

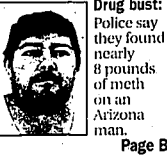
GOOD MORNING

WEATHER

Today: Early fog clearing to mostly sunny skies. High 43, low 21.

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MAGIC VALLEY



Drug bust: Police say they found nearly 8 pounds of meth on an Arizona man.

Page B1

MONEY

On the upswing: Magic Valley Mall sees strong sales in 2004.

Page E1

FOOD & HOME



Fat Tuesday: Celebrate Mardi Gras right with authentic food and drink.

Page C1

SPORTS

The long road: Many of the area high school girls basketball teams were in postseason action Tuesday.

Page D1

OPINION

Up in the air: A rail link between Hailey and Twin Falls airport lacks support and funding, today's editorial says.

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COMING UP



Magic walkway

Learning to ski was never this easy.

Thursday in The Times-News

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SKYROCKETING COSTS



Archie Levitan stands in front of his home near Ketchum that he purchased for \$67,000 in the late 1970s. Today it's valued at \$450,000 and comes with much higher property taxes. Rep. Leon Smith, R-Twin Falls, said he'll soon introduce legislation that would give tax relief to individuals over 65 who've seen their property taxes skyrocket.

Legislator puts property tax relief bill on his agenda

By Julie Pence
Times-News writer

HAILEY — Archie Levitan doesn't complain about dipping into a reverse mortgage to pay his property taxes.

At 78, the enterprising part-time bartender figures he'll have plenty of money to see him through, since his home halfway between Hailey and Ketchum is worth more than six times what he paid for it 25 years ago.

"I had the enough sense to buy a house at the right time," Levitan said.

But not all older Blaine County residents find their future as rosy.

Widow Rose Mallory, also 78, frets about her future. Her husband died recently, leaving her with expenses.

Not long after, she had to give up her part-time bookkeeping job because of her own health problems. Just one trip to the pharmacy cost her \$170 a few



Leon Smith

weeks ago.

"The rapidly escalating property taxes on her home of 30 years is one more I worry Mallory doesn't need right now."

"It all adds up, and it gets to be awful," Smith said. "I'm wondering how long I can hang on here is what I'm wondering."

For Mallory, a reverse mortgage is not an option. Unlike Levitan, who is childless, Mallory wants to leave her home to her children. Plus, she's already paying down a home equity loan.

"She could sell her house, but 'My life is here. My friends and I give up my family,' Mallory said.

Mallory's predicament is one that is becoming more common throughout the state. In addition to booming Blaine County

where the average house was valued at more than \$550,000 in 2004, Kootenai, Canyon, Ada and Valley counties also have seen property values skyrocket into the stratosphere over the past few years, said Rep. Leon Smith, R-Twin Falls. The result is that older people living pretty much on fixed incomes are often hard pressed to meet the high property taxes that go along with those values.

Smith, who sits on the House Revenue and Taxation Committee, where all legislation having to do with taxation originates, has a plan. He's soon to introduce legislation that would allow Idaho residents aged 65 and older to defer the property taxes that go up more than 2 percent in one year.

Smith said he's been meeting with 10 other legislators who have the same concerns. He's learned that if lawmakers don't do something, voters will. In particular, Kootenai County tax-

payees are on the verge of going the initiative route if the Legislature doesn't fashion some tax relief, he said.

"Those people are about to rebel," Smith said, explaining there's talk of a voter-driven 1 percent initiative. It has the potential to vitiate up something like California's Proposition 13 that limits property tax increases to no more than 1 percent each year.

Smith admitted his proposed legislation isn't the only plan lawmakers are mulling. There's also a plan in the works that would up the \$50,000 exemption on homes to \$75,000, he said.

But from Smith's perspective, that plan would amount to a tax shift with commercial and rental properties taking the hit, he said.

The Smith plan would call for the deferred taxes to be collected upon the death of the resident or a change of residence.

Hostage apparently is an action figure

The Associated Press

BAGHDAD, Iraq — A Web site posted a photograph of what it claimed was a kidnapped U.S. soldier, but doubts were quickly raised about its authenticity and the U.S. military said no soldiers were missing.

A toy manufacturer said the figure in the photo resembled one of its military action figures, originally produced for sale at U.S. bases in Kuwait.

The statement appeared on a Web site often used for posting statements from militants, some of which have proven authentic in the past, and was in the name of a group that has claimed previous kidnappings, the Mujahideen Brigades.

The Arabic text contained several misspellings.

Staff Sgt. Nick Minecci of the U.S. military's press office said "no units have reported anyone missing."

The photo shows a figure dressed in fatigues, wearing a vest and knee pads and with a gun pointed to his head. All the items are similar to ones that come with the action figure, named "Cody."

The figure in the photo appeared stiff and expressionless, and the statement said he was named "John Adam."

Ilan Cusack, of the toy manufacturer Dragon Models USA Inc. said the image of the soldier portrayed in the photo bore a striking resemblance to the African-American version of its "Cody" action figure.



An Iraq militant Web site posted this photograph on Tuesday of what was claimed to be a kidnapped U.S. soldier.

"It is our doll ... To me, it looks definitely like it is," Cusack told The Associated Press. "Everything the guy is wearing is exactly what comes with our figure. If you look at the two pictures side by side, it'd be a huge coincidence. To me, the face looks exactly the same."

Harvard study: Medical bills account for half of bankruptcies

The Associated Press

BOSTON — Costly illnesses trigger about half of all personal bankruptcies, and health insurance offers no protection against ending up penniless, according to findings from a Harvard University study to be released today.

Researchers from Harvard's law and medical schools said the findings underscore the inadequacy of many private insurance plans that offer worst-case catastrophic coverage, but little financial security for less severe illnesses.

"Unless you're Bill Gates, you're just one serious illness away from bankruptcy," said Dr. David Himmelstein, the study's lead author and an associate

Ill health, ill fortune

Half of personal bankruptcies in 2001 were triggered by medical costs or illness, according to a study released Wednesday.

Personal bankruptcies caused in part by illness or medical debts

60.55%

* Midpoint estimate between 46.2% and 64.5%

Medical bankruptcies in which debtors had health insurance coverage at time of filing

65%

SOURCE: Harvard University. AP

professor of medicine. "Most of the medically bankrupt were average Americans who happened to get sick.

The study, to be published online today by the journal Health Affairs, distributed questionnaires to 1,771 bankruptcy filers in 2001 in California, Illinois, Pennsylvania, Tennessee and Texas. That year, there were 1.46 million personal bankruptcies in the United States.

More than 900 of those questioned underwent more detailed interviews about their financial and medical circumstances for what the authors say is the first in-depth study of medical causes of personal bankruptcies, which have risen rapidly in recent years.

Illness and medical bills were cited as the cause, at least in part, for 46.2 percent of the personal bankruptcies in the study. Himmelstein said the figure

T.F. school district plans strategy for tomorrow

By Karin Kowalski
Times-News writer

TWIN FALLS — The next few years will likely be filled with challenges, but the Twin Falls School District is working on a plan to guide it through them.

In the first of three sessions, 20 people from the district and community gathered Tuesday to go over the old 10-year plan and brainstorm elements that might become part of the five-year update.

Participants were asked to focus on specific issues, rather than solutions. Major issues included growth. No Child Left Behind, improving instruction for students and improving conditions for teachers.

The plan is the basis for the school board's goals, which are examined at every board meeting.

The plan addresses accounta-

Meetings continue

The Twin Falls School District will hold community work sessions today and Thursday on updating its strategic plan.

The meetings will be from 4 to 6 p.m. at the Gibraltar annex building at 264 Main Ave. S.

The meetings are open to the public to observe. To join the committee, call Linda Baird or Denise Backus at 733-6900.

The district will hold public hearings on the draft plan once it is created.

No child, or teacher, left behind

Superintendent Willey Dobbs

Please see PLAN, Page A2

Harvard study: Medical bills account for half of bankruptcies

rose to 54.5 percent when three other factors were counted as medical-related triggers for bankruptcies: births, deaths and pathological gambling addiction.

The study estimates medical-caused bankruptcies affect about 2 million Americans each year, counting debtors and their dependents, including 700,000 children.

Most of those seeking court protection from creditors had health insurance, with more than three-quarters reporting they had coverage at the start of the illness that triggered bankruptcy. The study said 38 percent had lost coverage at least temporarily by the time they filed for bankruptcy, with illness frequently leading to the loss of both a job and insurance.

Out-of-pocket medical expenses covered co-payments, deductibles and uncovered health services averaged \$14,460 for bankruptcy filers who had private insurance at the onset of illness, compared with \$10,893 for those without coverage.

Those who initially had private coverage but lost it during their illness faced the highest cost, an average of \$18,005.

"We need to rethink health reform," said Dr. Steffie Woolhandler, a study co-author and associate professor of medicine at Cambridge-based Harvard.

"Covering the uninsured isn't enough. We also must upgrade and guarantee continuous coverage for those who have insurance."

Court ruling won't affect Idaho wolves

The Times-News and The Associated Press

GRANTS PASS, Ore. — A federal judge's ruling on the protection of wolves under the Endangered Species Act will not affect Idaho's progress toward assuming greater management authority next week.

In a ruling released Tuesday, U.S. District Judge Robert E. Jones in Portland struck down a Bush administration rule that lowered Endangered Species Act protection for wolves that are migrating out of stronghold in the Northern Rockies and Great Lakes into neighboring states.

Under the court order, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service will have to revised federal rules that allow ranchers to shoot wolves on sight if they are attacking livestock, said Michael Robinson of the Center for Biology Diversity, one of the environmental groups bringing the lawsuit.

However, practically speaking, that only affects wolves now established in northwestern

Please see WOLVES, Page A2

Tracker

- **Last we knew:** In January, the U.S. Secretary of the Interior approved the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's proposal to allow Idaho and Montana greater authority to manage gray wolves. Several lawsuits against the rule and the Fish and Wildlife Service were pending.
- **The latest:** A federal judge rejected a Bush administration rule lowering Endangered Species Act protection for wolves. However, the judge's ruling does not apply to Idaho's wolves that are classified as a nonessential, experimental population.
- **What's next:** Fish and Wildlife Service officials will continue the rule-making and decide whether to appeal. The state of Idaho prepares to assume the bulk of management authority over wolves in the state on Feb. 7.

Death benefit plan stirs debate

Lawmakers say proposal is too narrow

WASHINGTON (AP) — Lawmakers and military officials said Tuesday that President Bush's proposal to boost government payments to families of U.S. troops killed in Iraq, Afghanistan and other war zones was a good start but too narrow.

Republicans suggested that those who die while training for combat missions also should be eligible for the increased death benefits. Democrats argued that the benefits should extend to all military personnel who die while on active duty.

Uniformed officials with the Army, Navy, Marine Corps and

Air Force told the Senate Armed Services Committee during a hearing on the proposal, that the Defense Department should not give an extra \$250,000 in benefits to surviving spouses and children based simply on the geography of where a death occurs.

"They can't make a distinction. I don't think we should either," said Adm. John B. Sullivan, vice chief of naval operations for the Navy. Adm. Gen. E. Michael Moseley, the Air Force's vice chief of staff, "I believe this should be treated that way."

Under the Pentagon proposal, a tax-free death gratuity, now \$12,420, could grow to \$100,000 only in cases where the service member died in a war zone as designated by the secretary of defense.

The Pentagon also would substantially increase life insurance benefits. The \$250,000 coverage offered to all service

members at a subsidized rate under the Servicemembers Group Life Insurance program would be raised to \$400,000, and for troops in a combat zone the government would pay the premiums on the extra \$150,000 coverage.

"The increases would be retroactive to Oct. 7, 2001, the date the United States launched its invasion of Afghanistan in response to the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks. The families of the more than 1,500 troops who have died in Iraq and Afghanistan since then would be eligible."

"We think the nation ought to make a larger one-time payment, quite apart from insurance, should you be killed in a combat area of operations," David Chu, the undersecretary of defense for personnel and readiness, told the Associated Press.

At the hearing, Chu was pressed on why only those who died in Pentagon-designated

combat zones were eligible for the one-time death gratuity payment. "Our premier objective is to those fallen in Iraq and Afghanistan," he said.

Sen. Carl Levin of Michigan, the ranking Democrat on the Armed Services Committee, said who qualifies for the death gratuity is just one of a number of problems with the Pentagon proposal. "I obviously support the increases," Levin said. "But I also believe that this should apply to survivors of all members who die on active duty."

Sen. Joe Lieberman, D-Conn., has introduced a bill that's similar to the Pentagon proposal, although sections that under the bill, the families of those killed while training in preparation for the war also would get the bigger payment.

After the hearing, Sessions said of the military, "I think we'll probably try to give them more flexibility to include more people."

Bush presses for post-election help

WASHINGTON (AP) — eager to capitalize on Iraq's election, President Bush on Tuesday continued to press fellow countrymen to support the new Baghdad government being formed after Sunday's voting.

In phone calls with four foreign leaders, White House press secretary Scott McClellan said Bush talked up the importance of "maintaining, this momentary" created by the elections, which occurred without the catastrophic rebel attacks that many had feared would mar the milestone Iraq transition to a stable democracy.

The president spoke by phone Tuesday with Russian President Vladimir Putin, NATO Secretary General Jaap de Hoop Scheffer, European Commission President Jose Manuel Barroso and also with more than 100 other February trip to Europe, that he hoped the strong statements of support from European leaders since the elections would turn into tangible commitments.

Bush also met with other world leaders in hopes of boosting foreign aid to the new Iraq government. He also will meet with his State Dept. colleagues Wednesday night to urge other nations to support Iraqis in any way they can.

Bush and Putin, who are meeting in Slovakia at the end of



President Bush

McClellan said, "I had no doubt that election would not be undermined under U.S. leadership."

Bush and De Hoop Scheffer discussed the possibility of NATO stepping up its training efforts for the Iraq military. Barroso offered thank-for-the-European Union's pledge of \$260 million in assistance to Iraq, McClellan said.

Bush told both men whom he also met more during his late February trip to Europe, that he hoped the strong statements of support from European leaders since the elections would turn into tangible commitments.

Sunday's election elected a 275-member National Assembly and lawmakers in 18 provincial legislatures.

Secretary vows to oversee spending

Margaret Spellings promises change in first interview

WASHINGTON (AP) — Education Secretary Margaret Spellings says she will aggressively oversee the ways her department promotes its agenda, after flaps over a hired media pundit and her character on an episode of a children's show dominated her first days on the job.

"We need to know what we're getting," Spellings told the Associated Press on Tuesday in her first interview as secretary. "I mean, we need to have a clearer, brighter line so that we don't discover late in the process that this is what is coming down the pipe."

As for the major education development of the Bush administration, the No Child Left Behind law, she said she might consider changing emphasis on legitimate concern. She named such possible areas as the testing of teacher-quality strategies in rural regions. But she said some topics are off the table, including regular testing, which she called "the linchpin of the whole doggone thing."

Spellings is the new public law of education for the administration, but she has spent a decade as a senior advisor to George W. Bush in Iraq and as his domestic policy director in the White House.

She is the first mom with school-aged children to be edu-



Education Secretary Margaret Spellings talks during an interview with the Associated Press at the Education Department in Washington Tuesday.

cation secretary. One of her daughters attends a Catholic high school, the other a public middle school, both in Alexandria, Va.

Less than two weeks after replacing Rod Paige, Spellings is promising change.

"The Education Department has shut down its contact with Ketchum, the public relations firm hired primarily to promote Bush's education law. The \$1.1 million contract, about \$210,000 went to commentator Armstrong Williams. The money went toward the production of ads, the department says, at which Williams was absented to promote the law in other ways.

"There's nobody who's more

concerned about the credibility of this department and the credibility of No Child Left Behind — and how those two go together — than I am," Spellings said. "And I have a high interest in making sure that we address this and move on."

Spellings said she and her chief of staff, David Dunn, who spent time at the department last year, did not know the agency those and until some point after the contract was signed. The department's inspector general is investigating the Williams deal.

"It is right and appropriate to educate communities about this law," she said. "It is right to pay columnists who represent themselves as legitimate

news people? No."

Spellings declined her criticism of PBS for producing an episode of "Postcards from Buster" that included two lesbian couples. The department process, she said, for the children's show through a federal program designed to help kids learn through television.

"On lifestyle issues, I think it's appropriate for parents to be prepared for the way that they see it, in their own way and in their own time," Spellings said. "I believe that as a mother, and I believe that as a policymaker for the Department of Education or public broadcasting to get into things that are, you know, in a gray area, is just not something we need to do."

Sunlight may help cancer victims survive

WASHINGTON (AP) — Sunlight exposure, a major risk factor for the potentially deadly skin cancer melanoma, may also help victims survive, that research indicates.

And a second study indicates that exposure to sunlight may reduce the risk of getting cancer, of lung and stomach.

Researchers stress that their findings do not mean people should rush out and start basking in the sun. As for what people should do to gain sunlight's benefits without its downsides, an editorial accompanying the studies said more research is needed.

"Sunlight, particularly ultraviolet radiation, is a very well established human carcinogen. Nothing in these papers should in any way detract from this message," said Kathleen M. Fegan of Vanderbilt University School of Cancer.

But the new reports, being published this week in the Journal of the National Cancer Institute, do provide important clues to the development of the cancer and some factors that may slow or stop them.

Melanoma has been increasing over the past half-century in developed countries with Cau-

asian populations, and studies have consistently found exposure to the sun a major risk factor.

However, a new look at 798 melanoma victims over five years also found that increased sun exposure led to increased survivability, according to the study led by Marianne Berwick of the department of internal medicine at the University of New Mexico.

"It's totally counterintuitive, and we're trying to investigate it," said Berwick, noting that she is now doing a similar study of 3,700 melanoma patients worldwide.

"It's really strange, because sunburn seems to be one of the factors associated with improved survival, and that doesn't make much sense, so we think sunburn is a proxy for the kind of sun exposure that leads to melanoma. But there's so much we need to know," Berwick said in a telephone interview.

Medicare will cover Viagra

WASHINGTON (AP) — Sexual performance drugs such as Viagra will be covered in Medicare's new prescription drug program, a lifestyle rather than a living benefit that conservatives and watchdog groups say the government shouldn't provide.

Like those for medicines such as high blood pressure and heart disease, prescriptions for Viagra and similar drugs in its class will be tightly controlled. The new prescription coverage begins Jan. 1 and is expected to cost more than \$500 billion over the next decade.

"The law says if it's an FDA-approved drug and it is medically necessary, it has to be covered," said Gary Karr, spokesman for the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, which administers the health insurance program for older Americans.

Pfizer's Viagra, Bayer's Levitra and Eli Lilly & Co.'s Cialis are used primarily to treat erectile dysfunction, but they also help treat enlarged hearts that can result from high blood pressure.

Some conservatives and public watchdogs say Medicare coverage of sexual performance drugs could bankrupt the program.

"Asking Uncle Sam to pay for the franchise of 76 million buy for buyers will quickly be an impending collapse of Medicare," said Tom Schatz, president of a taxpayer watchdog group, Citizens Against Government Waste.

"The bureaucrats defend the additional drugs as 'lifestyle-improving' instead of just life-saving," but tax-funded Viagra will drain resources from medication for more severe conditions," Schatz said.

Minority leader: Dems won't block Gonzales

WASHINGTON (AP) — Democrats won't try to filibuster Alberto Gonzales' nomination for attorney general but will hold extensive debates in the Senate over his role in developing the Bush administration's policies on treating foreign detainees, the party's top Democrat said Tuesday.

"There will be an up-or-down vote," Senate Democratic Leader Harry Reid of Nevada told reporters after the Democrats held a meeting Tuesday for weekly planning session.

A filibuster, a parliamentary tactic for delaying Senate action, would require Republicans, who hold a 55-41 majority in the Senate, to win over at least five Democrats or four Democrats plus Vermont Sen. James Jeffords, an independent — to put Gonzales in office.

Reid predicted that at least 25 or 30 Democrats would vote against Gonzales but said "there was a decision made not to filibuster."

Democrats were surprisingly united in opposing Gonzales in the Senate Judiciary Committee, something that was not achieved when they voted on current Attorney General

John Ashcroft.

Ashcroft was confirmed by a 54-27 Senate vote, but many Democrats fear for an attorney general, Gonzales' opposition to Democrats derives "from the nominee's involvement in the formulation of a number of policies that have hurt our country's moral leadership at the world and put American soldiers and American citizens at greater risk," Sen. Charles Leahy of New Hampshire said during a debate Tuesday.

Gonzales, who served as White House counsel during Bush's first term, would be placed Ashcroft if confirmed. He is also the nation's first Hispanic attorney general.

A vote by the Senate on Gonzales' confirmation will not occur until at least February after Bush's State of the Union speech Wednesday night. Four senators don't want to discuss a success to talk about in the first State of the Union speech since he took office.

"They want the body to get all the way up and about to try to limit the nominee's term, the perceived sins of the administration," said Sen. Sen. Byron Dorgan of Texas.

GOP beats Dems in bank balance

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Republican National Committee has nearly \$15 million for the next campaign, but a strong position of fund-raising committee, while the House's Democratic panel faces \$11 million in debts with the next election less than two years away.

The Republican National Committee started the 2005-06 election cycle with nearly \$15 million on hand and no debt, according to a year-end cam-

aign finance report filed Monday with the Federal Election Commission. The RNC reported \$11 million in debt last year helping President Bush win re-election.

The Democratic Congressional Campaign Committee finished 2004 at the opposite end of the spectrum, with \$1 million in debts and \$1 million on the bank. The DCCC had not successfully to win back a House majority from the GOP last year.

Loves Wrinkle Cream Hates Puffy Eyes, Age Spots

DEAR PATTY: I love you... Remember when I was a baby, told you that I was a baby, baby, baby, and you told me about that pharmacist's discovery, EBS Facial Cream? Well, I bought a jar at JCPenney and it is wonderful. I wish you could see how much younger I look. I love it and recommend it to all my friends. But, say, why other problems, my puffy eyes and the age spots on my hands and face.

Curious, St. Louis, MO DEAR CURIOUS: I know you would like EBS Facial Cream. It actually works like five creams in one jar, it is a Wrinkle Cream, Throat



ASK PATTY

Now, regarding your question about puffy eyes and spots, this same pharmacist, Robert Healdford, has discovered for both the EBS Eye Gel Formula helps appearance of dark circles, puffiness, around the eyes. EBS Age Spot Formula which works wonderfully by its bright pigment and dark discolorations on the hands and face. You'll love them, and they're completely guaranteed!

NOTE: All EBS formulas are available at JCPenney. To learn more about EBS Cream, Firming Cream, 24-hour Moisturizer, and Make-up Base, all in one!

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MORNING BREAK

Push from wives might lead more men to doctor

DEAR ABBY: I am a 40-year-old man who has been married for 15 years. I have a wife and two children. I have been diagnosed with prostate cancer. My doctor has recommended that I have a prostatectomy. I am not sure I want to do this. I am looking for your advice.



DEAR ABBY: Jeanne Phillips

do you recommend I do to stay sober and lead a happy life?

TOUGH LUCK IN CHATTOOGA DEAR TOUGH LUCK: You can still achieve success, but it will be harder. The first thing you must do is recognize that your situation had less to do with tough luck than a series of poor choices. Now that you are sober and thinking straight, it's time to start planning a different life when you are released.

Some positive steps to take: Join a 12-step support group; people with problems who have emotional support accomplish more than they can on their own. Understand that you will have to forgo relationships with people who use drugs and steal. Complete your education.

It won't be easy, but if you do all of the above, you'll no longer be the same person you are today and you will lead a happier life with fewer problems.

CONFIDENTIAL TO "CAN'T DECIDE IN MISSOURI": Many colleges and universities offer career counseling and aptitude testing to help people choose a career. Of this I am certain: If you choose a job that you love, you'll never have to "work" a day in your life.

DEAR ABBY: I am a 49-year-old young man who is writing out from a bad cell. None of my crimes were violent. They mainly consisted of theft and drugs. I've had a bad drug problem ever since my best friend overdosed in my hotel room. I did drugs before then, but not as much as afterward.

One thing led to another, and soon I found myself being pulled out of other people's cars and using other people's credit cards.

I have been locked up for three months now, and looking back, I can't believe the life I was living. It then still changes. I can't find my life into a success when I'm released. And what

Groundhogs are known as woodchucks every day of the year except February 2

SHLID day in history: Groundhog Day, an attempt at telling the future based on the behavior of a groundhog. Known as a woodchuck, the animal is the symbol of the day.

Only one state has no shrews: Hawaii. Before the introduction of agriculture, Hawaii had no shrews. It was introduced by sailors.

Lincoln may have gotten more publicity, but the first president born in a log cabin was Andrew Jackson.

Lincoln may have gotten more publicity, but the first president born in a log cabin was Andrew Jackson.

Dressing room mirror cows buffalo

THE SMALL effects its physical as well as the operation of our school, said Principal Debbie Boutsell. She said the school's budget is affected because of 77 children who received zoning waivers not to attend the school, 70 cited the smell as the reason.

"We got roughly \$3,000 per student, so that's a lot of money that we aren't able to use for staffing," Boutsell said. "We have to write grants to get extra programs like PE and music."

She and her staff had hoped Okaloosa County, which operates the treatment plant just outside Fort Walton Beach, would close it soon. But officials last week said it will be another three years before that could happen.

— compiled from wire reports



RANXOM KINGSOF JACK MINGO ERIN BARRETT

ing per second. If you flick a whip just right, the tip goes faster than 700 mph, breaking the sound barrier and making a small sonic boom. That's why you hear a "crack" or "pop" as the whip breaks the sound barrier.

It's not as loud as it sounds; it's clearly playing.

The study of rain is ombology. As the rain falls, it gets its name from the same Latin root as "cloud."

Lincoln may have gotten more publicity, but the first president born in a log cabin was Andrew Jackson.

Odds and ends

Some fascinated with its image as a "bad boy" of the music industry. Once the sale ended, a rodeo cowboy rumble coaxed the buffalo from the dressing room and sent it into captivity.

Sewer stench drives kids out of school

ORLANDO, Fla. — The children of Ocean City, Fla., are being driven out of school because of a sewer stench.

More than 70 have transferred from Ocean City Elementary because an aging and overloaded sewage treatment plant next door is emitting a foul odor.

was Andrew Jackson. "You and I might call it a kiss, but reader Jim Overen calls it "the anatomical juxtaposition of two orbicular muscles in the state of contraction." That guy, he's such a romantic.

A century ago, ranchers had what they thought was a brilliant idea: kill pesky prairie dogs by introducing plague bacillus into their colonies. By 1940, there were just as many prairie dogs, and the disease had spread to 31 species of rodents, and 35 species of fleas, able to spread it to other animals and humans.

William Henson proposed an aerial steam trap in 1843. Unfortunately, steam engines were too heavy to fly. The sky would have to wait for the internal combustion engine.

Erin Barrett and Jack Mingo can be reached at www.hubb.com/companion.com

Cancer: Follow your instincts

IF FEBRUARY 2 IS YOUR BIRTHDAY — Your sensitivity, imagination and idealism are growing by leaps and bounds in 2005 as Neptune passes through your slice of the cosmic pie. Your surroundings and contacts can color your mood, so be sure to choose cheerful partners and harmonious places. That planetary Santa Claus, Jupiter, will pass your way in late March and August and bestows deserved gifts, so be on the lookout for a chance to improve your life or to receive the answer to your prayers.

ARIES (March 21-April 19): It is a good time to visualize objectives. Cut out a picture of that car you've always wanted and paste it on the refrigerator for inspiration — or list your goals. New friends can bring harmony.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Competition is at the bottom of the priority list, but you can make your mark in the career arena by being understanding and sensitive to the needs of others. A new contact can enhance your reputation.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Pay attention to the opinions of others; someone else's vision or insights could give you necessary clues to make your life more fulfilling. A kind gesture can give your career or business a hidden boost.

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Follow your instincts and listen to your intuitions to get into perfect alignment with a lover.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Strive for peace and tranquility with romantic partners. New relationships begun now should prove harmonious and serene unless comfortable about making agreements or signing contracts.

VRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Put something on someone to complete you. Wear a new health device or an important project that requires vision and imagination. Make your work-

HOROSCOPE: Jeraldine Saunders

place comfortable to increase productivity.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Whether you want to knit a sweater, paint a masterpiece or build a cabinet, your creative juices are in high gear. Love affairs started now will be peaceful and emotionally satisfying.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Within the confines of your own four walls you can be the king or queen of the castle. You are sensitive to atmospheres now, so make sure your surroundings are serene and uplifting.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Act on your intuitions and pick up the phone. You may be

surprised to find that someone else is thinking about you at the same time. Employ gentle understanding to discuss important matters.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Prosperity comes from spending money, but prosperity comes from spending money wisely. Make intelligent choices and don't forget to be grateful for the little things in life.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): You are the architect of your own future. Build a healthy bank account by associating with gentle and kind individuals who are easy to deal with. Trust your intuitions right now.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Dreams could give you guidance and inspire you to make happy choices in the waking world. Start a new job now or take on a new employee to guarantee tranquility in the workplace.

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WORLD

Official: Polling sites ran out of ballots

If true, allegation could further alienate Sunnis

BAGHDAD, Iraq (AP) — Iraq's interim president said Tuesday that tens of thousands of people may have been unable to vote in the country's historic, weekend election because some polling places — including those in Sunni Arab areas — ran out of ballots.

As clerks pounded vote-count tallies into computers to compile final results, President Ghazi al-Yawer also said chaos and a power vacuum in Iraq mean U.S. forces need to stay for now, even though a new government will be formed after the results are known.

If true, the allegation that many voters were turned away could further alienate minority Sunnis, who already are complaining they have been left out of the political process.

"Tens of thousands were unable to cast their votes because of the lack of ballots in Basra, Baghdad and Najaf," al-Yawer, himself a Sunni Arab, said at a news conference. Najaf is a mostly Shiite city but Basra and Baghdad have substantial Sunni populations.

Elections officials acknowledged that irregularities kept people away — including in the volatile northern and heavily Sunni city of Mosul — and they called the fact unfortunate. Security worries in Sunni areas were partly to blame for the fact the polls did not open and ballots were too few, they said.

The elections took place under difficult conditions and the U.S. undoubtedly deprived a number of citizens in a number of areas from voting," said Abdul-Hussain al-Hindawi, who heads the Iraqi electoral commission.

At his news conference, al-Yawer was asked whether the presence of foreign troops might be fueling the country's Sunni-led insurgency by encouraging recruits.

"It's only complete nonsense to ask the troops to leave in this chaos and this vacuum of power," al-Yawer said.

He said foreign troops should

leave altogether only after Iraq's security forces are built up, the country's security situation has improved and some pockets of terrorists are eliminated.

"At the end of this year we will witness the beginning of the decrease of forces and not their withdrawal," al-Yawer said. The president has been a strong critic of some aspects of the U.S. military's performance in Iraq, including the three-week Marine siege of the former Sunni rebel stronghold of Fallujah in April.

Sunday's election, which occurred without catastrophic rebel attacks, raised hopes that a new Iraqi government would be able to assume greater responsibility for security hastening the day when the 170,000 U.S. and other foreign troops can go home. The first visible reduction could come as soon as March, when thousands of U.S. troops whose tours were extended prior to the election are due to go home. If commanders allow the full rotation out and others are not brought in, it would shrink the overall force to about 138,000.

But the timing of cutbacks beyond that is highly uncertain. Administration officials are determined to avoid setting a specific timetable.

"It's not a month or a year. It's condition-based," Defense Secretary Donald H. Rumsfeld said Tuesday in a CNN interview. January was the third month since the U.S. invasion of Iraq that U.S. troop deaths reached or exceeded 100. According to the Pentagon's latest count, at least 100 died in January while an Associated Press tally put the figure at 102. The only months deadlier for U.S. troops were November, when 158 died, and April, with 135. More than 1,400 troops have died in Iraq since the war began in March 2003.

As al-Yawer spoke in the heavily fortified Green Zone, armed Western security guards and monitors watched nearby as election workers began a final count of the country's vote, flipping at computer keyboards

and sifting through bags of tally sheets. On Monday afternoon, workers at polling centers nationwide finished an initial hand count of ballots from more than 5,200 precincts. Tally sheets and ballots were then trucked to Baghdad under U.S. military escort.

On Tuesday, about 200 clerks began logging data from the tally sheets into laptop computers for the final count. Election officials have not said when the compilation will be completed and final results made public.

The issue of Sunni participation is key because of fears that further political alienation could fuel the Sunni-led insurgency bedeviling the country. One Iraqi Sunni tribal leader went to the Arab League in Cairo on Tuesday, complaining the election was illegitimate because it was imposed under

military occupation. Some Sunnis called for a boycott because of the presence of U.S. troops.

Raad al-Hamadani, the secretary general of the Council of Iraqi tribes, said that as a result of the troop presence, the National Assembly to be formed after the elections will not be able to lawfully draft a constitution.

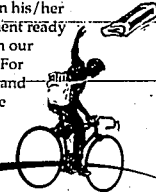
Though it could take up to 10 days for official results to be known, the main Shiite Muslim Alliance stands to claim the biggest share of seats in the National Assembly, according to party pollwatchers, who were on hand for the first-round counting that began at local precincts Sunday night.

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Thank you!

Canada looks at gay marriage bill

TORONTO (AP) — The Canadian government introduced its contentious same-sex marriage bill in Parliament on Tuesday, seeking to legalize gay marriage nationwide over the objections of the Roman Catholic Church and other conservative clergy.

Justice Minister Irvin Cotler, upon introducing the bill, said the legislation reflected the spirit of Canadian rights and freedoms protected under the constitution.

"Canada is a land built on a tradition of equality and respect," Cotler said. "It is the responsibility of Parliament to ensure that minority rights are uniform across the country. The

government cannot, and should not, pick and choose which rights they will defend and which rights they will ignore."

But the country is deeply divided on the issue, and the bill's passage was not assured.

The opposition Conservative Party said it would fight the legislation, which defines marriage as a civil union between two people: as opposed to the current definition of marriage between a man and a woman.

"Marriage is a historical union that has existed between a man and a woman. It has been recognized in that way by cultures across time," said Vic Toews of the Conservative Party.



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Guard pleads guilty in abuse case

FORT HOOD, Texas (AP) — A former Abu Ghraib guard pleaded guilty Tuesday to battery and two other charges in the Iraqi prison abuse scandal as part of a deal with prosecutors on the eve of his trial.



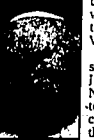
Javal Davis

Sgt. Javal Davis, 27, also pleaded guilty to dereliction of duty and making a false official statement to Army investigators after photographs of naked and abused prisoners became public last spring. Davis, from Roselle, N.J., will not be tried on two other charges he had faced: conspiracy and mistreating detainees.

Defense attorney Paul Bengrin told The Associated Press last week that Davis was working on a deal with prosecutors that would cap his possible sentence at 18 months.

Pope rushed to hospital

ROME (AP) — Pope John Paul II was rushed to the hospital urgently Tuesday night after he suffered inflammation of the throat and had difficulty breathing while battling the flu, the Vatican said.



Pope John Paul II

Vatican spokesman Joaquin Navarro-Valls told The Associated Press that the decision to hospitalize the 84-year-old pontiff was "mainly a precaution."

He pointed out that the pope was not in intensive care but in the same 10th floor suite of rooms where he has been enduring several previous stays at Rome's Gemelli Polyclinic, about 2.5 miles from the Vatican.

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EDITORIAL

High-speed rail idea lacks steam for Wood River Valley

The effort to build a new airport in the Wood River Valley has come to a crossroads of sorts.

Some residents of Blaine County are wondering if a high-speed rail link to Magic Valley Regional Airport is a better alternative to a new Friedman Memorial Airport.

Peter Catchpole, a civil engineer from Hailey, has proposed a rail connection to take tourists and business travelers to larger airfield facilities at Ipsin Field in Twin Falls. He contends that a rail connection could be faster than a winter commute from Ketchum to Hailey, not to mention the Timmerman Hills or Fairfield, which are the proposed locations for a new airport.

Supporters say that rail line would be efficient, less intrusive environmentally, and enhance air services already in place.

They make some convincing arguments - but they shouldn't pack their bags for the station just yet.

The idea of a high-speed link certainly has a romantic, even historic feel to it. After all, Sun Valley Resort was built by Union Pacific Railroad magnate Averell Harriman, who used his rail power to connect Americans to the scenic West.

But there's a reason Sun Valley's growing populace is called "the jet set." Most of them don't toy around with

outlying connections - whether in Boise or Twin Falls. Easy access is what brings Lear jets and Gulfstreams into the valley. Most of them don't want to mosey along on a train if they don't have to.

Supporters say the connection would make Twin Falls a bigger and better airport - but a Magic Valley Regional Airport Manager Bill Carberry points out, the process of enhancing the airport's many services for the Wood River Valley travelers would be more intensive than many think.

Our view: The plan for a rail link between Hailey and Twin Falls lacks support to surpass airport proposal.

What do you think? We welcome viewpoints from our readers on this and other issues.

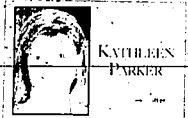
pay for these services raises even more questions. Will Twin Falls County voters welcome more taxation for the solution to a Blaine County issue? Our guess would be definitely not. For the 13 miles between Hailey and Ketchum, estimates are for the project to cost \$25 million to \$50 million - per mile. An airport on the other hand would require an estimated \$100 million to \$125 million. And while federal money could pay for portions of a new airport, state and local taxes would be the primary source for rail lines.

Given the transportation trends and the enormous costs, a rail line may be more of a pipe dream for the Wood River Valley. A full-service airport for the Wood River region is still going to be the more sensible track for the future.

Flipping the finger for freedom

As the world watched millions of Iraqis walk miles to vote in some cases, stepping over the bodies of those left by suicide bombers, a glum John Kerry appeared on "Meet the Press" and urged Americans not to "overly" flip Iraqis.

As surely has no richer friends.



KATHLEEN PARKER

On one hand is the absurdity of a suicide bomber blowing himself up to prevent free people from directing their own destinies. Although the bomber certainly cast his ballot, didn't he? It certainly let his voice be heard. It's just that no one cared.

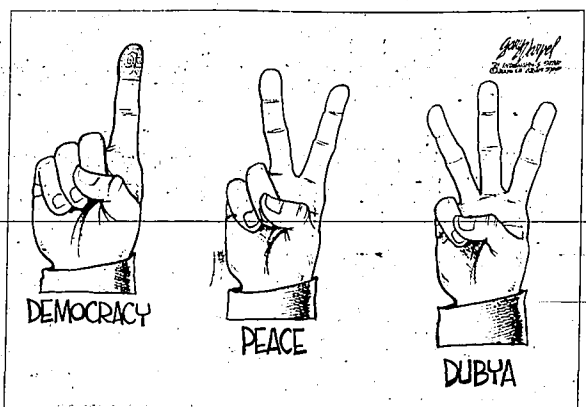
On the other, we have the man who was almost president insisting that Americans seeing people formerly enslaved casting their first ballots following liberation shouldn't get too excited.

Not to diminish the day's events, which produced some memorable images - men dancing, women winking, everybody posing with their pants flipped "Never let us be pulled toward the author of liberty. But let's not get too carried away."

OK, fine, just a quick Irish jig and we're all right. But the TV commercial which, in his wife's looking, is Bob Cratchit, studiously paying bills. The instant she leaves him alone and closes the door, he's Charlie Watts, air-drumming thunder for "Jumpin' Jack Flash."

Likewise President George W. Bush as he addressed the nation Sunday, commenting on the surge in electoral votes to "overly or anything" elections, struggled to keep a straight face. You could tell he was fighting to suppress the sort of grin one can't describe in a few words.

It's been amusing to watch as



many Democrats (with notable exceptions) have tried to remain deadpan and tepid in the presence of Utter Coolest - a trillion people born into freedom and voting after 40 years of tyranny. Even suicide bombers, who managed to kill a couple dozen innocents, couldn't dissuade voters from trekking to the polls.

Yet, in what should have been a comparison day of elation - if only as witnesses to an epic event - Kerry and others couldn't quite bring themselves to say: "What a grand moment!"

It was just a moment, after all. We all know that. We know that casting ballots doesn't end the insurgency or dampen terrorists' appetite for mayhem.

But Sunday's elections were huge, and not just for Republicans, or for neocoms, or for whatever political entities were supposed to benefit from Iraqi contracts. You don't even have to hand this to George W. Bush exclusively.

I find it, instead, to the larger forces at play - those of the human spirit, the innate desire of every man to be free, and the unalienable right, as we

ourselves declare it, of free men and women to pursue happiness.

That's what the Iraqi elections really demonstrated. Not the power of America's military or the political strength of Republicans or even the hard work of democracy's elves, though surely they deserve free pizza and unlimited refills for life. Rather, they demonstrated that even in the face of danger - evil, if you will - the moral force of freedom is stronger and more resilient, and ultimately will prevail.

And yes, let's not be coy on the question of evil. Iraq's interior minister said Monday that insurgents used a handicapped child as a suicide bomber in Baghdad on Election Day. The child apparently had Down's Syndrome. Such is evil.

In whose face, by the way, some 60 percent of Iraq's registered voters flipped their purple-and-index fingers. No small thing, that.

Nevertheless, the slog with which we're all now familiar officially continues Iraq interim Prime Minister Iyad Allawi has warned of more violence. Articulating the realism born of

grim experience, he said, "There will still be some acts of violence," but added, "The terrorists now know that they cannot win."

Sunday's elections were only the beginning of an electoral process that could lead to sectarian strife. Civil war could evolve. Even so, the day deserved more than muted acquiescence. Surely there is something appropriate between gloom and despondency - an amiable dot between a too-hasty "Mission Accomplished" banner and glib rejoinders for overhyping - that permits free people around the globe to stand and applaud a little longer than usual. To request, hopefully, an encore.

To the extent that Iraqis took control of their own lives for even a single day - inhaling freedom and giving hope to others still choked in the grip of tyranny - we have a right to grin.

Kathleen Parker is a syndicated columnist for the Orlando Sentinel, welcomes comments via e-mail at kparkerc@kparkerc.com.

The Times-News

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

LETTERS

Use new information tactics to beat terrorists

Why doesn't the government or someone use the Muslim or Islam religion to stop the insurgency? They keep saying the authenticity of people posting things on the Internet cannot be verified so let's flood their Internet with our message and say it's from people they trust. It shouldn't matter if they are Sunni Muslims or Shiite Muslims or any other kind of Muslims, they all believe Islam is the law. Don't they?

If we started a propaganda operation telling the militants if they were look war or jihad against the "infidels" and kill good Muslims, they become the "infidel" and will go straight to hell! Then sign some leading cleric's name or even Osama bin Laden. If he refuses the message, then we hit his rebuttal saying it's the devil trying to fool the people!

There needs to be a message spread on the Internet, the newspapers, TV and radio, and maybe a few good clerics preaching to the people that the Iraq police and civilians are Muslims and anyone who murders a Muslim is an evil

"infidel" who hates God and works for the devil and is deceiving his followers so they'll go to hell. Let's stop calling the bad guys insurgents and militants and start calling them "infidel" criminals who kill the Muslim people.

Why don't we show the Muslim people who are murdered and wounded by car bombings as girls, boys, mothers, wives, fathers - all Muslims who believe in God and Islam, not just more numbers. Numbers are how you keep score in a ball game to determine who's winning.

When the insurgents hid in a mosque, we were afraid if we hit the mosque with a bomb the people would all turn against us. Next time we should send a really big car bomb into the mosque, destroying it and killing all the insurgents. Then quickly post an audio tape forged a day earlier, purportedly from al-Zarqawi or al-Qaida claiming responsibility. Then all the people will turn on them!

It's time to start fighting fire with fire. If they use the media for their benefit, let's turn it on them and use it against them!
CLINT ALLEN
Buhl

Idaho's wild lands are home for wolves

As a wildlife rehabilitator and longtime Idaho resident, the wolf has become a poster child for how I wish to see our state - a beautiful and sustainable Idaho with all its wildlife.

There are exciting, up-to-date studies such as those found on the Yellowstone Park Web pages (click on the wolf annual reports in such biologists as William Ripple and Robert Beschta, sciencedirect.com/view abstracts). Dr. Garritt of Montana University and others. They show how wolves, elk, deer, and their environment have improved with the wolf present. The wolf and elk evolved together; this will bring back nature's balance.

The most important survival need for both are large, healthy habitats. Idaho still has large habitat areas. These include places like the Sawtooth National Recreation Area, established for protection of fisheries, scenic landscape and wildlife as top priorities as well as the White Clouds. These valuable watersheds and natural resource areas are really at the heart of this controversy.

Much of Idaho's wildlife, such as sage grouse and most of our predators, are without legal protection and adequate habitat. This is because they are often seen as a threat or competition for resources such as grazing and timber. Political and special interests are having a devastating effect on the way our public lands are managed.

Sound land management (using standards already in

place) is the solution for our renewable resources. Studies show that over time, the wolf can be a good management tool. Can this improve opportunities for the serious hunter? You bet! In healthy balanced resource areas, there is potential for great trophy hunting, better fishing, exciting wildlife viewing, and true outdoor adventure. The experience of wild places is becoming rare and profitable, representing a financial boon for our state. Will we give in to our fears or can we give the wolf a chance? It won't be easy - our public lands and wildlife require all the pieces of nature's puzzle.

For me, the wolf represents the "call of the wild" in us all. I would have to return to the "good old days of 'big bad wolf'" hysteria, gun-toting vigilantes and dead wolves hanging on the fences!

JULIE RANDELL
Kimberly

Scientific data supports heterosexual monogamy

I came across some information from Science (April 30, 2004) that is very interesting. It appears that the article in Science gives scientific support for monogamy (one man, one woman).

Uganda had a huge incidence of HIV prior to the 1990s, but since the 1990s it has plummeted by 70 percent. The government communicated a clear warning and recommendation: AIDS was fatal and required the population to immediately practice "zero grazing," i.e., monogamy.

This is a nation where 91 percent of men and 86 percent of women keep some with AIDS or someone who had died of AIDS. By the mid 1990s, there was a 60 percent reduction in persons reporting casual sexual partnerships and a dramatic increase in the proportion of unmarried 15- to 24-year-olds practicing total abstinence (77 percent of males, 84 percent of females). So the fact that Uganda stands alone in the region with such a decline in HIV incidence shows that it is the change in sexual behavior that has had this dramatic result. In fact, the researchers say it's "similar to the impact of a vaccine of 80 percent effectiveness!"

Again, scientific fact validates that the Bible, God's own manual for mankind, makes it clear and shows great wisdom in that sexual intercourse is only for monogamous heterosexual marriage - one man, one woman relationship.
TERRY KILLINGER
Filer

Marriage amendment way to halt active courts

Approval of the Idaho constitutional amendment to define marriage should be a slam dunk. The need arises from two sources: the federal courts and from state courts. Most of America's social revolutions come at the hands of the uncontrolled judiciary.

On the federal level, the Supreme Court has clearly shown its predilection in the case of Lawrence vs. Texas, in

which that states criminalization of sodomy was held to be unconstitutional. There is a statutory remedy under powers conferred upon Congress by Article III, Section 2 of the Constitution, the appellate jurisdiction of the court can be limited so as to prevent it from hearing a case involving the definition of marriage. Since the lesser federal courts are the creation of Congress, their jurisdiction can be similarly limited.

On the state level, the people of Massachusetts are still haunted by the recent decision of their highest court, which declared that the state constitution mandated same-sex marriage, ever though that decision says absolutely nothing about the subject. That court must be overturned if it was never given to engage in its own brand of social engineering. We may think "that will never happen in Idaho." There were probably people in Massachusetts who thought the same thing.

People of Idaho, we need to face the fact that it can happen anywhere - unless preventive action is taken before it happens. Remember that the Massachusetts court based its definition on the state constitution. This means that definitions of marriage by statute is alone insufficient to prevent that mess from coming to Idaho. We need to protect marriage before the courts mess it up, and not wait to undo some similar judicial indiscretion in this state.

GENE STURIGILL
Twin Falls

Doonesbury



By Garry Trudeau



Mallard Fillmore



By Bruce Tinsley



Fans will Vest easier knowing that while the game



fake moonings simply won't be tolerated.



LETTERS

Homeschoolers meet many interesting people

In response to Gary Eller about homeschooling, does he believe that all homeschoolers live in a box? If you ever meet a homeschooler you would know that they meet people of many backgrounds and interests every day.

As a homeschooler myself, I don't appreciate being lumped into a category. I have had many opportunities and experiences meeting people from around the world.

NOLAN A. WATTE
Twin Falls
(Editor's note: Nolan Watte is 12 years old.)



Homeschool curriculum surpasses public school

In response to Gary Eller's letter to the editor, do you think homeschoolers are stupid? If you have ever met a homeschooler, you would see that as a homeschooler curriculum is more advanced than public education.

I am homeschooled. My three older brothers were homeschooled as well. They finished high school at 16. I live in the Army serving our country. The other is in college in Boise.

SETH F. WATTE
Twin Falls
(Editor's note: Seth Watte is 12 years old.)

Council's prepay actions astound the public

I would like to send kudos to Mr. Chris Tallington for his prudent discussion and stance on the recently approved city ordinance requiring prepayment at the pumps for the City Council. Your actions involving a pure business decision has astounded 90 per cent of the public.

Prepayment ordinances or laws at the pump are not City Council functions; they are pure and simple business decisions and to be made by the individual business owners, involving actions of the council overwhelms the definition of ludicrousness and takes away valuable time from other council activities.

In the past number of decades, the American public has had prices dictated by the oil cartel globally, the oil companies nationally and at the state level and city level by the big three local oil interests who not only set prices at the pumps but dictate to the city how to pay. When does it end?

I've got a great idea. I propose a city ordinance requiring prepayment of sewer and water, gas, and electric bills on Jan. 1 of each year. We could create Energy Savings Accounts by depositing from \$1,000 to \$5,000 each January for account payment throughout the year. These accounts could act like medical savings accounts anything left in the account by Dec. 31 could revert back to the city and energy companies. After all, we should have additional city ordinances because a few people skip town each year without paying their utility bills.

Oh, yes, thank you Flying I and Costco for helping to keep gas prices somewhat within reason.

KARL KLEINKOPF
Twin Falls

Army plays hardball with its loyal enlistees

I am writing to bring to your attention what the Army is doing to our young enlisted men.

Mr. Son, Andrew Carroll, enlisted in August 2001 for four years. He has served honorably two 12-month tours of duty, one in Korea and another in 2004 in Iraq, serving the rest of the year in Fallujah, going on more than 50 missions. He has been awarded two Army Commendation Medals and is now a sergeant. He is stationed at Fort Drum, N.Y. His enlistment is up this year, but the Army is playing games with him and other men whose enlistments are up. They are being told that if they don't re-enlist, they will be sent back to Iraq. My son doesn't want to play; he is looking forward to getting on with his life and attending college. He therefore was assigned to another company, which has orders for deployment in September 2005. Which means he won't get out, but the Army will "strip" him for another year. His original unit would not get orders for redeployment for a year and a half. So he wouldn't have to go back. For his being accommodated, he was put in leaking old World War II barracks with others who won't re-up and therefore decided to move off post, and now the Army refuses to give

him his housing expense because "they have a place for him."

Is this the secret draft? Why this injustice? Why if they re-enlist are they assured that they will be non-deployable, but if they will go back to Iraq for sure? Isn't that called black-mail?

Isn't the war declared over by the president? The United States Post Office assured me that he did. They don't give our soldiers in Iraq free mail to mail back any packages because it was declared over.

Andrew has served honorably for four years. After being treated this way, I can assure you he is not enticed to recommit to the Army. But this is not only happening to my son but many others. Let's treat our soldiers as the heroes they are and honor their contracts. Do we really have a national crisis on our hands? Or just a big mess!

JILL CARROLL
Twin Falls

Religious homeschoolers aren't all extremists

I have just finished reading a letter from Mr. Gary Eller of Bath claiming that people who home school remove their children from realities. It was very angry and bitter toward "religious" groups for having the audacity to actually want to protect their children from harm.

What are these crazy people thinking? I feel that, yes, there are many great things that a public school has to offer that you just can't get from home schooling. Does that mean that every person who chooses to home school is a religious

bigot? Not by any means. I mean really, who is removed from reality? If I don't want my children eating to much candy because it can rot their teeth and make them sick, does that mean I am a bigot? Am I using mind control to keep my children from the better things in life? I am also a Christian man, so I guess that would actually make me a religious bigot.

Am I ransoming my child's future because I have my children attend a private Christian school? As a former history teacher, I would have expected that you would know our country was founded by what you would refer to as "religious bigots." How dare I submit my children to those same foundations. Yes there are obviously extreme groups out in the world, but to say that everyone that believes one way is part of those extreme groups really makes you the bigot, doesn't it?

As far as your downgrading remarks about religious groups wanting a certain kind of "sameness," I suggest you read the Holy Bible. It is a great history book that a scholarly history teacher would enjoy. I think you'll find that the basis of Christianity isn't a sameness of all individuals but rather an acceptance of all by loving them. I agree that public education is a wonderful thing and a great many things come from it, but that does not mean that parents don't have a right to give their children a foundation before sending them out to those "wolves in sheep's clothing" as you so kindly put it.

I am sure you were trained and given a foundation in the special forces before you were just sent out to meet your own

"wolves." I thank you, Mr. Eller, for your dedication and concern for the education of the future.

JAY SILVER
Filer

Fear not a factor with homeschooling parents

This is in response to Mr. Eller's letter published on Jan. 25 regarding home-schooled children.

What is reality, Mr. Eller? A public education in a school where you can never know if your children are safe? Where they are exposed to a drug culture and music and behavior that is far beyond what should be accepted as normal but is tolerated as such? A place where everything is being done to be sure that "God" is not a presence? God can be a part of home schooling. Children in home schooling receive the same education as public schools without the "forced" absence of God and without the inherent fears of attending public schools.

It is appalling to compare this to an Islamic school that allows only teaching from the Koran. Christians do not fear anything or anyone different from themselves. Where did you get that idea, Mr. Eller? I am a Christian and I do not fear "Muslims" or "Buddhists" or any other persons who have different beliefs.

When children are taught in a Christian environment, they learn all of the truths needed to prepare them for the international, secular, multi-cultural world that they are going to have to face. They will know that everyone is not going to believe as they do because the Bible prepares them for that reality.

You ask "why any thinking adult would want their child to be apart from the rest of the world?" Mr. Eller, just look at the world around us today.

CHAR THOMPSON
Jerome

Teacher merits a return to the classroom

Coverage give the issue of Debbie Soran's disagreement with the Twin Falls School District has been accurate, but

there is some information that has been left out.

Since Soran did not qualify for the leading first grade that mandates the TPRI testing, Mrs. Soran was told she would have some flexibility in how the TPRI test is a part, is administered in her classroom. She was not told until Jan. 14 that the time-intensive TPRI test needed to be administered the following week. She had given a comparable test the week before to have information to send home with student report cards. The reading coach, a district Open Court facilitator at the school, stated that the test would average 30 minutes per child. Mrs. Soran contended it was in her students' best interest for her to remain in the classroom and have someone else administer the test. Her time (up to a week) would be better spent in the classroom teaching. She was not opposed to the testing she just felt it could be administered by someone else. She proposed several excellent alternatives for the administration of the test. The school district could not have given serious consideration to any of her alternatives because she was immediately placed on

"administrative leave" for refusing to personally administer the test. It is being labeled as "insubordination." It is rather ironic that one of the suggested alternatives is now being used anyway.

Debbie's supporters are not asking the board of trustees to ignore the "personal issue." They are asking for her reinstatement in her classroom until the board has had the formal hearing and a ruling made. Mrs. Soran is not a danger to the children in any way. In fact, students are being adversely affected by her sudden, unexplained removal. Pride and the desire to "save face" is the only reasonable explanation for her continued absence.

Samantha Hurwell did an excellent job of pointing out that in all of this controversy, it appears that the school district has lost sight of what is really important - 35 kids who have lost not just a "teacher but, "their" teacher.

I question the wisdom of forcing a school to comply with a program that does not apply to that school. I applaud the courage of a teacher who will stand up for the best interest of her students.

DEANNA CARTER
Twin Falls

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MAGIC VALLEY

INSIDE

Obituaries B2
West B4

Assistant City Editor: Tom Foster, 735-3204

The Times-News

Wednesday, February 2, 2005

Section B

AROUND THE VALLEY

Fire destroys doghouse, kills pet

TWIN FALLS — A warning lamp in a dog kennel in a fire early Tuesday morning, claiming at least one pet, fire officials said.

Members of the Twin Falls Fire Department were called to Gene Good's property at 1117 Hankins Road N. around 1 a.m., said Battalion Chief Dick Capps. Officials believe the fire started in the doghouse, which was attached to the garage.

"The residential structure was fine as far as we know," Capps said.

Capps said he thinks pets died in the fire, but he wasn't sure how many.

Six fire units and 11 personnel responded to the scene. The fire was brought under control around 1:45 a.m., Capps added.

"At this time we're still tallying the estimated dollar loss," he said.

Two fire units and 11 personnel responded to the scene. The fire was brought under control around 1:45 a.m., Capps added.

"At this time we're still tallying the estimated dollar loss," he said.

Fund-raiser race will benefit children

TWIN FALLS — The Magic Valley Safe Kids Coalition and Modern Woodmen of America are teaming up to help keep children safe.

The two organizations have partnered to present the first annual Nazx Kart fund-raising event — the Modern Woodmen of America "Race to Safety." The event will be held at 4 p.m. Feb. 15 at the Nazx Kart Indoor Race Track, 302 Third Ave. S.

Nazx Kart — teams sponsored by area businesses will race in two heats and ultimately for the championship and grand prize — a "Race to Safety" trophy helmet. The biggest winners will be the children of Magic Valley as the proceeds from the event will benefit the programs and services of the Magic Valley Safe Kids Coalition, according to a news release from Magic Valley Regional Medical Center. Modern Woodmen of America has committed to match dollar for dollar all donations up to \$2,500.

For more information, or to sponsor a team, call Safe Kids Director Page Geske at 737-2432.

Red Cross will throw a ball on Feb. 25

TWIN FALLS — The American Red Cross of Greater Idaho will hold a Red Cross Ball on Feb. 25 at The Ballroom, 205 Shoshone St. N.

The event features a cocktail hour beginning at 6:30 p.m., followed by a dinner, silent auction and dancing to the jazz and big band sounds of "Skip-n-Skoo!" until 1:30 p.m.

A photographer will be on hand to help make sure participants remember the special occasion.

The public is invited. The cost is \$60 per person or \$550 for a table of 10. Tickets are available at the South Central District Office, the American Red Cross, 1139 Falls Ave., Suite B, or by calling 733-6464. Ext. 300. All proceeds will go to support Red Cross services in the Magic Valley.

The public is invited. The cost is \$60 per person or \$550 for a table of 10. Tickets are available at the South Central District Office, the American Red Cross, 1139 Falls Ave., Suite B, or by calling 733-6464. Ext. 300. All proceeds will go to support Red Cross services in the Magic Valley.

Electrical board will meet Feb. 10

MEHIDIAN — The Idaho State Electrical Board will hold a regular meeting at 8:30 a.m. Feb. 10 in the board room at the Division of Building Safety, 1090 E. Watertower St.

Agenda items include licensing and compliance issues, the adoption of the 2005 National Electrical Code and other safety issues.

For more information, contact Loraine Mallett at (208) 322-7190 or lmallett@dbs.idaho.gov.

— compiled from staff reports

Snowpack levels

Watershed	% of Avg.	% of 1999
Salmon	88%	41%
Big Wood	78%	48%
Little Wood	89%	54%
Big Lost	84%	50%
Little Lost	81%	48%
Henry Fork/Teton	83%	52%
Upper Snake Basin	75%	47%
Oakley	84%	51%
Salmon Falls	84%	55%

As of Feb. 1.

*A comparison of basin snowpack on this day with a 30-year average. **An indicator of basin snowpack for the same date in 1999, which became the base year for the index.

Supreme Court upholds ruling

Water lawsuit decision didn't violate agreement

The Associated Press

BOISE — A water delivery call by Clear Springs Foods Inc. did not violate an agreement between ground pumpers and surface water users in south-central Idaho, the Idaho Supreme Court has ruled.

The unanimous decision upholds a ruling by 5th District Judge John McManion.

The case arose when Clear Springs Foods, the world's largest trout producer, took advantage of a 2002 Idaho Supreme Court ruling to increase flows through its

hatchery from the Snake River Canyon at the expense of the neighboring Clear Lakes Trout Co. hatchery.

The increased flows came despite an agreement both hatcheries and other water users in the region signed in 2000.

"That agreement was meant to stave off a major curtailment of water use while experts figured out a way to protect the depleting Snake River aquifer. It attempted to give the hatcheries enough water to operate

and still provide some water to the junior holders above the canyon rim.

But Clear Lakes claimed Clear Springs' increased water use essentially nullified the entire agreement by infringing on its own, older water right. Clear Lakes officials said they would not have signed the agreement if they knew it could hamper their own water use.

Water rights have been an issue in the region for decades. In the 1960s and 1970s, the fish hatcheries applied for per-

mits allowing them to use water from the springs that flow from the canyon walls above the Snake River. In the following years, the Snake River Basin Adjudication District Court gave Clear Lakes the first priority to draw 100 cubic feet per second of water. Clear Springs the second priority to draw 200 cubic feet per second of water, and Clear Lakes the third priority to draw another 75 cubic feet per second of water.

Please see RULING, Page B3

GOING UP



COBY MYERS/The Times-News

A construction worker heads out for his lunch break after working on the gym at the new Buhl High School on Tuesday. The school, which is built right next door to the current high school, is expected to be ready for students by the fall.

Rupert appoints a interim police chief

City advertises for a permanent boss

By Rose Marie Parsons
For The Times-News

RUPERT — The Rupert City Council appointed Sgt. Bob Lowder to be the city's interim police chief Tuesday.

Lowder will assume his new duties Feb. 6, the same day acting Police Chief Eric Snarr's resignation is effective.

Snarr is moving to the Minidoka County Sheriff's Department.

"It's been a pleasure working for the city," Snarr said. He hopes to get some help from the intermodal authority if and when it gets going.

"I have some California customers who would like to ship via the railway if we can get it worked out," Mitchell told the commissioners.

Commissioners met with Mitchell at the Oakley Waste Transfer site earlier in the day to look at the cleanup work Mitchell has been doing on land adjacent to the county land. The county traded some land to Mitchell in exchange for cleanup

Feddler and Todd McGhie, who were suspended with pay pending an investigation.

Feddler and McGhie were fired resigned.

Councilman Layne Rutschke said he wanted to publicly thank Snarr for stepping forward to lend the Rupert Police Department even though it took time away from his family.

Advertisements for a permanent police chief and for one entry-level police officer have been placed, said City Administrator Roger Bagley.

The advertisements will appear in the next two Sunday editions of The Times-News, Bagley said.

Snarr said he has also placed the advertisements on the Rocky Mountain Information Network, a secure law enforcement Web site, and the ads will appear on the Idaho Peace Officer Standards and Training Web site beginning Monday.

Burley looks at new payment methods

By Renee Wells
For The Times-News

BURLEY — Electrical customers may soon be able to pay their power bills with plastic.

Community Development Director Brian Tibbets asked the City Council Tuesday to consider using an automatic clearing house method of allowing residents to pay their electrical bills.

"Some employees never get a paycheck in their hands, it is deposited directly to their checking account," Tibbets said. "The auto-pay plan works in reverse. Their bill is automatically taken from their account without them having to write a check or come in and make a payment."

It would cost the city a one-time payment of \$2,500 to set up such a program, Tibbets said. Another option, which would have a one-time tab of \$1,000, would allow customers to pay with their credit cards. That concept concerned Councilman

Don Dean, who expressed a fear that while a few customers might not impact the city, many residents opting to pay by credit card could result in a financial burden on the city when the 2 percent surcharge is taken from the payment.

"That loss would have to be passed on in the form of higher electrical rates, Dean said.

When Tibbets suggested this method of payment could eliminate some non-payment issues, Mayor Jon Anderson said he did not believe the people who statistically miss payments on their electrical bills have credit cards.

"Many times the people who can't afford (to make a payment) don't have credit cards and if they do they are often maxed out," Anderson said. He suggested such a plan would not eliminate or even minimize the city's bad debt issues with electricity bills.

The council opted to table the issue and look at it further before taking any action.

Quarry owner looks to use rail transport

By Renee Wells
For The Times-News

OAKLEY — An Oakley businessman said he hopes Mini-Cassia gets its intermodal commerce authority set up and running soon because he wants to use a railway to transport his Oakley stone to other parts of the county.

Cassia County commissioners visited Sawtooth Stone Co. in Oakley on Monday, where Owner Bruce Mitchell told them he wants to construct a loading dock beside the rail yard that ends at his property on Golden Valley Road. Mitchell said he hopes to get some help from the intermodal authority if and when it gets going.

"I have some California customers who would like to ship via the railway if we can get it worked out," Mitchell told the commissioners.

Commissioners met with Mitchell at the Oakley Waste Transfer site earlier in the day to look at the cleanup work Mitchell has been doing on land adjacent to the county land. The county traded some land to Mitchell in exchange for cleanup



RENEE WELLS/For The Times-News

Sawtooth Stone Co. owner Bruce Mitchell, left, shows Cassia County Commissioners Clay Handy, Paul Christensen and Dennis Crane the railroad he hopes to utilize to transport stone to other parts of the county. Mitchell said he hopes the proposed intermodal commerce authority will be a means by which he can build a loading dock and ship to several California buyers who have requested the use of rail for moving their rock purchases.

of a former dump site. Mitchell has the work partially completed and asked the commissioners how they wanted him to finish off the job.

The commissioners told him

they didn't want any of the earth he's been cleaning if it contains chemicals or other contaminants, but Mitchell said he has seen no sign of any waste other than household.

Man charged with drug trafficking

Police say Arizona man had nearly 8 pounds of meth

By Rebecca Meany
Times-News Writer

TWIN FALLS — A Phoenix man is facing drug trafficking charges after police say they found nearly 8 pounds of methamphetamine in his car.

Ruben Iribre-Beltran, 40, made an initial appearance in 5th District Magistrate Court Monday on a charged with methamphetamine, a felony.

"That amount of meth has an estimated street value of \$250,000 to \$300,000," said Grant Jacobs, Twin Falls County prosecutor.

"It's a significant amount of drugs and we're happy to have it off the street," he said.



Ruben Iribre-Beltran

events leading up to the suspect's arrest: On Saturday afternoon, ISP officers spotted a gold Nissan Maxima with Arizona license plates traveling 69 mph in a 60 mph zone of U.S. Highway 93. Troopers also noticed window tinting that appeared to be darker than the maximum allowable percentage.

After making the stop, troopers talked with the occupants. The passenger translated for the driver, who did not speak English.

The driver, later identified as Iribre-Beltran, did not make eye contact with police, and was "sipping the wheel lightly and looked as if he was frozen in place," McIvry wrote.

When asked about the nature of their travel through Idaho, Iribre-Beltran said they were visiting "an uncle in Nampa who was in the hospital."

The trooper checked with Mercy Medical Center in Nampa but found no one with the name given by Iribre-Beltran.

Officers discovered that Iribre-Beltran had seven license suspensions in Arizona.

As troopers took him into custody for driving on a suspended license, they noticed some parts of the vehicle's interior looked as if they had been altered.

A drug dog was called to the scene and "showed interest" in several areas of the car.

Police impounded the vehicle and later obtained a search warrant for it.

In what officers describe as a "hidden compartment" in the dashboard, investigators found seven large packages of methamphetamine weighing more than 3,550 grams, or 7.8 pounds.

Police records show Iribre-Beltran had been arrested in 1997 in Iowa for trafficking of controlled substances.

His preliminary hearing was scheduled for Feb. 14. Bond was set at \$1 million.

Times-News writer Rebecca Meany can be reached at 735-3259 or by e-mail at rmeany@magvalley.com.

MAGIC VALLEY

OBITUARIES

For obituary rates and information, call 735-3276 Monday through Saturday. Deadline is 4 p.m. for next-day publication. The e-mail address for obituaries is obituaries@magicvalley.com. Death notices are a free service and can be placed until 4 p.m. every day. To view or submit obituaries online, or to place a message in an individual online guestbook, go to www.magicvalley.com and click on "Obituaries."

HERMIE — Erlie Lounis Blake, 90, of Jerome, died Sunday, Jan. 30, 2005, at Magic Valley Regional Medical Center. She was born Oct. 31, 1914, at the city of Arco, the daughter of John E. and Luchinda A. Carruth Franklin and was reared and educated there. Erlie met her future husband, Vernon Blake, at a tent meeting and they were later married at Mason City, Iowa, on March 24, 1934. He preceded her in death in 1990. They lived in Minnesota and Arkansas prior to their move to Idaho in 1951, then moved to California for a short time and then returned to Idaho in 1952. She was a faithful church member and always attended church rain or shine. Erlie attended Faith Chapel Assembly of God in Jerome

Erlie Louisa Blake



from 1952 until 1991 and was very active in programs and ministries. Since 1991 she has attended the First Assembly of God church in Twin Falls and the Free Will Baptist Church in Jerome.

Erlie loved her family, friends and relatives. She had a generous, gentle and loving heart and lived an honest, moral and dedicated Christian life. Survivors include her children, Gerald (Betty) Blake, Merlin (Shirley) Blake and Janice Bendz all of Jerome; and one sister, Marie Springer of Twin Falls. Also surviving are nine grandchildren, 10 great-grandchildren. Five great-great-grandchildren and many nieces and nephews. A funeral for Erlie Blake will be conducted at 11 a.m. Thursday, Feb. 2, 2005, at the Dove Robertson Funeral Chapel, with the Rev. Gene Kissinger officiating. Burial will follow in the Jerome Cemetery. Friends may call from 6 until 8 in the chapel Wednesday evening and from 9 until 10 Thursday.

Catherine Estelle Davis



KETCHUM — Catherine Estelle Davis, of Ketchum, died Sunday, Jan. 30, 2005, in a Boise nursing home of natural causes. Estelle, as she was called, was born Dec. 7, 1908, in Colfax Springs, Wyo., to R.L. and Goldie Strum Iceland. The family later moved to Glenn Ferry, Idaho, and Estelle and her younger sister Mary both attended St. Theresa's Academy in Boise. Following graduation she went to the University of California in Berkeley for one year, then transferring to St. Mary's of Notre Dame, where she was one of two young women to receive a master's degree that year, here in Latin and Greek (Magnus Cum Laude). When she returned to Glenn Ferry she taught English in the local high school and married here childhood sweetheart, Iret, Dr. Iret Wesley Davis. In 1946, the family moved to Burley, where she was active in

the Catholic Church, American Cancer Society, book clubs, B.M.O. and an assistant of the choir and chairperson for the Community Concert Group. When her husband retired in 1973 they moved to Ketchum, Idaho, where Estelle continued her active involvement in the Catholic Church, Our Lady of the Snows where she was affectionately known as "Mother Superior." She is particularly remembered by her family as a very warm, generous mother with great culinary skills and an abundance of patience. Family, friends and many groups of young vacationers fondly remember Estelle as a wonderful hostess. Survivors include a daughter, Kathryn Davis Mahaffey of St. Thomas; a son, John William Davis of Ketchum; two grandsons, Matthew Mahaffey of St. Thomas and Michael Mahaffey of Chicago; and a niece, Mary Paula Boyd of Boise. A memorial service will be held at 1 p.m. Friday, Feb. 4, at Our Lady of the Snows Catholic Church under the direction of the Rev. John Morgan. The family suggests that memorials may be made to Our Lady of the Snows Catholic Church, Sun Valley, ID 83453, or to your favorite charity.

Fred N. Locke



GOODING — Fred N. Locke, 90, of Gooding, died Sunday, Jan. 30, 2005, in Charleston, S.C., while vacationing with family. Fred was born Oct. 18, 1914, in Edison Park, Ill., the son of Richard Ross Locke and Grace Taylor Hench, the seventh of 12 children. He graduated from Glenhurst Township High School in Glen Ellyn, Ill., in 1933, then attended North Central Bible College in Illinois and the University of Idaho. In 1938, he began employment as an office manager in an insurance office in Twin Falls. It was there that he met Alice Byran and they were married Oct. 11, 1939. In March 1942, they purchased the North Side Insurance Agency in Gooding from his brother-in-law, Jack Byran. Fred owned and operated the Locke Insurance Agency and served as secretary-manager of the Grange Mutual Fire Insurance Company of Idaho for 45 years. During World War II, Fred served as company commander in the Idaho State Guard and then as Aeroographer's Mate 3rd Class in the United States Navy, stationed on the Island of Attu, Alaska.

Fred was a member of the Boy Scouts of America for 79 years. He earned the Eagle Scout Award, Silver Beaver Award and the Distinguished Eagle Scout Award and served as Scout Master of Troop #53 of Gooding for many years. Fred was a member of the Gooding First Christian Church, a 60-year member of the Gooding Grange and a member of the Veterans Motor Car Club. He was active in the Lions Club, Chamber of Commerce and the American Legion. He belonged to the Gooding County Sheriff's

Passo for 40 years. Fred is survived by his children, Walt Locke, Louise (Karl) Belsner and Bob (Kathy) Locke all of Gooding; three grandchildren, Ben Beck of Twin Falls, Brian (Julie) Locke of Chicago and Christine (Adrian) Celaya of Gooding; step grandchildren, Ise Winnett, Andrea Smith and Karen Belsner of Boise; great-grandchildren, Alyssa and Luke Beck, Sean Whitmet and Xanti Celaya; brothers, Richard Locke and Bill Locke; and sisters, Marjorie Mahoney, Helen Wright and Betty Ann. He was preceded in death by his parents; his wife, Alice; four brothers and two sisters; and a grandson, Mike Beck. A funeral will be conducted at 2:30 p.m. Friday, Feb. 4, 2005, at the Gooding High School Auditorium with the Rev. Andy Morris officiating. Burial will be in Elmwood Cemetery in Gooding. Friends may call from 5 to 7 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 3, at Demaray Funeral Chapel in Gooding. The family suggests memorials be given to the Gooding Christian Church, Boy Scouts, or any charity of choice.

Cheri Newby Roberts

ARCO — Cheri Newby Roberts, 60, of Arco, passed away Tuesday, Feb. 1, 2005, at her home. She was born on Sept. 20, 1944, in that good town, Len Smith in Caldwell, Idaho, and grew up in and went to school in Nampa. She later moved to Lincoln County where she worked and raised her three children. Cheri moved to Arco where she met and married the love

of her life, Mark Roberts. Together they loved their animals, gardening and spending time with their family. She is survived by her husband, Mark Roberts of Arco; her mother, Betty Lou Newby of Shoshone; a brother, Dana Newby of Idaho City; her daughters, Shawna (Dave) Moore Ridd of Caldwell, Shell (Robert) Erwin Souly of Gannet and LouAnn (Mark) Erwin Whitesell of Arizono; seven

grandsons, three nieces and a nephew. He was preceded in death by her grandparents, Jay and Elizabeth Locke. In lieu of flowers, please make contributions to the cancer foundation. At Cheri's request cremation is under the direction of Simpson-Marvel Memorial Chapel, 153 Last River Ave., Arco. A celebration of Cheri's life will be held next summer.

Ronald L. 'Jim' Maxwell

HAGERMAN — Ronald L. "Jim" Maxwell, 67, a resident of Hagerman, passed away on Monday, Jan. 31, 2005, at Magic Valley Regional Medical Center in Twin Falls. Jim was born on Nov. 12, 1937, in Gooding, Idaho, the son of Ralph and Evelyn Maxwell. He was raised and educated in Hagerman where he graduated from Hagerman High School in 1956. Jim served in the U.S. Air Force

and later attended Barber School in Boise. He is survived by his wife, Barbara; his daughter, Krystal and family, a stepdaughter, Corrie; a younger daughter and family, a stepson, Bob Jasper and family; two brothers, Harvey and one sister, Eva Jo; and four granddaughters. He was preceded in death by his parents; three brothers; and two sisters. A graveside service will be

held at 11:30 a.m. on Friday, Feb. 4, 2005, at the Elmwood Cemetery in Gooding with the Rev. Mike Hollomon officiating. No public viewing is scheduled. Arrangements will be under the direction of Demaray's Gooding Chapel. In lieu of flowers, the family suggests that memorial donations be made in Jim's name to the Hagerman Quick Response Unit, P.O. Box 336, Hagerman, ID 83332.

OBITUARIES

Edgar F. Rosecrans

BURLEY — Edgar E. Rosecrans, a 91-year-old Burley resident, died Monday, Jan. 31, 2005, at the Warren House in Burley. He was born Oct. 4, 1913, in Rupert, the son of Elmer Clair and Little Pearl Denny Rosecrans. He grew up in Rupert. He served his country in the U.S. Army as a paratrooper during World War II. He owned and operated a family business, "The Peoples Meat Market" in downtown Rupert. He also owned and operated a

slaughter house, locker and meat packing plant on the outskirts of town for many years. It was a family operated business started in 1909, by his father, Elmer and when he passed away Ed took over. Ed had lived in Rupert, Twin Falls and Burley. He was a member of the Methodist faith, Ed had 10 nieces and nephews who thought he was a very special uncle and they have fond memories of tugging after him as youngsters. He will be greatly missed.

Survivors include a sister-in-law, Alice Rosecrans of Boise; and 10 nieces and nephews. He was preceded in death by his parents and three brothers. At Ed's request no services are planned. Arrangements are under the direction of Payne Mortuary, 221 W. Main St. in Burley. The family would like to express their sincere thanks to the staff at the Warren House for the wonderful care they gave to Ed.

John H. Austin



TWIN FALLS — John H. Austin, aka Pops, died Jan. 30, 2005, at the age of 77 after a sudden and short illness.

Pops was born July 24, 1927 in Haunson, Idaho. He served in the Armed Forces in 1946. He married Sara June Montgomery in 1949. John worked in construction out of state and in the Bahama Islands until 1974. From 1974 until his retirement in 2001, John was a self-employed contractor, building homes and dairy barns in the Magic Valley. Pops was a hard working man and he was very proud of his work ethics and abilities. Pops is survived by his children, John D. Austin, Randy Lane Austin, Michelle Masie, Kim Eighner-Bond and Kelsie Price; 12 grandchildren; 10 great-grandchildren, one

brother and three sisters. He was preceded in death by his wife, Sara Austin of 50 years, two brothers and two sisters. Pops spent his last five years with his companion, Helen Carey. Pops was a man that was loved by all that under-

stood him, "Oh Boy." A funeral will be held at 1 p.m. Friday, Feb. 4, 2005, at White Mortuary, "Chapel by the Park." Burial will follow at Sunset Memorial Park. Friends may call from 4 to 6 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 3, at the mortuary.

DEATH NOTICES

Michael K. Makin

TWIN FALLS — Michael K. Makin, 54, of Twin Falls, died suddenly Sunday evening, Jan. 30, 2005, at his home in Twin Falls. Arrangements will be made by Reynolds Funeral Chapel, Twin Falls.

Opal I. Toth

HERMIE — Opal I. Toth, 86, of Jerome, died Jan. 31, 2005, in Jerome. Arrangements will be made by Farnsworth Mortuary and Crematory, 1443 S. Fourth, Lincoln, Idaho.

Elaine Hunt-Pike-Drew

HEYBURN — Elaine Hunt Pike Drew, a 95-year-old Heyburn resident, died Tuesday, Feb. 1, 2005. A funeral will be held at 1 p.m. Friday, Feb. 7, 2005, at the Burley First Christian Church, 1401 Oakley Ave., with Pastor Irb C. Whisker officiating. Burial will be in the Pleasant View Cemetery in Burley. Friends may call from 5 to 6 p.m. Thursday at the Payne Mortuary and from noon to 12:45 p.m. before the funeral Friday at the church.

Carl C. Miller

TWIN FALLS — Carl C. Miller, 85, of Twin Falls, died Tuesday, Feb. 1, 2005, at Magic Valley Regional Medical Center in Twin Falls, Idaho. Arrangements will be made by Parke's Magic Valley Funeral Home of Twin Falls, Idaho.

Carlos Chavez Munoz

AMERICAN FALLS — Carlos Chavez Munoz, age 31, of American Falls, died Saturday, Jan. 29, 2005. A visitation will be held from 4 to 8 p.m. Wednesday, Feb. 2, 2005, at Demaray Funeral Chapel in Gooding. Service and interment will be in Parrot, Chihuahua, Mexico.

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Richard Eugene 'Gene' Coleman

HERMIE — Richard Eugene "Gene" Coleman, 76, of Jerome, died Jan. 28, 2005, in Jerome. Arrangements will be made by Farnsworth Mortuary and Crematory, 1343 S. Lincoln, Jerome, Idaho.

Raymond E. Holford

TWIN FALLS — Raymond E. Holford, 93, of Twin Falls, died Monday, Jan. 31, 2005, at Rosetta Place Assisted Living Facility. Arrangements will be made by White Mortuary.

Joe Lourenco

HERMIE — Joe Lourenco, 39, of Jerome, died Jan. 31, 2005, at his home. Arrangements will be made by Farnsworth Mortuary and Crematory, 1343 S. Lincoln, Jerome, Idaho.

Steven Salerno

TWIN FALLS — Steven Salerno, 79, of Twin Falls, died Tuesday, Feb. 1, 2005, at Magic Valley Regional Center. Arrangements will be made by Reynolds Funeral Chapel of Twin Falls.

Unclaimed property

Check out the listings for Burley and Twin Falls. THURSDAY IN MONEY

For services, see page B3

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WEST

BSA tries to keep records closed Cattlemen seek to halt imports

Newspaper gets involved with case

IDAHO FALLS (AP) — The Boy Scouts of America is opposing the possible unsealing of court records in a civil case involving a Scout leader convicted of molesting children.

Attorneys for the Scouting organization have filed papers arguing an eastern Idaho judge should not hold a hearing over whether to open the case.

Seventh District Judge W. H. Woodland issued an order last week granting the Post-Register's request to get involved with

the case involving Brad Stowell, who spent 150 days in jail and paid \$10,000 after pleading guilty to molesting children. The abuse occurred in 1998 while Stowell was working at the Little Lemhi Boy Scout Camp in Swan Valley.

The hearing to discuss unsealing the case is scheduled Feb. 8.

It would allow the newspaper's attorney, Steve Wright, to examine the sealed files so he can argue to have the case opened. The order prohibits Wright from telling anyone, including the Idaho Falls newspaper, what he sees in the file. Wright said the case should

be opened so parents can ensure their children are safe at Scout camp.

Woodland said the case was sealed as a condition of settlement. According to a recent court order, a boy molested by the Scout leader wanted people to find out about the case, but the Boy Scouts didn't.

The Boy Scouts asked Woodland to delay that hearing. They say a judge is not authorized to let anyone involve themselves with an already resolved case. And they argue the newspaper's attorney should not be granted access to the case and see secret documents.

Woodland agreed to a rush

court hearing Tuesday to discuss the case with the Boy Scouts' attorneys.

A secretary at the law office for Gary T. Daney, who represents the Grand Teton Council of the Boy Scouts of America, said the attorney would not comment.

Another lawsuit against Stowell and the Boy Scouts of America remains unresolved. The plaintiff contends the Scouts and the council were negligent in hiring Stowell to work at Camp Little Lemhi. The case ended in a mistrial in 2001 after a judge ruled that a witness made a comment that shouldn't have been allowed.

Want merits of lawsuit considered

BILLINGS, Mont. (AP) — A cattleman's group asked a federal judge Tuesday to stop the U.S. Department of Agriculture from allowing live cattle and expanded beef imports from Canada until the merits of its case challenging the plan because of mad-cow disease are considered.

Tuesday's request by R-CALF United Stockgrowers of America comes as part of a lawsuit filed last month against the USDA over the agency's plan to allow the expanded trade with a country that has confirmed two cases of mad cow disease in cattle since the USDA plan was announced in December.

R-CALF claims U.S. beef will be stigmatized when it becomes mixed with beef cuts from Canada and that it will have a devastating effect on cattle producers in this country.

The USDA is planning to allow imports of cattle under 30 months of age from Canada and other countries, including beef products, from Canada, beginning March 7.

A hearing on R-CALF's request for preliminary injunction is set for March 2 in Billings.

"It's getting critical, asking that the injunction be issued," said Clifford Edwards, an attorney representing R-CALF. Andrew McNally, a spokesman for USDA's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, said that for now, the final rule stands.

But she noted that a technical team was sent to look into issues surrounding the latest findings as well as the protective measures Canada has in place, and said officials planned to take into consideration the team's advice and what it learned.

She said the agency does not comment on pending litigation. After Canada reported a case of mad cow disease, or bovine spongiform encephalopathy, in May 2003, the United States banned Canadian cattle, beef and beef products. Restrictions were later eased to allow imports considered at very low risk of BSE.

Bee parasite threatens crop pollination

FRESNO, Calif. (AP) — A tiny but devastating honeybee colony across the country, worrying beekeepers and farmers who depend on the insects to pollinate their crops.

Pollinating almond orchards is the immediate worry for California's agriculture industry, but the mites' devastation of the honeybee supply is causing concern across the country. Honeybees pollinate about one-third of the human diet and dozens of agricultural crops.

California produces 80 percent of the world's almond supply. A \$1 billion-a-year crop, the nuts have become the state's top agricultural export, ahead of wine and cotton.

Because almonds are the first crop to flower, the state's growers are the first to suffer from the bee shortage. Bees are used to pollinate the orchards from mid-February to early March.

"It's simple. We can't produce almonds without bees," said Scott Hunter, an almond farmer near Redlands. He's getting ready to buy 2,500 hives among the bare branches of his Butte and Padre trees.

While their work starts in California's 550,000 acres of almonds, the hives then move to apple orchards, cherry groves and melon patches before finishing in New England's cranberry bogs in early summer.

That's why researchers, beekeepers and growers are scrambling for ways to save the honeybees.

Experts think the mites may have arrived in the mid-1980s from Asia, where they coexisted with local honeybees.

In their years in North America, the eight-legged pests have devastated wild bee colonies and radically altered beekeeping.

The pinhead-sized mite — the Varroa destructor — feeds on honeybees and their larvae. In some areas, they've destroyed as many as 60 percent of the hives.

Reproducing quickly and in a closed environment, the mites have developed a resistance to pesticides — a trait they've been able to spread to their progeny faster than scientist have been able to develop new compounds to fight them off.



A healthy worker bee, top, and a bee, lower, that has succumbed to disease from mites are shown, Jan. 24 in Okadale, Calif. The mites are decimating honey bee populations across the United States.

"The fact that we don't have any compounds commercially available really is a serious issue," said Gloria DeGrandi-Hoffman, research leader at the Central Valley Bee Research Center in Tucson, Ariz. "This is a very serious problem."

Researchers such as DeGrandi-Hoffman are looking for alternatives, working on isolating bees with natural resistance to mites, and experimenting with elements such as plant oils and the mite-fighting compounds produced by some bees.

But the process takes time, and the mites adapt very quickly, the researcher said.

"You challenge them with a particular compound and, given time, they will become resistant to that," she said.

Meanwhile, in California's almond orchards, the bee shortage is leading growers to offer beekeepers almost twice what they paid last year for their bees' services — up to \$100 per hive. Growers have been riding a wave of good prices and strong demand, but they say the mite crisis is squeezing their profits.

Dan Cummings grows 4,000 acres of nuts in Butte, Colusa and Glenn counties. He's one step ahead of other farmers, since he's also part owner of 9,000 hives — many of which pollinate his crops.

Still, he said he's seen honey-

bee rentals go from being about 8 percent of his total expenses to nearly twice that.

The higher prices soften the blow to beekeepers, many of whom have seen their colonies cut in half by mites.

But they still worry that without a quick solution, their livelihood — and their lifestyle — may be in danger.

Every year, Jeff Anderson and his family pack their bee colonies in Eagle Bend, Minn., to embark on a 1,300-mile trip one way — to Okadale, Calif. It's here among the Central Valley's orchards that Anderson reaps most of his income.

He hauled 5,000 hives this year, most of them owned by other keepers. His California Minnesota Honey Farm has been crossing the country since 1962, and Anderson's been traveling with it for the last three decades.

But he said he's never worked with so few bees. "This year, he's lost about half his hives to mites."

"It's a panic situation," he said.

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Let the good times



Food, drink and high spirit rule Mardi Gras, the day before the start of Lent. This year's Mardi Gras is next Tuesday.

The Times-News

Fat Tuesday (*mardi gras*) is an old French tradition for a day-before-Lent celebration during which all of the eggs, butter and lard in the house — staples from which observant Roman Catholics would abstain for the next 40 days — were consumed. But it's evolved into the party of all parties. And nobody knows how to party like New Orleans.

The *orleaniste* revel in their city's rich culinary traditions for Mardi Gras, especially King Cake.

The sweet and yeasty King Cake drizzled in gold, green and purple holds the spotlight at many Mardi Gras festivities. Also known as Twelfth Night Cake, it's decorated in official Mardi Gras colors that are said to represent the three kings who visited the Christ child on Epiphany.

Its circular shape reputedly derives from the circular route the wise men took to evade King Herod's search for the infant Jesus. In a traditional cake, a small plastic baby doll is hidden in the batter. The person who finds the doll becomes king or queen for a day and assumes the responsibility for hosting the next Mardi Gras party.

Mardi Gras is next Tuesday. Here are two King Cake recipes, as well as recipes for other traditional Carneval food and drink.

Bring the spirit of Mardi Gras fun into your home with these recipes

DUCK, SHRIMP AND ANDOUILLE GUMBO

Makes 8 1-cup servings
2 Tbs. butter
1/2 cup all-purpose flour
2 tablespoons vegetable oil
1 1/2 onions, diced
3 celery stalks, diced
1 green bell pepper, diced
4 garlic cloves, minced
2 tablespoons tomato paste
1/4 cup white wine
1 quart chicken broth
1 cup tomato puree
1 ham hock
3/4 cup okra, trimmed, cut into 1/4-inch slices
1/2 pound andouille sausage, sliced into 1/4-inch pieces
2 duck breasts* (preferably smoked), skinless
2 teaspoons salt, or to taste
1 teaspoon freshly ground black pepper, or to taste
1/2 pound shrimp, peeled and deveined
3 plum tomatoes, seeded and diced
1/2 teaspoon hot sauce
In a small saucepan, combine the butter and flour to form a roux, and cook over medium heat until dark brown, stirring frequently, about 8-10 minutes. While the roux is cooking, saute the onions, celery and bell pepper in the vegetable oil over medium to medium-high heat until golden brown, about 12-15 minutes. Add the garlic and cook for 2

more minutes, or until the aroma of the garlic is noticeable. Add the tomato paste and cook to a rich red-brown color, stirring constantly, about 3-4 minutes. Deglaze the pan with the white wine and allow the wine to reduce by half. Bring the chicken broth to a simmer. Whisk the roux into the hot broth, making sure there are no lumps. Add the vegetable mixture and stir well. Add the tomato puree, ham hock and the okra and simmer for 15-20 minutes. While the gumbo is simmering, cook the andouille in a saute pan over medium-high heat until browned and cooked through, about 4-5 minutes. Remove the andouille from the pan and reserve the fat. Season the duck breasts with 1/2 teaspoon salt and 1/4 teaspoon pepper, and saute in the andouille fat over medium-high heat until cooked thoroughly. Once cool enough to handle cut into medium dice. Season the shrimp with 1/2 teaspoon salt and 1/4 teaspoon pepper. Dry sear the shrimp in a separate pan over high heat until cooked through, about 2-3 minutes. Add the shrimp, andouille and duck to the gumbo along with the tomatoes. Continue to simmer, until all the ingredients are heated through. Season with the remaining salt

and pepper, and add hot sauce to taste.

Source: Culinary Institute of America

KING CAKE

Makes one 10-inch tube cake, about 20 slices
3 1/2 cups sifted cake flour
1 1/2 cups sugar
1 cup water
2/3 cup vegetable oil
1/3 cup nonfat dry milk
3 tsp. baking powder
1 tsp. vanilla
1/2 teaspoon salt
8 egg whites
Lemon glaze:
1 cup sifted powdered sugar
1 Tbs. fresh lemon juice
1/2 tsp. grated lemon rind
Dash of salt
2 to 3 Tbs. hot water
Decorations:
Purple and green sugar crystals
Gold dragées
Preheat oven to 375 degrees F. Grease and flour a 10-inch fancy tube pan. Sift flour before measuring and combine with sugar, water, oil, dry milk, baking powder, vanilla, and salt in a bowl. Mix until smooth. Beat egg whites until stiff and fold into batter until evenly blended. Pour batter into prepared pan. Bake 40 to 50 minutes or until cake bounces back when gently touched in center. Turn cake out of pan onto cake rack and cool thoroughly.

Meanwhile, combine lemon glaze ingredients in a small bowl and stir until smooth. Drizzle over cooled cake. Decorate cake with colored sugar crystals and dragées.

Source: tabasco.com

CREOLE-STYLE PORK STEW

Makes 8 servings
1/2 cup peanut oil
1/2 cup flour
2 cups chopped onions (about 1 large onion)
1 cup chopped celery
1 medium green bell pepper, chopped
4 links andouille smoked sausage, chopped (about 1 pound, 2 cups)
2 tbs. minced or chopped garlic (about 4 large cloves)
4 cups chicken stock or 1 carton (32 oz.) low-sodium chicken broth
2 tbs. tomato paste
1 tbs. Worcestershire sauce
2 bay leaves
1/2 tsp. dried sage
1/2 tsp. dried oregano
1/2 to 1 tsp. ground red pepper (cayenne), depending on personal taste
2 lbs. home-style country-style pork ribs, cut into 1 1/2-inch pieces
Kosher salt and freshly ground black pepper
Tabasco sauce or white vinegar



Duck, shrimp and andouille gumbo is a convenient, satisfying dish that won't leave the cook tied to the kitchen all day. This rich and hearty stew-like dish is actually best made in advance to improve its distinctive flavor.

4 cups conked, long-grain white rice
Make a roux by heating oil in large, heavy pot over low heat. Stir in flour, cook and stir over low heat until mixture turns a rich red-brown color (about 20 to 25 minutes). Remove from heat; carefully stir in onion, celery, bell pepper and about 1 cup chopped sausage. Return pot to heat; cook and stir 5 minutes over medium heat. Stir in garlic, chicken stock or broth and tomato paste. Add Worcestershire sauce, bay leaves, sage, oregano and cayenne pepper; bring to a boil over high heat. Add pork pieces and reduce heat to simmer; cook uncovered for about 1 1/2 hours or until pork is tender. Stir in remaining chopped sausage; cook 5 minutes more to heat through. (At this stage, if you don't want to serve right away, stew may be refrigerated for up to two days.) Discard bay leaves and skim any visible fat, if desired. Add salt, pepper and Tabasco sauce to taste. To serve, spoon 1/2 cup rice into shallow soup bowls; ladle some of pork mixture over top. Add more Tabasco sauce, if desired.
Option: Add 1 pound okra cut into 1/2-inch pieces during the last 20 minutes of cooking time.
Source: Culinary Institute of America

FOOD & HOME

CIRCULAR LOGIC

Thinking outside the box

By N.C. Alzenman
The Washington Post

WASHINGTON — Every time I drove past the house, I found myself slowing down for a better look.

It wasn't just that the house is almost perfectly round, although that, of course, is what had first caught my eye.

No, what intrigued me about the most unusual 5,500-sq-ft shapely dwelling in suburban Upper Marlboro, Md., was that every other aspect of its construction, from the beige aluminum siding and square window to the

curved wood-paneled bench by the front door, seemed designed to make the home look as ordinary as possible.

Who would build such a house? An architect with a split-personality disorder? An avant-garde sculptor who lives with his grandmother?

I wasn't the only passer-by whose curiosity had been piqued.

"Oh yeah, we get people asking us about it all the time," said owner Tressa Bell-Burton. "Everyone wants to know why it's so different."

Fortunately Bell-Burton, a mental health therapist, her husband, accountant Robert Burton, and their daughter, high school sophomore Athena Bell-Burton, don't mind the attention.

"I've always wanted to be famous, and I didn't see any way I was going to be since I'm not exactly greatly talented," Tressa said. "But because of this house, it's kind of like we're locally famous."

"They never imagined they would become local celebrities when they chose the round house design for their new home three years ago, they said.

"They were simply trying to save money by building a home using pre-made panels to cut costs.

Robert estimates that the \$200,000 four-bedroom, three-bathroom house would have cost anywhere from \$170,000 to \$270,000 more had it been built from scratch.

"Before it was completed, I was wondering if it was a dumb deal," Robert said as he recalled the delays because of difficulties with contractors. "But after

it was finished, I felt like a genius."

As the Burtons flipped through catalogs and magazines featuring modular structures, they came across a round house design offered by Deltec Homes

of Asheville, N.C. The price was equivalent to that of more traditional paneled houses.

Tressa and Robert were immediately attracted to the two-level round-house's distinctive shape and conical roof.

"It reminded me of an African hut," Tressa said. "It felt like we were going back to our roots." Tressa and Robert are African-American.

The circular footprint was also well suited to their somewhat awkward, trapezoid-shaped lot, allowing them to set the house back from the street without sacrificing square footage.

The footprint and its location also meant they didn't have to comply with historic preservation codes.

Even so, they worried that neighbors or town officials might complain that the round house and smaller round garage would clash with the traditional homes on their quiet side street.

Tressa consulted a researcher from the town's historical society about how to match the house's exterior trappings as closely as possible to the many historic homes dotting Upper Marlboro. The consultant recommended the square-paneled windows.

She also found a book of historic southern homes with a picture of a round house from the 1800s. "I was ready to defend this design as historic, but no one ever said anything," she said.

But many wondered. Inside, the 4,000-square-foot house looks thoroughly modern. The roof and second floor are supported by only the exterior walls and a single center column.

The open design allows the Burtons to partition the space however they like. They walked off the kitchen, a full bathroom, a small office and a bedroom. They left most of the first floor open, creating a vast living- and dining-room area reminiscent of a New York loft.

"Technically, the house is not a circle but a polyhedron made of 20 panels at 15 degrees. The Burtons further amplified the sense of space by placing windows or sliding glass doors in almost every panel.

Furnishing their new home proved something of a challenge. Tressa followed the advice of several Internet sites on loft decor and created several rooms within a room by placing smaller carpets on the blond wood floor and grouping stuffed sofas and Colonial-style armchairs in clusters. The resulting effect is at once expansive and cozy.

Upstairs, the conical ceiling rises to a peak of about 20 feet at the center.

A large circular central landing off the staircase serves as a family room with three bedrooms, several walk-in closets and two bathrooms spoking off it.

In the bedrooms, ceilings slant from eight feet at the outer edge to a majestic 15 feet along the inner wall.

It is the long curve of windows in each room that Tressa most appreciates.

"If you want to watch someone outside, you can run all the way around the house looking through the windows and follow them 360 degrees," she said, giggling as she dashed

from window to window to smile, too. All those times I'd stowed down for a peek at the Burton home, they had probably been pecking right back at me.

"I've always wanted to be famous, and I didn't see any way I was going to be since I'm not exactly greatly talented. But because of this house, it's kind of like we're locally famous."

- Tressa Bell-Burton, owner of the house



A suburban Washington family was definitely thinking outside the box when they designed this round house in Upper Marlboro, Md. Technically, the house is not a circle but a polyhedron made of 20 panels at 15 degrees.

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Robert Burton and Tressa Bell-Burton say they might have saved more than \$200,000 by building a round house instead of a conventional one.

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Knights Riddler News Service

Coach passengers who expect to get hungry on an American Airlines flight should make sure to take a few bucks on board.

On Tuesday, American Airlines said buy-on-board food is coming the growing ranks of airlines with buy-on-board programs. American will introduce its \$3 snack boxes on domestic flights of three hours or more and its \$5 fresh breakfast sandwiches and lunch wraps on transcontinental and Hawaii flights.

The nibbles in the snack boxes — all shelf-stable items that don't need refrigeration — will bear familiar labels: Kellogg's, Pepperidge Farm, Ocean Spray, Orzo.

Main-cabin passengers who shell out a few bucks for a snack will receive a complimentary box with a see-through top; when they open the box, they'll find that one flap is a detachable receipt. Inside, will be a paper napkin and a plastic knife and spoon, along with other items that most of our customers probably have in their own home," said Donna Sneed, American's managing director of food and beverage.

The a.m. box will have bagel chips with a container of cream cheese for spreading, a muffin, bread, dried cranberries and a mint. In the afternoon box, offered on flights after 10 a.m., will be salami, cheese and crackers, along with a package of dried fruit and an Orzo.

"Our primary concern was really trying to come up with a snack that represented value for the customers," Sneed said.

The concern about value for price applied to the two "fresh" items, too. "We're looking for longer flights, as well," Sneed said. Whatever jokes might have been made about airline food in the past, at least for the flight that don't have to pay extra for it, now that's been changed—he's likely to be pickier.

"These are huge sandwiches," said American spokeswoman Courtney Waller. The most popular item on the menu, she pointed out, was originally one of the airline's first-class entrees: "we took that recipe and doubled the size."

Coach passengers on transcontinental and Hawaii flights will have the option of buying the sandwiches for \$5, in addition to the \$3 snack boxes. For now, you'll have to pay

cash for the buy-on-board items, though "we're testing a hand-held device for credit cards," Sneed said. Flight attendants will monitor the device, the plane selling them from a cart — an advance order system you bank your flight — but passengers can purchase them at any time by pushing the flight attendant button, Waller said. And, no, the flight attendant who sells you the snacks won't be expecting a tip.

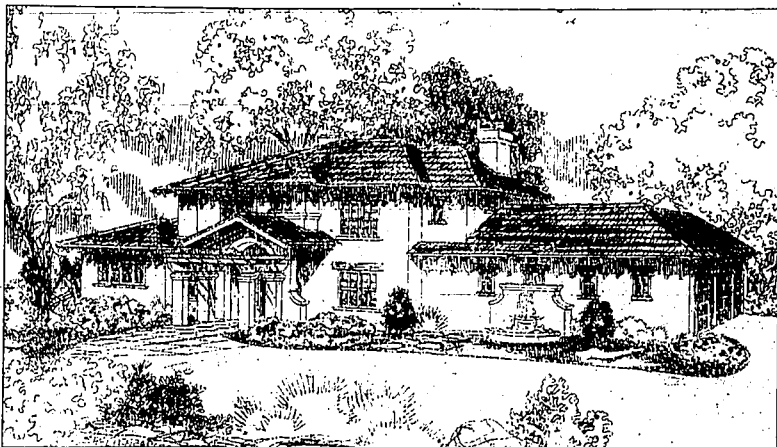
"Nothing will change for American's first class and first-class business passengers. They will get complimentary hot service. And on domestic hops of less than three hours and those that take off after 7:30 p.m., coach passengers will get complimentary with the usual pretzels and soft drinks, at no extra charge."

Sneed said planners at the Fort Worth, Texas-based airline have been considering the buy-on-board option for about 10 years. American began testing snacks and sandwiches in September, primarily on Dallas-Fort Worth routes, soliciting feedback from passengers and flight attendants, and tweaking the boxes ever since. "We wanted a mixture of things" for the snack boxes, she said. "Something salty, something sweet, and a toast, a salad where we actually have the boxes around."

Passengers told them the original plan, buy-on-board early, she said. "And we started testing it on flights with the permit and came up with cheese and crackers and dried salami."

American — which last week reported \$761 million in losses and a 2004 net loss of about \$30 million by cutting main-cabin hot-food service and replacing complimentary in-flight meals with the new food boxes — is also testing a new place-free Bistro lunch bag, set for 200 flights and add food service to about 300 flights that now serve no meals, the airline says.

Sneed said the airline did not set a high priority on the concerns of passengers with special dietary needs such as low fat, low-sugar or vegetarian diets, at least starting with the buy-on-board service. "We're trying to manage our capacity," she said. "Do we want to have five choices on one airplane?" But she also noted that "we are constantly re-evaluating, adapting and adjusting" and urged passengers to tell flight attendants — or the airline, at (800) 433-7890 — how they like the new options.



Vercelli brings Tuscany home

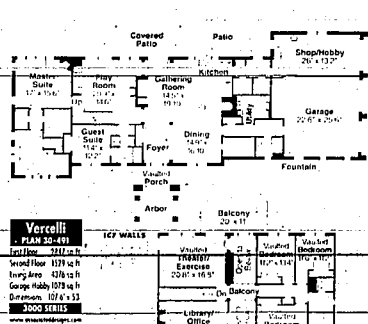
Looking at the tile, stone and overall details of the Vercelli you might imagine you've been transported to Tuscany. This Mediterranean-style villa is clearly evocative of sunny climates. A fountain and graceful wood arbor welcome you as you walk under a stucco arched entry at the front porch.

Inside, the Vercelli continues to amaze. Arched openings lead off of the foyer into the dining room and the combination gathering room/kitchen.

Both the cooking and dining areas have unique features. When a meal requires the best of hostesses needn't go far.

An arch-top door in the dining room leads into a large wine cellar with a barrel-vaulted ceiling.

And in the kitchen, the wood-burning pizza and bread oven has equal billing with the modern gas range and oven next to it. The extra-long work island — granite-slab and is rimmed on one side by a raised eating counter. Two large walk-



ins — pantry and cooler — are nearby. Light spills in through windows along the rear wall. Arched openings on both sides of the free-standing wood stove lead into a large play room with built-in storage cabinets. A gas fireplace could be installed here, if desired.

The Vercelli's master suite has a gas fireplace along with two walk-in closets, one double the size of the other. Other luxuries include a spa tub, walk-in-shower, private toilet, dual vanity, and direct access to a private patio with a hot tub.

A guest suite is also on the lower level. Upstairs, three vaulted bedrooms share a large central bathroom. The balcony that overlooks the foyer and gathering space leads to two more spacious rooms: a vaulted theater/exercise room, and a roomy library/office.

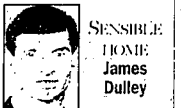
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Install your own hydromassage whirlpool tub

DEAR JIM: I have looked at whirlpool tubs for my bathroom remodeling. They all look great, but the prices really vary. What are critical features and will I need a new water heater for the extra hot water?

— JOED



SENSIBLE
JIMMIE
James
Duley

DEAR JOE: Not too many things feel better than a warm hydromassage after a long day at the office, taking care of the kids all day or just doing home improvement projects around the house.

Just a decade ago, a whirlpool was a special feature in homes, but now most new homes include one or two.

If you are installing a standard one-person whirlpool to replace a bathtub, your existing water heater should have the capacity to supply adequate hot water.

Most hydromassage whirlpools are used after work in the early evening when there are not many other hot showers being used.

If you install a larger whirlpool or plan to use it in the morning when other family members are showering, you may need a large, or even a heater, or an additional small dedicated one for the whirlpool.

Some models, such as Kohler and Westendorf, offer internal water heaters to heat the water and keep it just to keep it warm.

The construction of the whirlpool tub can make a difference in how well it will perform and look over the long term.

They all look nice and shiny in the showroom when they are



Just a decade ago, a whirlpool was a special feature in homes, but now most new homes include one or more.

brand new.

Over time, the finish on some can break or delaminate from the supporting structure, usually fiberglass.

A gelcoat finish has the best, deep glossy appearance. It's reasonably priced, but not the most durable and may come loose from the fiberglass, acrylic because it is a single sheet laminated into the shape of the tub.

Adding an adhesion layer between the fiberglass and glossy finish, as Westendorf does, improves the durability of gelcoat.

The type of jets has the greatest impact upon the hydromassage sensation.

If you select a model with standard water jets, look for

adjustable jets (both intensity and direction).

There are also different types of jets you can order for various locations in the tub to target your back, legs and neck. Some of the newest designs in whirlpools use air jets.

These jets have more than 100 tiny jets built into the bottom and sides of the tub.

This provides a different type of massaging action which some people prefer.

Ultra-fine jets make one of these with heated air bubbles and heated headrests.

If your budget is not limited, select a whirlpool with electronic controls. These allow you to program and sequence jets to target spe-

cific sore spots.

Some of Kohler's models sequence the jets up and down your back to simulate a real massage. Also, a lighting remote control is a convenient feature.

The following companies offer high-quality whirlpools: American Standard (800-223-0068 www.americanstandard.us.com), Jacuzzi (800-298-4092 www.jacuzzi.com), Kohler (800-456-4537 www.kohler.com), Ultra Bath (800-463-2187 www.ultrabaths.com), and Westendorf (800-747-0590 www.whirlpooltubs.com).

Send inquiries to James Duley, Times-News, 6906 Royalgreen Dr., Cincinnati, Ohio 45244 or visit www.duley.com.

Dates invoke sweetness

The Stamford Advocate

Soft and plump, with the consistency of fudge (and just as sweet), dates are unbelievably sexy things to eat. No one would claim they are as charismatic as chocolate, yet romantic gestures surround their place in history.

Dates have been treasured in much of the world for more than 5,000 years, starting in the Middle East. During the earliest days of the Arab spice trade, camel caravans carried the fruit along with frankincense, myrrh, almonds and other rare and exotic goods to Europe and throughout the Indian subcontinent. The Moors planted the graceful date palms in Spain, and the Spanish, in turn, brought some of the trees to California and Arizona, where date palms flourish today in the desert soil.

It's no wonder that dates have earned the title of the sweetest of all fruit, with up to 80 percent sugar. So they satisfy a sugar craving easily. They are also a quick boost of energy because natural sucrose, fructose and glucose readily used by your body. Dates are just right for a snack in the late afternoon when you're feeling the pangs of the day and might otherwise reach for a candy bar or doughnut.

Here's some good news: Although they are sweet, dates are not outrageously high in calories, about 100 per ounce. Dates have plenty of essential minerals including copper, sul-

fur, iron and magnesium. They have almost twice the calcium, and are a portion of a diet supplying about 1 percent of the RDA of this nutrient. They give you lots of fiber, too.

Fresh dates are not always easy to find, but dried dates are everywhere, year round. They cause they store so well, being wrapped in an airtight container. They are a good choice for snacking, especially if you are on a diet. They are also a good choice for baking. They are naturally coated with a waxy, protective layer called "sugar bloom" for use in recipes for baked goods.

There are more than 100 varieties, which vary in color, sweetness and texture. Most American stores carry the Pilelet No. 2, a medium-sized variety with caramel-colored skin. These hold up very well over heat, making them perfect for recipes. For out-of-hand snacking, date lovers usually prefer the Medjool variety, which has a date-like taste, which is so soft and luscious, it seems a pity to use them for cooking. Medjools are like candy. You also may see a variety called "soft" or "chewy" dates, which are mild and chewy. Sugary dates, which are light, golden-brown and firm, dark-brown Salween and fancy, dark-skinned, soft dates.

Whenever you buy, be sure the skins are smooth and glossy, with just a few friendly soft wrinkles. Like the crew's seat of a good picnic, the fruit should be firm, but not too hard or look as if they have crystallized sugar on the skin.

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Jose Andres, right, and two other Washington chefs with different culinary heritages evaluate an olive oil at a recent tasting. Three of the components the tasting panel of chefs assessed were color, aroma and flavor.

Steaming cuisine: A timeless technique

By CoCo Sullivan
The Washington Times

SEATTLE — I'm going to confess straight up that steaming hasn't been a favored cooking technique of mine. The memory of cafeteria-style steam tables holding their cargo of limp broccoli stems has been hard to overcome.

Perhaps steamed food only suffers from a lack of good PIL. It's been typecast as flavorless diet fare or food for tender palates. Admittedly, my own taste buds have been a bit cauterized by too many habanero-spiked salsas and spicy curries, and I'm often skeptical of delicately seasoned dishes.

But Middle Eastern and Asian cultures have cooked with steam for centuries. In those cuisines, vivid tastes — sweet, salty, sour, bitter and pungent — are layered through some of the world's greatest dishes.

In "The Breath of a Wok: Unlocking the Spirit of Chinese Wok Cooking Through Recipes and Lore" (Simon & Schuster, 2004) author Anne Young says that steaming is an ancient Chinese cooking technique and one of the light- (treasured tastes). "The popularity of steaming is due in part to the invention of the wooden steamer and bamboo insert prior to the Sung dynasty," writes Young.

In Chinese culture, dim sum, whole fish, chicken, meat and vegetables are all steamed in a wok. The bamboo steamer is often lined with cabbage leaves, which not only prevents food from sticking to the basket but also lends a suggestion of flavor.

Another ingenious technique is to form an "X" with a pair of chopsticks. They are placed above a shallow pool of boiling water in the bottom of a wok and a heat-proof dish or plate holding the food rests on top. The dish captures juices and flavors such as soy or Thai fish sauce, ginger or minced chilies.

In North Africa, couscous is steamed in a distinctive two-tiered pot called a couscoussier. In the bottom, lamb or chicken are cooked with vegetables and spices, their moisture releasing fragrant steam that plumps tiny grains of couscous in the perforated upper tier. Often a small bowl of spiced harissa sauce is served on the side. (A complex dish, well-flavored and not tame.)

Sally Schneider, author of "A New Way to Cook" (Artisan, 2001), broadens the definition of steam cooking by coining the term steaming techniques.

For instance, vegetables may be stean-roasted (baked in parchment paper or aluminum foil with orange juice, minced shallots and chopped Kalanchoe leaves. Curry-spiced fish fillets enveloped by lettuce leaves, and corn husks enclosing chicken

breasts dusted with smoky paprika are spirited renditions.

Schneider also varies her repertoire by pan-steaming vegetables, which actually intensify their flavors. For example, strips of bell peppers are briefly sautéed in a spare drizzle of olive oil, then covered and steamed until soft. The dish uncovered and the peppers finish cooking in their caramelized juices.

And consider the nutritional benefits of steaming food, which are impressive. In a recent study published in the Journal of the Science of Food and Nutrition, the level of flavonoids, an antioxidant compound, lost after steaming fresh broccoli was 11 percent. When compared with a 65 percent loss when broccoli was boiled, a 47 percent loss when pressure cooked, and a whopping 97 percent loss when microwaved, the advantages of cooking with this technique are obvious. Even to a skeptic.

STEAMED CLAMS WITH COCONUT MILK & LEMONGRASS BROTH

- Makes 4 servings
- 1 stalk lemongrass
 - 2 thick green onions
 - 1 tablespoon peeled and minced fresh gingerroot
 - 1 small serrano chili, seeded and minced
 - 1 strip (about 3-by-2-inches) lime zest
 - 1 1/4 cups dry white wine
 - 1 cup bottled clam juice
 - 2 3/4 pounds Manila clams, scrubbed
 - 1/2 cup unsweetened coconut milk
 - 2 tablespoons fresh cilantro

- White rice for serving
1. Place a wide, shallow serving bowl in a warm oven to heat, then turn off oven. Peel away the dry outer leaves of lemongrass to reveal the softer, inner core. Slice crosswise into paper thin slices; measure 1 tablespoon. Thinly slice the whites of the onion. Chop a little of the greens for garnish and set aside.
 2. In a 6-quart pot combine lemongrass, green onion, ginger, chili, lime zest, wine and clam juice. Bring to a boil, reduce heat and simmer 5 minutes.
 3. Bring broth back to a boil. Add scrubbed clams, cover and steam about 3 minutes. With a slotted spoon, remove opened clams to warm bowl in oven. Steam remaining clams another minute or so to open; transfer to bowl. At this point, discard remaining closed clams.
 4. Strain broth into a smaller saucepan, being careful to leave any sand in the bottom of the pan. Bring broth to a boil and cook 2 minutes. Remove from heat and stir in coconut milk, cilantro and lime juice. Pour over the clams and serve at once with plain white rice.

Buying olive oil? Read this first

By Judith Weinrab
The Washington Post

WASHINGTON — Three chefs were sitting at the kitchen table at restaurant Tosca here recently comparing bottles.

"Aromatic, more complex," said Jose Andres. "Very flowery," said his Lacoste. "A better color," said Cesare Lanfranco.

The language sounds familiar to anybody who's ever been to a wine tasting. But in this case, the liquid was olive oil.

It's a good time of year to taste olive oils: Olives are harvested in the late fall and early winter. The oils that emerge are now making their way into gourmet food stores and some supermarkets.

Olive oils are a lot like wines. The oils that spawn them come in many varieties and reflect qualities determined by the land, sun and water where they grow. The oils are sold at vastly different prices. And there are some you wouldn't want to taste on their own that are perfectly serviceable for cooking.

With the growing focus on olive oil as a healthful fat, the increasing availability of a wide variety of oils, and the new opportunities to taste them at stores and markets, we invited three well-known Washington-area chefs to educate us on what to look for. Olive oil labels contain quite a bit of information, but not necessarily one of the most important pieces—the age of the oil. The government does not require that olive oils state when the oil was pressed or bottled. Those that do include that information tend to be boutique brands.

What are the specific differences among olive oils, and how do the differences affect their use? Are expensive oils worth the money? How much can the consumer tell about an olive oil simply by reading the label on the bottle?

To answer these questions, we arranged an informal tasting of three high-priced, three mid-range and three relatively inexpensive oils. The oils were not identified or presented in any particular order.

Since olive oil preferences have to do with personal taste as well as quality, we selected chefs with different culinary heritages. Lanfranco (executive chef at Tosca in Washington) is from the Lake Como region of Italy. Lacoste (executive chef at 17th in Georgetown) is from New Bedford, Mass., of French Canadian extraction. And Andres (executive chef at Jaleo, Cafe Mielich, Zaytinya, and Dyanell, all in the Washington area) grew up near Barcelona in the Catalan region of Spain. We asked our

tasters to consider color, aroma and taste, and then tell us what they thought.

We tasted a lot.

First off, we found out that in olive oils, youth is a good thing. Oils will stay reasonably fresh for the first 12 months after bottling and be fine for another year. But after that, the flavor diminishes. So do the aroma and some of the health benefits. "After a year, the aromatics in an olive oil are gone," says Andres. "Sometimes the bottles on the shelf in the supermarket are there a lot longer than you are," he joked.

One way to prolong the life of a fresh oil is to keep it away from the light. Dark glass bottles and closed kitchen cabinets are recommended.

Color and aroma are good indicators of age. Younger oils tend to have more intense colors as well as fresher flavors and aromas. And that makes a difference in how they are best used.

Flavorful extra-virgin olive oils, for example, will enhance salads on their own or complement some already cooked foods. If you want to dress a salad simply and retain the flavor of the oil (perhaps for a mozzarella and tomato salad, where an edge of acid is provided by the tomatoes), you'll probably be happier with these oils.

But you might want a strongly flavored olive oil to finish off grilled meat or a stew — not a flowery oil, though. Instead, you would need an oil whose flavor is strong enough to stand up to the meat.

Another way our chefs liked to use some of the full-flavored oils was as an accent for mashed potatoes. "This one is perfect" for them, said Andres, tasting one of the more affordable oils. "You can taste the pepper," said Lanfranco. "It would be a welcome component. With other oils, you'd have to add pepper."

A different situation comes into play if you're looking for an oil to use in a vinaigrette or dressing. In that case, a less-strongly flavored oil or a blend is a better choice. "There's not a lot of acid in this one," said Lacoste as she tasted one of the least expensive oils. "You wouldn't want to use it alone, but it would be fine in a light dressing or a mayonnaise."

With many full-flavored oils, the taste and aroma point to the birthplace of the oil: grapes from which the oil was made. Good French oils, for example, tend to be more flowery. Our chefs were even able to identify regions of France and Italy as sources of two of the oils. And the style of one oil from California made Andres think it was Spanish — not a bad guess. "Who do you think planted the olive groves in California?" he asked.

Cooking with olive oils — as opposed to using them on salads, or as a dipping sauce for bread or fresh vegetables or as a finishing flavor for already cooked foods — presents different challenges. Like age, heat can destroy the flavor of olive oils, and healthful antioxidants, too. So there's no point in using fine fresh oils for sauté or grill foods.

Besides, those oils tend to be expensive. Price is tricky and not necessarily an indicator of quality. Although the more costly oils in our tasting tended to get higher marks on color, aroma and taste, the chefs were pleasantly surprised to discover that one oil they liked was not only affordable but available in most supermarkets and bodegas.

If you want to try a comparative tasting of your own, follow our chefs' lead: Pour a little into a small glass.

Warm the glass with your hands. Check out the aroma. Look at its color. Savor the taste on your tongue and as it goes down your throat. Dip a piece of bread or a sliced vegetable in it, too. You just might find you know more about olive oil than you realized.



It's a good time of year to taste olive oils: Olives are harvested in the late fall and early winter.

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Fish farming may change how America eats

The Washington Post

ABOARD THE AQUA LEADER — The harvesters had been hard at work since 6 a.m. in the evergreen-lined cove off New Brunswick's Lime Kill Bay.

A humming vacuum hose was sucking silvery 10-pound salmon from their watery pens — giant plastic cages measuring 230 feet around with 42-foot-deep nylon nets underneath — and depositing the flapping fish onto a metal slide. There a punch machine rapidly stunned and killed them before workers slashed their gills to bleed them before dumping them into the hold of the 65-foot-long ship.

In four hours they collected more than 5,000 fish to be transported to a nearby processing plant and then shipped to Boston restaurants the next day. Cooke Aquaculture Inc., the Canadian company that raises and processes the fish in Reservoir Cove, is a major player in what has become the next agricultural revolution: fish farming. The sector's explosive growth is being hailed by many policymakers and environmentalists as a source of jobs and a way to satisfy the world's growing demand for protein, but environmentalists warn that aquaculture facilities also threaten to cause ecological damage by releasing nutrients and domestically bred fish and chemicals into the seas.

Observers on both sides agree, however, that fish farming could transform the way Americans eat — and, to some extent, work and live — in the next two decades, and ultimately replace the last commercial food-gathering systems based on hunting wild animals.

The Bush administration has vowed to quintuple the yield of aquaculture — the fastest-growing sector of U.S. agriculture, with \$1 billion in annual sales — by 2025. That same year, forecasts say, half the fish consumed worldwide will be farm-raised instead of wild-caught. The government hopes that fish farming will erase the country's \$8 billion seafood trade deficit. With \$11 billion in imports in 2003, fish is second only to oil among imported natural resources. "We have to keep looking for a good supply of healthy seafood for U.S. citizens," said William Hogarth, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's assistant administrator for fisheries. "Aquaculture is extremely controversial, there's no question about it. (But) the time has come for us as a country to have this open dialogue." The recent push to boost fish farming, which has been prac-

ticed for thousands of years but took off commercially only in the 1980s, is driven by several factors. The United States and other nations are demanding more seafood. By 2025, the U.S. market will need 2.2 million tons more seafood than it now produces. Meanwhile, the global catch of wild fish has leveled off at just under 100 million tons.

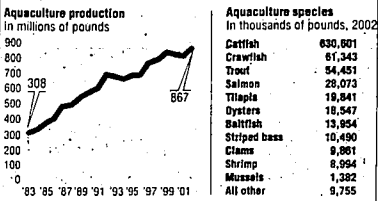
Many nations, including China, Japan, Norway and Canada, have started farming fish to meet the burgeoning demand. China leads the world, with as much as 70 percent of the world's aquaculture production; by comparison, the 4,000 U.S. fish farms produce 1 to 2 percent of the global total.

Sebastian Belle, executive director of the Maine Aquaculture Association, compares fish farming to the Neolithic Revolution, in which humans moved over the course of more than 6,000 years from hunting and gathering to raising animals and plants domestically.

"People who go fishing are the last commercial market hunters in the world," Belle said. "We don't do that anymore on land." Although many wild stocks

The Rise of Aquaculture

Aquaculture production has almost tripled over the past 20 years and now makes up 9 percent of U.S. commercial fishing.



Species	Production (thousands of pounds)
Catfish	630,601
Crawfish	67,343
Trout	54,451
Salmon	28,073
Trapia	18,941
Oysters	18,947
Shellfish	13,954
Striped bass	10,490
Clams	9,981
Shrimp	8,994
Mussels	1,362
All other	9,755

are suffering from overfishing, fish farmers say they can provide a reliable and inexpensive supply of salmon, catfish, shrimp and other species year-round.

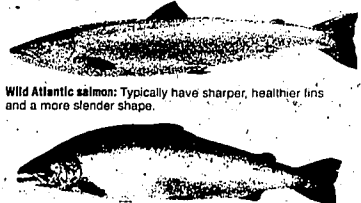
New Brunswick-based Cooke Aquaculture processes 100,000 pounds of fish every day, seven days a week, and can ship it to anywhere in the United States within 24 hours.

"Nobody can get it from the water to the plate like we can,"

boasted Noll Hulse, the company's spokesman.

Farming has also made once-pricey seafood delicacies such as shrimp and salmon much more affordable: in recent years the cost of raised salmon has dropped from about \$7 per pound to the current all-time low of less than \$2, and salmon farming has brought jobs to once-struggling areas such as New Brunswick's Charlotte County, where it now employs a

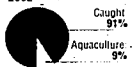
Comparing the fish



Wild Atlantic salmon: Typically have sharper, healthier fins and a more slender shape.

Aquaculture salmon: Typically are fatter and frequently have a broom-shaped tail and deformed fins.

U.S. commercial fishing 2002



SOURCES: National Marine Fisheries Service; State of Maine Atlantic Salmon Commission

quarter of the local workforce. But environmentalists say the aquaculture boom is masking problems with the world's fisheries and wreaking new ecological damage.

George Leary, vice president for marine conservation at the

Washington-based National Environmental Trust, said U.S. officials see that "the oceans are in crisis, and what's their response? To allow the enormous expansion of this industry that's proven to have a negative environmental impact."

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OUTSTANDING VOLUNTEER COMMUNITY EVENTS



Pam Harris was named Minidoka Cassia Community Task Force Against Domestic Violence Outstanding Volunteer for 2004. She was presented a framed certificate by task force chairman, Dan Bristol. She is the first recipient of this annual award.



Photo courtesy of MARY LYNNE BRISTOL.

Derek can achieve dreams with a family behind him

Boy needs parents to build his self-esteem

"My lifeline. I'd like to ride a horse, learn to skateboard and build electric things.

"For now I'm hoping for a family that likes hunting, fishing, hiking, watching movies, playing cards and going places together like the zoo or aquarium. I'd like caring parents who let me do lots of stuff."

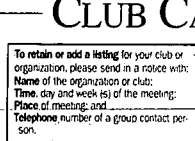
Derek's foster mom describes him as a sensitive boy who does well within a positive

Wednesday's Child

reward system, especially when it involves food and quality time with mom or dad. Like going out for a milkshake. She says Derek is the youngest in his birth family, second to youngest in her family and wishes to be the oldest in his future family. More important than position would be parents who build his self-esteem and use humor in the right way. He may take it literally.

With a patient, nurturing single parent or couple who respects the value of involving youth in options and decisions, Derek could achieve all of his dreams.

Derek lives in Oregon. For more information, call the Idaho CareLine number: 1-800-926-2588. In Idaho you can dial 212-1.



Derek Age 11

Buhl Community Education holds physical courses

PHILIP - The Buhl Community Education and Recreation Association now offers an array of physical courses including the following:

"Step Aerobics" will be held from 4:30 to 5:30 p.m. Tuesdays and Thursdays in the Popplewell Elementary Music Room, 200 N. Sixth. Courses begin Feb. 8 and run for three months.

The cost is \$14 for February, \$18 for March, \$18 for April, or \$3.25 per session. Courses are designed for beginner through intermediate. Equipment will be provided.

"Volleyball League Play" will be held from 7:30 to 10:30 p.m. Wednesdays at the Buhl Middle School gym, 217 Seventh N.

The cost is \$12 per team plus transportation. Children are not allowed at games.

Volleyball begins Feb. 9 and runs for 10 weeks. Teams must be signed up by today.

Registration will be held from 6 to 8 p.m. today at the High School Commons, 525 Sawtooth Ave. A \$2 discount per class will be given to those attending.

For more information or to register, call Connie Glander at 543-6553.

Scout leaders are invited to round table

RUPERT - A round table for all Scout leaders in the Minidoka District will be held at 8 p.m.

At East Minico Junior High School on Thursday.

"Citizenship in the Nation" and "Collections" merit badges will be earned that night. Scouts should bring blue cards, a pencil and paper.

A district committee meeting takes place at 7 p.m.

Jerome woman celebrates birthday with open house

GENIE - Peterson, of Jerome will celebrate her 90 birthday with an open house from 7 to 9 p.m. Sunday at the Jerome Public Library, 100 First Ave.

Genelle Peterson

Peterson has lived in Jerome for 56 years and was a first grade teacher at Washington Elementary.

The family requests no gifts.

County hospital campaign raises more than \$100,000

TWIN FALLS - The annual hospital campaign at Magic Valley Regional Medical Center raised a record-setting \$103,104.

This was the largest amount ever raised by the annual fund-raiser and represents a 24 percent increase over the previous year, reported the Magic Valley Regional Medical Center.

Buhl couple travels to national parks

LACERMAN - Terry and Stewie (Mary) Halbert of Buhl have traveled to all of the national parks and will share their traveling experiences at the Hagerman Valley Historical Program at 7 p.m. Feb. 8 at the National Park Service, 221-N. 11th.

They've written a guide book containing first hand knowledge of the national parks. "Expedition America: A National Park Odyssey" contains a locator map for each park with main features listed and includes weather and time zone information. Their book will be available for sale at the program.

For more information, call 837-6060.

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For more information, call 837-6060.

Tax help offered through April 15

BURLEY - Tax-Aide volunteers are available at three sites in the Mini-Cassia area to offer free tax preparation help.

The American Association for Retired Persons (AARP) Tax-Aide Program, a partnership between the AARP Foundation and the Internal Revenue Service, provides free tax counseling and preparation services to middle and low-income taxpayers, with special attention to people age 60 and older. Residents do not need to be a member of AARP or a retiree to use this service.

Locations in the Mini-Cassia area include:

- Burley - Little Flower Catholic Church, corner of 16th

Street and Oakley Avenue, from 1:05 p.m. Saturdays on walk-in basis.

- Golden Heritage Senior Center, 2421 Overland Ave., from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Mondays. Call 346-3107.
- Golden Heritage Medical Center, 2020 11th St., from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Tuesdays by appointment.
- Rupert - Rupert Senior Center, 702 11th St., from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Thursdays by appointment.

Participants should bring their current year's tax form and a recent W-2 form, a copy of last year's income tax return, W-2 forms from each

employer, unemployment statements, and SSA-1099 form (if paid Social Security benefits), all 1099 forms, all forms indicating federal income tax paid, dependent care provider information, all receipts for unrecovered checks if itemizing deductions and Social Security numbers for all dependents.

The tax volunteers also complete pre-filing counseling this year in order to prepare returns for the families of National Guard and Military Reservists who have been called to active duty. If a person has a completed return, tax-Aide volunteers will advise them to see a paid preparer.

rewards system, especially when it involves food and quality time with mom or dad. Like going out for a milkshake. She says Derek is the youngest in his birth family, second to youngest in her family and wishes to be the oldest in his future family. More important than position would be parents who build his self-esteem and use humor in the right way. He may take it literally.

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Derek lives in Oregon. For more information, call the Idaho CareLine number: 1-800-926-2588. In Idaho you can dial 212-1.

Civic

Rotary Clubs

- Buhl Lakes - 7 a.m. Thursdays at Buhl Laundry at 16th Street. Call 736-0749.
- Burley - noon Thursdays at the Burley Inn. Call 346-0102.
- Buhl - 12:05 p.m. Thursdays at the Grandstand, 543-6281.
- Gooding - 12:15 p.m. Thursdays at the Wood River Inn, 934-8665.
- Walloley - Noon Thursdays at the Blaine County Courthouse, 296-2111.
- Jerome - Noon Thursdays at China Villa, 1215 S. Alder, 342-7080.
- Keetchikan/Valley - Noon Thursdays at the Vista and Pella Restaurant, call Bob Stone at 726-4100.
- Rupert - Noon Thursdays at the Buhl Inn, 346-0102.
- Twin Falls - Noon Thursdays at the Lions Clubs, 346-0102.
- Burley - Noon Thursdays at Pines Cafe, 244 Overland Ave., call 676-7247.
- Walloley - 7:00 p.m. Thursdays at the Elks Club, 244 Overland Ave., call 676-7247.
- Gooding - 7:00 p.m. first and third Thursdays at Executive Inn, call Janet Thibodeau, 626-0901.
- Jerome - 7:00 p.m. first and third Thursdays at Jerome Hotel, 1219 Broadway, call 346-0102.
- Kimberly - 7 a.m. first and third Thursdays at Crossroads, Third Methodist Church, 435-7900.
- Rupert - 7:00 p.m. second and fourth Thursdays at Nivens Lake in Heyburn, call Brad Cotton at 426-6700.
- Burley Springs - 7:00 p.m. second and fourth Thursdays at United Methodist Church, 405 N.H., 436-0800.
- Twin Falls - Noon Thursdays at the Buhl Inn, 346-0102.
- Twin Falls Monarch - Meets first and third Thursdays at Irving Hotel Restaurant.

Kwanias Clubs

- Burley - Noon Thursdays at the Grandstand Sports Club, call 543-6430 or 543-6476.
- Burley - Noon Thursdays at Pines Cafe, 244 Overland Ave., 346-0220.
- Filer - Noon Thursdays at the Elder Methodist Church, 326-4000 or 326-0601.
- Rupert - Noon Thursdays at the Buhl Inn, 346-0102.
- Jerome - Noon Thursdays at the Elks Club, 1215 S. Alder, 342-7080.
- Burley - Noon Thursdays at the Buhl Inn, 346-0102.
- Walloley - Noon Thursdays at the Buhl Inn, 346-0102.
- Wendell - 7:15 p.m. Thursdays at the City Hall, 346-0102.

Scoutmaster International

- Burley - noon second, third and fourth Thursdays at Springs Plaza Apartments, 625 III Ave., call 676-4100.
- Twin Falls - noon first, third and fourth Thursdays at the Glina Buffet, call 734-9886 or 736-2900 for information.
- Rupert - noon second and third Thursdays at Buhl Lakes, call 736-0749.
- Burley - noon Thursdays at the Burley Inn, call 346-0102.
- Buhl - 12:05 p.m. Thursdays at the Grandstand, 543-6281.
- Gooding - 12:15 p.m. Thursdays at the Wood River Inn, 934-8665.
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- Twin Falls - Noon Thursdays at the Buhl Inn, 346-0102.
- Twin Falls Monarch - Meets first and third Thursdays at Irving Hotel Restaurant.

CLUB CALENDAR

Send to: Attention: Club Calendar, The Times-News, P.O. Box 549, Burley, Idaho, 83303. Or fax to 735-5538. Or email to patm@magvalley.com. For more information, call 735-3288.

Depot Church Group - noon Monday and Tuesday at the depot. 500 N. 2nd. Call 346-0102.

Golden Heritage Senior Center - 2421 Overland Ave., from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Mondays. Call 346-3107.

Golden Heritage Medical Center - 2020 11th St., from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Tuesdays by appointment.

Rupert - Rupert Senior Center - 702 11th St., from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Thursdays by appointment.

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The tax volunteers also complete pre-filing counseling this year in order to prepare returns for the families of National Guard and Military Reservists who have been called to active duty. If a person has a completed return, tax-Aide volunteers will advise them to see a paid preparer.

Other

Deacon Annuity - call 732-0767.

Golden Annuity - 8 p.m. Thursdays at the Buhl Inn, 346-0102.

Golden Heritage Senior Center - 2421 Overland Ave., from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Mondays. Call 346-3107.

Golden Heritage Medical Center - 2020 11th St., from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Tuesdays by appointment.

Rupert - Rupert Senior Center - 702 11th St., from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Thursdays by appointment.

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Universal design helps those with disabilities

The Hartford Courant

Nestled near the end of a driveway, the two-story clapboard-and-stone colonial in Glastonbury, Conn., makes a subtle but firm first impression: Graceful living practiced here.

Outside the home where Greg Hughes lives with his yellow lab, Lincoln, retaining walls and terraced ramps tame the property's slopes and invite visitors to stroll the landscaped grounds.

Inside, polished red-oak floors, oriental rugs, elegantly upholstered walls and doorways artfully encased by carved moldings reflect the owner's style and success long before he greets visitors in his motorized wheelchair.

Hughes lost the use of his arms and legs in a car crash when he was 17. But while his disability obviously has affected the course of his life, it does not define him.

Like Hughes, the home design depicts the realities of life with a wheelchair but without compromising on comfort or style.

Experts say this is a new model for home design that everyone should embrace, even if they are young and active.

An increasingly popular concept known as universal design is based on the notion that any building should be attractive and usable by all people, regardless of age or physical ability. The idea has caught on as the population ages and people seek to remain in their homes instead of moving to retirement communities.

"It's difficult to swallow that we're all going to need these things," said Mary Jo Peterson, an interior designer from Brookfield, Conn., who specializes in creating accessible kitchens and bathrooms.

But whether from old age, a skiing accident or a hip replacement, it's a fair bet that most people will have to live with a mobility problem during at least some portion of their lives.

So some designers say any home renovation or new construction should include accessibility features such as no-step entrances, extra-wide doorways, lever door handles, no-lip showers and at least some lower counters and under-sink leg room in the kitchens and baths.

"We don't want it to look institutional," said Carol Peredo Lopez, national architecture director for the Paralyzed Veterans of America. Lopez is completing a book on accessible design. "Most of the images in our book do not look like a wheelchair user lives there."

When he bought his rear lot off Chestnut Hill Road four years ago, Hughes wanted a home where he could live independently and where his two brothers, two sisters and 12 nieces and nephews could congregate on weekends to play pool or watch the big Sox or the Giants on the big-screen TV.

Inmates at maximum-security New Pelism are released from their cells for exercise just two hours every other day, unless they have a prison job.

"Wishing is a dream," Jones said of his food fantasies. He shrugged in a gesture of futility. "Steak? Lobster?"

Sister act

Hailey's Company of Fools presents "The Sisters Rosensweig."

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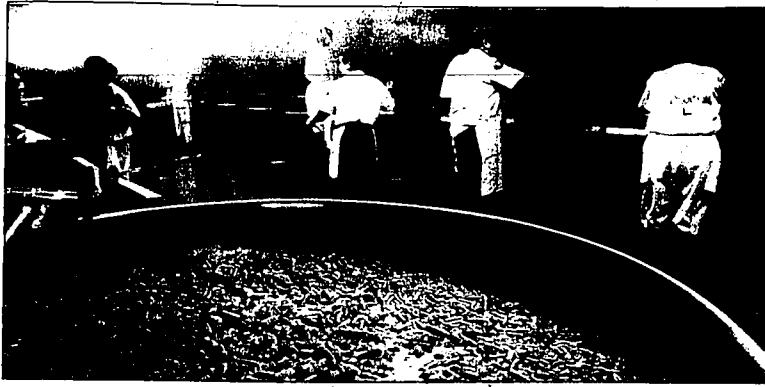
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Inmates prepare one of the three meals served each day at the Twin Towers Jail near downtown Los Angeles. Prisoners volunteer for the duty in exchange for double helpings of the food, plus tastier and more varied leftovers from the officers' cafeteria.

Inmates dream of better food

Los Angeles Times

LOS ANGELES — In the sour innards of Men's Central Jail, Alice Scott watched with pride as trays of her chicken casserole dinner were delivered like mail through slots in the cell doors. Prisoners began devouring the fare as soon as they had it in their grasp.

"The inmates like the food, and that makes me happy," said Scott, a sheriff's lieutenant who oversees meal preparations for the jail.

"Then came the reviews. 'It stinks,' said Bobby Love, 46, jailed for a probation violation. Like his five cellmates, he spooned up the casserole, carrots and green beans while standing in the elbow-bumping space between metal bunks.

"The food's always cold and the milk is hot." Similar comments sounded up and down the cell tiers, the critics shrill and intoned, creating a boiler-room din: "Garbage." "Disgusting." "Give us steak!"

Decent chow is considered as crucial as tall walls to the orderly management of jails and prisons. Churning it out is often an assembly-line, security-obsessed and penny-pinching task that depends on inmate workers who are paid for their labor.

At Men's Central, the shrouded protests covered the range of the jail's cuisine, although the chicken patties got a few thumbs up. "The burgers are pretty good, too," said DeMarcus Smith, 19, of Los Angeles, another probation offender. "But I don't even know what it was, what we had yesterday."

Scott said it was a tamale casserole. She appeared only slightly annoyed by the carping from the pens, her weary eyes never straying from what came with the territory.

"Typical," she said. It used to be worse, here and elsewhere. Over the decades, federal reforms have improved the nation's detention menus, doing away with daily rations of gruel-ish, artery-clogging concoctions. Many institutions, however, still serve a meager \$3 per inmate per day on meals.

Complaints about food have fueled numerous disturbances behind bars, minor and major. Spurred by a nonprofit organization at the historic federal prison on San Francisco Bay's Alcatraz Island, which closed in 1983 and is now a National Park Service attraction.

Meats were also a factor in America's deadliest riot, the 1971 rebellion that took 43 lives at New York's Attica prison. Today, inmates are guaranteed a healthy allotment of calories and nutrients, as well as clean kitchens. Diets low in salt and fat have gained favor. More and more prisons are eliminating pork in deference to the religious tenets of Muslim prisoners.

Some cling to an old tactic of pumping up the clock. Instead of the standard 2,500 to 3,000 — to keep inmates full-bellied and calm, said Dan Jamerson, a senior vice president of Amnark Corp., a food vendor



An inmate slides his food tray through the bars of his cell. Prisoners are guaranteed a healthy mix of calories and nutrients.

that provides meals for 325 prisons and jails. "It's using food to manage the prison," Jamerson said. Inmate rights advocates condemn as dehumanizing what they say is the growing practice of requiring inmates to eat in their cells, a measure taken to prevent fights in dining halls.

Cost-cutting is another sore subject for the advocates, who say leaner budgets have led to fewer hot meals, smaller portions and more palate-numbing packaged food.

"Most of us would find prison meals bland, unappetizing and monotonous," said Steve Fanni, an attorney for the San Rafael, Calif.-based Prison Law Office, which represents inmates. "Especially the bag lunch. . . It has something that has similarities to what people would call lunch meat. I'm not sure it is lunch meat."

Corey Weinstein, a physician and investigator for California Prison Focus, an inmate rights group in San Francisco, said jails and prisons balk at accommodating the dietary needs of diabetic inmates or those with food allergies.

"It's ridiculous," he said. "That's why there are riots." The nastiest of the nasty, Weinstein added, is the food in county jails. "Notoriously horrible," he said. "Lots of hot dogs and beans."

Not true, said Scott, who runs meal service for 17,500 inmates at

the officers' cafeteria, whose dishes are far more varied and appealing.

"I like the barbecued ribs," inmate Karen Howkes, 43, said of the cafeteria's treats. Howkes and her co-workers toiled under the wary eyes of a dozen staff cooks and sheriff's guards. Carving knives were tethered to cutting tables with padlocked cables, just in case.

Years ago, Scott said, an inmate in another jail kitchen grabbed a hose knife and briefly took a cook hostage. She could recall no serious incidents of violence in the Twin Towers kitchen on escapes from the

prison, she said, referring to an alcoholic drink prisoners make. They steal or hoard enough fuel to produce gallons of prison each day, fermenting it in plastic bags.

"That's why we put holes in the bags," said Scott, displaying a plastic lunch sack. "These have six holes, and I've asked for six more."

The bag held two pieces of tired-looking processed turkey, two slices of wheat bread, two cookies, an apple and carrots. It is a typical lunch. Breakfast is mainly bran flakes and milk, hard-boiled eggs, a bun, jelly and fruit juice.

The jail stopped serving hot oatmeal last year to trim \$1.5 million from its annual food budget, which is \$22.9 million — or \$2.25 per day per inmate, less than that of California's state prisons (\$2.45) and federal penitentiaries (\$2.78).

Several women said they would starve if it weren't for the jail commissary, where inmates can buy noodles, soup, steak, chips, candy and the like — if they have the money.

Cleveland Jones isn't moving anywhere, and he's courted by a number of food jobs. He is, doing 217 years to life for attempted murder and other crimes, leaving him eligible for parole in 2204. It's at New Pelism, a modern California state prison next to the 19th century stone fortress that inspired Johnny Cash's tune.

The spoke jiggling crumpling on the cell floor, so that he could peer through a high-high tray slot in the steel door.

Inmates at maximum-security New Pelism are released from their cells for exercise just two hours every other day, unless they have a prison job.

"Wishing is a dream," Jones said of his food fantasies. He shrugged in a gesture of futility. "Steak? Lobster?"

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- An Expression In Passion Fruit (14 inch, 14 day parade wheel with fresh fruit and swirl with a cream tulle)

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- **Cocktail grapefruit:** Evergreen, tangy, juicy, this cross between a type of mandarin orange and a pomelo is sweeter and less acidic than a regular grapefruit. Most are grown in California's Central Valley, and are hand-picked for the best quality. Season: November to February.

- **Blood orange:** Named for their deep pink or red streaked flesh, blood oranges can be easily found in most supermarkets. They are often labeled Moro oranges. The rough skin on these small fruits may have a red blush or no blush at all. Season: December to June.

- **Buddha's hand:** This strange-looking citrus consists mostly of yellow fingers and looks like a huge, rough lemon. The flesh is dry and can be either sweet or sour. It has a weak lemon flavor. The peel offers a pleasant, unique fragrance. Often used in a sangria manner as a garnish, it can be peeled or used in candy, sherbets and desserts. Season: November to February. Storage: Wrap in plastic; refrigerate in crisper drawer. So delicate, it lasts only a few days.

- **Cara Cara orange:** Known as the pink orange, the fruit originated at the Hacienda de Cara Cara in Valencia, Venezuela. It has a bright orange peel and pink-to-rosy-colored flesh. The taste is sweet with a low acid flavor and undertones of a grapefruit. Best when eaten fresh or used in cooked sauces. Season: late December to May.

- **Honey orange:** Officially known as a Murcott tangerine, the cross between a tangerine and a sweet orange has a high sugar content. Ideal for use in salads, as a cooking ingredient and as a garnish. The shape is slightly flattened, the peel smooth, glossy orange and thin. Better for juice than for eating because of abundant seeds. Season: January to March.

- **Kumquat:** Tiny fruit resembling a small orange, it has a skin and all. A native of China, but also grown in Japan and the United States. It is the product of a type of evergreen tree. Served fresh in salads; more commonly used in syrups and preserves.

- **Oronabe:** Grapefruit-pomelo hybrid with white flesh covered with a thick, easy-to-peel rind ranging in color from green to yellowish. The flesh is sweet to tart and in flavor and eaten in the same manner as a grapefruit. Season: November to March.

- **Pamelo (also known as pomelo, pummelo or shaddock):** May be a distant relative to the grapefruit, but sweeter, firmer and less juicy. A favorite in China for thousands of years as a candied treat. Extremely thick and easy-to-peel rind with flesh that ranges from light yellow to pink. Used as an ingredient in vegetable and seafood salads. Season: November to March.

- **Red navel orange:** The ruby interior comes from the presence of lycopene, the natural ingredient that gives red grapefruit its color. Deep orange on the outside with a distinctive crimson interior that tastes rich and sweet and a blossom end that resembles a human navel. Seedless with a thick, easy-to-remove peel and segments that separate cleanly. Juice becomes bitter if not used immediately. Season: Mid-November to mid-March.

- **Satsuma tangerine:** Original developed in Japan in the province of its namesake. The satsuma tangerine has a loose, often bumpy rind and is orange to deep red in color. Its sweet pulp is sometimes slightly tart and is almost always seedless. A variety of the mandarin tangerine, the satsuma is aromatic and less acidic than other mandarins. It is used in salads, stir-fries, stuffings, tarts, custards and other desserts. Season: November to March.

- **Sunburst tangerine:** Cross between a clementine tangerine and tangelo, with a peel so smooth and thin that the edges of the sections on the inside appear, as tiny zippers on the outside. Sweet and flavorful. Season: November to January.

St. Louis Post-Dispatch

ST. LOUIS You've probably whizzed past them in the produce section, lighting they have nothing to do with you or the way you cook. The "they" of which we speak are unusual citrus fruits. And though most are exquisite in their beauty, frankly, a few look downright weird.

But first, a little history: Way back when, citrus fruits were thought to be harmful, but most cultures soon got past those suspicions and used the produce in embalming rituals (the Egyptians, of course), as a hedge against fever, colds and scurvy; as an antidote for poison and as a bug exterminator.

Some of the more exotic specimens, such as the tiny kumquat and delicate, some like the pomelo, have names that slide off the tongue; and still others, such as the Buddha's hand, are so odd and crumpled that they defy description.

Hybrids abound, including the limequat, a cross between a kumquat and a lime; the ugly fruit, a cross between a grapefruit and a tangerine; and the ugo bianca, a cross between a pomelo and a grapefruit.

Because many fruits are similar in taste, one can substitute for its cousin. For instance, a regular lemon can take the place of the trendy and less tart Meyer lemon in almost any recipe.

More exotic fruits, such as the Buddha's hand, are available in season at some grocery stores and at specialty and ethnic food shops, such as Whole Foods. You can also order other fruits online from purveyors such as Melissa's, www.mississas.com.

ORANGES IL GIGLIO

- 8 servings
- 8 navel oranges
- 1 1/2 cups granulated sugar
- 1/2 cup triple Sec or other orange liqueur
- 2 tablespoons brandy
- 1 tablespoon amaretto

1/4 cup Grand Marnier

Mini sprig
8 almond or chocolate biscotti
Peel 2 oranges with a vegetable peeler so you get strips about 2 to 2 1/2 inches long and about 1/2 inch wide, taking care to avoid the white pith under the peel. Stack the peels, then cut them into julienne strips (the size of a matchstick).
Place the peels in a saucepan; add cold water just to cover. Bring to a boil over medium heat, then lower the heat and simmer 15 minutes.
Drain orange strips; return to the saucepan. Add sugar and 1 1/2 cups water. Bring to a boil over medium heat, stirring; simmer gently about 20 minutes to 30 minutes or until translucent. Let cool in the pan.
Meanwhile, peel oranges, removing all the white pith with a sharp paring knife. Section the oranges by cutting wedges in between the membranes. Put the sections in a shallow dish.
In a small bowl, mix triple Sec, brandy and amaretto. Pour over the sections, cover with plastic and refrigerate until ready to serve, at least several hours.
To serve, arrange sections in a ring on a plate, using as much of the soaking liquid as you wish. Put candied orange peel in the center; sprinkle the oranges with Grand Marnier. Garnish with fresh mint; serve with almond or chocolate biscotti.



Washington Post photo

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Scrapbooking

Scrapbooks Preserve Wedding Memories Forever

He popped the question and you said "yes!" As soon as you can, you write a note about the happy occasion, and then download and print out photos of the two of you to share with family and friends. Perhaps you've already started a scrapbook about your courtship, which you'll share with your children and grandchildren someday. Photos, wedding invitations, love letters and other special papers preserve your personal history. Today, new paper preservatives on the market help ensure that your memories remain intact, to have and to hold forever.

If you're one of the 23 million Americans who celebrate life through scrapbooking, then you're aware of the papers, rubber stamps, stickers and other embellishments available. If you're not, then your upcoming wedding is an ideal time to get acquainted with your local scrapbooking store or craft chain. To get started, consult one of the dozens of scrapbooking magazines and instruction books available.

Photos are fundamental to any scrapbook. If you have a digital camera, you know that digital photography is easier to manipulate, reprint and share.

You'll want to fill your scrapbook pages with more than photos. Love letters, ticket stubs, newspaper clippings, napkins or matchbooks from "your" restaurant, funny sayings or the lyrics from "your" song will help capture the magic of your romance. In the past, scrapbookers were concerned about the adverse affects acidic papers might have on their photos. Today, Make It Acid-Free™ from Krylon reduces this danger by neutralizing papers' acids. This acid-free and scrapbooking-safe aerosol spray also extends the life of paper momentos by protecting them from becoming brittle.

When you discover how easy it is to be creative with the many paper products available, you might consider making custom wedding invitations on your home computer. vellum, a sophisticated, translucent paper, is one of the hottest trends for wedding invitations. Don't let its seeming fragility scare you away. To ensure crisp, smudge-proof printing, spray Preserve It! on the vellum before printing and then again when you're done. Krylon Spray Adhesive offers a fast, no-show hold for vellum.

Another way to add instant sophistication to your invitations, envelopes, place cards and thank you notes is to embellish them with Krylon's acid-free Glitter Spray or Webbing Spray. Before sending out your invitations, use Preserve It! to protect hand-written envelopes or computer-generated mailing labels. And as you set up your new home, remember that Preserve It! can help protect important documents, like leases, deeds and contracts.

Paper is the traditional gift for a first wedding anniversary, and with a little planning and taking several precautions, the fragile papers that contain your wedding memories will last for many anniversaries to come.

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THE SCRAPBOOK COTTAGE
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Jerry Greene's skewed Super Bowl memories.

SPORTS

Local sports D2
Scores and stats D3
Super Bowl D4

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

MORNING LINE

SPORTSQUOTE

I'll make this short. Kmart wants me back for my greeter's job.

Los Angeles Kings announcer Bob Miller, one of the winners at the Southern California Sports Broadcasters awards luncheon Monday, who is out of work because of the NHL lockout.

TRIVIA

QUESTION: What do Wilt Chamberlain, David Thompson, George Gerwin and Vernon Maxwell have in common?
ANSWER: below

TODAY'S SCHEDULE

High School
BOYS BASKETBALL
Century at Twin Falls, 6 p.m.
Wood River at Skyline, 6 p.m.
Idaho Falls at Minico, 6 p.m.
Valley at Wendell, 6 p.m.
Pocatello at Burley, 6 p.m.
GIRLS BASKETBALL
POSTSEASON
SCIC Tournament
Kimberly at Filer, 7 p.m.
Declo at Gooding, 7 p.m.
Magic Valley Northside Tournament, Shoshone
Richfield vs. Dietrich, 7 p.m. state play-in game
WRESTLING
Bull at Jerome, 7 p.m.
Minico at Century, 6:30 p.m.
Valley at Aberdeen Tournament, 8 a.m.
Wendell at Raft River/Oakley in Malta, 5:30 p.m.
Wood River at Preston Tournament, 4 p.m.

IN BRIEF

CSI plans winter homecoming
TWIN FALLS — A week of winter homecoming events will start next week at the College of Southern Idaho.
The CSI Dance and Cheer teams will perform at the homecoming dance party set for 6-6 p.m. Feb. 11 at the CSI Student Union Building.
A pre-game social for alumni and friends of CSI is planned for 5-7 p.m. Feb. 12 at the Park Club on Falls Avenue. Participants are urged to wear their CSI colors and join the Golden Eagle Booster for food and an open house before CSI's game with North Idaho College. Admission is free. Games are Feb. 11 and 12, with women's games at 6 p.m. and men's games at 8 p.m. General admission is \$6 for adults and \$4 for students. CSI students will be admitted free with their activity cards.

Pomerelle plans Big Air event Saturday
ALBION — Pomerelle Mountain will be holding the 'Big Air' 2005 Do the Dew competition for skiers and boarders on Saturday, Feb. 5.
Registration will be held on the day of the competition in the lodge until 11 a.m., with the event to begin at noon. Cost is a \$5 entry fee and a \$5 bib deposit. A Pomerelle release waiver signed by a parent is required for all competitors under 18 years of age.
Trophies and medals will be given to the top three in each division. All competitors will be entered in a drawing for a snowboard compliments of Pepsi Co.

T.F. Legion baseball parents meet tonight
TWIN FALLS — Parents of players interested in playing Twin Falls American Legion baseball this summer are asked to attend an important meeting at 6:30 p.m. tonight in the small gym at Twin Falls High School.
Compiled from staff reports

TRIVIA ANSWER:
They are the only NBA players to score 30 points or more in a quarter. Maxwell, the last to do it, accomplished the feat on this day in 1991 for Houston against Cleveland.

Bruins befuddle Idaho Falls

22-2 run just the start of playoff blowout

By Eric Larsen Times-News writer

TWIN FALLS — When is a 13-0 run totally meaningless? When you've already beaten on the losing end of two giant runs and trail 56-20.

A 13-0 game ending run against the Twin Falls Bulldogs wasn't enough to bring the Idaho Falls Tigers to within reaching distance of a win Tuesday night at Bann Gymnasium. A more fundamentally sound Bruins team made the Tigers look lost on the court on their way to a 56-33 win in the opening round of the Region Four-Five-Six Girls Basketball Tournament.

The game was never in doubt, as the Bruins opened the game with a 22-2 run. Senior Amy Bratvold dropped in seven of her game-high 17 points in the first period. A pestering press and solid play by senior point guard Jamie Edwards earned the Bruins a 22-7 lead after eight minutes of play. "It was a very good thing for us to come out and play like we did in the early and middle part of the season," Bruins head coach Joe D. Shepard said. "When we were putting teams away early and getting steals and really shooting the ball, we didn't play like that our last four games."

The Bruins earned their lead almost exclusively from the perimeter, as Edwards dished out six assists in the first half. "We shot a very high percentage in the first," Shepard said. "And I really wanted to see that. The girls were running the floor and hitting those 10-footers. And there were a bunch of different girls hitting them."

In all, seven Bruins players got in the scoreboard by halftime. Tigers post Katrina Fronger gave Idaho Falls a spark in the second, crashing the offensive glass and keeping the Bruins led at 15 at the half, 33-18. Fronger finished with seven points and 10 rebounds. "Though the play was more physical in the second half, the Bruins were able to blow the game open with a 17-2 third quarter en route to a 50-20 lead. Bruins post Hannah Heidemier led with 12 rebounds and scored four of her eight points after the break. Edwards scored seven points in the third en route to 10 for the game. Senior guard April Hunter led Idaho Falls with 12 points. The Bruins will now travel to



Bruins point guard Jamie Edwards, 22, goes up for a lay-up past Idaho Falls Tiger defender Christine Collette during the second quarter of their Region Four-Five-Six playoff game Tuesday in Twin Falls.

Four-Five-Six Playoffs
Tuesday's games
Twin Falls 56, Idaho Falls 33
Highland 57, Skyline 35
Thursday's games
Twin Falls at Highland, 7 p.m.
Skyline at Idaho Falls, 7 p.m.

Pocatello to face the Highland Bruins, who defeated Skyline 57-35 Tuesday night. It's the rematch the Bruins have been preparing for.
"You hate to overlook anybody, but we felt like we could practice for Highland and still be ready for Idaho Falls," Shepard said. "We just need to get off to a good start this time. If we

need to slow it down or use ourly timeouts, whatever. Gametime is 7 p.m. Thursday.
Twin Falls 56, Idaho Falls 33
7:17 17-58
21:17 17-58
Twin Falls 56, Idaho Falls 33
7:17 17-58
21:17 17-58
Times-News sports writer Eric Larsen can be reached at 1-800-658-3883, Ext. 229, or elarsen@nuggetvalley.com.

Eagles look forward to their break

Teams will next play North Idaho College

By Kevin Colbert Times-News writer

TWIN FALLS — The off week suits both College of Southern Idaho basketball teams just fine.

And why not? Both teams have top-five rankings and sterling 21-1 overall and 9-1 Scenic West Athletic Conference records entering the two-week break until their next contests against North Idaho College on Feb. 11.

Players like to play but even for them a break is welcomed once in a while, especially after suffering all the bumps-and-bruises that games and practices can dish out.

"It is kind of nice because we've been going hard for six months now," CSI women's team sophomore Megan Kani said. "You get a little banged up and you've been going so long that you get a little worn out."

"The coaches, too, realize the toll that the grind of the season takes on their players. "This is a tough time of year," CSI women's head coach Fandy Rogers said. "It's a long season and I know the girls are drained just a little bit. This is a perfect time to have an off week."

Several of Rogers' players left the CSI campus on Monday to go on recruiting visits and other camps scheduled to visit campuses on Wednesday.

"It gives us a chance to have just a little break then hit it hot Thursday and Friday in getting ready for North Idaho," Rogers said.

The little bit of downtime will give the athletes a chance to concentrate on their studies while also doing the tedious things necessary to prepare for the rest of the season. "Really, this is a great week just to get minds and bodies healthy," CSI men's assistant coach Barret Peery said. "Guys that need to be in the training center get there a lot. Guys that need to get in the gym and shoot can just spend some time shooting without having to take the extra time preparing for the team they're playing."

Some coaches may prefer to have their teams enter a game-free two-week stretch on a sour note, if for no other reason than to grab the attention of their players for the rest of the season. Please see BREAK, Page D2

Bulldogs hold off Indians

By Kevin Colbert Times-News writer

KIMBERLY — When the pressure was on, the Kimberly girls' basketball team looked to its senior leader. The Bulldogs' Whitney Funk broke through the Bull pressure and found Tarah Lappin inside for a tip to the free throw line in the waning seconds Tuesday on the way to a 44-42 Southwest Central Idaho Conference Tournament victory.

With the win, fourth-seeded Kimberly (3-16 overall) advances to the next round of the tournament at top-seeded Filer at 7 tonight.

Bull (2-17) had tied the game up at 42-41 on Abbe Reynolds' high-arching 3-pointer along the left baseline with just 10 seconds remaining. But the Bulldogs were their not-so-secret weapon on the ensuing possession. Funk, who finished with a game-high 24 points, drove through the Indians' defense and dished to Lappin in the lane, who was fouled with 4.3 seconds left on the clock. Lappin then calmly sank both free throws, giving Kimberly the two-point edge.

"Tarah stepped up and hit the two big free throws," Kimberly coach Rich Bishop said. "But Whitney, she had the game of her life tonight. She had the 24 points and didn't come off the floor." Funk's solid game extended to her defense, where she held Bulldogs Amanda Owen to just two points. Owen had scored 20 against the Bulldogs earlier in the season.

The Indians had a chance to tie it at the end, when Reynolds was sent to the free-throw line with 1.1 seconds remaining. Unfortunately for Bull's would-be hero, she came up empty on the first attempt before intentionally missing the second. The Indians could not correct the rebound, and Kimberly held on.

She had the game of her life tonight. She had the 24 points and didn't come off the floor.

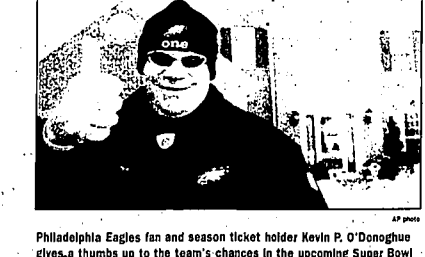
- Rich Bishop, Kimberly coach

Bull held offensive patience to rally in the fourth quarter. Kimberly led 35-24 with 7:02 remaining before the Indians stuck to their pick-and-roll and backcut offense. The patience was done in the form of four layups during a run that brought them within 42-39 with 18.4 ticks left.

"That's what we've been trying to get them to understand all year is that if teams are going to come in and overpower us on the wings, we need to do things that will make us successful," Bull coach Mitch Oparmer. "I took us a little while, but we got some things done in the third and fourth quarters to start making things happen."

Kimberly turned the ball over on its next possession, leading to Reynolds' 3-pointer on the inbound play. Whitney Funk's layup led Bull with 10-point, while Reynolds finished with nine. Funk scored 14 points in a stagnant first half with just the Bulldogs led 20-14 at halftime.

Bull plays 7 p.m. on Thursday at the loser of today's Gooding/Declo game.



Philadelphia Eagles fan and season ticket holder Kevin P. O'Donoghue gives a thumbs up to the team's chances in the upcoming Super Bowl Thursday, outside his Glen Mills, Pa. home.

Eagles fans borrow against their homes for Super Bowl trips

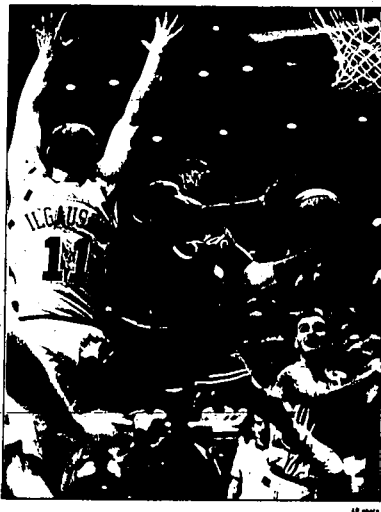
The Associated Press
PHILADELPHIA — Kevin P. O'Donoghue is going to the Super Bowl. When he gets back, he'll worry about the house he mortgaged to watch his beloved Eagles.
He's not alone. Some championship-deprived Philadelphia fans are so desperate to get down to Jacksonville for the big game that they're borrowing against their homes to pay for the tickets.

O'Donoghue, who was 23 the last time his team made it to the Super Bowl, promised himself he'd be there if they ever made it again — no matter what it took.
After the Eagles advanced to their first Super Bowl in 24 years, O'Donoghue told his wife: "I don't care if we have to mortgage our house. I'm going."

She replied, "What a minute, maybe that's a good idea." So O'Donoghue sunk \$4,000 on a Super Bowl package that includes round-trip airfare, a four-night hotel stay and one ticket to Sunday's game. To pay for it, he applied for a home equity line of credit, a way of borrowing money that required him to put up his house as collateral.
"Sometimes the cards are mixed out and you gotta do what you gotta do," said O'Donoghue, 36, an account executive from Glen Mills. Mortgage bankers in Philadelphia and Please see BORROW, Page D4

Table with sports scores: Kimberly 44, Bull 42. Includes scores for other games like Declo vs Gooding, and various basketball games.

SPORTS



Orlando Magic guard Steve Francis, right, drives to the basket past the outmatched arms of Cleveland Cavaliers' Zydrunas Ilgauskas (33) of Lithuania during the first quarter on Tuesday, in Orlando, Fla.

Francis spoils LeBron's return

ORLANDO, Fla. (AP) — Steve Francis scored 36 points and tied a season high with 13 assists, and the Orlando Magic beat the Cleveland Cavaliers 105-102 on Tuesday night to spoil LeBron James' return.

Craze Hill scored 27 points for the Magic, who have won seven of their last eight home games.

James finished with 20 points, seven assists and five rebounds in his first game since rolling his left ankle last Wednesday in a win over Memphis.

Jeff McInnis appeared to send the game into overtime with a buzzer-beating 3-pointer, but after a brief huddle the officials waved off the shot.

Nets 107, Bulls 97 — EAST RUTHERFORD, N.J. — Jacque Vaughn moved into the starting lineup and tied his career high with 23 points, and Jason Kidd narrowly missed the 62nd triple-double of his career in New Jersey's victory over Chicago Bulls.

Kidd had 26 points, 13 rebounds and nine assists, and Vince Carter had 31 points, six assists and five rebounds for the Nets, who won their season-high fourth in a row.

Kirk Hinrich had 18 points for the Bulls, who lost their second in a row for their first two-game losing streak since late December.

Pistons 105, Wizards 96 — WASHINGTON — Chauncey Billups scored 11 of his 28 points in the fourth quarter, and Detroit closed with a 20-11 run to win its fourth straight.

Billups helped break open a close game with a pair of three-point efforts. He converted a steal and layup into a three-point play with 5:10 to go, then hit a double-clutch 3-pointer at the short clock buzzer with 4:29 left.

Kirk Hinrich had 18 points for the Wizards, who lost their second in a row for their first two-game losing streak since late December.

Antonio Johnson scored 26 points, and Gilbert Arenas had

18 points and 11 rebounds in a close game with a pair of three-point efforts. He converted a steal and layup into a three-point play with 5:10 to go, then hit a double-clutch 3-pointer at the short clock buzzer with 4:29 left.

Raymond James scored 11 of his 28 points in the fourth quarter, and Detroit closed with a 20-11 run to win its fourth straight.

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Raymond James scored 11 of his 28 points in the fourth quarter, and Detroit closed with a 20-11 run to win its fourth straight.

Top seed Minico throttles Wood River

The Times-News

Local sports

REPORT — The host Spartans held Wood River scoreless in the first half en route to a 45-13 victory in the opening round of the Great Basin Conference West Tournament.

Minico's Amber Warth contributed a double-double, snagging 13 boards to go with her 13 points. Laura Bollenbender had eight points, which included a pair of 3-pointers.

The Spartans led 17-0 at the half and out-rebounded their guests 31-16 on the evening.

"We came out with pretty good defensive intensity," said Minico assistant coach Kelly Artrick.

Syringa Stark paced the Wolverines with seven points.

In second-round action, Minico (17-3, 7-0) hosts Burley at 7:30 Thursday night. Wood River (3-15, 1-6) plays at Jerome next, also Thursday.

Table with 2 columns: Team, Score, Location. Includes Minico 45, Wood River 13; Burley 37, Jerome 28; Canyon Conference playoffs; Valley 51, Wendell 32; Raft River 60, Hansen 49; Hagerman 60, Castelford 37; Utah Valley 91, Utah Valley 57; Nebraska 91, Utah Valley 57.

Regular season Begins basketball Community School 64, Billes 38

BLISS — Cuthroths senior Connor Wade had six 3-pointers and scored a game-high 26 points to lead the Community School over Billes 64-30 Tuesday night in Magic Valley Northside Conference play.

The Cuthroths (9-7, 7-4 conference) also got 17 from Andrew Thurnsch and 12 from Al Beasley.

"Connor Wade had a really good night for Ketchum," said Bliss coach Nick Smith. "We are playing hard defense but need more scoring."

Bliss (0-14, 0-10 conference) will be joined by Joseph Thuhold with 12 points.

Bliss is on the road at Dietrich Friday while the Community School hosts conference leader Richfield, also Friday night.

Community School 64, Billes 38. Community School 64, Billes 38. Community School 64, Billes 38.

M.V. Christian 55, Oakley 53 OT. OAKLEY — Senior Cody Greiff scored 23 points to lead Magic Valley Christian to an overtime victory over Oakley Tuesday night in Magic Valley Southside Conference play.

"There were several lead changes and it wasn't a very pretty game," said Magic Valley Christian coach Bruce Hinkel.

Junior guard Jon Fulerich added 13 points for Magic Valley Christian (14-3, 14-1).

Byron Adams led Oakley with 20 points, and Mike Melville finished with 13.

Magic Valley Christian 55, Oakley 53 OT. Magic Valley Christian 55, Oakley 53 OT.

Raft River 60, Hansen 49. RAFT RIVER — CJ Hockett posted 29 points for Raft River as the Trojans defeated Hansen 60-49 at home Tuesday night in Magic Valley Southside Conference play. Hockett sank five three-pointers.

Paden Baker and Braden Barrett also reached double-digits for the Husks, scoring 13 and 11, respectively.

"The kids played a solid four quarters," said Raft River coach Jeff Greenwood. "Hansen has some good shooters. It was our goal to contest their shots."

Kyle King led the Huskies with 22 points, hitting four 3-pointers.

Raft River (12-3, 8-3) visits

Magie Valley Christian on Thursday. Hansen (7, 3) hosts Oakley on Saturday.

Raft River 60, Hansen 49. RAFT RIVER — CJ Hockett posted 29 points for Raft River as the Trojans defeated Hansen 60-49 at home Tuesday night in Magic Valley Southside Conference play.

Dietrich 76, TFCA 63. TWIN FALLS — Dietrich topped Twin Falls Christian Academy 76-63 on the road Tuesday night in non-conference play.

Bryant Pimman scored a game-high 20 points for the Blue Devils and Hank Hingham paced the Panthers with 17.

Dietrich mounted a 20-10 second quarter to pull away.

"We played really hard," said Warriors coach Ed Smith. "Just the mental errors here and there."

Michael Harris led TFCA with 15 points.

Dietrich (6-13, 3-8) hosts Billes on Friday. TFCA (5-11) plays on at North Gate, also on Friday.

Dietrich 76, TFCA 63. Dietrich 76, TFCA 63. Dietrich 76, TFCA 63.

Richfield 69, Carey 54. CAREY — It was the Victor Visque Show in Carey Tuesday night as the Richfield senior dropped 35 points on host Carey en route to a 69-54 victory on the Tigers in Magic Valley Northside Conference play.

Visque's clinic included eight 3-pointers, four of which came in the third quarter.

Richfield led the game 47-20 at the half.

"It was a tough physical game," said Carey coach Nick Simpson.

Cyler Cook headed up the Panthers with 12 points.

Richfield (16-2, 10-0) goes to the Community School on Friday. Carey (12-7, 8-3) visits Shoshone next, also on Friday.

Hagerman 60, Castelford 37. CASTLEFORD — Hagerman's Skyler Talbot poured in 24 points while Tim Jay added 12 to lead the Panthers to a 60-37 road win in Magic Valley Southside Conference play Tuesday night.

Nathan Pryor scored 13 for the Wolves.

Castelford (7, 4-5 Southside) next plays Thursday at Hansen.

Hagerman 60, Castelford 37. Hagerman 60, Castelford 37. Hagerman 60, Castelford 37.

Camas County 45, Shoshone 30

SUCTIONE — Camas County posted Mark Wilson scored 14 of his 18 points in the second half to help the Mustangs down Shoshone 45-30 in Magic Valley Northside Conference play Tuesday night.

"Wilson was the story of the game," said Mustangs coach Larry Messick. "All those second-half points were little two-foot clips."

Travis Vandelder added 10 for Camas County Brock Aault scored 11 points and Zach Smith paced the Mustangs.

Shoshone (1-17) next hosts Carey Friday night.

Camas County 45, Shoshone 30. Camas County 45, Shoshone 30. Camas County 45, Shoshone 30.

Murtaugh 61, Lighthouse Christian 37. MURTAUGH — Murtaugh's Bridger Ward went off for 27 points to lead the Red Devils past Lighthouse Christian 61-37 Tuesday night in Magic Valley Southside Conference action.

Clayton Sauter added 10 points for Murtaugh. Nick Prinn scored 17 points before fouling out for the Lions.

Murtaugh (7-8, 5-6 Southside) next hosts Oakley Thursday.

Murtaugh 61, Lighthouse Christian 37. Murtaugh 61, Lighthouse Christian 37. Murtaugh 61, Lighthouse Christian 37.

Jerome Wrestling Pocatello, Highland. POCATELLO — The Jerome High wrestling team came away from a pair of duels in Pocatello Tuesday night with a pair of victories, defeating Pocatello 42-34 and Highland 48-30.

"I thought our kids wrestled well," said Jerome Coach Dave Case. "We came out with some intensity and gave them some surprises. It's good to leave Pocatello with two wins."

Jerome wrestles in Buhl tonight.

Jerome 42, Pocatello 34. Jerome 42, Pocatello 34. Jerome 42, Pocatello 34.

Utah Valley 91, Utah Valley 57. UTAH VALLEY — Utah Valley's Jeff Gilbert hit 40 points for the Terrapins (13-6, 4-4), who missed their first 13 shots of the first half and fell behind 45-29.

Nebraska 91, Utah Valley 57. NEBRASKA — Nebraska's Kyle Gilbert hit 40 points for the Terrapins (13-6, 4-4), who missed their first 13 shots of the first half and fell behind 45-29.

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No. 1 Illini blast No. 12 Spartans, goes 22-0

EAST LANSING, Mich. (AP) — Luther Head scored 22 points. Lee Brown had 18 and No. 1 Illinois led the Spartans to a 68-43 victory over No. 12 Michigan State on Tuesday night.

Deron Williams had 14 points and five assists for the Illini (22-0, 8-0 Big Ten), who led by 17 points midway through the second half and were up 75-58 with 6:37 left.

Alan Anderson scored 14 points for the Spartans (14-4, 5-2), who lost their 12th straight game against a ranked opponent, dating to the regional finals of the 2003 NCAA tournament.

Illinois is 22-0 for the first time and it has won 18 straight Big Ten games, breaking a school record from 1914-16.

No. 5 Boston College 62, West Virginia 50. BOSTON — Craig Smith scored 23 points to lead the Eagles who remained unbeaten and matched the school-record

College basketball

19-game winning streak.

Smith was scoreless while the Mountaineers led an 18-0 lead with 9:21 left in the first half. Then he scored 17 of the Eagles' next 24 points, giving them the lead for good, 33-32, with a layup with 16:04 remaining.

Easton College (10-4, 8-0 Big East) matched its school record winning streak set in 1968-69. It already has its highest ranking and best start ever.

Mike Gunsey and Tyrone Sully each had 10 points for West Virginia (12-7, 2-6), which has lost six of seven.

Clemson 88, No. 22 Maryland 73. CLEMSON, S.C. — Starrod Ford tied his career high with 25 points and the Tigers snapped a 13-game losing streak against Maryland.

on the 'leps slice a 20-05' over the top to win at Laidlaw Coliseum on Dec. 4, 1997. The Tigers had lost five straight overall and seven of eight.

John Gilbert hit 40 points for the Terrapins (13-6, 4-4), who missed their first 13 shots of the first half and fell behind 45-29.

Nebraska 91, Utah Valley 57. NEBRASKA — Nebraska's Kyle Gilbert hit 40 points for the Terrapins (13-6, 4-4), who missed their first 13 shots of the first half and fell behind 45-29.

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Coming Thursday Jerry Greene's skewed Super Bowl memories.

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X Games walk fine line between danger, entertainment

ASPEN, Colo. (AP) — When Brian Deegan flew off his motorcycle and went crashing to the ice — 40 feet below — spectators' Winter X games, ESPN showed it on what seemed like a continuous loop.

It's nice to see a big crash because it's fun," snowmobiler Blair Morgan said. "Initially you'll get all that exciting racing to the finish and someone cartwheeling — down the track, everything tied in together."

Of course, ESPN doesn't set up the courses to ensure injury. The cable network, which created the X Games television event, still organizes every last detail, walks a fine line between making the courses challenging while keeping the competitors relatively safe.

While this year's event has been relatively tame — snowboarder Chris Kluge's broken collarbone in practice Friday has been about the worst of it — there has been plenty of spills that have been shown over and over on replays. And the announcers play into it as well, turning out catchy phrases like "fall safe" and "big dump," which the spills do occur.

SPORTS IN BRIEF

Soldier Mountain hosts youth ski race Saturday
(FAIRHILL) — The Soldier Mountain Youth Ski Team will be hosting a youth ski race on Feb. 5 at 11 a.m. at Soldier Mountain, located on Sd Road.

UNC is making the transition from Division II to Division IAA. UNC officials have said they want into the Big Sky Conference after competing in the inaugural year of the Great West Football League.

Referee, match implicated in scandal
FRANKFURT, Germany — A referee was removed from a first-division match between Werder Bremen and Hansa Rostock before kickoff on Saturday weekend, and two newspapers reported the move was tied to Germany's widening match-fixing scandal.

Tomjanovich considering resigning from Lakers
LOS ANGELES — Rudy Tomjanovich is considering resigning as Los Angeles Lakers coach because of health reasons, a team spokesman said Tuesday.

WHAT'S ON T.V.

- Basketball
• Cincinnati at Louisville, ESPN, 6 p.m.
• Seton Hall at Georgetown, ESPN Classic, 8 p.m.
• CBS RSN at Oklahoma, ESPN2, 8 p.m.
• Duke at Wake Forest, ESPN, 7 p.m.
• Nuggets at Trail Blazers, ESPN2, 8 p.m.

Area ski report

Boyer Basin — Jan 30th had 14.5 in of snow, 13.5 in of rain, 10X open, 10X lift, 10X trails, 10X lifts.

Scores and Stats

Senior men's basketball
The Clearwater Spartans 50m
The Clearwater Spartans 50m
The Clearwater Spartans 50m

Football

Pro Rodeo Leaders
Through Jan 31
BARRAGE ROUND
1. Dan Barber 10,000
2. Dan Barber 10,000

WHAT'S ON T.V.

- NBA
• Eastern Conference
• Western Conference

College Basketball Scores

Men
Arizona 81, Oregon 77
Arizona 81, Oregon 77

College Basketball Schedule

Wednesday, Feb. 2
Arizona 81, Oregon 77

Baseball

Arizona 81, Oregon 77
Arizona 81, Oregon 77

Owner who fired coach rushed to hospital later

ANTHONYVILLE, Tenn. — Hours after storming the court and firing a coach, Anthonyville owner Sally Anthony was rushed to a hospital following a 911 call by a relative who said she had tried to "hurt herself."

Scientist uncovers new designer steroid

CANADIAN scientists uncovered a new steroid designed to avoid detection in standard drug tests, but say they found no evidence it was used by athletes.

Smith denies report that he will retire

JACKSONVILLE, Fla. — Famed Smith denied a report Tuesday that he will retire later this year.

Big Sky officials visit Northern Colorado

GREENSBORO, Colo. — Representatives of the Big Sky Conference arrived here Tuesday to investigate the possibility of adding the University of Northern Colorado to the eight-member conference.

NBA Boxes

Jan 31, 2006
Atlanta 102, Miami 92
Atlanta 102, Miami 92

Baseball

Arizona 81, Oregon 77
Arizona 81, Oregon 77

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SPORTS

THE NFATL



Nearly one of every four players in Sunday's Super Bowl will weigh 300 pounds or more. The Patriots have 12, and the Eagles 11, including 349-pound tackle Tra Thomas (72).

One in four Super-Bowl players are over 300 pounds

Brad Culppepper particularly remembers the Thanksgiving dinners, when he would stuff himself silly with food and then two hours later try to find a way to crain some more down his throat.

He was a defensive tackle in the NFL, undersized at 280 pounds in a supersized league. That left Culppepper two choices — eat or find another line of work.

Culppepper had to eat all the time, Culppepper said. "Some of it was just so miserable, but it was all just so I could keep the weight on."

The NFL has always been about size, of course, but the one physical team is, the better chance it has of controlling the line of scrimmage and winning a game.

But players are growing into uncharted territory now, getting so large that some are beginning to question the future of the 300-pound linemen with huge bellies that take up so much of your television screen every Sunday.

"These guys aren't just big, they're fat."

From just a handful of 300-pounders only 15 years ago, nearly one of every four players in Sunday's Super Bowl will weigh 300 pounds or more. The Patriots have 12, and the Eagles 11, including 349-pound tackle Tra Thomas.

An unofficial check of expanded NFL rosters at the end of the season turned up 455 players listed at 300 pounds or more, almost all of them linemen.

His guru Mackie Shilstone says some have come to him with high blood pressure, bad cholesterol and weight-related problems like insulin resistance syndrome that can threaten their lives.

"In three to five years you're going to see a player have a stroke on national television," Shilstone warns. "Hypertension is alive and well in the NFL."

For now, age protects most of them, but Culppepper watches the game from afar and wonders what's going to become of Corey Stricker, who was 335 pounds when he died from heatstroke at a Minnesota Vikings practice in 2001. A year later, former New Orleans Saints defensive lineman Frank Warren died of a heart attack at 43 years old, just five days after taping an HBO interview talking about the dangers of playing football at



300 pounds.

And an autopsy revealed Reggie White's sleep apnea — a condition that primarily affects obese people — may have been a factor in his death in December, also at the age of 43.

The bigger the player, the bigger the health risk.

Culppepper was smart enough to figure that out during a nine-year career that included six years playing alongside Warren Sapp in Tampa Bay. Culppepper came out of the University in Florida in 1992 weighing 275 pounds at a time when that was a normal weight among defensive linemen.

By the time he retired, though, there were players his size playing linebacker. And Culppepper knew he didn't want to risk the rest of his life living at 280 pounds.

"My first goal was to get down to human weight," he said. "I lost 10 pounds a month for eight months until I got down to 200 pounds."

Culppepper, who could barely run around the block when he left the NFL and has little trouble maintaining a weight he hadn't seen since he was a sophomore in high school.

But most of the players he played with and against won't have that discipline once they leave the league. Already blurry, they'll go into retirement or seek new careers without any

idea how to undo the fat that got them into the league in the first place.

Shilstone, who has a contract with Major League Baseball to help umpires lose weight and a new book called "The Fat Burning Bible," said the linemen who have sought his help all came in with conditions that were already threatening their health.

He said by computing their blood chemistries, blood pressure and waist measurement and plugging it into a model developed by the National Institute of Health, most had a 20 to 30 percent chance of having a stroke or heart attack by the age of 50.

I tell these linemen that the physical you get to play in the NFL is not a physical to live," Shilstone said. "What is really amazing is the abnormal blood pressures you see in these guys. I have one who is still in the NFL, who came in two years ago with blood pressure of 190 over 110."

Most of the linemen, of course, don't bother to see Shilstone or any other fitness expert. They're paid to be big and fill up lanes and to do some, 350 pounds looks good on a resume.

A dozen 300-pounders will be wearing new Super Bowl rings after Sunday, something Culppepper never got during his time in the league.

He has something else, something he thinks is more important.

"I'm so happy with my life now compared to when I was playing in the NFL," Culppepper said. "I'm healthy now."

Tim Dahlberg is a national sports columnist for The Associated Press. Write to him at tdahlberg@ap.org.

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T.O. doesn't stand for timeout in Super Bowl

JACKSONVILLE, Fla. (AP) — T.O.'s timeout is over.

Brushing aside his doctor's advice and — some might say — common sense, Terrell Owens returned to the practice field Monday determined to pull off the most improbable play of his career by making it to the Super Bowl.

He ran the required routes. He made the necessary cuts. And — is this a sign of what's to come Sunday? — against the defending champion New England Patriots? — he caught the passes that were thrown his way.

Not bad for a guy who went down 43 days earlier with a grotesque injury to his right leg, apparently done until next season.

"I will play on Sunday," Owens said Tuesday. "I know the type person I am. I have a lot of faith in my ability. I feel great. I'm proving a lot of people wrong. The sky is the limit for me. There are no limitations."

"Given this shouldn't be all that surprising (though maybe it is a bit appalling to any parent who wouldn't dare let their kid go out to play with a skinned-up knee). And if something Owens promised his teammates moments after he was injured.

Owens' injury

The Philadelphia Eagles' wide receiver Terrell Owens who suffered a high ankle sprain and a fracture to the tibia in December says he will play in Sunday's Super Bowl against his doctor's advice.



NOTE: Drawing is schematic.

SOURCE: Philadelphia Eagles AP

"I told the guys in the locker room 'You guys just get us into the Super Bowl and I'll be there,' he said. 'They've done their job. Now it's time to do my job.'"

Owens' teammates were happy to hear the receiver's plans. "That's great. He's another

piece of the puzzle," defensive tackle Corey Simon said. "He's not the whole puzzle. And if he wasn't out there, he'd be on the sidelines cheering for us, but we're glad to have him."

The greatest showman in football was certainly mean, for the Eagles' right ankle in December pulled out a Sharpe after a touchdown and gawked at Nicolette Sheridan for a pragmatic spool had to at least give it a shot.

"It's always a lift when you can get anyone out there, an added weapon," Eagles quarterback Donovan McNabb said. "He did make some big plays for us. He did an excellent job of carrying and presenting a different type of feel for our passing attack."

Just last week, Dr. Mark Myerson, the surgeon who operated on Owens' right ankle in December, said he would not clear the All-Pro receiver to suit up against the Patriots.

But there he was Monday in uniform at the University of North Florida, White Ocean, pulled out in less than one-third of the team's 30 plays, he got a pass each time he ran a route.

"It's shocking when you see the injury he had and how far he's come," Pro Bowl safety Michael Lewis said.

Borrow

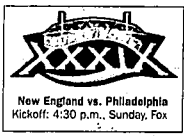
Continued from D1

newly Southern New Jersey say that Eagles fans have been inquiring about refinancing mortgages, or taking out home equity loans or home equity credit lines, to pay for what O'Donoghue calls "the chance of a lifetime."

Eric Reeber, a mortgage banker in Mount Laurel, N.J., said his office has gotten at least a dozen calls from Eagles fans looking for some quick cash. He said two couples have already been approved and were scheduled to close on their loans. He said they were too embarrassed to talk publicly about their borrowing.

"Some people don't care if it costs them \$100 more a month," said Reeber of Northern States Funding Group. "But I'll stand by it, if they want it."

At a time of rising house values and historically low mortgage rates, bankers say it might make more sense for fans



to pull money out of their houses than to pay for tickets with high-interest credit cards.

"If I had any equity left in my house, I probably would, too," said Shanna Lewis, 26, who works at Innovative Mortgage Solutions in Center City. She and her husband paid for their \$8,000 Super-Bowl package the old-fashioned way: by dipping into their bank account.

Eagles fans stuck by their team when it was awful and agonized when the Birds blew three straight chances to go to the Super Bowl. Now that their loyalty has been rewarded, why

would they let the prospect of 10 or 20 years' worth of additional house payments fade them?

But some bankers are wary. Dave Brecher, president and co-owner of North American Federal Mortgage Co. in blue-collar northeast Philadelphia, said his company has turned down homeowners who wanted to refinance their homes to raise cash for Super Bowl tips.

"If someone is that desperate, there's always repercussions," Denny Shiestack, owner of Lendelo Inc., which approved O'Donoghue's credit line, agrees that Americans have sunk too far into debt — but he doesn't fault Eagles fans for splurging.

"I'd argue it's a better investment than a flat screen TV," said Shiestack, an Eagles fan who has been to six of the last eight Super Bowls and is going to this one.

O'Donoghue said it's worth it. "I can't wait," he said. "It feels like Christmas Eve."

Super Bowl SUNDAY!

Did you know...
... more people like you will be reading a Sunday newspaper like The Times-News that morning, than will be watching the Super Bowl that night?

1. Q. Does the Super Bowl hold the record for the highest TV viewing audience?
A. No. That distinction is still held by the final episode of *Mash*, aired more than 20 years ago.
2. Q. What advertising medium will have the largest U.S. audience on Super Bowl Sunday?
A. Newspapers. Surprised? Every single week, a Sunday newspaper is read by over 116 million adults in the United States. Even on a heavy viewing television day like Super Bowl Sunday, the 2004 Super Bowl was watched by only 41.4% of households, roughly equating to 89.8 million viewers.
3. Q. If you want to reach the largest number of adults in the Magic Valley market, what advertising medium should you choose?
A. The Times-News

Now you've got it!

And since you do, check out the comprehensive Super Bowl coverage in The Times-News this weekend!

The Times-News
magicvalley.com

Your answer to reaching adults in the Magic Valley!

BRIEFLY
IN MONEY

Companies offer free online filing

TWIN FALLS — Qualifying taxpayers can find software companies that provide free online filing for both their federal and state income tax returns through the Idaho State Tax Commission's Web site.

To get a list of providers as well as their eligibility requirements, taxpayers can click on the "Free income tax filing" link.

The state partnered with the IRS and tax software companies to provide the free service to taxpayers. About 60 percent of filers qualify to file for free.

Electronic filing increases the accuracy of returns, reduces tax return preparation time and results in faster refunds, tax officials say.

Other monthly sessions will be held at the same time and location on . . . second.

CSI holds business 'boot camp' Feb. 9

TWIN FALLS — The Idaho Small Business Development Center at the College of Southern Idaho will hold its next "Business Start-up Boot Camp" from 6 to 8 p.m. Feb. 9 in the CSI Business Building.

Supervision I teaches about roles, responsibilities and leadership. The second course deals with coaching, performance, time management and delegation.

Each four-evening element is held from 6 to 9 p.m. on four consecutive Thursdays. The \$390 fee for each element includes instruction and materials.

Pre-registration is required. Contact Sherry Rust at the ISBDC at 732-6455 or at srust@csi.edu.

Manager supervision course will be at CSI

TWIN FALLS — The first element of a four-phase supervision course for managers will begin Thursday and run through the next four months at the College of Southern Idaho.

The class is coordinated by the Idaho Small Business Development Center, CSI and Boise State University and is geared to the needs of supervisors.

Supervision I teaches about roles, responsibilities and leadership. The second course deals with coaching, performance, time management and delegation.

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CSI holds Quickbooks classes on Thursdays

TWIN FALLS — Two Quickbooks classes are scheduled at the College of Southern Idaho.

"Using QuickBooks," will be from 6:30 to 9:30 p.m. Thursdays, Feb. 24 through May 5, in Evergreen A23. The instructor is Doug Lincoln. Cost is \$180 plus a \$25 lab fee.

"Introduction to QuickBooks," will be held from 6:30 to 9:30 p.m. Wednesdays, April 6 through May 4 in Evergreen A23. The fee is \$180 plus a \$25 lab fee.

To register, call Olenka Paredes at 732-6441.

M.V. Mall sees strong sales

M.V. Mall sees strong sales

By Megan Hinds Times-News writer

TWIN FALLS — Last year meant strong holiday sales, new stores and new ownership for Magic Valley Mall.

"We had an awesome year," said Shellen Gilliland, the mall's marketing director.

Stores and apparel sales were especially hearty for mall stores in 2004, which racked up \$300,000 more in sales of those items compared with 2003, Gilliland said.

"Our customers are very important to us because they are our owners," Moncur said.

Credit unions were founded to allow friends, co-workers and neighbors to pool resources and help each other out at a local level, and Simcoe is no different.

"It's people helping people," Moncur said. "That's the cooperative character credit unions have."

"This spirit translates into the member-driven service Simcoe provides."

"We try to keep our loan rates lower than elsewhere because it's our members' money," Moncur said.

Founded in 1960 to serve employees of J.R. Simplot Co.'s Heyburn plant, Simcoe moved to East Main Street in 1994 and began serving employees of other local businesses in 1998.

"Today Simcoe serves all residents of Mini-Cassia and boasts assets of more than \$5.6 million."

Because Simcoe is small its services can be tailored to the specific needs of members.

"Moncur said. One example is flexibility in loan amounts."

"Some of our members live day to day so Simcoe offers loans as low as \$100," Moncur said. "Sometimes they don't need \$500 or \$1,000 that other lenders set as minimums."

A seven-member, elected board of directors governs Simcoe's operations. Board members serve three-year terms.

Simcoe has three employees — Moncur, loan officer Pam Trost and Karl Pawson, teller.

"The number of employees may increase if the new office — with automated teller machine and drive-up window — leads to more business."

The location of the new office, at 510 21st St. in Heyburn, was

aged 25-54. "The Rose campaign has 'really impacted apparel sales,'" Gilliland said.

"As a whole, the mall didn't reflect the dismal holiday sales seen elsewhere in the country."

"During December, 35 percent of the mall's permanent stores saw an increase in sales of 20 percent or more, while 21 percent reported a 20 percent or more increase in sales for the entire year, Gilliland said.

For the first time in about four years, the mall's stores each month in 2004 collectively posted an increase in sales over the previous year.

"If you're going to have an increase in sales in any month, you want it in December," Gilliland said.

Among Magic Valley Mall tenants, two-thirds saw annual sales rise by some amount. But Gilliland was guarded about other overall mall statistics and did not say how much collective sales increased last year.

Gilliland chalked up the strong holiday sales to the mall's growing variety of stores and also high gas prices, which encouraged customers to shop locally rather than trekking to Boise or Salt Lake City for gifts.

In 2004, the mall and its nearby strip mall — The Shops at Magic Valley Mall — diversified their offerings by the addition of four new stores, including Motherhood Maternity, Tuesday Morning, Hot Topic and Finish Line.

Not all stores shared in double-digit growth.

In 2004, longtime mall retailer Kurt's Hallmark saw only a slight increase over 2003's sales figures, and holiday sales in 2004 "pretty much broke even" with holiday 2003, said manager Terry Reynolds.

Please see MALL, Page E2

Credit union opens Heyburn office

For The Times-News

HEYBURN — When Sharon Moncur says first, it's not just a slick marketing technique. Moncur's customers are also her bosses.

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Simcoe Credit Union employees, from left, Karl Pawson, Sharon Moncur and Pam Trost inspect their new Heyburn office prior to furniture delivery last week.

LAURE WELCH/ South Lake Press

Simcoe Credit Union profile

- Established in 1960 to serve employees of J.R. Simplot Co. Simcoe has since expanded to serve all of Mini-Cassia.
Simcoe has 2,999 members with assets exceeding \$5.6 million.
Services include Savings accounts, loans, checking accounts, Visa credit and debit cards, electronic direct deposit, loan protection insurance, electronic tax filing, money orders and traveler's checks, free notary service for members and a \$2.00 life insurance policy at no charge to all members.
Member accounts are privately insured up to \$250,000 each by American Share Insurance, a credit union share guarantee corporation.
Business hours are 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday.

American Express will spin off advisers business

The Associated Press

NEW YORK — The financial services giant American Express Co. said Tuesday it will spin off its financial advisory business to its shareholders and focus on its charge and credit card, payments processing and travel businesses.

The spinoff business will be completed in the third quarter of this year, the company said.

The financial advisory business — which has advisers serving a wide range of clients — provides financial planning and advice, asset management, insurance, annuities and related businesses through a network of more than 12,500 advisers. It generated revenue of about \$7 billion and earned about \$700 million in 2004.

"This spinoff will create two distinct businesses and allow us to capitalize on their respective growth opportunities," Kenneth I. Chenault, chairman and chief executive of American Express, said in a statement.

He said the new company would have greater latitude as an independent company to compete for capital or management resources, and react more quickly to business opportunities.

After the spinoff, American Express will consist of a charge and credit card business and a network that processes more than \$400 billion in transactions from merchants throughout the world.

"It will also operate global travel and Travelers Cheque businesses and an international bank serving wealthy consumers and financial institutions."

"These businesses delivered about \$22 billion of revenues and net income of \$2.7 billion in 2004.

The two companies will be independent, have separate public ownership, boards of directors and management.

Coors stockholders OK Molson merger

The Associated Press

GOLDEN, Colo. — Adolph Coors Co. shareholders overwhelmingly approved a merger with Canadian Molson Inc. on Tuesday, one of the last steps in a \$3.4-billion deal that will combine two family-run breweries hoping to keep up with the race for new international markets.

The deal was supported by 92 percent of Coors stockholders, the company said. It was approved last week by Molson shareholders.

"This is a momentous time for our company," Coors board chairman Peter Coors said.

"Coors and Molson were both founded by bold pioneers in their own time and our family looks at this merger as a pioneering step in its own right."

Coors' brewing business has elevator and research operations in Magic Valley and buys barley from Magic Valley growers.

A hearing in Quebec Superior Court is scheduled for Wednesday for final approval. The deal is expected to close Feb. 15.

The new Molson Coors Brewing Co. will have 15 breweries and nearly 15,000 employees making brands such as Molson Canadian, Coors Light, Carling, Keystone, Aspen-Edge, Zima, Richards and Kaiser.

The new brewer will rank fifth globally in both revenue and barrels sold. It would have a 43 percent market share in Canada,



Bill Coors, center, who ran Coors Brewery for nearly 60 years, talks about the merger between Molson and Coors after a news conference at the Coors Brewery in Golden, Colo., on Tuesday.

those are the tough decisions to endure in the beer business," Kieley said.

Coors called it bitter-sweet. "When you look at our long history here as a single company, it's a miracle we were able to achieve by surviving and prospering," said the silver-haired Coors, the TV face of the brewery and a Republican who last year's race for Colorado's open U.S. Senate seat.

Coors and Molson say their union will generate cost savings of \$125 million a year by 2007 by optimizing the Canadian brewery network, making material procurement more efficient, streamlining the organization and improving tax efficiencies.

"There are some overlaps and redundancies of course and

MONEY

Strong earnings send stocks higher Economists expect rising interest rates

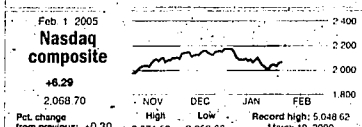
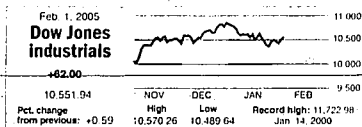
NEW YORK (AP) — Stocks moved higher Tuesday as strong earnings and a drop in oil prices offset the impact of lower-than-expected manufacturing activity and apprehension about the Federal Reserve's impending decision on rates.

Wall Street expects the Fed's Open Market Committee to raise short-term interest rates by another 0.25 percentage point at the conclusion of its two-day meeting Wednesday. The statement that accompanies the decision will also be closely examined for clues about what lies ahead. Worries about the Fed meeting kept some investors on the sidelines, but trading was still brisk — a fact analysts found encouraging after January's steep declines.

"The market that we've got here is a market that looks like it's on the mend," said Philip S. Dow, managing director of equity strategy at Dain Rauscher Wessels in Minneapolis. To me, you can't only see a surplus in the economy and in earnings have been positive this year. Of course, there are some participants who won't do anything until they see what the Fed is going to do.

The Dow Jones industrial average closed up 62.00, or 0.50 percent, at 10,551.94. The broader gauges were all higher. The S&P 500 index rose 0.44, or 0.69 percent, to 1,189.41. The Nasdaq composite index added 6.29, or 0.31 percent, to 2,068.70.

Economists were somewhat disappointed by the Institute for Supply Management's report on manufacturing. The private research group's index of manufacturing activity advanced 0.1 percent in January from a 0.2 percent decline in December.



Economists expected the reading came in at 56.6, down from a revised 57.3 in December, and just under forecasts of 57.

Oil prices, which have stayed uncomfortably high despite the relative success of weekend decisions in Iraq and OPEC's decision to maintain its current production targets, also drew slightly amid concerns that the oil cartel might cut output soon. Crude futures settled down \$1.08 at \$47.12 on the New York Mercantile Exchange.

January was traditionally a poor month for stocks, with the S&P 500 dropping 2.53 percent. This has raised some concern on Wall Street, because January's performance often foreshadows how trading will go for the rest of the year. However, some have pointed out that while a good January often heralds a strong year, a down January is a down year only about half the time. Still, post-election years tend to be weak, which has some market watchers advising caution.

"You're definitely seeing some institutions out there that held back in January that would've been out there had the markets gone up instead," said Bill Greenwald, head trader at Finance Investments. "I do think, however, that we've broken this downward and have a solid move up, we'll see more people getting back in."

Lifting the Dow, financial services giant American Express posted a 16 percent gain, or \$56.75, after announcing plans to spin off its financial advisory business to its shareholders and focus on its charge and credit card, payment processing and travel businesses. Shareholders were to get all of the stock in the new company; the spinoff is expected to be completed in the third quarter.

Also among Dow stocks, the Walt Disney Co. added 17 cents to \$28.00 after increased revenue from cable channels and a boost in attendance at its theme parks helped earnings higher-than-expected profits, overcoming lower income at its film studio and in its consumer products division. The company said it continues to expect strong growth through 2007.

WASHINGTON (AP) — Federal Reserve policy-makers are likely to keep bumping up short-term interest rates this year, a defense against an inflation threat now that the economy's expansion is on firm footing.

The Fed is expected to boost its key federal funds rate by one-quarter point to 2.50 percent in the next policy meeting in its first pathing of 2005, opened a two-day meeting Tuesday.

For now, economists are predicting Fed Chairman Alan Greenspan and his colleagues will stick to their approach of gradually raising interest rates in the months ahead. This far, however, has been a case of the Fed pushing up the rate either by speeding up or slowing down the rate-raising campaign.

This campaign, which started in June 2004, has resulted in five, and the Fed's primary tool for influencing the economy. Before the Fed started

to push rates up in June, the funds rate stood at a 46-year low of 1 percent.

The extraordinarily low funds rate had been used to help shore up the economy, which, after a recession, was struggling to get back to full throttle after being knocked by the 2001 recession and terror attacks. With the economic expansion more deeply rooted, the Fed needs to move the funds rate to a more normal level so the cheap money doesn't sow the seeds of inflation.

"You could call this the no-surprises Fed," said Carl Lannenbaum, chief economist at LaSalle Bank. "Continuation of the one-quarter percentage-point increments is the only thing they will assess as they go each step."

Lannenbaum and other economists believe the Fed will maintain its current stance that further interest rate increase can be "at a time that is likely to be measured."

A quarter-point increase in the funds rate would mean that commercial banks prime lending rates used for many short-term consumer and business loans would climb to 5.50

percent from the current 5.25 percent. The prime rate moves in lockstep with the funds rate.

Even with the Fed's string of rate increases, longer-term interest rates, such as mortgage rates, have been well behaved, in part reflecting investors' concern that the Fed is on top of inflation. Rates on 30-year mortgages will fall next week to 5.66 percent, marking the fourth week in a row that rates are declining.

For all 2004, consumer prices rose 3.3 percent, the most since 2000. Much of that pickup reflected strong energy prices. Excluding energy and food costs, "core" prices increased by 2.2 percent last year. While core prices were not considerably compared with the 1.1 percent increase registered in 2003, they are still considered relatively high by historical standards, analysts say.

The economy seems to be on a well balanced track. We had good growth on the consumer and business side and inflation is not worrisome," said Alan Bennett, chief economist at Banc of America Capital Management.

Mail

Continued from E1
Kurt's Hallmark depends heavily on national Hallmark promotions, like the company's holiday "Gifts by Heart" promotion.

Those promotions can be risky sometimes, as Kurt's Hallmark learned this past holiday season.

The movie upon which the Polar Express promotion was based didn't perform well at the box office, and while some items sold out, others "didn't sell at all," Reynolds said.

"The company is looking forward to the rest of 2005, except the changes on the

horizon as a result of the mall's purchase last November by Salt Lake City-based development partnership Woodbury Corp.

The company owns a number of properties throughout the West, including the Breckenridge Farms retail center southwest of the mall that includes Toys 'R Us and Target.

Magic Valley Mall currently has 61 retail locations, including anchor stores like Sears and Shopko, permanent storefronts and brick permanent and temporary retail kiosks, Gilliland said.

Only about 5 percent of the

nearly 525,000-square-foot total leasable space operated by the mall is vacant, she said.

"Thanks to the good relationships Woodbury has with retailers, Gilliland said, Magic Valley Mall has accelerated its recruiting of new stores.

The mall is working to bring in its first major anchor store by summer, including a yet-to-be-named women's apparel retailer, she said.

Times-New business writer Megan Hinds can be reached at 735-3238 or meghan.hinds@timesnew.com.

NEW YORK STOCK EXCHANGE

Table with columns: Name, Div, Last, Chg, ABC, DE-F, GHI, JKL, MNO, PQR, STU, VWX, YZ. Lists various stocks and their performance.

MARKET SUMMARY

Summary table for NYSE, AMEX, and NASDAQ. Columns include Most Active (1st, 2nd, 3rd on each exchange), Gainers (20 on each exchange), Losers (20 on each exchange), Diary, and Indexes.

NASDAQ NATIONAL MARKET

Table with columns: Name, Div, Last, Chg, ABC, DE-F, GHI, JKL, MNO, PQR, STU, VWX, YZ. Lists various stocks and their performance.

HOW TO READ THE MARKET REPORT

Here are the 525 most active stocks on the New York Stock Exchange, the 400 most active on the Nasdaq National Market and 100 most active on the American Stock Exchange. Mutual funds are a 1:115 listing. Stocks in bold indicate percent or more price change.

Table with columns: Name, Div, PE, Last, Chg, YTD, Name, Div, PE, Last, Chg, YTD. Lists various stocks and their performance.

AMERICAN STOCK EXCHANGE

Table with columns: Name, Div, Last, Chg, ABC, DE-F, GHI, JKL, MNO, PQR, STU, VWX, YZ. Lists various stocks and their performance.

MARKETS

CLOSING FUTURES

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

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BEANS

Table with columns: Commodity, High, Low, Close, Change. Lists various bean commodities.

GRAINS

Table with columns: Commodity, High, Low, Close, Change. Lists various grain commodities.

CHEESE

Table with columns: Commodity, High, Low, Close, Change. Lists various cheese commodities.

POTATOES

Table with columns: Commodity, High, Low, Close, Change. Lists various potato commodities.

SUGAR

Table with columns: Commodity, High, Low, Close, Change. Lists various sugar commodities.

LIVESTOCK

Table with columns: Commodity, High, Low, Close, Change. Lists various livestock commodities.

VALLEY BEANS

Prices are not to growers. 100 pounds. U.S. Prices are not to growers. 100 pounds. U.S. Prices are not to growers. 100 pounds. U.S.

VALLEY GRAINS

Prices for wheat per bushel. Mead grain. Prices for wheat per bushel. Mead grain. Prices for wheat per bushel. Mead grain.

VALLEY CHEESE

Cheddar cheese prices on the Chicago Merc. Prices for cheddar cheese on the Chicago Merc. Prices for cheddar cheese on the Chicago Merc.

VALLEY POTATOES

RUSSET BURNED. Idaho - Major potato. Prices for russet burned potatoes. Prices for russet burned potatoes. Prices for russet burned potatoes.

VALLEY SUGAR

NEW YORK SUGAR - Sugar futures trading on the NY Merc. Prices for sugar futures on the NY Merc. Prices for sugar futures on the NY Merc.

VALLEY LIVESTOCK

Chicago Board of Trade. Prices for livestock on the Chicago Board of Trade. Prices for livestock on the Chicago Board of Trade.

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CHUCKLE BURNED. Idaho - Major potato. Prices for chuckle burned potatoes. Prices for chuckle burned potatoes. Prices for chuckle burned potatoes.

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Avon posts an 11 percent rise in fourth-quarter profit

NEW YORK (AP) - Avon Products Inc., the world's largest seller of beauty products, reported an 11 percent increase in fourth-quarter profit, boosted by a strong performance in its international business and a lower tax rate.

The New York-based company, which has independent representatives in Magic Valley earned \$288.8 million, or 61 cents per share, during the three-month period ended Dec. 31.

That compared with \$261.3 million, or 55 cents per share, in the year-ago period.

The 2004 results included a 3 cent per share negative impact from a non-cash charge for the writedown of securities available to fund self-defense plan obligations.

That was offset by a 2 cent benefit from a lower-than-anticipated tax rate in the quarter.

Total revenue was \$2.31 billion, up from \$2.10 billion in the year-ago period.

For all of 2004, profits rose 27 cent per share negative impact from a non-cash charge for the writedown of securities available to fund self-defense plan obligations.

Total revenues reached \$7.75 billion, or \$1.39 per share, in the previous year.

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MUTUAL FUNDS

Table with columns: Fund Name, Net Assets, % Change. Lists various mutual funds like American Funds, Fidelity, etc.

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Advertisement for Perkins, Smart & Boyd, Inc. Call Nita Barnes Clontz for appointment. 101 N. 5092 • Twin Falls, Idaho 83401 • 208-746-0226 Member of NAMP & NPI.

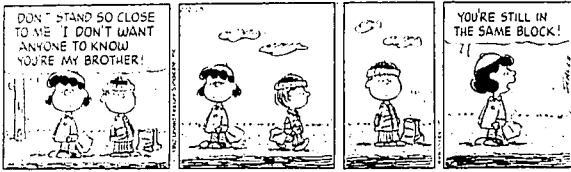
Unclaimed property. Check out the listings for Burley and Twin Falls. THURSDAY IN MONEY

When You're Serious About Investing... Perkins, Smart & Boyd, Inc. Call Nita Barnes Clontz for appointment. 101 N. 5092 • Twin Falls, Idaho 83401 • 208-746-0226 Member of NAMP & NPI.

COMICS

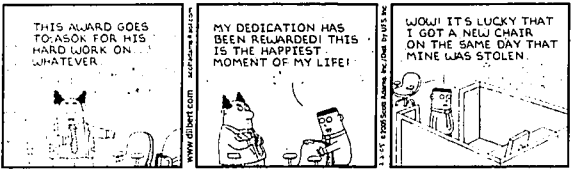
Classic Peanuts

By Charles M. Schulz



Dilbert

By Scott Adams



For Better or For Worse

By Lynn Johnston



Blonde

By Dean Young & Stan Drake



B.C.

By Johnny Hart



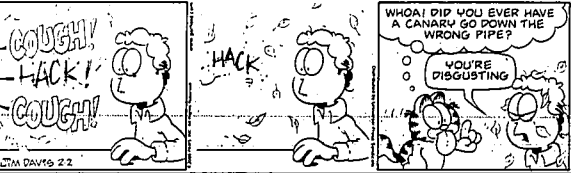
Pickles

By Brian Crane



Garfield

By Jim Davis

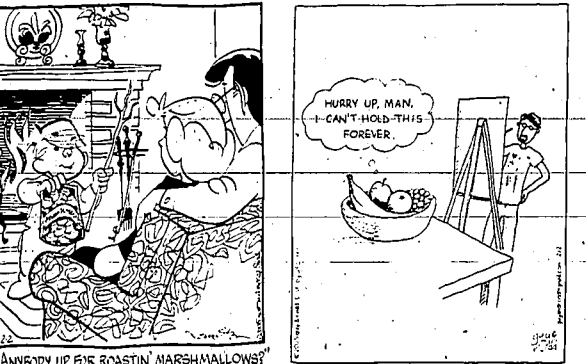


Dennis the Menace

By Hank Ketcham

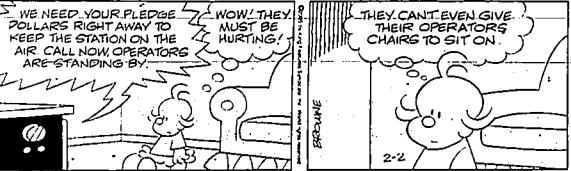
Brevity

By Guy & Odd



Hi and Lois

By Chance Browne



The Wizard of Id

By Brant Parker & Johnny Hart



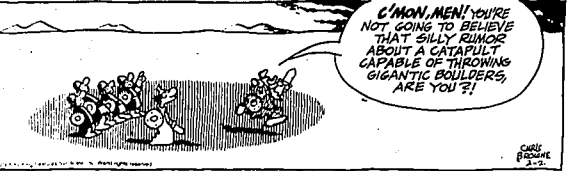
Rose Is Rose

By Pat Brady



Hagar the Horrible

By Chris Browne



Beetle Bailey

By Mort Walker



Frank and Ernest

By Bob Thaves



The Born Loser

By Art Sansom & Chip



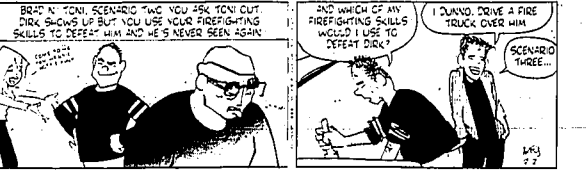
Zits

By Jim Borgman and Jerry Scott



Luann

By Greg Evans

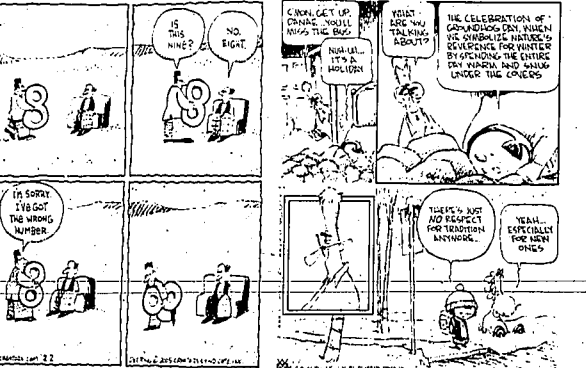


Strange Brew

By John Deering

Non Sequitur

By Wiley



IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF THE FIFTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT OF THE STATE OF IDAHO

Case No. CV 03-960
NOTICE OF SHERIFF'S SALE
S.M. SERVICING CORPORATION, servicer for CHRISTIANA BANK AND TRUST COMPANY, as assignee for Security National Asset Securitization Series Trust, Plaintiff.

LYNN HEWARD, a husband and wife; NEIL KING and THOMAS A. RUDD, doing business as K & R Farm and FABRO AG SERVICES, INC., an Iowa corporation, Defendants.
BY VIRTUE of a Writ of Execution in my hands...

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that on Tuesday, the 22nd day of February, 2005, at 10 a.m., at 1458 Grand Ave., Burley, Idaho, I will sell all the right, title and interest of said Defendants in and to the said above described real property...

NOTICE OF RE-ZONE HEARING
You are hereby notified that on the 17th day of February, 2005, at 10:00 a.m., the Twin Falls County Board of Commissioners will hold a re-zone hearing...

REAL PROPERTY
All real property described below together with: All tenements, hereditaments, rights, privileges, appurtenances and all fixtures now or hereafter located on, attached to, or in any way connected with the above described premises...

LEGAL NOTICE
Honkers Storage will accept notices of intent to file a Chapter 12 bankruptcy for payments due.

PUBLIC NOTICE
Actions planned and taken by your government are contained in public notices. They are part of your right to know and to be informed of what your government is doing.

IMPORTANT
Public notices are all legal advertising to: LEGAL ADVERTISING The Times-News, P.O. Box 546 Twin Falls, ID 83403-0546

FOUND cat-adult-buff-orange, white, short hair, male, with round collar and ball. Found on Tuesday, April 12, 2004. Taken to the animal shelter. 208-736-2290.

FOUND dog-adult-buff-orange, white, short hair, male, with round collar and ball. Found on Tuesday, April 12, 2004. Taken to the animal shelter. 208-736-2290.

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Notice of Re-Zone Hearing
You are hereby notified that on the 17th day of February, 2005, at 10:00 a.m., the Twin Falls County Board of Commissioners will hold a re-zone hearing...

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609 CONDOS TIME SHARES
TWIN FALLS very nice, clean, 2 bedroom, 1 1/2 bath, fireplace, W/D, AC, \$500 month...

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Cut, split, firewood, 500 per pickup load, \$140 per cord or \$140 per cord delivered...

FURNITURE cedar chest, queen bed, more size table, dresser, w/mirror, Broyles Fontana Collection \$1500...

Upcoming Auctions
Check Out The Magic Valley Section Of The Times-News for the auction calendar...

STUDENT VIOLINS
(10) Brand new, full size, \$95 - 2125-9855

610 STORAGE & WAREHOUSES
FILER Warehouse with effects at Curry Cross rd, \$500 month, Call 208-733-3322

704 PETS & PET SUPPLIES
AMERICAN PIT BULL Terrier, AK reg, with great pedigree, female, 6 wks. old, 1st shots, kennel, Imos...

712 FARMHS FOR RENT
LOOKING for 120-250 acres of beet ground with bent grass...

713 PASTURES FOR RENT
RUPERT Jackson area, 150 acres under Windshield power pvt. MID Water, Last pump, 187 Call 208-436-4483

714 PASTURE WANTED
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716 AC BUSINESS & SERVICE
TOP GUN
Idaho's Finest, State Certified "CDL" Training Facility...

717 JEWELRY
CABLE WEIGHT home gym \$200, Call 208-733-0016

718 WANTED TO BUY
WANT TO BUY body for a GMC MotorSprayer for tax or complete condition, Call 208-436-0603

AGRICULTURE
NOTICE TO Classified Advertisers
Please check your ad for accuracy the first day it runs...

719 AMERICAN AKC Reg. tiny teardrop, 3 weeks old, silver, white & white, 1st shots, head & neck guaranteed...

720 COCKER SPANIEL
COCKER SPANIEL puppies, AKC, built for show, available Call 208-312-2128

721 AC BUSINESS & SERVICE
TOP GUN
Idaho's Finest, State Certified "CDL" Training Facility...

722 COUGH 540, table \$15 and boxes of miscellaneous make offer, Call 208-736-7858

723 DIESEL HEATER
Vaig. 3, 11,000 BTU, portable radiant diesel heater, Used very little, \$750, 66-0715

724 COUGH 540, table \$15 and boxes of miscellaneous make offer, Call 208-736-7858

725 WANTED TO BUY
WANTED TO BUY body for a GMC MotorSprayer for tax or complete condition, Call 208-436-0603

701 LIVESTOCK & POULTRY
CONNECT WITH CUSTOMERS WHO NEED YOUR SERVICE
Advertise in the Service Directory 733-0931 ext 2

726 FREE CATS
FREE CATS, long hair, black, female, gorgeous, sweet, gentle, Moving to new home...

727 FREE CATS
FREE CATS, long hair, black, female, gorgeous, sweet, gentle, Moving to new home...

728 FREE CATS
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731 FREE CATS
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732 FREE CATS
FREE CATS, long hair, black, female, gorgeous, sweet, gentle, Moving to new home...

733 BEEF CATTLE
BEEF CATTLE, 30 head, 1st calving Feb-21st, Also one bull and one AKA mare, MAK offer, Lost pasture need to sell...

734 BEEF CATTLE
BEEF CATTLE, 30 head, 1st calving Feb-21st, Also one bull and one AKA mare, MAK offer, Lost pasture need to sell...

735 BEEF CATTLE
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736 BEEF CATTLE
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737 BEEF CATTLE
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738 BEEF CATTLE
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739 BEEF CATTLE
BEEF CATTLE, 30 head, 1st calving Feb-21st, Also one bull and one AKA mare, MAK offer, Lost pasture need to sell...

740 BEEF CATTLE
BEEF CATTLE, 30 head, 1st calving Feb-21st, Also one bull and one AKA mare, MAK offer, Lost pasture need to sell...

741 CALVES
CALVES, 1-4 Club Calves, FANCY BLACK & BWF, Maine-Angus cross, 700 lb-850 lbs, Sverstedt's washing, 700 lb-850 lbs, Covered in tick from Ciguel, 1st calving, halter brood, Call 208-869-0020

742 CALVES
CALVES, 1-4 Club Calves, FANCY BLACK & BWF, Maine-Angus cross, 700 lb-850 lbs, Sverstedt's washing, 700 lb-850 lbs, Covered in tick from Ciguel, 1st calving, halter brood, Call 208-869-0020

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744 CALVES
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1000 VANS & BUSES

CHEVY '92 full size commercial van, 117,000 miles, heavy duty. \$3,995. Call 208-324-3036.

DODGE '94 paint mixer van, with ladder racks, extra tires & snow tires. \$6,000. Call 208-326-8691.

DODGE '97 3500, 15 passenger, 5.9 V-8 good cond. \$4,500. Call 208-829-5821 or 208-324-3036.

DODGE '98 Grand Caravan SE, V6, 47k, lift sliding door, exc cond. \$8,299. Offer. Call 208-829-5886.

FORD '96 Windstar GL V-6 AC, PW, PL AM FM cassette, 42K. Clean interior & runs great. \$3,900. Call 208-324-0922.

FORD '1996 Windstar 15 passenger, all options, exc condition. V6, good mpg. \$3,650. Call 208-686-5656.

FORD '01 E250 extended cargo van. 5.4 V8, full power, white - low miles. Call 208-829-5886.

DODGE '97 Stratus ES, V6, fully loaded, exc cond. \$1,200. Call 208-737-0099.

DODGE '99 Intrepid, loaded, local trade. \$5,495.

DODGE '02 Neon, 4 door, low miles. CD players, PL, exc condition. \$2,999.

FORD '90 Probe LX, V6 AT, AC, more, local trade, only \$2347.

NO Credit? BAD Credit? Call 733-1881 today. Latham's 1-800-Car-Loan

PLYMOUTH '90 Cutl 30 mpg, 2 dr, 4 cyl, standard trans, new tires/wheels/clutch. \$950. Mke 308-8895.

PLYMOUTH '91 Voyager SE, blue, good shape. \$1200. Offer. 543-6172 or 404-4498.

PLYMOUTH '92 Grand Voyager MUST SELL BELOW LOW BOOK. Good cond. runs good. Loaded, good mpg. \$1600. Offer. 312-6161.

PONTIAC '88 Grand Am, good condition, \$1,500 or best offer. Call 208-423-2422.

FORD '04 Mustang convertible, 51k miles. CD, leather, low miles. Was \$17,995 now \$14,995.

GOODE MOTORS 204-N7N-5112 or 208-N7N-5111

FORD '98 Taurus, 85K miles. AT, air-condition, cruise, runs good and looks good. \$3,300. Call 208-736-1650. Mkt.

PONTIAC '01 Grand Am SE, eke \$3073. 4 door. AT, PW, PL, AC cruise, V6. \$1949. New \$7995.

GOODE MOTORS 204-N7N-5112 or 208-N7N-5111

FORD '03 E350 XLT 12 passenger, Club Van, V10, 23K, low pkg, loaded, rear air, CD, cass, running loads, like new. \$17,500. 736-4641 or 404-1055.

FORD '04 Mustang convertible, 51k miles. CD, leather, low miles. Was \$17,995 now \$14,995.

GOODE MOTORS 204-N7N-5112 or 208-N7N-5111

PONTIAC '02 Sunfire, 51k5209A, 4 door. AT, AC, full cruise. Was \$8995. New \$7995.

GOODE MOTORS 204-N7N-5112 or 208-N7N-5111

GMC '97 Vandura 12 passenger, skatE16GA. Pw, Pl, great for small or lg businesses. Now \$6995.

GOODE MOTORS 204-N7N-5112 or 208-N7N-5111

HONDA '98 Accord EX, V-6, loaded, excellent condition. For more info 208-420-3979.

HYUNDAI '02 Accent, 55,500, Under 50,000 miles, AC, auto, 4 doors, AM/FM, Cass. Call 208-837-4279.

HYUNDAI '04 Elantra GT, 11K, auto trans, front wheel drive, 10 from 1000. Call 208-837-4279.

SATURN '99 SC2, only 52K. Loaded to the hilt. A must see! \$7900. Offer. Call 420-8164 anytime!

SATURN '01 L300, V6, black, leather, sunroof. LOADED. \$1K \$1,150. Offer. Call 208-733-4652.

PROBLEMS GETTING FINANCED? Call 733-1881 today. Latham's 1-800-Car-Loan

JAGUAR '02 X-Type, oil-wheel-drive-everything only 24K. Was \$26,999. Now \$22,997.

SUBARU '88 GL 10 Sedan CD, turbo, 44k loaded, roof rack, 5 speed. 115K. \$1,200. Offer. Call 208-733-4125.

SUBARU '92 Loyale, 4WD AC, PW, PL, new brakes, clutch, belts & tires. Cleanable & runs great! \$2400. Offer. 733-1145.

AUTOMATION TITLES & COMMISSIONS Special \$359.95. Most American vehicles, parts, labor & installation included. Economy Transmission \$199. Call 208-324-3769 for estimates.

LINCOLN '96 Continental, exc. cond. loaded sun roof, 103K, \$6,500. Offer. Call 208-543-9149.

LINCOLN '01 Towncar, exc. cond. excellent condition, \$17,700. Call 208-837-4100.

TOYOTA '97 Corolla, great condition, well cared for, good mpg. \$3,150. Offer. 886-2621. Leave msg.

TOYOTA '02 Celica GT, AT, loaded. \$13,500.

BMW '90 750Li, exc cond., 124K, clean, black. \$6,500. 208-324-3769-4625.

BUICK '92 Riviera, all power, \$3,500. Offer. Toyota '94 2 wheel drive, \$3,500. Offer. 208-324-3769.

MAZDA '91 Protege, AT, 110k miles, incl 4 studied snow tires. Runs great! \$1,300. Offer. 208-732-1225.

MAZDA '04 Sport Sedan, auto, AC, CD changer, 15556, \$14,988. Call 735-3900.

VOLKSWAGEN '02 Jetta TDI diesel, silver, black interior, immaculate, 45 mpg. \$12,500. 208-837-4472 or 253-229-8868.

VOLVO '01 V70 Cross Country Wagon, all wheel drive, leather roof, like new \$19,950.

CADILLAC '83 Fleetwood Brougham, FT-4100. Very clean, excellent paint and interior. Has new AC compressor. Needs new block. Asking \$3500. 208-423-4192.

CADILLAC '93 DeVille, excellent condition, leather seats. \$3,000. Offer. 208-312-4144.

CADILLAC '96 Seville STS, leather, moon roof, loaded. \$157K. \$4,000. Offer. Call 208-324-7700 or 324-5110.

MAZDA '04 Sport Sedan, auto, AC, CD changer, 15556, \$14,988. Call 735-3900.

MERCUY '03 Grand Marquis, LS, leather, loaded. \$14,995.

VOLVO '01 V70 Cross Country Wagon, all wheel drive, leather roof, like new \$19,950.

VW '01 New Beetle, 5 speed, 200 hrs, awesome condition. 17,000 miles, yellow with black interior. Int. fully loaded. \$13,500 or best offer. 733-7424.

VW '02 Jetta GLX, 1.8 Turbo Full leather, sunroof, like new. Every option. Only \$14,477.

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