

## GOOD MORNING

### WEATHER

**Today:** Cloudy skies and cool temperatures. High 40, low 29.  
**Page A2**

### MAGIC VALLEY

**Big budget:** Idaho schools chief makes \$1.05 billion funding request.  
**Page B1**

### MONEY

**Young and stranded:** Under-25 drivers run into roadblocks when renting cars.  
**Page E1**

### FOOD & HOME



**Super snacks:** Build the perfect buffet for Super Bowl Sunday.  
**Page C1**

### SPORTS



**SCIC Showdown:** The Filer girls traveled to Gooding with the Sawtooth Central Idaho Conference regular season title on the line.  
**Page D1**

### OPINION

**Child care reform:** Kid Works incident sheds light on needed changes, today's editorial says.  
**Page A6**

### COMING UP



**Winter sturgeon:** Colder months mean daytime fishing for sturgeon.  
**Thursday In The Times-News**

### INDEX

Classified	.....E4-10
Comics	.....D4
Community	.....C6
Crossword	.....E5
Dear Abby	.....A4
Food & Home	.....C1
Horoscope	.....A5
Magic Valley	.....B1
Money	.....E1
Movies	.....B3-4
Nation	.....A3
Obituaries	.....B2
Opinion	.....A6
Random facts	.....A5
Sports	.....D1
Weather	.....A2
West	.....B3
World	.....B4



# Water settlement on the horizon

By Julie Pence  
Times-News writer

**BOISE** - While southern Idaho bankers mull how to finance farmers, whose water rights are being called into question, House Speaker Bruce Newcomb, R-Idaho, said Tuesday he expects a settlement between surface users and groundwater pumpers by early spring will ease their concerns. Newcomb made his comments at the quarterly meeting of the Idaho Environmental Forum, a nonpartisan group that addresses the latest envi-



ronmental concerns around the state. Newcomb, along with Rep. Dell Raybould, R-Redding, and Sen. Don Burtenshaw, R-Terreton, had been invited to talk about the biggest water crisis in the state's history: the depletion of the Eastern Snake River Plain Aquifer. The legisla-



**Rep. Bruce Newcomb**

tors had been invited to explain their plans for solving the problems that led to the crisis. Five years of drought, groundwater pumping and going back for decades and changing irrigation practices have all contributed to the lowering of water levels in the aquifer. On Jan. 14, The Twin Falls Canal Company

and six other Magic Valley canal cooperatives that use surface water exercised their right to call for full allotment of their senior water rights. They claim their water has been diminished by as much as 30 percent over the past two years. Because they secured their water rights in the first two decades of the 20th century before any irrigation wells were drilled, the canal companies claim the director of the Idaho Department of Water Resources must decide which groundwater pumpers must be shut down in order to restore water to sur-

face users.

Newcomb, who is himself a groundwater pumper, applauded the call, saying, "It did raise the specter as to how serious this business is."

But he also said bankers are in the process of inventorying the dates of water rights that farmers own. Lenders have to prepare to reject operating loans for the next growing season in case the director of Water Resources determines there is a legal reason to shut down pumpers with junior water rights.

Please see **WATER**, Page A2

## Advanced Placement scores improve



Twin Falls High School sophomores Elena Louder, left, Medi Fisher and Andy Legg share a laugh Friday while studying for the Advance Placement exam on world history at the school.

## Students fare better on AP tests all across the country

The Associated Press

**WASHINGTON** - More students are passing Advanced Placement exams in every part of the country, as college-level work in high school becomes increasingly common - and competitive.

In every state and the District of Columbia, the percentage of public school students who passed at least one AP test was up in 2004, compared with the graduating class of 2000. The Bush administration, which has been pushing to increase high school rigor, embraced the news, which followed other reports that have underscored how unprepared many graduates are for college or work.

Significant gains remain, even as AP participation booms nationwide, according to the first state-by-state report in the 50-year history of the college-level testing program. Many students enter college without having passed an AP test. And black

### Advanced Placement offerings in the Magic Valley include:

- Barley High School** - Literature, economics, government, U.S. history, calculus
- Jerome High School** - Language, literature, studio art, U.S. history, government
- Twin Falls High School** - Literature, physics, U.S. history, world history
- Wood River High School** - U.S. history, government, statistics and probability, calculus.

**Counselor Dan Vogt** said Jerome High School has had advanced placement programs for the past five years. He said the school is still learning and about half the students enrolled end up taking the AP exams. The school also offers dual credit.

**Barley High School** has 102 students enrolled in AP classes. This might include some students in multiple classes. **Counselor Debbie Van Engelen** said Twin Falls High School has

69 students enrolled in the classes. The school also offers 22 dual credit classes with CSI. Van Engelen said that program is much more popular because credits are reasonable and no exam is required. "The kids tend to go in that direction," she said. **Wood River High School** is planning to add advanced placement classes next year in language and literature. **Counselor Kimberly Hochendoner** said. It has 95 students in the program now.

students have low test participation and test scores a full level behind those of whites.

The AP Program, which began as an experiment for elite students seeking college courses and credit, has now become a fixture in more than 14,000 U.S. public schools. Beyond gaining experience, a stu-

dent gains an edge: college admission officers say they place more importance on grades in college-prep courses such as AP than they do on any other factor.

Across the country, 20.9 percent of the public school class of 2004 - one in five students - took at least one AP exam, com-

pared with 15.9 percent four years earlier. More significantly, 13.2 percent mastered an AP exam last year, up from 10.2 percent in 2000.

Research shows that success on AP exams is a strong predictor of success in college.

Please see **ADVANCED**, Page A2

## Deficit will hit \$427B, officials say

The Associated Press

**WASHINGTON** - The White House will project that this year's federal deficit will hit \$427 billion, a senior administration official said Tuesday, a record amount partly driven by wars in Iraq and Afghanistan.

The official, among three who briefed reporters on condition of anonymity, said the estimate was a conservative one that assumed some higher spending than other analysts use. Last February, the White House projected that the 2004 shortfall would hit \$521 billion, only to see it come in at \$412 billion.

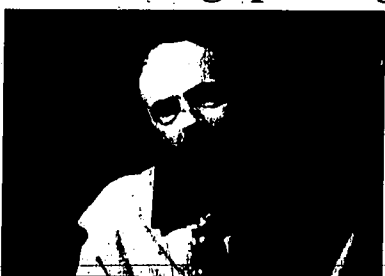
The official said the figure represents progress because it would be smaller than last year's record \$412 billion shortfall. Please see **DEFICIT**, Page A2

## Video shows U.S. hostage pleading for his life

Los Angeles Times

**BAGHDAD, Iraq** - The intractability of the violence gripping Iraq was on graphic display Tuesday with the release of a videotape of an American hostage begging for his life at gunpoint, the assassination of an Iraqi judge and the killing of at least five members of Iraqi security forces.

In an admission of the security difficulties, interim Prime Minister Ayad Allawi said in a news conference that it was "turbulent and dangerous" at this point to give a final date for U.S. troop withdrawal from the country. He scoffed at Iraqi politicians who claimed it was possible to set such deadlines, charging that in advance of Sunday's national elections they were using the issue for political reasons. "I will not set final dates" for the withdrawal of international forces, Allawi said. "I will not deal with the security matter under political pretenses and exaggerations that do not serve Iraq and its people."



In this image taken from insurgents' video released on Tuesday, a man who identifies himself as American Roy Hallums pleads for Arab rulers to intercede to spare his life. Hallums, 56, was kidnapped Nov. 1.

The videotape released Tuesday showed Roy Hallums, 56, an American who was seized on Nov. 1 in Baghdad's Mansour district, the site of many kidnappings.

In the tape, a visibly exhausted Hallums is seated on the floor and the camera shows a gun pointed at his head. He begs Arab leaders to help win his release, citing in particular

Libyan leader Muammar Gadhafi, who he said "is known for helping those who are suffering" but made a point of saying that he was not looking to President Bush for help.

"I am pleading for help because my life is in danger because it has been proved I worked for American forces," Hallums says. "I'm not asking for any help from President Bush because I know of his selfishness and unconcern for those who've been pushed into this hellhole."

Hallums was seized along with Roberto Thornton, a Filipino who was not shown on the tape, and four other men who were freed in November. The hostages worked for a company that had a contract to provide food to the Iraqi military.

It was unclear whether the tape was made recently and indicated his present frame of mind, especially since such tapes are almost always made under duress. The tape was being reviewed by a team at the U.S. Embassy in Baghdad.

## Teacher suspended for refusing to test kids

By Karin Kowalski  
Times-News writer

**TWIN FALLS** - A Sawtooth Elementary School kindergarten teacher is on paid administrative leave after a disagreement over testing.

Debbie Soran, who has been with the district since 1989, did not want to give her pupils the Texas Primary Reading Inventory, an assessment kindergarten-ers are given twice a year as part of federal Reading First grants.

Soran said she had been discussing the issue last week and Thursday night she was told that she would not be in class Friday.

Her classes have had a substitute teacher since then.

The normal procedure for the reading inventory is to have a teacher give it to pupils one-on-one outside of class while a substitute teaches the rest of the class. Soran told a group of about 50 supporters Monday night that she wanted the substitute to give the assessment while she taught.

She said she didn't think it would be a big issue since Sawtooth does not receive a Reading First grant.

Soran said she felt there was no more testing going on and that being in the classroom would be a better use of her time.

"I'm going to try to get back as soon as I can," she said, after voice breaking.

Although Sawtooth Elementary does not qualify for a grant, the rest of the Twin Falls School District does. The federal Reading First grants, worth about \$2 million to the district over several years, pay for teacher training and the Open Court Reading program, a set of research-based reading textbooks, teaching methods and materials.

Samantha Burwell, a parent with a child in Soran's class, is part of a group of parents working on a petition to reinstate the teacher. "Our immediate

Please see **TESTING**, Page A2



## Technology could speed border crossings

NOGALES, Ariz. (AP) — U.S. officials want to see if the same technology that speeds cars through highway tolls and identifies lost pets can unclog border crossings without compromising security.

Homeland Security Undersecretary Asa Hutchinson announced Tuesday that the government will begin testing radio frequency identification technology at this crossing and four others by midsummer.

Weeding out potential terrorists, drug dealers and other criminals from shoppers, trucks and tourists who regularly pass through border crossings takes time. The RFID technology is designed to reduce the wait while giving authorities more information on who's coming into the country and who's leaving.

"We do not keep track of who enters this country," Hutchinson said while standing in an inspection booth at a crossing that is used each year by 5.4 million pedestrians and 3.5 million vehicles. "We need to have a comprehensive system, and that's what our pilot (test) will do."

Currently, foreign visitors at the 50 busiest land border crossings in 10 states are fingerprinted as part of the government's new "Secure Entry" system. The system, called US-VISIT, scans photographs of the visitor's face and index fingers into a computer, which are matched with federal agencies' criminal databases.

With RFID technology, people or objects are identified automatically and swiftly. That allows vehicles outfitted with the technology to zip through toll plazas without stopping but won't at the border. People and vehicles still will have to stop, but if their identifying data produce no red flags, they will get just a cursory check rather than lengthy questioning.

## Democrats call Rice a liar, but confirmation expected

WASHINGTON (AP) — One Senate Democrat called Condoleezza Rice a liar Tuesday and others said she was an apologist for Bush administration failures in Iraq, but she remained on track for confirmation as secretary of state.

Rice, who has been President Bush's White House national security adviser for four years, was one of the loudest voices urging war, Democrats said. She repeatedly deceived members of Congress and Americans at large about justifications for the war, said Sen. Mark Dayton, D-Minn.



Condoleezza Rice

"I don't like impugning anyone's integrity, but I really don't like being lied to," Dayton said. "Repeatedly, flagrantly, intentionally."

Rice is expected to win confirmation on Wednesday, Senate Majority Leader Bill Frist, R-Tenn., predicted. Rice would have "an overwhelming

majority" of votes, Sen. Richard Lugar, R-Ind., cautioned against "inflammatory" rhetoric that is designed merely to create partisan advantage or to settle partisan scores.

Rice would succeed Colin Powell, who often faulted himself on the outside looking in with Bush's close circle of war and national security advisers.

By contrast, Rice is a trusted Bush loyalist. As a principal architect of the Iraq invasion and the administration's war on terrorism, she shares blame for oversteering the threat posed by Saddam Hussein, Democrats said.

"My vote against this nomi-

nee is my statement that this administration's lies must stop now," Dayton said in opposing Rice's nomination on the Senate floor.

The Senate set aside most of the day Tuesday to debate the Rice nomination after Democrats revolted against a plan to confirm Rice last week, on the same day that Bush took his oath for a second term.

"We should have been done last week," Frist said. "I was disappointed that we are having to stretch through the debate today. But ultimately the vote will occur."

Republicans who took the floor to endorse Rice included Sen. Chuck Hagel, R-Neb., who has been a sometime critic of the Bush administration's Iraq policies.

"Dr. Rice has the intelligence, the integrity and the experience for this job. She has the president's confidence," Hagel said.

## FBI investigates whether Alabama Boy Scout group padded its rolls

BIRMINGHAM, Ala. — Boy Scout volunteer Tom Willis knew something was wrong when he saw that 20 youngsters on the list for a scouting program all had the same last name: Doe.

Willis said it appeared someone was listing fake members to boost enrollment, perhaps to bring in more funding from agencies like the United Way or to make paid Boy Scout recruiters look better.

"It was just so blatant. They didn't even try to make up names," said Willis, a dentist from Decatur and a former Eagle Scout who serves on the board of the Greater Alabama Boy Scout Council, which runs scouting programs in northeastern Alabama.

Now the FBI is investigating whether the council padded its membership rolls. It is just the

### Nation in brief

Intest investigation around the country into whether the Boy Scouts have inflated their numbers.

### Bush and black leaders try for a fresh start

WASHINGTON — President Bush told black leaders Tuesday that his plan to add private accounts to Social Security would benefit blacks since they tend to have shorter lives than some other Americans and end up paying in more than they get out.

Social Security was one of many issues that came up during Bush's private meeting with 14 clergy and 10 leaders from business and nonprofit groups. Exit polls showed that Bush

received just 11 percent of the black vote in November's election, a slight increase over the 9 percent he received four years earlier.

### Guard wants to offer \$15,000 bonuses

WASHINGTON — Looking for new ways to bolster its thinning ranks, the Army National Guard is seeking legal authority to offer \$15,000 bonuses to active-duty soldiers willing to join the Guard — up from \$50 now.

Lt. Gen. H. Steven Blum, chief of the National Guard Bureau, told reporters Tuesday that the Guard is 15,000 soldiers below its normal strength of 350,000, and he expects further short-term declines despite recent gains from tripling re-enlistment bonuses for Guardsmen deployed abroad.

— compiled from wire reports

## Rolling Stone changes course, will accept ad for new Bible

GRAND RAPIDS, Mich. (AP) — Rolling Stone magazine has reversed itself and agreed to accept an advertisement for a new translation of the Bible.

After first rejecting the advertisement, Rolling Stone sent Zondervan a contract for a half-page ad in the rock magazine's Feb. 24 issue, said Doug Lockhart, executive vice president of marketing at the nation's largest Bible publisher, Life Dallas, a spokeswoman for Rolling Stone publisher Wenner Media LLC.

Grand Rapids-based Zondervan, a division of HarperCollins Publishers, had budged space in the magazine months ago as part of an ad campaign for a new Bible translation aimed at young people, called "Today's New International Version."

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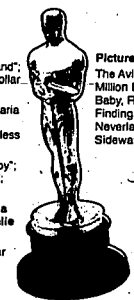
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## The Aviator flying high with 11 nods

The Aviator led all nominations for the 77th Annual Academy Awards.

Actor	Don Cheadle, "Hotel Rwanda"; Johnny Depp, "Finding Neverland"; Leonardo DiCaprio, "The Aviator"; Clint Eastwood, "Million Dollar Baby"; Jamie Foxx, "Ray"
Actress	Annette Bening, "Being Julia"; Catalina Sandino Moreno, "Maria Full of Grace"; Imelda Staunton, "Vera Drake"; Hilary Swank, "Million Dollar Baby"; Kate Winslet, "Eternal Sunshine of the Spotless Mind"
Supporting Actor	Jamie Foxx, "Colateral"; Morgan Freeman, "Million Dollar Baby"; Alan Alda, "The Aviator"; Thomas Haden Church, "Sideways"; Clive Owens, "Closer"
Supporting Actress	Cate Blanchett, "The Aviator"; Laura Linney, "Kinsey"; Virginia Madsen, "Sideways"; Sophia Okonedo, "Hotel Rwanda"; Natalie Portman, "Closer"
Director	Martin Scorsese, "The Aviator"; Clint Eastwood, "Million Dollar Baby"; Taylor Hackford, "Ray"; Mike Leigh, "Vera Drake"; Alexander Payne, "Sideways"

SOURCE: Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences



Picture The Aviator, "Million Dollar Baby," Ray, "Finding Neverland," "Sideways."

## Directors vie for Oscar

BEVERLY HILLS, Calif. (AP) — Martin Scorsese may finally be positioned for Academy Awards glory, but his Howard Hughes epic "The Aviator" will have to duke it out with Clint Eastwood's boxing drama.

The best-picture and director honors are shaping up as a two-film race between Scorsese's and Eastwood's flicks, with "The Aviator" having the inside track as front-runner by leading the pack with 11 nominations Tuesday. The other best-picture contenders were "Finding Neverland," "Ray" and "Sideways."

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## MORNING BREAK

# Pressure to say yes scares girlfriend who can't say no

DEAR ABBY: I have been going out with "Elijah" for a year and a half. I love him, but sometimes he tries to get me to do things I really don't want to do sexually.

I don't know how to tell him no, because I don't want him to hate me. I feel pressured every time I'm with him, and sometimes I'm scared to be alone with him. What should I do? I need help.

— WORRIED GIRLFRIEND IN N.C.

DEAR GIRLFRIEND: The most difficult word to say is also one of the shortest. It's "no." And yet the inability to say that simple word can complicate a person's life in ways you can't imagine.

If Elijah is pressuring you to do things you're not ready for, then as much as you love him, he is proving that he doesn't love you.

If he would "hate" you for saying no, then he didn't love you to begin with — you are being used. If you allow it to continue, it will make you feel ashamed and guilty, which can cause you problems in the future.

Please consider what I have said and strictly limit the time you spend alone with him. It's called avoiding temptation.

DEAR ABBY: My husband, "Len," is a good person, but he never shows me any affection. Over the past three years, we might have kissed only six



DEAR ABBY  
Jeanne Phillips

times. I recently learned that Len has a stash of what he calls "glamour shots" of women. I call them porno. Len insists that it's normal for men to look at these kinds of things. We have had many fights over it and his not wanting to be with me sexually.

I am not unattractive. I have tried everything to interest him. He promises to change because he loves me, but nothing changes. We have tried counseling — it didn't help.

Abby, I love my husband, but I am very lonely. I would do anything to please him, but I don't rather fantasize over an image on paper than be with me.

I realize that sex isn't everything, but what about me and my needs? I work, take care of the kids, cook — everything. I feel like his roommate.

DEAR WANTS A HUSBAND: When a spouse substitutes "glamour shots" for a sex life with his partner, it's time to admit there is a serious problem.

However, nothing will

change until your husband faces it, and decides to do something about it.

He could be addicted to porn. He may have erectile dysfunction. The place to start is at his doctor's office with a complete physical examination.

DEAR ABBY: My parents have money troubles from time to time. I'm only 12 and live with my mom, dad, baby sister and little brother. I sometimes wish I was older so I could have a job and help out my family.

My parents have given me everything I wanted, but in return all I've given my parents is grief. I want to help with bills and stuff, but I'm too young to have a job. What's another way I could get money?

DEAR BIG SIS IN TUCSON: You appear to be a caring and responsible girl. Tell your parents what you have in mind, and ask if they would permit you to start a car-washing or baby-sitting business for families in your neighborhood.

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# 'Harry Potter' author names her newborn daughter Mackenzie

— Knight Ridder Newspapers

"Harry Potter" author J.K. Rowling, who gave birth Sunday, has named her daughter Mackenzie Jean, reports BBC Online.

Rowling said she and husband Neil Murray were "absolutely delighted" by the new arrival and described her as "ridiculously beautiful."

Mackenzie Jean Rowling Murray is the author's third child, and her second with Murray, whom she married in 2001.

Their son David was born in 2003.

She also has an 11-year-old daughter, Jessica, from a previous marriage.

The author thanked fans for their messages of support. "They mean more than you

can know," she said.

Last year, she told fans on her Web site that she always wanted three children and "could not be happier."

Rowling's next book, "Harry Potter and the Half-Blood Prince" — the second-to-last in a planned series of seven — topped online advance sales at Amazon.com before Christmas, seven months before its July 16 release date.



From left: John A. Coleman, Brent M. Hyatt, Scott E. Hunsaker, Mark F. Holmstead, Roy L. Mahler

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2. We work with you to develop a tough but realistic budget, often suggesting ways you can effect savings. Sometimes that is all you need to get your finances in order.
3. However, if your debts are so overwhelming that you need continuing help, we may suggest that you enter a formal DEBT MANAGEMENT PLAN. In that case...

- We ask your creditors to reduce your monthly payments to match your new budget. Payment plans are generally accepted as all major credit grantors support CCMS.
- You give us the monthly deposit agreed upon to pay your bills. It is placed in a trust account and checks are mailed to your creditors once a month. You may review your accounts any time you wish.

## Who are we?

- We are a local NON-PROFIT service offering free advice about how to get out of debt and how to use credit wisely.
- We ALSO set up debt management programs and actually handle the payments. We ask clients to contribute a small amount each month for this service.
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- CCMS is operated by a volunteer Board of Directors. Board members represent broad community interests and diverse business and professional interests and specialties.

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1. Do you argue with your spouse because bill collectors are harassing and threatening you...?
2. Is an increasing percentage of your income being used to pay old bills...?
3. Are you near or at the limit of your line of credit...?
4. Can you make only the minimum payments on your revolving charge accounts...?
5. Are you extending repayment schedules, paying bills in 60 or 90 days that you once paid in 30...?
6. Are you borrowing to pay for items you used to buy and pay for with cash...?
7. Do you put off medical or dental visits because you can't afford them right now...?
8. If you lost your job, would you be in immediate financial difficulty...?
9. Are you threatened with the repossession of your car or other legal action...?
10. Are you unaware of your total debt load...?

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## MORNING BREAK

# Early doctors recommended sheep brains

In Germany of old, pediatric specialists suggested using sheep brains to soothe a teething baby's gums. "Cervids" are holes in your teeth; "calvities" is a hole in your hair growth. It's another word for "baldness."

This day in history: It's Australia Day. The day doesn't commemorate the down-under country's independence. Instead, it celebrates the arrival of the first shipload of convicts to England's new penal colony on Jan. 26, 1788.

A young sheep is called a lamb. A young goat is a kid. When these babes are very young, though, they're both called "eanlings."

The official chemical name

## Leo: Let others give you advice

**IF JANUARY 26 IS YOUR BIRTHDAY ...** Sudden shifts in focus and chances to change the course of your life may present themselves in the month ahead. Once the excitement of dealing with new routines dies down, you can concentrate on getting your ducks in a row where career is concerned. Seek to improve those areas of life that seem to cause hardship. By fall, when planetary taskmaster Saturn affects your area of the zodiac, you may be ready to take a course or receive recognition for your hard work. Or you could see clearly what flaws need fixing.

### HOROSCOPE

Jeraldine Saunders

**ARIES (March 21-April 19):** You have all your little duckies lined up in a row with your current flair for organization. Don't let long hours tire you too much — and remember to schedule time to relax and recuperate.

**TAURUS (April 20-May 20):** You shine brightest when among friends, so employ your social skills in networking and make new allies. Put a new spin on your career by making new contacts and introductions.

**GEMINI (May 21-June 20):** Get cooperation from others today and enlist support for your most important projects. Facts will get you further than charm. Expect to find the right words at a crucial moment.

**CANCER (June 21-July 22):** The fires of ambition are burning brightly, so harness this extra energy and get much accomplished quickly. Past issues can create a brief period of agitation. Steer clear of old rivals.

**LEO (July 23-Aug. 22):** Sticky problems can be cut through with ease if you allow others to give you the benefit of their thoughts. Employ innovative methods and maintain a friendly demeanor with everyone.

**VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22):** Your mind may be on romance and you may forget something important. Keep an eye on finances and make sure that bills are paid on time. Problems from the past could recur in the next day or two.

**LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22):** Wear your most outrageous outfit or try out the latest style. You have a friendly sparkle that attracts others like moths to a flame. New romances may flare up, but it is best to employ a wait-and-see attitude.

**SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21):** Fascinating people could enter your world, but the question might be: Is it love or is it friendship? Can you make a deal? Only time will tell, so don't be too quick on the draw where love or money is concerned.

**SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21):** Yesterday's misunderstandings can be healed today by exerting a small effort. The mood is perfect to make a concerted push where ambitions are at stake. Be sure to pay bills on time.

**CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19):** Workaholics thrive under these stars, but all that work can leave loved ones at home feeling neglected and lonely. Maybe you will get the most accomplished by working in isolation.

**AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18):** If you're looking for a quick fling that new person may fit the bill. Impress others with your nonjudgmental friendliness and keep the social ball rolling.

**PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20):** Thorny problems may have an inspired solution. Strut your stuff in the public arena and others will note your dedication. If you wish for recognition in your career, you will need to work hard.



**RANDOM KINDS OF FACTNESS**  
Jack Mingo  
Erin Barrett

for the enzyme "tryptophan synthetase A protein" has 1,913 letters. We won't spell it out for you.

Obsessively afraid of being

poisoned? Then you're suffering from "lophobia."

In the sport of ice golf, the greens are called "whites." Unlike regular golf, when playing ice golf you're allowed to sweep away snow where you're putting.

Get that candy off your desk! Researchers put candy bowls in office buildings. When the chocolate was displayed on-top of the workers' desks, they ate an average of nine pieces each. Storing the sweets in the work-

ers' desk drawers cut consumption to six pieces. And moving them out of sight a few yards from the desk cut their consumption to three pieces.

You may have heard of chitterlings (pig intestines) or giblets (bird innards and parts), but there are other suphemistic names for the more undesirable parts of animals. "Melts" is another term for the spleen. "Lights" is lungs; "pluck" is the combination of the heart, liver and lungs.

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OPINION

# A bunch of Krabby Patties

I should have known. I can't believe I thought I was just an innocent little sponge wearing tight shorts. What in the name of Davy Jones' locker would a sponge, be doing building hands with a starfish or donning purple and hot-pink flowered garb to redecorate the Krusty Krab if he weren't a perverted invertebrate?

Before this is over, we're going to find out that SpongeBob is the illicit spawn of the Tampa shock jock Bubba the Love Sponge. Who knew SpongeBob would become as famous as the cover of "Abbey Road"?

It took Dr. James Dobson, the conservative Christian leader and gay marriage opponent who claims the president's re-election was more a mandate for his ideas than George W. Bush's, to point out the insidious underside of the popular cartoon character SpongeBob SquarePants. It takes a sponge to brainwash a child.

Holy Abe! Dobson outed SpongeBob at a black-tie inaugural fete last week for members of Congress and political allies. He said that a "pro-homosexual video" — starring SpongeBob, Barney, Jimmy Neutron, Winnie the Pooh, Kermit the Frog and Miss Piggy — was set to go to elementary schools to promote a "tolerance pledge."



MAUREEN DOWD

including tolerance for differences of "sexual identity."

Hoppin' claims, as they say in Bikini Bottom, the den of epicene iniquity where SpongeBob lives. Nothing good can come of tolerance.

Dan Martinson, a spokesman for Nickelodeon, where SpongeBob beats the pants off the competition, was flummoxed: "It's a sponge, for crying out loud. He has no sexuality."

Dobson has done the country a service by reminding us to watch out for the dark side of lovable but malleable sponges. He inspired me to fish through the president's inaugural Address with a more skeptical eye.

Bush's epic pledge to support democratic movements and institutions in every nation and to end "tyranny in our world" may seem wildly pie-in-the-sky, given that the Iraq vortex has drained our military.

Although his incendiary speech about the "untamed fire of freedom" has been widely interpreted as a code-

red warning to both foes and friends, I wonder if the president knew he was literally promising to stamp out undemocratic governments across the globe, which would include some of our top allies. He probably thought it was a fancier way of repackaging the Iraq invasion, not as a failed search for WMD, but as a blow for freedom (a word used 27 times) and liberty (used 15 times).

I wonder if W. is surprised that people took it literally. The Bushes don't always understand that they're being held to their rhetoric in major speeches. (Read my warhunks). For such a brass-knuckled vision, the president's delivery was curiously unemotional.

Some of the same advisers who filled Bush's brain with sugary visions of a quick and painless Iraq makeover did mean the speech to be literal: they are drawing up military options for the rest of the Middle East. Once again, the lovable and malleable president seems to be soaking up the martial mind-set of those around him, almost like a sponge.

SpongeBob SquarePants! We can only hope that Dobson doesn't pick up on the resemblance. SpongeBob, as his song goes, "lives in a pineapple under the sea/absorbent and yellow and porous is he!" SpongeBob lives in a

bubble in D.C./absorbent and shallow and porous is he! SpongeBob ensnared the country in a whale of a mess in Iraq because he gulleitlessly absorbed the neocons' dire warnings about Saddam's weapons capabilities and their rosy assumptions about Ahmad Chalabi's leadership capabilities.

Dick Cheney is a gruff Mr. Krabs taskmaster to SpongeBob, but SpongeBob is crazy about him anyhow. W. trustingly let his vice president make the worst-case scenario about Iraq a first-case scenario. Bush might have thought he was just blowing pretty bubbles full of lofty ideals about freedom and liberty in his speech, but Cheney and the neocons seem intent on filtering Iraq and Syria. (Doesn't Richard Perle remind you of the snarky and pretentious next-door neighbor to SpongeBob, Squidward Tentacles?)

The vice president told Don Imus that Iran was "right at the top of the list" of trouble spots, and that Israel "might well decide to act first" with a military strike.

Even if he's a little light in the flippers, SpongeBob has brought children good, clean fun. SpongeBob has brought the world dark, endless flights.

Maureen Dowd is a columnist for The New York Times.

## LETTERS

### State laws are lax with child care centers

As a licensed child care director in the state of Texas, my hat is off to the Health and Welfare Department for revoking the license of Kid Works Child Care Center.

It bothers me that is not considered against the law to leave a child totally unsupervised in a state regulated center. Leaving the child in a room alone with the door closed is not what I determine quality care, let alone to go off and forget they are even there.

Maybe Idaho's Health and Welfare needs to contact Texas for minimum Standards for Licensed Child Care Facilities. I don't think there would have been a question of illegal wrongdoing, even if the child was not harmed, if they were governed by such standards as these.

SHELLY LASSITER-BRITAN  
Pearland, Texas

### Salvation Army donations rose during the holidays

Now that the hustle and bustle of the holiday season is behind us, I wanted to express to you my gratitude to the wonderful people of the Magic Valley. As a member of the Salvation Army's advisory board, I saw firsthand how generous our community was this year. Kettle donations were up a little from last year due to the generosity of shoppers and the support of our local retail stores.

Along with kettle donations, many of you sent The Salvation Army money to be used toward those in need. And we were flooded with clothes and toys for area children in the

days leading up to Christmas. All-in-all, 1,768 individuals were given gifts, clothing, toys and food.

I'm proud to be a part of such a caring community! Keep up the good work in serving one another.  
CHRISTA CRAVENS  
Twin Falls

### Editorial on teachers is definitely a change

Oh my! Oh my! What a very pleasant surprise. For the first time in many years, the Jan. 11 issue of *The Times-News* printed an editorial that was complimentary toward the area of public school teachers. This is such a drastic change from the past it should not go unnoticed.

The negative attitude toward the so-called underworked and overpaid school teachers has been so flagrant that I have, on several occasions, submitted retaliatory rebuttals. Of course, my replies were as negative toward the newspaper as they could be. And furthermore, none were ever printed.

My suggestion is that if there are any public school teachers who are masochistic enough to have continued their subscription, they should clip the editorial and pin it up on the teacher's lunch room bulletin board. Seems like everyone receives satisfaction from a kind word occasionally. Just a few days ago, there was an article on the sports page regarding Vijay Singh's golf caddy who had made more than a million dollars last year but had resigned from lack of any decent words from Singh.

One further comment, the editorial did make the often-used reference that money is not the sole correlation with his pay goes. "Ives in a pineapple under the sea/absorbent and yellow and porous is he!"

SpongeBob lives in a

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Getting you back into life

### Write to us

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

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

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Festival gone  
wrong: Stampede  
kills more than 200.  
Page B4

The Times-News

Wednesday, January 26, 2005

Section B

## AROUND THE VALLEY

### Police continue search for robber

**TWIN FALLS** — Detectives with the Twin Falls Police Department are still tracking down leads in their search for the man who robbed a bank this month.

Police interviewed seven people in connection with the Jan. 6 robbery of D.J. Bank. None of them have been named out to be our bank robber yet," said Detective Chad Wiggins. The suspect is described as 5-foot-10, 150 pounds, and between 55 and 60 years old. Witnesses said he was wearing glasses and appeared to be unshaven.

The man left on foot with an undisclosed amount of money. If anyone has information on the incident, they are asked to contact Twin Falls police.

### Jerome Rec District holds workshop today

**JEROME** — The Jerome Recreation District will hold a workshop at 1 p.m. today in the conference room at the recreation center, 2032 S. Lincoln.

The workshop will be an information session on the request for proposals process and the financing of the recreation center expansion and renovation project.

For information, call Tom Kuntz or Gary Warr at 324-3389.

### Animal shelter offers licenses for pets

**TWIN FALLS** — The People for Pets-Magic Valley Humane Society Inc. reminds residents to get licenses for their dogs and never let them go without their identification tags. County licenses are available at the animal shelter, 420 Victory Ave.

The shelter provided some guidelines to help with its animal population:

- Spay or neuter your pet by 6 months of age and encourage others to do the same.
- Adopt an animal from the shelter when you have room for a new pet.
- Don't buy animals from pet stores — they are likely to have come from the cruel puppy mill industry.
- Don't buy from breeders.

This encourages breeding and makes little sense when so many animals can't find homes.

### Jerome recreation will hold open house

**JEROME** — The Jerome Recreation Department will hold an open house to introduce the proposed recreation center expansion and renovation project. The event is set for 4:30 to 6:30 p.m. Jan. 31, at the Jerome Recreation Center, 2032 S. Lincoln.

Anyone interested in the project is encouraged to drop in anytime during the event to learn more about the project and provide input.

The purpose of the open house is to informally present and gather public comments about the planned expansion, including the proposed concept layout, facility components, programming and operations plan, funding and approximate development schedule.

Current concept plans have been developed over the last six months by the recreation district board, staff and consultant planning team, along with input from a citizen-based recreation center advisory committee.

For more information, call the district office at 324-3389.

— compiled from staff reports

### Snowpack levels

Watershed	% of Avg.	% of Normal
Balmer	23%	39%
Big Wood	78%	46%
Little Wood	98%	53%
Big Lost	69%	48%
Lynart	47%	47%
Henry Fork/Teton	88%	51%
Upper Snake Basin	80%	47%
Oakley	80%	52%
Salmon Falls	33%	53%
As of Jan. 25		

\*A comparison of basin snowpack, on this date, with a 30-year average.

# Education budget details add up

The Times-News  
and The Associated Press

**BOISE** — Superintendent of Public Instruction Marilyn Howard on Tuesday officially presented her \$1.05 billion budget request, which is about \$50 million more than Gov. Dirk Kempthorne wants to spend on education this year.

Included in Howard's proposal was a \$24 million increase that would bump up teacher salaries and benefits. That contrasts with the governor's request to lawmakers to give salaries an across-the-board base increase of 1 percent and

pay the employer's part of the increase in health insurance premiums.

But it wasn't the \$24 million that members of the Joint Finance-Appropriations Committee were so much interested in. They concentrated on smaller line-items — running into hundreds of thousands of dollars.

Along with other conservative Republicans who sit on the budget-writing committee, Rep. Scott Bedke, R-Quincy, said lawmakers are preoccupied with covering the 2007 state budget.

"The money's not there to fund the state department's request," Bedke said.

Instead, IFAC members jumped on a novel idea that Howard presented: giving schools \$800,000 to allow every eligible student to take a college entrance exam.

Howard told IFAC that the "college readiness initiative" is being proposed to remove a small but significant stumbling block some students encounter when it comes to charting their future.

"For some students, the cost of the exam is a barrier," Howard told the committee. "I would like the idea of the exam is a barrier because their aspirations simply don't include education beyond

the high school level."

Scoring well on the tests might encourage some students to go to college or to get vocational training when they previously hadn't considered it, she said.

Howard is asking lawmakers to pick one of two directions: One would pay for standard ACT, SAT or Compass testing, while another option would be to test high school juniors using the Preliminary SAT/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test.

Idaho historically has seen fewer of its high school graduates continue their education than the nation as a whole.

According to the 2000 census,

only 21.7 percent of Idahoans over age 25 have a bachelor's degree or higher. The national figure is 24.4 percent.

Also, the National Center for Education Statistics reports that only 44.8 percent of Idaho's high school graduates went on to higher education in 2000, including universities, colleges, vocational and technical schools.

That put Idaho among the bottom half-dozen states, and well below the national average of 56.7 percent. Idaho's rate has fallen from a high of 49 percent in 1992.

Please see BUDGET, Page B3

## AMERICAN BIRD

### Eagle claws back from endangered species list

By Michelle Dunlop  
Times-News writer

**TWIN FALLS** — Benjamin Franklin didn't like it.

It's as American as apple pie, but this symbol is officially recognized.

Since 1782, Americans have associated the bald eagle as part of their national identity. The species not only is recognized as the national bird, but also is incorporated in the country's great seal — featured on the back of the dollar bill.

How, then, did the bird fall from its soaring heights of public opinion to depths so low it requires federal protection?

When Charles Thompson, the secretary of Congress presented his comments on the great seal to the Continental Congress on June 30, 1782, he forever painted the bald eagle as a symbol of American strength. The shield, he said, "is born on the breast of an American Eagle without any other supporters to denote that the United States of America ought to rely on their own Virtue."

Franklin's thoughts on the bird, however, hint at reasons why the species' population de-

clined. Franklin described his disappointment in the selection of the national bird in his letters: "I wish the bald eagle had not been chosen as the representative of our country. He is a bird of bad moral character; he does not see his living honestly. ... For a truth, the turkey is in comparison a much more respectable bird, and withal a true original native of America."

When Congress adopted it as the nation's symbol in 1782, nearly 75,000 bald eagles may have occupied North America. However, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service estimates only 450 nesting pairs could be found in the lower 48 states by 1960. Today, the species re-



Pesticides and habitat loss contributed to the severe decline in the bald eagle population in the lower 48 states. The species — a national emblem — first received protection under the Bald Eagle Protection Act of 1940 and later the Endangered Species Act. Today, the bald eagle is listed as threatened under the act.

### Eye on Endangered Species Series

The Times-News will take a look at threatened and endangered species in Idaho over the course of 2005. Please watch for future articles.

mains listed as threatened under the Endangered Species Act. Last year, the Bush Administration called for the species to be removed from the list altogether.

### The bald eagle in Idaho

"In Idaho as in much of the country, bald eagles have wrestled with pesticides and habitat loss," said Scott Bailey, regional nongame biologist for the Idaho Department of Fish and Game. A component of the agricultural pesticide DDT has been linked with reproductive failures in adult female eagles. In 1972, DDT was banned from use in the United States.

"This year we've had an increase in the number of breeding pairs we've spotted,"

Bailey said. They seem to be doing better in the past few years than they did previously.

"The Clean Water Act and the banning of DDT have helped the bald eagle population across the country," Bailey said. However, the loss of habitat remains a concern especially in the West. The damming of the Snake River not only has decreased habitat for bald eagles but also has decreased salmon — the prey the species depends on for food, he said.

Please see EAGLES, Page B3

## Twin Falls High embraces 'learning communities'

By Candace Baltz-Smylie  
Times-News correspondent

**TWIN FALLS** — Twin Falls High School has three new "R's." The school will still teach Reading, Writing and Rhythmic.

But now, with an added emphasis on rigor, relevance and relationships.

"This is the issue we have today," Principal Ben Allen told a small crowd of parents at a Tuesday night meeting about changes and goals for the school. "Students today want something that's relevant to them; they want relationships with their teachers and that's what we're trying to get out of smaller learning communities."

The need for smaller learning groups grew when the school increased its graduation requirements, Allen said. Increasing the rigor means the high school must also make subjects relevant and build relationships with students, he said.

Twin Falls High School is the first in the state to win a \$300,000 grant to create smaller learning communities. The money will be distributed over three years to help the high

school create smaller groups of students with similar interests within the school. Next year's sophomores will be divided into "houses" in which groups of students share the same core of teachers for their required classes such as English and history.

Allen says he hopes that by implementing smaller learning communities, students will still have the benefits of a large school — with all the advantages of a small one. The high school will take the idea one step further.

Next year, creating career pathways that will divide students into groups with the same teachers based on their electives. "That's how smaller learning communities work; if they're in an area they're interested in, they'll want to learn and do well," Allen said.

Students will have six career pathways to choose from, and

core class teachers will be grouped with the elective teachers. So students who are interested in engineering will take their engineering class together, as well as their English or social studies classes. The core class teachers will choose what they are most interested in being involved with, so students end up with a group of teachers who know something about their desired careers.

Not all sophomores or juniors know what they want to do for the rest of their lives, Allen concedes. But letting teens try career-oriented classes before they graduate will save them time and money in the long run.

"If they get to college and start going into medicine and change their mind after a year, that's a lot of money to spend to find out that you don't want to do," he said.

But students aren't the only ones who will do well as a result of the program, Allen says.

"We think it will benefit the students, but also the teachers," he said.

Teachers will be able to track their students more easily if they know three other teachers share the exact same class, he added.

"If Sissie isn't acting like herself in one class, chances are she's having trouble in all of them," Allen said. "And chances are one of the teachers knows what's wrong."

That kind of teamwork on the part of teachers may also help to prevent dropouts, he said, which would also help the school district meet No Child Left Behind Act requirements.

Under the provisions of the law, by 2014 all students must meet proficiency in math, reading and language. That leaves no room for dropouts.

"Our high school is so large, it will help us keep track of students and prevent them from getting lost," Brett Gies, Twin Falls School District director of data analysis, said of the changes. "It will make sure their needs are being met."

## Boundary issue will go before voters

By Karin Kowalski  
Times-News writer

**TWIN FALLS** — Residents of a disputed area will decide Friday if they want to be moved from the Twin Falls to the Filer School district.

The election comes after a long state of limbo for homes where many people believed they were in the Filer district and sent children there for years.

The idea of changing the boundary came about after residents on the edge of the Twin Falls district found out they needed permission for Filer buses to come through the area. Filer bus mass by because there is no other place to turn around. A renewed busing agreement has allowed students in the disputed area to continue attending Filer schools, but many residents see the boundary change as a more permanent solution.

In its Dec. 2 meeting, the state Board of Education approved a hearing officer's recommendation to hold an election.

The ballot will have two questions on it. The first is whether the area — which runs south from 410 to 490 North and includes a half mile between 2450 East and 2500 East — should be taken away from the Twin Falls School District and be added to the Filer School District. The other question is whether the disputed area should be changed to be subject to the levy rates of the Filer School District. Both questions would have to be approved for the boundary to change.

According to Twin Falls County Clerk, Kristina Glascock, Filer's levy rate equates to \$48.33 in taxes each year for a property with \$100,000 of assessed value. For Twin Falls, the rate is slightly less at \$46.51 for \$100,000 in assessed value. There are about 123 registered voters in the disputed area. The area has about 60 houses, but neither school district has been able to get an accurate count of the number of students affected.

Twin Falls County Assessor Gerry Bowden said the estimated net market value of the Twin Falls district is \$1.68 billion, which includes \$11.8 million in the disputed area. The Filer district's estimated value is about \$218 million. Bowden said a change in boundaries would affect the levy rates, increasing Twin Falls' levy and decreasing Filer's but the change would be a small amount to the individual taxpayer.

"It could be pennies," Bowden said previously. "If they even are able to vote from home."

Filer Superintendent John Graham said he doesn't believe the difference in levy rates is all that significant. He hasn't been able to get a count of students in the disputed area who go to his district because of computer glitches lingering.

Please see VOTE, Page B3

### Where to vote

Residents of a disputed section of the Twin Falls School District will be able to vote from noon to 8 p.m. Friday at three locations where they would like to become part of the Filer School District.

- The polling places include:
- Twin Falls Elementary School, 238 E. St., Filer
  - Filer Middle School, 299 U.S. Highway 30, Filer
  - Plant Foods, 21300 U.S. Highway 30, Filer

## MAGIC VALLEY

## OBITUARIES

For obituary rates and information, call 953-3278 Monday through Saturday. Deadline is 4 p.m. for next-day publication. The lead section for obituaries is obituaries@timesnews.com. Death notices are a free service and can be placed until 4 p.m. every day. To view or submit obituaries online, or to place a message in an individual online guestbook, go to [www.magicvalley.com](http://www.magicvalley.com) and click on "Obituaries."

## Charlotte Viola Gold

MERIDIAN — Charlotte Viola Gold was born March 7, 1911, to George Ernest and Rosella Carr Brown Jenkins at Pleasant Green, Salt Lake, Utah.

Viola grew up in the Shoestring District between Wendell and Gooding, where her parents bought a farm on Dec. 2, 1916. Viola's father had been foreman of a copper mine smelter plant in Magna, Utah. Viola had a carefree and happy childhood and loved to tell about those days. Viola attended the Shoestring County School, where she completed the eighth grade. She and her older sister, Laverne, went to Salt Lake City to live with relatives while they attended high school, as their farm home was 8 miles from Gooding — too far to walk in the days before school buses.

Viola, at the age of 67, went to the College of Southern Idaho and told them of her desire to graduate from high school. She was told about the GED program and that same day, Viola was allowed to take the tests, which she passed with high grades and through the mail received her diploma. Viola also attended the LDS Institute and graduated with a four-year diploma.

Viola was a life-long active member of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints and held many organi-



zational positions. She was also active in gardening clubs, Republican Women's circles and was a member of the Daughters of the Utah Pioneers.

Viola married Dencil Harris Gold in 1929. After their marriage, the Golds lived in Kimberly, Idaho, where Dencil was a teacher for a cattle company. Viola and Dencil (Pete) lived at their Tuttle farm from 1940 to Aug. 21, 1977, when Dencil passed away, and in December 1977, Viola moved to Twin Falls to live with her daughter, Jean. On June 16, 1998, Viola moved to Meridian, Idaho, where she passed away peacefully Monday, Jan. 24, 2009, at Sunrise Care Center of Meridian.

Viola had five children, two

of whom are still living, and in addition to caring for them she also helped with the farm work. Viola always said, "I milked cows from the age of 9 to 50 when we sold the cattle." She also finished raising a teenage grandson; so that she was raising children from the age of 19-70.

Surviving Viola is her son, Dencil Ernest Gold, and wife, Carol of Council Bluffs, Iowa, and daughter, Viola Jean Gold Watson, and husband, Don of Boise, Idaho. A posterity of 17 grandchildren, 63 great-grandchildren, and 47 great-great-grandchildren, one sister, Elma Harmon of Hazelton, Idaho, and one brother, Verlin Jenkins of Gooding, Idaho.

Her beloved husband, Dencil, and three daughters, Donna Arlene Gold Watson, Cara Louise (Sue Ann) Gold Glines and Patricia Marie Gold preceded her in death.

A viewing will be held from 11 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 29, 2009, at the Gooding Chapel of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints with a memorial service at 1 p.m. at the church. Interment will be held following services at the Elmwood Cemetery in Gooding, Idaho. All services and arrangements are under the direction of The Park's Magic Valley Funeral Home of Twin Falls, Idaho.

## Lloyd A. Blake

DECIO — Lloyd A. Blake, a longtime resident, farmer and community leader in Decio, Idaho, passed away peacefully on Jan. 23, 2009, in his home in Mesa, Ariz., at the age of 91.

Lloyd was born Nov. 16, 1913, in Marion, Idaho, and spent his younger years on his father's farm in Heppner, Idaho. His father lost the farm during the Depression and they moved to Washington, where he worked constructing dams on the Columbia River. His father was injured while working and forced to quit his job. They moved back to Heppner and Lloyd, at the age of 15, had to quit school and work to support the family. He developed a strong work ethic and kind heart during the remaining years of his youth.

In 1933, he began running A. Gillette's farm in Decio, Idaho, and in 1937, he married Gillette's daughter, Lillian. In 1935, shortly thereafter, Lillian's mother died and they moved into Mr. Gillette's home, where Lillian became the "Mother" of her five younger siblings. In 1945, they purchased their own farm in Decio from Mr. Gillette.

It was a small 80-acre farm which grew to 120 acres and at one time he farmed 750 acres of irrigated land. He started his dairy herd with three cows which rapidly grew to a milking herd of 80 Holsteins. His knowledge in dairy industry and dairy ani-



mals enabled him to develop one of the highest quality herds in Idaho.

He loved his dairy animals. His work ethic and farming practices enabled him to produce the highest quality crops year after year. Due to Hazelt's health problems, they purchased a home in Arizona in 1962 where she spent the winters with their younger children. Lloyd grew heart weary of being so far from his dear wife and family and in 1969 he sold his beloved farm and dairy and moved to Arizona to be with them.

While in Idaho, he served as the president of the Southern Idaho Farm Bureau, president of the Jerome Cooperative (Challenge) Dairy Association, president of the Board of the Idaho Dairyman's Association, president of the Decio Kiwanis Club and a member of the Decio School Board. He served his church in Idaho and Arizona as a stake missionary. Young Men's Mutual president, high priest group leader and stake missionary. He spent many hours working at the Mesa Temple as well.

When Lloyd moved to Mesa, he worked for Big Z Oldsmobile and spent 16 years working for Bingham Equipment Co. as a farm equipment salesman and parts manager.

Lloyd and Hazel purchased a cabin in 1972 at Lake Hawley

on the Apache Indian Reservation which became one of the joys of their lives. Unfortunately, the Apaches saw fit to cancel all home-site leases and when their lease expired in 1982 they were forced to either abandon it or move it. With the assistance of a small moving company, Lloyd successfully moved the cabin from Hawley Lake to a one-acre lot in Pinedale, Ariz.

Lloyd was a beloved husband, father, grandfather, great-grandfather and friend.

He was preceded in death by his son, Richard Lloyd (Marty) Blake, and is survived by his wife of 69 years, Hazel of Mesa, Ariz.; son, Gary (Rose Marie) Blake of Litchfield Park, Ariz.; daughter, Yvonne (Norman) Burch of Pleasant View, Utah; daughter Janice Strauss of Gilbert, Ariz.; daughter, April (Cory) Johnston of Mesa, Ariz.; 25 grandchildren; and 25 great-grandchildren.

A viewing will be held from 6 to 8 p.m. Jan. 27, 2009, at the Bunker Funeral Home, 33 N. Centennial Way, Mesa, Ariz. A funeral will be held at 11 a.m. Jan. 28, 2009, at the LDS Mesa Fairfield Ward, 933 E. Brown Road, Mesa, Ariz. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made in honor of Lloyd and Hazel's son, Richard, to the Lou Gehrig/ALS Gift Fund: Columbia University Medical Center, 100 Haven Ave., Suite 250, New York, NY 10032.

Neva of Salem, Ore., Shelly (Wade) Meyer of Lewiston, Idaho, and Cody (Jenny) Kropp of Wascilla, Alaska, preceded her in death. He is preceded by his parents: stepfather, Jim McCabe; and two daughters, Karen Caldwell and Coral Kropp.

A celebration of Ted's life will be conducted at 2 p.m. Friday, Jan. 28, 2009, at White Mortuary "Chapel by the Park" with Kevin Anderson officiating. Interment will follow at Hazelton Cemetery with military rites by the Eden American Legion Post No. 82.

The family would like to thank all the nurses, aides and staff for everything they did for Ted. It was greatly appreciated.

Ted: It was greatly appreciated.

3521 E. 3985 N., Kimberly, ID 83341.

An Anna's request, there will be no services in lieu of flowers. Memorials may be sent to The Clayton Cemetery Fund, c/o Tommy Campbell, HC 67 P.O. Box 2071, Challis, ID 83226.

## OBITUARIES

## Dominga Yrusta Obermiller



Hawaii, New York and Mexico, with her daughters.

Survivors include her six daughters, Pat (Leon) Adams of Burley, Margaret (Bill) Sharpe of La Habra, Calif., Cecilia Obermiller of Garden Grove, Calif., Mary Ann (Wayne) Farkas of Great Falls, Mont., Cynthia (Terry) Gierlich of Paul and Marcella (Dennis) Gullett of Bremerton, Wash.; two sons, Vince Obermiller of Burley and Joe (Karen) Obermiller of Jacksonville, Fla.; 20 grandchildren; 16 great-grandchildren; one great-great-grandchild; four nieces; and one nephew.

Dominga was preceded in death by her husband; her parents; two sisters and their husbands; a son-in-law; and a grandson.

The family would like to thank the staff of Highland Estates and IHC Home Health and Hospice. The family would also

like to extend a special thank you to Dr. Michael P. Klett and Dominga's granddaughter, Lisa Adams, for their excellent, loving care and friendship. You are all greatly appreciated.

A vigil service with recitation of the rosary will be held at 7 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 27, 2009, at Little Flower Catholic Church, 1601 Oakley Avenue, Burley. The funeral Mass will be celebrated at 11 a.m. Friday, Jan. 28, 2009, also at Little Flower Catholic Church with the Rev. Father Juan Garate as celebrant. Burial will be in Pleasant View Cemetery. Friends may call from 6 p.m. until the time of the rosary on Thursday and from 10 until 10:45 a.m. Friday at the church.

In lieu of flowers, the family suggests memorials be made to IHC Hospice in care of Rasmussen Funeral Home, 1350 E. 16th St., Burley, ID 83318.

## Leslie Hestbeck



He is survived by two stepdaughters, Jeanie (Jim) Howard of Buhl and Donna (Bud) Osborn of Quincy, Wash.; several

stepgrandchildren, great-grandchildren and great-great-grandchildren; three sisters, Mrs. Lilly Hall of Challis, Idaho, Mrs. Ada Ellis of Twin Falls and Mrs. Vivian Windley of Salt Lake City, Utah; and numerous nieces and nephews.

He was preceded in death by his wife, Doshia, parents, three sisters and three brothers.

A memorial graveside service will be conducted at 11 a.m. Friday, Jan. 28, 2009, at Sunset Memorial Park with Wayland McClellan officiating.

Services are under the direction of White Mortuary Chapel by the Park. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the charity of the donor's choice.

TWIN FALLS — Leslie Hestbeck, 50, of Twin Falls, died Monday, Jan. 24, 2009, at Bridgeview Estates.

He was born Jan. 10, 1915, in Kaysville, Utah, the son of August and Andrea Nielsen Hestbeck. He moved with his infant in 1918 to Twin Falls, and then to Murtaugh in 1926. He farmed with his dad and then took over the farming operation when his dad could no longer handle it.

After his parents died, he married Doshia Riggs on Nov. 3, 1975. They moved to Twin Falls in the mid-1980s and later sold their farm in the mid-1990s. Leslie loved to hunt and fish, but his favorite pastime was bowling at which he was very good.

## DEATH NOTICES

## Terry Burns

RUPERT — Terry Burns, 60, of Cody, Ariz., and formerly of Rupert, died Monday, Jan. 24, 2009, at Magic Valley Regional Medical Center in Twin Falls.

Arrangements will be made by Rasmussen Funeral Home, 1350 E. 16th St., Burley.

## Edwin J. Lynch

BURLEY — Edwin James Lynch, 82, of Burley, died Monday, Jan. 24, 2009, at his home.

The funeral will be held at 1 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 28, 2009, at Truth Tabernacle, 2459 Hilland Ave., Burley, with Pastor Quinn Yarbrough officiating. Burial will be at the Decio Cemetery. Friends may call from 6 to 8 p.m. Friday at the Payne Mortuary, 221 W. Main St., Burley, and from noon to 12:45 p.m. before the funeral Saturday at the church.

## Louise Bruckner

JEROME — Louise Bruckner, of Jerome, died Monday, Jan. 24, 2009, at Magic Valley Regional Medical Center in Twin Falls.

A graveside service will be held at 2 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 28, 2009, at the Jerome Cemetery with the Rev. Laura Rockwell officiating.

## Gloria R. Fitterman

RUPERT — Gloria R. Fitterman, 71, of Rupert, died Tuesday, Jan. 25, 2009, at Mindoko Memorial Hospital.

Arrangements will be announced by Hansen Mortuary Burley Chapel.

## Winnie Murri

TWIN FALLS — Winnie Murri, 95, of Twin Falls, died Friday, Jan. 21, 2009, at Sunbridge Care and Rehabilitation.

The funeral will be held at 10 a.m. Thursday, Jan. 27, 2009, at the Twin Falls 6th Ward LDS Chapel, 667 Harrison St. The family will greet friends one hour before the service at the church. Burial will follow at 3 p.m. Thursday at Hillcrest Memorial Gardens in Nampa. Arrangements are under the direction of White Mortuary in Twin Falls.

## Recreate

Every Thursday in the Outdoor section, The Times-News guides you to recreational opportunities.

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Those who bring sunshine into the lives of others cannot keep it from themselves.

The family of Vivian Maltz would like to send very special thank you's for all the wonderful care, love, prayers, hugs, flowers, plants, cards, food, calls, plowing Dad's driveway, donations to the library and favorite charities, our special friends at the lab, two schools and panorama, Pastor Mike Holloman, Dowell and Judy Demaray and staff, Ben and Linda and friends at the Coble company - WOW! And to our extended family who just keep giving and doing.

Shawna, Connie B., Gloria, Pam, Gwen, Don, Verna Jean, E.J., Mary, Connel, John, Karen, Donn and Barbara for all the love, visits, hairdos, lunches, dinner, walks and talks.

God Bless you all, Fred, Janice, Joan, Sally, Helen and Families

"Mothers plant the seeds of love that bloom forever."

We love you, Mommy

## Anna Marie Gossi Shindurling

KIMBERLY — Anna Marie Gossi Shindurling left this earth peacefully on Monday, Jan. 24, 2009, with her family and friends at her side.

Anna was born July 1, 1918, at Clayton, Idaho, to Fred and Rosa Carman Gossi. Surviving Anna is her loving

husband of 58 years, George B. Shindurling. Her parents and one sister, Cecelia Rosa, preceded her in death.

George and Anna moved to Kimberly two years ago to make their home with Howard and Gloria Hardez. George can be contacted at

3521 E. 3985 N., Kimberly, ID 83341.

An Anna's request, there will be no services in lieu of flowers. Memorials may be sent to The Clayton Cemetery Fund, c/o Tommy Campbell, HC 67 P.O. Box 2071, Challis, ID 83226.

# Shoshone innkeeper gets alcohol license back

By Lorraine Casner  
Times-News correspondent

SHOSHONE — Dennis Vincent poured a glass of beer at his Big D Club Bonzi Monday night for the first time in more than three weeks.

The Shoshone City Council declined to renew his retail alcohol license at the beginning of the year because council members wanted to review Vincent's application after several incidents of fighting and noise at the bar were reported.

But Monday during a special meeting, the council granted a temporary renewal of Bonzi's license, pending a final approval which will have some conditions.

Those conditions, which Vincent and the council have discussed in an informal agreement that will be formalized on paper, include a request that Vincent contact the Shoshone Police Department whenever the club holds an event.

That will allow the police to patrol the area better.

Vincent also is requested to provide more security during events.

Another condition is that the county prosecutor provides Vincent with a list of convicted criminals on probation who are not allowed into drinking establishments.

"It boils down to security for the events," Councilman Ken Haught said.

Vincent said his establishment was already complying with the conditions outlined by the council and would continue to do so.

The security he provides for events already exceeds pressures at other clubs throughout Magic Valley, he said.

Vincent reminded the council about a man who was beaten to death in 1996, but he said that establishment did not have the security in place needed to prevent such incidents.

"Does the Columbia Lounge notify you when they have a band?" Councilman Lee Ross asked City Attorney E. Scott Paul.

Paul said no, and suggested that the Columbia Lounge al-

cohol application receive as much scrutiny when it is time to renew it as Vincent's had. The Columbia is located a few doors down from the Bonzi.

Haught said he remembered a time in the past when the local sheriff was assaulted while sitting on a bar stool at the Columbia.

"He proceeded to haul the guy to jail," Haught said. "People who use alcohol create problems."

At the last regular council meeting, renewing Vincent's license had been a topic of discussion. About 20 people supported renewing the Bonzi's alcohol license, Vincent said.

Police Chief Robert Quiroga outlined complaints about the Bonzi at that meeting.

One of the 10 complaints Quiroga presented, only three were for fighting, Vincent said.

"Seven of the 10 were for noise," he said.

The council verbally OK'd Vincent's license, but members of the council expressed some reservations.

"I'm still concerned about the kids," Haught said.

Councilman Dale Sluder agreed.

"They keep emphasizing youth," he said. "In my estimation, youth and alcohol don't mix."

Vincent allows underage people to come into the portion of the club designated as a restaurant to eat and play video games.

The bar is separated from the eating area with a lattice partition, said Vincent, who noted that many other businesses allow youth into places where alcohol is served.

Those establishments separate the restaurant from the bar, he said.

Haught suggested that the council take a 20-minute tour of the Bonzi during its next regular meeting to see if the separation between the restaurant area and the bar area is adequate.

"We'd like to invite everybody here to come and see how it has changed," said Lonnie Vincent, Dennis Vincent's brother, who works at the bar.

Janet Adair Deppe Moss of Rupert, memorial service at 11 a.m. today at the Hansen Mortuary Chapel; friends may call one hour before the service.

Clarence Alfred Yingst, formerly of Buhl, funeral at 2 p.m. today at Farner Funeral Chapel in Buhl.

Jay L. Garper of Burley, memorial service at 11 a.m. Thursday at Peace Fellowship, 1239 E. 16th St., Burley (Rasmussen Funeral Home).

Kenneth Kowitz of Rupert, funeral at 11 a.m. Thursday at Trinity Lutheran Church, 909 Eighth St., Rupert; friends may call from 6 to 8 p.m. Friday at Rasmussen Funeral Home, 1350 E. 16th St., Burley, and from 10 to 10:45 a.m. Saturday at the church.

Richard Theron McClure of Twin Falls, funeral at 2 p.m. Saturday at Parke's Magic Valley Funeral Home, 2551 Kimberly Road, Twin Falls; friends may call from 5 to 7 p.m. Friday at the funeral home.

Floyd N. George of Rupert, funeral at noon today at the Center of Canyonview, Snake Center, 2110 N. Main in Center Valley, Utah, where family and friends may call one hour before the service. Funeral at 1 p.m. Thursday at the Rupert LDS Stake Center, 324 E. 18th St., where family and friends may call one hour before the service (Rasmussen Funeral Home).

celebration of life at 7:30 p.m. Thursday at Our Lady of Guadalupe Chapel, 630 Falls Ave., Twin Falls (Holm Funeral Chapel).

## SERVICES

## Eagles

Continued from B1

"We used to have big runs of salmon," Bailey said. "They tend to eat a lot of fish — dead and dying fish too."

A scavenger species, bald eagles will feed off of the carcasses of dead animals — a habit Benjamin Franklin clearly found repulsive.

Early settlers also took aim at bald eagles, lumping the species in with other predators and viewing it as a detriment to livestock, Bailey said. Bald eagles may have been blamed for livestock losses when the birds were found feasting off carcasses, he said.

"It was kind of a gully-by-association thing," Bailey said. "There was a period in our history when we really did anything to eliminate predators."

For more than 30 years, the local chapter of the Audubon Society has conducted an annual bird count in the Magic Valley. Sarah Harris, president of the Prairie Falcon Chapter, helps organize the society's local count in Hagerman.

"Usually we've had a nice mix of mature and immature birds," Harris said.

From 1970 to 1982, bird-watchers did not see any bald eagles during the annual count. Finally, in 1983, two bald eagles were spotted. The group located the birds on the Snake River and 15 in 1992. A record of 42 bald eagles was glimpsed in 1995, but the number has been in the teens for the past few years, Harris said.

## Bald eagle facts

- **Name:** Bald eagle, *Haliaeetus leucocephalus*
- **Wingspan:** Six to seven feet
- **Body length:** 30 to 37 inches
- **Weight:** Up to 14 pounds
- **Color:** Bald eagles have a dark brown breast with a white head, neck and tail. They have yellow eyes, a large hooked beak and balding talons.
- **Life span:** The average bald eagle lives 15 to 20 years, but some have been known to live 30 years or longer
- **Mating:** Bald eagles mate for life.
- **Prey:** Bald eagles consume fish primarily, but also birds, carrion and mammals.
- **Data listed endangered:** 1967 under a law that protects the Endangered Species Act; listed in 1978 under the act.
- **Data species reassessed to:** threatened, 1995
- **Habitat:** Along waterways, bald eagles make nests in tall trees — often cottonwoods.
- **Inhabits the following counties:**

## Bald Eagle Days 2005

- **When:** Jan. 26-29
  - **Where:** Various locations in Boise
  - **What:** Events include a wildlife film festival, a gala and auction, bald eagle viewing opportunities and more.
  - **Who:** The public is invited to attend. Events are sponsored by:
- Members of the Audubon Society aren't the only ones monitoring bald eagles. The U.S. Geological Survey has helped monitor bald eagles along 75 survey routes throughout Idaho since 1988. Karen Steenhof in the Snake

River Field Station in Boise and others at the U.S. Geological Survey analyze the data these efforts provide. However, the Survey has not had the funding to look at data since 2000.

"In the lower 48 states, our data shows that the population has increased on average by 2 percent per year," Steenhof said.

The same trend holds true for Idaho, she said.

## Spotting a bald eagle

Bald eagles like to nest in tall trees near water. In south-central Idaho, cottonwoods often provided nesting for bald eagles, Bailey said. Last year, five nests were spotted in this region.

Bald eagles can be found in the Wood River Valley during the summer and in northern Idaho, Bailey said. While bald eagles leave other portions of the state during winter, Hagerman's mild climate and heavy concentration of agriculture makes an ideal spot for bald eagles year round. Recently, the north side of the Snake River near Box Canyon seemed to be a hot spot for bald eagle sighting.

"There's always a fair number of them in the Hagerman area," he said.

As for the future of the species, Bailey commented that "the consensus would be that they're really on the way to recovery."

For those needing assistance in spotting a bald eagle, the Idaho Bird Observatory, in cooperation with the Idaho Department of Fish and Game and other agencies, will be holding Bald Eagle Days starting today in Boise.

## Public will comment on Elmore County dairy

The Times-News

MOUNTAIN HOME — The Elmore County Planning and Zoning Commission will take public comment tonight on a proposal for a new dairy south of Mountain Home.

The Rhead Dairy, planned by Robert Rhead, will be located at Idaho Highway 51 and Beet Dump Road and will house 7,200 animal units. In the past five years, six confined animal feeding operations, or CAFOs, have been approved in Elmore County. The planning commissions approval of a seventh — Bernie Brown's Mountain Home Dairy — currently is under appeal with county commissioners.

At the request of Elmore County commissioners, the Idaho State CAFO Siting Team performed a site evaluation for Rhead Dairy on Dec. 13. The team is composed of represen-

tatives from Idaho Department of Environmental Quality, Idaho Department of Water Resources and Idaho Department of Agriculture. The CAFO siting team assessed the Rhead Dairy as a moderate risk.

The team mentioned in a letter to the county P&Z that about 41,230 animal units would be located within a five-mile radius of Rhead's operation; assuming that both the Rhead Dairy and the Mountain Home Dairy are approved.

Their letter indicated concern over waste related to the dairies in the area. "From a nutrient management (phosphorus uptake) perspective, the local area is reaching its maximum threshold to adequately handle the waste produced without excessive hauling."

The P&Z commission will hold a public hearing at 7 p.m. today at the American Legion Hall in Mountain Home.

## Budget

Continued from B1

Besides encouraging more students to consider college as an option, Howard said the program would give the state a way to compare students' final performance with those from around the nation.

But Rep. Doug Jones, R-Filer, who sat on the House Education Committee for almost 20 years, said making every student take the test would have the effect of lowering Idaho's standing with other states on college entrance exams. He suggested that students are more motivated to do well on the tests if they pay for

them and take them on their own time.

For the ACT, the 2004-05 basic registration fee is \$28, which includes sending score reports to up to four colleges, according to the organization's Web site. SAT basic registration fees are \$17.

Bedke noted that the ACT has provisions for low-income students so they can afford it.

"Considering all of the things that we haven't done in education, all the things we want to do to help kids to learn, is this still a valuable use of taxpayer funds?" asked Sen. John McGee, R-Caldwell.

"A valuable thing is to have a measure to let us know how college-ready our kids are," Howard said. "For whatever price we can manage, I think that's a good thing."

Education Department spokeswoman Allison Westfall said Howard's proposal also contains funding to train 15 teachers to teach advanced-placement classes in all of the state's schools.

Currently, two other states — Illinois and Colorado — have similar programs.

Howard also asked for \$7.66 million to maintain a statewide data-gathering program called

Idaho Student Information Management Systems.

The J.S. and Kathryn Albertson Foundation recently stopped funding the project, which was on its way to costing more than \$180 million.

Kempthorne recommended no state money for the project.

Bedke, who two years ago successfully pushed an initiative to open up the education budget so that lawmakers could more easily trim certain areas, said, "I don't think the state department has made the case that the new revised ISIMS is going to be any better than the old ISIMS."

## Vote

Continued from B1

from the Idaho Student Information Management System.

Lonn Thaele, one of the petitioners from the disputed area, said he didn't do any campaigning beyond calling people to remind them about the election. He doesn't believe the tax difference will be much of a factor.

"I think everybody had their minds made up already," Thaele said. "There's more to it than just the money."

At the January Twin Falls School Board meeting, Superintendent Wiley Dobbs said if the boundary were to change, students who attended Twin Falls would have to start filling out out-of-district transfer forms.

Dobbs said it would be up to principals if they could accept additional students.

Pupils in the area in question attend Lincoln Elementary for grades K-6. Principal Beth Olmstead said that her classes are right at or slightly above the state's recommended limits for class sizes. If pupils are in-district, the school has to take them, but if they are transfers, it's a case of "last in, first out," when crowding occurs, Olmstead said she doesn't know how many pupils she has from that area.

She said grades K-3 and special education are full, but grades 4-6 are more likely to be able to accept transfers.

Olmstead doesn't like the idea of moving a pupil during the year, but for next fall if the boundary changes, she recommends offering all of the transfers as soon as possible.

Robert Stuart Principal Craig Alnsworth said the school's gen-

eral population could have room for a few transfer students, but special education is full.

At Twin Falls High School, Principal Ben Allen said the situation is the same.

CENTURY CINEMA 5 & BURLEY THEATRE	
P: Probably N: Nudity V: Violence S: Sexual Situations	
None Mild Moderate Extreme	
THE WORK AND THE GLORY	
PG-13	PG-13
THE AVIATOR	
PG-13	PG-13
RACING STRIPES	
PG-13	PG-13
MEET THE FOCKERS	
PG-13	PG-13
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PG-13	PG-13
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# WORLD



**Afghan farmer Mohammad Samim, 37, puts fertilizer on his wheat crop in a field which last year grew opium poppy in the district of Surkh Rod near to Jalalabad, 130 km (80 miles) east of Kabul, Afghanistan, on Sunday. The poppy fields that once crowded every scrap of farm land in this fertile corner of eastern Afghanistan have been supplanted - by wheat. Farmers are slashing their cultivation of opium, government and foreign officials say, in a bright start for President Hamid Karzai's U.S.-sponsored campaign against the world's largest illegal narcotics industry.**

## U.S. drops plans for opium spraying

WASHINGTON (AP) — Facing opposition from Afghan President Hamid Karzai, the United States has set aside plans to use spray planes to fumigate opium crops in Afghanistan, the world's largest drug producing country.

Karzai's opposition to spraying has frustrated some U.S. officials who doubt that the vast amount of opium produced in Afghanistan can be significantly reduced without spraying. Opium is the raw material for heroin.

The United Nations says Afghanistan's drug trade has become a major source of income for the world's most powerful terrorists. Some U.S. officials fear it could ultimately lead to the kind of lawlessness

that allowed al-Qaida to use Afghanistan as a haven before the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks.

Karzai, a close ally of the United States, has called for a "holy war" against Afghanistan's drug business, but believes aerial spraying could harm innocent villagers. U.S. officials say drug spraying is safe.

The State Department's top anti-drug official, Robert Charles, said Karzai has indicated that he might allow aerial spraying if other eradication and interdiction strategies fail.

What he essentially signaled was that while that may be necessary, he wants to begin with another strategy, Charles said in an interview.

## Expert: Terrorists use human smuggling rings

VIENNA, Austria (AP) — Trafficking people for forced labor and sexual slavery has become the world's No. 2 most lucrative crime, and terrorists are using shadowy underground networks to move around, a senior U.S. counter-trafficking official warned Tuesday.

Human trafficking, particularly the smuggling and enslavement of young women for prostitution, is tied with weapons smuggling as the second-largest illegal money-making activity, said T. March Bell, the Justice Department's senior special-counsel for trafficking issues and civil rights.

Only the narcotics trade

reaps more profits for organized crime, but traffickers are earning billions of dollars exploiting tens of millions of victims each year, Bell said, calling it "the No. 1 human rights issue today."

The profits are huge, he told reporters, citing the example of a brothel owner in Southeast Asia who typically might pay \$8,000 for a young woman. "We think that owner can make a \$200,000 profit on that \$8,000 investment," Bell said.

Terrorists also are taking advantage of sophisticated smuggling operations to obtain counterfeit passports and transit to Western countries to plot or carry out attacks, he said.

# Stampede kills more than 200

WAL, India — An accident that crushed several people inside a Hindu temple grew into a bigger tragedy Tuesday when angry pilgrims outside learned of the deaths and set fire to shops along a crowded walkway, triggering a stampede that killed more than 200 people, police said.

An estimated 300,000 people had gathered for a festival in and around the hilltop Mandira Devi temple in western India near the small town of Wal, about 150 miles south of Bombay.

Police chief Chandrakant Kumbhar said the incident began when the temple floor became slippery from a ceremony that involved breaking coconuts in front of a deity. Some pilgrims slipped and were trampled to death by others propelled forward by the mass of people behind them trying to get into the temple to make offerings.

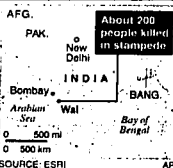
A couple of pilgrims slipped and fell on the floor. A mob from behind walked over them," Kumbhar said. "When their relatives, who were still climbing the stairs, heard the news, they became angry and set fire to some shops."

The fires were set along a packed, narrow walkway lined with tea stalls and shops leading up a hill to the temple. They set off what witnesses said was a stampede of screaming crowds fleeing in horror.

The death toll was at least 222 people, most of them women and children. More than 80 people were wounded.

**Official: Annan has been questioned on oil-for-food**

UNITED NATIONS — Investigators probing allegations of impropriety in the U.N. oil-for-food program have questioned Secretary-General Kofi Annan about his involvement and will do so again, a U.N. spokesman



### World in brief

Said Tuesday.

Annan met "more than once for an extended period of time" with former Fed Chairman Paul Volcker and his investigators last year, spokesman Fred Eckhard said. He said he believed there were two meetings, but he was not sure.

Investigators are probing allegations that administrators at the U.N. oil-for-food program for Iraq took bribes and allowed Saddam Hussein to skim money from the program.

### Four British Guantanamo detainees return to Britain

LONDON — Four Britons who were freed after being detained for up to three years at the U.S. military camp at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, returned to Britain on Tuesday and were immediately arrested.

"Police arrested the men under Section 41 of the Terrorism Act 2000 which refers to the alleged involvement in the commission, preparation or instigation of acts of terrorism."

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Metropolitan Police said.

### Indonesian ministry changes casualty count

JAKARTA, Indonesia — With workers still finding bodies under mud-caked rubble a month after a tsunami, Indonesia's Health Ministry revised its casualty count Tuesday, lowering confirmed deaths to 96,000 but raising the number of missing, and presumed dead, to 132,000.

Officials conceded a precise total would never be known, and the ministry said its death count now included only buried bodies and excluded any missing. People still missing after a year will be declared dead, it said.

The Health Ministry's new procedure brought its numbers in line with another government agency tallying the dead, the National Disaster Relief Coordinating Board.

### Hamas leader: Group prepared to stop attacks

GAZA CITY, Gaza Strip — The violent Islamic Hamas is prepared to suspend attacks if Israel stops targeting militants and agrees to release thousands of Palestinian prisoners, the top Hamas leader told The Associated Press on Tuesday.

In another sign of easing tensions, Palestinian and Israeli generals met to discuss deploying Palestinian police in southern Gaza to stop militants from attacking Israel.

The apparent softening of Hamas' position raised hopes that Palestinian leader Mahmoud Abbas would soon reach a formal cease-fire with militant groups that would pave the way for a new round of peace talks with Israel.

— compiled from wire reports

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Blade: Trinity 3:45-7:30  
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Bakro 12:15-3:45  
Hone and the Glorvied 3:45-7:30  
**Twin 12**  
Incredibles 12:15-3:45  
Are We There Yet? 3:45-7:30  
National Treasure 12:15-3:45  
Ocean's 12 3:45-7:30  
Couch Carter 12:15-3:45  
Flight of the Phoenix 12:15-3:45  
Meet the Fockers 12:15-3:45  
Lemony Snicket 3:45-7:30  
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Aviator 12:15-3:45  
Roy 12:15-3:45  
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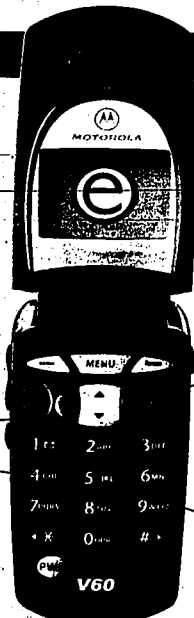
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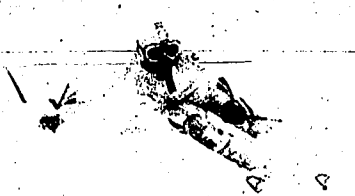
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## A religious community

The Wood River Valley's Jews look to the future.

**Saturday in Religion**



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## Super Sunday BUFFET

FANS OF ALL AGES WILL GET A KICK OUT OF THIS MEDITERRANEAN FEAST.

Family Features Editorial Syndicate

**P**eople in the Mediterranean have been cooking with onions for thousands of years. The ancient Egyptians ate lots of onions and even believed they were an aphrodisiac. Maybe that's why they ate so many!

The Israelites wandering in the wilderness longed for the onions they ate in Egypt.

Too bad they never had the chance to taste OSO Sweet Onions, grown at the foot of Chile's Andes Mountains, where perfect growing conditions produce large, juicy, mild onions with record-high sugar content, crisp texture and mild flavor that doesn't kick back. Zesty OSO Sweet Onions are in season just in time for the big game — no tickets needed to enjoy them in this hearty, healthy Mediterranean buffet.

In Jacksonville, home of this year's Super Sunday, and elsewhere in Florida, people eat more OSO Sweet Onions than anywhere else in the country. These adaptable onions are mild enough to use raw in salad, versatile enough to sauté, grill, fry or roast.

Taste them caramelized atop a delectable onion pizza, and you'll be sure to cheer! People who avoid ordinary onions go for OSO Sweet Onions because they contain so little pyruvic acid, the substance that causes tears, harshness and indigestion. So, you can use as much onion as you like without tearing eyes or onion breath.

Onions are always a winner because they contain naturally occurring phytochemicals that reduce the risk of cancer and help protect against heart disease. Help keep your New Year's resolution to eat healthier with this tasty make-ahead menu, which gets extra points because the whole family gets to watch the game.

### CHICKEN PORTOBELLO

4 pounds chicken leg quarters (or 4-pound roaster chicken, cut-up)  
Salt and pepper to taste  
1/4 cup olive or vegetable oil  
1 OSO Sweet Onion, sliced  
1 tablespoon minced garlic  
4 portobello mushroom caps, sliced  
2 tablespoons fresh chopped oregano (or 2 teaspoons dried oregano)  
2 tablespoons flour  
1 cup red wine  
1 (28-ounce) can chopped tomatoes  
Preheat oven to 425°F.  
Drain and rinse chicken, trimming off any excess fat.  
Pat dry. Sprinkle all over with salt and pepper. Arrange in baking pan and roast 30 minutes, or until

juices run clear when pricked at thickest point.

Meanwhile, in Dutch oven, heat olive oil and lightly brown onion. Stir in garlic, cook together 2 minutes and add mushrooms and oregano.

Continue cooking 5 minutes longer, or until mushrooms have softened. Stir in flour and cook 5 minutes.

Add red wine and tomatoes. Bring to boil, reduce heat and simmer 20 minutes or until thickened. Add chicken and any cooking juices to pot.

Simmer together 10 minutes longer. Serve over steamed white rice.

8 servings

Chef's Tip: Substitute 1 cup chicken stock plus 1 tablespoon cider vinegar for red wine.

### OVEN-ROASTED VEGETABLES

1/2 cup olive oil  
2 tablespoons chopped garlic  
Salt and black pepper to taste  
2 tablespoons chopped mixed fresh herbs (or 2 teaspoons dried mixed herbs), such as thyme, oregano, rosemary and marjoram  
2 OSO Sweet Onions, peeled and cut into wedges  
1 (1-pound) bag baby carrots  
1 (1-pound) bag butternut squash chunks  
3 colorful bell peppers, cut into chunks  
2 zucchini and/or yellow squash, cut into chunks  
1 eggplant, cut into chunks (optional)  
Preheat oven to 425°F.  
Whisk together olive oil, garlic, salt, pepper and herbs.  
Toss with vegetables.  
Arrange vegetables in single layer on baking sheets.  
Roast 20 minutes, stir and then roast 10 minutes longer or until browned and crusty.

8 servings

Chef's Tip: To get best brown crust, broil vegetables last 5 minutes of cooking, keeping close eye on them so they don't burn.

### Zesty and Versatile Sweet Onions

- Dice sweet onions and mix with guacamole, salsa and salads.
- Use diced sweet onion to flavor tomato sauce, soups, chowders and stews.
- Top hot dogs, pizza, quesadillas, and chili with diced raw sweet onion.
- Burgers of all sorts — beef, turkey, tuna or vegetable — all get a lift from sliced raw or grilled sweet onion.

Visit the award-winning Web site [www.sweetonion-source.com](http://www.sweetonion-source.com) to learn more about sweet onions and to get health information, quick tips and terrific recipes.

### MEDITERRANEAN WHITE-BEAN SALAD

6 tablespoons extra virgin olive oil  
2 tablespoons red wine vinegar  
Salt and freshly ground black pepper to taste  
2 cans (or jars (15 ounces each) cooked white beans  
1/2 cup diced roasted red peppers  
1/2 cup diced celery  
1/2 OSO Sweet Onion, diced  
1/2 cup chopped Italian parsley  
Blend oil, vinegar, salt and

pepper till smooth and creamy. Drain and rinse beans.

Drain again. Toss beans, red peppers, celery, and onion with dressing. Taste for seasoning.

Just before serving, toss with parsley.

Serves 8  
Chef's Tip: If you make salad ahead, season just before serving with few drops of vinegar and sprinkle of salt and pepper to brighten flavor.

### CARAMELIZED ONION PIZZA

4 OSO Sweet Onions, sliced  
1 tablespoon chopped fresh thyme (or 1 teaspoon dried thyme)  
1/4 teaspoon ground allspice  
Salt and pepper to taste  
1/4 cup olive oil  
1/2 cup pitted black olives, sliced  
1 cup grated Romano cheese  
1 pizza dough round  
1/2 cup sliced sun-dried tomatoes  
In large skillet, cook onions, thyme, allspice, salt and pepper in olive oil at moderate heat until juices are released.

Keep cooking, stirring occasionally, until onions are lightly browned, about 30 minutes. Cool to room temperature.

Preheat oven to 425°F. Spread onions over dough round, leaving 1-inch border all around.

Sprinkle with olives and cheese and bake 15 minutes or until browned and bubbling.

Just before serving, sprinkle pizza with sun-dried tomatoes.

8 servings.

Chef's Tip: Brush border of pizza with olive oil for shiny brown crust.



## FOOD &amp; HOME

## How to get your house freaky clean

The Hartford Courant

Consider the innocent scent of baby powder, the manly odor of Irish Spring or the detergent smell of an anti-cling dryer sheet.

What does clean smell like to you?

The question is posed in an exhibition at the Connecticut Historical Society Museum, and those who try the simple experiment of sniffing the sections will no doubt find themselves thinking clean thoughts.

They will not be alone. Americans' obsession with cleanliness is in full swing these days.

There's the antibacterial craze, a seemingly endless array of cleaning and house-organization products, and even TV shows devoted to cleaning up the mess and clutter in your house.

Atlantic Monthly last year tackled the feminist implications of women exploring cleaning women to get ahead. Yale University's *Therapist* added another layer by examining the psychological motivations for having a clean house, and the museum provides a history of cleaning that makes the phenomenon seem not so new after all.

"It's everywhere. It really is everywhere," says Lisa M. Feliciano, a spokeswoman for the historical society, which was looking for a fun museum topic that everyone could relate to.

The big difference these days is in the number and variety of products out there, says Nancy Buck of the Soap and Detergent Association. As the representative of more than 100 manufacturers of soap and detergent products in the United States, the group, it's no surprise, touts the benefits of cleanliness and health.

It is obvious to anyone who has stood in a grocery store aisle — bullied while trying to pick out an all-purpose cleaner — that products have become more task-specific. There are floor cleaners for hardwood floors and others for other surfaces. There are window cleaners for indoor and outdoor windows. And there are fragrances for every nose. Buck once counted 100 different ones among the products her organization represents. And it's not only lemon these days; it might be lemon and palm, for example.

Why? "That's what consumers want. Consumers are looking for a product that meets their needs," Buck says.

And although electricity and modern appliances have cut down on time spent cleaning from our ancestors' days, Americans still devote a surprising chunk of their day to household chores: 2.3 hours of the average day for women, and an hour less for men, concluded a 2003 U.S. Labor Department study. And although men do contribute, more women do household activities: 84 percent, compared with 63 percent of men.

Men, however, do work an hour longer at the office on the average, compared with working women.

And when working couples go on overload, they turn to cleaning services such as Domesticide in Simsbury, Conn.

"I would say they're probably average upper, middle-class people," says office manager Lynn Wheeler, describing the average customer. "To me, they are not millionaires or anything, but probably in the six figures with two incomes."

These households pay anywhere from \$67.84 to \$400 every two weeks to have someone come in and clean,

## The dirt on cleaning priorities

is company coming over this weekend, and you don't have time to clean? Here's what customers of cleaning services say they want clean above all else:

## The bathroom

**Toilet:** Need we say more? **Bathroom sink:** Wiping out those toothpaste stains and getting the water drops off the mirror can make the place look clean in this room, which visitors are sure to visit before the evening is over.

**Bathroom floor:** "That and the kitchen floor, but bathrooms are No. 1, they want them perfectly clean," says Lynn Wheeler, office manager for Domesticide in Simsbury, Conn.

## The kitchen

**Two words:** Sanitation and

health. Wipe down the counter tops, stove tops, kitchen sink and floors, especially if you are serving dinner.

## Dusting

**The third priority** is dusting, says Marvin Wheeler, president of Admiral's Maids Inc. in South Windsor, Conn. "Some people are very particular about dusting." This is especially true in the winter, when houses are closed up.

Family rooms and any other areas where the family spends the most time are high-priority areas (and most customers do hire cleaning services to clean their entire homes.)

**As for the bedrooms?** Just shut the door.

**Source:** The Hartford Courant

vacuum and dust.

"I just think people don't want to waste their weekends cleaning. They want to be able to spend time with their kids and themselves," says Wheeler, who confesses to cleaning her own house because she finds that it relieves her stress.

Her company cleans about 12 houses a day and sees its customer base vary with the economy.

Cleaning services are on the front lines of what Feliciano calls the "germaphobia" craze. Customers' demands for clean bathrooms and kitchens are similar to the demand for antibacterial soaps and new products like germ shields intended to cover the handles of grocery carts, like paper covers for toilet seats.

"For some people, it's the tub; some people, it's the toilet; others, it's the cleanliness around the kitchen sink and the floor," says Marvin Wheeler, president of Admiral's Maids Inc. in South Windsor. People worry about bacteria breeding, he says.

"We are still old-fashioned in some regards. When we do the bathroom and kitchen floors, we do them on our hands and knees for the same reason that people are concerned about those places. You can see things when you are up close like that when you are at the end of the mop handle."

Sometimes, however, a cleaning service will admit privately to feeling guilty taking people's money because the customer is so fussy, he or she asks to clean areas that already appear spotless.

This desire to have everything germ-free is leading to a

lot of wasted money on antibacterial products, argues Stuart Levy, author of the *Antibiotic Dilemma*.

"The controversy is: Do you need them? I think if it's a clean household, the answer is no," says Levy, a professor of molecular biology and microbiology at Tufts University School of Medicine.

They don't work, he says, as shown in a March 2004 study led by Elaine Larson of Columbia University in which households using antibacterial soaps, kitchen sprays and detergents had the same rate of infections as those that did not. And they can be harmful.

Infants, he says, need to be exposed to certain microbes, or they can develop allergies and asthma. And in the long run, there are risks of antibiotic resistance.

"If you're using them in a healthy household, you are wasting them," he says. The products are meant for people with compromised immune systems, such as cancer or AIDS patients, he explains. Most people do not understand that there is a difference between bacteria — which can grow independently — and viruses, which need a host, such as a cell, to grow. Colds, for example, are caused by viruses that grow in the cells of sinuses and mouths.

Block, of course, disagrees, and the association devises a great deal of its Web site ([www.xadiahq.org](http://www.xadiahq.org)) to disputing such findings, citing opposing studies.

"I never thought in my entire life I would ever have to defend the importance of clean," says Block.

## Hunting spruce aphids on a winter day

Since the weather's so balmy, we ought to — not outside — check for spruce aphids.

Spruce aphids are the beasts that cause defoliation — or spruce to drop their needles.

Look for them on the past season's growth. They are per-r-r-r-y small.

And green. So you'll need a magnifying glass and a sheet of white paper to detect them.

Hold the piece of paper directly under the branch and shake it or give it a sharp thump. The branch, not the paper, A lot of little dots should fall onto the paper. The ones that move are probably aphids.

Insecticidal soaps might work. But then, even when my trees were just half grown, my hose-end sprayer wasn't powerful enough to reach the top branches. This is a quick, inexpensive job for your trusty professional arborist. It'll drive out, armed with the right stuff, hose down all the evergreens and be off before you can drag your hose out. When you call, make sure you're talking to a certified arborist. That way, you know your trees will be well taken care of.

Speaking of sprays, it's time to douse your peaches for peach leaf curl. January and February, weather permitting, are the best

## Save your plastic cookware from dishwasher burn

The Baltimore Sun

Now you can stick your plastic cookware in the dishwasher without fear that it will be warped.

General Electric has come up with a new plastics cycle on its GE Profile dishwasher.

The cycle is designed to safely clean plastic items in either the top or the bottom rack of the dishwasher and a fan-assisted drying option draws most air off the plastic items. The dishwasher is available in stores where appliances are sold at a price ranging from \$799 to \$1,249, depending on its configuration and finish.

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GREEN THIMBLIN'S  
Cathy Walworth

times, to apply dormant spray on peaches. And, if you haven't yet cleaned up all the diseased, fallen leaves and fruit from last summer, do it this month.

How are your large, outdoor container plants doing? If you've stored them in an unheated garage or shed, they probably want a drink right about now.

Before you go back in, check the soil around the plants that grow under the eaves. We have dry winters anyway, and the plants under cover get a fraction of our winter wet stuff. Roots must have occasional water in winter if you expect the plant to survive.

Drag out the hose, hook it up and give everything a long, slow drink. Be sure to unhook the

hose from the faucet so the pipes won't freeze.

Once you're inside, give the houseplants a turn. I turn mine clockwise, just so I don't have to remember which way I turned them last. About a quarter turn every couple of weeks should do them. That way, they'll grow straight, instead of with a sharp list to starboard.

If your house doesn't get much sunlight, it's easy to overwater the house plants. Shorter day length tells plants to slow down, so they don't use as much water as they do in spring and summer. Always touch the top of the soil to see if it's dry enough to warrant water. Then remember to empty the saucer underneath after 20 minutes or so to keep the roots from drowning.

You've done a good day's gardening. Time to curl up with a good seed catalog.

What's bugging your garden? Write to Cathy in care of this newspaper or e-mail her at: [cwalworth@aol.com](mailto:cwalworth@aol.com).

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## Modern, two-story duplex features country cottage look

Gabled porches and Craftsman windows are showcased in the Donovan, a modern two-story duplex with a country cottage look. Brick veneer bases support slender wooden posts that frame the front porches and support their nostalgic gabled roofs.

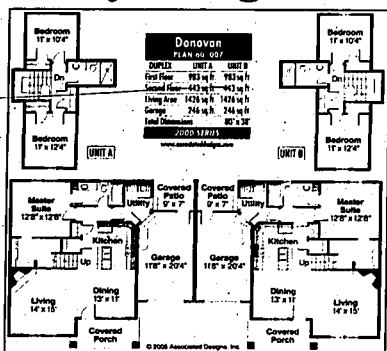
Only the garages and covered patios share a common wall, so each unit's interior is well isolated from sounds in the other. Because unit A and unit B are mirror images of each other, descriptions of one will cover the other as well.

Entering, you step into a large open area where the dining room, living room and kitchen flow together. Plenty of natural light washes in through two sets of wide windows that face the street. Near the stairs, a clean-burning gas fireplace nestles into the living room's rear corner.

Standing at the kitchen sink, you're at the center of everything. You can chat with family and friends seated at the eating bar, while keeping tabs on activities in the dining and living areas.

Cupboards wrap around two sides of the kitchen. Cabinets beneath the work island counter, and a step-in pantry, add to this abundance of storage space.

The master suite and utility room fill the back. An under-



the-stairway storage area expands the roomy walk-in closet there.

Its bathroom has two doors. One opens off of the hallway, and the other provides direct access from the master bedroom. The garage links to the utility room, which is just a few steps from the kitchen. This feature comes in handy when unloading groceries in darkness or stormy weather.

Two bedrooms, a second bathroom and a wide storage closet are upstairs. The Dono-

van's front bedroom is slightly larger.

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.

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## Technology shines at home convention

The Washington Post

ORLANDO, Fla. — Nothing like 40 football fields' worth of exhibits to give home builders and others attending the annual International Builders' Show some new ideas about the basics.

The yearly National Association of Home Builders convention is a gee-whiz extravaganza, meant to dazzle, drop jaws and incite drooling. And this month's biggest-ever event at the Orange County Convention Center was no exception.

With 1,600 exhibitors showing in 1.5 million square feet of space, four full-size modular homes in the parking lots and five show houses several miles away, the 105,000 attendees had way too much to absorb. But the record attendance and booths track the home-building and remodeling records set in recent years.

The thousands of products displayed ranged from the latest in technology to the newest in masonry screws. Over-the-top displays of super-size showers, home elevators and soaking tubs competed with soaring arrays promising networked kitchens and laundry rooms.

Underneath the hoopla was the desire by manufacturers not only to go where no one's gone before, sometimes at prices that shook, but also to take the everyday to a new level. Those new twists on old themes come in different colors, styles and, of course, prices.

Here's a quick look at some of them:

### Fireplaces

Gas fireplaces are hot. And way cool, too. Manufacturers boast about how clear their glass is, how little grillwork shows and how real the flames look. All the better to think that you're sitting in a lodge somewhere by a real wood blaze.

For those interested in an outdoor conversation-stopper, the firing of Fire by Travis Industries Inc. could do it.

The product is a combination fireplace and fountain, with three tiers of water cascading across glass pebbles. The water, flames and lights that reflect through the water can be independently controlled from a wall switch. It can be set up

flush to the ground or in a cast-iron pedestal.

At 36 inches in diameter and 32 inches tall, it will take up a bit of space, and requires a separate electric connection, gas hookup and water line. The automatic ignition also has a program to cut off automatically for those who might doze off, but it is definitely not child-proof.

Cost: About \$3,000 stand-alone, \$4,000 with pedestal. Available now.

• **The Looking Glass** In-the-wall gas fireplace, by LOP from Travis Industries, turns into a one-way mirror when the flame is out. The longer the flame is on the more mirror-like it becomes.

This is one of several options Travis offers for those who want a fireplace in a small space. Its products fit into walls, corners, and sometimes prebuilt cabinets, and some feature aromatherapy trays. The 50 styles include a variety of architectural options in face plates, from Victorian to modern, and in fireplace liners, from weathered brick to faux stone.

Prices vary by style and options. The Looking Glass is \$1,400 for the basic unit, with \$225 for the mirror option, \$125 for a cast-iron surround and \$80 for the aromatherapy tray. Available now.

• **The Cyclone** top-vented gas fireplace, by Heat & Glo, a

brand of Hearth & Home Technologies Inc., also steps traffic, with a 360-degree view of the fire. The top-vented gas fireplace looks like a column of swirling fire inside its glass tube. It's meant to highlight foyers and lobbies and is controlled remotely.

Cost: The stand-alone model retails for \$3,499. A wall-mount system retails for \$7,999. Available now.

### Windows and treatments

Picture windows that open windows with blinds and shades inside the glass that a homeowner can change without calling an installer, and one-touch retracting window screens are among the hundreds of choices.

• **Marvin Windows** and Doors introduced the Marvin Venting Picture Window to answer what the manufacturer describes as "a decades-old problem—needing to make a choice between ventilation or uninterrupted views."

The product team, says leader Dan Lang, came up with a patent-pending solution—a way to unclash the window and allow a 2 1/4-inch opening all around. A retracting screen unrolls in the space between window and frame. That way, you get cross-ventilation without bugs, plus the view.

The option is available up to 72 inches by 72 inches.

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## Try choosing custom ice cream flavors

The Washington Post

Cola and red bean. Saffron and cardamom. Ice cream flavors? You go on.

At creamery.com, a site launched last year, there are just a few of the ice cream base mixes, flavors and toppings you can pick from to design your very own dessert.

In a taste test of seven different combinations concocted by our staff, we found Creamery ice cream bases to be rich and velvety, with (for the most part) the right proportion of tasted flavors.

Though the combo of cheddar cheese and pandan (green leaves popular in Southeast Asian cooking) didn't exactly prompt us to whip out our cred-

it card, our lychee with young coconut provided a surprisingly fresh lychee nut flavor that won us over. The cucumber and dill weed made a nice, light palate cleanser.

Be advised that this custom ice cream doesn't come cheap:

the minimum order of one gallon costs \$80 to \$100.

Creemery ice cream comes in four one-quart containers with customized labels. Orders are typically delivered in seven to 10 days. See creamery.com.

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## Meet Gary Stone at Magic Valley Bank!



Magic Valley Bank would like to invite you to join Gary Stone, our featured artist, on Friday, January 28<sup>th</sup>. This will be the first time Stones' Ranchside and Willows entire collection will be on display.

This new series of paintings "fell out of the end of my brush," states Stone. The paintings portray three fun loving boys and uniquely incorporate ancient "recreated" tools along with willow and ranchside frames.

Gary Stone of Kimberly has received world wide artistic recognition with the woodcut painting art form he created in 1974. He currently has paintings in Presidential Libraries, museums, interpretive centers, businesses and our own Justin Field Magic Valley Regional Airport.

The Stone collection will be in the lobby of the main branch of Magic Valley Bank at the corner of Shoshone and Main Avenue W. The exhibit runs from Friday, January 28<sup>th</sup>, through Monday, February 28<sup>th</sup>. Hot coffee, spiced cider and cookies will be offered. Hours are Monday - Friday, 9 am to 5 pm. On January 28<sup>th</sup> at 4 pm Stone will host a discussion about his paintings and the discoveries of an ancient civilization in the Snake River Canyon.



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## FOOD &amp; HOME

## Pillow talk: An intimate discussion of longevity

Los Angeles Times

What treasure would you save if a natural disaster struck?

The key to a lifetime of sound sleep, says one Atlanta attorney, "If there's a fire, what am I going in there for? I've thought about that," says Aslin Raza. "Kids and wife. And then — my pillow. If you're 35 and you've been sleeping on the same pillow for 31 years, you don't take that lightly."

This isn't a joke to Raza, or to the many other adults who are deeply attached to the cushions that fall them to sleep each night. Before getting married, Raza told his fiancée, "My pillow is really important to me." She laughed, on Raza admitted, "No, I'm not kidding. This is really important." Despite the occasional joke about security blankets, she has actually been very respectful of it. "She knows what I'm like without it."

Like most people interviewed for this story, Raza isn't anxious to discuss his pillow on the record — "Don't make me look like a fool," he pleads — but pillow attachment isn't anything to feel sheepish about, says Lee Jamnicky, a psychologist in Carmel Valley, Calif.

"Ironically people aren't embarrassed about carrying 12 cell phones, but are embarrassed if they have some kind of relationship with their pillow," she says. "It's very common, and at the core it's very healthy. Mine happens to have a name: Pillow."

While Raza refuses to disclose his pillow's name, he will chat about his history. His parents gave him the thin cotton pillow when he was 4 1/2, and it has remained nearby ever since. It hasn't been easy: "As a kid, my brother would steal the pillow and then say, 'Either you do the vacuuming today or you're not getting the pillow back,'" Raza says.

While attending American University in Washington, D.C., Raza enlisted his roommate to help protect his pillow. Both his mother and his grandmother have made covers for it. "I've got to get buried with this thing," he says. "But I'm a Muslim, and you're not supposed to take anything with you. I'll probably leave it as a family heirloom."

These surrogate teddy bears provide comfort and company much the way a special blanket might have soothed many of these same adults when they were young. It's a dependent and healthy relationship, experts say, that stretches beyond the human world. A beloved pillow can stand in for, or even come to represent, the feeling of connectedness that all primates require, says Craig Stanford, a professor of anthropology at the University of Southern California.

Chicago philanthropist Kathy Piser can't sleep or watch TV without cradling her 44-year-old "Happy Pillow." She cried into the pillow when she was 16 and her father died, and she embraced it six years later when her mother passed away. She carried it to college and to wherever she has moved. She totes it on trips when she has room for it.

Pillow attachment "is something I encounter quite a bit with my clients," says Yvonne Thomas, a Los Angeles therapist — and it's a healthy alternative to addictions and vices, she says. "There are so many ways a person can comfort themselves."

## When to let go, how to buy

To find out if it's time to replace

your pillow, try this: Lay the pillow on a flat, hard surface, fold it in half and squeeze out the air. Then release it. If the pillow unfolds and springs back into its original shape, it has some life left in it. If it remains folded, it's time to throw it out.

When choosing a new pillow, put as much time and thought into it as you would a mattress.

"Take the time to lie down with it in the store," says Jerome F. McAndrews, spokesman for the American Chiropractic Association. "Your head should not be propped up, and it should not be slumped. You want to keep your spine and neck straight. There are three basic pillow types."

• **Firm pillows** are best for side sleepers because they're strong enough to fill the gap between the top of the mattress and your shoulders.

• **Medium-density pillows** provide the best support when sleeping on your back because they cradle your head while supporting your neck.

• **Soft pillows** are best for people who sleep on their stomachs or change positions frequently.

When in doubt, err on the side of softness, says McAndrews. "You can always get a floppy pillow and crunch it up to where you are comfortable."

Source: Los Angeles Times

They can snore, gamble, have sex indiscriminately," Thomas says. "Let this be a warning to you. Instead of drinking, instead of overeating, let them reach for their pillow — when they're sad and stressed."

Chiropractors and allergists tend to disagree.

A pillow should be a tool to keep yourself in correct alignment as you sleep, says Jerome F. McAndrews, spokesman for the American Chiropractic Association — and broken-down cushions don't provide the level of support that your head and neck require. "If you get in the habit of sleeping ... with an old pillow that gives no support, you're going to encourage disk and joint degeneration," he says.

Rien there's the "ick" factor. An old pillow might be "one of the dirtiest places in the home," says Jonathan Carron, medical research director of the Allergy Research Foundation in Los Angeles. Pillows that aren't cleaned regularly are protected, he says, can become a repository for dust mites, dirt, volatile organic compounds such as wood finishes, pet dander, even mold.

If you have allergies or asthma, Carron recommends that you either toss the ancient pillow, use a hypoallergenic casing, or leave it in the freezer overnight to rid it of dust mites, says Glen Needham, associate professor of entomology at Ohio State University.

Many pillow-obsessed people say they sheathe their sleeping aids in interproof covers. But Raza says he would never trade his pancake-thin pillow for an orthopedic one, even if it meant assuaging the back pain that has long plagued him. "What I would gain in lack of back pain, I would lose walking around with bags under my eyes," he says.

## Wall insulation often cuts utility bills

DEAR JIM: My older house is chilly and I know it needs insulation throughout. Will adding insulation make me feel more comfortable as well as cut my utility bills? What's the best type of insulation to use?

DEAR MARGE: It is generally understood that adding insulation to the walls or ceiling of a house will reduce monthly utility bills. The actual amount of savings, or each home depend on the current level of insulation, your climate, efficiency of your heating/cooling system, and your utility rates.

You must have been doing your research on insulation because it will also make you feel more comfortable. If you are in a room at 70 degrees with no wall insulation, you may still feel chilly. This is because the exterior walls are cold and your body is losing its warmth by radiant heat transfer to the walls. During the summer, a hot wall makes you feel uncomfortably warm.

There really is not one "best" insulation to use in all locations in your house. For example, some effective attic insulation will settle if it is used in vertical walls. If there is just a slight amount of settling, the relatively small uninsulated void in a wall will waste a lot of energy. What is important when selecting insulation is its installed R-value, not just its thickness.

Some types of insulation have twice the R-value per inch thickness as others. Also, blown-in insulation can be fluffed up when installed, not necessarily intentionally, resulting in less true R-value.

Since you are planning to insulate your house to save money and conserve energy, you might consider an environmentally friendly insulation made of recycled materials. One good insulation is made from scrap-blue-jean-material —



SENSIBLE HOME  
James Dulle

duction. It looks similar to chopped up blue jeans in batt form. It is treated for fire safety and has an insulating R-value similar to fiberglass batts.

Fiberglass is made basically from sand so there plenty supply. Some manufacturers use 25 percent recycled glass, so check the packaging if you prefer recycled products.

Rock wool insulation is made from mostly waste products. It and fiberglass have an insulating value of about R-3 per inch thickness. If the amount of space available for the insulation is limited, as in a masonry wall, injected foam is a good option.

Some polyurethane foams have an R-value twice that of fiberglass, so only half the thickness is needed. The closed cell foam also creates its own vapor barrier and stops air leaks. Looks for foam which uses no ozone-layer-damaging foaming agents.

Another option to minimize voids is called a blown-in-blanket method. This uses a blowing type of insulation, similar to attic insulation. An adhesive is mixed with it so it sets up in the wall quickly and will not settle.

Write for instantly download: [www.dulle.com](http://www.dulle.com) Update Bulletin No. 602 — buyer's guide to 10 insulation manufacturers listing R-values, sizes, features, insulation selector guide, and a U.S. map showing recommended insulation levels. Please, include \$3 and a business-size SASE. James Dulle, The Times-News, 6906 Royalgreen Dr., Cincinnati, Ohio 45244



Various types of new insulation materials.

DEAR JIM: There are wide (1/8 inch), deep cracks in my asphalt driveway. I treated it with sealer last week, but the cracks were not filled. Will some old dark roof caulk work in the cracks?

DEAR BOB: It is important to fill deep cracks, particularly in cold climates. Even during sub-

freezing temperatures, blacktop get warm enough in the sun to melt ice. This water gets into the crack and refreezes every night. This will gradually destroy the driveway. I guess roof caulk might work. It would be better to use a driveway crack sealer. It is a thick tar-like liquid with a sand base. Apply it several times because it shrinks as it dries.

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**Twins Ladies Club** 7:30 p.m., the first Thursday across from Fair Play Office, 438-5150.

**Twins Ladies Chapter Order of Daughters of the East** 7:30 p.m., the first Wednesday of each month at 1823 Lakes Blvd. N. DeMolay Sweethearts, parents, Masses and Eastern Star women.

**Twins Ladies Club** 7:30 p.m., the second Monday at Curry Cafe, 21135 U.S. Highway 30, Call Bob at 734-6338.

**Rebekah Lodges**

**Ideho Lodge 908** - 8 p.m., first and third Mondays at 120W Ave. A, Wendell.

**Twins Ladies Club** 7:30 p.m., the second and fourth Thursdays at the corner of 14th Street and Oakley Avenue, in Turley, call 438-0615.

**Twins Rebekahs Lodge 908** - 2 p.m., first and third Wednesdays at the Lodge Joint, Gooding.

**Twins Ladies Lodge 110** - 8 p.m., second and fourth Mondays at 132 E. Ave. A, Jerome.

**Union Lodge 455** - 2 p.m., first and third Thursdays at the Elks Lodge, in Hagerman.

**Other organizations**

**Odd Fellows** - 8 p.m., Thursdays at the Odd Fellows Hall, 11th and Oakley.

**Twins Ladies Club** - 7:30 p.m., second and third Mondays at Turley Lakes Lodge.

# How to achieve the ideal roast

By Joe Stumpe  
Knight Ridder News Service

WICHITA, Kan.—Sometimes only roast beef will do. You know the kind of roast we're talking about — seasoned crust, big beefy flavor and juicy center. Not a fancy steak you can cut with a butter knife, or a pot roast braised until it's falling apart, but an honest piece of meat with flavor and texture.

The problem is how to achieve this ideal roast. All too often, roast beef turns out as tough, dry, stringy and flavorless as the proverbial shoe leather. In fact, I'm convinced that why roast beef seems to turn up on a lot fewer tables these days.

But after some experimentation (and several failures), I'm here to tell you delicious roast beef can be done, and the secret is quite simple.

Turn the heat down, way down, and cook it for a long time. Roasting beef at 225 degrees, about 100 degrees lower than most recipes call for, produces a much better roast than one cooked at higher temperatures.

Of course, roasting beef at a low temperature isn't a secret to everyone. Lori Linenberger, former food editor at the Wichita Eagle, told me her mother has always done it this way, with her usual fantastic results.

But it's difficult to find a published recipe that takes this approach. Nowhere in the stacks of new cookbooks that are always threatening to collapse on my desk is there one. The closest thing to it was a recipe in a cookbook from the editors of Cook's Illustrated magazine, one of my favorite sources of information, that called for starting the roast at 250 degrees and then jacking up the heat to 500 degrees for the final stage of cooking.

The roast I cooked following this recipe came out of the oven with a tough exterior and virtually raw interior.

The National Cattlemen's Association, which regularly supplies food editors around the country with recipes from its test kitchen in Chicago, calls for cooking roast beef at a steady 325 degrees. The roast I made following this recipe was hard but still far from the ideal I had in mind.

Finally, I talked to a restaurant owner whose prime rib is some of the best I've tasted. He told me that he cooks his prime rib roasts, which can weigh up to 8 pounds, at 200 to 225 degrees for six to eight hours.

Prime rib roasts are, of course, a premium cut of meat costing about 10 bucks a pound. But I wondered whether the same approach would work with less expensive cuts suitable for roasting, such as eye of round (about \$5 a pound), top round roast (about \$4 a pound) and chuck roast (about \$3.50 a pound).

The answer, with all of these cuts, was an emphatic yes.

So why isn't the slow-roasting more widespread?

When I talked to Michelle Muske of the Cattlemen's Association's test kitchen, she said safety is the main concern. Standard food-handling safety guidelines call for food not to be kept in the "danger zone" where bacteria can multiply — between 40 and 140 degrees — for more than two hours. The interior of roasts cooked at 225 degrees could spend longer than that in the danger zone.

To be quite honest, we haven't done any testing with



Roasting beef at 225 degrees, about 100 degrees lower than most recipes call for, produces a much better roast than one cooked at higher temperatures.

that kind of method," Muske said. "We haven't had a huge request for it."

Collette Baptista, former head of the culinary program at Wichita Area Technical College, agreed that "you can't stress safety enough" but also said

those concerns could be overblown in this instance. Baptista noted that most bacteria is on the outside of the meat, where the temperature would be higher than the danger zone.

She said it's no secret why slow roasting renders such a tender final product.

"The tough connective tissue (in meat) breaks down with the application of long, low heat," she said.

Based on my experience, I'm convinced the approach is safe, and I know it's delicious. I've made three roasts this way in the past two weeks, fed them to numerous people and can report no ill effects. The only precautions I'd take are the usual sanitary ones (such as washing your hands before handling food), making sure your oven temperatures are accurate and choosing roasts no bigger than 3 pounds.

## Low-carb diets fade in popularity

The Baltimore Sun

Low-carb dieting may be on the wane. According to a new survey commissioned by the American Institute for Cancer Research, four in five weight-conscious Americans are relying on the old-fashioned diet strategy of eating more fruit and vegetables.

The survey is one of a number of recent studies that show low-carb dieting isn't as popular as it once was. In this latest study, 65 percent of respondents said they had tried to lose weight.

Of those, 81 percent said they had increased produce in their diet, 76 percent had decreased the amount of fat they consumed, 60 percent had decreased carbohydrates and 38 percent had increased the amount of meat, eggs and other proteins they ate.

The AICR has updated its New American Plate brochure, calling for Americans to gradually change the way they eat so that two-thirds or more of their plate contains vegetables, fruit, whole grains or beans and one-third or less contains meat or dairy products. For more information, visit [www.aicr.org](http://www.aicr.org).

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# Scrapbooking "An American Pastime"

Weddings, graduations, family reunions, family vacations, birthdays — all are milestones that offer many photo ops. The stories behind the smiles are rich and treasured. To help preserve their family histories, one in four Americans will scrapbook their memories this year. With these quick tips and today's technology, it's easy to capture your family history.

### FAMILY GATHERINGS ARE AN IDEAL TIME TO DOCUMENT FAMILY HISTORY.

Before the next family event, record what you know about family members — birth dates and birthplaces, married names and maiden names, spouses and other family members. This will help pinpoint any missing information.

### THINK ABOUT ALL THE PHOTOS YOU'D LIKE TO TAKE, AND MAKE A LIST OF ALL THE SHOTS.

Consider groupings of generations, such as all grandparents or grandaunts with grandchildren. Try posing together siblings or cousins, or even those who share a common family name. For fun, arrange family members by age or height. Or, document milestones by photographing the oldest person, the youngest person or the family member who came the farthest.

### PLAN TO TAKE YOUR PHOTOS EARLY IN THE DAY.

Everyone will still be fresh and smiling, the kids will be clean and you won't risk running out of time.

### DON'T UNDERESTIMATE THE NUMBER OF PHOTOS YOU'LL TAKE.

If you're using a traditional camera, pack plenty of film. If you're using a digital camera, be sure to bring extra memory cards. Consider including a few disposable cameras that can be passed around so you can gather everyone's perspective on the occasion.

### DURING THE EVENT, INTERVIEW FAMILY MEMBERS TO FILL IN THE MISSING BLANKS IN YOUR FAMILY SURVEY.

Ask about favorite childhood memories, family traditions and what they've accomplished since you last gathered. Be sure to record special family recipes, too.

### TO ENSURE LONG-LASTING PHOTO QUALITY, ARCHIVISTS SAY YOU SHOULD PROTECT IMAGES.

That's why Krylon has introduced a spray-on digital photo and paper protectant called Preserve It!™, which doubles the life of digital photos. Preserve It!™ protects digital images from early aging and makes them resistant to moisture and fading. Easy-to-use Preserve It!™, available in matte and gloss finishes, dries quickly, and its clear formula will not alter the finished photos. The spray also extends the life of images printed on the highest quality paper with the highest quality ink, and works on traditional photos, too. Use it to protect the written family history you've recorded, as well.

### AFTER THE EVENT, TAKE STEPS TO ENSURE THAT YOUR FAMILY HISTORY IS PRESERVED FOR FUTURE GENERATIONS.

A downside to digital photography is that many amateur photographers do not realize that most computer printer inks are not moisture-resistant, and digital prints are most likely to smear, run and fade than traditional photos. Remember to store your photos correctly. Don't display them in direct sunlight and store in a cool place, away from high humidity. Basement and attics are two of the worst places to store precious photos!

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# FOOD & HOME

## Bittersweet memories of Hawaii

It was the worst of news, a sister's husband had died. Yet, aside from the circumstances, it could be considered good news too.

The funeral was to be held in Hawaii where the couple had retired a few years ago. Another sister and I hopped a plane at 6 a.m. in Boise and by afternoon were landing on the big island where other relatives had traveled the day before.

In keeping with local tradition, family members fanned out through vacant lots and open fields gathering wild orchids and other exotic flowers for leis, wreaths and flower arrangements for the memorial service.

On the day of the service family members walked down to the ocean to throw flowers into the waves in a final gesture of farewell when, as if on cue, humpback whales made their first appearance off the lava cliffs called Kaloli Point southeast of Hilo where my Hawaii sister lives.

One handsome fellow, probably an adolescent, branched and leapt skyward, turning over onto his back and landed with a big splash. Locals said whales at a funeral was "a very lucky sign." Once the memorial service was over we sisters stayed to play for a few days and soaked out winter chilled bones in lava heated pools of ocean water and bought muu-muus and sandals in Hilo Hatties, the Hawaiian store. The clothes are packed away waiting for summer.

I found a wonderful purple sweet potato in a farmer's market near Paloa. The meat of the potato was almost amethyst colored, quite sweet and strong flavored. I'd like to try to grow one of those in my own garden next summer.

I have to see if I can locate some seed for it, provided our growing season is long enough.

Here are a few Hawaiian recipes I brought home with me to help chase away the winter blues:

### HAWAIIAN SWEET POTATO ALI'I

4 cups cooked and mashed sweet potatoes  
2 large eggs  
1/2 cups sugar  
1 teaspoon vanilla  
1/2 teaspoon salt  
1/4 cup milk  
2 tablespoons melted butter  
Combine all the above ingredients and heat at medium speed with a hand mixer or food processor. Pour into a buttered 11-by-7-by-1 1/2-inch baking dish.

**Topping**  
3 tablespoons melted butter  
1 cup brown sugar  
1 cup chopped and roasted macadamia nuts (substitute pecans or almonds if you wish)  
1 cup flaked coconut  
Combine all above ingredients, stirring with a fork. Sprinkle over sweet potato mixture. Bake at 350 degrees for 35 minutes.

**Island Salsa** (Best if made at least three hours ahead.) 1 cup chopped, peeled pineapple 1 cup chopped, peeled mango 1 cup chopped bell pepper 1/2 cup finely chopped onion 2/3 cup chopped, peeled kiwi fruit white pepper to taste 2 tablespoons chopped fresh cilantro 1 tablespoon lime juice 1/2 teaspoon minced red chili pepper  
Combine all ingredients in a medium bowl. Season with the white pepper and a bit of salt to taste. Cover and chill. Serve over grilled chicken.

### HAWAIIAN CHICKEN SANDWICH

Fry boneless chicken breast in olive oil or grill. Season with garlic and oregano to taste. Slice across the grain into 1/4- to 1/2-inch strips. Toast two slices of sourdough bread then spread with mayonnaise. Add slices of



VALLEY COOKING  
Dixie Thomas Reale

chicken breast, a slice of fresh papaya, an avocado slice, a piece of leaf lettuce and an onion slice if desired.

### HAWAIIAN PIE

2 (9 inch) pie crusts, baked  
1 can (20 ounce) crushed pineapple  
1 cup sugar  
2 tablespoons all-purpose flour  
3 bananas, sliced  
1/2 cup macadamia nuts (can substitute almonds if desired)  
1 cup shredded coconut  
12 ounces whipped cream  
Place pineapple and juices,

sugar and flour in a sauce pan. Cook over medium heat, stirring constantly until thick. Let cool. Line the bottom of baked pie shells with banana slices. Sprinkle with chopped nuts and add the cooled pineapple mixture. Sprinkle with coconut. Mound with freshly whipped cream. Refrigerate.

Times-News correspondent  
Dixie Thomas Reale can be reached at 324-3670.

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Local sports ..... D2  
Scores and stats ..... D3  
Comics ..... D4

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

The Times-News

Wednesday, January 26, 2005

Section D

## MORNING LINE

### SPORTSQUOTE

... I think nepotism is great, as long as you keep it in the family.

— Fox broadcaster Joe Buck, who worked as a minor league announcer at 19 and in the majors at 21 thanks to his father, legendary broadcaster Jack Buck

### TRIVIA

#### QUESTION:

What well-known NFL quarterback played in the Jim Carrey movie, "Ace Ventura: Pet Detective"?

..... answer below

### TODAY'S SCHEDULE

#### High School

##### Postseason

Northside tournament see related story.

##### Regular season

##### Boys basketball

Jerome at Wood River, 6 p.m.  
Burley at Minico, 6 p.m.  
Gooding at Valley, 6 p.m.

##### Wrestling

Twin Falls at Filer, 6 p.m.  
Jerome at Declo, 6 p.m.  
Kimberly, Oakley/Raft River at Gooding, 5:30

### IN BRIEF

#### Minico basketball dinner is tonight

RUPERT — The Minico High School boys basketball team will sponsor a dinner fund-raiser in the Minico lunchroom prior to the Burley versus Minico boys basketball game from 5-7 p.m. Wednesday, Jan. 26.

The menu will include homemade chili, baked potato and toppings, Papa Kelsey's Incredible Cinnamon Rolls and drink. The cost is \$6 per person or \$3 for a child under eight years old. Advance tickets may be purchased from any Spartans basketball player or at the door. For more information call Leslie Crafton at 532-4626.

#### MVTA plans singles tourney

TWIN FALLS — The Magic Valley Tennis Association will host their annual singles tournament Feb. 7-13 at the Twin Falls YMCA. The entry fee is \$27 and the tournament is open to MVTA members only.

Awards will be given to the winner and runner up of each level. Registration deadline is 6 p.m. Feb. 2. Entry forms are available at the YMCA or Elevation Sports.

For questions contact Kathy Deahl by phone at 734-3164. Anyone interested in becoming a MVTA member for the 2005 season can obtain more information by contacting Deahl.

MVTA membership dues are used to help with building and maintenance of Twin Falls tennis courts.

#### Bruin Boosters offer Super Bowl subs

TWIN FALLS — The Twin Falls High School Bruin Boosters will be selling 3-foot long submarine sandwiches to be made available for Super Bowl Sunday.

The sandwiches will be made fresh the morning of Feb. 6, Super Bowl Sunday, and delivered by 2 p.m.

Subs sell for cost, \$20 each and will be made with ham, turkey, cheese, lettuce, onion and peppers with mayonnaise and mustard on the side.

Orders must be received by 5 p.m. on Saturday Jan. 22. Fax Lynn Hurlston at 733-4861 or call her at 733-9456, or call Dianna Vanlips at 734-7933. Ext. 427 to order.

Compiled from staff reports

### TRIVIA ANSWER:

Former Miami Dolphins quarterback and current CBS Sports commentator Dan Marino appeared in the 1994 movie.

## Wendell downs Declo 49-33

By Eric Larsen  
Times-News writer

WENDELL — Well, that was weird.  
That sentiment echoed through the Wendell High School gymnasium Tuesday night after host Wendell's 49-33 defeat of the visiting Declo Hornets. A nonconference battle characterized by tight defense that led to sloppy shooting left even victorious Trojans coach Allen Kelsey scratching his head.

"There was something weird going on out there," Kelsey said. "The whole game just felt different."

In the Trojans' case, different is good.

Different is not the same outcome as their 47-44 overtime loss to the Hornets earlier this season — their first loss in a 37-game span. Different is outbounding a much taller Hornets team 39-23.

The biggest difference came in the third quarter. With the game tied at 17 through halftime, the Trojans finally found their transition offense. Senior post Kelly Roseborough led 14-1 Wendell on a 12-0 run before Hornets coach Dennis Smyer called a timeout.

Roseborough scored eight of his game-high 15 points in the period.

Drew Jones finally broke the Declo cold snap with a pull-up jumper with 1:32 left in the quarter. A Bjorn Christensen drive would net the 7-6 Hornets four points for the quarter, though they trailed 33-21 with three quarters in the books.

"Both teams were out of sync," Smyer said. "They started to execute in the third quarter though. We started to gamble and you can't do that against a team like Wendell."

The Trojans' third-quarter run was capped off by a Jeff Lowe trifecta. The transfer from Declo's only shot proved crucial in keeping Wendell's momentum going.

Zac Davis played through early foul trouble to score 10 points, grab eight rebounds, and lead the Trojans past the tough Hornets press. Kevin Eden added eight points — including two 3-pointers.

"For us, it was a game for pride," Davis said. "We felt we had to go out and get them worse than they got us over there."

Jones and Jordan Anderson both scored nine points to lead Declo while Tyson Johnson



Declo's Jordan Anderson shoots over Wendell's Jack Vanderhulst (31) and Kevin Eden (21) during the Hornets' 49-33 loss to the host Trojans. Anderson tied for a Hornets team-high nine points with senior guard Drew Jones.

Declo	Wendell	Declo	Wendell
41-22-38	41-22-38	41-22-38	41-22-38
19-10-48	19-10-48	19-10-48	19-10-48
19-10-48	19-10-48	19-10-48	19-10-48
19-10-48	19-10-48	19-10-48	19-10-48
19-10-48	19-10-48	19-10-48	19-10-48
19-10-48	19-10-48	19-10-48	19-10-48
19-10-48	19-10-48	19-10-48	19-10-48
19-10-48	19-10-48	19-10-48	19-10-48
19-10-48	19-10-48	19-10-48	19-10-48

added seven.

Both teams are back in action Friday. Declo hosts conference rival Filer while Wendell hosts Shoshone.

## Filer grabs share of SCIC title

By Kevin Colbert  
Times-News writer

GOODING — Chalk up Round 2 of the chess match to the Filer Wildcats.

In a game that brought satisfaction in more ways than one to Filer, the Wildcats turned up the intensity on both sides of the ball in the first half on route to a 59-50 win over Sawtooth Central Idaho Conference rival Gooding on Tuesday night.

The win gives Filer (16-2 overall, 7-1 SCIC) a share of the conference title with the Senators (13-5, 7-1). More joy came for the Wildcats shortly after the game, when Filer won the coin toss determining who will be the No. 1 seed for the district tournament. The teams may meet once more in the district finals.

In the early going, it looked as if the Wildcats would have to settle for second best.

Gooding, which beat the Wildcats earlier in the season, jumped out to an early 17-8 advantage by outshooting Filer, beating the Wildcats in the rebounding battle while also



Filer's Jennice Mecham, 24, battles with Gooding defenders Ashley Abramowski, O, and Afton Turner, right, for a rebound during the fourth quarter of their game in Gooding Tuesday night.

taking the ball strong to the basket against their sluggish opponent.

But, oh, how quickly things can turn. Filer coach Joel Bate saw his team playing without the energy that has limited opponents to just two wins this

season and called a timeout.

His team answered the bell. The Wildcats immediately went on a 14-2 run extending into the second quarter that put them up 24-21. Filer wouldn't trail again.

"We just talked about keeping our stuff, turning up the

pressure," Bate said.

Lindsay Heimkes and Jennica Mecham did much of the damage for Filer, scoring six points apiece during the spurt. Heimkes finished with a game-best 25 points while Mecham added 13.

Filer opened up a 46-33 lead early in the fourth quarter. But Britanice Boone, who led Gooding with 12 points, whittled the lead down to 50-46 with 3:43 remaining on a 3-pointer from the top of the key.

The Senators would come no closer.

"What was important for them is that they had the edge and we were the ones trying to fight back," Gooding coach Chris Comstock said. "That's hard to do against a good team."

Filer	Gooding
59-50	59-50
16-2	16-2
16-2	16-2
16-2	16-2
16-2	16-2
16-2	16-2
16-2	16-2
16-2	16-2
16-2	16-2
16-2	16-2

Gooding finished with a game-best 25 points while Mecham added 13.

Gooding coach Chris Comstock said, "That's hard to do against a good team."



Del Enos, member of the Sacramento Kings statistical crew, is seen before the start of the Kings game against the Cleveland Cavaliers in Sacramento, Calif., last Thursday.

## NBA stat man hasn't missed a single game

Enos present since Kings moved to Sacramento in 1985

The Associated Press

SACRAMENTO, Calif. — Del Enos runs around Arco Arena more than the players before a Sacramento Kings game.

He charges through the tunnels to greet the officials, collecting their names and jersey numbers for those who need such information. He hustles to his court-side seat to check that all computers and headphones are functioning. Then he grabs a quick bite to eat.

Enos is a stats ironman: He's worked 872 consecutive games, not missing a single one since the franchise moved from Kansas City in 1985.

He has been an integral member of the Kings' stats crew for all 855 games played in Arco. That includes preseason, regular-season and playoff games, and the first three seasons when the team played in the original Arco Arena.

He's a statistician for the WNBA Sacramento Monarchs, too, and hasn't missed any of those games either. Enos isn't sure how he's maintained the streak.

"I guess over 20 years is quite a long time," he said, laughing. "I've probably been lucky, too. I haven't been sick enough to make me miss work."

Enos, who's 54 and single,

Please see STAT, Page D2

## Judge releases Palace brawlers, Pacers on bond

The Associated Press

ROCHESTER HILLS, Mich. — Five Indiana Pacers players and three fans charged in one of the most violent melées in NBA history appeared in court Tuesday — each at a separate hearing — and were released on bond.

The Pacers players, charged with misdemeanor assault and battery in the brawl with Detroit fans at The Palace of Auburn Hills, appeared for about three minutes each before District Judge Lisa Asadorian.

Asadorian allowed each of the players to leave the state and, barred them from the Palace "except for employment-related purposes," Ron Artest, Stephen Jackson, Anthony Johnson, David Harrison and Tervanue O'Neal were told they must attend the next hearing in the case, scheduled for April.

Three fans charged with misdemeanor assault and battery — John Ackerman, William Paulson and John Green — also appeared in court and were released on bond.

David Wallace, brother of Detroit Pistons center Ben Wallace, who also has been charged, was not in court Tuesday, but his attorney appeared on his behalf, said Oakland County Assistant Prosecutor Paul Wynn.

Bryant Jackson, a spectator at the Nov. 19 game, is charged with felonious assault for allegedly tossing a chair.

He was ordered to stand trial following a preliminary examination that also took place Tuesday in Asadorian's courtroom.

### Magic Valley Northside Conference Tournament

at Shoshone High School

Wednesday's games

• Carey vs. Community School, 6 p.m.

• Richfield vs. Camas County, 7:30 p.m.

Thursday's games

• Shoshone vs. Carey/Community School winner, 6 p.m.

• Dietrich vs. Richfield/Camas County winner, 7:30 p.m.

Community School Cutthroats in tonight's first round.

The story may be similar, but thanks to the growth of the conference's talent, teams like Richfield and Carey are hoping the result will be different.

"I think the gap between the first and fourth-place teams has narrowed," Richfield head coach Steve Kent said. "It's going to be a war for those two state spots, and two very good teams are going to be left out."

The 19-1 Shoshone Indians are arguably the state's best Class 1A team. At 9-1 in conference play, Carey is

Please see NORTHIDE, Page D2



## Suns torch defenseless Knicks, 133-118

NEW YORK (AP) — Quentin Richardson made seven of Phoenix's 16 3-pointers, Jim Jackson added five shots from behind the arc and the Suns had made the highest total of the season in a 133-118 victory Tuesday night over the New York Knicks.

The Suns tied a team record with their 16 3s, the last of which — by Richardson with 1:42 left — ended the Knicks' final chance.

Amare Stoudemire scored 29 points, Richardson had 25, Joe Johnson 24 and Shawn Marion 20 for Phoenix, which easily eclipsed its previous season high of 124 points.

The loss was the seventh in a row for the struggling Knicks, who obviously have not latched onto new coach Herb Williams' emphasis on defense.



The 133 points were a season high for a Knicks opponent, and the 16 3-pointers were the most ever allowed in franchise history.

Stephen Marbury, who played his first game against the Suns since they dealt him to the Knicks last season, had 11 points, nine assists, six rebounds and five fouls. New York is 1-11 since Marbury publicly declared himself the best point guard in the NBA, and the Knicks' 17-24 record is exactly the same as it was at the midpoint of their season a year ago.

Steve Nash, the point guard who has led the Suns to the best start in franchise history, had nine points, seven assists and six rebounds. Phoenix, opening a six-game road trip, won its second in a row after a six-game losing streak.

## Celtics 97, Bobcats 92

CHARLOTTE, N.C. — Paul Pierce scored 14 of his 33 points in the fourth quarter to lead Boston to a 97-92 victory Tuesday night over the Charlotte Bobcats, who lost their ninth in a row overall.

Pierce helped the Celtics by making 10 free throws in the final period, and 13 of 16 in all. He also grabbed three defensive rebounds in the final period and had two steals.

## Grizzlies 95, Magic 83

MEMPHIS, Tenn. — Stromile Swift hit 10 points and nine rebounds, leading the Memphis Grizzlies over the Orlando Magic 95-83 on Tuesday night.

Memphis, which had seven players in double figures, outscored the Magic 20-16 in the final 4:05 to secure its 12th win in 14 games. Orlando lost its second straight and has dropped three of four.

James Posey and Lorenzen Wright each scored 12 points and grabbed eight rebounds. Shane Battier and Earl Watson, who helped with the final rally, added 11 points apiece.

Grant Hill and Steve Francis led Orlando with 18 points each, and Francis added six assists.

## Doctor won't clear Owens for Super Bowl

PHILADELPHIA — Terrell Owens' doctor said Tuesday he will give the All-Pro receiver clearance to play in the Super Bowl.

Owens saw his doctor Tuesday, one day after telling reporters he would play against the New England Patriots on Feb. 6.

Dr. Mark Myerson said he's pleased with Owens' recuperation, but maintains the surgery requires a recovery period of eight to 10 weeks. Myerson said in a statement Tuesday night that any attempt to accelerate the rehabilitation process poses the same risk for injury.

Owens said he plans to be in uniform for the Eagles in Jacksonville, Fla. The Eagles' doctors and training staff should have the final say on Owens' status.

## Totmanina returns to world competition

TURIN, Italy — Skating to the gentle melody of "Ave Maria," Tatiana Totmanina and Maxim Marinin overcame the memory of her terrifying fall three months ago with a near-flawless performance.

The Chicago-based Russians took first place in the short pairs program at the European Figure Skating Championships on Tuesday — their first international competition since Totmanina crashed face-first at Skate America in Pittsburgh.

The defending world champions were doing a one-handed lift when Totmanina went to the ice. She lay unconscious for several minutes before being taken to a hospital with a concussion and bad bruises.

When they performed the lift Tuesday, Totmanina glided softly back to the ice with a ripple of her pale aqua costume.

Afterward, the two hugged and kissed each other on the cheek.

The pair received 69.70 points in the new cumulative scoring system, which is being used at the European championships for the first time.

Totmanina and Marinin led a 1-2-3 finish by the Russian pairs.

Maria Petrova and Alexei Tikhonov, who placed second at the Europeans last year, were third with 63.59 points following a lively performance to a Russian folk song.

## Women's basketball on TV has hard sell

COLLEGE PARK, Md. — The game was a rout, the kind that causes viewers to flip to another channel long before the final buzzer.

College basketball was special, for the first time, that was an option. On Jan. 26, 1975, Immaculata beat Maryland 80-48 in the first nationally televised women's college basketball game. The Independent Midtown Television Network sold broadcast rights to more than 100 stations, providing unprecedented coverage to a sport still in its infancy.

"My first three years at Immaculata, we wore skirts," says Rene Portland, then a senior for the Mighty Macs. "That was the first year we wore shorts."

Women now have their own pro basketball league, the WNBA, and ESPN broadcasts dozens of regular-season college games before supplying extensive coverage of the NCAA tournament in March.

It all began 30 years ago at Cole Field House.

"It was quietly bullish on this," then-Mizlou executive director Vincent Mizzou said before the telecast. "It's a harbinger of things to come in women's sports."

The prediction ultimately proved to be correct. Back then, however, the game was a hard sell.

Advertisers did not embrace it with open arms," says Victor Planno, who produced the broadcast and is now president of Mizlou. "It was perceived as a dismal failure from a financial standpoint."

From a competitive standpoint, too, Immaculata never trailed and scored as many points in the second half as Maryland did the entire game. But the significance of the game transcended the

final score. "I can tell my grandkids I was part of history," says Monica Rogers Merkel, who scored two points for the Terrapins. "Somebody had to go first, and we were on the right place at the right time."

Immaculata defined women's basketball in the 1970s. The Mighty Macs compiled a 35-game winning streak while going 74-4 from 1972-74.

## Erickson agrees to minor league contract

LOS ANGELES — Scott Erickson agreed Tuesday to a minor league contract with the Los Angeles Dodgers and will attend spring training as a non-roster invitee.

Erickson, a 35-year-old right-hander, was 1-1 in six starts with the New York Mets and Texas Rangers last season, working only 27 innings. He did not undergo ligament replacement surgery and in 2003 after undergoing a shoulder operation.

He is 141-132 in 13 big league seasons with Minnesota, Baltimore, Texas and the Mets. He went 20-6 with a 3.18 ERA in 1991 for the World Series champion Twins and finished second in the AL Cy Young Award voting.

Erickson would get a \$525,000, one-year contract if he's added to the big league roster. He is married to former Monday Night Football sideline reporter Lisa Guerrero.

## Delgado accepts \$52M deal with Marlins

MIAMI — Carlos Delgado wanted to play for a contender, and the Florida Marlins look like one now.

Delgado agreed Tuesday to a \$52 million, four-year contract. The deal, which includes an option year making it potentially worth \$64 million over five seasons, is contingent on the Delgado passing a physical.

With the addition of the free-agent first baseman, Florida becomes perhaps the team to beat in the NL East.

"It's a spectacular day for the franchise," Delgado said in a telephone interview with The Associated Press. "I'm going to spring training tomorrow. I'm not waiting."

The Marlins led the World Series in 1997 and 2003 but still are seeking their first division title. They also want to win support for a new ballpark.

The Marlins landed the most powerful left-handed power hitter in their 12-season history, and it took the franchise's richest per-season deal to do it. Florida won out over the New York Mets, Texas and Baltimore.

The Mets also made a \$52 million, four-year offer, of which \$2 million was the buyout of a fifth-year option. Delgado's deal is the highest in present-day value, New York's offer was worth \$300,000 more than Florida's.

Delgado receives just \$4 million this year but makes \$13.5 million in 2006, \$14.5 million in 2007 and \$16 million in 2008, according to terms obtained by the AP. The agreement includes a \$16 million buyout for 2009 that would become guaranteed based on how Delgado does in MVP voting and whether he earns postseason MVP awards.

"This option year doesn't become guaranteed if Delgado would have the right to exercise a \$12 million option. If the option is declined, Delgado would get a \$4 million buyout."

## Police: Search goes on for Urbina's mother

CARACAS, Venezuela — Kidnappers holding the mother of 2-year-old Tigres pitcher Ugoeth Urbina on Jan. 26 said they would release the mother, but have not contacted the family in several weeks. Venezuelan police said Tuesday.

Ten police detectives in an on and off-kidnapping unit are on the case and believe 54-year-old Maria Villarreal is still being held hostage.

Police said the strategy of making no contact is a common ploy used by kidnappers in the South American country.

Urbina's mother disappeared from her home on the outskirts of Caracas on Sept. 1. Police have said they believe she was taken by four men who arrived wearing police uniforms.

Compiled from wire reports

## No. 1 Illinois ends No. 18 Wisconsin's home win streak

MADISON, Wis. (AP) — Top-ranked Illinois ended Wisconsin's 38-game home winning streak, the nation's longest, beating the Badgers 75-65 Tuesday night by scoring 14 of the game's final 15 points.

Led by Lauri Hardy's 15 points, Illinois (20-0, 6-0 Big Ten) snapped a five-game losing streak in Madison and became the first team to beat the Badgers at the Kohl Center since Wake Forest on Dec. 4, 2002.

The 18th-ranked Badgers (13-4, 4-2), who led by eight points midway through the second half, fell to 53-3 at home under coach Bo Ryan, including 26-1 in the Big Ten.

The Badgers' most recent home win came when they scored the final 11 points of

the game to beat Michigan State 62-58.

Wisconsin took at 64-61 lead on Alando Tucker's drive to the basket with 4:31 left. But dreams of Wisconsin's first win over a top-ranked opponent since beating Ohio State in 1962 soon faded.

James Augustine, who was limited by foul trouble to 4 minutes in the first half, made two free throws with 4:11 left and Jack Ingram did the same at 3:39, putting the Illini ahead for good, 65-64.

Augustine, who scored 12 of his 14 points in the second half, added consecutive dunks to make it 69-64.

The only break in Illinois' run came when Kammon Taylor made one free throw with 1:07 left to make it 71-65.

Deron Williams added 13 points for Illinois and Roger Powell Jr. had 11.

Tucker had 16 points for Wisconsin and Sharif Chambliss added 14 and Mike Wilkinson 13.

The Badgers, who trailed 35-33 at halftime, were just 5-of-12 from the free throw line and Illinois was 17-of-20.

With the score tied at 44 in the opening minutes of the second half, the Badgers committed two loose ball fouls on one possession and appeared to be cracking under the pressure.

Instead, they were about to take control — at least for a while.

Powell missed a jumper and Tucker hit an open 3-pointer at the other end. After Brown

stole Tucker's inbound pass, Ray Niekamp made an acrobatic block of Brown on a fast break and Tucker scored again to make it 49-44. Williams turned it over and Taylor's basket made it 51-44.

Tucker's 3-pointer made it 56-48, and the Badgers had a chance to go up by double digits — the most the Illini had trailed this season — by nine at Purdue on Jan. 8 — but Andreus Helmick traveled and the Badgers unraveled.

Rich McBride's 3-pointer was followed by two free throws from Williams and two from Head. After Taylor's basket gave the Badgers a 55-55 lead, Ingram hit consecutive 3s to cap Illinois' 13-2 run and give the Illini a 61-58 lead.

## SCORES AND STATS

## BASKETBALL

## NBA

## AT THE TIME

## EASTERN CONFERENCE

Philadelphia	101	95	101	95
Boston	101	95	101	95
Washington	101	95	101	95
New York	101	95	101	95
New Jersey	101	95	101	95

## WESTERN CONFERENCE

Los Angeles	101	95	101	95
San Antonio	101	95	101	95
Phoenix	101	95	101	95
Golden State	101	95	101	95
Portland	101	95	101	95

## NBA TV

Marquette at Louisville	8 p.m.
Notre Dame at Villanova	8 p.m.
Nuggets at Pistons	8 p.m.
TCU at Charlotte	8 p.m.
Classic, 6 p.m.	
Manly at Duke	8 p.m.
7 p.m.	
Mavericks at Trail Blazers	8 p.m.
NBA TV, 8 p.m.	

## GOLF

## PGA TOUR

Bob Hope Classic	1 p.m.
First round, USA, 2 p.m.	

## TENNIS

Australian open, men's quarterfinals	8 p.m.
Australian open, women's quarterfinals	8 p.m.
ESP2, 8 p.m.	

## NBA BOXES

Phoenix	101	95	101	95
Los Angeles	101	95	101	95
San Antonio	101	95	101	95
Golden State	101	95	101	95
Portland	101	95	101	95

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## NBA TV

4-71 28-33 83.	Forman vs. P.
998 (88)	Plater vs. John
4-10-2-2 12, 8-10 5-16 2-3 16, Weight 4-9	Roberts Wesley
	Rochester Tech

COMICS

Classic Peanuts



By Charles M. Schulz

For Better or For Worse



By Lynn Johnston

Dibert



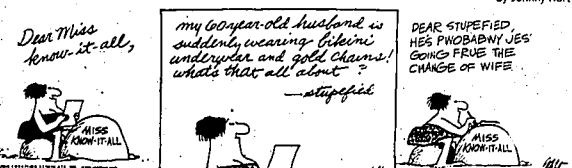
By Scott Adams

Blonde



By Dean Young & Stan Drake

B.C.



By Johnny Hart

Pickles



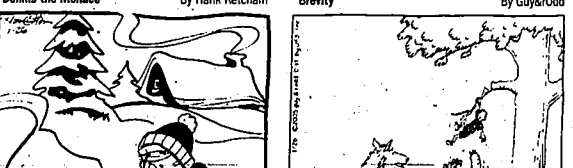
By Brian Crane

Garfield



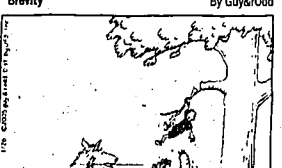
By Jim Davis

Dennis the Menace



By Hank Ketcham

Brevity



By Guy & Odd

Hi and Lois



By Chance Brimre

The Wizard of Id



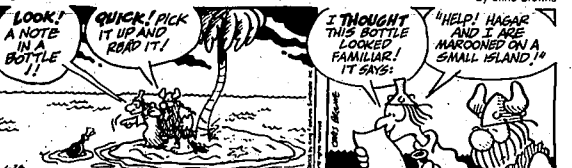
By Brant Parker & Johnny Hart

Rose is Rose



By Pat Brady

Hagar the Horrible



By Chris Brimre

Zita



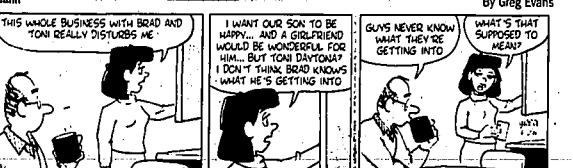
By Jim Borgman & Jerry Scott

Beetle Bailey



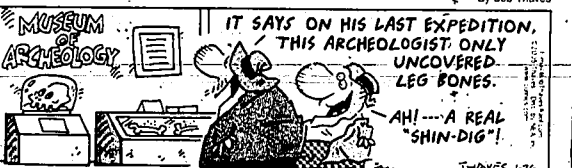
By Mort Walker

Luann



By Greg Evans

Frank and Ernest



By Bob Thaves

Strange Brew



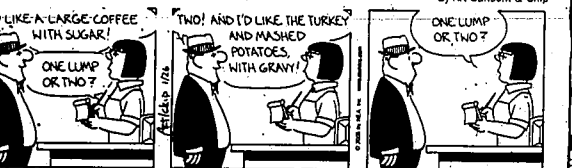
By John Deering

Non Sequitur



By Wiley

The Bôrn Loser



By Art Sansom & Chip

## BRIEFLY IN MONEY

### Check 'n Go will change practices

TWIN FALLS — The Idaho Department of Finance entered into a settlement with Check 'n Go of Idaho Inc. and obtained an assurance that the company will discontinue lending practices in Idaho that violate the state's payday lending law. Finance Director Gavin Gee announced Tuesday.

Check 'n Go, a licensed payday lender based in Mason, Ohio, has a Twin Falls office on Blue Lakes Boulevard.

"The company has agreed to amend its practices when handling consumer personal banking account information and to notify its Idaho customers in writing that it may have obtained customers' checking account PIN numbers without customers' knowledge or consent," Gee said in a statement.

During several examinations of Check 'n Go outlets in Idaho, the Finance Department found that the company had obtained borrowers' checking account PIN numbers without borrowers' knowledge, Gee said.

"Our examiners learned of instances where borrowers were asked to input PIN numbers into the lender's telephone key pad during the loan process. Check 'n Go would then electronically retrieve those PIN numbers and store them in its computer system for account balance verification purposes," Gee said.

Idaho's payday loan statutes prohibit lenders from obtaining and using a borrower's private financial information without the person's authorization and consent, Gee said.

As a part of the settlement, Check 'n Go's written notification will advise its customers over the past 12 months that they may want to take steps to change their checking account PIN numbers.

Check 'n Go must also purge any written or electronic information about customers' PIN numbers that it obtained without customers' consent. Also, the company paid \$50,000 in administrative penalty and investigative fees to the Finance Department.

Idaho residents may contact the department with questions concerning the activities of payday lenders, toll free at 888-346-3378 or at its Web site at [finance.idaho.gov](http://finance.idaho.gov).

### Idaho cattle group will host ID symposiums

TWIN FALLS — Representatives of the Idaho Cattle Association and its industry partners hit the road this week to bring cattle producers information on animal identification efforts in Idaho and updates about ID technologies.

A series of meetings includes one in Twin Falls. It's set for 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Thursday at the Red Lion Hotel Canyon Springs. The agenda includes a presentation by Lloyd Knight, a president on the Northwest Pilot Project and its progress, by Julie Morrison; and ID system and technology updates from eight businesses and associations. Participants may arrive 30 minutes before the scheduled start time to visit with technology company representatives and ask at their products.

For information, contact Julie Morrison at the Idaho Cattle Association office at 343-1615 or [julie@idahoattle.org](mailto:julie@idahoattle.org).

### Zions bank reports

#### Q4 income of \$105M

TWIN FALLS — Salt Lake City-based Zions Bancorporation, which has bank branches in Mountain Valley, on Tuesday reported record fourth-quarter net income of \$105.0 million, or \$1.15 per diluted share, boosted by strong loan growth and improvement in net interest margin.

Quarterly net income and earnings per diluted share increased 9.3 percent and 9.5 percent over the year-up \$95.6 million, or \$1.05 per diluted share.

For the full year, net income increased 2.2 percent to a record \$406.0 million, or \$4.47 per diluted share, from the \$337.8 million, or \$3.72 per diluted share, for 2003, Zions said.

— compiled from staff reports

## HIGHER RISK?



Lindsey Benoit stands in front of a Hertz car rental office Friday in New York. Benoit, who lives in New York, ended up renting a car from Hertz Corp. for \$400 for a three-day weekend, almost twice as much as it would've been for an over-25 driver, because there weren't many other options.

## Under-25 drivers run into roadblocks renting cars

The Associated Press

NEW YORK — Lindsey Benoit thought her three-day trip from New York to New Hampshire would be easy — until she started looking for a rental car.

Benoit, 23, discovered that it's difficult to find a company that will rent to drivers under 25 years old, and even harder to find one that offers younger drivers a good deal. She ended up renting from Hertz Corp. for \$400, almost twice what an over-25 driver would pay.

Being treated like a liability wasn't just expensive, it was insulting, the New York resident said.

"I feel like, even if I gave them my blood type and promised them my first-born, they would still have been rude and mistrusting."

This winter, as thousands of twenty-somethings plan spring breaks in Fort Lauderdale, ski trips to Vermont and weekend getaways to Vegas, many will stumble upon the under-25 rental car roadblock. Most companies charge young drivers about \$20 to \$50 more per day

— even those with perfect driving records — because of the higher accident rate among people under 25.

Facing high fees and often outright rejection, some find it's cheaper to rent from Portland, Ore., to San Francisco.

Andrew Blair, 23, of Minneapolis, discovered that a trip from Portland, Ore., to San Francisco would be less expensive by air.

"It's something I knew was there, but I didn't think it'd change my trip plans," Blair said. "I have a clean driving record. I don't have anything that would make me more of a risk."

66  
You're old enough to drink, you're old enough to do anything else in the United States. Why can't you rent a car when you've been driving since you were 16?

— Lindsey Benoit, 23

Benoit, who will likely be renting a car again when she returns to New Hampshire this spring, is also discouraged that her clean record doesn't count for anything.

"You're old enough to drink, you're old enough to do anything else in the United States," Benoit said. "Why can't you rent a car when you've been driving since you were 16?"

Blame their accident-prone peers who have sent auto insurance premiums soaring and made car rental companies wary of younger drivers in general.

According to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, under-25 drivers are

significantly more likely to get into accidents than older drivers. After age 25, the per-driver crash rate drops off dramatically and continues to fall as age increases until drivers reach 85 years old.

"If the data supported it, we'd love to have younger drivers as customers, but unfortunately, it doesn't make business sense," Hertz spokesman Richard Broome said.

Some companies rent to 21- to 24-year-olds in any state, but for a price. Alamo Rent A Car's under-25 customers, for instance, should expect a \$20 daily surcharge, according to Travelocity.com's Web site. In some states, companies allow drivers as young as 18 years old to drive, but the pricing is usually even higher — Dollar Rent A Car's 18- to 20-year-old customers typically pay an extra \$65 per day.

According to Travel Web sites, New York is the only state where all licensed drivers over the age of 18 have the right to rent a car. Companies that don't normally rent to under-25 drivers must do so in New York, but there is, of course, a price premium.

Please see RENTING, Page E3

## SkyWest loses Continental contract

The Associated Press

SALT LAKE CITY — SkyWest Airlines has lost its contract with Continental Airlines to provide regional connections in Texas, the St. George, Utah-based regional carrier said.

By this spring, Virginia-based Colgan Air will take over SkyWest-operated Continental Connection routes that link Houston with eight Texas cities.

About 200 SkyWest employees, most of them in Texas, will be affected. Some have been offered transfers within SkyWest, and Colgan plans to hire Sky-

West's Texas customer service personnel, said Steven L. Hart, SkyWest vice president of market development.

Five turboprops will be put up for sale, but because SkyWest is taking delivery of several new jets this year, layoffs of crews probably will not be necessary, Hart said. "The timing is rather ideal. Those crews will be absorbed back into our growth."

Continental spokesman Dave Messing said Colgan offers larger aircraft than SkyWest's 30-passenger turboprops and also is willing to add seven 50-

passenger aircraft to meet Continental's needs.

Colgan's 34-seat Saab aircraft is going to give us more revenue opportunity on those routes with the same number of departures," Messing said.

Hart said Texas' hot, humid climate and lengthy routes pushed SkyWest's Brasilia EMB-120 to its limit. Often the 30-passenger Brasilias were forced to fly with seats empty to carry adequate fuel.

The Brasilia has not been well-suited to the Texas marketplace," Hart said. "In the summer operations — with the

hot temperatures and longer stage lengths — we would find it difficult to weight-load."

That's not an ideal situation," Hart said. The loss of the Continental contract is not a major blow for SkyWest because it only represented about 2 percent of the carrier's flight capacity. The rest of SkyWest's business comes from agreements it has as a regional carrier for Delta and United Airlines.

In Magic Valley, SkyWest is the only commercial carrier serving the Twin Falls airport, and one of two at the Halley airport.

## Sales of existing homes climb to all-time high in 2004

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Sales of previously owned homes nationwide rose 8.4 percent to an all-time high of 6.68 million units last year while the median price of those homes rose at the fastest clip in 24 years, a real estate trade group said Tuesday.

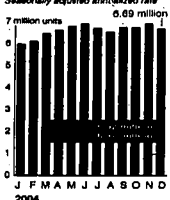
The National Association of Realtors said that it marked the fourth straight year that home resales have set a record, reflecting a boom in housing generated by some of the lowest mortgage rates in four decades.

The median sales price of an existing home rose to \$184,100 last year, up 8.3 percent from 2003 and the fastest gain since home prices jumped by 11.7 percent in 1990.

Sales of new homes are also expected to set a record when

### Home sales

Here is a look at sales of existing single-family homes last month. Seasonally adjusted annualized rate.



SOURCE: National Association of Realtors  
The government releases December data next Monday. Analysts are predicting the

housing market will cool off a bit in 2005 as mortgage rates rise in response to a credit tightening campaign by the Federal Reserve, which began boosting interest rates last June in an effort to ward off inflationary pressures.

Some of that impact might be felt already as home sales in December dipped 3.3 percent to a seasonally adjusted annual rate of 6.69 million units. However, that decline came off a monthly record of 6.92 million units at an annual rate set in November.

Housing has been the all-star performer in the current recovery as buyers have enjoyed the lowest mortgage rates many of them have seen in their working lives.

Even with the Fed's rate increases last year, 30-year mortgages averaged 5.84 per-

cent for all of 2004, up only slightly from an average of 5.83 in 2003, which was the lowest annual average ever recorded on a Freddie Mac survey that goes back to 1971.

David Lereah, chief economist for the Realtors, said he believed that rates for 30-year mortgages, which have been falling the past three weeks and currently stand at 5.67 percent, will rise gradually to 6.5 percent by the end of 2005, an increase that he forecast will trim sales of existing homes by about 3 percent to 6.48 million units.

"There is no sign of a downturn," Lereah said. "Home sales will continue at historically high levels, and 2005 is expected to be the second-best year on record for the housing market." Other analysts, however, cautioned that the optimistic forecasts for housing in 2005

## INSIDE

Stocks ..... E2  
Classified ..... E4-10

## Hailey picks Business of the Year

The Times-News

HAILEY — At its sold-out annual awards gathering last week, the Hailey Chamber of Commerce honored a retailer, a local politician, a hardware manufacturer and several others who have contributed to the Wood River Valley's business environment.

Recipients of the chamber's 2005 awards:

• **Business of the Year** — North & Co., established in 1986 as the Mer's Store.

For this award, the chamber said, it chooses a business that is involved in the community, provides excellent customer service and quality products or services, and provides an excellent work place for employees.

North & Co.'s current owner, Jennifer Hazard Davis, moved to the Wood River Valley 13 years ago and became manager of North & Co., then became partners with sister Fleeter eight years ago, the chamber said. After Fleeter's death, Davis purchased the company and has expanded it. North & Co. sells men's and women's clothing and shoes.

• **Citizen of the Year** — Mary Ann Mox.

Criteria include involvement, keeping a keen eye on the community, being a leader and contributing something to Hailey or Blaine County that has made a real difference, the chamber said.

Blaine County resident of Blaine County, has served on Hailey's planning and zoning commission and City Council, and on the Blaine County Commission. The chamber cited her involvement in many local issues, such as planning, protection of environmental resources, local-interest water projects, wildlife and land issues, public lands access, wildlife fire protection, computer recycling, solid waste facilities and incorporation of a nonprofit group to manage the Blaine Manor-Cry Canyon Ranch Foundation.

• **Employer of the Year** — Rocky Mountain Hardware. The chamber said it chooses an employer who hires or employs its priority and provides excellent employee benefits.

In 1994 Rocky Mountain Hardware hired 10 employees and a local distribution, the chamber said. The business, which now employs 122 with international distribution, manufactures and distributes architectural hardware. Rocky Mountain Hardware has headquarters in Hailey, a manufacturing facility in Shoshone and a foundry in Blackfoot.

• **Volunteers of the Year** — Rob and Kris Cronin.

• **Service Individual of the Year** — Gina Dussell of Mountain West Bank, recognized for courteous and attentive customer service.

• **Honorary Life Member** — Joan Davies.

This is a new award for 2005 and is given to an individual who has made a lifetime contribution to Hailey and the Wood River Valley, the chamber said.

Davies, a longtime resident of Hailey, retired after 19 years with the College of Southern Idaho — where her duties included the Blaine County College for Kids, the outreach program and the district level — and has been involved in a number of civic efforts.

depend on mortgage rates.

If rates climb more quickly, then sales will slow more than expected, they said.

"We feel that the prospect of higher rates is likely fueling this latest round of housing exuberance," said Merrill Lynch economist Mark Pelly.

For December, the 3.3 percent drop in sales reflected weakness in the South, where sales fell by 4.2 percent.

Sales in the West, where they dropped 7.2 percent, rose by 1.4 percent in the Northeast and also climbed 1.4 percent in the Midwest.

The median price for an existing home in December was \$188,900, an increase of 8.1 percent from December 2003. The median is the midpoint where half the homes sold for more and half for less.











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• Solo empleo de inversión.  
• Salario competitivo.  
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**GRAIN BIN** 20,000 bu.  
to be moved. Call  
208-731-5030.

**IH 855S Baler**. Like new  
and 10,000. IH 485  
tractor. Strong run-  
ning. \$6,000. Call eve-  
nings 208-543-4575.

**JD 4440** excellent con-  
dition. \$30,500/offer.  
Call 208-302-707.

**JD 4440** tractor power  
front. 14,945 duals.  
full weights. \$15,000.  
Call 733-4077 or 208-  
326-3856 evenings.

**PARMA 93 970**. Best  
digger, mini tank, all  
new hook chain, all  
new clutch. \$10,000.  
Call 208-312-2366.

**POTATO EQUIPMENT**  
planter, harvesters,  
etc. Older but in top  
shape. 731-5030.

**SNOW BLOWER** Loss-  
ness, 811, tractor  
driven. \$1,500. Call  
148 front or rear.  
\$2,500. Call 324-4038.

**TRACTOR** Ford 811.  
2nd cond., no load.  
\$2,000. 208-481-0776.

**707 IRRIGATION**

**PIPE** 83 joint 10" alumi-  
num galval, excellent  
condition. Call  
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**SPRINKLER PIPE**  
3/4" solid set or han-  
dline, 1,320' of po-  
table mainline. Call  
731-8030, 738-8400  
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SHARES Daily-farm-  
commercial-Buy or  
Sell. 208-312-1130

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mile wheel lines.  
\$500 each. 543-5582.  
\$243 or 431-0358.

# 709 HAY, GRAIN & FEED

**HAY 3** cuttings, good  
quality, close to Twin  
Fall, very amount. Call  
208-733-2520.

**ALPACA** 19 tons, 3rd  
cutting, small bales,  
10 tons, 2nd cutting,  
small bales, RFP 144.  
No rain. \$5.00. Call  
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**BARLEY STRAW**  
300 tons. Call  
354-8597.

**HAY** 25 tons, 3rd  
T. Can deliver. 899-  
979. Call 543-8999.

**HAY** 300-385 per ton.  
Call 543-8999.

**HAY** 1st, 2nd and 3rd  
cutting, excellent  
quality. Covered small  
bales. Call 208-543-  
5086 evenings.

**HAY** 1st, 2nd and 3rd  
cutting, 1st. \$15/ton.  
2nd, 2nd. 12.00. 3rd,  
3rd. 10.00. Call 731-3028.

**HAY** 3rd, bright green,  
leaves stored, 135 lb  
6 string bales. \$9.00.  
You pick up. Call  
208-324-7148.

**HAY** 1st, 2nd and 3rd  
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able, 6 ft. Hardly used,  
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heavy duty, extra ca-  
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new. Call 733-1059.

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Zenith, 26" 550. \$50.  
Freezer, 1500/offer.  
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3368 ask for Steve.

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year old, Kenmore. Call  
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5.10, electric stove,  
\$125. Washer/dryer set,  
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Classified Line Ads

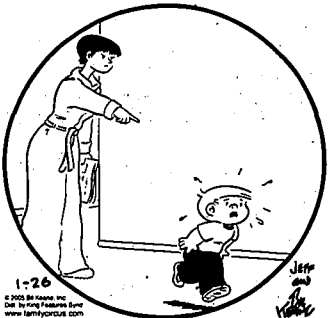
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For items under or adding up to \$1000 (Maximum of 4 items)  
\$2 each additional line. Private Party only. Merchandise only.

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By Bil Keane



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FORD '00 Ranger XLT, extended cab, PW, PL, AT, AC, V-6, 72K, \$8,200. 208-829-5821 or 208-208-3051.

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FORD '02 F-150, Supercow, 4x4, 147A, Lariat, leather, fully loaded, West 24,995 now \$22,995.

GOODE MOTORS 208-878-9382 or 208-878-5611

FORD '02 F-350, 4x4, 7.3 power stroke, AT, exc. cond., Lariat, extra warranty, 99K, many extras, Great deal at \$29,000. Must sell, make offer. Call 208-208-2525, anytime or 208-578-2122 evenings.

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GOODE MOTORS 208-878-9382 or 208-878-5611

FORD '04 F-350 crew cab, 4x4, 6.8, Lariat, Powerstroke, AT, leather, West \$36,995. Now \$33,995.

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FORD '04 F-350 crew cab, 4x4, 6.8, Lariat, Powerstroke, AT, leather, West \$36,995. Now \$33,995.

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CHEVY '92 S10 Blazer V6, AT, 4x4, \$2,100/offer. Call 208-324-2669 or 208-539-5570.

CHEVY '93 Suburban, 4x4, \$4,500/offer. Call 208-324-2669 or 208-539-5570.

CHEVY '97 Tahoe 4x4, black, 2 door, 4 inch lift, V-8, AC, tilt, cruise, stereo, 93,500 miles, \$7,350/offer. Must sell. 208-308-6160.

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GM '88 Suburban, 4x4, great cond., runs good, 118K, \$3,350. Call 208-420-9140.

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JEEP '96 Grand Cherokee Limited, 90K, heated seats, fully loaded, exc. condition, \$7,450. Call 208-508-5747 or 208-686-2008.

JEEP '98 Cherokee, 4x4, 6 speed, runs great, \$1,600 or best offer. 208-544-7071.

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LAND ROVER '00 Discovery, loaded, low miles, \$15,875.

LAND ROVER '00 Discovery, loaded, low miles, \$15,875.

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2005 Toyota RAV4 4x4 \$15,970 2005 Toyota RAV4 4x4 \$15,970

2002 Honda Odyssey EX-L \$20,970 2002 Honda Odyssey EX-L \$20,970

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2004 Honda Odyssey EX-L \$20,970 2004 Honda Odyssey EX-L \$20,970

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2006 Honda Odyssey EX-L \$20,970 2006 Honda Odyssey EX-L \$20,970

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2014 Honda Odyssey EX-L \$20,970 2014 Honda Odyssey EX-L \$20,970

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TRAILER covered 2 axle, 75x7x16. Brakes, spare tire, \$1,250 or offer. 208-308-0666.

TRAILER SPECIALS 2 place snowmobile, \$1,495.

Car Hauler, \$1,495. 2 place ATV, \$1,129. Large goosenecks and many other trailers available.

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What a Deal Trailers 7x10 - \$625 7x12 - \$850 7x14 - \$950 With ramps. Call 877-609-0998 www.whatadealtrailers.com

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CUSTOM 8 ft steel flat-bed with hydraulic hoist, 4 axle, 1000 lbs. axle boxes, 5th wheel hitch, 434-8322 or 420-7115

ENGINE SALE or TRADE 303 Sirocar, 10K plate bored, 303 & line honed, 750 Demon carb, air gap, aluminum Edelbrock heads, 2.02 in. 1.64 ex. Mallory ignition (unit), 14-14-14 cam, steel roller lifters, 10.5 to comp, federal mogul hypereutectic pistons, Edelbrock gear to gear, reverse flow cooling, fluid amper balance, 8AM flexplate, 7 ft oil pan, red man headers, high volume water & oil pump & trans. Call 208-737-9524 ask for Mike after 6 pm.

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GRILL GUARD Western, Fits Ford Explorer, '02-'04, Brand new, \$350. Call 733-5609.

PONTIAC '99 FIRE-Bird, with 3.8 engine, 5 speed transmission, 60K, '98 Grand Am, GT, 3.1 engine, manual trans, PARTING OUT. 208-677-4099.

1000 TRUCKS

A REAL WORK HORSE! 1988 Ford F-150, Custom, 4 speed manual transmission, studied snow tires, camper shell, 129,000 miles, 3000 or best offer. Can be seen at 507 South Main St. in Hairy at the Wood River Journal Office.

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CHEVY '77 Heavy 3/4 ton, 4x4, P.S., tilt, cruise, AC, CD, headlamps, K & N filter, long box and 8K on new Godwrench 350, \$500/offer. 733-2294.

CHEVY '87 3/4 ton, 2WD, 350, alum. wheel, 16,500, 4x4, 350, 2WD, long box, V8 auto, AC + more. Only \$1999.

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Wednesday, Jan. 26, 2005

# THE ACES ON BRIDGE®

Bobby Wolff

"Little enemies and little wounds are not to be despised."  
— German proverb

In today's deal from the 1996 Macallan tournament, we see Zia Mahmood at work. Zia is sometimes associated with the spectacular coup and the big confidence trick, but he demonstrated that he can achieve equally elegant plays in the quiet part-score.

Zia had bought the hand in what appeared to be a relatively comfortable part-score of two hearts, but West accurately led a spade to the 10 and Jack. Zia took this in hand and played the club ace and a second club. West won this with the king and played a second spade. Now East, instead of cashing his spade winner, returned a heart with the idea of knocking out the entry to dummy, a slight inaccuracy that Zia was quick to pounce on.

Reading the position perfectly, Zia worked out that the reason East had not tried to cash the spade ace was that he was not worried about declarer taking the discard — and that must be because he could ruff dummy's club queen. Accordingly, instead of trying to cash the club queen to obtain his discard, declarer ruffed a low club to hand and played the king of hearts followed by the jack of hearts. West could win his queen of trumps, but had no spade to lead. Accordingly, he was expelled into either leading diamonds and losing his side a trick in that suit, or leading a club and conceding a discard on dummy's club queen. Either way, Zia would have his eighth trick.

<b>NORTH</b>		01-26-A
♠	K 10 5 3	
♥	9 8 5 4	
♦	Q 4 3 2	
<b>WEST</b>		
♠	6 2	
♥	Q 5 3	
♦	A J 10	
♣	K J 7 6 5	
<b>EAST</b>		
♠	A J 9 8	
♥	9 7 4	
♦	Q 7 6 3	
♣	9 8	
<b>SOUTH</b>		
♠	Q 7 4	
♥	K J 10 8 6 2	
♦	K 2	
♣	A 10	

Vulnerable: North-South  
Dealer: East

The bidding:

South	West	North	East
1♥	Pass	1♠	Pass
2♥		All pass	

Opening lead: Spade six

## BID WITH THE ACES

01-26-B

<b>South holds:</b>	
♠	K 10 5 3
♥	A
♦	9 8 5 4
♣	Q 4 3 2

South	West	North	East
			2♦

ANSWER: Bid three diamonds to show a limit raise or better in spades. A jump to three spades would be pre-emptive or distributional, not based on high cards. Here, your extra side-suit shape makes you worth the limit bid.

If you would like to contact Bobby Wolff, e-mail him at [bobbywolff@madmagick.com](mailto:bobbywolff@madmagick.com).  
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