GOOD MORNING

WEATHER

Today: Early fog then mainly dry. High 37, low 20.

Page A2

MAGIC VALLEY

She's covered: rate damages home of Gooding insurance agent.
Page B1

MONEY

Looking ahead: Magic Looking ahead: Magic Valley business people are optimistic about coming year, chamber survey says. Page E1

WeekEnd



Holiday movies: "Phantom of the Opera" and "Meet the Fockers" are among the blockbuster movies opening Christmas weekend.

Page C1

SPORTS



Keep 'em coming: Leinart grabs another award. Page D1

OPINION

Yes, Virginia: The hope of Santa Claus still lifts us all above a dreary world, today's editorial says. Page A6

Coming up



Giving your heart away

At Christmas, more folks are finding better ways to give.

Saturday in

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Hoy.com

Businessmen buy T.F. landmark

Old Towne leaders hail purchase as a boon to district's future

By Megan Hinds

Times-News writer

TWIN - FALLS — An Old
Towne landmark that has sat
empty for nearly two years soon
will experience a rebirth. A
group of local investors has purchased the historic building at
516 Hansen St. S. — the former
tome of Muggers Brewpub —
in order to open it again as a
restaurant and microbrevery.
Twin Falls developer Todd
Blass and attorneys Jeff Hepworth and Gary Slette, who
make up Three Amigos LLC.
purchased the nearly 20,000square-foot building Thursday
from Old Mill LLC.
Blass. Hepworth and Slette

don't plan'to rurrthe restauran't themselves-but are accepting proposals from those who'd like to operate one under a lease agreement, Blass said.

"We've got two or three groups who are going to make full proposals — were waiting to see who's interested," he said. The building sold for something less than \$650,000, almost half of its original list price of \$1.1 million. Old Mill partner Bruce Wolch said Thursday. He and Blass declined to say the exact selling price.

"Thope we paid a fair price for a building in good condition." Blass said.
Despite losing money on the

Towne.
"(Three Amigos) got a real
good deal," Wojcik said, "It wasnt right to let the building sit
idle for so long."

Pioneer of warehouse district revival

district revival

After spending nearly 51 million to renovate the flour-sacking warehouse built around
1916, the Old Mill group opened
Muggers in 1986. The hrevpuh
was a pioneer in the recent
transformation of Twin Falls'
Historic Warehouse. District,
leading the way in a new wave
of private investment in Old
Towne's Industrial buildings.
The restaurant expanded to
Please see REEMPIN 2000 A.



Glascock

TWIN FALLS — County Clerk Kristina Glascock is feeling a lit-tle like the grinch who stole Christmas. And she never

Christmas. And she never meant to. In 2000, the tdalto Lugisland the tdalto Lugisland the test and t

Twin Falls County contracted with Advanced Collection Technology to collect some \$1.7 million in fines owed to the 5th Indical District.

Glascock said it was just a coincidence the notices from the 5th Judicial District arrived in people's mailboxes the second week of December telling them they still owed the county money for unpaid fines. The notices told them they had until Dec. 23 to pay those fines before they were handed over to the collection agency.

"The timing wasn't good, but hat's where we were at working our way backwards on these outstanding monies." Glascock said.

"And Glascock said for every person complaining, there have een many others who have come in and willingly paid their overdue fines. In fact, when

Please see COLLECTIONS, Page A2

Court fines

Twin Falls County has begun callecting on unpaid fines in its computer files daint back to 1989. People with questions concerning court fines can visit the Court Services Office inside the Theron W. Ward Judicial Building at 425. Sheshore St. N. or. call the office at 736-4025.

defends collection of fines

By Sandy Miller Times News write

With a number of beer fermentation kettles lining the wall behind him. Twin Falls developer Tood Blass looks at empty beer kegs store in the basement of the former Muggers Brewpub building in Old Towne Thursday. Blass, along with attorneys Jeff Hepworth and Gary Siette, have purchased the historic building and plan to lease it to a yet-to-be chesen restaurateur.

OORBELL DITCHERS



Students leave behind gifts, holiday cheer

By Lorraine Cavener

bells and then making a run for it.

But this was no ordinary doorbell ditching activity. The students visited the homes of needy families, leaving behind gifts of food, Christmas trees, presents and other large items.

"It was not only rewarding to the family, but to us, too," said student Jayme Harmison.

The activity was all part of a leadership project put on by the high school's student council.

Not wanting to embarrass the seven selected beneficiary families, the students set the gifts at their front doors, rang the doorbell and then made a dash for it to avoid being noticed.

Things didn't always go as planned.

"But it's hard not to notice a

planned.
"But It's hard not to notice a
big_Sid_truck," said_participant

The student councils project started earlier this month when the group put notices out for donations in the school builetin, over the intercom and verbally in each classroom.

They had hoped to raise enough to help four families, but the more than \$4,500 in donations that poured in over four days allowed for seven.

"It was armizing that-we-got that much." Hansen said.

But the gifts were not limited to Christmus dinner or a sponder the tree.

But the gast of the control of the c

Times-News correspondent Lorraine Cavener can be reached at 208 438-8446 or lcavener@pmt.org

Little 'chatter' could mean less chance of terror attack

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The threat of a terrorist attack on the United States still exists, but counterterorism officials say there is; a conspicuous lack of intelligence "chatter" being picked up. It's a stark contrast to last year's holiday season, when there was chatter indicating a plot could be in the works. The nation was under heightened alert-and-a-number-of-foreign flights to America were canceled because of specific threats.

us. and foreign intelligence
and law enforcement services
report a continuing stream of
argue, lowe-level threats from
al-Qaida and other Islamic extermist groups against American Interests, at home and
abroad. But officials say nothing
specific_and_credible_has,
comerged in recent months that
would require the government
to rulse the risk level above yellow, or "clevated," the midpoint
or tile live-level threat scale.
"It's a little bit like a duck on a

Please see CHATTER, Page A2

es-News correspondent

TWIN FALLS — A group of Twin Falls High School students spent Thursday ringing door-bells and then making a run for te

assie Gonzalez. Real estate agent Sid Lezamiz

E 611.

Sophomores Deldre Edmunds, right, and Katle Thomas wrap gifts before the delivery.

donated the use of one of his red moving vans to transport the

moving vans to transport une gifts.

At one house, the students tried to hide after they rang the doorbell but were spotted by two small children looking out the window.

The students yelled out "Merry Christmas" and drowe off in the van.

They were spotted at another

place, too.
"Little kids would wave," Kara
Gembrel said. "They had huge Gembrel said. "They had huge smiles."

As the group spent the day shopping and wrapping the glits, some of the merchants learned about their activity and offered discounts.

"The rest of the community-was eager to help," said Lindsey Hansen.

Research yields clues to graying hair

Study may also shed light on skin cancer The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Those annoying gray halts that increasingly eer back from the bath-moon in my have some value increasing the state of the ous type of skin cancer.

"Preventing-the-graying-of-hair is not our goal," said senior researcher Dr. David E. Fisher of

the Dana-Farber Cancer Insti-tute in Boston.

"What we really want is to come up with treatments for melanoma." Fisher said in a telephone
interview.
Melanoma is the malignant form of melanocytes, the cells that help color hair and skin, and it is particularly resistant to chemotherapy and radiation. Fisher's team found that hair. goes gray when melanocytes

Fisher's team, found that hair goes gray when melanocytes become depleted. The scalp contains a reservoir of adult stem cells that provide a continuous supply of these color-making cells, they found. But as the body ages

these cells become depleted and sometimes begin to devel-op in the wrong part of the hair follicle. The research, published on-line Thursday by the journal Science, originally focused on mice.

But the team also studied

But the team also studied human scalp tissue at various ages and found a similar pattern of cell deptetion.

It was known that the pigment was not well transfered into gray hair, but the actual mechanism had not been understood, Pini K. Nishimura, a co-author of the paper, said in a telephone interview.

The Associated Press

BURLEY/RUPERT FORECAST

ay:Partly to mostly sunny, mainly dry and brisk. Highs 33 to 39.

from 33 to 39.

Tonight: Partly cloudy with areas of freezing fog doveloping Lows from 16 to 22.

Tomorrow: A nice Christmas Day. Highs from 39 to 45.

IDAHO'S FORECAST



Comunidad

733-0931 677-4042

ALMANAC - TWIN FALLS Temperature Precipitation

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MOON Phases

High 37

TWIN FALLS FIVE-DAY FORECAST

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Sunrise and Sunset

U. V. INDEX

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DayWeather, Inc.

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Continued from A1

TODAY'S NATIONAL MAP

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Agency disputes Martha's critique | Brewpub m a k i n g mavens usual holiday stan-dards. The govern-ment spends a little more

Newsday

NEW YORK — At least it's not bread and water, Martha.

The Federal Bureau of Prisons Thursday defended itself against a culinary jab from Martha Stewart, who dis week posted a message on her Web site saying site had, plenty of time to not eat the bad food the Addreson, Web and the standard standard the saying the saying site had, plenty of time to not eat the bad food the standard standard saying the saying site had, plenty of time to not eat the bad food the prison site more than appropriate for a correctional setting said prisons spokesman Dan Dunne.

But it has yet to receive its

Dunne.

But it has yet to receive its

Zagat rating, and there's still little doubt that the Alderson cafeteria won't be up to the home-



ment spends a little more than \$2 per day feeding an inmate, and that "prix fixe" Martha Stewait figure doesn't rise just because a holiday meal is on tap. On Christmas Day, Stewar and the 1,000 other inmates at the Alderson Federal Prison Camp will chow down on urkey, ham or chicken, depending on what is procured by local providers. Preparation will follow military recipe stan-

the capital, Tegucigalpa, said police spokesman, Deputy Commissioner-Wilmer-Forres. "It was an unbelievable massacre." he said in a telephone interview. "We don't know yet who did h."

The bus was driving through the heavily populated neigh-

dards, Dunne said.

A typical military portion of roast turkey is 4 ounces and contains 193 calories. Prisoners

roast turkey is 4 ounces and contains 193 calories, Prisoners would typically get two slices, prison officials said.
There won't be any wine pairings, either.
Contrast with Martha Stewart Livings December suggested Christmas menu, including coasted urkey breast with fennel herb stuffing or a maple-glazed smoked Vermont ham.
As for the decor, minimal "Happy Holidays" decorations will be strung up on the calcurin wail, but there won't be much else decoration-wise because of fire hazard issues, said Dunne, who used to work at Alderson.

Bus attack claims 23 in Honduras borhood of San Isidro when a car carrying an unknown number of armed attackers cut in front of it and other as-sallants fired from behind the bus, Torres said. He said offi-cials did not yet know how many people were aboard the bus.

competition as factors as two-ing.

The owners just didn't have enough oversight of the opera-tions, and the restaurant changed focus several times, Wojcik said Thursday Closing the building was the most cost-effective option for him and fel-low investors, he said.

"None of us were real restau-rant or bar-type people," Wojcik said.

offer a full Italian menu, the basement was home to a successful microbrowing facility, and the upstairs was used for seminars and receptions. At one point, part of the building was occupied by an artists' cooperative.

But after seven years of varying success — during which several other nearby businesses joined the Old Towne commuty — Muggers closed in January 2003. At that point, owners cited declining sales, mounting bills and increased restaurant, competition as factors in closing.

The owners just didn't have

offer a full Italian menu, the

New restaurant could grow 'critical mass'

grow 'critical mass'
The closing of Muggers left a hole in the heart of Old Towne, said Dave Woodhead, landlord for a strip of businesses close to the Muggers building, including his own Lamphouse Theatre and Woody's Sportsbar & Grill. Muggers helped make Old Towne a destination area. In which people could park once and visit several businesses in the same area, Woodhead said. Its departure hurt.

"I like to think that Old Towne eads a 'critical mass' of busi-

needs a 'critical mass' of busi-nesses to be successful," he

said.

Woodhead said he thinks the opening of a new restaurant in the Muggers building will be a boon to his businesses and others in the area by increasing that critical mass.

critical mass.

"In a nutshell, it'll make the area seem more alive ... Lthink it's just what we need to kind of complete the neighborhood."

Woodhead said. "Now maybe

some of those other buildings will be purchased, too." Twin Falls' economic devel-opment director, Dave McAlindin, agreed with Wood-head.

head.
The city's Urban Renewal Agency is "thrilled the building is being purchased," McAlindin said. "These are some solid folks with an interest in downtown that will do this project right."

Building has 'lots of possibilities'

of possibilities'

The Muggers building as it stands now is a "nearly turnkey" operation, Blass said.
Inside, the exposed brick walls and antique copperstamp accents haven't changed abit. A sign advertising he bar's very last drink specials still sits on the counter, and the brass plates of the drawers of a cigar numidor still bear the names of former patrons. The basement holds more than a dozen hoxes. full of glass jugs meant to hold freshly brewed beer.

The new owners plan some further renovations, including possibly turning the buildings second level into offices or even apartments.

"The newlous owners spared

apartments.
"The previous owners spared

apartments.

"The previous owners spared no expense in renovating this building." Blass said. "There are lots of possibilities."

Hepworth and Slette's law practice and other professional offices in the restored Gem State Paper & Supply warehouse—diffectly across the street from Muggers—opened shortly after the brewpub closed. Both Hepworth and Blass said they had long looked at the brewpub building as a great investment.

"I had started looking at it every day when I drove past." Blass said. "I did that so many times that I decided I had to stop driving past it or find some way to buy it."

Times-News business uniter.

Times-News business writer Megan Hinds can be reached at 735-3238 or megan.hinds@ lee.net.

Collections

TEGUCIGALPA. Honduras (AP) — Gummen opened fire on a public hus in northern Hönduras late Thusday, killing at least 23 passengers and wounding 16 others, police said.

The shooting took place in the northern Atlantic city of Chamelecon, 125 miles north of

Collections
Continued from A1
news of the county contracting, with the collection agency appeared in The Times-News in annuary, almost a year before the notices went out, people came in droves to pay their outstanding fines, Glascock said Thursday,
"You would not believe the hoards of people coming in and paying," Glascock said. "They knew they owed money and they came in and paid it." Still, some 'people who received notices insist they don't owe the county money. They also question why red flags never went up on an unpaid fine when they came to pay other fines.
Glascock said if a person came in to pay a fine, the clerk would more than likely just pail up that particular case number. History of pat decisions and the proposition of the patients of the patients. Cheryle Worthington insists

she remembers paying the \$347.50 line she received back in June 1939 for failure to purchase a driver's license.

I remember going in and paying it. Worthington said.

But records at the courthouse show she didn't pay that line. However, her fine history shows she paid fines for other minor driving, related charges, including a few that occurred after the lune 1933 incident.

I me 1935 incident.

Charge of the court of the charge of the court of the court of the charge in the court of the charge of the court of the cour

the county's records are just wrong.
"Somewhere, the payments have not been recorded," Worthington said. "There's negligence, and I don't feel it's on my part."

There were the state of the sta

their lines will not have to wait to loyers -to-receive a -notice from the court. The computer system has been updated.
"As soon as that payment due date passes, the computer will generate a notice that will be mailed to them giving them two weeks to come in and pay

us," Glascock said, "If they dont, swe'll turn them over to the collection agency. The collection agency will send them a notice giving them 30 days to pay before it goes into full collection and they add the 33 percent."

pay before it goes into full col-lection and they add the 33 per-cent."
Glascock said the collection-agency will work with people on a payment plan so they don't have to pay the entire amount all at one time.

If a person still refuses to pay, a warrant could be put out for his arrest, but that would be up to the prosecutor on the case, Glascock said.

Kootenal County was the first in Idaho to jump on the collec-tion agency bandwagon, sign-ing on with Washington-based AllianceCone a couple of years ago. Kootenal County Clerk Dan English said although there were some "ripples in the water" at first, the system has been working well.

It was a good idea and it still is, "English said "We've really tried to handle it as an econom-ic sunction rather than a crimi-nal one."

Judges rarely issue warrants for failure to pay, instead allow-ing the collections agency to handle it.

handle it.

"It's taken a load off the jall,
"the prosecutors and the District
Court staff," English said.
He said taxpayers should not
be accountable for the fines of
others.

"We should at least be as dilgent as Sears or MasterCard,"
he said.

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

Chatter

Continued from A1

Continued from A1
pond. You've got a lot going on
under the surface but you don't
have any big waves." [Fill counterterrorism and counterintelligence chief Cary Bald said in an
interview Thursday.

Just before Christmas last
year, the threat level was raised
to orange, or "high," and flights
to the United States from Paris,
London, Scotland and elsewhere were canceled over several, days. The FFil, Homeland
Security Department and other
agencies scrambled to check
names booked on those flights
for possible al-Qaida operativeseither trying to get into the United States or to target the flights
themselves.

Ill. And Burnpean officials were acting on
difficult-to-other in religing
clifficult-to-other in religing
concern. But even then, no ar-

rests were announced and it was unclear if any plots were thwarted.

Nothing like that has surfaced this year, despite a general concern that terrorists might try to disrupt the holidays or take advantage of heetic travel times to mount an attack.

"We have no information."

vantage of heetle travel times to mount an attack.

We have no information about specific plots as we enter the holiday season. Homeland Security Department spokesman Brian Roehrkasse said.

Still, officials and outside experts say the relative calm and lack of an all-Qalda attack on the U.S. homeland since Sept. 11, the control of th



Emergency heating aid funds released | Bush plans to recycle

WASHINGTON (AP) - After lawmakers complained that unders complained that unders complained that of thousands of seniors and low-income families before the worst of winter, federal authori-ties announced Thursday they would release \$100 million in emergency heating aid for the poor.

poor.
The Department of Health and Human Services said it would distribute \$100 million from a \$300 million fund for the Low-Income Heating and Ener-gy Assistance Program.
That is in addition to some \$1.2 billion sent to states in Oc-

Weather buries

parts of South and Midwest

Interstate 64 in southwestern Indiana, and were looking for ore people stuck.
"I was scared, wondering bout the kids. How was I going

Former

governor

pleads guilty

NEW HAVEN, Conn. (AP)—Six months after being driven from office by scandal, former Gov. John G. Roviland pleaded gullty to corruption charges Thursday, admitting he traded his office for more than \$100,000 in flights to Las Vegas, Vermont vacations and repairs to his vacation cottage.

Roviland, 47, will probably get 15 to 21 months in federal prison, lawyers said.

The once popular three-term

ne-once-popular-three-term ublican had maintained for

John G. Rowland day, he countries a single word- Thursay. I has a single word- Thursay. He could the court, his attorney's hand on his back as he spoke.

The plea ends a 2-year-federal investigation of the former politician, though he could still ace state charges.

"Obviously, mistakes have been made throughout the lass few years, and I accept responsibility for those," he said after court. But I also ask the people of this state to appreciate and understand what we have tried to do over the past 25 years in public service.

Rowland had not been charged with a crime before Thursday, But he had been secretly negotiating with prosecutors for a couple of months.

The gulltyplea completed the

months.

The guilty plea completed the downfall of a man who was once one of the GOP's rising young stars, a political boy wonder who first got elected to Congress at age 27 and went on to serve 9.5 years as governor.

"While we knew that this day might convey the convey the

maintained for months that the business-men and cronies who lavished gifts on him had received nothing exch ange. With a single word-Thurs-day, he

The Associated Press

toher as part of the Low-Income Heating and Energy Assistance Program. The bulk of the more posses to cold-weather states in the Northeast and Midwest. Dr. Wadet Iorn, III IS assistant secretary for children and families. Said the more was received to the Control of the Contr

Others, like New York's gover-nor George Pataki, have pressed Congress to put more money in the program. IJI IIAP aids an estimated 4.5 million households each year. The largest benefactor of the program, New York, will receive nearly \$17 million of the fresh infusion of aid. Pennsylvani, will get \$7.5 million, and Mass-achusetts \$5.6 million. Two other cold-weather states, Minnesota and Michi-gait, each will receive more than \$4 million. Louisiana, by comparison, will get about \$600,000. Record snowfall impedes travel, shopping

inches of snow, topping the yearly average of 10 inches and doubling its previous one-day record. In some parts of south-central Kentucky, the ice was 2 to 4 inches thick. This is a storon with to 4 inches thick.

"This is a storm you might see two or three of these in your adult life," said David Humphrey, a National Weather Service meteorologist in Paducah.

The winter weather hampered efforts to wrap up holiday shopping.

meteorologist in Paducali.
The winter weather hampered efforts to wrap up holiday shopping.
Asahiba Allen was one of the few shoppers who made it to Cincinnati's nearly deserted downtown, where many stores and restaurants were shut down early Thurstmas shopping.
"I wouldn't have come down; if I didn't have to finish my shopping, she said. "There were cars stuck all over the roads, For the first time I sort of glad I'm too young to drive."

Illen: Tolley, spokeswoman for the National Retail Federation, the world's largest retail trade association, said sales may have stalled in areas hit with heavy snow, but the wintry weather may put others in a holiday shopping mood.

to-feed-them?" said-Mary-Grad-dock, a 28-year-old waitress from Hartford, Ky, who was stranded on the interstate in

Tom Wilczynski helps dig motorist Dan Kegley out of a snow bank in downtown Detroit on Thursday after a snow storm passed through the

Evansville, Ind.

The Associated Press

A sloppy storm dumped more than a year's worth of snow on parts of the Midobest and made a mess of holiday travel and last-minute Christmas shopping Thursday. More than a dozen traffic deaths were blamed on the storm.

The heavy snowfall and icy-roads stranded motorists, dealeyed flights ahead of a holiday weekend in which a record 62 million were expected. Loravel and threw gift package deliveries into disarray for the nations three largest package shippers. National Guardsmen rescued more than 100 motorists who had been stranded overnight along a snowy 25-mile stretch of Interstate 6 d in southwestern Indiana, and were looking for Evansville, Ind.

Her car was out of gus, and she and her two children had finished their only food – a bag of potato chips—as they waited it out. Temperatures in Evansville dipped into the teens and Wednesday's snowfall of 19.3 inches topped the city's average total winter

snowfall of 14:2 inches.

In Kentucky, dozens of travelers were-stranded overnight along interstates 71 and 24: Motorists on 1-71 bunked down in the lobby and haliways at the Best Western Executive hin at Carrollton. Weary travelers were sprawded across chairs in the dinling from; others curied up in corners or tunder stalrs, using rolled-up towels as pillows. Paducah, Ky., received 14

Men convicted in immigrants' death

HOUSTON Two men were convicted Thursday for their role in the nation's deadliest human snuggling attempt – a journey that ended in the deaths of 19 illegal immigrants crammed in a sweltering tractor-trailler. Victor Jesus Rodriguez and Predy Giovanni Garcia Tobar each faced 58 counts. They were found gaility of the serious charge, complracy, and 19 counts of adding in the transport of immigrants that results in death.

death.

Both could face life in prison when sentenced in March.

Federal prosecutors had accused them of being members of a smuggling ring that stuffed a hot, airless tractor-trailer with more than 70 illegal immigrants.

more than 70 illegal immigrants and tried to transport them from South Texas to Houston in May 2003.

The trailer was abandoned at a truck stop near Victoria, about 100 miles southwest of Houston, after the immigrants began succumbing to the heat, estimated at 173 degrees. Seventeen immigrants very found dead inside the trailer. Two died later.

The jury reached its verdictonis lifth day of deliberations.

Prosecutor: Suspect had pyrotechnic experience

GREENBEUT Md. - An amusement park" employee with a background in pyrotech-nics was the ringleader in a \$10 million arson spree at a subur-

Nation in brief

ban Washington housing development, a federal prosecutor said Thursday. Prosecutor Donna Sanger said at a hearing that Patrick Walsh, 21, was the "instigator" of the plot and the leader of a tightly organized group of young men who referred to themselves as The Family and set the fires to make a statement.

nent.

A federal magistrate ordered Maish held without hall.
Six young men in all have charged in the Dec. 6.string of. lires that destroyed 10 houses and damaged 16 others at the Hunters Brooke community, an upscale development under construction.

Pope defrocks priest shot by his alleged victim

by his alleged victim

BALTIMORIE (AP) – A priest facing trial next month for allegedly molesting a former altar boy who later shot him has been defrocked by Pope John Paul II, The Associated Press has learned.

Maurice Blackwell 58. is scheduled to go on tral fan. 3 on four counts of child sexual abuse against Dontee Stokes. Blackwell was shot by Sokes in May 2002, in the mists of the mational scandal involving Catholic priests. In the aftermath, Balthurer prosecutors reviewed Stokes' allegations and charged the priest with mo-

lesting Stokes.

The pope decided in October to dismiss Blackwell, and the Archdiocese of Baltimore received the official paperwork earlier this month from the Vatican, archdiocese spokesman Scan Caine said Wednesday.

Blackwell's trial has been postponed five times, and the archdiocese received word from Rome just before one of his previous trial dates. Caine said the archdiocese decided then not to make a public statement about Blackwell's defrocking out of consideration for how it could affect potential jurors.

Panhandler killed outside busy department store

busy department store
PORTLAND. Ore. – A man
who witnesses say was panharadling outside a busy dewntown
department store was shot to
death Thursday in front of horrifled holiday shoppers. A
suspect was quickly arrested.
Witnesses said the gumman
fired three shots at the victim, then calmly walked away.
Police said the motive for the
shooting iwas not immediately
known.
KPAM radio reported that
witnesses said the victim had
been panhandling in front of
the landmark Meler & Frank
store. Sgt. Brian Schmautz, police spokesman. told The
Associated Press he could not
confirm that.
– compiled from wire reports

blocked nominees

The Washington Post

The Washington Post

WASIINGTON — President, Bush announced Thursday his intention to renominate 20 people previously blocked by Senate Democrats for federal court seats, setting the stage for renewal of the bitter partisan battles over the makeup of the federal judiciary.

The presidents list includes seven appeals court candidates whose nominations were stalled on the Senate Boor by Democrats, who labeled them extremists' because of their conservative views. The others never made it to the full Senate. Buoyed by his re-election victory and a four-seat Republican gain in the Senate, Bush said he would submit the names of the nominees when the Senate returns to work in January.

Among the most prominent names on the list are Texas Supreme Court lustice Priscilla Owen, who was previously nominated for a seat on the U.S. Court of Appeals for the 5th Cir.

culi: California Supreme Court
fustice lanice Rogers Brown,
previously
nominated to
a scat on the
D.C. Court of
Appeals and
former associate
White
House Counsel
Kavanaugh,
Moserved as Pentagon general
cunised whice controversial detaince policies were see, will
again be a nominee for the 4th
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again be a nominee for the 4th Circuit.
Another is former Alabama Attorney General William Pryor, an outspoken opponent of abortlon, for the U.S. Court of Appeals for the 1th Circuit Malanta. Pryor was appointed by Bush last year to 1th Circuit while Congress was out of session: he needs Senate confirmation to s'ay on the court.

Medicare will start paying for counseling to help smokers quit

WASHINGFON (AP) — Medicare said Thursday it in-tends to pay for counseling to help some of the nation's d-mil-lion older smokers kick the

help-some of the nations dimilihelp-some of the nations dimilihelp-lodder smokers kick the
habit.

Medicare beneficiaries whosmoke and have smoking-related diseases or take certain
medicines will be oligited
when the proposal takes effect
heat year. Medicare covered counseling
when the proposal takes effect
heat year. Medicare chief Mark
McClellan said coverage would
begin no later than the end of
harch.
Medicare would pay for up to
four counseling sessions. If that
doesn's suffice, smokers ould, set
a second round of counseling.

The decision has broad support among health
providers and patient advocates, although some groups
pushed for more extensive coverage, including for
nicotine-replacement programs

elp smokers quit

and some prescription drugs
Medicare – the government
health program for 42 million
older-and disabled-Americans
will cover prescription mediccines beginning in 2006.

"Quitting isTural, but counseling is a proven means of helping
simokers succeed, it's cost effective and can double the chances
of success," said John R, Seffrin,
chief executive officer of the
American Cancer Society.
Smoking is the top cause of
preventable deaths in the United States, taking 440,000 lives a
year, according to government
estimates. Roughly 300,000 of
those deaths occur among people 65 and older.
Tobacco use costs Medicare
S14 billion at year.
One of the counseling according to the
Campaign for Tobacco-Free
Kids.





Chad Heider 423-6454



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ospuss at age 27 and went on to serve 95 years as governor.

"While we knew that this day might come, we were never really prepared for the reality of it," said Gow M. Jodi Rell, who replaced Rowland. "Today the state of Connecticut was humilisted, and 1, as John Rowlands former running mate and colleague, feel personally betrayed. When I first heard the news, I felt like I was punched in the gut."—Rowland resigned luly I amidagathering drive in the Legislature to Impeach him. NEED HELP WITH QUICKBOOKS®?

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26 Snipmates 27 Agog 28 Part of TWA 32 Grants 33 Most foxy 35 Kind of energy 38 Type of parking

5

7

10

Woman mad

DEAR ABBY: From the time that my father left — I was 8 — until I was thrown out of the house at 16. my mother was seriously emontionally abusive and neglectial. She frequently called me flitby names, made bizzare and littly names, made bizzare and littly names, made bizzare flitby names, made bizzare and littly names, made bizzare threatened me, publicly humiliated and belittled me.

I am now in my mid-20s and have had no contact with my mother for three years. My older hrother is in denial about the abuse, and insists that I fongive—her and rebuild our relationship. He claims that she's sorry and she misses me.

I recently traveled back to my mother. She treated me as though I we're a stranger. Afterward, felt that I could move on, knowing I had done the right thing in deciding to cut her out my flish blow the rest of the person for no longer having a relationship with them, but they think I'm a had person for no longer having a relationship with my mother. Do you have any advice?

— LEFT IN THE COLD Colly his if the price of having a relationship with your family is tolerating their contional blackmail and more abuse from your mother, the price is too high.

DEAR ABBY: Not long ago, we moved into a beautiful new owners' association and the Humane Society, You'll be doing the neglected creature — and yourselves — a favor. The owners of that poor animal have no idea how to properly care for a dog. The Humane Society will instruct them on the proper care of their furry family member.

DEAR ABBY: My 2-year-old is in a private home day care. Oc-casionally he makes a mess on the carpet or breaks a toy. When it happens, the day-care provider is quick to point out the price of the cleaning or re-

placement, and i usually offer her \$20 in compensation. Howver, she expects me to pay a past half for my child's acci-

50 Got up 51 Pleasures 54 Kimono sash 55 Heel

Heel Deuce

57 Hostelry 58 Dog's best friend?

59 Tokyo, formerly

EBRASMSG

39 FDR's mother 41 XL, XXL or XXXL 42 Cigar with square-cut

45 Make-believe

DEAR

Abby

leanne

Phillips

47 Clinging vines 49 Cary Grant's ex

dents.
Since this is a private home, is it appropriate to assume I'll pay for these incidents on top of the

weekly fee?

— IN NEED OF DAY-CARE

ETIQUETTE

DEAR IN NEED: The fees you DEAR IN NEED: The lees you pay the day-care provider should cover the cost of the toys — they are a part of her cost of clong business. It is after the cost of clong business. It is after the cost of the toy are a part of her cost of the cost of

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mend we do?

— CANINE LOVERS
IN CALIFORNIA
DEAR CANINE LOVERS: Although you would rather not,
for the puppy's sake, pick up the
phone and contact the home-

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high.

DEAR ABBY: Not long ago, we moved into a beautiful new housing development. Neighbors on the street behind us keep 'their puppy penned up outside day and night in all kinds of weather. Occasionally we see one of their neighbors walk the dog, but other than that-it-seems the dogs existence is limited to a cement pad covered in you-know-what.

We would rather not call the homeowners' association or the Humane Society, as these neighbors seem like decent

homeowners' association or the Humane Society, as these neighbors seem like decent people. However, it is upsetting our small children, as well as my husband and me, to hear the poor animal cry. We can't imag-ine spending the next 10 years like this. What do you recom-mend we do?

1598 Blue Lakes Blvd N - 733-8400 OLLER EXPIRES 12-24-2004

Holiday responsibilities will put Libra's pleasure on hold

IF DECEMBER 24 IS YOUR BIRTHDAY... New friends, new frien

nuly to sense auton to the winds later tonight.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Awkwardness. formalities.or mistakes can put a brief damping effect on holiday festivities later this evening. If you forgot to bring a glif for someone, there's always a checkbook or cast for quick may be consented to the control of the control

HOROSCOPE Jeraldine Saunders

CANCER (Inne 21-July 22):
Get in the mood by surrounding yourself with a pleasant atmosphere. Holiday music and the glow of Christmas reve lights can create a heartwarming mood. Playing Santa Claus can banish frost where romance is concerned.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Tired-out traditions may need to be given the boot. An attitude of 'Out with the-old and in with the new' will infuse relationships with the-old and in with the new' will infuse relationships with fresh purpose and give you something special to share in the future.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Show your appreciation by slaring special treats with loved ones. Cast a glamorous spell on your home by adding a few extra touches to build fond memories. Work behind the scenes to ensure peace and tranquility.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): A heavy load of holiday responsibilities can briefly put your pleasure on hold. Frosty the Snowman might be breathing down your neck, preventing you from being as warm and relaxed as usual, Get organized.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21):

The stars could be aligned perfectly for a holiday open house that fulfills both business and family social obligations. Juggle new friends with oil ones and create a checle of good will to enhance your happiness.

SAGITARIUS (Nov. 22- Dec. 21): Maybe you have the urge to break with traditions this holiday feel free to do something different, invite friends for holiday celebrations tomorrow. Doing your own thing may create new customs.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Make permanent memo-

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-1 an. 19): Make permanent memo-ries of holiday cheer by taking photos or showing off your spe-cial talents. Employ tact and diplomacy if you run into Mr. or Mrs. Scrooge. Electronic gadg-

diptomacy n you normal wiss. Scroope. Electronic gadgets fascinate you.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Your significant other may prove to be your best friend in more ways than one. Find ways to delight and amuse the most important person in your life. Old traditions may require your respect, but try out something new and exciting as well.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Don't feel isolated or left out if you can't touch base with the right people at the right time. Tomorrow is another day. The joy of social events could be hampered if you attend only from a sense of duty

Van Gogh cut off his ear in 1888

This day in history. On Dec. 24. 1888. mentally-unstable artist Vincent Van Cogh woke up and cut off his ear lobe. I fix wrapped in in paper and gave in brighted in in paper and gave in brighted in the paper and gave in brighted in the fire country of the local fixed of the order of the country of the local fixed on paper and for the local interest in the 1848, in Type in West of Pathon Market Christmass formorrow. If you lived to Pathon West of the local fixed of



RANIXM KINDSOF FACINESS Jack Mingo Erin Barrett

sessing a Christmas tree, baking mince pies or holding Christ-mas church services Likewise. For centuries after Josat' life, church elders difficial allow Christmas celebrations, saying that it would be shift to celebrate his birthday "as if he were a Pharoah". They didn't ce-lebrate Christmas until A.D. 336.

If you're watching for Rudolph's nose on Christmas Eve. note that he was originally "Rollo the Red-Nosed Rein-deer." Montgomery Ward management wanted an Inex-

teer: Montgomery Ward management wanted an inexpensive premium to give their patrons in 1939, so they assure the montgomer of the montgomer of

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Fighting erupts in Fallujah

Three Marines die in action

Knight Ridder News Service

FALLUJAH, Iraq — Hundreds of residents who returned to this war-ravaged city Thursday found that the battle of Fallujah

this war-ravaged city Thursday found that the battle of Falluljah was not over.

More than six weeks after U.S. forces launched their offensive into the Sunni stronghold, there was fighting Thursday with insurgents who had infiltrated the tightly guarded city.

The sound of tank, artillery and machine gain life echoed through the mostly empty streets, and loud booms could be heard inside the city at rightfall. Early in the day, U.S. forces attained an airstrike of an apartment building in the rorthern section of the city after getting into a gain battle with fighters.

Three U.S. Marines died in the area Thursday, but it was unclear whether they were killed inside the city.



Iraqis wait to be allowed entrance into Fallujah on Thursday, as the first of the town's 300,000 residents who fied last month's U.S. offensive started returning.

Away from the fighting the interim Iraqi government and U.S. Martines opened the city to the estimated 2.000 families from the Andalus district. Fewer than 1.000 people came. After standing in long lines to pass through the checkpoints, they found a city with ravaged housing, destoyed businesses and a water and electrical sys-

tem in tatters.
"I didn't bring my family with
me because I do not know if my
house is still standing." Mahmoud Anafi, 41, said as he stood
waiting for a bus to take him
into the district. "I don't know if
there is anything to take them
to

U.S. Army psychological op-rations officers blared

messages in Arabic on loud-speakers on behalf of the Iraqi government, welcoming resi-dents back to Fallujah and acknowledging, the city was in ruins. The inessage also asked-the residents to be patient, as, Iraqi and American officials go about repairing the city. Marine officials say they ex-pect a greater number of people to flock to the city in coming days after word of Fallujah's opening spreads during Friday prayers.

days after word or reampunopening spreads during Friday
prayers.

A new sector its scheduled to
be opened every three days, and
government officials have said
they hope to allow all Fallujah
residents back into the city
within three weeks.

Many Fallujah residents who
were not from the Andalus disstrict showed up at the
checkpoints staffed by Iraqi National Guard and police and
pleaded to be allowed into the
city.

They were denied entry. Others complained to guards that
they were from the district but
had left their identification at
their homes when they evacuated. They were denied entry too.



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Military says bomber wore an Iragi uniform

BAGIIDAD-InterAPP—Three-studied homber believed to have blown himself up in a U.S. milliary dinning can near Mosulhis week, killing up the U.S. milliary said Thrus'eld, the U.S. milliary said Thrus'eld, the top U.S. general in orither Iraq acknowledged that the homber may have got then through the vetting process conducted by U.S. and Iraqi authorities to check the backgrounds of tradis joining: the security services.

Lt. Col. Paul Instings spokesman for Task Force Olympia in Mosul, said a general officer will be flying in from headquarters in Baghdad to take over the investigation into how the devastating attack on the base near Mosul was

carried out-The PB its also particle out-The PB its also particle of the problem. "Hell initiate an investigation...then we will be in a better position to find out what happened." Itsustings said in a telephone interdew. The Ansar al-Sunnah Army, the military group that carlier claimed responsibility for the autick, issued a new statement ratick, issued a new statement photoling that it was a suicide to the problem of the problem of your martyr brothers to plunge into God enemies inside their forts, killing and injuring hundreds. The group said in a statement posted on its Web site Thursday, "We don't know they can be so stupid that until now they have not figured out the type of the strike that lit them."

Rumsfeld makes surprise visit

MUMSIEIU IRAK

MOSUL Irag (AP) — U.S. Delense Secretary Donald II.
Itumsfeld visited wounded soldiers and brought holiday
greetings on Christmas Eve
and dight security at an air base
in northern Irag where an insurgent's attack Rilled 14 U.S.
troops and eight other people
earlier this week.
Hoping to demonstrate compassion for the troops
sacrifices. Rumsfeld handed in
darkness and walked immediately from his plane to a combat
sundical hospital where many of
the bombing victims were treated after Tuesday's lunchtime,
attack on a mess tent.
The most seriously wounded
already have been transferred to

a U.S. military hospital in Ger-

a U.S. military hospital in Germany.
Out of concern for security, Rumsfeld's aides went to unusual lengths to keep his visit a secret prior to his arrival, with only a few reporters and one TV crew accompanying him on an overnight light from Washington.
In an interview aboard the C-17 cargo plane that brought him to Mosul, Rumsfeld said hed been planning to visit U.S. troops here long before Tuesday's deadly attack, believed to have been carried out by a suicide bomber.
"The focus of the trip is to thank the troops and wish them a Merry Christmas," he said.



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Happy Holidays from

Editorial

Yes Virginia, even todav there is a Santa-Claus-

More than a century ago, young Virginia O'Hailon some the editor of The New York Sun a question that still perplexes parents: 'Is there a Saita Claus?' Her letter was turned over to Francis P.

e take pleasure in answering at once and thus prominently the communication below, expressing at the same time our great gratification that its faithful author is numbered among the friends of The Sun:

"Dear editor: I am 8 years old. Some of my little friends say there is no Santa Claus. Papa says 'If you see it in The Sun, it's so!" Please tell me the truth, is there a Santa Claus?

Virginia O'Hanlon I 15 West 95th Street"

Virginia, your little friends are wrong. They have been affected by the skepticism of a skeptical age. They do not believe except they see. They think that, nothing can be which is not comprehensible by their little minds.

All minds, Virginia, whether they be men's or children's are little. In this great universe of our sman is a mere insect - an ant - in his

children's are little. In this great universe of our sman is a mere insect - an ant - in his intellect, as compared with the boundless world about him, as measured by the intelligence capable of grasping the whole of truth and knowledge.

Yes, Virginia, there is a Santa Claus. He exists as certainly as love and generosity and devotion exist, and you know that they abound and give to your life its highest beauty and joy.

Alas' how dreary would be the world if there were no Santa Claus! It would be as dreary as if there were no Virginias. There would be no child-like faith then, no po-

The Times-News

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

Church, and his eloquent reply was published that Christmas of 1837. As is our usual custom, The Times-News is pleased to reprint Church's visidom on yet another Christmas Eve.

etry, no romance to make

etry, no romance to make tolerable the existence. We should have no enjoyment, except in sense and sight. The eternal light with which childhood fills the world would be extinguished.

Not believe in Santa Claus! You might as well not believe in fairies! You might get your papa to hire men to watch in all the chimneys on Christmas Eve to catch watch in all the chimneys on Christmas Eve to catch Santa Claus but even if they did not see Santa Claus corning down, what would that prove? Nobody ses Santa Claus, but that is no sign that there is no Santa Claus, but that is no sign that there is no Santa Claus, but that is no sign that there is no Santa Claus. The most real things in the world are those that neither children nor men can-see—Bid-you-ever-see-fairies dancing on the lawn? Of course not, but that's no proof that they are not there. Nobody can conceive or imagine all the wonders that are unseen and unseeable in the world.

You tear apart the baby's

are unseen and unseeable in the world.

You tear apart the baby's rattle and see what makes the noise inside, but there is a veil covering the unseen world which not the strongest man, nor even the united strength of all the strongest men that ever lived, could tear apart.

Only faith, fancy, poetry, love, romance can push aside the curtain and view and picture the supernal beauty and glory beyond. Is it all real? Ah, Virginia, in all this world there is nothing else real and abiding.

No Santa Claus! Thank God he lives, and he lives forever. A thousand years from now, Virginia, nay, ten timesten thousand years from now, he will continue to make glad the heart of child-hood.

CHRISTMAS



The sensible greeting for Christmas

I some calamity punches holes in our records and books and leaves in its wake only fragments, have you ever wondered what archeologists several centuries down the road will deduce about this holiday we call Christmas? I predict they will speak with certainty of a civilization that worshipted (living reinders by

certainty of a civilization that worshiped Hying reindeer, be-moaned Grandma getting run over by them, and fretted about one with a red nose beset by sibling rivally issues. With professorial pomposity, they will pratide on about our elves, snowmen, bells, trees, toxys, gingerbread and eggmog. And they won't have the fogglest notion about what put he whole holiday in motion in the first place.

est notion about what put the whole hollday in motion in the first place.

Not that there's anything wrong with elves, snowmen and bells. But isn't it time to recognize one overwhelming fact? The pseudo-serious buzz we hear each year about recapturing the "true meaning of Christmas" originates among the same demographic category that helps block it from happening Christians shem-selves.

Eighty-two percent of us are Christians in this nation, but Christians in this nation, but we're wimps. Too many of us where wimps. Too many of us where stopped saying Merry . Christians My Jewish friends will say it to me. But Christians offer up PC drivel about Happy Holidays. Happy Holidays? Humbug, Happy Holidays? Humbug, Happys for January through November. December is for Merry. As in Merry Christians.

mas.

If my lewish friends are comfortable wishing me a Merry Christmas, but my fellow Christmas in Christmas chain, wrong in Christendom. All of which reminds me of something if Bo Koppel did on ABCS "Nightline" 22 years ago. He signed off his Christmas Eve program this way.

GARY LAWRENCE

Those of us who work at this profession of journalism are rarely at such a loss for words as when someone asks us to define the nature of news. Usually we mumble something about the importance of are the control of t

Imagine the reverse situation-lion-lifosmone wished me a Happy Hanukkah or Happy Kwanzaa, would I be offended? Absolutely not. I would take it as a compiliment on my openness.

As always, what was news and what was important were in stark contrast this year. We had plenty of news, but lost track of what's important,

Too many of us have stopped saying Merry Christmas. My Jewish friends will say it to me. But Christians offer up PC drivel about Happy Holidays. Happy Holidays?

Humbug. Happy's for January through November; December is for Merry. As in Merry

Christmas:

It was a year of the most hateful political campaigns that I have seen in 36 years as pollidat polister. The dintarties of 2004 ridiculed, demeaned and trivialized religious belief and attacked those who defer a higher power, as opposed to those who believe that human intellect is the highest hope for mankind. And yet, despite these attacks on their beliefs, too many Christians hesitate to express a simple greeting rooted in the second-most chimportant event—in Christian history—one that carries with it the promise of peace on Earth and goodwill toward all. I she it time to take a stand?

stand? Merry Christmas, everyone.

Gary Lawrence is a Republi-in pollster in Orange County,

Holiday ideas you can book on

Ve been thinking what kind of Christmas present l'd like to give my readers. Some-thing that's worthwhile and personal and, of course, doesn't cost money.

personal and, of course, doesnt cost money.

After much prayer and reflection. Eve come up with the perfect answer; the gift of rily time. Not present time, mind you — I need that for daily living. And not the future kind — who knows how much of it is left? I'm talking about used time.



ZEV CHAFETS

I admit most of my 2004 time was spent (some might say somanewed) empth altern of much use to anybody. The exception are the fours I spent reading books.

I don't want to get devy-eyed about this. Reading is part of my job, and a lot of what I read is a waste of time (I've written a - couple books over the years that might fall into that category. The couple books over the years that might fall into that category. The couple books in 2004. In the spirit motor is the couple book in 2004. In the spirit me to share season, permit me to share.

"C'hronicles," by Bob Dylan. Inn not a big Dylan fan, I always though the was preentious But this book is furnly, friendly and occasionally amazing. One of Dylan's garly inspirations was wrestling icon Gorgeous. George. Hés a fun of Joe Tee, Bobby Vee and Frank Sinatra It le hatted hippies. All in all, this is the best, most idiosyncratic rock. 'n'-roll autobiography says and the product of the concected in a GOP lab, read this book and you won't think so anymore.

"Born Fighting How the Cross-lefts Bapped merica," by Gorsel-ingling In grant on any more.

"Born Fighting How the Cross-lefts Bapped America," by

this book and you want.

so anymore.

"Born Fighting: How the
Scots-Irish Shaped America." by
James Webb. Here is a new way
of undorstanding ethnic polidies, which is to say, U.S. polities,
which is to say, U.S. polities,
which is to say, U.S. polities.
"Life on the Outside: The
Prison Odysesy of Eliaine
Bardett," by Jennifer Gonnerman. This is an honest look at
the life of a woman who got
Poexet up for 16 years for a onetime cocaine sale. Gonnerman. This is an honest look at
the life of a woman who got
Poexet up for 16 years for a onetime cocaine sale. Gonnerman. This is an honest look at
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Jenker of the life of the life of a woman of the
sory for Elaine Bardett, and she
doesn't prach about the absurdity of the Rockefeller drug
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Zev Chafets is a columnist for the New York Daily News.

LETTERS

The gift of freedom rings strong at Christmas

The gift of needom imps
strong at Christmas.

I am grateful to live in this
land of freedom.
I am grateful for those in the
armed forces who are fighting
to ensure the freedoms that we
enjoy. I am grateful that my son,
who has served in the Army for
four years, will be released from
the Army this week, but there
are many who are still serving
—many who, at this very time,
are living their lives to help us
keep, and to help others have,
—the-freedoms we enjoy.
As such, one of the freedoms
that we do have is to worship as
we please. That includes celebrating Christmas — which
many people do - for whatever
reason they want to celebrate. I
am grateful for the acts of
kindness shown to others,
which are considerably more
during the holiday season. Owe
the years, my children and I
have been the recipients of
many acts of kindness. I am

grateful for that spirit of Christmas that brings about the spirit of giving to so many.

There are many businesses that benefit from "Christmas" and the "Christmas sales." So much so that Thanksgiving is literally pushed off the shelves of the stores before Thanksgiving Day is even over.

There are many people fussing about how we celebrate the holidays and how we give holiday greetings because it infringes on their rights or beliefs. Do those same people refuse to take the time off work given for the Christmas holiday? What difference does it make anyway? Because we enjoy the freedoms we do, we have the eight to celebrate Christmas in whattever way we believe — politically, religiously or otherwise. Please don't let it bother you, lust celebrate Christmas as you choose and allow others that same freedom. And if you don't believe in Christmas—then just don't celebrate it.

Oh — and one last thing —Merry Christmas! and many

wishes for a Happy New Year and many years to come with ie freedoms that we do enjoy: ROXANNE DIMOND

Religion of liberty united nation's founders

nation's founders

There would be no Christmas

There would be no Christmas
celebration without Christ. It is
encouraging to see Americans
around the country winning
battles to uphold and restore
traditional Christian values.
This country was founded
largely because Christians and
other faiths were persecuted by
oppressive dictators in Europe.
Some of my ancestors came
to America in 1636 to escape
the Church of England, Stato
Church, which denied freedom
of religious expression as do the
so-cailed "churches" in communist countries today.
Our founding fathers, while
not all members of the same
church or denomination, had
common religious beliefs which
run like golden threads through
the Declaration of Indepen-

Write to us with false names will be perma-nently barred from publication. Letters may be brought to our Ywin Falls or Burley office; maile to RO. Box 548, Twin Falls, ID 83303; faxed to (208) 734-5538; or emailed to letters@magicvalley.com.

he Times-News welcomes letters from readers on subjects of public Interest. Because of space constraints, please limit letters to 400 words. Include your signature, mailing address and telephone number. Writers who sign letters

dence and the U.S. Constitu-tion. These self-evident truths common to all the founders in-cluded a respect for a creator as supreme power in the universe, obedience to a moral code such as the Fen Commandments, re-sponsibility of mankind toward his fellow man (the Golden Rule), belief in-life after death and a judgment day in the next life.

life.

The founders, including
Washington, fefferson, Franklin,
and John and Samuel Adams,
referred to these fundamental
beliefs as the "religion of America" and said they all belonged
to the same religion, although
not to the same church denom-

ination. Thomas Jefferson called these basic beliefs the principles "in which God has united us all." These great men wanted religion to be a part of government and our schools. The American Revolution connected in one indissoluble bond the principles of civil government with the principles of Christianity.

-ermment-with-the-principles of-Christianity.
As we celebrate Christmas and exchange gifts, let us re-member God's gift to mankind, Jesus Christ, and Christ's gifts of the atonement and eternal life for us. These are the gifts of real

orth. ADRIAN L. ARP Twin Falls

Doonesbury









By Garry Trudeau

Mallard Fillmore







By Bruce Tinsley

The economy could go anywhere in 2005

President Bush called an reconomic summit last week, but of course the economy will do its own thing without necessarily heeding what Bush wants. To those wondering how it will actually, behave in 2005, here are a few-instructive facts: Since their recent low in late 2001, after tax corporate profits have surged by more than 70 percent; but business investment—in new computers, software, machinery and buildings—has revived only modestly, increas-



ROBERT SAMUELSON

ing about 18 percent.
Capitalism innt supposed to work this way. Soaring profits usually signal new in assurent opportunities and provide the cash to exploit them. Indisputably, cash is plentiful. Since 2001, corporate cash flow is up 42 percent and is now running at a record rate of \$1.3 trillion annually (cash flow is essentially the sum of undistributed profits and depreciation — depreciation being a non-cash expense to reflect the obsolescence of existing plants and equipment). But companies arent aggressively deploying all that money in new products, factories or markets.

The disconnect reflects a sea change in corporate psychology. Call it the return of "fisk aversion" — a fancy phrase for caution. In the late 1990s, the idea of risk virtually vanished.

Christmas joy is found

When you seek for it I keep hearing concerns about "Christ" missing from Christ-mas. Look harder — God is here if we take dime to see him. He worked with the adults who co-ordinated the children's program about Mary Joseph and baby Jesus. He carme with the audi-ence that Sunday morning. He performed at the musical Christ-mas Canata celebrating the story of Christ's birth in song. He sat with that audience as well.

story of Chisso saf with that audience as well. He helped the volunteers gath-ering donations and toys for families in need. You won't see him on television while watch-ing "Bad Santa." but there are multiple versions of the "Christ-man and there moyies."

when you seek for it

曲 1577 #57577 #1576. 00# 42 SEDO 000 MINE ATTE

ASSORTED CHRISTMAS CARDS

The business cycle was dead; stocks would always rise; globalization was good; the Internet was empowering and CEDs were heroes. Anybody could do anything, Not to worry. Now, risk has revived with a verngeance. When the properties of the plane their new could be supported by the federal law requiring companies to maintain stricer financial controls over their operations. Complying with the law is so time-consuming (it's said) that it's hard to concentrate on new business opportunities. At best, this is a self-serving half-truth. The larger truth is that America's corporate ellie has been scarred by the tech "bubble," the recession, 9/11 and corporate scandals. Beverything has changed. The business cycle endures; stocks fall; globaliza-

on DVDs, or celebrate poor morals and values.

on DVDs, or celebrate poor morals and values.
God is with us severywhere all year long, He is with us during Sunday School and church. He is with us during Sunday School and church. He is with the teachers of our Chill-dren and the volunteers in our community. He is with the people who are giving their time, energy, money, support and spirit to his children in need. There are empty chairs — just not his. He is already there — waiting for us to see him. We don't need government, businesses or Hollywood to celebrate him. We can sing hymns and pray with our familles without them. We shouldn't need Christmas or Easter to remind ourselves of his gifts and teachings. He gave us 365 days of the year to celebrate him. "Christ" is not insign from "Christmas" — we are the ones who insist on forgetting he is

tion is hazardous (aka, terror-ism and high oil prices); the internet is unnerving; and CEOs are felons. Greater profitability does not, in this climate, automati— cally become a springboard for action. Companies are not en-tirely immobilized. But there action. Companies are not en-irely immobilized. But there are higher hurdles, both psy-chologically and financially, for und-ratking new expansions or hiring lots of new workers. Businesses just love these (profil) margins. Says Mark Zandi of Economy.com. They're not going to sacrifice margins. With tisky, new. In-vestments. In the last year, after-tax profils represented 7.7 percent of national income. Zandi reports that sit he high-est since-186. One way to guard profit margins is to merge with com-petitors, striving for cost

brate him. We can read our Bibles, sing hymns and pray at home as well. He's waiting and watching—what are we show-ing him? Are people expecting the out-side world to provide God to them rather than making their own efforts to give themselves to God?

OU! DIANA ROWE PAULS Gooding

Hasty decisions keep

coming from City Council

coming from City Council
Once again, the 'Ivin Falls
Once

erect a new sign?

Now they want to pay a new employee to patrol Blue Lakes

LETTERS

savings and more market power. See, for example, the recent \$35 billion merger between phone companies Sprint and Nextel and the \$10.3 billion merger of the software firms Oracle and PeopleSoft. Companies can also pay out some cash in higher dividends or simply hoard it. They've done both. In 2004; dividends of companies in the Standard & Poors 500 index will total \$185 bijlion, up from \$161 billion in 2003, says \$8/P\$ Howard Silverblatt. And the 2004 figures exclude Microsoft's one-time_seculated widend of \$32 billion.

verblatt. And the 2004 figures exclude Microsofts one-time-special dividend of 532 billion. Even more stunning are cash levels (meaning money invested in bank deposits or short-term securities). For S&P's industrial firms, cash now totals about \$592 billion, says Silverblatt. At the end of

Boulevard. For what, I have no idea. To remove the gorilla or the big Santal I personally think almost every merchant and business on Blue Lakes does a line job of keeping their property clean and mandcured. We try clean and mandcured with the beauty of Blue Lakes before the property of the second of the beauty of Blue Lakes before they let all the new buildings be built to destroy the canyon? PATTY MORROW

Twin Falls

Story on evolution didn't clarify 'challenges'

Responding to your article or ec. 18, "Fresh challenges arise

evolution debate," the article besn't mention the real chal-

lenges, which are coming from the scientific community. Thos doing the challenging can hard ly be said to do so because of "deficiencies in their own edu-

cation," since they hold advanced degrees in the hard sciences.

For more information, check out the intelligent Design move-

BERNICE KRAHN

1999, the comparable figure was \$250 billion. Some high-tech firms are especially flush. Dell has \$8.3 billion: Intel. \$15.8 billion: and Microsoft. \$24.7 billion. Companies are stockpling against future setockpling of the late 1990s was wasteful. Why invest more when many industries still have surplus capacity. (Note: in November, the Federal Reserve's capacity the leaves the firm of 1972 to 2003.) The economy may benefit from corporate caution. A slow rise in business investment spending sustains the recovery without promoting inflation or speculation. The other possibility is that its a potential calamity, it sacrifices future growth for present profits and leaves the recovery too dependent on strong consumer spending. In the last year, average home

prices have risen 13 percent. Suppose there's a real estate "bubble" that, once popped, depresses consumer confidence and spending, Indeed, if the recovery stumbles for any reason, corporate caution could quickly make matters worse. Companies may react youtting new hiring and investments. The slowdown would feed on itself.

Of these possibilities, conventional wisdom favors the first. In 2005, the ectonomy is expected to continue a solid, if unspectacular, advance. In reality, we don't know. Psychology is much underrated as an economic driving force, precisely because it's so hard to measure. In the late 1990s, the prevailing cuphoria became self-fulfilling — disastrously so.

Now, corporate caution

became self-fulfilling — disas-trously so.

Now, corporate caution
could become self-fulfilling in
the opposite way. That's not a
certainty; but it is a risk.

Robert Samuelson is a columnist for Newsweek.





HAILEY 788-1994











CHRISTMAS WITH THE MORMON **TABERNACLE** CHOIR

Mezzo-soprano Frederica von Stade and baritone Bryn Terfel join the renowned choir for sacred and seasonal songs from around the world 9:00 p.m

Join Idaho Public Television for twarming holiday programs, and ple ur support for end of year tax benefit increase the value of your

gift by pledging online. Your online pledge is matched by CABLE ONE . THE ELEVISION debrowarg / support gift by pledging online. Your online pledge is matched by

CHRISTMAS WITH THE MORMON TABERNACLE CHOIR is sponsored by BYU Idah

him on teaching Bad Santa. But there are multiple versions of the "Chrismas Carol" and other movies which inspire us to remember Gods love and teachings. As for Christmas shopping, If God watches parents buying items that harm his children, why would he want to be associated with this practice? Perhaps hes happier with "Happy Holidays" when parents buy items that teach his children how to shoot each other on video games, show promiscuous sex Chist' isnt missing from "Chistans" — we are de ones who insist on forgetting he is here. He's just waiting for us to acknowledge him in our daily lives. However, it takes more than a "Merry Christmas" to show that we love him. He does not expect the schools or the government or the chamber of "commerce to itell us of his loys." government or the champer o commerce to tell us of his love We can go to church and cele-

More folks are finding better

Saturday in Religion

Give you heart away

ways to give on Christmas.

Getting You Back Into Life!

You have a tingling sensation in your arm. It feels like pins and needles. Should you be concerned?

Often, a persistent tingling in the arm can involve a Offen, a persistent tingling in the arm can involve a compression of a nerve either at the wrist, the elbow, or neck. Common diagnosis can range from carpat tunnel syndrome to a herminated disc. Treatment remedies can include specific medications, physical therapy, bracing, or surgery. Seek advice from an expert. The quicker you do, the quicker YOU can get back into life!

The Spine Institute focuses solely on disorders of the spine. Our board-certified and fellowship-trained specialists offer complete care from the neck to the lower back. Along with the treatment of immediate or chronic problems, we strive to integrate the philosophy of prevention in all our treatment plans. Our goal is to offer patients an increased quality of life by helping them get back to their regular activities as soon as possible.



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Getting you back into life



Fun Party **ALBION** Package for Two

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Favors Two Glasses of Wine w/Dinner Assorted Dessert Plate

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* Prime Rib & Lobster Themador Bacon Wrapped Filet Mignon and Grilled Jumbo Shrimp * Stuffed and Oven Roasted Rack of Lamb

Pheasant Breast with Fresh Raspberry Demi-glace Sauce Filet of Petrali Sole topped with Lobster and Crabmeat in Cream Sauce Receive two tickets to DANCE

at nearby Marsh Creek Center Live Music, (The Bronsons). Dance Two free drinks at the dance at 8 Dance star at 8:30 starts

All for just \$15000 per couple

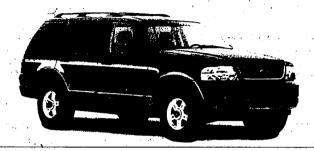
Limited # of guests, so please all today for your-resevation. 208-673-6696



at 8:30



NEXTGENERATION EVENT



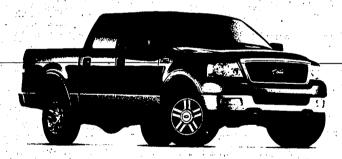
'04 EXPLORER

\$5000 GASH \$1000 BONUS 2 \$6000 TOTAL CASH BACK



'04 EXPEDITION

\$4500 BACK \$1000 BONUS 2 \$5500 TOTAL CASH BACK



'04 F-150

\$4000 CASH SACK \$1000 CASH 2

\$5000 TOTAL CASH BACK



'04 SUPER DUTY

\$3000 CASH \$1000 BONUS 2 \$4000 TOTAL CASH BACK



La DIPLO WILL DESCRIPTION THE THE PRESENCE OF THE SECOND THE SECON

AROUND THE VALLEY

Many offices will be closed today

TWIN FALLS — Many offices, agencies and places of fusiness will be closed today for Christinas live. Here's a rundown of what's closed and open:

• City and county offices will be closed.

• State and federal office.

- State and federal offices will

- be closed.

 Social Security Administration office will be closed.

 U.S. Post Offices will be open, but most will close early.

 Most banks will be open, but mill be open.
- but will close early.

 Twin Falls Public Library

- Twin Fails Public Labrary will be closed.

 YMCA/Twin-Fails City-Pool will be open for lap swimming only and will close at 1 p.m.

 College of Southern Idaho will be closed.

 Magic Valley Mall will be open from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m.

 Trash collection will follow the regular schedule.

 The Times-News will close is dons at 2 p.m. Newsroom personnel will remain available by phone until 6 p.m.

Class-encouragespeople to reach goals

people to reacin goals
TWIN FALLS — The Community Education Center at the
College of Southern Idaho is offering a motivational workshop
early in the spring semester.
"Hungce Jump Your Dreams"
is a three-bourt seminar than will
give students practical ideas
and resources to see their
dreams take flight. Whether readdition a dream or entiting out?

give students practical ideas and resources to see their dreams take flight. Whether realizing a dream or getting out of a bad situation, the seminar is designed to provide information and tools to help students take calculated risks and make calculated risks and make decisions to pave the way for a brighter flow. However, high calculated the control of the control of the control for his have experience as a radio disk jockey, high rethool teacher, commercial for flow of the control of the contro

City's decorations won't be lit on street

CASTLEFORD — Castleford's street lights will hopefully shine on—the—city's—unlit-Ghristmas

street lights will hopefully stane
-on-the-eity's multi-Christmasdeconations.

In order to get power to the
Main Street decorations, a new
pole and meter would have to
be installed by the city.

In addition to the cost of installing the pole and meter, the
city could end up paying a higher rate for its electricity.

It appears adding a pole and
meter would change the rate we
record to be a supported to the cost of
the control of the cost of the
Solve will be have been concontrol of the cost of the
characteristic of the cost of the
characteristic of the cost of the
solve will be a street lights will
shine on them at higher
- The Castleford Men's Cibi
burchased the used decorations from Buhl for \$500.

- compiled from staff reports

Snowpack

Watershed	& of Avg*	% section
Salmon	77%	27%
Big Wood	81% -	26%
Little Wood	77%	26%
Big Lost	80%	27%
Little Lost	76%	28%
Henrys Fork/Teton	80%	28%
Upper Snake Basin	72%	26%
Oakley	110%	35%
Salmon Falls	98%	33%
20.00	As of E	Dec. 23

Idaho Power expands credit deal

Commission approves plan to offer irrigators credit

BOISE — Idaho Power will give Irrigators credits for leiting the utility interrupt their power during the summer for a second straight year to help cut energy costs and reduce the need for

costs and connew plants.

The Idaho Public Utilities
Commission approved an ex-

panded version of the program on Thursday. Next summer, volunteer irri-gators can sign up to have their power shut off from #phit and B pm. up to three day's a week. The irrigation program is one of six Idaho Power projects meant to boost the utility's effi-ciency over the next decade. Altogether, savings from the

programs, which include an air-conditioner recycling project, aircauceant to free up as mitch as 124 megawats of electricity ca-pacity at peak use hours— enough, to light up 93,000 datho homes.

To keep the peak load down and keep the load manageable, it helps keep us from having to build more power plants or pur-chasing time power. said spokeswoman Anne Alenskis, Tis not like we have exess ca-pacity.

Ratho Power says the \$1.4 million it plans to spend on its

so-called "irrigation peak chip-ping program" next summer will provide it with to negawatts of additional capac-ity during high; use hours. That's a bargain compared with the cost of huilding nex-

with the cost of building new power stations, said Darlene Nemnich, who helps oversee the utility's energy efficiency programs in Boise. "A new plant in Mountain Home that's now being built by German engineering company Siemens AG will produce about 160 megawants of power. But it's costing Idaho's largest utility

But million
In addition on Segue
But will have come to than the group of the state of the seguence of the segu

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FIRE FIGHT



Gooding Fire Department (firefighters Dean Sabala, right, and his son, Dan, extinguish smoldering hay from a flatbed truck. A fire spread from the hay and caught a house on fire five miles southwest of Gooding on Friday.

Fire spreads from load of hay to log cabin

By Troy Foster and Rebecca Meany Times-News writers

GOODING — There'll be an extra chill in the air for one Magic Valley family this Christ-

mas.

When Sue Curtis came home
Thursday afternoon to meet
the washing machine repair
man, she noticed one of three
vehicles parked in her carport,
was ablaze.

The 1984 Chevrolet flatbed ickup was holding a load of ay, too, which the flames

lized. The fire then spread to the

south end of the adjacent log house at 2193 S. 1700 E, burning the carport, a bedroom and rendering the home unlivable. It also got the broken washing matchine.

It also got the broken washing machine.

"I've had had things happen in me in my life, so this is minor," a rather cool and calin Curls and several hours later. Eighteen fireflighters responded to the home just alter 2 p.m. along with two fire engines, a tanker and a water conder.

Gooding Fire Department. Choff Par Bishop said the cause of the fire was still under investigation, but it appeared something likely went wrong

ony oan. He said, "It got into a bedroom and a breezeway. And-we had to pull some ceiling to check for extension of fire to see if it didn't get up into the attic."

adic."

Carris was able to save her other two pickups. She got into her 2003 Chevy and drove it out of the carport and repeated the process with a 1998 Dodge. But she wasn't able to rescue her four-wheeler or a brand, new-lawmower.

out-wheeler of a brand new-lawinnower.

"When I was trying to start the lawinnower something ex-ploded under the pickup so I thought I shouldn't be there

and I got out." Cartis said.

"It was the neatest lawnmower in the world; I'm
crushed." ushed." But Curtis said she's keeping

But Cartis said shes keeping things in perspective She and her husband fleshad will move next door for the time being and live with their son. And besides. Sue Cartis is well covered. She's an insurance sales-townan for Mulley Bealty and Insurance.

woman for studies acany and insurance, is very, very, im-portant," Curtis said, "Everyone should make sure they're cov-ered for replacement costs. If they would like acquore they can always call me."

Buhl School District

ditches ISIMS program

Profile a ornab sala ploved and the Algham and the floor in the total



Tucker Johnson

• Agent : i • Home is Abral Tandle

* Appell Lands — no extends that the extended per land the extended per land that the extended pe

Rank, Ossen

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rimas; cil 3, politic Pleas rimas.

Local soldiers take traditions to Iraq The Times-News

KIRKUK, Iraq — The soldiers of the 116th Brigade Combat Team are finding creative ways to celebrate the spirit of the season at their various forward

to celebrate the spirit of the season at their various forward operating bases in Iraq. Capt. Monte Hibbert, public affairs officer for the 116th, gave The Times-News an update on the roops in a Thursday e-mail.

Each base is equipped with phones, in 1 c r. n c t Idahoans cafes, post officer shopping and recreational facilities that provide many options to soldlers looking for ways to stay connected during the holiday season. Hibbert wrote.

Some soldlers are keeping

the hollday season, Hibbert wrote.

Some soldlers are keeping the same hollday traditions here that they do back home. Set, Jane Sullivan of Twin Falls generally shares Christmas with a needy family.

"Even though I am over hero. I will be the season of the families over in Hizzelton." Sullivan told Hibbert.

Soldlers are planning to at-

bert.
Soldiers are planning to at-tend a holiday party at the dining facility for Christmas



made her room at Warrior, a forward oper festive by decorating her locker

forward operating base Warrior in Kirkuk will be a traditional favorite of roast turkey, glazed ham, roast rib-eye steak, cram-berry and savory dressing, prawn cocktails, potatoes, two Please see SOLDIERS, Page B3

Senator tells school officials program Spc. Ainsle was a 'wreck' Luttmer of Twin Falls

By Sandra Wisecaver Times News correspondent

Times-News correspondent

BIJH.—It's out with the new and in with the old.

The Bull School District is dropping the Idaho Student Information. Management system and reactivating its old computer, program known as SASI, which stands for School Administration and Student in formation.

And teachers couldn't be happier, high school Principal Gary Moon said.

"Our teachers are doing back lips over going back to SASI, libs said.

Bull was one of 29, Idaho schools selected for the IslAIs phase one program. In the IslAIs phase one program, but the second and dirict phases in bold because of extraordinary costs and technical problems in phase one.

The program is now being recovaluated.

"Now they say it will take."

"Now they say it will take \$180 million to get it to do what

students transferring between schools.

That's ingenium of red because now it is required to produce the collection of t

therease to be a fixed. Institute the continue of the continue

progress
Transcripts and V. Seradads Admercing to testings
would have been a relation the
system, easily, the progress of
students transcribed, between
schools
with the services.

_OBITUARIES

For oblituary rates and information, call 735-3278 Menday through Saturday, Deadline is 4 p.m. for next-day publication. The e-mail address for oblituaries is obliss@maglevalley.com. Death notices are a free service and can be placed until 4 p.m. every day. To view or submit oblituaries online, or to place a mes-sage in an individual online guestbook, go to www.maglevalley.com and click on "Oblituaries."

Clarinda Merrill Green

Clarinda Merrill Green, a 106-year-old Burley resident, died Wednesday, Dec. 22.

106 syear-old Burley usadem, died Wedniesday, Dec. 22, 2004.

She was bom Ang. 3, 1006, in Richmond, Dight, the daughter of William and Incy Cardon Merrill, She was the fifth of nine children, She received her education in Richmond and alrended Brigham Young Infecessiv, She married Davis Green, an the Logan Temple in 1924; and moved to Paul where they farmed. Her husbiand preceded for in death in 1967, and, in 1977, she moved to Burley mest to her daughter. Charida we cher in death in 1967, and in 1977, she moved to Burley and the Church of less member of the Church of less member of the Daughters of Unah Pioners. She was active in the Relief Society and had served in both ward and stake positions. She enjoyed quitting and crocheting. She also enjoyed



canning for her family. She lowed the 19 winters she spent in Mesa. Ariz. Iwo of those years she spent as a part-time receptionist. in the visitor's center on the temple grounds. Survivors include her children. Derald (Mario Green, and Werl (Marjorie) Green, and

Lucy lensen all of Burley, at daughter-in-law, Joann Jackson and Centerville. Utah: 25 and children. Burley and grand-lender. It is addition to her husband, she was preceded in death by her parents: two sons. Davis Merrill Green and Averill Merrill Green four brothers, Paul, Jack. Keith and Arfel; and four sisters. Kathleen, Eleise. Beryl and Leah.

A funeral will be held at-14 a.m. Monday, Dec. 27, 2004, at The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints Burley West Stake Center, 2420 Parke Ave. with Bishop Gary Johnson officiating. Burlai will be in the Paul Cemetery. Friends may call from 930 to 10:45 a.m. prior to the funeral on Monday at the church Arrangements are under the direction of Payne Mortuary in Burley.

Reuben A. Ward

Reuben A. Ward, a 95-year-old Albiton resident, left this world, on Tuesday Pec. 21, 2004, at Cassia Regional Medical Center in Hurty. 1904, at Cassia Regional Medical Center in Hurty. 1908, and Clon Beecher Ward. He uttle Lida. but bad to leave for his life, but bad to leave for his left, odd-olentaria-co-don-left he ecived in Logan and then Brighan City. Urab, graduating from Box Elder High School In 1927, he received his bathelors degree from Juah State Agricultural College in 1931, and left to serve a 33 month mission for his church in Germany, He married Della Wickel On Sept. 6, 1938, in the Salt Lake LDS Temple. He owned a ranch in Elba and lived there until his retirement at age 78. Since he sold his house with the ranch, they moved to Alpión whiere he lived the rest of his file. He was an active member of The Church of Jests Christ of Latter-day Saints and at the time of his death he was a High Priest. He had served in many capacities in the church including Stake Sunday School Superintendent in the Rafi River Stake for 12 years and he



George, Utah, Namey Cranney and Stanton's Kiniber boilt of Cakley Karen Jones and Gene Wickel both of Marka, Ardell Wickel of Declo, Jim Wickel of South Dakota, Bill Wickel of Conner Creek, Ronnie Cahoon of Albion, Lee Wickel of Lyman, Wyo., and Gary Wickel of the State of Boise. It was preceded in death by his parents: two sisters. Lela Rae Snith and Sylvia Johnson: An function by the heid at 11 and Metali Cahoon.

A functional will be heid at 11 and Metali Cahoon.

A function of Josepher State of Changel Wickel of Boise. And William of California of the heid at 11 and Metali Cahoon.

A function of Josepher State of Changel With Bishop Kary Pow-Stood. Alter his retirement it caching at Takit River High School, Alter his retirement in Loya. Ramsus and South Dakota.

Survivors include his wile. Survivors include his wile. Survivors include his wile. Friends may call from 6 to 8 pm. on Sundiy at Payne Mortung 221 W. Main St. in Burley. The Canada of Monday at no form of the State of Canada of Monday at the church.

Ward of Elba, Joyce Sweep, Carol Warren and Arley Ca-hoon all of Burley, Michael B, Smith of North Olmsted, Ohio, Larry Johnson of Springville, Utah, Tanya Munson and Keith Johnson both of St. George, Utah, Nancy Cranney, and "Sharoir Kimiber Joilt of Oakley, Karel Dones and Con-

Edmond Felix Philippet

Edmond Felix Philippet, 87, of Twin Falls, died Sunday, Dec, 19, 2004, at his home. He was born Ian, 15, 1917, in Oakland, Califf, He was raised in the Califf, He was raised

Dec. 19, 200-1, and 15, 1917, in Oakland, Galif. He was talked in the San Francisco area. He served in the U.S. Navy during world War II, in 1947, he opened Shadow-brook Restaurant, a well-known eating establishment in Capitola, Call. He also owned the Blue Dolphin Boom at the Outrigger Hord on Walkiki Beach. In 2000, he moved to Twin Falls. Mr. Philippet was a member of the Masonic Lodge and had served as chaplain.

The is survived by his ex-wife.



three children, Linda Archer of Daytona Beach, Fla., Taylor

Philippet of Platerville, Calif., and Cherme V. Philippet of Twin Falls four grandchildren. Ierrett Archer of San Fran-cisco, Calif., Joel Archer of Santa Cruz Calif., and Allison Archer of Daytona Beach, Fla: and the one neece and one nephew. The way the complete of the pro-ties of the properties of the complete of the pro-ties of the proceeded in death.

He was preceded in death by his parents and one broth-er.

a. pagents and one broth-ft.

A. hiemorial service will be conducted at 2 p.m. Monday, Dec. 27, 2004, at the Twin Falls Masonic Lodge, 883 Blue Lakes Blvd. N. Cremation was under the direction of White Mortuary, "Chapel by the Park."

Wesley R. Christensen

Wesley fing Christensen, B.;

Of Idaho Falls, passed away Dec; 21, 2004, leaving hehind his belowed wife of 61 years, Armrellleam; four daughters, Sherry (Arlam) Call of Twin Falls, Carol (Steve) Permann of Idaho Falls, Barbara (Graig) Miner of Springeille, Utah, and loyve (Brad) Scheele of Meridiam; and, one sister, Afton Robinson of Grace.

Wesley was born Feb. 10, 1921, in Kentral, Idaho, to John E. and Helga Ring Christensen. He grew up and attended schools in Central with his three broilers. Lyman France and Jack and three sisters, Afton. Venus and Jo, He married Armrelljean Johnson Now. 18, 1933, in Ogdon, Utalt, and they were later swided in the Salt Lake City LDS Temple, He was the love of her life.

They met as telegraphers for the railroad in Bancroit, Idaho, The then served in the U.S. Nory as a radforman aborat a company of the control of the Christensen, and they worked as a state agent for Farmer's Insurance Group. He retired in 1972 and they moved to Idaho Falls, where he worked as a minsurance agent, retiring in 1977, Het hen worked as a reader estate agent for Century 21, retiring finally in 1985.



An active member of The Church of Jesus Christ of Laiter-day Saints, he served in various capacities over the years. His greatest legacy is his anily of lig grandchildren, who adored him and learned many of life's greatest lessons at his mee. A great man's life is made up of qualities that meet or make great occasions, Soit was with our beloved husband and hather. His hands were never idle, with much of his time spent making heantiful hander considered the consideration of the considerat



heart of a giant.

Ile was an avid outdoorsman, with interests abounding such as camping, hunting, fishing and boating, with a general love for all things outdoors. He had a sense of humor and an ability to remember jokes eternally. His smirky, "girn and "unique" laugh were infectious and will remain with his family and friends always.

A funeral was held Thursday, Dec. 23, 2004, at the Idaho Falls. LDS Woodruff 2nd Ward, 1650
12th St., with Bishop O'Dell 12th St., with Bisho

OBITUARY

Julieanna Kudrna

Indicanna Kudrna, 68, of Hollister, Idaho, passed away on Dec. 21, 2004, at her home. She was surrounded by her fowed once.

She was surrounded by her fowed once.

Bruin Nota, on Feb. 5, 1936, the daugher of Rudolph and Agnes Homolka, the daugher of Rudolph and Agnes Homolka, the daugher of Ludolph and Laward (Hull) Kudrna market, 1, 1986, in Grand Island, Nota, She moved to Idaho on July 6, 1980, with her family Julieanna volunteered, at the Community Action in Jerome for July ears and was secretary for her husbands riofling company for eight years.

She is survived by eight children and numerous

For more obituaries, see page **B3**

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grandchildren, and great grandchildren, three brother Budolph (Caroline: Homodia of Idaho, Joe Gomme: Homodia ka of Oregon and Richard Homodka of Nebraska.

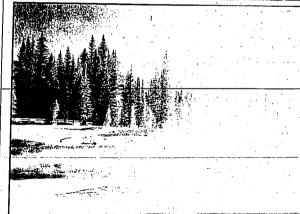
discounting



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Reynolds
Funeral Chapet

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for you, dear friends...

May the joys of this holiday season be plenumling or and voturs. May you find time to stop and consider your and placenings: Liberty and Equal Opportunity. Kind Friends...

Honest Business Associate

Home, Hearth and Family.

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SUNSET Memorial Park

Serving II. Maga Anthog Since 1937 200 Kindselly Boad Twic Pails, idaic 733-5743

OBITUARIES -

Alvin David Schaak

On the evening of Dec. 22.
2004. a long-time resident and
contractor/painter. Avin
David Schaak, born in Filer.
Idaho, on Dec. 30, 1936, and
after living almost 68 years,
passed away following a long,
arduous battle with cander.
—A. I as hie was known to all his
friends and co-tworkers, loved
living and working here in the
Magic Valley where he lovingly
raised his family.
—A loved traveling with his
family, visiting with his friends at
the coffice shops, working
on his tractor at his acreage
and helping others. Most of all,
the enjoyed time with all his
grandkds.

Surviving Al is his loving wife
of 49 were Barbor. You wife

grandkids.
Surviving Al is his loving wife
of 49 years, Barbara Kathryn
Schaak of the Twh Falls area;
three daughters, Diane Kay
(John) Wiersema of Jerome,
Idaho. Debra Susan (Tim)
Vawser of Kimberly, Idaho,
and Dalene Lynn (David)
Gregg of Twin Falls, Idaho; and
a son, Douglas James Schaak
also of Twin Falls, Idaho; and



Calif.; and numerous nieces and nephews. His father, Jakob Schaak (65), of Armazir, Russia; and his 'mother, Mary (Dutt) Schaak (79) of Streeter, N.D., preceded Al in death.

Schaak (79) of Streeter, N.D., preceded Al in death.

— Al was a wonderful and loving husband, father, grandfather, uncle and friend. As we continue on in life he will be truly missed and loved by all who knew him, until we see him when Jesus comes.

A funeral for Al will be held at 2 p.m. Monday, Dec. 27, 2004, at the Twin Falls Seventh Day Adventist Church. 131 Grandriew Drive, Twin Falls. Friends may call from 4 to 6 p.m. Sunday Dec. 28, 2004, at Parke's Magic Valley Funeral Home. 2551 Kimberly Road. Twin Falls, Idaho.

In lieu of Bowers, the family requests imemorials be made to the Al Schaak Memorial Fund of Parke's Magic Valley Funeral Home. 2551 Kimberly Road. Twin Falls, Idaho.

In Place of Parke's Magic Valley Funeral Home. 2551 Kimberly Road. Twin Falls, ID 83301.

Mary Jane Conrad

Mary Jane Conrad, 70, of Muraugh went to be with her Lord. Tuesday, Dec. 21, 2004, at her home surrounded by her family.

A life-time resident of the Magic Valley, Mary Jane was born on Jan. 26, 1934, in Kimberty, Idaho, the daughter of William. and. Bessle-Hills-She attended both Kimberly and Twin Falls schools, graduating from Twin Falls O'Leary High School in 1951.

The following winter she married her long-time friend Howard Eugene Conrad on Feb. 24, 1952, at the Kimberly Church of the Nazaren. Fur friendship and love never ended and for the last 52 years they have rarely been separated. The first few months of marriage took her, far from Jome ass the and her new husband began then the Sey Merch Lower of the Sey Merch Low

In rational was stationed with the U.S. Army at Eliason Air Florce Base. In the fall of 1953 with Howard's responsibility to the Army complete, the young couple returned to the Magic Valley to build their home and family. Sarting with not much, they created a successful farming operation that eventually included five family owned corporations. Mary managed the office, kept the books, served as secretary/treasurer of the business and believed in Howard's dreams and visions. Her confidence proved to be well placed as their farming endeavor provided not just food for others and a living for themselves and their two daughters, but also enabled her to support causes that were important to them. Church programs and buildings, coilege scholarships for deserving students and political causes were among the recipients of her generosity. Mary enjoyed life. She learned to play the piano as a child and never lost her love for music. She used her talent during her early years as a pianist, at the Kimberly, Church later.

tor music. She used her talent during her early years as a pi-anist at the Kimberly Church of the Nazarene and then late in various church musicals and groups. For a few years in the late 1970's and early 1980's she was a part of The Sounds of Praise Gospel Quartet, a

group that even traveled some around the region. But her fa-vorite place to play was right at home with family and friends around the plano.

vonte pace to may an anomous with family and friends around the plano.

The Magle Valley was always home and her last days were spent looking at the fields and hills that were familiar and comforting. Before her strength failed she enjoyer her strength failed her strength failed her strength failed her more her without and the strength failed she without she strength failed her her strength failed the failed her her strength failed her strength failed her strength failed her strength failed her without in Arizona. They joined the Talled State Bluebirds Cilotand Mary loved the failed her strength failed her strength failed her strength failed her family, illies her family,

friends she made there.

Mary treasured the simple
things in life: her family,
friends and church.

A gracious hostess, she
loved to entertain others in her
home especially at Christmass—
Working with her hands made,
her hands from expectation as her happy, from crocheting an Afghan to tending her rose garden; she had a knack for turning something simple into something beautiful and ele-

gant.
Seventy years is not a short
life, but for Howard and his
daughters it wasn't long
enough. There will be an
empty place in their lives that
will always be hers. She tried
so hard to stay but in the end

needed to go.

The battle with cancer and the life with Christ has begun. The separation is not from and we rejoice in her home going. Our family would like to express appreciation to those who helped during Mary's Tong liness. Thank you to Dr. David Spritzer and his staff who always seemed to have time to answer one more question and never treated us like just another case. Thank you to the kind people from Idaho Home Health and Höspice who were willing to drive ilke just anounce case, annuaryou to the kind people from Idaho Home Health and Hospice who were willing to drive out to Murtaugh and bring aid and comfort. Thank you to Janise Harms who just became a part of the family over the past year. Thank you to Pastor Kester, our church family and the people all over the Magic Valley who stopped to ask, "How's Mary?" and to pray. You will never know the extent to which your love for us made it possible to face some dark and difficult days.

Mary lane is survived by her husband, Howard Conrad of Murtaugh: daughters, Loretta (Kelky) Mal of Hazelton and Unite Conrad, frene Fergon Gerry and Joann Gress of Hazelton: brothers and sisters-in-law, Joanne Hills, John G. Hazelton: brothers and Joanne Holley. Could Bakewell: and—many—necesand nephews, cousins and friends.

She was preceded in deith by her parents: her brothers.

friends.
She was preceded in death
by her parents; her brothers,
Lester, Albert and Raymond
Hills; sisters, Verla Dodson and
Dorothy Schoolcraft; and one
grandson, Scot Mai.

grandson, Scot Mal.
A fureral for Mary Jane will
be held at 130 p.m. Tuesday.
Dec. 28, 2004, at Irvin FallsFast Church of the Nizarene,
Stachney on State of the Nizarene,
the Rev Stachney on State of the Nizarene,
ton Cometery. Friends may
the Mortuary. "Chapel by
the Park." Inleu of flowers, donations may be made to the
Conrad Family Scholarship
Fund at Northwest Nizarene
University, 623 Holly, Nampa,
ID 83686.

Soldier's widow gets Purple Heart

OREM, Utah (AP) — A widow has received a purple heart in her husbands honor after an. old telegram recovered for a scrap book clued the family in on a war injury they never knew he had.

Grant Johnson was a corporal—with—tho—145th—field—Artilliery—Battallion fighting in the Marshall Islands in the Pacific during World War II.

He and several others were wounded when a cannon exploded during a pivotal battle

in 1944.

The 145th battalion received a commendation from the U.S. Army for helping capture an atoll in the Marshall Islands. But Johnson died 25 years ago, and his family didn't know anything about the injury until they recently found a tolegramment telling Johnson's mother he'd been wounded in battle in 1944. Johnson's family said he rarely talked about his service during wartime.

"We found out by accident," said son Jim Johnson.
His widow, Orem resident Leah Johnson, started corresponding with the National Guurd and Son. Bob Bennett, R. Utah, after finding the telegram. Her defors paid off Wednesday-when-Bennett pinned-then bear of the colar during an emotional eeremony at the Utah National Guurd headquarters in Draper in front of his friends and family.

closed. "We receive on average from 60,000 to 80,000 pounds of mail per week during the Christmas rush," said Saffi Sgr. James Gelss Of the U.S. Alf Force's 506th ECs. the sergeant in charge of the Kirkuk mailroom. "This means alot to our troops. They get a little piece of home."

DEATH NOTICES -

Leonard Guy Revels

Leonard Guy Revels
TWIN FALLS — Leonard
Guy Revels, 89, a long-time resident of Twin Falls, died
Gwdnesday, Dec. 22, 2004, at
Heritage Manor Nursing Home'
in Blroy, Wis.
A 'telebration of Leonard's
in Blroy, Wis.
A 'telebration of Leonard's
Funeral Chapel with the Rev.
Jim Winkle officiating, Buriat
Will follow at Sunset Memorjal
Park, Friends may call one
hour before the service at
Reynolds Funeral Chapel.
A full oblituary will appear in
a latter edition.

a later edition.

Erin Atkins Hobson

BURLEY — Erin Atkins Hob-son, age 24, of Pocatello, formerly of Burley, died Thurs-day, Dec. 23, 2004, at Portneuf Medical Center in Pocatello. Arrangements will be made by Rasmussen Funeral Home, 1350 E. 16th in Burley.

Anna Jensina Segars

TWIN FALLS — Anna Jensina Segars, 88, of Twin Falls, died Dec. 17, 2004, at Sunbridge Care & Rehabilitation Center following a short illness. Private family services will be held. Arrangements are under the direction of Farmer

Funeral Chapel, 130 Ninth Ave. 2004, in Twin Falls N., Buhl, ID 83316.

Daniel B. Gorrell

TWIN FALLS — Daniel B. Gorrell, 74, a resident of Twin Falls, died Thursday, Dec. 23, 2004, at his home in Twin Falls, Arrangements will be under high policy and by Demaray's Gooding Chapel. 2004, at Clie Mindoka Mer. 2004, at Clie Mindo

Arrangements will be made by Farnsworth Mortuary, 1343 S. Lincoln, Jerome,

raus; died Thursday, Dec. 23, 2004, at his home in Twin Falls, Arrangements will be made by Demaray's Gooding Chapel.

Oilve Messenger

IEROME — Olive Messenger.

1EROME — Olive Messenger.

SERVICES ----

Clera Michelle Livia, furneral
at 1 p.m. Tuesday at the Buhl
Middle School. Visitation;
viewing from 5 to 7 p.m. More the church:
viewing from 5 to 7 p.m. More the church:
Alberta D. Grant of Eden,
service at 10 a.n. Wednesday
at Wilson.

Duane Edward Hanson of Twin Falls, friends may call from 5 to 7 p.m. Monday at Parke's Magic Valley Funeral Home, 2551 Kimberly Road: funeral at 1 a.m. Tuesday at the funeral home.

Nolan Victor of Twin Falls, funeral at 12:30 p.m., Tuesday at the 5th Ward LDS Chapel, 421 Maurice St. N.; viewing from 4 to 8 p.m. Monday at

Alberta D. Grant of Eden, service at 10 a.m. Wednesday at White Mortuary. Friends may call from 4 to 8 p.m. Tuesday at White Mortuary.

Sydney Herbert McNeely, funeral ar 11 a.m. Monday at the Bountial 17th World Chapel, 2200 S. 650 ft. Friends hay call from 6 to 8 pm. day evening at the Russon Brothers Bountial Mortnary, 295 N. Main, and from 9-15 to 10-15 a.m. Monday before the service at the church.

INEEL unveils plan to dismantle 32-vear-old Power Burst reactor

BOISE (AP) — The Idaho National Engineering and Environmental Laboratory in Arco has a plan to begin dismanding a 32-year-old reactor. The Power Burst Facility reactor was bulk in 1972 to test the safe operating limits of reactor systems, by simulating-various kinds of accidents. In its day, it was the world's

various kinds of accidents.

In its day, it was the world's
only reactor capable of performing rapid changes in
power level within milliseconds, but it was placed on
stand-by in 1985.

Its removal under federal Su-

perfund supervision is part of INEEL's accelerated cleamin to

permuno supervision is part of intelligence feature the camp to remove a majority of radioac-tic waste from past laboratory activities by 2012. The clean-up is being over-sory of the control of the con-control of the control of the two-thirds of the shielding lead from the structure to be reused, recycled or thrown away. Then, the energy depart-ment wants to dispose of water from the reactor pool and get rid of an experimental test chamber from the reactor ves-

Police arrest six family members on perjury charges in Wells murder case

MOSCOW (AP) — Six farmily members of the brothers are cused of killing University of Idaho football player faring the Modifiant cardier this year have been Indicted on perjury charges. County prosecutor Maliam Thompson Ir. said the new Indictments also include a count against one of the newly charged individuals for accessory to first-degree murder. Soy to first-degree murder, of the soy of the said the grand for the said the said

said.
Two brothers, Matthew R.
Wells II, 27, and James J. Wells,
25, both of Seattle, were already
charged with conspiracy and

rges in Wells I first-degree murder in the shooting. Thomas J. Biggins, 23, a nephew of the Wells brothers from Kent, Wash, had also been charged with conspiracy and being a principal-to-linst-degree murder. Others now charged in the new indictaments include:

Matthew Raydon Wells St. of Seattle, the 63-year-old father of the Wells brothers: three brothers, including Emmanuel Ray Wells, 40, of Firersst, Wash, Anthony Lafar Wells, 38, of Sea line, Wash, and Aaron B. Wells, 22, of Pullman: Mashere Harrison-Wells, 26 of Firersst, Wash, the wife of James Wells, and 25-year-old Angela C. Brown of Pullman, a Washington State University student and the girl-friend of Aaron Wells, All are charged with various counts of perincy.

Additionally, Aaron Wells has been indicted for accessory to

first-degree murder for according to records, allegedly withinhing knowledge that his brothers Matthew Wells and for the knowledge that his brothers Matthew Wells and for large knowledge freight with the knowle

monus ranging from \$5,000 to
Dinmiss ranging from \$5,000 to
Thompson said he's received
word that none of the six plan to
light extractition.
Most of the counts in the indictine structure of the counts in the indictine structure grand jury estitmone during grand jury estitmone and the shooting knowledge
and lames Wells worded and the
day of the shooting knowledge
about cell phone mumbers and
calls, denish about requesting
the Wells brothers come to the
Moscow-Pullman area, and denials about knowing of Riggins'
activities and whereabouts on
Sept. 19.

Program .

Continued from B1

Continued from B1
wrong because we had been
doing this forever."
There have been problems
with attendance and discipline
records, too, Although the system worked fairly quickly
during the summer, when
school started and all 29 districts came online, it became
sluggish.

stricts came online, it became sluggish.

Bull administrators and counselors decided to go back to SASI, which-the-district had been using the past several

years.
The school schedule was built on SASI last year and school personnel are working to update the schedule and student data. The goal is to have the system up and running for the second semester.
School districts have been

the second semester.
School districts have been told there will be some money available to convert ISIMS to another system.
It will cost the Buhl district \$5,600 for the annual \$As\$ maintenance fee for upgrades and support.
School Board member Don Campbell also wants administrators to labor a will-constitution to the constitution to the constit

trators to place a value on time invested by district personnel in the ISIMS program for reim-

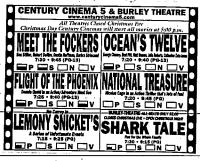
rsement. 'I always thought it was a very

optimistic program and sure onough — once they got into it — they decided it was going to cost them \$180 million to fix it, said state Sen, Tom Gannon, R-

cost them \$180 million to fix in: said state Sen. Tom Gammen, R-Buhl. A smaller pilot program was undertaken fast year with four schools to work out all the hugs. Then it was deployed to the 29 phase-one-schools.—Gammon-said. "Thuse schools were suppos-edly getting a finished product, but there is a whole fainny of problems," Gamion-said."They

airégoligto try to saleage a min-imum system out of this, but I think that's a big mistake. Any-time yoù try to saleage a systems development because you don't have enough money to do it right — you're asking for trouble.

"I am going to see if we can get some money to reimburse the districts-Rather than Albert-som. "Foundation—throwing-another \$7 million at this wreek —let's give the \$7 million to the schools to get them back, to where they were before."



Soldiers Continued from B1

vegetable selections and a broad selection of desserts and

pies.
And there will be phone calls home. Warrior has at least five phone centers where soldiers can call friends and loved ones. Some phone centers provide military phones that give a sol-dier a free connection to the states where they can use their domestic calling cards. Other domestic calling cards. Other centers require a prepaid international calling card for use.

Either way, there is no shortage of demand on their use.

"I plan on calling my mon and having a Christmas exchange here with friends," said Spc. Bryann Andersen of Buhl.

I just want my family and friends back home to have fun and not to worry. The holidays are still going to be the same with or without me.

This weeks lines at Warrior's post office were long with soldiers hoping to express mall packages in time for Christmas,

Hibbert wrote. Military postal personnel inspected soldier packages bound for the U.S., while those in line filled out customs slips and taped boxes closed.
"We receive on average from

GOP says race isn't over yet

SEATTLE (AP) — After a bruising election and two re-counts. Democrat Christine cheeging energed as the winner-lay at 150-vote margin, in Washington state's astonishingly close governor's race. But Republican Dino Rossi and his supporters say the election is not over yet. If won the first count by 261 votes, out of 2.9 million ballofs cast, then watched his lead shrink to 42-after a machine recount.

N.J. family

still has questions

UI spends money

fraternity house

fraternity house

BOISE (AP) — The University of Idaho is adding a fraternity fluids to its property holdings, fulfilling the terms of a 1962 agreement to buy the structure if the Greek brotherhood ever the Jaho State Board of Education, which approved the deal Wednesday evering.

The fraternity disbanded last year amid financial difficulties and declining membership.

The home on Moscow's Nez Perce Drive belonged to one of the U of I's oldest Greek chapters, founded in 1928.

The university owns the land that the house sits on.

The money will be used to pay the remaining debt on the home, according to the state education board.

Anything left over will be put in an account to be used if the

Anything left over will be put an account to be used if the aternity should ever try to art up again.

on defunct



move forward, unite our state and address the problems our state is facing,"
Gregoire said she was not declaring victory and would not ask Rossi to cruneted. Outside the Capitol, dozens of Republican protesters changed "Gount all vites."
But, Gregoire urged Rossi to accept the recount results, and reached out to his supporters.
"If you cast a vote in this election, it means that you care about Washington state. That is the one thing we all have in common," Gregoire said. "I ask put to remember that the one ball you to the word of the word o

Rossi did not concede. Il know many Washingtoni-

ans are hoping this will end soon, but I'm also sure that people across this state want a clean election and a legitimate governor-elect." he said Thursday in an e-mailed statement. "At this point, we have neither." Republicans say they will continue to light, and will ask the secretary of state to defay terrilying the election so they can seek reconsideration of rejected ballots in other counties. "I bis count is not over, Christine Gregoire is not the winter, and this battle gries on," state Republican Farry Chaliman Chris Vance said, "We, believe Dimo lossi is the lagitimate Governor; elect of the State of Washington and we will continue flighting to

Democrat wins recount by 130 FDA orders review of painkiller studies

Knight Ridder News Service

WASHINGTON — Federal regulators on Thursday ordered regulators on Thursday ordered reviews of dozens of ongoing patient studies of the prescription plainkillers. Celebres and Bestra in light of recent findings that both drugs may increase the risk of heart attack and stroke. The Food and Drug Administration also issued an advisory urging consumers to follow the instructions on over-the-counter anti-inflammatory pain medications such as naproxed. The read of the recent particular to the proposed of the read of the recent particular to the proposed of the read o

can sort out more clearly what the conflicting data show. Jenk-ins said.

In conjunction with local trial review boards, the EDA will review boards, the EDA will review the studies of healthy people, who, are given these inedications in experiments in tended to determine whether they can help prevent diseases such as colon polyps, which are sometimes a cancer precursor. Celebres and Bextra, both made by Pfizer, belong to a class of drugs known as Cox-2 inhibitors, which manufacturers say reduces the likelihood of gastrointestinal bleeding compared to tradiblional painkillers.

While some trials have indicated that Celebrex and Bextra, the only Cox-2 inhibitors still on the market, are less likely to cause gastrointestinal bleeding, on ther — but not all — trials have found that they can cause heart problems.

Merck pulled a third Cox-2 inhibitor, Viox. from the market recently after its users in a clinical trial showed markedly elevated risks of heart attack and stroke. At the same dime, Merck stopped its patient studies using Viox.

Border Patrol apprehensions rise

TUCSON, Ariz. (AP) — Intensified enforcement along other parts of the U.S.-Mexico border has contributed to a surge in illegal imnigrant apprehensions in southwestern Arizona in reabout death cent months, according to the Border Patrol.

Border Patrol.

From, Oct. 1 through Monday: agents made 21.318 apprehensions in the Border Patrols Yuma sector, which includes the 50 westernmost miles of Arizona's border with Mexico, said agency spokesman loe Brigman.

That's nearly three times the 7,660 apprehensions made during the same period last year Brigman said.

Ongoing enforcement opera-

Jean Brigman said.

Ongoing enforcement opera-tions in California and intensified enforcement in other parts of Arizona have possibly prompted more smug-glers to try crossing near Yuma. Brigman said.

The actions of the shug-glers a lot of times are in response to our law enforce-ment activities, he said. In the Border Patrol's Theson sector, agents made 72,028 ap-

BOISE (AP) — Family members of a New Jersey man whose body was found Saturday by a duck humer in the Pend Oreille River say they're relieved to know what shecome of him, but still want to know what shecome of him, but still want to know he died.

A least the still the sheep of the sheep was the still the sheep of th In the Border Patrols Theson sector, agents made 72,028 ap-prehensions from Oct. 1 through Monday, compared with 63,887 during the same period last year, "primarily be-cause we have more agents," said Andrea Zortman, a sector spokeswoman.



agent, right, watches a line of suspected lilegal immigrants found inside a home near Yuma, Ariz., last month, intensi-fied border enforcement along parts of the U.S. Mexico border has resulted in a surge of illegal immigrant apprehensions near Yuma.

The increase in apprehensions began after the agency started a crackdown in March in the Tucson sector, which covers all the Arizona-Mexico border except the area around Yuma. The sector has been the busiest illegal entry point on the entire border in recent years.

years,
Nahyeli Mendivii, director of
operations for the Border Action Network, a Tucson-based
human and civil rights group,
noted that many people are

caught more than once, inflat-ing numbers.
"Many times we see all these numbers, but we don't know how many times these people are caught," she said.
Zortman said the Tucson sec-tor has added 200 new

nas added 200 new permanent agents, more ground sensors, expanded and upgraded camera systems, re-mote video surveillance, fencing and permanent light-ing in some high-traffic locations.

Craft blasts off for space station

MOSCOW (AP) — A Russian cago ship blasted off early friday carrying badly needed food and optiment-for-the-international space station, where supplies for the American and Russian crew have been divinding rapidly.

The Progress M-51 took off from the remote Batkonur cosmodrome in Kazakhstan at 1:19 a.m. (Moscow time) with about 2.5 tons of food, fuel and research equipment for Russian cosmonaut Salizhan Sharipow and U.S. astronaut Leroy Chiao. HAR-Tiss and Interfax news agencies said. It was scheduled to arrive Sunday morning. Russian and American space officials were alarmed earlier this month to learn that

this month to learn that Sharipov and Chiao, in their second month at the station, had gone through much of their

food. There was food to last seven to 14 days beyond Dec. 25 if the supply ship did not ar-The crew has been ordered to

The crew has been ordered to cut back on meals. A Russian Space Agency spokesman has said the two could be forced to return to Earth If the Progres, does not reach the station. An independent team was looking into how the orbiting stations food inventory ended up being tracked so poorly and how it can be improved in the future.

future. Sharipov and Chlao's launch

stature.
Sharipov and Chlao's launch to the station in October was delayed twice — once after the accidental detonation of an explosive bolt used to separate the ship's various components, and then when a tank with hydrogen peroxide burst due to a sudden change in pressure.

Larry King will interview LDS president on Sunday

SALFTAKE CITY (AP) — Mormon Church President Gordon B. Hinckley is scheduled to make his fourth appearance on "Larry King Live" on Sunday. It's the fourth time King has interviewed "Hinckley for his CNN show.

The president of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints first appeared on the cable network talk show in September 1998.
Hinckley made subsequent appearances in 1999 and days after the 2001 terrorist attacks.

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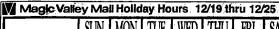
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tures Editor: Steve Grump = 733-0931, Ext. 223

The Times-News

Friday, December 24, 2004

in entertainment

Sun lalley

Sun Valley Yule

The Sun Valley Resort's traditional Torchlight Parade on Bald Mountain tonight highlights Christmas Eve. The celebration begins with a performance by the a Sun Valley Carolers, followed by Sun Valley ice skating exhibition. Fireworks follow the parade, as well as an appearance by Santa Claus and an evening of public ice skating.



'Plaid' all over

The Sun Valley Resort's production of Stuart Ross' 'Forever Plaid" is scheduled for Sunday night in the Boiler Room.



Jingle-bell rock

The Trans-Siberian Orchestra will play the Idaho Center in Nampa Thurs



Dubs at Whiskeys The Young Dubliners will perform at Whiskey Jacques in Ketchum

Thursday night. Glow for it

The Sun Valley Resort will present a Glow-in-the-Dark Party Thursday night in the Limelight Room

For times, dates and details, see Events Spotlight on Pages C2, 5

Share your New Year's Eve plans

The Times-News

Maybe it's much too early in the game, but we thought we'd

the game, but we thought we'd ask you just the same:
Whaddya doin' New Year's' New Year's Eve?
The Times-News will publish a roundup of New Year's week-end activities in its WeekEnd section on Dec. 31. If you'd like your event included, e-mail the Information to Steve Crump at scrump@maglevalley.com, fax It io 734-5538 or telephone him at 735-329.

at 735-3223.

Deadline is 3 p.m. on Wednesday

masked ball

'Phantom of the Opera' reaches the silver screen

The Associated Press

In Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — It's a golden, midsummer afternoon outside, but Andrew Lloyd Webber is standing inside a cool, dim chamber — trying to coax "The Phantom of the Opera" out of the shadows. On one wall, a towering screen shows a costumed cholr belting out "Masquerade" while Lloyd Webber and dim director foel Schumacher stand at a sound board full of glowing dials and levers that runs the length of three buffet tables.

glowing duas and the current the length of three buffet tables.

Lloyd Webber is listening. Schumacher is watching.

At the end of the sequence, the music turns grim, the camera sildes askew and the monster steps forward — but Schumacher yells "Stop!"

The farme freezes, then the screen goes white. "You cam's see the phantom yer." Schumacher teases a "vision," or you can be compared to the phantom yer. Schumacher teases a "vision," or you can be compared to the phantom yer. Schumacher teases a "vision," or you can be properly finally end you had you had be compared to the control of the Openia," finally ends its 18-year journey to the screen.

Lloyd Webber, the Iconic.

tom of the Operg' many enos its 18-year jou'rney to the screen.

Lloyd Webber, the iconic composer behind "Cats," fesus Christ Superstar" and "Evita," says he has wanted to make a film of the gothic romance since his show debuted in London in 1986. But a number of obstacles—including his 1990 divorce from muse and "Phantom" stage star Sarah Brightman, Hollywood's distinctest in musicals and a worldwide collective of aggressive stage producers—kept the musical off the screen before now.

In the early years, Lloyd Webber said, one of the maint mont of people who couldn't afford Broadway) became one—of-the maint-reasons he couldn't afford Broadway) became one—of-the maint-reasons he couldn't afford Broadway) became one—of-the maint-reasons he couldn't afford Broadway) became an end-the maint-reasons he couldn't afford Broadway) became one—of-the maint-reasons he couldn't afford Broadway) became an end-the maint-reasons he couldn't afford broadway became and the movie was a movie. The said his actors directors have a movie was put on its afford the end of the

dous disincentive for them. So the movie was put on ice." He said his actors, directors and other colleagues also urged him to keep "Phantom" in-the realm-of-live-theater. Otherwise the millions who traveled to see the thousands of performances might have saved money by going to the multiplex or video store instead.

stead.
"Everybody was sort of beg-ging that the movie wouldn't go ahead," he said. "At the time (that) did make sense, to be honest. It was not a good idea."

idea."
Lloyd Webber maintained his interest in the film, and at one point after the stage show was several years old, there was talk of a film version staring Brightman and Antonio Banderas. But when Lloyd Webber and Brightman divorced, the project's legal and



m as Christine and Gerard Butler as The Phantom in the long-awaited movie version of Andrew Lloyd Webber's 'The Phan tom of the Opera,' which opens today,

'Phantom of the Opera

- Who's in it? Emmy Rossum, Gerard Butler, Patrick Wilson
 What's It rated? PG-13, for violence
- Where's it playing? Sun Valley Opera House.
 Should you go? Folks who love the stage show will like the movie.

emotional ties became tangled.

gled.
"It was sort of their baby."
Schumacher said. 'He says it's his most personal work."
Brightman, whom Luya debber met when she was a performer in 'Cats,' inspired his crafting of the young diva Christine, who is caught up in the toaching and music of the mysterious phantom — who prefers to stay behind the scenes.

prefers to stay beama une scenes.
The story originates from a serialized novel by Gaston Leroux, published in 1911. Hoyd Webber became entranced by it when he picked up an old copy in a bookstoru and began writing the music for Brightman, who became a star through "Phantom" and its cast recording, which has sold 40 million copies worldwide.

sold 40 minutes copied anticably wide.
The split evolved amicably and Lloyd Webber and Bright-man now speak frequently, he said. There are no hard feel-ings, he added, saying she wasn't used in the film simply

because at age 43; she was too old to portray 16-year-old Christine. (Emmy Rossum, who was 17 during filming, got the role).

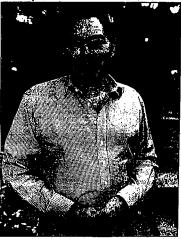
"(Brightman) is very supportive of it," Lloyd Webber said of the movie. "And she's got a huge career of her own now, which is not based on my music attall."

In the mid-1990s, he began another push to make the movie but was met with resistance from studio executives, in those years before the Oscar-winning "Chicago" and surreal-pop "Moulin Rouge!" many producers couldn't fathom investing big more in a musical, a format they believed had little drawing power.

"People would say things to

Power.

"People would say things to me like," We understand why people would sing in an opera house, but we don't understand why they sing on the opera house root." Lloyd Webber recalled. "And (I would) say, 'It's a musical, you since can PHANTOM, Page C8



Composer Andrew Lloyd Webber, poses for a photo Nov. 16, in Beverly Hills, Calif. His hit musical, 'The Phantom of the Opera, has become a film directed by Joel Schumacher, after 18 years in the making.

Meet the all-star in-laws in sequel to 'Meet the Parents'

The Associated Press

The Associated Press

You can choose your friends, but not your family. And as Ben Stiller learns again in "Meet the Fockers," you can't choose your in-laws. Clashes with a significant other's relations are one of the sturdiest sources for Hollywood farce. The territory has been minde endlessly in classics such as "You Can't Take it with You" and "Guess Who's Coming To Dinner," modern lims like "Shrek 2" and "The Birdcage" and a parade of TV sticoms, from 'All in the Family" and "Bewitched" through "Everybody Loves Raymond. Takey you comes two more lakes, one starting Ashton Kutcher as Bernie Macis.

Kutcher as Bernie Macs prospective son-in-law, the other with Jane Fonda unhap-py to have Jennifer Lopez in



Bernie Focker (Dustin Hoffman) and his wife, Roz (Barbra Streisand) meet their son's In-laws, Jack Byrnes (Robert DeNiro) and his wife, Dina (Blythe Danner) in 'Meet the Fockers,' the se-quel to 2000's 'Meet the Parents.'

what makes encounters with the in-laws such trying experiences?

"In-laws don't get to court. They're thrown together often fetr the affection between a couple is so strong there's no

'Meet the Fockers'

- *Meet the FOCRETS

 Who's in It's Ben Stiller,
 Robert De Nico, Dustin Holfman, Bartra Streisand,
 Blythe Danner, Teir Polo

 What's It rated? Pci-13

 Whar's It paying? Twin
 Cinema, Century Ginema of
 Burley, Jerome Cinema,
 Magic Lantem of Ketchum,

 Should you go? If it's one
 as good as "Meet the Parents," it's pretty darn close.

way out," said Jay Roach, di-rector of "Meet the Fockers" and its hit predecessor "Meet the Parents." "Its like a forced relationship. How likely is it two sets of couples are going to dig each other when finally forced together?"

In "Meet ithe Fockers", which opened Wednesday, stillers Greg Focker finally enjoys an uneasily courteous relationship with his future roles and his finance (Teir Polo) prepare to wed, now its time for the reserved Byrnes to meet the irrepressibly liberal Fockers (Dustin Hoffman and Barbra Streissand). Gregs mother is a sex therapist, his father a stay-at-home dad, incomprehensible avocations to secretive ex-CIA operative Jack Byrne. Their weekend together literally becomes a fight between dogs, and cats as the Fockers' poord and the Byrnes' feline have a each other.
Plumbing problems at the Please see INLAWS, Page C8

Please see IN-LAWS, Page CB

Torchlight Parade will be on Bald Mountain tonight

Holidays/Sun Valley

Holidays/Sun Valley
The traditional Torchlight Parade on Bald Mountain at 6 p.m.
is part of Christoms Eve at the
Son Valley Resont Christoms Eve at the
Son Valley Resont Christoms Lev at
the San C

Karaoke/Twin Falls

Karaoke will be featured from 8:30 p.m. to 12:30 a.m. at Mon-tana Steakhouse. No cover charge. Montana Steakhouse is located at 1826 Canyon Crest Drive.

Karaoke/Twin Falls

Karaoke with Lone Star Enter-tainment will be featured from 8:30 p.m. to 12:30 a.m. at the Pio-neer Club. No cover charge. The Pioneer Club is located at 1519 Kimberly Road.

Karaoke/Twin Falls

Karaoke will be featured from 8 p.m. to 1 a.m. at the Klover Klub Lounge. The Klover Klub is locat-ed at 402 Main N.

Dance/Utah

Ballet West will dance Tchaiktowskys. The Nuteracker at noon in Salt Lake City Capitol Theater. Tickets, which range from \$10 to \$60, can be reserved by phoning (801) 355-2787. The Capitol Theater is located at 50 West 200 South.

SATURDAY

Karaoke/Twin Falls

Karaoke with Lone Star Enter-tainment will be featured from 8:30 p.m. to 12:30 a.m. at the Pio-neer Club. No cover charge. The Pioneer Club is located at 1519 Kimberly Road.

Karaoke/Twin Falls

Karaoke will be featured from 8 p.m. to 1 a,m. at the Klover Klub Lounge, The Klover Klub is locat-ed at 402 Main N.

5 U N D A Y

Comedy/Sun Valley

The Sun Valley Resort production of Stuart Ross "Forever Plaid" is scheduled for 7:30 p.m. in the Boller Room. For ticket information, call 622-4111. Ext. 2135.

Dance/Utah

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

Karaoke/Twin Falls

Karaoke-will-be-featured-from 8 p.m. to 1 a.m. at the Klover Klub Lounge, The Klover Klub is locat-ed at 402 Main N.

MONDAY

Karaoke/Burley

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

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THURSDAY

Rock/Ketchum

SPOTLIGHT

Tchaikowsky's "The Nutcracker" at 7:pm; in Salt Lake City's Capi-tol-Theater: Thekes, which range from \$40 to \$60, can be reserved by phoning (801) 355-2787. The Capitol Theater is located at 50 West 200 South.

T U E S D A Y

Ballet West will dance Tchaikowskys "The Nuteracker" at 7 pm. in Salt Lake City Capi-tol Theater. Tickets, which range from \$10 to \$60, can be reserved by phoning (801) 355-2787. The Capitol Theater is located at 50 West 200 South.

Planetarium/Twin Falls

Planetarlum/Twin Falls
The Faulkner Planetarlum at
the Herrett Center for Arts and
Science on the campus of the
College of Southern Idaho will
present "Steamrolling Through
the Holldays" at 815 pm., preceded by "The Christman Slar" at
7 pm. Tickets are 34 for adults, S3
for senior citizens, \$2 for students
and \$37 for families: No one uniter
and \$37 for families: No one uniter

WEDNESDAY

Bob Nora Band will play from 8 p.m. to mildnight at The Oasis. No cover charge. The Oasis is lo-cated at 1007 Blue Lakes Blvd. N.

P & D Karaoke will be featured from 9 p.m. to 1 a.m. at Montana Steakhouse. No cover charge. Montana Steakhouse is located at 1826 Canyon Crest Drive.

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

The Trans-Siberian Orchestra will perform at the Idaho Center in Nampa at 7:30 pm. Tickets, which are \$29.50 and \$39.50, can be reserved by phoning (201) 442-4232 or (201) 426-1494, on-line at http://www.ietekets.com, or at Albertson's in Twin Falls-

The Idaho Center is located at 16200 Can-Ada Road on Nampas

Ballet West will dance Tchaikowsky's "The Nutcracker' at 7 pm. in Sult Lake City's Capi-tol Theater. Tickets, which range from 510 to 560, can be reserved by-phoning (801)-355-2787,—The-Capitol Theater is located at 50 West 200 South.

Planetarium/Twin Falls

The Faulkner Planetarium at the Flerrett Center for Arts and clence on the campus-of-the

Science on the campus of the College of Southern Idaho will present "Steamrolling Through the Holidays" at 8:15 p.m. preceded by "The Christmas Star" at p.m. thees are \$4 for adults. A college of the Christmas Star at p.m. thees are \$4 for adults. So for suddens and \$5 for families. No one under 4 is admitted.

Variety/Twin Falls

Karaoke/Twin Falls

Karaoke/Paul

Rock/Bolse

Dance/Utah

Karaoke/Burley Kroakers Karaoke will be fea-tured from 9 p.m. to 1 a.m. at George K's East Restaurant. No cover charge, George K's is locat-ed at 325 E. Third N.

Dance/Utah

The Young Dubliners will play Whiskey Jacques at 10 p.m. No cover charge.

Holiday/Sun Valley

-The Sun Valley Resort will-pres-ent a Glow-in-the-Dark Party at 9 p.m. in the Limelight Room, featuring hors d'ouevres, desse and music. For ticket inforn tion, call 622-4111, Ext. 2135.

Variety/Twin Falls

Open microphone night will be featured from 7 to 9 p.m. at Java. No cover charge, Java is lo-cated at 228 Blue Lakes Blvd. N.

Karaoke/Twin Falls

P & D Karaoke will be featured from 9 p.m. to 1 a.m. at Montana Steakhouse. No cover charge. Montana Steakhouse is located at 1826 Canyon Crest Drive.

Karaoke/Twin Falis

Karaoke with Lone Star Enter-tainment will be featured from 8:30 p.m. to 12:30 a.m. at the Pio-neer Club. No cover charge. The Pioneer Club is located at 1519 Kimberly Road.

Karaoke/Burley

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

Karaoke/Burley

Kroakers Karaoke will be fea-tured from 9 p.m. to 1 a.m. at the Riverside. The Riverside is locat-ed at 197 W.1 lighway 30.

Rock/Utah

ROCK/UTAN
The Trans-Slberian Orchestra
will play the E Center in the SalLake City suburb of West Valley
City at 7:30 p.m., Tlekers, which
are 520, 526-50 and \$365-50, can be
reserved by phoning Smiths Tix
at (800) 888-TDX or online at
http://www.smithstix.com. The E
Center is located at 3200 S. Deckert Lake Dr.

Dance/Utah

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

Planetarium/Twin Falls

The Faulkner Planetarium at the Herrett Center for Arts and the Herrett Center for Arts and Science on the campus of the College of Southern Idaho will present "Steamfolling Through the Holidays" at 8:15 p.m., preceded by "The Christimas Star" at 7 p.m. Tickets are \$4 for adulets, \$27 for sendre citizens. \$2 for students and \$5 for families. No one under 41s admitted.

NEXT WEEKEND

Country/Jackpot

Joe Diffle will do two shows a night, at 8 and 10 p.m., on DEC. 31 at Cactus Petes Resort Casino. Tickets, which are \$30, \$35 and \$40, can be reserved by phoning (800) 821-1103.

Country/Halley

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Country/Halley
Reckless Kelly will perform at
The Mint Bar at 10 p.m. on DEC.
31:A 'Malloon' dröp and champagne toast is scheduled for
indinight and breakfast will be
served at 1 a.m. Tickets, which
are \$75, are available at Big Bad
Bills in Hailey and Twist and
Trout Music in Ketchum, by
phoning 788-MINT, or at the
door.

Variety/Albion
A New Year's Eve Party will be beld at 8:30 p.m. on Der. 31 at the Marsh Creek Berner. Music will be by The Bronsons. Snacks and party favors will be provided. Cost is \$5'.50 per person or \$15 for The Marsh Creek Event Centre is located at 899 \$5.1 lighway.77.

Country/Decio

COUNTRY/Declo

A New Year's Ewe Parry will be held, at 8:30 p.m. on Dec. 31 at 8:30 p.m. on To make reservations, call 654-4421. Shakers is located at 826 Highway 81.

Rock/Idaho

NOCK/IGANO
Young Dubliners will perform at the Big Easy Concert House at 8 p.m. on DEC 31. Tickets, which are \$29.50. can be reserved by phoning (800) 955-4827, online at http://www.ticketweb.com., or at Akkinson's Market in Ketchum. The Big Easy Concert House is located at 416 S. Ninth St.

Dance/Utah

Ballet West will dance Tchaikowsky's "The Nuteracker" at 2 p.m. on DEC 31 in Salt Lake City's Capitol Theater. Tickets, which range from \$10 to \$50, can be reserved by phoning [801] 355-2787. The Capitol Theater is located at 50 West 200 South.

Country/Bolse

East State Will play the Big Easy Concert House at 8 p.m. on JAN. I. Tickets, which are \$10, can be reserved by phoning (800) 955-4827, online at http://www.ticketvebc.com or at Akkinson's Market in Ketchum. The Big Easy Concert House is located at 416 S. Ninth St.

NEXT MONTH

Comedy/Halley

The Second City will perform at the Liberty Theater in Halley at 7 p.m. on JAN. 5-6. For ticket information, call 578-9122.

Comedy/Bolse

Comedy Boise
Bill Engault will perform at the
Morrison Center on the campus
of Boise State University at 6 p.m.
AM. 7. Tickets, which are
\$31.25, can be reserved by phoning Select A Seat at (2008)
426-1494, online at
http://www.idahotickets.com or
at Albertson's in Twin Falls.

Comedy/Idaho Falls

The touring company of Second City will play the Colonial Theater at 8 p.m. on JAN. 7. Tickets. which are \$25, can be reserved by phoning (208) 522-0471. The Colonial Theater is located at 498 "A" St.

Classical/Utah

Utah Symphony will perform the works of Berlioz and Lalo at 8 p.m. on JAN 7-8 in Salt Lake City's Abravanel Hall. Tickets, which range from \$20 to 538, can be reserved by phoning (801) 355-2787. Abravanel Hall is locat-ed at 123 West South Temple.

Rock/Utah

Volante will perform at Lo-Fi Cafe in Salt Lake City at 8 p.m. on JAN. 8. Tickets, which are \$8, can

be reserved by phoning Smiths Tix at (800) 888-TIXX or online at http://www.smithtix.com. The Lo-Fi Carfe is located 165 South West Temple.

Country/Utah

Tylterndon will play the Velvet Room in Salt Lake City at 7:39 p.m. on/JAN, 8. Tickets, which are \$15, can be reserved by phoning Smiths Tix at (800) 888-TIXX or online at http://www.smith-stix.com. The Velvet Room is located at 155 West 200 South.

Classical/Utah

Utah Symphony will perform "Beethoven: A Life In Music" at 7 p.m. on JAN. 17 In Salt Lake Citys Abravanel Itall. Tickets, which are \$11 and \$17, can be reserved by phoning (801) 355-2787. Abravanel Itall is located at 123

World music/Utah

The Chieftains will perform with Utah Symphony at 8 p. non JAN, 14-15 in Salt Lake City's Abravanel Hall. Tickets, which range from 827 to 545, can be reserved by phoning (801) 355-2787. Abravanel Hall is located at 123 West South Temple.

Figure skating/Boise

Figure skating/Boise
Smucker's Stars on ice, featuring
Sarah Hughes, Alexel
Yagudin, Elena-Berezhnaya and
Anton Stikharulidze, Jamie Sale
Anton Stikharulidze, Jamie Sale
deredge and Ekaterina Gordeeva,
will perform at the Bank of
America Center, at 7 p.m. on JAN.
J.7.-Likoka, which-are-\$25-837.
\$57 and \$77, can be reserved by
phoning Select A Seat at (208)
426-1494, online
http://www.idahotickets.com, or
at Albertson's in Twin Falls. The
Bank of America Center is locatod at 233 S. Capitol Blvd.

Jazz/Utah

Wynton Marsalis and the Lin-coln Center Orchestra will perform in Kingsbury Hall on the campus of the University of Utah in Salt Lake City at 7:30 p.m. on IAN. IB. Tickets, which are \$35, \$45 and \$55, can be reserved by phoning (801) 355-2787.

Country/Ketchum

Tony Furtado will play Whiskey Jacques at 10 p.m. on JAN. 19. No cover charge.

Dance/Bolse

Mance/Bolse
Michael Fladey's Lord of the
Dance will perform at the Morrison Center on the campus of
Bolse State University at 7:30
p.m. on JAN. 19-20. Tickets,
which are \$27.50, \$40 and \$49.50,
can be reserved by phoning Select A Seat at 1208 \$426.1494,
online at http://www.idahotickets.com, or at Albertson's in Twin
Falls.

Circus/Twin Falls

Circus/Twin Falls

Magic Valley Arts on Tour will

present the New Shanghai Circus, 7:30 p.m. on JAIV. 20 in the
College of Southern Idaho Fine
College of Southern Idaho Fine
College of Southern Idaho Fine
Falls. Tickets, which are 512

adults and 515 for children and
senlors. Tickets, which are 512

For-adults-and-58-for-childrenand, students, are available at
Everybody's Business. Kurt's
Pharmacy and Hallmark, CrowLey's Old Time Soda Fountain,
the CSI Community Education
Center and the Magic Valley Arts
Council office in Junn Falls, at
Center and the Magic Valley Arts
Council office in Junn Falls, at
Arelene's Flowers in Jerome, and at

Classical/Utah

Classical / Utal.
Utals Symphony will perform
the chamber music of Bolcolm,
17:30 p.m. on /A/N. 20 in Sait Lake
City's Abravanel Hall. Tickets,
which are \$18 and \$28, can be reserved by phoning (801)
\$55-2787. Abravanel Hall is located at 123 West South Temple.

Theater/Burley

The Mount Harrison Heritage Foundation will present Alan Jay Lerner and Frederick Loewes ("Camelol," 730 p.m. on JAN. 21-22 and 27-29 at the King Center, For ticket information, call 678-0404.

Dance/Utah

Michael Fladey's Lord of the Dance will perform at Kingsbury Ilail on the at campus of the University of Utah at 8 p.m. on JAN. 21 and at 2 and 8 p.m. on JAN. 22 Tickets, which are \$32.50, \$42.50 and \$52.50, can be reserved by phonling ArtTix at (801) 355-2767.

Rock/Utah

NUCKY Utālī

Diecast will play The Circuit in the Salt Lake Ciry suburb of Murray at 6 p.m. on /AN 22. Tickets, which are 8s. can be reserved by phoning Smiths Tix at (800) 888-TIXX or online at http://www.smithstix.com.

. Opera/Utah-

Opera/Utah

Utah Opera will perform Leos
Janaceks "Jenufa" at 7:30 p.m. on
JAN. 22, 24, 26 and 28 and at 22
p.m. on JAN. 30 in Sal Lake Cyc
Capitol Theater. Tickets, whier
range from \$12 to \$58, can be reserved by phoning (801)
355-2787. The Capitol Theater is
located at 50 West 200 South.

Rock/Utah

Chevelle, Helmet, Crossfade and Strata will play In the Venue in Sait Lake City at 6:30 p.m. on JAN. 23. Tickets, which are \$20, can be reserved by phoning Smiths Tix at (800) 888-TIXX or online at http://www.smith-stix.com. In the Venue is located at 219 South 600 West.

Rock/Bolse

ROCK/BOISE
Bowling for Soup and American Hi-Fl will play the Big Easy.
Concert House at 7 µm. on JAW.
25. Tickets, which are \$15, can be reserved by phoning (800) 965-4827, online, at http://www.dickrevebc.com. or at Akkinson's Market in Ketchum.
The Big Easy Concert House is located at 416 S. Ninth St.

Country/Utah

Tony, Furtado, will perform at the Velvet Room in Salt Lake City at 8:30 p.m. on IAIV. 25. Tickets, which are \$10, can be reserved by phoning (800) 888-TDX. The Vel-vet Room is located at 155 West 200 South.

A capella/Idaho Falis

Rockopella will perform at the Colonial Theater-at-8-p.m.-on-JAN. 26. Tickets, which are \$22, can be reserved by phoning (208) 522-0471. The Colonial Theater is located at 498 "A" St.

Rock/Utah

Bowling for Soup and Ameri-



Bill Cosby's 'Fat Albert' comes to theaters

New to the valley 'Fat Albert'

'Fat Albert'
Live action is blended with animation to bring thack the Philadelphia adolescents memorialized in Bill Cosby's stand-up conicity and a long-naming Sauraday morning 1V series. With Kenan Thompson, Kyla Pratt. Bill Cosby Chuari Grandberry and Raven-Symone. Directed by Joel Zwick.

'Darknéss'

Darkness

An American teen and her family move into a strange old house in the Spanish country-side and are formented from within. With Anna Paquin, Lena Olin, lain Glan, Giancarlo Giannini, Fele Martinez, Stephan Enquist and Fermi Rekach, Written and directed by laume Balaguero.

'Kinsey'

"Kinsey"

Liam Nieson stars as the colchrated (and condomined) sex
rescarcher in this entertaining
and enlightening biopic, Laura
Linney is the grad-studentturned-spouse who was
Kinsey's intelectual and entional anchor — and bis
partner, up to a point, in sexual
discovery, Flawed but satisfying,
and smartly put together by
filmuniker Bill Condon, 1 hr. 58
R (language, nudity, sex, adult
themes)

'The Life Aquatic With Steve Zissou'

With Steve Zissou'
On the face of it, Wes Anderson's movie is an adventure tale about a lacquez consteau-on-the-skids-type (BII Mutray) who decides to pull an Ahab on the shark that ate his buddy. But mostly, like all of Anderson's movies, its about the way nostalgia works on people.



In this photo provided by Twentieth Century Fox, Fat Albert (Kenan Thompson, center) and friends, partygoers with their dance moves in 'Fat Albert.'

partygoers with their dance moves Co-written with Noath Baumbach, this is an exquisitely evocative movie that elevates rueful melancholia to its apex. It does that thing movies used to chink they were supposed to do — paint with light, sculpt in time, drive you muts with longing for something hard to pinpoint that you probably never had, deliver an emotional experience from which you won't recover. With Cate Blanchett, Anjelica Iluston, Willem Dafoe, leff, Goldhlum, and Michael Gambon, (1:59) It for language, some drug use, violence and partial mudity.

'Meet the Fockers'

In this sequel to the 2000 comedy "Meet the Parents," it's time for the in-laws to meet a Dustin Hoffman and Barbra Streisand join the cast. Ben Siller, Robert De Niro, Blythe Danner and Teri Polo also star.

Directed by Jay Roach, PG-13 for crude and sexual humor, language and a brief drug refer-ence.

'The Phantom of the Opera'

or the Opera
Webbers musical adaptation
of Gaston Leroux's romantic
novel about a disfigured musical 'genius, 'which became a
Broadway blockbuster, finally
makes it to the screen. Gerard
Butler, Emny Rossum, Patrick
Wilson and Minnie Driver star,
Directed by Joel Schumacher,
PG-13 for brief violent images.

Continuing

'Alexander'

Oliver Stone's overheated stew of paganism and Freudi-anism stars Colin Farrell, in blond mullet and toga miniskirt, as the conqueror

dude known as Alexander the Great. Angelina Jolie, with a Transylvanian accent, pet pythons and Medusa hair, plays his mother, Olympias, and Val Kilmer, resembling a de-Kilmer, resembling a de-bauched Cyclops, is his father, Philip. 2 hrs. 53 R (violent battle scenes, nudity, sex)

'The Aviator'

Ine Aviator
Leonardo DiCoprio stars as
the billionaire Howard Hughes
who makes movies and tests his
innovative aircraffs while romancing starlets. Directed by
Morrin Scorsese, with Cate
Blanchett, John C. Rellly, Kate
Beckinsale and Jude Law PG-13
for thematic elements, sexual
content, mudiv, lannance and a content, nudity, language and a

'Blade: Trinity'

In the third film of the horror franchise, vampirehunter Wes-

Now Playing

Twin Falis

Twin Cinema
-Christmas with the Kranks
-Flight of the Phoenix
-Ladder 49

"Ledder 49"
"Lemony Snicker's Series of Unfortunate Events"
"Meet the Fockers"
"National Treasure"
"Ocean's Twelve"

Odyssey Theater
"Alexander"
"Bridget Jones: The Edge
of Reason"
"Closer"
"Finding Neverland"
"Spanglish"

Lamphouse Theater

"Kinsey" "What the Bleep Do We Know

The Orpheum
Blade: Trinity

Halley/Ketchum/ Sun Valley

Magic Lantern "The Aviator" "Meet the Fockers"

ley Snipes gets upstaged by a fanged Pomeranian and sitcom second banana Ryan Reynolds, turning this earnest affair into a campy_contedy_With_Parker Posey. R (strong violence, pro-fanity, sexual candor)

Bridget Jones: The Edge of Reason'

Bridget Jones in the book by Helen Fielding is a tart-tongued loudmouth with roller-coaster moods and an insecure streak as Homeric as her outlandish self-confidence. In the movie,

SkiTime Cinemas

"Closer" "Lemony Snicket's Series of Unfortunate Events".... Sun Valley Opera House *The Phantom of the Opera

Burley

Century Cinema "Flight of the Phoenix" "Lemony Snicket's Series of Unfortunate Events" "Meet the Fockers" "National Treasure "Ocean's Twelve"

Burley Theater "Shark Tale"

Jerome

Jerome Cinema
"Lemony Snicket's Series of Un-fortunate Events"
"Meet the Fockers"

'Ocean's Twelve" 'The Polar Express'

Gooding

Gooding Cinema "The incredibles"

Renee Zellweger plays Bridget like being Bridget is a flaw There's something shamed and apologetic about Zellweger's porformanca-that-undereuts-what is otherwise a gleefully indulgent saitre of chickdom. You get the sense she doesn't believe her character could ever get the likes of Colin Firth and Hugh Grant to light over her. The movle might he British, but jis attitude toward girk is still pure Hollywood. This is a shame, because the seript is wickedly smart and unabushedly silly at

Please see MOVIES, Page C6



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In Santa's bag, songs that'll sleigh you

By Richard Harrington

Once again it's the time of year when Santa regales us with a sleighful of seasonal music, tresh from the North Pole workshops of multipartone! fresh from the North Pole work-shops of multinational conglomerates. Let's inverage a few dozen and see what they sound like. Oh, Santa, you shouldn't have! (In some cases, you really shouldn't have.)

As seen on TV

As seen on TV

Clay Alken, Merry Christmus With Love. With his wholesome choirboy looks and angolic tenor. Alken is stallor-made for this kind of thing. Phil Ramone's unobtrusive production gently frames Alken's soaring vocals on standards like of 11 high. Wight' and "Silent Night," lets him sway gently on Sleigh Ride," and smoothly entreat, everyone to "Have Yourself a Merry Little Christmas." The tunner-up on Season 2 of American Idol' even redeems the bombastic "Don't Save It All for Christmas Day," co-written by Celine Dion. In its first week of release, "Merry Christmas With Love" sold 270,000 copies, the biggest defunt for a holiday album in the Soundscan era.

William Hung, "Hung for the Holidays." Bad joke redus: This one-track off-key movely pony, banished from "Idol." makes another awful record, merifully only 14 minutes long—unless von count the hidden boms, the Champhons."

you count the hidden bonus, track version of Queen's "We Are the Champions." Hanging's too good for this one.

• George Hidf. "Aly Christmas EP" Voted off halfway through Senson 3 of "American Idol," the likable Hulf has a classic old-soul volce that gets precious little display in this replid five-track collection, redeemed only by the inspired spiritual "Go Tell It on the Mountain."

• "Ultimate Christmas 2." This is an all-star, multi-genre compilation that includes year-old tracks from first- and second-season "Idol" winners Kelly Clarkson and Ruben Studdard, the latter in a charming duet with fellow contestant Tamyra Gray. Also on board: pop rivals Britney Spears and Christina Aguillera. Probably the only album on which you'll find both Barry Manliov and R. Kelly.

• "Christmas in the FishBouel."

album on which you'll find both Barry Manilow and R. Kelly.

* "Christmas in the FishBoud: Performed by the Reality TV Singers." It's come to this Fish-bowlcom. a reality TV gossip site, has brought together "American Itod" tosers Nikki McKilbbin, J.D. Adams and Brad Istin, "Survivors" lenna Lewis, "Real Worlds" Lori Trespicio and Aton Williams, "Avenne Joes" Dennis Luciani and "Paradise Hotels" foni Ferrari, As "lingle Bells" suggests, you'll be "laughing all the way" listening to this, particularly "The 12 Minutes of Fame," a spoof of "The 12 Days of Christmas," and several other paradics that trade on these folks' unfortunate fates.

* Jessica Simpson, "Refoyee: "Incerhristmas Albumn," Simpson Lass a big voice but doesn't know look use It, opting for overly way to the part of the control of the control

"Income and the state of the st

Return of the Rat Pack

Return of the Rat Pack

- Frank Shanta: "The Cirriamax Collection:" Not to be
confused with the similarly itited Columbia-era collection.

this draws from Shantas holiday
albums for Reprise in the '60s
and '70s, capped by one of the
final recordings, from 1991, included are several spry due
with Bing Crosby (two of them



A ho-ho hodgepodge of hollday CD releases includes 'A John Waters Christmas' 'The Polar Express' soundtrack, Emmylou Harris' 'Light of the Stable' and 'Christmas Gumbo,' a seasonal potpourri of

previously unreleased), and three tracks with progeny Nancy, Tina and Frank Jr. from 1969.

1989.
Denn Martin, "Christmas John Martin, "Christmas Donn Martin, "Christmas With Dina," Seven tracks from 1989's "Wineer Romance" and 1989's "Wineer Romance" and 1983 single, "The Christmas Collection," plus a 1953 single, "The Christmas Blues," in which Dina espouses sympathy for another red-nosed character, "Three" songs; including the jovial "Let It Snow! Let It Snow! Let It Snow! appeared on both albums here they serve to contrast the styles. Let It Snow! Let It Snow!" ap-peared on both albums; here they serve to contrast the styles of big-band arrangers Gus Lev-ene in the '50s and Bill Justis in the '50s.

* Sammy Davis It. never

ene in the '50s and BIII IUSIIS in the '50s.

* Sammy Davis It never recorded a hollday album, but three of his takes on seasonal standards are included on 'Christmas With the Rat Pack.' With a new cover and one new song since its initial 2002 release, the '21-track' set is dominated by Sinatra and Martin, Oddly, there's a lot of overlap with 'Christmas With Dino,' but almost none with the Sinatra album; also, there's no Rat Pack trio recordings and only two Sinatra-Martin duets. For a bunch of troublemakers, this collection is surprisingly recut. Maybe they were waiting for NewYours' Eve.

All the other stuff

All the other stuff

* Trans-Siberian Orchestra,
"The Lost Christmas Ene" The
Christmas jaugemant lamehed
by producer-composer-bricist
Paul O'Nelli Continues with the
last part of a holiday trilogy
begun in 1986 with "Christmas
-live-and-Other-Stories" "Thatalbum's epic track, "Christmas
-live-and-other-bright one of the
-year-Tho-new-album-featuringO'Neill's grandiose mix of rock,
classical, Broadway, pop and
R&B, is about a young angel ordered by God to find the spirit of
-lessis on Earth before Christmas
-live, is over, which makes for a
-poignant New York Christmas
-live, is over, which makes for a
-poignant New York Christmas
-live, is over, which makes for a
-poignant New York Christma
-live, and the spirit of
- The spirit of the spirit
- The spirit of the s

Outside" and harmonica whiz Toots Thielemans on "The Christmas Song" fail to rouse "laylor (though a full album of

- Taylor-(though a-full albumr of Thielemans tooting would probably be grand). Available only at Hallmark stores.

• Vanessa Williams. "Silver & Coldt." Varied offerings in the pop-soul web. from a hash due with Brian McKnight on "loy io" the World." to the Comportes separation tisalled "Merry Christ-mus Darling." Williams also deep some big band swing ("Winter Wedner," Christmas is"). Celtic New Agey airs ("Silem Night," The Holly and the by"). Supple spirituals ("Rise Ip, Supple spirituals ("Rise Ip, Supple spirituals ("Rise Ip, Supple spirituals ("Rise Ip, Supple ("Prelude"). I Dream a World").

• Dianne Reeves. "Christmas

World").

* Diame Reves. "Curistmus Time Is Here." Reeves 'rich vocals are swithly farmed by plants! Peter seemble led by plants! Peter seemble led by plants! Henre resemble resemble resemble resemble resemble resemble resemble resemble resemble led ballads! like "Christmas Time Is Henre". and the mediatechols.

ballads like "Christmas Time Is Ilere" and the mehancholy "Ilave Yourself a Merry Little Drummer Boy "explores African rhythms this time around.

""Christmas." And "The Little Drummer Boy "explores African rhythms this time around.

""Christswak Ehristmas." Hog-Orlsion and Elvis Presley get channeled on a set of 10 standards and five originals, the best of which are the rueful "Washington Square," a bluesy "Christmas on TV" and "Gotta Be Paid," in which Isaak pays homage to... Louis Armstrong!

"Will Downing." Christmas.

Love. and. Jon.—Opening. with—actownship jive, Island-flavored take on "The Little Drummer Boy" (with an unnecessary rapcoda from Jabba), the smooth R&B singer unburriedly revisits a handful of standards and contributes a trio of reflective—Jonnie Hathaways-style ballacts. Downing's flittle helpers include Kirk Whalum, Gerald Albright, Joe Sample, Jonathan Buller. Najee and David Sanborn.

"Diome Warnelek." "Alp Pararite Time of the Year." Surprisingly, this is the first holiday recording in Warneick's long, Illustrious career. The tumes are mostly familiar, but Warwick's long, Illustrious career. The tumes are mostly familiar, but Warwick's long, Illustrious career. The tumes are mostly familiar, but Warwick's long, Illustrious career. The tumes are mostly familiar, see and some distinction. Still, she doesn't seem particularly inspired, even when she's ductting with Gladys Knight and Bebe Winnas (who wrote the solid "I Believe in Christmas" especially for Warwick') or getting support on three tracks from saxophonist Dave Koz.

 Carmen Balthrop, "The Art of Christmas, Vol. 1." The noted of Christmas, Vol. 1." The noted soprano, a professor of voice at other University of Maryland, gives rich and glorious readings to classical gents including Debussy's "Christmas Carol for Unimeless Children" and Max Reger's haunting "Maria Wegenflied," the Spanish-llavored graces of a trio of songs by the fate Catban composer loaquin Nin, and stately spiritudes as "Sweet Little Baby Jesus" and "Marry's Boy Child." Planist Carolis Stocking Stocking Child. "Planist Carolis Stocking Sto

Sounds of Blackness. "The
Ngut Before Christmas II." This
group has been offering an
urban musical version of the
classic story since 1978 and a
lively one in is, with Barpin'
Idendeer Christmas Christmas and
Soundines of the Christmas and
Soundines Italians and
Grammy-winning ensemble
has more great singers than
most major labels do.
Soundines ("Christmas
With the Kranks." Steve Van
Zandi "produced this
punk/garage-flavored effort led
to the film's misanihropic
themes. The Ramones classic
Metry Christmas (Dont Want
to "Hight-Thoughth" sets the pace
for the Danish garage duo the
Raveonettes," the Chesterfield
kings, gif group the Charms
and psychedelic-leaning Tha
Sagand, balanced with wintage
tracks from Elvis, Brenda Lee
and Brian Setzer.

Soundirack: "The Polar Express." Tom Hanks delivers the
title-track-us-classie-Hollyword
narrative and actually sings foort
of) on the jump-and-jive Tlot
Chocolate. "The songs, from the
pens of Glen Ballard and Alan
Silvestri, tend to the saccharine,
but Aerosmith's Steven Tyler
brings the old boogie to Rockin
on_Top. of. the World." and
Alvolesome losh Grobian turns
"Believe" into a personal Up
With Santa.

* Trout Fishing in America.

**Trout Fishing i

Christmas comes in July for Harry Potter fans

SAN FRANCISCO — Harry Potter fans may find an LOU. in their stockings this Christ-

in their stockings this Christ-mas.

The nucle-anticipated sixifi installation of the popular book series doesn't go on sale until lady, but many booksellers are accepting orders in time for the holidays.

Borders Group, Barnes & Noble, Books-A-Million and Amazone aimounced Tuesday that they have begun selling the sixifi Harry Potter book. Tharry Potter and the Half-Blood Prince," at a 40 percent dis-count.

Based on last year's record

Based on last year's record numbers for "Harry Potter and the Order of the Pheenix" – selling 5 million copies within 24 hours of its lune 2003 release – retailers are expecting another record-setting per-formance.

another record-setting per-formance.

1.K. Rowling's popular books about witches and wizards have all reached the No. 1 spot on best-seller lists in the United States and Britain. The book has also spawned hit movies, toys, costumes and video games.

DUTE IAMS

Performing some magic of its fown, Barnes & Noble said that within hours of launching its sale Thiesday the book shot to the top of its bestseller list,

Barnes & Noble, Borders and Books-Ar-Million—said—their stores will celebrate Harry Potter's July 16 release with in-store events, and will stay open past midnight so customers can purchase the book at 12:01 a.m., when "Italf Blood Prince" officially goes on sale. The book, which is selling for 15:7.99, has a publisher's price of \$29.99.

But, although fans of the young wizard will have to wait until summer to receive their larry Potter present, the books U.S. publisher. Scholastic Corp., got an early gift in the form of a surge in its stock price.

A Goldman Sachs analyst re-

price.
A Goldman Sachs analyst re-A Goldman Sachs analyst report also noted that publication of the anticipated the selective should help to boost the company's fiscal 2006 earnings and cash flow.

After news of the book's refease was annionized, shared Scholastic jumped \$1.60, or 4 percent, to \$37.52 in the afternoon session.

ENGAGEMENTS

SHINNEY-NEBEKER

SHINNEY-NEBEKER
GOODING — Lynn and Ann
shinney of Focatello announce
the engagement of their daughter, Juliame Shinney, to Fich
Nebeker of Gooding,
Shinney is a graduate of Centry High School. She
settendling Lewis-Clark State College and plays volleyball at the
College and plays volleyball at the
College and plays volleyball at the
College and plays volleyball at State
State College and runs crosscountry at the college. Its served
at LDS mission in Golania,
Brazil.

The wedding is planned for

Woodbury-Seaman

WOODBURY-SEAMAN
TWIN FALLS — David and
Gwen Woodbury of Sugar City
announce the engagement of
their daughter, Wendy Woodbury, to Robert Del Seaman, son
of Robert Lelkoy and Linda Seaman of Iwin Falls.
Woodbury is a graduate of
Dixle College in St. George, Unah.
Seaman is attending the College of Southern Idaho.
Ite is employed at Kurts Pharmacy in Iwin Falls.
—The weedding is Planned-forThursday, Dec. 30, in St. George.
A reception will be held at 7

SOBOTKA-RAMOS

JEROME — Sandy Sobotka of Twin Falls and Mike and Kim Sobotka of Jerome announce the engagement of their daugh-ter, Brandy Shantel Sobotka, to Ryan Joseph Ramos, son of Robert and Barbara Ramos of

Robert and Barbara con-lazelton.

Sobotak is a graduate of Filer High School. Site is employed at Sobotak Farms in Jerome.

Ramus is-a graduate of Valley High School, He is employed at Chossen Brothers Feedfor in terrine.

Jerome. The wedding is planned for 7



E Keith Net

and Julianne Shinney
and Julianne Shinney
Wednesday, Dec. 29, in the Logan
LDS Tiemple in Logan, Utah.
A reception will be held from
6:30 to 8 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 30,
at the Gooding LDS Church.





p.m. ... White Hor ception will be held from 8:30 to 11 p.m. Friday, Feb. 4; 2005, at The White House.

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Freeze on Skis will | Events be renewed Jan. 1

TWIN FALLS — The 18th an-mual Freeze on Skis will begin at noon on Jan. "I at Shoshone" Falls Park. Ski pledge forms are available

Falls Park.

Ski pledge forms are available at Plne Tree Sports in Burley.
Claude's Sports, Elevation
Sports, Big 5 Sporting Goods and The Times-News and El
Sombrero in Jerome, They also
may be obtained from Snake
River Freeze on Skis Inc. members.

and prizes will be awarded. Skiers can water ski, kneeboard or wake-board. No feet skis are allowed-Forms must be turned in by Ru. 1.

Funds raised will benefit the Family Readiness Group for local-families of HIRC2-116 Calvary of ferome, Italies, Gooding and Iwin Falls.

The event will also benefit the Education Scholarship Fund for Blake, 5, and Caidin, 3— the children of Capir. Alan Rowe, who was killed in Iraq in September.

who was killed in Iraq in Sep-tember.

For more information on how to be a part of Freeze on Skis or to donate, call John Pohlman at 420-0661 or Henk Heeling at 731-0026.

Shanghai Circus tickets go on sale for January performance

TWIN FALLS — Tickets are available now for the New Shanghai Circus, the third per-formance of the Arts on Tour

formance of the Arts on Tour season.

The performance will be held at 7:30 p.m., Ian. 20 in the College of Southern Idaho Fline Arts Center auditorium. Cost is \$18 for adults and \$15 for students and children.

Just off a sold-tout Broadway tour, the New Shanghai Circus is a beautifully orchestrated presentation of Chinese circus acts dating back to harvest festivals of 2000 years ago. This modern-day performance is enhanced by fabulous chorcegraphy, amazing lighting, enchanding scenery and power-

du music. Astonishing athletes and fearless performers with boundless energy defy gravity and execute breathtaking feats as they stretch the limits of human ability in this spellbinding, show. If it's humanly possible tand even if it's not), Shanghai's acrobats, jugglers and contortionists do it with spectacular flair. Ticket outlets include Everybody's—Business,—Kurtis—Ticket outlets include Everybody's—Business,—Kurtis—Magic Valley Arts Council, Say-Mor. Drug in Buil, Arlene's Plowers in Jerome, the CSI Community Education Center, and the CSI Outreach Centers in Burley, Halley and Gooding. For more information or for tekets, call 732-8288.

Dilettantes plan 'Grease' auditions

The Times-News

TWIN FALLS — The Dilet-tantes of the Magic Naley will hold auditions on Jan. 9-10 for their upcoming production of Jim Jacobs and Warren Casey's musical "Grease." The tryouts will be held from 2-7 p.m. on Jan. 10 at the Immanuel Lutheran School. The show will be east immediately after auditions, with

rehearsals to begin Jan. 12 and continuing through March

17.
Auditions are open to anyone interested, with or without
acting and singing experience.
The parts are suitable for
teenagers and adults.
For prog information, call

teenagers and adults.
For more information, call
Sharon Warner at 733-7321.
"Grease" is scheduled March
18-20 and March 24-26 in the
College of Southern Idaho Fine
Arts Center auditorium.

Continued from C2
can Hi-Fi will perform at in the
Venue in Salt Lake City at 6:30
p.m. on JAN. 26. Tickets, which
are \$13.50, can be reserved by
phoning Smiths Tax at (800)
888-TIXX or online at
http://www.smithstk.com, In
the Venue is located at 219 South
600 West.

Country/Bolse

Country/Bolse
Merle Hagdard will perform in
the Mortison Center on the campus of Boise State University at 8
p.m. on JAN. 28. Tickets, which
are \$32.50, can be reserved by
phoning Select A Seat at (20)
426-1494, online at
http://www.idahotickets.com,
or at Albertson's in Twin Falls.

Classical/Ketchum

Ethos Percussion Group will open the Sun Valley Center for the Arts Winter Music Series at 7:30 p.m. on JAN. 29 in the Pres-byterian Church of the Bigwood.

Tickets, which are \$25, can be re-served by phoning (208) 726-9491.

Hip-hop/Utah

Russell Simmons Del Poetry Jam will play Kingsbury Hail on the campus of the University of -Utah in Salt.Lake City at 7:30 p.m. on IAN. 29. Tickets, which are 524 and 532, can be reserved by phoning Artifix at (801) 355-2787,

Pop/Utah

Pop/ Utah
Cher will sing at the Defta
Center in Sali Lake City at 7:30
p.m. on IAN. 31. Tickets, which
are \$39.75. \$59.75 and \$79.75,
can be reserved by phoning (80)
255.5EAT or online at
http://www.ticketmaster.com.
The Delta Center is located at
301 West South Temple.

Rock/Utah

The Explosion and Death by tereo will play the Lo-Fi Cafe in

Salt Lake City at 7 p.m. on JAN. 31. Tickets, which are \$8, can be reserved by phoning Smith's Tix at (800) 888-TDX or online at http://www.smithstix.com. The Lo-Fi Cafe is located at 165 South West Temple.

O N G O I N G

Art show/Buhl
Karen Taylor's "Pastel Portraits
of Tribal People" will be an display THEOUGH JAN. 4 at the
Eighth Street Center in Buhl.
Free. The Eighth Street Center is
located at 200 N. Eighth.

Art show/Ketchum

Art Show/Ketchum
The Sun Valley Center for the
Arts will present "The Hunt: Ritual and Narrative," THROUGH
JAN. Ha at the Sun Valley Center is open
Moredays through Friday from 9
Moredays through Friday
Friday from 9
Moreday from 1
Moreday

JumpCo auditions will be next month

The Times-News

TWIN FALLS — The Junior Musical Playhouse Company will hold auditions on Jan. 7-8 for its winter production, "Tied to the Tracks." Auditions, which are by appointment, only, can be scheduled by phoning Cynde Koffer at 734-3054 from 5:30 to 9:30 p.m. on Jan. 4-5:

The production is scheduled for Feb. 25-26 at the Roper Auditorium.

For more information on JUMP Company auditions, visit the Web site at www.jumpcompany.org.

The Times-News: Your guide to the Magic Valley

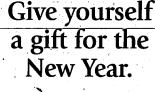






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WeekEnd

Movies

Continued from C3

Continued from C3
the same time, and Grant gives
what must be his furnicst and
most sexy performance ever.
Directed by Beeban Kidron.
(148) R-for language and some
sexual content.

'Christmas with the Kranks'

the Kranks'

- Tim Allen and Jamie Lee Curtis star in this brutally boring
family larce about a couple
who decide to lorgo the usual
yuletide timals, thereby allemaing their neighbors and friends.
Adapted from John Grisham's
"Skipping, Christmas"— and
would that it hadm been, I, In.
38 PG (profamity, adult themes)

Cinser'

'Closer' Jude Law, Iulia Roberts, Clive Owen and Natalie Portman star in this four-way roundedly about lust, longing and the cruel things people do to consolidate in the name of love. Directed, with much cool sophistication, by Mike Wichols, working from playwright Patrick Marbor's own screen adaption. R (profanity, nudity, adult themes)

'Finding Neverland'

Johnny Depp stars as "Peter Pan' author laines M. Barrie in this twee and fuzzy melodrama about the inspiration the Scots-man got from four London lads, and how he hid in a fanta-sy world to escape his not-so-happy-life—hir_48-PG-(adult themes, language)

'The Incredibles'

Ine increainles

A mode with the sweet soul
of "Toy Story" and the bolsterous spirit of "Spy Kids." Brad
Birds 'eye-popping' carroon
boasts a pro-family, pro-torireform agenda and a witty,
atomic-modern style. It resembles the way the future looked
circa 1963. If pop artist Roy

Lichtenstein had designed rocketships for NASA and ranchers for suburban develop-ers. PG (animated violence, suspense, suitable for children 4 and older)

'Ladder 49'

This heartfelt tribute to fire-fighters fails as a draina but succeeds as a "When bad things happen to good firemen" pro-cedural. With Joaquin Phoenix and John Travolta. PG-13 (in-tense fire and rescue scenes, perfections. profanity)

'Lemony Snicket's Series of Unfortunate Events'

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

'National Treasure'

National Treasure'

Is it even possible to make a Jerry Bruckheimer movie with a straight face anymore? Technically yes, as Dismody demonstrates with its high-octane tear through the wilddy unsubstantiated side of American history. But it has all the soul, wit and originality of a major co-branding campaign.

Nicolas Cage laconically plays Benjamin Franklin Gates, a fifth-generation treasure-hunter searching for a massive creasure stash hidden, forgotten and rediscovered by the crusading medleval knights who eventually spawned the Freemasons. The film hits every action-adventure beat, zinger and emotional trope right on cue—although, it is as doggedly hokey and ham-handed as a

Disneyland ride. With Harvey Keitel, Ion Voight, Diane Kruger, Sean Bean, Justin Bartha and Christopher Plummer. Directed by Jon Turtletaub. (2:11) PG for action violence and some scary

'Ocean's Twelve'

"Ocean's Twelve'

This attempt by director Steven Soderbergh and an all-star cast to duplicate the deserved success of their suave ocean's Eleven's inst good and isn't bad, it just isn't. A lethangic would-be entertainment as well as a dispiriting vanity project, it is such a misfire it makes it makes to the control of the control of

'The Polar Express'

Director Robert Zemeckis' udaptation of Chris Van Alls-berg's modern classic is

berg's modern classic is
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with KINSEY

something of a hipolar experi-

something of a hipolar experi-ence. There is wonder for us to cherish, courtesy of a spectac-lar visual sense. But there are also sequences of such ex-hausting, turbo-charged jeopardy that it seems like we've wahdered into a Jerry Bruckheimer movie tailored to coddlers. Jion-Hanks stars- in-flive roles, including the young boy who gets to take a magical Christmas Eve train ride to the North Pole, and that trains hadding conductor. The films performance capture technol-ogy, that creates virtual characters in a computer-gen-erated environment is striking, but the characters have a chillbut the characters have a chill-ing, zombie-like aura. (1:37) G.

'Shark Tale'

'Shark Tale'
"Shark Tale," the computer-animated comedy from the team that brought you "Shrek," bites. Where "Finding Nemo" suggested that under-the-waves adventure was limitless, "Shark Tale". suggests that this sea is over-fished. The krill is gone. PG (crude humor.

Movies Dec 24 Odyssey 6 Magic Magic

Closer (n. 1230 - 245 Spanglish (13) 100 Finding Neverland (PG 1215-230 Spongebob Mavle (PG 1215-230 Alexander (n. 100 Bridget Jories 2 (n. 1230 - 245

Jerome 4 MANAGEMENT

Meet the Fockers (13) 100 - 400 Lemony Snickets (PG) 100 - 400 Polar Express (G) 1230 - 330 National Treasure (PG) 1230 - 330

Twin 12 164 Eastland

MIT Town Fills
Incredibles Pag 130
Polar Express Rel 1215 - 230
Polar Express Rel 1215 - 230
Ocean's 12 131 1215 - 130 - 330
Shark Tale Polaenik 131 130
Flight of the Phoenik 131 130
emony Snicket's Pag1230 - 100 - 34
Rel The Fockers 131 1230 - 130 - 34
mas with the Kranks Pag1245-30

double entendres)

'Spanglish'

"Spanglish"
Cultures clash when a beauiful Mexican woman becomes
the housekeeper for an upscale
LA family Written and directed by James L Brooks. Adam
Sandler, Tea Leont, Pax Vega
arid Cloris Leachman star. Pt13 for some sexual content and
brief language.

'The SpongeBob SquarePants Movie'

SquarePants Movie'.

For adults not yet initiated into the cult of SpongeBob, prepare to be swabbed by the porous yellow innocent with googly eyes, bucktooth grin, and cardboard-box shorts. The SpongeBob SquarePants Movie gets a charge from the way its hero matter-of-factly hreaches the membrane between second and third dimensions. PG (sponge and starfish multiy)

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MAGIC EVALLEY

"What the Bleen Do We Know?"

A filmic handbook on height-ende consciousness and, in the words of one of its talking heads, "the weird, wacky world of quantum possibility," this mix of documentary and feelon explores the realms where self-ence and spiritualism meet. No, MPAA rating (adult themes, cosmic stuff)

Saurces: Los Angeles Times. Knight Ridder News Service



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COMICS



Phantom

Video watch

The Manchurian Candidate

Denzel Washington stars in Jonathan Demme's remake of the 1962 Cold War political thriller. It's a satisfyingly sinis-



ter update, with Meryl Streep, Jon Voight and Liev Schreiber. R (vio-lence, profanity, adult themes). VHS and DVD.

De-Lovely

Kevin-Kline_Ashley_Judd flashes back on his life as if Itnd musical perplanis Morrissette,
ataile Cole. Elvis
ostello. Robbie
rilliams, Sheryl
row and Diana Krall. Broaday composer Cole. Porter

flashes back on his life as if Itwere the setting for
one of his musicals.
Ashley judd stars as
Porters wife. Kevin
Kline is magnificent as Porter.
PG-13 (sexual content) VHSand DVD. 125 minutes. Kevin Kline, Ashley Judd and musical per formances by Alanis Morrissette, Natalle Cole, Elvis Costello, Robbie Williams, Sheryl Crow and Diana Krall. Broad-way composer Cole. Porter

Surviving Christmas

Shrill cynicism meing sentimentality in this awful black comedy about an ad exec who rents a family to see him through the holidays.



With Ben Affleck, James Gandolfini and Catherine O'Hara-13 (Catherine O'Hara-Catherine O'Hara-Cathe

King Arthur

Grandlose and glum, this thrill-less reexamination of Arthurian lore goes back to the Dark Ages, when a Roman knight named Artorious fought mightily across Britain, accompanied by brave knights and a warrior

Ing Artifler

princess — Guinevere — in a
leather bikini top. With
Clive Owen, Keira
Knightey, Stellan Skars
and Hugh Dancy.
No MPAA rating (violence, lusty banter) VHS
and DVD. 138 minutes.

Source Philadelphia Inquirer

Continued from C1

see. I remember in one instance saying, "What you're saying is you understand why nuns would sing in a convent but you don't understand why hille Andrews sings. The hills are alive! in The Sound of Music."

Eventually, Lloyd Webber used 885 million of his considerable fortune to finance the entire film himself, which allowed him to control changes to the story and hire his own director without sudio interference. Warmer Brothers pialf for the distribution rights. Schumacher, the director of such thrillers as "Falling Down" and "Flattiners" as well as the campy last two "Batumar films, seemed an unlikely choice for "Phanton" — even to himself — when Lloyd Webber first approached him in 1987.

The composer and Brightman had enjoyed Schumacher's vampire move "The Lost Boys," about teenage bloodsuckers roarning California, and they particularly like "I've shocked he wanted to meet me. I was just starting out and there were many more famous directors who wanted to lit. "Schumacher's all really thought he had made a

mistake and had confused me with someone else. I didn't think he'd even see a movie like "The Lost Boys."

whith sofficence reser. I dutil think held even see a movie like "The Lost Boys." Although Schumacher's availability came and went throughout Loyd Webber's various attempts to make the movie, the composer repeated by keep him involved the years that he had been a seen as the last state of the held that he had been the held that he held that he had been the held that he held that

tech, epic-sized Financian, and likely to turn up on smaltown stages. And although there have been an estimated 65,000 performances of the show in 18 countries — each one evaporates except in memory. A film would be, in Lloyd Webber's words, "a fantastic document."

The most exciting thing about it, "he said, "is to feel that this one is a version of the stage show that, I hope, will be around forever."

In-laws

Continued from C2
Fockers' house leave both clans sharing a single bathroom. The frankness of the huggy-kissy, touchy-feely Fockers mortifies lack Byrne. And revelations about Gregs earliest sexual experiences put Jack back on the warpath to prove Gregs not good enough for his daughter.

"It's the Marx brothers' A Night at the Opera and Helbza-poppin' and everything in between." said Danner, adding that the awkward first meetings among in-laws is something anyone can relate to.

"Everyone worries about whether they'll mesh and whether they'll get along, it's a universal andety just to meet one's future parents-in-law, said Danner, who recalled that her mother-in-law threw her for a loop by 'cutting my meat for me' at dinner the first time they free.

Fresh on the heels of "Meet the Fockers' and 'Sheek 2." in

met.
Fresh on the heels of "Meet
the Fockers" and "Shrek 2," in
which Mike Myers' ogre found
himself the target of a disapproving father-in-law, two more
in-law connecties hit theaters in
spring 2005.

in-law conredles hit theaters in spring 2005. Strategy and the spring 2005. Kutcher stars in "Guess Who's Community of the started Spencer Tracy and Kutharine Spencer Tracy and Kutharine Hepburn as white purents coming to terms with their daughter's black fiance (Sidney Politer). This time on, if so black father (Hernie Mac) displeased over his daughter's white fiance (Kutcher).

father (Bernie Mac) displeased over his daughter's white fiance (Kutcher).

"When you fall in love, it's their own little universe that's hericat and in sync. Then you meet the family, and you don't know much about them when you get there, the parrints and shiblings and crazy cousins. And it's too allow the term, because your learn to the country of the country of

but can we really do this? That's a perfect situation for a movie."
"Monster-in-Law" stars Lopez as an orphaned woman working multiple jobs as an office temp, waitress and dog-walker. Her flance's snob-bish mother (Bonda) finds her an inadequate match for her son.

dog-walker. Her tinners stoubish mother (Bonda) finds her
an inadequate match for her
son.

Displeasure over a child's
choice of spouse is a common
anxiety, said "Monster-in-Law"
director Robort Luketic.

"It's a surreal encounter. All of
a sudden, the first time you
meet, you have to literally embrace and kiss, people aboubrace and kiss, people aboumeet, you have to literally embrace and kiss, people abouting the surread and time of the
it a very blearre and time. I find
it a very blearre and time, i find
it a very blearre and time
termarried to avoid inhredding.
"As unconfortable as it is, its
essential for the survival of
mankind. Let's keep the gene
pool rich and vaired."

Parents once close spouses
for their children, who were the
ones forced to make a life with
virtual strangers. The break in
that process is perhaps best captured in "Fiddler on the Roof"
and the total stranger of the
love wellow of the many increases
where wellow consulting their
parents.

"We're beyond the days of

we're beyond the days of prearranged marriages where parents used to get together first and barter," "Meet the Fockers" director Roach said. "Today, it's about learning to

urector roach said.
"Today, it's about learning to trust your kids to make the deci-sion, then doing your best to make it work. I think a lot of

Кеер ир

and Technology page every Tuesday in _____ The Times-News

times, when someone hasn't gotten to that place, the conflicts of in-laws can often be about the conflicts between the parents and their own kids." Still: when parents handle the situation with diplomacy, their children can learn valuable lessons to apply to their own

offspring down the road.
Polo, who has a 2-year-old
son, said she hopes to use her
own parents as role models with
her boy's future loves.
Her parents held their
tongues during several of Polos
failed relationships, only voicing
disapproval once the romances

ended, she said.

"I think I'll be good at getting along with whoever my son chooses to bring home and that I'll be able to behave and respect his choice," Polo said. "Then once he dumps the tart, I'll say. 'Oh, I knew she was a tart all along."

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al \$0.25 per minute for long distance. Calls
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Friday, December 24, 2004

Section D

MORNING LINE

to start new rivalry

SPORTSQUOTE

Possible remedies range from removing Neagle's name completely to restricting those fields to pick-up games only.

The Seattle Times Dwight Perry, on the cent arrest of pitcher Denny Neagle of the Colorado Rockies for soliciting a prostitute, which has caused two Colorado towns to reconsider naming ball fields after him

TRIVIA OUESTION:

What Hall of Famer coined the term "sack" to signify tack-ling a quarterback behind the line of scrimmage?

answer below

IN BRIEF

Burley will play in Salt Lake City

in Salt Lake City
BURLEY — The Burley High
School boby baskethall team
will play fordan High School of
Jordan. Unlah before the Monday, Dec. 27 Ulah Jazz vs. Seattle
Supersonics game at the Delia
Center in Salt Lake City.

The Bohcats will play at 2:30
p.m., with the Juzz set to tip-off
at 7 p.m. Admission for the two
games is \$20 per person. Tickets are available through Burley
coach Jack Bagley, who can be
contacted at (20)8 78-6606 or
(208) 677-9925.

AAU hoops tourney offered Jan. 8

OTHER DATE AND A STATE OF THE MERCHART OF THE

For more information, contact Rick Geist at 320-2349 or 324-9437.

CSI offers Junior Eagles hoops camp

TWIN FALLS — The College of Southern Idaho men's bas-ketball team will host the lunior Eagles Basketball Camp on Wednesday, Dec. 29 and Thursday, Dec. 30 at CSI Gym-nasium.

Thursday, Dec. 30 at CSI Gymnasium.
The clinics will run from 9 am-noon on both days. The cump is open to boys and girls in grades K-B. The cost is \$50 per person, with each additional Eamily member costing \$40. The clinics will cover shooting, ball handling, passing defense and rebounding, and will be taught by CSI coaches and players.

and players.

For more information, call
Barret Peery at (208) 732-6496
Christi Ure at (208) 732-6486.

Radio Rondevoo holds signups

holds signups
TWIN FALLS — The Radio
Rondevoo Girls Volleyball
Lague is currently putting together teams for girls in gradesfive and sk.
Registration ends on Dec. 27
for the upcoming season,
which extends from ian. 11Feb. 17, with games held on
Tuesdays and Thursdays.
Game times will be held 30,
minutes prior to each game.
Matches will be three games to
25 points or 25 minutes. A tourinfinites prior to the state of the state of

Compiled from staff reports

TRIVIA-ANSWER: Former Los Angeles Rams defensive end David "Deacon"

AP Player of the Year

Heisman winner Leinart picks up another award

By Raiph D. Russo Associated Press writer

NEW YORK — Matt Leinart ound a comfort zone this sea-

No longer worried about losing his job, the easygoing
Southern California quarterback became the unquestioned
formed the job shars. He get
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around, toure a vectoran come been playing for a year. You can get so much better in a year or to so."

Leinart has completed 66 percent of his passes for 2.990 yards and 28 touchdowns, guiding the top-ranked Trojans to an Orange Bowl matchup with No. 2 Oklahoma and last year's Alphayer of the year, lason White.

The BCS national title game will-be-college-footballs-first-matchup of players with Heisman trophies. White took home last year's Heisman.

The AP player of the year voting was closer than this season's Heisman balloting, but the final order was similar. Leinart received 17 votes from a nationwide panel of 64 media. members. White and his freshman tellouing, but the final order was similar. Leinart received 17 votes from a nationwide panel of 64 media. members. White and his freshman teammate. Adrian Peterson, finished tied for second with 12 votes each.

USC tailback Reggie Bush was fourth with 11 votes and Utah quarterback Alex Smith had nine votes. Texas tailback Cedric Benson received two votes and Louisville quarterback Stefan Lefors got one.

In the Heisman balloting, Leinan easily beat out Peterson, who took second by a slim margin over White. Smith was fourth and Bush fifth.

Leinart is the fifth straight quarterback to win the AP award, following White, Iowas Brad Banks, Florida's Rex Grossman and Oklahoma's



University of Southern California quarterback Matt Leinart gets set to pass during the first half against UCLA in this Dec. 4 photo in Pasadena, Calif. Leinart was selected as the AP college football player of the year on Thursday.

year on Thursday.

Josh Heupel.

The award was established in 1998, and Texas tailback flicky Williams was the first-to win if.

Leinart became the Trojans' starting quarterback last season, taking over for departed 2002 Helsman Trophy winner Carson Palmer. He won a fourway barde in the pirseason for the job and it ook him avhile to stop looking over his shoulder to see if he was about to be

taken out of the game.
"This year has been more fun
because I haven't felt as much
pressure." The junior said.
Playing with two NPI, calibler
wideous and behind one of the
best lines in the country, Leinart
passed for 3.556 yards and 38
touchdowns and led USC to a
share of the national title in
2003.
This year, with receivers Mike

This year, with receivers Mike Williams and Keary Colhert gone and the line retooled.

Leinart was key in pulling to-gether-the new pieces and helping the Trojans po 12-0.

"I knew going in that I was going to have take on a different perspective," I clinart said.

And he did so without any prompting from coach Pete Carroll or offensive coordinator North Chow.

Carroll or ouerasses.

Norm Chow.

"I took it upon myself just to be the leader," he said, "I really didn't have to change anything.

Please see PLAYER, Page D2

The BCS still lives!

College football's own classic horror B-movie

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Pacers expect excited fans

By Jon Krawczynski Associated Press writer

Associated Press writer

INDIANAPOLIS — The Pacers and the Pistons expect an electric atmosphere on Saturday in their first game since Indiana players fought with Detroit fins on Nov. 19.

With Jermaine O'Neal back in the lineup for the Pacers, the hometown fans will have even more reason to cheer.

A federal judge upheld an arbitrator's decision to reduce the Pacers star's suspension on Thursday for his part in one of the worst cases of player-fan violence in U.S. sports history.

"That's our All-Star," Fred Jones said. "He's our best player on the team. That's going to excite us all and get us going even more."

Particularly tile fans, who

cite us all and get us going even more."

Particularly the fans, who have been waiting for more than a month to voice their frustration after watching Pistons fans fight with the Pacers and pelt them with drinks, popcorn, a chair and other debris, leading to the suspensions of O'Neal Ron Artest, Stephen Inckson and Anthony Johnson.

O'Neal's original 25-game penalty was reduced to 15 games by an arbitrator Wednesday, while commissioner David Please see PACERS, Page D4



ers' Jermaine O'Neal, left, is escorted off the court folinducing recers Jerumaine U Neal, iert, is escorted on the court Obwing his team's light with the Detroit Pistons and fans Friday, Nov. 19, in Aubum Hills, Mich. Indiana's O'Neal can play against Detroit on Christmas, Saturday, after a federal judge upheld an arbitrator's—decision to reduce the forward's suspension for fighting with fans during the Pacers-Pistons brawl.

Vick agrees to 10-year deal worth \$130 million

By George Henry Associated Press writer

FLOWERY BRANCH, Ga.— Michael Vick has become the richest player in the NFI— The Atlanta Falcons' star quarterback signed a 10-year, \$130 million contract extension Thursday that guarantees bin an NFI—record \$47 million in bonuses.

an NPL-record bonuses. "You know, making a com-minuent says a lot, not just to me, but to our team,"Vick-said-with a smile, "It means a lot to me."

me, but to our team, Aureson-with a smile, 'If means a lot to me."

Vick's contract surpasses the 598 million dead Indianapolis quarterbasek Peyton Manning signed in March.— although Manning stop of the Manning was guaranteed 584.5 million in bonuses.

Falcons general manager lich McKay, and Vick's agent Jod Segal, began megatations of the McKay, and Vick's agent for McKay, and Vick's agent for McKay, and Vick's agent for McKay and Vick's agent of the McKay and Vick's agent of the McKay and Vick's agent of the McKay and Vick signed the deal 20 min utes before an afternoon news conference to annotince the extension.

The No. 1-overall draft pick in 2001, Vick has a 24-12-1 career record. It is 14-4-4 since return-



Michael Vick of place of Section 18 to 18 offs boilewing the core over children of the control of the contro

anto alice

Change of mind lands ex-NFL coach Wannstedt back at Pitt

By Alan Robinson Associated Press writer

PITTSBUIRGH — The first coaching job Dave Wannstedt wanted may turn out to be his last on the most of the his last one of a day and the pittsburgh of the his last of the pittsburgh of the his last of consideration because he wasn't ready to get hack lind coaching so quickly after leaving the Mami Dolphins in early November. Following his initial talk with athleid circctor left long on Dec. 13, Wannstedt remembered one of his first staff meetings as an assistant on Pitt coach Johnny Majors' staff in 1976.

"I was at the end of the table, and I was a little upset — probably because he

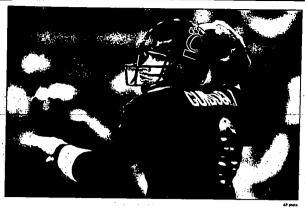
made make the coffee," said Wannstedt, a former Pitt tackle who once blocked for future Helsman Trophy winner Tony Dorset. "I said to myself. Someday I will be the head coach at Pitt." I've thought about that for a long time."

Now, the former Dolphins and Bears coach takes over a program that Isn't quite at a level with that 1976 national champlonship team, but is vasily improved from the one pradecessor Wall Harris inherited in 1996.

Like Long, the 52-year-old Wannstedt hinks Pitt can win a national chample onship and contend each year in the Big East Conference. He also thinks this will be his final head coaching job, and isn't looking at ta sa path back to the NFI.



University of Pittsburgh Athletic Director Jeff Long, right, poses with new head lootball coach Dave Wannstedt, holding a ler sey with the number he ence in Pittsburgh on Thursday.



inati quarterback Gino Guidugii passes in the second quarter against Marshall in the Fort Worth in Fort Worth, Texas, Thursday, Cinclinati was 32,14

Rugged Guidugli leads Cincinnati past Marshall

Associated Press writer

FORT WORTH, Itexas — Gino
Guidugli returned from a broken
throwing hand and passed for
231 yards and two touchdows
in Gineimani's 32-14 win over
Marshall in the Fort Worth Boxd
our Thursday night.
Wearing a padded glove on his
still very swollen right hand.
Wearing a padded glove on his
still very swollen right hand,
which he injured on, Npc 20.
Guidugli completed 24 of 36
passes on a bitterly cold night.
After his only interception,
which Marshall returned for a
score. Guidugli completed 10
straight passes in and a streich to
put Cincinnai (7-5) ahead to
stay.

The Bearcais overcame a 2-4
start to failsh with a winning

The Bearcais overcame a 2-4 start to finish with a winning record for first-year coach Mark Dantonlo, the former Ohio State defensive coordinator. The boxd was their last game as a Confer-ence. USA member, before ice USA member before oving to the Big East next sea-

son.
Marshall (6-6), moving next year to C-USA from the Mid-American Conference, had its streak of 20 straight winning sea-sons ended.
The Thundering Herd, which-had won five straight bowl

games, had fi scason-low 134 yards, Stan Hill completed 14 of 30 passes for 137 yards and a FD to go with mians-3 yards rushing for his team. Kevin Lovell kicked three field goals (23, 19 and 35 yards) and Hamilbal Thomas had nine catches for 102 yards for Clincin-nati.

raminoal Hoomas had nine carches for 102 yards for Chicin-nati.

Guidugil missed the regular-season finale after he broke two bones in his hand in a fall outside his home. Without him, the Bearens lost 70-7 to No. 7 Louisville with two quarterbacks combining for just 33 yards. He fore that, Caidugil had firown for 1022 yards with 12-muchdowns and no interceptions during a four-game winning streak.

Adjusting to the glove on his hand, Guidugil sruggled early Thursday, He was 1-for-1 with his first interception in 145 passes, returned 32 yards by Wille Smith to give Marshall a 14-10 gastes, returned 32 yards by Wille Smith to give Marshall a 14-10 passes, all six on the drive that ended with a 15-yard TD to figure and Brom Celek for a 17-14 lear

att. The Bearcats had the ball once more before halftime, an 87-yard drive during which Guidugli had a pair of 20-yard completions before an 8-yard TD, to Earnest

lackson with 18 seconds left. Guidugli's school-record 26th ID pass was a lame duck, thrown with a rusher in his face, but Jackson caught it between two defenders. Grag Cook had 25 ID passes for the Bearcats in 1968.

1968. The only scoring after that came in the fourth quarter. Lovell kicked his last two field goals and Cincinnati blocked its second punt, with Marshall punter lan O'Connor falling on it in the end zone for a safety.

The Bearents kd, 7-O before Caidugil even stepped on the field.

Caudaga even siepped on the field. Tylian Hagler blocked the first punt just a minute into the game. Antwuan Giddens re-turned it '9 yards for the touchdown. Guiduglis only completion in the first quarter was a 20-yarder to Thomas after Andre Frazier recovered Hills fumble at the Herd 27. Cincinnaii didn't get another first down, and settled for Lovell's 23-yard field goal and a 10-01ead.

for Lovells 23-yard field goal and a 10-0 lead. The temperature at kickoff was 28 degrees, with a wind chill of 17 that dropped throughout the game. The announced crowd was 13-204, less than half of the tickets distributed for the howl sponsored by PlainsCapi-tal.

Lighthouse rolls over CHAMP

TWIN FALLS — Rachel Ver-Hagen scored 12 of her 18 points in the first quarter to propel the host Lighthouse Christian girls basketball leam to a 62-22 victory over the Christian HomeschoolAs-sociation. Malheur, and Payette Countles on Thurs-day.

day.
"We shot the ball fairly well, especially in the first quarter,"

Lighthouse Christian couch fake Tolman said. We pro-jumped out to a good lead one continued on."

continued on."

Ambur Uhich also scored:

double figures for Egablions

Mines:

Abdison 38

Christian (6-5 overalls with a continue of the con

.points.
Lighthouse Christian :
travel to fackpor, Nev. on 1:

Spurs stop Garnett, Timberwolves

SANANTONIO (AP).— Manu Ginobili scored 22 points, and the San Antonio Spurs held kevin Garnett to just one second-half biasket in their 96-82 victory over the Minnesota Timbervolves on Thursday night. The Spurs, who trailed by double digits in the first half, made 11 of their 18 shots in the fourth quarter to break open a tig game. Minnesota, which shot 53 percent in 'the

percent in the first half, made only three of 14 shots in the peri-

shots in the period.
Tim Duncan added 19 points and 10 rebounds for Sun Antonio, and Tony Parker also scored 19 points.

Mary Parker and Secred 19 points.

Wally Szczerbiak had 22 for Minnesota, which dropped its fourth straight road game. Garnett secred 15 points on 4-for-16 shooting and had 10 rehounds. While Troy Hudson added 14 points. Michael Olowokandi had 12 rehounds. Trailing by eight at halftime, the Spurs began the third quarter with a 12-2 run — capped by a putback by Robert Horry that gave San Antonio a 55-33 lead with 7:20 left. The Spurs held the Timberwolves to 32 percent shooting and forced five turnovers in the period.

Rasho Nesterovic, scoreless in five attempts in the first half, made three straight shots and had three blocks in the second half.

The Spurs, coming off a sixpoint loss Wednesday in Orlando in which they missed 13 of 26 feet throws, made 16 of 19 from the line against Minnesota.

Ginobill hit a pair of 3-points.

nesota.
Ginobili hit a pair of 3-point-ers as San Antonio opened up a 14-8 lead, their biggest of the first half.
The Timbertvolves missed five of their first seven shots, but then made 12 of their next 13 at-

Hudson made a 17-footer near the end of the first quarter



San Antonio Spurs' Beno Uduh, center at \$15 - 200, scores on a layup over Minnesota Timberwolves' Kevin Gamett (1941, white teaminate Rasho Nesterovic, of Slovenia, fooks of digne, the courth quarter Thursday at the SBC Center in San Antonio (1) Spurs won 96-82.

for his first basker. The folio-cell for his first basker, the folios of which a laying and two 3-pointer to start the second, and their found Mark Madsen for a three point play that put Minneson ahead 40-28. With the foliotic play that put Minneson ahead 40-28. With the foliotic play by Patheron a drive, but Garnert made two free throws and a 15-fonce is close the half at 51-43.

Suns 109, Grizzlies 102

PHOENIX Anna Stoudenire had 30 points, 14 rebounds and live steals and repounds and five steals—and Shawn Marion scored 29 per re—to lead the Phoenix Suns

winners of nine factors Season — 23.3.5 the NBAS — Michael Jordan a.;; Galls went 41-3

the second 19 of his to the liest half for the lason Williams of 15 in the second.

Player___

Continued from D1

Continued from D1
Just roc carry the gays, along until
they got comfortable.
The not all the stark
The left-hander's laid-back
leadership has set the tone for
the Trojans. His poise and patience were invalitable in
come-from-behind road wins
against Viginia Teel, Stanford
and Oregon State. He threw for761 yards with sk touchdowns
and one interception in those
games.

and one merception at the against.
Leinart's consistency has been remarkable. The frojans are 24-1 with him as a starter and have won 21 straight, heading into the BCS national info

ing into the BCS national fille game. "Since he started playing, beb-been spectacular." USC tight end Alex Holmes said. Leinart has thrown at least two touchdown passes 10 times this season and 22 times in his

career, USCS last game, a 29-24 victory over-UCLA, was the first of his career without a touch-down pass. Leimart hus said he intends to return to USC for his senior year, but its looking like he's a

YEAR AP PICK 2004 Matt Leinart 2003 Jason White

2000 Josh Heupel

Brad Banks 2001 Rex Grossman , Eric Crouch

1999 Ron Dayne Ron Dayne 1998 Ricky Williams Flicky Williams

Player of the year vs. the Heisman

Matt Leinart

Jason White

Carson Palmer

Chris Weinke

The Associated Press player of the year pick does not always match up with the Heisman trophy winner. Here's the lineup since AP started the award in 1998.

lock to be a high first-round NFI, draft pick. He could even match Palmer again and go first overall.

Assistant in Oklahoma/ QB Panthers RB Giants

College

College CFL/QB Bengals QB Bears/ released-by the Packers in '04

overall.

"I'm aware of the opportuni-ty." Leinart said. "We'll see what happens."

Pitt holds off Richmond, 69-60

PITTSBURGH (AP) — Carl Krauser sconed a career-high 31 points and No. 10 Pittsburgh held off Richmond 69-60 on Thursday night in the first game between the schools in 66 years. Chris Taft added 11 points and freshman Ronald Ramon.

College who replaced injured starter basketball Graves, had 10 to help the Panthers start 9-0 for the third consecutive season.

Panthers start 9-0 for the third consecutive season.

The Panthers are '42-1 in thome since the Petersen Beents Center opened two years ago and have won 24 consecutive non-conference games.

Jermaine Bucknor scored 13 points for the Spiders (4-4), who closed to 62-58 will just over 3 minutes remaining, but Krauser made four free throws and Ramon added two down the stretch.

No. 20 G. Washington 81, Florida International 71

Florida International 71
MIAMI — T.I. Thompson hit—six—3-pointers—the control 25-pointers—the control and the control and the

No. 24 Maryland 82, American 61

American o1 COLLEGE PARK, Md. — John Gilchrist scored 20 points and fueled a 16-0 second-half run that gave the Terrapins a 66-48 lead. Nik Caner-Medley had 16



Pittsburgh's Carl Krauser, bottom, is ... bined by Richmond's Patrick O Malley as he drives towards the hoop in the second hatf of Pittshurgh's 69-60 win in Pitts-burgh on Inursday.

Litke__

Continued from D1

Continued from D1

The real reason the college presidents won't go along is simple. They want to protect the six major conferences, four bowls and the TV network that control the BCS and decide how to divey up like take. But the reason they offer is that a playoff would harm their student-athletes chances an academic letes chances an academic

son they offer is that a playoff would harm their student-athletes' chances at academic success. Please, Even an old-school authority like Fenn State; coach loe Paterno Isn't buying that line anymore.

"Tthink the college presidents allowing the BCS thing is a real, real shame," he said recently. "Whenever the talk turns to having some kind of a playoff, they say you can't mass classes, and yet we've already not NCAA, playoffs (in every other college sport) and everything else, "I mean, who's kidding who?" Paterno added. They've got to try to figure out a way to get rid of it and the hypocrisy of money-money-money." It's small consolation, but the BCS is already hard at work — not at legislating itself out of ex-

istence, or ending the hypocrisy, mind you, but on the bypocrisy, mind you, but on the "money, money," man," The organization just signed a four-year deal worth \$320 million with Fox for the broadcast rights to the Liesta, Crampic and the national title game from 2007-10 and redibility has never been high on the BCS to do list.

account of the property of the

electricity.

"We're just going to have to put our heads together."

Tranghese sild, "and come up with an alternative way of picking the teams for the 1-2 game." Small wonder Tranghese was undaunted. Since they hijacked the postseason in 1998, the BCS and its old-boy-network-havethe not seed of the posterior of the pos

sponster will look different.

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

points for Maryland G-2). Joson Thomas scored 14 points for the laggles 55 services from winning streak ended. The Terraphis have won 12 in a row over American since 1926, when the Tagles won the first game of the series.

No. 25 Virginia 79, Loyola Marymount 77, OT CHARLOTTESVILLE Vic

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Coming Sunday A look at Boise State linebacker Korey Hall.

SCORES AND STATS

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1-0-00 Macron 7-12-0-0-18 Service
1-0-00 Macron 7-12-0-0-18 Service Monday, Dec. 27 MPC Computers Bowl At Bosse Payout \$750,000 to 18-31 to Vegna 18-31 to NFI. Playoff Scenarios FOR WEEK IS AFC EAST — Engangliss proved prison the Enganglish providing with any reliefes. TRANSACTIONS Motor City Bowl At Detroit Payout: \$750,000 3) vs. Connecticul (7-4), 3:30 p.m. ARANSE ALL

American Lagor

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Wase Use on a con-year contract

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BOSTON RED DONOLOGIES of the Series of the
BOSTON RED SERIES IA in net seek and a San Dego te in the net seek and a San Dego te in York Jets can centh prayof beth with it win or se OA I Suffer and Batmore lose or te OR Suffer Denier and Jacksoniel lose or be resday, Dec. 28 ndependence Bowl At Shreveport, La. Payout \$1.2 million Livs Sham (Onc) (8-4) tempo 0 6 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 Ward 0 0 0 1 31 80 18 27 87 22 28 24 00 21 18 25 47 10 Mapono 2 2, Mari Ineight Bowl At Phoents Payout: \$750,000 16-5) vs. Highe Came 11-1 94 12-3 88 7-0 78 7-3 64 10-3 50 4-1 37 6-2 26 6-2 18 Oregon State Ta kin CR.

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though can canch Frail-nound bye with
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New England loss next week, plus an industric.

New England loss next week, plus an industric. NAIA Division II Top 25 Division Dec. 13 loss.

APC SOUTH

tols has cirched division tole
wife can circh playoff berth with
owner on plus Buffals: Baltimons: Di

and Jackson/He cirches among of
ebreaser over Buffalo Baltimore and area supervisors
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for Stockton of the California Leeg
BAS KETBALL ursday, Dec. 3 ordnerad Tire Bow Al Chertose, K.C. Peyout \$750,000 18-3) vs. Horn Can 82 331 82 326 84 250 10-1 240 7-5 217 8-3 178 9-3 158 182 155 183 131 193 190 8-3 131 193 190 8-4 120 8-6 20 7-7-2 78 6-2 54 9-7-4 25 AFC WEST
Sen Deco has conched these on title Matorial Baskathal Association ried Detroit coach Lany Brown \$15,000 al abuse of an official after a Dec. 22 NFC EAST Segme has control division title and LAST

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ATLANTA KAWINS—Traced G Jon Burry to
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1.0Nig BEACH JALL—Signed C Jean Nicc.
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GREAT LAKES STORN—Waned C Regge GEAT LAKES TO DEM.—WIN HOLD C PROPE BUT FOOD THAT LAND TO THE CONTROL OF THE CONT RS 100, GPUZZLIES 9 Louis or Carolina lose or te MFC SOUTH snothed division title and a linst Sixon Velley Clears: At Sen Jose, Call. Payout \$750,000 Hothem Reos (8-3), 9 p m Friday, Dec. 31 Mate Cty Bost Al Neshvila, Tem. Peycut 1780,000 ys larnesca (65) Petrus 3-10 3-4 12 Richardson 6-18 11 Charge 4-4 ... 35-007, Flores 1-3 ... 15-007, Flores 1-3 ... 15-00 ... 2 HOCRE: American Hockey League yound the transfer of ownership of the loadcas from the SI Love Blues to you and Anne Critist and the recogno-chies to Peona III. Mective next sea-

Sun Bowl ALE Paso, Texas Payout \$1.5 million 1. Autona Siasa (8-7

Liberty Bowl Al Mempris, Terri, Payout \$1.35 million 11-01 vs. Louentle (1

Peach Bowl At Atlanta Payout \$2.2 million is Flonds (7-1), 5.30 pm

Saturday, Jan. 1 Coton Bool A/ Dalas Payout \$3 million (S-3) vs. Texas A&A (7-4); 9 £1

Outback Bowl At Tampa, Fla. Propost: \$2.75 million \$-71 m. Geoma (\$-21 B.a.m.

Control Hockey League
CHL — Suspended Corpus Christ D Chad Mc
the garne for his actions in a Dec. 17 game
appress Ostanome Cay.
COLLEGE
DELAWARE — Named Circly Gregory Acmen

H PONT-Arrounced women a passetta stey Lby will transfer from Charlotte ISBURGH-Named Dave Warrysled look

Named Male James visions make baskemati... cooch TEMPLE—Announced LB Rain Wastace and skip has serior season and make himself elegible for the NTL data. URLV—Named Vic. Sheaky delenance coordnass

ams. Oakland, San Francisco and visibeen alkininated from playoff

Fort Worth Bowl Sum ... SOW! SUM CHANT 22 MASSAUL 14 14' 0' 0 0-14 10 14' 0' 8-32 Frat Cust 4' 0' 8-32

. 1400 FG Lovel 23, 823 -J Davis 14 pass from Hall (O'Connor I

Second Querjer 15 cess from Gurdugs (Lovel Lick)

DREEDIS (BB) 7-14 4 6 18, Anderson 1-6 1-2 3, 1 0-14, Wesley 7-21 2-3 20, Dickou 199 2-8 0-0 4, Davis 6-12 0-0 17, 5 14 Baster 0-0-0-0 0 Totals 36-90

SPORTS IN BRIEF

Jerome Rec District holds open gym

JEROME — The ecreation District accreation District will have an open gym for basketball on Monday. Dec. 27 through Thursday, Dec. 30. Call (208) 324-3389 for more information.

LSU makes counter-offer in effort to retain Saban

LSU makes counter-otter in effort to retain Saban MIAMI – Nick Sabanis decision over whether to stay at 1810 or become the sixth coach in the Dolphins history became more complicated when LSU upped the aute on what is already the highest paying contract in the college ranks. According to sources: LSU is offering to raise Sabanis contract to nearly \$4 million at year. Currently, Saban makes \$2.3 million in hase pay and well receive approximately \$400,000 in incentives for the team making a postseason bowl game. Sabanis base salary increases by \$100,000 per year through the 2010 season, when it tops out at \$3 million. On Wednesday, President William lenkins indicated there was a limit to how much the school would spend. On Thursday, LSU athletics director Skip Bertman denied that the school was upping Sabanis deal, which was renegotiated after the 2003 season.

However, a source close to the schools board of supervisors indicated that the board lad given lenkins authority to renegotiate Sabanis deal.

UAB makes first

UAB makes first postseason appearance

postseason appearance
HONOLULU — 'Alabama
Birmingham is making its first
postseason appearance
Hawaii is playing in is third
straight hometown bowl game.
UAB coach' Watson Birnyn
said reaching the postseason is
a milestone for the program
that joined Division I-A in 1995
dier competing in Divisions III
and 1-AA. UAB was bard eligible twice before, in 2000 and
2001, but didn't get an invitation.

2001, but ddin't get an invita-tion.

The Blazers (7-4) have a fasi-attack offense that averages a 30.2 points per game and should have success against the Warriors, the hird-worst defense in the nation, allowing a whopping 479.2 yards and 38.2 points per game.

On the other hand, Hawaii scores an average of 42.8 points, per game) in Honolulu.

Crawford out three-tosix-weeks-with-turf-toe

Crawford out three-to-six-weeks with turf-toe
NEW YORK — Knicks guard
lamual Crawford is expected to
miss three-to-six weeks hecause of an injured right big
toe.
X-rays taken on Thursday
were negative, but am Mill revealed that Crawford has rurf
toe. He is expected to be placed
on the Injured list on Sunday,
the Knicks said.
Crawford was injured in the
thrird quarier of Wethenseday
night's 114-109 loss to Boston
when Celtics guard fir Webch
stepped on his toe.
The 6-foto-5 Crawford
signed a seven-year deal-worthabout 556-foto-5 Crawford
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Catcher Varitek reaches agreement with Boston

agreement with Boston
BOSTON — Carcher Jason
BOSTON — Carcher Jason
Auritek will remain with the
BOSTON — Carching as
preliminary agreement on a
four-year contract, a lawyer
with knowledge of the negotiations said Thursday.
The deal probably will be announced Friday, the lawyer
and, speaking on condition of
anonymity.
Varitek, known for his handling of pitchers, was Boston's
said, speaking on condition of
anonymity.
Varitek, known for his handling of pitchers, was Boston's
said, speaking on condition of
anonymity.
Varitek, known for his handling of pitchers, was Boston's
Since beling obtained in a
tracte with Sentile in 1997.
Varitekias, 2271 batting avervaritekias, 2271 batting averpitcher — Piedro — Martinezagreed to, a \$551 million, fouryear deal with the New York
Mets. and shoristop, Oflundor.
Cabrera got a \$521 million, fouryear contract from Anaheim
after Boston signed Edgar

year contract from Anaheim after Boston signed Edgar Renteria and declined to pur-sue plicher Derek Lowe.

Tim Floyd interested in USC coaching job

Tim Floyd interested in USC coaching job
LOS ANGELES — Tim Floyd and Southern California want to talk about the former New Orieans Horners coach taking over the Trojans' basketball program.

Thoyd's agein; Bill Becknell, said-'flurisday that Floyd was contacted by USC on Monday. That was the same day first was first was the same day first was first by the Bulls in 1998 to succeed Phil Jackson — immediately after Michael Jordan and Scottle Pippen left following the teams six championships in a span of cight years.

Floyd was much more successful as a college coach, Histeams at the University of New Orleans were 127-58 in cight seasons before he took the job at lows State, where his teams were 41-49 in lour years.

Hawks send Barry to Rockets for Lue

ATIANTA — The Adama Hawks traded shooting guard for Barry to the Houston Rockes on Thursday in exchange for point guard Tyroin Luc. Lite averaged 6 points and 2.8 assiss in 23 minutes a game this season for the Borkets.

and assess in 2a minutes a game this sesson for the Bockets.

Luc, 27, was on the Los Angeles Lakers championship team in 2001. After spending two seasons with the Washington Wizards, he signed with the Orlando Magic in 2003, averaging a career-high 10.5 pounds and 4.2 assists a game. He was raded to Houston in lune.

Barry, in his 14th NBA season, also—has played for Milwaukee. Golden State, the Lakers. Sacramento. Detroit and Denver.

Barry, 33, hada hard time fitting in with the emergence of rookies losh Smith, losh Childress and Boyal Ivey. In 16 games this season for Adanta.

Barry had 5.2 points and 1.8 assists in 17 minutes per contest.

Outfielder J.D. Drew

Outfielder J.D. Drew joins L.A. Dodgers

103 NARHITS — Confliction 103 Drew and the Los Angeles Dodgers finalized a \$55 million. five-year contract on Thursday.

Drew, 29, helped the Atlanta Braves win the NL East steason and was sixth in the NL MY cotting.

The played in a career-high 145 gaines for the Braves last season, bitting 305 and setting career highs with 31 homers, 128 runs and 118 walks. He also had 93 fills with 31 homers, 128 runs and 118 walks. He also had 93 fills with 31 homers, 128 runs and 118 walks. He also had 93 fills with 32 homers was the fore-tast year because of influies. His best prior season was fire-day were reasonable fore-tast year because of influies. His best prior season was in 2011, when he hin 323 with 27 homers and 73 fills in 109 games for the St. Louis Cardinous signing homes and a So million salary next season. He will care St.J million salary next season.

Eckstein agrees to deal with Cardinals

Eckstein agrees to deal with Cardinals

SE LOUIS — David Eckstein agreed Thursday to a three year contract with the St. Louis Cardinals, completing a trianger of the St. Louis Cardinals, completing a trianger of the St. Louis Cardinals, completing a trianger of the St. Louis with a S40 million, four-year contract, anaheim then chose to cut loose Eckstein on Monday and give a S22 million, four-year deal to Orlando Cabrera, who finished last season with the Red Sox.

Fekstein, 29, was a fan favorite in Anaheim, helping the Angels win the 2002 World Series title with his spunky play. He bit 275 with T8c homers and 35 BBIs last season, and the leadoff man scored 22 mis. He was the second-hardest playing standards and the AL with the Same Cardinals and the AL with the Same Cardinals and the Same Ca

will be on display

The epitome of NEC mediocproque of NEC medioc-rity will be on display for the nation Friday alternoin. Green Bay at Minnesota, two decided-ly average teams, playing for the championship of the NFC North.

North.

Yes, the Packers already have clinched a playoff spot and can clinch the division with a win. So can the Vikings, who lost the first meeting with the Packers and are tied with them at R-6.

Packers and are tree with the air B-6.
Minnesota is favored by three points — what it gets for the home dome. The Vikings also have some trends in their favor. Brett Favre is 3-9 at the Metrudome, although the backers are 2-2 in their last four games there. And Favre tends to play pourly indoors.
Minnesota also finally seems to be getting some late-season

games there. And lawre tenos to play poorly indoors.

Minnesota also finally seems to be getting some late-season luck after a history of November and December folds. Last season, the Vikings started 6-0 and finished 9-7, missing the playoffs on a last-second touchdown by the Cardinals. Going into last weeks game, they were 2-5 after a 5-1 start.

But they won at Detroit on a bad snap on what would have been a game-tying extra point by the Lions. Then they watched Green Bay lose at Jiome to Jacksonville because fine the control of the contr

31-27.

Baltimore (plus 6)
at Pittsburgh
The Ravens are lighting for
their playoff lives. The Steelers

NFL picks

NPL picKS
have just about wrapped up
home-field for the emitic playolls...\$IEELERS, 17-15.
Philadelphia (plus 3).
at \$1. Logis (Monday night)
The Rams are favored because they Eagles have cliniched
everything and Terrell Owens is
out. Even so... EAGLES, 22-7.
Houston (plus 7).
at Jacksonville
The Jaguars close in on the
playoffs... JACUJARS, 17-13.
Carolina (plus 3) at Tampa Bay
The Pauthers still look like a
playoff team. PNNTHES, 2723.
Atlanta (plus 4.5)

playoff team ... PANTHERS, 27-23.

Atlanta (plus 4.5)
at New Orleans
This means nothing to the
fadcons, so we might get Matt
Schatth instead of Alichael Vick
SANTNS, 27-20.
Arizona (plus 7.5) at Seattle
Believe it or not, the Cards
still can win the NFC West, They
won't... SFA ILWASS, 31-20.
Denver (minus 4) at Tennessee
The Broncos still have a playoff shot. They're not playing
that way... TITANS, 28-29.
Buffalo (minus 11)
at San Francisco
More than a decade ago,
when these two were of Super
Bowl-caliber, they played, in
game at Candlestick with no
punts... BLLS, 31-3.
Caldand (plus 7)
at Kansas City
Dick Vernneil should have its-

Oakland (plus 7)
Dick Karnsas City
Dick Kermeil should have listiened earlier to Lurry Johnson's
cries for playing time ...
CHIEFS, 37-28.
New York Giants (plus 6)
at Cincinnad
Eli Manning will have a carerer game. Short career, but ...
CIANTS, 34-31.
Weebburger (prince 2)

ODANIS, 34-31.

Washington (minus 2) at Dallas

Joe Gibbs is starting to turn around the Skins ... REDSKINS, 17-7.

7-7. Cleveland (plus 7) at Miami Cieverand (plus 7) at Miami This game was "off" for a while because of Cleveland's quarterback. What quarter-back!... DOLLPHINS 27-5. Chicago (plus 6) at Detroit This one won't depend on an extra point ... LIONS, 20-10.

LAST WEEK: 8-8 (spread), 10-6 (straight up) SEASON: 97-107-1 (spread), 137-71 (straight up)

Pacers Continued from D1

Stern's decisions to suspend Artest for the rest of the season and lackson for 30 games were upheld, Johnson has already served his five-game suspen-

sion.

Signs reading "Free Artest" have popped up at subsequent home games, as have "Suspend Stern" T-shirts.

On Christmas Day, the Pacer lans get their first chance to see the Pistons and Ben Wallace, who many blame for sparking the brawl when he shoved Artest.

When asked how he thought

the brawl when ne snoved Artest.

When asked how he thought the fans would, greet Wallace, Johnson, just shook his head and laughed.

"Our fans are pretty creating other teanis," said Johnson, who was an object of, those heckles as a member of the Nets. "They come up with some very creative sayings. I look forward to hearing some of the things they have to say (Saturday)."

But most eypect them to do little else.
"Our fans know how to behave," Johnson said. "We don't have to know that worth happen because we have clossy fans."

If Wednesday night's game against Philadelphia cam pro-ide-ang-indication, Johnson may be right.

Allen fewson, who has become one of the biggest targets for verbal abuse from opposting fans, received thardly a peep while scoring 40 points to lead the 76ers to a win over the Pacets.

Other than a few random hecklers, Iverson sat on the bench in relative peace.

"Think our crowd will be into it a little more," Indiana's left Foster said. 'I'm sure our fans will probably greet them with some boos. But I don't expect any extracurricular activity at all of any sor! I expect a good, clean game with us and our fans."

fans.

That said the Pacers are taking precautions just in case.
Large tarps have been installed over the two entrances to the arena to protect players as they leave the floor.

In the melec at Detroit, Pistons fans surrounded the Pacers' exit, and doused them with beer, soda, and debris as they tried to get to the locker room.

. nseco Fieldhouse also will

Conseco Fieldhouse also will not serve alcohol during the game because it is against the law in Indiana for it to be sold on Christmas. "In my 20th year of coaching, I can't fourth year as a head coach, in my 15th year of coaching, I can't led you exactly what I expect." Pacers coach Rick Carliste said. "You just don't know. I'll be emotional. Any Christmas Day game on a national I'V network is."

S."
Pistons guard Chauncey
Billuips didn't seem too worried.
"I-don't know what to expoet
from the fans," Billups said. "It
will be a hard-fought game, I'm
sure, but their fans are always a
little rowdy when we come to
town, and T'm sure it will be
eyen more so this time after the
incident. But I'm sure it will be
OK."

NFC mediocrity | Packers, Vikings vie for NFC North

Associated Press writer

MINNIEMPOLIS — The Packers and Vikings have quickly forgotten about all their failures this year. Friday's showdown has fast arrived.

Barely does one NFL regular-season matching carry this much significance, but the league-showed-some foresight ingscheduling this rivarity game for a nationally televised slot the day before Christinus.

Though families and clergy members in these neighboring states aren't thrilled with the timing, maky people will be delaying dinner plans and skipping afternoon church services to watch Green Bay and Minnesotia decide the NPC North title.

"If I was a little thinner."

i title. I was a little thinner I

"If I was a little thinner I might even think of sutting up for it, but the only thing I have thin is my hair line." Vikings coach Mike Tie joked. "If just hold the headphones and the pencil."

Both teams are 8-6, the Packers having rebounded from a 1-4 record and the Vikings having stumbled following a 5-1 start. Regardless of what happens in the final week, however, the winner of this one will be the division champion.

Nobody cares that it's a down year for the North, as well as the entire conference.

year for the worth, as wer as the entire conference. "It's just as big over here as it is over there," said Packers coach Mike Sherman, whose club has already clinched at least a wildcard spot, Minnesota needs one

After escaping Detroit with a one-point victory when a bad snapart the end of the gaine cost the Lions an extra point, the Vikings were full of energy and optimism this week — with two less days to prepare and their postseason hopes suddenly very clear.

postseason hopes suddenly very clear.

"We're fired up and ready for it," quarterback Daunte Culpepper said.

The Packers blew a big op-portunity at home last week.



Green Bay Packers receiver Robert Ferguson is hit by Jacksonville steen bay Yackers receiver robort Ferguson is hit by Jacksonville Jaguars safely Donovilo Palus (20) in the fourth quarter last Sunday, in Green Bay, Wis. Darius was ejected from the game after the hit. Ferguson got a concussion and was temporarily paralyzed below the waist when he was hit. He regalned feeling and movement on his way to the hospital, where he was kept overnight.

losing 28-25 to Jacksonville, when Brett Favre turned over the ball four times. That doesn't mean they've had any trouble refocusing.

Treatment of the control of the cont

son, will have pienty to wort, about. Randy Moss didn't play in last months 34-31 loss in Green Bay because of a partially torn right hamstring, but Culpepper

deeing and movement on his way overnight.

passed for 363 yards and four touchdowns and nearly rallied the Vikings to victory without his star receiver.

Though head and neck unjuries will keep Robert Ferguson from playing, Javon Walker and Donald Driver give Favre two accomplished targets against a Minnesota defense that has endured another difficult season. Favres career record in the Metrodome is a mere 3-9, however, and the Packers have enjoyed the most success against the Vikings when Ahman Green runs well. In Green Bay's last two victories over Minnesota, including 20-27 win on the road in 2003. Green totaled 42 carries for



Green Bay 8-6

at Minnesota 8-6 1 p.m. (MST) · Fox

(NFL rank) OFFENSE RUSH PASS TOTAL GB 124.7 (10) 268.9 (3) 393.6 (4) MMN 117:1 (15) 283.1 (2) 400.2 (3)

DEFENSE RUSH PASS * TOTAL GB 116.9 (17) 231.6 (25) 348.5 (25) MINN 127.6 (23) 238.4 (27) 366.0 (29) KEY MATCHUP

KEY MATCHUP
Packers CBs Ahmad Carroll & Al
Harris vs. Vikings WR Randy Moss.
Moss missed last meeting with
Amastring nigry, but Vikings QB
Daunte Culpepper still threw for 363
yards and four Tbs. Playing on
artificial turf at Metrodome, the ss will be a threat. Packers healed Moss will be a threat. Packers are one of two teams to allow 30 TDs prissing this season. Vikings are second in NFL with 34 TDs passing. Moss has more career yards receiving (1,213) and TDs (11) against Packers than against any other team.

SOURCE National Football League AF

Minnesota is the site of some of Favre's most forgettable per-

of Favres most forgettable performances.

In years past it basn't been so much the dome as it has been so much the dome as it has been so much the play and the play and the year said. When we play up to our standards, I think we can play with anyone, anywhere.

The winner-take all them for this game should help both teams prepare for the playoffs.

"That's the atmosphere we're getting, and that's the type of mental approach that we have this week." Culpepper said.

"Football itself is a great game, but these type of games are the reason you play."

Bennett endures highs and lows with Vikings

Milwaukee Journal Sentinel

MINNEAPOLIS — L' is a source of great frustration, that raming back Michael Beninet can remember earrying 48 times in a game against North-western during his only season use the context of the context

Wisconsin.

Were it not for his re-emergence Sunday afrecion at Ford Field-in-Hearnett-would-be in danger of finishing with fewer carries than that over the entire 2004 season with the Minnesota Wikings. It has been that kind of season for the former first-round draft choice, once the chosen one in the Vikings' backfield and a 1,000-yard rusher in 2002, injuries and a crowded backfield have resulted in the ball just 45 times for 165 yards and a touchdown in his nine guines.

mes. Against the Lions, he rushed a Against the Lions, he rushed a season-high 13 times for 51 yards and looked like the speed burner the Vikings knew. It was only the second time this sea-son he received 10 or more carries; in two of the games he

didn't receive my, carries and my, carries and my, carries and my another he received just one. "It was just not playing, not of the loughest part of being a part of what like to do."

Bennett said of the toughest part of being a part of what like to do."

Twe been palying football since I was 6 years old, I've always been active, but when you sit their and you don't really get what you feel you should. ... "You're not going to get everything, but here and there, make something up for me; anything. It was hard dealing with it. Things happen and you have to let it be and move on."

It was with impeccable timing that Bennett rose out of oblivion to regain his status as the lead back. It came just in time to face the Green Bay Packers, the team he gree up yatching and for whom his uncle. Tony Bennett, played defensive end from 1990-93. Michael Bennett stated the Llons game ahead of leading rusher Onterio Smith because the coaches wanted to use him on a couple of screen passes to start the game. When he gained

on a couple of screen passes to start the game. When he gained

40 yards in two receptions in the first half, he curned himself some more action. As the vikings prepare to play the Packers for the NFC North tille Friday at the Metrodome. Bennett stands to play alhead of Smith and receive the bulk of the carries. But as the aces has been many times this season, coach Mike Tice will go with the hot hand once hegets into the game. Bennett is hoping he's the choice.

Bennett is noping nes un-choice.

"It's been like a roller coaster ride for me this year, highs and lows," said Bennett, who bought 88 tickets for family and friends for dfe Vikings-lackers game earlier this season at Lumbeau Field and has 25 for the game Friday. "It feels good to be able to get out there and play against a team I grow up rooting for, my uncle played for them."

rooting for, my uncle prayeu or them.
"It's just like the Super Bowl of the NFC; it's all or nothing. We've got to go out and play ball. We know they'll bring a lot of energy. It's going to be a dog-fight."
In many ways, that's how it has been for Bennett lately. He missed half the season in 2003 with a stress fracture in his

foot and wound up following a 1,296-yard rushing season with just 90 carries for 447 yards and a touchdown.

Then, in the third exhibition this season, he sprained right knee ligaments that required six weeks to heal. After returning to practice during the bye week, he suffered another setback: torn cartilage in the same knee, requiring arthroscopic surgery. It's possible that Demis-Green-the-conch-who-dinfted bennet in 2001, will make a trade offer to the Vikings to bring the 26-year-old running back to Arizona. The Vikings will have to thirk hard about dealing bennett because Smith Is one violation away from heing suspended for an entire year.

Bennett's said his preference was to sitck around Minneson for a long time, but he said he had no idea what the team's interest in him would be next season.

"I don't try to look ahead."

rerest in him would be next season.

"I don't try to look ahead."
Bermett said. "I just look at the situation at hand. I want to help this team. This is a funny league.
Some things work out for the better or the worse and I think its going to work itself out either way it goes.

These are can't-miss picks — unless they don't hit

By Tim Cowlishaw The Dallas Morning News

By I'm Cowissnaw
The Dallas Moming News

DALIAS — To the delight of thousands of college fams — or at least to those who have forgotten about a somewhat sporty record against the line list year — Chrismas comes a common state of the common state of the common state of writing about Bills undying low for Vinny) arrives with the money-back guarantee that all of these picks will be accurate unless something goes wrong. As always, five key games are hidden among the picks, but we realize its the hidden season and you're not up for heavy lifeing, so you don't have to be a member of the CSI squad to uncover these key selections.

Sheraton Hawaii Bowl — Hawaii minus-3.5 over Alabamenthe of the CSI squad to uncover these Key selections.

Sheraton Hawaii Bowl — Hawaii minus-3.5 over Alabamenthe of the CSI squad to uncover these Key selections.

Sheraton Hawaii Bowl — Hawaii minus-3.6 over Alabamenthe of the CSI squad to uncover these key selections.

Sheraton Hawaii Bowl — Hawaii minus-3.6 over Alabamenthe of the CSI squad for the light of the control of the contr

points.
• Evi net Houston Bowl —

UTEP plus-3 over Colorado.
Any bowl that has punctuation
and lower-case letters in its title
is a must-see. Let me try once
more to get this straight. Bob
Stoops was 12-0 and Gary ('she
was a lousy punter') Barnett got
Coach of the Vara because the
Buffs heat two teams with winning records. 7-4 North Texas
and 6-5 lowa State? Miners are
mine.

and 6-5 Inwa Siate? Miners ammine.

• MastèrCard Alarmo Bowl—
Ohlo State Plus-3.5 over Oklahoma State. The Buckeyes Just sent their starting quarterback packing. That's not a good sign. The Cowboys lost four of their last six: games, allowing 33 jonins a game during that stretch. That's even worse.

• Vitall, Sun Bowl—Artzona State plus-7 over Purdue. Ive Justice of the Justice

SBC Cotton Bowl — Texas
 A&M minus-3 over Tennessee.
That second half the Vols played

against Auburn was impressive, at least when they had the ball. A defense that "held" Vanderbilt to 33 and Kentucky to 31 in the sist two regular-season 31 amis last two regular-season 31 amis last two regular-season 31 amis last two regular-season 31 amis to the Big 12 than Oklahoma.

- Capital One Bowl — LSU minus-6.5 over lowa. The Tigers had.—quarterback.—problems-early in the season, but how different might Nick Sabaris year have been if Auburn hadn't received that extra try for an extra point in a 10-9 win over LSU? He could have hooked the Dolphins for \$5 million a year listed of only \$5 million. Hawkeyse enjoy meeting Michael and Aley Broussard in the backfield.

- Rose Gowl — Michigan bowl of the Brown will have no poor of the could have trouble meeting Joseph Addial and Alley Broussard in the backfield.

- Rose Gowl — Michigan bowl still has no sponor, until unlike the Blue-Groy genet, this one wasn't canceled. Mack Brown will almost wish they lad after lobbying media members to vote the Longhorns into—BCS bowl-But look for lexas to—beart in the game as it did against Arkansus and Kansas to win by a field goal or less.

ey don thit

Tositios Fiesta Bowl—
Utah minus-16.5 over Pitt. The day the non-BCS schools have waited for is here. Finally one of the have-nots gets to test itself against a team that ... beat Furman in overtime? Lost to Syracuse (51-14 loser to Georgia lech on Tucsday) in overtime? Lost to Conneculcut by 127

Nokla. Sugar-Bowl—Virginia Tech plus-6.5 over Tabburn. This is the Tigers' chance to prove they were robbed of the spotlight by a flawed BCS system. They are robbed of the spotlight by a flawed BCS system. They are right about the system being flawed. They are wrong about the notion that the two best teams aren't in Miami. The Hoke ise lost one game all year by more than a point and that was an 11-point loss to No.1-ranked USC four months ago. Nothing Ho-key about a team that won at Miami to get here.

FedEx Orange Bowl—USC minus-3 over Oklahoma. Larry Bird was one of the greater trash talkers in sports history. Also one of the greater layers. Larry Birdme, who called the Togans-an-average-team-and-lessman Ocphy winner Mait and performer.

Coming Sunday

A look at Boise State linebacker-Korey-Hall

Business Editor: Virginia S. Hutchins 733-0931, Ext. 242

The Times-News

Friday, December 24, 2004

Section E

Shoppers could get impulsive

The Associated Press

RICIÍMOND. Va. — Debbie Hunt planned to buy a hooded syveatshift for her son. She got one — plus two shirts.

Welcome to the desperate time of the impulse buy, readily apparent the final few days before Christmas when it dawns on many consumers that their shopping days are numbered. And for some last-minute buyers, this short period can be dangerous time. Confronted by long lines, time constraints and a sea of choices, they are often tempted to purchase on impulse and then sort out their finances later.

"It's so casy to fet your debt get out of courseling Service in Rockford. II. "The holiday spirit kind of takes on its own momentum, and you can be almost bilined by the holiday lights."

Last-minute shopping recommendations fromt consumerfinance experts.

Bring a list with price limits.

nance experts:

Bring a list with price limits reach person.

tor-each person

• Have a sense of which stores

are more likely to have reasonable prices.

• Buy gifts that are perhaps more useful (0 people, such as a hottle of wine.

ottle of wine.

• Avoid the displays and ta-les at the front of stores and at the check-out counters.

Avoid easy store credit,
 Use a debit card rather than

Ose a ceon card rather than a credit card.
 If possible, shop without your children, who may want to grab, extra gifts for family members.

Consider buying gift cards, which automatically keep you on budget.

Edward Jones hit with fine

Knight Ridder News Service

ST 1011S — Edward Jones raked in 'tens of millions of dol-lars' from seven companies. The U.S. Securities and Ex-change Commission made in-tended to the Commission of the travelation Wednesday in hand-ing down an anticipated \$75 million penalty against the Des Peres, Mo.-based investment broker over the revenue-sharing scheme.

broker over users - scheme.

The SEC provided an eyeopening level of detail in an
18-page report outlining the
charges. It shows that forus was
bent on capitalizing on complex
and lucrative financial desix
with the seven fund companies
— the only ones on its preferred
ist.

with the seven time companies—the only ones on its preferred list.

One unidentified executive was quoted by the SEZ as saying bis greatest contribution to the company's bottom line was to focus on selling preferred fund families and the subsequent everage this gives us to negotive the contribution of the companies were the payments from the mutual fund companies were not illegal. Edward lones's failure to disclose them to investors, included securities law, the SEZ said.

The company has investment representatives—around—Magicavillev. The root of the revenue.

The company has investment-representatives—round-Magic-Valley. The root of the revenue sharing began in the late 1980s, when Jones began touting—without receiving payments—a group of mutual fund families as "recommended." In the late 1980s, it approached some of those funds and asked them to share revenues, the SEC said.

The payments came in several forms. Some mutual fund companies paid flat fors. While others paid an amount based on the level of assets held by 124 hours of the payment forms to the word forms customers.

on the level of assets held by Ed-ward Jones customers.

By the late 1990s, the pre-ferred list grew to seven companies and stayed ther. Edward lones executives pushed their corps of more than 8,000 brokers to sell the funds on the list.

Broker pay indirectly was tied to the sale of preferred funds,

Please see FINE, Page E3

Chamber members express optimism Business leaders say 2004 was a good year, hopeful for 2005 By Megan Hinds Times-News writer TWIN FALLS — Leaders of Magic Valleys major businesses, 36 said it was good and eight said business had been successed a decenting to results of the annial surveys leaves to members of the Twin Falls Area Chamber of Commerce. Among 58 respondents to the Among 58 respondents to the Torus Falls Area Chamber of Commerce. Among 58 respondents to the Torus Falls Area Chamber of Commerce. Among 58 respondents to the Torus Falls Area Chamber of Commerce. Among 58 respondents to the Torus Falls Area Chamber of Commerce. Among 58 respondents to the Torus Falls Area Chamber of Commerce. Among 58 respondents to the Torus Falls Area Chamber of Commerce. Among 58 respondents to the Torus Falls Area Chamber of Commerce. Among 58 respondents to the Torus Falls Area Chamber of Commerce. Among 58 respondents to the Torus Falls Area Chamber of Commerce. Among 58 respondents to the Torus Falls Area Chamber of Commerce. Among 58 respondents to the Torus Falls Area Chamber of Commerce. Among 58 respondents to the Torus Falls Area Chamber of Commerce. The Chamber secure of chamber wasn't surprising. But other tops of the list this, year, tops of the Shaw to English and the creation of a commerce of commerce to commerce the chamber and the creation of a convention center — the tops of the list of the top of the list this, year, tops of the Shaw to English and the creation of a commerce to commerce the commerce to spend the priorities for the tops of the list of the tops of the list of the tops of the list of the said. The chamber instead the creation of a convention center — the tops of the list of the said. Also on the horizon for the top of the list of the said. Also on the horizon for the top of the list of the said. Also on the horizon for the top of the list of the said shaws and the creation of a convention center — the top of the list of the said. Also on the horizon for the

concern of chamber members wasn't surprising. But other topics — like regional water issues and the creation of a convention center. — have been pereintal priorities for years but inched closer to the top this year, he said?

As the region continues to experience drought conditions, water is inolying up as a concern. Barigar said. The chamber's government affairs committee will make a point his year of pushing state legislators for some sort of resolution on water disputes. "Resolution of water issues is something chamber members

feel lawmakers need to have on the top of the list this year," Barigar said.
Also on the Intriton for the Chamber will be developing a five-year strategic plan for how the group will move forward. The chamber's current plan is in its fourth year, Barigar said.
"Were looking at restructur-ing some of the activities of the board and better aligning the desires of the membership with what we do as a group." he said.

Times-News business writer Megan Hinds can be reached at 735-3238 or megan,hinds@lee.

REE BUSINESS



The Original Living Christmas Tree Company workers Aaron Bayless, left, and Mark Thinnes deliver a live Christmas tree on Dec. 14 in Portland, Ore. The Original Living Christmas Tree Company, founded by John Fogel, 39, has rented out more than 400 Christmas trees this holiday

Rent-a-tree appeals to the environmentally conscious

PORTLAND, Ore. — For ears, Par de Garmos Christ-as tree was her aging yucca

plant.
She doesn't like the idea of her She doesn't like the idea of killing trees, and the size of her yard prevents her from getting a potted one. So year after year she strung lights and ornaments on the in-

lights and ornanients on the in-door vices, plant, lianging toy drums and coloired orbs from its stiff branches.

For environmentally con-scious consumers like de Garmo — and their numbers abound in this liberal North-west city — a venture that rents out living Christmas trees is fill-ing a void.

The Original Living Christ-mas Tree Co., founded by John Fogel, 39, has rented out 419

Christinas trees this holiday season, starting at \$55 for a 7-foot Doughs fir.

The trees are taker rour of the ground, roots and all, put into pots; and tellevered to families in the Portland area, Soon after New Year's, Fogel and his crew pick up the trees and deliver them to parks, school districts and other groups who pay around \$10 to have the trees planted on their property.

"It seems like to cut a tree and put it in your house and have it dry, out and then just toss it away is such a shame. This way, I know it will be treplanted — no gullt," said the 61-year-old de Garmo, a relired nurse, who hasn't decorated her indoor plants since she discovered the rent-a-tree overed the rent-a-tree usiness three years ago, Officials at the National

Christmas Tree Association say they know of no other rent-a-tree business venture in the United States.

The unsuless ventual in ar-United States.

While Fogel says he could grow beyond his current or-ders, he maintains a strict policy of accepting no more or-ders than he can find buyers willing to plant the trees come anuary.

"Just the idea of cutting all of these trees — these living

"Just the idea of cutting all of these trees — these living things for decorations — kind of appalls me," said 44-year-old Glen Jacobs, a high school theater teacher in bordand, which along with his family has turned renting a tree into a yearly tradition.

While tree-rental businesses—appear-to be a rarily, buying live—Christmas trees that have been placed in pots is less so:

Steve Mannhard is a board

member of the National Christmas Tree Association. About a decade ago customers began showing up with shovels at his sprawling Christmas tree farm on Alabama's Gulf Coast.

sprawling Christmas tree larm on Alabamas Gull Coast.

"People started trying to dig the trees out of the ground; I asked them: Why are you doing that" They said, Because I want it to live, said Mannhard, 57, who began offering potted trees in addition to cut ones at Fish River Trees, near Summerdale, Ala., in 1992. Last year, out of a total of nearly 5,000 trees he sold, about 1,000 were potted, said Mannhard—a fact he says underscores the popularity of the living tree concept.

"Trees—and—human—beings—have a close relationship — and some people are more sensitive to that," he said.

Boise Cascade sells land

BOISE — Boise Cascade LLC
is selling all of its 2.2 million
acres of uimberlands in the
United States. including
179,000 acres in south-central
Idaho-to-n-Boston-bused-timber management company.
Forest Capital Partners LLC
has agreed to pay \$1.65 billion
in cash for Boise Cascade's forest land, located across the
Pacific Northwest, Louisiana,
Alabama and Minnesota.
Officials from Forest Capital
said they would continue to
manage the lands for timber
harvest, and they do not expectto make any major changes in
public access to those lands.
Boise Cascade Chief Executive Officer Fom Stephens said
the sale to Forest Capital will
help the company reduce debt
from its \$3.7 billion purchase in
late October of the timber,
paper and humber divisions of
Boise Cascade Corp., which
changed its name to OfficeMax
line, and now is based near
Chicago.

Stephens said his companywill continue to purchase timber harvested from the Idaho
land to provide the material for
its manufacturing operations,
which include a corrugatedcontainer plant in Burley.

Boise Cascade spokentime manufacturing operations,
which include a corrugatedcontainer plant in Burley.

Boise Cascade spokenman plant in Surley.

Boise Cascade spokenman plant in Burley.

Sarting in 2002. Forest Capital
began purchasing land from
Crown Pacific and Louisian
regional office in Cocur d'Alene.

Poore said both companies
will evaluate the positions and
determine which employees will
remain with Boise Cascade.

Scott Jones, a managing di-

Scott Jones, a managing di-rector at Forest Capital, said the company typically offers post-tions to employees who have

Please see LAND. Page E3

Gift wrap industry is big business Knight Ridder News Service

Knight Ridder Nows Service

AKRON, Ohio — You've checked off everyone on your giff list, maxed out your credit cards malked out your credit cards malked out you credit cards malked out you credit with the service of misdetoe.

Alshi, sit back and relax.

Oops, not yet,

Yes-lik-three to wrap-all-those-carefully chosen presents. You may not be thrilled at the prospect, but there are at least a few people out there who are.

For those in the greeting card industry, gift-wrap sales are the frosting on their Christmas cookies. Even when shoppers cur back on their holiday spending overall in tough economic times, consumers have proven willing to spend freely when it comes to presenting that scaled-back gift.

"It's always a strodg, steady. category for us," said Kelly Bosserman, director of marketing for the Plus Mark division of Cleveland-based American Greetings Co.

Cleveland-based American-Greetings Co. American Greetings is the -largest-publicly-traded-eard-company and second in sales to the privately held Hallmark Inc. of Kansas City, Mo.

For the past three years, gift bags have beaten out roll wrap as the most popular way to wrap a gift, said Rachel Bolton, spokeswoman for Hallmark...... A decade ago, gift bags represented only 20 percent of the wrap market. They now represent more than a third. Advances in printing and discussion of the decade ago, gift bags represent more than a third. Advances in printing and discussion of the decade and wrapping to append to consumers. Bolton said. For

Total gift-wrap sales, which include ribbons and tissue haper, are expected to reach \$11-billon a year in 2005, according to Business Trends Analysts, a New York consulting and research firm.

Gift-wrap sales have risen an average of 5 percent a year for the past three years, according the past three years, according to business-Trends-And-sales-of-gift bags, which came on the wrapping scene in the early 1980s as a novely item; are rising at the rate of 7 percent year, statistics show.

The bags have gotten nice and nicer over the years, so people don't feel badly about opting for the convenience. Bosserman said.

For the past three years, gift bags where we provided the past three years and the past three years and the past three years are strends and recreaming the past three years are strends and the year years are strends and years are years are years and years are years are years and y bags with see-through wardows, movable pieces and die-cut words. American Greetings is featuring bags this season that light up when pressed.

"We've gone far beyond the basic bag with attached handles. The bags are on the cutting edge-of-design-trends," Bosserman said.

American Greetings and Hallmark also use the bags to promote the orderings such seasons of the orderings as and the orderings and the orderings. "The bags and wrap work on a couple of levels for us, Bosserman said.

'Although the market for gift bags is still growing wrap manufacturers are eyeing another burgeoning product category; the gift-card holder.

Nearly three-quarters of American consumers will buy at least one gift card his holiday—season—The—average-consumers will buy more than three, ac-

Please see WRAP, Page E3

Employers will face a tighter labor market

Knight Ridder News Service

AKBON, Ohlo — For all his miserly ways. Ebenezer Scrooge was one lucky excuse for a boss. No health care, No heat. No praise. No raises. No respect. Not to mention a response like this for wanting Christmas off. "A poor excuse for picking a man's pocket every 25th of December."

man's pocket every 25th of De-cember."

The Bob Cratchits of the 21st century would have surely told Scrooge to humbug off — de-voted employee or not.

Any boss who models himself after the Charles Dickens char-acter can bank on losing his best and brightest workers over the next few years.

best and brightest workers over the next few years. It may not look like it now but the job market is moving from the employers to the employ-ees favor, And those employees may already be making a list and checking it twice to see if their bosses are naughty or nice. A Scrooge or a Santa. Bally boomers are starting to write. leaving not only few

retire, leaving not only fewer workers to replace them but

workers with less education and training. The U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics projects a short-age of 10 million skilled workers by 2009.

age of 10 million skilled workers by 2008.

In fact, study after study shows that as soon as the economy gets itself together, many people plan to shop around for new Jobs. They'll leave the first chance they get, according to the staffing agency Spherion Corp., and that could come as soon as 2005.

The reason is simple:

Many employees are mad. They're furious and fed up at the way their companies have treated them during the recent downturn. Mass layoffs and health-care cuts in the name of profit haven't exactly engen-

downturn. Mass layoffs and health-care cuts in the name of profit havent exactly engen-dered trist.

Experts say companies need to change their wasy quickly to retain quality people. If they don't start being nice instead of naughty — both in terms of perks- and-artitude — theyre going to regret it when their workers'fly away like reindeer.

Please see LABOR, Page E3

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Alinneapolis (AP) — Thu.

Open High Low Settle Chg.
WHEAT
5,000 bu minimum; cents per bushel

sales 22,699 open int 145,474.up 522

CHEESE

choose prices on the Chicago Mercan ange: 1.4200, + 0150, 40-pound blocks: to Prices coursey Glanbla Foods.

POTATOES

ICAGO (AP) — USDA — Major potato mar-FOIS shopping points Wednesday, sate Bubbank sleads 54-be cartons 70 count— 77.00 (100 count 4 50 50 ce A) 255-55. 100 count 4 50 50 ce A) 255-55. 1,00 count 4 50 ce A) 255-55. 1,00 ce A) 255-55. 0, 100 count 4 00. 9 ID him bags (non Size A) 2-50-3 00 1 No!kotahs 50-Ib cartons 70 count : 100 count 4 00-4 25 0 ID him bags (non Size A) 3 25

MARKETS Round Reds 50-ib sacks Size A Wisconsin 5 00-5 50 Round Reds 50-ib cartons Size A Minnesota N Dakota 50 Round Whiles 50-ib sacks size A Wisconsin

Sugar NEW YORK ARP, Transport Company of Table 1 Transport Company C NEW YORK (AP)—Sugar futures trading on New York Board of Trade Thursday Onen High Low Settle Chg Jul 20 wa Sep 20 88 20 wa Nov 20 81 20 82 20 81 Jan Mar Est asies 57 Wbd 's sales 39 Wed 's open int 11.315.up 21

LIVESTOCK

TWIN FALLS — Twin Falls Livestock Commission Co reports the following pinces from the livestock sale held Wednesday. Oec 22 Trends showed a steady market on weights are classes offered on calves and feeder cartier cows and bulls were fully steady; feeder cow, wire 582-585 with preferreds at 550 to 575

"Nete 352-339 with heftestes at \$50 to \$75 and page 25 per 25 per

A six w the hird Wodnesday

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mourised Levelock Report for Thrustage

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Aug 98 02 — 23 Est sales 222 Wed is sales 343 Wed is open int 1,923, up 14

METALS/MONEY By The Associated Press Selected world gold prices. Injurisday Hong Krong Isle 5441 73 of 50 10 London memory Islang 5442 40 up 50 00 London memory Islang 5442 40 up 50 00 London Island 540 20 of 50 30 00 00 00 Pains alternoon Islang 5450 77 on 51 83 Jurch Island Islandon 5440 55 up 50 30 177 Handy & Harman 5441 10 up 50 10 W Handy & Harman 5441 10 up 50 10 00 W Handy & Harman 15441 10 up 50 10 1 Engelhard \$442.50 up \$0.10. Engelhard fabroated \$475.69 up \$0.11 Merc gold spot month the \$441.90 up C Bank USA 4 pm .Thu \$441 00 up

NEW YORK (AP) — Handy & Harman sert Thursday 56 905 up \$0 035 H&H fabricated \$8 148 up \$0 041 The morning button pixe for sever in Lond

umeium - 97.1 cents per 10 , concur maillioch. This 101. This poper - 154. 00 cents, Cathode full plate, U.S. Historiatons. poper 148.30 cents per 10 , N.Y. Merc spot. 143. - \$968.00 per metric ton. London Metal. 60 15-60 65 cents to , delivered -\$441 10 Handy & Harman (only daily quote) Gold - \$441 90 troy oz , NY Merc spot Thu Silver - \$6 905 Handy & Haiman (only day) - S0 883 froy oz'. N Y Merc spot Thu ry - S050 00 per 76 lb ftssk, N Y. im - S845 00 froy oz . N Y (contract) lm S840 20 froy oz . N Y Merc spot T if dvoted, n a -not-dvotable t-urvaed

NEW YORK (AP) — Key currency exchange rates and the work of the results of the re Pvs. Day 104 08 \$1 3381 \$1 9144 1 1523 1 2442 11 1620

FOSSIL FUELS

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Fine

Continued from E1

Continued from E1
and brokers received research
from corporate headquarters
only on those funds.
Edward lones brokers had access to more than 240 fund
companies, but more than 95
percent of its motural fund sales
came from the seven preferred
companies.

companies.

The brokers did not tell cusabout the

companies.

The brokers did not tell customers about the revenue-sharing arrangements. Instead, the company told the revenue-sharing arrangements. Instead, the company told the ESC, that the information could be gleaned from prospectuses, and other naterial supplied by the mutual fund companies.

"Tevo of these disclosures adequately described Edward ones bactenial conflict of interest," the report said.

Revenue-sharing hasn't been the only conflicting connection between Edward Jones and mutual funds, the SEC said, From 1999 through 2003, the company got nearly SIB million in clearance fees associated with trading funds of three companies on the preferred list. The clearance fees, which were in addition to revenue-sharing and routine broker commissions, violated National Association of Securities Dealers rules.

The NASD is a private agence.

sions, violated National Association of Securities Dealers rales.

The NASD is a private agency that regulates the financial services industry and worked with the SEC on the investigation.

Edward lones also violated NASD rules with a contest in held in 2002 to reward brokers. Contest points were awarded only for sales of a select group of investments offered by the preferred mutual funds. Some brokers complained that by leaving out scores of other investments, they were penalized for 'doing the right thing for the leaving out serves on total production by a broker to prevent them from pushing runsuitable investments.

In the end, the financial arrangements with the preferred seen companies mostly benefited a select group at Edward services.

An Edward Iones spokesman hence the rest is divided annong more than 5,000 limited partners.

ners.

An Edward Jores spokesman said his company was "pleased to settle these matters so that we can refocus all of our energies on helping our customers reach their long-term financial goals."

Wall Street finishes week with highs

NEW YORK (AP) — Investors filled with holiday cheer sent Wall Street's major indexes to mev multi-year highs Thursday, extending the stock market's winning steak despite a plummeting dollar and signs of weaker consumer spending. In a session that ended with Santa Chaus sounding the closing bell, investors looked past the dollar's all-time low against the euro, which rose to \$1.348 against the greenback surpassing its record high set Dec. 7. Although the weaker dollar naises the possibility of higher inflation, investors saw the U.S.

currency's decline as an opporrunity to help close the trade
deficit, since American goods
will be less expensive abroad.
And stocks rose despite a
Commerce Department report
confirming that Americans have
reined in their spending.
Consumer spending for Nosember rose 0.2 percent slightly
less than the 0.3 percent Wall
Street expected and far less thanthe 0.8 percent jump in October.
"Right now, there's just no
selling going on," said Todd
Leone, managing director of equity trading at SG Cowen
Securities." There's a lot of

money being put to work before the end of the year, and i think that despite whatever news we get, we'll just continue drifting up.

The Dow Jones industrial av-erage rose 11.23, or 0.1 percent, to 10.827.12, its highest close since time 13. 2001.

since June 13. 2001
Broader stock indicators were
modestly higher. The Standard
& Poor's 500 index was up 0.56,
or 0.05 percent, at 1.210.13, the
best close for the index since
Aug. 3. 2001.
The Nasdaq composite index
gained 3.59, or 0.17 percent, at
2.160.62.

\mathbf{Wrap}_{-}

Continued from E1 cording to the National Retail Federation, a trade group based in Washington, D.C.. The retail federation projects and gift-card sales will surpass \$50 billion this year, a 22 per-berone recesses over the year before. By 2005, it forecasts sales of

\$65 billion.
For the first time since their inception, gift cauds will replace apparel as the gift purchase of choice this season, according to a study by Deloitte & Toucha. And that has provided new business opportunities for longtime players in the gift market.

'This year, Hallmark is mar-keting a paper polnsettia and a purse that pops open to reveal the gift cards. American Greet-ings is featuring a line of stuffed-animal gift card holders based of the company's Whiskers line.

Land Continued from E1.

continued from E1.
been managing the timber they buy.
Environmentalists had expressed concerns that Boise Cascade might sell its forest lands to developers, who would subdivide it for other uses.

uses.
Forest Capital said it would continue managing the land under the Sustainable Forestry Initiative — a forest-industry-sponsored program that provides environmental stan-

dards for the management of timberlands.
The Rainforest Action Network, an environmental action group, reached an agreement in September of 2003 with Boise Cascade Corp., now OfficeMax, to no longer harvest old growth or buy from suppliers that do, and to keep 'chain of custody' records to track where products come from. Gregory Hile, the implementation director for Rainforest Action Network, said the group

doesn't expect that agreement to change with the sale of the timberlands.

The purchase of the land greatly increased Forest Capi-tal's portfolio

greatly increased Forest Capi-tal's portfolio.

Before this announcement, the company only owned 340,000 acres of timberland, the bulk of it in North Idaho.

Boise Cascade will remain Forest Capital's primary cus-tomer, but the company also hopes to solicit new customers for the timber, Jones said.

the main challenge was attracting and retaining quality employees. People had their pick of the litter when it came to jobs.

Companies kept employees around with bonuses, concierge services, tuldon reimbursement, recognition programs, company cars, office parties, gifts.

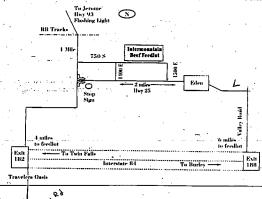
was a shift. Companies cut costs and nixed perks for employees.
"It became, 'How do I avoid doing any of these things for my peopler" he said.
That is changing.
"As the conomy improves. I think we will start to see these things again," said Katle Popp. of the Great Place to Work Institute Inc. When it was all taken away, people felt disenfranchised. When it comes back, they'll welcome it, but they'll welcome it, but they'll welcome it, but they'll welcome wary."

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Labor

Continued from E1

Continued from E1

"As companies do better, employees are going to go: We helped make this huppen. Remember us?" said Roger E. Herman, a strategic business futurist with the Herman Group in Greensboro, N.C.

"Right now, they feel screwed," he paused, he companies of the compani

programs, company cars, onice, parties, gifts.

"People became accustomed to this and they liked it," Herman said.

When the economy slowed down in 2000 and 2001, there

Leader says he values partnership with Bush, though

with Bush, though

MOSCOW (AP) — President
Vladinir Putin said thursday
he valued his partnership with
President Bush but voiced suspicion that Washington might
be behind what the Krentlin
sets as efforts to isolate Russia
— and even destabilize.

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Hussia already feeling.

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Hus beat of the said of the
puts denial cleection that
sparked a mortholog crisis goes
into a third round this weekend.

His emotions came boiling
to the surface during a threehour Kreinlin news
conference, during which he
took questions from 51 journalists, pausing occasionally to
say teat from a blue-and-white
china cup.

Putin was asked for a reaction to an interview in which
Polish President Aleksander
Kwasniewski said that "for
every superprower, Russia without (Braine is better than
Russia with Okraine.

"If we interpret this (statement by Kwasniewski) as
striving to limit Russia's ability

Russia feels hemmed in

Increasingly, Russia is feeling hemmed in by U.S. bases in formerly Soviet Central Asia and the presence of U.S. military trainers in Georgia. In June 2004, the Pentiagon said it was considering relocating twocps from. Germany to countries including Turkey, and some in Eastern Europe, such as Bulgaria.

RUSSIA 0, 350 m 350 km KYRGYZSTAN UZBEKISTAN GEORGIA TURKEY AZERRALIAN TAJIKISTAN Incirlik Bagiam AFGHANISTAN Khost ARMENIA IRAN Kandahar PAKISTAN Dalbandin
Shamsi Jacobabad Confirmed U.S. bases

SOURCES ESRI GlobalSecurity

SAUDI

SOURCES ESTA Gueral Security org to develop relations with its neighbors, then it means a de-sire to isolate the Russian Federation. Putin said testily. "I don't think that is the goal of U.S. policy," he said, but added he would ask Bush about it in February when they meet in Slovakia. Putin then hamed the United States, without elaborating, for a poli-cy on Chechnya "aimed at creating elements that would destabilize the Russian Federa-tion."

The comments were in line with Patin's increasingly combative attitute inward the West and especially the United States. The Kremlin is convinced that the United States is behind a campaign to install Ukraines pro-Western opposition leader Vistor Yushehenko at the helm of the mation Russia has albase manded as in

Putin said his personal rela-tionship with Bush remained strong, but he has bristled at U.S. criticism of the Kremlin's at the nelm of the nation Russia has always regarded as its main satellite. Pufin has backed Yushchenko's opponent, Prime Minister Viktor Yanukovych. political restructuring pro-posals, which include an end to direct elections for gover-

Putin fears expanding U.S. influence Cat in a cage: High-end Putin has long been used to reference from Bush, but even if the American had refrained from direct criticism of Kremin policies at home up to now, he has 'challenged' Moscow over its involvemen in the Ukrainian presidential campaign and stood firm on insisting that the 'fraudulein' second round be held again.

Analysts close to the Kremlin have accused Poland of working in Ukraine at the behest of the United States, which they allege is trying to deepen its influence in Burope, and push Poland to the top ranks of the European Union.

Kwasniewski told reporters in Warsaw Thursday that Putin's remarks were unfair. "The words said today by Putin, in my opinion, are unfair words, a price that Poland and I must pay for our involvement in solving the political crisis in Ukraine, 'Kwasniewski said.

In the Interview, I said their lands in the Ukraine and hat a democratic Ukraine will seve the world in the best way,' he said.

Putin said his personal relaments work Bush remained burglar gets nabbed

POUGHKEPSHE, N.Y. (AP)

POUGHKEPSHE, N.Y. (AP)

If he had lived up to his reputation, cat burglar Blane
Nordahl would have simply
slipped away at his sentencing,
shimmied through a contihouse window and
disappeared.

Instead: Nordahl's eight-year
prison sentence Thesday ended
or at least interrupted — a
criminal career encompassing
two decades, a dozen states and
uncounted for.

Nordahl, 42, is the rare criminal for whomy the label "cat
burglar" seems apt. He is cagey,
nimble and elusive. He is picky,
too. He hit homes in the nicest
neighborhoods, in places such
such as the New Jersey shore and
Greenwich. Com. And he
turned up his nose at cash and
antiques to concentrate on sterling sliver.

Thate to use the word 'professional," said State Police
Investigator Thomas Fort. "But
that's basically what he's established himself as."

Greenvich Detective Cornell
Abruzzini, who has dealt with
Nordahl repeatedly since the
'90s, likened him to Lex Lathor,
Superman's braily arch-nemesis.

While many, burglars are
smash-and-run types, Nordahl

sis: While many burglars are smash-and-run types, Nordahl is precise and meticulous. He is

short and trim and can snake through nar-row openings in windows and doors. He

m windows and doors. He seems to follow the following to follow the following to follow the following the followin

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U.S. bowling alley company will return Arafat's \$1.3M investment

NEW YORK (AP) — The CEO of a company that owns several U.S. bowling alleys, including a popular one in Greenwich Village, said Thursday it was severing ties with a group linked to Yasser Arafat and would return its \$1.3 million investment.

The late Palestinian leader invested the money in New York-based Strike Holdings, owner of Bowlinor Lanes in Greenwich Village, divough a holding company he created called Onyx Funds.

according to bloomberg Markets Magazine.

"We are in the process of olacing the funds in the amount they brossed in escrive to be returned." Stike Holdings GEO Thomas Shannon said in a telephone interview. Strike Holdings also owns bowling alleys on Long Island and in Maryland and Florida.

"Effectively as of today the PCSC will have no investments in Strike Holdings."

Hamallah-based holding company owned by the Palestinian Authority.

Later at a news conference at the bowling alley Shamon said the was feel-ing Shock and outrage.

Method the conset to be affiliated with any the don't choose to be affiliated with any control of the control of the con-cially one than may or may not have ties to things we flow absolutely althorrem. Shamon said.

Zeid Masia timmeting perman of Sil.

Zeid Masri, managing partner of Sil-verl laze Partners, a Virginia-based

investment firm, had told Bloomberg Markets that he invested the money in Strike Holdings for Onyx because he had been a former classmate of Shan-nonis.
Shannon said at the news conference that he felt betrayed by Mast, that the origins of the money should have been revealed. "My relationship with. Mr. Masri is over." Shannon said.
Bowlmor is located several blocks from the campus of New York Universi-

ty and is popular with Manhattan hip-sters, who pay about \$8' a game per person to bow in the evenings and on-weekends.

News of the investment upset some customers at the alley, which advertises itself on its Web site as an ideal location for bar and bat mitzvahs for Jewish teens.

"If I had known, I wouldn't have come, but I promised the kids," Steve Saslow, 55, told the Daily News,

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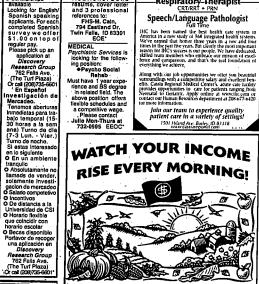
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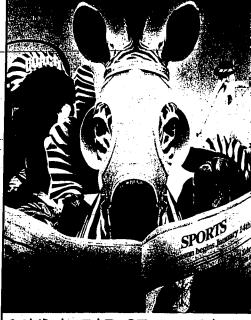


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"Women do not find it difficult nowadays to behave like men, but they often find it extremely difficult to behave like gentle-

- Compton Mackenzie

The defenders on today's deal from the Macallan Invitation were Nicola Smith and Pat Davies, who finished in second place — the best result ever by a ladies' partnership in a major international invitation event.

In three no-trump declarer won the first trick in hand with the spade king. It seemed natural for South to play the opening bidder for the missing club queen, so he crossed to the club ace and finessed the club jack, East throwing a low spade. Smith ducked declarer's jack, then won the next club as East threw another discouraging spade.

ing a tow speak. Some larger's jack, then won the next club as East threw another discouraging spade.

It was not difficult now for West to switch to hearts, allowing the defenders eventually to collect the spade ace and three hearts for one down. Do you see some way that declarer might have done better?

Maybe South might have crossed to the diamond ace and finessed the club jack on the first round. West could hardly duck the queen after that start and, with no signal from her partner, might have found it more difficult to identify the need for a heart switch.

At another table, East overtook his partner's spade jack at trick one and switched to a heart.

When-South-misguessed-the-clubs, the defenders had five tricks.

Curriously, that was the same defense that I ran into at my table. I won the third round of hearts and, since East appeared to have length in the majors, decided to finesse West instead of East for the club queen — a relatively painless route to nine tricks.

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EAST

A A 8 6 4 2

V K Q 9 6

Q 10 6

9

SOUTH ♠ K Q 5 ♥ 10 ♠ K 7 5 3 ♣ K J 10 8 3

Vulnerable: Neither Dealer: East

The bidding:

West North East
Pass 2 A Pass
Pass 3 NT All pass South

Opening lead: Spade jack

BID WITH THE ACES

South holds:

A A 8 6 4 2 ▼ K Q 9 6 • Q 10 6 • 9

South West North East 2 & Pass Pass

ANSWER: Reopen with a takcout double, even though you have a dead-minimum opening. When you are short in the opponents suit, you must reopen all-low-level auctions. You have at least a 50 percent chance of finding partner able to penalize clubs here, so don't miss the chance to eatch your opponents.

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