

GOOD MORNING

WEATHER

Today: Cloudy with an increasing chance of showers. High 41, low 31

Page A2

MAGIC VALLEY



Hoping for snow: Area ski resorts pin hopes on approaching storms. **Page B1**

MONEY

Pay or not: Twin Falls naturopathic doctor converts practice to rely only on patients' optional donations. **Page D4**

FOOD & HOME



Dining out ethnic: Eating at specialty restaurants doesn't have to bust your diet. **Page C1**

SPORTS



Happy Annika: Sorenstam wins AP Female Athlete of the Year award. **Page D1**

OPINION

'Fuzzy' legalities: The cloudy definition of a legal slot machine begs for a legislative solution, today's editorial says. **Page A6**

COMING UP

Rising star

A century ago, Idaho entered a new year with unparalleled prosperity. **Thursday in The Times-News**

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A decade with the wolf Final part of a four-day series

ON THE HEELS OF WOLVES



The Nez Perce Tribe's wolf recovery leader, Curt Mack, tracks the movements of wolves from the confines of a small airplane. Federal and tribal agencies rely on the tribe's data on wolves in managing the species.

Monitoring plays an essential role in management

By Michelle Dunlop Times-News writer

Inside

- Future of wolves in Idaho **Page A7**
- Nature of wolves disputed **Page B1**

MCCALL — Tracking wolves high above the Sawtooths in a red and white striped Cessna-185 provides all of the splendor but little of the romanticism one might expect.

On a clear, chilly day in early November, snow stretches across the mountains like a tattered and thin quilt. Brown snakes appear in the form of old switchback roads. Ice creeps across the surface of pristine, sapphire blue lakes.

Suddenly, a faint blip-blip tickles your ear through the headphones. It's akin to the beating of a heart fused with the beeping of an answering machine.

And, the blipping sound grows louder.

The Gold Fork pack is near. Curt Mack, wolf recovery leader from the Nez Perce Tribe, says from the passenger seat.

For nearly a decade, Mack has tracked wolves. Initially, the tribe assumed responsibility for the monitoring of wolves across central Idaho, Montana and Wyoming. Today, the tribe monitors only the wolves in central Idaho — a chore in itself considering that wolf packs generally claim a territory of approximately 350 to 400 square miles. The task of tracking wolves plays an essential role in wolf management, allowing federal and tribal agencies to

know their approximate numbers and location in Idaho.

Pilot Mike Dorris of McCall Air suddenly dips the little four-seater plane lower to detect more clearly the radio signal coming from a wolf's collar. Unexpectedly, the dark caramel-colored leather seat in front appears to have turned on its side. Your sense of direction soon catches up as you realize the right wing of the plane points toward the earth below. The plane turns slowly as if the right wing were glued in place.

Gravely presses down on your chest. Your stomach retorts itself into your esophagus, and you pray you won't vomit.

A glance out the right window reveals a landscape of fresh, brilliantly white snow and deep green timber. The Gold Fork pack doesn't wish to be found and seeks refuge in the trees. After Dorris makes several turns around the location where the radio signal sounds loudest, Mack marks the pack's coordinates on the report fastened to his clipboard.

Please see TRACKING, Page A7

Many Idahoans grapple with the Endangered Species Act

By Michelle Dunlop Times-News writer

BOISE — One Idaho rancher walked into the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service office intending to get a permit to kill wolves harassing her sheep. She walked out with a plan to help southern Idaho ground squirrels.

"It was a chance to do something on the front end," said Margaret Soulen Hinson, a Welser sheep rancher. "To me, that's where we should be putting our emphasis. It's been fun."

Ranchers such as Soulen Hinson have learned to live with wolves since their reintroduction in January 1995. Gray wolves have preyed on their livestock, but the animals' protection under the Endangered Species Act leaves little for ranchers to do about it. Today, livestock producers look for ways to avoid

another endangered species situation like that with wolves.

"While not always positive, the experience of dealing with gray wolves has inspired many Idahoans to work proactively to keep other animals — such as the southern Idaho ground squirrel — from being listed under the Endangered Species Act."

“You know what’s wrong with the Endangered Species Act? There’s no incentives.”

— Dave Nelson, livestock producer

Species Act. However, bureaucratic red tape prevents species reintroduction, said James Caswell, administrator for Idaho's Office of Species Conservation.

"It's a bad precedent to make this so cantankerous and such a difficult road," he said. Please see ENDANGERED, Page A7

Are we stingy?

Official's comment hits nerve of American charity

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — A suggestion by a U.N. official that the world's richest nations were "stingy" irritated the Bush administration, especially when U.S. aid for Asia's earthquake is expected to eventually rise from the millions to more than \$1 billion.

The comment reopened the question of how to measure American generosity. The answer ultimately depends on the measuring stick.

The U.S. government is always near the top in total humanitarian aid dollars — even before private donations are counted.

U.S. increases donations to tsunami victims. See page A2



Colin Powell

The chief of the U.S. Agency for International Development, which distributes foreign aid, was quick to point out Tuesday that foreign assistance for development and emergency relief rose from \$10 billion in President Clinton's last year to \$24 billion under President Bush in 2003. Secretary of State Colin Powell said assistance for this week's earthquake and tsunami aid will eventually exceed \$1 billion.

"The notion that the United States is not generous is simply not true, factually," USAID Chief Andrew Natsios told The Associated Press in an interview. "We've had one of the largest increases of any country in the world."

But even Natsios acknowledged Tuesday that the initial \$35 million aid package the administration has crafted for earthquake and tsunami victims was completely drained his agency's emergency relief fund, which already provides assistance from Darfur to Iraq.

That means his agency will need to ask Congress or the White House for more money. "We just spent it," Natsios said. "We'll be talking to the (White House) budget office ... what to do at this point."

Natsios said the Pentagon also is spending tens of millions to mobilize an additional relief

Please see STINGY, Page A2

Milk cartons go way of inkwell

Schools replace them with plastic bottles

The Associated Press

Yet another familiar school-days object may be going the way of the inkwell and the slide rule.

Encouraged by a milk industry study that shows children drink more dairy when it comes in round plastic bottles, a growing number of schools are ditching those clumsy paper half-pint cartons many of us grew up with.

Already more than 1,250 schools have switched to single-serving bottles. While that is still a tiny fraction of the nation's schools, it is a significant jump from 2000, when there were none, according to the National Dairy Council.

"These containers are awfully hard for kids," says New Hampshire

Milk goes plastic

More schools are switching to round plastic bottles, encouraged by a study that found children drank 18 percent more milk from bottles than from cartons.

Why they're choosing plastic

Easier to open (75% of students)

Easier to drink (70% of students)

New flavor, strawberry

U.S. schools using plastic 2000's

2002 ■ 100

2004 ■ 300

2004 ■ 1,250

SOURCE: National Dairy Council AP

Agriculture Commissioner Steve Taylor, who has watched the trend spread to some 320 schools in New England. "Teachers say you can spend the whole lunch period just walking around and opening those containers."

Though plastic long has been the favored packaging for soda and other drinks, schools sought bottled milk only after a 2002 Dairy Council study found milk consumption increased 18 percent in schools that tested bottles. The study also found that children who drank bottled milk finished more of it.

The change to plastic brings schools closer to overall milk per capita consumption. In 2001, more than 82 percent of the nation's milk was packaged in plastic, up from 15 percent in 1971, according to the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

While the growing use of bottles in schools can partly be attributed to ease — educators say plastic caps are easier for children to open, and round bottles fit better in their hands — marketing savvy deserves at least as much credit.

Several years ago the milk industry decided its boxes were not visually competitive when sold alongside the relatively sexy bottles of juice and soda increasingly common in schools.

Bush heads into new term with low approval ratings

Los Angeles Times

WASHINGTON — Despite a clear-cut re-election and the prospect of lasting GOP dominance in Congress, President Bush prepares to kick off his second term with the lowest approval ratings of any just-elected sitting president in a half-century, according to a series of new surveys.

That distinction, which pollsters and analysts blame on public discontent over the war in Iraq, comes as Bush begins drafting two major speeches that could reach his image: an inaugural address Jan. 20 and the State of the Union days later. Bracketed between them is the Jan. 30 election in Iraq, another milestone that could affect public impressions of Bush.

His performance in those speeches and the outcome of the Iraq vote could determine whether Bush regains the momentum of his Nov. 2 election victory in time to push through controversial initiatives such as

revamping Social Security, rewriting the tax code, limiting lawmaking and trimming the budget deficit, analysts said.

A new Gallup survey conducted for CNN and USA Today puts Bush's approval rating at 49 percent — close to his pre-election numbers. That's 10 to 20 percentage points lower than every elected sitting president at this stage since World War II, according to Gallup, which has been tabulating such data since Harry Truman won a full term in 1948.

Bush's Gallup rating echoed a survey published last week by ABC News and The Washington Post which put his approval rating at 48 percent. That poll also found that 56 percent of Americans said the Iraq war was not worth fighting. Time magazine put Bush's overall approval at 49 percent.

"The question is, what happened to the honeymoon?" said Frank Newport, editor of the Gallup survey.

Please see POLLS, Page A2

TWIN FALLS FORECAST

Today: Partly cloudy with breezy winds. Showers expected by 4 p.m. ... Tonight: Partly cloudy with light snow showers. Winds will be from the west at 10 to 20 mph. ... Tomorrow: Partly cloudy with more showers expected. High in the upper 40s.

BURLEY/RUPERT FORECAST

Today: Heavy rain with periods of clouds. Showers will develop High in the middle 40s. ... Tonight: Clouds and scattered snow showers. Winds will be from the west in the upper 20s. ... Tomorrow: Breezy and cloudy with showers continuing High in the upper 40s.

IDAHO'S FORECAST

SUN VALLEY SURROUNDING MTS. Thickening clouds and increasing snow is expected in the mountains over the next several days. ... Today High 23 to 24. Tonight's Lows 16 to 25. ... NORTHERN UTAH Periods of clouds and occasional rain and snow showers are expected over the next few days.

TWIN FALLS FIVE-DAY FORECAST

Table with 5 columns: Today, Tonight, Thursday, Friday, Saturday, Sunday. Includes weather icons and temperature forecasts.

Yesterday's Weather

Table with 3 columns: City, HI, LO. Lists weather for Boise, Burley, Chubbuck, etc.

ALMAMANC - TWIN FALLS

Temperature, Precipitation, Humidity, Barometric Pressure for Twin Falls.

Moon Phases

Table showing moon phases for Jan 3, 10, 17, 24.

Sunrise and Sunset

Table with sunrise and sunset times for Twin Falls.

U.V. INDEX

Low Moderate High. The higher the index the more sun protection needed.

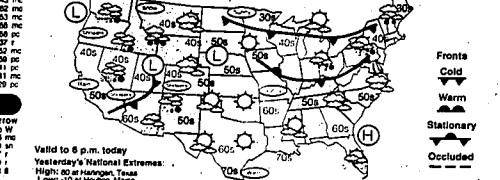
REGIONAL FORECAST

Table with columns for City, Today, Tomorrow, Friday. Lists forecasts for Boise, Burley, etc.

WORLD FORECAST

Table with columns for City, Today, Tomorrow. Lists forecasts for various international cities.

TODAY'S NATIONAL MAP



CANADIAN FORECAST

Table with columns for City, Today, Tomorrow. Lists forecasts for Canadian cities.

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U.S. adds \$20M to relief effort

WASHINGTON (AP) — The U.S. Agency for International Development is adding \$20 million to an initial \$15 million contribution for Asian earthquake relief as Secretary of State Colin Powell bristled at a United Nations officials' suggestion the United States has been "stingy."

most powerful earthquake in 40 years. This new total of \$35 million is bound to be increased, he said. "We know the needs will grow," Erel said. At the Pentagon, meanwhile, the Navy said the aircraft carrier USS Abraham Lincoln, which had been in port at Hong Kong, had been ordered to sail for the stricken area to provide assistance.

to say the Bush administration will follow up its contributions with additional large sums. "The United States has given more aid in the last four years than any other nation or combination of nations in the world," Powell said when asked about the comments Monday by an Egeland, the U.N. humanitarian aid chief. Initially, the U.S. government pledged \$15 million and dispatched disaster specialists to help the Asian nations devastated by a massive earthquake and tsunami that claimed tens of thousands of lives, including at least 11 Americans.

Stingy

Continued from A1 operation, with C-130 transport planes winging their way from Dubai to Indonesia with pre-stocked supplies of tents, blankets, food and water bags. As of early Tuesday, dozens of countries and relief groups had pledged \$81 million in help for South and East Asia, said the Geneva-based U.N. Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs. The United States uses the most common measure of the Paris-based Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development, a group of 30 rich nations that counts development aid. By that measure, the United States spent almost \$15.8 billion for "official development

assistance" to developing countries in 2003. Next closest was Japan, at \$8.9 billion. That doesn't include billions more the United States spends in other areas such as AIDS and HIV programs and other U.N. assistance. Measured another way, as a percentage of gross national product, the OECD's figures on development aid show that as of April, none of the world's richest nations donated even 1 percent of its gross national product. Norway was highest, at 0.92 percent. The United States was last, at 0.14 percent. Such figures were what prompted Jan Egeland — the United Nations' emergency relief coordinator and former head of the Norwegian Red Cross — to challenge the giving

of rich nations. "We were more generous when we were less rich, many of the rich countries," Egeland said. "And it's beyond me, why are we so stingy, really." Even Christmas time should remind many Western countries at least how rich we have become." Egeland told reporters Tuesday his complaint was not directed at any nation in particular. But Powell clearly took umbrage while making the rounds of the morning television news shows. He said he visited Egeland hadn't made the comment and reaffirmed that the Bush administration will follow up with assistance that could stretch into the billions of dollars. The White House also defended the U.S. record of giving. "We outmatch the contributions of other nations combined; we'll continue to do so," Bush spokesman Trent Duffy told reporters in Crawford, Texas, where the president is spending a post-Christmas vacation at his ranch. Natios said the Paris organization's figures overlook a key factor — the billions more Americans give each year in private donations. America's last year gave an estimated \$241 billion to charitable causes — domestic and foreign — according to a study by Giving USA Foundation.

Asia's death toll soars above 58,000

BANDA ACEH, Indonesia (AP) — Thousands of bodies lay rotting and unidentified on lawns and streets of battered Sumatra island Wednesday and authorities called out bulldozers to dig mass graves, as the number killed in a mammoth earthquake and tsunami soared above 58,000 with tens of thousands still missing. The U.N. health agency warned that disease could double the toll yet again. Across a dozen countries, millions of people whose homes were swept away or wrecked by raging walls of water Sunday struggled to find shelter. "My mother, no word! My sisters, brothers, aunt, uncle, grandmother, no word!" yelled a woman at a makeshift morgue in Lhokseumawe, Indonesia. "Where are they? Where are they? I don't know where to start looking." Along India's southeastern coast, hospital teams stood by to help the injured, but three

days after the disaster still spent most of their time tabulating the dead as ambulances hauled in more bodies. A French cultural center in Thailand's capital provided clothes and food for tourist families left with nothing when the sea battered southern beach resorts. One of the most dramatic illustrations of nature's force came to light Tuesday when reporters caught the scene of a Sri Lankan train carrying beachgoers that was swept into a marsh by a wall of water Sunday, killing at least 802. Eight rust-colored cars lay in a ditch, palm grove off wheels and baggage scattered among the twisted rails. "Is this the fate that we had planned for? My darling, you were the only hope for me," a man in a white shirt said, his arms outstretched in a gesture of sweetheart — as Buddhist monks prayed nearby.

Polls

Continued from A1 David Winston, a Republican pollster who advises the Senate leadership, said, "Communication up front is going to be as important as any task that they have at the point. There is a lot of important messaging that this administration is going to have to do in January and in February. It's taking the issues and the agenda and beginning to set it up in a way that the American public has a clear understanding of the direction he's going to go." White House officials say Bush is already working on early drafts for both speeches, even as he vacations at his ranch in Crawford, Texas. Unlike other presidents, who sought toward inaugural festivities on a tide of growing public support after re-election victories, Bush has had to somberly respond to mounting U.S. casualties in Iraq. Last week, he made a rare concession to that. "No question about it, our bombers are having an effect." One person who met with

"Bush the same day a U.S. military mess tent was bombed in Iraq, described the president as "disastrous." "A lot of the talk about momentum and agendas and political realignment is overdone in the sense that all depend on this contingent fact of how Iraq goes," said William Kristol, editor of the conservative Weekly Standard. Complicating matters for Bush's post-election image is the anticipation that one of the first budget of his second term is likely to include unpopular cuts to social programs and even the Pentagon. The Bush administration also has been criticized for failures in vetting former New York City Police Commissioner Bernard Kerik, who was forced amid ethical questions to withdraw his name from nomination to be the next secretary of Homeland Security. The approval rating for a second term is less critical, given that he will not face voters again.

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Ohio finishes presidential recount

Numbers show Bush and Kerry about 300 votes closer

TOLEDO, Ohio (AP) — Election officials finished the presidential recount in Ohio on Tuesday, with the final tally showing about 300 votes off President Bush's six-figure margin of victory in the state that gave him a second term.

The recount shows Bush winning Ohio by 118,457 votes over John Kerry, according to unofficial results provided to The Associated Press by the 18 counties. Lucas County, home to Toledo, was the last to finish counting.

The state had earlier declared Bush the winner by 118,775 votes and plans to adjust its to-

als to reflect the recount later this week.

The Kerry campaign supported the recount, but said it did not expect the tally to change the election winner. Supporters of the recount, requested by two minor party candidates, said they wanted to make sure every valid vote was counted.

Ohio and its 20 electoral votes tipped the race to Bush when Kerry conceded the morning after the vote.

Kerry gained 734 more votes in the recount, and Bush picked up 449, mostly from disqualified ballots that were counted

in the second tally because hanging chads had come loose when ballots were handled again or run through counting machines.

That put Kerry 285 votes closer to Bush. The president's victory margin declined by about three dozen more votes when some counties adjusted their certified vote totals.

The Green and Libertarian-party presidential candidates asked for the recount and raised the \$13,600 required under state law for the process. Ohio Secretary of State Kenneth Blackwell has estimated that the recount will end up costing taxpayers \$1.5 million.

Witnesses who watched workers count ballots by hand and machine said the effort provided assurance that boards were accurately count-

ing ballots.

The completion of the recount will not bring an end to questions surrounding the vote in Ohio.

A group of voters citing fraud have challenged the election results with the Ohio Supreme Court. The voters, supported by the Rev. Jesse Jackson, have cited irregularities, including long lines, a shortage of voting machines in minority precincts and problems with computer equipment.

Attorney General Jim Petro has called the challenge frivolous and argued that the state Supreme Court does not have jurisdiction over a federal election.

The Government Accountability Office, an arm of Congress, also is investigating election problems.

Woman delivers daughter's triplets

RICHMOND, Va. (AP) — A 55-year-old woman acting as a surrogate for her daughter gave birth to triplets Tuesday.

Tim Cade delivered her own grandchildren — the two boys and one girl — by Caesarean section at Bon Secours St. Mary's Hospital. She experienced "mild complications," which the hospital said is not uncommon for such surgery.

Cade carried the babies for her oldest daughter, Camille Hammond, who suffers from

endometriosis, a condition that affects the lining of the uterus and makes it difficult to become pregnant.

Hammond and her husband, Jason, both doctors at Johns Hopkins University in Baltimore, had tried for four years to become pregnant. Last winter, Cade began hormone treatment to prepare her for pregnancy, and in the spring she was implanted with three test-tube embryos. All three survived.

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Massive storm spreads drenching rain and snow across California

LOS ANGELES — A powerful storm battered Southern California on Tuesday with wind up to 60 mph and drenching rain-fall, causing highway-blocking mudslides, flooding and power outages.

Up to a foot of rain was possible in one mountain area. The wind uprooted trees and caused scattered power outages.

Residents were ordered to evacuate one section of the San Bernardino County town of Devere, 60 miles east of Los Angeles. A flash flood on Christmas Day 2003 killed 16 people near there.

Man angry about getting no presents burns home

FEASTERTVILLE, Pa. (AP) — A man angry that he got no presents for Christmas burned down his parents' house early the next morning, police said.

Steven Murray, 21, was charged with arson and risking a catastrophe in the blaze that broke out early Sunday. No one was injured.

Police said Murray had himself committed to a hospital on Christmas Day, but then signed himself out and walked eight miles home. Later he told police he saw the flames in the distance.

But officers said his jacket smelled of smoke and they found a lighter in his pocket and a gas can near the front door.

At least two killed in explosion in Minneapolis

RAMSEY, Minn. — An explosion flattened a commercial building Tuesday, killing at least two people and critically injuring a third. A fourth person was missing.

Nation in brief

TRIBUTE

Sontag dies at 71

Susan Sontag, the author and activist and "self-defined zealot of seriousness," died Tuesday. Sontag wrote the best-selling historical novel, "The Volcano Lover," and in 2000 won the National Book Award for "In America."

Selected works

- NON-FICTION
- 1964 — "Notes on Camp"
- 1968 — "Against Interpretation"
- 1977 — "On Photography"
- 1978 — "Illness as Metaphor"
- FICTION
- 1991 — "The Way We Live Now"
- 1992 — "The Volcano Lover"
- 2000 — "In America"
- SCREENPLAYS
- 1970 — "Duel for Cannibals"
- 1974 — "Brother Carl"
- OTHER
- 1993 — "Alice In Bed"
- 1999 — "Woman" (Contributor)



A small flame was visible in the ruins, suggesting a gas line break. But Sheriff's Capt. Robert

Aldrich said the cause of the mid-morning blast was not yet known.

A man pulled from the rubble was hospitalized with burns. Rescue crews searched the ruins for another person.

Widow of former Secretary of State dies

AUGUSTA, Maine — Jane Gray Muskie, whose husband Edmund Muskie's 1972 presidential campaign collapsed after he defended her honor with what appeared to be tears in his eyes, has died. She was 77.

Muskie, who suffered from Alzheimer's disease, died at her home outside Washington on Saturday, Maine Gov. John Baldacci said.

— compiled from wire reports

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WORLD

Syria denies aiding Iraqi insurgents

DAMASCUS, Syria — Syria is responding with a mixture of bravado and denial to mounting accusations by the United States and Iraq that it's a staging ground for the Iraqi insurgency with key support coming from a half brother of Saddam Hussein and Baath Party leaders here.

Damascus has accused Washington of making it a scapegoat for American failures to quell the fighting in Iraq — even as Syria moves to try and defuse tensions with the United States.

Syria's Foreign Minister Farouk al-Sharara struck a defiant tone in an address at the annual meeting of leaders of the National Progressive Front — the country's highest ruling body — in the most extensive comments yet by a senior Syrian official on the subject.

"They accuse Syria of sending money and arms," he said, but the Iraqi people "have plenty of money and arms and we are the ones who worry about the movement of arms from Iraq to Syria."

World in brief

Putin has cast the 18-month crackdown on Khodorkovsky and Yukos as an effort to fight corruption and shady book-keeping. But most observers see it as a vendetta for Khodorkovsky's perceived political ambitions, including his funding of opposition parties.

Abbas receives warm ovation in first public rally

JERICHO, West Bank — Interim Palestinian leader Mahmoud Abbas, the front-runner in upcoming presidential elections, received a loud ovation from thousands of supporters at his first public rally Tuesday, generating some excitement for the low-key politician seeking to replace the late Yasser Arafat.

The rally came as Palestinian election officials announced anti-fraud safeguards for the Jan. 9 vote, saying voters will be marked with indelible ink and ballot boxes will be sealed.

Also Tuesday, Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon's plan to withdraw from the Gaza Strip suffered a setback when a parliamentary committee failed to approve a set of guidelines governing the evacuation. While the vote isn't expected to disrupt the withdrawal, which is to begin in July, officials said it would complicate preparations.

Uncle reunited with two-year-old Swedish boy

PHUKET, Thailand — A 2-year-old boy who was found dazed and alone on a beach in the wasteland of a tsunami-devastated Thai resort was reunited Tuesday with his uncle, who flew in from his homeland after spotting the child's picture on the Internet.

The boy, identified by his uncle as Hannes Bergstrom, was found Sunday night on a road in Phang Nga province

near the beach resort of Khao Lak, about 60 miles from the land of Phuket. He was taken to Phuket International Hospital where the staff posted pictures of the blond-haired boy with red spots all over his face from mosquito bites on its Web site on Monday. They also published his photo in a local newspaper.

The Swedish newspaper Aftonbladet reported the boy's mother and grandmother were missing. His father and grandfather were believed to be in another hospital in Thailand, but their exact location and condition were not immediately

known.

Epidemics could kill as many as quake, tsunamis

GENEVA — The World Health Organization warned on Tuesday that disease in the aftermath of southern Asia's tsunami disaster could kill as many people as the deadly waves and earthquake have.

The death toll now stands at around 41,000 and is expected, to rise, and relief officials warn of possible cholera epidemics and malaria.

— compiled from wire reports

Ex-Yukos chief accuses Kremlin of stealing empire

MOSCOW — In his harshest criticism of the Kremlin to date, jailed tycoon Mikhail Khodorkovsky accused the Russian government of stealing his Yukos oil empire.



Khodorkovsky warned in a letter published Tuesday that an ongoing crackdown on post-Soviet freedoms will ruin the country.

Writing from prison, where he has been for more than 14 months, Khodorkovsky said the side of Yukos' main production unit into state hands this month "was the most senseless and destructive event in the economic sphere since President Vladimir Putin has taken helm."

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MORNING BREAK

Aries: Kiss and make up before New Year

IF DECEMBER 29 IS YOUR BIRTHDAY... In the next month you could go overboard and overestimate your abilities — but your sense of undependable confidence will help you in the year ahead. In March and September, expect the unexpected. New friendships might not last but they will permanently shift your consciousness and show you alternate perspectives and a side of life you only dreamed was possible. Experiment: Try on some new lifestyles to find out what fits best in the year ahead. Nothing is impossible. **ARIES** (March 21-April 19): If you need to kiss and make up, this might be the best day to do it before the New Year. Get your resolutions in order while others are cooperative, willing to hand out favors, or able to assist you in making dreams come true. **Taurus** (April 20-May 20): Forgiveness is in the air but, you will need to be gracious to get the best results. Small misunderstandings can be righted and help is there for the asking. They clothing or tasteful items now while end-of-the-year sales are still in progress. **GEMINI** (May 21-June 20): A lack of focus early in the day could result in misplaced glasses or missing car keys, but by the end of the day you are sharp as a tack. Earnest discussions about money or relationships can soothe ruffled feathers and get

HOROSCOPE
Jeraldine Saunders

things back on track. **CANCER** (June 21-July 22): Early day fuzziness will give way to clarity by evening. Put off purchases and important decisions until late this evening or early tomorrow. You will be able to find the right words to make apologies sound sincere. **LEO** (July 23-Aug. 22): Mountaintops could be made out of molehills where partners are concerned, so do not let squabbles fester. Clear the air and be willing to bend a little. Discoveries and disclosures could alter your perspective. **VIRGO** (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Save big meetings and discussions for the evening. It might be hard to get the wheels in motion first thing this morning when daydreaming leaves your head in the clouds, but by late day a refreshingly vibrant atmosphere gives you a social advantage. **LIBRA** (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Mend fences and offer tender apologies where they are due so that you don't have to spend the New Year alone. Appreciate sincere gestures no matter how small. Take advantage of post-holiday sales and buy something new. **SCORPIO** (Oct. 23-Nov. 21):

Cooperation is back on the agenda and you will find it easy to come to a meeting of the minds late in the day. Compromise should be the keyword. Avoid big bold steps and aggressive actions. **SAGITTARIUS** (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Your social finesse can calm troubled waters and put relationships back on track. Late evening discussions can draw you and a loved one closer. Wear that new sweater or coat for the first time today if you to be admired. **CAPRICORN** (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Errors could create mix-ups with money early today, so wait until evening to pay bills or to go shopping. You could strike it rich

with bargains on the sales tables — but must remember there could be unexpected expenses to deal with at home. **AQUARIUS** (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): You might be forced to stand up for yourself or feel the need to defend your position. Good friends will easily forgive your forthrightness, but it is wise to add a little sugar if you choose to give others a dose of their own medicine. **PISCES** (Feb. 19-March 20): Add one part of fairness to two parts sincerity to overcome disputes and bring peace back to relationships. Late-day discussions can bring common sense to bear on business deals and benefit all concerned.

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Los Angeles police arrest doctor in fake-art sting

Los Angeles Times

LOS ANGELES — The old doctor told his wealthy acquaintances that his treasure trove of paintings and sculptures had been bequeathed to his family by an Indian maharajah and that his late father had left a will stipulating that he could never sell them through art auction houses.

So Vilas Likhite, 66, allegedly proposed selling his collection of paintings by Jackson Pollock, Jasper Johns, Willem de Kooning and other modern masters directly to wealthy individuals he met in southern California.

The prospective buyers, authorities allege, were businessmen who knew little about art. The doctor appeared to have possessed meticulous documentation: A sculpture by the Romanian artist Constantin Brancusi was appraised at \$28 million. A painting by the American impressionist Mary Cassatt was on offer for \$800,000.

But Los Angeles police detectives said Monday the artworks were fakes.

Tipped off by suspicious

would-be buyers, detectives posing as a Korean businessman and an interpreter lurked in downtown Los Angeles last week. They purchased the Cassatt painting before arresting him on suspicion of grand theft.

Investigators said the doctor came to the hotel with a dozen pieces of what he said were high-priced artwork. Detectives determined all were fakes.

Orange County sheriff's authorities were also seeking to question him about a fake De Kooning painting Likhite reported stolen last year.

Likhite was being held in police custody in lieu of \$250,000 bail. The Wilson Viejo hepatologist could not be reached for comment Monday.

Police were still trying to determine the source of the counterfeit artworks and said they were following leads in Denver, Boston and Australia.

Detectives were also tracking the elaborate paper trail of certificates of authenticity, appraisals and receipts Likhite allegedly concocted to pass off his counterfeits as originals.

Abby, Crossword, Random Facts
Page B6

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EDITORIAL

Inaction on tribal gaming leads to 'fuzzy' state laws

It was easy to believe the Costco spokesman who explained why the national retailer sold slot machines at its Idaho stores. The company didn't think the slot machines that were pulled last week were illegal, spokesman Steve Messmer said, because Idaho's gambling laws are "fuzzy."

Normally, a constitutional amendment that bans slots outright is anything but fuzzy. But given a loophole of tolerance for tribal gaming machines in Idaho, Messmer's comment hit the jackpot.

The Idaho attorney general's office notified Costco that the machines were indeed illegal, after receiving a complaint last week of their sale in a Boise store. The company quickly complied and took the other machines out that store, and others in Twin Falls and Coeur d'Alene.

State officials don't think it's likely the store will be cited for selling the machines. But if legislators have two tokens of good sense, they will take a longer look at Messmer's explanation, and see how problematic the state's gambling laws are as they currently stand.

Twelve years ago, Idaho voters approved a constitutional amendment that eliminates "any form of casino gambling including, but not limited to, blackjack, craps, roulette, poker, baccarat, keno and slot machines, or employ any electronic or electro-mechanical imitation or simulation of any form of casino gambling."

Then, the Nez Ponce and Coeur d'Alene tribes threw sand in the engine with an initiative to legalize gaming machines (the tribes call them lottery machines) in 2002. Voters voted for it by approving the measure by a 58-42 margin.

Now, to no real surprise, retailers say they can't tell the difference between those two laws. And the double standard where Idaho tribes have casino games that are illegal elsewhere in the state.

Unfortunately, pulling a few slots out of stores isn't going to clarify this. State legislators have not mastered the full courage to determine legally if the initiative violates the Constitution, which it clearly does.

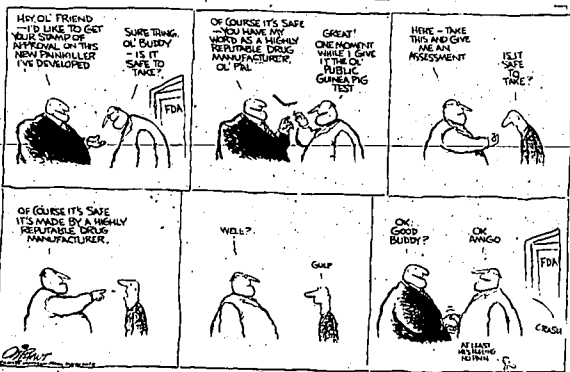
Last summer, the Legislative Council, which is made up of 10 legislative leaders, voted to request that Attorney General Lawrence Wasden hire a deputy who could challenge the initiative in district court. As attorney general, Wasden would be required to defend the initiative in court, which is state law by the people's vote.)

But Wasden said he would need a full vote from the Legislature to appoint someone. Lawmakers now must decide if they are willing to ante up and pay for the challenge. Sure, some will argue it's irresponsible for the state to hire counsel that goes against the will of voters. But legislators also have an allegiance to the state Constitution. And anytime they see one of its amendments reduced to a "fuzzy" statement against gambling, they definitely have work to do.

Our view: If Idaho merchants can't pin down the definition of a slot machine, the state needs to do it for them. **What do you think?** We welcome viewpoints from our readers on this and other issues.

Drug-company executive speaks out

The U.S. health-care system is the best in the world. Or so we are often told. But is it really true? It is certainly the best system for drug companies, which can charge the highest prices in the world to some U.S. consumers. The Congressional Budget Office has estimated that average prices for patented drugs in 25 other top industrialized nations are 35 percent to 55 percent lower than in the United States.



PETER ROST

And it is a pretty good system for hospitals, insurance companies and others that deliver health-care services. Americans spend about twice as much per person for health care as Canadians, Japanese or Europeans, according to the World Health Organization.

But it's not a good system for American citizens. The United States has shorter life expectancies and higher infant and child mortality rates than Canada, Japan and all of Western Europe except Portugal, according to the WHO.

I'm a drug-company executive who has spent 20 years marketing pharmaceuticals. And I'm troubled. I'm most troubled by the fact that we stick it to the people who can afford it the least.

For instance, elderly people who use a Medicare discount card and have to pay \$1,299 annually for a drug that the Department of Veterans Affairs purchases for \$322, according to a comparison by Families USA, or middle-class families that lose health insurance and have to pay \$29,500 for an overnight hospital stay, when Medicaid would have paid only \$8,000, according to The Wall Street Journal.

It just doesn't make any sense. And, not surprisingly, the companies with the biggest profits — those in the drug industry — have been fighting

hardest to maintain the status quo. Our dirty little secret is that the drug industry already sells its products, right here in the United States, at the same low prices charged in Canada and Europe. It's done through rebates. These are given to those with enough power to negotiate drug prices, such as the VA.

A 2001 study by the consumer advocacy group Public Citizen found that drug companies' favorite customers paid just a little over half the retail price. This leaves the 67 million Americans without insurance to pay cash, with no rebates, at double the prices paid by the most-favored customers.

The fight against re-imporation of drugs is a fight to continue to charge our uninsured full price while giving everyone else a rebate.

But what about all those programs drug companies provide to help the indigent pay for drugs? If they really worked, the Kaiser Family Foundation wouldn't have reported that 15 percent of uninsured children and 28 per-

cent of uninsured adults had gone without prescription medication in 2000 because of cost, and 87 percent of uninsured individuals with serious health problems reported trouble obtaining medication.

People today have to choose between drugs and food. The Journal Diabetes Care recently reported on a study of older adults with diabetes. One in three said they went without food to pay for drugs.

As a drug-company executive, I care about profits. When I was responsible for a region in Northern Europe, I doubled sales in two years by lowering drug prices, and in the process increased my company's sales ranking in Sweden from No. 19 to No. 7 in less than two years. I proved that it is possible to do good business with lower prices.

It's encouraging to see that the American Medical Association recently came out in favor of a system that would allow U.S. pharmacies and wholesalers to re-import drugs safely from other countries. This exactly what Europe has had for more than 20 years. It is outrageous to claim, as politicians and drug companies have done, that the United States wouldn't be able to safely and cost-effectively handle re-importation. A key trade association for European pharmaceutical companies claims there has never been a confirmed case in Europe of a counterfeit medication reaching a patient as a result of re-importation. In Germany, this was verified last year by the Federal Ministry of Health.

In the next five years, branded drugs with annual sales of \$72.9 billion are expected to lose patent protection. So we in the drug industry are fighting re-importation because we're worried about the bottom line. But when we have to choose between that and the lives of those who can't afford drugs, we have to choose life. Not to take them. And that's the reason I've chosen to speak out.

Peter Rost is a vice president of marketing at Pfizer. The views expressed here are his own, not those of his employer.

The Times-News

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

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

LETTERS

Government erases earnings with tax

I would like to extend kudos to Kathleen Lyden for her letter in the Dec. 20 issue discussing the usurpation of federal government powers as evidenced by federal estate and gift taxation. I would add that an even more confederate federal tax exists — called the capital gains tax. To show the unfairness of this tax, let me give an example.

If I purchased a common stock in 1950 for \$10,000 and sold it now for \$20,000, I would be required to pay long-term capital gains tax on \$10,000. However, inflation has been 10-fold over this period of time. Consequently, even if I paid no capital gains tax, my \$20,000 would give only one-fifth the purchasing power that \$10,000 would have provided in 1950.

Letter correction

Erik Heidemann's letter to the editor on Dec. 25 had an incorrect line in the text. The writer intended to say, "We were content to chair the Resources

Since we have a continually fiscally irresponsible federal government, the least that they could do is cap capital gains taxation to index it to inflation.

WENDELL PETTY
Twin Falls

Wolf advocates go after other wildlife

Some of the worst wolves to the existence of deer, elk, cows, sheep and some people are the wolf advocates such as Jon Marvel.

I have not farmed. I have not maintained any livestock. I have always lived in either a city or small community, so they have not had any direct effect on me. I cannot say for these advocates. "May God help you." I don't care what happens to them.

ED BALLERSTEIN
Gooding

Committee for 22 years, where he felt he could be most efficacious." *The Times-News* regrets the error.

Don't dismiss the dangers of asbestos

Mr. Cox have you done your homework on asbestos? I don't think so! Asbestos is very deadly! When asbestos was being mined years ago, the mine company that mined it did some research on it. It was found to be very deadly. It gets into your lungs and causes a rare type of cancer. They then buried the information! Not to be found for years! Why would a company bury information like this? This was to be the wonder discovery of the day! This shows that life means nothing to some companies. The company knew that it was going to be found out by the public some day, so it set aside millions of dollars.

Asbestos gets into the lungs and works very much like a fish hook. The "fish hook" sticks in the lungs; it never leaves. A blood test is one way to find if you may be in the running for it. Maybe you won't get this. Maybe you will.

Sir, there only may be a little more than 2,000 cases of this cancer that we know about. In the past, people may have died from this cancer. Doctors had not known what type cancer it was. This is a rotten way to die. It is like trying to breathe through a plastic bag with a very small pin hole in it.

My father-in-law died from this cancer. It was hard to see this strong, healthy man not even be able to sit up in bed. Don't tell people that there is nothing wrong with asbestos just because you have been lucky enough to not have contracted this form of cancer.

If you are still using old-fashioned asbestos, you should know that you are putting people's lives at risk! Old-fashioned

asbestos was outlawed many years ago (stoves, house pipes, pipe tapping, etc.). My question is where are you getting it?

"This is a very fast-killing cancer. There is no cure for it. There is some type of drug that may slow it down — that they catch it in time! It is so rare that it takes time to figure out what type it is. My father-in-law was not so lucky! We found out that he had this in April and on May 7, he passed away. Yes, he lived a full life, but what about those who don't?"

Check the facts. Check with a doctor. Please do your homework! And thank your higher power that you nor anyone you know has not gotten this! Or maybe just thank God that we know about this cancer-causing asbestos!

TAMI BILLMAN
Twin Falls

More must be done to protect our pets

"Sassy" is my 10-month-old cat. When I took her home, she was 8 weeks old. She was a healthy and happy kitten. That was until someone (whom I know) seriously abused Sassy and ruined any chance of Sassy living a normal cat's life.

Recently, X-rays were taken of Sassy and have found that she has multiple fractures throughout her spine, plus a broken sternum. Sassy is in chronic pain without her pain medication that she is destined to be on for the remainder of her life.

I feel that I must alert all of you animal lovers to be aware of whom you leave your beloved animal with! It hurts me deeply to think that anyone could be capable of inflicting violence on any animal, espe-

cially a 3-month-old sweet, innocent kitten. Her future will certainly hold plenty of love and care but, unfortunately, she lives without having the wonderful abilities of a physically healthy cat.

This is a lesson I wish that I did not have to learn firsthand, but feel it my duty to relay the message to others. Let's make smart, safe decisions for our defenseless dependent animals.

Please contact *The Times-News* to reach me if you're interested in forming some kind of support group for people with similar issues.

SHERIE AMOROSO
Twin Falls

Write to us

The Times-News welcomes letters from readers on subjects of public interest. 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@magicvalley.com.

The blessings of what we have, and don't have

Time for some end-of-the-year inventory. What am I thankful for? Let's see:

I'm thankful for the cop who pulled us over at 2 a.m. the other night. I had no idea my tail light was out.

I'm thankful for December's dead washing machine. Now I get to see what's inside its transmission.

I'm thankful for the kido who dropped out of college, since now we get to talk about what is really important to him.

I'm thankful for October's thief who stole some of my

tools because that gave me the opportunity that I would otherwise never have taken to buy even better tools. I'm thankful for that abnoxious thief (now gone) which gave God a chance to visit with me in a new and very special way.

I'm thankful for August's flat tire. I had not realized I really needed a new pair before our long trip.

I'm thankful for the kido who blew up at his brother, since he gave me a reason to give him a really big hug that he so needed.

I'm thankful for November's carpenter who told me the doors I built him didn't fit because I learning something new to perfect my craft.

So much to be thankful for! And so much more to be thankful for that didn't happen.

I'm thankful the house didn't burn down.

I'm thankful the car didn't break on the way to Los Angeles.

I'm thankful our son's jointer injury didn't tear off his whole finger.

I'm thankful the guy who took out our mailbox didn't wreck his car but learned a good lesson.

So seldom do we stop and thank God for what he didn't allow to happen. Too seldom do we thank him for so many recipes he's given us to make lemonade out of lemons. Too seldom do we take the time to thank him for much of anything.

So, as your year winds down, I offer you the opportunity and the challenge to stop, pick up a pen and count your blessings. You might just be surprised, and in that, a bit more thankful.

PHIL AUTH
Barger

Doonesbury

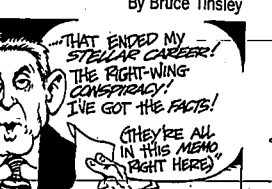


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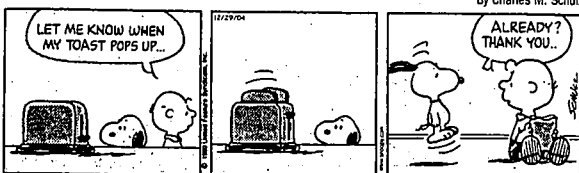
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COMICS

Classic Peanuts

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For Better or For Worse

By Lynn Johnston



Dilbert

By Scott Adams



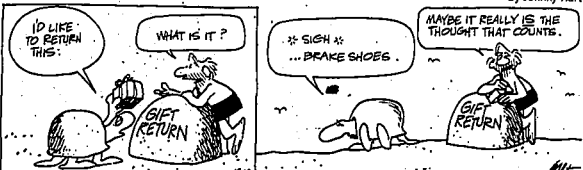
Blondie

By Dean Young & Stan Drake



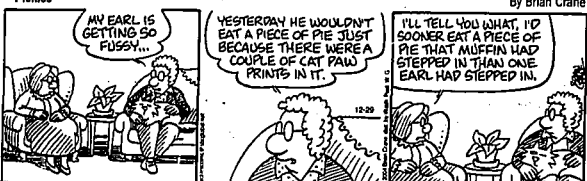
B.C.

By Johnny Hart



Pickles

By Brian Crane



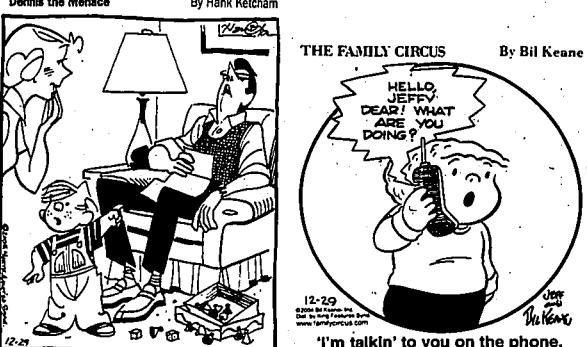
Garfield

By Jim Davis



Dennis the Menace

By Hank Ketcham



THE FAMILY CIRCUS

By Bil Keane



WE WERE GONNA PLAY MY NEW GAME, BUT DAD FELL ASLEEP READING THE RULES.

Hi and Lois

By Chance Browne



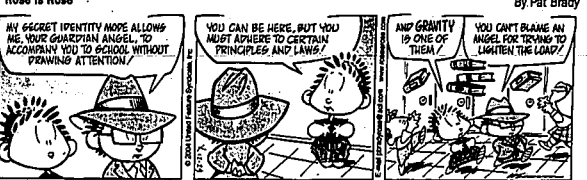
The Wizard of Id

By Brant Parker & Johnny Hart



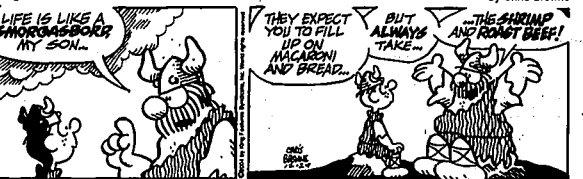
Rose Is Rose

By Pat Brady



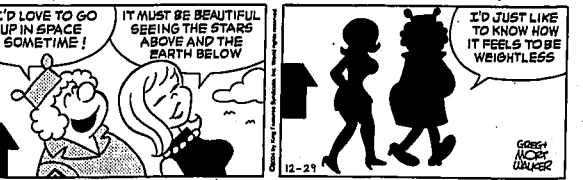
Hagar the Horrible

By Chris Browne



Beetle Bailey

By Mort Walker



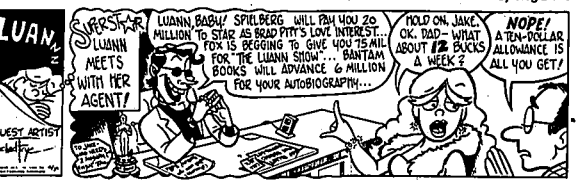
Zits

By Jim Borgman and Jerry Scott



Luan

By Greg Evans



Frank and Ernest

By Bob Thaves



Strange Brew

By John Deering



The Born Loser

By Art Sansom & Chip



MORNING BREAK

Rediscover

Toothpaste had many strange, gross ingredients

Hippocrates' favorite toothpaste was made by burning three mice and hares head to extract tricalcium phosphate...



RANDOM KINSES OF FACIENESS Jack Mingo Erin Barrett

This day in history: 'Who will rid me of this turbulent priest?' thundered Henry II, outraged at his troublesome former friend, Thomas A. Becket, the Archbishop of Canterbury...

Felt tip pens are a misnomer. They're really made of nylon or some other synthetic fiber, instead of true felt (wool that's been steamed and flattened).

According to the Humane Society, there are 73 million pet cats in the United States. Eighty percent have been spayed or neutered.



Lisa Louls

News on KBYI

Weekdays at 5 a.m. and 4 p.m.



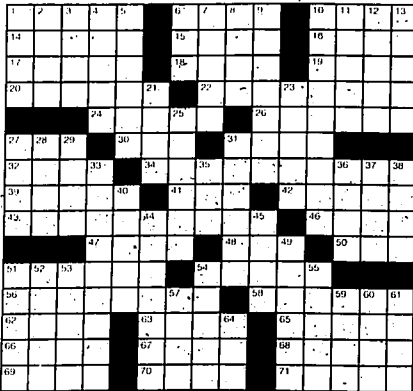
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- ACROSS 1 Wailor or Caesar 6 Sailing 10 Singing Mama 14 Spout one's thoughts 15 Loot 16 MP's pursuit 17 Ivan of tennis 18 Sit 19 Get along 20 High regard 22 Depicted 24 Place 25 Invades 27 Circle part 30 & so forth 31 Kent's love 32 Bow part 34 Of horseback riding 39 Apples and pears 41 OAS member 42 Char slightly 43 Most still 46 Snitcher



12/29/04

Tuesday's Puzzle Solved



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- 47 Castle protector 48 Important time 50 TV spots 51 Academy Awards 54 Decree 56 Of speech sounds 58 Human beings 62 Yarn 63 Religious statue 65 False alternatives? 66 Press 67 Fitzgerald of music 68 ___ of Scilly 69 Penny loafer adornment 70 Deli breads 71 Thicket of small trees

- 4 Peruvian peaks 5 Take out 6 Small snake 7 Saber or rapier 8 Palliate 9 Meeting schedules 10 Self-service eatery 11 Watchful 12 More achy 13 Racers on runners 21 Distribute 23 Small depressions 25 Determine to be innocent 27 High peaks 28 Tuber 29 Unconscious state 31 Rented 33 Fixed 35 Manipulate 36 Early Peruvians 37 Ripened 38 Capone's under

- DOWN 1 Shoe part 2 Copies 3 Dyer residue

- 40 Get a goal 44 More speedy 45 Stumble 49 Containing 51 Of the eyes 52 Stock unit 53-Intense segment 54 French school 55 Trunk 57 Shiftlessly 59 Tarantino film, Fiction? 60 Drugs 61 Latin being opening?

Practical jokes are no laughing matter

DEAR ABBY: My husband comes from a family of practical jokers. When I first married "Vince," I tolerated it. However, after my sister-in-law, "Vicki," sent a stripper to my office as a birthday surprise, I asked her politely but firmly to stop...



DEAR ABBY Jeanne Phillips

marriage counseling. He replied with an angry e-mail saying I had offended him by suggesting that he would cheat on his wife...

other things - computers and pens. In his third e-mail, he volunteered that he only "co-existed" with his wife and said they were probably headed for divorce.

--- WANTS TO DO THE RIGHT THING IN CAROLINA DEAR ABBY: I WANT TO DO THE RIGHT THING: The right thing to do is stop the e-mails. Delete him from your computer and your life.

Besides nearly costing us thousands of dollars in unrefundable travel, we realized that Vicki had snooped through our personal belongings. How else could she have obtained my credit card numbers and the confirmation number for the trip? We canceled all our credit cards...

GOLD'S GYM COUNTDOWN 3 DAYS LEFT For Current Pricing 30 DAYS and 50% OFF FREE ENROLLMENT FEE*

Horoscope Page A5

Getting You Back Into Life!

Q You have pain that shoots from your hip down to your foot. Your doctor has diagnosed a low back problem, even though you don't have back pain. Is this possible?



Samuel Jorgenson, MD

A That burning pain or numbness in your leg could be a result of a condition known as sciatica. Your pain symptoms are most likely from pinched or inflamed nerves that go from the back down the legs. Though you don't feel back pain, all those nerve endings start in the spine. Seek advice from an expert. The quicker you do, the quicker you can get back into life!

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Joseph Vrska, MD

Samuel Jorgenson, MD Joseph Vrska, MD Cheri Wiggins, MD Douglas McVey, PA Lorif G. Luna, PA

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A taste of Tex-New Mex cooking

Christmas is past — January is a couple of days away — winter is settling in for a three-month visit. Snowbirds are heading south and those of us who are left to winter in southern Idaho are either eagerly planning ski trips or snowmobiling jaunts into the hills or are dreaming of big fireplaces, palm trees or an early spring.



VALLEY COOKING
Dixie Thomas Reale

Last summer I was in Texico, N.M. — located on the Texas-New Mexico border. Since New Mexico claims to receive 90 percent sunshine and it is almost always portrayed as being baked in the sun, I wonder how Texico is faring this winter.

I picked up a "Feeders Digest Vol. 1" while there last summer. It is a community cookbook originally published by the Texico Women's Club in 1972 and reprinted during the spring of 2004 as a fundraiser for buying playground equipment for the town's park. Here are a few recipes:

CHICKEN BREASTS PAPRIKA

- 4 large chicken breasts, split
- 1 large onion
- 1 pint sour cream
- 4 tablespoons butter
- paprika, to taste
- Flour and salt chicken breasts. Chop onion; melt butter in skillet. Brown onion and chicken; Add enough water to prevent sticking. Cover and simmer until tender. Add sour cream and sprinkle generously with paprika. Heat and serve. Serve with egg noodles or rice if desired.

MEXICAN CORNBREAD

- 3 cups corn bread mix
- 1 large can cream style corn
- 3 eggs
- 1/2 cup corn oil
- 2 1/2 cups milk
- 2 cans chopped chilies
- 1 chopped onion
- 1 1/2 cup grated cheese
- Mix all ingredients together and bake at 400 degrees for 45 minutes.

CRANBERRY BREAD

- 2 cups flour
- 1 cup sugar
- 3 teaspoons baking powder
- 1/2 teaspoon salt
- 1/4 cup margarine
- 3/4 cup orange juice (may use frozen)
- 1 tablespoon orange zest (grated orange peel)
- 1 egg
- 1/2 cup chopped cranberries
- 1/2 cup chopped pecans or walnuts
- Blend flour, sugar, baking powder, salt and shortening until it resembles coarse corn meal. Mix together the orange juice, orange zest and beaten egg. Add to the flour mixture and stir enough to dampen, then add the cranberries and nuts. Bake at 350 degrees for 1 hour in greased and floured loaf pan.

INSTANT CHOCOLATE MIX

- 26 oz. dry milk
- 32 oz. Nestle Quick
- 18 oz. powdered creamer
- 2 boxes powdered sugar
- 1 teaspoon salt
- Mix all the ingredients together and store in a closed container. To make hot chocolate add 1/4 cup of the above mixture in 1 cup of hot water.

Dixie Thomas Reale is a Times-News correspondent who lives in Jerome. Write to her at dixier@magicklink.com

A taste for adventure



Tomato's Italian Grill manger Holly Sutherland says pasta dishes are always a sensible way to go, including this penne alfredo genzo dish from the Twin Falls restaurant.

Specialty-food restaurant menus don't have to bust your diet

By Loretta Burkhardt
Times-News writer

TWIN FALLS — For exotic aromas, taste-tingling dishes and foods out of the ordinary, a trip abroad may be in order. But if economics are a consideration, the folks in southern Idaho are in for a treat.

Locally there's an abundance of restaurants offering specialty foods. While choices of eating establishments are at an all time high — including Italian, Mexican, Chinese and more, to benefit from the experience of dining out, the art of ordering sensibly along the way will add to the available nutrient blend.

And with a dining reservation to the Plateau Room at the Cactus Petes Resort in Jackpot, a 45-minute trip south of Twin Falls might possibly be the perfect route.

The Plateau Room is a small dining area situated between a tempting buffet and another restaurant that caters to families. And while the spot is surrounded by the casino's fun and games offerings, the setting in the small dining area is unique.

"Here we have our own little private kitchen," said Muriel Servantes, who serves as the manager in the small dining area.

Foods are cooked to order, and where specialty dining is concerned, guests and small parties can have it their

own way. Besides a menu that includes crab-cake appetizers to complement a luscious lobster entree, inside the secluded area, the whole atmosphere is different. One example is the anticipation that comes with watching as specialty salads are prepared tableside.

Where exotic tastes are considered, when the Caesar or spinach salad is part of the mix, "there's so many flavors going on in your mouth," said Servantes, who hales from Reno, Nev., and has worked for Cactus Petes for four years. And the privacy offered in the busy casino is also a benefit.

"We're our own little world," Servantes said. From the way the food is presented to the generous portions served, eating south of the border can mean "a lot of value for your money," Servantes said.

Overall, "it's first-class," said Casino Chef John West. Still, ordering sensibly can only add to the nutritious blend along the way.

"Unfortunately we Americans eat out too much," said Lori Johnson of Rupert, a registered dietitian who specializes in private outpatient nutrition counseling.

Even so, there are ways to order sensibly. "When you order an appetizer, choose a low-carbohydrate food to save

- Always ask how dishes are prepared. Are they baked? Are they grilled? Are they prepared with butter or oil? Ask what's in the sauce; ask what's in the dressing? Servers are becoming accustomed to fielding these types of questions, so don't worry about pestering them.
- Fill up on bread and salad, but always skip the butter.
- Phone ahead. Call to see if there are broiled or baked items on the menu instead of fried or sauteed. Is salt used in the cooking? Is the food fresh and cooked to order?
- Order clear soups, broths or tomato-based soups instead of creamy soups or chowders.
- Read the menu carefully. Words and phrases to look for include: steamed, in its own juice, garden fresh, broiled, roasted and poached. Words to avoid are: sauteed, creamy,

- brown sauce, fried, buttered, thick and marbled.
- A doggy bag is your wait-line's best friend and an effective way to sidestep the "I'm paying for it so I'd better eat it" trap. Don't be shy about asking for one when you've served a plate of food that rivals the Matterhorn in height.
- Control the portions. The American Heart Association recommends limiting meat, poultry and fish intake to 6 ounces per day. For each meal the meat, fish, poultry entree should be no more than 3-4 ounces cooked. Three ounces is about the size of a deck of cards.
- Sticking with a few favorite restaurants is a good way to get to know the chef, the serving staff and the way the food is prepared. It's also a good way for them to familiarize themselves with your special requests (and don't be shy about asking for special orders

- remember, you're the one who's paying).
- If none of the main courses seem appropriate, consider ordering two starters. Steer clear of anything breaded or fried.
- Don't starve yourself! Anticipation of a restaurant visit. It's much easier to stay in control if you've been eating sensibly throughout the day. But try to drink a pint of water before you eat; you'll feel fuller and less inclined to overeat.
- Try to order first, so you won't be tempted or swayed by what everyone else is having.
- Always ask for butter, gravy, sauces and salad dressings on the side. This allows you to control how much fat you eat. If it makes you feel better, lie to the waiter and say you have an allergy. A little white lie is better than a big fat one.
- If you can't resist the house desert, share it.

bread — not the other way around," Johnson said. Choose lean cuts that are not fried, breaded, nor battered — and for the meat-lover, roast beef is always an excellent choice. According to Johnson, there's no good or bad food. "It's all about moderation." "There's healthy choices," she said, and sauces that include lycopene are good for

the heart. The taste that a marinara sauce adds is good even on a baked potato. "I tell my clients to use salsa on their baker; it's lower in calories and it tastes good. "Just try it," Johnson said. One place to try the taste of marinara is at Tomato's Italian Grill in Twin Falls. And where taste is paramount, the restaurant's pasta dishes are always Please see MENUS, Page C2

How to wage a spirited holiday celebration

Knight Ridder News Service and the Washington Post

More than anything else, the thing that can really bring people together this time of year is booze.

Whether it's an intimate gathering or a punch bowl blowout, a little alcoholic lubrication can turn a roomful of distant relatives or once-a-year acquaintances into instant old friends.

Unfortunately, the party experts say, too many hosts overlook the power of a properly served cocktail, sweating the menu, the music or the decor and leaving their guests holding whatever happens to be in the liquor cabinet.

Certainly, says Nick Maoutone, noted New York bartender and operating partner at Lou Larderdale, Fla.'s Trina restaurant, food and mood are central in any party. But with a little forethought and a few time-saving



Too many hosts overlook the power of a properly served cocktail, sweating the menu, the music or the decor and leaving their guests holding whatever happens to be in the liquor cabinet.

Photo courtesy of The Shell Bar

strategies, Maoutone says, a host can get cocktails to transform a ho-hum party into a spirited get-together.

Charge your glasses

When you gather to celebrate the new year, make sure you know the proper way to raise a glass of good cheer. Here are tips for toasting from the maker of Ridgecrest Reserve 1792 Kentucky bourbon:

- Only toast when everyone has something in his or her glasses.
- When in a group of nine or more, stand when giving a toast.
- If you're the subject of the toast, don't take a sip of your

drink, instead, thank the person toasting you and offer one in return.

- When clinking glasses at the end of a toast, look at the person whose glass you're touching. Never look at the glass or at other people at the table.
- When toasting as part of a large group, it isn't necessary to clink glasses. Simply raise your glass at the toast's end.

Source: Baltimore Sun

trailing" (Arlison, \$27.50), is an encyclopedic collection of more than 250 cocktail recipes, bartending basics and tips for the party host. "A lot of people cut corners on cocktail hour," says the veteran of landmark New York restaurants like Gramercy Tavern and Gotham Bar and Grill. "For me, it really is about interacting with

my friends, my guests. Most hosts miss the before-dinner part and how much fun it can be. Up north, greeting a guest with a steamy mug of banana buttered rum can be a good way to start a holiday party, Maoutone says. In South Florida, he Please see DRINKS, Page C6

FOOD & HOME

Take that potting soil indoors

Time to walk the garden. Spend some time just wandering around, looking at what you've done.

Do you like the direction of growth on the shrubs? How's the little tree doing that you planted a couple of years ago? Does it need directional or corrective pruning? How's the view from the trees, is the view all gone from a new evergreen here or there. Or maybe put in a trellis. Now, when it's too cold to actually do anything, we want to take a good look at what's been done. And what can be done. Plan to improve next year.

DEAR CATHY: When you get time, I have two questions for you. I raise quite a few trays of plants in the basement for planting in the spring. The wife and I plant a lot of these in different boxes and pots around the porches and yard.

We go through anywhere from three to 40 pounds of potting mix each year. We were under the impression that this was the best way to you can afford



GREEN THUMBPRINTS
Cathy Walworth

to buy the potting mix each year, so you don't carry over any bugs or disease.

But recently I heard on the TV that besides it being wasteful it was not necessary. Your thoughts?

Securely, I have used Miracle Gro for years but once again I heard that natural was better? Once again your thoughts, and if so, what kind? Bone meal? Fish oil? Green sand and all that kind of stuff? Thank you for your time and trouble.

OLD-TIME GROWER: You've brought up a couple of really good points that I know a lot of other gardeners are pondering. Let's get right to it.

You were right in the first place: If you were building a house, you'd want a good foundation. Same with plants —

you've got to have a good start. Fresh, sterile potting soil is a must. Especially if you're going to be planting in a closed-in space such as your basement.

Unless you're running fans, your basement has little air circulation, and that's a recipe for damping-off disease. It's heart-breaking to see seedlings fall prey to damping-off disease anyway — you don't have to invite the disease with last year's leftovers.

Yes, it's important to do away with any of last year's pests, which include overwintering insects and their eggs, as well as bacteria and fungal spores that might still be hanging around. It's equally important to realize that last year's crops used up any nutrients there might have been in the peat moss in that potting soil.

Commercial potting soil is made up of peat moss, perlite and vermiculite. A few will add a few more water-retaining materials, and a couple manufacturers now add fertilizer to the mix. But that's it. There's nothing left in the pantry for this year's crops.

Is organic better? Sure. But

you'd better study up on nutrients and how to sterilize your own mix. Garden soil and manures will certainly bring in organisms — good and bad.

If I wanted to use organic planting mixes, I'd start with a well-rotted compost. I'd cooked myself. Then, if I thought it needed a little something added, I'd add one nutrient at a time, such as bone meal for bulbs, fish oil for anything else.

And if I decided to use such a mix, I'd throw a few radish seeds into it to see what happens. Radishes will sprout in just about anything, quickly. And once they're up, the color and condition of the leaves will quickly tell you what's lacking, and what isn't.

You're on the right track. Keep doing what you've been doing. Remember what Granny used to say: "If it ain't broke, don't fix it."

Thanks for writing.
What's bugging your garden? Write to Cathy in care of this newspaper or e-mail her at: cwalworth@aol.com.

Rising star: A century ago, Idaho entered a new year with unparalleled prosperity. Thursday in Centennial

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Menus

Continued from C1

an excellent choice, according to Holly Sutherland, one of its chefs.

With homemade crust, Tomato's pizza is another delight. The toppings are virtually endless, including their exclusive anchovies, roasted garlic, shrimp and pizzano.

But you don't have to own a cafe to squelch a craving for specialty foods.

To help make food to your liking, Rudy's — A Cook's Paradise in downtown Twin Falls is loaded with easy and exciting ways to enhance your cooking experience, said Store Manager Donna Okarma.

With pre-packed combinations of spices that come complete with individual grinders, "we have what you need," Okarma said.

Rudy's also provides some cooking instructions.

From a taste of Thai to some Olympic Greek specialties, gourmet cooks walk their clients through the art of cooking.

In an effort to reach those who are interested in expanding their cooking horizons, Rudy's offers monthly cooking classes. But specialty food orders are also important for eating right while on the run.

To get the most out of the available food options, the

American Dietetic Association offers some heads-up about ordering wisely for those who desire to eat a healthy meal, and the association's ground rules of good nutrition at the drive-through window are simple: Limit your fat and carb intake, watch the salt, eat a variety of foods and eat a reasonably-sized portion.

Choosing the best restaurant can affect your ability to order healthfully. And eating at a place that prepares food-to-order allows more control over the calories, fat, or sodium by making the special requests. Still, some hints for ordering out "without feeling deprived"

are to include salads, choose whole grain or wheat bread, add plenty of veggie, skip the mayo and avoid the fatty fried foods, Johnson says.

Times-News writer Loretta Burkhardt can be reached at 735-3243, or write to her at lburkhardt@magicvalley.com

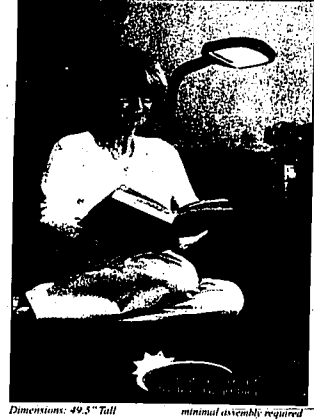
Salmon country celebrates Lewis & Clark Thursday in Outdoors



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ENGAGEMENTS

SEEGMILLER-CHRISTENSEN

BURLEY — Don and Barbara Seegmiller of Orem, Utah, are announcing the engagement of their daughter, Emily Dawn Seegmiller, to Cory Ray Christensen, son of Leon and Linda Christensen of Burley.

Seegmiller is a 2000 graduate of Orem High School and is attending Utah Valley State College.

Christensen is a 2001 graduate of Declo High School and served an LDS Mission to Honduras, Tegucigalpa. He is attending Utah Valley State College.

The wedding is planned for Wednesday, Dec. 29, in the Mount Timpanogos LDS Temple.

FARFAN-BANKS



Elena Farfan and Spencer Banks
RUPERT — Bernardo and Elena Farfan of Rupert announce the engagement of their daughter, Elena Farfan, to Spencer Roydon Banks, son of John and Helen Banks of Royburn.

Farfan is a 2001 graduate of Minico High School and is currently attending Brigham Young University. She will be transferring to the University of Utah.

Banks is also a 2001 graduate of Minico High School. He is currently attending the University of Utah.

The wedding is planned for Wednesday, Dec. 29, in the Salt Lake LDS Temple. A reception to honor the couple will be held from 6 to 8 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 30, at the Rupert West Stake Center.

The couple will reside in Salt Lake City, Utah.

WEDDING

URE-PASKETT



Erin and Gregg Paskett

DECLO — Erin Kay Ure and Gregg Paskett were married Dec. 18 in the Salt Lake LDS Temple.

The bride is the daughter of Shane and Kaylin Ure of Aberdeen.

The bridegroom is the son of Jim and Jackie Paskett of Declo.

The bride is a graduate of Aberdeen High School. She attended Brigham Young University-Idaho.

The bridegroom is a graduate of Declo High School and is attending Utah State University in Logan, Utah.

A reception to honor the couple will be held from 7 to 9 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 29, at the Aberdeen LDS Church. An open house will be held from 7 to 9 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 30, at the raft river LDS Church.



Cory Christensen and Emily Seegmiller

A reception to honor the couple will be held from 7 to 9 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 30, at the Springdale Ward in Burley.

The couple will reside in Provo, Utah, while they continue their studies at UVSC.

HUNT-KASUNICK

KIMBERLY — Jon and Gannie Hunt of Kimberly announce the engagement of their daughter, Rachel Lee Hunt, to Seth Aaron Kasunick, son of James and Janet Kasunick of Monroeville, Pa.

Hunt served an LDS mission in Columbia, Brazil. She is attending Idaho State University in Pocatello.

Kasunick served an LDS mission in Munich, Germany. He also is attending ISU in Pocatello.

The wedding is planned for Thursday, Dec. 30, in the Idaho Falls LDS Temple. A reception



to honor the couple will be held from 7 to 9 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 30, at the Kimberly LDS Church, 222 S. Birch. A program will be held at 8:30 p.m.

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FOOD & HOME

New Year's Eve nosh: What's for starters?

The Seattle Times

It's almost New Year's Eve, time for guests gather around the appetizer table. Set out bowls of an elegant shrimp dip accented with fresh ginger and sesame oil or light a candle under a rustic farmhouse cheddar fondue. Then step back and enjoy your own party.

SPICY BLACK BEAN DIP WITH CHORIZO

Makes about 3 cups
 2 teaspoons olive oil
 1/2 pound bulk pork chorizo
 3/4 cup chopped yellow onion
 1 medium clove garlic, minced
 1 small jalapeno pepper, seeded and minced
 1 small serrano chili, seeded and minced
 1 teaspoon ground cumin
 1 teaspoon chili powder
 1 teaspoon kosher salt
 1 can (14 1/2 ounces) reduced-sodium pitted and diced tomatoes
 2 tablespoons minced fresh oregano, divided
 1 can (15 ounces) reduced-sodium black beans, drained and rinsed
 Freshly ground black pepper
 Bottled hot sauce
 1. In a large skillet, heat olive oil over medium heat. Sauté chorizo. Add chorizo and cook until browned, about 5 minutes.
 Break up the pieces with a spatula as they are cooking. Pour off excess fat, leaving a couple teaspoons in the pan. Add onion, garlic, jalapeno and serrano; cook 5 minutes.
 2. Stir cumin, chili powder, salt, tomatoes with juices and 1 tablespoon oregano into the pan. Simmer, stirring often, 5 minutes.
 Stir in black beans and simmer 5 minutes in thickener. Stir in remaining tablespoon oregano. Season to taste with pepper and hot sauce. Serve warm.

SHANGHAI SHRIMP DIP

Makes about 3 cups
 3/4 pound cooked bay shrimp
 1/3 cup light mayonnaise
 1/2 cup sour cream
 4 teaspoons lemon juice
 1/2 teaspoon Asian sesame oil
 1/4 teaspoon hot chili oil
 1/4 teaspoon salt
 1/4 teaspoon freshly ground white pepper
 3 thin green onions, including green tops, finely chopped
 1 tablespoon pitted and finely minced fresh gingerroot
 1 small clove garlic, peeled and minced
 1. Drain shrimp well. Line a plate with several layers of paper towels and spread shrimp on top. Refrigerate 15 minutes.
 2. Whisk together mayonnaise, sour cream, lemon juice, sesame and chili oils, salt and pepper. Stir in shrimp, green onions, ginger and garlic. Cover and refrigerate until ready to serve.

serve. (The dip can be made up to 4 hours before serving. Or combine all of the ingredients except the shrimp and refrigerate overnight. Then add shrimp the next day.)

FARMHOUSE CHEDDAR AND TOMATO FONDUE

Makes about 5 cups
 12 cloves roasted garlic (see note)
 4 medium plum tomatoes
 6 cups shredded white farmhouse cheddar cheese
 3 tablespoons all-purpose flour
 1 teaspoon dry mustard
 2 tablespoons unsalted butter
 1. 1/2 teaspoon dried oregano, crushed
 1 cup dry white wine
 1. Prepare the roasted garlic. Squeeze out of skins into a small bowl and mash well. Set aside. Bring a medium pan of water to a boil. Core tomatoes and drop into the boiling water. Remove pan from heat and time 30 to 60 seconds until the skins begin to crack. Drain. When tomatoes are cool enough to handle, peel, seed and cut into 1/4-inch dice. Set aside.
 2. Put the cheese into a bowl. Stir together flour and mustard; toss with the cheese and set aside.
 3. Melt the butter in a heavy saucepan set over medium-low heat. Add the garlic and tomatoes, stirring about 2 minutes until the tomatoes just begin to soften. Stir in the oregano, then pour in the wine, stirring well. Add handfuls of the cheese, stirring until completely melted. Don't let the mixture become too hot or the cheese will separate. Pour into a fondue pot to keep it warm. Serve with pita or bagel chips, or cubes of French or Italian bread, toasted or left plain.
 Note: Separate the garlic cloves, cutting a thin slice from their tips. Put into a small baking dish and toss with a teaspoon olive oil. Cover with aluminum foil. Roast in a preheated 350-degree oven 25 minutes or until very soft.

um tamari sauce or soy sauce
 3 tablespoons maple syrup
 1 tablespoon lime juice
 Pinch cayenne pepper
Scallops:
 15 large scallops
 30 small sprigs fresh rosemary
 1 heaping tablespoon fresh rosemary leaves, coarsely chopped
 Freshly ground black pepper
 1/4 teaspoon kosher salt
 1/5 slices maple-smoked bacon


the rosemary sprigs and measure 1 tablespoon chop coarsely. Refrigerate the sprigs. Sprinkle scallops with the chopped rosemary, pepper and salt. Cut each slice of bacon in half crosswise and wrap a piece around each scallop. Place on a plate, seam side down. Cover with plastic wrap and refrigerate until ready to cook.
 3. Remove glaze and scallops from refrigerator 15 minutes before cooking. Place scallops on a broiling pan and broil 5 inches from heat source for 5 minutes. Rotate pan and continue broiling about 3 to 4 minutes or until the bacon is cooked through and crisping around the edges. Transfer to a paper-towel-lined plate. Brush with glaze and insert a small sprig of rosemary into each. Place on a serving platter and serve immediately.

1. To prepare glaze: In a small saucepan, combine tamari or soy sauce, maple syrup, lime juice and cayenne. Bring to a boil, reduce heat slightly and cook at a low boil 4 minutes or until reduced by about half. Cover and refrigerate until ready to use.
 2. To prepare scallops: Cut each scallop in half vertically. Strip the bottom leaves from

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

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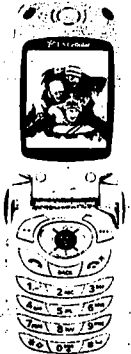
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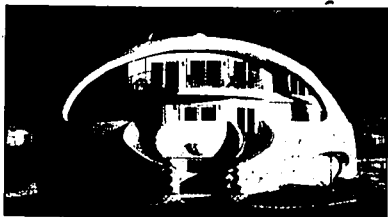
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FOOD & HOME

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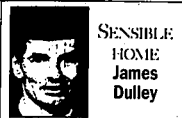
Take another look at geodesic domes

DEAR JIM: I watched television during the Florida hurricanes. It showed a unique dome home that survived a direct hit. I have been thinking about building a geodesic dome home. Are they also energy efficient?



Geodesic domes are strong and energy efficient.

—NED B. I saw the same television show and the super-strong dome home was built using a unique construction method. Many of the same reasons these homes are so strong also make them the most energy efficient house design. In nature, nearly all animals also build round and domed nests, dens and homes. This home was built by first pouring a circular concrete slab. An airform (bubble) is attached and sealed to the slab.



SENSIBLE HOME James Dulley

The airform is often made of PVC-coated nylon or polyester film. The shape of the airform is designed to create the size and the shape of the dome house your family desires. Large fans pressurize and inflate the airform. Once inflated to the proper shape, several inches of polyurethane foam insulation are sprayed on the interior surface. Openings for many windows, doors, skylights, cupolas, etc. are made in the dome. Reinforcing steel wire supports are placed against the insulation and this is covered with a thick layer of smooth concrete.

Another insulating foam/concrete construction method uses triangular panels common to geodesic dome homes. The panels are made of thick polystyrene insulating

foam. They are covered on the exterior with a layer of fiber-reinforced concrete and optional drywall on the interior. More than 50 percent of these homes are owner-built with little previous experience. A temporary wooden dome frame is built. Each panel has a channel along its edges. Reinforcing steel is placed in the channels and then filled with concrete. This forms a sealed concrete exterior except for windows and doors. The lumber from the temporary frame is then used for interior wall studs.

The more traditional geodesic dome homes use standard lumber to build insulated triangular panels. These are assembled creating the self-supporting dome shape. A steel hub-and-strut method can also be used to create a geodesic frame which is later insulated and covered with plywood or OSB sheathing. If you prefer a somewhat more traditional-looking dome home, you can add rectangular extensions to the main dome home in the center.

As you deviate more from a true dome shape though, it loses energy efficiency and strength. The spherical shape is the key to a dome home's energy efficiency. A sphere has the least surface area for a given interior living space. Less surface area means less energy loss (gain during

summer). Winds flow smoothly over a dome. This minimizes pressure differences from side to side resulting in less air leakage. The open floor plans are also ideal for heating/cooling.

Write for (instantly download - www.dulley.com) Update Bulletin No. 869 — list of nine manufacturers of geodesic dome kits listing construction methods, sizes, specifications, six floor plan layouts, and several exterior diagrams. Please include \$3.00 and a business-size SASE, James Dulley, The Times-News, 6906 Royalgreen Dr., Cincinnati, Ohio 45244.

DEAR JIM: I am taking your advice and adding more attic insulation. I have a lot of old batt insulation with a vapor barrier. Since the existing attic insulation does not have a vapor barrier, can I use this?

—JEN W. DEAR JEN: There should be a vapor barrier under the existing insulation to block indoor moisture from migrating into it. If moisture gets into the attic insulation, it can condense during cold nights and soak the insulation. If you will be doubling the insulation thickness, then you can use your batt insulation with the vapor barrier down. It will keep the insulation below it warm enough so moisture will not condense on its vapor barrier.

Despite mercury, nurse says fish are healthy

Knight Ridder News Service

Examine the mercury scare in 'Fishy Advice: The Politics of Methylmercury in Fish and Mercury Emissions' by nurse

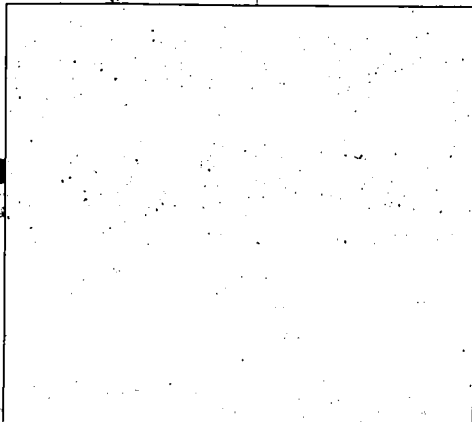
and culinary professional Sandy Szware.

Szware contends that the most well-known information about mercury in fish is flawed and has caused Americans to

veer away from a food that could make them much healthier.

To read more about the book, visit www.cel.org/pdf/4330.pdf.

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Honda CR-V LX FWD	No	2	Good	Marginal	160	1,500 lbs.
Ford Escape XLS FWD	No	2	Acceptable	Poor	153	1,500 lbs.

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Watermelon gardening in Magic Valley's high country

By Lorraine Cavener
Times-News correspondent

MINIDOKA — Watermelon lovers take heart: Maybe you've heard that you can't grow watermelon in the Magic Valley, other than in the Hagerman area. But when Cynthia Mickelsen was visited by *The Times-News* this fall, it was plain to see that watermelons thrive in her garden — located about a mile from Minidoka at the edge of the desert.

Jo Ann Robbins, a Jerome County University of Idaho Extension educator, says it's possible to grow watermelon throughout the Magic Valley. "First, choose a type of watermelon that will mature in your area," Robbins said. "Some seed companies specialize in short-season cultivars."

Mickelsen uses seeds from a New York seed catalog. Watermelon varieties that will ripen in 60 to 70 days can be found and would grow best on the south side of the house or in a warm spot, Robbins says. Extension educators were growing watermelons recently in a demonstration garden next to the Jerome Extension office.

"We were until somebody stole them," she said. Mickelsen explained her theory about why people don't attempt to grow watermelon more often.

"We are spoiled here," she said. "We can get those wonderful Hagerman melons."

Hagerman, elevation 2,959 feet, has a longer growing season than the rest of the Magic Valley. By contrast, Mickelson's garden lies at about 4,300 feet. But Mickelsen's curiosity prompted her to try to start growing melons about two years ago.

And it's not that surprising that she was able to do so, considering the number of other flowers and vegetables that she grows in her yard.

Mickelson's garden has a long row of gurnies, which are known as a tropical plant.

"We were driving down the road and I saw some in a friend's garden," she said. "I asked her, 'What are those?'"

Her friend gave her some of the bulbs and Mickelsen found they grew fairly easily.

"They are bulbs," she said. "You lift them in the fall."

She experimented with a few to find out if they would grow like they do in tropical climates.

"I moved them off and covered them with whole bales of straw," she said. "They froze."

So she had to start over the following year.

One year her friend's cannas froze and Mickelsen was able to repay her.

"I took her a box back," she said.

Here and there, some have come up from seed. She digs them up and transplants them.

"The hummingbirds love them," Mickelsen said.

Trumpet vine is another success story.

"I planted them last fall," she said. "When I got them they were like this."

She held her thumb and finger about two inches apart.

"They are almost three feet tall this year," she said.

The trumpet vines are wrapped around steel posts and will eventually create a barrier between the irrigation ditch and her yard.

Her Casablanca lily has also done well, growing tall enough that it has to be staked with a potato-digger link.

Thirty years ago, the Mickelsons moved to the farm.

"There were no lawn, no nothing," she said.

She started mowing spots where the lunc grass was growing.

Now her yard full of peonias, bleeding hearts, dahlias, lady's mantle, coneflowers, California poppies and more, and is a place the family comes for reunions.

"We had 53 at one party and 49 at another this year," Mickelsen said.

But it hasn't always been easy. "If you knew how many times

If you go ...

Master Gardener Program classes will be held from 8:30-11:30 a.m. beginning Jan. 18 in Jerome and 1-4 p.m. in Rupert. They will also be held at noon to 3 p.m. on the third Tuesday of each month in Twin Falls. The sessions will be held at the University of Idaho Extension offices in each location.

Cost is \$65, which covers registration, supplies, handouts, and the Master Gardener Handbook. Participants are required to return at least 30 hours of volunteer time in their community through approved Extension programs. Registration for the classes is due by Jan. 7. For more information contact Jo Ann Robbins at 324-7578.

"I've bought moss rose and planted it and they never grow," she said. "But now over here they come up volunteer."

"Petunias won't grow in spots that are too shady," she says. Mickelsen has tried to grow roses.

"I fought with it," she said. "I put iron nitrogen in the ground, but they just don't do good here."

But one rose bush at the end of the garden shed grows so well that she has to prune it down.



Cynthia Mickelsen allces into one of her high-country watermelon garden.

LORRAINE CAVENER/
The Times-News

"Her dahlias are so heavy that they need to be staked. Mickelsen had to have some like a variety she had seen at the county fair."

"I wrote the seed company and asked about them," she said. Mickelsen planted patio dahlias in pots this year.

"That worked good," she said. "I don't think they are suppose to get this high."

In the spring, Mickelsen also has hyacinths, tulips and primroses, lady's mantle, California poppies and more.

"Her vegetables do well too. Last fall, she canned 36 quarts of corn."

Her garden is also enhanced with decorations such as a wrought iron gate that Mickelsen's husband built. She showed him a picture of one she saw in a garden magazine and he

elaborated on it. Flat stone seats are placed strategically in places where she likes to relax and enjoy the garden. She had seen some expensive benches like them at flower shops, but decided to build her own.

"That's three big flat, lava rocks," Mickelsen said. "We call them Flintstones Seats."

Her garden and the embellishments throughout it increase after she clips ideas from magazines and watches gardening shows on television.

"My husband tells me I can't

watch HGTV any more," Mickelsen said.

She keeps busy in the fall canning, pickling, drying lavender bundles and filling her basement storage pantry with all kinds of bounty from her garden.

Part of her garden success she attributes to Master Gardener Programs.

"I've taken the Master Gardener course three times. I could take it 30 more."

One of her favorite recipes that she makes from garden bounty is Mandarin Sauce. The recipe is from her friend and fellow gardening enthusiast Shirley Stallings:

MANDARIN SAUCE
8 cups tomatoes, scalded, peeled and chopped
4 cups chopped onions
2 20-oz. cans pineapple tidbits, cut in chunks
5 cups sugar
8 tbsp. soy sauce
3 cups vinegar
1 1/2 cups sugar
1 1/2 cups modified starch — either instant or non-instant
1 cup water

Combine tomatoes, onions, pineapple and green peppers in large kettle. Add 5 cups sugar, soy sauce and vinegar. Bring to boil. Combine last 1 1/2 cups sugar and modified starch thoroughly. Add reserved pineapple juice and water. Gradually add to boiling liquid. Stir until thick. Put in jars. Process in hot water bath 35 minutes. Makes 13 pints.

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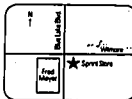
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Greer fits nicely on narrow lot

Distinctive cedar battens and trim accent the Greer's wooden siding, giving a clean-lined, woody look to this compact home. The slender side-light and porch support post both echo and complement the vertical, line theme, which neatly frames the grid work doors.

This compact, three-bedroom, two-bathroom plan fits neatly on a narrow lot, and is as economical to build as it is to maintain. It's an ideal size for a couple, young family, empty nesters, or a single person who wants a home office as well as a guest room. If needed, it could be easily adapted for wheelchair accessibility.

Family living areas flow together in one bright, expansive space that fills the entire right side: bedrooms, bathrooms, and a laundry alcove fill the left. A coat closet is on the right side of the entry, opposite a door providing direct access to the garage.

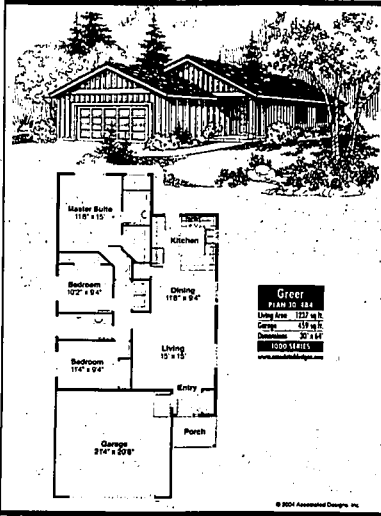
Natural light is abundant throughout. It washes into the living and dining areas through wide windows, and into the kitchen through a smaller window that fronts the sink.

A raised eating bar marks the boundary between the kitchen and dining area. Family and friends will enjoy hanging out here, whether snacking or just conversing with those working in the kitchen. The kitchen's ample counter and cupboard spaces include a step-in pantry.

The Greer's master suite boasts a walk-in closet and oversized shower. Windows face the rear, offering added privacy along with a pleasant view of the back yard.

The side bedrooms share another bathroom, which is outfitted with a combination tub and shower. The laundry appliances that hide behind accordian doors in the hallway are conveniently close to bedrooms and bathrooms.

For a review plan, including scaled floor plans, elevations, section and artist's conception, send \$25 to Associated Designs, 1100 Jacobs Dr., Dept. W, Eugene, OR 97402. Please specify the Greer 30-484 and include a return address when ordering. A catalog featuring more than 400 home plans is available for \$15. For more information, call (800) 634-0123, or visit our website at www.associateddesigns.com.



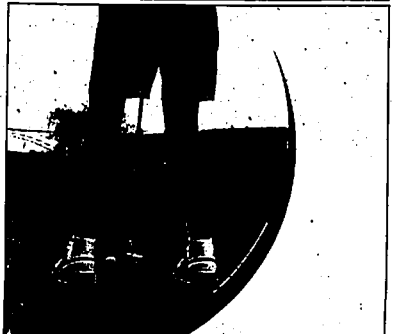
Cookbook targets empty nesters

The Baltimore Sun

Responding to the growing number of Baby Boomers whose kids are leaving home, Pillsbury has introduced *Cooking for Two*, a program of tips, recipes and products aimed at helping empty nesters prepare meals.

Among the suggestions: using a toaster oven instead of a regular oven for energy savings; shopping the supermarket for products with resealable packages. For more ideas and recipes, visit www.pillsbury.com.

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By Joel M. Lerner
The Washington Post

WASHINGTON — It's the holiday break, a good time to relax for a few minutes with a list of exciting new plants that will be rewarding additions to your landscape for spring. These woody plants display both practical and aesthetically pleasing characteristics. They have been bred, selected and tested in the years before reaching the market.

In most of these cases, to view the plant and get more information, go to the Web site of the wholesaler, which I've listed. Then search that site for the specific plant.

• *Spiraea snow storm (S. media Darwinson)*. Snow storm is a hybrid developed and introduced by Dariusz Nurseries in the Netherlands. This woody shrub works well for Zone 7, and it is the perfect size for lovers of the old bridalwreath spiraea that was popular in the 1930s and earlier. This hybrid has huge white flowers. It blooms from July through October, seldom needs pruning, reaching 4 to 6 feet high and wide. It is tolerant of partial shade. A beautiful trait is its blue green foliage that turns to brilliant orange and red in fall. This plant has been available at garden centers since 2003 and is a great accent for the edge of a woodland garden or the middle or back of a sunny perennial border. (See www.springmeadownursery.com.)

• Green tower boxwood (*Buxus sempervirens Aotiana*). Released this season by Mio-rovina Nursery in Azusa, Calif., it thrives in well-drained locations. It is touted as a perfect hedge plant for tight spaces, since it grows moderately fast and has a narrow, one- to two-foot wide, columnar habit to 9 feet tall. I plan to try some for a

vertical evergreen element in the garden to check speed of growth and disease-free tendency in this region. They would be interesting as pillars to focus the eye toward a sculpture. (See: www.monrovia.com.)

• *Encore azaleas*. Azaleas typically get noticed because they are covered with thousands of colorful flowers in spring. But it just takes a few of their showy flowers to cause excitement when they flower in fall, as some did this year. Our plants started blooming in August and went through October, displaying 15 to 20 blooms. If you saw azaleas flowering in autumn, it might not have been an anomaly; it might have been a repeat blooming, encore azalea. Several hybrids were introduced, in the early 1990s.

Bred in the 1980s by Robert E. Lee of Independence, La., they were developed to bloom in spring and again in fall. When introduced, encore had been unmentioned. I was impressed with its concept, but, because they were developed in the deep south, hardiness was a question. I tried some on a shady site, and they seem to like our humid conditions. Planted as four- to six-inch-tall "sticks," because there was breakage in the shipping, they are now 2 to 3 feet after seven years. Ours are short- or mid-size plants in flower and branching because of the shady conditions, but this was the most floriferous fall yet for our autumn embers and autumn amethyst. (See www.enconcazalea.com.)

• *Midnight wine weigela (W. florida 'Elevra')*. There has been a movement toward breeding small hybrids of larger plants that have interesting foliage and flower but also, in sharp contrast to the species, seldom to never need pruning. This brand-new, dark-crimson-leaved weigela meets these

criteria. Midnight wine grows 12 to 18 inches tall at maturity with compact foliage and bright pink flowers in spring. This exceptionally hardy low shrub is good used at the front of a perennial or shrub border for color all summer. It has been likened to a thornless-crimson pygmy barber in habit and color, but slightly lower growing. (See www.pottedillers.com/midnightwine.htm.)

• *Prairie flame shinning sumac (Rhus copallina var. laetifolia Morton)*. The sumac has always displayed flaming brilliant fall foliage. They are like burning bush (*Euonymus alatus*) in that they show a dependable red fall color every year. The beauty of this deciduous, multi-stemmed plant that was introduced in March of this year by the Chicago Botanic Garden is its refined, compact habit. Plant in groupings of three or four where their handsome glossy foliage, creamy white blooms and bright red fall foliage will create a focal point in your landscape. One plant can grow into a colony of stems that never needs pruning. The parent plant is 7 feet tall with a 10-foot spread after 15 years of growth. They look great incorporated into rock outcroppings in natural settings. (See www.chicagobotanic.org.)

• *Tiger eyes sumac (Rhus typhina Ballinger)*. Introduced a couple of years ago, this sumac also grows into an upright round shrub about 6 feet high and wide, but it's an eye-catcher

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460 Eastland Drive • Twin Falls 734-2400

National Treasure (PG)
Today 12:15-3:30-6:45-9:30

Lemony Snicket's (PG)
Today 12:30-1:00-3:45-4:00-6:45-7:15-9:30-9:55

Polar Express (G)
Today 12:15-2:30-4:45-7:00-9:15

Flight of the Phoenix (13)
Today 1:00-4:00-7:15-9:45

Christmas with the Granks (PG)
Today 12:45-3:00-5:15-7:30-9:45

Incredible's (PG)
Today 1:30-4:30-7:15-9:55

Ocean's 12 (PG)
Today 12:15-3:30-6:45-9:30

Life Aquatic with Steve Zissou (R)
Today 1:30-4:15-7:25-9:55

Jerome Cinema
955 West Main • Jerome 324-8875

NATIONAL TREASURE (PG)
IN STEREO SURROUND
Today 12:30-3:30-7:00-9:30

Polar Express (G) Today 12:30-4:30

OCEAN'S 12 (13) Today 7:00-9:30

MEET THE FOCKERS (13)
IN STEREO SURROUND
Today 1:00-4:00-7:10-9:45

LEMONY SNICKET'S (PG)
IN STEREO SURROUND
Today 1:00-4:00-7:10-9:45

Odyssey 6
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Finding Neverland (PG)
Today 12:15-2:30-4:45-7:00-9:15

Spongebob Squarepants (PG)
Today 12:15-2:30

Alexander (R) Today 2:30-7:30

Spanglish (13)
Today 1:00-4:00-7:00-9:30

Meet the Fockers
Today 12:30-1:30-3:45-4:30-7:00-7:30-9:30-9:55

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FOOD & HOME

Drinks

Continued from C1
might choose his pomegranate punch.

"What's more festive than a big punch bowl and everyone gathering around?"

"The recommendations prepare pitchers of a single drink for all the guests."

"Everyone enjoys a common experience," he says, "and you don't have to spend all your time making ingredients."

Jonathan Eismann, chef-owner of Pacific Time in Miami, meters a more varied approach that he finds equally efficient.

Eismann says he likes to set up two or three small tables, each with a different beverage option and the appropriate glassware. One table might have wine, another, gin, rum, tonic water, ice and garnishes; and a third, mineral water, juices and soft drinks. "It's setting up these small, unique bar areas, it helps spread out guest clusters," Eismann said in an e-mail. "People will congregate with similar drinks. Also, it gives the host to visit to them and make 20 drinks as guests arrive. You can instead ask them what they want and then direct them to it."

Miami restaurateur and party planner Barton G. Weiss proposes a third way. "Think off the wall," says the owner of Barton G restaurant in Miami Beach. "Create a unique opportunity, whether it's the presentation, the mix of ingredients, have fun with it."

For a recent holiday party, Weiss served cocktails in trays, glasses that resembled Christmas ornaments. Last year he put a teardrop-shaped Swarovski crystal on every glass.

"It's the little, hidden surprises," Weiss says. "Thoughtful and cautious. Watch out for being so overly creative that people just don't get it."

Whatever your approach, planning is the key. "After making the guest list, Mautone says, he chooses a theme, creates a menu, makes shopping lists and decides what he'll eat when. Finally he checks cocktails and other beverages to complement the food, season and occasion."

When he hosted a Mexican-themed birthday party, his wife, Mautone served a shrimp quesadilla appetizer and chicken miteo dessert with a store-bought pie for dessert.

For the cocktail hour, he mixed a batch of prickly pear margaritas. Mautone prepared the base mix — a prickly pear puree — a week in advance and froze it. He thawed the mix the day of the party and had a gallon of margaritas waiting when the doorbell rang.

"By the time guests arrive," he says, "work should be done."

Mautone likes to reinvent classic drinks using ingredients you could expect to find in the kitchen, not behind the bar. That's part of his philosophy. This is an extension of the kitchen and not a separate bar. In "Raising the Bar," he offers tips on using cocktail ingredients in food recipes — crushed mint pulp from a mojito makes a rub for chicken, and lamb chops pineapple chunks from a syrup recipe makes a glaze for baked ham. Conversely, his drink recipes include a rosquinho (with rosemary-infused vodka) and a hashi martini (garnished with an oven-dried tomato slice).

"Raising the Bar" also includes a chapter on snacks and hors d'oeuvres, with recipes ranging from the simple, like scallops on rosemary skewers, to the sumptuous, like yogurt-crust lamb chops.

The more daunting parts of the book involve homemade mixes, syrups, cordials and garnishes. Though Mautone's recipes make it look easy, most people probably don't have the inclination to make their own pineapple syrup, blackberry cordial or maraschino cherries.

Still, seasoned hosts are sticklers for detail and best enjoy the extra attention pays off. Mautone, who entertains about once a month in the Manhattan apartment, shares with his wife and daughter, says he knows a party is a success "when no one wants to leave and everyone's laughing it up."

Let us lot on conversation and the laughter," he says, "it's always about how good we feel when the last guest has left."

cranberry juice
Squeeze of lime
In a cocktail shaker, combine the Cointreau or Triple Sec, vodka and cranberry juice. Shake and strain into a martini glass. Top with a squeeze of lime.

RASPBERRY MARTINI
Series 1
3 ounces Stolli raspberry vodka
3 ounces fresh raspberry puree
Dash raspberry liqueur (not raspberry pucker)
Dash of simple syrup (recipe follows)

Put all ingredients in a shaker over ice and shake vigorously. Strain into a pre-chilled martini glass. Ingredients too variable for meaningful analysis.

PEPPERMINT PATTIE
Series 1
1 oz. peppermint schnapps

Many bartenders rely on simple syrup as a sweetener for cocktails rather than granulated sugar. Made from sugar dissolved in water, the syrup dissolves much more readily than sugar granules in cold liquids.
2 cups water
2 cups sugar
In a saucepan, bring the water to a boil. Add the sugar and cook, stirring constantly, until the sugar has dissolved, about 30 seconds. Reduce the heat to low and simmer until just slightly thickened, about 5 minutes. Remove from the heat, set aside to cool. (May cover tightly and refrigerate for up to 3 weeks.)

1/2 oz. white creme de cacao
Splash of banana liqueur
1 oz. half and half
Mix ingredients in shaker with ice. Strain into a frosted martini glass and garnish with a small York Peppermint Party.

THE RUBY RED
Series 1
4 sections ruby red grapefruit
1/2 oz. simple syrup
1 1/2 oz. tequila
1 oz. Citronage (Mexican orange liqueur)
Muddle the ingredients together in a shaker with a muddler or wooden spoon.
Add ice, shake vigorously and strain into a rocks glass rimmed with red sea salt.

SPARKLING CAMPARI COCKTAIL
Series 1
Cut a grapefruit in half. Squeeze juice from one half and reserve. Cut both halves into wedges and set aside.
Simmer 1/2 cup sugar and 4 ounces water until slightly thickened, 2 minutes. Add grapefruit wedges and cook 5 minutes. Let cool.
Combine 8 ounces each vodka and Campari, 5 1/2 ounces sweet vermouth and the cooled grapefruit and syrup. Refrigerate at least 1 hour.
Strain mixture and divide, over ice, among 4 wine glasses. Top with a splash of reserved grapefruit juice and 3 ounces sparkling

CITRUS GIN
Series 2
Fill a pitcher with ice.
Add 4 oz. gin, 1 oz. dry vermouth, 1 oz. lime juice and 4 dashes orange bitters.
Stir vigorously until the outside of the pitcher beads with sweat. Strain into 2 cocktail glasses.

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BRIEFLY IN MONEY

CSI offers course in firefighting

TWIN FALLS — Want to apply or certify for jobs that involve fighting wildland fires? Consider enrolling in the College of Southern Idaho's new spring-semester course dubbed "Introduction to Wildland Fires."

The class, FIRS 109, starts Jan. 18.

Instructor Heidi Cota is a 12-year veteran of the U.S. Forest Service, currently working for the Sawtooth District as a squad leader for a hot shot crew and a firefighting recruiting coordinator.

"This is an accelerated eight-week classroom course that will give our successful students an advantage over other firefighting job seekers," Cota said. "The class will teach wildland fire behavior, fire weather, basic firefighting skills, terminologies and organization."

Cota said the class will teach people with no firefighting experience what they need to know to be certified by the National Wildfire Coordinating Group, an agency whose curriculum is accepted by most federal, state and municipal agencies for dealing with wildland fires.

A work-force training grant subsidizes part of the cost in the three-credit course, reducing the total fee to \$120 per student, the college said.

Certification from the CSI class will also articulate with Boise State University's Wildland Fire Training program if the student wishes to work further toward an associate's degree.

Classes will be held from 8 to 9 p.m. Wednesdays and Thursdays, Jan. 18 to March 10. For information, contact any CSI adviser or Cota at 737-3320.

Longview Fibre Co. plans conference call

TWIN FALLS — Longview Fibre Co., the Washington-based operator of a Twin Falls container plant, plans a conference call next week to discuss its fourth-quarter and annual financial results, an analyst says.

The call will be dialing 888-396-2386; use passcode 79089501. A telephone reply will be available at 888-286-8010; use passcode 11907562.

The call's webcast can be accessed at www.longviewfib.com.

Examine your employer before taking new job

As the new year dawns, plenty of workers resolve to explore their career options, hoping to land new jobs or improve the ones they have. But there are several factors to consider before you mail your resume throughout your industry, advises Right Management Consultants, a Philadelphia-based career transition firm.

For example, you might want to think about your company, and how it ranks among its competitors that you might apply to. So, ask yourself these questions:

- Is your company respected in the industry?
- Are sales rising, or dropping? Have there been rumors of merger or bankruptcy?
- How has the company's market share changed?
- Is the company an innovator, or one that's fallen behind the industry?
- Does your company have a strategic plan, and have you read it?
- Have salaries at your company kept pace, or lagged those paid by competitors?

You also need to consider your personal relationship with your boss, says Doug Matthews, executive vice president and head of career transition services for Right Management Consultants.

Is your workload in conflict with your personal life? Does the job satisfy you, or do you dread it? Is your employer using your skills wisely? Do you find yourself regularly pondering something else — a new industry, new job tasks, a smaller company or a role that's less demanding?

— compiled from staff and wire reports

PAY WHAT YOU CAN



Naturopathic physician Dr. Richard Powell, right, examines patient Don Hill of Gooding last week at Powell's Twin Falls office. Thanks to some inspiration from Hill, Powell is changing his fee structure to optional donations only, starting Saturday.

Naturopathic doctor changes fee schedule to donation-only

By Megan Hinds
Times-News writer

TWIN FALLS — Dr. Richard Powell, a naturopathic physician with an office in Old Towne Twin Falls, doesn't want to turn away patients because they can't afford treatment.

So starting Jan. 1, all of Powell's patients will pay only what they can afford. And if they can't afford to pay anything, they won't have to pay at all.

Powell said he's changing his fee structure from a per-visit charge, depending on the services rendered, to donation-only because he thinks it's the right thing to do for his patients. He plans to display a collection box in his office to hold payments, and he won't keep track of who pays what.

"As a society, we have forgotten what we're supposed to be doing," Powell said. "It's not about money — it's about patients."

Powell was inspired to change the way he does business because of one of his patients, Don Hill of Gooding.

After living with diabetes for nearly 20 years, Hill, 74, said he realized traditional medical treatments weren't improving his quality of life. So he thought he'd give natural medicine a try.

"I was willing to try about anything to avoid going to a regular doctor and get my foot cut off," said Hill, who has a diabetic ulcer on the bottom of one foot.

Hill has been a patient of Powell's for about a month, visiting the office about once a week

Other sliding scales

Alternative and natural medicine practitioners aren't the only health care providers that offer free or discounted services to patients. Traditional medical facilities and community organizations in Magic Valley also provide some services free of charge or on a sliding scale — what a person can afford to pay.

- **Planned Parenthood** of Idaho prices its women's health services based on one's ability to pay.
- **Idaho Children's Health Project**, funded by state and federal governments, provides discounted health services to children.
- **South Central District Health** provides some health services on a sliding scale.

while continuing to visit a traditional doctor in Gooding. Powell put Hill on a new diet — lots of whole grains, vegetables and vitamins — and began treating him with acupuncture techniques to improve his energy level and blood circulation.

"Hill said he feels better since his diet changed, and Powell said Hill is starting to see 'positive' progress."

But recently, Hill told Powell he could no longer afford to pay the doctor's \$35 per-visit charge when Powell wanted Hill to increase his visits to twice per week. Medicare picks up most of Hill's traditional medical costs for doctor's visits and insulin shots, but the out-of-pocket expenses for the natural care and fuel costs for the weekly trip to Twin Falls were becoming prohibitive.

"He doesn't charge much, but

my income is \$100 a month and I don't have much money for my type of deal," Hill said.

Powell said he didn't want Hill — or any of his other patients — to stop receiving treatment for lack of money.

"He was going to sacrifice getting well because he can't afford it," Powell said. "I just don't think that's justifiable. I don't want anybody to compromise getting well for a few extra bucks in my pocket."

Powell expects he'll be able to keep his practice in operation because he keeps his overhead low. His office at 409 Shoshone St., Suite 12, is open only about 20 hours per week because he also works full-time for Jerome-based Gitner Inc.

Powell has been in business for almost a year and hasn't yet turned a profit. But he expects he'll be able to cover his rent

on his office — about \$1,000 per month — through his patients' donations. He sees five or six patients per week now and expects his client list to grow in the coming year.

"I don't really look to make any money for the next two years," Powell said.

Bliss-based alternative medicine practitioner Bob Willhite said he admires what Powell is doing and said he hopes Powell can succeed. Willhite has been practicing alternative medicine for about 20 years on a suggested-fee basis — he sets a price for his services, and his patients pay as much of that price as they can, he said.

"I have what I think is a reasonable amount to pay for treatment, and I say, 'Do what you can,'" Willhite said. "What (Powell) is offering is tremendous."

Offering natural medicine services on a suggested-donation basis isn't entirely unusual in the industry, Willhite said, but it's not common to offer those services for purely optional donations. Powell's full-time job elsewhere will be the main factor in keeping the part-time practice in business, Willhite said.

Powell can depend on the income of at least one patient: Hill. He plans to continue his treatments, thanks to the doctor's new policy.

"I'll probably drop down what I'm paying some, but I hate to get services for nothing," Hill said. "I ain't a number to him. I'm a person."

Consumer confidence rebounds

The Associated Press

NEW YORK — Improving labor market conditions and cheaper energy prices led to a sharp increase in a widely watched indicator of consumer confidence in the economy in December, a good sign for growth heading into the new year.

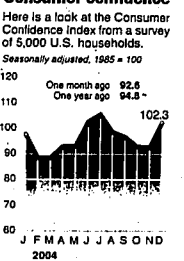
The Conference Board, a New York-based business research group, reported Tuesday that its index of consumer confidence leapt by nearly 10 points to 102.3 in December from 92.6 in November, following four months of declines. It was the highest level for the indicator since July and well above the 94 that investors had been expecting.

The report helped push stocks to multi-year highs in thin trading on Wall Street, where the Dow Jones Industrial average closed up 78 points at 10,855. It was the best close for the Dow since June 13, 2001. The Standard & Poor's 500 index was up about 9 points to 1,214, its highest close since Aug. 3, 2001.

The Nasdaq composite index gained 23 points to 2,177, its best showing since June 8, 2001.

The surge in the consumer confidence index suggested that Americans were feeling more optimistic about their

Consumer confidence



SOURCE: The Conference Board, AP

economic prospects. Economists pointed to an improving labor market and cheaper energy prices as main factors for the bounce.

Anthony Chan, senior economist with J.P. Morgan Fleming & Co., said he was "very impressed" with the results of the report, which he said suggested that "labor markets are improving nicely, and may actually be a lot healthier than the current perception."

Indicators of consumer confidence are widely watched by economists since spending by individuals makes up about

Managing partner plans to step down at brokerage

The Associated Press

ST. LOUIS — With a \$75 million scandal hanging over it, Edward Jones announced this week that its top executive will give up his post on Dec. 31 next year.

Douglas Hill will step down as managing partner of the brokerage firm, amid investigations by federal regulators and the U.S. Justice Department. Hill, who has headed Edward Jones since Jan. 1, will remain with the company as a partner.

In a letter to employees this week, Hill said the firm is looking for a successor.

The company has investment representatives around Magic Valley.

Last week the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission disclosed that Edward Jones received "tens of millions of dollars" from 1999 through this year to place seven mutual fund companies on a "preferred" list. While the payments were not illegal, Edward Jones fell short of its requirement to notify investors, the SEC ruled in imposing the \$75 million penalty.

The California attorney general's office, which filed suit against Edward Jones last week, put the revenue-sharing pay-

Blockbuster will make hostile bid

The Associated Press

DALLAS — Blockbuster Inc. said Tuesday it will launch a hostile bid for Hollywood Entertainment Corp. next month if the rival's directors won't negotiate a deal.

Blockbuster, the largest U.S. movie-rental chain, said it would offer stockholders of its rival \$11.50 per share in cash, for about \$700 million, plus the assumption of \$300 million of Hollywood debt. That's the same offer that Blockbuster — whose outlets include ones in Twin Falls, Jerome and the Wood River Valley — made to Hollywood in November. Hollywood's chain includes a Twin Falls store.

Blockbuster said it would consider sweetening the offer if Hollywood's board provided requested financial information, which it said Hollywood has refused to provide; and if that information warranted a higher bid. Blockbuster, which first approached Hollywood in November, said it has still not received the requested information.

The cash tender offer is the latest salvo in a competition for Hollywood that pits Blockbuster against Hollywood chairman Mark Watties and a Los Angeles investment firm, who have offered \$10.25 per share.

The No. 3 rental chain, Movie Gallery Inc., also says it has made an offer but won't disclose its price.

John Hancock, chairman and chief executive of Dallas-based Blockbuster, said his offer "is clearly in the best interests of Hollywood and Blockbuster shareholders as well as consumers."

Andco said in a statement that acquiring Winslowville, Ore.-based Hollywood would help Blockbuster compete better "in the rapidly changing home entertainment marketplace."

Once dependent on video stores, consumers now have many options for buying or renting movies, including low-priced DVDs at discount stores, online-ordering services and mail-order services.

Blockbuster said the acquisition would immediately increase its earnings per share.

Watties, the Hollywood chairman, and buyout firm Leonard Cohen Partners, originally offered \$14 per share, but when their price last fell to \$10.25 per share, a special committee of Hollywood's board insisted that in exchange for the lower offer, it be allowed to solicit new bids.

If it succeeds in buying Hollywood, Blockbuster would control about half the nation's rental stores. Still, the company said it believes it would win necessary regulatory approval for the takeover.

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MUTUAL FUNDS

Table of mutual fund performance data including fund names, share classes, and returns. Includes a small photo of Nita Barnes Clontz.

Advertisement for Perkins, Smart & Boyd, Inc. featuring Nita Barnes Clontz for appointment. Contact: P.O. Box 5097 • Twin Falls, Idaho 83303 • 208-736-6026

NEW YORK STOCK EXCHANGE

Table of New York Stock Exchange market data including volume, index, and various stock prices.

MARKET SUMMARY

Summary table for NYSE, AMEX, and NASDAQ markets showing active and most active stocks.

NASDAQ NATIONAL MARKET

Table of NASDAQ National Market data including volume, index, and various stock prices.

INDEXES

Table of market indices including Dow Jones Industrial, S&P 500, and others.

STOCKS OF LOCAL INTEREST

Table of local stock market data including company names, prices, and volume.

HOW TO READ THE MARKET REPORT

Text explaining market report symbols and abbreviations, such as 'Here are the 525 most active stocks on the New York Stock Exchange...'.

AMERICAN STOCK EXCHANGE

Table of American Stock Exchange market data including volume, index, and various stock prices.

MARKETS

CLOSING FUTURES

Table of closing futures for commodities including Mon-Corn, High-Low, and Open-Close. Includes sections for Soybeans, Grains, and Beans.

Table of closing futures for various metals and currencies, including Gold, Silver, and various international currencies.

SUGAR

Table of sugar futures prices, including NY Vodka (AP) and NY Soft (AP) with high, low, and set prices.

LIVESTOCK

Table of livestock prices, including Pocatello (AP) and Chicago (AP) for various types of cattle and hogs.

POCATELLO (AP)

Table of Pocatello livestock prices, including heavy feeder steers, stockers, and various types of hogs.

CHICAGO (AP)

Table of Chicago livestock prices, including heavy feeder steers, stockers, and various types of hogs.

EXCHANGE RATE

Table of exchange rates for various international currencies, including the Euro, Japanese Yen, and British Pound.

BEANS

Table of bean prices, including Valley Beans and various types of soybeans.

GRAINS

Table of grain prices, including Valley Grains and various types of wheat and corn.

MINNEAPOLIS (AP)

Table of Minneapolis grain prices, including various types of wheat and corn.

CHICAGO (AP)

Table of Chicago grain prices, including various types of wheat and corn.

POTATOES

Table of potato prices, including various types of potatoes.

CATTLE

Table of cattle prices, including various types of cattle.

HOGS

Table of hog prices, including various types of hogs.

POUR

Table of pour prices, including various types of pours.

NEW YORK (AP)

Table of New York commodity prices, including various types of commodities.

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Brokerage

Continued from D4
trayal of Edward Jones' actions. He noted that the company had a small list of preferred mutual-fund companies long before it accepted payments from them.

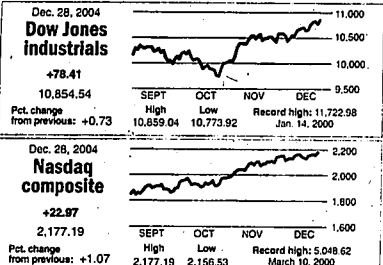
The top 275 executives benefited the most, getting \$151 million of the profit. Ankeny also defended revenue sharing as a "common" industry practice. In addition, he said, the SEC had determined that it was proper to disclose the revenue-sharing agreements in mutual fund prospectuses, which Edward Jones said it did.

Unclaimed property

Check out the listings for Jerome, Ketchum, Oakley and Sun Valley. Thursday in Money

Figures spur Wall Street buying

NEW YORK (AP) — Wall Street resumed its year-end rally Tuesday, bolstered by a new report which showed consumer confidence had jumped sharply in recent weeks. All three major indexes reached new multiyear highs in light holiday-week trading.



While the dollar reached another new low against the euro, falling crude oil futures helped boost investor sentiment and ease concerns about oil prices.

Amazon.com Inc. was upgraded to "outperform" from "peer perform" by Bear Stearns after the company engaged in a strong holiday shopping season.

Health Services Inc. tumbled \$1.18 to \$44.51 after it cut its 2004 profit forecasts by 10 cents per share.

Analysts said that while we are able to customize our market reports, if you're interested in a stock, mutual fund or commodity that's not in our...

Something missing?

port, give us a call and we'll try to include it. Please call Ramona Jones at 733-0931, Ext. 262, with your suggestions.

Advertisement for LOW BUYING High Moisture CON AT InterMountain BEEF. Includes contact information: 1440 East 750 South Edon, Idaho (2 miles W of Eden), 1-800-852-2333 or 208-825-5335. Also includes a map showing the location of Edon, Idaho relative to other towns like Jerome, Ketchum, and Sun Valley.

217 EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES
PUBLIC SERVICE MESSAGE
Federal employment information is free. Remember, no one can promise you a federal job. For information about federal jobs, call Career America Connection, 476-757-3000.

NEWSPAPER
Earn extra \$5 in your spare time if you are a highly motivated self-starter looking to earn some extra money in your spare time, then this could be a great opportunity for you!

PUBLIC SERVICE MESSAGE
Big profits usually mean big risks. Before you do business with a company, check it out with the Better Business Bureau. For information about avoiding investment scams, visit the Federal Trade Commission, Washington, D.C., 20580, or call the National Fraud Information Center, 1-800-876-7060.

FAX OR EMAIL Your Ad To
THE TIMES-NEWS CLASSIFIED DEPARTMENT

INVESTMENT REAL ESTATE
3976 N. 1500 E.
554,000 3 bedroom, 1.5 bath
652 Clover Ln.
588,000 3 bedroom, 2 bath, on acreage. 2325 E. 3600 N.
575,800 4 bedroom 2 bath on acreage. 3222 E. 3250 N.
568,500 3 bedroom 2 bath;
1799 Glenaida Ave.
597 9th St.
549,900 3 bedroom, 1 bath
Suzie Richardson Associate Broker
Canynside Realty
Call 208-240-3785.
suzie@canynside.com
richardson208@canynside.com
www.suzie-richardson.com

SHOSHONE North, 4 bedroom, 1 1/2 bath. Mature trees, barn, corral, wds or 160 acres. Lots of potential! Call 208-886-9845.

BUHL 3 bedroom, 2 bath, 1600 sq ft. No pets, long term. \$500 month + deposit. Call 208-543-6342.

602 UNFURNISHED HOMES
BUHL 3 bedroom, 2 bath, 1600 sq ft. No pets, long term. \$500 month + deposit. Call 208-543-6342.

TWIN FALLS
Mobile Home
2 bdrm 1 1/2 bath, 12x24 with porch and shed, gas 5400/mo. Rock Creek MHP
Keith 208-735-2089

218 TIMES NEWS CARRIERS
ALTERNATE DELIVERY
The Times-News is looking for individuals interested in delivering in a sample newspaper or alternative products and services in the Twin Falls and surrounding area. These positions are independent contractor positions and deliveries are typically made during the day and require use of your own transportation and are compensated on a per piece basis. If you are interested in these flexible opportunities, please fill out an Independent Contractor Application Form at 132 Fairfield Street West, Twin Falls, ID.

ROUTES AVAILABLE
The Times-News is currently looking for Independent Route Carriers

LIQUOR LICENSE for sale. Good in City of Burley and North Butte. Best offer. Call 208-436-4305.

GOODING Would you like to own a beautiful high quality 4,400 sq. ft. home on 6 acres? Stucco, cork rock finish, 1/2 acre of lawn & lots of trees. Barn, sheds, corral, & irrigated pasture, 2 miles from town. Price considerably under appraised. \$235,000. Call 208-543-5370.

DRACO INVESTMENT CORP. CASH for Deeds of Trust, Mortgages and Real Estate Contracts (today for a free, no obligation quote. Call 208-733-3821)

TWIN FALLS FORECLOSURES FIXER UPERS
www.TwinFallsForeclosures.com

SHOSHONE \$20,000 - \$40,000 Nice lots with view & water shares. Louisa Harris 280-8822 MLS10682-02, 10661-10685-10687-10688-10689 PC#8081

SHOSHONE North 2 bdrm, 1 1/2 bath, 1600 sq ft. No pets, long term. \$500 month + deposit. Call 208-543-6342.

TWIN FALLS 3 bdrm, 2 bath, garage, 1526 Wrigler St. \$850 + security. Call 208-332-6340.

CURRENT MOTOR ROUTES AVAILABLE
BELLEVUE/HALLEY KETCHUM
Both Carrier & Substitutes needed
If you live in these areas and would like to be a carrier. Please contact Kathy, District Mgr. 735-3348

SHOSHONE
Route 501
200-700 Oregon St.
300-500 Illinois St.
Route 503
200-700 Montana St.
200-700 Wyoming St.
Route 504
500-900 8th Ave. E.
500-900 9th Ave. E.
Route 507
100-300 Nebraska St.
100-200 Michigan St.
Route 508
1000-1200 Montana
700-1200 Main St.
Motor Route 609
JEROME
Route 522
300-800 E Avenue B
100-800 E. Main St.
Route 537
100-700 E. Avenue H
100-700 E. Avenue F
SHOSHONE
Route 510
200-500 W. Apple
200-500 W. B. St.
Route 416
200-700 W. 7th St.
100-500 N. Apple
SHOSHONE
Motor Route 660
If you live in these areas and are interested in being a newspaper carrier, please contact Kathy, District Mgr. 735-3348

HAZELTON
3 bdrm, 2 bath, 1600 sq ft. on 1/2 acre. Call 208-423-5445 or 208-423-5456 mo. 208-539-6039

HANSEN
3 bdrm, 2 bath, large lot, fenced yard, newly remodeled. Call 208-423-5445 or 208-423-5456 mo. 208-539-6039

HAZELTON
3 bdrm, 2 bath, 1600 sq ft. on 1/2 acre. Call 208-423-5445 or 208-423-5456 mo. 208-539-6039

WENDELL Remodeled 3 bedroom, 2 bath manufactured home, view of mountains, near north Wendell. Call 208-734-1107

SHOSHONE North 2 bdrm, 1 1/2 bath, 1600 sq ft. No pets, long term. \$500 month + deposit. Call 208-543-6342.

TWIN FALLS 3 bdrm, 2 bath, garage, 1526 Wrigler St. \$850 + security. Call 208-332-6340.

TWIN FALLS Laundry living in NE area. Extraordinary new 4 bdrm. home, 2nd year lease. No smoking, no pets. Call 208-543-5619 or 208-256-1920.

CURRENT WALKING ROUTES AVAILABLE
New Year Special Sign on as a carrier now and receive a higher profit.

NEW YEAR SPECIAL Sign on as a carrier now and receive a higher profit

REAL ESTATE
Selling property? Don't pay any fees until it's sold. For free information about advertising timeshare and real estate commissions, write to: Federal Trade Commission, Washington, D.C., 20580, or call the National Fraud Information Center, 1-800-876-7060.

ROBERT JONES REALTY 733-0404
HOLLISTER INVESTOR 3 bdrm, 2 bath on over 1 acre, cost of home new was over \$95,000. Save over \$35,000. Now only \$59,900. All new paint, new flooring, beautiful view. Attached 2 car garage, on 1.25 acre. Nice shop, horse shed, fenced area. Call 535-1877, 5129-3000

TRIPLE 7 REALTY
934-8200 or 731-8900

PAUL N. W. Dairy site for 10,000 plus cows. 1,164 acres, \$875,000. Dairy permit guaranteed. Call 208-734-7883.

SHOSHONE North 2 bdrm, 1 1/2 bath, 1600 sq ft. No pets, long term. \$500 month + deposit. Call 208-543-6342.

TWIN FALLS 3 bdrm, 2 bath, garage, 1526 Wrigler St. \$850 + security. Call 208-332-6340.

EQUAL HOUSING ACT
All real estate advertising in this newspaper is subject to the Fair Housing Act which makes it illegal to advertise any preference, limitation or discrimination based on race, color, or religion, sex, handicap, familial status, or national origin, or an intention to make any such preference, limitation or discrimination. Familial status includes children under the age of 18 living with parents or legal custodian; pregnant women and people securing custody of children under 18.

TWIN FALLS
RT 713 - 1100-1800 Juniper
1100-1300 Locust St. North
RT 718 500-800 Riverview
200-2400 Filer Ave RT 729
1800-1500 6th Ave. N.
1500-2000 Ash St. RT 743
100-300 Juniper St.
1700-1800 Maplewood Dr.
RT 754 1200-1500 Wilmore Ave.
700-900 Walnut St. N.
RT 786 - 1500-2200 Falls Avenue East
800-900 Chese Dr. RT 787
1800-2000 Alluras Dr
1500-2000 Heyburn RT 794
1300-1800 Targhee Dr.
1000-2000 Lemhi Circle
RT 833 600-800 Harrison St.
100-500 Van Bruen St.
RT 841 100-500 Buchanan St.
700-800 Filer Ave
KIMBERLY RT 854
300-800 Taylor St W
700-800 Elm St. N
RT 857
200-800 Center St.
200-700 Jefferson St.
If you live near one of these areas & would like to be a carrier. Please contact Amy District Mgr. 735-3347
Approximate 4 week earnings based on current customer count.

NEW YEAR SPECIAL Sign on as a carrier now and receive a higher profit

EQUAL HOUSING ACT
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2 OFFICE SPACES for lease, one block to the courthouse, plenty of on-site parking and good street exposure. 1,020 sq. ft. \$750/mo + utilities; and 1,350 sq. ft. \$850/mo gas & electricity

ACREAGE AND LOTS
Country acreage 5 of 7. 3 bdrm, 2 bath, woodstove, heat pump & A/C, new paint, new flooring, beautiful view. Attached 2 car garage, on 1.25 acre. Nice shop, horse shed, fenced area. Call 535-1877, 5129-3000

PAUL N. W. Dairy site for 10,000 plus cows. 1,164 acres, \$875,000. Dairy permit guaranteed. Call 208-734-7883.

SHOSHONE North 2 bdrm, 1 1/2 bath, 1600 sq ft. No pets, long term. \$500 month + deposit. Call 208-543-6342.

TWIN FALLS 3 bdrm, 2 bath, garage, 1526 Wrigler St. \$850 + security. Call 208-332-6340.

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FAX YOUR AD
TIMES-NEWS CLASSIFIED DEPARTMENT
208-734-5538

Read The Classifieds Every Day!

502 HOMES FOR SALE
This newspaper will not knowingly accept any advertising for real estate which is in violation of the law. Our readers are hereby informed that all advertisements in this newspaper are available on an equal opportunity basis. Any advertisement that contains any form of discrimination call HUD Toll-free at 1-800-669-9777. The Toll-free telephone number for hearing impaired is 1-800-876-8757.

AMERICAN REAL ESTATE & APPRAISAL
734-5650
Debra Volkmann Broker 733-2199
Dana Peterson 733-0669

GEM STATE REALTY, INC. 208-734-0400
JEROME Country living in town. 4 bedroom, 2 bath home on .65 acre. \$99,900. Westerra Real Group. Paul 731-2727.

PAUL N. W. Dairy site for 10,000 plus cows. 1,164 acres, \$875,000. Dairy permit guaranteed. Call 208-734-7883.

SHOSHONE North 2 bdrm, 1 1/2 bath, 1600 sq ft. No pets, long term. \$500 month + deposit. Call 208-543-6342.

TWIN FALLS 3 bdrm, 2 bath, garage, 1526 Wrigler St. \$850 + security. Call 208-332-6340.

EQUAL HOUSING ACT
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The Times-News
Visit us online and check out Magic Valley area homes. Click on Real Estate.

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NEW 2005 Mazda6
NOW ONLY \$199 per month
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The Times-News and magicvalley.com are the best and most economical sources for advertising your goods and services to a large regional audience. Call 733-0931 ext. 2 or 800-668-3883 ext. 2, Monday - Friday 8am-5:30pm. To place an ad 24 hours per day, go to www.magicvalley.com and click on Classifieds "Place an Ad". Classifieds - 132 Fairfield Street West - Twin Falls, Idaho.
Mi nombre es Lucy tu representante. Estoy disponible Lunes - Viernes de 8:30 a.m. - 5:30 p.m. 735-3269.

604 UNFURNISHED APPTS/DUPLEXES... TWIN FALLS luxury house... TWIN FALLS new 3 bdrm...

FILER extra nice lg. 1 bdrm, very low heat... HAZELTON 1 bedroom... JEROME 2 bdrm. appliances...

TWIN FALLS 2 bdrm. Extra nice A-plx... TWIN FALLS MOTEL... GELDING 17 yrs. old gelding...

606 MOBILE HOMES... JEROME 2 bedroom... PALOMNO/APALLOOSA 9 yr. old Wrangler...

607 OFFICE & RETAIL RENTALS... TWIN FALLS Professional or Retail space available...

608 COMMERCIAL RENTALS... LARGE WAREHOUSE... TWIN FALLS Wareh.

609 ROOMMATES WANTED... KIMBERLY 2 bdrm... TWIN FALLS Like new 2 bdrm.

610 HORSES & TACK... 4 FOOT SROEING... BURLEY Burying Station...

611 HAY CUTTERS... HAY 3 cuttings, good quality...

612 UNFURNISHED APPTS/DUPLEXES... TWIN FALLS Clean 1 bedroom...

TWIN FALLS 1 1/2 bdrms apt... KIMBERLY New 3 bdrm...

613 UNFURNISHED APPTS/DUPLEXES... BURLEY Clean 1 bedroom... BURLEY Clean 2 bedroom...

614 WANTED TO RENT... WANTED in Jerome, small house on acre...

615 ROOMMATES WANTED... TWIN FALLS Like new 2 bdrm...

616 HORSES & TACK... 4 FOOT SROEING... BURLEY Burying Station...

617 UNFURNISHED APPTS/DUPLEXES... TWIN FALLS 1 1/2 bdrms apt...

618 UNFURNISHED APPTS/DUPLEXES... BURLEY Clean 1 bedroom...

619 UNFURNISHED APPTS/DUPLEXES... TWIN FALLS 1 1/2 bdrms apt...

620 UNFURNISHED APPTS/DUPLEXES... TWIN FALLS Clean 1 bedroom...

621 UNFURNISHED APPTS/DUPLEXES... TWIN FALLS 1 1/2 bdrms apt...

622 UNFURNISHED APPTS/DUPLEXES... BURLEY Clean 1 bedroom...

623 UNFURNISHED APPTS/DUPLEXES... TWIN FALLS 1 1/2 bdrms apt...

624 UNFURNISHED APPTS/DUPLEXES... BURLEY Clean 1 bedroom...

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689 UNFURNISHED APPTS/DUPLEXES... TWIN FALLS 1 1/2 bdrms apt...

690 UNFURNISHED APPTS/DUPLEXES... BURLEY Clean 1 bedroom...

691 UNFURNISHED APPTS/DUPLEXES... TWIN FALLS 1 1/2 bdrms apt...

1005 SEMIS & HEAVY EQUIPMENT

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Advertise in the Service Directory 733-0931 ext. 2

ENGINE 350 Cummins:
9 speed trans, 53500.
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1006 TRUCKS

**Bret Gorringe
GOODS
MOTORS**

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CHEVY '77 3/4 ton:
runs great. \$1,500.
Also 1111 camper.
\$400. Call 208-678-1704 or 208-410-2429.

CHEVY '87 3/4 ton, and '86 Alpine 110 5th wheel: \$7,000 for both. Call 208-328-6018.

CHEVY '95 ext cab 1/2 ton, 4WD, custom exhaust, tires & rims, new transmission: \$5,000. Call 208-300-0047.

CHEVY '95 ext cab 271, 4x4, 350, 5 spd, short box: \$3,000. 324-5813 or 420-7602.

CHEVY '96 S10, standard, good mileage, clean, no body damage, grey: 324-5061.

CHEVY '01 Silverado 1500, quad cab, 43K, Lowly truck, new package: \$15,900. Call 208-734-3750.

CHEVY '01 Silverado Quad Cab 1500, 4x4, Z71, Exc cond, loaded: \$16,000 539-9345.

CHEVY '02 1/2 ton Silverado, AT, 4x4, 60K: Call 208-310-0227 or 208-678-2729.

CHEVY '02 S10, crew cab 4x4, new tires, tonneau cover, low package: \$14,500. Call 208-438-8181.

CHEVY '04 Silverado 2500, crew cab, short bed, w/matching shell, loaded, exc cond, low miles: \$28,995. Call 208-735-1819 leave msg.

DODGE '95 Ram 250, 1 ton, crew cab, new paint, Edelbrock carburetor, front brake pads, extra set of (4) tires and rims, grain rack available. Logs and runs good: \$3,000. Call 208-764-2433.

DODGE '00 1500 4x4, Quad Cab, 38,400 miles, red, 1 owner, always garaged, never smoked in, floor trays over carpet, new tires, low master exhaust, 360 V-8, AT, towing pkg, all options, grill, mud nife bars, tool box, like new: \$17,850. 734-8749 420-4129.

FORD '94 F-250 Powerstroke XLT, regular cab, 95K: \$9,000. Call 208-662-7801.

FORD '94 F250 Mechanics Special Edition, 4x4, 33,000 left on warranty, chipped, 4 inch exhaust, gauges, 88,800 mi. \$22,995. Must sell. Call 208-720-2528 or 208-578-2122 evenings.

FORD '95 F250 Powerstroke 4x4, loaded, good cond.: \$14,000. Call 208-536-4674 or 208-538-5612.

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TOYOTA '89, 4x4, V6, 5 spd, new tires, roll bar, custom bumpers w/light: \$3,400. Call 420-0012 or 539-7700.

TOYOTA '90 4x4, shortbed, good cond, runs great: \$3,500/offer. Call 208-731-0304.

TOYOTA '02 Tacoma, 38,000 miles, extra cab, 4 wheel drive, S17, 5.0 O. Call: 208-622-8920.

1007 TRUCK PARTS & ACCESSORIES

CHEVY '78 Four wheel drive, 454 engine, AT, 6 inch lift. For parts: 208-212-5492.

1008 SUV'S

CHEVY '94 Suburban, 150K, exc. cond.: \$8,750. Call 208-736-8900 or 208-733-9313.

CHEVY '00 Blazer LS, 4x4, good cond, silver, asking \$8,900: Call 208-677-3501.

FORD '00 Expedition Eddie Bauer 4x4, loaded, low miles, above average cond.: Call 208-965-1313.

SUZUKI '94 Trooper, 4x4 full power, V6, great runner. Only \$4877.

LEXUS '01 RX300 Silver exterior, black leather interior. All options including navigation system. \$25,000. Call: 208-731-0536 or 208-934-8583.

MERCURY '98 Mountaineer, AWD, V8, power everything, new tires, great cond.: \$5500/offer. 948-0133.

NISSAN '95 Pathfinder 4 door, AWD, V6, AT, L4, A/C + more, sharp \$5,977.

TOYOTA '03 4-Runner SR5, V8, every option, 4x4, only 16K. Just \$25,544.

TOYOTA '01 Rav4, 4WD, full leather, roof + only 25K: \$17,973

TOYOTA '03 4-Runner SR5, V8, every option, 4x4, only 16K. Just \$25,544.

TOYOTA '03 4-Runner SR5, V8, every option, 4x4, only 16K. Just \$25,544.

1009 VANS & BUSES

CHEVY '99 camper van, stove, 12 or 110 volt refriger, furnace, 6" color TV, roof air, bed, new tires, 2 new batteries: \$5,800/offer. 733-4881 or 420-2195.

PLYMOUTH '99 Voyager, 92K, good cond, runs great: \$7,900. Call 208-328-5018.

PROBLEMS GETTING FINANCING?
Call 733-1881 today. 1-800-Car-Loan.

1010 AUTOS FOR SALE

AUTOMATIC TRANSMISSIONS
Special \$359.95. Most American vehicles, parts, labor & installation included. Economy Transmission Call 324-8760 for estimates.

Budget Auto Sale
BMW '02 330i, power sunroof, AT, loaded, only 24K miles. \$25,500.
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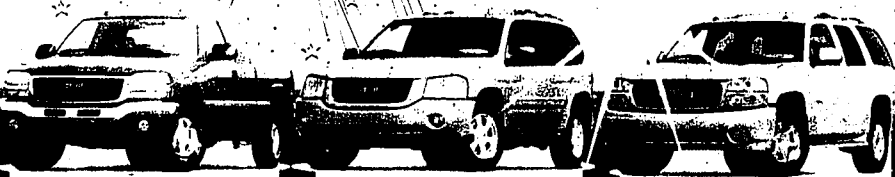
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