

# The Times-News

Twin Falls, Idaho/99th year, No. 360

Friday, December 24, 2004

WWW.MAGICVALLEY.COM

50 cents

## GOOD MORNING

### WEATHER

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

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### MAGIC VALLEY

She's covered: Fire damages home of Gooding insurance agent.

Page B1

### MONEY

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 The Times-News

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magicvalley.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 home of Muggers Brewpub — in order to open it again as a restaurant and microbrewery.

Twin Falls developer Todd Blass and attorneys Jeff Hepworth and Gary Slette, who make up Three Amigos LLC, purchased the nearly 20,000-square-foot building Thursday from Old Mill LLC.

Blass, Hepworth and Slette

don't plan to run the restaurant 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 — we're 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 Wojcik said Thursday. He and Blass declined to say the exact selling price.

"I hope we paid a fair price for a building in good condition," Blass said.

Despite losing money on the deal, Wojcik said he was happy

to sell the building to businessmen who are willing to give new life to the landmark for the sake of improving the face of Old Towne.

"(Three Amigos) got a real good deal," Wojcik said. "It wasn't right to let the building sit idle for so long."

### Pioneer of warehouse district revival

After spending nearly \$1 million to renovate the flour-sacking warehouse built around 1916, the Old Mill group opened Muggers in 1996. The brewpub 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 BREWPUB, Page A2



With a number of beer fermentation kegs lining the basement, Twin Falls developer Todd Blass looks at empty beer kegs stored in the basement of the former Muggers Brewpub building in Old Towne Thursday. Blass, along with attorneys Jeff Hepworth and Gary Slette, have purchased the historic building and plan to lease it to a yet-to-be chosen restaurateur.

# DOORBELL DITCHERS



Members of the Twin Falls High School student council pile out of a moving truck before 'doorbell ditching' presents, food, clothes and trees for the holidays. The students and teachers at the school raised \$4,500 to bring the holidays to seven-needy families.

## Students leave behind gifts, holiday cheer

By Lorraine Cavener  
Times-News correspondent

TWIN FALLS — A group of Twin Falls High School students spent Thursday ringing doorbells 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 Harmonson.

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 big, red truck," said participant Cassie Gonzalez.

Real estate agent Sid Lezanzani



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

donated the use of one of his red moving vans to transport the 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 drove off in the van.

"They were spotted at another

place, too.

"Little kids would wave," Kara Gembril said. "They had huge smiles."

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

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

The student council's project started earlier this month when the group put notices out for donations in the school bulletin, 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 amazing that we got that much," Hansen said.

But the gifts were not limited to Christmas dinner or a spot under the tree.

"One family didn't have beds," said Aspen Clontz. "We took mattresses, clothes, Christmas trees, ornaments and a lot of other things."

The students said the experience was satisfying, but at the same time they experienced another emotion.

"It was kind of sad to see some people didn't have beds to sleep on," said Lindsey Brown.

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

## Research yields clues to graying hair

### Study may also shed light on skin cancer

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Those annoying gray hairs that increasingly leer back from the bathroom mirror may have some value after all. Cancer researchers have developed a new explanation for graying hair that they hope will also shed light on the most dangerous 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 Institute 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 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 develop in the wrong part of the hair follicle.

The research, published online Thursday by the journal Science, originally focused on mice.

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

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

## 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 counterterrorism 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.

## Glascok defends collection of fines

By Sandy Miller  
Times-News writer

TWIN FALLS — County Clerk Kristina Glascok is feeling a little like the grinch who stole Christmas. And she never meant to.

In 2000, the Idaho Legislature enacted a new law that allows counties to contract with collection agencies to collect on outstanding debts. The law also allows the collection agencies to add 33 percent to the bills to cover their cost of services. Early this year, Twin Falls County contracted with Advanced Collection Technology to collect some \$1.7 million in fines owed to the 5th Judicial District.

Glascok said it was just a coincidence the notices from the 5th Judicial District arrived at 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 that's where we were at working our way backwards on these outstanding monies," Glascok said.

And Glascok said for every person complaining, there have been 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 collecting on unpaid fines in its computer files dating back to 1983. People with questions concerning court fines can visit the Court Services Office inside the Theron W. Ward Judicial Building at 425 Shoshone St. N. or call the office at 736-4025.

## Little 'chatter' could mean less chance of terror attack

U.S. and foreign intelligence and law enforcement services report a continuing stream of vague, lower-level threats from al-Qaida and other Islamic extremist groups against American interests at home and abroad. But officials say nothing specific and credible has emerged in recent months that would require the government to raise the risk level above yellow, or "elevated," the midpoint on the five-level threat scale.

"It's a little bit like a duck on a

Please see CHATTER, Page A2

TWIN FALLS FORECAST

Today: Near or cold and mainly dry... Early fog possible... Highs from 34 to 40... Tonight: Mostly clear and blustery... Lows from 17 to 23... Tomorrow: A pleasant Christmas Day... Late day cloud cover will increase... Highs from 39 to 45

TWIN FALLS FIVE-DAY FORECAST

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

BURLEY/RUPERT FORECAST

Today: Partly to mostly sunny, mainly dry and brisk... Highs from 43 to 49... Tonight: Partly cloudy with areas of freezing fog developing... Lows from 16 to 22... Tomorrow: A nice Christmas Day... Highs from 39 to 45

ALMANAC - TWIN FALLS

Table with 4 columns: Temperature, Precipitation, Humidity, Barometric Pressure. Includes sunrise and sunset times and pollen count.

IDAHO'S FORECAST

SUN VALLEY, SURROUNDING MTS. Mostly dry and pleasant weather expected today through most of Christmas Day... BOISE Temperatures will warm through Saturday with no precipitation likely... NORTHERN UTAH Mostly dry and warming through the holiday weekend...



MOON PHASES

Table showing moon phases for Dec 26, Jan 3, Jan 10, Jan 17.

MOONRISE AND MOONSET

Table showing moonrise and moonset times for Today, Saturday, Sunday, Monday, Tuesday.

U.V. INDEX

Table showing U.V. Index for Today, Saturday, Sunday, Monday, Tuesday.

REGIONAL FORECAST

Table with 3 columns: City, Today, Tomorrow. Lists cities like Boise, Burley, and others with their respective weather forecasts.

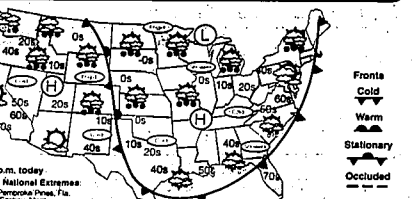
NATIONAL FORECAST

Table with 3 columns: City, Today, Tomorrow. Lists cities like Atlanta, Chicago, and others with their respective weather forecasts.

WORLD FORECAST

Table with 3 columns: City, Today, Tomorrow. Lists cities like London, Tokyo, and others with their respective weather forecasts.

TODAY'S NATIONAL MAP



Comunidad advertisement with phone numbers 733-0931 and 677-4042.

CANADIAN FORECAST

Table with 3 columns: City, Today, Tomorrow. Lists cities like Calgary, Toronto, and others with their respective weather forecasts.

The Times-News

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Agency disputes Martha's critique

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 this week said in a message on her web site saying she had plenty of time "to not eat the bad food" in Alderson, W.Va.



Martha Stewart

Continued from A1 offer a full Italian menu, the basement was home to a successful microbrewing facility, and the upstairs was used for seminars and receptions. At one point, part of the building was occupied by an artists' cooperative.

Brewpub

Continued from A1 offer a full Italian menu, the basement was home to a successful microbrewing facility, and the upstairs was used for seminars and receptions. At one point, part of the building was occupied by an artists' cooperative.

some of those other buildings will be purchased, too. Twin Falls' economic development director, Dave McAlindin, agreed with Woodhead.

Bus attack claims 23 in Honduras

TEGUCIGALPA, Honduras (AP) — Gunmen opened fire on a public bus in northern Honduras late Thursday, killing at least 23 passengers and wounding 16 others, police said.

she remembers paying the \$347.50 fine she received back in June 1993 for failure to purchase a driver's license.

us," Glascock said. "If they don't, we'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."

New restaurant could 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.

Building has 'lots of possibilities'

The Muggers building as it stands now is a "nearly turnkey" operation, Bliss said. Inside, the exposed brick walls and antique copper-stamp accents haven't changed a bit. A sign advertising the bar's very last drink special sits on the counter, and the brass emblems of the drawers of a cigar humidor still bear the names of former patrons.

Collections

Continued from A1 news of the county contracting with the collection agency appeared in The Times-News in January, almost a year before the notices went out, people came in droves to pay their outstanding fines, Glascock said Thursday.

But the burden of proof is on came in to pay a fine, the clerk would more than likely just pull up that particular case number. That file would not show any history of past fines. The clerk would have to pull up the person's entire fine history to see other past fines.

It was a good idea and it still is," English said. "We've really tried to handle it as an economic sanction rather than a criminal one." Judges rarely issue warrants for failure to pay, instead allowing the collections agency to handle it.

Chatter

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

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 hectic travel times to mount an attack.

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# Emergency heating aid funds released

WASHINGTON (AP) - After lawmakers complained that utilities were cutting off heat for thousands of seniors and low-income families before the worst of winter, federal authorities announced Thursday they would release \$100 million in emergency heating aid for the 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 Energy Assistance Program.

"That is in addition to some \$1.2 billion sent to states in Oc-

tobers as part of the Low-Income Heating and Energy Assistance Program. The bulk of the money goes to cold-weather states in the Northeast and Midwest.

Dr. Wade Horn, HHS assistant secretary for children and families, said the move was necessary because many parts of the country have already felt a blast of winter weather. In addition, HHS said it was sending an additional \$65 million in regular LIHEAP funding that had been held up by delays in a congressional spending bill.

Members of Congress had been pressing the Bush admin-

istration to release the full \$300 million heating aid emergency reserve. The issue of when and how much LIHEAP money to release is often a point of contention between northern lawmakers and the White House.

"This fraction of the \$300 million is not sufficient to meet the demands the states are facing," Sen. Jack Reed, D-Ill., said after the release was announced. More than 21,000 Rhode Island families had their utilities shut off as of October because of nonpayment of heating bills, Reed said.

Others, like New York's governor George Pataki, have pressed Congress to put more money in the program.

LIHEAP aids an estimated 4.5 million households each year.

The largest beneficiary of the program, New York, will receive nearly \$17 million of the fresh infusion of aid. Pennsylvania will get \$7.5 million, and Massachusetts \$5.6 million.

Two other cold-weather states, Minnesota and Michigan, each will receive more than \$4 million. Louisiana, by comparison, will get about \$600,000.

# Bush plans to recycle blocked nominees

The Washington Post

WASHINGTON - 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 president's list includes seven appeals court candidates whose nominations were stalled on the Senate floor 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 Justice Priscilla Owen, who was previously nominated for a seat on the U.S. Court of Appeals for the 5th Cir-

cuit; California Supreme Court Justice Roger Brown, previously nominated to a seat on the D.C. Court of Appeals and former associate White House Counsel Brett Kavanaugh, who was also nominated to the D.C. Circuit; William Haynes, who served as Pentagon general counsel when controversial detainee policies were set, will again be a nominee for the 11th Circuit.

Another is former Alabama Attorney General William Pryor, an outspoken opponent of abortion, for the U.S. Court of Appeals for the 11th Circuit in Atlanta. Pryor was appointed by Bush last to 11th Circuit while Congress was out of session; he needs Senate confirmation to stay on the court.



George W. Bush

# Record snowfall impedes travel, shopping

## Weather buries parts of South and Midwest

The Associated Press

A sloppy storm dumped more than a year's worth of snow on parts of the Midwest 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, delayed flights ahead of a holiday weekend in which a record 62 million were expected to travel and three gift package deliveries into disarray for the nation's three largest package shippers.

National Guardsmen rescued more than 100 motorists who had been stranded overnight along a snowy 25-mile stretch of Interstate 64 in southwestern Indiana, and were looking for more people stuck.

"I was scared, wondering about the kids. How was I going



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

to feed them," said Mary Grudock, a 28-year-old waitress from Hartford, Ky., who was stranded on the interstate in Evansville, Ind.

Her car was out of gas, and she and her two children had finished their only food - a bag of poultry - as they waited for help. 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 I-71 banded down in the lobby and hallways at the Best Western Executive Inn at Carrollton. Wreay travelers were sprawled across chairs in the dining room; others curled up in corners or under stalls, using rolled-up towels as pillows.

Paducah, Ky., received 14

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

The winter weather hampered efforts to wrap up holiday shopping.

Kashiba 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 Thursday. The 14-year-old girl took a bus downtown to finish her Christmas 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 place. For the first time I sort of glad I'm too young to drive."

Ellen 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.

# Former governor pleads guilty

NEW HAVEN, Conn. (AP) - Six months after being driven from office by scandal, former Gov. John G. Rowland pleaded guilty 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.

Rowland, 47, will probably get 15 to 21 months in federal prison, prosecutors say.

"The once-popular three-term Republican had maintained for months that the businessman and cronies who lavished gifts on him had received nothing in exchange. With a single word, Thursday, he changed all that: 'Guilty,' he told the court, his attorney's hand on his back as he spoke.

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

"Obviously, mistakes have been made throughout the last 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 in 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 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 come, we were never really prepared for the reality of it," said Gov. M. Jodi Bell, who replaced Rowland. "Today the state of Connecticut was humiliated, and I, as John Rowland's 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 July 1 amid a gathering drive in the Legislature to impeach him.

# Men convicted in immigrants' death

HOUSTON - Two men were convicted Thursday for their role in the nation's deadliest human smuggling attempt - a journey that ended in the deaths of 19 illegal immigrants crammed in a sweltering tractor-trailer.

Victor Jesus Rodriguez and Freddy Giovanni Garcia Tobar each faced 58 counts. They were found guilty of the serious charge, conspiracy, and 19 counts of aiding in the transport of immigrants that results in 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 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 were found dead inside the trailer. Two died later.

The jury reached its verdict on its fifth day of deliberations.

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 "insigator" 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.

A federal magistrate ordered Walsh held without bail.

Six young men in all have charged in the Dec. 6 string of fires that destroyed 10 houses and damaged 166 others at the Hunters Brooke community, an upscale development under construction.

lingest 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 Sean Cahill said Wednesday.

Blackwell's trial has been postponed five times, and the archdiocese received word from Rome just before one of its previous trial dates. Cahill 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.

# Prosecutor: Suspect had pyrotechnic experience

GREENBELT, Md. - An amusement park employee with a background in pyrotechnics was the ringleader in a \$10 million arson spree at a subur-

Pope defrocks priest shot by his alleged victim

BALTIMORE (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 trial Jan. 3 on four counts of child sexual abuse against Dontee Stokes.

Blackwell was shot by Stokes in May 2002, in the midst of the national scandal involving Catholic priests. In the aftermath, Baltimore prosecutors reviewed Stokes' allegations and charged the priest with pro-

Panhandler killed outside busy department store

PORTLAND, Ore. - A man who witnesses say was panhandling outside a busy downtown department store was shot to death Thursday in front of horrified holiday shoppers. A suspect was quickly arrested.

Witnesses said the gunman fired three shots at the victim, then calmly walked away.

Police said the motive for the shooting was not immediately known.

KPAM radio reported that witnesses said the victim had been panhandling in front of the landmark Meier & Frank store. Sgt. Brian Schnauz, police spokesman, told The Associated Press he could not confirm that.

- compiled from wire reports

# Medicare will start paying for counseling to help smokers quit

WASHINGTON (AP) - Medicare said Thursday it intends to pay for counseling to help some of the nation's million older smokers kick the habit.

Medicare beneficiaries who smoke and have smoking-related diseases or take certain medicines will be eligible for Medicare-covered counseling when the proposal takes effect next year, Medicare chief Mark McClellan said coverage would begin no later than the end of March.

Medicare would pay for up to four counseling sessions. If that doesn't suffice, smokers could get a second round of counseling.

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

and some prescription drugs.

Medicare is the government health program for 42 million older and disabled Americans - will cover prescription medicines beginning in 2006.

"Quitting is hard, but counseling is a proven means of helping smokers 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 \$14 billion a year.

Over 10 years, about 187,000 people would quit because of the counseling, according to the Campaign for Tobacco-Free Kids.

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The lobbies of First Federal branch offices will be closed on Friday, December 24, 2004 for the Christmas holiday weekend.

To serve our customers...drive-ins will be open until 2:00 pm.

We will resume normal business hours on Monday, December 27.

From all of us at First Federal...Merry Christmas!

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MORNING BREAK

- ACROSS**  
 1 Creighton  
 6 Surf suds  
 10 Invitation letters  
 14 1973 Oscar winner O'Neal  
 15 Human parasites  
 16 Midwest state  
 17 Opposite of dipsomaniac  
 19 Ram or bull  
 20 Quarrel  
 21 Table wine  
 22 Team totem  
 27 Natural gas constituent  
 29 Groundless  
 30 Checkup pic  
 31 Was endowed with  
 34 Customs  
 35 Bar-code swipes  
 36 Night bird  
 37 Forehead  
 38 Score unit  
 39 Slaughter  
 40 Sci 101 locale  
 41 Sea dogs  
 42 Training group  
 43 Squeeze out, as a living  
 44 "Dies"  
 45 Tears to pieces  
 46 Common reptile  
 48 Kidnapped heiress Patty  
 49 Hogwash  
 51 Unsettled  
 52 Off-quoted  
 53 Railroad vehicle  
 60 Queens stadium  
 61 Online auction site  
 62 Possessed  
 63 Court dividers  
 64 Caps  
 65 Silverheels role

- DOWN**  
 1 Ex-Giant Mel  
 2 Marsh or West  
 3 Supped  
 4 Palm shelter  
 5 Passionate  
 6 Fly in the ointment  
 7 Tin Man's cure-all  
 8 "The \_\_\_ of Venice"  
 10 Julius Caesar, for one  
 11 One with stock  
 12 Wretchedly bad  
 13 Verse maker  
 18 Handy bag  
 22 Big name in potato chips  
 23 Speak shyly  
 24 Parka  
 25 High-intensity flashing beam  
 26 Shipmates  
 27 Acog  
 28 Part of TWA  
 32 Grants  
 33 Most foxy  
 35 Kind of energy  
 38 Type of parking

**Thursday's Puzzle Solved**

|   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |  |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|--|
| B | A | T | T | S | P | O | C | K | G | Y | M |   |   |  |
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**Holiday responsibilities will put Libra's pleasure on hold**

IF DECEMBER 24 IS YOUR BIRTHDAY... New friends, new hopes and new dreams surround you. Take these and build on them in the year ahead. April and May could bring a heightened sense of romance and a surge of popularity, so plan to capitalize on this in both business and your personal life. Brief roadblocks could slow you down in August, but by this time next year your plans and dreams can come true as helpful opportunities appear and there is a perfect chance to obtain permanent happiness.

**ARIES** (March 21-April 19): You may need to polish your shoes or straighten your tie to please that special someone who wants to show you off to family or friends. Give in gracefully to senseless rules — you can throw caution to the winds later tonight.

**TAURUS** (April 20-May 20): Awkwardness, formalities, or mistakes can put a brief dampening effect on holiday festivities later this evening. If you forgot to bring a gift for someone, there's always a checkbook or cash for a quick fix.

**GEMINI** (May 21-June 20): A romantic atmosphere can be enhanced with candles and soft music. Fulfill holiday expectations by being generous when others are thrifty.

**HOROSCOPE**  
 Jeraldine Saunders

**CANCER** (June 21-July 22): Tied in the mood by surrealizing yourself with a pleasant atmosphere, holiday music and the glow of Christmas tree lights can create a heartwarming mood. Playing Santa Claus can furnish first-hand 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 fresh purpose and give you something special to share in the future.

**VIRGO** (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Show your appreciation by sharing 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 old ones and create a circle of good will to enhance your happiness.

**SAGITTARIUS** (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 memories of holiday cheer by taking photos or showing off your special talents. Employ tact and diplomacy if you run into Mr. or Mrs. Scrooge. 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 Gogh woke up and cut off his ear. He wrapped it in paper and gave it to "Rachel," a favorite at the brothel that he frequented, telling her "Guard this object carefully." She opened the wrapper and fainted before calling for the local constable.

If you lived in Puritan England or America in the 1640s, it would be against the law to celebrate Christmas tomorrow. Bailing against "the long-eating, hard-drinking, lewd-gaming and mad Mirth of Christmas," they specifically outlawed singing Christmas carols, possessing a Christmas tree, baking mince pies or holding Christmas church services.

Likewise, for centuries after Jesus' life, church elders didn't allow Christmas celebrations, saying that it would be sinful to celebrate his birthday "as if he were a Pharaoh." They didn't celebrate Christmas until A.D. 336.



**RANDOM KNIGHTS OF FACINNES**  
 Jack Mingo  
 Erin Barrett

If you're watching for Rudolph's nose on Christmas Eve, note that he was originally "Hollo in Red-Nosed Reindeer." Montgomery Ward management wanted an inexpensive premium to give their patrons in 1939, so they assigned advertising writer Robert May the job. They could illustrate and hand out. They nicknamed "Hollo," and then "Reginald" but accepted "Rudolph" and distributed 2.4 million copies. In 1947, Johnny Marks put the poem to music. The Jehovah's Witnesses don't celebrate Christmas or any other holiday except the Last Supper.

**Woman made right decision about mom**

**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 so emotionally abusive and neglectful. She frequently called me filthy names, made bizarre accusations that had no basis in truth, told me I was a "mistake," 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 brother is in denial about the abuse and insists that I forgive her and rebuild our relationship. He claims that she's sorry and she misses me.

I recently traveled back to my hometown and visited my mother. She treated me as though I were a stranger. Afterward, I felt that I could move on, knowing I had done the right thing in deciding to cut her out of my life. Now the rest of the family has turned their backs on me. I would like to maintain a personal relationship with them, but they think I'm a bad person for no longer having a relationship with my mother. Do you have any advice?

— LEFT IN THE COLD IN DULUTH

**DEAR LEFT IN THE COLD:** Only this: If the price of having a relationship with your family is tolerating their emotional blackmail and more abuse from your mother, the price is too high.



**DEAR ABBY**  
 Jeanne Phillips

placement, and I usually offer her \$20 in compensation. However, she expects me to pay at least half for my child's accidents.

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 pay the day-care provider should cover the cost of the toys — they are a part of her cost of doing-business. It is interesting that your day-care provider has her charges playing on her carpets, and not in an area that is easier to keep clean and sanitized. Is this provider a licensed and insured day-care provider? If she is not, it's time to give some serious consideration to what might happen if your child were injured on her property. Readers, what do you think of this?

**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 people. However, it is upsetting to our small children, as well as my husband and me, to hear the poor animal cry. We can't imagine spending the next 10 years like this. What do you recommend 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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NATION/WORLD

# Fighting erupts in Fallujah

Three Marines die in action

Knight Ridder News Service



AP Photo

FALLUJAH, Iraq — Hundreds of residents who returned to this war-ravaged city Thursday found that the battle of Fallujah 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 gun fire echoed through the mostly empty streets, and loud booms could be heard inside the city at nightfall. Early in the day, U.S. forces launched an airstrike on an apartment building in the northern section of the city after getting into a gun 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 fled last month's U.S. offensive started returning.

Away from the fighting, the interim Iraqi government and U.S. Marines 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, destroyed 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 Arali, 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 operations officers blared

messages in Arabic on loudspeakers on behalf of the Iraqi government, welcoming residents back to Fallujah and acknowledging the city was in ruins. The message also asked the residents to be patient as Iraqi and American officials go about repairing the city.

Marine officials say they expect a greater number of people to flock to the city in coming days after word of Fallujah's opening spreads during Friday prayers.

A new sector is 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 district 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.

## Military says bomber wore an Iraqi uniform

BAGHDAD, Iraq (AP) — The suicide bomber believed to have blown himself up in a U.S. military dining tent near Mosul this week, killing more than 20 people, was probably wearing an Iraqi military uniform, the U.S. military said Thursday.

The top U.S. general in northern Iraq acknowledged that the bomber may have gotten through the vetting process conducted by U.S. and Iraqi authorities to check the backgrounds of Iraqis joining the security services.

Lt. Col. Paul Hastings, 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 FBI is also participating in the probe. "He'll initiate an investigation...then we will be in a better position to find out what happened," Hastings said in a telephone interview.

The Ansar al-Sunnah Army, the military group that earlier claimed responsibility for the attack, issued a new statement reiterating that it was a suicide bombing.

"God enabled one of your martyr brothers to plunge into God's enemies inside their forts, killing and injuring hundreds," the group said in a statement posted on its Web site Thursday. "We don't know how they can be so stupid that until now they have not figured out the type of the strike that hit them."

## Rumsfeld makes surprise visit

MOSUL, Iraq (AP) — U.S. Defense Secretary Donald H. Rumsfeld visited wounded soldiers and brought holiday greetings on Christmas Eve amid tight security at an air base in northern Iraq where an insurgent's attack killed 14 U.S. troops and eight other people earlier this week.

Hoping to demonstrate compassion for the troops' sacrifices, Rumsfeld lunched in darkness and walked immediately from his plane to a combat surgical 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 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 flight from Washington.

In an interview aboard the C-17 cargo plane that brought him to Mosul, Rumsfeld said he'd 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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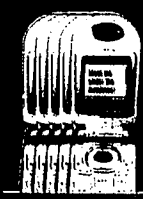
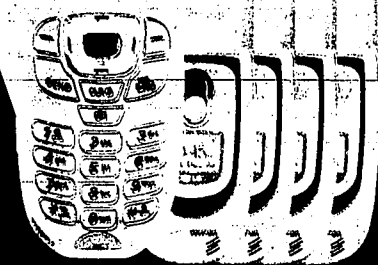


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## EDITORIAL

### Yes Virginia, even today there is a Santa Claus

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

Church, and his eloquent reply was published that Christmas of 1897.

As is our usual custom, The Times-News is pleased to reprint Church's wisdom on yet another Christmas Eve.

**W**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 says 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  
115 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 ours man 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 Virgins. There would be no child-like faith then, no po-

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 faeries! You might get your papa to hire men to watch in all the chimneys on Christmas Eve to catch Santa Claus; but even if they did not see Santa Claus coming down, what would that prove? Nobody sees 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. Did 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 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 times thousand years from now, he will continue to make glad the heart of childhood.

## MERRY CHRISTMAS



### The sensible greeting for Christmas

GARY LAWRENCE

**I**f 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 worshipped flying reindeer, bearded Gerdnigs getting run over by them, and fretted about one with a red nose beset by sibling rivalry issues.

With professorial pomposity, they will prattle on about our elves, snowmen, bells, trees, toys, gingerbread and eggnog. And they won't have the foggiest notion about what put the whole holiday 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 themselves.

Eighty-two percent of us are Christians in this nation, but we're wimps. 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.

If my Jewish friends are comfortable with me saying Merry Christmas, why can't they Christians aren't, there's something wrong in Christendom.

All of which reminds me of something Ted Koppel did on ABC's "Nightline" years ago. He signed off his Christmas Eve program this way:

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 name of news. Usually we mumble something about the importance of an event — or its relevance or timeliness, hoping all the while that no one will ask 'important or relevant to whom?' As for timeliness, all that means, of course, is that something happened recently. Well, the event that Christians around the world celebrate this evening and tomorrow did not, of course, happen recently. It was relevant (at the time) to only the tiniest handful of people; and as for its importance, I think most of us in the news business would have to concede that, had we been there nineteen hundred and eighty-two years ago in Bethlehem, we would probably have overlooked the event. Which says something about what's news — and what's important. From all of us at "Nightline," Merry Christmas.

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 name of news. Usually we mumble something about the importance of an event — or its relevance or timeliness, hoping all the while that no one will ask 'important or relevant to whom?' As for timeliness, all that means, of course, is that something happened recently. Well, the event that Christians around the world celebrate this evening and tomorrow did not, of course, happen recently. It was relevant (at the time) to only the tiniest handful of people; and as for its importance, I think most of us in the news business would have to concede that, had we been there nineteen hundred and eighty-two years ago in Bethlehem, we would probably have overlooked the event. Which says something about what's news — and what's important. From all of us at "Nightline," Merry Christmas.

The Jewish anchor of "Nightline" can't wish his audience Merry Christmas, why can't Christians? If I say Merry Christmas to someone who gets offended because he thinks I'm "pushing my values," isn't that evidence that he has a very weak value structure? Imagine the reverse situation: If someone wished me a Happy Hanukkah or Happy Kwanzaa, would I be offended? Absolutely not. I would take it as a compliment on my openness.

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

Imagine the reverse situation: If someone wished me a Happy Hanukkah or Happy Kwanzaa, would I be offended? Absolutely not. I would take it as a compliment on my openness.

As always, what was news and what was important were in stark contrast this year. We had plenty of news, but I 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 a political pollster. The diatribes of 2004 ridiculed, demeaned and trivialized religious belief and attacked those who defer to 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 important event in Christian history — one that carries with it the promise of peace on Earth and goodwill toward all. Isn't it time to take a stand?

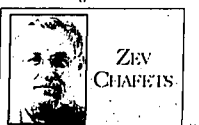
Merry Christmas, everyone.

Gary Lawrence is a Republican pollster in Orange County, Calif.

### Holiday ideas you can book on

**I**f you've been thinking what kind of Christmas present I'd like to give my readers. Something that's worthwhile and personal and, of course, doesn't cost money.

After much prayer and reflection, I've come up with the perfect answer: the gift of my 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 squandered) in ways that aren't of much use to you. With the exception are the hours I spent reading books.

I don't want to get devious-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, too). But through trial and error, I have also come across some very interesting and entertaining books in 2004. In the spirit of the holiday season, permit me to share:

"Chronicles," by Bob Dylan. I'm not a big Dylan fan. I always thought he was pretentious. But this book is funny, friendly and occasionally amazing. One of Dylan's early inspirations was wrestling icon Gorgeous George. He's a fan of Joe Frazier, Bobby Vee and Frank Sinatra Jr. He hated hippies. All in all, this is the best, most idiosyncratic rock-'n'-roll autobiography since Chuck Berry.

"Judging Thomas," by Ken Fosskett. If you think Clarence Thomas is an arid, black Negro conked in a GOP hat, read this book and you won't think so anymore.

"Born Fighting: How the Scots-Irish Shaped America," by James Webb. Here is a new way of understanding ethnic politics, which is to say, U.S. politics. Read it if you want to know why John Kerry never had a chance. It's about the Scots-Irish. The Prison Diary of Elaine Bartlett," by Jennifer Gonnerman. This is an honest look at the life of a woman who got arrested for protesting against the one-time cocaine sale. Gonnerman doesn't try to make you feel sorry for Elaine Bartlett, and she doesn't preach about the absurdity of the Rockefeller drug laws. She just tells the story.

"Ted Williams: The Biography of an American Hero," by Leigh Montville. Boston killed the Yankees and won the Series. If you want revenge, this book on the King of the Red Sox ought to do the trick. Montville admires Williams, but he can't keep Teddy Ballgame from coming across as a self-absorbed jerk with some of the creepiest kids this side of the Mendocino brothers.

"The Paradise on the Couch: 27 Men Try Really Hard to Explain Their Feelings About Love, Loss, Fatherhood and Freedom," edited by Daniel Jones. This is a collection of 27 little tite put you off. These are the kind of mostly true stories guys tell their friends when they're too drunk to remember. When sober, they can make a man laugh and win the same sex essays less entertaining but far more educational.

"Mr. Paradise," by Elmore Leonard. This is the best fiction on my list, because I didn't fly much in 2004. But the master has written, by my count, 33 books, and that's only "Mr. Paradise," you will want to get your hands on all of them. Start with the novels set in Detroit.

I hope this gift of used time comes in handy. God bless you, one and all.

Zev Chafets is a columnist for the New York Daily News.

## The Times-News

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

## LETTERS

wishes for a Happy New Year and many years to come with the freedoms that we do enjoy.  
ROYANNE DIMOND  
Burling

### Religion of liberty united nation's founders

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. St. Augustine, which denied freedom of religious expression as do the so-called "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 Independ-

### Write to us

The 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

with false names will be permanently barred from publication. Letters may be brought to our Twin Falls or Burley office; mailed to P.O. Box 548, Twin Falls, ID 83303; faxed to (208) 734-5538; or e-mailed to letters@magicalvalley.com.

dence and the U.S. Constitution. These self-evident truths common to all the founders included a respect for a creator as supreme power in the universe, obedience to no man-made code such as the Ten Commandments, responsibility of mankind toward his fellow man (the Golden Rule), belief in life-after-death and a judgment day in the next life.

The founders, including Washington, Jefferson, 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.

As we celebrate Christmas and exchange gifts, let us remember 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 worth.  
AARON LARP  
Twin Falls

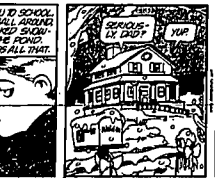
### The gift of freedom rings strong at Christmas

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 celebrate Christmas in honor of the birth of Christ our savior. I am grateful for the acts of kindness shown to others, which are considerably more during the holiday season. Over the years, my children and I have been the recipients of many acts of kindness. I am

### Doonesbury



### By Garry Trudeau



### Mallard Fillmore



### By Bruce Tinsley



### By Bruce Tinsley

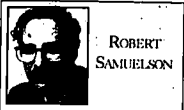


### By Bruce Tinsley



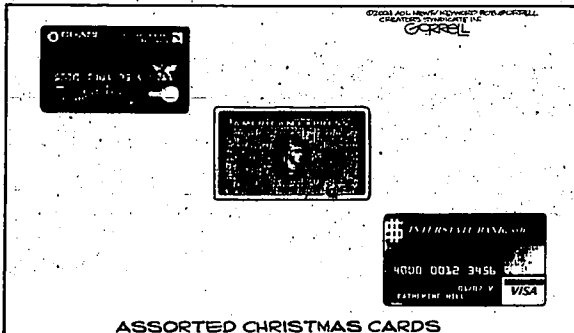
# The economy could go anywhere in 2005

President Bush called an "economic 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. Increases



ROBERT SAMUELSON

about 18 percent. Capitalism isn't supposed to work this way. Soaring profits usually signal new investment 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 aren't 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 "risk aversion" — a fancy phrase for caution. In the late 1990s, the idea of risk virtually vanished.



ASSORTED CHRISTMAS CARDS

The business cycle was dead; stocks would always rise; globalization was good; the Internet was empowering; and CEOs were heroes. Anybody could do anything. Not to worry. Now, risk is revived with a vengeance. Executives often blame their new caution on Sarbanes-Oxley, the federal law requiring companies to maintain stricter 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 elite has been scarred by the tech "bubble," the recession, 9/11 and corporate scandals. Everything has changed. The business cycle endures; stocks fall; globaliza-

tion is hazardous (aka, terrorism and high oil prices); the Internet is unnerving; and CEOs are felons. Greater profitability does not, in this climate, automatically become a springboard for action. Companies are not entirely immobilized. But there are higher hurdles, both psychologically and financially, for undertaking new expansions or hiring lots of new workers. "Businesses just love these (profit) margins," says Mark Zandi of Economy.com. "They're not going to sacrifice margins" with risky new investments. In the last year, after-tax profits represented 7.7 percent of national income. Zandi reports that's the highest since 1965. One way to guard profit margins is to merge with competitors, striving for cost

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 & Poor's 500 index will total \$185 billion, up from \$161 billion in 2003, says S&P's Howard Silverblatt and the 2004 figures exclude Microsoft's one-time special dividend of \$32 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

1999, the comparable figure was \$260 billion. Some high-tech firms are especially flush: Dell has \$8.3 billion; Intel, \$15.8 billion; and Microsoft, \$24.7 billion. Companies are stockpiling against future setbacks, opportunities, or both. There are two ways to look at the new "risk aversion." One is that it's healthy. Everyone realizes that the wild spending of the late 1990s was wasteful. Why invest more when many industries still have surplus capacity? (Note: In November, the Federal Reserve's capacity utilization index stood at 77.6, well below the 81.1 average from 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 it's 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 by cutting new hiring and investment. The slowdown would feed on itself. Of these possibilities, conventional wisdom favors the first. In 2005, the economy is expected to continue a slide, 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 euphoria became self-fulfilling — disastrously 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.

## LETTERS

### Christmas joy is found when you seek for it

I keep hearing concerns about "Christ" missing from Christmas. Look harder — God is here if we take time to see him. He worked with the adults who coordinated the children's program about Mary, Joseph and baby Jesus. He came with the audience that Sunday morning. He performed at the musical Christmas Cantata celebrating the story of Christ's birth in song. He sat with that audience as well. He helped the volunteers gathering donations and toys for families in need. You won't see him on television while watching "Bad Santa," but there are multiple versions of the "Christmas Carol" and other movies which inspire us to remember God's 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 he's happier with "Happy Holidays" when parents buy items that teach his children how to shoot each other on video games, show promiscuous sex

on DVDs, or celebrate poor morals and values. God is with us everywhere all year long. He is with us during Sunday School and church. He is with the teachers of our children 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 families without them. We should need Christmas or Easter to remind ourselves of his gifts and teachings. He gave us 365 days of the year to celebrate him. "Christ" isn't missing from "Christmas" — we are the 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 doesn't expect the schools or the government or the chamber of commerce to tell us of his love. We can go to church and cele-

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

**Hasty decisions keep coming from City Council**  
Once again, the Twin Falls City Council has made a rash decision based on the complaints of a few without giving it complete thought. Why would an individual business need to be dicated on how it handles its money by city government? How many times did our council change its mind concerning the speed zones around the schools? At least three. What does it cost the taxpayers each time a new sign needs to be made or to pay an employee to erect a new sign? Now they want to pay a new employee to patrol Blue Lakes

Boulevard. For what, I have no idea. To remove the sign or the big Santa? I personally think almost every merchant and business on Blue Lakes does a fine job of keeping their property clean and maintained. We need another employee for this? Did our council think about 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 on Dec. 18, "Fresh challenges arise in evolution debate," the article doesn't mention the real challenges, which are coming from the scientific community. Those doing the challenging can hardly be said to do so because of "deficiencies in their own education," since they hold advanced degrees in the hard sciences. For more information, check out the Intelligent Design movement. BERNICE KRAHN Fairfield

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CHRISTMAS WITH THE MORMON TABERNAACLE CHOIR is sponsored by BYU Idaho.

**Give you heart away**

More folks are finding better ways to give on Christmas.

**Saturday in Religion**

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**A. Often, 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 carpal tunnel syndrome to a herniated 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!

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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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Dance starts at 8:30

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# NEXT GENERATION EVENT

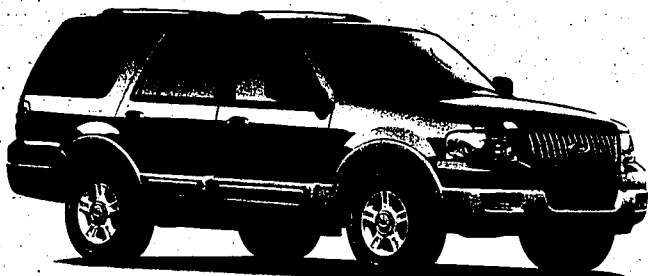


'04 EXPLORER

**\$5000** CASH BACK

**\$1000** BONUS CASH

**\$6000** TOTAL CASH BACK

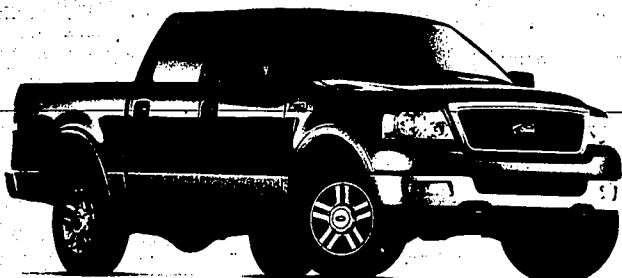


'04 EXPEDITION

**\$4500** CASH BACK

**\$1000** BONUS CASH

**\$5500** TOTAL CASH BACK

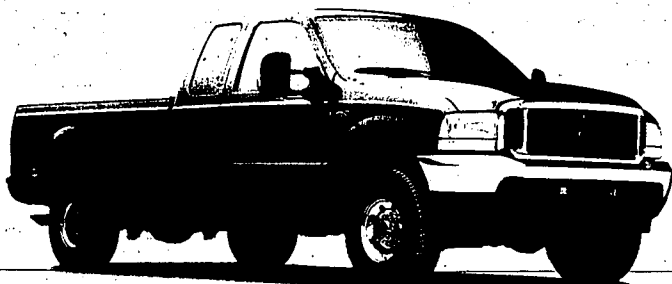


'04 F-150

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**\$5000** TOTAL CASH BACK



'04 SUPER DUTY

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NOT ALL BUYERS WILL QUALIFY. Ford Motor Credit Company cash valid with approved financing through Ford Credit. \$6000 cash incentive valid on 2004 Explorer and 2004 Explorer A-Door models. Offer also includes \$1000 FMCC bonus cash. Customer must take new retail delivery from U.S. Ford Dealer before 1/3/05. U.S. residency restrictions apply. For complete incentive details, see your local Ford Dealer. Must take new retail delivery from dealer good by 1/3/05. Not all incentives can be redeemed together. Your local dealer is your best source for information about incentives.



## AROUND THE VALLEY

### Many offices will be closed today

**TWIN FALLS** — Many offices, agencies and places of business will be closed today for Christmas Eve. Here's a rundown of what's closed and open:

- City and county offices will be closed.
- 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 will close early.
- Twin Falls Public Library will be closed.
- YMCA/Twin Falls 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 its doors at 2 p.m. Newsroom personnel will remain available by phone until 6 p.m.

### Class encourages people to reach goals

**TWIN FALLS** — The Community Education Center at the College of Southern Idaho is offering a motivational workshop early in the spring semester. "Bungee Jump Your Dreams" is a three-hour seminar that will 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 decisions to pave the way for a brighter future.

Mark Bork will be the instructor. Bork has experience as a radio disk jockey, high school teacher, commercial writer and marketing director. For the past 15 years he has produced and directed numerous films and television programs. He is the owner and president of Anmark Productions, a video production and communications company. He holds a bachelor's degree in telecommunications from Arizona State University and a master's degree in film communication from Regent University.

Participants may choose from three time slots for the seminar: from 6 to 9 p.m. Jan. 18, 6 to 9 p.m. Jan. 20 or 9 a.m. to noon Jan. 22. The fee is \$30 plus \$5 for materials payable to the instructor.

For more information or to register, call 732-6290 or 732-6288.

### City's decorations won't be lit on street

**CASTLEFORD** — Castleford's street lights will hopefully shine on the city's until-Christmas decorations.

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've get charged for our street lights," Mayor Rita Ruffing said. "So we will not have lighted Christmas decorations. They show up in the daylight and keep the street lights will shine on them at night."

The Castleford Men's Club purchased the used decorations from Buhl for \$500.

— compiled from staff reports

### Snowpack levels

| Watershed          | % Avg. | % Norm. |
|--------------------|--------|---------|
| Salmon             | 77%    | 27%     |
| Big Wood           | 81%    | 26%     |
| Little Wood        | 77%    | 26%     |
| Big Lost           | 80%    | 27%     |
| Little Lost        | 76%    | 28%     |
| Henry's Fork/Teton | 80%    | 28%     |
| Upper Snake Basin  | 72%    | 26%     |
| Oakley             | 110%   | 35%     |
| Salmon Falls       | 90%    | 33%     |

As of Dec. 23

\*A comparison of basin snowpack, on the day, with the long-term average. An indicator of how snowpack for the entire snow season, which peaks in March, will compare to the long-term average.

# Idaho Power expands credit deal

## Commission approves plan to offer irrigators credit

The Associated Press

**BOISE** — Idaho Power will give irrigators credits for letting the utility interrupt their power during the summer for a second straight year to help cut energy costs and reduce the need for new plants.

The Idaho Public Utilities Commission approved an ex-

panded version of the program on Thursday.

Next summer, volunteer irrigators can sign up to have their power shut off from 1 p.m. and 4 p.m. up to three days a week.

The irrigation program is one of six Idaho Power projects meant to boost the utility's efficiency over the next decade. Altogether, savings from the

programs, which include an air-conditioner recycling project, are meant to free up as much as 124 megawatts of electricity capacity at peak use hours — enough to light up 93,000 Idaho homes.

"To keep the peak load down and keep the load manageable, it helps keep us from having to build more power plants or purchasing more power," said spokeswoman Anne Aleksis. "It's not like we have excess capacity."

Idaho Power says the S-I-A million it plans to spend on its

so-called "irrigation peak clipping program" next summer will provide it with 40 megawatts of additional capacity during high-use hours.

That's a bargain compared with the cost of building new power stations, said Darlene Nemlich, 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 megawatts of power. But it's costing Idaho's largest utility

\$1 billion. In addition, the plant will have to be sited, built and operated, and it will have to be financed. It's on the order of \$1 billion, she said.

Efficiency programs like the one being approved here will help offset some of the cost of the new plant, she said.

Idaho Power's efficiency programs have helped it avoid building new plants, she said. "It's a very important part of our strategy," she said.

# 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 five miles southwest of Gooding on Friday.

## Fire spreads from load of hay to log cabin

By Troy Foster and Rebecca Mooney Times-News writers

**GOODING** — "There'll be an extra chill in the air for one Magic Valley family this Christmas."

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 pickup was holding a load of hay, too, which the flames seized.

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 machine. I've had bad things happen to me in my life, so this is minor," a mother cool and calm Curtis said several hours later.

Eighteen firefighters responded to the home just after 2 p.m., along with two fire engines, a tanker and a water tender.

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

with the pickup's motor. "Everything's shoked up real bad," 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."

Curtis 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 lawnmower.

"When I was trying to start the lawnmower something exploded under the pickup so I thought I shouldn't be there and I got out," Curtis said. "It was the next day, lawn mower in the world, I'm crushed."

But Curtis said she's keeping things in perspective. She and her husband Richard will move next door for the time being and live with their son.

And besides, Sue Curtis is well covered.

She's an insurance saleswoman for Millley Realty and Insurance.

"Insurance is very, very important," Curtis said. "Everyone should make sure they're covered for replacement costs. If they would like a quote they can always call me."

## 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 operating bases in Iraq.

Capt. Monte Hibbert, public affairs officer for the 116th, gave *The Times-News* an update on the troops in a Thursday e-mail.

Each base is equipped with phones, Internet cafes, post offices, chapels, and numerous other shopping and recreational facilities that provide many options to soldiers looking for ways to stay connected during the holiday season, Hibbert wrote.

"Even though I am over here, my friend, Donna Patton, is taking care of the families over in Hazelton," Sullivan told Hibbert. Soldiers are planning to attend a holiday party at the dining facility for Christmas



Spc. Anislee Luttmer of Twin Falls made her room at Warrior, a forward operating base in Kirkuk, Iraq, a little more festive by decorating her locker with Christmas cards.

Photo courtesy of Capt. Monte Hibbert

and a holiday party at the dining facility for Christmas

and a holiday party at the dining facility for Christmas

and a holiday party at the dining facility for Christmas

## Buhl School District ditches ISIMS program

Senator tells school officials program was a 'wreck'

By Sandra Wisecaver Times-News correspondent

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

The Buhl 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 Information formation.

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

"Our teachers are doing backflips over going back to SASI," he said.

Buhl was one of 29 Idaho schools selected for the ISIMS phase one program.

But the IA and Kathryn Albertson Foundation has put the second and third phases on hold because of extraordinary costs and technical problems in phase one.

The program is now being reevaluated.

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

they want it to do," said Moon. The foundation has promised \$10 million of the \$180 million needed. The state was going to pay the rest.

ISIMS was going to be a repository of student information, accessible to all schools statewide. It was supposed to be a central database for all schools.

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MAGIC VALLEY

OBITUARIES

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

Clarinda Merrill Green

Clarinda Merrill Green, a 106-year-old Burley resident, died Wednesday, Dec. 22, 2004. She was born Aug. 3, 1898, in Richmond, Utah, the daughter of William and Lucy Cardon Merrill. She was the fifth of nine children. She received her education in Richmond and attended Brigham Young University. She married Davis Green in the Logan Temple in 1924 and moved to Paul where they farmed. Her husband preceded her in death in 1967, and in 1977, she moved to Burley next to her daughter. Clarinda was an active member of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints and a member of the Daughters of Utah Pioneers. She was active in the Relief Society and had served in both ward and stake positions. She enjoyed quilting and crocheting. She also enjoyed



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

Lucy Jensen all of Burley; an daughter-in-law Joann Jackson of Centerville, Utah; 25 grandchildren; 88 great grandchildren; and 22 great-great-grandchildren. In addition to her husband, she was preceded in death by her parents; two sons, Davis Merrill Green and Averil Merrill Green; four brothers, Paul, Jack, Keith and Arnie; and four sisters, Kathleen, Elsie, Beryl and Leah. A funeral will be held at 11 a.m. Monday, Dec. 27, 2004, at The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints Burley West Stake Center, 2420 Parke Ave. Burley, Idaho. Burial will be in the Paul Cemetery. Friends may call from 9:30 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 Albion resident, left this world on Tuesday, Dec. 21, 2004, at Cassia Regional Medical Center in Burley. He was born Feb. 7, 1909, in Elba, the son of William A. and Chae Beecher Ward. He attended elementary school in Elba, but had to leave for his high school education which he received in Logan and then Brigham City, Utah, graduating from Box Elder High School in 1927. He received his bachelor's degree from Utah 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, 1939, 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 Albion where he lived the rest of his life. He was an active member of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints and at the time of his death he was serving in many capacities in the church, including Stake Sunday School Superintendent in the Raft River Stake for 12 years and he

later served on the high council of that stake. Teaching school occupied much of his time as he taught in Pogram, Pocatello, Elba, and spent 22 years before his retirement teaching at Raft River High School. After his retirement he and his wife served an 18 month mission for his church in Iowa, Kansas and South Dakota. Survivors include his wife, Della of Albion; a brother, Art (Beth) Ward of Elba; numerous nieces and nephews, Paul

Ward of Elba, Joyce Sweep, Carol Warren and Arley Cahoon all of Burley, Michael B. Smith and North Olmsted, Ohio, Larry Johnson of Springville, Utah, Tanya Munson, and Keith Johnson both of St. George, Utah, Nancy Cranney and Simon Kimber both of Oakley, Karen Jones and Gene Wickel both of Malta, Ardel Wickel of Declo, Jim Wickel of Connor Creek, Ronnie Cahoon of Albion, Lee Wickel of Lyman, Wyo., and Gary Wickel of Boise. He was preceded in death by his parents; two sisters, Lola Rae Smith and Sylvia Johnson; and two nephews, Ray Ward Smith and Keith Cahoon. A funeral will be held at 11 a.m. Monday, Dec. 27, 2004, at The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints Albion Ward Chapel, with Bishop Kay Powell officiating. Burial will be in the Grandview Cemetery in Elba. Friends may call from 6 to 8 p.m. on Sunday at Payne Mortuary, 221 W. Main St. in Burley, and from 10 to 10:45 a.m. prior to the funeral on Monday at the church.

Edmond Felix Philippet



Edmond Felix Philippet, 87, of Twin Falls, died Sunday, Dec. 19, 2004, at his home. He was born Jan. 15, 1917, in Oakland, Calif. He was raised in the San Francisco area. He served in the U.S. Navy during World War II. In 1947, he opened Shadowbrook Restaurant, a well-known eating establishment in Capitola, Calif. He also owned the Blue Dolphin Room at the Outrigger Hotel on Midkidd Road in 1960. He moved to Twin Falls, Mr. Philippet was a member of the Masonic Lodge and had served as chaplain. He is survived by his ex-wife, Virginia Philippet of Twin Falls;

Philippet of Placerville, Calif., and Chermie V. Philippet of Twin Falls; four grandchildren, Ernest Archer of Bonaire, Calif., Armand Archer of San Francisco, Calif., Joel Archer of Santa Cruz, Calif., and Allison Archer of Daytona Beach, Fla.; and by one niece and one nephew. He was preceded in death by his parents and one brother. A memorial 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 Ring Christensen, 83, of Idaho Falls, passed away Dec. 21, 2004, leaving behind his beloved wife of 61 years, Amrrell Jean; four daughters, Sherry (Arlan) Call of Twin Falls, Carol (Steve) Bernman of Idaho Falls, Barbara (Craig) Miner of Springville, Utah, and Joyce (Brad) Scheele of Meridian; and one sister, Afon Robinson of Grace. Wesley was born Feb. 10, 1921, in Central, Idaho, to John E. and Helga Ring Christensen. He grew up and attended schools in Central with his three brothers, Lyman, France and Jack, and three sisters, Afon, Venus and Jo. He married Amrrell Jean Johnson Nov. 18, 1943, in Ogden, Utah, and they were later sealed in the Salt Lake City LDS temple. He was the love of her life. They met as telegraphers for the railroad in Baneroff, Idaho. He then served in the U.S. Navy as a radioman aboard a troop transport ship, the U.S.S. San Saba, during World War II. Following the war they moved to Twin Falls and he worked as a state agent for Farmers' Insurance Group. He retired in 1972 and they moved to Idaho Falls, where he worked as an insurance agent until retiring in 1977. Her father worked as a real estate agent for Century 21, retiring finally in 1985.



An active member of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, he served in various capacities over the years. His greatest legacy is his family of 18 grandchildren and 19 great-grandchildren, who adored him and learned many of life's greatest lessons at his knee. A great man's life is made up of qualities that meet or make great occasions. So it was with our beloved husband and father. His hands were never idle, with much of his time spent making beautiful hand-crafted woodworks for each of the family members, and many friends, he was always busy making life more pleasant and beautiful for those who knew and loved him. He was a gentle spirit, with the heart of a giant. He 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" grin 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, 1660 24th St., with Bishop O'Dell Young officiating. Burial will be in Pelding Memorial Park under the direction of Wood-Purcell Home East Side, P.O. Box 51494, Idaho Falls, ID 83405-1494.

OBITUARY

Julieanna Kudrna

Julieanna Kudrna, 68, of Hollister, Idaho, passed away on Dec. 21, 2004, at her home. She was surrounded by her loved ones. Julieanna was born in Brino, Neb., on Feb. 5, 1936, the daughter of Rudolph and Agnes Homolka. She married Edward (Bibi) Kudrna on July 1, 1966, in Grand Island, Neb. She moved to Idaho on July 6, 1980, with her family. Julieanna volunteered at the Community Action in Jerome for four years and was secretary for her husband's roofing company for eight years. She is survived by eight children and numerous

grandchildren and great grandchildren, three brothers, Rudolph (Candice) Homolka of Idaho, Joe (Doraine) Homolka of Oregon and Richard Homolka of Nebraska. Julieanna was preceded in death by her husband of 38 years, Edward (Bibi) Kudrna.



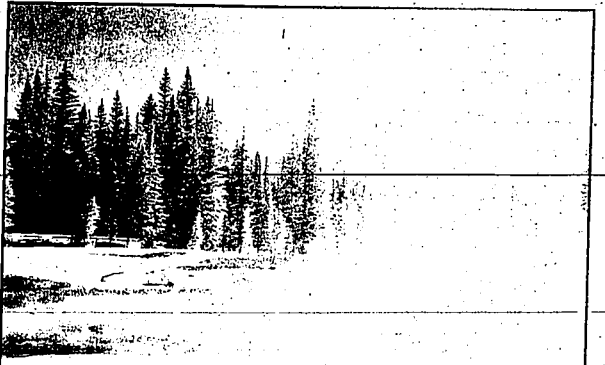
For more obituaries, see page B3

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A Holiday Wish

for you, dear friends... May the joys of this holiday season be plentiful for you and yours. May you find time to stop and consider your many blessings. Liberty and Equal Opportunity. Kind Friends. Honest Business Associates. Home, Hearth and Family. Freedom to Worship in any way and to thank Our Father for His many favors. All the best from your friends at

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SUNSET Memorial Park Serving the Magic Valley Since 1929 2296 Kimball Road Twin Falls, Idaho 733-5743

OBITUARIES

Alvin David Schaak



On the evening of Dec. 22, 2004, a long-time resident and contractor/painter, Alvin David Schaak, born in Filer, Idaho, on Dec. 30, 1936, and after living almost 68 years, passed away following a long, arduous battle with cancer.

As he was known to all his friends and coworkers, loved living and working here in the Magic Valley where he lovingly raised his family.

Al loved traveling with his family visiting with his friends at the coffee shops, working on his tractor at his acreage and helping others. Most of all, he enjoyed time with all his grandchildren.

Surviving Al is his loving wife of 49 years, Barbara Kathryn Schaak of the Twin Falls area; three daughters: Diane Kay (John) Wiersma of Jerome, Idaho, Debra Susan (Tim) Vavser 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 (85), of Armazir, Russia; and his mother, Mary (Dut) 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 Grandview Drive, Twin Falls. Friends may call from 4 to 6 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 26, 2004, at Park's Magic Valley Funeral Home, 2551 Kimberly Road, Twin Falls, Idaho.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests memorials be made to the Al Schaak Memorial Fund c/o Park's Magic Valley Funeral Home, 2551 Kimberly Road, Twin Falls, ID 83301.

several grandchildren, John Jr., Chris and Sara Wiersma, Steve and Jake Vavser, Tasha, David, Kate, Tess and Alexa Gregg. Also surviving are his sisters, Minnie Wageman of U.S. Wash., Hilda Harper of Livingston, Mont., Arleen Ray of Deatrice, Idaho, and brothers, Ernest (Bernice) Schaak of Spokane, Wash. and Hugo (Barbra) Schaak of Visalia,

Mary Jane Conrad



Mary Jane Conrad, 70, of Murtaugh 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 Kimberly, Idaho, the daughter of William and Bessie Hilly. 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 Dec. 19, 1952, at the Kimberly Church of the Nazarene. The 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 home as she and her new husband began their life together in Fairbanks, Alaska, where Howard was stationed with the U.S. Army at Elision Air Force 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. Starting 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 for themselves and their two daughters, but also enabled her to support causes that were important to them. Church programs and building college 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 stopped for music. She used her talents during her early years as a pianist at the Kimberly Church of the Nazarene and then later 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 often traveled some around the region. But her favorite place to play was right at her home with family and friends around the piano.

The Magic 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 enjoyed traveling. Sometimes on business and sometimes for pleasure, Howard and Mary traveled to a number of foreign countries as well as around the United States. In the earlier days it might be a quick trip to the Oregon coast in their airplane, but after they retired in 1989 they took to the more leisurely travel of a motor home. Retirement allowed them to take several trips across the country as well as spend a few winters in Arizona. They joined the Twin Falls Good Sam Bluebirds Club and Mary loved the friends she made there.

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

A gracious hostess, she loved to entertain in her home especially at Christmas. Working with her hands made her happy, from crocheting an Afghan to tending her rose garden; she had a knack for turning something simple into something beautiful and elegant.

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 its suffering is over and the life with Christ has begun. The separation is not for long and we rejoice in her home going. Our family would like to express appreciation to those who helped during Mary's long illness. Thank you to Dr. David Spitzer 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 Hospice who were willing to live 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 Kuster, our church family and the people over at 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 Jane is survived by her husband, Howard Conrad of Murtaugh; daughters, Loretta (Kelly) Mal of Hazelton and Julie Conrad of Murtaugh; grandson, Curtis (Jackie) Mal of Hazelton; brothers and sisters-in-law, Joanne Hills, John and Dorie Conrad, Irene Ferguson, Gerry and Joann Conrad, Betty and Ellis McRoberts and Ruth and Loyd Haskell—and many nieces and nephews, cousins and friends.

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

A funeral for Mary Jane will be held at 1:30 p.m. Tuesday, Dec. 28, 2004, at Twin Falls First Church of the Nazarene, 1231 Washington St. N., with the Rev. Jerry Koster officiating. Interment will follow in Hazelton Cemetery. Friends may call from 4 to 8 p.m. Monday at White Mortuary, "Chapel by the Park." In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the Conrad Family Scholarship Fund at Northwest Nazarene University, 623 Holly, Nampa, ID 83686.

Leonard Guy Revels

TWIN FALLS — Leonard Guy Revels, 89, a long-time resident of Twin Falls, died Wednesday, Dec. 22, 2004, at Heritage Manor Nursing Home in Elroy, Wis.

A celebration of Leonard's life will be held at 11 a.m. Monday, Dec. 27, 2004, at Reynolds Funeral Chapel with the Rev. Jim Winkle officiating. Burial will follow at Sunset Memorial Park. Friends may call one hour before the service at Reynolds Funeral Chapel. A full obituary will appear in a later edition.

Erin Atkins Hobson

BURLEY — Erin Atkins Hobson, age 24, of Pocatello, formerly of Burley, died Thursday, Dec. 23, 2004, at Pomeroy 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 Sunrise 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. 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 made by Demary's Gooding Chapel.

Olive Messenger

HERMONE — Olive Messenger, 93, of Jerome, died Dec. 23, 2004, in Twin Falls.

2004, in Twin Falls. Arrangements will be made by Ferguson Mortuary, 1343 S. Lincoln, Jerome.

Audria Mae Kioer

BURLEY — Audria Mae Kioer, a 74-year-old Burley resident, died Thursday, Dec. 23, 2004, at the Minidoka Memorial Hospital Extended Care.

Arrangements will be made by Thomsen Mortuary Burley Chapel.

SERVICES

Ciera Michelle Livia, funeral at 1 p.m. Tuesday at the Buhl Middle School. Visitation: viewing from 5 to 7 p.m. Monday at Demary's Funeral Chapel, 164 E. Main, Wendell, Idaho.

Duane Edward Hanson of Twin Falls, friends may call from 5 to 7 p.m. Monday at Park's Magic Valley Funeral Home, 2551 Kimberly Road, funeral at 11 a.m. Tuesday at the funeral home.

Nolan Victor of Twin Falls, a 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

White Mortuary and from 11 a.m. to 12:15 p.m. Tuesday at the church.

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 at 11 a.m. Monday at the Bountiful 17th Ward Chapel, 2200 S. 650 E. Friends may call from 6 to 8 p.m. Sunday evening at the Russon Brothers Bountiful Mortuary, 245 S. Main, and from 9:45 to 10:45 a.m. Monday before the service at the church.

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

BOISE (AP) — The Idaho National Engineering and Environmental Laboratory in Arco has a plan to begin dismantling a 32-year-old reactor that has outlived its usefulness. The Power Burst Facility reactor was built 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 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 cleanup to remove a majority of radioactive waste from past laboratory activities by 2012.

The clean-up is being overseen in part by Bechtel, a contractor working at the site.

The U.S. Department of Energy's plan calls for removing two-thirds of the shielding lead from the structure, to be removed, recycled or hauled away. Then, the energy department wants to dispose of water from the reactor pool and get rid of an experimental test chamber from the reactor ves-

sel. More shielding would be placed over the vessel once water is removed.

"The preferred alternative would reduce long-term risk, minimizes short-term worker risk and radiation exposure risk and is cost effective," according to an energy department statement, which plans a second phase of the project to decommission the reactor.

The other option is to do nothing, says Matthew Wells, an Idaho state official.

Officials are taking comment on the proposal through Jan. 23.

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

MOSCOW (AP) — Six family members of the brothers accused of killing University of Idaho football player Eric McMillan earlier this year have been indicted on perjury charges.

Latah County prosecutor William Thompson said the new indictments also include a count against one of the newly charged individuals for accessory to first-degree murder.

Thompson said the grand jury finished its work on Wednesday, but this office is still trying to piece together a motive for what could ultimately be a senseless death resulting from mistaken identity.

He knows what happened, but we don't know if it was an intended victim," Thompson said.

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

first-degree murder in the shooting.

Thomas J. Higgins, 23, a nephew of the Wells brothers from Kent, Wash., had also been charged with conspiracy and being a principal to first-degree murder.

Others now charged in the new indictments include Matthew Hayden Wells Sr. of Seattle, the 63-year-old father of the Wells brothers; three brothers, including Emmanuel Ray Wells, 40, of Fireweed, Wash.; Anthony Lufar Wells, 38, of Seattle, Wash.; and Aaron B. Wells, 22, of Pullman; Matthew Harrison Wells, 26, of Fireweed, Wash., the wife of James Wells; and 25-year-old Angela C. Brown, of Pullman, a Washington State University student and the girlfriend of Aaron Wells.

All are charged with various counts of perjury. Additionally, Aaron Wells has been indicted for accessory to

first-degree murder, for, according to records, allegedly "withholding knowledge that his brother, Matthew Wells, had killed Eric McMillan."

All six new defendants have been arrested, according to court documents, and are being held in Latah County Jail, on bonds ranging from \$5,000 to \$25,000.

Thompson said he's received word that none of the six plan to fight extradition.

Most of the counts in the indictments deal with allegations of lying during grand jury testimony about where Matthew and James Wells were on the day of the shooting, knowledge about cell phone numbers and why they had not responded to the Wells brothers come to the Moscow-Pullman area, and details about knowing Higgins' activities and whereabouts on Sept. 19.

Soldier's widow gets Purple Heart

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

Grant Johnson was a corporal with the 145th Field Artillery Battalion 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 telegram from the U.S. War Department 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 Leta Johnson, started corresponding with the National Guard and Sen. Bob Bennett, R-Utah, after finding the telegram.

Her efforts paid off Wednesday when Bennett pinned her husband's Purple Heart on her collar during an official ceremony at the Utah National Guard headquarters in Draper in front of his friends and family.

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 60,000 to 80,000 pounds of mail per week during the Christmas rush," said Staff Sgt. James Gelsa of the U.S. Air Force's 560th EC, the sergeant in charge of the Kirkuk mailroom. "This means a lot of our troops. They get a little piece of home."

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

"I plan on calling my mom and having a Christmas celebration 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 our loved ones."

This week's letters at Warrior's post office were long with soldiers hoping to express mail packages in time for Christmas,

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 soldier a "home connection" to their states where they can use their domestic calling cards. Other centers require a prepaid international calling card for use.

Program

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.

Buhl 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 told there will be some money available to convert ISIMS to another system.

It will cost the Buhl district \$5,600 for annual SASI maintenance fee for upgrades and support.

School Board member Don Campbell also wants administrators to place a value on time invested by district personnel in the ISIMS program for reimbursement.

"I always thought it was a very

optimistic program and sure enough — once they got into it — they decided it was going to cost them \$10 million to fix it," said state Sen. Tom Gannon, R-Buhl.

A smaller pilot program was undertaken last year with four schools to work out all the bugs. Then it was deployed to the 29 plus-one schools. Gannon said.

"These schools were supposedly getting a finished product, but there is a whole litany of problems," Gannon said. "They

are going to try to salvage a minimum system out of this, but I think that's a big mistake. Anyone you try to salvage 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 someone to reimburse the districts rather than Albertson. I would like to see rescinding another \$7 million at this week — let's give the \$7 million to the schools to get them back to where they were before."

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 All Theatres Closed Christmas Eve  
 Christmas Day Century Cinemas will start all movies at 8:00 p.m.  
**MEET THE FOCKERS** **OCEAN'S TWELVE**  
**FLIGHT OF THE PHOENIX** **NATIONAL TREASURE**  
**LEMONY SNICKET'S SHARK TALE**

NATION/WEST

# Democrat wins recount by 130

**GOP says race isn't over yet**



Christine Gregoire

SEATTLE (AP) — After a bustling election and two recounts, Democratic Christine Gregoire emerged as the winner by a 130-vote margin in Washington state's astonishingly close governor's race.

But Republican Dino Rossi said his supporters say the election is not over yet. He won the first count by 261 votes out of 2.9 million ballots cast, then watched his lead shrink to 42 after a machine recount.

Gregoire's lead in the statewide hand recount

widened from 10 to 130 on Thursday after a state Supreme Court decision allowed King County to recount 732 mistakenly rejected ballots. King County, home of Seattle and a Democratic stronghold, was the last county to report final recount results on Thursday.

"The election is over," Gregoire said at a news conference in the state Capitol Thursday night, flanked by outgoing Gov. Gary Locke. "I hope we can

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 concede. Outside the Capitol, dozens of Republican protesters chanted "Gunn it votes!"

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 you to remember that the one label that we all share is we are Washingtonians."

Rossi did not concede. "I know many Washingtonians

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 fight, and will ask the secretary of state to delay certifying the election so they can seek reconsideration of rejected ballots in other counties.

"This count is not over, Christine Gregoire is not the winner, and this battle goes on," state Republican Party Chairman Chris Vance said. "We believe Dino Rossi is the legitimate Governor-elect of the State of Washington and we will continue fighting to protect his election."

# FDA orders review of painkiller studies

**Knight Ridder News Service**

WASHINGTON — Federal regulators on Thursday ordered reviews of dozens of ongoing patient studies of the prescription painkillers Celebrex and Bextra 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 naproxen, ibuprofen and aspirin, whose labels limit their use to 10 days without a doctor's approval.

The advisory also urges physicians to be highly selective in writing prescriptions for Celebrex and Bextra. Patients at risk of stomach bleeding, as well as those with a history of intolerance or who haven't shown progress with other pain medications, "may be appropriate candidates" for (Celebrex and Bextra), said Dr. John K. Jenkins, the director of the FDA's Office of New Drugs.

The new advisory "may well mean that (doctors) decide to use other agents instead of (Celebrex and Bextra) until we

can sort out more clearly what the conflicting data show," Jenkins said.

In conjunction with local trial review boards, the FDA will review the studies of healthy people who are given these medications in experiments intended to determine whether they can help prevent diseases such as colon polyps, which are sometimes a cancer precursor.

Celebrex 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 traditional 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, other — but not all — trials have found that they can cause heart problems.

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

# N.J. family still has questions about death

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

Danny Clune, 29, of Matawan, N.J., was identified from dental records on Wednesday. He had been missing since the early morning of Nov. 6, when he left friends at a Sandpoint lounge and disappeared.

In the ensuing weeks, relatives and at least a dozen friends from New York City and other areas on the East Coast flew to the Idaho Panhandle to look for Clune, an avid outdoorsman who moved to Sandpoint a year ago after snowboarding at a nearby resort.

A Web site at [www.finddanny.com](http://www.finddanny.com) was created and his disappearance was featured on national television. A \$10,000 reward was offered.

Finding him takes care of one piece of the puzzle, his sister, Kristen Clune, said in an interview Thursday. Now, they want to know what happened to her brother.

"It was scary to think he was out there and we didn't know where," Kristen Clune said by telephone from her parents' home near Asbury Park. "We talk comfort in knowing where he is, but we need to know what happened."

Bonner County Sheriff's officials say this much is known about the Clune case: The body belongs to the 29-year-old computer programmer, who wore his hair long, his beard at a five-o'clock shadow, and was known to friends as "Hot Rod."

Clune was last seen between 1:30 a.m. and 2 a.m. at a lounge near the Pend Oreille River. He went outside to look for a female friend, but never returned to friends and co-workers from [BoiseCrossings.com](http://BoiseCrossings.com) with whom he'd been spending the evening.

Later, two shoes matching ones that Clune wore were found.

# UI spends money on defunct fraternity house

BOISE (AP) — The University of Idaho is adding a fraternity house to its property holdings, fulfilling the terms of a 1952 agreement to buy the structure if the Greek brotherhood ever disbanded.

The university is spending \$400,102 on the Tau Kappa Iota house, according to the Idaho State Board of Education, which approved the deal Wednesday evening.

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

The home on Mosconer 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 fraternity should ever try to start up again.

# 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 immigrant apprehensions in southwestern Arizona in recent months, according to the Border Patrol.



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

From Oct. 1 through Monday, agents made 21,318 apprehensions in the Border Patrol's Yuma sector, which includes the 50 westernmost miles of Arizona's border with Mexico, the agency spokesman Joe Briggman said.

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

Ongoing enforcement operations in California and intensified enforcement in other parts of Arizona have possibly prompted more smugglers to try crossing near Yuma, Briggman said.

"The actions of the smugglers a lot of times are in response to our law enforcement activities," he said.

In the Border Patrol's Tucson sector, agents made 72,028 apprehensions from Oct. 1 through Monday, compared with 63,887 during the same period last year, "primarily because we have more agents," said Andrea Zortman, a sector spokeswoman.

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.

Nahiyol Mendivil, 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, inflating 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 sector has added 200 new permanent agents, more ground sensors, expanded and upgraded camera systems, remote video surveillance, fencing and permanent lighting in some high-traffic locations.

# Larry King will interview LDS president on Sunday

SALT LAKE 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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# Magic Valley Mall Holiday Hours 12/19 thru 12/25

|                      | SUN  | MON       | TUE       | WED       | THU     | FRI       | SAT       |
|----------------------|------|-----------|-----------|-----------|---------|-----------|-----------|
| Mall Stores          | 10-8 | 9-10      | 9-10      | 9-11      | 9-10    | 8-6       | Merry     |
| Santa (Center Court) | 12-6 | 2:30-7:30 | 2:30-7:30 | 12:7-3:00 | 11-7:30 | 10:2-3:00 | Christmas |

## best bets in entertainment

### Sun Valley

#### 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 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 Thursday night in the Boiler Room.



#### Jingle-bell rock

The Trans-Siberian Orchestra will play the Idaho Center in Nampa Thursday night.



#### 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 Linnelight 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 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 weekend activities in its Weekend section on Dec. 31. If you'd like your event included, e-mail the information to Steve Crump at [scrump@magiclevel.com](mailto:scrump@magiclevel.com), fax it to 734-5538 or telephone him at 735-3223. Deadline is 3 p.m. on Wednesday.

# A masked ball

## 'Phantom of the Opera' reaches the silver screen

The 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 choir belting out "Masquerade" while Lloyd Webber and film director Joel Schumacher stand at a sound board full of glowing dials and levers that runs 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 slides askew and the monster steps forward — but Schumacher yells "Stop!"

The frame freezes, then the screen goes white. "You can't see the phantom yet," Schumacher teases a visitor, "or you'll have to die."

The ghostly hero is finally ready for his close-up. This week, the musical "The Phantom of the Opera," finally ends its 18-year journey to the screen.

Lloyd Webber, the iconic composer behind "Cats," "Jesus 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 disinterest 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 main reasons he wanted to do the movie (to put the show in front of people who couldn't afford Broadway) became one of the main reasons he couldn't do the movie.

"So many of the producers said they would do it if there was a movie," he said. "It would have been a tremendous 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.

"Everybody was sort of begging that the movie wouldn't go ahead," he said. "At the time (that) did make sense, it was honest. It was not a good 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 starring Brightman and Antonio Banderas. But when Lloyd Webber and Brightman divorced, the project's legal and



Emmy Rossum as Christine and Gerard Butler as The Phantom in the long-awaited movie version of Andrew Lloyd Webber's 'The Phantom 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. "It was sort of their baby," Schumacher said. "He says it's his most personal work."

Brightman, whom Lloyd Webber met when she was a performer in "Cats," inspired his crafting of the young diva Christine, who is caught up in the teaching and music of the mysterious phantom — who prefers to stay behind the scenes.

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

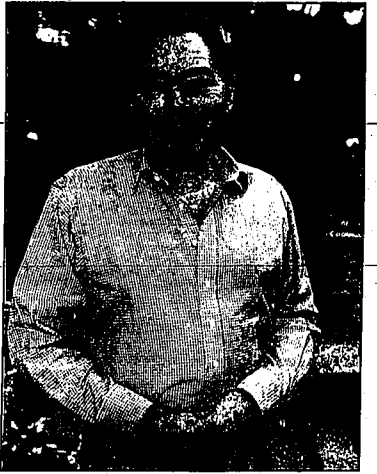
The split evolved amicably and Lloyd Webber and Brightman now speak frequently, he said. There are no hard feelings, he added, saying she wasn't used in the film simply

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 at all."

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 money in a musical, a format they believed had little drawing 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 roof,'" Lloyd Webber recalled. "And (I would) say, 'It's a musical, you please see 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

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 mined endlessly in classics such as "You Can't Take It With You" and "Guess Who's Coming To Dinner," modern films like "Strek 2" and "The Birdcage" and a parade of TV sitcoms from "All in the Family" and "Bewitched" through "Everybody Loves Raymond."

Next year comes two more takes, one starring Ashton Kutcher as Bernie Mac's prospective son-in-law, the other with Jane Fonda unhappily 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 sequel to 2000's "Meet the Parents."

her family. What makes encounters with the in-laws such trying experiences?

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

### 'Meet the Fockers'

- Who's in it? Ben Stiller, Robert De Niro, Dustin Hoffman, Barbra Streisand, Blythe Danner, Teri Polo
- What's it rated? PG-13
- Where's it playing? Twin Cinema, Century Cinema of Buena Vista, Jerome Cinema, Magic Lantern of Ketchum.
- Should you go? If it's not as good as "Meet the Parents," it's pretty darn close.

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

In "Meet the Fockers," which opened Wednesday, Stiller's Greg Focker finally enjoys an uncutly courteous relationship with his future in-laws, the Byrnes (Robert De Niro and Blythe Danner). As Greg and his fiancée (Teri Polo) prepare to wed, now it's time for the reserved Byrnes to meet the irrepressibly liberal Fockers (Dustin Hoffman and Barbra Streisand).

Greg's 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' pooch and the Byrnes' feline have at each other.

Plumbing problems at the Please see IN-LAWS, Page C8



WEEKEND

Torchlight Parade will be on Bald Mountain tonight

T O D A Y  
Holidays/Sun Valley

The traditional Torchlight Parade on Bald Mountain at 6 p.m. is part of Christmas Eve at the Sun Valley Resort. Christmas Eve begins with a performance by the Sun Valley Carolers at 5:30 p.m. Sun Valley ice skating exhibition at 5:40 p.m., followed by the parade, in which Sun Valley Ski School instructors march their usual torch-lit trek down the face of Bald Mountain, and continues with fireworks at 6:15 p.m., an appearance by Santa Claus at 6:20 p.m. and public ice skating from 6:30-10:30 p.m.

**Karaoke/Twin Falls**  
Karaoke will be featured from 8:30 p.m. to 12:30 a.m. at Montana Steakhouse. No cover charge. Montana Steakhouse is located at 1826 Canyon Crest Drive.

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

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

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

S A T U R D A Y

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

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

S 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 Boiler Room. For ticket information, call 622-4111, Ext. 2135.

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

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

M O N D A Y

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

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

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

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



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

T U E S D A Y

**Karaoke/Burley**  
Krokers Karaoke will be featured from 9 p.m. to 1 a.m. at George K's East Restaurant. No cover charge. George K's is located at 325 E. Third N.

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

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

W E D N E S D A Y

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

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

**Karaoke/Paul**  
Krokers Karaoke will be featured from 9 p.m. to 1 a.m. at the Office Lounge. The Office Lounge is located at 116 E. Idaho St.

**Rock/Boise**  
The Trans-Siberian Orchestra will perform at the Idaho Center in Nampa at 7:30 p.m. Tickets, which are \$29.50 and \$39.50, can be reserved by phoning (208) 442-4232 or (208) 426-1494, online at <http://www.ticketweb.com>, or at Albertson's in Twin Falls. The Idaho Center is located at 16200 Can-Am Road on Nampa's east end.

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

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

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

T H U R S D A Y

**Rock/Ketchum**  
The Young Dubliners will play Whiskey Jacques at 10 p.m. No cover charge.

**Holiday/Sun Valley**  
The Sun Valley Resort will present Glow-in-the-Dark Party at 9 p.m. in the Lamelight Room, featuring hors d'oeuvres, desserts and music. For ticket information, 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 located 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 Falls**  
Karaoke with Lone Star Entertainment will be featured from 8:30 p.m. to 12:30 a.m. at the Pioneer Club. No cover charge. The Pioneer Club is located at 1519 Kimberly Road.

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

**Krokers Karaoke**  
Krokers Karaoke will be featured from 9 p.m. to 1 a.m. at the Riverside. The Riverside is located at 1897 W. Highway 30.

**Rock/Utah**  
The Trans-Siberian Orchestra will play the E Center in the Salt Lake City suburb of West Valley City at 7:30 p.m. Tickets, which are \$20, \$26.50 and \$36.50, can be reserved by phoning Smith's Tix at (800) 888-TIXX or online at <http://www.smithstix.com>. The E Center is located at 3200 S. Decker Lake Dr.

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

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

N E X T W E E K E N D

**Country/Jackpot**  
Joe Dillite 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.

**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 \$38, can be reserved by phoning (801) 355-2787. Abravanel Hall is located 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 Smith's Tix at (800) 888-TIXX or online at <http://www.smithstix.com>. The Lo-Fi Cafe is located 165 South West Temple.

Variety/Albion

A New Year's Eve Party will be held at 8:30 p.m. on Dec. 31 at the Marsh Creek Event Centre. Music and party favors will be provided. Cost is \$7.50 per person or \$15 for couples; must be 21 to attend. The Marsh Creek Event Centre is located at 899 S. J. Highway 77.

Country/DeClo

A New Year's Eve Party will be held at 8:30 p.m. on Dec. 31 at Shakers. The event will be a potluck with Shakers' furnishing the great. Party favors will be provided. Music will be by The Fugitives. No cover charge. Reservations are recommended and will not be held after 8:30 p.m. To make reservations, call 654-4421. Shakers is located at 826 Highway 81.

Rock/Idaho

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 Adkinson's Market in Ketchum. The Big Easy Concert House is located at 416 S. Ninth St.

**Dance/Utah**  
Ballet West will dance Tchaikovsky's "The Nutcracker" at 2 p.m. on DEC. 31 in Salt Lake City's Capitol Theater. Tickets, which range from \$10 to \$60, can be reserved by phoning (801) 355-2787. The Capitol Theater is located at 50 West 200 South.

**Country/Boise**  
Reckless Kelly will play the Big Easy Concert House at 8 p.m. on JAN. 1. Tickets, which are \$10, can be reserved by phoning (800) 955-4827, online at <http://www.ticketweb.com>, or at Adkinson's Market in Ketchum. The Big Easy Concert House is located at 416 S. Ninth St.

N E X T M O N T H

**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/Boise**  
Bill Engvall will perform at the Morrison Center on the campus of Boise State University at 8 p.m. on JAN. 7. Tickets, which are \$31.25, can be reserved by phoning (800) 426-1494, online at <http://www.idahoickets.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 \$38, can be reserved by phoning (801) 355-2787. Abravanel Hall is located 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 Smith's Tix at (800) 888-TIXX or online at <http://www.smithstix.com>. The Lo-Fi Cafe is located 165 South West Temple.

Classical/Utah

Utah Symphony will perform the chamber music of Beethoven, Stravinsky and Schoenberg at 7:30 p.m. on JAN. 20 in Salt Lake City's Abravanel Hall. Tickets, which are \$18 and \$28, can be reserved by phoning (801) 355-2787. Abravanel Hall is located at 123 West South Temple.

Theater/Burley

The Mount Harrison Heritage Foundation will present Alan Jay Lerner and Frederick Loewe's "Camelot" at 7:30 p.m. on JAN. 21 and 22 and 2:29 a.m. on JAN. 22. For ticket information, call 678-0404.

Dance/Utah

Michael Flatley's Lord of the Dance will perform at Kingsbury Hall on the 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 phoning ArtTix at (801) 355-2787.

World music/Utah

The Chieftains will perform with Utah Symphony at 8 p.m. on JAN. 14-15 in Salt Lake City's Abravanel Hall. Tickets, which range from \$27 to \$45, can be reserved by phoning (801) 355-2787. Abravanel Hall is located at 123 West South Temple.

**Figure skating/Boise**  
Smucker's Stars on Ice, featuring Sarah Hughes, Alexei Yagudin, Elena Berezhnaya, Janie Sale and David Pelletier, Todd Eldredge and Ekaterina Gordeeva, will perform at the Bank of America Center at 7 p.m. on JAN. 17. Tickets, which are \$25-\$37, \$57 and \$77, can be reserved by phoning Select A Seat at (208) 426-1494, online at <http://www.idahoickets.com>, or at Albertson's in Twin Falls. The Bank of America Center is located at 233 S. Capitol Blvd.

**Jazz/Utah**  
Wynton Marsalis and the Lincoln 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 JAN. 18. 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/Boise**  
Michael Flatley's Lord of the Dance will perform at the Morrison Center on the campus of Boise 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 (208) 426-1494, online at <http://www.idahoickets.com>, or at Albertson's in Twin Falls.

**Circus/Twin Falls**  
Magic Valley Arts on Tour will present the New Shanghai Circus at 7:30 p.m. on JAN. 20 in the College of Southern Idaho Fine Arts Center auditorium. Twin Falls. Tickets, which are \$18 for adults and \$15 for children and seniors. Tickets, which are \$12 for adults and \$8 for children and seniors, 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 Center office in Twin Falls at SAVE-MR/Drug in Boise, and at Allen's Flowers in Jerome, and at

**Capella/Idaho Falls**  
The Capella 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 American Hi-Fi will play the Big Easy Concert House at 7 p.m. on JAN. 25. Tickets, which are \$15, can be reserved by phoning (800) 955-4827, online at <http://www.ticketweb.com>, or at Adkinson'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 JAN. 25. Tickets, which are \$10, can be reserved by phoning (800) 888-TIXX. The Velvet Room is located at 155 West 200 South.

**Rock/Utah**  
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Classical/Utah

Utah Symphony will perform the chamber music of Beethoven, Stravinsky and Schoenberg at 7:30 p.m. on JAN. 20 in Salt Lake City's Abravanel Hall. Tickets, which are \$18 and \$28, can be reserved by phoning (801) 355-2787. Abravanel Hall is located at 123 West South Temple.

**Theater/Burley**  
The Mount Harrison Heritage Foundation will present Alan Jay Lerner and Frederick Loewe's "Camelot" at 7:30 p.m. on JAN. 21 and 22 and 2:29 a.m. on JAN. 22. For ticket information, call 678-0404.

Dance/Utah

Michael Flatley's Lord of the Dance will perform at Kingsbury Hall on the 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 phoning ArtTix at (801) 355-2787.

**Rock/Utah**  
Decast will play The Circuit in the Salt Lake City suburb of Murray at 8 p.m. on JAN. 22. Tickets, which are \$22.50, can be reserved by phoning Smith's Tix at (800) 888-TIXX or online at <http://www.smithstix.com>. The Circuit is located at 7711 South 700 West.

**Opera/Utah**  
Utah Opera will perform Leos Janacek's "Jenufa" at 7:30 p.m. on JAN. 22, 24, 26 and 28 and at 2 p.m. on JAN. 30 in Salt Lake City's Capitol Theater. Tickets, which 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 Salt Lake City at 7:30 p.m. on JAN. 23. Tickets, which are \$20, can be reserved by phoning Smith's Tix at (800) 888-TIXX or online at <http://www.smithstix.com>. The Venue is located at 219 South 600 West.

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# Bill Cosby's 'Fat Albert' comes to theaters

## New to the valley

**'Fat Albert'**  
Live action is blended with animation to bring back the Philadelphia adolescents memorialized in Bill Cosby's stand-up comedy and a long-running Saturday morning TV series. With Kenan Thompson, Kyla Pratt, Bill Cosby, Omar Grandberry and Raven-Symone. Directed by Joel Zwick.

## 'Darkness'

An American teen and her family move into a strange old house in the Spanish countryside and are tormented from within. With Anna Paquin, Lena Olin, John Glen, Giancarlo Giannini, Fele Martinez, Stephan Enquist and Fermi Reixach. Written and directed by Jaime Balaguer.

## 'Kinsey'

Liam Neeson stars as the celebrated (and condemned) sex researcher in this entertaining and enlightening biopic. Laura Linney is the grad-student-turned-spouse who was Kinsey's intellectual and emotional anchor — and his partner, up to a point. In sexual discovery, flawed but satisfying, and smartly put together by filmmaker Bill Condon. 1 hr. 58 ft (language, nudity, sex, adult themes)

## 'The Life Aquatic With Steve Zissou'

On the face of it, Wes Anderson's movie is an adventure tale about a Jacques Cousteau-on-the-skids-type (Bill Murray) who decides to pull an Ahab on the shark that ate his buddy. But mostly, like all of Anderson's movies, it's about the way nostalgia works on people.



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

Co-written with Noah Baumbach, this is an exquisitely evocative movie that elevates rueful melancholia to its apex. It does that thing movies used to think they were supposed to do: paint with light, sculpt in time, drive you nuts 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 Huston, Willem Dafoe, Jeff Goldblum and Michael Gambon. (1:58) R for language, some drug use, violence and partial nudity.

## 'Meet the Fockers'

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

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

## 'The Phantom of the Opera'

Webber's 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, Emmy Rossum, Patrick Wilson and Minnie Driver star. Directed by Joel Schumacher. PG-13 for brief violent images.

## Continuing

### 'Alexander'

Oliver Stone's overheated steve of paganism and Freudianism stars Colin Farrell, in blond mullet and toga miniskirt, as the conqueror

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

### 'The Aviator'

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

### 'Blade: Trinity'

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

## Now Playing

### Twin Falls

Twin Cinema  
"Christmas with the Kranks"  
"Flight of the Phoenix"  
"Ladder 49"  
"Lemony Snicket's Series of Unfortunate Events"  
"Meet the Fockers"  
"National Treasure"  
"Ocean's Twelve"  
"Polar Express"  
"Shark Tales"

### 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"

### "Ocean's Twelve" "Spanglish"

### SkilTime 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 Unfortunate Events"  
"Meet the Fockers"  
"National Treasure"  
"Ocean's Twelve"  
"The Polar Express"

### Gooding

Gooding Cinema  
"The Incredibles"

ley Snipes gets upstaged by a fanged Pomeranian and sitcom second banana Iwan Reynolds, turning this earnest affair into a campy, comedy. With Parker Posey. R (strong violence, profanity, sexual content)

### 'Bridget Jones: The Edge of Reason'

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

Renee Zellweger plays Bridget like being Bridget is a flaw. There's something shamed and apologetic about Zellweger's performance that undercuts what is otherwise a gleefully indulgent satire of chickdom. You get the sense she doesn't believe her character could ever get the likes of Colin Firth and Hugh Grant to fight over her. The movie might be British, but its attitude toward girls is still pure Hollywood. This is a shame, because the script is wickedly smart and unambushably silly at

Please see MOVIES, Page C6

# A Bite of Magic Valley!

## Feature of the Week

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WEEKEND

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

By Richard Harrington  
The Washington Post

Once again it's the time of year when Santa regales us with a sleight of seasonal music, leaping from the North Pole workshops to the most extravagant conglomerates. Let's unwrap 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

• **Clay Aiken, "Merry Christmas With Love."** With his wholesome choirboy looks and angelic tenor, Aiken is tailor-made for this kind of thing. Phil Ramone's unobtrusive production gently frames Aiken's soaring vocals on standards like "O Holy Night" and "Silent Night," lets him sway gently on "Sleigh Ride" and smoothly entreat everyone to "I Have Yourself a Merry Little Christmas." The runner-up on Season 2 of "American Idol" even redeems the bombastic "Don't Save It All for Christmas Day," co-written by Céline Dion. In his first week released, "Merry Christmas With Love" sold 270,000 copies, the biggest debut for a holiday album in the SoundScan era.

• **William Hung, "Hung for the Holidays."** Bad joke redux: This one-track off-key novelty pony, banished from "American Idol" after another awful record, mercifully only lasts 14 minutes long—unless you count the hidden bonus track version of Queen's "We Are the Champions." Hung's too good for this one.

• **George Huff, "My Christmas EP."** Voted off halfway through Season 3 of "American Idol," the likable Huff has a classic old-school feel that gets precious little air in this world. The 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 five artists, including "Idol" winners Kelly Clarkson and Ruben Studdard, the latter in a charming duet with fellow contestant Tamya Gray. Also on board: pop rivals Britney Spears and Justin Guarini. Probably the only album on which you'll find both Barry Manilow and K. Kelly.

• **"Christmas in the Fishbowl: Performed by the Healthy TV Singers."** It's come to this: Fishbowl.com, a reality TV gossip site, has brought together "American Idol" losers Nikki McKibbin, J.D. Adams and Brad Estrin, "Survivors" Jenna Lewis, "The Contender" Lesi Desjardins and Alan Williams, "Average Joe's" Dennis Luciani and "Paradise Hotel's" Toni Ferrari. As "Jingle 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 parodies that trade on these folks' unfortunate fates.

• **Jessica Simpson, "Rejoice: The Christmas Album."** Simpson has a big voice but doesn't know how to use it, opting for overly busy, overblown arrangements or saccharine string settings. Besides vocal showboating on unneeded standards, she does the obligatory duet with no-so-newlywed-hubby Nick Lachey (an underheated "Baby It's Cold Outside") and a "Little Drummer Boy" duet with her sister, world-famous lip-singer, Jessica Simpson. You've got to give it to Jessica for family loyalty: The "Joyce" of the title is her grandma.

Return of the Rat Pack

• **Frank Sinatra, "The Christmas Collection."** Not to be confused with the similarly titled Columbia-era collection, this draws from Sinatra's holiday albums for Reprise in the '60s and '70s, capped by one of his final recordings, from 1991. It includes several duets with Bing Crosby (two of them



A ho-ho-hodgepodge of holiday CD releases includes "A John Waters Christmas," "The Polar Express" soundtrack, Emmylou Harris' "Light of the Stable" and "Christmas Gumbo," a seasonal potpourri of New Orleans music.

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

• **Dean Martin, "Christmas With Dino."** Seven tracks from 1959's "A Winter Romance" and nine from 1965's "Dean Martin Christmas Collection," plus a 1953 single, "The Christmas Blues," in which Dino espouses sympathy for another red-nosed character. Three songs, including the joyful "Let It Snow! Let It Snow! Let It Snow!," appeared on both albums; here they serve to contrast the styles of big-band arrangers Gus Levy in the '50s and Bill Justis in the '60s.

• **Sammy Davis Jr. never recorded a holiday 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 reverent. Maybe they were waiting for

Outside and harmonica whiz, "Toots" Thielemans on "The Christmas Song" fail to raise Taylor (though a full album of Thielemans' tooting would probably be grand. Available only at Hallmark stores).

• **Vanessa Williams, "Silver & Gold."** Varied offerings in the pop-soul vein, from a lush duet with Brian McKnight on "Joy to the World" to the Carpenters' separation ballad "Merry Christmas Darling." Williams also offers some big-band swing "Water Weather," "Christmas Is," Celtic New Agey airs ("Silent Night," "The Holly and the Ivy"), supple spirituals ("Rise Up, Shepherd and Follow") and a stately recitation by actor Ossie Davis ("Prelude: I Dream a World").

• **Dianne Reeves, "Christmas Time Is Here."** Reeves' rich vocals are subtly framed by a small jazz ensemble led by pianist Peter Martin and guitarist Romero Lubambo. Reeves swings "Circles of the Bells" and "Let It Snow" (with some Ella-like scatting) and gently essays rife ballads like "Christmas Time Is Here" and the melancholy "Have Yourself a Merry Little Christmas." And "The Little Drummer Boy" explores African rhythms this time around.

• **"Chris-Iank Christmas"** Roy Orbison and Elvis Presley get charmed on a set of 10 standards and five originals, the best of which are the rife "Washington Square," a bluesy "Christmas on TV" and "Gotta Be Real" in which "sax pugs homage to... Louis Armstrong."

• **Will Downing, "Christmas, Love and You."** Opening with a township jive, island-flavored take on "The Little Drummer Boy" (with an unnecessary rap coda from Jibba), the smooth R&B singer unburdenedly revisits a handful of standards and contributes a trio of reflective Donnie Hathaway-style ballads. Downing's title helps include Kirk Whalum, Gerald Albright, Joe Sample, Jonathan Butler, Najee and David Sanborn.

• **Dianne Warwick, "My Favorite Time of the Year."** Surprisingly, this is the first holiday recording in Warwick's long, illustrious career. The tunes are mostly familiar, but Warwick's soothing vocals and smooth jazz arrangements add some distinction. Still, she doesn't seem particularly inspired, even when she's duetting with Gladys Knight and Bee Winans (who wrote the solid "I Believe in Christmas" especially for Warwick) or reeling support on three tracks from saxophonist Dave Koz.

• **Carmen Ballthrop, "The Art of Christmas, Vol. 1."** The noted soprano, a professor of voice at Case University of Kentucky, gives rich and glorious readings to classical gems including Debussy's "Christmas Carol for Homeless Children" and Max Regner's haunting "Maria Wiegand," the Spanish-flavored graces of a trio of songs by the late Cuban composer Joaquín Niño, and stately spirituals "Sweet Little Baby Jesus" and "Mary's Boy Child." Pianist Carlos Rodriguez's accompaniment is flawless.

• **Sounds of Blackness, "The Night Before Christmas II."** This group has been offering an urban musical version of the classic story since 1978 and a lively one it is, with Rappin' Heindeer, Dancin' Chitlins and Singing Christmas Stockings. Sometimes things get a little overcrowded—it is probably a great show to see live—but the Grammy-winning ensemble has more great singers than most major labels do.

• **Soundtrack, "Christmas With the Kranks."** Steve Van Zandt produced this punk/garage-flavored effort tied to the film's misanthropic themes. The Ramones' classic "Merry Christmas (Don't Want to Fight Tonight)" sets the pace for the Danish garage duo the Lawtones; the Chesterfield Kings, girl group the Charms and psychedelic-leaning Tina Sagand, balanced with vintage tracks from Elvis, Branda Lee and Brian Setzer.

• **Soundtrack, "The Polar Express."** Tom Hanks delivers the title-track as classic Hollywood narrative and actually sings (sort of) on the jump-and-jive "Lot of 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 wholesome Josh Groban turns "Believe" into a personal Up With Santa.

• **Trouf Fishing in America, "Merry Fishes to All."** Musical duo Ezra Kildet and Keith Grimwood provide funny, kid-oriented takes on the Christmas experience from early-morning anxiety ("You Gotta Get Up") to tall tales of "The Eleven Cats of Christmas," contrasting the disappointment of "My Birthday Comes on Christmas" ("I'm only getting half of what I ought") to the disillusionment of "Santa Brought Me Clothes" and "I Got a Cheese Log."

# Christmas comes in July for Harry Potter fans

CBS MarketWatch.com

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

The much-anticipated sixth installment of the popular book series doesn't go on sale until July, but many booksellers are accepting orders in time for the holidays.

Borders Group, Barnes & Noble, Books-A-Million and Amazon announced Tuesday that they have begun selling the sixth Harry Potter book, "Harry Potter and the Half-Blood Prince," at a 40 percent discount.

Based on last year's record numbers for "Harry Potter and the Order of the Phoenix" — selling 5 million copies within 24 hours of its June 2003 release — retailers are expecting another record-setting performance.

J.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.

Performing some magic of its own, Barnes & Noble said that within hours of launching its sale Tuesday the book shot to the top of its best-seller list.

Barnes & Noble, Borders and Books-A-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 "Half Blood Prince" officially goes on sale. The book, which is selling for \$17.99, has a publisher's price of \$29.99.

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

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

After news of the book's release was announced, shares of Scholastic jumped \$1.60, or 4 percent, to \$37.52 in the after-noon session.

# ENGAGEMENTS

## SHINNEY-NEBEKER

**GOODING** — Lynn and Ann Shinney of Pasco announce the engagement of their daughter, Julianne Shinney, to F. Keith Nebeker, son of Kelly and Lynn Nebeker of Gooding.

Shinney is a graduate of Century High School. She is attending Lewis-Clark State College and plays volleyball at the college.

Nebeker is a graduate of Gooding High School. He is attending Lewis-Clark State College and runs cross-country at the college. He served an LDS mission in Goiania, Brazil.

The wedding is planned for

## WOODBURY-SEAMAN

**TWIN FALLS** — David and Gwen Woodbury of Sagar City announce the engagement of their daughter, Wendy Woodbury, to Robert Del Seaman, son of Robert Letoff and Linda Seaman of Twin Falls.

Woodbury is a graduate of Dixie College in St. George, Utah. Seaman is attending the College of Southern Idaho.

The wedding is planned for

Thursday, Dec. 30, in St. George. A reception will be held at 7



F. Keith Nebeker and Julianne Shinney

Wednesday, Dec. 29, in the Logan LDS Temple in Logan, Utah.

A reception will be held from 6:30 to 8 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 30, at the Gooding LDS Church.



Robert Seaman and Wendy Woodbury

## SOBOTKA-RAMOS

**JEROME** — Sandy Sobotka and Kim Ramos of Jerome announce the engagement of their daughter, Brandy Shaunt Sobotka, to Ryan Joseph Ramos, son of Robert and Barbara Ramos of Hazleton.

Sobotka is a graduate of Filer High School. She is employed at Sobotka Farms in Jerome.

Ramos is a graduate of Valley High School. He is employed at Crossover Brothers Feedlot in Jerome.

The wedding is planned for 7



Ryan Ramos and Brandy Sobotka

p.m. Saturday, Jan. 15, 2005, at the LDS Church on Maurice Street in Twin Falls.

**CORRECTION**

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|   |   |
|---|---|
| <p>1 quart chocolate milk</p> <p>4 cups strong brewed coffee, chilled</p> <p>1 cup Kahlua® or other coffee-flavored liqueur</p> | <p>1 (14-ounce) can sweetened condensed milk</p> <p>1 quart coffee ice cream</p> <p>1 Samiwest chocolate shavings</p> |
|---|---|

Combine first 3 ingredients into large pitcher. Cover and chill. Pour coffee into 4 cups. Add liqueur and coffee ice cream. Stir well. Sprinkle with chocolate shavings. 1/2 quart.

Slightly warm or chilled. Non-dairy, add creamer for Kahlua, or increase coffee to 5 cups.

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Tip of the Week  
by Diana Rolig

Cactus Peter

Cactus Peter's

What's Hot

# Freeze on Skis will be renewed Jan. 1

The Times-News

TWIN FALLS — The 18th annual Freeze on Skis will begin at noon on Jan. 1 at Shoshone Falls Park.

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

Participants raising at least \$50 will be awarded a T-shirt or those raising \$300 or more will receive a jacket.

Skiers will ski in order according to the most money raised

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

Funds raised will benefit the Family Readiness Group for local families of IHHC 2-116 Calvary of Jerome, Halley, Gooding and Twin Falls.

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

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

The Times-News

TWIN FALLS — Tickets are available now for the New Shanghai Circus, the third performance of the Arts on Tour season.

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

Just off a sold-out 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 choreography, amazing lighting, enchanting scenery and power-

ful 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 (and even if it's not), Shanghai's acrobats, jugglers and contortionists do it with spectacular flair.

Ticket outlets include Everybody's — Business, — Kurt's Pharmacy and Hallmark Crowley's Old Time Soda Fountain, Magic Valley Arts Council, Sav-Mor Drug in Buhl, Arlene's Flowers in Jerome, the CSI Community Education Center, and the CSI Outreach Centers in Burley, Halley and Gooding.

For more information or for tickets, call 732-6288.

# Dilettantes plan 'Grease' auditions

The Times-News

TWIN FALLS — The Dilettantes of the Magic Valley 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. 9 and from 5-9 p.m. on Jan. 10 at the Emmanuel Lutheran School.

The show will be cast 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 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.

# Events

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 Smith's Tix at (800) 888-TIXX or online at <http://www.smithstix.com>. In the Venue is located at 219 South 600 West.

## Country/Bolse

Merle Haggard will perform in the Morrison 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 (208) 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 Presbyterian Church of the Bigwood.

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

## Hip-hop/Utah

Russell Simmons' Def Poetry Jam will play Kingsbury Hall on the campus of the University of Utah in Salt Lake City at 7:30 p.m. on JAN. 29. Tickets, which are \$24 and \$32, can be reserved by phoning ArtTix at (801) 355-2787.

## Pop/Utah

Cher will sing at the Delta Center in Salt Lake City at 7:30 p.m. on JAN. 31. Tickets, which are \$39.75, \$59.75 and \$79.75, can be reserved by phoning (801) 329-5EAT or online at <http://www.ticketmaster.com>. The Delta Center is located at 301 West South Temple.

## Rock/Utah

The Explosion and Death by Stereo 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-TIXX or online at <http://www.smithstix.com>. The Lo-Fi Cafe is located at 165 South West Temple.

## ONGOING

### Art show/Buhl

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

### Art show/Ketchum

The Sun Valley Center for the Arts will present "The Hunt Ritual and Narrative," THROUGH JAN. 14 at the Sun Valley Center. The Sun Valley Center is open Mondays through Friday from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Saturdays from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. It's located at the corner of Fifth and Washington.

# JumpCo auditions will be next month

The Times-News

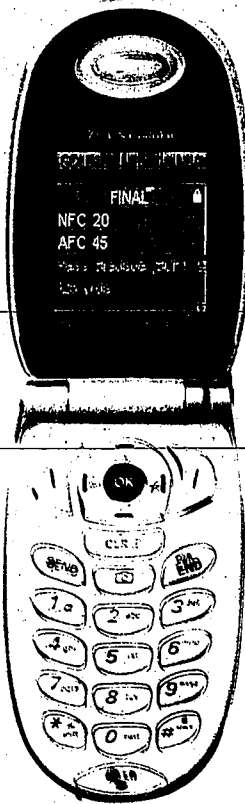
TWIN FALLS — The Junior Musical Playhouse Company will hold auditions on Jan. 7-8 for its winter production, "Tied to the Tracks."

Auditions, which are by appointment only, can be scheduled by phoning Cyndie 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](http://www.jumpcompany.org).

**The Times-News:**  
Your guide to the Magic Valley



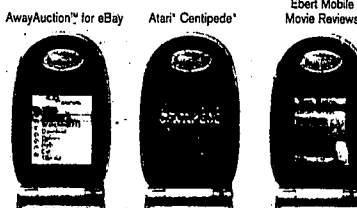
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# WEEKEND

## Movies

Continued from C3  
the same time, and Grant gives what must be his funniest and most sexy performance ever. Directed by Becham Kidron. (1 hr. 10 min.) PG-13 for language and some sexual content.

### 'Christmas with the Kranks'

Tim Allen and Jamie Lee Curtis star in this brutally boring family farce about a couple who decide to forgo the usual yuletide rituals, thereby alienating their neighbors and friends. Adapted from John Grisham's "Skipping Christmas"—and would that it hadn't been. 1 hr. 38 PG (profanity, adult themes)

### 'Cider'

Jude Law, Julia Roberts, Clive Owen and Natalie Portman star in this four-way roundelay about lust, longing and the cruel things people do to one another in the name of love. Directed, with much cool sophistication, by Mike Nichols, working from playwright Patrick Marber's own screen adaptation. R (profanity, nudity, adult themes)

### 'Finding Neverland'

Johnny Depp stars as "Peter Pan" author James M. Barrie in this twee and fuzzy melodrama about the inspiration the Scotsman got from four London lads, and how he hid in a fantasy world to escape his not-so-happy life. 1 hr. 46 PG (adult themes, language)

### 'The Incredibles'

A movie with the sweet soul of "Toy Story" and the bolterous spirit of "Spy Kids," Brad Bird's eye-popping cartoon boasts a pro-family, pro-reform 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 developers, PG (animated violence, suspense, suitable for children 9 and older)

### 'Ladder 49'

This heartfelt tribute to firefighters falls as a drama but succeeds as a "When bad things happen to good firemen" procedural. With Joaquin Phoenix and John Travolta, PG-13 (intense fire and rescue scenes, profanity)

### 'Lemony Snicket's Series of Unfortunate Events'

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

### 'National Treasure'

Is it even possible to make a Jerry Bruckheimer movie with a straight face anymore? Technically, yes, as Disney demonstrates with its high-octane tar through the wildly unsubstantiated side of American history. But it has all the soul, wit and originality of a major co-branding campaign. Nicolas Cage "incidentally" plays Benjamin Franklin Gates, a fifth-generation treasure-hunter searching for a massive treasure stash hidden, forgotten and rediscovered by the crusading medieval knights who eventually spawned the Freemasons. The film hits every action-adventure beat, zingy and emotional trope right on cue—although, it is as doggedly hokey and ham-handed as a

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

### 'Ocean's Twelve'

This attempt by director Steven Soderbergh and an all-star cast to duplicate the deserved success of their suave "Ocean's Eleven" isn't good and isn't bad, it just isn't. A lethargic would-be entertainment as well as a dispiriting vanity project, it is such a misfire it makes it hard to remember what was special about its predecessor. The story picks up three years after the original film's Vegas heist, with Danny Ocean (George Clooney) and his gang being tracked down by the man they robbed (Andy Garcia), who gives them two weeks to pay back his \$160 million plus interest. None of the criminal set pieces Ocean and his team (including Brad Pitt, Matt Damon, Don Cheadle, Bernie Mac and Julia Roberts) take a flur on are as involving as they should be and even Soderbergh seems bored from time to time. (2:00) PG-13 for language.

### 'The Polar Express'

Director Robert Zemeckis' adaptation of Chris Van Allsburg's modern classic is

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something of a bipolar experience. There is wonder for us to cherish, courtesy of a spectacular visual sense. But there are also sequences of such exhausting, turbo-charged jeopardy that it seems like we've wandered into a Jerry Bruckheimer movie tailored to toddlers. Tom Hanks stars in five roles, including the young boy who gets to take a magical Christmas Eve train ride to the North Pole and that train's halting conductor. The film's performance capture technology that creates virtual characters in a computer-generated environment is striking, but the characters have a chilling, zombie-like aura. (1:37) G.

### 'Shark Tale'

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

**Movies Dec 24**

**Odysey 6** (R) 1:00-4:00  
Closin' in 12:30-2:45  
Tuesdays 11:00  
Finding Neverland (PG) 12:15-2:30  
Spongebob Movie (PG) 12:15-2:30  
Alexander (R) 1:00  
Bridget Jones 2 (R) 12:30-2:45

**Jerome 4** (R) 1:00-4:00  
Meet the Fockers (12) 1:00-4:00  
Lemony Snicket's (PG) 1:00-4:00  
Polar Express (G) 12:30-2:30  
National Treasure (PG) 12:30-2:30  
Twin 12 (14) Eastland  
Incredibles (PG) 1:00-4:00  
Polar Express (G) 12:15-2:30  
National Treasure (PG) 12:15-2:30  
Ocean's 12 (12) 12:15-2:30  
Shark Tale (PG) 12:45-2:00  
Flight of the Phoenix (12) 1:00  
Lemony Snicket's (PG) 12:30-2:45  
Kras with the Kranks (PG) 12:45-2:30

double entendres)

### 'Spanglish'

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

### 'The SpongeBob 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 breaches the membrane between second and third dimensions. PG (sponge and starfish nudity)

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Thursday, Dec. 23 ..... 7:00 pm  
Wednesday, Dec. 29, 1:00 & 3:00 pm  
Thursday, Dec. 30 ..... 2:00 pm

**STEAMROLLING THROUGH THE HOLIDAYS** With the music of Norman Macdonald  
Tuesday, Dec. 28 ..... 8:15 pm  
Wednesday, Dec. 29 ..... 2:00 pm  
Thursday, Dec. 30 ..... 1:00 & 3:00 pm

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B.C.

By Johnny Hart



Pickles

By Brian Crane



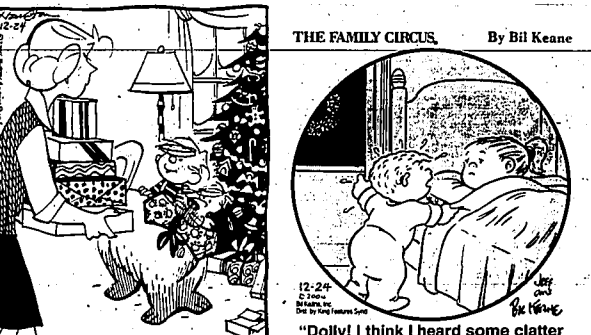
Garfield

By Jim Davis



Dennis the Menace

By Hank Ketcham



THE FAMILY CIRCUS

By Bil Keane



Hi and Lois

By Chance Browne



The Wizard of Id

By Brant Parker & Johnny Hart



Hagar the Horrible

By Chris Browne



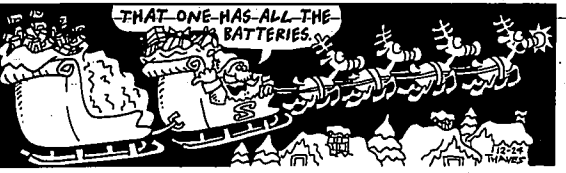
Beetle Bailey

By Mort Walker



Frank and Ernest

By Bob Thaves



The Born Loser

By Art Sansom & Chip



Rose Is Rose

By Pat Brady



Zits

By Jim Borgman and Jerry Scott



Luann

By Greg Evans



Strange Brew

By John Deering



Non Sequitur

By Wiley



WEEKEND

Video watch

The Manchurian Candidate

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

**R** ter update, with Meryl Streep, Jon Voight and Liev Schreiber. R (violence, profanity, adult themes). VHS and DVD, 129 minutes.

De-Lovely

Kevin-Kline, Ashley-Judd flash back on his life as if were the setting for one of his musicals. Ashley Judd stars as Porter's wife, Kevin Kline is magnific-

**PG-13**

cent as Porter. PG-13 (sexual content) VHS and DVD, 125 minutes.

Surviving Christmas

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

**PG-13**

With Ben Affleck, James Gandolfini and Catherine O'Hara. PG-13 (sexual content, profanity, drug reference) VHS and DVD, 91 minutes.

King Arthur

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

**NR**

princess — Guinevere — in a leather bikini top. With Clive Owen, Keira Knightley, Stellan Skarsgard and Hugh Dancy. No MPAA rating (violence, lusty banter) VHS and DVD, 138 minutes. Source: Philadelphia Inquirer

Phantom

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 Julie Andrews sings 'The hills are alive' in 'The Sound of Music.'"

Eventually, Lloyd Webber used \$85 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 studio interference. Warner Brothers paid for the distribution rights.

Schumacher, the director of such thrillers as "Falling Down" and "Flatliners" as well as the campy last two "Batman" films, seemed an unlikely choice for "Phantom" — even to himself — when Lloyd Webber first approached him in 1987.

The composer and Brightman had enjoyed Schumacher's vampire movie "The Lost Boys," about teenage bloodsuckers roaming California, and they particularly liked the way he blended action with his rock 'n' roll soundtrack.

"I was shocked he wanted to meet me. I was just starting out and there were many more famous directors who wanted to do it," Schumacher said. "I 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."

Although Schumacher's availability came and went throughout Lloyd Webber's various attempts to make the movie, the composer repeatedly met with him over the years to keep him involved. His interest in making the film stemmed from his own childhood, when he was exposed to musicals like "Carousel," "Oklahoma" and "West Side Story" not from the stage, but from the movies.

Besides that, there was a question of immortality for the play. Unlike other musicals that survive after their heyday in community theater groups or high school shows, the high-tech, epic-sized "Phantom" is not likely to turn up on small-town 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' lustre leave both clans sharing a single bathroom. The frankness of the huggy-kissy, touchy-feely Fockers mortifies Jack Byrne. And revelations about Greg's earliest sexual experiences put Jack back on the warpath to prove Greg's not good enough for his daughter.

"It's the Marx brothers' 'A Night at the Opera' and 'Helzapoppin'' an evening 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 anxiety 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 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 comedies hit theaters in spring 2005.

Kutcher stars in "Guess Who," an update of "Guess Who's Coming to Dinner," which starred Spencer Tracy and Katharine Hepburn as white parents coming to terms with their daughter's black fiancé (Sidney Poitier). This time out, it's a black father (Bernie Mac) displeased over his daughter's white fiancé (Kutcher).

"When you fall in love, it's their own little universe that's perfect and in sync. Then you meet the family, and you don't know much about them when you get there, the parents and siblings and crazy cousins. And it's too late then because your heart is involved," said "Guess Who" director Kevin Rodney Sullivan. "You look at your new lover and you say, 'I love you, but can we really do this?' That's a difficult situation for a movie."

"Monster-in-Law" stars Lopez as an orphaned woman working multiple jobs as an office temp, waitress and babysitter. Her fiancé's snobbish mother (Hond) finds a best an inadequate match for her son.

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

"It's a surreal encounter. All of a sudden, the first time you meet, you have to literally embrace and kiss people about whom you know nothing. And it's a very bizarre and human and primal thing," Luketic said, noting that the notion of in-laws dates back to prehistory, when members of different clans intermarried to avoid inbreeding.

"As uncomfortable as it is, it's essential for the survival of mankind. Let's keep the gene pool rich and varied."

Parents once chose 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," as daughters leave their fathers and their daughters' departure from tradition as they settle on mates for love without consulting their parents.

"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 trust your kids to make the decision, then doing your best to make it work. I think a lot of

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 Polo's 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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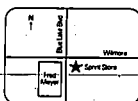
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Keep up

Read the Computers and Technology page every Tuesday in The Times-News

\*\* Taxes, surcharges (including a USF charge which may change monthly and cost recovery fees of \$.65) or other fees, which vary by market, not included. Surcharges are not taxes or government-required charges.

Nationwide network reaches over 240 million people. Offers subject to change and are not available everywhere. Coverage not available everywhere. See store for details. Service Plans: Offer ends 1/15/05. Termination Fee apply. A deposit may be required. Night and Weekend minutes are Mon-Thurs 9pm-7am and Fri 9pm - Mon 7am. Domestic roaming calls are \$0.50 per minute and an additional \$0.25 per minute for long distance. Calls made in the next whole minute. Sprint PCS Vision Services additional. Savings: Instant savings only available at participating Sprint Stores. Requires purchase and activation by 1/15/05. Savings cannot exceed the total purchase price of the phone and accessories. Offer subject to credit approval. J.D. Power and Associates 2004 Wireless Call Quality Performance Study based on responses from 3,000 wireless cell phone subscribers in West Region which Sprint and the diamond logo are trademarks of Sprint Communications Company L.P.

# SPORTS

INSIDE

Basketball 62  
Scores: pro states 61  
NFL 61

Sports Editor: Joe Poskey; 735-3239 (Mon-Fri, 7-11 p.m.)

Friday, December 24, 2004

Section D

## Coming Saturday

Shaq, Kobe get ready to start new rivalry.

The Times-News

## MORNING LINE

### SPORTS QUOTE

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 recent 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

#### QUESTION:

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

Answer below

### IN BRIEF

#### Burley will play in Salt Lake City

**BURLEY** — The Burley High School boys basketball team will play Jordan High School of Jordan, Utah before the Monday, Dec. 27 Utah Jazz vs. Seattle SuperSonics game at the Delta Center in Salt Lake City.

The Bobcats will play at 2:30 p.m., with the Jazz set to tip-off at 7 p.m. Admission for the Utah game is \$20 per person. Tickets are available through Burley coach Jack Bagley, who can be contacted at (208) 878-6606 or (208) 677-8925.

#### AAU hoops tourney offered Jan. 8

**HEROME** — The Jerome Recreation District is co-sponsoring a seventh grade-and-under basketball tournament on Saturday, Jan. 8. The entry fee is \$75 per team, with all school and AAU teams accepted. The deadline to sign up is Jan. 4.

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

#### CSI offers Junior Eagles hoops camp

**TWIN FALLS** — The College of Southern Idaho men's basketball team will host the Junior Eagles Basketball Camp on Wednesday, Dec. 29 and Thursday, Dec. 30 at CSI Gymnasium.

The clinics will run from 9 a.m.-noon on both days. The camp is open to boys and girls in grades K-8. The cost is \$60 per person, with each additional family member costing \$40. The clinics will cover shooting, ball handling, passing, defense and rebounding, and will be taught by CSI coaches and players.

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

#### Radio Rondevo holds signups

**TWIN FALLS** — The Radio Rondevo Girls Volleyball League is currently putting together their girls-in-grades-five and six.

Registration ends on Dec. 27 for the upcoming season, which extends from Jan. 11-Feb. 17, with games held on Tuesdays and Thursdays.

Came times will be 4:30-5:30 p.m., 5:45-6:45 p.m. and 7-8 p.m. Practices will be held 30 minutes prior to each game. Matches will be three games to 25 points or 25 minutes. A tournament will be held during the final week.

The registration fee is \$25, which includes a shirt. For more information, call (208) 733-2911.

#### Compiled from staff reports

### TRIVIA ANSWER:

Former Los Angeles Rams defensive end David "Deacon" Jones.

# AP Player of the Year

## Heisman winner Leinart picks up another award

By Ralph D. Russo  
Associated Press writer

**NEW YORK** — Matt Leinart found a comfort zone this season.

No longer worried about losing his job, the easygoing Southern California quarterback became the unquestioned leader of the Trojans. He performed the job so well in his second year as a starter, he also became The Associated Press player of the year.

A year of experience opens up so much, the Heisman Trophy winner said. "You've been around. You're a veteran. You've been playing for a year. You can get so much better in a year or 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 AP player of the year, Jason White.

The BCS national title game will be college-football's 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 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, Leinart 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, Iowa's 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.

Josh Heupel.

"This year has been more fun because I haven't felt as much pressure," the junior said.

Playing with two NFL-caliber wideouts 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 Williams and Kory Colbert gone and the line retooled,

Leinart was key in pulling together the new pieces and helping the Trojans go 12-0.

"I knew going in that I was going to have to do a different perspective," Leinart said.

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

## Pacers expect excited fans

By Jon Krawczynski  
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 fans 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 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 Jackson and Anthony Johnson.

O'Neal's original 25-game penalty was reduced to 15 games by an arbitrator Wednesday, while commissioner David Little said.

Please see **PACERS**, Page D4



Indiana Pacers' Jermaine O'Neal, left, is escorted off the court following his team's fight with the Detroit Pistons and fans Friday, Nov. 19, in Auburn 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.

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

By Alan Robinson  
Associated Press writer

**PITTSBURGH** — The first coaching job Dave Wannstedt wanted may turn out to be his last one.

Wannstedt was hired at alma mater Pittsburgh on Thursday, a week after taking his name out of consideration because he wasn't ready to get back into coaching so quickly after leaving the Miami Dolphins in early November.

Following his initial talk with athletic director Jeff Long on Dec. 13, Wannstedt remembered one of his first staff meetings as an assistant on Pitt coach Johnny Majors' staff in 1976.

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

made me make the coffee," said Wannstedt, a former Pitt tackle who once blocked for future Heisman Trophy winner Tony Dorsett. "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 championship team, but is vastly improved from the one predecessor Walt Harris inherited in 1986.

Like Long, the 52-year-old Wannstedt thinks Pitt can win a national championship 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 it as a path back to the NFL.



## The BCS still lives!

### College football's own classic horror B-movie

We're at that point in college football's annual season for our class when the mythical Sugar Bowl is about to be the impetus for a B-movie.

It's the classic B-movie. The established and established college football's own classic horror B-movie.

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## 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 NFL.

The Atlanta Falcons' star quarterback signed a 10-year, \$130 million contract extension Thursday that guarantees him an NFL-record \$37 million in bonuses.

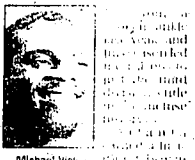
"You know, making a commitment says a lot, not just to me, but to our team," Vick said with a smile. "It means a lot to me."

Vick's contract surpasses the \$98 million deal Indianapolis quarterback Peyton Manning signed in March — although Manning's contract is for seven years. Manning was guaranteed \$24.5 million in bonuses.

Falcons general manager Rich McKay and Vick's agent, Joel Segal, began negotiations more than two months ago. They reached an agreement in principle Monday afternoon.

Vick signed the deal 20 minutes before an afternoon news conference to announce the extension.

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



Michael Vick

Atlanta, made his first start in Jacksonville, Fla., on Sunday. Vick's contract is the largest in NFL history, but he will not be the highest paid player in the league until he is paid \$10 million a year.

Schultz, the brother of his teammates, coaches and a team of a dozen.

"Yeah, pretty much," Schultz said. "I always thought it was weird that my brother was coming it up close every day is something else."

## University of Pittsburgh Athletic Director Jeff Long, right, poses with new head football coach Dave Wannstedt, holding a jersey with the number he wore when he played at Pitt, during a news conference in Pittsburgh on Thursday.

SPORTS

Lighthouse rolls over CHAMP

The Times-News

Local sports

TWIN FALLS — Rachel Ver-Hagen scored 12 of her 18 points in the first quarter to propel the host Lighthouse Christian girls basketball team to a 62-22 victory over the Christian Homeschool Association's Malheur and Payette Counties on Thursday...

Lighthouse Christian coach Jake Tolman said, "We just jumped on to a good lead and continued on..."

Madison 38

Spurs stop Garnett, Timberwolves

SAN ANTONIO (AP)—Mamu Ginobili scored 22 points, and the San Antonio Spurs held Kevin Garnett to just one second-half basket in their 96-82 victory over the Minnesota Timberwolves on Thursday night.



San Antonio Spurs' Beno Urah, center, scores on a layup over Minnesota Timberwolves' Kevin Garnett, right, while teammate Rasho Nesterovic, of Slovenia, looks on during the fourth quarter Thursday at the SBC Center in San Antonio. The Spurs won 96-82.

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 tie game. Minnesota, which shot 53 percent in the first half, made only three of 14 shots in the period.

Tim Duncan added 19 points and 10 rebounds for San Antonio, and Tony Parker also scored 19 points.

Wally Szczerbiak had 22 for Minnesota, which dropped its fourth straight road game. Garnett scored 15 points on 4-for-16 shooting and had 10 rebounds, while Troy Hudson added 14 points. Michael Olowokandi had 12 rebounds.

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 55-53 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 six-point loss Wednesday in Orlando in which they missed 13 of 26 free throws, made 16 of 19 from the line against Minnesota.

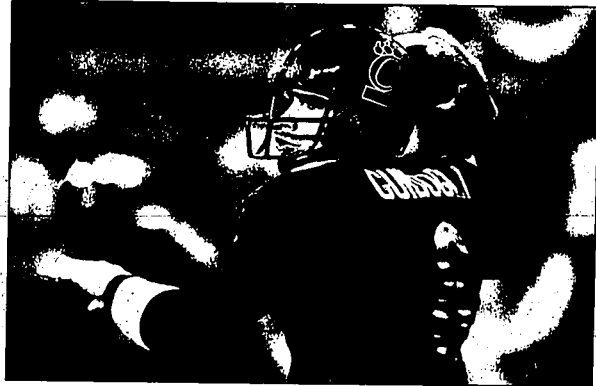
Ginobili hit a pair of 3-pointers as San Antonio opened up a 14-8 lead, their biggest of the first half.

The Timberwolves missed five of their first seven shots, but then made 12 of their next 13 attempts.

Hudson made a 17-footer near the end of the first quarter

for his first basket. He followed with a pair of 3-pointers to start the second, and then scored on a layup to lead the Spurs to a 55-53 lead with 7:20 left. The Spurs held the Timberwolves to 32 percent shooting and forced five turnovers in the period.

Suns 109, Grizzlies 102 PHOENIX — Amar'e Stoudemire had 40 points, 11 rebounds and five steals, and Shawn Marion scored 29 points to lead the Phoenix Suns



Cincinnati quarterback Gino Guidugli passes in the second quarter against Marshall in the Fort Worth Bowl in Fort Worth, Texas, Thursday. Cincinnati won 32-14.

Rugged Guidugli leads Cincinnati past Marshall

By Stephen Hawkins Associated Press writer

FORT WORTH, Texas — Gino Guidugli returned from a broken throwing hand and passed for 231 yards and two touchdowns in Cincinnati's 32-14 win over Marshall in the Fort Worth Bowl on Thursday night.

Wearing a padded glove on his still very swollen right hand, which he injured on Nov. 20, Guidugli completed 24 of 36 passes on a bitterly cold night.

After his only layup attempt, which Marshall retained for a score, Guidugli completed 10 straight passes and 14 of 16 in the second quarter. He threw both TD passes in that stretch to put Cincinnati (7-5) ahead to stay.

The Bearcats overcame a 2-4 start to finish with a winning record for first-year coach Mark Dantonio, the former Ohio State defensive coordinator. The bowl was their last game at Conference USA member before moving to the Big East next season.

Marshall (6-6), moving next year to C-USA from the Mid-American Conference, had its streak of 20 straight winning seasons ended.

The Thundering Herd, which had won five straight bowl

games, had a season-low 134 yards. Stan Hill completed 14 of 30 passes for 137 yards and a TD to go with minus-3 yards rushing for his team.

Kevin Lovell kicked three field goals (23, 19 and 35 yards) and Hamibal Thomas had nine catches for 102 yards for Cincinnati.

Guidugli missed the regular-season finale after he broke two bones in his hand in a fall outside his home. Without him, the Bearcats lost 70-7 to No. 7 Louisville with two quarterbacks combining for just 53 yards.

Before that, Guidugli had thrown for 1,022 yards with 12 touchdowns and no interceptions during a four-game winning streak.

Adjusting to the glove on his hand, Guidugli struggled early Thursday. He was 1-for-4 with his first interception in 145 passes, returned 32 yards by Willie Smith to give Marshall a 14-10 lead at the end of first quarter.

Guidugli completed his next 10 passes, all six on the drive that ended with a 15-yard TD to tight end Brent Czekel for a 17-14 lead.

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

Jackson with 18 seconds left.

Guidugli's school-record 26th TD pass was a lame duck, thrown with a nusher in his face, but Jackson caught it between two defenders. Greg Cook had 25 TD passes for the Bearcats in 1998.

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 Ian O'Connor falling on it in the end zone for a safety.

The Bears led 7-0 before Guidugli even stepped on the field.

Tyjuan Hagler blocked the first punt just a minute into the game. Antwan Giddens returned it 9 yards for the touchdown.

Guidugli's only completion in the first quarter was a 20-yarder to Thomas after Andre Frazier recovered Hill's fumble at the Herd 27. Cincinnati didn't get another first down, and settled for Lovell's 23-yard field goal and a 10-0 lead.

The temperature at kickoff was 20 degrees, with a wind chill of 17 that dropped throughout the game. The announced crowd was 13,294, less than half of the tickets distributed for the bowl sponsored by PlainsCapital.

Player of the year vs. the Heisman

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 1958.

Table with 4 columns: YEAR, AP'S PICK, HEISMAN WINNER, TODAY. Rows include Matt Leinart, Jason White, Brad Banks, Rex Grossman, Josh Houpel, Ron Dayne, and Ricky Williams.

career. USC's last game a 29-21 victory over UCLA, was the first of his career without a touchdown pass.

Leinart has said he intends to return to USC for his senior year, but it's looking like he's a

lock to be a high first-round NFL draft pick. He could even match Palmer again and go first overall.

"I'm aware of the opportunity," Leinart said. "We'll see what happens."

Pitt holds off Richmond, 69-60

PITTSBURGH (AP) — Carl Krauser scored 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 Tait added 11 points and freshman Ronald Ramon, who replaced injured starter

College basketball

Panthers start 9-0 for the third consecutive season. The Panthers are 42-1 at home since the Petersen Events 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 with just over 3 minutes remaining, but Krauser made four free throws and Ramon added two down the stretch.

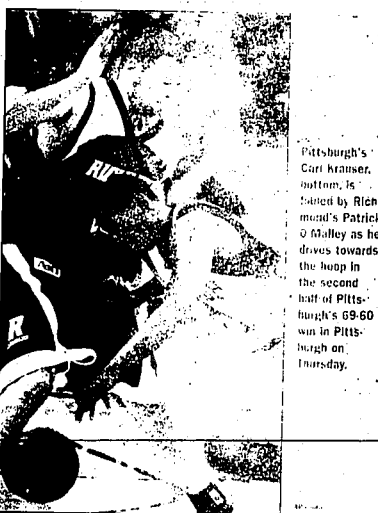
No. 20 G. Washington 81, Florida International 71

MIAMI — T.J. Thompson hit six 3-pointers and scored 25 points to lead the Colonials to their eighth straight victory. George Washington (8-1) used a 10-1 run early in the second half to take a 44-35 lead.

Ivan Almonte had 22 points and 13 rebounds for the Golden Panthers (5-5), who dropped to 0-13 all-time against ranked teams.

No. 24 Maryland 82, American 61

COLLEGE PARK, Md. — John Gilbert scored 20 points and fueled a 16-0 second-half run that gave the Terrapins a 66-48 lead. Nik Camer-Medley had 16



Pittsburgh's Carl Krauser, bottom left, is fouled by Richmond's Patrick O'Malley as he drives towards the hoop in the second half of Pittsburgh's 69-60 win in Pittsburgh on Thursday.

for Maryland (7-2). Jason Thomas scored 11 points for the Eagles, 5 of whose five-game winning streak ended.

The Terrapins have won 12 in a row over American since 1926, when the Eagles won the first game of the series.

No. 25 Virginia 79, Loyola Marymount 77, OT

CHARLOTTEVILLE, Va.

Litke

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 divvy up the take. But the reason they offer is that a playoff would harm their student-athletes' chances at academic success. Please, even an old-school authority like Penn State coach Joe Paterno isn't buying that line anymore.

"I think the college presidents allowing the BCS thing is a real shame," he said recently. "Whenever the talk turns to having some kind of a playoff, they say you can't mix classes, and yet we've already got NCAA playoffs (in every other college sport) and everything else."

Paterno added: "I'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 "money, money, money" part. The organization just signed a four-year deal worth \$320 million with Fox for the broadcast rights to the Fiesta, Orange and Sugar bowls from 2007-10 and the national title game from 2007-09. And credibility has never been high on the BCS' to-do list.

Never mind that the AP poll comprised one-third of the formula the BCS used to draw up this season's rankings — the coaches' poll and six computers made up the remaining two-thirds — or that the writers and broadcasters were the only ones who made their votes public. The coaches, many of whom have contracts triggering handsome bonuses for appearances in BCS bowls — have already indicated a willingness to stay on, and keeping the computers in the fold won't require anything more than a steady supply of electricity.

"We're just going to have to put our heads together,"

Tranghese said, "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 have had to revise the formula four times and the front-running scheme for alternative No. 5 is inherent in trying to seed a two-team tournament anytime there are three or more deserving contenders. But at least the monster will look different.

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

Coming Sunday A look at Boise State linebacker Korey Hall.

SCORES AND STATS

SPORTS IN BRIEF

BASKETBALL

NBA

All-Time All-Star Eastern Conference

Table with columns for Player, Team, and Points. Includes names like Shaquille O'Neal, Kobe Bryant, and Tim Duncan.

Central Division

Table with columns for Team, Points, and Games Played.

Western Conference

Table with columns for Team, Points, and Games Played.

Pacific Division

Table with columns for Team, Points, and Games Played.

Wednesday's Games

Table with columns for Game, Points, and Games Played.

Thursday's Games

Table with columns for Game, Points, and Games Played.

Friday's Games

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SABA Boxes

Table with columns for Game, Points, and Games Played.

Wednesday's Late

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NBA Boxes

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Supplements

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WHAT'S ON T.V.

Football

Hawaii Bowl, UAB at Hawaii, ESPN, 5 p.m.

Packers at Vikings, FOX, 1 p.m.

College Basketball Scores

Table with columns for Team, Points, and Games Played.

College Basketball Scores

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Area ski report

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Jerome Rec District holds open gym

JEROME - The Jerome Recreation District will have an open gym for basketball on Monday, Dec. 27 through Thursday, Dec. 30.

Monday, Jan. 3

Tuesday, Jan. 4

Wednesday, Jan. 5

Thursday, Jan. 6

Friday, Jan. 7

Saturday, Jan. 8

Sunday, Jan. 9

Monday, Jan. 10

Tuesday, Jan. 11

Wednesday, Jan. 12

Thursday, Jan. 13

Friday, Jan. 14

Saturday, Jan. 15

Sunday, Jan. 16

Monday, Jan. 17

Tuesday, Jan. 18

Wednesday, Jan. 19

Thursday, Jan. 20

Friday, Jan. 21

Saturday, Jan. 22

Sunday, Jan. 23

Monday, Jan. 24

Tuesday, Jan. 25

Wednesday, Jan. 26

Thursday, Jan. 27

Friday, Jan. 28

Saturday, Jan. 29

Sunday, Jan. 30

Monday, Jan. 31

Tuesday, Feb. 1

Wednesday, Feb. 2

Thursday, Feb. 3

Friday, Feb. 4

Saturday, Feb. 5

Sunday, Feb. 6

Monday, Feb. 7

Tuesday, Feb. 8

Wednesday, Feb. 9

Thursday, Feb. 10

Friday, Feb. 11

Saturday, Feb. 12

Sunday, Feb. 13

Monday, Feb. 14

Tim Floyd interested in USC coaching job

LOS ANGELES - Tim Floyd, head coach of the Los Angeles Southern California team, is interested in coaching the USC football team.

Floyd was the same day Rick Majerus resigned - less than a week after being hired as the school's men's basketball coach.

The Los Angeles Daily News reported Thursday that Floyd has agreed to take the job provided he can work out a financial settlement with the Hornets.

Both sides told The Associated Press that no agreement had been reached.

The Hornets were 11-41 last season under Floyd, who also coached the Chicago Bulls to an 49-100 record in three seasons.

He was hired by the Bulls in 1998 to succeed Phil Jackson - immediately after Michael Jordan and Scottie Pippen left following the team's championship in a span of eight years.

Floyd was much more successful as a college coach. His teams at the University of New Orleans were 127-50 in eight seasons.

He took the job at Iowa State where his teams were 81-49 in four years.

However, a source close to the school's board of supervisors indicated that the board had given Jenkins authority to renegotiate Saban's deal.

UAB makes first postseason appearance

HONOLULU - Alabama-Birmingham is making its first postseason appearance.

Hawaii is playing in its third straight hometown bowl game.

UAB coach Watson Brown said coaching the postseason is a challenge for the program.

He joined Division I-A in 1998 after competing in Divisions II and I-AA.

UAB was bowl eligible twice before, in 2000 and 2001, but didn't get an invitation.

The Blazers (7-4) have a fast-paced offense that averages 30.2 points per game and should have success against the Warriors.

The third-worst offense in the nation, allowing 47.2 yards and 38.2 points per game.

On the other hand, Hawaii scores an average of 42.8 points (on 47.6 yards per game) in Honolulu.

Crawford out three-to-six weeks with turf toe

NEW YORK - Knicks guard Jamal Crawford is expected to miss three-to-six weeks because of an injured right big toe.

X-rays taken on Thursday revealed that Crawford has turf toe. It is expected to be placed on the injured list on Sunday, the Knicks said.

Crawford was injured in the third quarter of Wednesday night's 114-109 loss to Boston when Celtics guard Jiri Welsch stepped on Crawford's toe.

Crawford signed a seven-year deal worth about \$56 million with Chicago in 2001 and was traded to New York with guard Jerome Williams for Atlanta's Otis Armstrong and Cezary Trybanski.

Crawford is second on the Knicks to Stephen Marbury with 19.3 points and 2.7 assists per game. He played in the first 26 games of New York's (13-13).

Eckstein agrees to deal with Cardinals

ST. LOUIS - David Eckstein agreed Thursday to a three-year contract with the St. Louis Cardinals.

Boston started it by hiring Edgar Renteria from St. Louis with a \$40 million, four-year contract. Anaheim then chose to sign Eckstein on Monday and give a \$32 million, four-year deal to Orlando Cabrera, who finished last season with the Red Sox.

Eckstein, 24, was a fan favorite in Anaheim, helping the Angels complete the American League's first playoff berth. He hit .276 with 37 homers and 118 RBIs last season.

He hit .276 with 37 homers and 118 RBIs last season. He was the second-hardest player to strike out in the AL, with just 49 in 568 at-bats.

Eckstein had an 18-game hitting streak last season, a career best, and led major league shortstops with a .988 fielding percentage, committing just six errors.

Compiled from staff and wire reports

LSU makes counter-offer in effort to retain Saban

MIAMI - Nick Saban's decision over whether to stay at LSU or become the sixth coach in the Dolphins' history became more complicated when LSU upped the ante on what is expected to be the highest paying contract in the college ranks.

According to sources, LSU is offering to raise Saban's contract to nearly \$1 million a year.

Currently, Saban makes \$2.3 million in base pay and will receive approximately \$400,000 in incentives for the team making a postseason bowl game.

Saban's base salary increases by \$100,000 per year when it tops out at \$3 million.

On Wednesday, President William Jenkins indicated there was a limit to how much the school would spend.

On Thursday, LSU athletic director Skip Bertman denied that Saban was trying to work a deal, which was renegotiated after the 2003 season.

However, a source close to the school's board of supervisors indicated that the board had given Jenkins authority to renegotiate Saban's deal.

Hawks send Barry to Rockets for Lue

ATLANTA - The Atlanta Hawks traded shooting guard Jon Barry to the Houston Rockets on Thursday in exchange for point guard Lynn Lee.

The averaged 6 points and 2.8 assists in 23 minutes a game this season for the Rockets.

Lee, 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 points and 4.2 assists a game. He was traded to Houston in June.

Barry, in his 14th NBA season, has played for Milwaukee, Golden State, the Lakers, Sacramento, Detroit and Denver.

Barry, 33, had a hard time fitting in with the emergence of rookie point guard Steve Nash.

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HARRAH'S ODDS

NCAA Football

Table with columns for Team, Points, and Games Played.

FAVORITE

Table with columns for Team, Points, and Games Played.

UNDERDOG

Table with columns for Team, Points, and Games Played.

College Football

Table with columns for Team, Points, and Games Played.

College Football

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College Football

Table with columns for Team, Points, and Games Played.







MONEY

MUTUAL FUNDS

Table of mutual fund performance data including columns for Name, Div, Last, Chg, and various fund names like AmeriSpec, Divers Intl, and others.

NEW YORK STOCK EXCHANGE

MARKET SUMMARY

NASDAQ NATIONAL MARKET

Table of New York Stock Exchange market data including columns for Name, Div, Last, Chg, and various stock symbols.

Table of Market Summary data including NYSE, AMEX, and NASDAQ indices and their respective changes.

Table of NASDAQ National Market data including columns for Name, Div, Last, Chg, and various stock symbols.

DIARY

DIARY

DIARY

INDEXES

INDEXES

INDEXES

STOCKS OF LOCAL INTEREST

STOCKS OF LOCAL INTEREST

STOCKS OF LOCAL INTEREST

HOW TO READ THE MARKET REPORT

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Text explaining how to read the market report, including details on fund names, prices, and market movements.

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AMERICAN STOCK EXCHANGE

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MARKETS

CLOSING FUTURES

Table with columns: Commodity, High, Low, Close, Change. Lists various commodities like Soybean, Corn, Wheat, etc.

MARKETS

Table with columns: Mar, May, Jul, Sep, Dec. Lists various commodities like Soybean, Corn, Wheat, etc.

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Fine

Continued from E1. and brokers received research from corporate headquarters only on those funds.

FOSSIL FUELS

Table with columns: NEW YORK (AP) - Futures trading on the New York Mercantile Exchange. Lists oil, natural gas, etc.

METALS/MONEY

Table with columns: Selected world gold prices, Thursday. Lists gold, silver, platinum, etc.

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LIVESTOCK

Table with columns: TWIN FALLS - Twin Falls Livestock Commission. Lists cattle, hogs, etc.

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BEANS

Table with columns: Valley Beans, Price net to growers. Lists various bean types and prices.

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Wrap

Continued from E1. cording to the National Retail Federation, a trade group based in Washington, D.C.

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Labor

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Advertisement for LOW BUYING High Moisture COP AT Intermountain BEEF. Includes contact information: 1-800-853-2333 or 208-825-5335. Also includes a map showing the location of Intermountain Beef Feedlot in Eden, Idaho.



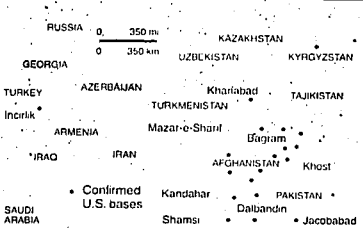
NATION/WORLD

Putin fears expanding U.S. influence

Leader says he values partnership with Bush, though

Russia feels hemmed in

Increasingly, Russia is feeling hemmed in by U.S. bases in former Soviet Central Asia and the presence of U.S. military trainers in Georgia...



SOURCES: ESPI, GlobalSecurity.org

to develop relations with its neighbors, then it means a desire to isolate the Russian Federation," Putin said testily.

The comments were in line with Putin's increasingly combative attitude toward the West and especially the United States.

Cat in a cage: High-end burglar gets nabbed

POUGHKEEPSIE, N.Y. (AP) — If he had lived up to his reputation, cat burglar Blaine Nordahl would have simply slipped away at his sentencing...



Blaine Nordahl

Instead, Nordahl's eight-year prison sentence Tuesday ended — or at least interrupted — a criminal career encompassing two decades, a dozen states and uncounted millions in silver loot still unaccounted for.

Nordahl, 42, is the rare criminal for whom 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 as the New Jersey shore and Greenwich, Conn. And he turned up his nose at cash and houses to concentrate on sterling silver.

Even police give him grudging respect. "I hate to use the word 'professional,'" said State Police Investigator Thomas Fort.

Greenwich Detective Cornell Abruzzini, who has dealt with Nordahl repeatedly since the 1980s, likened him to Lex Luthor, Superman's brainy arch-enemy.

While many burglars are smash-and-run types, Nordahl is precise and meticulous. He is

short and trim and can snake through narrow openings in windows and doors. He is stiller than most, enough to foil motion detectors.

Good as he is, Nordahl has been arrested more than a dozen times, mostly for burglary and has done time. This latest prison stint stems from the night of Jan. 29, 2002, when two grand estates miles apart along the Hudson River were burglarized: Wilderstein, the former home of a relative of Franklin D. Roosevelt now open to the public, and Edgewater, owned by a retired Wall Street banker.

In each case, the burglar patiently chiseled off back door panel moldings and slipped through little holes, bypassing other valuables to pilfer fine silverware. Motion detectors were avoided at Wilderstein. And the burglar was tidy.

"The moldings, when they were chiseled away, were all put in a neat little stack," Fort said.

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.

according to Bloomberg Markets Magazine. "We are in the process of placing the funds in the amount they invested in escrow to be returned," Strike Holdings spokeswoman Agastay said in a telephone interview.

Ramallah-based holding company owned by the Palestinian Authority. Later at a news conference at the bowling alley, Shannon said he was feeling "shock and outrage."

investor firm, had told Bloomberg Markets that he invested the money by Strike Holdings for Onyx because he had been a former classmate of Shamoun.

Shannon said at the news conference that he felt humiliated by Masri, that the origins of the money should have been revealed. "My relationship with Mr. Masri is over," Shannon said.

ty and is popular with Manhattan hipsters who pop about 58 a game per person to bowl 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 mitzvahs for Jewish teens.

The Times-News Classifieds banner with website URL www.magicvalley.com

Grid of classified categories: To Place An Ad, In Person, By Phone, Online 24/7, By E-mail, By Fax, 100 Announcements, 500 Real Estate for Sale, 900 Recreation, 700 Employment, 600 Real Estate Rentals, 1000 Transportation, 800 Financial, 700 Agriculture, 800 Merchandise, BUSINESS HOURS Monday - Friday 8 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.

LEGAL NOTICE: NOTICE OF TRUSTEE'S SALE. 04-504. 12002 79927 (TS# 7278 20523). Today's date: November 23, 2004.

LEGAL NOTICE: 60.00 feet to the Point of Beginning, thence continuing South 00 degrees 01' 09" East for 2.50 feet to a 7 inch rebar at the Southeast corner of said Lot 3; thence North 89 degrees 11' 39" West for 68.79 feet to a 7 inch rebar; thence North 00 degrees 01' 09" West for 2.50 feet to a point; thence South 89 degrees 11' 39" East for 68.79 feet to a point on the East boundary of said Lot 3 and the Point of Beginning.

LEGAL NOTICE: BEEN SUED BY THE ABOVE NAMED PLAINTIFF. THE COURT MAY ENTER JUDGMENT AGAINST YOU WITHOUT FURTHER NOTICE UNLESS YOU RESPOND WITHIN TWENTY (20) DAYS. READ THE INFORMATION BELOW.

LEGAL NOTICE: part of your right to know and to be informed of what your government is doing. As a self-government charges all citizens to be informed, this newspaper urges every citizen to read and study these notices.

SPECIAL NOTICES: BIRTHDAY PHOTOS. Have you forgotten to pickup your birthday photos? We have some photos we are sure you would want. Also place your ad Online... Now you can Log on to www.magicvalley.com



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**BANKING** D.L. Evans Bank has an opening for a Full-Time Processing Center Customer Service Representative in the Burley area. The successful candidate will possess excellent communication, organization, and PC skills. Energetic individuals with website development/maintenance experience preferred. EEO. Applications are available at any D.L. Evans Bank location.

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**BANKING** Exciting opportunity with growing community bank. Teiler Magic Valley Bank, Gooding 30 hrs/week with benefits. Great position for detail-oriented person who enjoys working with the public and handling money! Previous retail experience preferred. Mail/fax resume or request application Magic Valley Bank 146 Main St. Gooding, ID 83330 email hr@goodingbank.com Fax 208-934-5588\*

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**CORRESPONDENTS** The Times-News is looking for freelance correspondents to cover news throughout Magic Valley. Previous writing experience is a plus, but it's not a prerequisite. What counts is that you're a news savvy person who reads the newspaper and keeps current on the issues.

Anyone in the Magic Valley may apply, but we're especially eager to find writers in Glenn Ferry, Gooding, Shoshone, Hollister, Murtaugh and Twin Falls.

Please send resumes to: Troy Foster, Interim City Editor The Times-News P.O. Box 548 Twin Falls, ID 83330-0548 tfoster@magicvalley.com

**AUTOMOTIVE** Lube truck service technician needed. Call 208-731-3366

**CONSTRUCTION** Siding Installers Magic and Wood River Valley. Send resumes to All Trades & Construction P.O. Box 871 Shoshone, ID 83352.

**CUSTOMER SERVICE REPRESENTATIVE** The Times-News has a Full-time opening for a Circulation Customer Service Representative. This position must be able to handle multiple responsibilities. Ideal candidate should possess an excellent phone presence, strong customer service skills, strong computer aptitude, and the ability to work well with others. Sales experience and being a self-starter is a plus. Schedule is Wednesday-Friday, 7:00-5:00 Saturday & Sunday morning. All interested individuals should fill out an application at The Times-News, 218 E. 3rd St. Attn: Jeni Busick P.O. Box 548 Twin Falls, ID 83330. \*A DRUG FREE WORKPLACE\*

**DENTAL** Dental Hygienist - in Halley. Experience with non surgical Periodontal treatment. Position available Wednesday and AM on Thursday. Call 208-720-3890\*

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**DRIVERS** \*\*\*\*\* Local delivery drivers needed to the Wells area. Very good pay and benefits. The equipment is excellent. Call 775-752-2052\*

**DRIVERS** Tanker drivers needed for the Twin Falls area. Clean driving records. Local and long haul also needed. Call City Truck Construction 208-731-1045\*

**DRIVERS** Triple ELL Transport, Inc. is expanding it's fleet. We are looking for new hiring drivers with 2 years experience. All applicants pay, paid vacation after 1 year. Health insurance is provided after 90 days. Please call 800-377-8818, 208-734-2768 or come by our office at 807 S. Fessett St. Twin Falls\*

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**GENERAL** Blue Lakes Exxon & Cobby Sandwich Shop Now taking applications. Now hiring in person 1230 Blue Lakes N. \* 208-734-8452

**GENERAL** Services will be available in January for Various Shirts: Production Manufacturing Construction Carpentry General Laborers Apply in person at: SOG Staffing Services 663 Blue Lakes N. \* 208-734-8452

**GRAPHIC DESIGN** The Times-News is looking for an individual with experience in computer graphic design to work in our Twin Falls office. The successful candidate will design advertisements and possess the ability to maintain quality control of ad production from start to finish, strong typing and creative design skills are required. Qualified applicants will have an Associates Degree in Computer Applications, Computer Graphics, Graphic Arts or the equivalent. Experience with Macintosh computers using QuarkXPress, Adobe Illustrator & Photoshop. Send resume to: Attn: Ken Schmidt The Times-News P.O. Box 548 Twin Falls, ID 83303 or email resume and cover letter to ken@timesnews.com\*

**MECHANIC** Full-time mechanical diesel mechanic opening company. Please call Chris at 224-7800\*

**MECHANIC** Idaho Lumber and Just a Good Day is looking for a full-time retail mechanic. Must have 5 years exp. Full-time position with benefits. Call 208-788-3393, ask for Matt.\*

**MECHANIC** Local farm needs experienced truck mechanic. Salary DOE. Please call or email resume to: 208-672-5472.\*

**MECHANIC** Mobile mechanic needed. Truck provided. Call 208-731-5358\*

**MEDICAL** Come join our team! Shoshone Rehab and Living Center. We offer exciting evenings and nights. 511 E. 4th St. Shoshone, ID 83352 208-868-2228\*

**MEDICAL** Experienced qualified person to work with medical underprivileged individuals. 4 year degree required. PERSEUS P.O. Box 1500 www.personnelinc.com 208-733-7300 or 208-878-4040\*

**MEDICAL** Hiring for a RN with supervisory skills in busy medical office. Bilingual Spanish/English. 4 years experience preferred. Competitive salary based on qualifications. Send resume, cover letter and 3 professional references to: FHS-M, Cain, 724 Eastlund Dr. Twin Falls, ID 83301 EOE\*

**MEDICAL** Psychiatric Services is looking for the following position: \*Psycho Social Must have 1 year experience and BS degree in related field. The above position offers flexible schedules and a competitive wage. For more information contact Julie Mon-Thura at 732-0935 EEOC\*

**MANUFACTURING** General Tool Room Machinist 5+ yrs exp. w/metallic surfaces grinding. Heat treating knowledge a plus. Customer Service Rep. Exc. customer service skills & professional behavior. Detail oriented & ability to cross-sell products. Complete online application at www.sosstaffing.com Apply in person at Sosstaffing Manufacturing, 456 S. Main St. Twin Falls, ID 83301.\*

**MECHANICAL** experienced a plus. Must be able to lift 85 lbs. Hours are primarily 6 a.m. to 3 a.m., including weekends. Send resume and references to: The Times-News, Attn: Mary Karen, P.O. Box 548, Twin Falls, ID 83303. Email: mary.karen@tnews.com

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**MEDICAL** RN for outpatient dialysis facility in Burley. Full-time, 10 hour shift. Must be able to work 10 hours. No Sundays. Excellent benefits. Bole. 208-367-2160\*

**PRESS TRAINEE** The Times-News is looking for a trainee to work part-time in the pressroom. This person will learn the set up and functions of our Urbanite press to include the making of plates, setting ink, and running rolls.

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**NEWSPAPER SUBSTITUTES** Would you like to earn extra cash delivering The Times-News? but not commitment to 7 days a week? The Times-News is currently looking for dependable, motivated people in the area to deliver routes as Independent Contractors on an as-needed basis. Call for more information about this opportunity. 735-3302.\*

**SALES** Advertising Representative Position Open Ag Weekly/Farm Times 'Has an immediate opening for a Sales representative. The ideal candidate will have sales & marketing experience and an agricultural background. Candidate with college degree in business, agri-business or advertising will be preferred. If you would like to work for the independent West's largest agricultural newspaper. Send your resume to: Attn: Janet Goffin PO Box 548 Twin Falls, ID 83303-0548 [janet.goffin@tnews.com]

**SALES** Furniture Sales Position for Magic Valley Finest Home Furnishing Store. Must be highly motivated and self-starter with previous sales experience. Full commission with benefits. Call & apply in person at: Fine Furniture, 208-280-1212\*

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**Business Opportunities**

The Times-News has always dedicated itself to enhancing our delivery service for our customers. If you are very organized, self motivated, and enjoy working unsupervised, then we have the perfect business opportunity for you. We invite individuals who reflect our commitment to customer service and circulation growth to apply. Papers are early morning delivery.

The Times-News has independent contractor opportunities in many areas throughout the Magic Valley.

Call Jeni at 208-733-0931 ext. 302.





802 APPLIANCES

DRYERS (1) G.E. (1) Whirlpool both call 208-736-1561

807 CLOTHING & FURS

FUR COAT full length, uncut beaver with fox collar, worn 4 times...

DINING ROOM TABLE

Solid oak w/ large leaf, w/ 6 upholstered chairs, 2 Captains chairs...

Upcoming Auctions

Check Out The Magic Valley Section Of The Times-News...

FERRETS (2) w/cage

1 w/kit \$250. Wedding dress size 4, \$225. Double stroller, \$75...

TOYS Like Little Tykes

car/stroller, \$25. Talking pink rocking horse, \$25...

821 VARIETY FOODS &

RED SPUDS only and large, \$50. Call 208-736-1561

WANTED Ispigato for

1997 Ford T102. Call 208-242-3587

PROPANE FREEZER

small, good for camping, \$150. Call 208-326-0618

808 COMPUTERS

AMDB3 MHz, XP 512 ram, \$215. Call 208-732-0512

806 ELECTRONICS

TELESCOPE See the Christmas comet! Meade, Model DS-2070AT...

810 JEWELRY

BRACELET Tennis, diamond, 2.0 total weight with matching earrings...

815 EXERCISE EQUIPMENT

EXERCISE EQUIP tread-bow resistance exerciser, like new, \$400...

817 MUSICAL INSTRUMENTS

FENDER MANDOLINE w/case, \$50. Call 208-250-9068

824 WANTED TO BUY

WANT TO BUY HANDED I-CAPPED SCOOTER V-twin or similar...

823 MEDICAL SUPPLIES

WHEELCHAIR Jazzy model 4100, original stock, 2.00. Call 208-844-9343

824 CUIS AND RIFLES

CHARLES DAW 7 1/2" 12 gauge pump, \$300. Call 208-733-5936

RECREATIONAL

CHECK THE SERVICE DIRECTORY DAILY and find local businesses that can help you

805 ELECTRONICS

TELESCOPE See the Christmas comet! Meade, Model DS-2070AT...

809 FIREWOOD

COAL Stoker & Lump Delivered or hauled, Moore's Inc. 423-5533

810 FURNITURE & CARPETS

BEDROOM SET: Bed, rails, dresser, mirror, nightstand...

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FENDER MANDOLINE w/case, \$50. Call 208-250-9068

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WANT TO BUY HANDED I-CAPPED SCOOTER V-twin or similar...

823 MEDICAL SUPPLIES

WHEELCHAIR Jazzy model 4100, original stock, 2.00. Call 208-844-9343

824 CUIS AND RIFLES

CHARLES DAW 7 1/2" 12 gauge pump, \$300. Call 208-733-5936

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TELESCOPE See the Christmas comet! Meade, Model DS-2070AT...

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COAL Stoker & Lump Delivered or hauled, Moore's Inc. 423-5533

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BEDROOM SET: Bed, rails, dresser, mirror, nightstand...

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**POLARIS '94 4x4 (2)**  
Polaris '91 500SP  
with trailer, \$7,000 or  
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**STUDDER SNOW TIRE S (4)** on rims P155/80R13, \$350 for all. Call 208-734-8036.

#### 1005 TRUCKS

**CHEVY '02 1/2 ton Silverado**, AT, 4x4, 80K. Call 208-200-0227 or 208-678-2725.

#### 1006 SEMI'S & HEAVY EQUIPMENT

**CHEVY '95 4x4**, runs great, eng. 2500 miles, minor work & cosmetic. \$2,750 firm. Duane 324-5305 or 324-5255.

#### 1007 TRUCK PARTS & ACCESSORIES

**CHEVY '72 3/4 ton**, runs great, \$1,500. Also 1111, camper, \$400. Call 208-738-1704 or 208-410-2425.

#### 1008 SUV'S

**CHEVY '95 4x4**, runs great, eng. 2500 miles, minor work & cosmetic. \$2,750 firm. Duane 324-5305 or 324-5255.

#### 1009 VANS & BUSES

**CHEVY '87 3/4 ton**, and '88 Alpine 10e 5th wheel, \$7,000 for both. Call 208-320-6018.

#### 1010 CARS

**CHEVY '91 1 ton**, 4 door, crew cab, runs excellent. \$2,100. Call 208-934-8313.

#### 1011 CARS

**CHEVY '95 extra-amb.** 4x4, Silverado 350, 5 spd., \$6,500/offer. 324-5813 or 420-7622.

#### 1012 CARS

**CHEVY '96 S10**, standard, good mileage, clean, no body damage, grey. 324-5081.

#### 1013 CARS

**CHEVY '98 S10 LS**, great condition, new tires & snow tires, 86,000 miles. \$5,500. Call Nancy 208-212-4540.

#### 1014 CARS

**CHEVY '01 Silverado 1500**, quad cab, 4x4, Lovely truck! Top package, \$15,900. Call 208-324-3250.

#### 1015 CARS

**CHEVY '02 S10**, crew cab 4x4, new tires, tonneau cover, top package, \$14,500. Call 208-438-8181.

#### 1016 CARS

**CHEVY '04 Silverado 2500**, crew cab, short bed, w/matching shell, loaded, exc. cond., 19,000 miles. \$28,995. Call 208-735-1619 leave msg.

#### 1017 CARS

**ODDGE '94 Dakota**, 1/2 ton, 4x4, V8, grey, alloy wheels, standard extended cab, 124K, \$3,000. 208-878-8554.

#### 1003 CARS

**CHEVY '01 quad cab**, loaded, 115K, \$7,900/offer. Call 208-677-2350 or 208-431-2350.

#### 1004 CARS

**FORD '92 Half ton** with camper shell, \$2,000. Call 208-934-5897.

#### 1005 CARS

**FORD '94 F250 Powerstroke XLT**, regular cab, 95K, \$9,000. Call 208-882-7801.

#### 1006 CARS

**FORD '94 F250 Mechanic Special** Extended cab, camper special, 4x4, spunk bearing, \$2,000/offer. Call 208-212-9901.

#### 1007 CARS

**FORD '95 F150**, 4 wheel drive, V8, 80K, AC, 3.0 2 engine. \$5,200/offer 735-7061.

#### 1008 CARS

**FORD '95 F250 Powerstroke**, 4x4, loaded, good condition, \$14,000. Call 208-536-4574 or 208-938-5812.

#### 1009 CARS

**FORD '97 F-250 XLT** 4x4, style side super cab, 5.4L, 68K, must see. \$12,000. 208-678-4557 evenings. 208-678-6655 days.

#### 1010 CARS

**FORD '00 F-250 Quad Cab**, Long box 4x4, XLT, Auto-Super clean. A must see. Only \$16,455.

#### 1011 CARS

**FORD '01 Blazer LS**, 4x4, good condition, silver, asking \$8,900. Call 208-677-3501.

#### 1012 CARS

**DODGE '98 Durango SLT**, quad seating, CD, good condition. \$9,500. 208-734-5684. Call 208-404-9513.

#### 1013 CARS

**FORD '00 Expedition Eddie Bauer** 4x4, loaded, low miles, above average cond. Call 208-404-9513.

#### 1014 CARS

**ISUZU '94 Trooper**, 4x4 full power, V6-great runner. Only \$4877.

#### 1015 CARS

**TOYOTA '89**, 4x4, V6, 5 spd., new tires, roll bar, custom bumpers, w/light. \$3,400. Call 539-7700 or 420-0012.

#### 1016 CARS

**TOYOTA '90 4x4**, shortbed, good cond., runs great. \$3,500/offer. Call 208-731-0304.

#### 1017 CARS

**TOYOTA '02 Tacoma**, 38,000 miles, extra cab, 4 wheel drive, 5.7, 5.0 D. Call 208-734-1802.

#### 1018 CARS

**FORD '01 Escape LX**, 4 dr, 4x4, V6 auto, low miles, CD, full power. \$11,500. 735-9616.

#### 1019 CARS

**ISUZU '98 Rodeo**, silver, V6, auto, 44K, loaded! \$10,200/offer. Call 208-734-1802.

#### 1020 CARS

**JEEP '96 Grand Cherokee Limited**, 87K, heated seats, fully loaded, exc. condition. \$7,450. 208-308-6747.

#### 1021 CARS

**JEEP '79 CJ-7** auto, AT, 304 V8, hard top, locks, new tires. \$2,800. JEEP '77 J-10, pickup. \$600. Call 420-2865.

#### 1022 CARS

**JEEP '94 Wrangler**, hard top, 4 cylinder, 5 speed, 106K, \$4,995. \$3,945. 16 message.

#### 1023 CARS

**JEEP '98 Grand Cherokee Laredo**, loaded, excellent condition, low miles. Asking \$9,995. Call 208-735-1619 leave message.

#### 1024 CARS

**MERCURY '98 Mountaineer**, A/C, V8, power everything, new tires, great condition. \$5,500/offer. 948-0133.

#### 1025 CARS

**NISSAN '95 Pathfinder** 4 door, 4WD, V6, AT, auto, AC, more, sharp. \$5,977.

#### 1026 CARS

**MERCURY '97 Town & Country LX**, full power, CD, 17 in. chrome wheels, \$7,550. 735-9616.

#### 1027 CARS

**ISUZU '98 NPR**, delivery van, 1511 box, 153K, AC, excellent condition. \$14,900 firm. Call 208-431-5301.

#### 1028 CARS

**MERCURY '95 Villager**, leather, all electric, air, 180K, clean, runs great! \$4,900/offer. Call 208-436-0509.

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