yasser Arafat, said Friday that Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon's hope of annexing West Bank settlements and keeping all of Jerusalem in a final peace deal is a disaster that could torpedo efforts to restart peace talks.

Abbas' comments came as Israeli troops raided the Khan Younis refugee camp in retaliation for recent Palestinian mortar attacks, killing eight Palestinians, including at least five gunmen, in the deadliest day of fighting since Arafat's death last month.

The violence and the disagreement over a peace plan were reminders of the obstacles ahead despite the rare feeling of optimism that has swept the region since Arafat's death, with both Israelis and Palestinians calling for new negotiations to end their conflict.

World in brief

Parliament Speaker Ricardo Alarcon called the display "rubbish" on Wednesday and said Cason seemed "desperate to create problems." No other Cuban officials have commented.

—compiled from wire reports

Real or fake

Join the heated debate over Christmas trees. Sunday in The Times-News

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Expert says Yushchenko was poisoned by TCDD

LONDON — Ukrainian presidential candidate Viktor Yushchenko was poisoned with TCDD, the most harmful known dioxin and one contained in Agent Orange, a scientist who analyzed his blood said Friday.

The tests showed the TCDD was pure and must have been concocted in a laboratory, lead investigator Abraham Brouwer told The Associated Press. The tests, confirmed by three labs in the Netherlands and Germany, also confirmed that Yushchenko's blood contained 100,000 units of the poison, the second-highest concentration on record.



Viktor Yushchenko

Storm with strong winds lashes northern France

PARIS — A powerful storm packing hurricane-force winds lashed northern France on Friday, killing at least six people — some crushed by flying trees — and forcing officials to close the Eiffel Tower and the famed Paris parks.

At least six people were reported injured from Normandy to Paris. Three people were reported missing in the western city of Brest, in Brittany. Winds of up to 80 mph delayed flights out of Paris, cut electricity to some 220,000 homes and damaged cars, scaffolding and other property, officials said.

Afghan soldiers storm jail, ending standoff

KABUL, Afghanistan — Afghan troops stormed a notorious prison in a hall of gunfire and rocket-propelled grenades Friday, ending a 10-hour standoff that began when four inmates once suspected of belonging to al-Qaida tried to escape. Four inmates and four guards were killed in the day's violence.

Cuba strikes back at American mission

HAVANA — Cuba retaliated for the U.S. diplomatic mission's Christmas display supporting Cuban dissidents by putting up a billboard Friday emblazoned with photographs of American soldiers abusing Iraqi prisoners and a huge swastika overlaid with a "Made in the U.S.A." stamp.

The billboard, erected overnight facing the U.S. Interest Section's offices, stands on the Malecon, Havana's famed coastal highway. A diplomat at the mission noted the abuse of prisoners at Iraq's Abu Ghraib prison had been widely reported and discussed openly and said those responsible were being prosecuted.

"On the other hand, the Cuban government does not allow a single word of dissent in its media, jails those who dare espouse different ideas and has not allowed (anyone) to visit Cuban political prisoners since the late 1980s," said the official, who spoke on condition of anonymity because of the mission's diplomatic status.

The U.S. mission, headed by James Cason, rejected a demand this week to remove Christmas decorations that included a reference to dissidents jailed by Fidel Castro's government.

The trimmings included a Santa Claus, candy canes and white lights wrapped around palm trees — and a sign reading "75," a reference to the 75 Cuban dissidents jailed last year.



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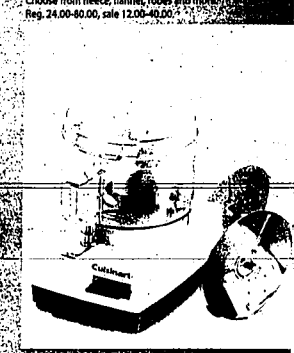
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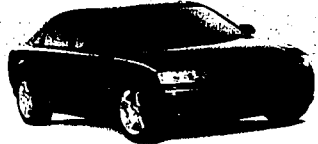
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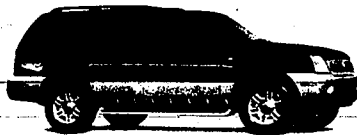


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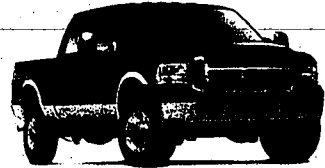
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This week's edition of YourSports.

SPORTS

Local sports... Scores and stats... College football

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

MORNING LINE

SPORTSQUOTE

I don't think there's too many businesses out there that don't have to set their own budgets and don't have to be responsible...

Trevor Linden, NHLPA president, who argues the owners should not need a salary cap

TRIVIA QUESTION

What NFL player or players has a mother who worked as a coal-miner? Name him or them.

TODAY'S SCHEDULE

HS Boys Basketball

Jermine at Filler, 6 p.m. Deelo at Gooding, 6 p.m. Timberline at Twin Falls, 6 p.m. Minico at Righy, 6 p.m.

HS Girls Basketball

Gooding at Wood River, 6 p.m. Richfield at Oakley, 6 p.m.

HS Wrestling

Bearcat Invite, Jerome and Twin Falls, 9 a.m.

College Men's Basketball

CSU at Scottsdale, C.C. 6:30 p.m.

IN BRIEF

Orgerson: behavior is behind him

OXFORD, Miss. — New Mississippi coach Ed Orgerson was chastised with repeated domestic violence more than a decade ago...

Trivia Answer

Julius Jones (Dallas Cowboys) and his brother Thomas Jones (Chicago Bears), of Big Stone Gap, Va. Their mother is Betty Jones...

Jerome, Kimberly tie for second

Action was sparse at Bear-Cat on Day 1

By Eric Larsen Times-News writer JEROME — The annual Bear-Cat Invitational Wrestling Tournament may only be half-finished...

day's first round as the tournament waded through a number of forfeits. Highland's Josh Hall kicked off the action in bout 2 of the night...



Jerome Tigers heavyweight wrestler Jordan Jackson attempts to turn American Falls' Martin Gallegos during Friday's quarterfinal round of Bear-Cat Invitational Wrestling Tournament...

Bruins' 3-point barrage buries Braves

Hobbs resurrects GW into the Top 25

By Nathaniel Garrabrapt Times-News writer

TWIN FALLS — The Braves may have traveled from the state capital, but they didn't bring much authority to Bann Gymnasium...



Bruins forward Brandon Stokes grabs a rebound while under pressure from Boise defender Dillon Monteith during the first quarter of their 5A boys basketball game in Twin Falls Friday...

In the end, practice is what it seemed, but Bruin guard Mike Smith looked warmed up from the outset, going 8-for-11 shooting...

The game had started out at an even pace with Twin Falls up 10-9 midway through the first quarter. Then Smith and the Bruins found their groove.

Hobbs resurrects GW into the Top 25

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Three years ago, the best reason to go to a George Washington basketball game was to watch first-year coach Karl Hobbs throw a tantrum...

lins' 19 points for the quarter to keep things in check.

second chance points. Much of the credit went to 6-2 junior Brandon Stokes...

points, not six as reported.

With 33 seconds remaining in the second quarter, the game was unofficially sealed as Todd Cook pitched a 20-foot pass to Brady Jardine...

Defenses don't know what to do.

Note: Mitch Smith is serving a suspension for violating team rules. Also, in Thursday's girls game...

Jardine would end the night with 12 points and five rebounds.

That's the thing about this team," said Smith. "Every night it's different guys that step up.

Key to McElliney's early success has been a 10-man team that cares more about her as a person than as a woman.

Off to a winning start

First woman coach of men's pro team is no publicity stunt

By Teresa M. Walker Associated Press writer

NASHVILLE, Tenn. — Maybe she can coach after all.



Nashville Rhythm head coach Ashley McElliney, right, coaches her league-leading scorer Donae Jones during a game against the Boston Frenzy in Nashville, Tenn., Dec. 10.

Critics scoffed when Ashley McElliney was selected as the first female coach of a men's pro basketball team.

would have done something really wacky," Bucher said.

"I got the guy in a bear hug and when I took him down, I guess I knocked him out," Jackson said.

McElliney turned 23 in July and had never coached before taking this job...

Owner Sally Anthony, a singer who also has her own record label, and a WolfSite promoting female artists, wanted to hire a woman to break down another barrier.

Key to McElliney's early success has been a 10-man team that cares more about her as a person than as a woman.

It really doesn't matter right now," McElliney said. "To me and my players right now, I am just the coach.

General manager Daniel Bucher insists they found the right person for this market.

McEl hit with a 3-point shot in the game at 73-41 with 3:58 remaining. CSI went on a 7-0 run to go ahead 80-73 after a pair of Mohamed Kone free throws.

"I honestly, it really doesn't matter right now," McElliney said.

"If it was a publicity stunt, we would have done something really wacky," Bucher said.

CSI men avoid upset, 90-83

The Times-News

Travis Galibidon added 16 points for the Eagles while Brown had 15.

SCOTTSDALE, Ariz. — The College of Southern Idaho men's basketball team must have felt like it was playing the NBA's Suns and not the Bears.

Each finished with 10 points. Willette pined the Bears with 23 while Brown and David Lopez each added 18.

Phoenix College, just 1-7 entering the game, gave the Golden Eagles all they could handle in CSI's 90-83 win Friday on the opening night of the Scottsdale Community College Classic in Scottsdale, Ariz.

Phoenix College took advantage of a lackluster effort from the Eagles in the first half, jumping out to a 10-0 lead.

Fourth-ranked CSI (13-0) trailed for much of the game and didn't take control until the first minutes. After Phoenix's Jeff Baron hit a 3-pointer to tie the game at 73-41 with 3:58 remaining...

They outplayed us for 20 minutes," Arnold said. "That's the first time someone came out and played harder than us and outplayed us."

Kone led CSI with 23 points, 19 of which came after halftime, and 13 rebounds.

"We took the first 20 minutes off. I hope we never see that team again."

Kone led CSI with 23 points, 19 of which came after halftime, and 13 rebounds.

"We look forward to the tournament against host Scottsdale CC at 7:30 tonight. The game can be heard on KTFI AM 1270. The Eagles will finish up their road trip in Arizona on Monday, traveling to Mesa to face Mesa CC."

"Mo put us on his back tonight and won the game for us," CSI head coach Gib Arnold said.

CSI head coach Gib Arnold said.

SPORTS

MLB teams keep working on big deal

NEW YORK (AP) — The New York Yankees, Arizona and Los Angeles spent Friday trying to put the finishing touches on the megadeal that would move All-Stars Randy Johnson, Shawn Green and Johan Santana...

have no-trade clauses. While Johnson wants to play for the Yankees, Green may want to stay close to home in Southern California. At 41, Johnson is owed \$16 million in the last year of his contract...

Hobbs

Continued from B1 the season. Not so fast, said Hobbs. "We have yet to go to Dayton and even in the game, forget the game," Hobbs said...

and confident that he would eventually make the team a winner. He was pleasantly surprised. Hobbs had to go far and wide to find the right players...

Coach

Continued from B1 The biggest signing was Donnell Brown, the 21st overall pick in the 1996 draft by the New York Yankees. Out of the NBA since 1999, Jones had been playing around the world the past few years...

tickets at a corporate counter at a Maryland airport. "The ticket counter lady said, 'My ticket is for the baseball team,'" I didn't say anything...

Porter poses on points to down Shoshone

The Times-News

SHOSHONE — Freshman Tyler Porter scored six of his eight points in overtime to lift Dietrich to a 48-39 win over host Shoshone...

Dietrich 48, Shoshone 39, OT
Dietrich: 19 11 15 40 48
Shoshone: 10 12 12 15 39

North Gem 47, TFCA 40

TWIN FALLS — Twin Falls Christian Academy made 1-of-12 field goals to defeat TFCA in the first quarter and shot just 27 percent for the game in falling 47-40 to North Gem.

Buhl 63, Filer 58

Buhl (1) — Buhl held off a Filer rally to win its Sawtooth Central Idaho conference opener (53-50) Friday night behind 19 points from Perry Hamilton...

Carey 59, Community School 52

CAREY — Tyler Cook scored 19 points, including four 3-pointers, while Todd Green added 10 points and 10 rebounds to lead Carey past The Community School 59-52 Friday night...

Snake River 51, Declo 42

MORELAND — Snake River hits its free throws down the stretch to hold off Declo 51-42 Friday night...

Jerome

Jackson was awarded the match by default due to the injury. The Tigers grappler had to work a bit harder in Round 2 against American Falls Martin Gallegos...

Local sports

Snake River 51, Declo 42

Declo: 19 11 15 40 48
Snake River: 10 12 12 15 39

Kimberly 63, Gooding 41

GOODING — Darin Musser-pumped in 18 points while Daniel Butcher added 11 and JJ Shaver 13 as Kimberly downed Gooding in Sawtooth Central Idaho Conference play Friday night...

Raft River 55, Hagerman 53

HAGERMAN — Raft River 55, Hagerman 53 in a close battle Friday night...

M.V. Christian 76, Murtaugh 39

MURTAUGH — Senior guard Cody Griffith paced Magic Valley Southside Conference win over Murtaugh Friday night...

Buhl 63, Filer 58

Buhl (1) — Buhl held off a Filer rally to win its Sawtooth Central Idaho conference opener (53-50) Friday night behind 19 points from Perry Hamilton...

Buhl 63, Filer 58

Buhl (1) — Buhl held off a Filer rally to win its Sawtooth Central Idaho conference opener (53-50) Friday night behind 19 points from Perry Hamilton...

Richfield 61, Bliss 29

BLISS — Richfield (6-0) improved to 3-0 in the Magic Valley-Northside Conference with Friday night's 61-29 win over the host Bliss-Bears...

Richfield 61, Bliss 29

Richfield (6) — Richfield (6-0) improved to 3-0 in the Magic Valley-Northside Conference with Friday night's 61-29 win over the host Bliss-Bears...

Raft-River-55, Hagerman 53

MALIA — Thanks in part to 28 points from senior post Braden Barrett, the Raft River Trojans held off the visiting Hagerman Pirates 55-53 Friday night in Magic Valley Southside Conference action. The Trojans (5-1, 2-1) overcame a 37-point...

outburst by Hagerman's Skyler

"He was unreal," Trojans coach Jeff Greenwood said. "He was converting on everything he put up."

Kimberly 63, Gooding 41

GOODING — Darin Musser-pumped in 18 points while Daniel Butcher added 11 and JJ Shaver 13 as Kimberly downed Gooding in Sawtooth Central Idaho Conference play Friday night...

Raft River 55, Hagerman 53

HAGERMAN — Raft River 55, Hagerman 53 in a close battle Friday night...

M.V. Christian 76, Murtaugh 39

MURTAUGH — Senior guard Cody Griffith paced Magic Valley Southside Conference win over Murtaugh Friday night...

Buhl 63, Filer 58

Buhl (1) — Buhl held off a Filer rally to win its Sawtooth Central Idaho conference opener (53-50) Friday night behind 19 points from Perry Hamilton...

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Richfield 61, Bliss 29

BLISS — Richfield (6-0) improved to 3-0 in the Magic Valley-Northside Conference with Friday night's 61-29 win over the host Bliss-Bears...

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Raft-River-55, Hagerman 53

MALIA — Thanks in part to 28 points from senior post Braden Barrett, the Raft River Trojans held off the visiting Hagerman Pirates 55-53 Friday night in Magic Valley Southside Conference action. The Trojans (5-1, 2-1) overcame a 37-point...

to 6-1 as it defeated Wood River

in a Great Basin West Conference game Friday night. Sophomore Jessica Brice had 13 points for the Lady Bobcats (2-1 conference) and junior Ashley Ibsenhusen followed with 11 points.

Burley 41, Wood River 35

WOOD RIVER — Burley 41, Wood River 35 in a non-conference game at Century on Tuesday night.

Minico 59, Jerome 29

RUBERT — Minico shared the scoring duties as it cruised past Jerome 59-29 to improve to 3-0 in the Great Basin Conference West.

Filer 73, Glenns Ferry 62

GLENN'S FERRY — Lindsay Heimkes scored 26 points, 21 in the second half, and Jenicka Meacham added 18 as Filer out-bounced Glenns Ferry 73-62.

Filer 73, Glenns Ferry 62

Minico (10, 1-3) hosts Twin Falls High Tuesday. No boxscore available.

Filer 73, Glenns Ferry 62

GLENN'S FERRY — Lindsay Heimkes scored 26 points, 21 in the second half, and Jenicka Meacham added 18 as Filer out-bounced Glenns Ferry 73-62.

Carey 47, Community School 33

CAREY — Center Jackie Goddard scored 29 of the 33 points for the Community School but it wasn't enough as Carey capped the Cathrothers, 47-33.

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Girls basketball

Burley 41, Wood River 35
BURLY — Burley improved to 6-1 as it defeated Wood River in a Great Basin West Conference game Friday night.

Semifinal pairings

The Minico Spartans finished Friday fifth in the team standings with 42.5 points while Gooding is in seventh with 24.5.

Team scores

1. Declo 51, Snake River 42
2. Kimberly 63, Gooding 41
3. Raft River 55, Hagerman 53
4. M.V. Christian 76, Murtaugh 39
5. Buhl 63, Filer 58
6. Richfield 61, Bliss 29
7. Raft-River-55, Hagerman 53

Coming Sunday: TFHS wrestling coach's knowledge, passion sparks program.

SPORTS IN BRIEF

Elke Hoop Shoot planned for today

TWIN FALLS — The Snake River Elks will hold the annual Elks Lodge Hoop Shoot...

Lowie and I were not signed,

Martinez said. The three-time Cy Young Award winner said the Mets have shown more respect in...

Indiana hires Hoopner as football coach

BLOOMINGTON, Ind. — Miami of Ohio's Terry Hoopner was hired as Indiana's football coach Friday...

Browns gain 9 yards with statistics change

CLEVELAND — The Cleveland Browns' offense was pretty awful last weekend, just not quite as awful as everyone thought...

Raptors trade Carter to New Jersey Nets

INDIANAPOLIS — All-Star Vince Carter was traded by the Toronto Raptors to the New Jersey Nets for Alonzo Mourning...

Browns gain 9 yards with statistics change

CLEVELAND — The Cleveland Browns' offense was pretty awful last weekend, just not quite as awful as everyone thought...

Linfin, Hardin-Baylor to Division III title

SALEM, Va. — Brett Elliott wanted to play football so much, he left Utah for Division III Linfield and a chance to finish his senior season...

Karl Dorrell gets two-year extension

LOS ANGELES — Second-year UCLA coach Karl Dorrell's contract was extended for two years Friday...

Pedro comes home and bashes Boston

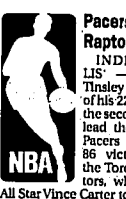
SANTO DOMINGO, Dominican Republic — Pedro Martinez returned home Friday and bashed the team he led to a World Series title...

NFL hits Plummer with \$5,000 fine

DENVER — Broncos quarterback Jake Plummer was fined \$5,000 by the NFL on Friday for making an obscene gesture...

Celtics shoot past Jazz, 114-106

BOSTON (AP) — Gary Payton scored a season-high 27 points and added 11 assists and the Boston Celtics beat the Utah Jazz 114-106 Friday night...



Paeters 89, Raptors 86 INDIANAPOLIS — Jamal Tinsley scored 17 of his 22 points in the second half...

place Carter, scoring 23 points, but it wasn't enough against Indiana, which trailed by as many as 13 in the first half before Tinsley led the comeback...

scored 23 points and Darluis Saccharibac secured a season-high 29 points, including 11 in the third quarter...

Scores and Stats

WHAT'S ON T.V.

Table listing TV schedules for Basketball, Boxing, Football, and Volleyball, including times and networks.

Area ski report

Area ski report: Snow totals, lift operations, and conditions at local ski resorts.

Football

Table listing NFL game results and standings for various teams.

Ridley's College Basketball Scores

Table listing scores for various college basketball games.

High School Basketball

Table listing scores for various high school basketball games.

Basketball

Table listing NBA game results and standings.

Baseball

Table listing MLB game results and standings.

Baseball

Table listing MLB game results and standings.

Baseball

Table listing MLB game results and standings.

Baseball

Table listing MLB game results and standings.

Baseball

Table listing MLB game results and standings.

Easing up:
Panel recommends
loosening the shot
restrictions.

MAGIC VALLEY

INSIDE

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Morning break C4-5
Idaho/West C6

Assistant City Editor: Troy Foster, 735-3204

The Times-News

Saturday, December 18, 2004

Section C

YOUR WEEKEND



Holiday songs

- What: Company of Fools will present his Fools Holiday Songbook.
- Where: Liberty Theater, 1141 E. 1st.
- When: 7 p.m. today and 3 p.m. Sunday (the production continues Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday nights).
- How much: 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.

Community sing

- What: The Christmas Cantata, a concert featuring Gooding residents under the direction of Rick Strickland, will be held tonight and Sunday.
- Where: Schubert Theater, Gooding.
- When: 8 p.m. today and 3 p.m. Sunday.
- How much: Admission is by donation.

Caroling alfresco

- What: The Magic Valley Carolers, under the direction of Roger Vincent, will perform the fourth and final Advent-season concert.
- Where: Band shell Twin Falls City Park.
- When: 5 p.m. Sunday.
- How much: It's free.

Not too late

- What: The Twin Falls Soroptimists will sponsor their Procrastinators Christmas Craft Show.
- Where: Independent Order of Odd Fellows Hall, next to the Filer Public Library.
- When: 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. today.
- How much: It's free.

Planetarium Yule

- What: The Faulkner Planetarium will present the multi-media shows, Mannheim Steamroller's "Steamrolling Through the Holidays" and "The Christmas Star."
- Where: Herrett Center for Arts and Science on the campus of the College of Southern Idaho in Twin Falls.
- When: "Steamrolling" will be shown at 8:15 p.m. today. "The Christmas Star" at 2 and 7 p.m. today.
- How much: Tickets are \$4 for adults, \$3 for senior citizens, \$2 for students and \$9 for families. No one under 4 is admitted.

Holiday dance

- What: The Twin Falls Senior Citizens Center will hold a dance on Sunday, featuring the Melody Masters.
- Where: Twin Falls Senior Center, 530 Shoshone St. W.
- When: 2 to 5 p.m.
- How much: Cost is \$4.

Snowpack levels

Watershed	% of Avg.	% of Peak
Salmon	95%	25%
Big Wood	91%	28%
Little Wood	88%	28%
Little Lost	84%	27%
Henry Fork/Tyton	89%	28%
Upper Snake Basin	81%	28%
Oakley	121%	33%
Salmon Falls	107%	31%

As of Dec. 17

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

'Expert' witness gets probation

By Chip Thompson
Times-News writer

BUTLEY — An expert witness who testified on behalf of the defense during the February 2000 trial of former Turley doctor Charles Suits was sentenced to two years' supervised probation Friday for perjury.

His exact crime? Falsely stating his qualifications as a witness.

Audio engineer Edward Wolfrum, of Royal Oak, Mich., was arrested Jan. 5, 2001, for claiming under oath that he had

received degrees from Wayne State University, the University of Michigan and the Michigan Institute of Technology.

After FBI officials questioned the validity of Wolfrum's educational credentials, the Cassia County Sheriff's Department contacted the institutions, and affidavits from all three indicated that Wolfrum neither attended nor received degrees from the universities.

Wolfrum's testimony centered around the integrity of audio tapes made by the sheriff's department and presented

as evidence by prosecutors. He asserted that police had tampered with the tapes, supporting Suits' claim that investigators were trying to frame him.

Suits was convicted of methamphetamine possession after being caught in 1999 writing a prescription for the narcotic Vicodin in exchange for the drug. He was sentenced to three years' probation, which was extended to four years after a probation violation. He also had his medical license suspended for five years.

- **Last we knew:** Edward Wolfrum, an expert defense witness in the February 2000 trial of Dr. Charles Suits, was found guilty of perjury by a jury on July 13 for overstating his qualifications.
- **The latest:** Wolfrum was sentenced Friday to one year in

prison but the sentence was suspended and he was placed on two years' supervised probation.

Tracker

What's next: Wolfrum will likely serve his probation in his home state of Michigan but could be returned to Idaho to serve prison time if he violates the terms of probation.

In addition to probation, Wolfrum was ordered to pay \$750. Please see WITNESS, Page C7

District looks to election

By John E. Swayze
Times-News correspondent

FILER — The debate over school district boundaries may soon be over.

Superintendent John Graham told the Filer School Board this week that an election will determine whether the Filer School District's current boundary of 2450 East will be extended to 4000 North 2500 East.

Since September 2002, an agreement between the Filer and Twin Falls school districts has allowed Filer buses to drive the half mile out of district boundaries to pick up students.

About 85 percent of the 60 or 70 students who live in this area currently attend schools in Filer.

Though the county has not set an election date, within the next 60 days those families will be asked to decide.

If the boundary extension is approved, about \$2 million in property values will be transferred to the district.

"I don't know how long it will take effect but it means we'll get more money locally and less money from the state," Graham said.

District Business Manager Kermit Lear reported that the Twin Falls Canal Co. approved an application to increase the high schools' water allotment from 34 to 42 shares.

The additional eight shares were transferred from property on Fair Avenue and Bayborna Circle that the school district no longer owns.

"I don't know how long we've been paying for but never got to use them," Lear said. "And with all the development that's going on over at the high school, that's probably the best place to put them."

Development on the high school campus includes a track facility and future plans for softball and baseball fields.

In other business, the board also approved a tentative agreement with Lighthouse Christian School in Twin Falls.

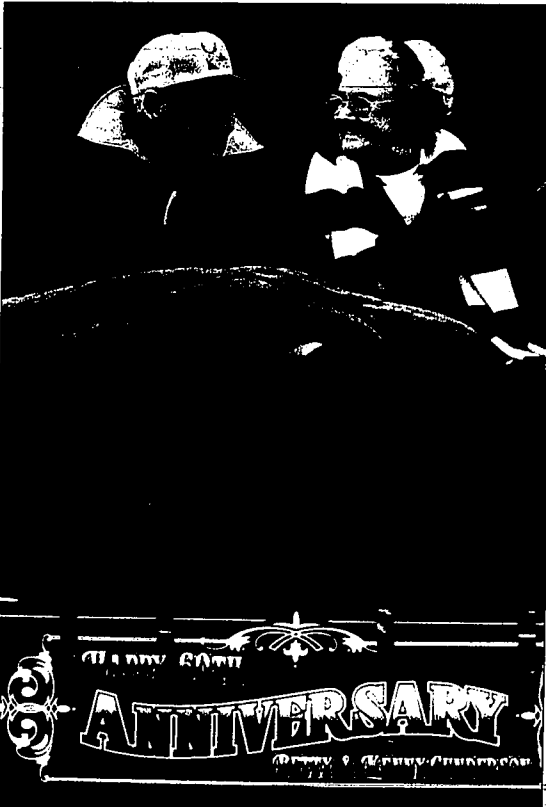
Under terms of the agreement, Matt and Tyler Marshall will be allowed to participate in the high schools' junior varsity wrestling program.

Superintendent — Graham said that since neither student

Please see ELECTION, Page C7



AN ANNIVERSARY TO REMEMBER



Top, a Belgian horse, owned by the Lee Farm in Twin Falls, works to pull the passengers. The Lee Farm will be bringing their horses to participate in the Rose Bowl Parade in Pasadena, Calif., on New Year's Day.
Bottom, Kenny Gunderson, left, and his wife Betty share a laugh while riding in a horse-drawn carriage Friday. The surprise celebration with family and friends was for the couples' 80th wedding anniversary.

Student suspended for bringing knife to school

TWIN FALLS — A sixth grade boy was suspended after bringing a knife to Harrison Elementary School Wednesday, said Linda Baird, a spokeswoman for the Twin Falls School District.

The student was reported to a counselor for having the knife, which was "large enough" to violate the school's weapons policy. Baird said. The student told the counselor that he found the knife on the way to school and it was old and beat up. The student was given in-school suspension that day, then the student was suspended. Baird said. The district's expulsion officer is investigating the incident.

Sheriff's department: Keep livestock off roads
TWIN FALLS — The Twin Falls

Magic Valley in brief

Sheriff's Department would like to remind livestock owners to be mindful of their property.

Sheriff's Spokeswoman Nancy Howell said there's been an unusually large increase in calls concerning animals on roads.

A horse recently was struck by a vehicle, she said. "We've had a real big problem lately with livestock being on the road — both cattle and horses," Howell said. "And we'd just like to remind the public that they're responsible for their fences and their animals."

Chamber: Beware of counterfeit checks
TWIN FALLS — Businesses

are advised to be aware that counterfeit checks are being circulated on the account of Wilson Bates, the Twin Falls Chamber of Commerce announced in a statement.

Any business coming in contact with a Wilson Bates check is advised to contact the store at 733-6146.

CSI students get record number of internships

TWIN FALLS — A record number of College of Southern Idaho students were offered internships at Walt Disney World next semester, said Betty Gilfin, the internship coordinator.

CSI has eight students intern- ing this semester and 17 students were offered internships for the spring.

Students perform all sorts of jobs at the Orlando, Fla., amusement park, and can earn opportunities to return after they graduate.

Students can also take classes while they intern.

"They come back just amazed," said Gilfin, who is also an associate professor and program coordinator for hospitality management.

WANTED in the Magic Valley

Name: Michelle Lee Dubina
Age: 20
Description: 5'00", 6, 150 pounds, brown hair, blue eyes.
Wanted for: Probation violation.
Original charge: Felony burglary.
The Twin Falls County Sheriff's Department asks anyone with information about Moore's whereabouts to call 735-4911 or Crime Stoppers at 732-5387, where you can remain anonymous and might be eligible for a cash reward.



— compiled from staff reports

Woman gives birth in car

NAMPA (AP) — Chelsea Spires was trying to wait until her contractions were three minutes apart, just like hospital staff had told her the evening before.

But little Madysen Paige apparently didn't get the message.

Spires, 18, gave birth to the baby girl in the family car while on her way from Nampa to St. Luke's Regional Medical Center in Boise. Spires' mother, Shelley Taie, assisted.

Taie was driving Spires to the hospital in her 1990 Geo Storm when Spires realized she was out of time.

"I knew something was going on when Chelsea told me to call 911," Taie said. "That's when I panicked."

The car — soon to be a trio — pulled to the side of Inter-

state 84 near milepost 40. Ada County Sheriff's Dispatcher Dom Clough talked Taie through the birth by cell phone.

"She did a really good job," Clough said. "She listened really well and gave me the information I needed."

The car was too small for Taie to get in front of Spires, who was in the front passenger's seat.

"Instead, Taie leaned over the console from the driver's side to support Madysen's neck and catch her as she was born.

Paramedics arrived, just as Madysen was born.

The new mother had been scared, but her fears gave way to joy.

"At the time, it didn't even seem like it was real, like it was a movie or something," Spires

said. "It's not like I planned to have my baby on the freeway. She just wanted to come and there was no stopping her. I guess (Madysen) will have a story to tell."

The night before, Spires was sent home from the hospital because medical personnel didn't think she was ready to have her baby. They told her to wait until her contractions were three minutes apart. Taie said the contractions never got that close.

"I know now how important flashlights are. And having an emergency kit in your car," Taie said.

Madysen, who is Chelsea's second child, weighed in at 7 pounds 8 ounces, and is 19 inches long. Both mother and baby are fine.

Federal report says heavy metals no risk to tourists

SPOKANE, Wash. (AP) — Heavy metals pollution in the Coeur d'Alene River Basin poses little risk to tourists, but some residents living in the Superfund site may face higher exposures, according to a report released Friday.

The report by the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry studied the 3,700-square-mile basin from the Idaho-Montana border to the confluence of the Spokane and Columbia rivers in Washington. It generally found the effects of decades of pollution was declining.

The study concluded there were health concerns for people living east of Lake Coeur d'Alene because of lead-contaminated soil, household dust and fish. Some children who live in this area also had elevated blood lead levels.

"Home with young children, children who have cognitive deficits/disabilities or women of child-bearing age are of most concern," the study said.

There was no apparent public health hazard for people living west of Lake Coeur d'Alene, the study found.

People who play on the sparkling lake face no apparent health hazards from heavy metals, the study said.

The Bunker Hill mine and smelting complex in Kellogg, Idaho, and the surrounding region were added to the Superfund list in 1983, and have been the subject of extensive studies. The new report did not look at the 21-square mile site in

Kellogg which had the worst pollution and the most extensive cleanup work.

"Instead, it examined heavy metal pollution, primarily lead, cadmium and arsenic in the broader area."

It studied Lake Coeur d'Alene, which has hundreds of thousands of recreational users each year plus the new Trail of the Coeur d'Alenes biking trail from the lake to the town of Mullan, Idaho. It also studied the source of the Spokane River, at the lake, to where it spills into the Columbia west of Spokane.

The Silver Valley of northern Idaho, along Interstate 90, has been one of the world's major silver producers for decades, and underground mining produced huge piles of tailings contaminated with heavy metals in the region.

The findings:

- Contaminated surface soil and household dust were the greatest health concern. Many of the tests of residential soil and household dust showed lead levels higher than the Environmental Protection Agency's standard of 400 parts per million. The highest contamination was in nonresidential soils near mining sites and areas that are often flooded by the river, including public beaches, parks and campgrounds.
- Most drinking water from regulated public and private sources appeared safe. People who get their water from ponds or other unregulated waters should have their water tested.

- Surface water contamination varies by area, but appears to have dropped significantly in the past three decades. However, sediments along waterways contain significant heavy metals pollution.
- Traces of metals are found in many species of fish. In 2003, the agency and the Idaho Division of Health released a public notice advising how much fish people should eat from the lake.
- Traces of metals were found in many plants and animals, although not a threat to humans.
- Ingestion of surface soils and household dust is the most likely way for people to be exposed to metals contamination.
- Some area children who were in a screening program showed blood lead levels over 10 micrograms per deciliter, which is the level of concern.
- The agency said other children in the region who have not been tested may also have high lead levels.
- The study recommended that contaminated soil continue to be removed from residential areas, that the blood lead levels of children continue to be monitored and that warnings to limit consumption of fish from the lake remain.
- People who eat an average of 540 grams — about 12 pounds — or more of fish per day, are exposed to heavy metals from other sources and already have elevated blood lead levels and are at greatest risk, the report found.

NW Power council urges conservation

PORTLAND, Ore. (AP) — Energy conservation and reliance on windpower should be increased in the Northwest over the next five years to ease electricity prices and avoid the kind of crisis that sent prices skyrocketing in 2000-01, according to a new regional plan.

The five-year plan approved by the Northwest Power and Conservation Council on Thursday marks the fifth regional plan since Congress created the council in 1980 to balance energy needs with fish and wildlife protection in Oregon, Washington, Idaho and Montana.

The plan's goals were generally similar to those of the groups involved in its development, including Indian tribes, utilities and consumer groups.

"Increased conservation and the reliance on green power such as wind power is the best strategy for the region," said Geoff Stuckert, spokesman for Sen. Ron Wyden, D-Ore.

The plan is used to guide decisions by the Bonneville Power Administration, the federal power marketing agency based in Portland that supplies about 45 percent of the electricity in the Northwest, mostly from hydroelectric dams along the Columbia and Snake rivers.

Charles Hudson, spokesman

for the Columbia River Inter-Tribal Fish Commission, said the energy conservation and wind power goals are important but tribes remain concerned about what they consider to be separate plans for energy and for salmon protection.

"It's a good news, bad news thing," Hudson said. "There's a certain state of denial about the connectedness between the power plan and salmon recovery plans."

He said the good news is that the priority on power conservation through energy efficiency and increased reliance on renewable energy such as wind power will take some of the pressure off the Columbia River hydro power system.

"Let us continue to see this council pull salmon and energy policy through a very narrow knothole where cheap electricity always trumps the equitable-treatment mandate for fish," Hudson said.

The latest plan was developed after the Western energy crisis of 2000-01, when failed utility deregulation in California combined with drought and reduced Northwest hydropower along with Enron Corp. market manipulation to drive wholesale electricity prices to record levels.

The council plan calls for saving at least 700 megawatts of power by increased energy conservation across the region over the next five years.

"If we fail to achieve the conservation in the plan, the cost of electricity, and the risk of shortages and high prices would increase in the future," said Judi Dethlefsen, council chairwoman.

Much of the increased conservation would come from improved energy efficiency in lights, electric motors, and heating and cooling systems, according to the plan.

Nearly half the savings would come from improved home energy efficiency, while an estimated 39 percent would come from commercial buildings and equipment.

Another 12 percent could be saved by improved industrial energy use in equipment and buildings, and 3 percent from irrigation equipment.

"I think it's a great plan," said Marc Krasnowsky, spokesman for the NW Energy Coalition in Seattle, an alliance of more than 100 environmental, civic and service organizations, utilities and businesses in the four Northwest states, Alaska and British Columbia.

Idaho man sues state for release

Prisoner was denied parole for the third time

OROFINO (AP) — An Idaho man serving a sentence for lewd and lascivious conduct with a 13-year-old girl is suing the state and several members of the parole commission after he was denied parole in early December.

James L. Griffin, 62, of Grangeville, says he was denied parole from the state prison in Orofino based on the commission's personal prejudices.

He's been denied parole a total of three times since he became eligible in 1998.

In December 1994, Griffin was sentenced to five to 15 years in prison for lewd and lascivious conduct with a minor under 16.

Griffin has completed sex offender and drug and alcohol classes.

But according to his lawsuit, he claims he was denied parole when Russell Newcomb, a commissioner for the Idaho Commission of Pardons and Parole, called the crime repulsive.

Griffin says he's changed and learned who he is.

Unless parole is granted, he'll stay in prison until 2009.

At Rudy's...
CHEESE TASTING

We just received a huge shipment of artisan cheeses from around the world. Stop in anytime Saturday for a sampling of these molty beauties and take some home for your own Christmas treat.

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SERVICES

Ronald L. Archibald of Oakley, funeral Mass at 10 a.m. today at the Little Flower Catholic Church; friends may call one hour before Mass at the church (Payne Mortuary).

LeRoy Gene Slater, service at 1 p.m. today at Hansen Mortuary Rupert Chapel; friends may call one hour before the service at the mortuary.

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

Charles Francis Perry, memorial service at 11 a.m. today at the Twin Falls First United Methodist Church (White Mortuary).

Hazel Clara Young Barber, memorial service at 1 p.m. today at the Community Baptist Church (Wood River Chapel of Haley).

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

Charles E. Young, funeral at 10 a.m. today at the St. Charles Catholic Church (Wood River Chapel).

David Lee "Dave" Livingston of Kimberly, funeral at

1 p.m. Monday at Serenity Funeral Chapel, 258 Fourth Ave. E. Burley will follow at Rock Creek Cemetery, Hansen, with military honors. Friends may call from 2 to 6 p.m. Sunday at the chapel.

William L. Barrie of Rupert, funeral at 11 a.m. Monday at the Rupert United Methodist Church, 605 H St.; friends may call from 6 to 8 p.m. Sunday at Rosemount Funeral Home, 1350 E. 16th St., Burley, and one hour before the funeral on Monday at the church.

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

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OBITUARIES

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

Fawn Nebeker Dilworth

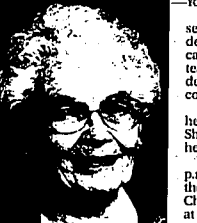
Fawn Nebeker Dilworth passed away on Dec. 17, 2004, at 91 years of age.

She is survived by two sisters, Cynthia Johnson of Salt Lake City, Utah, and Rebecca Morrill of Kimberly, Idaho.

Her children are Dahn (Ray) Anderson of Provo, Utah, Anita (Galen) Skeem of Chehalis, Wash., and Asael El Rey Dilworth of Ogden, Utah.

Her husband, Asael Ernest, preceded her in death. She has 23 grandchildren (four preceded her in death) and 32 great-grandchildren.

Fawn was always active in the LDS Church, serving a mission while single and the latter several missions with her husband, Asael.



Young Women's leader in Kimberly, Idaho, she served as Relief Society President and in many other callings, including Seminary teacher. She was PTA president and active in the community.

All who knew Fawn loved her and she returned that love. She will be greatly missed by her family and many friends.

The funeral will be held at 1 p.m. Monday, Dec. 20, 2004, in the Kimberly 2nd Ward LDS Church; preceded by a viewing at 11 a.m. at the White Mortuary Kimberly Funeral Chapel at 712 Center St. W. Local arrangements are under the direction of White Mortuary, "Chapel by the Park."

Joe A. Monreal Jr.

Joe A. Monreal Jr., 73 of Rupert, passed away Thursday, Dec. 16, 2004, at the Minidoka Memorial Hospital.

He was born Aug. 8, 1931, in San Antonio, Texas.

He married Minerva Vasquez April 25, 1955, in Texas.

The couple made their

home in Rupert, Idaho. Joe worked for Max Herbold for 33 years.

He is survived by four children, Norma, Maggie, Dolores and Richard; three granddaughters, Vanessa, Nichole and Teresa Mini; and two grandsons, Matthew and Joshua.

He will be dearly missed.

A funeral will be held at 11 a.m. Monday, Dec. 20, 2004, at the St. Gabriel Catholic Church. Friends may call from 6 to 8 p.m. Sunday with a Rosary to be recited at 7 p.m. Services are under the direction of Hansen Mortuary, Rupert Chapel.

MAGIC VALLEY MALL
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Saturday, December 18
All Stores Open Until 11 P.M.
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Magic Valley Mall Holiday Hours 12/12 thru 12/18

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

IDAHO/WEST

Feds propose reducing bird's habitat

GHANIS PASS, Ore. (AP) — The federal government proposed Friday to protect smaller but more numerous sections of West Coast beaches as habitat for the western snowy plover, saying it hoped to reduce conflicts between the tiny shore bird and people playing in the sand.

The new proposal, prompted by a federal court order won by Coos County commissioners on grounds the original did not include a proper economic impact statement, comes as the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service also considers petitions to lift Endangered Species Act protection for the bird.

Paul Henson, assistant manager of the agency's California-Nevada Operations Office, said he hoped to use the critical habitat process to open as much beach as possible to recreation while providing what the plover needs to recover, without having to resort to heavy-handed regulation.

"There are going to be areas where beach recreation should be a priority," Henson said from Sacramento, Calif. "If that impacts plovers, hopefully they are doing well enough in other areas that they can withstand



A snowy plover is seen on a beach near Santa Barbara, Calif., in this January 1997, file photo. The federal government proposed Friday to protect smaller but more numerous sections of West Coast beaches as critical habitat for the western snowy plover.

that contact." The proposal calls for establishing 35 units covering 17,299 acres, a reduction of 11 percent in area from the 28 units covering 19,474 acres designated in 1999. Federal land comprises 26 percent of the proposed area, state or other public land 51 percent, and private land 23 percent.

The reductions came from eliminating military land where habitat protections are in place, fine-tuning mapping, and a better understanding of the habitat needs of the plover, the

agency said.

An estimated 2,600 snowy plovers are distributed along the coast in California, Oregon and Washington, with the highest numbers in California and lowest in Washington. The birds forage for food in the surf and lay camouflaged eggs in depressions in hard sand. They are down to 28 nesting sites, due primarily to European beach grass being planted to stabilize shifting dunes. Gains in populations have been made recently by killing foxes and crows that

prey on the nests and clearing beach grass.

During nesting season, restrictions have been imposed on driving, running dogs and walking on beaches near nesting areas, prompting loud complaints from some beach users.

Several popular beaches on the Oregon Coast were considered for critical habitat, but not proposed.

They include the Necanicum, Nahalem, and Netarts areas. Oregon has suggested its own plover protections.

Judge blocks count of newly discovered ballots

TACOMA, Wash. (AP) — A judge granted a state Republican Party request Friday to block the counting of hundreds of recently discovered King County ballots in Washington's incredibly close governor's race.

Superior Court Judge Stephanie Arend's decision hinged on whether it was simply too late for counties to reconsider ballots from the November election, even if such ballots were erroneously rejected by election workers.

From reading state law and state Supreme Court decisions, "It is clear to me that it is not appropriate to go back and revisit decisions on whether ballots should or should not be

counted," Arend said. State Democratic Chairman Paul Boroni said the party would appeal the decision.

"We're going to fight for every vote to count in the state of Washington," he said. "I guess we're headed to the (state) Supreme Court."

King County Elections Director Dean Logan said the county also planned to appeal.

"These are legitimate voters who cast legitimate ballots," he said. "It's just a travesty if we do not include these ballots."

Republican Dino Rossi won the Nov. 2 election over Democrat Christine Gregoire by 261 votes in the first count and by 42 after a machine recount of the 2.9 million votes cast.



Snow and ice

Old winter scenes show Magic Valley residents plowing and playing, Sunday in Centennial

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MORNING BREAK

Be careful with love life, Pisces

IF DECEMBER IS YOUR BIRTHDAY ... If you have been down in the dumps and feeling that life is a humdrum routine, you will be encouraged by the bright new year ahead and a surge in your popularity. Singles could find Mr. or Ms. Right in January or February and settled blues might enjoy a period of marital bliss. Past mistakes could come back to haunt you in April or June, so cross all your 's' and do those 's' where responsibilities are concerned. Next September and October you will have bright new promises for a better future (pinning on the horizon and attract good fortune to whatever is closest to your heart).

ARIES (March 21-April 19): It is a fabulous day for precision work that requires strict attention to detail or impressive muscular control. Relationships could break from tensions, so keep a rift with a loved one, so keep in mind that others are not as adventuresome and fearless as you. Minor conflicts could turn into permanent breaks, so deal quickly with those dearest to your heart.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): It is a perfect weekend for parties and new friendships will be easily formed. If you feel threatened by someone's need for independence, or fear experimentation,

HOROSCOPE
Jeraldine Saunders

then existing relationships will need to undergo adjustments.

CANCER (June 21-July 22): You may wish to work side by side with a congenial other to complete projects or work hard to clear your desk for upcoming holidays. You have the edge when engaged in physical endeavors or if leadership is required.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Take joy in companionship and simple pleasures. Social activities take center stage. Those in close company may have startling visions for the future that require open-minded tolerance on your part.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): It may be "out with old and in with the new," whose partnerships are concerned. Lamenting, new friendships may be forged, but stability is unlikely. Your tastes may run to the extreme, so avoid purchases requiring refinement.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Differences of opinion can put a definite spin on relationships that could lead to breaks later this week-end. Don't be thin-skinned, or overly sensitive unless you wish to switch partners and move on to greener pastures.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): The social whirl can magnify minor problems, so tame impu-

sive desires unless you are ready for a breakup. Expect the unexpected within the confines of your own home or castle.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): You are perched on the edge of an exciting new future with big opportunities ahead. Your good-luck token could be a new friend, a computer, or any technological advances that gives you room to spread your wings and explore new vistas.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Don't push for commitment under these stars or you may receive an unexpected surprise. Your leadership skills are highlighted in the career area and you can tackle busy schedules with gusto.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): "Don't fence me in" might be your motto and relationships that stifle your need for a variety of social contacts may be abandoned. Greener pastures loom ahead. The right person will be happy to explore them with you.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Romantic fires are burning brightly, but don't push for promises or contrary winds may blow the flames of desire out. Free-wheeling relationships with no strings attached work best in this celestial atmosphere.

Earth does lots of spinning

Feeling a little dizzy? That's not surprising. The earth is spinning at a speed of about 1,070 mph at its equator. At the same time, it's rotating around the sun at about 67,000 mph. Our entire solar system is spinning through the Milky Way galaxy at about 558,000 mph. Meanwhile, our galaxy is spinning with clusters of neighboring galaxies at a rate of about 660,000 mph.

This day in history: On Dec. 18, 1958, the human voice first beamed to earth from space. A tape recorder inside an early satellite broadcast a pre-recorded Christmas message from President Dwight Eisenhower wishing the world's citizens "peace on Earth, good will toward men."

Ancient Egyptians believed that the heart was the source of thought and feeling. They considered the brain to be an insignificant mass of tissue. That's why mummies would carefully prepare the other organs for the trip to the next world but would discard the brain.

You'll be happy to know that in 2001, engineers righted the leaning tower of Pisa by 17 inches, postponing its imminent collapse for another few hundred years. Yellowstone Park has more



RANDY KING OF FACTINESS
Jack Mingos
Erin Barrett

geysers and hot springs inside its borders than all the rest of the world combined.

If given the regional food called scrapple as a Christmas present, check the ingredients panel. As implied by the name, this East Coast delicacy is made from chopped up scraps of pig remains. While some modern manufacturers use better grades of meat, traditional recipes are not for the squeamish. "Begin with two pig heads," starts one such recipe before telling you how to process the brains, snout and heart.

Some historians blame the witch hunts in Europe for causing some major plagues. Cats were believed to be the devil's animal, so hundreds of thousands were put to death. As a result, the rats multiplied and carried their loathsome-transmitted the Black-Death-to-humans, killing off about a quarter of Europe's population in the 1300s.

A five-letter word for 'foreigner'?

You'll find the crossword puzzle on page A-3



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Calling in sick puts woman's job on line

DEAR ABBY: I have a good job, a nice house, a great family and great friends — but I'm miserable.

I hate my job, but instead of quitting, I call in sick. It has put me in danger of getting fired. I lie to my husband about the work I miss, and since I handle the finances, he doesn't realize what an impact it has. I feel like a horrible person, but I'm afraid to quit and go somewhere else. I have no other skills, and I wouldn't be able to make the same money elsewhere.



DEAR ABBY
Jeanne Phillips

I'm also afraid my husband will find out and be furious. I feel I'm putting my family in financial jeopardy and risking everything because I can't show up for work. I'm not sure what's wrong with me. I just wake up some mornings and can't face going in, so I hide out in our house and pretend that I go to work. I feel lazy and worthless. I think I may be depressed, but some weeks or months I feel fine. What should I do?

—GOING CRAZY IN ARIZONA

DEAR GOING: May I offer a couple of suggestions? Your mood swings may be chemical. Make an appointment with your physician, explain what's going on and get a referral to a psychotherapist. Once that's done, pick up the phone and find the nearest school that offers career counseling. You have more marketable skills than you give yourself credit for. Please don't put it off. Flirting from your husband will only make this worse. The longer you live it, the messier it will be when he learns what has been happening.

DEAR ABBY: For years you have printed letters from grandparents complaining that they don't receive thank-you notes. Well, I have a question: Do these people send thank-you notes to their grandchildren for gifts they've received from them?

I'm an active senior with 25 grandchildren. No matter how small the gift—I always write them a thank-you note. Each child in a family gets his own.

This year, I received a pencil, a hand-drawn picture, and some 99-cent earrings, among other things. They all merited a note.

The children love getting their own thank-you note. And as soon as children can print "Thank you" they should be encouraged to send their own.

As my grandchildren have grown up, they have developed good manners, and I always hear from them no matter where they are.

—OHIO GRANNY

DEAR GRANNY: I commend you for setting such a wonderful example for your grandchildren. One of the secrets of writing an effective thank-you is to do it immediately after receiving the gift, while the reaction is spontaneous.

DEAR ABBY: My coworkers and I are having a disagreement and hope you can set the record straight. One of the women here was recently married. On the big day, her maid of honor showed up at the ceremony fished-down drunk and caused a disruption.

Is the bride obligated to send her a thank-you note for the gift? I say "yes" as you would thank anyone for a gift. My coworkers disagree. They say her rude and outrageous behavior should be grounds for no thank-you note. Your response will settle our dispute.

—"MARILYN"

DEAR "MARILYN": I agree with you. Two wrongs don't make a right. The woman should be thanked for her gift.

Panel recommends easing of flu shot restrictions

ATLANTA (AP) — Two months after a flu vaccine shortage spread alarm across the country, a federal advisory panel Friday recommended the government ease restrictions on the nation's supply and make shots available to everyone 50 and older.

The move was prompted by worries that tens of thousands of doses of flu vaccine might go to waste.

Some states are reporting a surplus of flu vaccine. One reason is that many elderly or chronically ill people did not even try to obtain a shot because they figured they would not be able to get one. Also, the flu season has been mild so far.

The recommendation from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices came during an emergency meeting. The CDC usually accepts the panel's recommendations.

The CDC should focus first on helping state and local health departments reallocate supplies to any facing shortages, and then work to allow more people to get flu shots, members of the panel said. The

panel said the vaccine should be offered to younger adults and anyone in close contact with high-risk patients.

In October, the government recommended that healthy

adults delay or skip a flu shot this season to save vaccine for the estimated 98 million people in the country who need it most — the elderly, infants or those with chronic conditions. Those

people are at highest risk of severe complications or death from the flu, which kills on average 36,000 people and hospitalizes 200,000 each year in the country.

The teleconference meeting Friday was scheduled after a CDC study released Thursday found that more than half of all elderly or chronically ill adults have not yet gotten a flu shot.

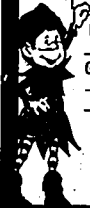
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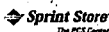
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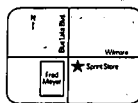
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IDAHO/WEST

Fired professor accuses school of intimidation

SALT LAKE CITY (AP) — A political science professor fired from Southern Utah University is accusing school administrators of creating a climate of fear for faculty members.

In a written statement sent Thursday, Stephen Roberts said faculty members have been "called on the carpet because of books and readings" they assign for their classes.

"As long as you fit in, you're fine. But if you are outside the box, they are very quick to hi-

intimidate you," he wrote.

Roberts had worked at the Cedar City campus for six years, and was undergoing peer review for tenure, when he reportedly used the f-word during a heated classroom discussion with a student about a Supreme Court ruling, Roberts quickly apologized to the student and class.

Some students suggested that school officials used the incident as a way to deny Roberts tenure.

However, Dean Odriscoll, assistant to the president at the

school, said officials behind the decision not to give Roberts tenure insist his alleged use of the f-word in class had nothing to do with his firing.

"It was based on careful examination of his six-year career and what has gone on during that time," he said, declining to be more specific.

Ironically, Roberts was named the 2003-04 Professor of the Year. Last week, he gave the university's Grace A. Tanner Distinguished Faculty Lecture.

Political-science major Jessica Irwin called Roberts' firing "a shame," adding that the educator was a liberal professor in a conservative school.

"But universities are controversial by nature, and some students found what (Roberts) taught offensive," Irwin said.

"The goal is to think in ways they haven't before."

Roberts said reasons for the termination and for not getting tenure changed every day since the Oct. 12 classroom episode.

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Activists call for ban to aid condors

SACRAMENTO, Calif. (AP) — Eighteen months after state wildlife managers started a voluntary plan to protect California condors from lead poisoning, a coalition of environmentalists, American Indians and hunters is asking regulators to issue an emergency ban on lead ammunition in the condor's feeding territory and eventually statewide.

"This is imperative to get this going. We feel this is an emergency issue for the condor," said Jeff Miller, a researcher with the Center for Biological Diversity, one of the groups filing the petition with the state Fish and Game Commission.

Separate studies for the state and federal wildlife agencies last year found condor lead poisoning increased during the fall hunting season. A problem has been hunters who leave an estimated 30,000 unburied carcasses or entrails across the condor's range, which are eaten by the scavengers.

But state condor preservation officials said survival is at an all-time high. Also, hunting regulations aren't up for routine review until 2007, leaving it uncertain if they will consider the plea from the activists who say traditional ammunition is too toxic. The next commission meeting is in February.

"We were losing a half-dozen to a dozen a year either to death or having to bring them in (to captivity) for bad behavior or something," said Fish and Game Department biologist Ron Jurek, a member of the California Condor Recovery Team. But none has died in 14 months. "We've never had such good survival. Things are looking up now."

Part is due to better management of the condors, including keeping them away from carcasses killed with lead bullets, Jurek said. Most condors are tracked with radio collars, allowing managers to spot sick birds and recapture them for treatment. Also, veterinarians are better able to treat acute lead poisoning, as they are doing now with a condor in Arizona.

But as more condors are released and forage naturally over as much as 150-mile range, they'll encounter more lead-laced carcasses, said the environmental group's Miller. "We're going to see lead mortality go way up."

The wild condor population dropped to just 15 in 1984, but the population in California now tops 100.

About 10 condors since 1995 have died or undergone intensive treatment for lead poisoning in California, Jurek said.

Nonlead shotgun ammunition already is required nationwide for hunting waterfowl.

But wildlife agencies in Arizona, Utah and California — which each have reintroduced populations of the giant bird — hope a voluntary program will work without requiring an outright ban on lead bullets.

They recently completed a survey of hunters and ranchers about their use of lead-based ammunition.

Now they're beginning an education program, coupled with encouraging sporting goods stores to carry alternatives to lead ammunition.

Then they'll resurvey hunters and ranchers to see if the programs worked.



Days of Christmas

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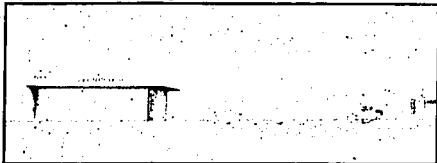
WILSON BATH



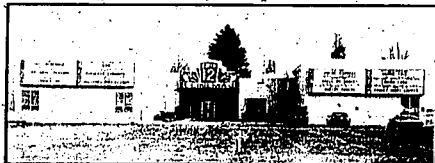
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THE INCREDIBLES
NOVEMBER 5

(PG) Daily 6:45 - 7:15 - 9:30 - 9:55
Fri - Sun 12:15 - 1:00 - 3:30 - 4:00
6:45 - 7:15 - 9:30 - 9:55

KRANKY

(PG) Daily 7:30 - 9:45
Fri - Sun 12:30 - 2:45 - 5:00 - 7:30 - 9:45

TWICE THE HERO HE USED TO BE

(PG) Daily 7:15 - 9:55
Fri - Sun 1:30 - 4:30 - 7:15 - 9:55

OCEAN'S TWELVE

(PG-13) Daily 6:45 - 7:15 - 9:30 - 9:55
Fri - Sun 12:15 - 1:30 - 3:30 - 4:30
6:45 - 7:15 - 9:30 - 9:55

The Polar Express

(G) Daily 7:00 - 9:15
Fri - Sun 12:15 - 2:30 - 4:45 - 7:00 - 9:15

The Polar Express

(G) Daily 7:00 - 9:15
Fri - Sun 12:15 - 2:30 - 4:45 - 7:00 - 9:15



Shrek 2

(PG) Daily 7:30
Fri - Sun 12:45 - 3:00 - 5:15 - 7:30

The Polar Express

(G) Daily 7:00 - 9:15
Fri - Sun 12:15 - 2:30 - 4:45 - 7:00 - 9:15

All Seats Only \$2.00

Napoleon Dynamite

(PG) Daily 7:00 - 9:15
Fri - Sun 12:15 - 2:30 - 4:45 - 7:00 - 9:15

Richard Gere Jennifer Lopez Susan Sarandon

Shall we Dance?

(PG-13) Daily 7:15 - 9:45
Fri - Sun 12:30 - 2:45 - 5:00 - 7:15 - 9:45

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49

(PG-13) Daily 9:45

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Spanglish

(PG-13) Daily 7:00 - 9:30
Sat - Sun 1:00 - 4:00 - 7:00 - 9:30

FINDING NEVERLAND

(PG) Daily 7:00 - 9:15
Sat - Sun 12:15 - 2:30 - 4:45 - 7:00 - 9:15

closer

(R) Daily 7:15 - 9:30
Sat - Sun 12:30 - 2:45 - 5:00 - 7:15 - 9:30

SpongeBob SquarePants

(G) Daily 7:00
Sat - Sun 12:15 - 2:30
6:45 - 7:00

ALEXANDER

(PG) Daily 7:30 - 9:00
Sat - Sun 1:30 - 3:00

BRIDGET JONES THE EDGE OF REASON

(R) Daily 7:15 - 9:30
Sat - Sun 12:30 - 2:45 - 5:00 - 7:15 - 9:30

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935 West Main - Jerome 324-8875

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All Adults \$4.50 before 5:15 p.m.

OCEAN'S TWELVE
Digital Surround

Daily 7:00 - 9:30
Sat - Sun 12:30 - 3:30
7:00 - 9:30

THE POLAR EXPRESS
Three Screened

Daily 7:15 - 9:45
Sat - Sun 12:15 - 2:30 - 4:45 - 7:15 - 9:45

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Daily 7:10 - 9:45
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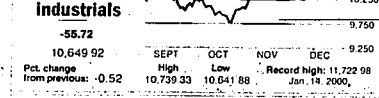
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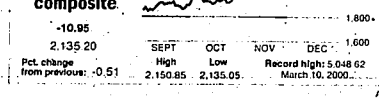
Pfizer announcement weighs on stocks Resort's economic ripples splash over counties

NEW YORK (AP) — Pfizer Inc.'s surprise announcement of possible health risks connected with its Celebrex drug pushed stocks lower in heavy trading Friday as investors' concerns in the pharmaceutical sector...

Dec 17, 2004 Dow Jones Industrials



Dec 17, 2004 Nasdaq composite



Wall Street drove Pfizer to a record stock price after the Dow component announced that a new study showed people taking high doses of Celebrex...

The nice thing about this market is that you may get a market of Pfizer, but the rest of the market behaves incredibly well...

rate hike.

For the week, the Dow gained 106.70, or 1.01 percent, and the S&P was up 6.20, or 0.52 percent...

Stocks also saw pressure from crude oil futures, which shot past \$46 per barrel on concerns about higher demand due to a colder-than-expected winter.

The pharmaceutical sector has been under intense pressure since Merck's Sept. 30 announcement that it would pull Vioxx from the market due to increased risk of heart attack and stroke found among its users.

DONNELLY (AP) — To see the changes Tamarack Resort has brought to Valley County Brian

Wagner points a visitor to the "downstairs" that "combines as downtown. Basically, the town seven miles from the ski area.

New buildings have sprung up, and the storefronts of three competing real-estate businesses face against each other from opposite sides of the highway.

That's changing with the arrival of hotels and development at Tamarack. It's spurring an economic revival, say officials, injecting money into a local economy that was hit hard in 2001 by the closure of a Boise Cascade lumber mill in which hundreds lost their jobs.

install signs and erect buildings to house restaurants, cafes and sports shops.

On the road to the resort, there are dozens of "For Sale" signs, many more than 20 inches the number of lots created back in 1992.

Cynthia Herrick, the planning and zoning commissioner in Cascade, says that property values throughout have risen two- and three-fold since 2000.

That's changing with the arrival of hotels and development at Tamarack. It's spurring an economic revival, say officials, injecting money into a local economy that was hit hard in 2001 by the closure of a Boise Cascade lumber mill in which hundreds lost their jobs.

Carr came from Boise, 90 miles to the south on U.S. Highway 55, in part because he'd always wanted to move to Valley County

because of the scenic views and lifestyle. But as a real-estate agent, he also saw an opportunity.

"It was taking off before we came up," Carr says of the local market, pointing to the trend of his clients who were looking for a large, new subdivision. "Tamarack has moved the real-estate business immeasurably."

"Tamarack Chief Executive Officer Jean Pierre Boespflug says his company has pumped \$200 million into the project so far, including about \$70 million during 2004."

Through stock indicators also fell. The Standard & Poor's 500 index was down 0.01, or 0.75 percent, at 1,191.20, and the Nasdaq composite index lost 0.93, or 0.51 percent, to 10,932.40.

"The markets were volatile due to a quadruple-witching day on Wall Street — the quarterly expiration of index futures and options, as well as individual stock futures and options.

"Drug stocks are growth stocks without any drug prospects," said Russ Kocertnik, chief U.S. equity strategist at Cowi Group Corp. in New York.

Resort

Continued from D1 Stanford University graduate who made at least part of his fortune in the 1980s in California's burgeoning computer-hardware industry...

"Professionals with disposable income is who we are after," he says. "The commodity they have in shortest supply is time."

Boespflug has finely tuned his operation to visit the market, as evidenced by the success of his real-estate sales, says Michael Berry, executive director of the National Ski Areas Association, an industry group in Colorado. "The product is right for the times."

NEW YORK STOCK EXCHANGE

Table with columns: Name, Div, Last, Chg, DCF, and various stock symbols like AIG, AMZN, ANET, etc.

MARKET SUMMARY

Summary table for NYSE, AMEX, and NASDAQ. Includes columns for Most Active, Gainers, Losers, and various market indices.

NASDAQ NATIONAL MARKET

Table with columns: Name, Div, Last, Chg, DCF, and various stock symbols like AIG, AMZN, ANET, etc.

INDEXES

Table showing various market indices: S&P 500, Dow Jones Industrials, NYSE Composite, etc.

STOCKS OF LOCAL INTEREST

Table listing local stocks with columns: Name, Div, PE, Last, Chg, YTD, and various local company symbols.

AMERICAN STOCK EXCHANGE

Table listing American stocks with columns: Name, Div, Last, Chg, and various stock symbols.

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 the 100 most active on the American Stock Exchange.

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CLOSING FUTURES

Table of closing futures for various commodities including Soybeans, Corn, Wheat, and Oil. Columns include contract name, price, and change.

Quotations from Sincal & Co.

BEANS

Table of bean futures prices for various types of beans, including soybean meal and soybean oil.

CHEESE

Table of cheese futures prices, including cheddar cheese and other varieties.

POTATOES

Table of potato futures prices for different grades and types of potatoes.

GRAINS

Table of grain futures prices for wheat, corn, and soybeans.

WHEAT

Detailed table of wheat futures prices, including hard red winter wheat and soft white wheat.

LIVESTOCK

Table of livestock futures prices for cattle, hogs, and sheep.

CHICAGO (AP) - Futures trading on the Chicago Board of Trade Inc.

Large table of Chicago Board of Trade futures prices for a wide range of commodities.

MARKETS

Table of market prices for various metals and minerals.

METALS/MONEY

Table of metal and money market prices, including gold, silver, and various currencies.

SUGAR

Table of sugar futures prices for various grades of sugar.

NEW YORK (AP) - Futures trading on the New York Board of Trade Inc.

Table of New York Board of Trade futures prices for various commodities.

CHICAGO (AP) - Futures trading on the Chicago Board of Trade Inc.

Table of Chicago Board of Trade futures prices for a wide range of commodities.

FOSSIL FUELS

Table of fossil fuel prices, including oil, natural gas, and coal.

NEW YORK (AP) - Futures trading on the New York Mercantile Exchange

Table of New York Mercantile Exchange futures prices for various commodities.

NEW YORK (AP) - Futures trading on the New York Board of Trade Inc.

Table of New York Board of Trade futures prices for various commodities.

NATURAL GAS

Table of natural gas futures prices for different delivery points.

NEW YORK (AP) - Futures trading on the New York Board of Trade Inc.

Table of New York Board of Trade futures prices for various commodities.

NEW YORK (AP) - Futures trading on the New York Board of Trade Inc.

Table of New York Board of Trade futures prices for various commodities.

NEW YORK (AP) - Futures trading on the New York Board of Trade Inc.

Table of New York Board of Trade futures prices for a wide range of commodities.

Analysts: Toys R Us still has the hot toys

Wal-Mart inventory is depleted with one week until Christmas. Analysts predict Toys R Us will have a strong holiday season.

Wal-Mart inventory is depleted with one week until Christmas. Analysts predict Toys R Us will have a strong holiday season.

Dairy

Continued from D1. Adding a bumper crop of both corn and soybeans will drive down feed prices.

Wal-Mart

Continued from D1. Army's good. Target's decision on the bell rings.

Something missing?

We are able to customize our market reports. You're invited to stock, mutual fund, or commodity that's not in our report.

Table of mutual fund prices for various investment funds.

Christmas is all about perspective

The fight started after the city council decided to include a Nativity scene next to the Christmas tree in the main lobby.

The mayor's plan started ringing minutes after the council adjourned. Anti-Nativity scene callers followed by those in favor.

A week later, the city council met again, and the room was packed with advocates from both sides.



TOM SCHAEFER

"Let's do this in an orderly fashion," the mayor told the overflow crowd. "No more than two minutes per speaker."

First up was a retired insurance salesman.

"I can't believe we're even having this discussion," he began. "This nation was founded on Christian principles. Leave the scene alone. It's belongs there."

A social worker was next.

"Church and state should be separated," she said. "If government officials put up a religious display, it means it endorses that religion, and that's wrong."

From that point, the comments got uglier.

"What has become of our country when the majority of people can't express their beliefs through a simple display?"

A few dare government officials demean other religions by favoring only Christianity.

"Are you crazy? No one is demeaning anyone. We're expressing a tradition that is older than this country."

"You're a bigot," someone near the back boomed.

"You're anti-God!" was the response from across the room.

The mayor pounded the table with his gavel. Heated discussions were breaking out throughout the room. Several people stormed out screaming. "This is a farce!" Others shouted after them: "Go out! Get out!"

In the confusion, few noticed a hard-core man quietly standing at the microphone.

"The mayor finally restored a semblance of order."

"I'll hear from one more speaker," he said, gesturing to the man.

He scratched his beard, then cleared his throat. "I'm not sure if this is the right time or place," he began, "but I'm trying to find some here to stay. I was out in the lobby, but an officer told me I had to move along. I came in here because I thought I might find some help."

The mayor interrupted.

"Then, a person here, discussing whether the Nativity scene should remain on government property. Do you have an opinion to offer?"

"It's really," he said. "You all are smarter than me. I just know that it's cold outside, and I need warm spots for the night."

The crowd was silent. The man looked down at the floor, his hands deep in his pockets.

"If you'll leave your name with the clerk," the mayor said, "she'll try to find you a place, OK?"

"Thank you," the man said. "I'll need a place to stay for the night."

He went to the clerk, gave her his name and then hurried down the side aisle. Except for a few coughs, the room was still.

Then, a person here, another there, got up and left. In less than five minutes, the room emptied.

The mayor and council members looked at one another.

"I guess we'll table a final decision until next week," the mayor said and adjourned the meeting.

As folks left city hall, they looked around for the homeless man but couldn't find him.

In the chilly air, voices of some carolers could be heard above the traffic. They were singing an old Catalan carol: "In their poverty, they could not find a room for us."

Save a stable, cold and bare; 'Mid the animals they tarried.
'Don d'oradons, Mary sings as Schaefer.

Tom Schaefer writes about religion and ethics for the Wichita (Kan.) Eagle. Write to him at the Wichita Eagle, P.O. Box 820, Wichita, Kan. 67201, or send e-mail to tschaefer@wichitaeagle.com.

Forgive us our debts



Holiday shoppers in a New York City mall. "The Bible has nothing good to say about debt," says Dave Ramsey, an anti-debt guru.

Going into red for the holidays can take a spiritual toll

The Dallas Morning News

DALLAS — Gunnar Johnson remembers a Christmas years ago when he and his wife made long wish lists and bought each other everything on the lists.

But when they opened their presents, they felt no holiday joy.

"It was the same feeling you have when you eat too much candy," he said. "Just — ugh, why'd I do that?"

They had the same feeling a year later, when their carpet cleaning business faltered and their debts totaled \$88,000.

Today, Johnson works full time encouraging others not to repeat his mistakes. In January, he became life stewardship minister at Richland Hills Church of Christ in North Richland Hills, Texas, working to help members get their finances under control.

"The ministry is part of a growing movement among faith groups, particularly conservative Christians, advocating a debt-free lifestyle. At a time when many shoppers are eagerly reaching for their credit cards to buy holiday gifts, these groups encourage folks to pay cash instead. Too much debt, they say, exacts a spiritual toll, destroys marriages and enslaves people, rendering them from doing God's work.

"It's not a sin, but Ramsey's syndicated radio

Old Testament

"The rich rule over the poor, and the borrower is servant to the lender."
—Proverbs 22:7

"The lover of money will not be satisfied with money, for the lover of wealth, with gain."
—Ecclesiastes 5:10

"The wicked borrow and do not repay, but the righteous give generously."
—Psalms 37:21

"If you lend money to one of my people among you who is needy, do not be like a moneylender; charge him no interest."
—Leviticus 25:35

"At the end of every seven years you must cancel debts."
—Deuteronomy 15:1

New Testament

"Owe no one anything, except to love one another; for the one who loves another has fulfilled the law."
—Romans 13:8

"Be on your guard against all kinds of greed; for one's life does not consist in the abundance of possessions."
—Luke 12:15

"And forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors."
—Matthew 6:12

How to curb holiday spending

1. Make a plan, a budget and a shopping list and stick to it. "You've got to have a plan, because, I promise you, the malls

have a plan," said radio talk show host Dave Ramsey.

2. Put the budgeted amount of cash in an envelope for each person you're buying for. Stop shopping when the envelope is empty.
3. Be creative. Give things you make instead of buying. Give the gift of time — a coupon for a "date night" with your kids or your spouse. Or promise to handle a chore for someone.
4. Get in and out of malls as quickly as possible. "For me, going into a mall is like an alcoholic going into a bar," said Gunnar Johnson, a former pastor of debt.
5. Don't buy for yourself, no matter how tempted you are. It's a surprisingly common source of Christmas overspending. "Seven out of 10 Americans that went shopping with a big heart last

year ended up buying something for themselves," Ramsey said.

6. Start saving now for next Christmas. "Christmas sneaks up on us, even though it's the same time every year," said Johnson. "I can tell you right now: In 2005, Christmas will occur in December."
7. Keep priorities straight. Said Tony Wright of Inspiring Temple of Praise Church in Fort Worth, Texas: "Think before you spend; don't spend what you don't have and focus on the true meaning of the holiday."

Resources:

- Crown Financial Ministries: www.crown.org
- Debt-free guru: www.daveramsey.com
- Alternatives for Simple Living: www.simpleliving.org

Source: The Dallas Morning News

show on personal finance is heard on 3,000 stations. His crusade against credit was featured last month on "60 Minutes."

He often brings his debt-busting gospel to churches because, he says, the spiritual roots of the problem must be addressed to change behavior.

"Our Christian faith is very direct about money. Proverbs 22:7 says the borrower is a slave to the lender," he said.

"And God doesn't want us to have a slavery spirit."

His is hardly the only voice crying in the wilderness against the dangers of debt. This month's issue of Focus on the Family magazine touts a book called Debt-Proof Your Marriage. Credit Dollar, the well-known evangelist and pastor of World Changers Church International in College Park, Ga., wrote a book called "No More Debt: God's Strategy for

Debt Cancellation."

Some 175 churches in the Dallas-Fort Worth area offer a financial management program from Crown Financial Ministries that's centered on minimizing or eliminating debt, especially credit card debt. The Crown program has reached thousands of Dallas-area participants through small groups, seminars, Sunday school programs and one-on-one coaching.

"God has a huge amount to say about not getting into debt," said Jim Blez, the director for Crown programs in North Texas. "There are 2,350 verses in the Bible that relate to money and possessions. It is the second most talked about subject, after love."

The debt-fighters, though, have picked a David-and-Goliath battle: "The credit card

Joseph Smith's bicentennial renews debate over unique prophet

The Associated Press

To loyal Mormons, Joseph Smith Jr. was an American prophet whose creed is preparing for Christ's Second Coming. To skeptics, he was a prophetic impostor — if a remarkably successful one.

Now as Smith's Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints prepares to celebrate the bicentennial year of his birth (Dec. 23, 1805), the occasion will certainly renew debates over one of America's most important — and woolliest — religious centers.

The oft-persecuted Smith was hounded out of New York, Ohio and Missouri, tarred and feathered, jailed and accused of serious crimes. He repeatedly alienated close associates.

In Illinois, he ruled a theocratic city-state as prophet, mayor, chief judge and commander of a 5,000-man militia. In 1844, he was secretly anointed an earthly king while campaigning for the

Joseph Smith

U.S. presidency. When Smith had officers pillage an opposition newspaper, he was arrested — then murdered — by a mob.

Smith's prophethood was founded upon his report that, in 1827, an angel gave him golden plates inscribed in an unknown language and buried near

Palmery, N.Y. The plates told the history of "Indians' ancient ancestors" who had migrated from Israel and were visited by Jesus. Smith said God miraculously empowered him to understand the language and dictate the Book of Mormon, after which the angel retrieved the plates.

Employing similar means, Smith revised — and in his view corrected — large sections of the Bible. It also produced writings attributed to biblical Abraham and 134 revelations of his own as later-day scripture.

Both Mormons and non-Mormons still argue over Smith's authenticity.

Just last Sunday, a church tribunal in Utah disfigured Joseph and executive for classes the church provides to high school and college students, because his "An Insider's View of Mormon Origins" says evidence for Smith's claims is "either nonexistent or problematic."

Palmer's publisher, Signature

Books, marked the bicentennial with Dan Vogel's equally skeptical "Joseph Smith: The Making of a Prophet," which contends that Smith wrote the Book of Mormon from his imagination and life experiences.

Church bicentennial doublings include an authorized Book of Mormon publication by secular Doubleday — though last year's University of Illinois Press "reader's edition" is more useful for non-Mormons.

Other upcoming events: a Library of Congress symposium; volume one in the vast "Joseph Smith Papers" series; and a new Smith film for visitors to the church's Salt Lake City headquarters.

The landmark, however, will be Richard Bushman's biography "Joseph Smith: Rough Shelling," due next October. Bushman, an emeritus professor at Columbia University, is the leading historian of America among devout Mormons.

Bushman observed in an in-

terview that the hostility Smith suffered in his lifetime is hardly surprising, given that his theological views were alien, even abhorrent, to most Christians.

For example, Smith's position on God the Father "is incredibly heretical" for orthodox Christian standards, Bushman said.

Smith said that matter is eternal so "God is the master of the universe-not the creator." Bushman explained, and humans "are all gods in embryo." Smith also taught that God was not always God but "was once as we are now, and is an exalted man."

Mormons "are just driven to continually call" Smith, Bushman said. "What I say will run against this idealized version."

Another major controversy is Smith's practice of polygamy, which — the church abandoned under federal government pressure in 1890 — even though Smith felt that God commanded polygamy but needed to hide his involvement in the practice

Please see DEBT, Page E2

Grief can remain even through season of joy

By Kim Hone-McMahan
Knight Ridder News Service

AKRON, Ohio — Snow was falling lightly last Christmas Eve when we sank our weary bodies into the overstuffed furniture. A bayberry candle sweetened the smell of the air. Our puppies, nestled close to our feet, were remarkably calm. It's as if they knew the crushing swell of heartache was nearly too much to bear.

My husband Chris, son Alex, and I gazed deep into each other's eyes. And without muttering a word, we succumbed to the veil of grief.

Brooke, who once filled the room with giggles, was dead — snatched from our lives a few months earlier during a seizure. The fact was, while our daughter, and sister, was rejoicing with the angels last Christmas, we were in search of a message from heaven to comfort us.

I reached for John MacArthur's "Safe in the Arms of God," and began flipping through the pages. Near the end of the little book, we found solace.

"Heaven is a place of perfect reunions..."

This will be our second Christmas without Brooke — the girl with the ear-to-ear grin and eyes the color of a HERSHEY'S kiss. Like my family, I know there are countless others this holiday season who are dealing with the loss of a loved one.

When someone has experienced a loss, the mourning can last forever.

"Everything changes after the death of a loved one," said Jane Bissler, a grief counselor from Kent, Ohio. "Think of all the events every year — marriages, graduations, the birth of a baby. Finding a way to participate in those celebrations without that special person is a continuing adjustment. So that's why it grieves takes a lifetime."

Since Brooke's death, my family has embraced a few things that have helped us through the holidays. The following are some of our tips, and hints from Bissler — who counseled 20 bereaved clients a week.

• **Be creative:** We don't have

the heart yet to rummage through the old box of ornaments, including the one that contains the built-in "reading." "Baby's First Christmas." Instead, our tree is adorned with miniature white lights and new ornaments in purple, pink and yellow — Brooke's favorite colors. Each time we receive a Christmas card, we hang it on the tree. It's a comforting reminder that our friends are thinking of us.

• **Alter shopping habits:** Because Brooke could shop until her feet went numb, going to favorite stores is often difficult. Instead, Bissler suggested shopping via the Internet or at unfamiliar stores.

• **Think positive:** Minimize the number of negative people you are with during this season. Bissler said this extends to family, as well as friends.

• **Make plans:** Don't let Christmas day creep up on you, without planning ahead.

• **Get it out:** Sometimes we just need to cry because it can help relieve pent-up stress. As a note on the bottle read, "Jesus knows your cares and fears. The angels bring Him all your tears. And these are just a few I've kept. To remind you that He also weeps."

Before the first knock at the door, Chris was in control of his emotions.

• **New traditions:** Life is not the same now, and never will be, so consider changing traditions. Serve food buffet style, rather than a sit-down dinner. Bissler said. Or light a candle in memory of the deceased.

My brother, for example, instructed his holiday guests to "take their first bite of dinner with their left hand. The upbeat gesture was a great way to honor Brooke, who was left-handed.

• **Be creative:** We don't have

More sermons get group approach

The Washington Post



At Purrellville (Va.) Baptist Church, laymen and clergy offer critiques and ideas to Pastor David Janney, with head bowed, right, who is creating his weekly sermon.

Many worshippers see it as the loneliest part of a minister's job: crafting a sermon, in the wee hours, the only aids a Bible and some reference books before presenting the fully formed product to the congregation.

But increasingly the pastor's message is the painstaking work of a committee—a panel of church staff and congregants who meet weekly to suggest sermon topics, critique the minister's prose and examine how his or her preaching will mesh with other elements of the service.

One goal of worship-planning teams is to ensure the minister's words will resonate with all segments of a congregation. Often, the team's job is to turn the sermon into a multimedia experience, with specialists in music, drama and video technology contributing.

"It's happening more and more as they will all bring different gifts to the table," said David Everett, president of the John Leiland Center for Theological Studies, a Baptist-affiliated seminary in Arlington, Va.

Everett said he has noticed movement toward collaborative sermons for more than a decade but that it has become prevalent in the past three years.

At Purrellville (Va.) Baptist Church, the Rev. David Janney meets with a worship committee for several hours every Wednesday. Janney typically shows them a draft 11 days before he plans to deliver the sermon. The group of about eight, which includes other clergy, administrators and one elder, debates on sermon topics, selecting them several months in advance.

At a recent meeting, Janney's sermon was to urge families to stay together and engage in as many joint activities as possible. "If you don't spend time with them, they won't spend time with you," he had written.

Membership coordinator Dana O'Connor recommended starting the sentence, "When we don't spend time with them," to acknowledge that everyone—even the pastor—sometimes fails to set aside enough time for family. Others agreed that sounded less judgmental.

Music director Brian Bush suggested Janney talk about "second chances"—how people can reconnect with estranged

parents and children. So the pastor added about seven minutes on that theme and truncated another section.

"You've made it a much more powerful message just by your feedback," Janney told the group.

The church started using the new system in the fall. Janney said he was inspired by a video he saw at an interdenominational conference, which showed a pastor brainstorming ideas for his sermon with a "creative team." Officials at that church, Fellowship Church in Grapevine, Texas, said they produced the video in response to inquiries from other houses of worship about their collaborative system.

Janney said he sensed over the summer that his sermons tended to drag and the response from the congregation was often weak. "If you come out of the service and say that the sermon was wise and informative but you didn't sense the Spirit's power, then we failed on Sunday," he said.

The new system has been popular with the congregation, which views the group approach as a sign the church's leadership cares about every- one's issues and concerns, Janney said.

The Rev. Randy Roberts has

noticed a similar effect at his church, Loma Linda (Calif.) University Church, a Seventh-day Adventist congregation, where the worship committee is made up mostly of laypeople. The group, which changes membership each year but typically includes doctors, homemakers, students and retirees, chooses sermon topics and suggests anecdotes and examples.

"My belief is that every member of the church is a minister," said Roberts, who set up the committee when he came to the church four years ago.

Because the whole congregation—knows—he values collaboration, Roberts receives input from just about anyone. "It's immensely helpful for a pastor to have people tell you things, e-mail things and stop to talk with you when you run into them," he said. Some ministers and scholars warn that despite the benefits of the team approach, pastors must guard against allowing the system to devolve into leadership by polls.

"The office of the minister sometimes needs to say things beyond what the community itself is saying—not only say those things that everybody is talking about and agreeing with," said David Greenhaw, president of Eden Theological Seminary in St. Louis, where he

is a professor of preaching and worship.

Richard Lischer, a professor of preaching at Duke Divinity School, thinks pastors are more inclined to seek advice from people with expertise in other fields because of the demand among worshippers for a multi-media presentation.

But ministers who shift the responsibility for biblical reflection to unordained staff and church members are shirking their duties, he said. "What is lost is the complexity and the richness of the biblical message," he added. "The Bible portrays people who are struggling with the ambiguities of the faith."

At Cedar Ridge Community Church in Montgomery County, Md., the Rev. Brian McLaren does not discuss sermons with a committee. But he does meet every Monday with Betsy Mitchell Henning, the church's director of liturgical arts, to explore how music, drama, audiovisuals and decorations can combine to present one theme during the service.

"The congregation is not just sitting and listening to words going into their brain," McLaren said. "They're using all of their senses and interacting with the service with their mind, their imagination and their emotions."

LETTER

Christianity teaches not to kill other human beings

Christianity requires its believers to obey its commandments, trumping any obedience to country or government. The most fundamental Christian commandment forbids the killing of other human beings. Obedience to country or government and the willingness to kill an "enemy" is in conflict with this commandment.

Jesus' faith in immortality was so complete that he saw violence, even in self-defense, as unnecessary and accordingly endured his own torture and murder. Most people, however, Christians included, ignore taboos against violent self-defense. Do Christians forfeit immortality if they yield to the natural impulse to kill in self-defense? Do Christian soldiers killing other Christians or Muslims lose their mortal souls? It

takes bottomless conviction to sacrifice one's life as Christian martyrs and Jesus did.

Putting aside, however, the insubstantial possibility that it is acceptable for Christians to yield to the impulse of violent self-defense surely is not Christian to kill an individual that has done you no harm—that has done nothing to provoke your instinct for violent self-defense. This applies to nations as well: no Christian nation has the right to harm another nation that has done it no harm.

JACK HARTLEY
Twin Falls

The Times-News welcomes letters on religious topics of 200 words or less from readers. Letters should include the writer's signature, mailing address and telephone number. Letters considered libelous, obscene or in bad taste will be rejected, and The Times-News reserves the right to edit all letters.

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Noel

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• **Sunday, Dec. 19**
6:00 p.m.

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208-733-2936

Sunday School 9:30am
Worship 11:00am -
Candlelight Service
Dec. 24, 7:00pm

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the Way

Eternal Life
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Pastor
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e-mail: agf@af.org

Coming Events-
Dec 24
at 6 p.m.

Candle Light Service

First Southern Baptist Church
492 Washington St. N.

Sunday
Sunday School - 9:45 a.m.
Church Service - 11 a.m.
Bible Study - 6 p.m.

Wednesday
Prayer Service - 7 p.m.
Call 733-4806

Thursday
Team Kid - 6:30 p.m.

Friday
Candles Bible Study - 10 a.m.

The light of the candles itself becomes an important symbol of the season. The light reminds us that Jesus is the light of the world that comes into the darkness of our lives to bring newness, life, and hope. It also reminds us that we are called to be a light to the world as we reflect the light of God's grace to others (Isa 42:6). The progression in the lighting of the candles symbolizes the various aspects of our waiting experience. As the candles are lighted over the four week period, it also symbolizes the darkness of fear and hopelessness receding and the shadows of sin falling away as we more and more light is shed into the world. The flame of each new candle reminds the worshippers that something is happening, and that more is yet to come. Finally, the light that has come into the world is plainly visible as the Christ candle is lighted at Christmas, and worshippers rejoice over the fact that the promise of long ago has been realized.

To advertise your church services and events call Karen at 735-3270.

COMICS

Classic Peanuts

By Charles M. Schulz



For Better or For Worse

By Lynn Johnston



Dilbert

By Scott Adams



Blonde

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 Bill Keane



Hi and Lois

By Chance Browne



"I COULD STAND A LOT MORE CHRISTMAS-TIME, AND A LOT LESS BATH-TIME!"

The Wizard of Id

By Brant Parker & Johnny Hart



Rose is Rose

By Pat Brady



Hagar the Horrible

By Chris Browne



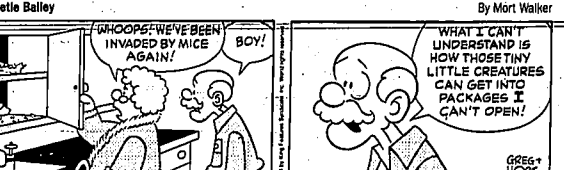
Zits

By Jim Borgman and Jerry Scott



Beetle Bailey

By Mort Walker



Luann

By Greg Evans



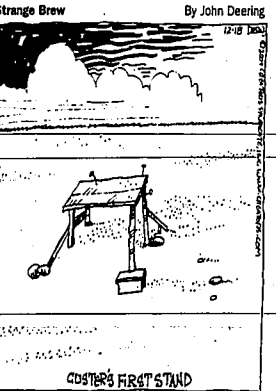
Frank and Ernest

By Bob Thaves



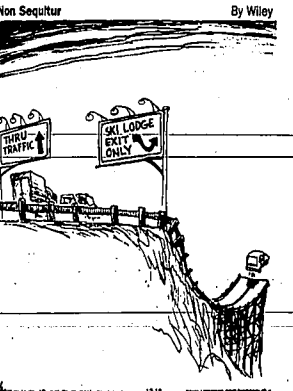
Strange Brew

By John Deering



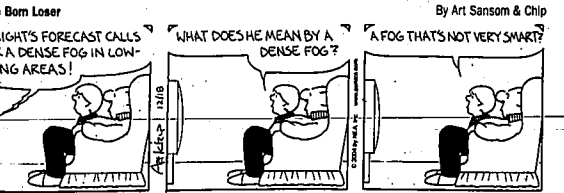
Non Sequitur

By Wiley



The Born Loser

By Art Sansom & Chip



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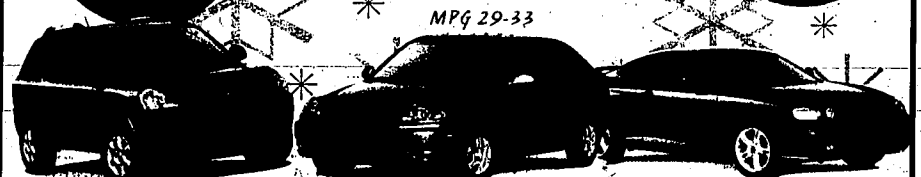
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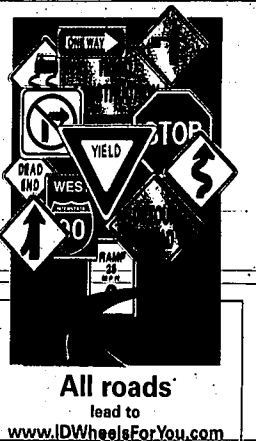
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